

HIGHLANDS OF PLANO PRESTON RIDGE

The Highlander

www.hoppr.org



BOARD MEMBERS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Homeowners,

Summer is upon us with a vengeance. This week temperatures are in the high 90's with the heat index climbing to 104 degrees. Please take care of your animals and judiciously water your lawns and gardens to keep them from burning up.

New Beautification Initiative

Thank you taking pride in our neighborhood and doing your best to improve the appearance of your homes. As your HOA Board, we added spring color to our main entrance off Browning and recently asked Cheryl Hill, our Landscape Chairperson to begin a new beautification initiative. We expect shortly to inspect and repair our sprinkler system as well as improve the landscape ground cover for the crepe myrtles along the western side of the Browning entrance. If you have any wisdom and experience to share with Cheryl I am sure she would love to hear from you – especially if you can also offer your services to help carry out the project ☺.

Adult Social

My wife and I attended the Katy Trail Ice House social on May 19th and I have to say the Katy Mexican food and your hospitality made it a very special occasion! We had a great time getting to meet new folks from the community. A number of you came in groups and brought an extra flair to the celebration. I want to thank our Social Chairperson Susan Redding and her husband Mike for arranging the event and spearheading its success. We certainly had an interesting mix of people from various backgrounds and international

experience. I didn't realize how diverse our neighborhood was. It made me think of a book I just read, "When the World Came to Town" – the story of 9/11/01 in Gander, Nfld. when passengers from across the world and all walks of life spent a week in that small Canadian town. The people there were extremely hospitable and servant-centered. It made me proud to have lived there many years ago. Our Katy Group shared many of the same characteristics.

New Community Social Opportunity

While Susan Redding and the Social Committee continues to provide us with opportunities to meet our neighbors and expand friendships, we also have neighbors who would like to invite you into their home to join them in an informal, regular Game Night (hearts, spades, beginner bridge). Please check out the notice elsewhere in the Newsletter for particulars.

A Friendly Reminder

As summer arrives in earnest, we expect more and more neighbors will be working on home improvements. *Please be sure you notify the ACC for approval.* Those notifications may be found on the CMA Portal. The way to connect to the CMA Portal is through CMA's website www.cmamanagement.com.

Warmest regards,

Deane Parker

**President
HOPPR HOA**

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president@hoppr.org

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Landscape Chair: Cheryl Hill
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Social Chair: Susan Redding
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Webmaster: Whitney Magnuson
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**CMA Community Management
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WELCOME COMMITTEE

WELCOME NEW RESIDENTS!

If you are new to our neighborhood, please call Dale McGilvray at 972-867-2824 or email her at welcome@hoppr.org.

She will be happy to supply you with information about Plano, as well as a directory for the Highlands of Plano Preston Ridge neighborhood along with the latest *Highlander* newsletter.



Dale McGilvray
Welcome Committee
Chair
welcome@hoppr.org

LANDSCAPE BY CHERYL HILL



My lawn grass is to my landscape as my floor covering is to the inside of my house. Turf is the foundation on which the rest of the landscape is built. It's the surface on which my family will play, eat, entertain, and work. I want it to be functional, yet beautiful.

Of all the different grass types, only a few qualify as good turf grass choices. There are a dozen common grasses that measure up as turf grass alternatives for Texas. Only one, buffalo grass, is the true native. Unfortunately, there is no perfect grass. Some are attractive, but they can't survive cold temperatures. Others weaken in the summer heat while some can't tolerate shade.

When I purchased my home four years ago, I favored the St. Augustine that was growing beautifully on the south side of the sidewalk leading to the front door. The north side was mostly Bermuda grass. I have been adding St. Augustine sprigs every spring rather than laying new sod. So far, they have taken root and spreading nicely. Lately though, I noticed the grass was looking yellowish and not a healthy bright green. Parts of the yard were thinning out with little dead spots scattered around. Also, weeds were starting to grow and the Bermuda was slowly coming back.

