

STRATFORD PLACE

Homeowners' Association

NEWSLETTER



Volume 8 Issue 1

Letter From Your Immediate Past President...

Dear Neighbors,

The Whiten family wishes each of you a Happy New Year. Our hope and prayer for each neighbor is that God will continue to bless and prosper you and your household. Our hope and prayer for the neighborhood is increased participation of our neighbors in the business of our subdivision and closer relations between neighbors as we work to protect, preserve, and enhance our community.

First let me thank my neighbors for entrusting me with the leadership of our Association this past year. Thanks also to the officers and block captains who worked diligently to assist in conducting the business of Stratford Place. Serving as your president has been a labor of love for me. I love Stratford Place and have tried this past year with some success to update our homeowners' information, increase dues collection, interest and attendance at our meetings and functions, and reactive committees. While there was some success, there was much left incomplete or undone. Our Annual Picnic was cancelled due to the inability to muster enough support. The Lighting of Luminaries during Christmas was also cancelled due to inclement weather and most of our committees are still inactive. I view these as stumbling blocks that offer us the opportunity to regroup and rise to higher heights in 2010. On January 28th our first Association Meeting for 2010 was held and officers for this year were elected. Our newly elected officers are enthusiastic, full of ideas and plans, and are anxious to get to work for Stratford Place. As your outgoing president, I remain committed to working to help our neighborhood remain one of Baton Rouge's "Prime Sought-After Real Estate Areas." As I exit the presidency, I pledge to continue to play an active role in our Association. I challenge all past presidents and officers to rekindle your commitment to Stratford Place by volunteering to chair or co-chair a committee. I also challenge every neighbor who attended meetings in 2009 to be present at meetings in 2010 and to bring at least one neighbor with you to each meeting. Our Association will only be as strong as and productive as our individual involvement and commitment. Milliard Fuller says that "for a community to be whole and healthy, it must be based on people's love and concern for each other." Stratford Place is full of caring – concerned folk who have confined themselves to their homes. Fuller's definition implies that there must be a shared vision, a plan, action, and interaction among these caring people. I think President Lyndon B. Johnson described it best when he said, "it is a place where every member has a right to belong. It should be a place where every man feels safe on his streets and in the house of his friends. It should be a place where each individual's dignity and self-respect is strengthened by the respect and affection of his neighbors. It should be a place where each of us can find the satisfaction and warmth which comes from being a member of the community of man. This is what man sought at the dawn of civilization. It is what we seek today." Stratford Place, Today, we still have these expectations. **WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!!!**

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work with and serve you. I look forward to seeing each and every resident of Stratford Place at meetings in 2010.

Gloria Horton –Whiten

2010 STRATFORD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

Dr. Clarence Johnson.....President
Gary Ross.....Vice President
Gwendolyn Farris.....Secretary
William Farris.....Treasurer
Dr. Geraldine Johnson.....Editor
Gloria Whiten.....Block Captains Chair

Thanks...Merci...Gracias!!!!

Again, I would like to thank the 2009 Officers and Block Captains who brainstormed, planned, and worked so diligently as part of my administration. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Stratford Place.

A huge "Thank You" goes out to Samuel and Pastor Pollie Johnson for opening their home to us for our meetings, the delicious foods they provided, and the warm and friendly manner they received us. Thank You and God Bless.

A special "Thank You" to Dr. Geraldine Johnson who graciously volunteered to take on the task of updating our Directory contact information and for setting up our database.

Thank you Gary Ross for the tireless, excellent service you volunteer to maintain our entrance and keep it looking attractive. Also thanks for helping with the Holiday Decorations.

Thanks to Agnes Andrews, Wanda Yates, and Sherman Whiten who also assisted in decorating our entrances for the Holidays.

Thanks to Jennie Hulbert for chairing our Christmas Caroling.

Thanks to Judge Trudy White for hosting our Christmas Social at her lovely home. We had a grand time. Also thanks to all the neighbors who donated food, drinks, and gifts to help make this a memorable affair.

