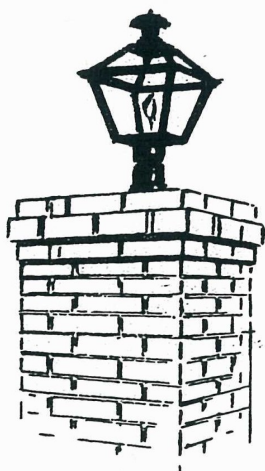


February 2021

taracivicasassociation.org



TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

TARA TALK

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **DUES**

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Tara subdivision still looks pretty dang good considering the subdivision was first started in 1965. Part of the reason behind the good looks is the dues that have been collected every year to help pay for boulevard beautification, implementing deed restrictions, and keeping residents in the know with our general membership meeting, the website and newsletter.

It is time to pay dues for the 2021 year.

Dues invoices have been mailed out. We are asking you to renew your standard dues payment and consider joining the Precious Metals Club by giving more.

Standard	\$35.00
Bronze	\$50.00
Silver	\$75.00
Gold	\$100.00
Platinum	\$250.00

Make your payment by March 31<sup>st</sup> and you will be recognized in the Tara Talk May Newsletter.

Payments can be paid with check or venmo Richela Roy@Tara-Civic. Thanks to those who have already paid and given extra. If you do not receive your dues invoice by March 1st please email taracivicassn@gmail.com

## **Revisioning Tara**

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Last year the vision was new entrance signs at Goodwood and Old Hammond. The entrance signs have been completed. They sure do make the statement "Look at Tara now!" The board wants to keep making statements. This year the goal is to add more stop/street signs through out the neighborhood. This will probably be done by filings. It is also a goal to have the street lights on Tara Boulevard be the same. Right now there are some silver, some black, different lanterns on top. We want matching and consistency. The Tara Civic Association Board is always working for the betterment of Tara and its residents.

## **Membership Meeting and Garage Sale**

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Spring is usually the time that Tara holds their general membership meeting and the progressive garage sale. Due to Covid restrictions these events are being cancelled at this time. If and when restrictions are lifted the events will be rescheduled.

## Welcome New Residents

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Patrick & Rachel Amie 9044 Cottage Ave.  
Harry & Pam Freer 1347 Tara Blvd.  
Kris & Madison Kirkpatrick 8722 Trinity Ave.  
Mike & Sharon Cox 1338 Oakley Dr.  
Sarah Loh 9039 Trinity Ave.  
Bruno & Rebecca Villar 1153 Oakley Dr.  
Rob Hillman & Kerri Kelli 8774 Wakefield Ave.



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## Volunteer Needed

The board is looking for someone to decorate our entrances on the boulevard. The entrances are usually decorated for Mardi Gras, Fourth of July, Christmas. If interested please email taracivicasn@gmail.com.

Thanks to Jennifer Steady for her help in the past with spreading holiday cheer.

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## Lost Pets

The board is asking that lost pets signs/posters not be posted on street signs. Unfortunately, we are saying this because untended lost pet flyers and posters create unsightly litter when not removed in a timely manner and it is a safety issue when placed directly on the stop sign. It is illegal to affix a flyer to any utility pole, as they are considered private property. Instead please consider using social media, Nextdoor or Facebook. Lost pets of Baton Rouge

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## Solar Panels

With all the talk about oil/gas dependency and moving to other methods of energy a reminder is needed about solar panels. Per the deed restrictions, solar panels may be installed only with Board approval and then only on the rear slope and pitch of a dwelling not visible from the street frontage.

## Explore Baton Rouge

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With Covid restrictions still in place and traveling not being an option for most people, have you considered exploring Baton Rouge? When was the last time you went to the Baton Rouge Zoo? Have you ever gone as an adult with out kids? Give it a try, you might enjoy feeding the animals.

This striking sculpture is a new must see.



