



## Newsletter of Baytowne West Homeowners Association

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Once again we are back. In an effort to keep our homeowners and tenants informed we will be publishing a newsletter approximately every 3 months and distributing it via email. If you do not wish to receive this email please contact the board and we will remove your name from our list. Furthermore, if

you have something that you think would be of interest for our community, please contact us and we will do our best to include it on our next edition.



Have you seen the improvements at the pool? Several of our homeowners replaced the old countertop with a nice new tile one, and the fans and lighting have been replaced. Many thanks to Gary Lisowy and Richie Ingram for the much needed cleanup of the bathrooms and cleanup of the chairs. They do a great job of maintaining the whole pool area. FYI, the area outside the pool walls will be sprayed for insect control. Hopefully this will cut down on some of the small ants scurrying around the deck.



Just a reminder about something which seems to be a perennial problem. Please check to make sure the trash you are tossing actually goes into the bins. It only takes a second to open the gates and make sure the lids are open before disposal of trash or doggie bags. If a container is full, there are containers at both ends of Brighton Ct., the ends of Kittery and Cadhay, as well as the main container on Wickford St. Don't try to stuff in "just one more bag". Trash that falls on the ground gets left there by the town trash collectors and remains there until one of your neighbors picks it up. Also do NOT leave large items outside the containers. If you call the Safety Harbor DPW(727-724-1550) They will make arrangements to pick up any item. Electronic items and chemicals may be taken to the Pinellas County HEC3 site. Call 727-464-7500 for directions. Disposal is easy and there is no charge!

**What Can I Do About the Zika Virus?** All this information about the Zika virus and it's spread to the area is pretty scary. One thing we can all do is check around our yards for empty flower pots that collect water in our yards. Even a small amount of standing water provides a breeding ground for mosquitos. Empty pots and turn them upside down to prevent unintentional collection of water. Dispose of any pots you will not use. Keep roof gutters clean and free of debris. Birdbaths are an excellent breeding area for mosquitos, but you don't have to get rid of them. Available at most garden

centers is a **non toxic** substance called Baccillus Thuringiensis. I was able to get it at Lowes in an item called Mosquito Dunks. Simply follow product directions and it will keep your birdbaths mosquito free without harming birds or other wildlife.

## Reminder for all pet owners



Owners are responsible to immediately clean up after their dogs when they relieve themselves anywhere in the community—including the sidewalk area outside the shrubs along Marshall and Phillippe. If you walk your dog at night it is a simple thing to carry a small flashlight so that once again one of your neighbors do not have to clean up after you. Small LED lights are available at any Dollar Store. Anyone spotted not picking up after their dog is subject to a \$100 fine for the first offense.

## Right plant for the community

There are many plants that are sold in garden centers that are actually on the invasive plant species list. We have some of them growing right here in our community. Among the problem species are the common pothos, Mexican petunias, sword ferns, and Wandering Jew. All of these plants spread very easily and while we won't deny the right to plant them, we ask that when you do use these plants, they are enclosed by edging and must be maintained within that confined area. Pothos is particularly difficult in that it will climb any wall (including our stucco buildings) or trees where they grow to a huge size, making trees subject to storm damage with the added weight. We ask that you plant it only in hanging pots, not in the ground.



## Volunteers Needed

We are in **real need** of volunteers to serve on the ACC Committee. There are many separate jobs to be done by this committee and we have tried to split them up among the committee members so that no one gets overwhelmed by the scope of work involved. Those members report to one chairperson who records information in our community data base, and sends out violation letters and other correspondence as necessary. All members are asked to participate in monthly Community walkabouts to make sure the community rules are followed by all homeowners. Many hands make light work. Jan DuPont will be leaving as chair of the committee at the end of the month and we are in need of someone willing to fill that position. All homeowners and tenants are able to serve. Please think carefully about this....the alternative to this committee is hiring a management company to do this work. It is my understanding this was tried years ago with unsatisfactory results. Keep in mind, the cost of the management company would have to be funded by an increase in HOA fees. Please call the community answering service and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

## To Audit or Not to Audit????

At our last annual meeting the question was asked about the necessity of having an independent audit done on our community financials. Following is a letter from Khanh Lowery from our accounting firm explaining why she feels that an audit is not necessary at this time. None of the board members has direct access to community funds and all money is spent only with majority approval from the board. All checks issued by the accountant for expenses must be signed by at least two board members. Please take time to read this letter so that when the issue comes up again at next year's meeting we can all be better informed.