I just learned that most older St. Augustine lawns are extremely susceptible to a decline-viral disease and the signs were evident in mine. It is spread to established grass on mower blades, trimmers...any tools that are used on multiple yards. There is no known chemical control. The only way to stop spreading the disease is to disinfect all equipment with a 10% solution of chlorine bleach after each use. Fat chance of that happening with my lawn mowing service! So, my fingers are crossed that the organic fertilizer applied will boost the healthy areas and create new growth. Hopefully, I won't be forced to replant with decline-resistant Raleigh St. Augustine, the virus will run its course and I will be spared the cost. I share this in case someone else is experiencing the same issues with their St. Augustine lawn; to be helpful financially and in stopping severe damage to their turf.

Be safe!!

BOARD MEETINGS

SEPTEMBER
BOARD MEETING
TUES. SEPT. 13
AT
4305 BARNESLEY
7 PM

SCHEDULE

(DATES SUBJECT TO
CHANGE)

TUES. OCT. 11

ANNUAL MTG.
WED. NOV. 9

TIPS FROM THE CITY OF PLANO

Prep Your Home For Summer

As we approach the hottest months of the year, it's time to perform yearly summer maintenance. Keep your energy bills low, extend the life of your mechanical equipment and improve the overall safety of your property with these simple tips.

Keep a regular mowing schedule: Not only does regular mowing stimulate grass to grow lush and green, it can also save you money. A well maintained yard saves on the purchase of expensive equipment, tools and lawn care products.

Inspect your patio or deck: Fix cracks in driveways and walkways to eliminate tripping hazards. Wooden decks should be stained and sealed to protect from decay and splintering.

Inspect your fence: Repair or replace broken, missing or leaning sections to prolong the life of your fence.

Add Insulation: Install high-quality insulation to save on your energy bill. Heat and air can escape through the roof. Having attics and cavity walls insulated helps bring down electricity costs.

Seal leaks: Caulking gaps and cracks around doors and windows will keep your home comfortable and energy efficient.

Check your heating system: Avoid carbon monoxide leaks and improve the efficiency of your furnace with regular maintenance. The best time to fix the central heating system is when the weather is warm. Don't wait until fall to discover the furnace is not working properly. Be sure to hire a professional to service the heating and cooling system in your home.

Clean your chimney: After heavy winter use, summer is a great time to hire a professional to clean your chimney. A clean chimney reduces the risk of a chimney fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.



Inspect and remove any damaged or dead landscaping, trees or vegetation



Check pools and hot tubs for leaks



Repair cracked and broken walkways, patios and decks eliminating tripping hazards



Inspect fencing for loose, damaged or leaning sections or parts. Make necessary repairs and re-stain to prolong the life of your fence.



Stop air leaks by caulking gaps and cracks around doors and windows to be more energy efficient



Add high-quality insulation to attics and walls to lower electricity costs



Schedule air conditioning and heating system inspections to avoid carbon monoxide leaks and improve efficiency



Have your chimney professionally cleaned this summer to reduce risk of fire and carbon monoxide poisoning this fall



Clean dirt, smoke and grease build up from kitchen range hoods and air filters



Ensure fire extinguishers have not expired and are working properly



Download the Summer Home Maintenance Tips

Meet your neighbors!!!
Join the HOPPR Facebook group.

It's an invisible group, and totally private, so you need to send Susan a friend request so she can add you to the group. Her FB name is Susan Shaffar-Redding. (Please note her maiden name ends in AR, not ER. A lot of people miss that because Shaffar is unusual).





NEIGHBORHOOD BOOK CLUB

The Neighborhood Book Club will meet on July 12

Nechama Baron is the hostess at
2808 Oates Drive
from 2:00 to 3:30.

If you are interested in joining us please contact Janet McCrum at tmngjanet@aol.com.

Chasing a Croatian Girl

by Cody McClain Brown

Author Bio:

Cody McClain Brown teaches at the University of Zagreb. For four years he wrote a popular, weekly blog for Croatian Radio Television's the Voice of Croatia. He has a PhD in political science and lives in Zagreb with his wife and daughter.

