

Brighton Area Neighborhood News

Every House a Home - Every Neighbor a Friend



A Newsletter of the Brighton Area Homeowners Association (BAHA)

Jan. 14, 2011

Message from the President

"News & Views"

The holidays are over, the decorations are coming down, and the New Year has begun. The New Year resolutions are still fresh on our minds along with the new goals set for the year. One of those goals may be to work on your home, replace the carpet, paint a room, or trim back those bushes outside. Your home is generally the largest investment you will have made in your life, and everyone wishes its value to grow.

Some of the most commonly overlooked tasks in maintaining the value of your home is the neighborhood and how it looks such as the appearance of the entrances and the conditions of the homes, lawns and curbs. Some believe it's the city or some government agency taking care of and pay the utilities for the entrances, but they're wrong. It's BAHA, your homeowners association. This is the primary area where your dues and assistance come into play. I wish to thank all of the homeowners that have previously paid their memberships and others whom have offered their assistance in helping in many ways to improve our neighborhood. You should know, however, that of our 800 homes, only one percent – eight people – regularly spend time keeping our neighborhood entrances and streets looking nice (and giving value to everyone's property).

I especially want to thank those who relentlessly clean their curbs in front of their homes along with their neighbors after the weekly Saturday night trashing of our neighborhood. We like to blame outsiders for this activity. However, my experience tells me otherwise. Our own residents are our worst violators. My conclusion is based on the weekly clean up of our front entrance. For example, here I can tell you every day on the inbound driver's side of the lane, Mr. Tiparillo man strikes. Every week we can tell the number of times this person has entered the development by the number of partially or fully smoked cigars. This person must believe the entrance is his ash tray. Still others may feel the entrance is very hungry and thirsty because they discard their fast food containers, bags and leftovers by throwing them into the bushes.

Now on the outbound side of the entrance, again the driver's side, we find Bud Light beer cans and bottles, the big 16 ounce type, and empty pint size liquor bottles still in their brown bags. In the mornings one can find numerous empty coffee cups, especially as one gets close to the traffic light. Maybe the red light has some affect on their mental state making them discard their coffee cups.

I've tried to make light of this matter; however can we all make another goal for 2011: let's keep our neighborhood clean. Let's please hold our trash until we can properly dispose of the refuse. I would also like to request your assistance in helping your neighborhood by supporting our Homeowners

BRIGHTON AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

TUESDAY January 18, 2011 7:00 PM

**Meeting are held at
GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
(in new gym)
3300 Bell Road, Montgomery AL**

AGENDA: vote for next year's officers, meet with Cpl. Yvonne Nichols, MPD Crime Prevention Unit
Topic: Neighborhood Watch and task force recently deployed in our Community

In Memoriam: Kenn Walp

As many of you know, in November we lost a valuable member of our board, our neighborhood, our friend, Kenneth (Kenn) Walp. His passing was grieved by not only his wife Sue, his family and friends, but by many in our community. He will truly be missed. Kenn loved his community and served it in many ways: he served as treasurer, neighborhood watch coordinator, membership chairman, gardener, maintenance man, IT resource and data manager, website manager, representative with Bonds, Block Captain and he addressed many other administrative tasks. They have used their tools, talents and time for so many BAHA activities and events. The Association honored Kenn by flying its flag at half-mast for a week, displaying a black ribbon on all the entrances and supplied the family with a food platter.

This loss has left the BAHA association with several areas needing assistance. We have temporally filled the treasurer's position along with the web manager; however elections in January will formalize the board's positions. We need your help in many areas of the association. Should you be interested in serving your community, in any capacity, please let us know. Please provide us with your name, address, phone and best time to reach you.

Association with your time, talents and dues. And again best wishes to all in the New Year.

Steve Burghardt, Association President

Neighborhood Events and Improvements In 2010

Plants don't jump from pots to ground by themselves. Weeds don't miraculously disappear. Lights don't turn on when electric bills aren't paid and water doesn't flow "free"-ly. In other words, these minimal things that give our neighborhood the curb appeal and increased property value that each home enjoys, do not happen without your financial contribution: your BAHA membership dues and volunteer efforts in gardening or grounds keeping!

Despite all the changes in positions and personnel on the 2010 BAHA board, your board has still been able to complete its major projects through grants received for lighting, plants, retention walls and sprinkler system repairs and upgrades. The board also organized and operated activities for the community such as, City Wide Clean-up, Community Day, National Night Out and, Christmas Tree Lighting.

For 2011 the board would like to hear from you regarding major projects you would like to see that would help improve our Neighborhood community or any issue that we may be able to assist in improving the safety of our community. We would also want to hear from you concerning membership. What prevents a large percentage of our community from becoming members? What do you expect from your homeowner association?

