



BRIARWOOD AREA
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
<http://www.briarwoodlr.org/>

~ Since 1997 ~

Little Rock's Second Safest Neighborhood

March 2007

THE BRIAR PATCH

Little Rock Parks Director Truman Tolefree Set To Speak Saturday at BANA Spring Meeting - FREE BANA Cling for neighbors in attendance and Third Annual BANA Plant Exchange is March 31st in Brady Elementary Parking Lot

BANA Board of Directors

BANA SPRING BUSINESS MEETING Little Rock Parks Director to Speak

The Spring Business meeting of the Briarwood Area Neighborhood Association (BANA) will be held Saturday morning, March 10, 2007 9:00 AM in the fellowship hall of Christ Lutheran Church 815 South Hughes Street. Guest Speaker for the meeting will be Truman Tolefree Director of Little Rock Parks and Recreation.

Tolefree returned in April of last year to lead the department where he worked from 1976 to 1995. From 1991 to 1995, he served as Assistant Director of Little Rock Parks and Recreation. He left Little Rock to become Deputy Director of the Bureau of Recreation for Atlanta's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs. In 2000, he was named Director of the Bureau of Recreation. Tolefree has a Bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He also has taken additional coursework at North Carolina State University and UALR. He is a graduate of Leadership Greater Little Rock, and a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association, and the United States Tennis Association.

Items on the business agenda for the BANA Spring meeting include the election of/creation of a 2nd and 3rd Vice-President post on the BANA Board of Directors, a discussion and a call for volunteers for the BANA 10th anniversary celebration, discussion and a call for volunteers for the Spring Plant Swap at Brady Elementary School, and a BANA Crime Watch update. Everyone who attends the meeting will receive a FREE BANA Cling for car or home. Additional clings may also be purchased for a small donation. Neighbors are welcome to bring food items to share.

MINUTES BANA BOARD MEETING February 6, 2007

President Jay Atkins called the meeting to order. Board members reviewed the minutes of the last meeting. Betty Danley gave a treasury report. Board members discussed the renewal of or the creation of a 2nd and 3rd Vice-President post. Members agreed to review the organization's rules of order and discuss the matter at the upcoming general meeting. The spring plant swap and the BANA 10th anniversary celebration were discussed. Jay Atkins recommended using BANA funds to purchase new signs for placement before general meetings. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5, 2007. The location is to be decided.

BANA Treasury Report 2/26/07

As of February 26, 2007 the Briarwood Area Neighborhood Treasury reports a balance of \$1541. Since the last treasurer's report in the fall '06 Briar Patch newsletter, BANA has received \$365 in dues. We have used funds from the treasury to buy refreshments for the October block party, produce the September newsletter, maintain the Briarwoodlr website, and award Christmas decoration prizes. Although all Briarwood residents are members of BANA, a \$10 yearly donation makes it possible for us to purchase materials that enable the association to run smoothly. This year we will add to our regular plans preparations to have an event celebrating our ten-year anniversary. Other extra projects we are considering this year include purchasing signs that we can reuse to announce meetings and creating a sticker that resident can display to show we are members of Briarwood Area Neighborhood. Your dues make these plans realities.

President
Jay Atkins
jatkins88@sbcglobal.net
(501) 664-0788

Vice President
Jeff Whitby

Secretary
Amy Yetley Walters

Treasurer
Elizabeth Danley

Immediate Past President
Nell Mathews Mock

Directors
Denise Anderson
Jim Bell
Maxine Ellington
Bee Meldahl
Martin and Janice Swint
James Thomson
Blake Wintory

Webmaster
Jim Bell
j22bell@sbcglobal.net

Crime Watch
James Thomson - Coordinator
(501) 225-2891
Tom Benton - Asst. Coordinator
banacrimewatch@sbcglobal.net

Briar Patch
James Thomson
Jeff Whitby
bananews@sbcglobal.net

YOUR BOND MONEY AT WORK
By Nell Matthews Mock

In 2004, the citizens passed a bond election for \$69,000,000 to do needed infrastructure repairs and modifications. These included remodeling the zoo and making a place for the Carousel, repairing our pot-holed streets, correcting bad drainage, adding traffic lights, making improvements to the early warning system of sirens, putting in a 9-1-1 system that interconnected all the area law enforcement, adding the 3-1-1 informational system and on and on.