Synopsis:

This is the lighthearted story of American Cody McClain Brown's adjustments to life in Croatia. After falling in love with an enigmatic, beautiful Croatian girl (whom he knows is from Croatia but assumes that means Russia), Cody eventually woos her and the two move to Split, Croatia. There, he encounters a world of deadly drafts, endless coffees, and the forceful will of his matriarchal mother-in-law. Chasing a Croatian Girl moves

past the beautiful pictures of Croatia and humorously discovers the beauty of Croatia's people and culture.

Janet McCrum
Book Club Coordinator



Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 12

Time: 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Nechama Baron
2808 Oates Drive

For more information email Janet McCrum at tmngjanet@aol.com



Do you have a contribution for The Highlander? Submit articles, letters and suggestions to the editor at newsletter@hoppr.org by August 20 for publication in the September/October issue.

NEED A BABYSITTER OR A PETSITTER?

Need a babysitter?

Contact: newsletter@hoppr.org

The Highlands of Plano Preston Ridge HOA adds names to this list on request and the list is only available to residents. Highlands of Plano Preston Ridge HOA reserves the right to modify or refuse listings for any reason. (Inclusion on this list is not an endorsement).



Need a petsitter?

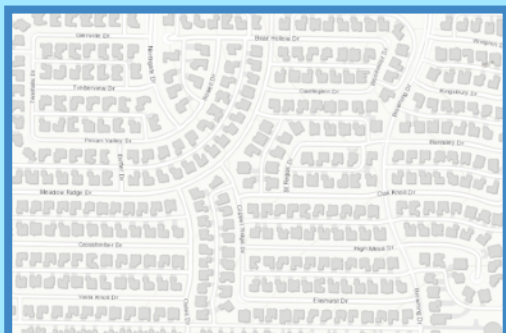
Contact: newsletter@hoppr.org

(Information is supplied at request of resident and is not an endorsement by the HOA or Board of Directors.

CRIME REPORTS

Check out Plano specific reports at: <https://www.plano.gov/1179/Crime-Statistics>

We encourage each of you to check out Officer Chris Biane's Safety Minute videos. Click this link to learn about Gift Cards with tips from Plano Police. <https://youtu.be/hr1nt-Inq5U>.





ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (ACC)

Brandon Furman is the Chairman of our Homeowners Association Architectural Committee. Please let him know if you would be interested in serving on this important committee. We need volunteers!!!!

A complete set of the neighborhood's Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions as well as the required ACC Application Form are available on our website at www.hoppr.org. Online ACC applications are easy with an account set up. Visit this link: <https://cma.cincwebaxis.com/cinc/acc-review/>

It's easy to submit your project request online. Simply go to hoppr.org. You will find the ACC application under "Useful Links". There you will find the CMA Management link to login or register. You can complete your ACC application and upload your supporting documents easily. The applications will be processed more quickly than submitting a request on paper.

Always provide contact information, either email or phone.

Remember...These are common work items that should be submitted to the Architectural Committee for review.

- Replacement of roofs
- Exterior painting
- Pool installation
- Home additions (extra rooms, garage expansion, driveways)
- Repair/re-staining or replacing, or installing new fences
- Storage buildings, greenhouses, or workshops
- Major landscaping projects including draught resistant landscaping and water conserving turf
- Exterior radio, television or other antennas (excluding those that cannot be seen from the street)
- Retaining walls.
- Mailbox modifications

Please allow a minimum of 10 days from the time you submit a completed ACC request form before commencing work.

Questions about your planned improvements? Please contact Brandon Furman or CMA Management.



BRIDGE AND MORE?

Game Night?

A couple in our neighborhood is looking for a mixed group of interested folks desiring to play Spades, Hearts, or Beginner Bridge. If you are interested, please email newseletter@hoppr.org and we will pass the word along.

Ladies' Bridge

The **Ladies' Bridge Club** meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm. This is a purely social club -- not cut throat, just fun party bridge.

Our next bridge night will be July 19 at the home of Barbara Rice. 4433 High Mesa

For more information regarding Ladies' Bridge, contact Janet McCrum at tmngjanet@aol.com

