Councilman Ryan Heck Proves to be an Advocate for Tara!

Civic Association Meeting &
Ice Cream Social
May 14, 2013

Thanks to all members attending our Civic Association Meeting on May 14. A great group in attendance, new board members elected, and wonderful information from our Councilman Ryan Heck topped the agenda.

The Nominating Committee presented a slate of new board members to replace the members whose terms were expiring. Elected are as follows: Carmen Trull, Trey Monsour, Win Landry, Cathy St Romain, Dale Songy and Suzanne Fiske. Thanks and congratulations to all who serve our great subdivision! We also thank those who have served in the past and continue to work hard to make Tara the very best place to live. In addition, Brenda Giacone will temporarily be taking the place of Margaret Landry until further notice. Richela Roy has also been appointed by The Tara Club to serve as their representative on the Board.

Councilman Ryan Heck addressed the members on three current and important issues.

1. The pumping station. He mentioned to date that the pumping station will not be placed close to the Tara Club Pool and the access will not be from Tara Boulevard. He thanked our members for being persistent and successful in making this happen! YEA TO US. Specifically he thanked Trey Monsour and Dale Songy, both on our Architectural Committee for the subdivision. He also thanked Suzanne and all members that kept the pressure on - helping to move towards our victory!

2. The “BetterBlock” (Roadway Reconfiguration) This will be taking place on Government close to the Westmoreland area. Pros and cons were discussed. The specifics – “to date”- of this new construction is available at Mr. Heck’s office. Please call and ask for Matt Watson – (225) 389-5169 office, (225) 247-2454 cell. See the article Changes Under Way

3. Woman’s Hospital. At this time the City Parish has plans for a Public Safety Complex. The cost was minimal as Woman’s Hospital wants to “be a good neighbor” and have the right people take over this property. The Administration is still working on their “due diligence and master plan”. A meeting will be held at a later date for District 11 on final decisions.

Our treasurer Robert Say gave a favorable Treasurer’s Report & THANKED ALL WHO HAVE PAID THEIR DUES!!! This directly impacts our Security options.

Next – the fun! Treats & visiting! A big Thank You to our door prize sponsors: Nothing Bundt Cakes and Hammond Air Auto Spa. Door prize winners were Jim Bob Ourso, Pat Tassin, Dave Kelly, Ann James and Brenda Giacone. Mike McDonald and Rachel Hebert won the beautiful plants used to decorate the tables. Come to see us at our next meeting!

Security

Thank you to our neighbors for reporting security incidents in our neighborhood. In early March, it was reported that a vehicle had been vandalized for the second time on Longview (keep all vehicles locked), and that vandals had stolen yard items from homes on Tara Blvd. and Roseneath. Scam artists have been reported in our neighborhood and likewise people soliciting.
Beware and report any suspicious activity. Faithfully keeping doors locked will help to keep your possessions safe. Keep reporting your incidents to the police and to Tara Security. The phone number for police dispatch is 389-2000. Keep this number in a handy place.

Vacation time is here. For security patrol to keep an extra eye on your home, please call Carmen Trull at 225-235-6445 or send an email to taracivicasn@gmail.com. There were 11 requests for approximately 45 days of coverage during February, March and April, with no incident reports from vacationers.

Summer is Here
It's that time of year when we all start mowing our lawns whether we contract it or do it ourselves. The smell of fresh cut grass might be the only pleasant thing about mowing the lawn when it's hot and all you can think of is having a cool one when you're done. One thing you might not have thought of is where all those grass clippings end up. If you are not careful they end up in the street and then unfortunately, after the next storm they get flushed into the storm drains. Two things are wrong here. When they appear in the street it presents an ugly mess for others to look at and if they get into the storm drains this will slow up our drainage system. Please be considerate and help by not blowing grass clippings or leaves into the street either with your mower or leaf blower. Oh, and please talk to your lawn maintenance contractor about this information as well. Your help on this will be appreciated.

Dues Report
Guess what!! Even after all the phone calls, letters and reminders, 137 out of 618 residents still have not paid their annual dues for 2013. Please if you are one of these who have forgotten or have let this important matter slip by, get busy today and send in your $55 to Robert Say at 1554 Tara Blvd. Remember, you too are benefiting from security patrols, upkeep of the boulevard, and all our communications. Your contribution is important and necessary. Do your part and support your organization! Mini Directory is attached. Names Bolded & Underlined have not paid.

Margaret Landry Retiring
As most of you know, Margaret Landry worked tirelessly for years and years to ensure that the Goodwood Blvd entrance and the Old Hammond Hwy entrance to Tara Subdivision were planted with pretty flowers and attractive landscaping. She personally selected the plantings, put them in the ground, and then cared for them as if they were in her own garden, applying all the required mulch, fertilizer, weed killer, and insecticides. In the past couple of years, she cut back on her work-load and concentrated her efforts mainly on the Goodwood Blvd entrance. Now Margaret has retired from these activities, which have added so much to the appearance of our Tara Subdivision. We thank Margaret for her years of service in making our Subdivision entrances look so attractive.

