



Briar Village Newsletter

Serving 768 Homes Since the 1970s

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

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UPCOMING EVENTS

10/24 - Board Meeting
10/26 - Annual Halloween Event, 1-4pm at the Clubhouse*
10/31 - Halloween / Dawali
11/05 - Election Tuesday
11/09 - Neighborhood Garage Sale*
11/12 - Veterans Day
11/28 - Thanksgiving- No Board Meeting
12/08 - Annual Holiday Craft Market
11am-5pm at the Clubhouse
12/24 - Christmas Eve
12/26 - Kwanzaa / Hanukkah (1st Day)
12/31 - New Years Eve

*Contact Eric Wallin, ew3832hoa@gmail.com

**Contact Sandy Flint, aflint@comcast.net

Don't Be Afraid To Join Us!

TOMORROW! Saturday afternoon, October 26, 1- 4pm, join our fun Trunk or Treat event in store for you at the clubhouse. All residents are encouraged to bring a "trunk" (or bucket) of candy and let the children trick or treat from trunk to trunk. Decorate your cars or lawn chairs and help create some spooky fun!



Also, participate in these ghoulish good times:

1. Decorated/carved pumpkin contest will be judged by event attendees and will be ongoing throughout the event. The votes will be counted at 3:30 PM and awards will be given. MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.
2. Costume contest will be judged at 3pm and awards will be presented.
3. We will have a bouncy/obstacle course.
4. Trunk or treat - the more participants the better!

Don't miss out on the thrills and chills! PLEASE consider donating individual wrapped or packaged candy for our Halloween event. Contact Eric Wallin, cew3832hoa@gmail.com. Volunteers always welcome!

Save the Date!

We are having our Fall Garage Sale Saturday, November 09. It'll start at 7 AM and go till 12 PM. BPCIA will advertise this event across the area, so start gathering things to sell (or give away), and mark your calendar. If the weather is nice, we usually have a big crowd of shoppers. Even if you are not selling, don't be shy. Get out and say hello to your neighbors!



The Briar Village Holiday Market

We are having our Holiday Market Sunday, December 8, from 11am to 5pm at the clubhouse. We're looking forward to returning vendors and adding new crafters and merchants. If you are interested in showing off your talents, please contact Sandy at saflint@comcast.net for details. It could be your crafts, arts, or even specialty foods. This is also an opportunity for YOU to show off your talents and sell them. Mingle with your BV neighbors while shopping for unique treasures!



Briar Village Newsletter

Want to contribute to your BV newsletter? BV residents can submit articles and other content to Robert Belkin, rbelkin@mail.com



Board/Committees

BRIAR PARK CIA BOARD/COMMITTEES

C/O GRAHAM MANAGEMENT
2825 WILCREST DRIVE, SUITE 600
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PH: 713-334-8000 FAX: 713-334-5055

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hoalarrycann@gmail.com

Director - David Patronella
hoadpatronella@gmail.com

Director - Eric Wallin
cew3832hoa@gmail.com

Director - Robert Belkin
rbelkin@mail.com

Committees:

Common Areas - Casey, Robert

Clubhouse - Melissa, Casey

Pool - Carrie, Larry

Tennis Court - Melissa, Casey

Security - Larry, Eric

Website - Robert, David

Social - Eric, Carrie

Newsletter - Robert, David

DRV / ACC - David, Casey

Manager:

Teya Grayned-Viser
tviser@grahammanagementhouston.com

MJM Security:

Dispatch 832-356-3224

Layout and Production:

Prepared Publications

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.

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 or need more time to remedy things, contact a board member or Graham Management as soon as possible to discuss it.

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 Graham Management.

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.

Community Pool & Tennis Courts

Access Card required for admittance, and can be ordered for \$25 from Graham Management. Form is on the BV website. Pool hours open in May. Visit briarvillage.com for details.

Garbage and Recycling: Texas Pride Waste

- Pick-up Tuesday & Friday: Trash can only be put by the curb after 6:00 p.m. on Monday & Thursday or by 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday & Friday.
- Bagged Lawn Debris is not to be left curbside except at above times. Up to 8 bags or cans with weight limit 40 pounds each. Landscapers should be instructed to place bagged debris behind fences if their work does not coincide with the trash schedule.
- No construction debris, hazardous waste, tires.
- Bundle/tie limbs 4' long.
- Heavy Trash on Tuesday & Friday (dishwashers, water heaters, etc.) No more than 2 bulky items per trash day. Note you cannot put out bulky items and let them sit on the curb for 3 days while awaiting the next heavy trash pick up day. Deed restriction enforcement will occur.
- Recycle Day is Thursday - use recycle bins only on Thursdays
- If Tues, Thurs or Fri are Holidays, pick-up is skipped.
- Holidays are: New Years, Thanksgiving, Christmas.

