Happy July Fellow Neighbors!

Well, we are finally getting our afternoon rains, which means Summer is here! It’s amazing how quickly the lakes fill up and the landscaping turns green. Here in our Basset Creek community we are finally seeing our new monument nearing completion. We are also seeing some improvements going in at the Amenity Center. And speaking of the Amenity Center, I hope you all mark you calendars for August 5th. Your HOA will be hosting the annual “Back to School Celebration.” There will be fun for the kids, but you don’t need to have young kids to come on out and enjoy the day with the rest of your community. There will be free food provided and all Basset Creek residents are invited. We hope to see you there!

I would also like to announce a change in our HOA Board of Directors. Vicki Shuster has decided to step down as one of our HOA Board of Directors. Vicki will continue to be involved with the community via her role as CDD Supervisor. Please join me in thanking Vicki for her dedication and commitment to our community. Please also join me in welcoming Kathy Michel to the HOA Board. Kathy has graciously agreed to assume the role as Treasurer for the HOA Board of Directors. Welcome Kathy!

My best to all of you,
Melinda Morales, President, Board of Directors
Basset Creek Homeowners Association

Key Contacts ...

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813-600-5090, Ext. 3

K-Bar Ranch CDD Management
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TECO – street light outages
https://secure.tampaelectric.com/tampaelectricsecure/forms/residential/streetlightout/813-223-0800

Hillsborough County Solid Waste Management

City of Tampa
Customer Service
https://apps.tampagov.net/appl_customer_service_center/813.274.8211

Acronyms: HOA = Home Owners Association
CDD = Community Development District
ARC = Architectural Review Committee
CCRs = Covenants, Conditions, Restrictions
2017 Events …
(Mark your Calendars! Fliers will be distributed as planned events are finalized.)

Saturday, 3/25/17  - Completed
Basset Creek Book Drive. All donated books, DVDs, and CD’s will go to the Friends of the New Tampa Library

Saturday, 4/22/17  - Completed
Spring Nature Walk and Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, 5/20/17  - Completed
K-Bar Ranch Community Garage Sale

Saturday, 6/3/17  - Cancelled
Pot Luck in honor of World Culture Day

Saturday, 8/5/17
Back to School Celebration

Saturday, 10/28/17
Fall Festival Pot Luck and Costume Contest

Saturday, 12/16/17 and 12/21/17 “Community of Light” celebrating the Winter Solstice

Events will be hosted at the Community Center unless otherwise indicated on Event Fliers.

2017 HOA Meetings …

1-25-17—Complete  HOA Board Meeting
2-27-17—Complete  HOA Board Meeting
5-2-17—Complete  HOA Board Meeting
7-18-17  HOA Board Meeting
10-17-17  HOA Board Meeting

Note: If needed, additional meetings may be added with 48 hours notice to homeowners. We plan to hold all meetings at the New Tampa Library. However, make sure you check the each meeting notice in case a change has been made.

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From our Basset Creek HOA Management Company …

• Reminder: While the roadways are public, we ask all homeowners to be considerate regarding where you park so that you don’t block a driveway, sidewalk, or make it difficult for another homeowner to get out of their driveway or to pass through the roadway. Also, vehicles should be parked in a garage or in the driveway, not blocking the sidewalk. This has been the subject of a few recent complaints.

• Homeowners with pets are reminded that all dogs are required to be on leashes while out in the community.

• Please remember any time a homeowner wishes to make an exterior change or modification to their dwelling, unit, home site or parcel they must apply for and receive written approval from the HOA for any changes or modifications prior to making changes.

Fireworks ...

Everyone looks forward to the Fourth of July holidays, but if you are having a gathering within the Basset Creek community please be aware of the following rule from our Basset Creek CCR’s:

“The pursuit of hobbies or other inherently dangerous activities, including, without limitation, the assembly and disassembly of motor vehicles and other mechanical devices which might cause disorderly, unsightly or unkempt conditions; the shooting of firearms, fireworks or pyrotechnic devices of any type or size; and other such activities shall not be pursued or undertaken on any part of any Lot or the Common Area without the consent of the Developer or the Association.”

Basset Creek Voice

Page 2
Around the Community …

(Here at the Basset Creek Voice we are keeping our ears open about various happenings in our community so that we can pass information along to our homeowners. However, please be aware that some information is not managed by your HOA, so we will identify contacts, if you are interesting in obtaining additional information on any subject.)

- In anticipation of the recent zoning change for Pride Elementary, a few residents recently met with the Principle of the school to discuss anticipated traffic issues that will arise when K-Bar Ranch students finally get to attend their local school. Discussions are in work and our main contacts, Nicole and Dina (see below) are planning to address this issue more with our community, so watch for fliers on this issue.
  (For Info Contact: Nicole Shiber Morris at kirbaciousd@hotmail.com or Dina Martinez at dmarti24@gmail.com).

- Basset Creek Monument. Work has been held up for a few weeks due to changes in construction of the design. The newer design has now been approved and we should see this effort completed in mid-July.
  (Contact: K-Bar Ranch CDD).

- The CDD is looking at the condition on community sidewalks and is looking into potential repairs and cleaning. No final decision made at this point.
  (Contact: K-Bar Ranch CDD).

- The budget process is still going on at CDD meetings. They recently held a workshop, with a few residents in attendance to address their concerns. As part of the budget process K-Bar Ranch homeowners will receive notices regarding any planned increase in CDD costs. If you are concerned about how much you will pay with the new fiscal year, now is the time to pay attention. Many residents don’t pay attention until their costs increase, but that would be too late to be involved with the decision making process. The next CDD Meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2017 and we would like to see many of you in attendance. The CDD budget will be finalized in August.
  (Contact: K-Bar Ranch CDD).

- New Tampa Town Hall. Councilman Viera held a Town Hall this last June with many New Tampa residents in attendance. The big topic of discussion was transportation. Councilman Viera plans to have another Town Hall, perhaps in December, to focus on transportation issues.
  (Contact: New Tampa Council).

- We can hardly dare to believe it, but the City is advising that the Bruce B Downs road widening project (heading toward Bearrs) is close to being completed, and should be opened up this summer.
  (Contact: City of Tampa).

- We are also hearing that the Bruce B Downs road widening project between Pebble Creek and County Line will be completed next summer.
  (Contact: City of Tampa).

- We have also checked on the K-Bar Parkway road opening to Kinlen. It should be opened soon but we are waiting for word from the City.
  (Contact: City of Tampa).

We need your help … We are having an ongoing problem with trash being left around the Amenity Center; in the pool area and in the landscaping, and around the tennis court and basketball court. The CDD is responding by installing a large trash container. There are recording cameras and the CDD is planning to hire personnel who will be located at the Amenity Center to monitor the area.

We are asking all homeowners to help keep our Amenity Center nice by utilizing proper trash receptacles. The Amenity Center is a reflection of our community standards and values. Please help by keeping it clean or reporting any problems. Thank you.
Yard of the Month

Congratulations to Douglas and Maryann Gephart of 19310 Yellow Clover Drive for winning the Basset Creek HOA “Yard of the Month” award for the month of July.

This yard was chosen because it represents the best of our community standards. A “Yard of the Month” sign will be posted throughout the month of June and the lucky homeowners will receive a $50 gift card with the complements of our HOA. Is your yard a candidate for “Yard of the Month?” We’ll see next month ...

When issues arise, many homeowners are unsure who to contact. So here is a list of responsibilities and the responsible parties. If you need to contact one of these organizations, check out the key contact column on Page 1 of this Newsletter:

- Pool Key New & Replacements: HOA
- Violations/Compliance: HOA
- ARC Requests: HOA
- HOA Fees: HOA
- Ponds Maintenance: CDD
- Landscaping in common areas: CDD
- Amenity Center and Pool: CDD
- Pool Key Gate Issues: CDD
- Trees in Common Areas: CDD
- Common Area Sidewalks: City of Tampa
- Sidewalks in front of homes: Homeowners
- Trees in front of homes: Homeowners
- Trees in front of homes (and sides for corner lots): Homeowners
- Street Lights: TECO
- Trash/Recyclable pickup: Hillsborough
- Real Estate Signs: Sign Solutions
- Mailboxes: Creative Mailboxes

Random Acts of Kindness

For the fourth month our Random Acts of Kindness initiative was successfully completed with a handful of residents on each Street within Basset Creek randomly selected to receive one of our Kindness bags.

If you were one of the homeowners who arrived home to one of these bags on your door—congratulations, with our compliments.

To those of you who post pictures and share your experience, thanks. It is so nice to know the HOA’s efforts are appreciated by the homeowners.

Every month the bags and contents will be themed differently but the most important thing about each will be the message of friendship and community spirit.

The July batch of Kindness bags will be out soon!
This month we have more pictures of our Basset Creek wildlife. At left is a little rabbit. It is my first sighting in the two years I’ve lived in the area. Where I lived in California we had rabbits everywhere so it was nice to see this one running around in my back yard.

Another resident captured the alligator sunning him, or herself, next to the smaller lake on Climbing Astor as you approach Mistflower Lane. I’m still pretty new to Florida, which is why they still fascinate me. I’ve named this one Michelle, after one of my friends in California. My California friends all get a kick out of knowing there is an alligator in Florida named after them. Go figure. Of course, I realize that most of you have your own names for the various alligators in the community!

Last of all, I regret to inform you that there have been recent coyote sightings. I used to hear them at night, but with the construction going on for the new development beyond Basset Creek, I haven’t heard them. But it is good to know they are around, especially for those of us who walk pets, so that we can take the necessary precautions. We had tons of these nasty critters in California, and I really hate them because of the way the can ravage our pet community. So beware!

If you have a picture of local critters please share them with the Editor!

Trivia Time  Mark you calendars, and celebrate something fun with these special July Days ...

July 1st—Creative Ice Cream Flavors Day
July 2nd—Disobedience Day
July 6th—National Fried Chicken Day
July 7th—National Strawberry Sundae Day
July 8th—Video Games Day
July 13th—Embrace Your Geekness Day
July 15th—Cow Appreciation Day
July 16th—National Ice Cream Day
July 17th—Global Hug Your Kids Day
July 20th—National Lollipop Day
July 23rd—Parent’s Day
July 29th—National Lesagna Day
July 30th—International Day of Friendship
July 31st—Mutt’s Day
Mosquito Season ...

(Article contributed by Naomi Unnasch) Did you know that not all mosquitoes are the same? Different mosquitoes spread different diseases and bite at different times of the day. Some mosquito species bite during the day, such as those mosquitoes that can spread chikungunya, dengue and Zika viruses. Other species of mosquitoes bite most often at dawn and dusk, including those that can transmit West Nile Virus. Then again, there are those mosquitoes that can live indoors and will bite at any time, day or night.

Use Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered insect repellents when you are outdoors. Use products with active ingredients that are safe and effective. Always follow the product label instructions and do not spray repellent on skin under clothing. If you use sunscreen, put sunscreen on first and insect repellent second. Mosquitoes can bite through thin clothing so treat clothes with permethrin or another EPA-registered insecticide for extra protection. Permethrin is an insecticide that kills mosquitoes and other insects. You can buy permethrin-treated clothing and gear (boots, pants, socks, tents) or use permethrin to treat clothing and gear—but make sure you follow the product instructions closely. Also, read the product information to find out how long the permethrin will last. Do not use permethrin products directly on the skin.

Keep mosquitoes outside. Use air conditioning (and who doesn’t in Florida?!), repair holes in screens, and keep screens on windows.

Stop mosquitoes from breeding. Mosquitoes breed by laying eggs in and near standing water. As little as one teaspoon or bottle cap of water standing for more than one week is enough for mosquitoes to breed and multiply. Around your house, put away any items that are outside and not being used because, with the summer rains, they could hold standing water. Keep flower pots and saucers free of standing water. Some plants hold water in their leaves. Flush out water-holding plants with your hose once a week. At least once a week empty, turn over or cover anything that could hold water. Buckets, toys, pools and pool covers, birdbaths, roof gutters, coolers, pet dishes can be culprits for catching water. If you want more information go to www.cdc.gov/features/StopMosquitoes.

Happiness ...

How many of us constantly search for happiness? Thinking that it lies within our grasp once we “get out of school,” “find that new job,” “marry the right person,” “make lots of money,” or “buy that dream house in the perfect neighborhood,” we equate happiness with some external goal. The problem with that logic is that happiness is not an external event and if an external event leads to a sense of happiness, it doesn’t last long.

If, once we get out of school, we feel happy, it quickly is replaced by a desire to get a good job in order to be “really” happy. Then when the job comes around, it’s the perfect marriage that will do it, then the car, house, family...on and on until ultimately we spend more time chasing happiness than actually experiencing it. Why is that?

The key to finding lasting happiness is to realize that, like love and kindness, compassion and caring, it is not a “thing” that can be found. Lasting happiness is an active process that usually results when we put the needs and desires of others ahead of our own. Think about it. Were not the times you felt the deepest sense of happiness the times when you did something nice for someone else? During the holidays we buy gifts for those we care about and we experience happiness in that giving. However, it isn’t just when the person opens the gift that we feel a sense of happiness, doesn’t it exist throughout the entire process of finding the right gift, acquiring it, wrapping it, and waiting to give it? Of course it does, because that process is an expression of how we feel about the other person: we are putting their feelings ahead of our own and it makes us happy.

So if we can change the way we think about lasting happiness and realize that it is often the result of an active process of being kind, thoughtful, caring and considerate of others. We can then begin to understand that happiness is truly a way of traveling through life and not the result of reaching some final destination or goal.

Begin this new way of experiencing happiness by doing something nice for your neighbor, volunteer your time to a charitable cause, or even just let that person into your lane when you’re stuck on the freeway...putting others first is the best way to travel through life if you really want to be happy!
Be a Good Neighbor ...

(10 good reasons to leash your dog)

Virtually every community HOA has rules about a leashing dogs. Our rules require that dogs be kept on a leash at all times when on public or common property. While on private property, dogs must be under the control of their owners. The intent of these rules are to protect the health and safety of the public and to protect your pet. The use of a leash will benefit you, your neighborhood, and your pet. Yes, there are many good reasons to keep your dog on a leash.

1. It’s a great good neighbor policy, preventing your dog from trespassing on neighbor’s property during your walk. It also keeps your dog from jumping on people you encounter, ensuring that your dog has the chance of being properly introduced.

2. Improved companionship. A well trained and leash-obedient dog is a pleasure to walk with.

3. Walking your pet on a leash will prevent the spread of disease. It is less likely that your dog will be exposed to Parvo or Distemper. A leashed dog can be restrained from sniffing the droppings of other animals.

4. A leash is commonly referred to as “Your Pet’s Lifeline,” protecting your pet from traffic and unrestrained animals. Accidents or animal bites are greatly reduced when responsible pet owners obey the leash law.

5. An obedient and well behaved dog is a positive reflection of its owner.

6. Re-locating your dog into another household is 100% easier if your dog is obedient and leash trained.

7. It’s a great way to reward your dog. Your dog will immediately respond with a wagging tail the moment he or she sees you holding the leash.

8. It’s a great identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner, and enabling someone who sees the leash and identification tag attached to the dog’s collar to find you if you and your pet should become separated.

9. It’s a great relief to wildlife, keeping your dog from chasing squirrels, deer and other wildlife.

10. It’s the law! The law is in place to protect other members of the public and your pet from injury.

Be a good neighbor. Be a good friend. Use a leash.

We have Standards...

Note: For additional rules and information, our Basset Creek HOA Book of Standards for Community Living can be accessed from our HOA Website.

We have two reminders this month:

1. Garbage cans shall not be placed outside for pick up earlier than 6 pm the night before scheduled pick up and empty containers shall be removed from sight the same day as pick up. All food refuse shall be placed in an appropriate covered trash receptacle to avoid attack from animals. The Association does not limit the number of covered trash receptacles that are placed at the curb. Plastic garbage bags are NOT considered an appropriate trash receptacle for trash containing food refuse. Plastic bags may ONLY be used for lawn and landscape or similar trash.

2. No clotheslines are permitted in the community.

We appreciate your help in keeping the community clean and attractive for all homeowners to enjoy!
Upcoming HOA Event …

One of our most popular events is coming up on Saturday, August 5th!

Mark your calendar and bring the whole family out and enjoy our “Back to School Celebration.”

This event will be held at the Amenity Center from 12:00pm to 4:00pm.

Back by popular demand will be Magic Mike, and we will have a Bounce Hose with a Water Slide for the kids to enjoy.

Your Basset Creek Homeowners Association will provide free hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and waters.

We will have an ice cream truck on site so that you can purchase ice cream.

Come on out, get to know your HOA Board of Directors, and let’s have some fun!

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sales. Explore, Dream, Discover—Mark Twain

Homeowner Businesses and Services

Do you have a business or service you would like to share with your community? If so, contact the Basset Creek Voice Editor with your information and we will publish it here.

Disclaimer: Information on homeowner businesses and services is listed as a community service. However, the Basset Creek HOA makes no representations or endorsements regarding these listings.