

Monument Hill Property Owners Association Newsletter

FALL 2018



Notes from the President



Hello to everyone!

First, I'd like to introduce myself to you since this is my first newsletter as President. My name is Mark Hermes (pronounced Her-miss). My wife is Ashley and we have two children, Wyatt and Lara. I am originally from Hallettsville and Ashley is from Hillsboro. I am employed at the Texas Czech Heritage & Cultural Center as Manager. Ashley is the Engineering Programs Director at Blinn College. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me and I will be happy to address them, each respectively.

Fall is in the air! Just hearing the word Fall gives that cool feeling. As with the changing of the seasons, preparing for the next season is key. It's a good time to winterize your lawn, clean the landscape so that it is ready for next spring, get supplies ready for wrapping pipes and have material on hand to be ready to cover those delicate plants in case of an early freeze. We can never be too prepared. As we get closer to the holiday seasons, the neighborhood will be busier with family gatherings and parties. Please notify your neighbors if you plan to have visitors over so that parking can be worked out on our tight streets. Ghost and goblins will be roaming the streets and deer will be more active running through. Please be vigilant when driving and remind your guests to do the same. Children tend to get excited this time of year and forget to watch where they are going or what could be coming. Also, beware of deer around your house. Be sure that you do not let children or pets outside without checking your yards for deer, including the back yard. Bucks can be very aggressive and does can be very protective of their fawns. We don't want anyone attacked.

Your involvement is the key to our success! In the purest sense, the Property Owners Association is a form of representative democratic governance. As with actual representative governments, the various actors and leaders have prescribed roles and responsibilities. In community associations, the owners are the electorate and have the responsibility of being good citizens (paying assessments, voting, abiding by the rules, etc.) and for electing representatives to a policy body to carry out a policy-making and administrative oversight role. Officers are elected to provide leadership to the policy body. Committees are created by the Board to provide substantive input to the board's deliberative process and as a conduit for owner participation and involvement. The community association is self-governed by owners and as such, the homeowners select from amongst themselves, leaders who make decisions for the group. Homeowners must then abide by those rules and decisions. Joining a committee is a responsibility each owner has to share in the work involved in governing our association. It also creates an opportunity for more in-depth participation and important decision making. Owners also have a responsibility to adhere to legal obligations. They have an obligation to pay assessments in a timely fashion in order to permit the association to meet its financial obligations without penalties. Timely assessment payments save the association, and you, the owner, the added costs of collection activity.

Angry neighbors make an angry neighborhood. If you haven't yet, take time to meet or visit with your neighbors every now and then. This communication helps each of you to understand each other better when issues arise. Also, let's keep personal →

Your Board

President ~ Mark Hermes: (361) 772-4619
Vice President ~ Cleo Schneider: (512) 924-2733
Treasurer ~ Brenda Benes: (979) 249-6804
Secretary ~ Dawn Cowen: (979) 204-6104
Restrictions ~ Darlene Gilmore (979) 968-5686
Office Manager ~ Lori Steffek (979) 968-5514

Yard of the Month

July

Janet Coronado
207 Park Dr.

August

Juan Oviedo, Jr.
400 Rolling Hill Dr.

September

Royce & JoAnn Friemel
218 Richard Rd.

From the President (cont'd)

aggressions out of our neighborhood. Contact our office if there is a problem and we will look into every issue so that it benefits the property owners and/or the POA in the best possible way.

I look forward to serving you the next two years. Thank you to everyone that has made us feel welcomed in the community. It is the best neighborhood we've lived in thus far so I know that the POA and this great community is on the right path!

Deer Committee Update

Since early 2016 the MHPOA has been involved in closely monitoring the number of deer living in the neighborhood. Generally, our counting of deer has identified the number of animals to be relatively constant at 100 to 200. The low point of about 90 identified deer occurred just after hurricane Harvey in August, 2017.

The efforts of the committee in addition to maintaining records of deer population have resulted in herd reduction of about 40 to 50 does. This modest reduction, while important (think two fawns per doe), has had little impact on the total number of deer roaming the streets.

We respectfully ask those who feed the deer to stop doing so. Even a casual observation reveals that deer are creatures of habit. Place deer corn on your patio or spread it in your yard and the deer will soon arrive and they will leave only when the feed is gone, permanently. Thank you for your efforts to assist us in this important neighborhood issue.

Treasurer's Report

Our checking account balance as of 8/31/2018 was \$62,499.18. Our accounts this same time last year totaled \$56,954.05. Our total past due accounts receivable balance on 8/31/2018 was \$747.56 compared to \$655.93 the same time last year. Please pay your quarterly dues in a timely manner.

Welcome to the Neighborhood

Please take a moment
to introduce your-
selves to the new kids
on the block.....

BRADEN & CARRIE FISBECK
222 RICHARD RD
CHARLES & KATHEE MAZAC
1 OAK CT
DWIGHT & LAURA PESCHKE
300 ROLLING HILL DR

SLOW DOWN

Speeding continues to be a problem, especially on Country Club Drive and Park Drive. Please slow down before someone gets hurt, especially now that school is back in session and children are walking to and from the bus stops.



Neighborhood Happenings

- ◆ **National Night Out—Tuesday, October 2nd (3 Yaupon Ct)** — will be held at the Gaddes's on October 2nd at 6 p.m. Come eat dinner and get to know your neighbors. Residents with odd house numbers are asked to bring a meat, salad or covered dish and residents with even house numbers are asked to bring a vegetable or dessert. Contact Butch & Linda Gaddes (979) 968-5783 or Linda & Donald Templin (979) 968-8871 for more information.
- ◆ **1st Saturday Breakfast (La Marina Restaurant)** - On the 1st Saturday of every month at 8:30 a.m., a group of Frisch Auf! & Bluff Haven residents gather at La Marina (in the back room to the right). For more information, call Faye Graeber, (979) 968-0075
- ◆ **MHPOA Board Meetings**—are held the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the MHPOA office, 100 Country Club Dr. If you plan on attending, please call to verify the meeting time, as sometimes it changes.

Little Free Library

Happy Fall Y'all! 🍁🍁🍁🍁

We have actually had a couple of less than sweltering evenings, and I'm so glad. I put out some fall flowers to add some color to the LFL boxes. Who knows when we will actually have some real fall color, but do come by and take a look!

I haven't been as faithful in changing out the books in either of the Little Free Libraries, but they have done well on their own! THANKS to you all here in Frisch Auf!/Bluff Haven for donating books, and taking care of them when I'm not able to do so.

Both boxes have plenty of books, and there might even be a few books that the children could use if they need to write a book report!

I mentioned in the last MHPOA Newsletter that I was reading Audrey Wick's book, Finding True North. I really enjoyed it and have started her next book, Coming Home. I'll report on that in the next newsletter. It's so easy to order her books on Amazon, and I love to support our local talent.

Another author, May Cobb, not quite so local, but definitely a Texan, has written her first novel, Big Woods! It's a thriller set in Longview, TX. May's mother-in-law, Martha Lutringer, is a dear friend of mine. This book is also available easily on Amazon!

As always, if there's a specific author you are interested in, please leave me a note, call me, or let me know somehow, and I'll try to find something for you.

Whatcha reading? 📖📖📖

Mary Lou McNair

www.facebook.com/valleyviewlittlefreelibrary