This past year has seen many improvements to our neigh-

borhood thanks to your dues and two grants from the Mid-South RC&D Council. We installed lights at the Willowick Road and Old Orchard Lane entrances. We changed out the light at the Wampold Road entrance to match the lights we installed at the other entrances. We also removed the piles of dirt around trees and planted in varieties of shrubs in front of the signs and around the trees.

At the Willowick Road entrance, we built a retaining wall out of Castle Rock. There and at Old Orchard Lane and the Briargate entrance (both sides) we planted more and various and different long-lived shrubs. On Briargate we straightened the post and light to focus properly on the sign.

We installed an automated irrigation system to water the full length of the island at the Edinburgh Drive entrance. And in December replaced pvc pipe to ensure the lighting electrical lines stayed securely in-ground. We also replaced three plants which had died.

Our sincere thanks go out to the one percent of BAHA members who gave of their time to assist with the planting, weeding, laying pine straw. Overall a small contingent of friends and neighbors have put in many hundreds of hours throughout the year. Others have helped set up, bake and donate food, manage, and cleanup following several community-wide special events. If some more Brighton residents would come help, the actual hours could be reduced per person to accomplish these worthwhile tasks.

Editorial Fonts

Being responsive to your needs: that's what your Executive Board and this Editor want. But without your participation: input, suggestions, and critiques, we can only do what we think best. The past two newsletters have had a different layout, and more information than our earlier flyers. However, is this enough? Was it the "right" information?

Please send us your ideas and suggestions for special articles and regular columns so that we can give you the information you want and need. You don't have to be a "joined" member to participate. The phone numbers we've included for you to contact us and the facts that you are living here and receiving this newsletter are enough for you to voice your concerns and interests.

Our newsletter is published four times a year, near each quarterly meeting date, but not necessarily on a specific schedule because those meetings fluctuate, and there isn't one in December. The newsletters are printed for us by BONDS, a City of Montgomery neighborhood improvement organization, but we provide the paper.

However, like membership in BAHA, our reporting is only as good as your participation. Often we learn of neighborhood issues only at our meetings, which are open to all residents of the Brighton area neighborhood. You don't have to be a paid member to attend.

So, please speak up; tell us your neighborhood concerns; tell us what information you'd like to include in our newsletters; tell us how to improve the Brighton area. If you can help with a special project, plant flowers or rake weeds, attend a community event, distribute newsletters or take on a more formal role, please do so. Talk to a Board member, call one of the numbers printed here or email us at BAHAMGM@gmail.com. We value your input and partic-

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

PLEASE SEND YOUR DUES (\$45 PER HOUSEHOLD)
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE,
DON'T WAIT FOR YOUR RENEWAL NOTICE

2010 - 2011

BAHA Board of Directors

BAHA PRES. Steve Burghardt.....244-7910
BAHA Vice Pres. Mary Shaver.....612-7597
BAHA Sec. Cheryl Bell.....279-1706
BAHA Acting Treas. Karen Cagle.....270-0105
Members At Large (3, 1 vacant)
Robert Chappell
Georgia Jenkins

Other Appointments

Robert Chappell Yard of the Month
Georgia Jenkins Community Relations
Karen Burghardt Parliamentary Advisor
Terry Hawkins Neighborhood Watch
Coordinator 213-0317

Email us at BAHAMgm@gmail.com

USPS mail P.O. Box 230961, Montgomery, AL 36123-0961
http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Brighton_Area/home

ipation. We also value your membership, even if you cannot participate beyond paying dues. We cannot keep the lights turned on, the planted areas watered, the signs updated, or special events offered without members' support of time, volunteerism, and dues.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many volunteer opportunities to provide service to the community throughout the year. To mention a few of our activities:

Block Captains needed – Become part of the Neighborhood Watch Committee. Please email us at BAHAMGM@gmail.com or call Terry Hawkins 213-0317 our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. We have 47 blocks defined for the neighborhood watch program. The block captains serve a dual role. They are the eyes and ears of the Neighborhood Watch program. They also serve as a communication link between the BAHA Board of Directors and the residents and homeowners of the community. They deliver the BAHA newsletter about four times a year and sometimes flyers we have for our other activities. *If you would like to help just distributing the newsletters, please contact Terry, Hawkins, BAHA President Steve Burghardt or Editor Karen Cagle.*

Landscaping and general maintenance at the entrances – We have a large main entrance at Edinburgh and several smaller plant beds and lighted signs at entrances to Briargate, Old Orchard, Wampold, and Willowick. Throughout the year we also do general maintenance and re-planting to keep the entrances looking fresh. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Please call to lend a hand or to head this committee.

