

# ENGLISH TURN MONTHLY

THE OFFICIAL ETPOA NEWSLETTER



## MEET YOUR TRAPPER: ERIC DUMAS

Unexpected guests are plentiful within our oasis in the swamps, and this is no surprise. We often forget that humans are the ones who are treading on the animals' homes. So when a family of armadillos finds their way under your house, they are merely saying, "Well, I was here first!"

If you have ever had armadillos digging up your lawn, wild boar rooting through your garden beds, raccoons loitering your trash bins, squirrels chewing your electrics, then chances are you know and have seen Eric Dumas in action.

Eric Dumas, 49, a proud father of three and grandfather of two, is our loyal trapper at English Turn.

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Eric Dumas, picture by Randy Young

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## DID YOU KNOW?

Since this is the first issue of ETPOA's official newsletter, it is befitting that we start by informing new residents and refreshing the memories of long-time residents of some of the facts about the community.

We now ask you, did you know that we have a total land area of 907.86 acres in English Turn?

Among those acres, we have roughly 88 acres of lagoons, as well as 21 acres of parks and green space.

Within the growth of our community and residential land, we have 617 home sites. And within those sites, we have 508 homes built as of the 30th of June 2021.

Across our 30+ years of development, we have 1,241,850 square feet of concrete pavement. As well as 13 miles of maintained streets, including 25,921 linear feet of concrete curbs, 243 street lights, 471 storm drains, and 115 fire hydrants.

Next month's issue, Did You Know, will explore the Architectural Standards Committee (ASC)—why it exists and why we need it!

### ERIC DUMAS CONT.

He is available around the clock to properly catch and trap the unwanted guests that frequent our community and relocate them. He is currently licensed by the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries and has been working with us full time for almost a year. Since his introduction to English Turn in 2020, he has tended to every animal sighting and resident reporting with due diligence and timely execution.

His extensive trapping skills are owed to his life-long profession and unlikely childhood hobby. Even as early as his days at Madisonville Jr. High, he learned to recognize Louisiana wildlife and where they should be relocated. He began trapping alligators as an early way to make extra income, and it led to his expertise in care of visitors small and large. It has now been close to 30 years since he started his trade and his skills are certainly perfected and among the best we have seen.

**“I would go catch alligators every morning before school to make a little pocket change,” he says, “and I still do it today.”**

Within just this calendar year, he has captured 77 armadillos, 22 boars, 17 raccoons, 11 opossums, 34 squirrels, 5 coyotes, and 17 alligators in English Turn. This includes, and is certainly not limited to the 13-foot alligator he heroically captured in April of 2021 (Pictured on page 1).

The superman shirt he is pictured in is certainly no coincidence to the heroic duties he fulfills in our community, as well as his dedication to the safety of the community. We are truly grateful for him and his extensive skills.

The cost of most of Eric's services are included in your dues. Should you have any issues, you can call the POA Office or Eric directly at (985) 705-1244.



New landscaping in the works.

## ENGLISH TURN THE BEAUTIFUL

If you have driven down Clubhouse Drive recently, you may have noticed several changes taking place. The first being the complete renovation of the landscaping at the entranceway at English Turn Parkway and Clubhouse Drive. This is the result of a months-long endeavor by the ETPOA and Mullin Landscaping. The beautification project was initially approved by the previous Board of Directors in 2020 and implemented by the current board members that began their tenure in April.

Many of the trees and plantings along Clubhouse Drive were over 30 years old, riddled with disease, and had to be removed. Other plantings were very overgrown and crowding the beds.

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**ENGLISH TURN THE BEAUTIFUL CONT.**

As with any major renovation, there were hiccups along the way, and a few things did not go according to plan. One of the most noteworthy is the selection of flowers that are not looking good. The flowers, Pentas, that line the outermost portion of the garden beds are already suffering. Pentas, a seemingly hardy flower that grows 18 to 36 inches tall with sufficient sunlight, did not make it through the heavy months of rainfall. They were meant to develop sparkling star-shaped flowers in bold hues of red, white, lavender, or purple during the summer months. They are, in fact, sun lovers that grow 18 to 36 inches tall with proper sunlight. However, by April, when we had reached our regional annual rainfall average, the otherwise hardy Pentas did not manage to thrive. In the upcoming weeks, these Pentas will be removed and replaced with seasonal fall colors. A punch list of other landscape issues is being addressed with Mullin and will be remedied soon.



New Meeting Space with adjusted model base.

**POA BUILDING RENOVATIONS CLOSE TO FINISHING**

You may have also noticed the changes to the POA building, which is located across from the East Gate. It has also received a full landscape renovation, a complete exterior paint job, new gutters, new windows, and slate roof wash. The renovations have now shifted to the inside of the building as well. While this space has served us well over the past 30 years, the former sales center is getting the revamp it deserves. Within just the last month, the entire office has received a beautiful new coat of paint, as well as a conclusive adjustment of allotted space. The “monopoly model” was dismantled and taken to storage, leaving the base to be utilized as a large work counter or conference table that the Architectural Standards Committee (ASC) can use during their meetings. All the interior common areas of the building received a new coat of paint, and the flooring is expected to be delivered and installed next week. The circa 1991 reception desk was also removed and will be replaced with a smaller reception desk. An opening between the reception area and office was created to allow for a workspace, centralizing all the equipment and materials necessary to manage resident needs efficiently.

