



STONE CANYON

Neighborhood Newsletter

www.stonecanyonhoa.org

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Quick Reminders for Summer Lawn Care

With the hot, sunny weather over us it is time to raise the height on the lawn mowers if you have not done so already.

The grass will thank you for it! Try for mowing height of 2 ½ to 3 inches (Common Bermuda is recommended @1 ½ -2in.) this will help to insulate the soil from the drying heat as well as keeping weed seeds from germinating.

Don't remove more than a 1/3 of the grass blade, this will allow you to leave the clippings on the lawn. The clippings will return the nutrients back to the soil. Of course if you have any diseased lawn, do bag them.

Also important is keeping the mower blades sharp otherwise they will tear the grass and the tips will turn brown.

The lawns could use 1 ½ to 2 inches of water per week during the summer. Deep & infrequent watering encourages deep, healthy roots that will help the lawn withstand the heat as well as cold temps in the winter. There is no need to water the lawn every day. Watering ideally should be done in the early morning so there is less chance of evaporation. Night time watering could encourage disease on the lawn. If you can, divide the time needed for adequate watering. Instead of watering one area for say 20 minutes, water for 10 minutes then come back and water for another 10. This should help the water soak into the soil and minimize run off to the sidewalks and streets.

For more information regarding watering, insects & disease please refer to the following websites:

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/downloads/lawncare.pdf>

<http://www.gardenguides.com/104501-problems-st-augustine-grass-texas.html>

Have a fun summer!
Cathy Soukup



Have a
Safe & Happy
4th of July!

STONE CANYON

Owners & Association Management Teams

www.stonecanyonhoa.org

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KEY CONTACTS

In an attempt to make things easier to find, we have provided some key contact information for various organizations that you might need to contact. If you have a suggestion for information to add, please contact the web committee.

HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION:

Bob Nardo - Goodwin Management 512-852-7965
 11149 Research Blvd Suite 100, Austin, TX 78759
<http://stc.goodwintx.com/>

Payment Address:
 Stone Canyon / Goodwin Management, Inc.
 P.O. Box 203310
 Austin, TX. 78720-331

Governmental Agencies:

Fern Bluff Mud 512-238-0606
 7320 Wyoming Springs, Round Rock, TX 78681

City of Round Rock 512-218-5400
 221 East Main Street, Round Rock, TX

Williamson County Commissioners Office... 512-248-3238
 400 W. Main St., Ste. 216, Round Rock, TX 78664

Williamson County Constable (Robert Chody) 512-248-3239
 211 Commerce Cove, Round Rock, TX 78664

Williamson County Sheriff's Office
 (Non-Emergency) 512-943-1300

Williamson County EMS
 (Non-Emergency) 512-943-1264

Round Rock ISD (512) 464-5000 ext 1311
 Round Rock Avenue, Round Rock, TX 78681

Misc. Services:

Gas Line Malfunction.... (Business Hours) 1-800-460-3030
(After Hours) 1-800-817-8090

Street Light Repair - TU Electric 1-800-242-9113

Texas Utilities (TXU)..... 1-800-368-1398

Southwestern Bell 1-888-294-8433

Time Warner Cable 512-485-5555

Williamson County Road and Bridge 512-943-3330

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Neighborhood Watch

by Joanie Brown

An important reminder: In the event of an emergency, home or auto burglary, any suspicious persons or activity, first and foremost consider your own safety; don't confront unless you have to. DO call police. Even if a suspected perpetrator is gone, it's necessary to file a police report. If possible, please notify your Block Captain and your neighbors so the word can be passed through our Neighborhood Watch network.

