



Briar Village Newsletter

Houston, Texas December 2018

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Informational ~ Multicultural ~ Enlightening ~ Entertaining
briarvillage.nabrnetwork.com

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

2019 Annual Maintenance Fees \$543



Payment is due January 1, 2019, after January 31, interest and fees for certified mail will be additional.

Arrangements for quarterly payments (no extra fee required) can be made prior to December 31, 2018, contact Graham Management, at 713-334-8000 or email:

AR@GRAHAMMANAGEMENTHOUSTON.COM.

Statements with payment details have been mailed to each homeowner, if you did not receive one, contact Graham Management.

New Passcards Coming Soon

The original card readers are being replaced. Everyone who has already paid for passcard(s) to access the tennis courts and pool will be issued new passcard(s) at no additional charge. The kick-off date for distributing the new cards is currently undecided, but will begin once the bathhouse renovation is complete, and the pool's new card reader has been installed. Watch this Newsletter and the BV Website for more news. If you need to order passcards, contact GMI, see page 2, or on the BV Website go to: Resources, Forms (Downloadable), Tennis Courts and Pool Access Card Application, then complete and submit the form as directed.



Time to load up and see some pretty lights!

A free website called *Houston on the Cheap* is a remarkable resource for a variety of interesting (and money saving) things to eat, see, do and buy! Currently *The Guide to the Best Christmas Lights in Houston* is outstanding, here's the link: <https://www.houstononthecheap.com/best-christmas-lights-in-houston>



Happy Holidays!

May the gifts under your tree this holiday season be health, happiness, prosperity and safety.

May all our Briar Village neighbors be blessed in the coming new year.



Christmas Decoration Judging Dec 23rd

Please keep your lights on from dark until about 10:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 23rd as the Judging Team will be driving the village deciding which homes to honor this year.

Help out by having your house number easily viewable, with no cars parked in front of it!



Special Warning - Thieves are watching!

Twice in the recent past BV residents have been followed home from their bank, where they had gotten cash to pay workers. When the residents briefly went inside, the thieves struck, quickly absconding with lots of cash. Thieves may be on the lookout on payday for just this opportunity.

The news has reported west Houston thieves, driving stolen cars, following unsuspecting residents home and robbing them when they exit their cars in their own driveways. The police can't help you much if the only identification you can provide for the thieves is a stolen license plate number.



DONT BE A VICTIM!

It's that time of year when some have-nots decide to help themselves to what you have. You must be alert to this. Do not drive straight home from your bank, or a shopping trip, or even from your grocery store. Do not allow anyone to follow you into your driveway. If someone is behind you, do not go home, circle the block, or allow them to pass you on one of our major streets. Of course, you always keep car doors locked, right??

Do not let your appearance or behavior attract attention. Dress down, and blend in. In a parking lot, casually walk passed your car, but check for hiding bad guys as you do, then circle back, keys in hand, toss your packages in, and quickly enter, locking the door as you do.

Yes, it is sad that survival skills become part of a banking or shopping trip – but if cautious behavior becomes a habit, you and yours will be safer without really noticing it has become second nature to you.

“How to” for Briar Village



Below paragraphs and the Information Box to the right are valuable resources for all things Briar Village. In addition to contact information for our Board of Directors and our management company, you'll find specifics about trash and recycling, security and police contact information, curfew and amenity hours, clubhouse rental and other things that may help with life in our little village.

Briar Village Youth for Hire ...The Possibilities are Endless

BV young folks who want to work have a special spot on the BV Website. If you need a babysitter, pet sitter, lawn help or general assistance, please check this web page, which is only available to residents, and hire a Village kid! If you would like to add your name to the Youth for Hire list, contact the BV Webmaster; instructions are on the Youth for Hire web page.

Problem Resolution

The Board asks residents not to contact service providers directly for problem resolution; please contact the Director over that area on the BPCIA Board of Directors and let that Director handle the problem.