Getting In Touch

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

Keep this information for future reference

National Night Out

Thank you to everyone who hosted a gathering on October 1 and thanks to everyone who went outside for a fun night out with family, friends. You all make Briar Village a more connected, caring place.

In the busy, go-go-go lives we lead, we need to stop and take time to share meaningful conversations with the people we may otherwise only know through social media or the message board. When neighbors know each other, it helps create a safer, more caring place to live. When you know your neighbors, it also makes it easier to recognize and report suspicious activity.

If you didn't come out and be a part of this year's National Night Out, don't wait until next year for a chance to gather. Host a tailgate party or a spontaneous happy hour and enjoy the camaraderie and fall temperatures!



Colleen Puchara and Ashley Hardy Stotts with friends and family on Briarworth



Mary Michel Hinton with her daughter and neighbor Diane Guillerman



Carolina Mendoza Cant and Sarah Castro host a gathering on Briargreen's north side



He Shoots!



He Scores!

Volunteer Opportunities

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

How Was Halloween Invented?

Halloween is a tradition that has been continually reinvented since its ancient origins as a Celtic pagan ceremony. Yet beneath the superhero costumes and bags of candy still beats the heart of the original.

The Celts lived in what's now Ireland as far back as 500 B.C. They celebrated New Year's Day on Nov. 1, which they called Samhain. They believed that leading up to the transition to the new year, the door between the worlds of the living and the dead swung open. The souls of the recently dead, previously trapped on Earth, could now pass to the underworld. Since they thought spirits came out after dark, this supernatural activity reached its peak the night before, on Oct. 31.

The Celts invented rituals to protect themselves during this turbulent time. They put on costumes and disguises to fool the spirits. They lit bonfires and stuck candles inside carved turnips – the first jack-o'-lanterns – to scare away any spirits looking for mischief. If all else failed, they carried a pocketful of treats to pay off wayward spirits and send them back on their way to the underworld. Sound familiar?



When Catholics arrived in Ireland around A.D. 300, they opened another door between worlds, unleashing considerable conflict. They sought to convert the Celts by changing their pagan rituals into Christian holidays. They rechristened November 1 "All Saints Day," which today remains a celebration of Catholic saints.

But the locals held on to their old beliefs. They believed the dead still wandered the Earth. So the living still dressed in costumes. This activity still took place the night before. It just had a new name to fit the Catholic calendar: "All Hallows Eve," which is where we got the name Halloween.



This article was edited and republished from The Conversation under a Creative Commons license. Read the original article: <https://theconversation.com/how-was-halloween-invented-once-a-celtic-pagan-tradition-the-holiday-has-evolved-to-let-kids-and-adults-try-on-new-identities-192379>

2025 Annual Dues

In the coming weeks, homeowners will receive statements with payment details for the 2025 Assessments. Payments are due by January 1, 2025. Any payments made after January 31st will incur interest and additional fees. To set up quarterly payments (at no extra cost), arrangements must be made before December 31, 2024. Please contact Graham Management at 713-334-8000 or via email at AR@grahammanagementhouston.com. You can expect to receive your assessment statement by Thanksgiving. If you do not receive your statement, please reach out to Graham Management. Please note that not receiving a statement does not exempt you from making timely payments. You can also log into the CINC portal at <https://graham.cincwebaxis.com> to make payments or access real-time account information.

Graham Holiday Hours: Thanksgiving Week: Wednesday, November 27-29th CLOSED • Tuesday, November 26th-Managers Only 9am-2pm. Christmas Week: Closed-December 23-27 and December 31st & January 1st

Citizen Patrol

The Citizen Patrol needs you! Citizen Patrol is actively seeking new members. Join this great group of residents who volunteer some of their free time to drive our neighborhood keeping an eye on things on your behalf.

No experience No experience is required, but a background check and attendance at a one-night training session are required.

For more information contact Maurice Townsend at mtowns7557@aol.com.



Diwali - October 31, 2024 - Very Important Holiday of India

This festival is as important to Hindus as the Christmas holiday is to Christians.

Diwali, or Dipawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (avali) of clay lamps (deepa) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness.

Over the centuries, Diwali has become a national festival that is enjoyed by most Indians regardless of faith: Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs.

Hindus interpret the Diwali story based upon where they live. In northern India they celebrate the story of King Rama's return to Ayodhya after he defeated Ravana by lighting rows of clay lamps. Southern India celebrates it as the day that Lord Krishna defeated the demon Narakasura. In western India the festival marks the day that Lord Vishnu, the Preserver (one of the main gods of the Hindu trinity) sent the demon King Bali to rule the nether world.

In all interpretations, one common thread rings true - the festival marks the victory of good over evil.