Visitors to the Mississippi River levee in downtown Baton

Rouge can see a new sculpture and hear it make music inspired by the river. The sculpture is reflective and lights up at night, making it visible even from the Mississippi River bridge. But most impressive is its ability to interact with the surroundings. Appropriately named "**Sing The River**," the sculpture is connected to sensors in the mighty Mississippi River and plays music that corresponds with the rise and fall of the water. This striking sculpture on the Mississippi River levee is new must-see spot to that Baton Rouge.

Find it at the Florida Street riverfront access point at the intersection of River Road and Florida St. downtown.

The sculpture was designed by California-based artist Po Shu Wang and gifted to the City-Parish of Baton Rouge by the Rotary Club of Baton Rouge.

Check out [visitbatonrouge.com](https://visitbatonrouge.com) and go explore Baton Rouge. Here are a few places they recommend.

**OLD STATE CAPITOL** <https://louisianaoldstatecapitol.org/>  
When Baton Rouge was named the Capital City of Louisiana in 1849, the Old State Capitol (a.k.a. the Castle on the River) was built shortly after as a Gothic piece of architecture overlooking the Mississippi River. It has withstood war, fire and many renovations since then. Nowadays, this castle serves as the Museum of Political History, telling of Louisiana's political history and featuring an exhibit on the controversial senator and governor Huey P. Long. Mark Twain was not pleased with the construction of the castle, calling it an "architectural falsehood" for being built on such an honorable space. Contrary to what Twain had to say, the Old State Capitol is one of Baton Rouge's most gorgeous and fascinating attractions with beautiful stained glass ceilings and windows and grand staircases throughout. The museum is dedicated to inspiring engaged citizenship, advancing the collection and preserving the landmark. It is a free museum open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday.

# Explore Baton Rouge



## THE RED STICK SCULPTURE - SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY

Do you ever wonder how Baton Rouge got its name? Two indigenous tribes placed a red stick along the Mississippi River to divide the area into their hunting grounds, now known as Scott's Bluff. When French explorers visited Baton Rouge, they called the area "le bâton rouge," which translates to "the red stick" in French. The stick was then made into part of a large sculpture to commemorate how Baton Rouge got its name. You can see the statue for yourself on Southern University's campus.

## TIGER STADIUM, MIKE THE TIGER AND LSU MEMORIAL TOWER

Anyone from Louisiana can tell you that Saturday nights are for football. LSU football. And there is no better way to experience college football than in LSU's own Tiger Stadium, more commonly known as Death Valley. Tiger Stadium is the loudest stadium in the South, with cheers so loud that it has registered as an earthquake! Near Tiger Stadium is the luxurious habitat of LSU's beloved mascot, Mike the Tiger. Mike is the only living tiger on a college campus, and he is often seen running, playing or napping in his home. After touring Death Valley, you can take a stroll under stately oaks and broad magnolias on LSU's campus. Another LSU landmark you cannot miss is the Memorial Tower. This iconic clock tower stands at 175 feet high, right in between the LSU quad and the Student Union. It was built in 1923 and dedicated in 1926 as a memorial to Louisianians who died in World War I. Every day, the tower plays the LSU fight song at noon, giving students and visitors a pinch of school spirit throughout the day.

## ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL

Cathedrals are a perfect attraction for anyone interested in history and architecture. St. Joseph's Cathedral was built in 1853 as the designated cathedral of the diocese of Baton Rouge. This gorgeous church is described as having a Gothic feel with a modern twist. It's beautifully bold red doors are frequently photographed by both local newly-weds and the everyday tourist. Because it is located Downtown, there are many other sights to see and places to eat after your tour of the church.

## LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM/CAPITOL PARK MUSEUM <https://louisianastatemuseum.org/museum/capitol-park-museum>

From Louis Armstrong to Huey P. Long, from Mardi Gras to fais-do-do, and from the nation-building commerce of the Mississippi River to the life-sustaining bounty of the Gulf of Mexico, the Capitol Park Museum provides a panoramic exploration of the most vibrant state in America.

