

BRIAR VILLAGE

A Neighborhood Newsletter



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ACROSS THE U.S. ARE
EMPTYING AMID
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SAYOR DETAILS**


Updates from the BPCIA Board

As our state and country continue to work hard to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic which has impacted each of our lives greatly, the Board has also continued to work towards a plan for how to safely resume monthly meetings, open up the community facilities, and plan for social events. The Board had previously canceled the March and April monthly meeting as well as several April events in accordance with state and county Stay-at-Home Orders.

Governor Abbott has recently issued several Executive Orders which begin the process of opening back up the state. However, at this time, these openings are in a limited fashion and only to the extent social distancing and sanitizing requirements are met. The Board is in the process of evaluating these requirements so that it can determine how to best open our facilities.

The Board will hold its regularly scheduled monthly meeting for May on May 28, 2020. The meeting will be conducted primarily via Zoom and the information for how to join the meeting will be posted on the BV website and the bulletin board outside of the clubhouse prior to the meeting. This meeting will be an open meeting that all residents are invited to attend and we will provide residents an opportunity to speak towards the end of the meeting just as we would if we were meeting in the clubhouse. We are also looking into the possibility of allowing residents who would like to attend the meeting the ability to do so but seating will be limited to comply with the Governor's 25% occupancy maximum and social distancing guidelines.

The Board is committed to being as transparent as possible during this time. We will continue to provide updates via the BV website and do our best to respond to resident questions posted thereon. Residents may also reach out to the Board in a non-public manner by sending an email to any of the email addresses provided on the next page.

 **Briar Village - May 2020**
 Clip and Save for Future Reference!

BPCIA Position, Name, Primary Area, Contact Info	
BPCIA – Briar Park Community Improvement Assoc. Meetings 7:00 p.m. at BV Clubhouse on 4th Thursday of Month	
Pres. Alvin Olson 832-274-7831 alvin@briarview.com Security Webmaster Clubhouse	V.P. Timothy Cook 281-536-4362 timcookhoa@gmail.com Newsletter
Sec. Dee McConnon 281-794-6482 dee.briarv@gmail.com Common Area	Treas. Brian Maguire 832-659-5913 brianjmag@live.com ACC Security
Gale Antoinette 281-543-0840 bvhoagale@gmail.com ACC DRV Common Area	Carrie Bivins 281-253-4540 hoacarriebivins@gmail.com Pool Social DRV
Miriam Munoz 713-277-7791 miriammunozhoa@gmail.com Webmaster, Clubhouse	Graham Management Inc. Carmen Reyes, Com Mgr 2825 Wilcrest, Ste. 600 Houston, TX 77042 ph: (713) 334-8000 f: (713)334-5055

Ranger Patrol & Co. Inc. – Dispatch 832-356-3224
 Call 911 for Emergencies 24/7
 HPD Non-Emergency - 713-884-3131

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 lbs each
 No construction debris, hazardous waste, tires.
 Bundle/tie limbs 4' long.
 Heavy Trash on Fri Only (dishwashers, water heaters, etc.)
 Recycle Day is Thursday - use blue recycle bins only on Thursdays
 If Tues, Thurs or Fri are Holidays, pick-up is skipped
 Holidays are: New Years, Memorial Day, July 4th,
 Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Xmas

NEW! Website and Message Board free to all residents
<https://briarvillage.com>

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.

Alvin Olson, President BPCIA

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 me or GMI - our management company - to discuss it.

Alvin Olson, President BPCIA

Community Pool & Tennis Courts

Access Card required for admittance, and can be ordered for \$25 from GMI. Form is on the BV website. Pool is open 7:00 am – 8:30 pm through October 25th, 2019.

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.

BV Governing Docs & Forms

Under the "Resources" tab of the Briar Village website, there are links to important BV documents, including: deed restrictions, amendments and guidelines, and the CIA's formation documents. The Board also regularly posts the approved meeting minutes, past newsletters and important forms. under this tab.

Briar Village Newsletter

Want to contribute to your BV newsletter? BV residents can submit articles and other content to Newsletter@briarvillage.com.

'The call has been answered': Animal shelters across the U.S. are emptying amid coronavirus pandemic

As coronavirus spreads across the U.S., Americans in some of the country's hardest-hit regions have stepped up to foster and adopt animals, keeping them out of shelters. NBC News contacted shelters and animal advocacy organizations with facilities in California, Michigan, New Jersey, Connecticut, New York, Texas, Washington, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, and North Carolina. Every single organization said it was overwhelmed by the outpouring of community support that got animals out of shelters and into loving foster and adoptive homes.

