

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

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

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## *President's Message*

Hello Friends, as you know, for the last months we have seen an unprecedented event unfold before us. Since the middle of March, we have been in the midst of this pandemic which for all has changed normal life and for others even worse. We are all getting used to what will be the new normal of social distancing, face masks and other measures for safety.

With all of this going on I am happy to report to you that we installed a new BSHC board during our February homeowners meeting. Before introducing the new board however, I would like to thank Keith Spitznogle for his many years as president of the club. He decided to step down this year and we have spent the last 90 or so days in both transition as well as day to day duties. Please join me in welcoming your new board for 2020:

**Paul Mazer – President**

**Sue Shea – Treasurer**

**Cyndi Castle – Secretary**

**Alison O' Malley – VP Pool Committee**

**Jim Pieters – Vice President**

**Kristen Algiers – Vice President**

We are currently working on navigating the HOA through this current time especially as Georgia starts to reopen. Please remember that the COVID-19 Pandemic has been and continues to be a changing situation. We feel this will be the case through the next several months and beyond. Be assured that we are working (even in the background) for the best interests of our residents. We are looking forward to get to know both new and established residents.

As a final note, please know that this is your HOA. Feel free to get involved. Please let us know if you would like to help out. Contact us any time at:

[buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com](mailto:buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com)

Best regards,



Paul Mazer – President BSHC

## *News from the Committees*

**Recreational Amenities** – Exceptional effort went into readying our pool for this season given the COVID-19 pandemic. With great anticipation, our pool was opened on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> to residents in good standing and

whom completed the required COVID-19 Pool Form by the deadline. We hope everyone is enjoying the result. Because this is a shared amenity, it is more important than ever to leave it in the same condition you found it, especially with regards to sanitation procedures, keeping chairs and loungers in their socially distanced places, bussing out your trash to the entryway containers, and taking all personal items home. Please also be aware the pool is only open **7am to 9:30pm** and there's a clock there to help you leave on time.

Regrettably, due to COVID-19, we are unable to open up use of, or reservations for, the pool kitchen for the time being. When this changes, we will let you know.

The Annual Pool Party has been postponed to August 2nd from 1-5pm and will offer the popular 2 sizes of water slides, food, snow cones and great fun for all. Bring your chairs if you plan to hang out outside the pool area where the food and water slides will be, or you can lounge by the pool. Stay tuned for details on how this year's event may likely differ to accommodate social distancing practices. Also, as in previous years, the Pool Committee asks for volunteers to help with set up, clean up, and supervising the water slides. Please consider lending a few extra moments of your time to help make this event enjoyable for all.

Unfortunately, the basketball court has been closed since the middle part of April due to one of the backboard posts being broken. It was not vandalism, but rather strong play. However, the post and concrete should have been able to handle it, so the repair will strengthen the area to prevent reoccurrence. The fix is fairly complex, involving concrete work and reattaching the backboard post to the concrete pad. We have hired a contractor but there is a backlog of work in the area and they are not able to start work until late May. Further, the new concrete will need to set for 28 days minimum. Thus, we are estimating the courts being closed into the beginning of July 2020. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes. We want to ensure this repair is permanent for our residents' safety and future enjoyment.

Please remind your household not to operate any wheeled apparatus on the basketball and tennis courts. These special surfaces can't withstand the abrasion of bikes, scooters, skates, skateboards or the like. Also, please use only as intended (no soccer or other sports on the tennis or basketball courts).

## Pool FAQs:

*How do I get the gate code?*

If your dues are paid in full and you've filled out the required COVID-19 Pool Form, you will receive the monthly pool gate code via the email address BSHC has on file for your household.

*Why haven't I received the gate code email?*

If you meet the above requirements and feel you've been missed, try the following:

- 1) check your email spam folder – some software classifies mass emails as spam if sender is not in your contact list;
- 2) make sure no one else in your household is deleting BSHC emails before you have read them;
- 3) contact [buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com](mailto:buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com) to be sure your correct email is on file (and add BSHC to your contacts).