Diane McConnon, President BPCIA

Community Pool

Access Card required for admittance, see box at right. Pool is open weekends in May and September, and Tues – Sun in June – August.

Rent the BV Clubhouse Great for Parties!

Rent for an event is \$50 weekdays - \$100 weekend days. A \$200 deposit is required and will be returned pending a post-event inspection. Rental Agreement is on the BV Website under *For Residents* tab, or call GMI, phone at right. Remember: YOU own the clubhouse, treat it the way you'd treat your own home.

Board Members, Newsletter Team, Activities Team are Volunteers.

**Would you like to volunteer too?
Contact a Board Member.**

Advertisement

Business Advertising is welcome in this Newsletter Rates and details in box at the right

**Support Our Advertisers!
Income from advertising helps offset cost of our Newsletter**



Briar Village ~ December

Clip and Save for Future Reference!
Board Director's areas of responsibility change periodically, Make sure you have a current Newsletter before contacting a Director.



**BPCIA – Briar Park Community Improvement Assoc.
Meetings 7:00 p.m. at BV Clubhouse on 4th Thursday of Month**

<i>BPCIA Position, Name, Term Years, Primary Area, Backup Area(s), Contact Info</i>			
Pres. Diane McConnon	2017-18	V.P. Stephen Coad	2018-19
Clubhouse (to rent Clubhouse call GMI 713-334-8000)		Pool	
281-794-6482		281-935-5440	
dee.briarv@gmail.com		stephencoad@yahoo.com	
Sec. Alvin Olson	2018-19	Treas. Gale Antoinette	2017-18
Security		Newsletter, DRV	
832-274-7831		281-543-0840	
alvin@briarview.com		bvhoagale@gmail.com	
Director Lourdes Codina	2018-19	Director Nara Jeffus	2017-18
Activities		Webmaster, Activities	
281-723-0068		832-755-8337	
thecodinas@hotmail.com		narabhvoa@gmail.com	
Director Eric Newman	2018-19	Graham Management Inc. (GMI)	
DRV, Common Areas, Tennis, Clubhouse		(BV Mgmt Co. started 4/1/2016)	
713-817-2168		Attn: Carmen Reyes, Community Mgr.	
eric_newman@icloud.com		2825 Wilcrest, Ste. 600	
		Houston, TX 77042	
		PH 713-334-8000 – FAX 713-334-5055	

BPCIA has 7 Directors who serve 2 year terms and are elected by homeowners at the Annual Meeting in Feb. each year; 4 are elected in even number years; 3 are elected in odd number years. Directors' years of service are unlimited, but they must be elected at 2 year intervals. Interim vacancies may be filled by appointment via Directors' vote.

**Security Patrol – Started October 6, 2014, new name June 2018
Ranger Patrol & Co. Inc. – Dispatch 832-356-3224**

**Call 911 for Emergencies 24/7 HPD
HPD Non-Emergency - 713-884-3131**

**Vacation Watch – see Important Phone No's section on BV Website
then click on link or Contact Ranger Patrol**

Juvenile Curfew – Houston Code Of Ordinances

Under 18 years prohibited from being in public from midnight until 6:00 a.m. and from 9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. (M-F Classroom hours)

**Common Areas Open 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. No lingering after hours
(Unless a private party has rented the Clubhouse.) Other Amenities - Hours as Posted**

**Garbage – VF Waste Services - 713-787-9790 – Questions & Complaints
Pick-up Tues & Fri - Trash can only be put by the curb:**

**After 6:00 p.m. on Mon & Thurs or by 7:00 a.m. on Tues & Fri
Trash is not allowed in view any other time (see City Ordinance)**

**Bagged Lawn Debris is NOT to be left curbside except at above times
Up to 8 bags or cans with weight limit 40# ea for one man to handle.**

No construction debris, hazardous waste, tires. Bundle/tie limbs 4' long.
Heavy Trash on Fri Only (dishwashers, water heaters, etc.)

