



SPRING NEWSLETTER

CHATEAU ESTATES CIVIC ORGANIZATION

MARCH 2020

## President's Message

The CECO board met in January, and welcomed new members Ron Updegraff and Richard Sanderson. Pursuant to bylaws update, City Councilman at Large Tom Willmott attended, joining Councilwoman at Large Kristi McKinney and District 4 Councilman George Branigan as ex-officio board members. The board approved 2020 budget and calendar, priorities for the year and gave go-ahead on the new website.

The first general meeting is coming up on March 18th. Meet neighbors as we hear from city officials on issues of interest to the Chateau community. All CECO area residents are invited to attend, and light refreshments will be served.

The meeting will have less CECO business, and more time for guest speaker presentations and audience question and answer!

City Council District 4 Councilman George Branigan and Kenner Police Chief Michael Glaser will talk about city council business and public safety and take questions from the audience. Mayor Ben Zahn's presentation will include an update on city due diligence for the potential move of city hall to the old Macy's building, the potential for a land based casino and interest of developers in Laketown.

The CECO board will continue to support city initiatives for economic development, and encourages all residents to become informed and have a voice in our shared future. The farmer's market in Rivertown has closed and the city is considering a farmer's market in north Kenner. Look for a possible survey of interest in a farmer's market.

The website has been updated. It is more secure and smart phone compatible. A blog will include regular short items of interest. You can sign up to receive blog items by email. The website was updated at no additional cost.

We are hoping to increase the number of households represented on our email list this year, now about one third of CECO households. To subscribe to the email list go to "About Us" on the website.

Membership dues are due now. We encourage the ease and security of PayPal. Go to Chateau-Estates.org and click 'Join Today'. You do not need a PayPal account. Please give it a try! It is secure and saves everyone time. If you prefer sending a check please mail along with the form on the back or bring to the March meeting. Your dues matter! Please join today.

Spring is around the corner, birds are singing and honey-do lists are calling. If your home or yard needs a little work, please join neighbors on your street in fix up & clean up. Michelle Charvet and Tom Tatar have some great spring garden and home tips inside.

Together we can maintain and enhance neighborhood quality of life and protect property values.

Bob Bales  
CECO President



**General Membership Meeting  
Wednesday March 18th at 7:00 p.m.  
The Pavilion at Kenner City Park**

**Guest speakers will include;**

**George Branigan, Councilman District 4  
Michael Glaser, Kenner Chief of Police.  
Ben Zahn, Mayor of Kenner**



Louisiana's primary election is April 4th. If you plan to absentee vote or are not registered to vote, deadlines for the April primary are fast approaching. Check out the CECO website blog for information.

## Business Notes

The mission of CECO is provide a means whereby Chateau Estates residents can act together on matters of common interest, maintain and enhance quality of life within the Chateau community, and promote the general welfare of the community and Kenner in cooperation with similar organizations.

Board members are listed on the website along with the 2020 budget, minutes of meetings, calendar of 2020 meetings, bylaws and financial reports. CECO is a 501C3 non-profit.

Dues cover the cost of new neighbor welcome, general meetings, help support public gardens on Vintage and Chateau, election forums, social events including children's Halloween party, website licenses and newsletter expenses not covered by advertiser support.

The newsletter is printed spring, summer and fall and delivered by US mail to 1400 Chateau addresses. 80% of the cost is covered by advertisements. Suggestions and contributions to the newsletter and website are welcome at [civicorg@chateau-estates.org](mailto:civicorg@chateau-estates.org).



The CECO Board met in January. Members present from left, Tom Tatar NW Area Director, Laurie Becker Newsletter, Kerry Marcus Vice President, Karen Scariano NE Area Director, Jamillah Grant Secretary, Sid Leblanc SW Area Director, Bob Bales President, Ron Updegraff SW Area Director, Julius Neumeyer Treasurer, Judy Hafford NW Area Director, Mike Murphy Past President, Kristi McKinney Ex-Officio, Richard Sanderson SE Area Director, and Tom Willmott Ex-Officio. The meeting was also attended by Garden Club Co-President Faye Haley, and former board member Ted Berggren.

