

The Estates of Shady Hollow



www.eshhoa.org

June 2004

Keeping the Estates Special

While it's often a Mr. Rogers kind of beautiful day in our neighborhood, it's not always the way we would like it to be. With all of the growth and development around us, more people are coming into the area, and with them, more instances like that described in the *Possible Stranger Danger?* article on page 3. Unfortunately, there are also some within our neighborhood who are engaging in very obnoxious and possibly illegal behaviors (see the *Illegal Activity in Our Neighborhood* article also on page 3).

To deal with these issues, your Board has created a Neighborhood Watch Committee with Vice President John Anderson as the chairperson. Four other homeowners have volunteered to serve on the committee which has already recommended patrols by off-duty constables (see *Patrols by Off-duty Constables to Begin* in the next column).

The Committee is also working on restarting the Neighborhood Watch program in the Estates, so you may be getting a call from the Committee. They will be looking for two neighborhood watch persons for every block or two, ideally people who are at home most of the day.

If you have questions about the Neighborhood Watch program or would like to be part of it, please contact John Anderson at 280-7383 or bodvp@eshhoa.org.

Got Milk Water?

Our water comes directly from the Edwards Aquifer that runs under the Estates. So that makes the aquifer pretty important to us. On June 17th, come hear what Jennee Galland has to tell us about the aquifer and how we can protect our water.

(Continued on page 2)

To Toll or Not to Toll – We Vote Not!

There has been a lot of press lately about the CAMPO (Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization) proposals for toll roads in our area, including the extension of SH 45 to FM 1626, and MoPac/Loop 1 from US 290/71 to SH 45 which includes the William Cannon overpass. Your Board believes that most, if not all, homeowners in the Estates want these roads to be freeways and not toll roads.

Unless we hear otherwise from a majority of homeowners, we intend to argue AGAINST these toll roads with CAMPO, starting with the next CAMPO meeting on June 14th. If you disagree with that position, please let Deborah Treece know ASAP (291-4892; bodpres@eshhoa.org).

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Patrols by Off-Duty Constables to Begin

At its May meeting, your Board approved the recommendation of the Neighborhood Watch Committee (see *Keeping the Estates Special* on this page) to hire off-duty constables to patrol the area. Although the Travis County Sheriff's Department already patrols our neighborhood, departmental cutbacks have significantly reduced the amount of time they can spend here. The off-duty constables will more than offset this reduction, and are expected to significantly curtail the kinds of undesirable activity described elsewhere in this newsletter.

The constables will have the authority to issue citations and make arrests, and will patrol a total of 28 hours each week. They will vary their patrol days and hours as needed so that they are patrolling when they believe undesirable activity is most likely to occur.

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Drainage Study

Deborah Treece, President

Following the floods which occurred in November of 2001, Travis County conducted a drainage status evaluation of our neighborhood. The study makes recommendations that could improve water flow in the neighborhood, thus preventing water overflow and flooding. Some of the recommendations also would reduce mosquito problems.

The County's recommendations were listed by address. It is unknown if each of the homeowners was contacted or if they received a copy of the evaluation. Many of the families at the mentioned addresses have since moved, so it is unknown if any of the improvements occurred. The County has also made no improvements despite reporting to us in April 2003 that they would begin work in summer 2003.

It is also mentioned in the study that due to budget constraints, the County will not be able to complete all the work necessary. Therefore it is difficult to know what type of improvements will be made. The neighborhood was also to make improvements. At this time none of the work has been completed. However, we are reinitiating contact with the County and are attempting to determine exactly what our responsibility is as a neighborhood.

The study is available in the Community Notices section of our website (www.eshhoa.org). We encourage you to read it and make any improvements that might be identified for your property.

Got Milk? Water? *(Continued from page 1)*

Jennee is the new Environmental Educator for the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District and will be at our next Board meeting to introduce herself and tell us what we need to know to make sure we continue to have clean, safe water.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17 starting at 6:30 pm at the Shady Hollow Community Center, 3303 Doe Run. Jennee will be first on the agenda, so you can come hear what she has to say, ask any questions you have, and then leave. Of course, we'd love to have you stay and share your thoughts – about water or anything else that's on your mind with respect to our neighborhood.

Meet Deborah Treece, Board President

Several years ago, when I first drove through the Estates, I remember commenting on the look of the neighborhood. It was not so much the beauty of the homes as it was the lots. As a parent and someone who loves to garden, I loved the large lots and the beautiful shade trees. A couple of years later, we were fortunate enough to find a home in the very area we had admired.

We have now lived in the neighborhood for almost four years. My family includes my husband, Leslie Callahan and our three children Eliza, Benjamin and John. We have two dogs and a cat.

Both my husband and I were raised in south Austin and feel very connected to the city. Since August 2002 we have owned our own business, Crossroads Cattle, where my husband and his business partner work as cattle brokers.

My reasons for serving on the board are simple, I think everyone should. In my opinion, we all have a responsibility to the community in which we live and while raising three small children, this is my way of serving this area.

