



September 2009

Newsletter for The Park at Blackhawk and Lakeside

August's Yard of the Month Award goes to 3113 Murrelet Way

* Note there was an error in last month's newsletter.
3336 Winding Shore Ln was the July, not August, winner.

Nice job, and Congratulations!

SEPTEMBER POOL HOURS



Regular Hours

Sat 10am-9pm
Sunday 12pm-9pm

Lap Swim Hours

5am-10am Tue-Sat
5am-12pm Sun

POOL CLOSED MONDAYS

(no regular swim, no lap swim)

ASHFORD MONTESSORI Open House and Grand Opening

Ashford Montessori will have an open house on Saturday, Sept. 5 from 10am - 3pm. We invite everyone to come see our beautiful new facility. You will have the opportunity ask questions and enroll your child. Our facility accepts children from 6 weeks to 12 years. Ashford Montessori's first day of school will be Sept. 14, 2009. You can also visit us on the web at:

www.ashfordmontessori.com

or call (512) 892-1629 for more info. We look forward to seeing you.

MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS

Our area is under Stage 2 water restrictions. Please program your sprinkler system and adjust your watering habits accordingly.



ODD Addresses

Wednesdays & Saturdays

EVEN Addresses

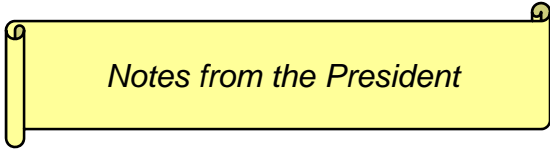
Thursdays & Sundays

New Child Car Seat Law!

As of September 1, 2009, Texas will join 34 other states and adopt current national recommendations concerning the use of child safety/booster seats for children up to eight years old. Children who are ages 4 - 8 who are over 40 pounds are required to be in a belt-positioning booster seat (high-back or no-back) unless they are 4 feet 9 inches tall. Younger and lighter children are still required to be in a child safety seat system as well. For more information about what kind of seats are appropriate for your child's size and age, go to:

www.txdps.state.tx.us/director_staff/public_information/carseat.htm

Please be aware of the change in the law and make sure your kids are safely secured in approved car seats at least until they are old enough and/or tall enough to satisfy current law.



Notes from the President

Folks,

The school year is here again. Scores of children and parents will be filling our roadways. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of safety as we drive, walk or ride bicycles to school. All summer long I have been asking residents who park their vehicles on the streets to please not obstruct the visibility of those walking or riding bicycles to school. For the most part it looks like you have responded very well to my request. It's not a done deal by any stretch of the imagination; we still have some who choose to not comply. I appreciate those of you who have complied. With school having started I will continue to address the problem until we know our streets are open and safe for our children. The responsibility not only lies with residents who continue to park their vehicles on highly-traveled streets but for the parents to visit with their children and tell them about safety as they walk or ride their bicycles to school.

Well, LCRA has imposed water restrictions for all of their customers. As users of Pflugerville water through Manville, the restrictions include us. For the most part we have been doing a good job of conserving water. Remember to water during the hours recommended by both Pflugerville and LCRA. The HOA will not be monitoring this; I'm assuming the water meter person will be doing that. Do not water during the peak hours of the day. Let's continue to use good water conservation practices on the yard as well as in the house.

Please continue to maintain your yards according to CCR requirements. With the water restrictions in place, I know it's going to be harder to keep a lush lawn. However, you still need to keep up with the weeds. Unsightly weeds are not acceptable. Please take care of them.

Folks, there are a bunch of new laws that will be in effect come September 1 -- too many to list here. There are two that I think are especially important for our residents to know about:

1. House Bill 55 makes it illegal to use a wireless device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used. The fine for the offense is \$500. A sign must be posted at the beginning of each school zone to inform drivers that the wireless communication device is prohibited and the operator is subject to a fine. If the signs have not yet been posted at Rowe Lane Elementary, it's a matter of time before they do get posted.

2. House Bill 537 requires all occupants of a vehicle, no matter their age, to be secured by a safety belt, no matter where they are seated in the vehicle.

For more information on other bills that will take effect on September 1, see www.txdps.state.tx.us.

Our swimming pool will only be open during the weekends beginning the week of August 23. We do not have lifeguards under contract for the weekdays after that, only for the weekends. Have a wonderful rest of the summer, be safe, and continue to practice sound water conservation measures.

Respectfully submitted,

Eddie M. Garcia

President-The Park and Lakeside @ Blackhawk HOA/Executive Committee

512-252-7585

emgarcia51@sbcglobal.net



CLASSIFIEDS

JOHN FOLLIEN PAINTING: I am your neighbor in Blackhawk with over 30 years painting experience. Interior painting, exterior painting, drywall repair, Venetian, skip-trowel texture or texture repair. Call for your free estimate, 968-6977
www.johnfollienpainting.com. Fully insured company.

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.

