

October/November 2013

Trinity Oaks Homeowner Association NEWSLETTER

A Neighborhood News™ Publication



A note from the HOA Board President

Fellow residents,

As we come to the end of the year, I'd like to remind you of the November, Annual Business Meeting. It will be held November 20, at Specht Elementary School beginning at 7pm. All residents will receive a complete business report package prior to November. Last year we failed to field a quorum and had to reschedule into the New Year. The importance of the meeting in addressing the needs of the HOA cannot be overstressed. It's your opportunity to bring items to the board that will have precedence in the coming year. It's a time to discuss positive accomplishments as well as failures. It's a time to look at the past and future budget. It's a time to recognize residents that have dedicated their time to making our community a better place.

This year we have been fortunate. Your neighbors have stepped up to the needs of the community. The Newsletter is full of articles of interest to the sub-division. The Social Committee has addressed community events with enthusiasm. And, we continue to enjoy the efforts of the Landscaping Committee. If you are interested in volunteering for these or any other activities please drop a note to our board's email tohoaboard@gmail.com.

On August 26, a get together was held at the pool to meet and give input to the board in an informal atmosphere. Included are the belated notes from that meeting. One of the concerns I hear repeatedly is that communication from the board is not timely. By the time this newsletter reaches you, we should be well under way to bringing up a community web-site, which will be updated on a regular basis.

As always, if you have questions or concerns, I can be reached at dcoachusa@msn.com.

Regards,

Dwight Allmon



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.

October 2013

October 1st

National Night Out

October 14th

Columbus Day

October 19th

Trinity Oaks Garage Sale

October 31st

Halloween - Trinity Oaks
Decoration Contest

November 2013

November 1st

All Saints Day

November 3rd

Daylight Savings Time Ends

November 5th

Election Day

November 11th

Veteran's Day

November 28th

Thanksgiving Day
Hanukkah Begins



FEATURED EVENTS

19 October - Trinity Oaks community garage sale!

19 - 20 October is the third annual Native American Indian Pow Wow at Traders Village, 9333 SW Loop 410 in San Antonio. This is a great opportunity to experience tribal dance, sample authentic Native American foods, and browse unique arts and crafts.

26 October is the Harvest Mood Celebration in Boerne Texas. This free event offers music, costume contest, entertainers and games for children of all ages. For a schedule of events visit www.harvestmooncelebration.com/index.html

26 October is time to "Dance with the Dead". The Institute of Texan Cultures offers this adult event which includes hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, costume and dance contests, an art slam, and ghost tours. "Come dressed as your favorite dead Texan and foxtrot to the hot jazz sounds of the East End Arcadians. Get frightened on a museum ghost hunt with the Ghost Seekers of Texas, experience a Halloween art slam, and much more." http://www.texancultures.com/events/dance_with_the_dead_2013/

30 - 31 October celebrates Zoo Boo - this alternative event is for children 12 and younger. There will be trick-or-treating, games, special entertainment and costume contests (non-scary costumes please). And best of all, children will have the chance to visit our animal friends at the San Antonio Zoo!

1 - 10 November hosts Wurstfest 2013-Sprechen Sie Fun?! This German cultural celebration held in New Braunfels boasts food, music, dancing, carnival rides, games, and oh, yeah...beer. Schedule of events will be posted soon to <http://wurstfest.com/schedule/>.

2 November marks the 4th annual Rainwater Revival Celebration. This free event helps to raise awareness to rainwater harvesting and water conservation. The event will feature a collection of 55-gallon recycled rain barrels transformed into works of art by Hill Country artists. The barrels will be displayed around Kendall County during the weeks leading up to the Rainwater Revival and then auctioned off at the event. See rainwaterrevival.com for further information.

29-30 November is the Fire and Ice weekend of the 14th Annual Dickens on Main. Don your sweaters and head out to Boerne to watch the Holiday Lighting Ceremony, enjoy the Stocking Stroll, marvel at Ice Sculptures and the Brothers of the Flame. More details can be found at dickensonmain.com.

Do you enjoy community theater? S.T.A.G.E. (1300 Bulverde Road) is presenting their fall production of the comedy DRINKING HABITS on **October 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, & 27**. For ticket prices and show times go to stagebulverde.org/site/index.php/20112012-season/.



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SOCIAL COMMITTEE

It is with great excitement that we announce that Trinity Oaks HOA now has a Social Committee!