Dale and Kathy Ulkins Retiring
Way back in the early 1990’s, Dale and Kathy Ulkins began helping Hilda Edward decorate the Goodwood Blvd entrance and the Old Hammond Hwy entrance to Tara Subdivision for Christmas, Mardi Gras, and Fourth of July. Then, when Hilda retired from this endeavor, Dale and Kathy volunteered to do it all themselves. After many years of dedicated service in this activity, Dale and Kathy are retiring. We want to thank them both for brightening up the spirits of our residents with their creative and festive decorations that they selected and arranged for each holiday season.

Tara Blvd. Beautification
With the retirement of chairpersons from two very important committees, the Board really needed help. Well good news came our way! Rick Hamilton, a Tara resident, has generously offered to plant and maintain the flower bed at Goodwood and Tara. Our thanks go out to Rick, who is a landscape designer. We are looking forward to a beautiful entrance at Goodwood. Like wise we are excited about having Cherie Baudier volunteer to chair the Tara Entrance Decorating Committee. Cherie enjoys decorating and is very talented. A very heartfelt thanks to both of these generous residents! Kudos also go out to a few other residents. The new bed design at the Goodwood entrance was
done by Jimmy Tassin and Jim Bob Ourso who outlined the bed with donated bricks. Tom and Suzanne Fiske brought in the dirt and Tom has been busy spraying weeds, in order to plant. He has also repaired and painted the wrought iron fence. Our next project is to tackle cleaning up the “bus waiting” station along with a few other improvements. Keeping our entrances looking great is very important to keeping our community healthy and property up!

**Changes Under Way**
The Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) is an organization that works with communities to provide best practices, planning models and ideas to help create master plans dealing with transportation needs. CPEX is currently working on a project titled Better Block BR that is looking at ways to transform the Government Street corridor into a destination for pedestrians and cyclist, while maintaining quality road design that optimizes traffic flow. The talk is that four lanes will be reduced to three and a bike path is possible from Independence Park to downtown. The Government Street project was discussed some in the General Membership Meeting. If you want a voice in this change or have strong feelings about this project, you can contact Matt Watson at councilman Heck’s office. The number is 389-5169 or email him at council-dist11@brgov.com

There is also word that the city’s looking at a redesign of the intersection at Government and Lobdell….maybe a “round about”. Other changes we have heard about – sometime this year DOTD plans to install medians along certain sections of Jefferson Hwy. and BREC has plans to build a jogging track around the perimeter of Independence Park. The time frame is not confirmed, but the discussions have centered on a 12 ft. wide soft surface track that will be a hit with the jogging community. Also the buzz word is by the end of the year, we will see changes at the Woman’s Hospital site which will become a new police headquarters. There are many changes happening in our area that will affect us. Stay tuned!

**Your Help is Needed!**
In a subdivision the size of ours, there are many talented people who could be of great service to our volunteer board. We would like to extend an invitation and encourage you to consider serving on a committee. We would like to form a Boulevard Committee (helping with the entrances and extra work on boulevard maintenance), and a Social Committee (helping with the Wine Walk or other fun events). You do not need to come to any board meetings unless you would like to. If you could possible help out with either of the above mentioned, please contact Suzanne at 924-3454 or email her at snfiske@cox.net.

**Friendly Reminders**
Make sure that your garbage cart is placed no more than 3 feet from the street and at least 5 feet from other objects such as mailboxes, vehicles, utility poles, shrubs and away from overhead wires and trees so it can be picked up by automated trucks. Please do not stack materials on or around your cart. For missed garbage collection or cart repair problems...Dial 311.

**Street Light Out?** To report this problem simply call 1-800-368-3749 and follow the automated system. Works easily!

**A New Fire Station on Wooddale!** The telephone number for the new fire station is 389-4656. You may want to make a note of this under important numbers.

**Check Before You Build**
Just a reminder that before you build or remodel you need to check with our architectural committee in order to be sure you are doing what is allowed within our restrictions. This applies especially to extra storage buildings that many residents choose to add for extra storage space. There is a size limit and also a regulation on the proper materials to use. If you erect something that is not within the boundaries of the deed restrictions you may be required to take it down. Please CHECK BEFORE YOU BUILD! Our web site has the deed restrictions listed for each filing. If you have any questions, you may call a board member for more information.
YARD OF THE MONTH

Jane & David Ourso
Judy & Danny Foti

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS
We are glad you chose Tara!

Kyle & Lauren Odom         1214 Aurora Place
Glendon & Jennifer Steady  1709 Beechgrove Dr.
Bryan & Julie Owen         8830 Darby Ave.
Todd Walker                8947 Trinity Ave.
Stephen & Patricia Beasley 1324 Oakley Ave.