See how American Indians; colonists from France, Spain and Britain; enslaved Africans and Acadians from Nova Scotia—eventually known as Cajuns—populated and cultivated Louisiana, shaping it into one of the most culturally rich regions in the world. With thematic exhibits on diverse aspects of Louisiana history, industry and culture, the museum includes two permanent exhibits: Grounds for Greatness: Louisiana and the Nation and Experiencing Louisiana: Discovering the Soul of America.

A 48-foot wooden shrimp trawler and a two-row sugar cane harvester reveal by example the state's agricultural and aquatic riches. An oil-well head and a scale model of a drilling rig drive home the critical role Louisiana plays in America's energy industry. Exhibits also include a rare Civil War submarine and artifacts from steamboats, including trophy antlers won by the Robert E. Lee in the Great Steamboat Race of 1870.

Exhibits on slave markets, resistance, revolt and Jim Crow provide a glimpse into the unimaginable plight of people of color who, in the face of overwhelming hardship, contributed incalculably to the cultural fabric of the state. The museum re-creates the atmosphere of holding cells where slaves bound for the auction block were imprisoned to prevent escape. The exhibit includes the actual door from the Fairview Plantation jail for slaves. The fight for freedom is highlighted in a display on the Baton Rouge bus boycott of 1953, which made national headlines and inspired civil rights leaders throughout the South. Louisiana offers much to the musical history of the nation as a whole, and many of those vital contributions are on display. See eclectic exhibits on the state's music and musicians, including Pete Fountain's clarinet, Buddy Guy's polka dot Stratocaster guitar, Clifton Chenier's Grammy award and, in the expansive Louis Armstrong exhibit, the bugle "Pops" played as a boy at the Colored Waif's Home, where he received his first formal music instruction. In the interactive music exhibits, hear the distinctive southwest Louisiana sounds of Cajun, zydeco and swamp pop, Baton Rouge blues and world-famous New Orleans jazz.

## BATON ROUGE ZOO [brzoo.org](http://brzoo.org)

BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo first opened to the public on Easter Sunday, 1970. It is a place where people connect with animals. The Zoo is very active in conservation programs and fully participates with other zoos around the world in nearly 30 international Species Survival Plans (SSP) for critically endangered species. The Zoo conducts active outreach and in-house educational programs and works closely with LSU Vet School. Admission is \$8.75 and located at 3601 Thomas Road



# Ice Storms and Pruning Trees

Foresters have an entire classification system to describe all the possible ways trees can be injured. They call the damage caused by ice storms an “ice break”. Ice break occurs when glaze ice, a smooth, generally transparent compact deposit of ice, forms a sheet encasing a tree or most of its branches. This happens when supercooled rain droplets freeze on contact with objects that have a surface temperature of 0 degrees C or lower.

Accumulations of ice can increase the weight of tree branches anywhere from 10 to 100 times, causing compression of the stem and causing it to bend — or even break — if the stem isn’t perfectly straight. The amount of damage caused depends on the total amount of ice on the tree, the tree’s exposure to wind, and how long the ice remains on the tree.

Factors that increase a tree’s likelihood of failing during an ice storm include its height, the diameter of its trunk, whether it has a shallow or unbalanced root system, and whether it has a broad or unbalanced crown. Trees that have a lot of very fine branching, or that develop a broad crown, tend to accumulate more ice.

Then there is the general state of the tree’s health — whether it has many decaying or dead branches, or if it has been weakened by any type of rot or disease. Trees are highly prone to fail during ice storms at weak branch junctures. Such weak junctures occur when two branches grow together in such a way that bark becomes included, or ingrown, at the place where the branches join.

Should homeowners who do not properly maintain their trees and cause a power outage to be responsible for the bill to restore power? Think about it. Do you know your trees health?

