

Trinity Oaks Homeowner Association NEWSLETTER

A Neighborhood News™ Publication



A note from the HOA Board President

Fellow residents,

I have a couple of unconnected topics this month; safety and financial reserves.

Safety

Please be especially cautious at the pool. There have been two near drowning this year. One child with a parent at the poolside and others within a few feet almost drowned unnoticed.

The 20 mph speed limit is there for a reason. School is out and there are children of all ages playing outside at all times of the day. Children (and many adults) are easily distracted and have a habit of darting out in front of cars. We all have seen cars speeding through the neighborhood. The few seconds saved are not worth a major injury.

Reserves

A favorite question from the floor at any board meeting is; “why do we maintain such large cash reserves?” This month you will find an updated list of items reported in the last newsletter. A major item not on that list is upcoming street maintenance. Bids have been put out to fix a number of pot holes and cracks around the neighborhood. These are “minor” repairs that are expensive. In the coming years the streets will need to be resurfaced and the pool will need to have major repairs. Many communities in the area have had to use special assessments in order to pay for aging infrastructure repair. We will not have to resort to that action if we continue to grow our reserves. I for one applaud our previous boards for seeing a future need and addressing it.

Please put August 26, 7pm at the pool on your calendars. That night will be your chance to “Meet the Board”. This is not a formal board meeting where you can only observe. You are free to bring up any topic on your mind. If nothing else it will provide an opportunity to put faces to names.

Best wishes for a great summer!

Regards,

Dwight Allmon 

August 2013

August 4th

International Friendship Day

August 9th-11th

Texas Tax Free Holiday

September 2013

September 2nd

Labor Day

September 5th

Rosh Hashanah

September 8th

National Grandparents Day

September 14th

Yom Kippur

September 16th

Mexico's Independence Day

September 22nd

First day of autumn

Need to view HOA resources and account status?

The Association Management Services (AMS) member website address is

https://www.associationvoice.com/member/signin_secure.asp?action=redirect&assn_id=21447

*Note: for full access you will need to establish an account if you have not already done so.

SEEKING JUNIOR EDITOR

The Trinity Oaks Newsletter Committee is looking for a Junior Editor to submit inputs with emphasis on youth interests in and around our community. Please email TrinityOaksNews@yahoo.com

TRASH CONTAINERS

The curb appeal of the community is very important. No one wants to come home to a street littered with trash containers and debris scattered around.



One way to keep the community looking beautiful is to put away your trash and recycle containers promptly after pick up and store out of view from the front of your home.



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FEATURED EVENTS

3 August is the Ring of Fire Ranch Rodeo followed by Aaron Watson concert at the Kendall County Fairgrounds in Boerne. Go see cowboy teams compete in ranch chore races to include steer loading, milk racing, calf branding (with paint), steer tying and more! (<http://www.visitboerne.org/calendar/ring-fire-ranch-rodeo-and-live-concert#sthash.23BeJ0SQ.dpuf>)

9 August through 21 September is your chance to catch Seussical the Musical at Magic Theater, a children's theater in downtown San Antonio.

23 August hosts "Movie in the Park" at the Main Plaza in Boerne. Take your lawn chairs and kids to enjoy pre-movie events and a showing of Enchanted (PG).

30 August through 1 September is the annual Kendall County Fair. Since its inception in 1905, residents have gathered at the fairgrounds "to share agricultural information, recipes and news of events" (<http://www.visitboerne.org/calendar/kendall-county-fair-1>). This event offers Labor Day fun for the whole family including carnival games, rides, parade, rodeo and stock show.

10 - 12 September hosts Taste of the River Walk in San Antonio. Ticketholders will sample foods from over 35 participating vendors and also partake in a "post-party". Visit <http://visitsanantonio.com/Browse-Book/Events/Taste-of-the-River-Walk#> for more information.

28 - 29 September is a night to get your ghoul on! Take the whole family to MonsterCon at the Wonderland Mall of the America's on Fredericksburg Road in San Antonio. Participate in a Zombie Beauty pageant, browse vendors, try your luck in a Zombie shooting contest, entertain the little ones in the "Lil Ghoulie play area", and meet Victor Miller, American writer best known for scripting the first Friday the 13th film. Visit <http://monster-con.com/> for additional details and to see photos from prior years.

And there is still time to take advantage of tubing adventures in the Hill Country. Visit <http://www.hillcountryportal.com/hillcountrytubingpaddling.html> to plan your trip. A general rule of thumb is to choose the Comal River if you're looking for a relaxing mosey and to choose the Guadalupe River if you are up for a more exhilarating trip. Be sure to heed the open container laws and don't forget the sunscreen!

