Bunker Hill Village

NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF BUNKER HILL VILLAGE ■ WWW.BUNKERHILL.NET

Issue No. 1 **June 2011**

ELECTED CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor	Derry D. Essary
Councilmember	D. Keith Brown
Councilmember	Susan B. Schwartz
Councilmember	Jay Williams
Councilmember	Jay Smyre
Mayor Pro Tem	David T. Ellis

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We may be reached at 713.467.9762
Municipal Court: 713.827.1772
Fax: 713. 827.8752

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCIES

Please call the Memorial Villages Police Department at 713.365.3700 for after hours utility emergencies.

"Stay in Touch"

Approximately every two weeks, 1,026 Bunker Hill Village residents receive the CRIME ANALYSIS SUMMARY from Memorial Villages Police Chief Mr. Gary Brye. This summary includes both a review of recent crime activities in the villages as well as CRIME PREVENTION TIPS. This is an excellent way to stay informed and reduce the chances of becoming a victim. Today, the City of Bunker Hill Village has 1,026 active e-mail recipients for this type of information. There remains numerous homes who are not yet participating in this mailing opportunity. If you are interested in becoming a recipient, please contact Ruthie Sager at the Bunker Hill Village City Hall at 713-467-9762. This e-mail list is treated as confidential and is ONLY used for the CRIME SUMMARY and the Bunker Hill Village Newsletter.

New Features on Bunker Hill Web Site
Take a look at:
www.bunkerhill.net

The city council holds its regular meetings on the third Tuesday of every month at 5:00 p.m. The agendas are posted on the website 72 hours prior to the meetings. Minutes of the meetings are also posted on the website after approval by the council.

Mayor's Message

May 2011 Bond Election:

We are gratified by the confidence the voters showed in the city's plan to address our most pressing drainage problems. More than 70% of the voters cast their ballot in the affirmative in this election. We have already discussed with our bond representative the timeline for issuing the bonds. In addition we have received our timeline for the final engineering and construction planning for the Strey Lane Drainage Project. It is our goal to complete the west side project before the peak of the 2012 hurricane season in August of 2012. We are also excited that Piney Point passed their bond proposal thus allowing our two cities to explore the possibility of embarking on a joint drainage project in the eastern section of Bunker Hill Village.

As a city government we heard the concerns of our citizens during the public hearing process and to the maximum extent possible we will address those concerns. Our objective is to give our citizens the most effective solution possible for the least cost without disturbing the natural habitat in and around the affected area.

Councilmember Cooky Mays Honored at May 17, 2011 Council Meeting

The Bunker Hill Village City Council honored Councilmember Cooky Mays with two plaques commemorating her service to the city between March 2008 and May 2011. The first plaque was specifically aimed at her council service during the last four years. The second plaque included a picture of Councilmember Mays, the Bunker Hill Village City Hall, a picture of her chair and name plate in the council chambers and a picture of our new city markers. Councilmember Mays was instrumental in the design and construction of the new city markers. We will miss her bright smile and thoughtful service.

The Bunker Hill City Council welcomes new member Jay Williams

Effective with the May 17, 2011 City Council meeting the Bunker Hill Village City Council welcomes our newest Councilmember, Jay Williams. Jay lives on the east side of Bunker Hill Village since 2000. He is a commercial real estate developer. Jay and his wife, Dena, have two children Alexandra (11), and Lily (9), both are students at Memorial Drive Elementary School. Jay is a member of Second Baptist Church, the "C" Club and the Children at Heart Ministries Board.

Incumbent Mayor and Councilmember sworn in at May Council meeting

Incumbent Mayor Derry Essary and Councilmember Jay Smyre were sworn in for a two year term during the May 17, 2011 BHV City Council meeting.

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COP TALK

Our Message: Too often people tell us, "I thought something was wrong, but didn't want to call." Your police department is open 24/7! We would rather respond to 100 calls that turn out to be nothing, than to have one in which someone got hurt or a neighbor victimized because they didn't call.

