



Briar Village Newsletter

Serving 768 Homes Since the 1970s

Community Association (BPCIA) Meets Regularly on 4th Thursday - Everyone Welcome

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 3 - National Night out
- 20 - Echo Orchestra concert
- 28 - 1pm to 4pm - Halloween Celebration
- 31 - Halloween

November

- 1 - All Saint's Day
- 13 - Sadie Hawkins Day
- 23 - Thanksgiving Day

December

- 21 - Winter Solstice
- 23 - Festivus - for the rest of us!
- 25 - Christmas
- 26 - Boxing Day
- 26 - Kwanzaa
- 27 - National Fruitcake Day
- 31 - New Year's Eve

Is There a Santa Claus?

"Dear Editor--I am eight years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

*Virginia O'Hanlon
115 W. 95th Street*

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

*From the Editorial Page of The New York Sun,
written by Francis P. Church, September 21, 1897*



Getting In Touch

The most effective way to send and receive information with your board and the HOA is through the official Management website: graham.cincwebaxis.com. The site allows access to Payment, Document, ACC request, Violation and Contact information.

Board/Committies

BRIAR PARK CIA BOARD/COMMITTEES
C/O GRAHAM MANAGEMENT
2825 WILCREST DRIVE, SUITE 600
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77042
PH: 713-334-8000 FAX: 713-334-5055

President - Carrie Bivins
hoacarriebivins@gmail.com

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mrcaseybriar@yahoo.com

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brianjmag@live.com

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dguillermanhoa@gmail.com

Director - David Patronella
hoadpatronella@gmail.com

Director - Rob Harvey
rharveyhoa@gmail.com

Director - Eric Wallin
cew3832hoa@gmail.com

Committees:

Common Areas - Casey, David

Clubhouse - Eric, Brian

Pool - Carrie, Eric

Tennis Court - Brian, David

Security - Rob, Casey

Website - David

Social - Eric, Carrie

Newsletter - David

DRV - Diane

ACC - Diane

Manager:

April Pitarra
apitarra@
grahammanagementhouston.com

MJM Security:

