

# Memorial Bend Newsletter

Spring 2019

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## Memorial Bend Civic Association President's Message

To: Memorial Bend Neighbors

Greetings to long time Bend residents, and welcome to everyone who is new to the neighborhood!

As spring returns, Memorial Bend has regained its beauty. The leaves have reappeared on the trees and the azaleas are in bloom. One purpose of the Memorial Bend Civic Association is to maintain the quality of our neighborhood in this natural setting. This is an ongoing challenge during a time of transition, as many homes that were flooded during Hurricane Harvey have been demolished and numerous new houses have been, or are being constructed.

The MBCA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has the responsibility of reviewing and approving plans before new homes are constructed in the Bend. Plans must comply with the neighborhood's Architectural Guidelines (available at [www.memorialbend.org](http://www.memorialbend.org)) To promote proper drainage, the guidelines specify that homes and impermeable surfaces are limited to cover 70% of the buildable area (which excludes front, rear and side setbacks). To maintain the character of the neighborhood, homes cannot be taller than 33 feet above grade. Guidelines also require lots with newly constructed houses to have a least one substantial tree per 1,000 square feet, to preserve the Bend's wooded environment. New construction and other project applications and associated fees are submitted through AVR Management Company (Kathryn Ament's email is [kament@avrmanagement.com](mailto:kament@avrmanagement.com)) which logs and tracks them. The ARC meets at least once per month to review plans, request revisions, approve or disapprove applications.

AVR Management also assists MBCA in enforcing the neighborhood's deed restrictions, which encourage homeowners to maintain their yards and homes in consideration of fellow residents. If you receive a violation letter from AVR, please correct the problem promptly, or communicate with AVR to explain the situation. Note that owners of vacant lots need to keep them mowed and free of debris.

The MBCA also contracts with Harris County Precinct 5 Constables to patrol the Bend. Deputy Constable Johnny Valencia is on duty in the Bend five days a week. The Constables also provide 24/7 dispatch services, so constables will respond promptly to any security concerns. Constable Valencia also performs vacation checks on homes per request. The Precinct 5 dispatch number

is 281-463-6666.

In addition, the MBCA contracts for mowing service for the space along the Beltway and for mosquito fogging from April through November.

Best regards,

Ron Bitto,

President, MBCA

### **Current Board Members for MBCA**

President Ron Bitto

Executive VP Kenneth Hurr

Treasurer Justin Comeaux

Secretary Susan Croley

VP Gov't Liasion Nevil Patel

Sgt at Arms Hisham Rahman

At Large Communications Robin Menuet

VP Security Erica Agostini-Jordan

At Large Rep Brad Chin

At Large Rep Susie White

At Large Rep Jennifer Richman

At Large Webmaster Erika Sorsby

### **SECURITY UPDATE FOR MEMORIAL BEND**

We have completed two years of having Constable Precinct 5 patrol service on January 1, 2019, in a successful transition from the previous off-duty HPD patrol. We currently have one dedicated deputy constable patrolling the Bend five days a week. The night shift coverage, which was contracted for one year after Hurricane Harvey using a one-time community service

fee, ended on March 1, 2019. We are fortunate that the Bend continues to be a very safe, low crime neighborhood with one full-time constable and the 24/7 Precinct 5 dispatch service. Regular reports from the constable patrol are posted at [www.memorialbend.org](http://www.memorialbend.org)

Over the past year, the night patrol deputy noticed vehicle activity driving through the neighborhood. He was concerned about the high number of garage doors left open up in the middle of the night. So please remember to close your garage doors before retiring at night.

As mentioned in Ron's report, our assigned deputy constable is Johnny Valencia. He has been diligent in keeping us safe. If you have not met him, please wave to him and introduce yourself.

MB Auto Decals- if you need an MB decal please contact AVR, Kathryn will forward the request.

The decals are for residents vehicles living in the home. They are not to be extended to contractors, housekeepers or relatives not residing in the home permanently.

Important contact info:

Dispatch for Constable Precinct 5

Call this number during patrol shift or outside of patrol shift, emergency or no emergency, anytime

[281-463-6666](tel:281-463-6666)

Vacation Watch Form available on line at:

[www.constablepct5.com/index.php/vacation-watch/](http://www.constablepct5.com/index.php/vacation-watch/)

or ask Deputy Valencia for a form

Erica Agostini-Jordan

### **Architecture Committee Update**

Submit plans for new homes, exterior projects, any tree removal to AVR. The latest versions of the architectural guidelines are on the MBCA website. The committee meets once per month. Submissions for review should be submitted to AVR no later than the 10th business day of the month to ensure they can be reviewed by the committee the same month.

Griffin Vance Architecture Committee

## **The Memorial Bend Barracuda Swim Team**

Registration day is April 7th from 3:30 - 5 at the Glen pool. This is to buy team suits/merchandise and join your pool.

Registration started live on April 1

## **FYI**

- Memorial Drive Reconstruction project

Project will begin east of Beltway 8 to east of Tallowood Dr. The project will expand Memorial Dr from 11 ft wide lanes to 12 ft with a raised median. The public utilities and traffic lights will be upgraded. The ditches will be upgraded to a new storm sewer, concrete boxes and pipes. This will make traveling this stretch of road difficult. The anticipated construction activities are scheduled to begin in mid 2020 and take approximately 24 months to complete.

- Construction has begun by Harris County Flood Control to build retention ponds south of Buffalo Bayou and west of Dairy Ashford in Terry Hershey Park.
- Many of the neighbors living on Isolde and others using the Terry Hershey trail have reported the 2 sound barriers along the Beltway on the west side sustained damage during Harvey and were removed and never replaced. I have contacted HCTRA by email and phone, they will look into this issue and give me an update shortly.
- The Board would like to build an email blast list so we can improve communication in the Bend. We have lots of new neighbors so we need updating. AVR will handle the list. Please send an email to [kament@avrmanagement.com](mailto:kament@avrmanagement.com) verifying your current email address.
- Memorial Bend Club has engaged a commercial realtor to seek bids for sale of the front half of the club property along beltway 8 frontage road to obtain funding to sustain the pool operation.
- For those of you who have paid your HOA fees, thank you. I would ask if you have not

please send those to AVR. HOA fees fund the security patrols, lawn service along the beltway, mosquito fogging and association management services. These are budgeted items supported by the MBCA members.

- And finally we thought it would be nice to once again work on our neighborhood block captain program. Their role would include passing out the newsletter to your block, checking in on neighbors, etc. I already have 3 volunteers. Let me know if you would like to participate: [rmmenuet@gmail.com](mailto:rmmenuet@gmail.com).

Robin Menuet

**\*The newsletter will be available on the [memorialbend.org](http://memorialbend.org) website under announcements**