

CONNECTIONS

The Official Newsletter Of The Pine Ridge Estates Homeowners Association.

FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

“The board requests that anyone who is uncertain or knows that they will not be able to attend the meeting please sign and return your proxy.”

Our annual HOA meeting is coming up. It will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2012 in the cafeteria of Reuben Johnson Elementary School at 7 pm. Everyone should receive an official notice of the meeting and a proxy by mail. For those of you that have been interested but have not attend an annual meeting yet. Our meetings follow parliamentary procedure and are divided into three parts. Briefly I start the meeting with introductions and a review of the Board’s activities over the past year. This is followed by the Financial and Committee reports, Questions, and Board elections. Questions are taken throughout the meeting with extra time scheduled before the elections. As in years past there are no items to vote on this year other than the election of officers to the Board. The Board requests that anyone who is uncertain or knows that they will not be able to attend the meeting please sign and return your proxy. If you send in your proxy but decide to attend you can retrieve



your proxy at the door. The proxies help the Board reach quorum for the meeting and avoid the costs associated with rescheduling.

What’s Happening?

New Landscape Company:

New Leaf Horticulture took over the community’s landscape maintenance contract in July. The new company maximizes the use of organic products as part of their maintenance program. The Board felt it necessary to improve our landscape services to better highlight/protect our landscape investments.

Mosquito Spraying:

Although the City of McKinney has conducted ground spraying for mosquitoes throughout the city on an as need basis and has applied mosquito rings (kills mosquitoes larva) to standing water in other areas of city, they refused to treat the standing water in our greenbelt.

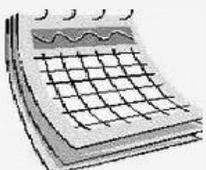
While the Board is in the process of trying to resolve this issue with the city, the board in July authorized New Leaf Horticulture to start spraying the canal for mosquitoes and placing rings in places of standing water. Several applications have been preformed since July and will continue until the West Nile concerns have passed. The spray is all organic and has a wintergreen/peppermint smell odor after application.

Rip Rock:

The rocks along the canal nearest to Pine Ridge/Woodson intersection are scheduled to be cemented in place to prevent them from being scattered throughout the canal and community. The rocks have been cleaned up and we have contacted the city about replacing the missing rocks, since they control the maintenance of the bottom third of the canal.

New Plantings:

Plans for several new plantings along the canal are being reviewed with the goal of screening the
(continued on page 3)



Events Calendar

- Annual Community Yard Sale October 13th
- Pool Closing October 15th
- Annual HOA Mtg October 23rd (Reuben Johnson Elementary, 7pm)
- Action Committee Mtg November 8th (Market Street, 7pm)

IN AND AROUND OUR COMMUNITY

The MOMS Club® began in 1983 when an at-home mom, named Mary James decided she wanted to find other at-home moms and find other children for her kids to play with. She founded the MOMS Club® when she realized there wasn't any organization that assisted her in networking. Today MOMS Club® has over 2,100 chapters nationwide and 100,000+ members.

I joined the MOMS Club of McKinney – Central almost 3 years ago when my daughter was just 18 months old. Prior to changing my lifestyle to an “at-home” mom I commuted to Addison for several years and didn't have a “social network” of friends with kids. I didn't have a clue about all the wonderful opportunities that McKinney had to offer. This group of moms and their families has helped us in ways I didn't think possible. It's nice to be a part of a group that doesn't judge my parenting style, but opens my mind to different ways to cope with the ups and downs of parenthood. And I've been happy to return my



friendship and experience to new members who join our group.

The McKinney chapter welcomes all moms to join the club. We offer many diverse activities each month throughout the year. We get the kids together at many of our amazing neighborhood parks and splash pads, take them along on field trips to fire stations, aquariums, The Heard Museum just to name a few. We “coffee chat” and “lunch bunch” as a group. And once a month we leave the kids behind with Dad, a grandparent, or sitter and get together as women for “Moms Night Out”. We use the strengths and talents of our members to work on service projects to give back to our community. Last month we gathered, donated and purchased scrapbook supplies and donated them to the NICU at Medical Center of McKinney.

If you or a neighbor mom is interested in joining The MOMS Club of McKinney – Central, you can email our Membership Vice President at: mckinneymoms@yahoo.com to learn more about the club.

Tammy

SADDLE UP

Put your hat and spurs on and come on down to the Frisco Heritage Center October 27, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., for the annual Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day Festival hosted by the Heritage Association of Frisco.

The event will be held just after the Gary Burns Fun Run at Frisco Square at the heritage center located at John Elliott and Page.

Event fun will include stagecoach rides, some old-fashioned gun slingers, music, a Dimples cupcake walk, petting zoo, pony rides, and a new event - The Frisco Armadillo Races - blow on the behind of a real live critter to get your four-footed friend across the finish line first!