**Recycle Day is Thursday
If Tues, Thurs or Fri are Holidays, pick-up is skipped (NOT re-scheduled)**

Holidays are: New Years, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Xmas

Newsletter Team (NLT) Gale Antoinette - Absent Author's Name = NLT

Briar Village Newsletter
Published Monthly Feb-Dec and sent via U.S. 4th Class Mail to every home in BV; past issues on BV Website. BV residents are welcome to submit articles (450 word max.)

However, some editing and/or delay may be required due to space constraints. NLT not responsible for accuracy of submitted articles. Submit articles as an attachment to bvnewsletter2018@gmail.com

Articles Monthly Deadline: 3rd Friday

BV Newsletter Monthly Advertising Rates – Everyone Welcome

2 Lines/Residents Only \$5; Bus. Card & 1/4 page \$30; 1/2 page \$60; Full page \$100.
Make checks payable to: BPCIA. Submit payment to:

Briar Village Newsletter, c/o Graham Management Inc. – Address above
Submit artwork/copy to: bvnewsletter2018@gmail.com Ads Monthly Deadline: the 15th

**NEW April 2018 - Website/Message Board free to all residents
https://briarvillage.nabnetwork.com/home.php**

**Common Areas - Access Card for Pool & Tennis Courts \$25 - Order from GMI
Must submit completed Order Form to GMI address above, and a check or money order payable to BPCIA. Order Form on BV Website & past Newsletters**

BV Clubhouse Rental - see paragraph at left

Briar Village – Things to Do: Website, Monthly Community Assoc. Meeting, Youth for Hire, Scrapbook Club, Moms Club, Garden Club, Swim Team, Yard of the Month, semi-annual garage sales, seasonal events. **Open to all residents, owners & renters.**



The Citizen Patrol Needs You!
For more information contact
Karen Avery
at jxb1339@att.net

Be alert – Coyotes attacking people
...a word to the wise

Frisco, Texas is a northern suburb of Dallas, it is between McKinney and Denton, Texas. Frisco is about 28 miles from downtown Dallas - - about the same distance Briar Village is from downtown Houston.

Police in Frisco are warning residents about a string of incidents involving an aggressive coyote, including an attack on a jogger on a Wednesday morning, and a nine-year-old child. The jogger suffered a neck injury and had to undergo surgery. The child suffered a minor injury and was taken to a doctor for treatment.

On Oct. 26, a coyote tried to jump on a runner...but a passerby scared off the coyote. The attack on the child happened on Nov. 1.



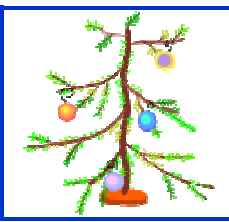
On Nov. 11, a police officer spotted a coyote "stalking" a runner. The officer turned on his siren and drove through the intersection, scaring off the coyote, according to dash cam footage released by the police.

The Frisco Police Department's animal services unit has been trying to catch the coyote. The department has also been working with other wildlife experts, who said the aggressive attacks are abnormal for coyotes.

Frisco Police offered these safety tips:

- ★ If you walk or jog, consider carrying something that makes a loud noise to scare off an animal; such as an air horn or whistle.
- ★ If you walk small animals, ensure they are on a leash and be alert.
- ★ Do not allow domesticated animals to roam free outdoors.
- ★ Do not approach or feed wildlife and keep trash in a secure container.

See the WFAA Dallas website to read the entire article, and for the dash cam video "Frisco Police Officer thwarts Coyote Attack," showing a coyote clearly stalking an unaware runner.
WFAA.com



Never worry about the size of your Christmas tree. In the eyes of children, they are all 30 feet tall.
Larry Wilde
The Merry Book of Christmas

Texas ★ Loan ★ Star



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Briar Village Resident

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NMLS 99250



Have you seen our new BV Book Hut?

"Take a book, leave a book"

For the past several years, free little libraries have been spreading around the world. In a publicly accessible location, a simple enclosure is built to protect books from the elements; people put books in that they have already read, and take out books others have left that they'd like to read.