Story continued on page 4.



New paint in the interior spaces of the POA.



New communal space for meetings already in use.



***POA BUILDING RENOVATIONS CLOSE TO FINISHING CONT.***

With the work counter repositioned, we now have a large lobby with plenty of space for small to medium-size meetings like the one pictured on page 3. The intent is to have the ability to host meetings in the building that do not necessarily need the large rooms at the Country Club or on evenings when the Club is closed. If there are no delays with the floor installation, the space should be ready for the September Community POA meeting! Be on the lookout for an email blast with more details.

***UPDATE ON DRAINAGE ISSUES***

*CONTRIBUTED BY JANET DURONCELET  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD*

In the first four months of the 2021-22 Board's tenure, much attention has been given to maintaining the drainage system planned and implemented by our developers some 30 years ago, including the golf course lagoons and several local canals. In addition, consideration has been given to dredging and replacing weir dams and bulkheads in the lagoons. Thus, when the Country Club announced its plan to replace the greens and temporarily close the course, it seemed an opportune time to dredge the lagoons. After numerous meetings with Club personnel and the POA, including Darryl Relle, our horticultural consultant, a sample dredge was taken. It was then determined that the spoil, which we hoped could be used on the course, was not suitable for that purpose. While we have since had to abandon that plan, we are still considering our options. Those of which include modified weir dams and several proposals for bulkheads.

Another viable option would be the dredging of the canals. To discuss that end, we hosted the Principal Engineer within the Technical Services Department of the New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board, CM Kristen Palmer, and several candidates for her position to tout ET's water management design. While simultaneously asking for help and guidance as climate changes may put more pressure on our drainage system in the future. We are hopeful that renewed contacts with the Sewerage and Water Board will generate interest in our community, which will result in the allocation of resources for canal maintenance. If federal infrastructure funds available for water projects become a reality, we in English Turn want to participate.

We also had the pleasure of speaking with David Baker, a botanist, at the meeting with Waste Management. Through his work at Studio in the Woods, he observed changes on the "peninsula" that were insightful to us all. He emphasized the importance of vegetation in absorbing excess rainfall and slowing runoff that makes its way through our drainage system. He recommends extensive planting of native trees, particularly cypress, throughout the area. Our Architectural Standards Committee will consider his comments for possible revision to our Design Guidelines concerning the list of recommended trees for reforestation as part of each property owner's landscape design.

We will continue to explore every option to maintain and improve the drainage design that has served us well for 30 years.



The sample dredging in action.



Current condition of the Delacroix Canal.

## ***COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAKE WAVES***

During the week of August 8th, the POA building saw much activity. Three meetings were held, which provided the staff with helpful information on what worked and what did not. One of the meetings that was held was that of the ETPOA Social Committee. This committee is a combination of two committees: the Welcoming Committee and the Event Planning Committee. A list of all the new residents and lot owners, dating back to June 2020, was distributed, and plans were made to have volunteers deliver welcome bags to those who live near them. Future event ideas were also discussed, focusing mainly on the annual Halloween Extravaganza in late October.

If you would like to join the ETPOA Social Committee, please email [margeaux@etpoa.net](mailto:margeaux@etpoa.net), and she will add you to the group. It's that simple!



We are thrilled to host meetings in our new space!

Another successful committee worthy of mentioning would be Bylaw/CC&Rs Revisions Committee. They have made real progress in regards to the proposed Bylaw revisions that have been in the works. Dr. Bart Farris is currently incorporating the most recent proposed changes into the previously proposed revisions. The committee is hoping to do a final review by next week. Then they anticipate scheduling a meeting to present these changes to the community and, eventually, issuing a vote to officially approve these revisions. If you would like to join this important committee, please email [margeaux@etpoa.net](mailto:margeaux@etpoa.net) for more information.

## ***NEW RESIDENT CLUB TOURS CONTINUE***

Another event that the Social Committee helped orchestrate was the New Resident Club Tour. This event invites new English Turn home and lot owners to lunch at the Country Club. They will receive a tour of the facilities and information on the many packages of membership that the Club has to offer.

The New Resident tours were held in July and August, inviting over 85 families to take part. Thirty-three families accepted the invitation, with more than a dozen joining the Club on the spot! The tours will continue quarterly, with the next scheduled in November.

Your Property Owners Association Team is delighted to offer their first issued newsletter. This newsletter will help us inform, educate, and communicate with the community. We hope to use this platform to feature highlights of each month and share important information regarding social events, monthly happenings, and tributes to our various employees. We hope you enjoy this first issue and contribute to the newsletter in the future. If you have anything to share for future issues, please email our team at [margeaux@etpoa.net](mailto:margeaux@etpoa.net). This includes but is not limited to photos, facts, and highlights from our very own community.

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