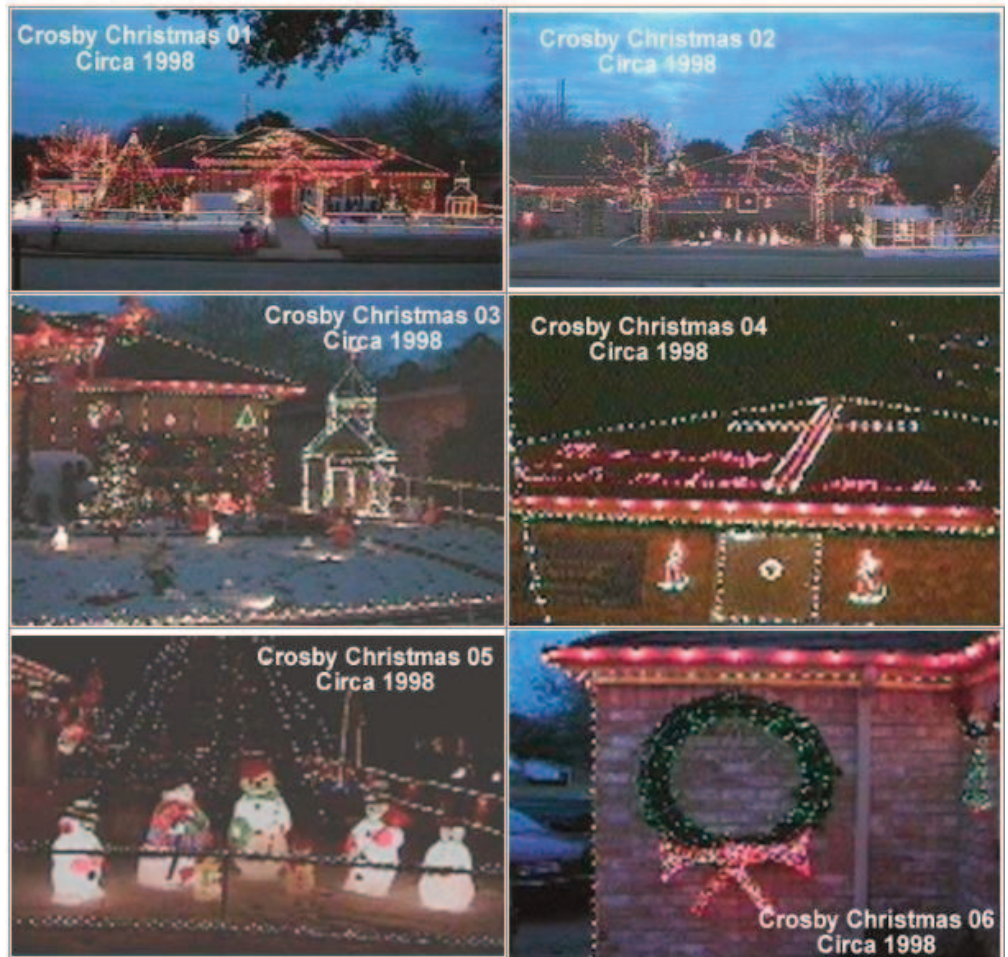
Dispatch 832-356-3224

A Little Briar Village Holiday Lighting History

Long time BV residents will remember the incredible holiday light display at the Crosby's residence at 14322 Ella Lee Lane. Elmer Crosby III and his mother designed the many displays on the house, roof and in the yard.

The entire front yard was covered in "snow", a train chugged around on its' track, and, if you visited at just the right time, there was Christmas music playing. The fantasy of it all drew crowds from all over Houston and some from out of town who heard about "Crosby's Sights and Sounds of Christmas" on TV, or read about it in the Houston newspapers!

It was amazing to behold.



Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for volunteers to help with events and initiatives. Please help while getting to know your neighbors. Email cew3832hoa@gmail.com for info.

Yard of the Month Winners

June

Congratulations to the Cocchiara household at 14011 Piping Rock Ln. as our June Yard-of-the-Month recipient. This yard has always been beautifully maintained and manicured, but it stands out this month with pops of cheerful color. Planters at the curb are eye catching with Vincas, Petunias and Rosemary trees. Attractive concrete edging and trimmed Asian Jasmine groundcover surround Crepe Myrtle trees between the house and the street – and foundation flower beds contain Flax Lily, Agapanthus, Vincas, Loropetalum and Pentas. Sleek black planters against the front walls of the home compliment the wrought iron entry gates and, also, contain a multi-color mix of summer annuals. Thank you for enhancing one of our major streets.



July

Congratulations to the June Yard-of-the-Month - 14107 Piping Rock. A beautiful home, inviting and the plants are nicely coordinated.



August

The August selection for Yard-of-the-Month could have made on the lawn alone. Drive by 14010 Briarworth and check out Amy Hills thick lush grass. It is lovely and quite the challenge during record- breaking heat alerts. The Whole yard looks like it is Tenderly cared for. All flower beds have nice, neat Borders, and the focal flower bed is full of blooming yellow Esperanza and blue Plumbago. Thank You for helping to make Briar Village shine.



September

September's yard of the month is a cute home just inside our neighborhood. They have been working hard in it for years picking plants that make the yard flow and never thought they would get picked. It has been a trying summer but they have been working hard to keep it up making the neighborhood a better place to be.



TICKETS AND INFORMATION: WWW.ECHORCHESTRA.ORG



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HOUSTON ARTS ALLIANCE

MUSIC OF FAITH

FEATURING MUSIC OF JEWISH, MUSLIM, AND CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023 | 8:00 PM

**ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH
625 NOTTINGHAM OAKS TRAIL
HOUSTON 77079**

**GUEST ARTIST
STEVEN GREENMAN,
KLEZMER VIOLIN**



How do you keep bees away from your house?

Bees are important to the surrounding wildlife, but you don't want them buzzing around your house constantly. Since it's important not to kill these valuable insects, try warding them off in a humane way. Here are some ways to keep bees away from your house:

1. Remove nesting areas: Take a close look around your home and yard to see if there are any holes or brush piles that a bee could use as a nesting spot. If you see groups of these insects hovering around different parts of your yard, try using deterrents to convince the bugs to move elsewhere. Use metal screening to block off small and large holes in your home's exterior. Check to see if there are any obvious holes or chips in the structure. If you see any openings larger than the size of a coin, cover them with metal screening. If you secure all possible entrance points for bees, they won't be able to enter your home.