Simple, free, fabulous!

We give our thanks to resident and Board Member Eric Newman, who built our handsome BV Book Hut beside the Tennis Court parking lot.

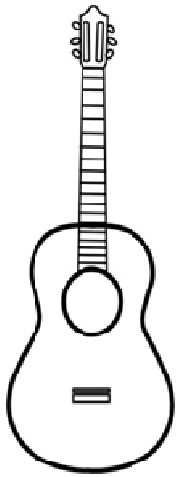
BV's Book Hut has two shelves.

- ✓ top shelf is for adults and teens
- ✓ bottom shelf is for children



Please feel welcome to take or leave a book!

Guitar Lessons for Christmas



Special

4 Lessons \$100
(Use studio guitar)



Adam Flint Guitar Studio
Hwy. 6 next to McDonald's
832-671-4184
(Gift Certificates Available)

Briar Village Real Estate Update October 16 - November 15, 2018

Homes Sold	3
Average Sold Price	\$232,500
Average Sold Price per square foot	\$105
Average Days on Market (sold)	61
Homes Pending	4
Active Homes	12
Months of Inventory	3.9 Months
Active Rental Homes	10
Number of Leased Homes	5
Lease Price	\$1694

The Briar Village Real Estate Market continues to remain steady as 2018 comes to a close. Three homes sold this past month for an average sales price of \$232,500. The average days on market is much lower than it was this time last year. Currently, homes have been selling in 61 days on the market while last year homes averaged 80 days on the market.



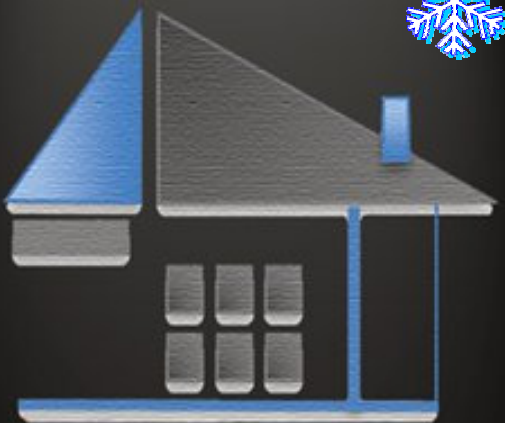
The Greater Houston Real Estate Market has been steady this month and it should take a little jump in December as "Pending" home sales are up 5.4% over this time last year. However, there are 7.3% more active homes on the market than in October of 2017.

Paul Holub, Briar Village Resident



*If you live in Briar Village
a 2 Line 'BV Resident' Newsletter Ad is \$5 a month!*

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E-a-s-y Cake Mix and Cool Whip Cookies (Lemon flavored cake mix is yummy and holiday festive!)



- 1 (18-1/4 oz) box cake mix
(any flavor desired)
- 1 (8 oz) container Cool Whip
(thawed)
- 1 egg
- Confectioners' sugar



Directions

Mix all ingredients
 Form into balls, roll in confectioners' sugar
 Bake at 350°F for 10 to 12 minutes
 Cool in pan a few minutes before removing
 Yield: 24-36 cookies



Need a gift for a child?

Yeti In My Spaghetti

This simple game is fun for all ages!

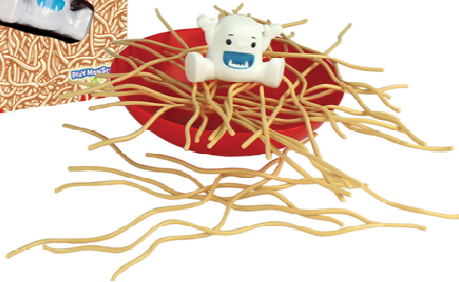
It only has 2 rules

- [1] If you touch a noodle you have to take it. No feeling around in the "food"!
- [2] You may use both hands to remove your noodle, but only one at a time.

