

THE VOICE



Special Interest Articles:

- Valentine "Snow"
- Up coming Events
- Traffic Issue
- Code Enforcement

Highlights:

From the Prez	1
Treasurer's Report	2
Crime Watch	3
Valentine Snow	4
SI Awards The Colony	5
Calendar of Events	6
Note from Code Enforcement	6

From the Prez

I want to take the opportunity to thank individually all the folks that take time away from their busy lives to volunteer hard work for the Association. Special thanks to Members of the Board Lorna Greenlee, Barb Caldwell, Cami Sanford, Perry Schrag, Compliance Jerry Graham, Landscape Tom Blattner, Terry and Melanie Covington, Crime watch Charles Caldwell, Webmaster Alan Breese, Audit Georgia Brown, Traffic Jeff Porter, Charles Caldwell, Tom Blattner, Pete Sullivan, and Robert Cattley, for your continued support on committees and functions of the RPHOA. If I've forgotten anyone please let me know! The success of RPHOA depends on each and every member. Anyone who would like to serve on a committee please let us know.

The RPHOA board continues to manage the association and its primary objective is to investigate the issues that affect our neighborhood. One issue that continues to pop up is known as "The Wall". In the past, the responsibility of "The Wall" next to Main/ 423 was taken over by the city to maintain. This circumstance has recently changed due to the fact that the wall actually resides on City property, RPHOA and homeowner's property. After looking over many documents and

procedures, it appears that the city will maintain only the city portion leaving the remainder to RPHOA. The details have yet to be worked out. The board is researching all the angles and we will fill you in as details become finalized.

Another hot topic is the congested traffic problems of the Ridgepointe area. We now have a committee in place seeking solutions to the problem and they have already been in contact with the city. The city recognizes the high traffic volume, safety issues, traffic violations, not to mention the noise and pollution. As a result of discussions with the City manager it was confirmed that "The developer of The Colony Business Park south of Ridgepointe indicated they plan to move forward on extending Memorial from behind Wal-Mart to Standridge. We think this will have the most significant impact on reducing traffic through the neighborhood." I was told that the expected timeline for completion was in the 10 month range. Another issue brought forward involves the need for a cross walk on Standridge at the Ridgepointe Park. The city is responding to our traffic safety issues and the RPHOA will keep everyone informed on this project. Last but not least, is the maintenance of the Corp of Engineer land on Standridge near the park. The area next to the street is littered with trash, broken bottles and grass un-

by Alan Ladd

trimmed. This has also been addressed with the city. Watch for improvement in that location soon. Keep in mind that the land is part of the area water shed and owned by the corp and therefore has an environmental purpose.

Let's all work together to Keep Ridgepointe Safe and Beautiful! Please feel free to contact me or anyone on the RPHOA board with any concerns you might have. We want to hear from you!

The Colony is revitalizing the Code Enforcement Department and "Beautification" is the buzz word. Each of our homeowners will receive a brochure in this newsletter of the top code violations so we will all have a heads-up for things to come.

As homeowners in Ridgepointe, this is a great time to show our city that we care and "Beautification" is also our buzz word. Please keep your bushes trimmed and shaped, cut low tree limbs back, keep your yard mowed and manicured weekly, keep your sidewalks and alleys behind you edged and swept.

March is the month to green up your yard with fertilizer and a weed killer. **May** is time to fertilize again also use a pre-emergent. **July** we fertilize once more, also it is a good idea to use insecticides such as diazinon or dursban. **September** we fertilize and use a pre-emergent and diazinon.

Thanks for taking pride in your home.

Treasurer's Report

by Lorna Greenlee

We successfully made it through another year without raising the assessments for the association. A big thanks to all the volunteers who help us watch our spending, but get all of our obligations met! They go over and above their duties to accomplish this.

Out of 113 homeowners, only 8 are delinquent with their dues. Of those, 6 owe the January 1 assessment + a late fee of \$10. Please get these in soon as interest will also begin

accruing on March 1st!

There is one member who has been working with me to get caught up after some problems in the job market. I want to thank them for their efforts and responsibility in this terrible economic time.

One additional member is now 1 1/2 years behind in their assessments. After numerous attempts at contact, we have no choice but to file a small claim against them. They have received

their last notice via certified mail.....the next step is a legal action per our by-laws. There is nothing else significant to report regarding our finances.....we are still rocking along as we have before. I have attached the budget vs. actual for 2003. If there are any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at lornagr1@comcast.net or 972-625-1036. Lorna Greenlee
Treasurer