Social Committee Representatives for 2013 - 2014:
Cindy Savona (210) 784-7211
Kelly VanFosson
Bill Durkin

TRINITY OAKS SOCIAL COMMITTEE EVENTS

National Night Out Against Crime – October 1, 2013 (Yearly)

Garage Sale – Fall date: October 19, 2013 (Yearly)

Halloween Decoration Contest – Judging on Sunday, October 27, 2013 - Prizes given out Thursday, October 31, 2013

Christmas Decoration Contest – Judging/Prizes given Saturday, December 21, 2013

To contact the Social Committee:
Please Email
TrinityOaksSocialCommittee@yahoo.com

HAVE AN **IDEA** FOR THE NEWSLETTER??

Please let us know what you would like to see in your newsletter. Contact the Newsletter Committee:

TrinityOaksNews@yahoo.com

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

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FALL LANDSCAPING TIPS



September marked the beginning of the brown patch season on our southern St. Augustine lawns. Avoid early and excessive nitrogen fertilization and frequent watering which predisposes turf to attack from this cool-season fungus. Also, water St. Augustine grass in the mornings, not at night. Wait until about early to mid-October before making your fall fertilizer application. This applies to Bermuda grass as well.

The fall season is well under way in the southern garden. Beets, Chinese cabbage, collards, mustard, carrots, chard, kohlrabi, garlic, kale broccoli, cauliflower, garden peas, radish and turnips can be planted in the vegetable garden.

Fall is an excellent time to decorate for the season with Cool Wave Pansies. The moderate air temperatures encourage plants to grow quickly and produce bountiful blooms. Place Cool Wave Pansies in hollowed out pumpkins. Select black and purple accents for a spooky theme or decorate planters, patio containers and window boxes. Cool Wave Pansies pair well with Mums,

Ornamental Pepper, Celosia, Dianthus, Coreopsis, and Lavender.

It is also an excellent time to plant trees and shrubs. Water thoroughly and daily for a week or so, then back off to every other day, and so on. They will be fine in our mild winters.

Remember to keep your lawns mowed and trimmed. It really makes a difference in the appearance of our neighborhood. Anyone wanting to sell their home would benefit greatly. We should have pride in our homes and lawns, and consideration for your neighbors. It's also good to water your lawn every 3 weeks or so in the winter season.

Happy Fall to All!

Submitted by Lyle Davidson, Certified Home Marketing Specialist, Bexar County Master Gardener, and Chairman, Trinity Oaks Landscape and Grounds Committee



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STATUS OF PREVIOUSLY REPORTED ITEMS FROM THE BOARD MINUTES

(The item is “underlined and in parentheses”)

IN-PROGRESS:

- 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. Neighborhood News has been asked to bring up a community website.
- Parking on streets - A survey was suggested to determine if a towing policy is indicated. The survey will be taken using the community web-site that is under construction. The next newsletter will provide details. In the meantime, Management will continue to notify offenders in writing if they are reported to be parking on the street.

COMPLETE:

- Numerous “Street Repairs” were completed.
- “Stop signs” have been installed at the intersection of Trinity Park and Trinity Woods. This item was completed by the county after s requested survey of traffic patterns was conducted.
- A “Meet the Board” was held August 26. See Notes from the August Meet the Board in this newsletter for issues that were raised and are now under discussion by the board
- “Repair the stacked stone wall at Redstone Hill and Trinity Falls”. Because of safety concerns the HOA completed this project.

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Map labels: Smithson Valley Rd, Overlook Pkwy, Bulverde Rd, TPC Pkwy, Canyon Golf Rd, Midnight Dr, Blanco Rd

Notes from the August Meet the Board
Items for consideration:

- Consider another management company.
 - Comments:
 - Board members will meet with our representative to discuss issues raised.
- Consider closing the gate during the day for the built out portion of community in order to limit solicitations.
 - Comments:
 - After review this is not an option until the community is completely built out: The DCCR's say in ARTICLE IV - USE; the gates remain open during daylight hours until the last new home constructed by a homebuilder in the subdivision has closed.
- In order to facilitate communication between residents begin using Facebook and establish a web-page.
 - Comments:
 - The board has voted against a community Facebook page. Homeowners are certainly free to establish their own pages or use a service with the understanding that they are not endorsed by the HOA board.
 - There is a proposal on the table from Neighborhood News to establish a community web-page without cost to the HOA. This proposal will be reviewed by the board in the coming weeks.
- Send an email blast with contact information for all the board members.
 - Comments:
 - The names of all the board members have previously been published (Dwight Allmon, Veronica Lewand, Ralph Axtel, Ken Neissen and James Japhet). To contact the board a GMAIL account has been created (tohoaboard@gmail.com). Addresses from emails sent to the account will be added to the contact list used to send emails from the board unless the resident specifically asks for their address to remain anonymous. Private communications can still be sent to Dwight Allmon at dcoachusa@msn.com.
 - The primary conduit for normal daily business is still through our management company (AMS). Our representative is Lisa Spalding (lisas@ams-sa.com). Her assistant is Jackie Fulbright (jackie@ams-sa.com).
 - "Constant Contact" was mentioned as a solution but since it comes with a cost we will try the above solution for some period.
- Pool and Basketball Court
 - Confrontations have occurred teens using the basketball area and resident using the pool.
 - Unacceptable Foul Language