Ice storms do not happen often in Baton Rouge, but there are all kinds of reasons you may need to trim your trees! If you’ve never pruned your trees, you’re not alone. Many never do because it is falsely believed that letting a tree grow in its natural form is best. Pruning your trees extends their lives by keeping them from damage that could cause an early demise, leaving you with a big, empty spot on your property. Here are some other reasons pruning your trees is something you should do each year.

Pruned Trees = Healthy Trees, removing damaged or diseased branches to prevent insects or disease from going deeper into your healthy tree., thinning the density of the tree allows more air and sunlight to penetrate giving way to a healthier tree, simply eliminating crossing branches prevents tree-on-tree damage.

If your tree is young and you have two codominant leaders in the structure, prune down to one. Two large trunks make for a future split but having one primary trunk helps a tree last for many years. Most mature trees operate on a 3 to 5-year pruning cycle while younger trees are pruned more frequently (typically every 2 to 3 years).



## Saving Cold Damaged Plants

Some plants can handle cold temperatures with minimal stress. Unfortunately, others can be seriously impacted by the cold, whether it comes in the form of a light frost or a hard freeze. In general, hard freezes tend to cause the most damage.

Don’t Encourage the Plant to Grow Just Yet: While the plant will eventually grow on its own, you’ll want to resist the urge to encourage new growth by applying more fertilizer. Sure, you may want to give it a nutrient boost to help it repair itself, but doing so will only prompt it to send out new growth, which could be even more negatively impacted in the event of another cold snap.

Water: It may seem counterintuitive, but it’s actually best to water your cold-shocked plants. Water will help them recover from the trauma and stress. Give your damaged plants about an inch of water or so. When plants experience a freeze, moisture is removed from their tissues. Watering them afterwards allows them to rehydrate.

Put Away Those Clippers (For Now): It can also be tempting to remove the damaged leaves and shoots from your plants. However, pruning may only stress them further. Wait until the weather warms up to cut the damaged parts off (or, if you brought the plants inside for the winter, wait about a month). If the plant is a woody variety, you’ll want to assess the damage later in the winter. Simply scratch the bark and look at the color of the material underneath. If it’s green, the plant is still alive and will have a chance to grow again. For the time being, just clean up any dried or dead leaves that fall off your plants.



Bring Your Potted Plants Indoors: If any of your tropical plants were impacted by a frost, you should bring them inside and set them on an enclosed porch or deck (or put them in your garage). Avoid placing them in a room that’s too warm, as that will also cause shock. Leave them indoors away from direct sunlight, and continue to water them periodically, assessing any damage you see as you go. Typically, the dead bits will fall off over time. If you have to leave your container plants outside, at least huddle them together so they can use one another for warmth.

Full article can be found at [davesgarden.com](http://davesgarden.com)

# Moles

There have been reports of moles tunneling throughout the lawns of Tara. They destroy plant roots, bulbs and grass. The tell-tale sign that you have a mole infestation is not seeing the mole itself, but the presence of ridged tunnels of dirt in your yard. Your local nursery can help you with bait or eradication devices if you have a problem. It is a good idea to get with your neighbors to treat for them at the same time as moles may go from one lawn to another.

Dealing with nuisance wildlife is rarely easy or simple. Typically, a careful study of the life habits of the animal is necessary in order to control the animal effectively. Eliminating the nuisance animal often requires considerable time and effort, if it is even practical. Gardeners may have to modify how they garden or what they grow or where they can grow it in some situations.

Some animals only occasionally earn the dubious distinction of “nuisance wildlife” when their habits interfere with human activities. The Eastern mole fits this category almost any time it invades landscapes because of its burrowing activities while engaged in feeding and traveling. The following information is provided by retired LSU AgCenter nuisance wildlife specialist Don Reed.

Although these moles remove many damaging insects and grubs from lawns and gardens, their burrowing habits disfigure lawns and parks, destroy flower beds, tear up the roots of grasses and create havoc in small garden plots.

