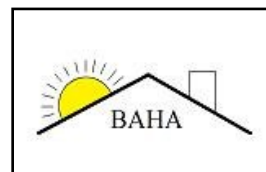


Brighton Area Neighborhood News

Every House a Home - Every Neighbor a Friend



A Newsletter of the Brighton Area Homeowners Association (BAHA)

March 15, 2011

Message from the President

“State of the Organization & Neighborhood”

In my last news article I had noted our expenses, our lack of funds and our need for renewals. I must thank everyone that has renewed during January, February and beginning of March. I must also thank those who have paid ahead of time in order to meet our monthly obligations though the next six months. Unfortunately it does not allow us any discretionary funds to purchase pine straw and plants for the entrances. I would still like to plead with those who have not renewed to consider renewing your membership now, or joining the association for the first time. Every dollar taken in goes directly back to the neighborhood helping in maintaining the entrances and cohesiveness of the neighborhood.

You may ask so what does the being a member and supporting the Brighton Area Homeowners Association (BAHA) do for me? Why do we even need a Homeowners association?

Aside from maintaining the entrances and keeping the appeal of the neighborhood as a great place to live, the association has a direct link to city, county and state officials. I know, so what? By BAHA having these relationships, when issues occur in the neighborhood, from the annoying loud radios, parties and speeding cars, to homes left abandoned or in disrepair, the association reviews the issues with our city councilman, county commissioners, the mayor's office and the command structure of MPD. By BAHA working with these officials, sidewalks and curbs get repaired, streets repaved, extra police patrols, speed limits are enforced and lawns get cut. Of course anyone can request these additional services however, the BAHA Board you have elected carries a little weight, we represent all the homeowners, residents, and all 820 homes in the neighborhood. We also meet face to face with these officials multiple times a year.

The association is also a member of the Neighborhood Watch program. This program works in conjunction with MPD in watching out for criminal activity in the neighborhood. You can't do this by yourself, and this can only happen through your homeowners association.

(cont .p2 “Message”)

BRIGHTON AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Saturday April 16, 2011 10:00 AM*
GATEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
3300 Bell Road, Montgomery AL

**Note Day & Time (location: new gym)*

Special guest Mr. Hunter Bond from AES Security.
Mr. Bond will review steps we can take along with methods of prevention in protecting your home property and lives

Membership—Keeps the Lights On

Our entrances announce that we welcome our neighbors and value our homes. Join BAHA and help maintain the landscaping and the lights on at our entrances. PLEASE SEND YOUR \$45 DUES

State PTA Convention & Workshops in Montgomery April 7-9

Register now to attend the annual PTA convention and help celebrate 100 years of parent involvement. Information about workshops and training, general sessions, vendors, special events, luncheons, dinners and the Thursday Birthday Bash, fees and registration forms are available to download at www.alabamapta.org. Call 834-2501 to register. Forms and fees will be accepted after the published March 25th deadline and onsite at the convention. All convention activities will be held at the Em-

City Police Set New Districts

Use Computer Program to Track and Analyze Crime by Neighborhoods

Brighton— Briargate is now part of the newly created East District created recently by the Montgomery Police Department (MPD). Our District Chief is Captain O'Banion. The city was further divided into five districts rather than the previous four in order to let police better analyze data and respond to crime and other incidents requiring their intervention.

MPD is using “CompStat”, a detailed, computer based crime data report and analysis system.(cont p2 Police)

Neighborhood Events in 2011

Spring cleaning bug bit you? Why not participate in our **Neighborhood Cleanup** scheduled for Saturday, **May 7th**. Help clean the street & gutters around your home & common areas. Call Mary Shaver for more information.

Want to dig in the dirt each month or just once? Volunteer for **Once Monthly Grounds Keeping** to help weed-eat, spread pine straw, plant annuals at one or several entrances. Call Al Mitchell 409-0103 to discuss where you can help. Many hands make less work for all.

National Night Out—first Tuesday in August. Call Georgia Jenkins or Mary Shaver to volunteer. We need home baked cookies & brownies. Help setting up, cooking hotdogs, making & serving beverages.

Community Day—a celebration of our neighborhood with games, food and fellowship may be held in the fall, if we generate sufficient membership funds to cover costs.

Neighborhood Yard Sale—promoted by BAHA to attract shoppers. More effective than private, single yard sales. Your merchandise: your prices and profits. Pair up with friends or next-door neighbors for maximum impact.

Christmas Tree Lighting, a visit from Santa, singing, hot apple cider & cookies: 1st Sunday in December.

(cont. from p1 "Police")

It has been adopted by many large cities such as New York, New Orleans, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Baltimore and Dallas over the past 15 years. Police look at various CompStat crime reports for patterns by type and locality, generating tables and maps to help them find patterns of recurring problems. By breaking down a city into smaller districts and sub-districts, they can pinpoint more meaningful information and then look for patterns. They work with neighborhood associations and other groups to harness the watchfulness of residents and workers with targeted police car, bicycle and motorcycle patrols and sometimes undercover individuals to find perpetrators. This combined approach based on CompStat analysis has helped police lower or eliminate certain crimes that have plagued local areas.

