

# The Barrington Heights Herald

*Newsletter of the Barrington Heights Neighborhood Association*

**June 2015 Edition**

**[www.BarringtonHeights.net](http://www.BarringtonHeights.net)**



## **ANNUAL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY PARADE**

### **PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE FOURTH OF JULY**

Come celebrate Independence Day with your neighbors. We will have our festivities on **Saturday, July 4th**. Our celebration will kick off with the annual bike parade which will begin at the mail kiosk. There will be face painting before the parade and food and fun afterwards. We will begin gathering at the mail kiosk at 9:30 a.m. The parade will begin at 10:00 traveling down Heights and ending at the cul-de-sac at the end of Heights and Ellington.

#### **BOARD ACTIVITY**

At the May board meeting, the board voted to reduce the annual assessment for 2015-2016 at \$100 per household. Assessments will be mailed out in June. Please make every effort to pay your assessments in a timely manner. As residences are added, the Association income climbs. The management and board have worked diligently to keep expenses at a reasonable level. The Association's cash reserves currently exceed one year's worth of expenses.

#### **BHOA Board**

If you have any interest in serving the Owners Association as a board member, please contact management to have your name placed on the ballot. Election will be conducted at our Annual Meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **EMAIL Addresses**

If you are not receiving the BHOA newsletter via email, and would like to, please forward your email address to association management.

Mark your calendar for the next  
Owner's Association meeting:

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

**Tuesday - June 2, 2013 - 7:00 pm**

**Rao's Bakery Meeting Room**

**4440 Dowlen Road**

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

A number of property owners have been assessed a \$25 administrative fee. This fee is specified in the Covenants and Restrictions, Article V, Section 15 and is meant to compensate your Property Owners Association for the expense of maintenance and repairs, and of repeated notifications of violations such as lawn maintenance and trash can violations. If the assessment remains unpaid and the violation is not corrected, additional assessments may be made which will amount to a lien against the property.

In Barrington Heights, the vast majority of residents recognize and abide by the restrictive covenants which all of us agree to when we purchase property in the subdivision. These include keeping our trash cans hidden from view, boats and trailers not parked in driveways or on the streets, keeping our yards well maintained, and submitting any improvements for review and approval by the architectural review committee. PLEASE be respectful of your neighbors and help to keep Barrington Heights one of the most desirable places to live in the City of Beaumont.

If you have questions regarding the restrictive covenants, please contact the management.

## *Restriction Reminders*

The following section addresses some of the most common complaints from neighbors regarding alleged restriction violations. *Please be a good neighbor* and be familiar with and have respect for the Barrington Heights Restrictive Covenants.

### **Lawn/Yard Maintenance**

There are more than a few homes in our subdivision whose yards need some immediate attention. The deed restrictions (Article VI, Section 1) state that each homeowner shall regularly mow and maintain, and keep in a neat and attractive condition, the grassed and landscaped areas of his yard and the unpaved portion of the street easement abutting his lot. As a homeowner, it is your responsibility to maintain your yard. Please help protect the investment of each homeowner by keeping your yard neat and attractive, this includes weeding your flower beds. If you are not able to maintain your yard there are several lawn care services available, just look around your street on any given day.

### **Garbage and Refuse Disposal**

Article VIII, Section 15 – No Lot shall be used or maintained as a dumping ground for rubbish, trash, refuse or other waste materials. Trash, garbage and other waste shall be kept in sanitary closed containers pending collection thereof; and **garbage cans and other receptacles shall (except when placed on a private drive for regular collection purposes) be hidden or screened from public view.** No lot shall be used for the open storage of any materials whatsoever, except for materials used or to be used in the construction of improvements upon any Lot, and then only for so long as such construction progresses. Upon completion of the improvements, any remaining materials, together with all rubble, rubbish, trash and debris shall be promptly removed from such Lot.

### **Signs**

Article VIII, Section 11 – No sign of any kind shall be displayed to public view on any Lot in the Addition, except (1) sign of not more than five feet (5') square advertising a property for sale or rent or used by Declarant or a Builder to advertise the property during the construction phase or sales period.

\*Exception to the Signs restriction – State law prohibits the restriction of political campaign signs within 90 days prior to and 10 days after an election.

### **Golf Carts**

In Beaumont, there are no specific ordinances for golf carts, but the city considers them just like any other vehicle and all the same rules apply, according to Sgt. Rob Flores. You need to have a license and insurance, as well as a placard telling other drivers your vehicle is slow moving. If homeowners feel it's a nuisance and they know the address of the cart owner they can call the Beaumont police.

If you are interested in submitting an article of interest to residents or brief advertisement for your business (residents only), please contact Kim Carroll via email at [kcarroll@cbieng.com](mailto:kcarroll@cbieng.com).