Non-Hindu communities have other reasons for celebrating the holiday: In Jainism, it marks the nirvana or spiritual awakening of Lord Mahavira on October 15, 527 B.C. In Sikhism it marks the day that Guru Hargobind Ji, the Sixth Sikh Guru was freed from imprisonment.

There are Five Days of Diwali.

On the first day of Diwali, people consider it auspicious to spring clean the home and shop for gold or kitchen utensils.

On the second day, people decorate their homes with clay lamps and create design patterns called rangoli on the floor using colored powders or sand.



The third day is the main day of the festival when families gather together for Lakshmi puja, a prayer to Goddess Lakshmi followed by mouth-watering feasts and firework festivities.

The fourth day is the first day of the new year when friends and relatives visit with gifts and best wishes for the season.

On the last day of Diwali, brothers visit their married sisters who welcome them with love and a lavish meal.

Source: www.nationalgeographic.com

Board Elections in Early February 2025

Is this the year you decide to get involved? In 2025 three director positions will open, so we'll need volunteers.

Requests for biographical data will go out in December for all candidates, then the election takes place at the Annual Meeting in early February. After the Annual Meeting all the Directors meet and decide amongst themselves who will fill the various officer and director positions. Reach out to any Board member with your questions.

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

6 Ways To Keep Your Packages Safe From Porch Pirates

With the Holiday season comes online shopping and package deliveries. Unfortunately, package thieves, or “porch pirates,” often take advantage of an opportunity and may frequent a neighborhood or community multiple times before moving on to another. As package theft is a crime of opportunity, they will often target houses that provide a quick in-and-out route, especially if the porch or area where packages are delivered is within 25 feet of the street and is easily visible.

But you don't have to fall victim. The Better Business Bureau offers these pro tips to prevent package thieves:

Don't leave unattended packages.

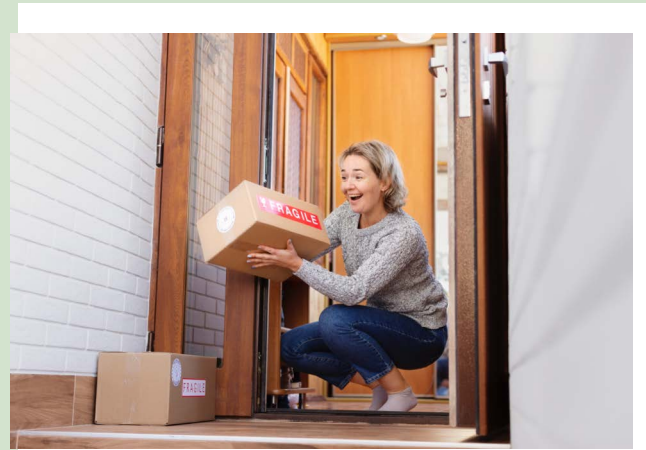
- If you are expecting a package, attempt to schedule its delivery when you know you will be home.
- Ask your neighbors if they mind holding on to packages delivered if you plan to be gone for an extended time.
- Some retailers (like Amazon, a BBB Accredited Business) offer "garage delivery" to avoid having packages sitting out in the open.

Ship to store, storefront or post office box.

- If purchasing an item from a retailer with a physical location near your home, consider shipping it there instead. Retailers will require proof of purchase or identification before releasing packages they have received.
- Some online retailers offer delivery to a pickup location within another store that has a physical location near you. Check your delivery options when ordering.
- If porch pirates are often in your area, consider renting a post office box to receive package deliveries; the cost may outweigh the headaches.

Use a security camera.

- Installing a home security system with cameras or a video doorbell is a great way to deter package theft, especially when highly visible. Consider including a sign that specifically states that the residence is under surveillance.
- Set up your camera alerts so that you know exactly when the package is delivered.
- Even if a package is stolen from your porch, the video evidence will help law enforcement track down the thieves (but be wary of the risk of internet-connected devices and research before you purchase).



Require a signature.

- Many delivery companies include the option to require a signature before leaving a package, letting you take physical possession of the item as soon as it is delivered. While this option works well for those often at home, especially for expensive items, it may create difficulties in receiving packages if your schedule and the delivery service differ, so do your research.
- Be sure to check with the delivery company on their policy for packages that are not signed for; they may return it to the sender after a certain number of attempts.

Opt-in to notifications.

- Most retailers provide tracking details with links to delivery services; some even send their own emails to let you know when something has landed on your stoop. Opt-in to shipping-related emails.
- Set up your own notifications with your smartphone or app to remind you of the date and time of expected delivery.

If you fear your package being stolen, Call Mark Wilson at MJM Private Security Services, 832-797-2703. Also, file a report with your local police department and the delivery company. Depending on your delivery service, they may offer insurance or other policies to reimburse you for your losses.

