



September 2008

Newsletter for The Park at Blackhawk and Lakeside

Fall Pool Hours



In September, **regular pool hours** will be:

Saturdays: 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sundays: 12 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Lap swim hours will be:

Saturdays: 5 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Sundays: 5 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Tues.-Fri.: 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Lap swim entrance is available to association members in good standing who sign a release form, and is strictly subject to conditions stated in the form.

August's Yard of the Month Award

goes to

20100 Grand Banks

Nice job, and Congratulations!



Aggressive Dogs

A few residents are having difficulty using their own back yards because their neighbors' dogs are being too aggressive. Dogs should not be aggressively bumping the fences that separate residents' back yards. Dog owners need to make the necessary adjustments to prevent neighbors from being concerned for their safety. Let's make the effort to control this aggressive behavior -- we all deserve to use our own backyards without fearing for our safety.

Landscaping Tip

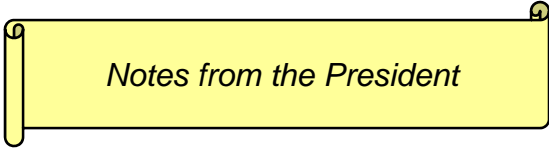


Mowing is an integral part of maintaining a healthy lawn. If done correctly, it allows a lawn to grow thicker and fuller throughout the season. Keeping your lawn in the best shape can be as easy as following a few important guidelines.

For starters, when a lawn is consistently mowed too short, it compensates by shortening its root system. A shorter root system means that the grass will require frequent watering and fertilization due to the plant's reduced ability to retain moisture and nutrients. This is why setting your lawn mower blade to the proper mowing height is essential. Depending on your grass type, mowing height may vary, but a general rule of thumb is to set the blade between three and three and a half inches high. At this height, the grass will be able to produce more food, increase its oxygen intake and generally keep a consistent green color for longer. Thicker grass will furthermore act as a natural weed control by crowding out the unwanted competition.

Keeping the lawn mower blade sharp is also important. Dull mower blades rip grass, instead of cut it, opening the grass up to potential insect and disease problems. The easiest way to ensure your blades are kept sharp is to follow the "holiday schedule", meaning sharpening mower blades around Memorial Day, the 4th of July, Labor Day, and Thanksgiving.

When possible, mow grass in the late afternoon or evening. This gives your lawn ample time to heal in the cooler temperatures. Mowing during the heat of the day is not recommended. Remember to leave the grass clippings on the yard after you mow, because these clippings will act as a natural fertilizer as they decompose.



Notes from the President

Folks,

It's back to school time. Be on the lookout for students riding their bikes and walking to school. Please obey all of the speed limits and give the students the right of way. Classes will start around 7:40 a.m. everyday. This is earlier than last year. We have more residents living in our neighborhoods, and a new section of road was opened from The Park II to Rowe Lane Elementary School, so traffic will be more congested. Allow more time to drop off the kids, and be courteous and patient. There will be a presence of law enforcement personnel around the school campuses in the early weeks once school opens.

A few weeks ago we removed the trash can at The Park mail kiosk because of its constant overflow with personal trash (anything that isn't junk mail). The young men who are in charge of removing the trash bags were doing it at least twice per day. It got to a point where most of the trash in the can was fast food boxes, pizza boxes, beer cans, wine bottles and so on. Folks, the trash cans were to be used for junk mail. They were not intended to be used for personal trash. For the most part things have worked out OK, but there are a few who still refuse to dispose of their personal trash properly. This will not be tolerated. This is your mail kiosk and if you continue to trash it, we will be sending violation notices. I personally have emptied the "newsletter" box a couple of times, and I have noticed several people have used it as a trash can multiple times. I have forwarded the names of the individuals who have left junk mail in the newsletter box to the management company. Please be cognizant of what you are doing -- littering. If this continues, the Board may consider publishing the names of violators in future newsletters.

Within the last few weeks, we have received a request from the HOA Board of The Estates at Blackhawk to possibly merge with our HOA. The Estates HOA board requested information from our HOA board as to what it would take for them to merge with us. Our board met and sent them a list of issues, most of which were related to finances. We offered to split the cost of legal fees and a full audit on their books if they chose to continue the process of merging. The Estates HOA will be having a homeowners meeting in September to discuss their options. Once we get more details, we'll inform you of the where we stand on this issue. We, the Board of The Park @ Blackhawk and Lakeside HOA, believe it will be great for both entities if it comes to fruition.

Respectfully submitted,
Eddie M. Garcia
President EC/Board Member
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512-252-7585



SAFETY TIPS FOR TRAVELING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

School has started, and the safety of the children in our community must be a priority for everyone. Below are a few safety tips that should be reviewed with your family members.