I served on the Citizen Advisory Board for this program and once a month attended meetings where we discussed the progress made, solved problems such as needing more money for one project and less for another, and helped the administrative leadership of the city prove to the citizens of Little Rock that the money was being spent for the projects promised. We are almost done with over 96% of the money spent and nearly all the projects 100% completed. Our welcomed rain has delayed the completion of some things, but I still am glad to get the rain!

Animal Services has a wonderful new facility near the intersection of University and Asher at First Tee Road. There are lights at 12th and Hughes and Markham and Hughes, two intersections that were dangerous and heavily traveled. Rodney Parham and Markham intersection has just finished being completely reworked to be safer and bigger.

There are some wonderful trails for walking including downtown, the River Trail, and another at Bowman and Markham called Rock Creek. I walked that one day last fall and saw a hawk, many birds, fish and turtles, and lots of squirrels. Well, I could have done with fewer squirrels, but the rest were so cool to see right by the many busy intersections and businesses.

Next on the agenda for citizen work is the redevelopment of the University Mall. I hope everyone takes an interest in this and writes letters to the editor, calls our new Ward 6 representative, Doris Wright, and lets Mayor Mark Stodola know that we want an attractive, safe, and profitable development to replace the sad, half-open mall that University Mall has become.

Literacy Day at Brady Elementary
By Elizabeth Danley

On November 14, at least five Briarwood residents took stories to Brady Elementary School in honor of VIPS Literacy Day. Here is a report of my experience—

Arriving at the school, book in hand, I was directed to a sign-in sheet at the front door, and there I found that four other Briarwood residents were also signed up to read at Brady that day—Nell Mock, Mary Thomson, James Thomson, and Chris Thomson. A Brady student first took me to the library where I met the school media specialist and received a gift for volunteering. The student then took me to the classroom (fourth grade) where I was to present a story.

Telling a story is quite different from reading aloud. A story teller can move around, connect with the listeners, and get a real feel of how engaged the audience is. The fourth graders, some of who were familiar with the book, *Wiley and the Hairy Man*, retold and illustrated by Molly Bang, did not disappoint me. Their expressions and body language showed me that they were right with Wiley as he outsmarted the fierce but dim-witted swamp monster. When the telling was done, their eagerness to see the book and talk about Wiley and his mother and dogs told me that this little speck of volunteerism made an impact.

Perhaps these kids will now look for this book in their media center. And maybe one of those kids will go to the public library and ask for a book about a boy and a swamp thing and then maybe that book will lead to another and another and another that will begin or further a lifelong adventure with reading.

I look forward to VIPS Literacy Day of 2007. I will return to Brady to read or tell another story that I hope will spark a kid to put the library on his or her mental map.

3rd Annual BANA Plant Exchange

The 3rd Annual BANA Plant Exchange is from 10:00 AM - Noon, Saturday March 31, 2007 on the parking lot of Brady Elementary School. There will be plenty of neighbors exchanging extra plants, plants for purchase, a live auction, refreshments and entertainment. Proceeds benefit Brady Elementary Literacy programs. Plans to be discussed at the BANA Spring Meeting. Call BANA President Jay Atkins with questions 664-0788

BANA Real Estate Holding in Market
By Jeff Whithy
Betty Krenz & Associates, Realtors

A quick survey from carmls.com on Briarwood sales the last 3 years shows average list price for BANA homes:

Year sold	2004	2005	2006
Avg list price	\$127,473	\$146,222	\$152,938
Avg sales price	\$124,547	\$143,786	\$151,014
Avg sq ft	1640	1720	1680
\$ @ sq FT	75.94	83.60	89.89
Homes sold	19	22	21

The trends show that in 2005 we had a 15 % increase, but 2006 had only a 5 % increase. We are predicting with 6% interest the Briarwood Area will remain a strong market for \$90 @ sq. Ft, but buyers are demanding clean updated homes at that price. We should see a drop off in the rental market as it is very soft and rents are not increasing with real estate prices!