Pioneer demonstrations such as whittling, blacksmithing, quilting, churning, and washing on a scrub board will dot the grounds. Several delicious food trucks will be selling tasty treats and an old west photo booth will be capturing memories of the day.

Five dollars per person allows you access to most events except the food booths and the photo booth.

Tour the historic buildings, see and participate in some fun activities, and join the fun family day to support sustaining this piece of Texas history.

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FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

(CONTINUED)

concrete structures present in the canal.

Red Oaks:

The Board is currently working through the warrantee to replace the "red oaks" planted along the greenbelt. The trees have come out of dormancy and have started to die due to the fact they are not red oaks but pin oaks which can't survive in North Texas Soil. Our warranty covered this possibility.

Thanks,

Mike Henke
Board President

LOCAL FIREFIGHTERS TO WEAR PINK

During October, the Professional Fire Fighters of McKinney, IAFF Local # 4017, will begin their annual drive to support the "Care Enough to Wear Pink" Campaign. This annual campaign supports National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The "Care Enough to Wear Pink" is a national campaign supported by the International Association of Fire Fighters, and has spread across the US and Canada.

After skin cancer, breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer for women. However, screening tests such as monthly self-examinations, clinical breast exams and mammograms are available that can often detect breast cancer early. Early detection saves lives.

In addition to wearing pink, the Professional Fire Fighters of McKinney will be holding a "Care Enough to Wear Pink" t-shirt fundraiser during the month of October. For the 3rd year in a row, members of the department will be wearing pink shirts while on duty, as well as selling T-shirts out of a local fire house and fire administration. (Firehouse 5: 6600 Virginia Parkway & Fire Administration: 2200 Taylor-Burk Dr.) Each shirt costs \$10 and the proceeds will be split between two organizations, "Firefighter Cancer Support Network" and "Susan G. Komen for the Cure of North Texas".



WHEN YOU ARE SICK OR INJURED, DO YOU WANT A WAITING ROOM OR AN EMERGENCY ROOM?

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NEW ACTION COMMITTEE BEING FORMED

Although alley way safety is still a concern in our community, the number of emails/phone calls I have received on this topic have decreased significantly since highlighting it in the last newsletter. I would like to think this indicates the problem is improving. Please continue to be mindful of your speed and be on the lookout for kids in the alley ways. Let's continue to improve the safety in our alley ways.

Recently I have been receiving calls/emails on a broad spectrum of issues. Two issues that I believe can be improved by highlighting here are construction site debris and sprinklers. At some point most of us will have our homes repaired or remodeled by a contractor. Sometimes in the process of their work, contractors take liberties to expedite the job. This includes unnecessarily blocking the alley ways, letting debris spread to neighbor's property and leaving a mess behind in the alley. When you hire a contractor please help make sure they don't contribute to these problems.

As kids ride their bikes and walk to school they are present by the obstacle of lawn sprinklers. Some homes have not adjusted the timing of their sprinklers and they are running at times when most kids travel to school. Sprinklers don't only represent an inconvenience but also

exposes our children to the added dangers of having to cross the street to avoid getting wet. Please adjust your sprinklers to avoid watering between 7am-8am.

Other concerns that I'm hearing about, can't be easily addressed through awareness. These concerns I feel need to be addressed by direct action. I will be organizing a new action committee, whose goal will be to identify community issues, form strategies, and effect solutions. The first meeting is scheduled for 7pm Thursday, November 8th at Market Street. Topics scheduled but not limited to discussion include;

- 1) Crime watch and prevention
- 2) Maintenance of field at Ridge/Eldorado Parkway
- 3) Limiting the number rental homes in our community
- 4) Improving holiday decorations

The committee I hope will also serve as an avenue for the Board to get more timely feedback from the community.

Mike Henke



WATER CONSERVATION

In addition to saving money on your utility bill, water conservation helps prevent water pollution in nearby lakes, rivers and local watersheds. Here are several ways to conserve water at home:

- 1. Check faucets and pipes for leaks.** A small drip from a worn faucet washer can waste 20 gallons of water per day. Larger leaks can waste hundreds of gallons.
- 2. Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket.** Every time you flush a facial tissue or other small bit of trash, five to seven gallons of water is wasted.
- 3. Check your toilets for leaks.** Put a little food coloring in your toilet tank. If, without flushing, the color begins to appear in the bowl within 30 minutes, you have a leak that should be repaired immediately. Most replacement parts are inexpensive and easy to install.
- 4. Use your water meter to check for hidden water leaks.** Read the house water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- 5. Install water-saving shower heads and low-flow faucet aerators.** Inexpensive water-saving low-flow shower heads are available. "Low-flow" means it uses less than 2.5 gallons per minute. Also a "shower start" converter can be added to existing showerheads, which automatically pauses a running shower once it gets warm. Also, all household faucets should be fit with aerators. This is one of single best home water conservation method and is also the cheapest!