2003 BUDGET VS. ACTUAL

Income	Budget	Actual
Homeowner Assessment	\$15,255.00	\$15,080.24
Late Fees	100.00	87.50
Finance Changes	0	12.77
Transfer Fees	200.00	450.00
Interest Income	<u>30.00</u>	<u>31.21</u>
Total Income	<u>\$15,585.00</u>	<u>\$15,661.72</u>
Expenses		
Community Activities		
Easter Egg Hunt	\$75.00	\$56.74
Annual Meeting	25.00	0
National Night Out	500.00	326.93
BBQ	475.00	268.72
Compliance	50.00	0
Newsletter	50.00	138.22
Website	175.00	119.40
Welcome Committee	30.00	0
Christmas	200.00	146.87
Irrigation Repair & Maintenance	750.00	457.20
Landscape Maintenance	5,500.00	6,184.96
Insurance	3,000.00	2,917.00
Postage & Delivery	500.00	388.55
Printing & Reproduction	100.00	0
Professional Fees	500.00	10.00
Message Line	120.00	59.70
Utilities – Water & Electric	3,200.00	2,966.27
Office Supplies	200.00	73.07
Miscellaneous	<u>135.00</u>	<u>50.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$15,585.00</u>	<u>\$15,163.53</u>

CRIMEWATCH

by Charlie Caldwell

IS YOUR HOME SAFE AND SECURE?

WOW! Statistics indicate that three out of four homes will be burglarized in the next twenty years.

There are generally three different types of burglars; the professional, the semi-professional and the amateur. Ridgepointe home owners need to be aware of semi-professional and amateur burglars.

According to The Burglary Prevention Council, residential burglars are often male teenagers who live near your home. They are opportunists who look for easy targets. *Is your home an easy target?*

Good news if you own a two story, these homes are usually not a burglar's first choice, but a two story does not guarantee your security. Homes in the middle of the block are much more likely to be burglarized than corner homes. Corner houses tend to be bypassed because they are highly visible, making it more likely to be spotted. Burglars tend to avoid neighborhoods that are collectively security conscious and criminals notice where neighbors look out for each other. **So Please Keep our Neighborhood Watch Strong!**

When a criminal looks at your home what would attract or discourage him from burglarizing it? A well manicured lawn can be quite important in emphasizing that you pay close attention to your home. In the eyes of a burglar, an overgrown lawn suggests a possible burglary target. Overgrown or extremely large trees or shrubs can hide burglary activity, especially around your home's entry point. For security's sake, have them trimmed or moved. Trim tree limbs, burglars view them as ladders. Fences can

be a double edge sword, an effective part of your security and a liability in hiding a burglar's privacy.

You know what a sucker I am for motion lights. Porch lights from dusk to dawn in my opinion are the best way to go. Motion lights where you feel the need and low voltage lighting for middle of the block houses.

One of the most common entry points for burglars is a ground level window at the rear or side of the home. Back doors are a popular target because they are hidden from the street and many homeowners leave them unlocked and garage doors are another frequent entry point.

When you feel you have done everything you can to keep burglars away from your loved ones and possessions, call The Colony Police Department to perform a security check on your home. Free of charge last I heard and you can get a rate cut on your homeowner's insurance. Enhancing the security of your home is much easier than you think, keep in mind that every dime you spend now may save you thousands of dollars in the future.



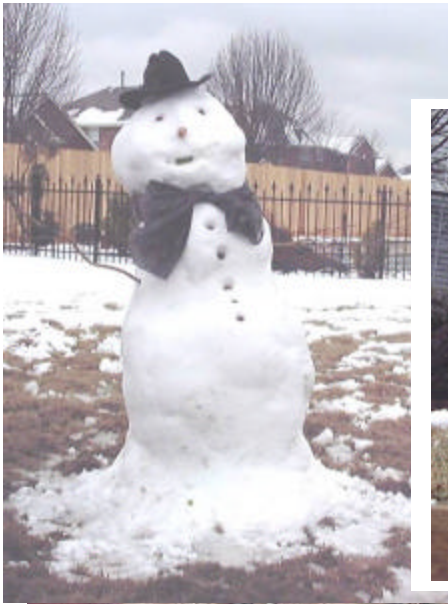
Just a reminder The Colony City Council approved a charge in the alarm ordinance that now requires resident and business owners owning alarm systems to pay a \$20.00 annual registration fee. Prior to this charge, there was a one time registration fee of \$35.00

Personal Note:

Have you been to the Ridgepointe Park lately? There are cigarette butts all over the place. If you should see someone throw a butt down, give them a friendly nudge and remind them that this is a child's sanctuary. Please help to keep this area a clean and safe place for our children to play.

The Voice is now available via e-mail. You can contact me at ccald1514@msn.com if you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically. Please put RPHOA Newsletter in the title line so I can identify your request. Thanks

Valentine's Day....how did you spend your day?



THE COLONY NAMED SPORTS ILLUSTRATED 50th ANNIVERSARY SPORTSTOWN FOR THE STATE OF TEXAS

From The Colony website:
ci.the-colony.tx.us/

New York, NY, September 6, 2003 - The Colony has been selected as the Sports Illustrated 50th Anniversary Sportstown for the state of Texas, as announced Saturday by SPORTS ILLUSTRATED and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

Mayor Pro Tem Joe McCourry and Pam Nelson, Director of Community Services for The Colony, formally accepted the award on behalf of the city on Saturday, September 6 at 10:30 a.m. during the Dedication Ceremony and Open House for The Colony Five Star Complex. Jeff Price, SI's Executive Director of Sports Marketing, presented the award on behalf of the magazine; Margaret Young, a trustee of the NRPA, presented on that organization's behalf.