BANA New Arts and Crafts webpage
By Jim Bell - Webmaster

Briarwood resident Blake Wintory has just had another article published in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly and is featured today on a new Briarwood Arts and Crafts webpage at www.briarwoodlr.org. We want to feature more talented residents of the Briarwood Area Neighborhood (University west to Cunningham Lake Road and Markham south to I-630) on the BANA website. We know a lot of creative people live in our neighborhood. If you paint, draw, write poetry, author short stories, have an attractive garden or lawn, take artistic photographs, carve figures or sew quilts, have an original tasty recipe, or any other interesting crafts or hobbies, contact the BANA webmaster at j22bell@sbcglobal.net.

Lic. #1491

664-0788
Atkins,
Realtors,
Broker/Auctioneer

Mail to: Box 250414 LR, AR 72225 E-Mail: j@cci.net

Briarwood Area Neighborhood Association 2007 Membership Drive

Yes, I would like to be a part of BANA! Please add me to the membership list with the following contact information:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Residential Membership (\$10) _____

Please mail payments to:

Betty Danley, Treasurer
BANA
15 Sun Valley Road
Little Rock AR 72205

I would like more information about the following committee(s):

Welcome/Membership _____	Holiday Decorations _____	Watch Walker _____
VIPS _____	Good Neighbors _____	Watch Captain _____
Crime Watch/Public Safety _____	Civic Affairs _____	
Neighborhood Enhancement _____	BANA Board of Directors _____	

Do you have any special skills - like carpentry, computer skills, gardening, leadership, etc.? We always need helping hands and creative minds! Also if you have any comments about neighborhood issues can you please list below?

<http://www.briarwoodlr.org/>

What's BANA?
It's the
Briarwood Area

Neighborhood Association!

WHAT AREAS ARE INCLUDED?

BANA consists of the following neighborhoods:

- Briarwood
- Brook Park
- Cardinal Heights
- Fair Hills
- Markham Manor
- Plaza Terrace
- Sunnymead
- Tyndall

Shared Vision

Although the organization is an informal group, we have some common objectives, such as:

- **To promote** camaraderie and goodwill among neighbors
- **To assist** in preserving the distinguished value the neighborhood has traditionally upheld regarding appearance and demeanor
- **To help** inform the neighborhood regarding common issues and areas of interest
- **Knowing** that there is strength in numbers, to present a unified influence regarding public and civic issues that affect our area

Membership

Membership is open to any resident living in a BANA neighborhood. Area schools, businesses and churches are invited to be Associate Members. (Associate Members have no voting privileges.)

Dues

We are a voluntary organization so we have no mandatory dues. However, knowing that we need revenue to accomplish our goals, we ask that each participating household pay \$10 per year.

Leadership

BANA is coordinated by a volunteer Board of Directors consisting of 12 members - 5 of which hold the following offices:

- President
- 1st Vice-President
- 2nd Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Meetings

- **The Board of Directors** meets quarterly, at a board member's home. Everyone is invited to attend Board meetings.
- **The general meetings** are held twice per year - once in the spring and once in the summer.
- **All meeting notices** and locations are announced by posting signs at various

intersections in the neighborhood, delivery of the newsletter and posting on the website.

Committees

BANA has the following standing committees and also forms special committees as needed: (Committee chairs keep the Board notified of new information)

- Welcome/Membership
- VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools)
- Crime Watch/Public Safety
- Holiday Decorations
- Good Neighbors
- Civic Affairs
- Neighborhood Enhancement

Communications

- **Website:** BANA's website it is located at: <http://www.briarwoodlr.org/>
The website is an excellent source of updated information, photographs, maps, etc.
- **Newsletter:** *The Briar Patch* is also an excellent source of news. It is published quarterly, shortly before each meeting and is distributed by hand to neighborhood residents and the free newspaper stand at Kroger. It keeps the area updated on various topics of interest, committee issues and meeting information.

The Briar Patch
Briarwood Neighborhood Association Newsletter
7700 Apache Road
Little Rock, AR 72205