To help build a valuable database, police urge residents to report every instance of theft, break-in or other crime, both actual and suspected. Sometimes we are embarrassed to admit we left the car door unlocked and someone stole the GPS. However, by knowing someone took advantage of this crime of opportunity still means there was a thief lurking in the area. Police need to know and document that loss so that if he/she continues to rob others, they can use the property reports to apprehend him later.

MPD Police Chief Kevin Murphy states, "statistics

2011-2012 BAHA Executive Board

BAHA PRES. Steve Burghardt.....244-7910
BAHA Vice Pres. Mary Shaver.....612-7597
BAHA Sec. Cheryl Bell.....279-1706
BAHA Treas. Karen Cagle.....270-0105
Members At Large:

Robert Chappell, Al Mitchell, Georgia Jenkins

Other Appointments

Robert Chappell	Yard of the Month
Georgia Jenkins	Community Relations 244-1773
Karen Burghardt	Parliamentary Advisor
Terry Hawkins	Neighborhood Watch
	Coordinator 213-0317
Al Mitchell	General Maintenance and
	Grounds Keeping 409-0103

Email us at BAHAMgm@gmail.com

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

(cont. from p1 "Message")

BAHA is also a member of still a greater association, BONDS, a nationwide association. Working through BONDS, the association meets with other homeowner associations and receives training and guidance. BONDS also writes grants for improvement projects for the associations, and through the years we've taken great advantage of this. We could not have created the five special entrances with landscaping, lighting, and signs without the many thousands of dollars BONDS' grants and donations by elected officials have provided.

I hope this offers some explanation and helps you in understanding what your Homeowners association does for you. Please consider joining and/or renewing.

show that for every time we arrest someone, he's already committed that crime an average of nine times." Thieves pick easy targets: unlocked cars and homes, homes without security systems, waiting until we are at work to break into our homes, and waiting until we are in bed at night to break into our cars parked in the driveway.

He also urges us to keep a watch on our own homes and our neighbors', plus the neighborhood or any area where we are, even shopping, and reporting anything suspicious helps stop crime. Stay on the phone with the 911 operator because he is relaying your information and answers to questions to police that have already been dispatched to your area. Alert residents, shoppers, and workers may see criminals "in the act" and should report them so that police may arrest them.

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 BAHA-MGM@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 distribute 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 (weeding, trimming, spreading pine straw, replacing light bulbs, etc.) and re-planting to keep the entrances looking fresh. Volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Please call Al Mitchell at 409-0103 to lend a hand. If home owners near each entrance would “adopt” their area, they could divide the work so no one has the whole burden.

Special Events Chairpersons - Contact Mary Shaver at 612-7597 to chair or serve on committees for planned events: National Night Out (first Tuesday in August), Community Day (a Saturday in the fall), Christmas Tree (decorating and) Lighting (first Sunday in December).

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) or Volunteer Coordinator Georgia Jenkins (244-1773) and let them 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

Spring is approaching and pretty soon we will see the first blades of onion grass start to appear in lawns throughout the neighborhood. Are you ready? After the March winds, April showers and the annual onslaught of pollen from the flowering blooms, the familiar sounds of mowers and trimmers will fill the air once again. With this in mind, the BAHA Yard of the Month Committee will resume monthly yard selections at the end of April and again we will be looking at the overall curb appeal of your lawn and home.

Let's all put forth an effort to keep our neighborhood beautiful this year, see you out there!

(Submitted by Robert Chappell)

BAHA Yard of the Month Judging Criteria

Lawns should be cut and trimmed at all curbs, sides walls etc. Lawns should not be full of weeds or having areas without grass, but well maintained. There must be no debris at the curb. There should be no signs of vehicles being parked on the lawn. Shrubbery must be trimmed neatly, not over-grown. Dead plants and debris should be removed. Planted beds should be weed free, gardens covered with mulch, pine straw or other ground covers. Color is another factor considered with plants blooming, flowering, season driven. All structure on the property must be in good repair: no peeling paint, rotting or broken wood or other decaying building materials. Shutters awnings and alike must be in good repair. Driveways should not be oil soaked or have vehicles undergoing repair. Your mail box should be in good condition and not damaged, kept neat and to postal codes. Other Award regulations are that the resident has not won the award already that physical year; up to 5 homes may be chosen each month; judging begins in April and concludes in November.

