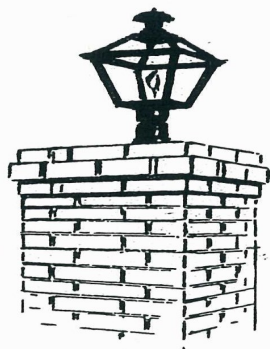


November 2021

taracivicassociation.org



TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION

TARA TALK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Carmen Dugas
Vice President-Carolyn Landry
Treasurer-Robert Say
Secretary-Cathy St. Romain

BOARD MEMBERS

Ryan Cooney
Frank Fertitta
Suzanne Fiske
Brenda Giacone
Nathan Irby
Shawn Kirkland
Jim Bob Ourso
Richela Roy
Michelle Schroeder
Meg Songy

BLIGHTED PROPERTY

The Tara Civic Association has received several complaints regarding yards, shrubs, landscaping in need of maintenance and also carports and driveway areas that have collected items that detract from the value of the home and adjacent properties.

Tara is a Deed Restricted Neighborhood which insures that the appearance of the neighborhood and property values remain high. It is also important to remember that we all live in close quarters with each other and to be a good neighbor takes an effort at keeping our property clean and uncluttered. Within all deed restrictions covering all five (5) filings, it is stated:

"2.21 No lot shall contain conditions on or affecting the premises which are hazardous to the health or safety of the public, and / or conditions which are detrimental to property values or to the quality of the environment or detract from the general appearance of the neighborhood and its environment in a manner inconsistent with the harmony and appearance of adjacent properties in the immediate area. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following permitting accumulation of junk, trash, garbage, litter, refuse, appliance, junked inoperable vehicles to occur on said lot or permitting any vehicle on the lot in need of repair to remain on any lot longer than 30 days..

East Baton Rouge Code of Ordinances (UDC Code),
Blight Elimination is defined in chapter 11, Section 12;651 as: Conditions upon or affecting premises, which are hazardous to the health, safety, or welfare of the public, and/or conditions which are detrimental to property values, economic stability, or to the quality of the environment. Such conditions may include, but are not limited to, the following: The accumulation of junk, trash, garbage, litter, refuse, rubbish, appliances, debris, combustible materials, or junked inoperable vehicles (vehicles which are ten-10 years old or older), in such a state of deterioration that they cannot be profitably restored and which have a fair market value of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or less; illegal dumping; noxious weeds; overgrown vegetation; infestation of insects, vermin or rodents; animals running at large; dilapidated structures; condemned properties; abandoned adjudicated properties; criminal violations; weed liens; zoning violations; alcohol beverage control violations; health code violations; and other conditions which are hazardous to public health, safety or welfare.

When pulling in your driveway today take a look around your home to see if perhaps you are not abiding by this very important section of what is stated within our restrictions and the EBR ordinance. Please report any violations to TCA at taracivicasn@gmail.com or it can be reported anonymously to the City Parish by calling 311 or 389-3090.

The Civic Association has an obligation to address these complaints when they arise. It is not always pleasant, but it is one of the duties of the Board..

Upcoming Neighborhood Events



The Tara Garden Club will be hosting
the **Annual Tara Christmas Decoration & Lighting Contest** on

Thursday, December 16th at 6:00pm

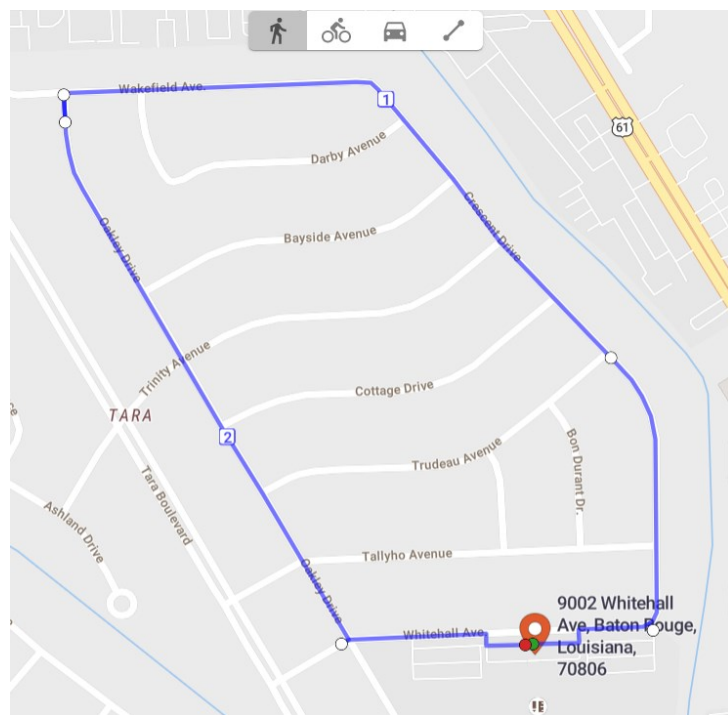
Categories: Best Door, Best Children's, Best Religious, Best Lighting,
Most Original, and Judges Choice