The **Memorial Villages Police Department** can be reached at:
911 – Emergency
713-365-3700 – Dispatch (put it on your speed dial!)
www.mvpdtx.org – Website
mvpdtx@mvpdtx.org - Email

Over the past several months we have seen an increase in burglary activity in the villages. Based on the common activities of these incidents there are some simple things you can do to significantly reduce your chances of being burglarized:

1. *Lock your yard gates* – Check daily to ensure your yard gates are secure and locked. If gates are left unlocked, it is too easy for burglars to gain access to your backyard and house.

2. *Don't be too quick to open the door* – We have had some people posing as utility workers to try to gain entry into resident's homes. Utility workers should be in clearly marked vehicles and wear distinctive uniforms with their name and company name displayed. If you think something is abnormal, it probably is. If you have any questions about someone knocking at the door or wanting to work in your house, call the police department. Utility workers should NEVER ask to work inside your house or come inside.

3. *Lock all your doors* – We all have an outside entrance door or two that rarely is used and as a result, they are seldom checked to ensure they are locked. Frequently criminals look for side doors to gain entry into a house so don't make an assumption that all your doors are locked. So check ALL your doors daily to make sure they are locked securely.

4. *Arm your alarm system* – Whether you are leaving for an extended trip or taking a quick run to the grocery store, ALWAYS arm you home alarm system. And, the same is true at night. Set the alarm BEFORE going to bed for the evening.

Remember, we would rather respond to 100 "false alarms" than have a single citizen victimized because they were reluctant to call – have a safe, enjoyable summer!

EMERGENCY MASS NOTIFICATION, cont.

Our Emergency Management Coordinator, Bat. Chief, Howard Miller of the Village Fire Department will collect and facilitate these messages.

DeltAlert already possesses a substantial database that contains some residential contact information. But, you may want to access the opt-in site and review or supplement your contact information. There is no charge for you to participate. We hope that you will take time to participate in this program, so that we may better communicate with you during an emergency. To update your information, go to villagefire.org. On their homepage, scroll down until you see Emergency Mass Notification and DeltAlert Opt-in Link.

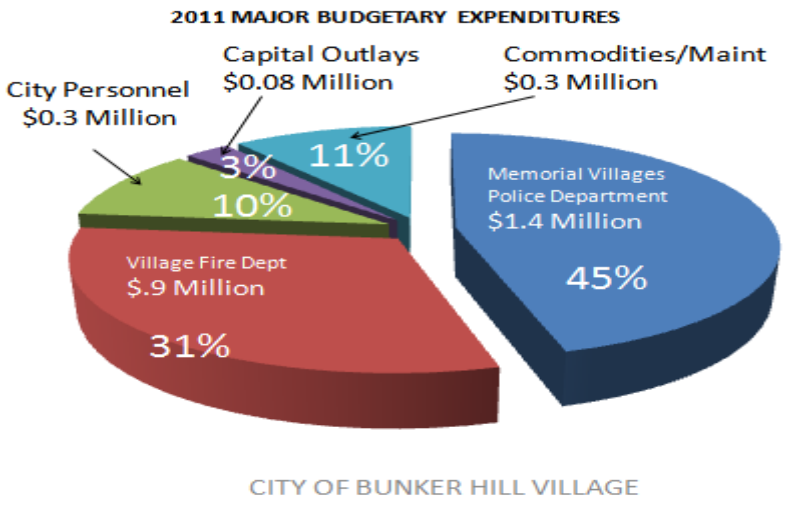
TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

A tree permit shall be obtained prior to any tree being cut down. Permits are free and generally issued the same day an application is submitted. The application can be obtained on-line at www.bunkerhill.net. Removing a tree without a permit could result in a costly citation being issued.

THE FINANCIAL CORNER

The city just completed its annual audit ending December 31, 2010. Belt Harris Pechacek, LLLP, the auditing firm, gave the city the highest level of assurance with a clean audit.

With going into the hurricane season an added confidence is the city maintains a 9 month operating reserve. To review the 2011 Budget or the annual audit ending December 31, 2010 please visit our website at http://www.bunkerhill.net.