Originally published By Better Business Bureau. September 5, 2024.
[<https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/18927-avoid-package-theft>]

Rent the BV Clubhouse - Great for Parties!

Thinking about hosting an event or party this Holiday season but not sure if your house is the right space? Rent the BV clubhouse for the event. Seating, tables and a full kitchen are ready for use. There's also plenty of parking. Pricing is on \$150 week-days and \$200 on weekend days. A \$200 deposit is required and will be returned pending a post-event inspection. Call Graham Management to discuss availability. Remember: Enjoy the clubhouse but keep in mind that if the facility is not returned in the clean and orderly state in which it was given to the user, the deposit will not be immediately refunded. A complete Rental Agreement is available on the BV Website under the Amenities tab.

Yard of the Month

To show appreciation for residents' hard work in maintaining and beautifying their front yards, our crack YOTM team evaluates all of the Briar Village homes for general curb appeal and creativity. A sign is placed in the yard of the winner for an entire month to recognize their achievement. Watch our facebook page for the monthly YOTM announcements and be sure to drive by the winners' homes for inspiration! If you would like to join the team, contact Eric Wallin, cew3832hoa@gmail.com.



JULY

This beautiful home is at 13715 Locke Lane. It is owned by Michael Smallwood. He moved here in 1998 and has always wanted to be yard of the month. Congratulations. Sorry it took us so long. Such a beautiful job, keeping up the yard and being a great neighbor.

AUGUST

Congratulations to 14226 Chevy Chase. Yessi and Alonso have lived in BV about 20 years. And really enjoy taking care of their plants. Alonso said He hopes the community likes their yard.



SEPTEMBER

Briar Village YOTM goes to Womble family at 2123 Briarcrest. Congratulations to them for all the hard work they have done. They work on the yard when they can between nap-time for the kids and work

Spotlight on Volunteers

By Karen Avery

Two of our neighbors have shown extraordinary dedication to Briar Village.

Pat McFarland and Maurice Townsend have been active members of our Citizen Patrol team for TWELVE YEARS! Both began patrolling our streets when the team was first sanctioned by HPD in February of 2012, donating their time and gasoline all these years. In all, about thirty of our neighbors have taken the training and served for various lengths of time. While that is too many names to list here, everyone's service, regardless of length, is immensely valued.

In those early years, Briar Village was experiencing numerous burglaries a year (12 in 2011 and 10 in 2012) in addition to crimes of theft, assault, etc. enough that I was writing a crime stats article for our (then) monthly newsletter! HPD was conducting citizen's awareness meetings monthly at the Westside Command Station on Dairy Ashford -- where wall charts were posted showing multiple categories of crime committed in all our neighboring subdivisions in District 20. BV was not alone in high stats. Monthly Positive Interaction Programs (PIPs) continue to be held at the Command Station today, but crime in our neighborhoods has waned enough that current crime stats are delivered verbally -- and just District-wide totals.

The impetus for organizing our own Patrol Team in 2012 sparked after a home on Chevy Chase was broken into in the early afternoon, just after a family had departed for a doctor's appointment. Scoundrels broke into the back of the house and even entered the attic! Stepping on water pipes caused the family to return to flooding conditions, in addition to thievery. That was it...enough was enough.

Security Officer Mark Wilson says the patrol team works in conjunction with him and serves as his eyes and ears in sections of the neighborhood different from his path. He stated that he receives useful information from the team -- once resulting in a life-saving situation.

Though the current size of Our Citizen Patrol Team has shrunk over the years, it is still rolling along! Briar Village has 768 homes and it takes just about one hour to drive all our streets at a speed slow enough to observe driveways and entrances on all properties. Volunteers choose their own hours to patrol, so the coverage is flexible and random. Each driver's vehicle displays signage to serve as a deterrent to the ill-intended. New team members are always welcomed. If interested, contact the team coordinator Maurice Townsend at 281-493-9392.



Maurice Townsend and Patricia McFarland

Thanks, again, to Pat and Maurice for twelve years of service...and going!

A Friendly DRV Reminder

When you receive a deed restriction violation ("DRV") letter from Graham Management, do not ignore it! It's not necessary to contact Graham if you address things in a timely manner.

If you disagree with the letter or need more time to correct the violation, contact Teya Grayned-Viser at (713) 334-50552 or tviser@grahammanagementhouston.com and explain your situation. Be prepared to discuss who long an extension you may need to address to issue or an idea of what is an appropriate solution.

Remember that Graham is managing hundreds of DRVs at various stages of resolution. So if you see another home with concerning issues and feel they are getting preferential treatment, be certain that is not the case. Feel free to report any matters to Graham Management or a member of the board.