Yeti in My Spaghetti is priced from \$7.36 to \$19.95 depending on whether you shop at Amazon, Target or Barnes and Noble.



**Grandpa and Grandma
 compete evenly with
 4 year olds!
 It is exciting too!**



It's all about removing noodles until the Yeti falls into the bowl, if he's dangling on a noodle that doesn't count. Once in the bowl, it's the last player who successfully pulled a noodle that wins, but nobody ever notices that winner/loser stuff!

The Yeti is cute and makes kids laugh! With no real explanation needed *Yeti in My Spaghetti* is a quick play right out of the box and everyone wants to play it again right away!

December 23rd is Christmas Decoration Judging 6:30 – 10:00 p.m.

Make sure your address is visible please!

This year many homes will be honored in categories such as: Outstanding Lights & Design, Design Elegance, Power, Reason for the Season, Christmas Patriots, Texas Christmas, Wondrous Wreaths, Show Stopper, Hi-tech Beauty, Wintertime Dream, Candy Cane Castle, Fantasy Land, and Winter Wonderland.

Briar Village is beautiful during the holidays,



be sure to make a tour!



Last Year...



**2017 Overall Most Outstanding
2106 Briarview**



December Honorees Previous Years

1993	14322 Ella Lee	2008	2106 Briarcrest
1994	14322 Ella Lee	2009	13731 Burgoyne
1996	2210 Briarview	2010	14118 Wickersham
1997	2215 Briarview	2011	1902 Briarturn
1998	14102 Chevy Chase	2012	2011 Briarcrest
2000	14211 Locke Lane	2013	2003 Briargreen
2001	2106 Briarview	2014	14118 Locke Lane
2002	14322 Ella Lee	2015	13723 Piping Rock
2003	2106 Briarview	2016	13923 Ella Lee
2005	2303 Briarlee	2017	2106 Briarview
2007	1902 Briarturn		

**Remember: Lights on December 23rd
6:30 – 10:00 p.m.**



YOTM resumes in spring 2019

Volunteer!

There's a lot to do.

Help with BV activities
is always welcome!

Who will do it, if you don't?



Briar Village
HOLIDAY
 MARKET
 &
 Neighborhood Meet & Greet



On Sunday, December 2nd from 1 pm – 4 pm, the BV Clubhouse was a happy, busy place. Attendance was great and there were lots of pretty, clever and interesting things on display – lots of Christmas shopping was happening! Refreshments were served and everyone – young and old - enjoyed the event.

Christmas story you haven't heard before

We learned in school that Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. His fleet consisted of 3 ships, the Nina, the Pinta, and his flagship, the Santa Maria - - here's what we didn't learn in school!



**Santa Maria - 117' long
 Ran aground off Haiti
 and was lost Dec. 25, 1492**

...After engaging in festivities and drinking, Columbus ordered the crew to continue sailing to Cuba late into the night. One by one the crew members fell asleep until only a cabin boy was steering the Santa Maria, causing it to run aground off the present-day site of Cap-Haïtien, Haiti on 24 December 1492, sinking the next day.

Realizing that the ship was beyond repair, Columbus ordered his men to strip the timbers from the ship. The timbers were later used to build a fort which Columbus called *La Navidad* (Christmas) because the wreck occurred on Christmas.



Losing your dog is like losing a family member

True story. In November a BV family's beloved dog accidentally got out and disappeared. The family blanketed the neighborhood with signs with photos of their LOST DOG.

The evening of Tuesday, 11/6 signs were posted at: Piping Rock and Joel Wheaton, tennis court parking lot, Briarstem, Briarcrest, Briargreen, Joel Wheaton and Ella Lee, Overbrook, Panagard Entry at Westheimer, Briargreen Entry at Westheimer, Piping Rock Entry at Hwy 6.

The signs began to disappear on 11/8, some were immediately replaced on 11/8. Then, by 7:00 am the morning of Friday, 11/9, all the signs were gone except the 3 at the perimeter entry streets.



