

# Tara Talk News

**SPECIAL EDITION**

**Published by the Tara Civic Association ~ ~ Caring for our Community  
Security, Beautification, Restrictions, and Communications**

**November 2015**

**Visit us on the Web at**

**[www.taracivicassociation.org](http://www.taracivicassociation.org)**

## ***Happy 50th Anniversary to Tara Subdivision!***

### ***Did You Know?***

Did you know that our Tara Subdivision began fifty years ago in 1965? That was the year the original First Filing of Tara Subdivision was entered into the Court-house Records.

Tara Subdivision was originally developed by Great South Corporation as a community and family oriented neighborhood. Original promotional literature stated that the new Subdivision "was situated on a broad, green expanse of meadows and gentle slopes, bordered by Goodwood Boulevard on the north, Old Hammond Highway on the south," a creek on the east, and Goodwood Villa subdivision on the west. The original brochure said there were old trees throughout that the developers worked carefully to preserve.

The first filing consisted of 197 lots that included the following streets: Wakefield, Darby, Shades, Bayside, and Trinity. It also included the sections of Crescent, Oakley, and Tara Blvd as far south as their intersections with Trinity Avenue. Tara Boulevard was described as "a wide, curved boulevard, marked by an impressive entrance specially designed to complement the luxurious homes" featured in a 64 page edition of the Homebuilders Association of Greater Baton Rouge brochure entitled "Parade of Homes". This brochure presented drawings and plans of 15 homes along Trinity Avenue, along with the amenities provided in each one and information about the builders, all of whom were well respected in the Baton Rouge home-building scene of that era.

The new Tara Subdivision was described as having "quiet winding drives and

avenues, generous size lots, and wide servitude areas containing underground utilities and underground storm drainage facilities". It also featured sidewalks along all the streets, which was very desirable for families with young children.

Many prominent families of Baton Rouge made their homes in Tara over the years and watched their children grow and enjoy the swimming pool and tennis courts of the Tara Club and attend Tara High School. A number of these families are still here.

Gradually, over the years, our Subdivision expanded to include the 629 lots that now form this residential community that we all call home. The Second Filing (Lot numbers 198 through 341) was created in 1966 by Royal American Corporation. The Third Filing (Lot numbers 342 through 466) was created in 1968. The Fourth Filing (Lot numbers 467 through 610) was created in 1969. Finally, the Fifth Filing (Lot numbers 611 through 629) was created in 1976.

### ***Original Residents***

Even though our Subdivision is now 50 years old, there are a number of residents who purchased or built new homes in Tara way back when the Subdivision was new, and many are still here today.



### **SECURITY ISSUES**

**Emergency: 911**

**City Police: 389-2000**

**Tara Security: 235-6445**

### **Vacation Surveillance**

*(form listed on web site)*

Email us at

**[taracivicasn@gmail.com](mailto:taracivicasn@gmail.com)**

**Welcome, New Tara Residents!**

We are happy to see our community growing!

**Taylor Landry**  
8973 Trudeau Ave.

**Mark White**  
8835 Cottage Ave.

**Duane & Sherie LeBlanc**  
8956 Trudeau Ave.

**Adam & Kristen Parker**  
8974 Bayside Ave.

**James & Gretchen Davis**  
1249 Tara Blvd.

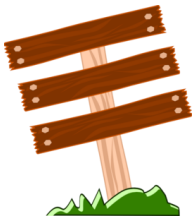
**Allison Bruton**  
1174 Aurora Pl.

**Todd & Kristin Ladner**  
1478 Tara Blvd.

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***Original Residents (Continued)***

We treasure these residents because they are a stabilizing influence in the neighborhood, and they can recall so much of the history of Tara and of old Baton Rouge.

***Street Names***

Most all the streets in Tara were named after the grand old antebellum plantations of the South, the majority of which were built in the early to mid-1800's. Cottage Avenue is an example. It was named after "The Cottage" plantation, built around 1824 or 1825 on River Road, roughly five miles south of LSU. It was the site of the explosion of the steamboat Princess on the Mississippi River in 1859. Sadly, the plantation was destroyed by fire in 1960. Tara Boulevard was named after the fictional plantation Tara from the famous 1936 novel "Gone with the Wind" written by Margaret Mitchell. A movie of the same name made its premiere in 1939. Scarlett Drive was named after the heroine of that novel. LaSalle Avenue and East Thurman Drive are two exceptions to this plantation name usage, as they are extensions of streets that were existing in Goodwood Villa Subdivision before Tara Subdivision was ever developed. Most of our streets that run east and west are "Avenues", and most of those running north and south are "Drives", with a few exceptions here and there.

***Schools***

Tara Subdivision was originally developed with the idea that there would be both a high school and an elementary school here, with the high school on the south end and the elementary school on the north end. Tara High School was constructed and then opened for the 1971-1972 school year. Many of our Tara families' children graduated from Tara High. The elementary school was originally planned to be constructed in the area presently occupied by the Fifth Filing. (This is the area at the north end of Tara Subdivision, north of East Thurman Drive and between Ashland Drive and Tara Boulevard.) The elementary school was never built, however, and plot plans were developed later for the layout of the 19 lots that make up the Fifth Filing of Tara. These are the newest homes in the Subdivision.

