

S P R I N G 2 0 1 5

# The RIVER OAKS

NEWSLETTER



## Yard of the Month

Congratulations to Jay & Kelly Murray of 1321 Vesper Lane – our May Yard of the Month winners! Feel free to drive by and take a look. If you have a particular nominee in mind, please let Laurie Blasini know via email at [laurieblasini@yahoo.com](mailto:laurieblasini@yahoo.com).



*School is out and summer break (if not the actual season) is officially here! Pictured above are some local kids waiting for the bus on the last day of school – Nick Ledet, Gavin Carney, Camille Newman, & Anna Claire Carney.*

It's that time of year here in South Louisiana when it feels like Spring has already all but melted away and Summer is barreling down upon us. Keep cool at the pool and enjoy the long languid days ahead; but be safe and keep a sharp eye out – not only when heading off on vacation but also here in the neighborhood, as well – the pedestrian traffic (especially for children) will only increase along with the temperature!

## Save the Date!

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>

Flag Day!



Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>

Father's Day & First Day of Summer



Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>

Independence Day!



## The Creature from the R.O. Lagoon



As many of you know, we had an unwanted visitor in the pond at the front of the neighborhood during the latter part of April and first week of May. A private service was retained to have our new mascot removed, in conjunction with state fish & wildlife service.

### So hard to say good-bye...

It's been said that there are four seasons in Louisiana – crawfish, shrimp, crab & oyster. And, sad as it is to say, the end of crawfish season is upon us. But you still have time for one more backyard boil if you hurry... !



"Louisiana 4 Seasons" by local artist Dianne Parks

### The Marsh Buggies Cometh!

If you drove into Phase I or past the CLECO Right of Way any time in the past month or so, you may have noticed the heavy equipment known as Marsh Buggies and/or the work they were doing. Some residents also complained about the ruts and other damages, including the white painted bollards along Woodberry and River Oaks Drive. Board members worked hard to ensure that the contractor was held responsible and made the appropriate repairs.



### Memorial Day 2015

The (un)official start of summer has now passed and the pool is open full time, with lifeguards to boot! Even though it rained during the afternoon, it was blue skies for the annual St. Tammany Parish Memorial Day Service held at the War Memorial Plaza in front of the Justice Center. Hopefully, you and your family were able to enjoy some meaningful times on this special day.





## From the Board

### **Appearance and Use Restrictions of Lots**

There are approximately 17 vacant lots in the subdivision which are owned by private parties. The Restrictive Covenants prohibit the use of these lots as a dumping ground for rubbish. Unfortunately some of the lots are being used for this purpose either by residents or outsiders. The Board of Directors is asking residents to report any illegal dumping or lots that contain trash. The Association will contact lot owners to remove any trash that has accumulated on the property. Also, while grass clippings or leaves are not considered to be rubbish, they should not be dumped on a vacant lot without the express permission of the property owner.

The CLECO Right-Of-Way (ROW) belongs to the Homeowner's Association and is considered to be part of the common area of the subdivision. The BOD has the authority to regulate its use as per Article III, Section 2 and Article V, Section 1 of the Restrictive Covenants. The Board has mandated that the area is not to be used for parking, storing or working on vehicles or disposing of debris of any kind. Moreover, it cannot be used by residents as a "driveway" to transit routinely to their property adjoining the right-of-way. The Association maintains the ROW section from Woodberry to Bent Tree Court by mowing several times a year, and requests that property owners refrain from dumping trash, including yard debris, in the subdivision common area in order that mowing equipment can safely navigate the area. **In no event should the ROW be used to dump garbage, including fish, crawfish or shrimp shells/entrails.**

The Restrictive Covenants also require that dead, diseased or disabled trees that create a hazard to property or persons be promptly removed or repaired. Residents should report any trees that present a hazard to persons or property to a Board member for further action.

