

# Creek Trails Home Owners Association



## Newsletter – July 2011 Volume 13, Issue 1

### Volunteers Needed

The HOA needs your help to keep our costs down and your annual assessments from going up. Volunteers are needed to help maintain the common area, specifically along the creek. This maintenance would consist of removing fallen trees and branches as well as trash that gathers along the creek. We are looking for 20 volunteers so the maintenance can be rotated amongst the group versus having the same 2-3 people have to remove downed trees every time this occurs. Due to the nature of this maintenance, it would not be on a regular schedule so you would just get a call to help when something happens. If we don't receive 20 volunteers, we will have to increase the annual assessment next year to account for having to hire a service to take care of the fallen trees and creek clean up. If you are willing to volunteer or would like more information, contact Barb Yass at 972-517-5533.

### Crime Watch

Crime Watch is active in our neighborhood and our coordinator, Jim Oom, has been building an email distribution list for our residents in order to keep you informed of issues in and around our neighborhood. **If you would like to be included**, please send an email to [HOABilling@gmail.com](mailto:HOABilling@gmail.com). Jim stays in touch regularly with our City representative and we are told frequently that the best way to battle crime in our neighborhood is to **GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS** and to report anything suspicious right away by calling 9-1-1. Please watch out for your neighbors and help keep an eye on the neighborhood so that we will continue to have a safe place to life.

If you would like to have a free assessment and learn how to keep your home safe, you can call 972-941-2431. You can learn more about security lights, alarm systems, door locks and more. To keep our HOA and our respective streets safe, please remember the following:

- **Newspapers, trash or debris on driveways, lawns** – people with criminal intent see this as someone not being home.
- **Open garages, doors and windows** – people with criminal intent see this as a great opportunity to grab and dash.
- **NO SOLICITATION** signs – Did you know that if you have this in plain sight (i.e. front door), companies are not supposed to solicit or leave cards, etc.? If they do, then you have legal grounds to report them.

**Watch out for each other** – Let's be neighborly and keep an eye out for each other's property as well as the entire HOA. Call 911 if you see people 'cutting through' the common areas who are not part of the neighborhood.

### Beware of Wildlife

You may not know it, but we have quite a variety of wildlife in our neighborhood. There are bobcats, coyotes, opossums, and raccoons who all roam the common areas and backyards from dark until dawn. Please keep your pets, especially cats and dogs, indoors after dark.

HOA website  
[www.creektrails.org](http://www.creektrails.org)

### Board of Directors 2011 – 2012

#### President

**Barb Yass**

(972) 517-5533

[barb.yass@hp.com](mailto:barb.yass@hp.com)

#### Deed Restrictions:

**Robert Jones**

(972) 517-5642

[robertdalejones@me.com](mailto:robertdalejones@me.com)

#### Billing & Collections:

**Judy Ramage**

(214) 403-3271

[Judy.Ramage@hp.com](mailto:Judy.Ramage@hp.com)

#### Non-board positions:

#### Crime Watch

#### Coordinator:

**Jim Oom**

(972)-523-7237

[Jim\\_Oom@Dell.com](mailto:Jim_Oom@Dell.com)

#### Principal Management Group

(Annual Dues)

**Shawn Fazekas**

(214) 368-4030

[sfazekas@principal-mgmt.com](mailto:sfazekas@principal-mgmt.com)

# *Creek Trails Home Owners Association*

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## **Recycling, Bulk Trash and Yard Clippings**

The City of Plano collection map, holiday schedule, recycle schedule and bulky trash information is available at: <http://www.planotx.org/Departments/Environmental%20Services/garbage/Pages/default.aspx>

- Reminder, yard clippings (grass or hedge trimmings) must be in the **brown yard bags** to be picked up with the weekly trash collection. If yard clippings are in plastic bags, they will NOT be picked up unless it is bulky waste week (first week of the month).
- If you see piles of limbs in the common areas, please DO NOT add your own yard clippings, limbs, or trash to these piles! The HOA recently had to pay the City EXTRA HOA dollars to collect piles of trash at the corner of Canoe and Blackberry because resident(s) had dumped bags and trash onto the already sorted piles of limbs pulled up from a recent creek cleanup effort.
- Please try to plan your garage/house cleaning and removal of bulk items around the FIRST TUESDAY of the month when the City comes by and removes BULKY waste. Otherwise, your neighbors could be left looking at your trash piled up on the curb for weeks. If this is unavoidable, you could also consider scheduling a special pick-up with the City. **Unmanageable piles or piles that exceed bulky waste criteria will need to be scheduled as a Special Paid Collection. Call Customer Service at (972) 769-4150 to schedule a Special Paid Collection.**
- **Did you know your monthly fee is based on the amount of garbage you generate?**  
Residents that are not able to reduce their capacity from the current 95-gallon containers pay \$15.10/month. Those who reduce their capacity to a 68-gallon container only pay \$11.25/month.

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## **Adding color to your Yard**

Adding color to your yard in the Texas heat is not always an easy task, but full sun perennials maybe the answer for this Texas heat.

Full sun perennials prefer (obviously) full sun although many will tolerate shade in the morning or late afternoon. Getting them the sun between 9 am and 3 pm is considered crucial to success.

Like all things though, the plants are more flexible than the written word and I encourage you to experiment with new settings. Full sun perennials really appreciate soils with high organic matter content.

One suggestion is to mulch the soil and this decomposing mulch adds organic matter. I would also throw compost over the top of the plants each fall and spring (right on top of the mulch - it sinks down pretty quickly) to feed and nourish the soil.

High organic content in soils is a key to building a great perennial garden.

To learn more about planting and choosing which Perennial Plant is best for you use the link below to download e-book from the Perennial Plant Association. It is free and can be shared among friends for free.

Perennial Plant Association e-book download link: [files.me.com/robertdalejones/i1bk25](http://files.me.com/robertdalejones/i1bk25)

You will need Adobe Reader to read the e-book. Adobe Reader can be downloaded at this link: <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>