Humane Society of the United States President and CEO Kitty Block said that the organization has worked with its 400 shelter partners to spread the word about the need to clear shelters by placing pets with foster and adoptive homes. "The call has been answered," Block said.

Matt Bershadker, president and CEO of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), said that the organization has seen a 70 percent increase in animals entering foster care in their New York City and Los Angeles programs compared to this time last year.

In Los Angeles, Bershadker said the organization is delivering kittens to foster and adoptive families using ride-sharing apps. A spokesperson for Los Angeles County Animal Services told NBC News in an email that the county placed 307 animals in foster care and found homes for 919 pets in March.

Victoria Gingrey, a spokesperson for The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County in hard-hit Washington state, told NBC News that the shelter has placed 475 animals in adoptive homes since March 1. The shelter had only 25 animals available for adoption as of Wednesday, which Gingrey said is "pretty low" for this time of year.

The Liberty Humane Society shelter in Jersey City, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from the pandemic's epicenter in New York City, put out a plea to the public to foster pets, but Executive Director Irene Borngraeber said she did not know whether people would step up to care for the animals.



Borngraeber said the shelter was "overwhelmed" by the level of response they received from the public. "We were actually able to place every single one of our animals into foster care, the day before [New Jersey's] shelter-in-place order formally went into place," she said.

Baytown Texas Adoption Center was able to clear out its shelter by March 28. The shelter, just 30 minutes outside of Houston, had no foster program in place when the state announced its first coronavirus case on March 4. But April Moore, the animal services manager for the city, said that the shelter began building a foster program on March 16. Just eight days later, the shelter placed its first dog in a foster home. The shelter had just one dog left in its care when NBC News spoke to Moore on Wednesday.

In Georgia, shelters have also found success placing animals in adoptive and foster homes. "We've seen an incredible outpouring of support," Atlanta Humane Society Spokesperson Christina Hill, said. "It's been really heartwarming to see that."

Now for the bad news

The shelters are empty now, but experts worry about the future. Shelter directors told NBC News they worry that the economic impact of the pandemic, which hit the U.S. at the start of peak breeding season, may cause an influx of homeless pets in the coming months.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/call-has-been-answered-animal-shelters-across-u-s-are-n1186351>

2020 Hurricane Season Will Be Here Soon

Hurricane season will be here soon and many of the major forecast centers are already predicting that the 2020 season could be significantly more active than normal. The latest seasonal forecast comes from Pennsylvania State University which is calling for 20 named storms (the average is 12) in the Atlantic. This would make 2020 the second most active season on record in terms of the number of storms.

Houstonians are very familiar with tropical storms and hurricanes. Past storms have given us the knowledge that nothing good will come from panic, but that we should be prepared. While I do not suggest stockpiling a year's supply of toilet paper, here are some things that you should have on hand should we need to weather a storm:

Cash - Banks and ATMs may not be open or available for extended periods.

Water - at least one gallon per person per day for three to seven days, plus water for pets.

Food - at least enough for three to seven days, including: Non-perishable packaged or canned food and juices, food for infants and the elderly, snack food, non-electric can opener, vitamins, paper plates, plastic utensils.

Radio - battery powered and NOAA weather radio with extra batteries.

Blankets, pillows etc.

Clothing - seasonal, rain gear/ sturdy shoes.

First Aid Kit - plus medicines, prescription drugs.

Special items - for babies and the elderly, ie. toys, books, games, diapers.

Toiletries - hygiene items, moist wipes, sanitizer.

Flashlight and batteries.

Pet care items, proper identification, immunization records, ample food and water, medicine, a carrier or cage, leash.

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Antonio Salinas, Broker
antonionsalinas@hotmail.com; (281) 924-2084
www.har.com/asalinas



You've had Tex-Mex before, but have you ever had Tex-Indian? Make sure to try Twisted Turban, right off Hwy 6, south of Briar Village, for a fantastic food

experience you will not be able to get anywhere else. The loaded tots have quickly become a family favorite of ours, and the Ooey Goey Chicken Melt is unreal. If you mention this newsletter, you will receive 20% off your order.

2838 S Texas 6 Ste B, Houston, TX 77082

BRIAR VILLAGE REAL ESTATE UPDATE MARCH 16, 2020 - APRIL 15 2020

HOMES SOLD	2
AVERAGE SOLD PRICE	\$227,000
AVERAGE SOLD PRICE PER SQ. FT.	110
AVERAGE DAYS ON MARKET	146
HOMES PENDING	3
ACTIVE HOMES	15
MONTHS OF INVENTORY	3.5 MONTHS
ACTIVE RENTAL HOMES	4
NUMBER OF LEASED HOMES	6
AVERAGE LEASE PRICE	\$1582



With just two homes sold this past month the average sales price remains basically unchanged from the previous month at \$227,000. However, there are now fifteen active homes for sale as compared to nine previously. Since more buyers are feeling comfortable with touring homes, this should be a welcomed sight for them.

