



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

CHATEAU ESTATES CIVIC ORGANIZATION

JULY 2020

President's Message

While most of us Louisianans have seen challenging times, the pandemic has been different in its own nature, and we all look forward to the day we see it in the rear view mirror.

If you are a health care provider, first responder, or work in a grocery store or other business critical to the public, thank you for standing forth for the community now, and particularly during those challenging first months.

The civic association board has remained active, working together by email, phone and zoom. Out of an abundance of caution, to protect health during this ongoing pandemic we are not calling a general membership meeting this month.

As the city, state and our community progress toward resumption of normal, the board will continue to support economic development in Kenner. Please remember to buy local and support Kenner merchants, restaurants and businesses. A survey of Chateau residents to help the city Economic Development Department assess a farmer's market for north Kenner was approved by the board and will be at a later date.

Please check out the Chateau blog at www.chateau-estates.org. This month we will subscribe all members and email contacts to a weekly email summary of blogs. We hope you will find that Friday email of interest. Weekly blogs include updates on new Covid 19 cases in Chateau Estates and Kenner. As traffic on the website continues to grow, we will look at increasing local advertising on the website.

With extended stays at home and limited contact, some folks may be feeling a sense of isolation. Please take time to check on your neighbors, particularly senior citizens who might enjoy a phone call or visit from time to time.

Due to the coronavirus, this year's membership is down. If you have sent in your dues, thank you for your support. If you have not yet done so, please send your dues. Pay Pal is quick and convenient over the website and you do not need a Pay Pal account. Financial reports are on the website.

Gratefully, for most of our community it's been cabin fever instead of the coronavirus. In some ways it has also been a pause that gave folks time to slow down and spend more time at home with family. More families and individuals are out walking, bicycle riding and while maintaining social distance, visiting with neighbors. For some this has been a good time to catch up on things around the house and garden, and you can see homeowner pride reflected throughout the neighborhoods.



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

Bob Bales
CECO President

Voter Registration

If you are not registered to vote, you can register on line through Geauxvote, or you can register in person through the Jefferson Parish Registrar of Voters.

Absentee Voting

You can apply for an absentee ballot if you are at higher risk from Covid19. You can also apply to vote by mail if you are over 65. Check the Secretary of State Website or call the JP Registrar of voters for information on deadlines and how to apply.

Links to these websites and other election information can be found at www.chateau-estates.org, click the banner at the top for 2020 Voter Information.

August 15th Public Vote on Sale of EJGH

The Jefferson Parish Council has approved an agreement for LCMC Health to acquire East Jefferson General Hospital. The acquisition will be finalized pending a public vote by residents of the East Bank of Jefferson Parish on Saturday, August 15, 2020.

LCMC Health will pay \$90 million for EJGH and its operations, \$15 million for performance payments and invest \$100 million. The acquisition would allow EJGH to pay off bonds and fully fund the employee pension plan.

For more information including an independent assessment of the fairness of the financial proposal, visit the Jefferson Parish webpage for Sale of EJGH.

CECO Business Notes

Board Nominations for 2021 will be voted on in November. The Nominating Committee recommendations for next year are:

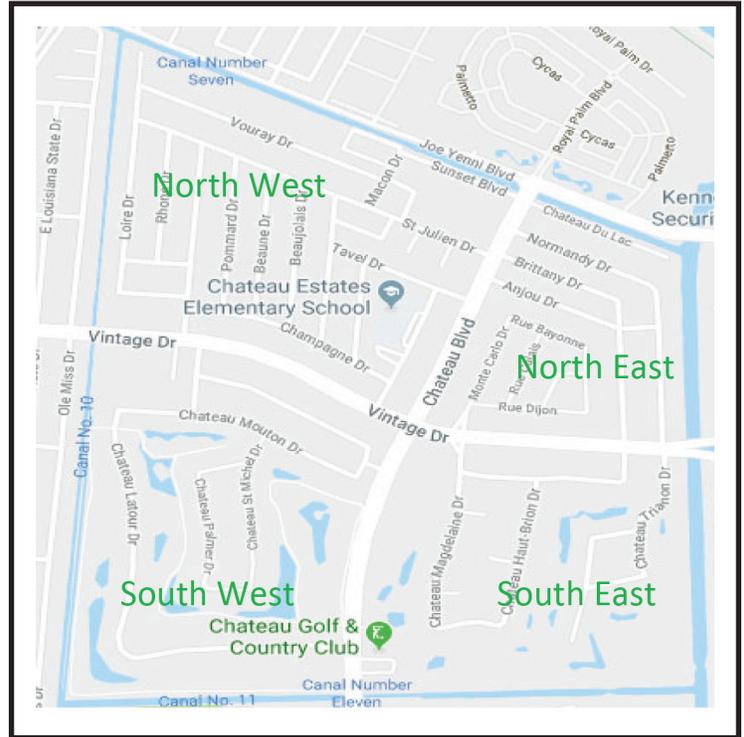
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South East	Brad Bohannon
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	Karen Scariano
North West	Tom Tatar
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To place your name or someone else in nomination for area director or officer, please contact civicorg@chateau-estates.org. Proposed bylaw update will be posted on the website to enable election by email vote, and to enable the president and vice president to Serve more than two consecutive years.

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Summer Gardening Michelle Charvet

With so many people staying home lately, more folks are discovering the joy of gardening and landscaping. This is a fine time to spruce up your yard.

Trim evergreen shrubs, mulch the garden and eradicate the weeds. If you are interested in vegetable gardening now is a good time for planting peppers, eggplants, cucumbers, squash, okra, peas and beans.

If pretty flowers and annuals are more your thing, plant heat tolerant and sun loving vinca, pentas, gaura, melampodium, profusion zinnia and purslane. For shade loving color plant begonias, impatiens, caladiums and coleus.

Be sure your vegetables and annuals are getting sufficient water and fertilizer to maximize production. As always, watch out for insects and diseases that can wreak havoc on your beautiful landscape. Watch out for chinch bugs in St. Augustine grass. Chinch bugs thrive in the hot weather.

Now is the time to prune your trees for hurricane season. Remove dead branches that can fall on your house, cars and people. Overly long branches should be shortened and branches with cracks removed. Thin the foliage so wind can flow through branches, decreasing the chance that trees and plants will be uprooted. Cut back all trees and weak branches that could contact your home.

Have a safe Summer and Happy Gardening!
Michelle Charvet



Birds of Chateau By Bob Siegel

This is a kite.
A Mississippi Kite.

Though the bird is named for a neighboring state, it is just as widespread here in Louisiana. And it is as easy to find.

It flies in Chateau Estates every day, having arrived here in early May after spending a warm winter in South America and returning to stay in Chateau into the fall. How to locate it: Just look up. Kites fly above the tallest trees, taking advantage of updrafts of warm air to remain aloft without flapping their wings, often for what seems like a half hour. There is often more than one Mississippi Kite in the air over Chateau at the same time. These light-grey birds sail on outstretched dark-grey wings, describing graceful circles in the sky. They seem to have little on their minds except the pleasure of flight, but they're searching the ground below, looking for their next meal. That meal may consist of insects, mice, even small snakes and other birds.

The Mississippi Kite, though not an especially large bird, is, after all, a bird of prey. It stretches 14 inches from beak to tip of tail, smaller than crows (17 to 21 inches), but larger than blue jays (11 to 12½ inches). They are quiet as they go about their soaring. They seldom have much to say. We haven't heard them sing, but they are capable of it. The Peterson bird guide assures us kites have a clear voice, sometimes using it to call out, "phew-phew."

The US census is Underway. How is Chateau Estates Doing?

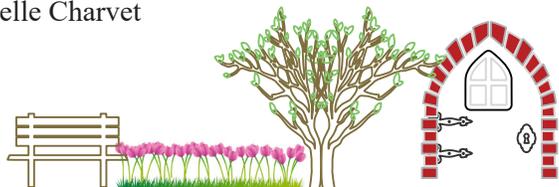
For Chateau North West and North East, an estimated 67% of residents have completed the 2020 census. This compares to 70% for the census in 2010.

In Chateau South East and South West, an estimated 56% of residents have completed the census. This compares to 78% in 2010.

