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West Bank office: 364-2700 Email: jyoung@jeffparish.net

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Chris Roberts, Council-At-Large Division A West Bank office: 364-2616 Fax: 364-3499

Email: croberts@jeffparish.net

Parish Council Chairman: **Councilman At-Large Division B:**

Michael Thomas

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Email: MichaelThomas@jeffparish.net Assistant (West Bank): Brian Grenrood

Email: BGrenrood@jeffparish.net

3rd District Councilman:

Mark Spears

West Bank office: 364-2603 Email: mspears@jeffparish.net

Assistant (West Bank): Casey Jumpiere

Email: CJumpiere@jeffparish.net

West Bank Council Address:

Mailing address:

4th Floor

New Gretna Courthouse

P.O. Box 9

Gretna, LA 70054-0009

HFI PFUI NUMBERS

Citizens Affairs	736-6100
General code violations	364-3500
Environmental affairs	736-6102
Weed control	364-3540
Jefferson Transit	364-3450
Abandoned vehicles	364-3543
Stray animals	349-5111
Garbage pickup	736-6102
Recycling	
Mosquito control	366-0084
Water	349-5088
Streets	349-5800
Drainage	437-4939
Street light outage	736-6941
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The PECA newsletter is published quarterly by the Association Board in an effort to keep all residents apprised of items of interest to our community. It is delivered to all residents of the subdivision without charge. We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas.

Plantation Estates Community Association Inc.

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347-0424

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FLAG

Norman Gauthreaux 341-2599

GARDEN OF THE MONTH

Beth Martin

347-0424 HOSPITALITY

Cheryl Miller

239-2233 **MEMBERSHIP**

Charles Miller 439-3164

NEWSLETTER

Mary Hackett 340-3996

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AT LARGE #2 **KEITHBERGERON** 341-7789

AT LARGE #3 JUDY GLANCEY 347-9207

AT LARGE #4 STEPHANIE TOMLINSON RICAU

388-1095

PLANTATION ESTATES

NEWSLETTER



September 2012 • Volume No. 63

Plantation Estates Community Association • P. O. Box 683 • Marrero, LA 70073

Web Site: www.plantationestates.org

President's Report-

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Welcome to all new Plantation Estates homeowners and thanks for the many years of continued support from existing members of the Plantation Estates Community Association. Annual association dues of \$60 are renewed on January 1st of each year. You will find no other organization that works exclusively for Plantation Estates to keep our streets safe, preserve property values, and build a stronger community for our homeowners.

Hurricane Isaac – I hope everyone made out well during and



after the storm. We sent emails during and after Isaac to keep everyone as updated as possible on neighborhood and Parish related matters. If you still have something outstanding that PECA can help with,

please let us know. We did get a number of inquiries about electricity in certain sections of PE that seem to lose power during heavy rain or winds not even associated with hurricanes during the year. We have contacted Brian Washington from Entergy as our Customer Service Manager in this area to request the grid layout, as well as to be considered for possible upgrades necessary in our area. We will keep you posted if an update is provided by Entergy. I do want to recognize Council-at-Large Chris Roberts for his effort during and after the storm. It was amazing to see an elected official make such valuable use of technology to provide updates which saved the time consuming phone calls to resolve issues or keep homeowners in the Parish informed. With his Facebook account, you could literally get more than hourly updates and photos of what was going on or when curfews were in effect, and receive replies back to your post on any topic you sent him. This was extremely valuable with photos and updates on the flooding in Lafitte and Crown Point for those who were unable to return home.

Oak Alley Tree Lighting Project - I wanted to mention this again as a follow-up for this project with photos for the newsletter. With the help of PECA Board Member Scott Plaisance coordinating this project, we added lights to the front 4 oak trees behind the Plantation Estates sign at the Barataria Blvd. entrance and one other oak tree in the middle median. I would like to again acknowledge Wayne Nocito (PE

homeowner), Danny Blanchard (PE homeowner), and Councilman Mark Speaks for their efforts working with Jefferson the Beautiful on the matching funds for this project.



Also thanks to another PE homeowner, Michael Connor, with Bayou Electrical Services for doing the work for us.

Oak Alley Tree Trimming – Thanks to Mark Zimmer, who donated his time for several weeks to trim the trees along Oak Alley. Also Bill Tift who removed the damaged tree on Oak Alley.