In the Greater Houston Real Estate Market, we have seen buyers become more active as indicated by increased home tours for the past few weeks. There should be a frenzy of real estate listing and sales in the next few months as the spring and summer selling seasons have been condensed to May to July due to the stay-at-home order. Stay healthy!

Paul Holub, Briar Village Resident

Cooks Corner: Disney Parks Churro Bites



Ingredients

1 cup water
8 tablespoons butter
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ teaspoon ground cinnamon, divided
1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
3 eggs
1 ½ cups vegetable or canola oil
½ cup sugar

Instructions

Combine water, butter, salt, and ¼ teaspoon cinnamon in a saucepan over medium heat. Bring pot to rolling boil. Reduce heat to low.

Add flour and stir vigorously until mix forms a ball. Remove from heat and let rest for 5-7 min. Add eggs, one at a time, and stir until combined. Set aside.

Heat oil in medium skillet or saucepan over medium-high heat or until temp reaches 350°.

Spoon dough into piping bag fitted with large star tip. Pipe 1-inch strip of dough over saucepan, cut with knife, and drop into hot oil. Repeat until churro bites fill saucepan with room to fry.

Fry churro bites until golden brown. Remove with slotted spoon or mesh spider strainer.

Mix sugar and ½ teaspoon cinnamon in medium bowl. Toss in churro bites until coated. Enjoy!

Energy Corridor Farmers Market at Republic Square Re-Opening

The farmer's market will be re-opening this Saturday, May 9th, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Expect to see some new vendors in addition to all the other small business' and farmers that operate at the market. The farmer's market has introduced some wellness guidelines to ensure that everyone remains safe.

- Modified layout to ensure 6' between vendor booths to allow for greater circulation and distance.
- All vendors and staff must wear protective face mask and gloves.
- No sampling of products
- Vendors and staff will politely ask you to keep moving so we can serve as many shoppers as possible.
- Vendors and staff will limit the number of shoppers in front of booths at any given time.
- Market staff will be dedicated to conduct regular and ongoing checks in addition to our regular food safety
- All shoppers are requested to wear a face mask
- If you feel ill please stay home
- Please do not bring your dog, unless they are a registered service animal.

OUR NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for a committed group of people who are interested in helping with our community newsletter. We always need help writing, editing, and photographing BV events.

Contact us at
Newsletter@briarvillage.com
for more information.





Let's Build a Vegetable Garden

By Karen Avery, Harris County Master Gardener



There are many resources available to help you, and luckily, in Houston, we can garden practically year-round. We have warm-season crops, hot-season crops and cool-season crops. To know what vegetables to plant in what month, “google” Harris County AgriLife Extension Service. At this website, click on “Horticulture”, then click on “Vegetables & Herbs”. This leads to a Planting Calendar specifically for Harris County which you can printout as a PDF file. Planting the right vegetable in the right month is critical to your success. Nurseries sell lots of vegetable transplants, but with your Planting Calendar you can avoid planting mistakes like buying small tomato plants in May. (You CAN grow tomatoes again in the fall, however. Start seeds indoors around July 4th or purchasing transplants in August. Varieties with shorter maturity dates do best here in the fall.)

The same website offers a printout of specific varieties of vegetables that do well in our area, in addition to Easy Gardening Fact Sheets about each vegetable. Explore this website for other tips -- such as how to build a raised garden bed and -- a more budget-friendly approach -- how to raise vegetables in containers.

Building a vegetable bed (or a flower bed) does involve some start-up costs, but raised beds are highly recommended for our area to facilitate good drainage when we get “feast or famine” rains. Costs can be mitigated by using some recycled materials – often such items are offered for free on “NextDoor.com.” If the budget can handle it, buy 2 eight-foot lengths of untreated 2 x 8 lumber at a box store and some 2” deck screws. Have them cut both pieces in half. This gives you one 4’ x 4’ garden box. Three lengths of lumber will make you a 4’ x 8’ garden box. Don’t start any larger than this – the initial infill of soil will be your costliest investment.