DIY CORNER

Wherever we go, we respond to color, though its effect is often underestimated. Color use is important to us in our homes and workplaces.

HGTV's Shari Hiller says color accounts for 60 percent of our response to a room. Here is some advice.

Living room: Start with colors you love from something in the room. Consider colors from artwork, a rug, dishes, an accessory or furniture

for a main color or accent. Buy two or three quarts of paint. Paint sample boards to hold up to the furniture, fabrics and surfaces you choose. If you aren't sure where to begin with a color, experiment in a bathroom, a small hall or area between rooms.

The dining room: Do you want the area to feel social and stimulating or be formal and quiet? Warmer, contrasting and somewhat brighter colors add to

a sociable atmosphere. Deeper blue-greens and neutral colors make the dining area more formal.



The monochromatic color scheme:

In any room, one color need not be boring. You can create bold or subtle variations within one color group with contrasting paint finishes. It helps to use matte finish paint for walls and slightly shiny eggshell paint for wood trim. The paint will appear to be a slightly different color. It can be attractive to paint an entire wall in a lighter or darker hue of the same color. White or off-white tint can be a striking accent when used as trim with a monochromatic color group.

For bedrooms: Softer, cool colors and neutrals create a quiet feeling.

Children's bedrooms: Stay away from bright and intense wall colors, which are said to lead to unrest and irritability.

For an accent color in any room, select a warmer color, more toward reds, or a cooler color more toward blues, to compliment your main color group. Happy painting!

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I don't feel good.

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THE LANDSCAPE CORNER

Below is a guide to help those who wish to replace or plant a new tree in their yard. Please keep in mind the ACC documents state at least one tree of 3" caliper or greater diameter must be present in the front yard. Let's get started. First you will need to choose a tree. In this regard there are a number of choices with pros & cons for each. Listed below are two good websites with information on trees appropriate for our area.

Tree Selection links:

1. <http://texastreeplanting.tamu.edu/>
2. http://www.dirtdoctor.com/Trees-Best-Choices-for-DallasFort-Worth_vq1765.htm

Tip: Instead of typing in the links above. A pdf version of this newsletter is available on our website. From the pdf you can directly copy or click the link to be directed to the website.

How to Plant a Tree

When to Plant Trees

Climate plays a deciding role when determining the appropriate planting time. Newly planted trees do best when exposed to moderate temperature and rainfall and they need time to root and acclimatize before the onset of intense heat and dryness of summer or the freezing temperatures of winter. Spring and fall are generally the best planting seasons in Texas.

How to Plant

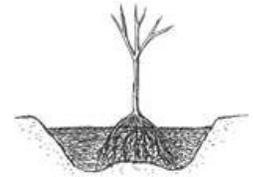
Dig a hole. As a general rule, trees should be transplanted no deeper than the soil in which they were originally grown. The width of the hole should be at least 3 times the diameter of the root ball or container or the spread of the roots in the case of bare root trees. This will provide the tree with enough worked earth for its root structure to establish itself. Raise the bottom of the hole slightly higher than the surrounding area to prevent water from pooling in the planting zone.



Note: When digging in poorly drained clay soil, it is important to avoid 'glazing'. Glazing occurs when the sides and bottom of a hole become smoothed forming a barrier, through which water has difficulty passing. To break up the glaze, use a fork to work the bottom and drag the points along the sides of the completed hole.

Planting Balled and Burlapped Trees

Balled and Burlapped (B & B) trees, although best planted as soon as possible, can be stored for some time after purchase as long as the ball is kept moist and the tree stored in a shady area. B & B trees should always be lifted by the ball, never by the trunk. The burlap surrounding the ball of earth and roots should be cut away completely. Any string or twine should also be removed. Backfill soil (combinations of peat moss, composted manure, topsoil, etc.) is then placed in the hole surrounding the tree just to the height of the ball or slightly lower to allow for some settling. Be careful not to compress the back fill soil as this may prevent water from reaching the roots and the roots from expanding beyond the ball.



Planting Container Trees



Container trees (though subject to greater heat and drying conditions than B & B) can also be stored for a brief period of time after purchase as long as the soil in the container is kept moist and the tree stored in a shady spot. The procedure for planting container trees is similar to that for B & B trees. Once carefully removed from the container, check the roots. If they are tightly compressed or 'pot bound', use your fingers or a blunt instrument (to minimize root tearing) to carefully tease the fine roots away from the tight mass and then spread the roots prior to planting. In the case of extremely woody compacted roots, it may be necessary to use a spade to open up the bottom half of the root system. The root system is then pulled apart or 'butterflied' prior to planting. Loosening the root structure in this way is extremely important in the case of container plants. Failure to do so may result in the roots 'girdling' and killing the tree. At the very least, the roots will have difficulty expanding beyond the dimensions of the original container. To further assist this, lightly break up even the soil outside the planting zone. This allows roots that quickly move out of the planting zone to be more resilient as they anchor into existing surrounding soil conditions.