(continued on page 7)

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(continued from page 6)



- o Investigate hiring a lifeguard
- o Trash
- o People jumping the fence
- o Loitering late at night
- o Inability to control the use of the basketball court by non-residents
 - Comments: Comments:
 - Several options are available:
 - o Remove the basketball court completely
 - o Post signs with a curfew
 - o Move the court behind a gate
 - o Enlist residents to patrol the pool and basketball area
- The Security Guard does not seem to provide any service.
 - o Guard allowing entry to the pool without a card
 - o Observed parking away from the area for extended periods
 - o Parked at the pool but not controlling either underage use of the pool, or unacceptable behavior on the basketball court.
 - Comments:
 - The board will discuss the issue with AMS and the security provider.
- Abandoned homes and homes with maintenance issues
 - Comments:
 - o Before the HOA can legally take action against a

homeowner they must first be sent a notice on non-compliance, next a registered letter must be sent and only then can a contractor be contacted or a law firm engaged. This process can take 90 days or longer.

- Speeding
 - o Comments: This is an on-going problem.
 - Comments: Installation of speed bumps on several highly travelled streets was mentioned again. Estimates will be asked for and the subject will be brought up at the annual meeting.
- Continue to have informal meetings on at least a quarterly basis
 - o Comments:
 - The next meeting date will be announced in the newsletter and published via email and signs at all entrances.
- Animal Control
 - o Comments:
 - The Bexar County Sheriff non-emergency number (210-335-6000) should be used to report for stray dogs, excessive barking and other non-emergency pet complaints.
 - For dangerous animals, dog attacks and animal cruelty; the emergency number is 911.

*Submitted by Dwight Allmon, Trinity Oaks HOA President and
and Veronica Lewand, Trinity Oaks HOA Board Member*

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Halloween safety tips

A few Halloween tips for a safe and fun Halloween:

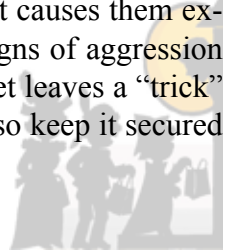
Homes: Check the entry path to your home for tripping hazards (extension cords, loose stones, toys, plant stakes, etc). Fill or cover holes in the yard that might lead to a twisted ankle. Use ample lighting in areas with stairways. Avoid using open flames; use electric lights or glow sticks in decorations. If you wish not to be bothered by trick-or-treaters, be sure to turn off your porch light however

keeping lights on in the rear of your home is a good measure for preventing mischief or vandalism.

Children: Make sure children can see in their costumes and make sure children can be seen by others. Reflective tape or glow sticks are a great way to ensure little ones can be seen. Adult escorts should take along a good flashlight to help children maneuver dimly lit entries. Never let a child trick-or-treat alone and be sure they know to wait for treats outside...never enter into a house. Instruct children to refrain from eating any candy until an adult has examined it for signs of tamper (opened, stained, or loose wrappers, unusual lumps or bulges in candy, strange coloring or smell, or candy that isn't in the original box or wrapper).

Pets: Costumed children running through the neighborhood can be scary to pets, and pet anxiety can make for a miserable and long night for pet owners. If repeated doorbell ringing will over-excite pets, consider sitting outside to hand out candy. As cute as they may look, do not force a pet to wear a costume if it causes them excess anxiety. Keep pets on leashes if they are escorting trick-or-treaters and be vigilant for signs of aggression or anxiety caused by costumed children who are passing. Carry a clean-up bag in case your pet leaves a "trick" on someone's yard. And remember... chocolate can be deadly to dogs, cats, and pet mice/rats so keep it secured where there is no chance for them to get into it.

Submitted by Carrie Kruse, Trinity Oaks Newsletter Committee



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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT



Last month The Trinity Oaks HOA Newsletter interviewed Paul Tarter, Chief of the Bexar-Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department (BBVFD). This is the fire department that responds to calls in Trinity Oaks. He has been with the BBVFD for six years. Next month Chief Tarter will celebrate 30 years as a volunteer fire fighter.

Bexar County has done an excellent job with the HALT (High Water Alert) program. High water is easier to see in the daylight but at night it's not as easy. People can get flooding information by going to <http://inf.bexar.org/halt.html>.