Neighborhood Watch Program

The BAHA Block Captains are the communications and liaison arm of the organization. They are also the backbone of a volunteer force we call on to assist with special projects. Throughout the year we depend on our Block Captains to hand out the quarterly BAHA newsletters and other flyers announcing special events. Qualifications for a BAHA Block Captain are as follows:

1. Must have paid their Homeowner Association dues for the year (\$45.00)
2. Be available and willing to attend quarterly Block Captain meetings.
3. Be willing to meet the needs of the neighbors in their assigned areas.
4. Lead by example.
5. Be willing to enforce the Community Standards of the Association

www.neighborhoodlink.com/montgomery/baha

The Association Standards adhere closely to the standards approved and enforced by the City of Montgomery.

We are still looking for a volunteer to fill the vacant position of 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 assisting the MPD with keeping our neighborhood safe and secure for all residents.

(Submitted by Terry Hawkins,)

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 Terry Hawkins at 213-0317 if you're interested in participating in OPERATION IDENTIFICATION.

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 Matters

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 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 all of this is for our five entrances. 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.

Good Neighbor Guidelines

- **Join BAHA—your neighborhood association.** *A strong association helps attract and keep good neighbors.*
- **Be Alert and report any suspicious activity to 911, share information with neighbors.**
- **Drive at or below the speed limit and come to a complete stop at stop signs.** *The safety of children and neighbors is very important.*
- **Help keep trash off the street.** *Garbage pick up is on Tuesday and Friday. Yard waste and large trash pick up is on Wednesday. Homeowners and residents are responsible for the sidewalk, curb area, and street in front of your home. Please try to clean up grass, trash, etc. so that the drains in the neighborhood work properly.*
- **Please use the sidewalks instead of walking on the street.**
- **Lock your car doors when parked in driveway or street**
- **Lock your house doors, even when at home.**

BAHA—Serving the Good Neighbors of Bellgate, Briargate, Briarwood, Brighton, and Brighton Estates!

Brighton Area Homeowners Association (BAHA)

NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

Every House a Home - Every Neighbor a Friend



Save this page

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

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

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
Maintenance/Grounds Coord. Al Mitchell...	409-0103
Volunteers Coord. Georgia Jenkins.....	244-1773

email us at BAHAMgm@gmail.com

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

Garbage and Trash Collection

Garbage pickup in our area is twice a week on Tuesday and Friday. The city uses large roll-out garbage containers that are assigned to each residence. The container numbers are registered to the related residence. You are responsible for your container. However, you may obtain a free replacement if yours is worn out or damaged.

1. 1. The roll-out container is to be used for household garbage and light trash ONLY. It is recommended that all garbage be contained in bags within the container to keep loose items from falling out during pickup. All garbage bags must be inside the roll-out container. The container should be placed at the curb (NOT in the street) with the handle facing the street. The container should be placed on the street corresponding to your residence address.
2. 2. Containers must be curbside not before 7:00PM on the day before pickup and no later than 7:00 AM on pickup day. They must be removed no later than 7:00 PM on pickup day.
3. 3. If a container is damaged, the user is responsible for the repair or replacement. Call 241-2753 if your container is damaged or stolen.
4. 4. Containers that are overloaded will not be serviced. Do not place hot materials, paint solvents, inflammable liquids, non-containerized liquids, sod, rocks, sand, or other extremely heavy items or objects into the containers.
5. 5. Sanitation crews will not return until the next pickup day if the container is placed curbside after your street is serviced.

Trash/rubbish pickup in our area is once per week on Wednesday with the exceptions of holidays and extreme weather.

1. 1. Locate behind the curb (NEVER on the street). (Trash in the street can be washed into the storm drains and block them and contaminate the ground water.) Yard waste should not be put on the curb before 7:00 PM of the night before pickup.
2. 2. Containerize ALL loose rubbish/trash. It's best to use bags, but boxes are suitable if not rain-soaked.
3. 3. Limbs, hedges, etc. must be cut less than four (4) feet in length and eight (8) inches in diameter and placed in an orderly manner behind the curb. (No charge for pickup.)
4. 4. Limbs and large items above the dimensions (see item 3) will result in a charge. Charges are pro-rated at \$40 per load.
5. 5. All appliances, couches, mattresses, carpet, etc. will be removed for \$5.00 per unit.
6. 6. Grass must be containerized at all times. It should not be left on the street or piled in the street after mowing. Leaves and pine straw must be containerized with one exception (Oct 1 to Apr 15 each year). During this period, loose leaves may be placed in piles separate from other trash behind the curb (NOT in the street.) It is recommended that leaves and pine straw always be bagged in order for the sanitation crew to efficiently pick them up and keep the whole neighborhood clean.
7. 7. Building debris, such as scrap lumber, plaster, roofing, concrete and other materials resulting from construction, repair, remodeling or demolition and dirt, stumps, and tree trunks resulting from landscaping will be the responsibility of the owner, contractor or tenant.
8. 8. The City shall not be responsible for removal of debris from private property before, during or after construction of buildings. Contractors that perform work on private property are responsible for removal of such debris.