



SUMMER



BOARD MEMBERS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Homeowners,

As we move deeper into Spring 2024, I have noticed (and appreciated) community members working their property landscapes trying to overcome the vagaries of the past winter. Many of you are fighting grass blight while others are dealing with the complexities of tree root exposure and dead bushes.

In the current Newsletter, one of our community's knowledgeable gardeners, Debbie Price, sent us an extensive Lawn Care Guide which I would recommend to all. Perhaps some of its ideas will help you in your beautification efforts. I encourage you to all take a peek.

Since our last Newsletter, Easter and the Easter Bunny paid a visit to HOPPR HOA at Arrowhead Park where about 30 kids and an equal number of parents enjoyed our annual Spring Easter Egg Hunt. Cookies and water plus a family picture with the Easter Bunny, capped off the chocolate celebration.

Many thanks to our Social Chair Susan Redding and her husband Mike for their behind-the-scenes egg-stuffing preparation party as well as locating a photographer and friendly Easter Bunny the kids all loved. Susan says to keep your eyes and ears open to an adult social event expected to arrive soon.

As your Board representatives, we are trying to listen well to your input.

Your comments are pertinent to both the Newsletter as well as broader community concerns. As always, your ideas and involvement help. It goes without saying your wisdom and solution-input is invaluable.

In the past month one of the concerns of homeowners has been about the challenges to sending items to the ACC. In response to that the Board is looking to have a working meeting to discuss a better process. Another homeowner concern was the careless throwing of advertising. We addressed that in the last Newsletter. I trust if you wanted to know more you took a look at the info provided.

Finally, the issues some homeowners have faced with neighbor lawn care has spiked this year. We hope this reason will be alleviated through Debbie Price's Guide. Perhaps if you are that neighbor, you'll get some good ideas how to improve your landscape challenges. One neighbor near us on Barnsley has done a super job in dealing with covering up roots through the use of stone and shrubs.

Respectfully,

Deane Parker

President, HOPPR HOA



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president@hoppr.org

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WELCOME COMMITTEE



“WELCOME”

NEW RESIDENTS!

TO HIGHLANDS OF PLANO
PRESTON RIDGE

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.



BOARD MEETINGS

2024
BOARD MEETINGS

TUESDAY JULY 9

TUESDAY OCT 8

7 PM

CMA OFFICE
1800 PRESTON PARK
BLVD
SUITE 101
PLANO, TX



Dale McGilvray
Welcome Committee Chair
welcome@hoppr.org

A WARM “WELCOME” TO
OUR NEWEST
NEIGHBORS!

Gibson & Kristina Aguirre
2812 Browning

Michael & Susan Lautenbach
4545 Crosstimber

Leo & Katrina Prezioso
4424 Oak Knoll Dr.



Please delete the following names from the “listing by last name” in the directory.

Omar & Boshra Ammuss Elmezain
2812 Browning

James & Michelle Holland
4545 Crosstimber

Kyung Chung
4424 Oak Knoll

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



NEIGHBORHOOD BOOK CLUB



The Neighborhood Book Club will meet on Tuesday May 14 2024 at the home of

Cheryl Hill
3112 Preston Meadow Dr.
From 2:00 to 3:30 pm

If you are interested in joining the Neighborhood Book Club, please contact Janet McCrum at tmngjanet@aol.com

The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride

Author's Bio:

James McBride is a native New Yorker and a graduate of New York City public schools. He studied composition at The Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio and received his Masters in Journalism from Columbia University in New York at age 22. He holds several honorary doctorates and is currently a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University. He is married with three children. He lives in Pennsylvania and New York.

James McBride is a former staff writer for The Washington Post, People Magazine, and The Boston Globe. His work has also appeared in Essence, Rolling Stone, and The New York Times.

Synopsis:

In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at

the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows.

As these characters' stories overlap and deepen, it becomes clear how much the people who live on the margins struggle and what they must do to survive. When the truth is finally revealed about what happened on Chicken Hill and the part the town's white establishment played in it, McBride shows us that even in dark times, it is love and community-heaven and earth-that sustain us.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 14

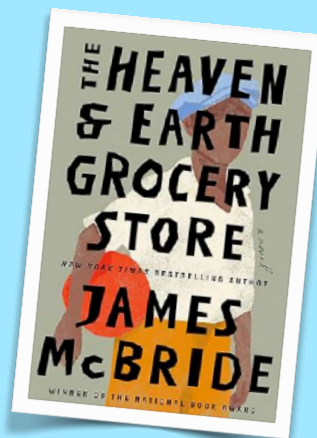
From 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

at the home of

Cheryl Hill

3112 Preston Meadow

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



*Janet McCrum
Book Club Coordinator*





LAWN TIPS FROM DEBBIE PRICE



SPRING LAWN CARE IN PLANO

We all know spring is an active time in the garden, but it is also an important time to give attention to our lawns. There are several tasks to perform this time of year to help our lawns transform into the lush, green oases we all want. Oh, and word to the wise – no matter how many commercials you hear this spring, **Weed and Feed Products are NOT Ideal in North Texas!** The timing is almost always off for one or two components (more on that later). The first step to a great lawn is an honest evaluation of what you have. Also, all the weather forecasters are predicting a late spring this year. We shall see.