Since education is so important we make community outreach and education one of our top priorities.

HOA: You also offer some classes at the fire station don't you?

Chief Tarter: Yes. We offer CPR classes free of charge at our fire station located at 23103 Bulverde Road, San Antonio, TX. Those who complete the CPR course will be CPR certified through the American Heart Association. We will be offering fire extinguisher classes in the near future as well.

HOA: From your perspective as Fire Chief what do you consider to be the greatest hazard to homeowners in this area?

Chief Tarter: The greatest hazard to a homeowner is a lack of education about fire safety. Homeowners who live in the more rural areas should be educated to the "Fire Wise" program that has information about some of the dangers of heavily wooded areas. These areas are aesthetically very pleasing. It's nice to have oak trees and cedars close to your house but from a fire hazard standpoint that makes it very difficult to protect the home.

Also if our communities became more educated in first aid and CPR it would make our job much easier. I encourage all the residents of Trinity Oaks to take advantage of our social media such as our Facebook page (Bexar-Bulverde Volunteer Fire Department) and website (<http://www.bexarbulverdevfd.org/>). That way we can inform them of when burn bans are in place and other vital information.

HOA: What is the most common emergency call that you receive?

Chief Tarter: Our most common call is a medical call. In fact about 80% of all our calls are medical. They range from "I don't feel well" calls to cardiac arrest to motor vehicle accidents. For example today we had two cardiac arrest calls. One turned out to probably not being a cardiac arrest but the second one was. In fact the second one came in as "Weak and dizzy" and wound up being a cardiac arrest. So we take all calls very seriously.

HOA: Trinity Oaks, like most communities in this area, has gated neighborhoods. How do emergency vehicles gain entrance?

Chief Tarter: It's a county ordinance that all gated communities have a siren operated system on the gate. Typically there is a code that is used by first responders as an optional means of opening the gate in the event the first method malfunctions. We are constantly

(continued on page 11)

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(continued from page 10)

monitoring those gate accesses for all our communities to be sure they are working.

HOA: Besides gate access is there anything else in a community that would slow emergency vehicles as they try to respond?

Chief Tarter: Research shows that traditional speed bumps slow an emergency vehicle, depending on the type of vehicle, anywhere from four to seven seconds per speed bump. They don't impact our smaller vehicles as much as our bigger trucks. The big trucks are heavy and have a different type of suspension system. Because of that we have to slow down significantly more so they could lose closer to seven seconds per speed bump. If you think about a subdivision that has multiple speed bumps and you live in the back part of that subdivision your emergency responder could be delayed anywhere from four to 40 seconds of response time.

Every second you delay life support arriving on the scene is a second that may have an impact as whether or not you survive that incident. That may not seem like much but if you have a cardiac arrest every second counts. The same is true for a severe trauma injury and you're bleeding. In that case every second without aid your life is pouring out of you.

Speed bumps also cause wear and tear on our vehicles. We're trying to get to the scene as fast as we can safely. Those trucks are not made for going over large bumps. Some bumps are so large that we can literally break equipment as we go over them. Then you have a truck worth \$600,000 - \$1,000,000 out of service and they're expensive to get fixed.

Now there are speed bumps that work better for emergency vehicles so if a community wants speed bumps we recommend you work with us.

HOA: Halloween is coming up at the end of the month. Do you have any advice?

Chief Tarter: Get out during daylight if possible. Wear reflective costumes. Have a parent or guardian with each group and be careful crossing streets.

HOA: How is the quality of service from this VFD and are there advantages to a VFD?

Chief Tarter: Although we're working with the lowest tax rate in the county the BBVFD has a very good insurance rating and we're constantly working to improve it. During the first seven months of this year because we're a volunteer fire department we donated over 25,000 hours of service for a savings of \$300,000 in wages. That works out to 3,100 hours and \$39,000 per month.

HOA: Since you're a volunteer fire department how do you get volunteers?

Chief Tarter: We are always looking for volunteers and anyone is welcome to apply. You can download an application form from our website or stop by the station. We will hold a training academy beginning after the first of next year. If firefighting isn't for you we also need volunteers to help with administration, fund raising and special events.

Please remember that this month is Fire Prevention Month. We're always ready to be of service but we hope you stay well educated, safe and never need our services.

Interview Submitted by Kenneth Jarvis, volunteer BBVFD Public Information Officer and Trinity Oaks Newsletter Committee

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Time Dated

October 2013

November 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween		

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 All Saints Day	2
3 Daylight Savings Time Ends	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans' Day	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Day Hanukkah Begins	29	30