Business Activity in the Area – Restaurant des Familles is now open 7 days a week from 11:30 am to 9:00 pm. One of our PE homeowners opened Studio One Style Bar in Clearview Shopping Mall, featuring a blow dry bar, makeup bar, and aesthetic studio. Buca di Beppo is a new Italian restaurant scheduled to open at Oakwood Mall. Olive Garden is coming to Manhattan Boulevard in April of 2013 near Target. If you know of any new businesses, let us know.

If you have community news in our area or ideas for Plantation Estates, we would love to hear from you. Also, if you would like to be added to our email list, please email president@plantationestates.org.

Your Neighbor,

Charles Miller, III Plantation Estates Community Association, President president@plantationestates.org

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Contact: Shelley Cassagne at 504.270.8546 (References Available)

Plantation Estates Pumpkin Painting



Date: October 13, 2012 (Saturday)

Time: 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: 9 Seven Oaks in back yard

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Garden of the Month Awards

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By: Beth Martin

www.majoria.com

M/M Gerald Reites

June 2012

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18 Oakley Dr.

July 2012

M/M Ray Landry 65 Oak Alley Blvd 54 Seven Oaks Rd. M/M John Hackett M/M Kenneth Collins, Sr. 40 Seven Oaks Rd. Ms. Sherri Christiana 34 Asphodel Dr. M/M Marshall Hebert 4924 Oak Alley Blvd. M/M Ray Torres 5 Gainswood Drive East 28 Nottoway Dr.

August 2012

M/M Jack Owens 24 Briarfield Dr. M/M Willie Marque 71 Anchorage Dr. M/M Victor Brossette 25 Seven Oaks Rd. M/M Douglas Daigle 3 Oakley Dr. M/M Michael Landeche 42 Asphodel Dr M/M Anthony Randazzo 50 Burleigh Court North

PECA Newsletter Ad prices

1 Een Honolottol na prioce			
Ad Space	Dimensions in inches (wide x tall)	Ad Rates B&W	Ad Rates Color
Full Page	8.5 x 11	\$200	\$325
1/2 Page	8.5 x 5.5	\$100	\$200
1/4 Page	4.25 x 5.5	\$50	\$125
Business Card Ad (4 Issues)	5 x 3	\$120/year	N/A

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James W Hines

long-term goals, please call or stop by today.

2273 Barataria Blvd Suite 3

Edward Jones



Plantation Estates Night Out Against Crime

Date: October 16, 2012 (Tuesday) Time: 6 to 8 PM **Location:** Vacant lot at corner of Melrose & Briarfield

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A PE Homeowner's Feedback on His Investment on Solar Panels

By: Dr. Garland Green

This describes our experience with the solar panel system that was installed on the roofs of our house and garage at 64 Longwood Court.

In 10 of the past 12 months, our electric bill has been \$0.00. The only months that we paid for electricity were December and January, due to Christmas decoration lights and a large number of house guests. The electrical charges for those two months were approximately \$95 each, down from a usual \$400.00+. Of course, we are required to pay the \$10 to \$12 "Entergy Rate Minimum", which is what all Entergy customers **must pay.**

Our solar panels were installed in August 2011, by Joule Solar Energy (www.joule-energy.com, a local solar installation company based in New Orleans. A total of 32 panels were mounted on the roofs of the house and garage facing south in order to capture the maximum solar energy possible.

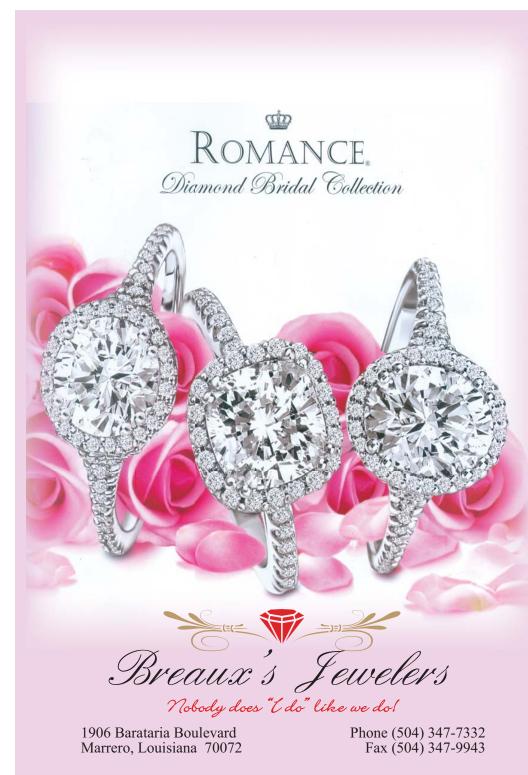
Thanks to Louisiana's leading solar tax incentives, the cost of the solar panels to us was only 20% of the total cost of the installation! 50% of the total was paid by the state of Louisiana's Solar Energy refundable tax credit, and the remaining 30% was paid by the Federal Government's green energy promotion tax credit.