Questions to Ask

- What type of grass do I have?
- Is it a full, healthy looking lawn?
- Is my lawn overrun with weeds?
- Do I have patches that look diseased?
- How much water should I give my lawn?

Getting the answers to your evaluation will go a long way towards growing healthy, green grass, so let's address each question one by one.

The Grass is Always Greeneror Is It?

If you are unsure of the type of grass you have, place some cuttings in a Ziploc bag and bring them to your closest garden center. Experts there should quickly identify your grass type. The most common warm-season grasses in our area are St. Augustine, Bermuda, and to a lesser degree Zoysia. Knowing what you have is an important step as it will help dictate the types of products to use.

Understanding the general health of your current lawn is also important. If it looks spotty or displays a poor color, chances are you need to fertilize more regularly. However, if your lawn is lush and green, and your soil is healthy, you might not need to fertilize at all. In general, most Texas lawns require a fertilizer that is composed mostly of nitrogen. Nitrogen is the first of the three numbers that will appear on a fertilizer bag – the others being phosphorous and potassium. Too much phosphorous in the soil can lead to problems, so look for a product that has a high first number and a low second and third number. Many garden centers and hardware stores sell formulations labeled specifically for Texas lawns, which you should try to use. Each product is a little different, so follow the directions on the bag to determine how much fertilizer to apply.

Some organic gardeners like to apply a top dressing of compost about a quarter of an inch thick rather than use a typical fertilizer. Applying a compost is a fine idea as long as it is done early in spring – a late application can burn the lawn. For best results when choosing a fertilizer for your lawn, conduct a soil test.

Knowing when to Fertilize

In general, fertilize twice a year – once in spring and again in fall. Timing of the spring application will vary by year due to our erratic weather. Spring fertilizer should not be applied until the grass is actively growing. I recommend waiting until the lawn is at least 50% green before fertilizing. If it is put down before the grass is actively growing, it is wasted.



Getting weeds under control leads to a healthy lawn. Use pre-emergent herbicides to kill the seeds that current weeds are producing. Most lawn weeds are annuals, which means they grow one season, produce seeds, and die. If you stop the weed seeds from spouting, then you eliminate the weeds! Similar to fertilizers, apply herbicides spring and fall; however, they require a different application schedule than fertilizers. If it's the right time for one, it's probably not the right time for the other, which is why weed and feeds are not ideal.

In general, apply spring pre-emergent products mid-to-late February or early March. If you want to keep organic, the best pre-emergent product is corn gluten and has shown to be effective in Texas. Make sure the one you choose is labeled for the type of grass you have. Once you have applied your pre-emergent, water it in as soon as possible, which assures it is effective and actually helps prevent it from washing away. If weeds are not a problem in your yard, you probably don't need a treatment, but you can always start treating as soon as you notice them.

Continued on Next Page



LAWN TIPS FROM DEBBIE (CONTINUED)



If you have St. Augustine grass, you could potentially struggle with brown patch disease, which is caused by the *Rhizoctonia* fungus. Brown patch creates brown circular-shaped lesions in your grass. Typically, they start forming in the spring and persist into summer. Left untreated, brown patch can spread throughout the yard. Use a fungicide labeled for brown patch disease to treat this common problem. Warning: brown patch usually needs to be treated multiple times before it can be controlled.

Bugs Damage Many a Lone Star Lawn



First on the list of usual suspects are grub worms. Grub worms are a white, fleshy larvae that live in the ground until emerging as a beetle. They leave large brown patches in the lawn that often get confused with brown patch. No matter what type of lawn you have, grub worms can be a problem. It is easy to diagnose them as you simply dig into the affected area and if you have more than a handful, they are likely your culprit. If the problem gets too bad, i.e., your lawn displays several larva-infested brown patches, you might need to treat it. Look for a granular grub killer. It is recommended to treat the entire lawn and not only the affected area. Next on the hit list are chinch bugs. These little

critters love the heat. They typically attack lawns at the edges first, often near a side walk. Chinch bugs are treated with an insecticide spray.

Watering your lawn on a proper schedule is probably the single most important aspect of Texas lawn care. Most lawns in the area require one inch of water a week. Here is a tip for figuring out how much water your lawn is actually getting when you water:

ON YOUR NEXT WATERING DAY, PLACE OPEN CANS AROUND YOUR YARD (an old bean can works fine). WATER YOUR LAWN AS YOU NORMALLY WOULD, AND WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED, SIMPLY MEASURE HOW MUCH WATER IS IN EACH CAN. NOT ONLY WILL YOU DETERMINE HOW MUCH WATER YOU ARE GIVING YOUR LAWN, BUT YOU CAN ALSO TELL IF SOME AREAS ARE RECEIVING MORE WATER THAN OTHERS.