Neighborhood Directory

If you one of the Estates telephone directories, it's at least two years old. Would you like a current directory? Let us know. How about if it costs the Association \$700?

The Board has looked into printing an updated directory, but the production and distribution costs would total \$700 or so. We've only had a couple of requests for new directories in the last year, so we're not sure that it makes sense to spend part of your annual dues on it.

There's also the fact that people move, making any printed directory quickly out-of-date. One solution is to keep the directory on the website. A website directory would have little or no cost and could easily be kept very current.

Would you like us to print an updated printed directory? Would you like a directory on the website? Please give your thoughts to Allen Gunter (292-4035; bodsec@eshhoa.org).

Illegal Activity in Our Neighborhood

John Anderson, Vice President

Many homeowners have expressed concern about automobiles speeding, automobiles making excessive noise by tire screeching or loud mufflers, lawn damage, and vandalism in the neighborhood. Several concerned homeowners met on May 5th with your Board and Deputy John Cravatt of the Travis County Sheriff's Office to discuss the issue.

Deputy Cravatt said that all incidents should be reported to the Sheriff's office. They may not be able to successfully prosecute each individual incident, but cumulatively, the incident reports can help build a prosecutable case. Also, the more incidents reported, the higher the probability that there will be a responding officer in the neighborhood that can catch them in the act. The Sheriff's office cannot do anything if the problems are not reported. So please report all incidences to the Sheriff's office, regardless of the probability of catching the perpetrator. The more incidents reported, the more likely that they will be resolved and stopped.

You DO NOT have to give your name or address when reporting an incident. However, unless you give your name, or a Sheriff's officer catches and tickets someone (which creates a case number), there will be no case on file, and the incident will not be recorded anywhere for future investigations.

Call 911 for the following incidents that you have witnessed, even if the offender has left the scene:

- Automobile speeding, tire screeching, reckless driving.
- Drunken driver.
- Underage drinking.
- Illegal substance use.
- Lawn damage or vandalism in process.

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Our Summer Home

Bailey Middle School, our usual home for Board meetings, is not available to us during the summer. Instead, we will be meeting at the Shady Hollow Community Center, 3303 Doe Run, in June, July and August. See the website (eshhoa.org) for exact dates and times. Come by and say hello!

Possible Stranger Danger

Deborah Treece, President

There is a Caucasian man in his early to late 50's possibly 60's who appears to be "cruising" our neighborhood. Around 2:30 to 3:00 pm every day, this man, driving a black Toyota Tacoma pickup truck license plate # 4BD S79, repeatedly circles through our neighborhood. He has also been seen in the Shady Hollow neighborhood and around the Baranoff Elementary School area. However, he does not live in this area or in Shady Hollow.

This type of behavior is odd and may be of some concern, especially for those children who bike and walk to school. But it is also entirely possible that there is a reasonable explanation for his behavior.

Therefore, if anyone knows this man please contact one of your Board members so we can put a message on the website. Otherwise, if you are suspicious of any person in or around our neighborhood please contact the Sheriff's Department at 854-9285.

Looking for Glamour? Excitement? Fortune and Fame?

Then how about serving on the Board or the Architectural Control Committee (ACC)? At least until the glamour, excitement, fortune and fame come along, that is!

The Estates needs good management to keep it a great place to live, and that management is us – the homeowners. The Board and the ACC each have five members who serve two-year terms. Terms are staggered three/two so that each year, two or three positions on each group are available.

The Board meets monthly for about two hours, and there is usually a couple of hours of additional time required each month. The ACC meets for an hour or two as needed to review project plans submitted by homeowners.

If you would like to learn more about serving on either the Board or the ACC, just get in touch with Allen Gunter at 292-4035 or bodsec@eshhoa.org. And if you would like to serve on the Board, please let Allen know. We would like to put some information about you in the September newsletter – just in time for our annual homeowners meeting in October.

Meet George Robbins, Board Treasurer

After graduating in 1957 from Texas A&I in Kingsville, I spent the next 34 years working in instrumentation sales and management. In 1991 I retired, and Susan and I started traveling as full time RV'ers.

We spent about 6 wonderful years on the road and then decided it was time to settle down. We moved to Austin in 1997 and bought a home in Shady Hollow. Two years later we discovered the Estates of Shady Hollow, fell in love with the area and moved into our home at 12508 River Rock Court in July of 1999.

We had some spare time on our hands, so started doing volunteer work for the Wildflower Center, and then Meals on Wheels and More in their Handy Wheels, Groceries to Go and MediWheels programs. When our Homeowners' Association needed volunteers for the Board, I decided I had the time and interest in serving and was elected for the 2003-2004 term. It has been a valuable experience, and I would urge anyone with the time and interest to volunteer to serve on our Board.

I hope my contributions to the HOA have been of some value.

Be Among the First to Know

We currently have no way to rapidly disseminate information to you and other homeowners. We would like to assemble a list of email addresses so that we can notify you of significant events concerning the neighborhood.

