

GEORGETOWN SQUARE CIVIC CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

Fall 2012

Current Board Members:

John Pickul - President

William Arteaga - Vice President

Jill Pearsall - Secretary

Mauri Norris - Treasurer

Directors: Arnold Colunga

Tom White

Diane Wylie

Contact information for the board members is posted on the bulletin board on the pool fence.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Please join us again this year in the pool area
on

**October 2nd from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. for
Texas' National Night Out (NNO)**

NNO is an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in hopes for a safer nation. Along with community camaraderie, we hope to learn from the Bellaire Police Department about crime and drug prevention awareness, neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, as well as send a message to criminals letting them know that our neighborhood is organized and fighting back. Feel free to bring your drinks and snacks and don't forget about a chair.

Note: Board meetings are held quarterly, as prescribed by the By-Laws, the first Monday of January, April, July and October. Due to the need to prepare for the National Night Out event, the next

Georgetown Square Board meeting
will be held

Monday, September 24, 2012, 8:00 p.m.
at John Pickul's home

instead of the regularly scheduled first Monday of October. Please note that the most recent meeting minutes are posted on the bulletin board on the pool fence.

VOLUNTEER BOARD

Please remember that the members of your Board of Directors are homeowners in your

neighborhood and are VOLUNTEERS! Like all of us, they are very busy people, with families and/or full-time jobs as well as serving in other volunteer positions. Please try to make their Board-jobs less time-consuming and less stressful by following all deed restrictions, neighborhood rules and paying your assessments timely.

BOARD MEMBER CONTACTS

John Pickul, President

6508 Kenyon

dillpickul@sbcglobal.net

713-665-1510

William Arteaga, Vice President

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wm.arteaqa@gmail.com

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Mauri Norris, Treasurer

6504 Kenyon

Maurinorris@yahoo.com

713-664-7733

Jill Pearsall, Secretary

6505 Kenyon

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713-432-1266

Arnold Colunga, Director

4521 Acacia

AColunga13@yahoo.com

832-741-9505

Tom White, Director

4537 Acacia

tlw4537@yahoo.com

713-665-0531

Diane Wylie, Director

6502 Newcastle

dtwylie48@yahoo.com

713-669-1069

OTHER HELPFUL NUMBERS

EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Bellaire Police - 713-668-0487

Bellaire Fire Dept - 713-662-8202

Public Works/Solid Waste - 713-662-8170

Animal Control - call Police - 713-668-0487

Bellaire Parks and Rec - 713-662-8280

Bellaire City Clerk - 713-662-8222

Power Outages - 713-207-2222

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GEORGETOWN BY-LAWS

In 2009, your Board of Directors spent numerous hours in developing the Amended and Restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (i.e. Deed Restrictions) to take our community into the next decade. The By-Laws were last amended in 2004, so it is now time to revisit that governing document to align with the Deed Restrictions and our community governing operations.

Please **provide any comments or changes** to the By-Laws to any Board member by **November 30, 2012**. The Board will draft proposed changes and clarifications to the By-Laws and consult legal counsel to prepare the document for Membership vote at the **next annual meeting on April 28, 2013**.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

With a couple months left in this year's hurricane season, below are some friendly reminders for preparedness and response:

1. Before a Hurricane

- a. Build an emergency kit
- b. Make a family communications plan
- c. Learn community hurricane evacuation routes and how to find higher ground.
- d. Cover all of your home's windows (tape does not prevent windows from breaking).
- e. Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- f. Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- g. Bring in all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans and anything else that is not tied down.
- h. Consider flood insurance protection. To learn more, visit www.floodsmart.gov or call 1-800-427-2419.

2. During a Hurricane

- a. Listen to the radio or television for information.
- b. Turn off utilities, if instructed to do so.
- c. Turn the refrigerator thermostat to its coldest setting and keep its doors closed.
- d. Avoid using the phone, except for emergencies.

- e. Fill the bathtub and other large containers with water.
- f. Evacuate if directed by local authorities and follow their instructions.
- g. Stay indoors during the hurricane and away from windows and glass doors.
- h. Close all interior doors.
- i. Keep curtains and blinds closed.
- j. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway on the lowest level.
- k. Lie on the floor under a table or another sturdy object.

3. After a Hurricane

- a. Listen to radio or local television for the latest updates.
- b. Stay alert for extended rainfall and subsequent flooding.
- c. If you evacuated, return home only when officials say it is safe.
- d. Drive only if necessary and avoid flooded roads and washed-out bridges.
- e. Stay off the streets. If you must go out, watch for fallen objects; downed electrical wires; and weakened walls, bridges, roads, and sidewalks.
- f. Walk carefully around the outside your home and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage
- g. Report loose or dangling power lines to the power company immediately.
- h. Inspect your home for damage. Take pictures of damage, both of the building and its contents, for insurance purposes.
- i. Use battery-powered flashlights in the dark. Do NOT use candles.
- j. Watch your pets closely and keep them under your direct control.
- k. Watch out for wild animals, especially poisonous snakes. Use a stick to poke through debris.
- l. Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are sure it's not contaminated.
- m. Check refrigerated food for spoilage. If in doubt, throw it out.
- n. Wear protective clothing and be cautious when cleaning up to avoid injury.
- o. Use the telephone only for emergency calls.
- p. **NEVER** use a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas.

