

# River Oaks New Year Newsletter

2019



## To Bark or Not to Bark...

River Oaks annual meeting is fast approaching and we have a lot going on for this February. We will be voting on whether River Oaks will have a dog park. Members of our community have suggested that their furry friends need a place to socialize without a leash. If passed, funding will be 100 percent donation based and administered through volunteers. The "Bark Park" will be between the tennis courts and pond and will include a 4' chain-link fence and shaded park benches. Please come vote for the Bark Park!



## Sidewalk, Bike & Pedestrian Lanes, Oh My!



Due to concerns of pedestrians, joggers, bikers, and children being hit by cars, at our annual meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, we will be voting to stripe walking/biking lanes, install a sidewalk from the club house to the first stop sign, and seal coat part of River Oaks Drive. A presentation will be given before the vote, which will include details of the project, costs, and funding for the project. Come to the meeting to vote.

# Hungry Coyotes Looking for Snacks

Cold weather tends to bring wildlife into urban areas to hunt for food. The food could be garbage, discarded snacks the kids dropped while playing, BBQ grills, dog and cat food....or your dog and cat. When wild animals cease to fear humans, they will come get what they want, with or without you. When my kids spotted a coyote in the backyard, it quickly scurried under the fence to get away, I wasn't too concerned. The animal feared humans and I benefitted by the

coyote eating rodents. I was naive. Rather than the coyote keeping its distance and eventually moving on, my seven year old daughter learned otherwise when a coyote chased her and our puppy to the front door. Please be extra diligent in the cold months by keeping potential food sources secure and keeping an eye on small pets when let out at night.

## Call for DRAG RACERz on River Oaks Drive

You think you have the fastest car in River Oaks. Prove it buddy! Pink slips are on the line. The River Oaks Board of Directors have organized a drag race community event to put your money where your mouth is. Contestants start your engines...the races are scheduled to begin during every swim meet, so everyone can see your awesomeness! It will be complete with children cheering you on with pool floaties and impressed mothers

rushing to their children to help cheer their favorite racer, as you tear up the strip. Yes.. You and your hot rod are totally tubular!!! Bad idea? Yeah. Please keep your speed down for everyone's safety.



## Waste Management BBQ and Dumpster Day

You probably have noticed that we have a spring clean-up dumpster and an annual grilling event put on by Waste Management. The spring cleaning was a huge success, which filled three large dump containers. As a reminder for next spring clean-up, please do not leave trash at the

side of the dumpster, even if it is full. The BBQ was held at the end of summer and was a lot of fun, even though we got some rain. Waste Management employees smoked the most delicious burgers that I have ever tasted. Don't miss out on the beef feast next time.

## Entrance Sign Gets a New Look

Check it out! The foliage around the entrance sign is new. Our newest Board member, Henry Hunter (with Banting's

Nursery) volunteered his green thumb, sweat, and blood to freshen the look of our community sign. Thanks for your service!

# To the Holders of Power

Most of us have experienced a blackout. Lights go off...and won't come on until the power is restored. But it is out of the ordinary when the power goes out in the neighborhood, and low voltage lights remain dimly lit without an auxiliary source of power. Shouldn't the power be either on or off?

Last year, in the early morning, River Oaks experience a power loss in the neighborhood, but low voltage lights remained on. The sound of generators could be heard humming in the background, as our more prepared residents have automatic starting to keep power to their houses. It is possible that the source of the low wattage was due to power from a generator

backfeeding into the power grid.

Backfeeding power creates a dangerous situation for power company workers who are not aware that a power line is energized. Also, low voltage inappropriately supplied to residents from a neighbor's backfeeding generator can destroy equipment, like electronics in your air conditioner and heater.

Residents, who own generators that automatically start with power failures, please have your transfer switches checked for backfeeding. A power worker's life may depend on it and your neighborhood would like to be spared the expense of buying new electronics and appliances.

## Community Event Planning

River Oaks is a family friendly neighborhood. We have a nice pool, tennis courts, clubhouse and a lot of nice folks. Maybe we could get to know these nice folks a little better. Last year Game Night was a great success, where neighborhood families and individuals got together to play board games, eat snacks and drink sodas. Best of all.....it was free! The community could use

more volunteers to organize similar events. Please contact Charlotte at [hoolihancharlotte@yahoo.com](mailto:hoolihancharlotte@yahoo.com) to reserve our amenities. Get the word out through our newsletter by contacting [danegeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:danegeyer@yahoo.com). Who knows, you may make a friend or two!