The census takes about five minutes to complete. If you have not completed it please go to MyCensus.gov.

Why does the census matter?

Census results will affect Kenner, Jefferson Parish and the State. Results are used to adjust electoral districts, and provides critical data that lawmakers, business owners and others use to provide services, products, and support to your community. Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools and roads based on census data. Completing the census can help make sure your federal tax dollars come home!





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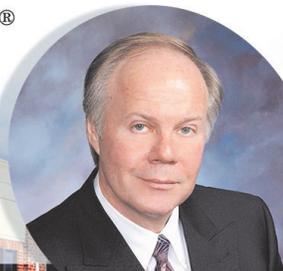
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Gardening During Our Warmest Months
By Faye Haley
Chateau Garden Club

July and August are usually long, hot months, or even possibly daily morning rain months.

Watch for stress on flowers, plants, shrubs, and lawns. Even well-established shrubs need to be watered if we do not have rain for ten days. Azaleas are a prime example, for

they have a very shallow root system and are one of the most drought vulnerable plants/shrubs that we grow.

Whether because of root rot or drought, you can plant replacements for annuals or perennials that are no longer attractive, but look for those that are heat tolerant such as blue daze, dusty miller, dwarf pentas, celosia, impatiens, lantana, ornamental peppers, perennial verbena periwinkle, portulaca, purslane, and salvia Victoria. In shady areas, peacock gingers or hostas are an excellent bet.

Due to the extreme heat during the late summer months, plan on doing most of your gardening early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Stay in shady areas as much as possible and follow the shade in your landscape as the sun moves across the sky; leave areas as they become sunny and move into areas as they become more shaded. Wear a hat and use sun screen. To prevent dehydration, drink water before, during, and after working outside, preferably cold water because cold drinks are absorbed by the body faster.

I hope to see many beautiful yards throughout Chateau Estates. For the ladies, don't forget that we have the Chateau Estates Garden Club for those who are interested. Our fall meeting will be the first Wednesday in September.

Faye Haley, Co-President, Chateau Estates Garden Club,
 fayehaley@gmail.com



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.

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City Budget Impacted by Covid19
By Kristi Katsanis McKinney
Councilwoman at Large

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the budgets of local governments throughout Louisiana and the country, and Kenner certainly has not been immune. The city budget is heavily dependent on sales taxes and when

collections are down, the budget is affected.

The shutdown started in mid-March, resulting in a total decline in sales tax collections of 50.4%. In April, collections were down 20.2% and 30.2% in May. The total overall decline in city sales tax is estimated to be \$1,690,794 during the final quarter of the fiscal year. Estimated court fines declined by \$905,000, building permits by \$601,000, and occupational licenses by \$487,000 due to the closure of those offices. The total estimated shortfall for the 2019-2020 budget is \$6.294 million.

However, thanks to the work of the administration, Chief Financial Officer Michael Wetzel and his staff, the city has not had to access the fund balance. We were able to cover the shortage by "sweeping" the operating accounts of all departments of any excess funds that could be applied to the shortfall.

The City Council swept their own operating accounts by \$78,500. The total operating budget decreased by \$4.586 million and capital spending decreased by \$1.677 million. The City Council adjusted spending for the 2019-2020 budget year downward and we are now focusing on the 2020-2021 budget, which is a challenge given the current state of the pandemic.

As society becomes more normal and residents adjust to the 'new normal', city government will be able to more reliably look forward to plan for the next year and those to come. In the short term, the City Council and Administration are working closely together for the benefit of all residents.

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A Casual Observation of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Kenner's Real Estate Market

Jamillah Grant, REALTOR®
CECO Secretary

In anticipation of summer, traditionally the number of sales increases in April with a steady rise until September. However, based on stats from 2018-2020, the trend showed that listings followed the same upward trajectory until mid-June. It appeared that an upward trajectory would follow in 2020 with a rise in sales in January.

