

# The Estates of Shady Hollow



[www.eshhoa.org](http://www.eshhoa.org)

March 2005

## **URGENT: Time to Fight the Aqua Texas Rate Increase**

As you know, Aqua Texas has filed for a substantial increase in our water rates. Your Board believes that the increase is not justified and intends to fight it. But we need your help.

The first two steps are:

1. March 1: The Board intends to request party status at the preliminary hearing to become a recognized party to the rate case.
2. ASAP: Get a copy and sign and send a request for assistance letter to our state legislators.

**Letters to Legislators:** By the time you get this, one of your neighbors may already have stopped by to ask you to sign a request letters to our state legislators asking for their help. If you agree that the proposed increase is unfair and unreasonable, signing the letters is one way you can fight it. We will send your letters for you – you don't even have to find envelopes and stamps. You can also get the letters from any Board member or from our website ([www.eshhoa.org](http://www.eshhoa.org)). Just sign and drop off at 3300 Lost Oasis Hollow.

**Preliminary hearing:** We have identified an attorney with meaningful rate case experience to represent us at the hearing (10am at the Travis building, 17th and Congress; feel free to attend). Equally important, we have been in touch with other homeowner associations to form a coalition to fight the increase. This has two significant advantages – strength in numbers and cost-sharing. Our share of the cost for the preliminary hearing will be small and paid out of our reserves. We will keep you informed as the case unfolds. We will then estimate costs for future steps.

**Can we win?** It would be unrealistic to expect that we can get the proposed increase entirely eliminated. We do think, however, that we have a good chance of significantly reducing it. One thing we know for sure; we have no chance if we don't try.

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## **And the Winners Are...**

Signs were posted in the winners' yards, so you may already know what houses were voted "best dressed" for the 2004 holiday season. But just in case you missed it...

- \* First Place: 3501 Black Mesa
- \* Second Place: 11904 Edwards Hollow Run
- \* Third Place: 3704 Green Emerald

Congratulations to these homeowners!

There were a lot of great decorations throughout the Estates, and eight other homes also received votes:

3209 Barker Hollow	12302 Buffalo Grove Cove
3801 Ebony Hollow Pass	3804 Ebony Hollow Pass
12001 Edwards Hollow Run	3701 Green Emerald Terrace
12509 Red Mesa	

Many thanks to everyone who voted, and many, many thanks to Judi May who ran the contest, hunted up the signs, put them up and took them down, and more. Without Judi, the contest would not have happened!

## **Thanks Where Due and A Welcome!**

Many thanks to Ysabel Pena and Asanga Weerakoon for their service on the Architectural Control Committee (ACC). And welcome to Roel Bazan and John Meskey who have been appointed by the Board to replace them. All are neighbors helping neighbors keep the Estates a great place to live!

*Continued from preceding column*

**Many thanks** to Victoria Harkins for sharing her expertise and time to get us this far. Victoria has hands on rate case experience, and even worked for the state when Aqua Texas (Aquasource) submitted it's last rate increase. Thanks also to George and Susan Robbins for all their help doing research and contacting other HOAs..

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