Web site design and administration– Do you have computer skills you can contribute to help our “virtual neighborhood” also? Our web site needs updating and should be a source of continuing information about BAHA activities and neighborhood news. It can also be a resource for our Neighborhood Watch. Call Steve Burghardt or Karen Cagle to learn what you can do.

If you would like to help out with any of these activities or even chair a committee, please call our Secretary Cheryl Bell (279-1706) and let her know your interests. We have a lot of people in our neighborhood and if everyone volunteers just once per year we could do a whole lot more. These activities give you an opportunity to get to know other residents of the community and have some fun and fellowship along the way.

YARDS OF THE MONTH

Although the monthly Yard of the Month selections were discontinued with the November awardees due to the winter season, the Brighton Area Homeowners Association Executive Board judged yards on their Christmas decorations on the December 18th. The yards were judged on Best in Show, Lighting and decorations. Thanks to Cheryl Bell, Karen Burghardt and Georgia Jenkins for braving the cold and dark to see these yard at their best.

The weather has gotten harsh as of late but this does not mean that homeowners should cease all lawn maintenance. Although the cold temperatures will prevent us from mowing, homeowners should still keep their yards neat and free of excess leaves and debris. Let's continue to try and keep our neighborhood one of the best in Montgomery!

The BAHA Yard of the Month selections are usually done by the first weekend of each month with the signs posted in the homeowners' yard for a period of 30 days. Lawns are judged on their overall curb appeal, i.e., neatly mowed and edged grass, healthy flowers and shrubs, no overgrowth of weeds or foliage. The frontal view of the home should have a neat and uniform presentation with painted doors and shutters, clear pathways and no inoperable vehicles in the driveway. Homeowners are encouraged to adhere to these standards in order to keep our home values competitive and make Brighton one of the most desirable areas to live in Montgomery. (Submitted by Robert Chappell)

November Yard Winners

6700 Sarita Ct.
2300 Sansone Rd.
2126 Briargate Dr.
2221 Briargate Dr.

Christmas and Holiday Yard Winners

Best in show..... 2500 McGraw Ct.
Best in lights.....2349 Sansone Ct.
Best in lights.....6861 Wampold Dr.
Best decorations... 2350 Cedarwood
Best decorations... 2120 Briargate Dr.

Christmas Tree Lighting—Were You there?

Many of our neighbors missed the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Event at the front entrance (Edinburgh) on December 5th. It is always held the first Sunday in December so mark your calendars now for 2011. Despite the freezing cold, warm apple cider, fresh baked cookies and candy canes were on the menu. Our tree was donated by Roberts Tree Farm. The Association put up colored lights and white ones on smaller trees in the median. Neighbors contributed decorations. And everyone present enjoyed fellowship during this special time of year. Let's continue our wishes for Peace on Earth and practice good will to everyone each day.

Neighborhood Watch Program

It seems the most common criminal activity in our neighborhood is burglary and the theft of personal property. Is your personal property marked for easy identification? If not, another component of the Neighborhood Watch Program is "Operation Identification". It's a program, sponsored by the Montgomery Police Department that has been proven to reduce burglaries in communities where it has been properly implemented. OPERATION IDENTIFICATION has three parts: (1) Marking all easily stolen valuables with your Alabama Driver's License number so they can be traced to the rightful owner if recovered by the police; (2) using a list to record descriptions and serial numbers of all valuables; and (3) displaying a sticker which tells burglars you are participating in Operation Identification. What makes OPERATION IDENTIFICATION so effective is that easily identified property is hard for a burglar to dispose of. If it can be traced back to the owner, and the burglar is caught with it in his possession, it's solid evidence of possession of stolen goods. Please contact me, Terry Hawkins at 213-0317 if you're interested in participating in OPERATION IDENTIFICATION.

Unfortunately, the passing of Kenneth Walp has left us with a vacancy for the Assistant Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. If you are interested in taking on the duties associated with this key volunteer position, please contact Terry Hawkins at 213-0317 or Steve Burghardt at 244-7910. Finally, we are still in need of four Block Captains to also serve as Majors in one of four quadrants around the BAHA subdivision. The Neighborhood Watch Coordinators, Majors, and Block Captains all have the primary duty of keeping the lines of communication open with regard to reporting criminal activity and helping the MPD with keeping our neighborhood safe and secure for all residents.