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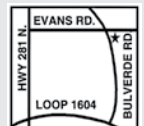
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SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Do you have ideas just waiting to be shared?

Trinity Oaks is in need of a social committee to develop activities designed to strengthen the community. Put your experience and imagination to work. The social committee is critical to fostering neighborhood networking, generating awareness, and increasing participation in community issues. Please email Dwight Allmon at dcoachusa@msn.com to volunteer.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Always call **811** before you begin an excavation project, even small ones, so that all utilities can be identified and marked. Dig with care. Damages are avoided when safe digging procedures are followed. So call **811** before you dig!



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WHO DO YOU CALL?

Emergency - 911

There appears to some confusion among Trinity Oaks Homeowners about who to call with questions regarding the community. The answer in case of fire, a medical emergency or when you feel threatened with bodily harm is to always call 911. While this may seem to be a "no brainer", in the past aid has been delayed because calls were made to the HOA management office or to the security officer.

Non-Emergency

In those cases where immediate assistance is not required the following phone numbers should be of interest:

Fire: 830-980-4733

Bexar County Sheriff: 210-335-6000

HOA Association Management: 210-829-7202
(Lisa Spalding at lisas@ams-sa.com is our representative).

CPS (electric/gas) - 24 hour service: 210-353-4357

SAWS (water): 210-704-7297

Patrol Guard Cell Phone: 210-618-6737

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TPCL 00590020



STATUS OF PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEMS FROM THE BOARD MINUTES

(The item is "underlined and in parentheses")

IN-PROGRESS:

- August 26 at 7PM by the pool will be a date to "Meet the Board". This is not a business meeting. It will be a time to put a face to a name, have discussions about the direction the community is heading and what the residents wish from the HOA Board.
- The "Street signage needs attention" issue is being addressed continually. If you see a sign that needs attention please contact the AMS office.
- A "Play Area" proposal is ready to be given to the Board for discussion.
- The same organization that publishes the newsletter provides a free "Website" service. A description of the service and web-site description was sent to the Board the week of July 15. Action is expected by the time of the next newsletter.
- Bids have been put out to "Repair the stacked stone wall at Redstone Hill and Trinity Falls". At issue is if the wall is on a homeowner's lot or part of the common area of the sub-division.
-

COMPLETE:

- Parts were ordered and installed to repair the "Basketball Goal is stuck in lowest position".
- A reminder was included in the last newsletter that "ATV's on the streets and sidewalks" are not allowed.
- Additional pool maintenance/cleaning days have been authorized. Problem weed areas have been cleared to address the concern "General cleanup and weeds need mowing".
- After their survey the county installed stop signs at Trinity Park and Trinity Woods. The open item with the board was to check on the "4 way stop sign status at Trinity Park and Trinity Falls".
- A "No exit sign @ Trinity Heights and Pass" has been installed
- Trash Containers in sight - the covenants call for trash cans to be removed from sight in a timely manner after pick up on the weekly trash day. According to Texas Disposal Systems "If in a normal subdivision, they [cans] should be placed by the curb or on

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(continued from page 4)

the sidewalk as long as it is close to the street.” This applies to Trinity Oaks. There is no specific placement (on or off curb) or direction the cans need to be placed in since collection vehicles are not equipped with automated retrieval arms however for courtesy to those using the sidewalk, it is advisable to place cans on the street (against the curb) when possible.

NO-CHANGE:

- Parking on streets - A survey was suggested to determine if a towing policy is indicated. In the meantime, Management will continue to notify offenders in writing if they are reported to be parking on the street.
- Pool Perimeter Fence - A member believes the width between the fencing is not close enough and small children can fit through the gaps. The Board did not address this issue.



**PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE
NEIGHBORS AND KEEP UP
WITH THE MAINTENANCE OF
YOUR LAWN.**

LANDSCAPING SPOTLIGHT

By Kenneth Jarvis, Newsletter Committee

Lyle Davidson is the Chairwoman of the Trinity Oaks HOA Landscaping Committee. She moved to San Antonio when she was three years old. Her love of gardening developed when she was a child.

Lyle is now a Bexar County Master Gardener and a retired teacher. This summer she’s helping the Bexar County Entomologist conduct Youth Bug Camps. That’s an amazing change for a person who was afraid of bugs when she was a child.