However, in late February of 2020 real estate sales activity took a steep decline. By March when the State of Louisiana first announced the Coronavirus Pandemic and the Stay-at-Home warnings, sales activity was already in a downward trend. April of 2020, the number of new listings rose slightly while the number of real estate sales plummeted in a dramatic downward trajectory. At the initiation of the Stay-at-Home warning, a lower number of homes entered the Kenner housing market. When inventory is scarce we have points in time where the real estate activity is considered a seller's market.

When a seller's market is created, Realtors present multiple offers on one property and the real estate economy appears to be booming. Although, we were entering a pandemic there were points in time when new listings decreased and the number of sales rallied. However, this rally was not sustained and we have not entered a seller's market.

In general, the overall number of new listings and sales has taken a downward trend since 2018. The downward trend continued January to May of 2020 showing a diminishing number of new listings and sales in Kenner.

A graph of these trends can be found on the CECO Blog "Kenner Real Estate and the Pandemic"



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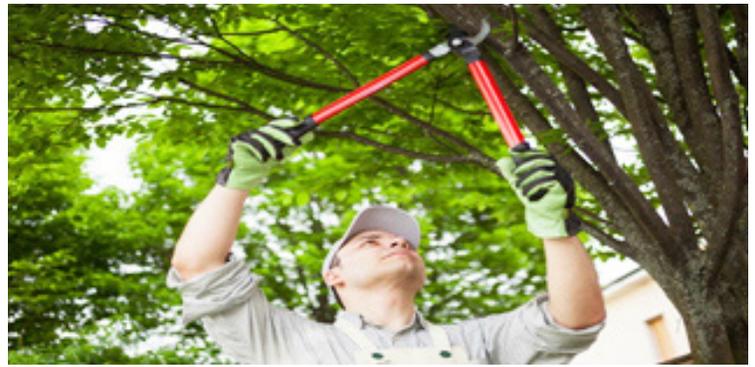
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Trees add to the beauty of your home and the neighborhood. As they grow and mature, trees need to be maintained.

When pruning for the storm season, also check for low branch obstruction of sidewalk and street. Trees over sidewalks should be maintained by the homeowner to provide 8 foot clearance. For streets, city code requires 13 ½ foot clearance.

Recycling and Weekend Drop Off Site

Recycling matters! To participate in household recycling you must request a recycling container at IVWaste.com There is no charge. A list of recyclables is on the website.

IV Waste now has a drop off site for Kenner residents. It is behind the Brake Tag Station on Williams and is open Friday – Sunday 9 am – 3 pm. It is free to Kenner residents for residential use only. Bring a copy of your driver license or a water bill showing you live in Kenner.

Outside of collection times, storing trash containers behind the front line of your house helps day to day appearance of the neighborhood, and is a code requirement.

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Eight Ways to Support Local Business and the Local Economy
Brad Bohannon
SE Area Director

We are all relieved to be moving toward normalcy! However, we are not there yet, folks. We are living through a trying time in our communities. Experts are saying up to 40 percent of business could fail. There is no better time to support local business than now. The sales taxes we generate, especially in Kenner, pays for parks, grass cutting, police and all government services. Without them, we open the door for property taxes to be increased.

But we can all chip in and help!

1. Shop local. Make a conscious decision to fill up your tank here in Kenner when heading out of town.
2. Follow local business on social media. This will help you stay informed of what they have going on, and an opportunity to share positive comments encouraging others to come to Kenner!
3. Share local businesses post and engage with them so more people will see them.
4. Go on review sites like yelp and TripAdvisor and give an accurate, yet positive review.
5. When entertaining family or business meetings, take them to a local haunt. Tell people about your experience.
6. When buying birthday and graduation presents, get gift cards to Kenner shops and restaurants that they may not have tried.
7. When you see a business that support local baseball teams or nonprofit, give the extra support. This is a company that is investing in local people so you know the money is staying in your community.
8. Be a tourist in your own home town. Don't just live in your town, become an ambassador to your Community

These might seem like little things. But they do add up and make a big difference when everyone does their part to support the community. If we all work together, we will get through this pandemic stronger and not only help our local business people survive but also enrich the local economy.



George
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City Update
Ben Zahn, Mayor



Kenner city government quickly and decisively reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic by putting our Continuity of Operations plan in place in March and constantly meeting the changing health guidelines and regulations from the state.