Moles are insectivores, closely related to shrews and bats. Their hairless, pointed snout, small eyes and concealed ear canal openings, as well as large forefeet and webbed toes, all are physical adaptations to the underground world of these animals. A mole’s powerful forelimbs allow it to move materials 32 times its body weight and to move through most soils at incredible speeds of 15 to 18 feet per hour in unexcavated ground and up to 80 feet per minute through existing runs.

Moles spend the majority of their time in search of insects, grubs and earthworms, eating approximately 70 to 100 percent of their weight each day. The roots, tubers and bulbs damaged in lawns and gardens are not eaten but are simply a casualty in this carnivorous predator’s search for food.

Moles live a secluded life in underground burrows, coming to the surface only rarely, and then often only by accident. They are thought to be loners. And when several are trapped in close proximity to each other, it is believed that different tunnel net-works sometime come together and join otherwise separate burrows.

Moles prefer loose, moist soil, and they are most often found in soils shaded by vegetation. They are not able to function in compact, dried soils. While more or less active year-round, moles are busiest during rainy summer periods, finding and storing foods.

Their gestation period is 42 days, with three to five young born mainly in March and April. A mole’s secluded underground life tends to protect it from predators. Spring floods are considered the greatest threat to adult moles and their young.

## *Control measures*

Traps and poisons are considered the most effective methods for controlling moles. Choker type or harpoon type traps can be set in active runways to kill moles as they travel in search of food.

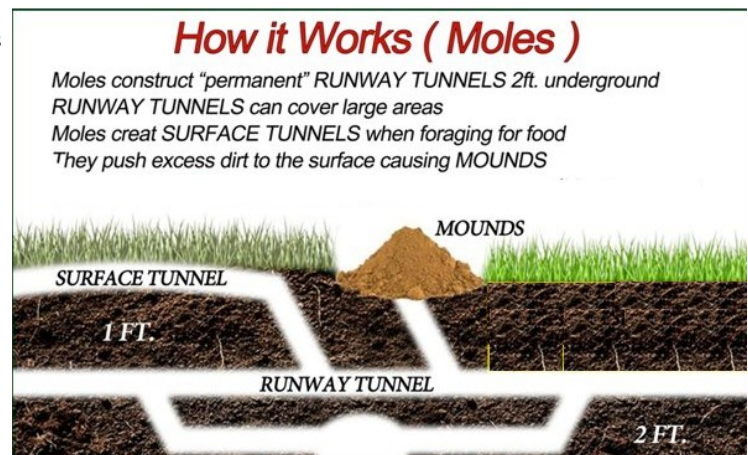
Several toxicants are labeled for mole control, with applications targeted for active runways. A common poison marketed for mole control, called Poison Peanuts, uses zinc phosphide as the active ingredient. This poison uses a grain-based carrier system, so ingestion by the moles is thought to be more of an incidental occurrence, given the insectivorous lifestyle of the animals.

Recent research also has shown that the anticoagulant poison bromethalin works as an energy metabolism antagonist, providing an effective way to exploit the high-energy demands of the mole’s active lifestyle.

Further research showed that when formulated to look and feel like an earthworm, the bait is readily accepted. This product is marketed under the trade name Talpirid. Another advantage of Talpirid is that the plastic-like formulation allows it to hold together and remain effective in moist soil conditions, unlike the older grain-based poisons.

When using either traps or poisons, care must be taken to ensure that an active tunnel is targeted rather than one that has been abandoned. Active tunnels can be located by crushing in the earth on several tunnels and returning the next day to determine where the soil is raised back up. That would indicate active tunnels.

Like most nuisance wildlife removal endeavors, patience and persistence must be practiced in order to be successful in removing these burrowing critters from your landscape.



TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
1554 TARA BLVD.  
BATON ROUGE LA 70806

## Appalachian Soup Beans

### Ingredients

1 pound dried pinto beans  
8 cups water (for slow cooker instructions)  
4 strips fatty bacon chopped  
1 large onion chopped  
3 cloves garlic minced  
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper or 1 chopped jalepe-  
no \*Optional  
1 smoked ham hock or ham neck bone  
32 ounces chicken stock  
Water  
salt and black pepper



Place dried pinto beans in a colander and rinse under cold water. Pick through and discard any shriveled beans or stones. Pour the beans into a large bowl and fill with enough cold water to cover the beans by 2 inches. Let the beans soak for several hours or overnight. By the next day, the beans will have doubled in size by absorbing most of the water. Drain the beans and rinse.

In a medium skillet over medium-high heat, add chopped bacon and let partially cook for a few minutes on each side. Remove the bacon strips and set aside on a plate. Next add chopped onion to the skillet and saute for a few minutes in the bacon grease until softened, add in the garlic and cayenne (or jalapeno) and saute for an additional 30 seconds until aromatic. Pour in about a cup of chicken stock and use a spatula to scrape up any bits stuck to the bottom of the pot. **Note: It is recommended to not add salt at the beginning stages of cooking beans or it will take longer for the beans to soften up. Wait till the last part of cooking beans when they start to feel softened to add the salt.**

To the Slow cooker, add in the pinto beans, ham hock, onion mixture, and bacon. Pour in the remaining chicken stock and add enough water to make sure the beans are covered by 2 inches of liquid. Stir everything together. Cook on high heat for 4-5 hours or low heat for 8-10 hours until the beans are tender.

Season with salt and pepper to taste. <https://whatscookingamerica.net/soup/appalachian-soupbeans.htm>

## Reminders

### TARA SUBDIVISION IS A DEED RESTRICTED SUBDIVISION.

There is a form available for use by residents who are planning to make **revisions, modifications or additions** to their property. If you are planning such a project, you **MUST submit** a completed copy of the property owner's **application** for building or remodeling available at <http://www.taracivicassociation.org/before-you-build>.

Fill out and mail to the Architectural Control Committee (address on form). The committee will review the plans and will notify you of their approval or disapproval within thirty (30) days.

### SECURITY ISSUES

Emergencies call 911

Non-Emergencies call

City Police 389-2000

#### ***See Something Say Something***

*If you see suspicious activity, report it. Use your cell phone to snap a picture.*

*If you are going out of town, fill out the form on the website so our officers can keep an eye out.*



## TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY SPONSORS:

<b>Our Lady of Mercy Church</b>	926-1883	www.olomchurch.com	924-1054	www.olomschool.org
<b>Benny's</b>	927-7181	www..bennyscarwash.com		
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<b>Anytime Fitness Towne Center</b>	930-9988	batonrougejefferson@anytimefitness.com		
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<b>Williams Accounting Service</b>	928-1488	williamsaccountingandtaxservice@yahoo.com	Bran	
<b>Window World</b>	706-2100	windowworld-btr.com		
<b>Nader Hurley Wealth Mgmt</b>	Brandon Hurley	929-8403 or Breaux Nader	929-8404	
<b>Bocage Pharmacy</b>	364-2847	boagepharmacycenter.com		
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<b>Brown Rogers Therapy</b>	926-2400			
<b>Elevate A Wellness Studio</b>	478-4500			
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<b>The Dowden Group</b>	924-5930	thedowdengroup.com		lindadowden@thedowdengroup.com
<b>Calvin's Market</b>	927-2051	calvinsbocage.com		
<b>Hammond Aire Auto Spa</b>	928-7046			
<b>St. Paul Lutheran Church</b>	923-3133	stpaulbr.com		
<b>A &amp; W Plumbing</b>	338-0708 or 753-0167			
<b>The Keyfinders Team @ Keller Williams Realty RedStick</b>	335-5395 or 768-1800			
<b>Jason D. Hutto, DDS</b>	926-4203	batonrougedentistry.com		

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