The HOA Newsletter committee wanted to get her opinion on what plants work best in our sub-division. So we sat down with her and got some good gardening advice.

HOA: For those of us moving from other parts of the United States to San Antonio what kind of soil do we have here?

Lyle: We don’t have much soil but a lot of caliche and rock. It depends on what part of San Antonio you are in but out here we don’t have as much stone as they do further north.


HOA: If you’re planting a tree how do you break through the rock to dig the hole?

Lyle: I use a big pry bar and that seems to help. I either pry it up or

(continued on page 6)



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(continued from page 5)



break it up. Dig the hole wider and deeper than the root ball then fill it with a mixture of good soil and the soil that you dug up.



Filtered light flower bed: Vitex tree or Texas lilac in center, Japanese maple to the left

HOA: When is the best time of year to plant new shrubs and trees?

Lyle: From the end of September until November is the best time. The ideal temperatures should be in the 50's to low 70's. Once it's planted, thoroughly water it. After that water it every other day or so for a week then back off with less watering for a couple of more weeks at least until the roots are established.

HOA: How do we know when the roots are established? Also are the sprinklers that we use for our lawns good enough for watering our trees?

Lyle: It usually takes a season or two then you're alright. I would use a hose and hand water your trees. Give them a good soaking. They may look good in the spring but in the heat of summer you need to give them more water. If you don't want to hold the hose get a soaker hose, put it around the tree root zone, turn it on very lightly and let it go for a few hours. Also give your shrubs a good soaking a couple of times a week. Be mindful of SAWS watering restrictions in whichever method you choose.

HOA: If someone wants to plant a tree, what are some of the good trees for this area?

Lyle: Oaks do well. There is live oak, red oak, Spanish oak, lacey oak and chinquapin oak. The two oaks that are most susceptible to oak wilt are the red and live oaks. The lacey and the chinquapin are the most resistant. We don't have oak wilt out here yet but if it does move out here we'll need to be careful

with some of these trees. Other trees that do well in this area are the cedar elm, crepe myrtle and pecan trees. The pecan trees do well but require a lot of water, however.

I noticed many nurseries are selling Japanese maple trees. A lot of these trees have purple leaves and are very beautiful. They don't do well in full sun, however. They prefer the shade.

Sago palms also do well here but they are very slow growing. In fact they're so slow growing they look like a shrub for many years.



Full sun flower bed: Vinca, dianthis, marigolds, lantana-all TX hardy

(continued on page 7)

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Questions? Feel free to contact Albert Prieto at (210) 558-3160 with any website related questions.

(continued from page 6)

HOA: In Trinity Oaks we have homes that are very close together. When that little strip of land runs north and south it gets very little sunlight. What plants do you recommend that would grow there to block the view of our air conditioners?

Lyle: The nandina is good. They're evergreen but the leaves turn different colors especially in the fall. There are many different varieties of nandina. Some spread through the roots and are hard to control but they are pretty.

HOA: Many of us are "blessed" with those big transformers in our back yards. What's an attractive way to hide them? Would pampas grass be a good idea?

Lyle: You need to be careful. Pampas grass will get ratty looking and if we get a hard freeze you'll have to cut them down to the ground. You'll also need to be very careful cutting them or even being around them because the leaves are very sharp and will cut you.

I have a purple fountain grass in my backyard that I like much better. Ornamental grasses are good, but with a hard freeze, you might

have to cut them to the ground in the spring. Some other nice grasses are Gulf Muhly and Mexican Feather Grass. Medium sized evergreen shrubs also work well.



Backyard waterfall using recycled water: TX hardy plants

HOA: What's the best grass for this area?

Lyle: There's good and bad with both the St. Augustine and the Bermuda grasses. St. Augustine will grow thicker and it loves the hot sun. It requires more water though and is more susceptible to diseases than Bermuda. The Bermuda doesn't do as well when it's really hot and it can spread easily into flower beds.

Also it's important to not cut your lawn too short especially in this heat. Another suggestion for all lawns is don't water in the evening. If it doesn't have time to dry out it could develop a fungus. This is more so for the St. Augustine than the Bermuda. Twenty to thirty minutes of water a week or about one-half to three-quarter inches of water is about right but it should be in the morning. For all our plants with this heat and our water restrictions it's very important to water deeply. Let the water soak in.

HOA: What about fertilizing our yards?

Lyle: It's good to fertilize in April and again around late September or early October. The most important time is in the fall.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR THE NEWSLETTER??

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