CITY ENGINEERS – KEY PROJECT UPDATES

Strey Lane Storm Water Drainage Project

The City of Bunker Hill Village is embarking on the construction of a new drainage project on the west side of our city. Preliminary engineering is already complete and final engineering will be complete by the middle of July 2011. After final approval by Harris County Flood Control in September 2011, the city will request bids to complete the project and will begin construction by the beginning of January 2012. The project will effectively close off the city's drainage system connected to Harris County Flood Control Drainage Channel W151 north of Memorial Drive, redirect the drainage on both the east and west side of Strey Lane into a series of box culverts to be installed north to south on the east lane of Strey Lane to Memorial, down Memorial to Pebble Hill and then west on Pebble Hill into the deep portion of HCFC W151. The cost is estimated at just under $ 6,000,000 and will be financed by general obligation bonds issued by the City of Bunker Hill Village. The new system will enhance west side drainage and prevent potential surcharge from W 151 into the neighborhoods adjacent to Strey Lane.

Water Bills Show Significant Increase

The citizens of Bunker Hill Village are using a record amount of water in the first 4 months of 2011. We have obviously seen a very dry first four months of 2011 and when combined with recent surface water rate increases by the City of Houston, the supplier of a substantial amount of our city's water, the residents have seen very significant increases in water bills. The city staff is closely monitoring our water supply and the corresponding usage and will notify citizens if a voluntary rationing program becomes necessary. Hopefully, we will return to a normal weather pattern and any discussion of rationing will be academic.

Incumbent Mayor and Councilmember sworn in at May Council meeting

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Both Mayor Essary and Councilman Smyre have served the city in their respective roles since 2007. Prior to his term as Mayor, Derry served as a councilmember, Mayor Pro tem, as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, as a member of the Board of Adjustments, and as a Commissioner on the Village Fire Commission. Jay served as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and as Alternate Commission on the Village Fire Commission.

We always appreciate your input and hope you find this new edition of the newsletter informative

"DID YOU KNOW"

Village Independence Festival

Saturday, July 2, 2011

The Festival focuses on patriotism, family and neighbors and is free to all attendees. The success of the Festival relies heavily on donations of money, items and volunteers.

The Festival begins with a parade at 9:00 a.m., from Memorial Church of Christ, 900 Echo Lane, to the Memorial Drive Baptist Church grounds at 325 North Piney Point Road (the site of the Festival). The parade is followed by games, food, entertainment and visiting until 1:00 p.m.

Canine Responsibility

Dog ownership comes with certain responsibilities. First and foremost, place your dog on a leash. Several incidents of dogs running free accosting children or runners have been reported. In order to avoid this potentially dangerous situation, please be sure to put your dog on a leash. Failure to do so could result in a citation being issued. A number of dog owners are not picking up after their canine companion. This is not only a nuisance but a serious health issue. So, please carry a bag with you and fulfill your responsibility as a thoughtful pet owner.

Neighborhood's Underwrite New Street Sign Purchase

The City Council has established a procedure for neighborhoods to purchase designer street signs, similar to the signs in Piney Point. Several streets, including Raydon Lane, directly across from City Hall recently underwrote the cost of one of these signs. The approximate cost is $750.00. If a neighborhood is interested in this program, the information is on the city's website, www.bunkerhill.net or you can call Ruthie Sager at 713-467-9762.

EMERGENCY MASS NOTIFICATION AND DELTALERT OPT-IN LINK

The city has contracted with DeltAlert to provide an Emergency Mass Notification System. During an emergency, utilizing DeltAlert's system, we will be able to quickly send important information to our residents via email, text message and/or voice call.

Bunker Hill Village
11977 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77024

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PERMIT #9111

Help With Water Conservation

According to the National Weather Service, the effects of La Nina have resulted in below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures for our area. Through the first six months of the year, the City of Bunker Hill Village has received less than 35% of its normal rainfall.

As a result of this shortfall, we encourage residents to participate in a ***voluntary water conservation program for the peak demand period of July 1 – September 30.***

Odd Number Addresses should water on **Odd Number Dates**

Even Number Address should water on **Even Number Dates**
Addresses ending in zero area considered even
To make watering most effective, you should water before 10 am and after 6 pm to reduce evaporation. Also, make sure that there is no run-off onto sidewalks or streets.