The solar panels produce enough energy to power the house on most days. If the panels produce more power than we need during the day, all excess power is sent into Entergy's electric grid. The excess power is bought by Entergy and returned to us in the form of credits on our account. At nighttime, we can draw from Entergy's grid just as we always have, but we are able to use up credits rather than paying for the power. The power production and switching between the panels and Entergy are automatic and seamless.

The panels come with a 25-year warranty, and are designed to withstand 140-mph winds. In our judgment, electing to invest in a solar panel system was one of the best decisions we could have made.

If you have questions regarding the solar panel system, please feel free to contact me, Dr. Garland Green at 202-251-5837-c, or David Denny, Joule Solar Energy representative at 504-264-2332.

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Facts about the GNO Tolls on ballot in November

Dear Constituents.

On November 6, 2012, when you vote for President, you will also have the opportunity to vote whether or not to extend tolls on the Crescent City Connection for another 20 years. I am voting NO on this referendum because we did our job, we paid for the bridge, and it is time for the tolls and the waste associated with them to end.



The evidence is clear that the tolls have not provided Westbank Jefferson Parish residents any enhanced transportation benefits whatsoever. Here are some facts you should be aware of:

We have been double taxed and have gotten very little in return for our money. Some who do not pay want this double taxation to continue. They have worked hard to ensure that if tolls are extended for 20 years, the ½ billion dollars it will generate would not be bonded or pledged for projects that would improve traffic on the Westbank. By not allowing hundreds of millions of dollars to be bonded for defined projects, DOTD and elected officials will retain absolute discretion to spend the money in the same manner as they do now. Although there will be some oversight over the money, this oversight will remain as it is now - "advisory" only.

We are being given false choices and have been subject to fear tactics by those who desire to keep the tolls in place. Some have claimed that if the tolls go away, we will not have the money to cut the grass, keep the lights on or patrol the bridge. Others claim ramps will be shut down. The truth is that when the tolls go away, we will have a minimum of \$10 million of toll money in a reserved fund balance. According to a Bureau of Governmental Research (BGR) study, if properly spent, this money can pay for essential services such as lighting and grass cutting on the bridges and approaches for another eight years. What is incredible is that we maintain these services at a fraction of the cost currently being charged. We have learned that for years we have paid 3.5 times the fair market rate for grass cutting services and we are getting the same grass cutting service every other part of the state gets. For the same amount of money, Jefferson Parish can double the number of times the grass would be cut and do a much better job. Additionally, there are no plans to shut down any ramps.

We are told that without the CCC Division (CCCD) police, traffic will back up and accidents will not be cleared. The truth is that Col. Mike Edmonson with the Louisiana State Police is ready to get to work. His officers have the skills and training to do a better job. Col. Edmonson testified the CCCD Police force is a redundant force. He stated to the Jefferson Parish Council on August 8, 2012, that his officers will be on the bridge December 31, 2012, even if the tolls are extended. He is willing to retain those CCCD police officers who are qualified, but they will be under his direction and not under the direction of politicians. With professional leadership and without the tolls, these officers will be free of political interference and will be able to work with Motorist Assistance Patrols and local law enforcement to keep the traffic moving.

The promise was made to you in 1998 that once the bridge is paid for, the tolls will go away. Well, it is time for the government to keep its promise. Parish President John Young is on record stating that we have gotten a raw deal with the tolls. BGR wrote that the CCCD tolls are a "tax" and "there is no good reason to keep the tolls." I agree with all of these sentiments, so on November 6, I am voting against the toll renewal.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for allowing me to represent you. If you need further details or reasoning behind my position, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Patrick Connick, Louisiana State Representative District 84

connickp@legis.la.gov

Jean Lafitte National Park to see some improvements in the future

Some months ago Jean Lafitte National Park received funding from the non-profit National Park Foundation to engage park partners and local residents in park improvements and access. Based on the general health needs of the local community, the following list of items have been chosen to focus on park improvements that promote fun, physical activity and wellness over the next 1 to 3 years. These are amenities to the trail system to make them more user-friendly.