2. Deterring bees: Bees are attracted to floral patterns and bright colors. Avoid using floral patterned furniture on your deck or patio. Choose neutral, light colors when you select cushioned furniture for outdoor use. Place peppermint plants around your home. Force bees out of certain areas by filling the air with a scent they don't like. Set bowls of crushed garlic near points of entry

3. Natural remedies: There are many natural repellents you can use to help in your bee-repelling ventures. Grow herbs or flowers that repel bees such as peppermint, basil, eucalyptus, citronella, pennyroyal, and lemongrass. Sprinkling cinnamon or garlic powder around the yard and exterior of their home can also act as a quick and easy deterrent.

Please note that bees are beneficial insects and killing them off using pesticides is not recommended.

My recommendation:

Bees may nest outside or inside your house. They are problematic inside your house for obvious reasons. Once the bees build honeycomb inside your house that nest becomes a bee-magnet for years to come for new swarms to nest in. Remove all the bees and honeycomb before closing the area affected in your house COMPLETELY. The new bees will "find" the vacant nest by smell alone. If the homeowner wants to kill any unwanted bees inside their home, I recommend soapy water as it is relatively safe to use. There are of course licensed commercial pest removal services that can help you.

<https://txbeeinspection.tamu.edu/bee-removal/>

Your "mileage" will vary.



Baklava Recipe

Ingredients

1 pound (4 cups) chopped walnuts
1-1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 package (16 ounces, 14x9-inch sheets) frozen phyllo dough, thawed
1 cup butter, melted
1 cup honey

Directions

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat a 13x9-in. baking dish with cooking spray. Combine walnuts and cinnamon. Unroll phyllo dough. Layer 2 sheets of phyllo in prepared pan; brush with butter. Repeat with 6 more sheets of phyllo, brushing every other 1 with butter. (Keep remaining phyllo covered with a damp towel to prevent it from drying out.) Sprinkle 1/2 cup nut mixture in pan; drizzle with 2 tablespoons honey. Add 2 more phyllo sheets, brushing with butter; sprinkle another 1/2 cup nut mixture and 2 tablespoons honey over phyllo. Repeat layers 6 times. Top with remaining phyllo sheets, brushing every other 1 with butter. Using a sharp knife, score surface to make 24 squares. Bake until golden brown and crisp, 25-30 minutes. Cool on a wire rack 1 hour before serving.



Briar Village Annual

Holiday Craft Market

Sunday December 3, 2023

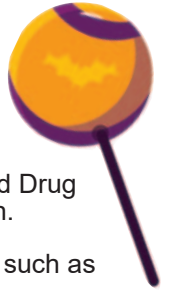
11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

BV Club House: 13902 Piping Rock Houston, TX 77077

Local Artisans

- ✓ *Aprons and bibs*
- ✓ *Art Peruvian Import*
- ✓ *Art Tiles*
- ✓ *Christmas Gifts*
- ✓ *Handmade Greeting cards*
- ✓ *Handmade Soaps & Body Butters*
- ✓ *Jewelry*
- ✓ *Local Honey*
- ✓ *LMC Kitchen (chef Louis)*
- ✓ *Watercolor stationery & paper goods*

Halloween Safety



Whether your Halloween plans are for adults or kids, there's plenty to consider before choosing a costume, putting on makeup, and eating a bag full of treats.

To help you and your loved ones enjoy a safe and happy Halloween, here are some tips from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Wear costumes that say "flame resistant" on the label. If you make your costume, use flame-resistant fabrics such as polyester or nylon.
- Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape so you'll be more visible; make sure the costumes aren't so long that you're in danger of tripping.
- Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure your vision.
- Test the makeup you plan to use at least 24-48 hours in advance. Put a small amount on the arm of the person who will be wearing it. If a rash, redness, swelling, or other signs of irritation develop where the makeup was applied, that's a sign of a possible allergy.
- Vibrantly colored makeup is popular at Halloween. Check the FDA's list of color additives to see if the colors are FDA approved. If they aren't approved for their intended use, don't use them. This is especially important for colored makeup around the eyes.
- Don't wear decorative (colored) contact lenses that appear to change how your eyes look due to the risk of eye injury, unless you have seen an eye care professional for a proper fitting and been given instructions for how to use the lenses.

Safe Treats

Eating sweet treats is also a big part of Halloween fun. If you're concerned about food safety, there are some things to know. Before you or your children go trick-or-treating, remember these tips:



- Don't eat candy until it has been inspected at home.
- Eat a snack before heading out to avoid the temptation of nibbling on a treat before it has been inspected.
- In case of a food allergy, check the label to ensure the allergen isn't present. Tell children not to accept — or eat — anything that isn't commercially wrapped.
- Parents of very young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys from the Halloween bags.