## Street Lights & Storm Drains

Even little things in the neighborhood make a big difference for our community. If you see a burned out street light, please call CLECO for a new bulb. These lights are owned and maintained by them. Also, we have had a lot a water build up on the streets after heavy rain storms because the storm drain grates are getting clogged by

leaves, branches, and grass clippings. If you happen to walk by a storm drain, please check it to make sure it is clear of debris and clear it if need be. Lawn care staff clear drains as much as possible, but we can help out, too.

# Party Bismarck Sinks to a Watery Grave

Teens from River Wood decided that the remote waterways of River Oaks would make an excellent anchoring point for a party boat. Complete with two stories, and all the beer that she could hold, the makeshift yacht found its final destination. However, the secret hideout was found by two of our

senior members of the Board. By canoe, River Oaks launched an attack catching the mighty party boat off guard. Now the only thing that remains are a few boards and artifact bottles memorializing the brewdless battle.

# AT&T Installing Fiber Optics

AT&T is installing fiber optics in our neighborhood. As many have seen, there are large spools of plastic pipe, which will be laid underground for the cable to be pulled through. As part of the process, to get the plastic pipe underground, a bit and pipe are made up and directionally burrow under sewer, electric, natural gas and water lines. We have had a few occurrences of a broken main water line, requiring a boil water alert, until Utilities Inc could flush the line. Also,

there was a natural gas line breached, in which the natural gas company quickly controlled and fixed. Please be aware of the equipment that is in our subdivision and be aware that the work is being done in the right-of-way and not in your yard. The company installing the fiber optics should clean up after themselves and mitigate disturbed grass. If you have any issues, please contact a Board member.

# Pool Repairs & New Pool Loungers

Prior to swim team start-up, we were able to fix the southeast corner of the pool side. The concrete had become uneven and cracked, which presented a hazard to anyone walking across it. The old concrete was removed and new poured. Electrical wiring had to be replaced under the old pad, too. We have been working diligently to replace corroded sections of the pool fence and welding bars between existing ones to provide better security around the pool. Approximately half the fencing project is complete. If you would like to volunteer to help weld (no experience necessary), please email [danegeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:danegeyer@yahoo.com). We have a

new fire pit for the clubhouse area ...but we are still in the process of installing it. The fire pit is the charcoal fuel type that you typically see at national campgrounds. Come cook some burgers!

You may have noticed the poolside lounge chairs creaking and cracking (even breaking) when you last sat in them. It's time. Good-bye dear old comfy chairs. You are beyond repair, and as such, you must go to a far, far away place. The next time you hit the pool for a swim, new chairs will be there to greet you.

# Questions & Answers to the Board

**Is shooting a firearm in remote areas of River Oaks okay?** Answer: Firearms should not be discharged within River Oaks.

**Are air conditioning window units against HOA rules?** Answer: No, if the window units are hidden from street view. Yes, if the window units can be seen from the street.

**Where can I place signs for lost pets?** Answer: Please use a free-standing sign, like a recycled campaign sign. Please do not tape flyers to our sign posts. The tape tears the paint off and anyone who tapes a flyer will be charged \$50 for repair fees.

**Why can't we fish in the pond?** Answer: Hooks may pierce the submerged electrical line, which presents a safety hazard. Also, fishing line wraps around the fountain anchor lines, which makes it difficult to service the pump.

## Bulletin Board

If you have an announcement, such as birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baptisms, etc., please let us know. The bulletin board is free for River Oaks members. Contact [danegeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:danegeyer@yahoo.com) to have your announcement included into our next newsletter.

## Coming in the Fall of 2019...




Northshore Vultures is a youth tackle football team, open to all 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade students, and is part of the Christian Youth Football League. We emphasize safety, sportsmanship & teamwork. Come join us for an exciting season on the gridiron!

Find us on Facebook@Northshorevulturesfootball

Contact Coach Dane at 985-773-4174 for more information.

# Thanks to these Businesses

Advertising paid for this newsletter and raised funds for community projects. When we shop locally, we invest in our own community.

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