### **Architectural Review Committee**

The River Oaks Restrictive Covenants require that any new building or modifications to existing homes or lots and construction or landscaping in the

common areas of the subdivision are required to have approval of the Architectural Review Committee. Plans are to be submitted to the Committee in advance of starting any work. This approval is not limited to new homes and includes the erection, installation or modification of the following:

- Accessory buildings
- Additions
- Swimming pools
- New Fences
- Landscaping
- Driveways
- Underground drainage
- Boat docks/bulkheads

River Oaks is a private subdivision subject to Restrictive Covenants which control land uses in the subdivision. These requirements are in addition to the Parish & State standards and regulations. Consequently, compliance with the Parish standards, alone, will not necessarily satisfy the requirements imposed by the restrictive covenants if the covenants impose a greater standard on a particular land use. A copy of the Covenants can be downloaded from the River Oaks website ([www.riveroaksestates.org](http://www.riveroaksestates.org)). The website also has an Application for Architectural Review form and a checklist used by the Architectural Review Committee in reviewing plans.

### **Tennis Courts**

The Board of Directors has voted to keep the tennis courts locked when not in use by residents. The courts are for residents only. Non-residents can use the courts as guests, but they must be accompanied by a resident. Keys to the facility can be obtained from any Board member or Charlotte Hoolihan. Keys will also be issued to resident tennis teams. Tennis players are requested to police the area and lock the gate when leaving the courts. The Board asks for your cooperation in this matter.



## ~LAGNIAPPE~

Know anyone who likes to play tennis? Apparently, there used to be a tennis club in the neighborhood and some residents are interested in a possible revival. The idea would be to meet once or twice a week and possibly have lunch at the clubhouse. If interested, contact Sarah Hayes at [scavin456@yahoo.com](mailto:scavin456@yahoo.com) or 985-302-5203 (home) / 504-452-1599 (cell).

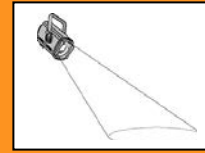
## Neighbor-to-Neighbor\*

Things go wrong... all the time. Cars crash, washing machines flood homes, things catch fire. When these things happen, oftentimes River Oaks resident Edward Carrick is called in to get to the bottom of them. Ed Carrick, through his company, Performance Analysis, routinely analyzes various types of accidents, equipment failures, and other unwanted incidents so that those involved can understand what happened and why. Ed is a Professional Engineer, whose position with Performance Analysis has him serving in a forensic engineering and expert witness capacity, working for home owners, law firms, government agencies, insurance companies, manufacturers, and other organizations. Feel free to call or email Ed at any time should you or someone you know encounter any manner of unwanted or catastrophic event. He's more than happy to review your situation and help you to get to the bottom of it: 985-237-5337; [ekc@pa-e.com](mailto:ekc@pa-e.com).

\* Neighbor-to-Neighbor is a special feature where we focus in on a River Oaks resident and what they do for a living. If you want to give your business a little "free advertising" please send your proposed submission to [bthayesesq@yahoo.com](mailto:bthayesesq@yahoo.com).

### RIVER OAKS ONLINE:

Be sure to check out the new & improved River Oaks homepage at <http://www.riveroaksestates.org> and <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/River-Oaks-Parents-Association/113532408680567>.



## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Bradley Hayes moved to River Oaks in August 2013 and joined the Board in early 2014. "Having a fresh set of eyes is always helpful in bringing a new perspective to things," he says. Currently, he works as an attorney for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, having transferred to the New Orleans District from Division HQ in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Before that he worked both as an associate at a law firm and ran a solo-practice in Natchez, Mississippi for several years. He has also worked in the Little Rock District Attorney's Office and as a Congressional Staffer on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.



Additionally, Bradley is a Captain in the Army Reserves at Belle Chasse, Louisiana. He has served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, & Korea. His military education includes Airborne School, Armor Officer Basic, as well as the Judge Advocate Officer Basic & Advanced Courses. He is married with three children and proud to call River Oaks and the Northshore home!