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## CHATEAU ESTATES GARDEN CLUB

"MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1977"

By Denise Woodward, Garden Club Historian

The Chateau Estates Civic Organization was established in 1973. One objective was to promote beautification of the main thoroughfares. While planning for the beds along Chateau Boulevard, several members recognized the need for an organization that would not only assist in this effort but also promote home gardening beautification throughout the subdivision. The Chateau Estates Garden Club was established in 1977.

The garden club's major objective, beautification of the public thoroughfares in Chateau Estates Subdivision, was begun in 1978 and continues today. This includes ongoing maintenance of 11 garden beds enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. In 1979 the Garden Club was instrumental in tree plantings on Chateau Boulevard and Vintage Drive. This effort was funded by the garden club, civic organization, and Kenner District Councilman. In 1985, through the work of the garden club, the entire subdivision was declared a Bird Sanctuary.

Among the other Garden Club beautification projects are those at Green Lawn Terrace, A. C. Alexander and Chateau Estates Elementary schools. Funding for the club's many beautification projects has come from Home Tours, Gala Events and other fundraisers.

The club has reached out to those in need in the community with philanthropic and garden therapy work. It was instrumental in the City of Kenner winning awards in the Louisiana Cleanest City Contest and the dedication of a Blue Star Memorial Marker at Kenner's Veterans Park, honoring military veterans. Club members provide a Flower Team for the New Orleans Museum of Art and co-host the Annual Chateau Estates Children's Halloween Party.

The many awards the club has won for its work are a tribute to its dedicated presidents, executive boards and members. Working together to make a difference in the community has bound the club's members together in friendships that will last forever.

The Garden Club meets on the first Wednesday of each month, August through May, at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in additional information, please contact Co-President Faye Haley at 504-669-5579.



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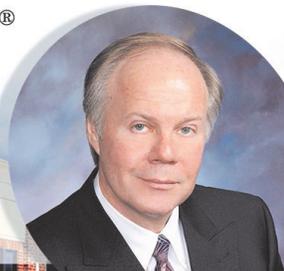
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## Springtime In Chateau Michelle Charvet

Spring is here, so it's the perfect time to get outside and start caring for your home and spruce up the neighborhood.

Work on your landscape but also enjoy it. Your outdoor area should be an extension of your home. A beautiful and functional

landscape makes your house more appealing and will increase its value. Landscaping your yard effectively is about making the yard a perfect complement to your home.

Clean up the lawn, get rid of any left-over winter debris and plant some new annuals such as begonias, pentas, vinca, angelonias, marigolds, purslane and many more to enhance your landscape.

Mow the lawn.

Trim overgrown plants.

Install evergreens where needed.

Weed and apply a pre-emergence herbicide to keep weeds in check.

Mulch makes a landscape look finished but also helps soil retain moisture and helps deter weeds.

Maintenance: Get into a routine to maintain the beauty of your landscape and curb appeal.

Spring is the best time of the year to get all these tasks completed. Set your yard on a path toward a full year of success.

Need help? Bring a photo to your local nursery for expert, professional guidance to bring color, charm and personality to your landscape suited to the conditions and location. Or, hire a licensed landscaper. At the same time, consider your neighbors and focus your efforts on your front yard.

Check out Homeowner Resources on Chateau-Estates.org for more great landscaping and lawn tips.

Happy Gardening!  
Michelle Charvet

*Check out Homeowner Resources on Chateau-Estates.org for more great landscaping and lawn tips.*



Looking for ideas or expert assistance with your garden or yard this spring? Please consider our advertisers if you need landscape design, an irrigation system, tree care or removal, lawn and garden care or garden supplies. A professional can be a quick path to a great update of your property.



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## Birds of Chateau By Bob Siegel

This is a green night heron. It is seen here at the back of my home, which is located on the third fairway of the Chateau golf course. This bird is one of the many different birds that live in Chateau Estates, giving the community an unusual

opportunity to watch nature and to observe birds that do not inhabit other developments in Kenner.