Good news! Since our last newsletter, Al Maus, Candon Knowles, Jan Briggs and Laura Kouns have all volunteered to cover their areas, providing Stone Canyon with a network, so far, of 28 Block Captains. Including Al, Candon, Jan and Laura's, here is list of streets now covered and their assigned Block Captains: *Al's area covers portion of Sea Ash Circle (northwest of Spindletop looping around to Fern Bluff) *Candon will share Willow Oak Lane with Susan Bautista *Jan is rep for Mountain Mist Lane *Laura has Columbia Falls *Part of Fern Bluff Ave (Brightwater south to Sea Ash)/John Pankey *Spindletop Terrace/Amy Stiffler *Whitewater Cove/Bob Tagtow *Part of W. Magic Mountain and Ancona Trail/Cathy Rickert *Magic Mountain Cove, Part of W. Magic Mountain and Part of Wildwater Way/Robert Page *Ironweed Run/Cynthia Oelkers *Part of Sunburst Parkway/Rebecca Bird *Frazell Cove/Part of Sunburst Parkway/David Passarella *Bar Harbor Bend (northwest of Bar Harbor Cove around to Willow Oak Ln)/Denise Ray *Bar Harbor Bend and Bar Harbor Cove (southwest of Bar Harbor Cove to Willow Oak Ln)/Sandi Coen *High Bluff Dr/Derek Tackett *Broken Branch, Trickle Trace and Deurne/Donna Scoggins *E. Magic Mountain and Whitworth Ln/Evan Vangsnes *Lofty Lane/Kelly Condon and Brad Pharr *Montana Falls/Kim Eboeime *Priest River/Lauren Addison *Miller Falls, Miller Falls Cove and Longdraw/Pat Beachy *Sea Ash Circle (south of Spindletop to Brightwater)/Paul Stempko *Black Rock Bend/Steve Provensal *Glen Canyon Dr (north of Tiny Trail to Brightwater/Criss Rundell; south of Tiny Trail/Verna Blatz *Springfield Gorge/Yvonne Beamon

Still need coverage for following streets: *Part of W. Magic Mountain and Herb Cove *Part of Wildwater Way *Lake Pines *Alwin *Cloud Peak and Cove *Box Canyon Terrace *Niagara Falls *Laughing Water *Rosebud Place *Portion of Fern Bluff Ave between west and east ends of Sea Ash *Full Moon Trail and Cove *Cool Canyon *Two Jacks Trail

The Bottom Line: "Word of mouth" among our residents has proven to be the fastest and most effective means of bringing attention to and sharing information about what's going on. Our Neighborhood Watch network is THE major weapon we can use against anyone who threatens our community. It's our way of staying aware and keeping our neighborhood the safe place we want and need it to be for each other and our families.

If you can help out by covering your own or a neighboring street, please let me know. Thank you.

Joanie Brown..... paulandjoaniebrown@hotmail.com ; hm: 733-2913; cell: 784-3512

Yard Of The Month

by Joanie Brown and Amelia Dansby

The high bar set by April's winning homeowners was met by yet another group of beautiful and creative yards. Be sure to drive or walk through the neighborhood, look for the "Yard of the Month" signs, and enjoy the scenery. Thanks again to all of you who work so hard and bring so much pleasure to everyone.

CONGRATULATIONS and appreciation go out to May's winners:

1st Place...18021 Rosebud (\$50 Home Depot Gift Card)
2d Place...8511 Sea Ash Circle (\$25 Home Depot Gift Card)
3d Place...7322 W.Magic Mountain (\$15 Home Depot Gift Card)

Honorable Mention: 8106 Broken Branch; 8303 Longdraw; 7411 W.Magic Mountain; 8425 Springfield Gorge; 7004 High Bluff

NOTE: Our days are already blazing and the heat will continue to threaten our grass throughout the next few months. Most landscapers recommend leaving the grass a little longer than you might normally; cutting it too short exposes the roots to further heat damage. A height of 3" (or even a bit higher) will help give your lawn added protection and hold any moisture longer. Edging at least once every 2 weeks will maintain a neat appearance.



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Stone Canyon

Neighborhood Watch Contact Info

To report an accident, home or auto burglary/break-in or other suspicious activity, notify the following:

- First, contact Williamson County's Sheriff's Department..... Emergency 911
 - Sheriff's Office Switch Board.....1 (512) 943-1300
 - Sheriff's Communication after Hours.....1 (512) 943-1389; 943-1390
 - Crime Stoppers Hotline...1 (800) 253-7867; www.wilcocrimetips.org (your identification will not be released to the public)
- To Pass Info or to Ask Questions within Stone Canyon:
Contact/notify your Block Captain if you have his/her phone # or e-mail address; if not, then:

Joanie Brown, Neighborhood Watch Chair

hm: 733-2913; cell: 784-3512

paulandjoaniebrown@hotmail.com for help and Block Captain's contact info

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NATUREWATCH - CHRISTMAS IN JULY

By mid-summer in Central Texas, most of us dream of some relief from the heat, but did you know that you can find a reminder of the winter holidays thriving in the searing hot temperatures? Two native poinsettias, the Wild Poinsettia (*Euphorbia cyathophora*) and Mexican Fireplant (*Euphorbia heterophylla*), are present in our area and are related to the popular Christmas poinsettias (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), which has large red, pink, yellow, or white leaves just below the flowering cluster. The showy colored parts of poinsettias that most people think are the flowers are actually colored bracts or modified leaves.