To make judging a little easier, please make sure your address is posted

First Annual 5K Reindeer Run/Walk

Saturday, December 18th at 8am

The run/walk will be two laps beginning and ending at the high school.



All residents are welcome to attend. Adults and children.

Please bring one canned good or non-perishable item to be donated to the Baton Rouge food bank.

After the race hot chocolate will be served.
Let's sip and share holiday cheer with neighbors

**LOUISIANA
MARATHON**
26.2 // 13.1 // 6.55 // 5K // KIDS



The Louisiana Marathon Event will be held January 15-16, 2022, with the marathon being run and coming through the neighborhood on the morning of January 16th.

Volunteers are need to assist with the aid station located at the corner of Roseneath and Lasalle. You can sign up at the link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/LA/BatonRouge/TheLouisianaMarathon>

Yard of the Month



There was no yard of the month in September thanks to Hurricane Ida.

Pictured to the left is October yard of the month Ms. Ruiz De Chaves located at 8937 Trudeau. She was awarded a gift certificate to Louisiana Nursery by the Tara Garden Club.

New Residents

Bryant & Kaelah Bourgeois	8727 Scarlett
Don Ernst	8943 Cottage
Lyle Jeansone & Jacie Maples	746 Trudeau Ave.
Bryan Jones & Jade Brady	9048 Trinity Ave
Patrick & Shelly Ragusa	1628 Oakley
Ethan & Kate Richardson	1926 Beechgrove
Ben & Rachel Treuting	1816 Chopin



Other Neighborhood News

Special thanks to Tara past president Gerard Ruth for his effort and expense put forth in propping up and staking the crepe myrtle on Tara Blvd that was uprooted and blown down by hurricane Ida.

Special thanks to resident Douglas Allen for replacing a flag at one of the entrances.

TCA is working with the Planning Commission to give locations that are least offensive for the placement of 5G towers.

Resident Spotlight: Dr. Ralph Portier (PhD), a resident on Ashland Dr. was an ecotoxicologist and LSU College of the Coast & Environment's Department of Environmental Science Professor Emeritus. Portier holds eight patents related to the bioremediation of contaminated sediment and soil using custom microbial habitats, or bioreactors. He also has helped shape policies and processes for the Environmental Protection Agency. So far, 265 sites across the country and 12 international sites have been remediated using LSU biotechnology patents and intellectual property that he developed.

Spanning his nearly 40-year career at LSU, [Portier developed a vast library of bioremediation microbes](#), which has helped private companies as well as local, state and federal agencies mitigate a wide range of environmental hazards in the U.S. and around the world. These microbes can be used to break down dangerous chemicals and pollutants, including fuels, plastics, herbicides and pesticides.

"Our ability to design biofilms specifically to target certain types of hazardous waste is probably the most important of the patents developed here at LSU. We have designed reactor systems which have been used successfully in almost every state in the union and in a dozen or so countries overseas," Portier said.

Portier is also a recipient of the George W. Goethals Medal, which is the highest technical merit award granted to an engineer or scientist in memory of the builder of the Panama Canal. Portier is a Louisiana native as well as a professor and alumnus of LSU. He received his PhD in oceanography and coastal sciences at LSU in 1982 and joined the LSU faculty in 1984. Sadly, Dr. Portier passed away this past September.

