



Winter 2004

Neighborhood News

Letter from the President

By Ajit Gokhale

Dear Neighbors,

2003 has been a solid year for our GHRHA association. We had a few great events like the July 4th parade and National Night out, followed by our Garage Sale and the Holiday Home Tour. Thanks for the people who volunteered their time and homes to further the spirit in our neighborhood.

We have great news! We have passed the amendments to our By-laws. The amendments passed with an easy margin in Sections 23 and 24. (Though we can tell you it was extremely difficult to get many of you to return your ballots, especially in Section 24!) Special thanks to the neighbors who turned in their form on time.

These amendments allow us to keep our property values high by ensuring residents simply stay within the homeowners association guideline documents we all signed and agreed to when we moved into the Great Hills Reserve.

As a general reminder, please feel free to voice your opinions to the Great Hills Reserve Board or any architectural issues to the Architectural Review Committee (ARC). The emails for either of these groups can be found on our website: www.greathillsreserve.com/officers.htm

We look forward to your participation this first half of the year in electing new officers to board.

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Come to the Annual Meeting
May 10
6:30 pm
 At the Laurel Mountain Cafeteria
Fabulous Door Prizes!

GHRHA Board needs You!
 We are looking for a
Vice President
 for 2004-2005.
 If interested, email
president@greathillsreserve.com

Wine Tasting Event!

Where: David Weekley's New Home Center: Located at 9000 Waterford Centre Blvd. Austin, TX 78758 off North 183, between Burnet Rd. and Mopac in Austin, Texas, (512) 821-8800.

When: February 28, 2004 at 6:30 pm, tasting will begin promptly at 6:45 pm.

RSVP: Joni Jones at 918-1787, or on the web at www.greathillsreserve.com/events.asp

Attendance is limited to 26 so signup now! There is no fee. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served. Adult Reserve Residents Only.



Upcoming Events

February 28, 2004

Wine Tasting
7:00 pm, David Weekly New Home Center

Come taste new wines & visit with neighbors.

April 24, 2004

Spring Fling
6:00 pm, Blue Beach Cove

Burgers and Hot dogs will be grilled! Please bring a side, chips or a dessert to share.

May 10, 2004

Great Hills Reserve Homeowners Association Annual Meeting
6:30 pm, Laurel Mountain Elementary School Cafeteria

Vote in our new President, Paul Helfinstein, and Vice President. Door Prizes will be given away!

July 4, 2004

4th of July Parade
8:30 am

Parade starts at Laurel Mountain Elementary school. Refreshments are served following the parade.

Block Captain News

We have 4 new block captains. They are **Susan Holley** (Blk 12E2) at 7776 Yaupon. She is a teacher at Hope Preschool, a dog enthusiast and her husband is Don. **Diane Lee** is our new neighbor at 7805 Blue Lily (Blk 8A) where she and her husband & daughter live. Besides having a child at Laurel Mountain, she is a teacher there, too! **Elizabeth Lescher**, our newsletter chairperson, is our new block captain for Block 1E at 7744 Yaupon and we are excited about her upcoming marriage to Gary Sherman next year! **Carolyn Scarbrough**, a mom to Chloe and Alex, is an author and ghostwriter while being block captain to Blk 6B at 7706 Blue Lily. She is married to Charlie.

We need a block captain replacement on Skyflower Drive if anyone has time to volunteer just about 10 minutes, 5 times a year. Please call Sheri Brummett at 335-9602.

Thank you all of our wonderful block captains for the excellent job you do with newsletter, ballots & flyers! You're well appreciated!!

Commander's Forum

This is just a reminder that our Northwest Commander's Forum meeting is scheduled for February 17th, 7PM at Anderson High School located at 8403 Mesa Dr

At this forum we will discuss problems and projects. All available district representatives will attend this forum and participate in open discussions with forum members. Please prepare a list of the most serious problems and potential projects in your neighborhood so that we may discuss ways to help you and your neighbors quickly and efficiently resolve these issues. We are also encouraging all attendees to invite a neighbor or a friend to attend the meeting.