Last, but by no means least, I have to thank my husband, Sherman Whiten, who has served as Block Captains Chair for more years than I can count. This year he opted to relinquish this position, but will continue to serve as a Block Captain. On behalf of all of the residents I would like to thank him for his years of service, the time, energy, commitment, and the support he has provided to Stratford Place. I also thank him for allowing me to take on the Presidency and for all of the support and wisdom he offered.

STATEMENT FROM YOUR 2010 PRESIDENT

I AM CLARENCE JOHNSON JR., PRESIDENT OF THE STRATFORD PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION FOR THE 2010 YEAR. I DON'T PLAN FOR US TO MAKE DRASTIC CHANGES TO OUR BELOVED NEIGHBORHOOD. SOME CHANGES MAY BE NECESSARY TO ENHANCE THE OPERATIONS OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION. SOMETIMES WE NEED TO LOOK BACK TO GO FORWARD, IN THAT I AM SURE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN MANY GOOD IDEAS IN THE PAST THAT MAY NEED TO BE REVISITED. JUST LAST YEAR A NUMBER OF GOOD IDEAS WERE ADVANCED FOR OUR BENEFITS. I HEARD US WHEN WE MET CONCERNED ABOUT BREAK-INS. I HEARD US WHEN WE SAID THAT WE NEED TO INCREASE PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS. I HEARD US SAY THAT WE WILL NEED TO INCREASE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD ANNUAL DUES. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOU AND ME MAKING ADJUSTMENTS TO A COMMUNITY OF CARING INDIVIDUALS. STRATFORD PLACE NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION CARES ABOUT FAMILIES, NEIGHBORS AND ALL PROPERTIES WITHIN OUR BOUNDARIES. PLEASE JOIN ME AND THE REST OF OUR TEAM TO ADVANCE PAST GOOD TRADITIONS AND DEVELOP NEW GOOD TRADITIONS FOR OUR WELL ESTABLISHED NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION. PLEASE COME AND BRING AT LEAST ONE NEIGHBOR WITH YOU TO OUR NEXT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING.

CLARENCE JOHNSON JR.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The balance in the Association's account with Chase as of 1-28-10 is \$1,146.49. 2009 Treasurer, Valerie Moore, was unable to attend the 1-28-2010 Meeting, but will present a full written end of the year report.

DUES REMINDER

2010 Homeowners' Dues of \$30.00 are now due and payable to Treasurer, William Farris or may be mailed to our Post Office Box 80691 – BR, LA 70898.

NEIGHBORS' INPUT & UPDATES

If you have topics you would like addressed or speakers you would like to invite to our meetings, please forward that information to one of the officers. If there is hard copy information you would like to share with your neighbors or attach to the Newsletter, please submit 150 copies to the President or Vice President.

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In an attempt to plan programs and activities that our neighbors will support this year, we are requesting your input. Please give us your suggestions, name, and contact number.

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  4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_
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### !!!!!!!!!! WE NEED YOU !!!!!!!!!!!

#### Neighbors Are Needed To Work The Following Committees

- Architectural Review
- Hospitality
- Neighborhood Watch Committee
- Restrictions/Bylaws Review
- Sick/Bereavement
- Stratford Walkers
- Yard of the Month/Beautification

If you are interested please contact your President or Vice President

### BLOCK CAPTAINS

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING AS A BLOCK CAPTAIN FOR YOUR BLOCK, PLEASE CONTACT GLORIA WHITEN AT 225-955-4853 OR 225-928-4530 OR [MISSGLORIA1986@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MISSGLORIA1986@YAHOO.COM)

## **OUR CONDOLENCES**

We extend our deepest sympathies to families who have recently lost loved ones.

## **GET WELL SOON**

To all neighbors who are ill or feeling a little under the weather, we wish you a speedy recovery. Please contact your Block Captain and let us know if there is anything the Association can do to assist you.

## **BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS**

Happy Birthday and Anniversary wishes are extended to all neighbors who celebrated a birthday and/or anniversary during November and December 2009 and January 2010. We hope that you enjoy many more and wish you health, wealth and wedded bliss.