Blackhawk Amenity Center
 3111 Speidel Drive
 Pflugerville, Texas 78660

Tues-Fri 10-6
 Sat 10-4
 Sun-Mon Closed

Fitness Center Hours
 Daily 5 am – 11 pm

Park at Blackhawk and Lakeside HOA Management Team
 Kathy Taylor, Property Manager
 (512) 852-7998

Tara De Leon,
 Amenity Center Manager
 (512) 670-9704

Anne-Marie Spradlin
 Assistant
 (512) 670-9704

13 Pflugerville ISD Schools Receive Top Two Ratings in State Accountability System

13 of 26 Pflugerville ISD schools received the top two ratings of Exemplary or Recognized when the Texas Education Agency (TEA) announced accountability ratings on July 31. That was an increase over the eight schools receiving the top two ratings a year ago. The District was rated Academically Acceptable, missing a Recognized rating due to a small number of scores in the Science Economically Disadvantaged indicator.

The number of PISD schools rated Exemplary increased from one to three, with Pflugerville, Rowe Lane and Timmerman elementary schools earning that distinction. Ten schools were rated Recognized: Windermere Primary; Brookhollow, Highland Park, Murchison, Northwest, River Oaks and Windermere elementary schools; Kelly Lane Middle School; and Hendrickson and Pflugerville high schools. The remaining campuses are Academically Acceptable.

PISD maintained or showed improvement in 24 of 25 performance indicators. The state accountability system rates schools in five subject areas: Math, Reading, Science, Social Studies and Writing. Each subject has up to five student groups for which districts can be rated - All Students, African American, Hispanic, White and Economically Disadvantaged.

The District maintained or improved in 22 of 25 indicators for TAKS Commended Performance, which is the highest performance level set by the State Board of Education on the TAKS. Students who achieve Commended Performance have performed at a level that is considerably above the state passing standard and have shown a thorough understanding of the knowledge and skills at the grade level tested.

PISD also experienced a narrowing of the achievement gap between the highest performing and lowest performing student groups in math, science and social studies. Students in the African American and Economically Disadvantaged student groups experienced growth in every content area, while students in the Hispanic student group improved or maintained achievement in all content areas.

HOA Social Activities

By Marnie McCormick

The management office has received requests from several residents for the HOA to sponsor more social events and activities. I thought you should all know the factors that affect the number of events the HOA sponsors.

The first factor is money. The purpose of your HOA membership dues is first and foremost to protect and maintain the value of our property, including common property the HOA owns. It is not cheap to operate, maintain, and repair the swimming pool, the Amenity Center, the mail kiosks, the landscaped entrances, the lakes, the playground, the baseball field, and other common areas. Nor is it cheap to pay our management company, the services of which are invaluable to us because that company actually runs our business. For these reasons, there is a very limited budget dedicated to social activities every year.

The second factor that affects the number of events the HOA can sponsor is available manpower. Our HOA is currently run by a 3-member Board, all of whom have full-time jobs and families, and none of whom get paid for their service on the Board. There are several other residents who serve on HOA committees; all of them work on a volunteer basis as well and have full plates. Moreover, the management company's employees are busy with pressing HOA business, and it is not an option to pay them to work after hours to act as social event coordinators. The HOA has solicited volunteers to run a social committee several times, both in newsletters and at annual meetings. Still, no one with enough available time and energy has yet volunteered to chair the committee. And none of the residents who have called to request more social events and activities have been willing to participate in coordinating the activities.

Despite these constraints, the HOA nevertheless has managed to sponsor three family-friendly events in 2008 and 2009. We received tremendously positive feedback from attendees at these events, and would love to continue sponsoring them. We still have some money left in the social budget for calendar year 2009. But the people who have organized the last couple events have jobs and families just like everyone else, and they cannot organize and run every HOA party.

What would be most effective for the HOA right now is not complaint or criticism about a lack of social events, but someone to step up to the plate. If you are interested in organizing an HOA social activity or event, your efforts will be personally satisfying and appreciated. You will get to make new friends and learn more about your neighborhood. Please contact either Tara at the Amenity Center at 670-9704 or Marnie at 797-0785. One of us would be happy to explain the way things work with the budget and available venues so you can organize a successful event. Please consider volunteering!

Crime Statistics

For the months of April, May, and June, the Travis County Sheriff's Office reports receiving many calls from our area, including:

- 7 burglaries of a vehicle
- 1 burglary of a non-residence
- 2 burglaries of residences
- 2 thefts
- 1 assault by contact
- 1 animal bite call
- 12 dangerous animal incidents
- 3 suspicious person incidents
- 3 suspicious vehicle incidents
- 5 credit card abuse incidents
- 2 fraudulent uses of ID
- 2 criminal mischief incidents
- 2 criminal trespass incidents
- 3 noise reports
- 1 reckless driving call
- 1 report of terroristic threat
- 1 loose livestock report
- Several traffic hazard reports

It is important that everyone continue to be vigilant in the neighborhood and report any suspicious activity to local law enforcement.

It is also important that we maintain our Neighborhood Watch Program. The new coordinator for the program is Charles Vochatzer. Charles will continue to recruit block captains and get our neighborhood organized. Please contact him at chaspvoch@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping. Together we can make our neighborhood a safer place.

Advertise Here!!!

*\$20 for one month or \$45 for three months
ads and payment due no later than 15th of the month preceding publication
contact Marnie at mmtexas1@hotmail.com or (512)797-0785*