Tara High School Partnership

Dear Tara Community,

Thank you all for coming out to support our students during their recent homecoming parade. This was their first parade in three years, and it was a great experience for our students. These types of spirited events are critical for us to bring back a sense of normalcy for our staff and students. Everyone at Tara had a great weekend with the parade, pep rally, and homecoming dance.

We have three main goals for the current school year as we strive to make Tara the exceptional school it has been in the past: 1) 97% attendance for staff and students, 2) a failure rate below 20% for each 9-week grading period, and 3) at least a 5% increase in achievement for all content areas.

Attendance has been a struggle for all schools in the parish, and especially at Tara. Last year, over half of the students attended school virtually, and it has been a challenge locating and contacting all those families and getting the students back on campus. Our attendance rate at the beginning of the year was less than 80%, but it has been increasing each month to nearly 85% currently. Our current enrollment is about 730 students. All "A" rated schools have above 90% attendance, so we know it is critical to emphasize the importance of coming to school every day. We make frequent callouts and home visits to address the issue. We have also worked to improve the school culture by offering clubs, dances, afternoon activities, and other incentives so that students see school as a fun place to be.

When I first became principal at Tara last year, the failure rate was close to 50%. Students were not logging in regularly, not participating in online discussions, and teachers were unable to offer hands-on support for struggling learners. This was a recipe for disaster. Many students, especially ninth graders, failed to advance to the next grade level. Ninth grade failures are the number one indicator for drop-out and graduation rates. If a student fails two or more courses in 9th grade, they will be unlikely to earn their diploma. We addressed the issue by offering free summer school to all students. This past summer, students at Tara recovered almost 400 credits, and most were able to advance to the proper grade level. I'm also proud to say that our failure rate for the first nine weeks of this school year was 17%, which is the lowest it has been in many years.

Increasing achievement is critical to our long-term success. Compared to other schools with similar demographics in EBR, our assessment index since 2019 has been average. Students have demonstrated low levels of proficiency, especially in math, biology, and U.S. History. To address the issue, we have challenged our staff to minimize the use of Chromebooks in the classroom and to offer more collaborative, small-group activities. When we observe classes, our instructional focus is the use of effective questioning strategies and the promotion of student discussion. This is critical for engaging students, but it also allows teachers to gauge student learning. Based on student responses and discussion, teachers can make quick adjustments to their instruction. This formative style of assessment was lacking during virtual learning, and we know it is the key to student success moving forward.

These three goals have been our primary focus, but we are really trying to improve every aspect of operations at Tara. We have a strong leadership team, and we meet several times per week to look at current data and student work samples. I think that now more than ever, we have a clear understanding of the steps we must take to move the school in a positive direction. It will take time, and we will need the help and support of the neighborhood and community, but there is no doubt in my mind that Tara will once again become a school of choice for families in East Baton Rouge.

Sincerely,
John Hayman
Principal

Giving Challenge

Shop Locally: Support small businesses near you

Get Physical: Pitch in by raking leaves for a neighbor or coaching a youth sports team.

Give Regularly: Build support into your budget by setting up recurring donation at an organization whose mission you believe in. Even small amounts given at regular intervals can help groups get by in the lean months.

Volunteer From Home: If you have a computer and internet help with Hire Heroes USA (hireherosusa.org)

Prioritize Family Time: Strengthening your community starts with building up those closest to you. As a family, collect nonperishable food from your pantry to donate, or take a phone-free walk together after dinner.

Lead With Kindness: A smile, a wave or simple hello is free and easy way to give back, and it's amazing how much a kind work can buoy someone's spirit

from Good Housekeeping



LET'S TALK TURKEY

Unsafe handling and under-cooking your holiday bird can cause foodborne illnesses. Here are a few tips from the USDA to keep your Thanksgiving safe and delicious!

Types of turkeys regulated by the USDA:



*For more information about each type of turkey, visit fsis.usda.gov.

3 WAYS TO THAW

While frozen, a turkey is safe indefinitely. As soon as it begins to thaw, bacteria that may have been present before freezing will begin to grow again. Here are three ways to safely thaw your bird:



Refrigerator:
Safe to store the turkey for another 1 – 2 days in the refrigerator.
This is the USDA recommended thawing method.
How to thaw:
Allow approximately 24 hrs. for every 4-5lbs of bird.