Several night herons frequent the Chateau course. They are attracted by the many ponds. But all these birds tend to stay hidden in the trees of Chateau until late in the afternoon. They may also be seen in the early morning. They are called night herons for this reason: They rarely, if ever, appear in the bright sun in the middle of the day.

The green heron is tamer than most other night herons, at least it seems that way. They will often crouch along the side of a pond, waiting for an opportunity to snare something to eat with their long, sharp beaks. They tuck their head into their body, giving the impression that they have no neck. They will often hold this position even when a Chateau resident approaches them. Most other night herons will fly away quickly in such situations.

I have never seen a green heron wade into a pond to find food, the way most other night herons. They prefer to hunt from the edge of a pond, even if this requires them to remain in the same position, unmoved, for many minutes. They are crafty and will occasionally place an insect near the edge of a pond, hoping to attract a fish from the bottom.

**What is a Little Free Library?  
Where is there one in Chateau?  
Check out our blog at [www.chateau-estates.org](http://www.chateau-estates.org).**



*Chateau is a privately owned country club featuring an 18 hole championship golf course, a driving range, a premier tennis facility with seven rubico and two hard courts, an elegant dining room, a swimming pool, fitness center, banquet rooms and more.*

*For more information regarding Chateau's types of membership, and banquet facilities, please call or e-mail.*

**Contact Information**  
**Telephone (504) 467-1351**  
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## An Update from District 4 Councilman George Branigan

Hi Chateau Estates,

**Pavilion Shopping Center** As I hope that you are aware, I'm pushing for more stores at the Pavilion Shopping Center at Chateau and West Esplanade. Trader Joe's listens to request for a store in an area if residents bombard them through their website. I'm asking everyone please go to the Trader Joe's website and request a store in our area. Nothing is guaranteed but if we hit them with as many requests as possible it will get their attention. Club 4 Fitness will be opening in March.

**Lights on Chateau Blvd** As most of you are aware the City of Kenner light poles on Chateau Blvd were changed to LED's. For a while blinking lights due to a voltage problem gave us an interesting drive. The voltage issue is fixed and now we have very bright streets. The street lights from West Esplanade to the Chateau entrance sign have been out several months due to a feeder line problem that will be fixed soon.

**Gardens** The garden at Chateau Trianon and Vintage will be lit up soon. We moved the sign into the middle of the garden and I think it looks better there. There will be new art work in the circle on Chateau Blvd and Vintage and the one that was there will be put on Vintage and Chateau Trianon before the Duncan canal.

**Utility Boxes** We will start the painting of utility boxes on our medians so they will look attractive. I'm working to get it started soon. We are still getting free mud to fill in the medians, as soon as West esplanade is finished Chateau Blvd is next. If you see a spot that needs dirt please take a picture of it and text it to me at 504-450-1988.

If there is anything that I can help you with, please call my office 504-468-7251 or my cell 504-450-1988. Jessica is my assistant and really does an incredible job for me.



*Allyson Hicks*  
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## Beyond Curb Appeal

**Jamillah Grant, REALTOR®**  
**CECO Secretary**

Did you know? Energy-efficient upgrades may save you money in the long run and raise your property resale value. Try these smart alternatives.

Get a professional energy audit. Are you a serial do-it-yourselfer? The U.S. Department of Energy recommends conducting your own home energy audit before consulting a professional. Energy.gov provides a checklist to start the process. This won't be as comprehensive as a professional audit, but you'll get a basic sense of where to start your smart energy upgrades before deciding on a full upgrade.

Install multi-paned windows with energy-efficient coatings. Before resorting to a complete window replacement, try sealing your windows with weather stripping and caulk to stop any leaks. You can also cover windows with shades or curtains and plant trees outside to provide extra shade. Don't sweat over major renovations — a short trip to the hardware store can lower your heating and cooling costs.

Smart Upgrade —while buying EnergyStar appliances is a worthwhile energy reduction investment, limiting your large appliance use to off-peak hours is an easy alternative. A couple of the biggest energy drains in your home are your washer and dryer. Remember to wash clothing in cold water if possible and only dry full loads. These simple changes may help lower your monthly energy bill.