# 2015 SWIM LESSONS & SWIM TEAM SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

## Safewater Management, Inc. Swim Lessons

*“Let Safewater instructors teach your children at your own pool”*

Group lessons: 8/30 minutes sessions – \$120.00

Private lessons: 4/30 minute sessions – \$140.00  
or 8/30 minute sessions – \$260.00

Swim Rompers / Water Babies class scheduled for this summer, call and ask for details. You may also email our swim lesson coordinator at [safewater\\_lessons@bellsouth.net](mailto:safewater_lessons@bellsouth.net) or call our swim lesson hotline: 985-265-SAFE (7233) or feel free to visit our website [www.teamsafewater.com](http://www.teamsafewater.com)

## RIVER OAKS RACERS SWIM TEAM

River Oaks Head Swim Coach, Kirsti Salvetti, originally from New Zealand, has been in the US since 1989. She has been swimming since age 5. After High School, she swam on a Masters Triathlon team until leaving for the US. Kirsty has been teaching lessons for 20+ years, coached Franco’s summer swim team for 3 years and head coach of River Oaks summer swim program and Safewater’s Swim Team Coordinator for over 10 years. She is a member of the Franco’s Masters Team. The Racers swim team was created in 1994 to serve the needs of developing swimmers who are ready to learn competitive swimming strokes and

improve their overall skills. Swim team is the best way to improve swimming skills after a child has advanced beyond swimming lessons.

**Qualifications:** This is a developmental program ideal for entry level swimmers and is designed to introduce swimmers into the competitive scene. We focus on stroke technique, endurance and positive self-image through a non-stress, supportive team environment. Our summer program is designed for diverse ability and motivational levels to give each individual a unique swimming experience. This program offers superior stroke instructions, with a focus on improvement and having fun. Our qualifications for the 7,8, and 9 year old age group as well as our 10 and over age group is that swimmers must be proficient in swimming the length of the pool safely. Our qualifications for the 6 and under age group are that they can swim as least a third of the pool without holding onto the side. Swimmers who are not able to safely swim 1/3 of the length of the pool efficiently will be placed in a swim lesson scheduled at 10:10 a.m. This class will be labeled as the “Little Skippers,” devised as a progressive stepping stone to swim team. We will treat this session like a large swim lesson and children will be placed in the earlier class only if they progress. All 6 and under swimmers that are new to the program will be expected to pass a swim test to be placed effectively. The swim test was scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m. (but make-ups can be arranged).

**Trophies and Awards:** All swimmers will receive best time and good swim ribbons at each swim meet and a trophy at the end of the season.

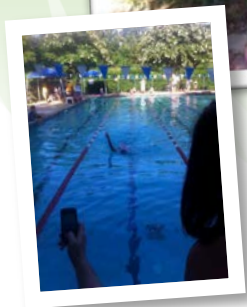
**Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to time at each swim meet.





# SWIM

## Practice Dates and Times



May 22 – July 10, 2015

10 years & over 8:00 am – 8:45 am

7,8 & 9 years 8:45 am – 9:30 am

6 year & under 9:30 am – 10:10 am

Little Skippers 10:10 am – 10:50 am

\* Practice time subject to minimal changes based on the number of registered swimmers.

\*\* Team price includes Safewater T-shirt

**Swim Team Registration was Monday, April 13, 2015 at the River Oaks Clubhouse (but late registrations are always welcome).**

**Fees:**

Little Skippers \$120.00 (8/30 minute group lessons)

\*If your child progresses, he may join the swim team at a prorated rate.

One Swimmer \$200.00

2nd Swimmer \$175.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Swimmer \$150.00

Racers swim team suits will be available to try on at registration and must be ordered on this day to arrive in time for practice. No refunds after June 1, 2015.

### **Meet Schedule**

June 8 – Time Trial 8:00 am – 10:00 am

June 26 – Swim Meet @ River Oaks 7 am warm-ups

July 10 – Final Swim Meet @ River Oaks 7 am warm-ups

**FOR QUESTIONS, CALL CHARLOTTE HOOLIHAN:**

**CELL 985-237-9557**