Cold water:
Cook immediately after thawing.

How to thaw:
Submerge the bird in cold water & change every 30 mins.



Microwave:

Cook immediately after thawing.



How to thaw:
Use defrost function based on weight

For more information on safe thawing methods, visit fsis.usda.gov

DID YOU KNOW?



It's safe to cook a frozen turkey though cooking time will be 50% longer!

Clean

Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and warm water.

Utensils
Plates
Countertops
Cutting boards

SHOULD ALSO BE WASHED

Bacteria, which can be present inside and outside a turkey, can't be washed off the bird! Cooking is the only way to destroy this potentially dangerous bacteria.

SO DON'T WASH YOUR TURKEY!!

SEPARATE

Separate raw turkey from fresh food, and use separate cutting boards, plates, and utensils.

Keep dishes that touch raw food separate, too!

Wash items that touch raw meat with soap and warm water.

COOK

Your bird is not safe until it reaches 165 °F — you cannot tell by the color.

Remember to ensure any stuffing cooked with the bird reaches 165 °F, too!

Use three places to check the temperature.

- Thickest part of breast
- Innermost part of wing
- Innermost part of thigh

When turkey is removed from the oven, let it stand 20 minutes before carving to allow juices to settle.

CHILL

Take your time around the dinner table, but refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours!

Safe in fridge 3-4 days

Safe frozen, but use within 2-6 months for best quality.

Leftover turkey should be cut into smaller pieces, and store items separately in smaller containers.

Be sure to pack leftovers in a cooler if traveling.

Reheat thoroughly to a temperature of 165 °F.

Remember, bacteria that cause foodborne illnesses can't be smelled or tasted!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit foodsafety.gov

If you have a specific question, call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-888-MPHOTLINE or visit AskKaren.gov. Visit PregunteleaKaren.gov for questions in Spanish.



HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

10 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS



HOLIDAY THEFT

Theft overall tends to rise in the months of November and December. Best thing to do is to make sure you secure everything that you can. Lock up cars, trucks, and homes.

LEAVE THE LIGHTS ON

Thieves usually don't approach homes that appear to be occupied. Leave on outside lights at night (or set them with a timer) and when you leave the house during the day; leave on some of the lights inside the home to give the appearance that someone is home.



PACKAGE DELIVERY

More and more people are purchasing gifts online and having them shipped to their home. With this trend, more people are having packages stolen right off their front porch. If you're expecting packages, request signature confirmation or have a trusted neighbor hold on to it for you.

COOKING HAZARDS

A fried turkey is delicious. A fried house due to a deep fryer accident is not. Make sure you read the instructions on how to prepare your turkey safely and please, use the deep fryer OUTSIDE of the house.



DECORATION HAZARDS

Speaking of fires, Christmas tree fires can be devastating for what is normally such a beacon of happiness. If you have a live tree, make sure that it has water every day, and ensure that any lights you use are checked for breaks or exposed wires.

CREATIVE DISPOSAL

Dispose of your presents boxes creatively - placing that 60" TV box outside on trash day after Christmas is just asking for trouble. Try and break down boxes and other packaging as to not give away the wonderful gifts your family received.

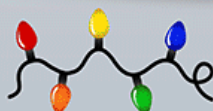


SOCIAL MEDIA

In today's inter-connected age, it's important to be very careful about what you share on social media. Be very careful about what you post and if you do decide to share your gifts, please make sure you don't have your location tagged to the post.

TRAVEL

If you're traveling to visit family or going on a holiday vacation, wait until after your trip to post about it. Have a good friend or neighbor check on your house every couple of days to give you an update.



DECORATIONS & LIGHTING

Make sure not to run extension cords through windows or garage doors. Just the littlest crack can expose a home to thieves.

WHO'S AT THE DOOR

Criminals can try and scope at your home posing as a delivery person or someone looking for charitable donations. Be cautious when talking to people you're unfamiliar with and don't let them in your home.



PREVENT YOUR PIPES FROM FREEZING

Winter is here! Make sure your home is prepared before it completely settles in. These tips will help prevent your pipes from freezing.

Brought to you by: Kelmann Restoration



CHECK SPRINKLERS

It wasn't long ago when you were using your sprinkling system. Make sure it's turned off and completely drained.