Fifty Sports Illustrated Sportstowns - one from each state - will be announced from July 2003 to July 2004. The selections will be made by both SPORTS ILLUSTRATED and the National Recreation and Park Association based on a variety of criteria that demonstrates a community's involvement in facilitating and enhancing quality sports. Communities are judged in the following categories: philosophy, policy/procedures, education and training strategies, youth development strategies, community commitment to parks and recreation resources, innovations for community development, and scope of the programming.

Each Sportstown recipient will be honored with a cash grant, recognition in SPORTS ILLUSTRATED magazine and online, and a special commemorative road sign that recognizes the community as an official

Sports Illustrated Sportstown. Texas will be the 11th state profiled in a special editorial section in SI and is the ninth to receive a Sports Illustrated Sportstown designation. The special Texas section will appear in the September 29th issue, which begins hitting newsstands on Wednesday, September 24. SI.com's profile of The Colony will be posted online today at SI.com/50.

"The Sports Illustrated Sportstown program brings to life the notion that sports are an enormous force for good in our country," says SI President Bruce Hallett. "The Colony's commitment to finding creative and resourceful ways to enhance sports for the well being of its community fits perfectly with the principles of our Sportstown program as well as the overall mission of our anniversary celebration.

The Colony Parks & Recreation Department has enhanced their community by providing quality sports programs for citizens of all ages and at all levels of play. By advancing a professional, customer-first philosophy, The Colony Parks & Recreation Department supports and encourages lifelong sports participation and enjoyment. The department also enjoys a strong volunteer base and several successful public and private partnerships in the community.

"The Colony's commitment to ensuring that all members of their community have a quality experience within their sports programs is to be commended," says NRPA Executive Director John Thorner. "By establishing and implementing a set of policies and procedures, and responding to the needs of both youth and adults alike, The Colony serves as an excellent example of a SPORTS ILLUSTRATED Sportstown."

SI's 50th Anniversary program, **America's Sports Illustrated: 50 Years, 50 States,**



50 Sports, is a wide-ranging multimedia platform that is the most ambitious initiative in the history of the franchise. The grassroots effort, which began in July 2003 and continues through July 2004, is a yearlong celebration of sports in America. It will include editorial coverage in the magazine and online, a community sports outreach campaign, as well as *The Toyota Presents Sports Illustrated's 50th Anniversary Tour* that will travel to unique sports events in cities and towns throughout the country. **Toyota** is the presenting sponsor of the Tour; **Starter** and **Best Buy** are the program sponsors. SI's actual 50th anniversary date is August 16, 2004.

The National Recreation and Park Association is a nonprofit professional and citizen association dedicated to advancing parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people. Headquartered in Ashburn, Virginia, NRPA supports the work of public, private, and non-profit park and recreation concerns in the areas of youth development, life long health, quality sports and environmental stewardship.

Calendar of Events

RPHOA

Board:

President

Alan Ladd

Vice President

Barbara Caldwell

Secretary

Cami Sandifer

Treasurer

Lorna Greenlee

Member-At-Large

Perry Schrag

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.rphoa.org

March 20 – 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. Neighborhood Garage Sale
April 10 – 2 P.M. RPHOA Annual Easter Egg Hunt – Ridgpointe Park (on Standridge)
May 4 – RPHOA Board Meeting
June 1 – RPHOA Board Meeting
July 8 – RPHOA Annual Meeting – location T BA
August 3 – National Night Out
October 5 – RPHOA Board Meeting
December 7 – RPHOA Board Meeting
December 11 – Holiday Decorating Contest

We have several committees within our homeowners association: Compliance, Crime Watch, Landscaping, Newsletter, Special Events and Decorating. If you would like to be a part of any of the committees please contact any of the board members or send us a not via the web.

Do you have something to put in the newsletter; special announcements, achievements of your children, new additions, graduations weddings, etc. Just let us know and we would be happy to share your good news.

In an effort to prevent neighborhood decline, your City Council has passed Ordinances that deal with various City Code Violations. Some of the most common violations are:

- ▲ Grass and Weeds over 12 inches
- ▲ Fence needing repair
- ▲ House numbers need to be on front and back of property
- ▲ Trash containers shall not be stored at curbside or alleyways.
- ▲ Junked vehicles
- ▲ Trash and Debris

If you would like to report a violation or have any questions, please contact Code Enforcement at 972-624-3160 or email us at code@thecolonytx.gov. For more information on Ordinances, log on to www.cityofthecolony.com and click on "Ordinances".

Submitted by the Code Enforcement Department of The City of The Colony

RIDGEPOINTE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

PO Box 560112
The Colony, TX 75056