### **2014-2015 Board of Directors**

Kim Carroll, President - Windrose Drive  
John Tessler, Treasurer - Charleston Lane  
Frank Coffin - Director - Ellington Lane  
Rodney Landry, Director - Charleston Lane  
Lane Lostak, Director - Claybourn Drive  
Mike Thibodeaux, Director - Prescott Drive  
Charlie Norman, Director - Whitaker Lane  
Joe Pattie, Director - Windrose Drive

### ***How to Contact Us***

If you have a question, complaint, or suggestion you would like the Board of Directors to address, or if you need to submit an architectural review application, please send your correspondence to management:

#### **Mitchell Koop, CPA**

Email: [Mitchell@koopcpa.com](mailto:Mitchell@koopcpa.com) (Mitchell Koop)

[Ashley@koopcpa.com](mailto:Ashley@koopcpa.com) (Ashley Fillips)

Website: [www.Koopcpa.com](http://www.Koopcpa.com)

Phone: (409) 860-HOME Fax: (409) 860-9093

Mail: P.O. Box 12382 Beaumont, Texas 77726

## Thanks to Sue Meagher, Barrington Heights Resident and Realtor



### Prepping Your Home for a Vacation

Vacations are a time to relax and escape from regular life. When you're miles from home, the last thing you want to worry about is the safety of your home. If you plan on taking a vacation this summer (or any time this year), here are some simple tips on prepping your home for a vacation.

#### Stop Your Newspaper and Mail

One sure sign of being absent from your home is a pile of newspapers in the driveway. Contact your newspaper delivery person and stop service while you're gone. If you don't have a locked



mailbox, contact the post office and have them hold your mail. You can also ask a trusted neighbor to collect mail, newspapers and deliveries and have him/her hold them for you until you're back.

#### Park Your Car in the Garage

The last thing you want is to get home from a vacation and have your car gone. If you can, park your car inside the garage, or have a family member park it at his/her house. You can also ask a neighbor to park their car in your driveway, making it look like someone is leaving each morning.

### Susan Meagher



#### Phone Number

Direct: (409) 673-8244

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#### Email Address

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#### Mailing Address

RE/MAX Beaumont  
6430 Wellington Dowlen Plaza  
Beaumont TX 77706



### **Put a Light on a Timer**

A dark house stands out in a neighborhood, especially when all the other homes are lit up. Before you leave, buy a timer and install it on a lamp in your home. It's also a good idea to install a motion-activated sensor on an outdoor floodlight that will be triggered should someone walk by it. You can also ask a neighbor to turn on the front porch light in the evening.

### **Mow Your Lawn**

Grass can grow pretty fast in two or three days. If you have a lawn, make sure it's trimmed before you embark on your trip. If you're going to be gone longer than a week, ask a family member or neighbor to cut the grass in the front yard while you're away.



Some of these items are easily overlooked, but could cause major issues when you're away:

### **Unplug Small Appliances and Electronics**

Small appliances and electronics can be energy vampires when plugged in, and some are still active even when they look like they're turned off. Before you leave, unplug those items that won't be used while you're gone (coffee makers, toasters, espresso machines, etc.). It's also a good time to make sure all smoke detectors work properly throughout your home.

### **Adjust the Thermostat**

Your thermostat makes sure your home maintains a specific temperature throughout the day. Before you leave, set the thermostat to a lower temperature in cool months or a higher temperature in warm months if the house is going to be empty. This will help conserve energy while you're gone. If you do adjust the thermostat, be sure to keep your home at a temperature that will still protect plants, pets and furniture.



### **Put the Water Heater in Vacation Mode**

Traditional water heaters heat water throughout the day, even when

you're not using water. Before you head out on a vacation, put the heater in vacation mode. Check to see if your water heater has a VAC setting -- which is for vacations. If it doesn't, you can turn down the thermostat to the lowest setting. But don't stop at the water heater: turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and any sinks. The last thing you want to come home to is a flood in your house because a pipe broke or a hose burst.

### **Tidy Up the Kitchen**

Before you leave it's always a good idea to clean out the fridge and dispose of anything that will go bad while you're gone. The sink can harbor things that cause bad smells -- run a half cup of



vinegar and some water through the garbage disposal to alleviate any potential buildups, and make sure to take out any trash and recycling so you don't come home to a smelly house. If you have a trusted neighbor, ask them to put your garbage, recycling or yard debris bins out on pickup day.

### **Leave Emergency Contact Info with Neighbors**

You may tell your family that you're heading out, but you should also let a neighbor know. Neighbors live near you and can be your first point of contact should something happen to your home while you're away. Let a trusted neighbor know you're going to be out of town -- provide them with information on where you're going, how long you'll be gone, and contact information for yourself and for family members in case of an emergency.