***Tara Club***

The Subdivision developers provided for family fun and activities by donating the land to build the Tara Swim & Racquet Club. An Olympic size pool was installed, with a diving well section on the south side (featuring both high and low diving boards) and a 3' to 4' shallower section on the east end, plus a separate "baby pool". The main entrance to the pool area was from the cul-de-sac at the south end of Oakley Drive. The entrance building included a concession stand and the bathhouses. Two tennis courts were also constructed. The present clubhouse and two more tennis courts were built a few years later.

The Tara club has been a focal point for young and old throughout the years. Tennis lessons have been offered by tennis pros, and numerous tennis matches have been scheduled. Hundreds of Tara youngsters and teen-agers have spent their summers at the Tara pool. And many many kids have participated with the Tara Swim Team in competitive swim meets that have been held routinely during the summer months for years and years. Originally, only Tara residents could belong to the Tara Club; however, today some memberships are available to others if they are sponsored by a current Tara Club Member.

***The Park and St. Paul Lutheran Church***

Back in the early 1970's, the Sternberg family (owners of Goudchaux's Department Store) bought some land along Old Hammond Highway between the North Branch of Wards Creek and Tara Boulevard, and they later donated it to the City of Baton Rouge to be used for a park. Also, around the mid-1970's, St. Paul Lutheran Church moved from its Goodwood Boulevard & East Airport Drive corner location and built a new church and educational building at the corner of Tara Boulevard and Old Hammond Highway. Both events were welcomed by our residents. The park is now a kind of urban forest with many different types of trees and some low hills and a creek running through it, and we can stroll through it and enjoy the scenery.

### ***Tara Garden Club***

In the early days, there were two Tara Garden Clubs. Eventually they merged together to form the existing Tara Garden Club, which still exists today and is very active in sponsoring the annual Tara Christmas Lighting contest and other events.

### ***Tara Civic Association***

The Tara Civic Association was formed and incorporated in 1970 "to unite the property owners who are interested in the betterment of that area of the Parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, known as Tara Subdivision, with the intent of promoting the general welfare of the said area". The original officers of the Tara Civic Association were: Mike McDonald (President), Dr. Joseph Roumain (Vice President), Jean Cangelosi (Secretary), and Ken Dezwaan (Treasurer). The Tara Civic Association has worked unceasingly over these many years to protect the property values of our home owners. The Association has always been active regarding rezoning issues related to properties close by, Subdivision restriction enforcement issues, keeping the Tara Boulevard plantings looking attractive, maintaining the appearance of the Subdivision entranceways, and arranging for police patrols for the neighborhood.

### ***Tara in 2015***

Just ask any of our residents about Tara and the first thing they will mention is the ease and convenience of getting to so many places. Tara is really a jewel sitting in the heart of Baton Rouge. There are schools, shopping areas, restaurants, churches, hardware stores, medical offices, and malls close by. With the development of Jef-

erson Hwy and the arrival of Town Centre, we are a very sought after residential community. The homes built here in Tara in the mid-1960's through the 1970's have "good bones" and were built well. There are many younger families moving in and plenty of them are up-dating their purchases by knocking out walls, remodeling, putting in new appliances, and adding their own personal touches to these homes. Our welcoming Committee, has welcomed back residents who actually grew up in Tara and have come back to raise their children. We also have several residents who have had as many as three homes here, making moves within the Subdivision to acquire a larger home.

The Tara Civic Association continues to be very active after all these years. General membership Ice Cream Socials are held annually in the first part of May. Our north and south entrances and the Boulevard are well maintained and the Subdivision looks great. In addition, using the technology of today, the Tara Civic Association maintains a modern Web Site and also publishes the quarterly "Tara Talk" Newsletters. The Tara Garden Club continues its special project of sponsoring the Christmas Lighting contest. We organize a Progressive Garage Sale for our residents each spring. And we have occasionally hosted Wine Walks to benefit the Neighborhood in various ways. The Tara

Civic Association has been a long time member of the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Association, an organization of homeowner associations whose goal is to educate our citizens, to provide a means of networking with close-by neighborhoods, and to protect the interests of residential neighborhoods like ours for the betterment of all.

In 2014 our residents voted to establish a Crime Prevention and Improvement District which is run by a Commission Board made up of Tara residents. This District was formed to increase our neighborhood security patrols, in a manner similar to many other neighborhoods throughout East Baton Rouge Parish.

Tara is fortunate to have been the home of many talented and dedicated individuals and families who have provided leadership, manpower, and motivation over the last fifty years, always looking for ways to improve our great Subdivision. And we are fortunate to still have such people in our Subdivision today. Happy 50th Anniversary to Tara.

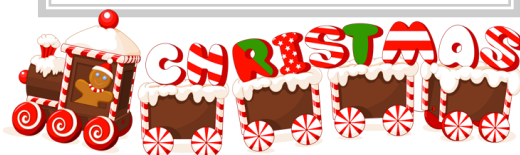
### ***Tara Christmas Lighting Contest***

**Date:** December 15

**Time:** 6-9 pm

Judging starts at 6:30 pm

Co-sponsored by Tara Civic Assoc. & Tara Garden Club



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Tara Civic Association Sponsors

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