*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.*

Happy summer, *Alison O'Malley, Pool Cmte Chair*

The **Welcome Committee** delivers Welcome Packets to new residents for a helpful start to living at Buckhead South. We rely on newspaper property transfer notices, 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 for yours.

Best wishes, *Sue Shea, Welcome Committee Chair*

## Welcome Our Neighbors



**A heartfelt welcome to our newest BSHC neighbors:**

**Hampton:** Emily & Jebediah Toller; Julie & Christopher Teague,

**Tranquilla Hall:** Katrina & David Buck; Kristin & Gerald Jaski; Helen & Derek Holly; Kelly & Paul Swingle; Sharlene Prieur & Marlene Hunt, Alain Roay

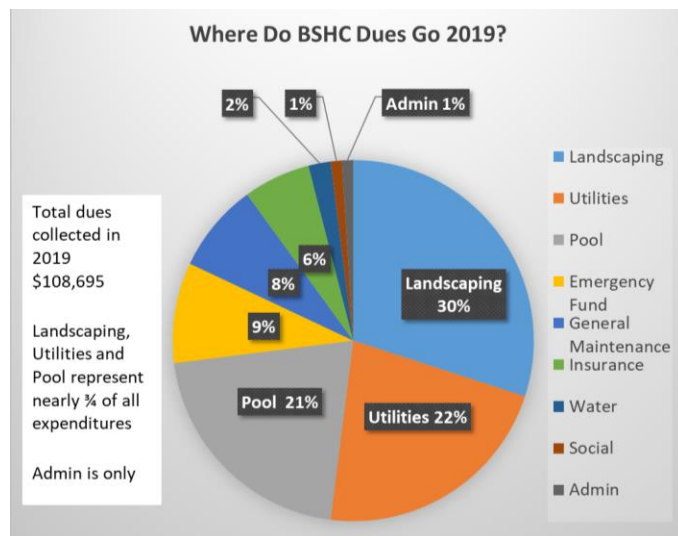
*Are you new to Buckhead South but haven't been listed here or was your listing incomplete? Please let us know and we'll print it in the next issue. We also have a great Welcome Packet for you. Contact Sue Shea: [shea29v@comcast.net](mailto:shea29v@comcast.net)*

## June 2020 Treasurer's Report:

The **Treasurer** reports that we are wrapping up the 2020 dues collection. The dues deadline was March 31<sup>st</sup> with a 30-day grace period until the Late Penalty and all further actions would begin. We are 97% collected at this time. We thank all members that paid their dues on time and without time-consuming prompting, especially during this difficult start to the year.

Our dues are the only source of income for BSHC and must cover our bills for the entire year. Our Annual Dues rate of \$550/yr. has not increased since 2005, an admirable effort given that we have experienced rate increases from all our vendors, from grounds, to pool, to insurance etc. Our dues have remained much lower than nearby HOA's, accomplished by careful spending and volunteer Board members' efforts. Because all building lots in our neighborhoods are sold, we no longer have future houses to fuel our dues growth, and must make our current income stretch to cover expected expenses.

**Where do our dues go?** The pie chart below shows that 30% goes for **landscaping** (mowing, mulch, ponds, tree work); 22% for **utilities** (electricity for pool, streetlights, entrance lights, pool phone/WIFI); 21% for **pool** (maintenance, chemicals, repairs, night cleaning); 9% to **stabilization** emergency fund (for emergency repairs etc.); 8% for **maintenance** and general property repairs (structures, playground, etc.); 6% for **insurance** (property, liability, directors) 2% for **water** (pool & common areas irrigation) 1% for **social/meetings** (annual pool party, welcome committee materials, annual meeting); and 1% for **administration** (supplies, printing, postage, permits). You can see what a good bargain our members receive by your neighbor-volunteers doing all the administrative work free of charge. If we hired a management company to collect dues, handle architectural design approvals, maintain covenant enforcement, pay bills, and do all member communications, our dues would easily be 35-55% higher.