(Submitted by Terry Hawkins)

To receive prompt neighborhood alerts, information and news, the BAHA Neighborhood Watch needs your contact information: name, phone, email, cell phone and method of contacting you. Please use the form included in our insert to this newsletter. You do not need to be a member of BAHA to be part of this program. However, you may join BAHA for only \$45 a year!

Membership

Unlike some of the other local neighborhoods that charge hundreds of dollars, BAHA is a voluntary organization and has no covenants mandating that each homeowner pay dues. Therefore, we operate only on your voluntary membership. Today's budget requires a minimum of 150 members just to meet our existing bills. However, out of the 833 homes in our development and with the present state of the economy, our membership has dropped to 63 members. With that said, our finances going into the New Year are dangerously low with an estimated three months of operating funds left. We need your membership dues and participation. Electric operating expenses cost the association almost \$2,000 per year. Water, insurance, storage, maintenance and repairs cost still another \$4,000.00. This excludes the administrative costs for paper, stamps, printing and activities etc. Please join or renew your membership as soon as possible. Dues are for an annual period. Please renew your membership now so that we can continue to make improvements to the neighborhood to make it attractive, friendly, peaceful and safe for all residents.

Recently Lost—Reward

A Nikon pocket camera in a blue case was lost by a volunteer in our neighborhood. The pictures on the memory card are not replaceable, and the camera was a gift from her late husband. If you find it or can return the memory card, please contact Steve Burghardt at 244-7910 or leave it at his home.

School Bits and Pieces

On January 4, the Montgomery Public Schools began its winter magnet schools application period, which will run through January 31, 2011. Applications and program fact sheets are available at the magnet school to which you wish to apply. You must go to each school individually and pick up an application for your child. All winter applications must be turned in by 4:30 January 31st.

Our BOE Representative is Melissa Snowden. We are currently part of District 5. You can reach her by calling the MPS Communications Office at 223-6761 or emailing Tom Salter at Tom.Salter@mps.k12.al.us. You may also find timely information on the MPS web page and sign up for automatic information alerts at:

<http://www.mps.k12.al.us>

MPS and the Board of Education are conducting community forums to discuss zoning changes that will affect every child in this system. The forums will take place as follows. You may attend any one that is most convenient to you.

January 18, at G. W. Carver High School at 5 pm,
January 20 at Johnnie Carr Middle at 5 pm,
January 27 at Martin Luther King Elem at 5 pm.

Still Lost and Found

A set of keys were found and turned into our Block Captain. If you're the owner of these missing set of keys please call Steve Burghardt.

Brighton Area Homeowners Association (BAHA)

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

Every House a Home - Every Neighbor a Friend

Clip and Save

QUICK REFERENCE PHONE NUMBERS

Crime in Progress.....911
Police Dept. (non-emergency).....241-2651
Secret Witness.....262-4000
Animal Control.....241-2970
Overgrown grass.....241-2068
Sidewalk Repair.....241-2880
Street Light Replacement.....1-800-245-2244
Street Sign Repair.....241-2910
Vehicle Parked in Yard.....241-2068

NEW City Information & to report problems....311

Be sure to record your "incident number" for follow-up
For assistance with Social Services.....211
Montgomery City Website:..... www.montgomeryal.gov

BAHA REFERENCE PHONE NUMBERS

BAHA PRES. Steve Burghardt.....244-7910
BAHA Vice Pres. Mary Shaver.....612-7597
BAHA Sec. Cheryl Bell.....279-1706
BAHA Treas. Karen Cagle.....279-0105
Neighborhood Watch Coord. Terry Hawkins 213-0317

email us at BAHAMgm@gmail.com

USPS mail P.O. Box 230961, Montgomery, AL 36123-0961

http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/Brighton_Area/home

You do not need to be a member of BAHA to be part of the Neighborhood Watch Program and receive alerts and information

Be alert. Report suspicious activity, overgrown yards, improperly parked vehicles, ordinance violations, needed street repairs, water, sanitation, electrical or gas issues, and general concerns to Montgomery City or the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

Be a part of the Brighton Area Neighborhood Watch Program (cut out & send)

I want to receive news, alerts, information and reminders by (check all that apply):

☐ email ☐ text message ☐ voice mail

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone1: _____ Phone2: _____ Phone3: _____

☐ text message ☐ voice mail ☐ text message ☐ voice mail ☐ text message ☐ voice mail

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____

I authorize BAHA officers and their program designees to use the information I have provided.

Signature

date

☐ Check here if you are interest in becoming a Block Captain

Mail to : BAHA, P.O. Box 230961, Montgomery, AL 36123-0961

\$45 Annually Brighton Area Homeowners Association Membership \$45 Annually

I also want to join the Neighborhood Association. Enclosed is Check#: _____ payable to BAHA