Because of when the signs disappeared from which locations, and because several crumpled up signs were found in the tennis court trash can, someone who exercises in the morning or evening may be removing them; we are asking those with security cameras to be on the lookout and report to our security service.

We have been over this issue before: sign posters are supposed to date their signs and the sign Gestapo is supposed to leave all signs alone for 2 weeks.

This community is very good at finding lost children and lost pets, but not when our most valuable tool is destroyed by someone who clearly doesn't see the value and importance.

BV Security Report – December 6, 2018

Burglaries of 3 homes and 3 motor vehicles were reported in the past 30 days.

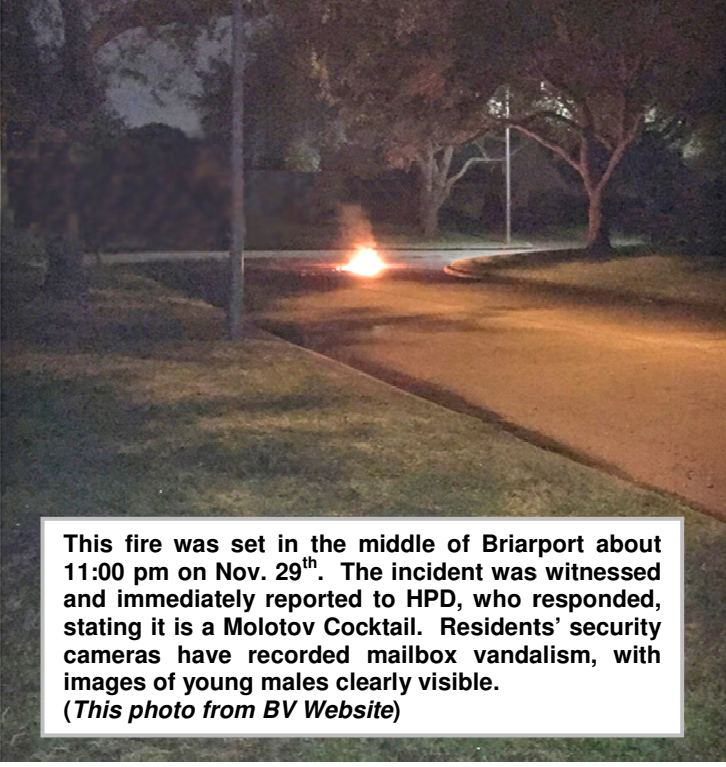
Twelve mailboxes were destroyed and a Molotov Cocktail was thrown in the middle of Briarport (see photo from the BV website below). No further details are available for publication at this time, but an investigation is on-going to determine if any of these are the acts of a group of young people, one of whom lives in BV.

Jugging is slang for a robbery that targets bank and ATM customers, 2 incidents were reported.

A giant thank you to Ranger Patrol's team, especially Officer Wilson, for working to improve the situation in BV. Officer Wilson has been adjusting his patrols and patrolling on his own time to assist in curbing some of the recent incidents.

Installation of new access controls for the Clubhouse and other Commons areas is complete and is working well.

Citizen Patrol added 2 new volunteers this month and had HPD conduct Citizen Patrol Training in our Clubhouse. Volunteers are performing many hours of patrol each month.



This fire was set in the middle of Briarport about 11:00 pm on Nov. 29th. The incident was witnessed and immediately reported to HPD, who responded, stating it is a Molotov Cocktail. Residents' security cameras have recorded mailbox vandalism, with images of young males clearly visible. (This photo from BV Website)

Board Elections February 7, 2019 Is this the year you decide to get involved?

In 2019 three director positions are up for re-election.

January 2nd is the deadline to submit biographical data to GMI if you want to run for the Board and have your information included in the mailing with the Annual Proxy. The election takes place at the Annual Meeting February 7th.

After the Annual Meeting, all the Directors meet and decide amongst themselves who will fill the various officer and director positions.

Please give it some thought, as we need new people to share their time and talents keeping our neighborhood the special place it always has been.

