

October 2010, Volume 8 Issue 4

STRATFORD PLACE

Homeowners' Association

NEWSLETTER



Communication from President

Hi Neighbors,

We have come to that time in the year where as the temperature is dropping. Let us not drop our enthusiasm for our Stratford Place Homeowners Association which was featured by Annabelle M. Armstrong in her recently (2010) published book (Historic Neighborhoods in Baton Rouge). Featured in the book are current residents: Pam Hutchinson, former president of our homeowners association, Eli Guillory for his early work on the entrance and Dr. Gary Ross for his famous butterfly garden at our entrance. This book is a must read for those wanting to learn of our past and its comparison to the past of other neighborhoods in Baton Rouge, LA. Our neighborhood was described in the book as "An Area Of Hidden Harmony: Stratford Place". Our present is still an envy of others here in Baton Rouge. We are daring to continue the legacy for our bright future.

We now have our first website at www.stratfordplacebr.com developed by our webmaster (Christopher Rogers) with input from his son (Christopher II) and Gail Coleman, our former newsletter editor. Please take time to visit the site. Get comments on present links, other links that you would like to see, and corrections to our webmaster as soon as possible.

The next Stratford Place Homeowners Association meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. Samuel and Pastor Pollie Johnson at 5531 Stratford Avenue. At that meeting, we will be electing new officers for 2011. All persons willing to serve our neighborhood are asked to be present along with all of us concerned with the future of our neighborhood. I have requested that a person from the office of public works meet with us at this meeting. I am awaiting a response from public works. Save the date and remind others of the significance of the meeting. We (Stratford Place Homeowners Association) are less without your presence and participation at our meetings. We need you and your input at our meetings.

We are the neighborhood. Neighborhoods are described as good neighborhoods or bad neighborhoods. Presently, we are viewed by our peers as being a good neighborhood. It is easy to be a bad neighborhood by not being concerned. However, to remain a good neighborhood we must work together for the benefit of all. "This is the sum of all – righteousness. In causing pleasure or in giving pain, in doing good or injury to others, a man obtains a proper rule of action by looking at his neighbor as himself." *The Mahabhart*



Social Clubs

Several neighbors have expressed interest in starting two social clubs: bid whist card club and a book club. If you are interested in becoming involved in either one, please let me know.

New Neighbors

We extend a heartfelt welcome to our new neighbors: Bob and Gail *Johnson* and William and Christy *Keesler*. Both families live on Stratford.

Highlights from October 10, 2010 Neighborhood Meeting

The discussion on how to handle the homes that were in disrepair and the many vacant homes continued. It was suggested that a call be made to the Department of Public Works about the potholes. If you are aware of any vacant homes, please send the addresses of the homes to William Farris {wcfarris@cox.net}. Concerning the homes that are in disrepair, letters will be sent to the homeowners expressing our concerns and requesting a response on their intentions to take care of the disrepair. If you are aware of any homes that are in disrepair, please send the addresses to Gerri Johnson.

Please let a member of the Welcome Committee [Clarence Johnson {cjohnplant@bellsouth.net}, Sam Johnson {samjerome@aol.com}, and Gene Rosby {g442r@yahoo.com}] know of any new people who have moved into our neighborhood.

The next Neighborhood Association Meeting will be 5:30 p.m., January 9, 2011 at the home of Samuel and Pastor Pollie Johnson on Stratford.

Differences Between a Nice Neighborhood and a Bad Neighborhood



NICE NEIGHBORHOOD:

Every block has nice cars

BAD NEIGHBORHOOD:

Every nice car is up on blocks

NICE NEIGHBORHOOD:

Kids set up lemonade stands

BAD NEIGHBORHOOD:

Kids set up ammo stands

NICE NEIGHBORHOOD:

If you dial 911, the police say, "We'll be right there."

BAD NEIGHBORHOOD:

If you dial 911, the police say, "What—you again?"



Halloween Trick or Treaters!

If you do not want trick or treaters visiting your home, please turn your lights off!

Treasurers' Report

Number	Names	Amount	Dates	Notes
	Balance brought forward	\$692.32	1/29/2010	
1051	Entergy	(\$27.93)	2/17/2010	Date on Check 1/17/10
1052	Gloria Whiten	(\$51.01)	2/17/2010	Newsletter printing. Date on Check 1/17/10
Drafter	Baton Rouge Water	(\$6.06)	2/12/2010	
	Deposit	\$305.00	1/29/2010	
	Deposit	\$30.00	2/17/2010	
	Deposit	\$120.00	2/22/2010	
	Deposit	\$210.00	3/3/2010	
Drafted	Baton Rouge Water	(\$8.56)	3/13/2010	Water
	Service Fee	(\$12.00)	2/26/2010	Checking
	Deposit	\$90.00	3/12/2010	
1053	Entergy	(\$34.38)	3/22/2010	Electric
1054	William C. Farris	(\$189.05)	3/22/2010	Copies for handouts
	Deposit	\$120.00	3/23/2010	
Drafted	Baton Rouge Water	(\$8.56)	4/11/2010	Water
	Deposit	\$270.00	3/29/2010	
1056	William C. Farris	(\$56.29)	4/1/2010	Copies for handouts
	Service Fee	(\$12.00)	3/31/2010	Checking
	Deposit	\$210.00	4/8/2010	
1057	Entergy	(\$31.37)	4/10/2010	Electric
1061	Marcus Barnardez	(\$121.00)	4/13/2010	Trim & Clean flower bed at entry & chemical
	Deposit	\$330.00	4/15/2010	
	Deposit	\$160.00	4/22/2010	