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*A great big "Thank You" to all of our wonderful homeowners in the Great Hills Reserve. **Every single owner has paid their dues** for the current year. This is first time that this has happened. All of your neighbors thank you for your contribution to keeping the Great Hills Reserve Homeowners Association active and vital on your behalf. Your dues fund our many social activities and help promote neighborhood safety. The dues also make our communications via newsletter, website, and directory possible. Thanks to each of you!*

Email Lists

This is a reminder that there are two email lists that residents of the Great Hills Reserve, and Great Hills area subscribe.

Great Hills Austin

First, what is Great Hills? From www.thegreathills.com:

The Great Hills Area is actually inclusive of several original subdivision names, including Austin Hills, Oak Knoll Estates, Sierra Arbor Estates, The Arbors of Great Hills, The Greens, The Great Hills Reserve, The Dominion at Great Hills, Sierra Vista, The Pointe & The Fairways, though most of these names are rarely used. Today, it's all considered the Great Hills Area, about 1800 homes in total.

The list is secure:

- The great-hills-austin e-mail list is for the exclusive use of residents of Great Hills. People not on the list will not be able to e-mail to it.
- To keep the list secure, I only ask that when a person joins the list that they supply me with their address.
- People not on the list cannot view the list. Only moderators and members registered with yahoo can view the list. It is highly unlikely that subscribing to the list will increase your chance of getting unsolicited e-mail.

- The list is configured to discard e-mail attachments (this is a common method used to spread computer viruses).

On a neighborhood list like this, there will sometimes be discussions that result in a flood of e-mails. If you find it difficult to deal with this, you have an option to receive a single daily digest instead of each message individually.

The list is easy to use. To post a message, you simply send an e-mail to great-hills-austin@yahoo.com. To subscribe, send an e-mail to tom.wood.82@alumni.vanderbilt.edu or another moderator.

Great Hills Reserve

This e-mail list is for GHRHA and Westhill Estates members only. To post a message, you simply send an e-mail to ghrha@yahoo.com. To subscribe, update your directory form.

I suggest you use the Great Hills Austin e-mail list to discuss issues your neighbors may be interested in (solicitors, speeding, crime). The Great Hills Reserve Homeowner's Association e-mail list is intended for discussions that are specific to the Great Hills Reserve Homeowner's Association (deed restrictions, upcoming events).

If you have further questions, feel free to contact me at tom.wood.82@alumni.vanderbilt.edu (e-mail) or 918-3876 (home).

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Crime

Furniture in woods behind Laurel Mountain

If you or people you know are missing any outdoor benches, chairs, etc. it may be in the woods behind Laurel Mountain Elementary School. In an open fire pit area in the woods just behind the school playground there has been a growing collection of wooden rocking chairs, metal and plastic patio chairs, brown and gray metal folding chairs, a small round green metal table, a tan wicker chair with green cushion, a live geranium in a terra cotta pot complete with a green plastic watering can, a burgundy painted small wooden bench with cut-out heart shapes on the legs, a painted cement goose (the head has been severed but is there), a cooler, a new wood and metal outdoor bench.

To find this collection, park in the Laurel Mountain parking lot off of DK Ranch Road. In the opposite corner from where you enter the play ground from this parking lot, on the other side of the blue and yellow play ground equipment, is a path entrance. Walk down this path and you will come right to the area where the furniture surrounds the fire pit.

Of even more serious concern is the fire pit itself. It is quite large and in this dry season our area has been designated a high fire risk. The area is littered with beer bottles and empty cigarette packs. It would be easy for sparks to fly and the fire to get out of control quickly putting our neighborhood homes in danger. In the woods not far from this large open area was another recently burned fire pit within the wooded area and even more of a fire hazard.

Please warn your children of the consequences of under-age drinking, smoking, stealing furniture and especially how easy a devastating fire could be started! The police and surrounding neighbors have been notified of this party/bonfire area and will be patrolling it.

Burglary

On Jan. 27, 2004 there was a burglary on Sierra Leon. The home owner was at home and had left the garage door open. Suspect/suspects entered garage took item from garage.

Please keep your garage door closed! There are criminals that drive around looking for open garage doors. They could care less if you are home are not.