This list will not be sold or used for commercial purposes. We will not make your email address public (or available to the community at large) without your consent.

If you would like to be notified of neighborhood activity via email, please send your email address to web@eshhoa.org.

When you send us your email address, let us know if you would:

- 1) Like to see email addresses in the Estates of Shady Hollow telephone directory (see *Neighborhood Directory* on page 2), and
- 2) Be willing to put your email address in it.

Illegal Activity (Continued from page 3)

Call 854-9285 for the following incidents:

- Loud muffler.
- Lawn damage or vandalism after the fact.
- Loud music/stereo/radio.
- Verbal abuse or harassment.

NOTE: If you are put on hold while calling 854-9285, don't press any numbers, even though you are given the option to. Pressing a number will forward you to a voice mail system during certain times of the day, and you will not be able to speak with anyone until possibly the next business day. Just stay on the line and someone will eventually answer depending on how busy they are with 911 activity.

If you experience what could possibly be considered retaliation, even though you cannot prove it, it is especially important that you report the problem. This is a far more serious offense, and will escalate the priority of the investigation.

To Toll or Not to Toll – We Vote Not! (Continued from page 1)

The increase in traffic on Brodie over the past few years is creating significant safety issues, especially for the kids that have to cross Brodie to get to Baranoff Elementary or Bailey Middle School, or to play with friends. It is also damaging to the environment, and in particular our water supply (see *Got Milk Water?* on page 1).

The extension of SH 45 to FM 1626 would reduce traffic on Brodie significantly – if it is free. If it is developed as a toll road, however, Brodie will remain the route of choice for those that do not want to pay the tolls. In fact, Brodie is identified as the official free alternative.

The argument that tolls are needed to pay for the cost of this road is contrary to the fact that the right-of-way has already been purchased and the Texas Highway Commission has already appropriated the full cost of construction.

Details of CAMPO's proposals can be found at www.campotexas.org. If you would like to make your feelings known to CAMPO yourself, you will find a link at ohan.org/rma.html.

Try It, You'll Like It!

John Anderson

Our website has a new address – www.eshhoa.org

We have changed to a new, faster, cheaper, and more responsive hosting company. As part of the move, we set up a new domain with an independent company, so that future host changes can be made easily without having to change our domain name again.

We continue to improve the site. We have added PDF versions of the Association's official documents such as the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, CC&Rs, and amendments. We have also created an "amended" version of the CC&Rs which reflects all of the amendments to date, and includes a content list for easy reference and fast access to sections of interest.

The Community Notices section has been modified to contain current topics of interest or importance. Here you will find a link to the "Drainage Study" performed by Travis County for the Estates which defines actions we should take to reduce flooding in the neighborhood. The Community Notices section should be checked regularly for events or activities that affect our neighborhood.

Visit the website and let us know what you think. Email any comments or suggestions for improving the site to web@eshhoa.org.

Patrols to Begin (Continued from page 1)

The Neighborhood Watch Committee is now in the process of finalizing arrangements for the constables. To keep the cost down, the Committee is working out agreements with the Constables Office and the Shady Hollow MUD to coordinate the patrolling of our neighborhood with the patrols already being made to protect the MUD's equipment. As a result, the cost of the patrols is substantially less than otherwise, and can be covered within the Association's current budget.

When you see a constable or Sheriff's Deputy driving down your street, give a friendly wave! And if you have any questions about the patrols or the Neighborhood Watch Committee, contact John Anderson at 280-7383 or bodvp@eshhoa.org.

Meet Allen Gunter, Board Secretary

I'm not sure exactly what possessed my wife and I to buy our house on Ebony Hollow Pass. After all, we were coming from a house on a 50' by 100' lot close to downtown Houston and within walking distance of a library, two grocery stores, several restaurants, etc. This was quite a change! But there's something special about the Estates, and as the surrounding area gets more and more built up, I think the Estates becomes even more special.

But I also know that we homeowners are the ones to keep it special. So I volunteered to serve on the committee formed in 2002 to review the CC&Rs, served on the ACC in 2003, and am now on the Board.

One of my objectives in running for the Board was to increase communications between the Board and homeowners. As a homeowner, I want to know what the Board is and isn't doing in support of our community. And as a Board member, I want to know what homeowners would like to see the Board doing.

We're accomplishing the first part through the newsletter and the website. I am the editor for the newsletter, so if you have any criticisms or suggestions for improvements, please let me know. (And if you like it, I wouldn't mind hearing that, too!)

In between Board meetings and working on the newsletter, I enjoy model railroading and the piano. But most of all I enjoy our nine- and six-year-old daughters, three grandkids, and foster children.

Money Matters

George Robbins, Treasurer

Through April, the Association's year-to-date actual expenses were \$2,949.89 compared with a budget of \$7,520.09 for this period. This shows our actual expenses are \$4,570.20 below budget.

Newsletter Publication Schedule

The newsletter is scheduled for publication quarterly. Our goal is to have it in your mailbox the first week in March, June, September and December.

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