With the full support of Police Chief Mike Glaser and the City Council, we closed offices, briefly operated from the Pontchartrain Center, then left that facility and provided essential services remotely.

We relied on tele-conferencing technology to meet with employees and to hold City Council meetings that allowed us to continue to conduct important city business.

We reacted to a legal challenge from our former garbage collector and, thanks to an amazing crew of city employees, a contractor and resident volunteers, collected more than 22,000 trash cans abandoned throughout the city. Some cans remain, but please call Kenner City Hall at (504) 468-7240 for retrieval. We are regularly getting compliments about IV Waste, and their crews helped with the cleanup following Tropical Storm Cristobal.

We first put our Reopening Plan in place on May 18, inviting the public to three city buildings – while following strict health guidelines. On July 5, we will open more offices as we slowly and carefully move toward more normal operations.

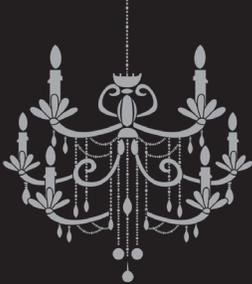
I want to thank our dedicated employees and our city residents, who have made it possible for us to continue to move forward. This incredible teamwork, which includes our Kenner elected officials and those in the parish, has made us all KENNER PROUD.




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The Event Center



Children's Summer Safety During the Pandemic

Michael Glaser Kenner Police Chief

Although the Coronavirus pandemic will limit much of our summer activities, summertime can still be safe and fun if children understand the rules that can keep them from harm's way.

Please don't assume your child knows all these simple rules. It takes one forgetful moment for a tragedy to occur. Please review these tips with your children now and over the summer.

The best way to keep a child safe is for parents to be observant and good listeners. Get to know their friends, learn about their activities, and spend time talking with them every day. Working together, we can keep children safe.

- Instruct your kids to maintain the recommended 6-foot social distancing from others and to wear a face mask as much as possible.
- Teach your kids the "check first" rule. Before going anywhere, they need to check with you or the person in charge.
- Explain to your children that they must never go to public places alone.

- Ask your kids to be careful where they play and to stay away from pools, canals, and lakes unless they are with a trusted adult. Remind your kids not to play on busy streets or in deserted areas.
- If your child is home alone, always keep the door locked. Never tell anyone who calls that they are home alone. Leave emergency numbers with instructions to dial 911 in case of emergency.
- If your child frequents the Internet (social media, message boards, gaming sites, or chat rooms) advise not to provide any personal information (home address, telephone number, family details, etc.) to anyone unknown.
- Teach your kids not to get into the car with anyone but you and immediate family members.
- No matter the length of your journey, please buckle up everyone in your car at all times.
- All bicycle riders should wear helmets and ride with traffic on the right side of the road.
- If you own a gun, keep it out of sight and reach of children. Always keep it unloaded. Teach your kids the four basic rules of gun safety education: stop; don't touch; leave the area; tell an adult.

Chief Glaser can be reached by email at kpd@kenner.la.us. Visit the Kenner Police website at www.kennerpd.com.

Safety on Streets

Children are out playing, walking and biking. Please drive like your kids live here. The speed limit is 20 mph inside all subdivisions, and 25 mph on Vintage.



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

Chateau Market Update



This market update is courtesy of realtor Sharon Kochera and represents sales of single family homes from December 26, 2019 through June 23, 2020.

	Per Sq. Ft	Sale Price
2 Anjou Drive	\$106.38	\$250,000
16 Normandy	\$108.16	\$257,000
724 St. Julien	\$140.37	\$266,000
5 Chateau Petrus	\$ 27.28	\$275,000
1002 W. Chateau Lafitte	\$146.41	\$300,000
4201 Montrachet	\$139.45	\$316,000
11 Chateau Trianon	\$124.55	\$382,500
23 Chateau Trianon	\$150.85	\$469,900
3 Chateau Trianon	\$132.71	\$594,000
52 Chateau Haut Brion	\$180.48	\$625,000

Average sale price was \$373,540. Sale price averaged 93% of asking price. Houses were on the market an average of 66 days. 5 Chateau Petrus sold at auction.

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