SUMMER ART CLASSES

CHILDREN 2 - 8 Grades
Monday through Friday
June 14 - 18 June 21 - 25
1:00 - 3:00 or 3:30 - 5:30
Sketching, Painting, Cartooning

Classes taught in home near Laurel Mountain School.
School year classes:
Tuesday & Wednesday 4 - 5:30

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Burglary of Vehicles

We are seeing a huge increase of burglary of vehicles in the neighborhoods.

There is a pretty even mix of vehicles locked and un-locked, and vehicles parked in the street and in the driveway. If at all possible park your car in the garage. Do not leave anything in your vehicle, remove all items, if you have an after market stereo with removable face plate make a habit of removing it every time you get out of the vehicle. Leave outside lights on but make sure you turn them off in the daytime. Please report suspicious to 9-1-1.

Officer Nelson reminds us in email that there's been an increase of burglary of vehicles in our neighborhood. Garage door openers have been taken out of the cars. These can be used to access the garage or home so 2 rules to remember: 1) keep your garage door openers in your home when you go inside and keep the garage door down and 2) the door between the home and garage locked. Many of us think it's okay to keep it unlocked because the door is down but it's better to lock up at night and during the day.

Detectives Alert Public About Custom Wheel And Rim Thefts

The Austin Police Department Southwest Area Command is alerting the public concerning the increase in reported thefts of custom wheels, rims and truck tailgates from vehicles.

More than 90 thefts have been reported citywide from November 2003 to January 5, 2004. Rims and wheels have been stolen from a variety of vehicles including a Chevrolet Corvette, Honda Civic, Chevrolet Silverado pickup, Toyota Camry and Ford Expedition. The value of the stolen property from one of the reported incidents was more than \$9,000.

APD detectives are reminding the public to:

- Document serial numbers on the property
- Engrave an identifying number on the property
- Keep the key to the wheel locking device on a key ring along with vehicle key
- Do not conceal the wheel locking key in the vehicle

Detectives are asking anyone with information about suspects or incidents involving the theft of wheels, rims or tailgates to contact Southwest Area Command detectives at 974-8221.

Looking for a Babysitter?
Pallavi Mathur: 336-5159
Email:surfinsoccer@hotmail.com
I love kids and I am patient!

Lost & Found Animal Resources

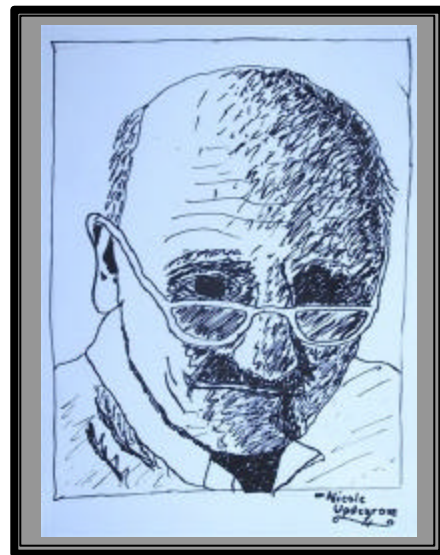
Every now and then a dog may follow you home, or your own pet may get out. There is a web site with a slew of info regarding local rescue groups, emergency numbers, low cost spay/neuter, and more. You may wish to check it out and bookmark it: <http://www.ccsi.com/~tcaill/animalInfo.html>

Specifically, in the event you have lost or found a pet, check out the links at <http://www.ccsi.com/~tcaill/lostFound.html> You can also post a message to the Austin Pets Alive No-Kill

<http://www.ccsi.com/~tcaill/supportGroups.html#austinPetsAlive> - this email newsletter goes out to several hundred animal rescue and/or animal lovers nearly every night. It's a great resource!

I believe if you find an animal, the Statesman will let you run a free ad (at least I think they used to), but be careful when giving the animal back to a supposed owner - make them identify the animal in some way BEFORE they come to look at it - there are people who sell animals to research facilities.

The Animal Trustees of Austin (www.animaltrustees.org) operates a low-cost spay/neuter clinic and wellness clinic on Cameron Rd near 51st and IH35, as well as foster and adopt out cats and dogs. It's a REALLY great organization if you are looking for a place to send a donation.



What's new on the web?
www.greathillsreserve.com
GHRHA Board meeting minutes are now being published on our neighborhood website.