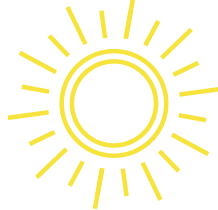
Next, pick a level spot in your yard that receives 7 – 8 hours of sunlight and can be reached by a garden hose. If your garden box is 8” deep, you can place it on top of grass by laying a layer of unwaxed cardboard between the grass and the garden box. If your garden box is 6” deep, you’d be advised to remove the grass where you place your box. Fill the box with 2 parts top soil - or rose soil, and 1 part quality compost. (The compost/mulch industry is not regulated, so purchasing your compost from independent nurseries or the following sources might assure better quality produce.) Healthy, nutritious vegetables require the best compost you can afford. Later, you can learn to make your own. Compost adds organic matter, nutrients and aeration. Our yard soil is too compacted with clay to use alone. Calculators are available to determine the volume of soil/compost to buy. Check out gardeners.com/how-to/soil-calculator.

When first building a garden bed, adding Azomite, Greensand or Lava Sand provides extra trace minerals. (Follow directions on packaging for correct amount to use. These products can be found at feed stores, Southwest Fertilizer in Bellaire, some hardware stores and independent nurseries.) Adding peat moss or expanded shale will provide water holding capacity and can be purchased at the same sources. Add a slow release fertilizer under each plant as you place them in the ground. Sharing these amendments among neighboring gardeners can cut costs, as only a little is needed.

More cost savings can be achieved by gardening in containers! There are caveats...Most any container can be used as long as it has enough drainage holes in the bottom and it sits up off the ground with bricks or spacers. Containers dry out quickly and require more frequent watering. Because frequent watering leaches out minerals and can cause compaction of the soil, special soil media are used. Soil-LESS media are usually recommended. This is all explained in another AgriLife Fact Sheet. “Google” extension + Vegetable Gardening in Containers. Hand watering with a cup is advised for all young plants and seed sprouts. Happy Gardening!

Swim at Your Own Risk

The Houston heat will be here soon! We would like to remind all residents that our neighborhood pool is "Swim at You Own Risk." This means that there are no lifeguards on staff at the pool. BV made the decision mid season last summer after increasing difficulty finding reliable lifeguards. Making the decision to make our pool SAYOR means that we can enjoy this neighborhood amenity longer into the year, but please make sure that you and your family are following the posted pool rules. Propping the gate open or allowing other residents in who do not have an access card is prohibited. Only residents and their guests, who have current access cards are allowed to use the BV Pool. Additionally, only residents of homes current on BV Maintenance Fees are eligible for access cards. Access cards cost \$25 for each household and can be ordered from Graham Management. You can find the order form on briarvillage.com.



Pool Hours : Tuesday -Sunday 7am - 8:30pm
 Closed Monday



 Hello Briar Village!! Property owners and renters are all welcome to fill out this survey!!!! We want to make our great neighborhood even better!!

Name _____ Address _____

Meanwhile, please rank these issues one through five in the order of their importance to you and return or mail to Graham Management at 2825 Wilcrest Drive Ste. 600 Houston, TX 77042 Attention: Carmen, bring to HOA meeting, or put in mailbox at the clubhouse. You can also scan and e-mail to Graham Management - creyes@grahammanagementhouston.com We are trying to determine what you are most concerned about to improve our neighborhood. If your concern is about an individual resident or specific address, this is not the forum. Those concerns should be addressed through Graham Management.

- _____ Crime
- _____ Cracked streets/sidewalks
- _____ Designation of rankings for schools our children attend (such as Recognized, Exemplary etc.
- _____ Super neighborhood involvement
- _____ Acoustics in clubhouse

Please indicate one or two other issues of concern to you.

1. _____
2. _____

Pool Rules

1. Parents/Guardians must watch children at all times. NO LIFEGUARD IS ON DUTY.
2. Absolutely no glass containers, running, horseplay, diving, pushing, pets, loud/offensive/abusive language or behavior or smoking of any kind is tolerated within the pool gates.
3. Approved swimming/bathing suits or special swim-type diapers must be worn at all times.
4. All patrons must clean up after themselves.
5. No swimming during rain, lightning or thunderstorms.
6. Non-proficient swimmers are to be supervised by competent swimmers.
7. Gates shall be closed at all times. Persons inside the pool area MAY NOT open the gate for another person. A key card must be used to enter the pool area.
8. The baby pool is reserved for children 42 inches and shorter and must be supervised at all times.
9. No standing, sitting or playing with rope dividers.
10. All persons must exit the area at 8:30 PM.



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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May 2020 Neighborhood Newsletter

DO NOT FORWARD

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



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- * WINDOW REPLACEMENT
- * TREE TRIMMING
- * ROOFING
- * SWIMMING POOL CONSTRUCTION & RESTORATION

- * RESIDENTIAL ADDITIONS
- * DOOR AND SIDING REPLACEMENT
- * DRIVEWAY REPLACEMENT
- * DECK CONSTRUCTION AND REPAIRING



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