Wild Poinsettia, also called Fire on the Mountain, is a 'dwarf poinsettia' 1 to 2 feet tall with green stems and alternating lobed leaves, with the uppermost leaves having red blotches near the base. The flower clusters are small and yellowish, and bloom from May to November, usually peaking in the height of summer. Its scientific name is composed of the genus *Euphorbia*, named after the corpulent Greek physician Euphorbus and meaning 'well fed', and the species name of *cyathophora* meaning 'cup bearing', which refers to the bowl-shaped structures supporting each flower. While this plant can be invasive, it is a good native filler plant and can be an interesting addition to a sunny flowerbed containing sandy, well-draining soil.

The Mexican Fireplant (*Euphorbia heterophylla*) is native to Mexico and Central America, as well as across the southern tier of



WILD POINSETTIA

photo by Joseph A. Marcus



MEXICAN FIREPLANT

photo by Robert L. Stone

the United States from California through Texas to Florida. Blooming from late July to September, this 2 to 3 foot tall plant also has tiny flowers lacking petals within a 5-lobed gland-rimmed cup, all in a cluster on top of a leafy stem and just above partly red, white or yellow leaves. It grows in open or wooded sandy areas, and prefers full sun to partial shade. Often, when left grown wild as a 'weed', this plant loses its striking coloration.

Both Wild Poinsettia and Mexican Fireplant are members of the Spurge family, which includes about 7500 species, each having milky sap and found growing in mostly warm or hot regions. Plants in this family have produced valuable products such as rubber, castor & tung oils, and tapioca. Most are poisonous, however, and the sap can mildly irritate the membranes of the eyes and mouth. In the wild, these species are also considered 'ruderal species', or the first to colonize either natural or human disturbed lands. They typically dominate a disturbed area for a few years, gradually losing the competition for resources to other, longer-lasting native plant species.

The Christmas Poinsettia is native to Mexico and Central America and is generally found in the form of a shrub or small tree. Native peoples of Chile and Peru called this plant the 'Crown of the Andes', and the Aztecs, who made a reddish purple dye from its bracts, called it 'Cuetlaxochitl', meaning 'mortal flower that perishes and withers like all that is pure.' This fall, why not plant some of our smaller festive natives in your wildscape, and next summer let them remind you of cooler times when the temperature outside hovers around 100 degrees!

*Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press.*



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Stone Canyon

Financial Focus - Student Loans Crushing College Grads

Submitted by Rich Keith

Today's college grads are facing the "real world" with an extra scoop of debt. Two-thirds of students graduating from college or graduate school have student loans – about \$25,000 on average. That's a 25% increase over the past 10 years. In fact, today's twentysomething holds an average debt of \$45,000, including everything from student loans to mortgages and credit cards. Unfortunately, unemployment for those aged 18-29 is 12.4%, well above the national rate of 8.2%.

Don't feel as if you have to be the savior. Six in 10 boomers report giving financial help (outside of college tuition) to a child or grandchild in the past five years. Of those, \$59,000 was the average amount of aid. If this sounds like you, ask yourself: Do I really have the resources? Am I saving enough for retirement? Try to share more financial wisdom and less cash with your adult offspring. The more you save for your own future means less possibility that you'll need their help later on.



Without going into too much detail, share the family financial picture with your children once they hit the mid-teen years. They need to know the family income is X and it takes Y amount to cover the mortgage and bills. Once they see X minus Y in action they will be surprised at how much it actually costs to run a household.

This may have a side benefit of limiting how much and how often your children ask you for money and gifts.

Children who have a basic understanding of money, especially the corrosive effects of debt, have a better chance of becoming financially independent later in life. They will be more resistant to the credit card offers sure to come to them in their freshman year at college. And they will more ready to partner with their parents as the family manages their college finances with them.



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