School Bus

If your child's school bus has lap/shoulder seat belts, make sure your child uses one at all times when in the bus. If your child's school bus does not have lap/shoulder belts, encourage the school to buy or lease buses with lap/shoulder belts. Wait for the bus to stop before approaching it from the curb. Do not move around on the bus. Check to see that no other traffic is coming before crossing. Make sure to always remain in clear view of the bus driver.

Car

All passengers should wear a seat belt and/or an age- and size-appropriate car safety seat or booster seat. Your child should ride in a car safety seat with a harness as long as possible and then ride in a belt-positioning booster seat. Your child is ready for a booster seat when she has reached the top weight or height allowed for her seat, her shoulders are above the top harness slots, or her ears have reached the top of the seat. Your child should ride in a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle's seat belt fits properly (usually when the child reaches about 4' 9" in height and is between 8 to 12 years of age). This means the shoulder belt lies across the middle of the chest and shoulder, not the neck or throat; the lap belt is low and snug across the thighs, not the stomach; and the child is tall enough to sit against the vehicle seat back with her legs bent at the knees and feet hanging down. All children under 13 years of age should ride in the rear seat of vehicles. If you must drive more children than can fit in the rear seat (when carpooling, for example), move the front-seat passenger's seat as far back as possible and have the child ride in a booster seat if the seat belts do not fit properly without it. Remember that many crashes occur while novice teen drivers are going to and from school. You should limit the number of teen passengers to prevent driver distraction; this is even required by law in many states. Do not allow your teen to drive while eating, drinking, or talking on a cell phone.

Bike

Always wear a bicycle helmet, no matter how short or long the ride. Ride on the right, in the same direction as auto traffic. Use appropriate hand signals. Respect traffic lights and stop signs. Wear bright colored clothing to increase visibility. Know the "rules of the road."

Walking to School

Make sure your child's walk to a school is a safe route with well-trained adult crossing guards at every intersection. Be realistic about your child's pedestrian skills. Because small children are impulsive and less cautious around traffic, carefully consider whether or not your child is ready to walk to school without adult supervision. Bright colored clothing will make your child more visible to drivers.

CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted: Reliable college-age student for occasional weekend or evening babysitting of 2 youngsters. Will pay competitive rates. If interested, please email mmtexas1@hotmail.com or call 797-0785.

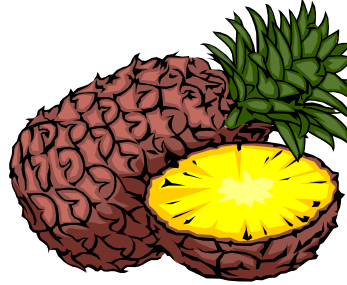
Texas Cutters Lawn Service: A Cut Above The Rest. Sam Montoya (512)689-7112; Ramon Ruiz (512)961-9304; texascutters@gmail.com.

Volunteer for Neighborhood Garage Sale! Would you be willing to organize a neighborhood garage sale? We need a volunteer. If you are interested, contact Eddie Garcia at emgarcia51@sbcglobal.net or Marnie McCormick at mmtexas1@hotmail.com.

Place your ad here! HOA members may place an ad or announcement free of charge in this "classifieds" format – just contact Marnie at mmtexas1@hotmail.com by the 15th of the month to submit your ad.

PINEAPPLE POUND CAKE

1/2 cup shortening
1 cup butter (room temperature)
2 3/4 cups sugar
6 eggs
3 cups cake flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3/4 cup crushed pineapple, with juice
Pineapple Glaze (see below)



Combine shortening, butter, and sugar; cream until light and fluffy. Add eggs, once at a time, beating well after each addition. Combine flour and baking powder; add to creamed mixture alternate with milk and vanilla mixture, beating well after each addition. Stir in crushed pineapple. Pour batter into a well-greased and floured 10-inch tube pan. Place in a cold oven; set temperature at 325, and bake 1 hour and 15 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool 10 to 15 minutes in pan. Invert onto serving plate; drizzle Pineapple Glaze over top and sides while cake is warm.

PINEAPPLE GLAZE

1/4 cup melted butter
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup crushed pineapple, drained well

Combine butter and powdered sugar, mixing until smooth. Stir in pineapple.

Blackhawk Amenity Center
3111 Speidel Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660

Office Hours:
Tues-Fri 10-6
Sat 10-4
Sun-Mon Closed

Fitness Center Hours:
Daily 5am-11pm

The Park at Blackhawk and Lakeside HOA Management Team

Kathy Taylor, Property Mgr (512) 852-7998

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Kyle Sellers, Amenity Center Interim Mgr (512) 670-9704

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Tara De Leon, Amenity Center Asst. Mgr (512) 670-9704

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Advertise Here!!!

Contact Marnie at mmtexas1@hotmail.com or (512)797-0785



BLACKHAWK SPECIAL

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(512)989-2667**



Rose Garcia

512-217-3704

intbyrose@sbcglobal.net

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