- 1. Installation of low profile woodcut mile markers on Plantation Trail and Old Barataria Trail.
- 2. Installation of 2 hitch-style bike racks in two locations: Pecan Grove bathroom and Visitor Center ramp near flagpole.
- 3. Installation of a PRYO sensor people counter at the beginning of Christmas Road.
- 4. Creation of benches at two locations: four way junction at the terminus of Christmas Road, and pinch point between loops A and B of the Plantation Trail.
- 5. Creation of a stretching/exercise area at the beginning of the Plantation Trail by laying a recycled rubber surface in a circle pattern.
- 6. Creation of a pavilion/shaded picnic table in the existing Picnic Area. Installation of a 24X24 inch sign to explain picnic area layout and reservation policy.
- 7. Creation of up to 1,365 linear feet of boardwalk to protect sensitive areas across the Pecan Grove trails (Plantation Trail 1139 ft, Wood Duck Trail 226 ft) and to allow for access in muddy conditions.





Adding an annual event at the Park is also in the works. The first event is being planned for Sunday, November 18, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM.

NO OVERNIGHT STREET PARKING

NO OVERNIGHT STREET PARKING

REMINDER: No overnight street parking as listed in our Restrictions & Covenants. We've received calls from homeowners as parking in the street causes problems with homeowners getting in and out of their driveway. Our Restrictions Committee will contact those who repeatedly park in the street. Also, having the street cleared at night makes it much easier for our police detail when patrolling at night to look for vehicles being driven or parked that do not belong in Plantation Estates.





Hello again,

As your vice president of security, I would like to remind each of you that hurricane season is not over yet. And although we are having a few "cool" days we can't let our guard down. After all, I am sure we all can see the potential of what a Cat 1 storm such as Hurricane Isaac can do in our area. One thing in particular comes to mind, the importance of keeping your storm drains clean and free of debris. I started to see the accumulation of water in the street due to fallen leaves clogging the water flow as the rains continued to pound our neighborhood. With the help of my neighbors, we began to clear the leaves and other debris from our storm drains; hence, the water flowed out of the street and into the drain.

Even though the entire neighborhood was out of electricity for some time after Hurricane Isaac passed, we did have adequate patrols throughout PE, hopefully deterring the common criminal from preying upon the homes that were vacant. I truly believe the practice of patrolling with overhead lights continues to be an excellent deterrent. We did have a few arrests throughout the parish with everything from looting to drunks who refused to stay indoors.

I want to remind everyone Halloween is quickly approaching. Safety in numbers has seemed to work well over the past couple of years here in PE on Halloween night. We will continue this tradition by having six security patrol officers working on Halloween night, aggressively patrolling PE with their overhead lights on. The times will be from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Just like in years past, please refrain from distributing candy after 9:00 PM. Also, remind your family and friends to drive slowly and safely through our neighborhood and to watch out for our children. I'm sure most of you would agree, that lately we have had larger than normal crowds partaking in the Halloween tradition.

Please continue to remain vigilant as you move about the neighborhood. Remember, if you see someone or something that seems a bit unusual, please call 911. Even if your complaint turns out to be nothing, we would rather be happy in knowing that, than have something serious happen. Once again, let me remind you, it's OK to call 911 even if it is a non-emergency call.

Even though our security patrol times vary weekly, we want to believe PE continues to enjoy a low, almost non-existent crime problem because of the visibility and the persistence our regular security patrol officers exhibit. Some of the other neighborhoods in our area are not as fortunate as we are. Also, please go to JPSO.com and sign up for Crime Tracker. This is a free service that provides you current crime information every morning to your email or smart phone. You can specify what types of crime you are interested in seeing, as well as the geographical location by address, zip code or district station. We (PE) live in the Third District.

If you have any questions, please call me anytime at 504-363-5521.

Sincerely,

John Fortunato

Thanks to everyone who cleaned the catch basins, picked up debris and sent updates to provide to those who were evacuated. If you are an association member not already on our email list, send us an email at president@plantationestates.org and we'll add you. We do our best as volunteers to keep you informed on matters in and around Plantation Estates, as well as keeping you updated while evacuated for the storms. Following the storm, thanks to Pat Ketcham for providing a list of the street signs that need to be straightened or fixed. These have been turned over to Jodie Savoie in the Jefferson Parish Streets Department, who will get them fixed for us.



Large tree fell down on Gainswood Drive East



Neighbors on Shadows Ct work during Isaac to keep the street and catch basins clean. Photo: Steve Martin, Greg Galle, Norman Gauthreaux, David & Josh Jouandot.



Ashley Martin studying by candle light during the power outage



Palm trees on Hermitage showing the speed of the wind from Isaac



Scott Plaisance works to empty his pool by hand during storm



John Centanni captures nice shot of a crane after the storn

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