Demonstrating your home's low energy profile is just one way to boost resale value.

### CECO Website

Please visit our updated web page at [www.chateau-estates.org](http://www.chateau-estates.org). If you want to publicize an event, community activity or recognize someone contributing to the community please send a photo and information to [civicorg@chateau-estates.org](mailto:civicorg@chateau-estates.org).



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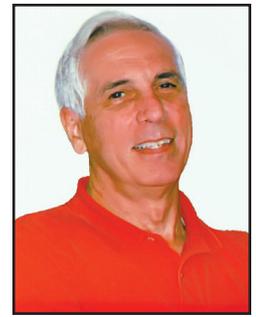
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## Spring Check List Tom Tatar NW Area Director



It's time to prep your house and yard, slash utility bills, boost curb appeal, and up your comfort all year long...Here's how!

**PRESSURE WASH.** Use a pressure washer to blast away dirt and mildew that has built up over the past months. A good detergent is helpful and whether you buy or rent a pressure washer, know its strength and your limitations. These tools can quickly do a lot of damage if they aren't handled properly.

**BBQ GRILL.** Barbeque grills will be heating up so give your grill its own spring cleaning. Start with the cooking grate. A wire brush and de-greasing detergent will remove any rust and residue. Gas unit burners should be cleaned, inspected for deterioration caused by rust, and be free of debris. Give the outside of your grill a new coat of high heat spray paint after a good degreasing.

**GUTTERS.** Another attention area if the gutters. Fall leaves, out, so rain runoff can get through. Be careful on the ladder! If height is not your thing, a U-shaped spray unit connected to the hose will do the trick.

**AIR CONDITIONER.** Have a pro check it before the 90 degree weather arrives. Small problems can be aggravated by excessive use, so an early check-up will save you hassle and may save you some money. One of the easiest things, and most overlooked, is changing your return air filter. There are many to choose from and in finding the one for you, consider efficiency, health benefits, maintenance, and cost. The addition of a programmable setback thermostat will also help to control cost.

**SEALING.** Keep that cool air in! Seal up air leaks and cracks with caulking around windows and weather stripping around doorways, including the one leading to the attic. This can help lower your energy bill.

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**Spring Activities  
Chad Pitfield  
Parks/Rec Director**



Registration for Muss Bertolino baseball and softball ages 3-12 starts on March 9, 2020.

Our Kenner Soccer program continues to be a tremendous program that touches the lives of several hundred youth. Their home is out of Greenlawn Playground. Registration is not open for now but kids can be accepted anytime of the year. Call the office and we will put you in touch with Coach Carlos Bueso for more information.

Our Kenner Gymnastics and Kenner Martial Arts programs continue to increase in participation numbers. These activities are held at the Esplanade Mall Recreation Facility.

The annual Hot Diggity Dog Fest is March 28th in Kenner City Park at the Dog Park. Our Breakfast with the Bunny and Kids Summer Camp will be happening very soon.

We continuously have classes of all sorts that open up. To see the available classes and register for activities, please visit Kenner. recdesk.com

**Safety on Streets**

Children are out playing, walking and biking. Please drive like your kids live here.

Traffic enforcement on your street can be requested by contacting Kenner Police at 712-2200.



**George BRANIGAN**  
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**Muss Bertolino Improvements  
Ben Zahn, Mayor**



My administration and I are in the middle of significant improvements to the track and football field at Muss Bertolino Playground.

We recently completed a total replacement of the track after an inspection discovered unsafe conditions. The track is now available for all recreational activities. I'd like to thank Councilman George Branigan for his assistance and for paying for half of the cost of the track repairs, and Recreation Director Chad Pitfield and the Recreation Department for overseeing this process.

We are currently re-capping the football field with new dirt for the upcoming football season. We are proud to be the home field for the Kenner Discovery football team. That work should be ready by the end of the summer.

Along with Chad Pitfield and his team, we have been busy revitalizing playgrounds in every council district. Improvements in the past year include a new soccer facility at Greenlawn playground and new equipment at Erlanger pocket park and the Laketown, Highway Park, Veterans Park and Arizona tot lots.