Number	Names	Amount	Dates	Notes
	Service Fee	(\$14.00)	4/30/2010	Checking
	Deposit	\$120.00	5/3/2010	
	Deposit	\$150.00	5/6/2010	
Drafted	Baton Rouge Water	(\$16.58)	5/11/2010	Water
1062	Entergy	(\$31.87)	5/13/2010	Electric
	Deposit	\$60.00	5/13/2010	
	Deposit	\$60.00	5/24/2010	
	Service Fee	(\$14.00)	5/28/2010	Checking
	Deposit	\$90.00	6/7/2010	
1063	Vallery Moore	(\$57.72)	6/7/2010	Food for picnic (chicken)
1061	Susan Thornton	(\$267.26)	6/7/2010	Food for picnic
1059	James Varnado	(\$149.96)	6/7/2010	Spacewalk & propane for picnic
1060	Fred Sibley	(\$213.45)	6/7/2010	Crawfish & Ice for picnic
	Deposit	\$642.00	6/9/2010	Collected for Picnic (\$664) Paid out (\$688) (\$24.00)
1064	Entergy	(\$29.02)	6/14/2010	Electric
	Baton Rouge Water	(\$14.29)	6/14/2010	Water
	Deposit	\$30.00	6/15/2010	
	Deposit	\$60.00	6/28/2010	
Drafted	Baton Rouge Water	(\$22.31)	7/13/2010	Water
	Service Fee	(\$14.00)	6/30/2010	Checking
	Deposit	\$52.00	7/14/2010	\$22 for picnic
1065	Dr Gary N. Ross	(\$71.62)	7/14/2010	Supplies for entry flower bed
1066	Marcus Barnardez	(\$45.00)	7/14/2010	Weedeating and Chemical application
1067	Christopher Rogers	(\$148.44)	7/27/2010	Website Domain
1068	Postmaster	(\$70.00)	8/3/2010	Mailbox rental for year
1069	Entergy	(\$29.52)	8/3/2010	Electric
Drafted	Baton Rouge Water	(\$14.29)	8/10/2010	Water
	Service Fee	(\$14.00)	7/30/2010	
1070	Entergy	(\$30.79)	8/19/2010	Electric
	Baton Rouge Water	(\$9.70)	9/13/2010	
1071	Entergy	(\$29.54)	9/29/2010	Electric
	Service Fee	(\$14.00)	8/31/2010	

Number	Names	Amount	Dates	Notes
	Deposit	\$25.00	8/11/2010	My (William Farris) reward dollars
Drafted	Baton Rouge Water	(\$8.56)	10/12/2010	
	Balance	\$1,938.19	10/12/2010	



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 From the Webmaster Chris Rogers

Our domain name is [www.stratfordplacebr.com](http://www.stratfordplacebr.com)

Please send your ideas and suggestions to Chris at [crogers1914@gmail.com](mailto:crogers1914@gmail.com)

**!!!!!!!!!! WE NEED YOU !!!!!!!!!!!**

Neighbors are needed to work on the following committees

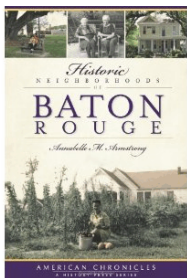
- Architectural Review
- Hospitality
- Neighborhood Watch Committee
- Restrictions/Bylaws Review
- Sick/Bereavement
- Stratford Walkers
- Yard of the Month/Beautification

If you are interested please contact the President (Dr. Clarence Johnson) or Vice President (Dr. Gary Ross).

**CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES**

Mr. Elton Blunt is heading a committee to gather ideas for Christmas Festivities. If you have any ideas or would like to work with Mr. Blunt on this committee, please contact him at: 926-4516 or [ebblunt@brschools.org](mailto:ebblunt@brschools.org)

Our subdivision is described in "Historic Neighborhoods of Baton Rouge" by Annabelle M. Armstrong on pages 65-67. Baton Rouge Gallery's Sundays@4 program hosts Annabelle Armstrong, author of "Historic Neighborhoods of Baton Rouge," on Sunday, Oct. 17 at 4 p.m.



*Baton Rouge is known for its rich history, food, politics, music and universities. Perhaps overlooked are the stories of how this large port city's close-knit neighborhoods have adapted to changes over the years.*

*Beginning in August of 1998, Armstrong spent five years "wandering around" various subdivisions in Louisiana's capital city. In "Historic Neighborhoods of Baton Rouge," Armstrong deftly navigates the evolution of these historic communities, showcasing southern charm and romanticism through firsthand accounts of people who call these places home. Journey back to the beginnings of Hundred Oaks, Capital Heights, University Acres, Wimbledon, Tara, Inniswood, Glenwood, Walnut Hills, **Stratford**, Steele Place, Broussard, Southdowns and many more popular places to settle down.*

**2011 OFFICERS NEEDED**

If you are interested in becoming an officer, please come to the January 2011 meeting.



## 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 Captains and let them 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 August through December 2010. We hope that you enjoy many more and wish you health, wealth and wedded bliss.



**Congratulations to all our December graduates!**

## Lagniappe

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Halloween, celebrated each year on October 31, is a mix of ancient Celtic practices, Catholic and Roman religious rituals and European folk traditions that blended together over time to create the holiday we know today. Straddling the line between fall and winter, plenty and paucity and life and death, Halloween is a time of celebration and superstition. Halloween has long been thought of as a day when the dead can return to the earth, and ancient Celts would light bonfires and wear costumes to ward off these roaming ghosts. The Celtic holiday of Samhain, the Catholic Hallowmas period of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day and the Roman festival of Feralia all influenced the modern holiday of Halloween. In the 19th century, Halloween began to lose its religious connotation, becoming a more secular community-based children's holiday. Although the superstitions and beliefs surrounding Halloween may have evolved over the years, as the days grow shorter and the nights get colder, people can still look forward to parades, costumes and sweet treats to usher in the winter season.



To read more of the "Ancient Origins of Halloween" visit History.com at <http://www.history.com/topics/halloween> or clip on the History.com link.



Thanksgiving Day in America is a time to offer thanks, a time of family gatherings, and of those wonderful holiday meals. A time of turkeys, stuffing, and pumpkin pie, a time of Indian corn, holiday parades and giant balloons.

Throughout history we have celebrated the bountiful harvest with thanksgiving ceremonies. Before formal religions, many farmers believed that their crops contained spirits which could cause the crops to thrive or wither away. Along with that belief, it was also believed that during harvest these spirits would be released and they had to be destroyed or they would take revenge on the farmers who harvested them. Some of the harvest festivals celebrated the defeat of these spirits. These harvest festivals or thanksgiving celebrations were held by the ancient Greeks, the Romans, the Hebrews, the Chinese, and the Egyptians. For more of this story, visit: [http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/78673/a\\_historythe\\_beginnings\\_of\\_thanksgiving.html?cat=74](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/78673/a_historythe_beginnings_of_thanksgiving.html?cat=74)

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the 4th Thursday of November, which this year (2010) is November 25th.

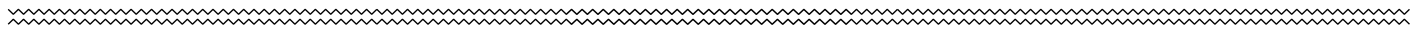
Fall 2010 Holidays

- Birth of the Bab (Baha'i holiday): October 20
- Halloween: October 31
- Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead): November 1
- All Saint's Day: November 1
- All Soul's Day: November 2 •Veterans Day: November 11
- Birth of Baha'u'llah (Baha'i holiday): November 12
- Eid al-Adha: November 16 (Depends on the sighting of the moon in North America)
- Thanksgiving Day (US): Thursday, November 25

Winter 2010 Holidays

- World Aids Day: December 01
- Day Without Art: December 01
- Bodhi Day: December 08
- Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary: December 08 •Chanukah (Begins at Sundown\*): December 01
- Islamic New Year (Al-Hijra - 1432AH): December 07 (Depends on the sighting of the moon in North America)
- Christmas Day: December 25
- Kwanzaa: December 26 - January 01, 2011
- Boxing Day: December 26

\*Because the Jewish day begins and ends at sundown, holidays begin at sundown.



**2010 Leadership Team**

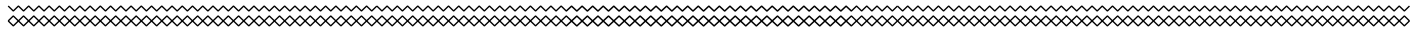
- Clarence Johnson, Jr. . . . . President
- Gary Ross . . . . . Vice President
- William Farris . . . . . Treasurer
- Charlisa Holmes . . . . . Secretary
- Gloria Whiten . . . . . Block Captains Chair
- Gerri Johnson . . . . . Editor
- Chris Rogers . . . . . Webmaster
- Michael Morris . . . . . Safety Committee
- Gene Rosby . . . . . Stratford Walkers
- Pastor Pollie Johnson & Margie Martin . . . . . Sick and Bereavement Committee

*Please keep Pastor Pollie (926-6530) or Margie (926-7645) aware of any neighbors who are under the weather or who have lost a loved one.*



**Next Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be published after our January 9, 2011 Neighborhood Association Meeting. Please let your Block Captain or the Editor know of any news you want included in the newsletter.



**Dues Reminder**

If you have not paid your 2010 Homeowners' dues - please do so. Make your \$30.00 annual dues payable to "Stratford Place Homeowners Association." The dues can be sent to Treasurer William Farris, 5316 Stratford Avenue or mailed to Post Office Box 80691 - Baton Rouge, LA 70898.

**Dues for 2011 are due January 1, 2011.**