15 Minute Prep Fall Chili Recipe

This is a great fall recipe that takes only 15 minutes to prepare. After that, let this simmering dish heat up your home with warm, hearty aromas.

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 2 bell peppers, diced
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 2 cups of vegetable broth
- 3 cloves of minced garlic
- 1 28-ounce can of diced tomatoes (fire-roasted are best)
- 1 tsp of paprika
- 1 tsp cumin
- Salt to taste
- Black pepper to taste
- 1 12-ounce bottle of beer (recommended varieties include XX and Modelo)
- 1 15 ounce can of black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 15 ounce can of pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- Lime wedges (to squeeze into the chili while eating)

Directions

- 1) In a large pot, heat the oil. Add peppers, onions and celery. Cook until softened. Add garlic, chili powder, paprika, cumin and sauté for 2 to 3 more minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
- 2) Add beer and cook until it has reduced by half, roughly 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add black beans, pinto beans, tomatoes and vegetable broth. Stir while bringing to a boil, and then reduce to a simmer. Cook until slightly reduced, about 20 to 25 minutes.
- 3) Serve with lime wedges, avocado, sour cream and cheese as topping choices.



2023 NOVEMBER ELECTION INFORMATION

IMPORTANT DATES (source, harrisvotes.com)

October 10:	Deadline to register to vote or update your address
October 23 - November 3:	Early Voting
October 27:	Deadline to apply for a mail ballot (received, not postmarked)
November 7:	Election Day

The upcoming election will include ***TX Constitutional Amendments, Municipal and School Board Candidates.***

Your ballot can be found at [What's on my Ballot? \(harrisvotes.com\)](https://www.harrisvotes.com/whatsonmyballot) - ready sometime during late September

Voting Centers can be found at [Vote Centers \(harrisvotes.com\)](https://www.harrisvotes.com/votecenters) - centers are added as they are confirmed
Just like during Early Voting, election day voters can ***vote at any Vote Center in Harris County on election day.***

PROPOSED TX CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS can be found at (https://ballotpedia.org/Texas_2023_ballot_measures)

MUNICIPAL RACES (source, [November 7, 2023 General Election Information \(houstontx.gov\)](https://www.houstontx.gov/elections/2023-general-election))

Houston Mayoral Candidates (alphabetical by last name)

Gaylon S. Caldwell	Naoufal Houjami	Julian "Bemer" Martinez
Jack Christie	B. Ivy	Chanel Mbala
Robert Gallegos	Sheila Jackson Lee	Kathy Lee Tatum
Annie "Mama" Garcia	Lee Kaplan	Roy Vasquez
Gilbert Garcia	M. J. Khan	John Whitmire
M. "Griff" Griffin	David C. Lowy	Robin Williams (write-in)

Houston City Controller

Chris Hollins / Dave Martin / Shannan Nobles / Orlando Sanchez

Houston City Council, District G

Mary Nan Huffman, incumbent is challenged by Tony Buzbee and Enyinna O. Isiguzo

Candidates for Houston City Council At-Large Positions

No 1: Kendall Baker, Eriq C. Glenn, Melanie Miles, Julian Ramirez. Conchita Reyes, Leah Wolfthal

No 2: Willie Davis, Marina Angelica Coryat, Nick Hellyar, Danielle Keys Bess, Holly Flynn Vilaseca, Obioha Nwabara

No 3: Richard Cantu, Casey Curry, Twila Carter, Ethan Michelle Ganz, Richard Nguyen, James Joseph, Ericka McCutcheon, Donnell Cooper

No 4: Letitia Plummer, incumbent is challenged by John Branch Jr., Roy Morales and Andrew Patterson

No 5: Sallie Alcorn, incumbent is challenged by J. Brad Batteau and Rigo Hernandez

SCHOOL BOARD RACES

HISD Trustees (source, [General Information / 2023 Trustee Election \(houstonisd.org\)](https://www.houstonisd.org/elections/2023-trustee-election))

District II: Kathy Blueford-Daniels, incumbent is challenged by Harold A. Moore

District III: FeLiza Bencosme, Dani Hernandez

District IV: Patricia K. Allen, incumbent is challenged by Meg Seff

District VIII: Placido Gomez (unopposed)