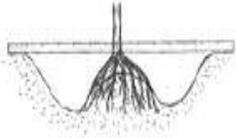
Once the tree is seated in the hole, the original soil is then back-filled into the hole to the soil level of the

(continued on page 7)

THE LANDSCAPE CORNER (CONTINUED)

container. Again, remember not to overly compress the back-filled soil especially by tramping it with your feet. Compress gently using your hands instead.

Planting Bare-Rooted Trees



Planting bare-rooted trees is a little different as there is no soil surrounding the roots. Most importantly, the time between purchase and planting is a more critical issue. Plant as soon as possible. When purchasing bare-rooted trees, inspect the roots to ensure that they are moist and have numerous lengths of fine root hairs (healthy). Care should be taken to ensure that the roots are kept moist in the period between purchase and planting. Prune broken or damaged roots but save as much of the root structure as you can.

To plant, first build a cone of earth in the centre of the hole around which to splay the roots. Make sure that when properly seated on this cone the tree is planted so that the 'trunk flare' is clearly visible and the 'crown',

where the roots and top meet, is about two inches above the soil level. This is to allow for natural settling.

Fertilizers and Other Soil Amendments

After you plant your tree, there are certain products that can be added to the soil to help the roots establish themselves. A root-promoting fertilizer can help, but ensure that the fertilizer is not simply placed in the planting hole. Fertilize the soil around the planting hole as well to promote root expansion.

Mycorrhizal Fungi is an extremely beneficial additive for newly planted trees. By adding this all-natural, symbiotic fungus to the soil, you can both promote the growth of the root system, and discourage the establishment of damaging fungi that could hinder the tree's development.



COMPUTER SAVVY

Here are some tips that can increase your productivity and make your overall computer experience a lot more enjoyable:

When searching on the Internet, make sure to get the most out of every search result. If you're not finding what you want, try surrounding the text in quotes. For example, if you were searching for 'computer help' this actually searches for pages that contain both computer and help and not necessarily pages that have computer and help next to each other. If you search for "computer help" with the quotes around the search query, this will only return pages that actually have computer and help next to each other.

If you're filling out an online form, e-mail, or other text field you can quickly move between each of the fields by pressing the Tab key or Shift + Tab to move back a field. For example, if you're filling out your name and the next field is your e-mail address you can press the Tab key to switch to the e-mail field.

Tip: This tip also applies to the buttons, if you press tab and the web developer has designed correctly the button should be selected and will allow you to press the space bar or enter to push the button.

Tip: If you have a drop-down box that lists every country or every state you can click that box and then press the letter of the state or country you're looking for. For example, in a drop-down box of States in the United States you could press t on the keyboard to quickly scroll to Texas.



There are dozens of different shortcut keys that can be used with Internet browsers. Below are a few top suggested Internet browser shortcuts.

-Pressing Alt + D in any major Internet browser will move the cursor into the address bar. This is a great way to quickly enter an Internet address without having to click the mouse cursor in the address bar.

-Hold down the Ctrl key and press the + or - to increase and decrease the size of text.

-Press the backspace key or hold down the Alt key + left arrow to go back a page.

-Press F5 to refresh or reload a web page.

-Press F11 to make the Internet browser screen full screen.

-Press Ctrl + B to open your Internet bookmarks.

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Pine Ridge Estates Connections is published by Prepared Publications, Inc. For advertising rates or questions, please contact us at: (800) 684-4054 or info@preparedpublications.com.

USEFUL TIDBITS

Do you have a buckling/damaged sidewalk or damaged curb?

-Call the City of McKinney for repair at (972) 547-7350. The City is responsible for the maintenance of the portion of the sidewalk that runs parallel to the curb. Homeowners are responsible for the portion that runs to the front door.

Notice a street light flickering or out?

-Report it to CoServ. Go to www.coserv.com click on the "Contact Us" page, select the street outage form and submit the report.

Have your roof inspected lately?

-Over the last couple years a number of wind and hail storms have passed through our community. Initial damage

to your roof may have appeared minor but over-time this damage continues to break down leading to an eventual leak. Most roofing companies/contractors will do a roof inspection for free and advise on whether to pursue a claim. A claim due to wind/hail damage does not affect your insurance premium.

Need to check your HOA account?

There are two options, you can call SBB or login to the SBB web portal. All the information necessary to register and access your account is available on our community's website (www.pineridgehoa.org).

Own a local business and would like free advertising?

If you are a business owner and a member of the HOA, please let us know and we can include your business information on a new page we are developing on the website. Please contact us at: hoa-president@pineridgehoa.org if you are interested.