Best \$45 Ever Spent Story By an anonymous www poster

I bought 2 sheet cakes for a work event and we didn't end up cutting into the 2nd one, so I googled community centers in the area. I called one and they said they serve dinner for people in need a few times a week and there was one that night, so I dropped it off.



There were about 50 people there, one woman was kind of teary and said "they told us there might be a special treat tonight but none of us knew what it would be or if it would really come!!" The organizer asked for my email and contacted me the next day; she said that most of the people who come don't have reliable food sources and depend on food banks and these dinners to eat, and they absolutely never have anything special or celebratory because no one ever donates anything special like that. Easily the best \$45 I spent this year and I didn't even mean to do it.

*** Tip for a special gift ***

The most sought after non perishable item at food drives is canned fruit. It's not often donated and it's like candy.

www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/a16k1y/whats_the_best_purchase_you_made_this_year

Architectural Control Committee (ACC)

All improvements visible from the street must have ACC approval BEFORE work starts. Get the ACC Approval Form on the BV Website or from GMI.

Deed Restriction Violations (DRV)

Please review your Deed Restrictions, which are on the BV Website. If you receive a DRV Letter, please take it seriously, but please do not take it personally. The best course of action is to simply fix the problem and move on.

If you are uncomfortable in any manner with a letter you received, please feel welcome to contact us or GMI - our management company - to discuss it.

Gale Antoinette & Eric Newman, DRV Directors BPCIA

Community Association Meeting

The best way to learn about and comment on BV business is in person, by regular attendance at Monthly Meetings, which are held in the BV Clubhouse, on the 4th Thursday of each month (except Nov & Dec), and start at 7 p.m. Attire is casual, everyone welcome.



Next Meeting: January 24, 2019

Annual Meeting/Elections: February 7, 2019

Merry Christmas Everyone!



Briar Village
 A family neighborhood in far west Houston
 2825 Wilcrest Drive, Ste 600
 Houston, Texas 77042

See this Newsletter
 in color on the BV Website
 Join today, it's free!

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December 2018 Neighborhood Newsletter

Do Not Forward

Please open and read if you live at this address. This is not advertising, it is your community news.

**Have a Fun & Safe December
 ~ At a Glance ~**

Dec 21 - Jan 4	HISD Holiday
Dec 23	Christmas Decoration Judging
Jan 1	Annual Maintenance Fees Due \$543
Jan 2	Deadline to submit Bio to run for Board
Jan 7	HISD 1 st Day back in School 2019
Jan 24	Community Assoc Mtg
Feb 7	Annual Community Association Meeting Board Directors Election
Wk of Feb 10	Next Newsletter - Jan/Feb edition

Trust your instincts!
 Be watchful and alert - if it doesn't feel right, it isn't!



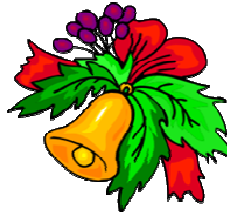
*Merry
 Christmas!*

Note to Recent Owners: Any change visible from the street must have ACC approval BEFORE work starts



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Lourdes Codina
 281-723-0068



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13802 Ella Lee Lane

Recent Neighbor Recommendation:
 (13735 Overbrook)

"I had my home up For-Sale-By-Owner and wasn't getting any real interest. *Lourdes Codina* called and explained her process. The next day she had a sign up, posted it on HAR, and started a social media conversation. That same day I had several offers. I have purchased five houses in my lifetime and Lourdes is the only realtor that I would trust to sell or help purchase a home. Talk about someone that goes above and beyond. I wish all realtors were like her. She really cares and understands the value of *Customer Service*.

I have referred her to a neighbor (home already sold), sold my home, and sold my wife's home in a very short time. I would say that is a remarkable job and all because of her professionalism and *Customer Service*. I guess the best thing I can say is that she will be my Realtor for my next investment and I think that says it all!"

Jesse Gonzales