## Keep Buckhead South Beautiful

As the beautiful spring weather we've been enjoying gives way to the familiar Georgia heat of our summer season, the window to wake up those lawns, if you haven't already, is nearly over. For watering, our irrigation systems work best for our lawns when you set it to operate between 1-5AM for once cycle of 10-15 minutes per zone, 2-3 times/wk; or half that run time when doing a two-cycle rotation each time. Watering too late in the morning or into the afternoon causes water waste through evaporation from our intense Georgia sun. Conversely, watering too early in the night can contribute to fungus growth in our lawns. It is also vital to maintain the grass height. Mowing grass too short weakens it and letting it get too long can contribute to fungus growth due to excess moisture accumulation. The key to a healthy lawn is watering deeply and infrequently in the very early morning and maintaining proper grass height.

We noticed many seemed to get into a home improvement mindset during the recent 'shelter-in-place' mandate. It's always nice to see residents taking such care and pride in their homes and our neighborhood. As you make your plans, please recall that most exterior home improvements such as additions of fences or outbuildings, or significant changes to street view **must** be approved by the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) first. Go to our website [www.buckheadsouth.com](http://www.buckheadsouth.com) under the "documents" tab to see the Architectural Review Guidelines and download the ARC application form. Questions? Contact an Officer *before you start*.

## Safety & Security at Home

Although our neighborhoods generate very little crime, we are not immune to it. 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. If you see possibly suspicious activity, note all details you can and call the Bryan County Sheriff's office **immediately**. Their non-emergency number is (912) 653-3800 and, as always, dial 911 for emergencies.

In these strange times of COVID-19, it cannot go without mentioning the new meaning of keeping our families, neighborhoods, and greater community safe. With the shelter-in-place orders recently lifted and various business and public spaces gradually opening up, the adjacent graphic issued by Bryan County Recreation may help clear up any confusion on what current orders and procedures are in place pertaining to visiting our area parks and public spaces. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the expectations for Phase I of the reopening.

## REOPENING PARKS & RECREATION PHASE I

### EXECUTIVE ORDERS

- All employees are required to wear masks at all times.
- Employers must screen and evaluate workers who exhibit signs of illness, such as a fever over 100.4 degrees and a cough or shortness of breath.
- Party size is limited to no more than 6 per field or closed/fenced in area.
- Access to indoor facilities is currently not allowed.
- Encourages visitors to bring their own EQUIPMENT.

Encourages recreation to move to a reservation-only for facility usage.



STAFF WILL BE ON SITE WITH A SIGN UP SHEET AND MONITOR THESE AREAS. CALL TO SIGNUP FOR SPACES 912-756-4075 OR 912-858-4640

### GUIDELINES

TO ENSURE SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAIN 6 FEET OF SPACE BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS, OUR FACILITIES WILL REOPEN FROM THE HOURS OF 9 A.M. - 4 P.M. DURING WEEKDAYS, AND

#### VISITORS CAN SIGN UP VIA PHONE THE DAY BEFORE FOR 1-HOUR RESERVATIONS AT THESE AREAS.

- Baseball Fields (5 people at a time)
  - Batting Cages (2 people inside cage at a time)
  - Tennis Courts (2 people per court, no doubles)
  - Skate Park (5 skaters at a time)
  - Outside Basketball Courts (1 person per goal)
  - Grass Soccer Fields (1 person per goal)
  - Turf Fields (8 people per field, spread out with goals)
  - Football Fields (2 people on opposite halves of field for individual training)
  - Pickleball (2 people per court, no doubles)
  - Bark Park (6 feet of space between you/your dogs and other visitors)
  - Pavilions (4 people at a time)
  - Refrain from large gatherings in any area
  - Walking Trails are open without sign-up
  - Playgrounds will remain closed
- Other areas will remain closed to maintain 10-person capacity per location





**Other news** Send news to: [melledge8@gmail.com](mailto:melledge8@gmail.com)

**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:** for South Bryan County Animal Shelter – pet supplies (cat/dog): wet/dry food, bowls, leashes, toys, bedding & towels for an ongoing collection drive. Drop off at 29 or 406 Victor's Ct front porch or use the Animal Shelter's 24/7 drop bin at 250 Dog Lane (Rt 144 Spur, 2<sup>nd</sup> dirt road after dump). Thank you!