WATER SHUT OFF

Know where your water shut off is. This is very important in case of a pipe that could burst from the cold weather. Make sure you can get to the proper tools to shut it off quick.



KEEP WARM AIR INSIDE

Turn your thermostat up and keep the temperature above 55 degrees. Also try not to let cool air in by keeping doors shut, especially the garage door.



INSULATE PIPES

In the cold spots in your home like the attic, basement, or crawl space, there are areas where pipes will need to be insulated with pipe sleeves or heat cables. For quick fixes, you can use newspaper or fabric cloth until you get the proper products to last.



WATER FLOW

Make sure the water flow is normal. If it's held up or blocked, check your pipes to see where they could be frozen.



PIPES ON OUTER WALL

Pipes on the outer walls don't have as much insulation as some of the other pipes in your house. The kitchen sink could be a problem with it being close to the outer wall. Run hot water at a drip to get warm water through the pipes.



NOT SO HOT SPOTS

Your house is full of cold areas where cool air easily gets in. Get to these spots and insulate them with good quality product to prevent freezing air coming in.



IF YOUR PIPES FREEZE

If your pipes do freeze, shut off your water immediately, thaw the pipes with warm air using either a space heater or blow dryer, and turn the water on careful. Slowly turning the water back on will allow you to check the pipe for any cracks or leaks that may have happened.

TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION
1554 TARA BLVD.
BATON ROUGE LA 70806

Stuffed Mirliton/Vegetable Pear

Ingredients

4 large mirliton
1 cup chopped shrimp or 1 pound cooked sausage
1/2 cup seasoned bread crumbs
1/2 cup diced onion
1/4 cup celery
1 1/2 tsp seasoned salt
1/8 tsp cayenne pepper
3 Tbsp cooking oil
1/2 cup seasoned Italian bread crumbs

Cut the mirliton in half lengthwise. Remove any seeds. Boil until tender. Scoop out the meat, reserving the shell for stuffing. Mash the meat of the pear. Sauté the onion and celery in oil until tender in a medium skillet. Add the mashed mirlitons, cooked shrimp or sausage, 1/2 cup of seasoned bread crumbs, seasoned salt and cayenne pepper. Fill shells, cover with bread crumbs and place on a cookie sheet or pan. Bake dish for 30 minutes at 350 degrees or until browned. This dish is filling enough to be served as an entrée and freezes well.

realcajunrecipes.com

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.

Please observe all city ordinances . They are enforced by the TCPD officers. Ordinances are available to view at

https://library.municode.com/la/baton_rouge_east_baton_rouge_parish/codes/code_of_ordinances

TARA CIVIC ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY SPONSORS:

Our Lady of Mercy Church	926-1883	www.olomchurch.com	924-1054	www.olomschool.org
Benny's	927-7181	www..bennyscarwash.com		
St. Lukes Episcopal School	927-8601	www.stlukesbrschool.org		
Anytime Fitness Towne Center	930-9988	batonrougejefferson@anytimefitness.com		
Biggz Tree Care	205-0706	www.biggztrecare.com		biggztreeservices@gmail.com
Basic Chimney Sweep	929-9973			
Plantation Tire Pros	930-9393	plantationtirepros.com		
Williams Accounting Service	928-1488	williamsaccountingandtaxservice@yahoo.com	Bran	
Window World	706-2100	windowworld-btr.com		
Nader Hurley Wealth Mgmt	Brandon Hurley	929-8403 or Breaux Nader	929-8404	
Bocage Pharmacy	364-2847	boagepharmacycenter.com		
Anne James Hair Salon	925-5644			
Brown Rogers Therapy	926-2400			
Elevate A Wellness Studio	478-4500			
Goodwood Grill	927-7550			
The Dowden Group	924-5930	thedowdengroup.com		lindadowden@thedowdengroup.com
Calvin's Market	927-2051	calvinsbocage.com		
Hammond Aire Auto Spa	928-7046			
St. Paul Lutheran Church	923-3133	stpaulbr.com		
A & W Plumbing	338-0708 or 753-0167			
The Keyfinders Team @ Keller Williams Realty RedStick	335-5395 or 768-1800			
Jason D. Hutto, DDS	926-4203	batonrougedentistry.com		

PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS