

PARKS OF DUTCHTOWN

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Monthly Sponsors

We would like to offer the availability to advertise businesses owned by Parks of Dutchtown residents (or the businesses you work for). You can “sponsor” the newsletter for \$75.00 and we can have up to 4 sponsors per newsletter. The \$75.00 per spot will be used for the printing of the newsletter and for social events held in the subdivision for our homeowners. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to advertise. Spots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Every Two Weeks Doesn't Cut It

The source of many homeowner complaints this year is in regards to neighbors maintaining their lawns. Given the heat of Louisiana summers and the time we make for vacations and family gatherings this can become a daunting task. Here are some things your neighbors expect:

Mowing - Mow yards weekly. During the rain and sun we receive in our tropical summers, the grass grows quickly. Weekly mowing maintains a visual aesthetic our neighborhood strives for. Taking pride in ones lawn boosts property values and shows we care about where we live. Not to mention when performed weekly it is easier to get the job done without your lawn mower bogging down with all the grass it has to cut.

Edging - Edging the grass along the curb gives a nice finished look to the lawn. Lawns which don't have grass growing down the curb look cared for and reflect a homeowner's level of care in their home. Granted this does not need to be performed weekly but

should be performed periodically to properly maintain ones yard. If you have a contractor that cuts your yard, please ask this service of them.

Flower Bed Maintenance - Periodic weeding and trimming of vegetation is a must. With Louisiana's tropical climate flower beds can look like jungles before too long. This too reflects on ones care and pride they take in their neighborhood and their home.

Removal of Clippings - With the high volume of grass being cut in your yard due to all the growth the grass clippings can become unsightly when drifted into the street and on your driveway. One simple easy trick professional maintenance companies use is to just blow the clippings right back on to the lawn, within a day they wilt and blend to your lawn and keep the paved surfaces looking neat and clean. If you have a contractor that cuts your yard, please ask this service of them.

These are some of the basic maintenance practices that need to be performed on lawns to keep the nice manicured look this neighborhood strives for. Remember, our

lawns directly reflect how we take care of our properties and how we feel about where we live. Also remember when planning your vacation plan your yard maintenance while you are away.

In addressing the many complaints homeowners have made about some of the yards lacking in their maintenance, fines have been issued to homeowners that do not maintain their property. Additionally a contractor has been hired to perform maintenance on some of those lawns that are not being maintained properly. This will continue as it has been a source of many complaints from our neighbors. If you see a lawn that needs attention, please don't assume the board is aware of it, just send a courteous email to the board with any issues you may see.





The key to staying safe in a storm is being prepared!



ARE YOU READY?

It's critical for you to be ready for severe weather here in south Louisiana. Hurricane season officially started June 1st but with the increasing temperatures the water in the Gulf is ready to fuel any tropical system. The key to being ready for hurricanes and other severe weather is to be prepared and have a game plan. First on the plan is to put together an emergency kit. Your kit should include things like:

- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Bottled water (3 gallons/person)
- Battery powered radio & lantern (or candles)
- First aid kit & prescription meds
- Form of ID & social security cards
- Evacuation route maps
- Canned food & non-electric can opener
- High energy foods—Peanut butter, jelly, crackers, etc.
- Vitamins
- Special items for infants or elderly/disabled family
- Utility knife, wrench, pliers
- Paper, pencil, tape, compass
- Extra glasses/sunglasses
- Soap & other personal hygiene items
- Plastic garbage bags
- Pet food
- Protective clothing, rainwear
- Clothing and bedding: a

change of clothes, footwear and a sleeping bag or bedroll and pillow for each household member

- Car keys and keys to the place you may be going (friend's or relative's home)
- Written instructions on how to turn off electricity, gas and water if authorities advise you to do so (Remember, you'll need a professional to turn them back on.)

Important papers to take with you in a portable, waterproof container:

- Proof of residence (deed or lease)
- Insurance policies
- Birth and marriage certificates
- Stocks, bonds and other negotiable certificates
- Wills, deeds, and copies of recent tax returns

Once a storm watch or warning has been issued be sure you have made a personal evacuation plan and gotten car fuel. *Protect your home by:*

- Bring things indoors.
- Leave trees and shrubs alone.
- Look for potential hazards.
- Turn off electricity and water.
- Leave natural gas on.
- Turn off propane gas service.
- If flooding is expected, consider using sand bags to keep water away from your

home.

- Damage happens when wind gets inside a home through a broken window, door, or damaged roof.
- Cover windows with shutters or plywood. Using tape is not recommended.

Protect your valuables by:

- Moving objects that may get damaged to safe areas of your home.
- Making a list of all household possessions and place the document in your waterproof container.

Prepare for those with special needs by planning for an evacuation. Electrical outages may be fatal for those with medical needs.

Prepare for your pets by including them in your game plan. Make sure:

- Your pet is up to date on immunizations and has proper identification on his/her collar.
- Pets also need enough food and water to last 3 days.

And finally stay informed on the storm. Make sure you:

- Have enough batteries to last a few days and tune to a local radio station.
- Can receive updates via text/email by signing up at [Alertsense](http://Alertsense.com) or Twitter

The key to staying safe in a storm is to be prepared. For more information on storm preparedness please visit the following website: getagameplan.org



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BACK TO SCHOOL BASICS

August means hot weather, hurricanes, and back to school. For a strong start to a successful school year, be sure you and your child are prepared before August 11th. One of the first things to do is buy new school supplies. Be sure to check the ads in the paper for the best deals on certain materials. Remember also that Wal-Mart matches any competitors price on the same product so if you plan on doing your shopping at the supercenter, plan ahead by looking through competitors ads so you can get the best price.

School uniforms are required for all public schools in the parish. These can be purchased anywhere from Wal-Mart or Target to stores in the mall like Aeropostale and Hollister. When purchasing a uniform be sure there are no logos on the shirts (like the polo logo) and pants and shorts only have the four standard pockets and are not considered cargo or carpenter style. Skirts and shorts should be no more than 3 inches above the kneecap. Any and all sweat-shirts must be approved by the

school (either the same solid color as the uniform shirt or one with the school logo or sport team).

Remember to send lunch money to school with your child or help pack him/her a healthy lunch. Food fuels the brain so a well balanced breakfast is also an imperative start to the day.

If your child plans on riding the bus make sure you know what time the bus comes and where it stops.

On the first day your child should start getting used to writing down his/her assignments in a planner. This simple form of organization helps set a student up for success. As a parent, check your child's planner each day and have them check off when they complete an assignment. Every school has an open house once school begins so take the time to visit with their teachers and inform them of special needs your child may have. Staying organized is the key to success, especially once students have more than one teacher and class. Some important things you'll need to keep your child organized in-

clude:

- A binder or notebook with dividers
- A planner/calendar to write down assignments and due dates for tests/projects.
- A pencil bag to store pens, pencils, scissors, markers, and a glue stick
- An open communication with teachers and administration. Teachers want your child to be successful too so the more open the lines of communication are between you, the more help your child can receive!

Using these tips and being there for your child from the beginning will ensure the school year to start off and continue to be a successful one!

For more information on Ascension parish school guidelines and policies please visit their website at apsb.org.



CONGRATS!

Congratulations to Dawn and Paul Roy who are celebrating their wedding anniversary on August 13th.



Please notify the HOA if there is another resident who has great news to share so we can include them in the next newsletter!

When was the last time a workout changed your life?



There are many ways to stay in shape, but martial arts is the one activity that truly changes lives.

Maybe you are looking to improve your strength, speed and stamina.

Maybe you want to learn better ways to cope with the things that matter most in your life.

Or, maybe you just want to develop more confidence....the ability to handle yourself in any situation.

Whatever your goal, the martial arts can help you achieve it. That's why we say....

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**Call us today to schedule your FREE classes!
225-313-6849**

Mark Your Calendars!

HOA meeting Tuesday, August 10; 7:00pm at the ASP library on HWY 73

August Back to School Social Saturday, August 28; 5:00pm at the pool

Board of Directors*

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Vice President **Ernest Brown**

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*Please note, board members are volunteers and have their own full time jobs and families. Please be courteous to them and utilize email as your primary communication with them. If you must speak to a board member in person please respect their privacy and make an appointment to meet with them at a mutually agreeable time and place to avoid unnecessary disruption to their families.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



Lunch-box "Handwiches"

What you'll need:

- 1 loaf (1 pound) frozen bread dough, thawed
- 2-1/2 cups finely chopped fully cooked lunchmeat (ham or turkey work the best)
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded cheese (like swiss or cheddar)
- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tablespoon water

DIRECTIONS

- Let dough to rise according to package directions. Punch down; divide into 10 pieces. On a lightly floured surface, roll each piece into a 5-in. circle. Carefully place one circle on a greased baking sheet.
- Place about 1/4 cup lunchmeat and 2 tablespoons cheese to within 1/2 in. of edges; press filling to flatten.
- Combine egg yolk and water; brush edges of dough with egg yolk mixture. Fold dough over filling and pinch edges to seal. Repeat with remaining dough and filling. Brush tops with remaining egg yolk mixture. Bake at 375° for 15-20 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm or cold. If desired, cool and freeze.