**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 [melledge8@gmail.com](mailto:melledge8@gmail.com) to list here.

## Calendar

Got something for the calendar? [shea29v@comcast.net](mailto:shea29v@comcast.net) While we love to print community events, this is not an endorsement by BSHC. Times/dates can change, check ahead.

\*\*\*\*\*STANDING DATES\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE: DUE TO COVID-19, SOME OR ALL OF THE LISTED EVENTS MAY BE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED. Please call ahead to verify.**

**THURS:** 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs of every month, RH Historical Soc. local history series, 7pm, free (912)756-3697

**SAT:** Mar – Oct, 1<sup>st</sup> Sat of each month, 9-11am: Cars & Coffee at the Richmond Hill Historical Soc. Museum. Share your cool car and/or see others. Buy coffee there & you help the Historical Society. (602)397-5300.

**SAT:** Saturday Picket at Ft. McAllister State Park 10-4. The fort's plantation house will be open and a Civil War soldier reenactor will entertain topics ranging from fort history to civil war medicine. There are many other events including re-enactments, celebrations, kids summer day camps, contact them to see their list. (912)727-2338.

\*\*\*\*\*COMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*

**6-14** Flag Day

**6-20** Father's Day

**6-27** 4<sup>th</sup> of July at JFG Park, 5-9pm, food, games & music; evening fireworks **CANCELLED**

**7-4** Independence Day at Ft. McAlister, 9-4. Living History, fun, games & food. \$8 adult/\$5 youth, free under age 6. **CHECK FOR CANCELLATION FIRST.**

**7-4** River St 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Savannah **CANCELLED**

**7-11** RH Library book sale 10-2 **CHECK FOR CANCELLATION FIRST.**

**8-2** BSHC Back to School Pool Party, 1-5pm. Water slides, food, more! **RESCHEDULED FROM 5-3-20 Pool Opening Party.**

**8-21** Ganesh Hindu holiday

**9/3-11/11** Savannah Music Festival, many venues. [www.savannahmusicfestival.org](http://www.savannahmusicfestival.org) **RESCHEDULED from 3/26-4/11/20.**

**9/5-7** River St Bacon Fest, Savannah

**9-7** Ft. McAllister Labor Day Fun, 9-4. Entrance fee or discount park pass.

**9-7** Labor Day

**9-12** RH Library book sale 10-2

**9/15-22** Savannah Jazz Festival. [savannahjazzfestival.org](http://savannahjazzfestival.org)

**9-26** Spring Fling, JFG Park, 9-3. **RESCHEDULED FROM 4-25**

**October -- Every Fri & Sat, 7:30 pm.** Live performance at Davenport House Museum, Savannah. This year covers the infamous 1820 Yellow Fever Epidemic. Res. (912)236-8097. Features Tranquilla Hall's own John Leonti! \$16 advance/\$19 door.

**10/2-4** Oktoberfest, Savannah Riverfront 4-10pm. Bratwurst, Weiner dog racing, Oompah dancing, music.

**10-3** Pumpkin Patch Kids Fest, 9-1, JFG Park, RH

**10-4** Picnic in the Park, Forsyth Park, Savannah, 5:30-8:30 pm. Food, music, competitive tables

**10/8-11** Annual Tybee Island Pirate Fest

**10-12** Columbus Day

**10/12-13** Bryan County Schools fall break

**10-14** BSHC Pool closes

**10-25** Shalom Y'All Jewish Food Fest, Monterey Square Savannah 11-3.

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

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

**11/6-8** The Great Ogeechee Seafood Fest @ JFG Park, (F)5-11pm; (S)10-11pm; (Su)11-5pm. RHBC Chamber of Commerce (912)756-3444

**11/7-8** Savannah Rock N 'Roll Marathon

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

**BSHC Contacts** email: [buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com](mailto:buckheadsouthhoa@gmail.com)  
**President:** Paul Mazer. **VP:** Jim Pieters, Kristen Algiers.  
**VP/Pool Cmte:** Alison O'Malley. **Secretary:** Cyndi Castle.  
**Treasurer & Welcome Cmte:** Sue Shea. **Newsletter:** Melissa Elledge.

*Got news? Next newsletter deadline is 8-15-20 for the Sept. issue.*