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SAFETY & SECURITY REMINDERS

Protect yourself, your valuables, your surroundings and your neighbors by:

1. Never leaving your vehicle unattended, running or with the keys in it. This invites thieves to take your vehicle and is unlawful in the State of Texas.
2. Never leaving valuables in sight in your car. This includes mobile phones, purses, billfolds, money clips, gym bags and/or any expensive personal effects.
3. Rolling your car windows up at night and locking the doors.
4. Using a steering wheel locking device or vehicle alarm, if possible.
5. Parking with your front wheels turned into the curb. This makes it more difficult for a tow device to be hooked to the front of your vehicle.
6. Keeping your doors locked at all times, including your garage.
7. For good measure, leaving your alley light on.

NEIGHBORHOOD REMINDERS

1. Please support the City of Bellaire's **Recycling Program** by PARTICIPATING!! Pick up is on Wednesday - label your bins and take them in promptly after pick-up.
2. Please do NOT put out your **garbage** ahead of pick-up day! This invites pests to the neighborhood. Garbage pick-up is on Tuesday and Friday. No hazardous materials will be collected.
3. Pick up after your **pets**! Remember pets must be leashed at all times and a responsible party should be holding onto the leash. As a reminder, no pets are allowed in the pool area.
4. Please **watch your speed** in the neighborhood! Residents, children and pets are often walking in the area.
5. **Park vehicles** in your garage, if possible. If you must park in the street, please park only in front of your own home and not in front of others'. You may also park along Locust or

the north side of Acacia. No parking is allowed in the alleys of driveways.

6. Pick up all flyers and newspapers and retrieve **mail** promptly. Excessive unclaimed papers and mail can be an invitation to thieves. Don't forget the alley area applies to this pick up as well.
7. Report all **suspicious or illegal activities** to the Bellaire Police! You can reach them at 713-668-0487 or in an **EMERGENCY** call 911!
8. Your assessment dues pay for 10 specific alley **security lights** around the neighborhood. Owners with those lights are asked to make sure those fixtures are kept burning dusk-to-dawn every night. If the lights are not working, please contact Rick Norris at 713-664-7733 for repairs and maintenance.
9. Report **street light malfunctions** at 713-207-2222 or get the light number (posted on the pole) and report on line at:
<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/services/electricity/business/electricsafety/reportastreetlightoutage/>

MAINTENANCE REMINDERS

We all want to be proud of where we live. Please inspect your property regularly for needed repairs: replace and repair rotten wood; clean and repair gutters and shutters; paint, repair, replace garage doors, etc. Please be sure that your flowerbeds and shrubs are weeded and trimmed regularly. Remember that the Groundskeepers (our lawn service) are only responsible for mowing, edging and blowing. Please water in line with any required water restriction schedules to keep your yard in an aesthetic condition. If you wish to contract with Groundskeepers privately for further maintenance on your beds and shrubs, you can contact them directly (Mauri Norris can get their contact information for you).

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RENTAL UNITS

There are specific restrictions for rental units. See Article VI Section 11 in the Deed Restrictions. This section states that: *Notice of any lease...shall be given to the Board of Directors by the Owner within 10 calendar days of the execution of the lease.* The Board needs the name and contact information for all Renters. The right to use the neighborhood amenities (e.g. pool) is exclusively assigned to the Renter. The Renter must have the proper waiver, release and indemnity agreement on file to receive the pool access combination and to use the pool.

OUR ALLEYS

The Georgetown Square alleys are PRIVATE PROPERTY. Your assessments maintain the alleys. It is important to restrict alley use to property owners and service vehicles only. Unauthorized construction trucks can cause expensive damage. Please help to police the alley traffic and WATCH YOUR SPEED. The alleys are NOT playgrounds, so keep streets and alleys clear of toys and bikes. The alleys are FIRE LANES, so DO NOT PARK unattended vehicles in the alleys and DO NOT STORE anything in the alley. Properly dispose of all construction materials - such materials WILL NOT be picked up by the City. Keep the power transformer area between properties clear for utility maintenance.

*Many **THANKS** for recent Board efforts to remove neighboring trees threatening our properties along Acacia and Kenyon alleys.*

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

It is important that the Board has current contact information for ALL owners and residents. This information is

CONFIDENTIAL and WILL NOT BE SHARED outside of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS nor used for any solicitation purposes. This contact information is used for neighborhood-related notices (such as this newsletter, assessment notices, and advisories) and emergency situations. Jill Pearsall keeps all owner/resident information. Please submit your information, to Jill at 6505 Kenyon or request a form and send it back to her when complete.

POOL USE

With our continued warm weather, here are a few reminders in regards to pool use:

1. Only residents with a current waiver, release and indemnity agreement on file will be given the combination to the pool gate. Contact John Pickul to get an agreement form and submit it to John Pickul or Jill Pearsall.
2. Pool rules must be obeyed at all times. The rules are posted at the pool - some on the pool area signs and the full list is on the bulletin board on the pool fence. Some highlights:
 - a. NO PETS ARE ALLOWED IN THE POOL AREA!
 - b. Pool area maintenance is a community project. Please remove all of your own trash.
 - c. NO GLASS, CHINA or OTHER BREAKABLE CONTAINERS ARE PERMITTED. Please use metal, plastic or paper.
 - d. No running in the pool area. No ball playing except with inflated beach balls. NO DIVING.
 - e. NO LIFE GUARD ON DUTY - SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK!!
 - f. NO SMOKING

Please read and follow the complete rules and help keep our pool area a safe place for everyone to use and enjoy.