

# *The Buckhead South Homeowner's Club, Inc. Newsletter*

*Serving the Hampton, Keller Crossing and Tranquilla Hall communities*

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## *President's Message*

Dear Neighbors –

We endured another hurricane -- two major storms in 11 months. This time the winds and rainfall were less, but the tidal surges from the nearby Ogeechee and Tivoli rivers were significant. The combination of a King tide and change of wind direction pushed the water much further inland than usual, creating localized flooding nearby, including the Tivoli Fishing Pier & Belfast Keller Bridge near our Keller Crossing entrance, and the Ft. McAllister area among others. I inspected our BSHC neighborhoods the morning after Hurricane Irma and was gratified to see very little damage to our properties this time: minor trees and branches downed, but nothing like Matthew. Our duration without power was less too but the best part was we suffered no injuries or structural damage. As always, the decision to evacuate became a personal family one, but we all definitely learned since Matthew to fully secure our houses and yards, and minimize tree damage by keeping marginal limbs in check year-round. It paid off, along with the last-minute change in path and intensity.

Even during the stressful days leading up to Hurricane Irma, we had to deal with late evening pool trespassers, vandalism, and underage/overloaded golf carts speeding around our streets. It was beyond frustrating to find our valuable time diverted this way, so with BC Sheriff's assistance, we will persevere on members who are incapable of consistently managing this. Know who your kids are with and where.

I'm pleased to report that all but one member's 2017 BSHC dues were paid in full and on time. That's a stellar record compared to neighboring HOA's. Thanks.

We are in critical need of new residents to take the helm of several HOC Officer positions. Please consider stepping up. We are overutilizing a small group of members to do everything, and that cannot continue. Our next step will be a paid management company to take on some of the more onerous duties, and that will cause a dues rate increase for sure. Contact me if you'd like to come to a monthly HOC Board meeting to see what these Officers do, and I'll give you the date.

We hope you enjoy this great fall weather just starting up. The Calendar section of this newsletter lists plenty of fun local things to do. Don't forget Halloween is coming for our little goblins Tuesday October 31. As always, if your house is participating with Trick-or-Treat handouts 6-8pm, please leave your porch lights on.

Comments? Questions? You can always reach me at [buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com](mailto:buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com).

Best wishes, *Keith Spitznogle, BSHC President*

## *News from the Committees*

**Recreational Amenities – The Pool Committee** reports that the pool is now closed for the season. We saw a lot of family fun there this summer, starting with the BSHC Annual Pool Opening Party in April. You might have noticed the seating area, bathrooms and kitchen looking better since mid-summer, and that's the result of hiring a new source to handle regular housekeeping. A posted sheet shows the times these areas have been cleaned, and a number to call for emergency maintenance issues.

Unfortunately, this summer we also saw continued problems with after-hours trespassing and under-age unchaperoned pool use. Our enhanced surveillance cameras helped us ride herd on this, and both the BC Sheriff's Office and the HOC had several occasions to pursue this with some households. To be clear, the pool, sports areas, and parking lots are for our residents and their chaperoned-guest use only and it all closes at 9:30PM. Because of the substantial problems we encountered with trespassers this year, we cannot approve the request to extend the use of the poolhouse bathrooms past the summer pool season. We cannot expose our finances to additional manpower or funds for more vandalism repairs and cleanups this year, especially given the extra work we encountered this season including plugged toilets, trash dumped about, and furniture thrown in the pool. A few ruin it for all.

A small group of volunteers were instrumental in buttoning up all our recreational facilities in anticipation of Hurricane Irma, and our pool company kept the pool water levels and PH readings on point throughout, for which we are thankful. We suffered no damage to our valuable amenities as a result. Thank you all.

A reminder to please not operate any wheeled apparatus on the basketball and tennis courts. These specialized surfaces cannot withstand the abrasion of bikes, scooters, skates, skateboards or the like.

*Please remember that all recreation amenities including pool, parking lots, playgrounds & athletic areas close at 9:30pm. Fence jumping, loitering, or other illegal activities on our properties including our parking lots, is not tolerated and trespassers will be prosecuted. Our 24/7 video surveillance system is helping here.*

*Enjoy the fall, Alec Breen, Pool Committee Chair*

The **Welcome Committee** delivers Welcome Packets to new residents, providing a helpful start to living at Buckhead South. We rely on notices of newspaper property transfers, lawyer/bank closings or realtors to learn of new residents and don't always hear in a timely way, especially with home rentals. We apologize if

you've been missed; please contact us. The Welcome Committee also does this BSHC Quarterly Newsletter; contact [shea29v@comcast.net](mailto:shea29v@comcast.net) with input. Do you have talents in this area? If so, you are welcome to become the new Editor of this newsletter because after five years of doing it, a fresh perspective is always a good thing. Please consider it. Meanwhile, have a fun and fruitful autumn, Sue Shea, Welcome Committee Chair

## **Welcome Our Neighbors** ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ *A heartfelt welcome to our newest BSHC neighbors:*

**Steve Seigny** & family of 440 Beaully Dr arrived in May and we send them our belated welcome to BSHC!

**Karen & Takashi Kagawa** of 371 Beaully Dr arrived in July. Welcome!

**Leanne Brindle** of 467 Bothwell Dr also arrived in July and we welcome you to Buckhead South!

**Phyllis Rice** and family of 554 Bothwell Dr arrived in September and we're glad you chose Buckhead South!

**Jodie & Kevin Ward** and children **Jonah** (14), **Gracie** (8), **Storey** (6), **Hayes** (4) & **Gabriel** (3) of 269 Victors Ct joined us from Lacey WA in July. Welcome all!

*Are you new to Buckhead South and have not been listed here or was your listing incomplete? Please let us know and we'll print it in the next issue. We also have a great Welcome Packet for you. Contact Sue Shea: [shea29v@comcast.net](mailto:shea29v@comcast.net)*

## **Keep Buckhead South Beautiful**

We recently engaged a new landscape company, EarthScapes, to handle our common area needs and we are pleased with their start so far. Our goal is to see a marked improvement in our greenery appearances and health. They are also tasked to control grass/weeds at the waters' edge of our neighborhood ponds. We use a separate pond management company using environmentally safe chemicals and grass carp to control water algae. A reminder that our ponds are catch and release so please don't remove any fish and be mindful of the good natural job these carp do for us.

A BSHC homeowner, whether living here or renting out their property, is responsible for their property upkeep and maintenance. Responsibility lies solely with the homeowner and if a home property is out of covenant compliance, the BSHC will not deal with the renter/lease/property management firm. The buck stops with the homeowner and BSHC will contact the property owner for immediate response regardless of where they are living.

Covenants Enforcement Committee members do monthly ride-arounds to gauge the appearance of our neighborhoods and note which residences might need

some referral assistance. A few recent violation notices included boats improperly stored, houses needing pressure washing, yards out of control, and lawns growing down over the street curbing. If you receive one of these notices, please receive it in the helpful manner in which it was intended. To protect our home investment, our properties depend on all HOC members for cooperation and adherence to the covenants they bought into when moving here. Immediately following the hurricane, all covenant violation actions were suspended because we understand everyone's priorities. We're back on enforcement track now.

A reminder that many exterior home improvements such as additions of fences or outbuildings **must** be approved by the Design Review Committee first. Go to our website [www.buckheadsouth.com](http://www.buckheadsouth.com) to see the Architectural Review Guidelines and download the forms. Questions? Contact an Officer *before you start*.

## **Safety & Security at Home**

Although our neighborhoods generate very little crime, we are not immune to it. Recently a nearby sister-development had several driveway car break-ins. For possibly suspicious activity, please note that the non-emergency number to the Bryan County Sheriff's Office is (912) 653-3800. It's a good number to keep on hand to report or discuss neighborhood safety concerns. *As always, in an emergency, dial 911.* It's helpful to the Sheriff's deputies if you note the vehicle model and tag number and call in a timely way. Phone photos help if you can safely do so. Vehicles in your driveway should be locked, especially if you have electronics or other loose items in full view. And if your unlocked car has a garage door remote, you have now provided access to your house. "Lock it to block it" is the best policy.

It was reported that locally some questionable folks were driving around post-Irma posing as insurance adjusters or water inspectors, asking for house access. If you don't expect them, call the company to confirm (using your **own** resource for numbers, not theirs) and if in doubt call 911.

## **Other news** Send news to: [shea29v@comcast.net](mailto:shea29v@comcast.net)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** and always welcome for the various BSHC committees or for just a small specific seasonal project. We know we have a lot of energetic neighbors with various skills and there are many opportunities to contribute your talents, large and small. Please join in. [buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com](mailto:buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com)

**WANTED:** The BSHC Pinochle Card Club meets at John Leonti's, 50 Victors Ct. Can meet afternoon or evening and new members are always welcome, from 1<sup>st</sup> time players who want to learn this great game, to seasoned players. Contact John Leonti 973-626-0423 or [johnleonti@aol.com](mailto:johnleonti@aol.com).

**WANTED:** for So. Bryan Cty Animal Shelter - your extra pet (cat/dog) supplies: wet/dry food, bowls, leashes, toys, bedding & towels for an ongoing collection drive. Drop off any time on Victor's Ct (#29 or #406) front porch or use the Animal Shelter's new 24/7 drop bin on their property, 250 Dog Lane (Rt 144 Spur, 2<sup>nd</sup> dirt road after dump). Thank you for your kindness!

