



# NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

SPRING 2015

## GREAT HILLS RESERVE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

### *Spring Clean*

**Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### Household Hazmat Collection

Time to dig out the old batteries, oil, paint and antifreeze for the **Household Hazmat Collection**. Friday night we'll set out a collection truck for delivery on Saturday morning (before the garage sale shoppers arrive). Collection will occur at 7613 Yaupon Dr, from 7-8am. The truck will leave at 8:00 am and deliver the materials to the Austin Hazmat Facility. Please limit all items to only items by GHRHA residents, and only residential items (no business collection.)



#### **Some rules:**

- **ALL ITEMS must be marked with your name and address.** The Household Hazardous Waste Facility cannot accept materials generated by businesses.
- This is for GHRHA homes only.
- This is **ONLY for Batteries, Oil, Paint and Antifreeze** (think "BOPA"). While the Facility does take more types of chemicals, state permits are required to do remote collections of those chemicals. Please do not bring anything but those four items.
- Please put the items in a box or other container. The trailer bounces around

and we want to minimize movement while driving.

- Please tape closed any paint cans or other chemicals to prevent accidental opening.

#### Shred Day

With the increased awareness of identity theft, it's important to dispose of personal records carefully. Bring your excess **personal papers** to the collection spot for Shred Day.

The Board has scheduled the Balcones Shred Truck to arrive for your on-site destruction of confidential papers. The truck will also accept electronic media, although that information will be destroyed back at their facility. Please plan to limit your "donation" to only paper from residential use.

#### Neighborhood Garage Sale

It might not be trash, but you may not need it anymore. What to do? Join us for the 2015 Garage Sale! We will place an ad in the Statesman and on Craigslist to help drive traffic to the area. We'll also put out signs to make sure homes in the coves get traffic as well. The sale will be advertised for 8am-12pm, but feel free to start early or run late if you are getting lots of traffic.



### *Spring Fling*

**Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Mark your calendars for this year's Spring Fling party on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7pm on Blue Beach Cove. We will have pizza, ice cream, snacks, adult and regular beverages as well as entertainment for the kiddos. New activities planned for Spring Fling this year include a Photo Booth, Kid's Market Day, and Directory Drive. Come on out and spend some quality time with your neighbors.



#### Kid's Market Day

Calling all kid entrepreneurs in the GHRHA! During this year's Spring Fling we are welcoming the kids to set up their own booths to display or sell their homemade or other items. Maybe it's baked goods, artwork, jewelry, or whatever their creative minds come up with. The kids will need to provide their own "booth" set up whether it is a table and chair or just a couple of cardboard boxes. Let's all be sure to support our kids during this fun activity.

#### Directory Drive

The Board will have a table set up allowing all residents attending the party to update their directory information so that we can get a directory sent out this year.

## Annual Meeting

**Tuesday May 5th**

Join us for this year's Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Laurel Mountain Elementary cafeteria. This is your chance to pay your dues, address any concerns, ask questions, and volunteer for neighborhood activities. Door prizes will also be awarded to several lucky homeowners!

This year our guest presenter will be Austin City Council District 10 representative Sheri Gallo. This will be a great opportunity to meet your council representative and hear more about the new Council process and how our neighborhood is being represented. You won't want to miss this opportunity.

Board elections will also be held for all positions: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board is currently taking nominations leading up to and during the Annual Meeting. Please contact any board member with your nomination requests.

## Volunteers

The GHRHA is a volunteer run organization. All of the events, activities, newsletters, etc. can't happen without your help. Please consider volunteering your time and special skill sets to continue to keep the Reserve as a premier place to live. If you can help out in any way, please email any HOA officer or board member.

## Survey Results

Thank you to all of the residents who participated in the 2014 GHRHA Resident survey. If you did not receive a request to participate in the survey then we do not have your updated contact information in the directory or you are not signed up for the Yahoo group. Please refer to other

sections of this newsletter for more information on both the directory and the Yahoo group.

We did have a good response from 84 residents who provided helpful feedback which will allow the Board to respond to the needs of the neighborhood and to plan appropriate events. Check the website for a link to view the survey results. Here's a brief summary:

- There is a pretty even distribution of households of empty nesters and those with kids, with the empty nesters and families with older kids leading the pack.
- Resident longevity was evident with the majority of respondents having lived in the neighborhood 20+ years.
- Communication preferences peaked with direct emails from the Board, followed by Yahoo group emails and distributed newsletters.
- All of the community events were popular with the highest rated being the Spring Clean (Hazmat/Shred) followed by Neighborhood Garage Sale, National Night Out, Spring Fling, Oktoberfest, Annual Meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Movie Night, Progressive Wine Party, and Easter Egg Hunt.
- We received feedback on doing new events such as a Tour of Homes and an International Potluck. Also received feedback on updating the Directory, having more frequent communications, Board elections, and education on deed restrictions and neighborhood safety.
- The biggest traffic concern was speeding on Yaupon and how we can attempt to control it.
- Residents responded positively to safety issues with the main concerns being vehicle and house break-ins.

We appreciate the feedback and will be working on addressing the issues and comments raised with the survey results. Please consider volunteering on the Board or on a Committee to provide additional help in giving these items the attention they deserve in a timely manner.

## Year in Review

2014 was another eventful year for the GHRHA. Many residents joined in all of the fun activities, met some new neighbors, and helped to create a better community.

Spring events included:

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Spring Clean/Hazmat/Shred Day
- Neighborhood Garage Sale
- Spring Fling

Summer events included:

- 4th of July Parade

Fall events included:

- First Annual Movie Night
- Oktoberfest

Looking ahead this year we will plan on hosting each of the above events again and possibly a couple new ones based on survey comments. Please provide any feedback or suggestions you have on these events or other events you would like to see happen.

We've also made some updates to the website and are in the process of updating the Neighborhood Directory. Thanks to Rudy Millian for all of his help with the website and automating the directory process.

## For More Information

Check for more details and event information on the website at [www.greathillsreserve.com](http://www.greathillsreserve.com) or our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Great-Hills-Reserve/140796356118701](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Great-Hills-Reserve/140796356118701) and be sure to join the Yahoo group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ghrha>