We completed major upgrades to the AP Clay Splash Pad/Pocket Park and basketball court, improved vendor huts at Kenner City Park and the Southside press box at Woodlake Playground and we are making improvements at Betsy Hammond Playground.

Of course, last year also saw the very successful move of the gymnastics, cheerleading and martial arts programs to the former Old Navy location in The Esplanade mall, followed by the move of the Recreation Department offices.

Recreation is one of the priorities of my administration and we will work hard throughout the year to continue to upgrade and improve our facilities.

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## Protecting Your Vehicles Kenner Police Chief Michael Glaser

Car burglaries and thefts have become more prevalent in the greater New Orleans area in recent months. Although many of us have invested in various technologies to prevent these crimes, such as doorbell cameras (which are very helpful), there are time-tested methods to thwart car burglars/thieves.

- Remember to lock your vehicle with the windows up and take the keys. Almost half of all stolen/burglarized vehicles had unlocked doors or the keys left inside.
- Leave clues in case your car is stolen. Drop business cards or address labels inside your doors for vehicle identification.
- Never leave your running car unattended.
- Always store packages and valuables in the trunk when carrying them around. This is the number one reason break-ins occur.
- Utilize electronic or manual anti-theft devices to deter criminals.

### School Notes

Chateau Estates resident Colleen Winkler, Principal at Chateau Estates K-8 School retired recently with 33 years in public education and ten years as school principal. We acknowledge Colleen for her years of leadership shaping education of area children. The new principal at Chateau Elementary is Mr Erik Kelt.

Construction of the new Discovery school continues to progress toward a fall opening and the movement of middle school to the new campus. New school traffic zone signs have been put up, and the city is conducting a traffic study. The new school is a significant addition to north Kenner, and CECE plans to invite school representatives for an update at the July general meeting.

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Chief Glaser can be reached by email at [kpd@kenner.la.us](mailto:kpd@kenner.la.us). Visit the Kenner Police Department website at [www.kennerpd.com](http://www.kennerpd.com). You can also download the free Kenner P.D. mobile app for both Apple and Android devices as well as access the Kenner P.D. Facebook and Twitter pages for the latest updated crime, traffic, and other law enforcement-related information.

### The Poop on Pets A doggone problem



We all love to walk our furbabies, especially when the weather is nice. With spring around the corner, many of us will be out enjoying the weather with our pets. Please be considerate and pick up your pet's gift in the grass. None of us likes to bring home something extra on our shoes!!

Kenner municipal ordinance requires owners to pick up after their pets.

### The Power of Buying Local

Please buy local when possible including stores, services, gas, groceries and eating out. Kenner businesses are convenient and offer personalized service.

By buying local you keep sales tax that would go elsewhere coming to our city government. Half of the City of Kenner's annual budget is covered by sales tax income.



### Chateau Market Update

This market update is courtesy of realtor Sharon Kochera and represents sales of single family homes from August 4, 2019 thru January 31, 2020.

	Per Sq. Ft	Sale Price
4240 Loire Drive	\$141.57	\$268,000
4 Chateau Trianon	\$137.22	\$483,120
117 Chateau Latour	\$154.22	\$535,000
6 Chateaux Margot	\$117.42	\$555,000
41 Chateau Palmer	\$141.86	\$569,000

Average sale price was \$508,780. Sale price averaged 96% of asking price. Houses were on the market an average of 101 days.



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**Chateau Estates Civic Organization**  
**General Membership Meeting**  
*All Chateau Area Residents Invited*

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**Please Plan to Attend!**

**When:** Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 7:00 PM  
**Where:** Pavilion at Kenner City Park

**Presentations by**

City Councilman George Branigan  
 Kenner Police Chief Michael Glaser  
 Kenner Mayor Ben Zahn

*Your Membership Supports*

Protection of property values -- Neighborhood Beautification -- Public Gardens -- Quality of Life - Topical Neighborhood Meetings - Election Forums -- Newsletter – Chateau-Estates.org & Facebook page - Children’s Halloween Party



**Membership Application**  
**Annual Family Membership Dues \$35**

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**Kenner, LA 70064**

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