**WANTED:** List your BSHC groups here if you're looking to add members – whether it's a toddler playgroup, card group, book club, or special interest (astronomy, boating, golf...). New residents will welcome the invitations and some longer-term residents who have been too busy to meet their neighbors will benefit too. Contact the newsletter [shea29v@comcast.net](mailto:shea29v@comcast.net) to list here.

**Calendar** [shea29v@comcast.net](mailto:shea29v@comcast.net) if you've got something for the calendar. While we love to print community events, this is not an endorsement by BSHC, and times/dates may change. Call ahead.

\*\*\*\*\***HAPPENINGS THIS QUARTER**\*\*\*\*\*

**October -- Every Fri & Sat, 7:30 pm.** Live performance at Davenport House Museum, Savannah. This year it's about the relationship of Savannah and Revolutionary War hero the Marquis de Lafayette, featuring Tranquilla Hall's own John Leonti! Reservations (912)236-8097.

**10/5-8** Annual Tybee Island Pirates Fest

**10/6-8** Oktoberfest, Savannah Riverfront 4-10pm. Bratwurst, Weiner dog racing, Oompah dancing, music

**10-7** Pumpkin Patch Kids Fest, 9-1, JFG Park, RH

**10-7** Candle Lantern Tour, Ft. McAllister State Park, 7-9 pm. Experience the fort at night guided by candlelight. Re-enactment of how confederate soldiers performed their duties & spent their evenings by the campfire. Entrance fee or discount park pass.

**10-8** Picnic in the Park, Forsyth Park, Savannah, 5:30-8:30 pm. Food, music, competitive tables

**10-9** Columbus Day

**10-19** Diwali Hindu holiday

**10/20-22** The Great Ogeechee Seafood Fest @ JFG Park, (F)5-11pm; (S)10-11pm; (Su)11-5pm. RHBC Chamber of Commerce (912)756-3444

**10-22** Shalom Y'All Jewish Food Fest, Forsyth Park, Savannah, all day

**10-31** BSHC Halloween Night Trick or Treating, goblins abound, especially 6-8pm! Please turn on your front porch lights if you are participating.

**11-4** Savannah Rock N 'Roll Marathon

**11-5** Daylight Savings Time ends, clocks *fall back* 1 hr

**11-11** Veterans Day Observance at JFG Park, 11 AM

**11-23** Thanksgiving

**11/24-12/24** December Nights & Holiday Lights at the Coastal GA Botanical Ctr (Bamboo Gardens), 6-9pm. Wed-Sun prior to 12/16 then nightly. Rt. 17. \$5 per person. A festive walking tour with over 150,000 colorful lights, music & sweet treats.

**12-1** Annual Chili Cook-Off, 6:30 pm, JFG Park

**12/1-2** Christmas on the River, River Street Savannah, 4-10pm. Music, crafts, illuminated boat parade dusk Sat.

**12-2** RH Hometown Christmas Parade, 10AM

**12-2** Lighted boat parade & fireworks, Ft. McAllister Marina, 5:30 pm

**12-9** Richmond Hill Holiday Mkt, crafts, food, music & Santa at JFG Park, RH, 11-3

**12-9** Winter Muster Reenactment, Ft McAllister State Park, demonstrations 9-4, battle at 5pm. Normal park fee or discount Park Pass.

**12-13** Chanukah begins at sundown

**12-21** First day of winter

**12-25** Christmas

**12-26** Kwanzaa begins.

**12-31** New Year's Eve. Goodbye 2017, Hello 2018!

\*\*\*\*\***A SNEAK PEAK T NEXT QUARTER**\*\*\*\*\*

**1-1** New Year's Day

**1-6** Bring One For The Chipper, JFG Park, 9am, free mulching of your Christmas tree.

**1-15** Martin Luther King, Jr Day. Local events listings: [www.mlksavannah.com](http://www.mlksavannah.com)

*Please feel free to direct your comments or questions regarding the BSHC Newsletter to Buckhead Officers. If you'd like to submit an article or calendar date for addition to our next Newsletter, submit it to [buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com](mailto:buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com) We hope you enjoy this Newsletter, but if for any reason you don't want to receive future issues, please advise and we will drop your name from our circulation. Thank you.*

**BSHC Contacts** email: [buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com](mailto:buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com)  
**President:** Keith Spitznogle. **VP:** Phil Gore, Paul Mazer.  
**Treasurer:** Karen Krupp. **Secretary:** Cyndi Castle. **Cmte Chairs:** **Pool:** Alec Breen. **Social:** (open)  
**Welcome & Newsletter:** Sue Shea.

*Got news? Next newsletter deadline is 12-15-17 for the Jan. issue.*