I believe it is better to split up the one inch of water that is needed into two weekly applications. In other words, apply a half-inch of water twice a week to your yard.

I know this is quite a bit of information at once, but don't let it overwhelm you. Getting your lawn on a good watering schedule, knowing when to fertilize and being aware of what problems could arise, and simply knowing how to handle them will get your lawn lush and green in no time.

Debbie Price

From the city of Plano



Spend Less for Emergency Supplies This Month

Many of us have learned (the hard way) that we aren't always as ready for emergencies as we should be. North Texas residents are well acquainted with the potential hazards associated with living in an area also known as Tornado Alley. [Preparedness with proper supplies](#) to sustain your family and home is essential.

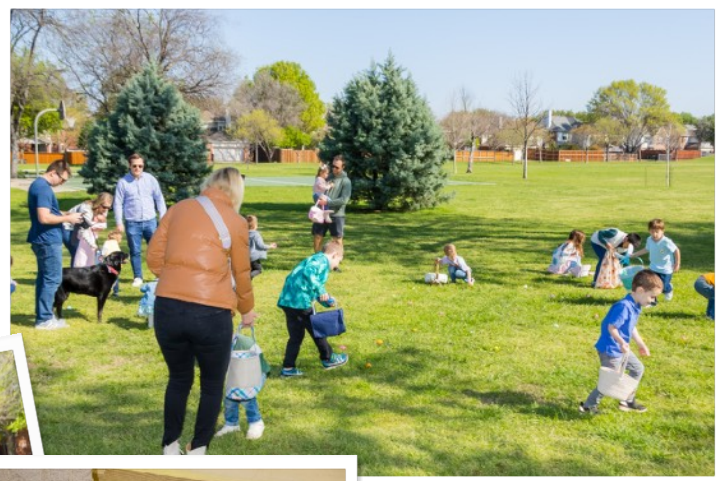
Fortunately, Texans get help with the [Emergency Preparation Supplies Sales Tax Holiday](#) from Saturday to Monday, April 27 - 29.

Save the tax on purchases of emergency equipment such as generators, batteries, first aid kits, flashlights, carbon monoxide detectors and more. Be prepared for the next round of severe weather. Buy in-store, by phone or online.

[Review the list of purchase items.](#)



SOCIAL NEWS - THE EASTER BUNNY EVENT



*Susan Redding
Social Chair
social@hoppr.org*

SOCIAL NEWS - ADULT HAPPY HOUR



COMING SOON!!!!
HOPPR ADULT HAPPY HOUR
THURSDAY. MAY 16
6 - 7:30 PM
4700 W PARK BLVD, PLANO



Susan Redding
Social Chair
social@hoppr.org

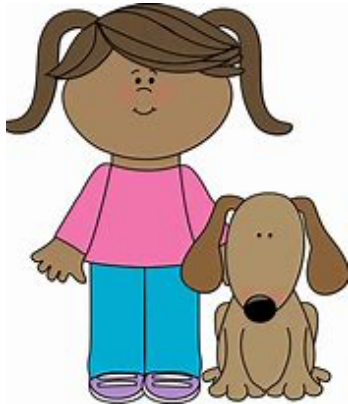


NEED A BABYSITTER OR A PETSITTER?

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.

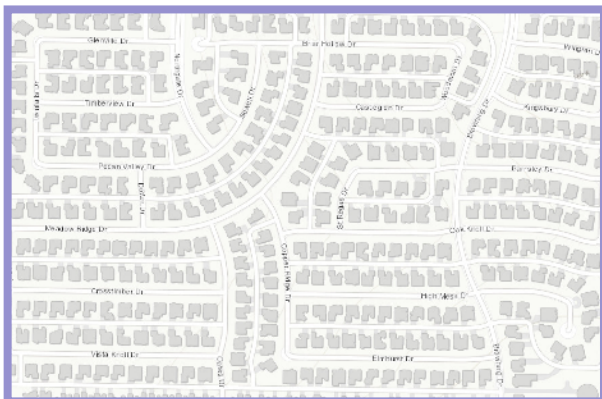


CRIME REPORTS



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

We encourage you to check out Officer Chris Biane's Safety Minute videos. This one is "Plano Police True Crimes Podcast: Telephone Scams"



ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (ACC)

Dear Homeowner:

If you are tackling some home repairs, Brandon Furman and **the ACC ask that homeowners complete their applications and submit them through CMA, even if you are staining your fence the same color!!** 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/>

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](http://www.hoppr.org).



Brandon Furman
ACC Chairperson
acc@hoppr.org