



Spicewood Estates

<http://www.spicewoodestates.com/>
January 2012 No. 107

Spicewood Estates Homeowner's Association Quarterly Newsletter

Calendar of Events

February 1	Spicewood/CV Early Release
February 14	Valentines Day
February 20	RRISD – No School
March 7	Spicewood/CV Early Release
March 11	Daylight Savings Time – Spring Forward
March 12-16	RRISD Spring Break
March 25	Capitol 10K

From the President's Corner

Dear Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I hope that you have a happy, healthy and prosperous year ahead!

This month is MEMBERSHIP MONTH. Spicewood Estates Homeowners Association (SEHA) Membership is less than \$0.11/day – that's \$40.00 per year.

The purpose of the Spicewood Estates Homeowner's Association (SEHA) is to provide a formal organization we can use to preserve the natural beauty of our neighborhood, enhance the environmental quality and economic value of our property, promote safety, provide social interaction, maintain contact with the political and regulatory bodies and enforce deed restrictions.

The SEHA Board encourages volunteer participation. We have the following positions available:

- Architectural Control Committee position for Section 1
- Yard of the Month for Section 1 AND 2

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact me or one of the other board members. We look forward to visiting with you.

Best Regards,

Fern Westhead
SEHA President
219-0611

WANTED!

One or two neighbors to select Spicewood Estates Section I and II "Yard of the Month" recipients.

Time required: 30 minutes/month

Reward: Priceless

More info: Reeve Hobbie 258-4140

Remember to get your Landscaping Plans Approved BEFORE you Spend Money on Plants, Labor, Etc.

We're all concerned about the potential impact of drought conditions and many residents are considering changes to their landscaping in order to reduce water consumption. Before you invest money in changes to your front yard, get approval from The Architectural Control Committee. It can be very expensive to make adjustments to landscaping that you have installed that violates the Covenants and Restrictions. The ACC is eager to work with homeowners and has considerable latitude in approving plans. However, the covenants (under the SEHA Information Tab on the website www.spicewoodestates.com) do specifically address the use of materials such as rock and gravel. Before you make changes to your front yard please contact an ACC member listed below so your plans can be approved.

One of the primary purposes of our Covenants and Restrictions is the protection of property values.

When you purchased your home you agreed to abide by these standards which help to protect the value of your home and all homes in Spicewood Estates. The Covenants and Restrictions cover a wide variety of issues. Please be considerate of your neighbors and become familiar with these Covenants and Restrictions. They are located in the back of your neighborhood directory and at www.spicewoodestates.com.

Please contact the following ACC members with questions or to submit plans:

Sue Laurent
258-2258
Laurent.sue@gmail.com

Bruce Greiner
335-4854
brucegatx@yahoo.com

Sarah McGuff
Sarah.mcguff@gmail.com

Gregg Burnett
grburnett@gmail.com

Nighborhood Notification - Local Area Traffic Management

The City of Austin has a new traffic calming program. You can download the information regarding the program via the website <http://www.austintexas.gov/content/neighborhood-traffic-calming>.

In a nutshell, per the application for the program "the goal of the Speed Mitigation Program is to reduce vehicle speeds along a given street segment so that the vast majority of motorists are in reasonable conformance with the speed limit". The last study of speeds and traffic on Ashton Ridge and Topridge was from 2005. At that time, the 85% percentile speeds on Topridge were between 35.5 - 39.1 MPH and on Ashton Ridge were between 37.8 - 40.6 MPH. The peak volume on Topridge was 124 cars between 5-6 PM and on Ashton Ridge was 207 cars at the same time period.

Per the City eligibility rules, one of the criteria is the 85th percentile vehicle speeds must exceed the posted speed limit by 3 miles per hour or more in a 24-hour period. It appears that the speeders on Ashton Ridge and Topridge are between 5-10 miles over the posted speed limit. There is not any traffic data on other streets in our neighborhood.

Email your thoughts ASAP to Connie Perdue at clperdue@swbell.net on applying for the new traffic

calming program. Thanks to the neighbors that I have heard from so far via the Google group email. Applications will be accepted by the City on January 18. If the engineers study the streets mentioned and believe they qualify for the program, there will also be several neighborhood meetings to discuss the program. Please note that historically there have been hundreds of requests and the City has only fulfilled a very few. However, for the safety of our neighborhood, it would be good to apply.



Change to Spicewood Estates (SEHA) Email List

Many thanks to 158 of our Spicewood Estates neighbors who have signed up for the Google Group since its implementation. This represents about 70% of the neighborhood.

If you haven't signed up for our new neighborhood Google group, please join today our new free, easy-to-use email group service. I ceased sending emails, except through the Google Group, as of **December 31, 2011**. I hope that you understand this change and will follow the easy steps below to sign up. If you have any troubles, email me at clperdue@swbell.net or Bart Jacob at bart.jacob@gmail.com. Bart Jacob or I can then assist with your sign up.

We use the Google group as a way of communicating news and information to and among neighbors in Spicewood Estates. For example, it provides a forum for buy/sell/trade of personal items, recommendations for contractors, lost and found notices of dogs, keys, etc., neighborhood activity groups and events, concerns about neighborhood animals or suspicious activities/security threats and City of Austin events and information or anything that you as a Spicewood Estates homeowner is interested in sharing with your neighbors.

Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/spicewood-estates-austin> and click on "Apply for group membership" on the right side of the screen to participate in this group. If you are using a different

email address than you usually use for the messages on our current email distribution list, please include some information, e.g. name and address, so that we will recognize that you are a Spicewood Estates homeowner.

If you do not already have a Google Account, you will need to create an account. Note: this is NOT a signup for a Google email address. It is a way to create a password and nickname that you will use for the Google Group. When you are approved by one of the moderators, you can also receive posts to the site in your regular email box by just adjusting or editing your membership. You may choose to receive individual mails, a daily digest, just special bulletins, or no mail at all. If you subscribe to monitor discussions and receive announcements, your email address is not visible to the rest of the group. It only becomes visible when you create a post.

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Membership Dues Reminder

Annual dues for Spicewood Estates Homeowner's Association are due in February. The purpose of the Association is to:

- **preserve** the natural beauty of our neighborhood
- **enhance** the environmental quality and economic value of our property
- **promote** safety
- **provide** social interaction
- **maintain** contact with political and regulatory bodies
- **enforce** deed restrictions.

The dues for 2012 are only \$40! Although membership in our Association is voluntary, \$40 is a small price to pay to support the objectives of our active and engaged Homeowner's Association. Not a

member? THIS is the year to do your part and assist with adding more value to YOUR neighborhood!

Check us out online at www.SpicewoodEstates.com!!!!

You should be receiving your membership form in the mail soon. Please take a moment to update your contact information. If you need another form, have any questions, or would like to discuss the benefits of membership, please call membership director Sherri Lindsey at [512-560-6196](tel:512-560-6196) or email at sherri@goldsher.com. Membership forms and dues can be dropped off or mailed to Sherri at 10605 Leafwood Lane, Austin, TX 78750. **YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED!**

Yard of the Month Winners

A great big thank you again to Melinda Cassidy and Reeve Hobbie/Jim White for volunteering to judge the Yard of the Month for Sections I & II. Thank you also for the beautiful pictures on the website!

We recognized the following people in Section I & II for their efforts in beautifying their yards and sharing them with all of us during the past few months.

November 2011

Section I: Jay & Amy Holland
11006 Arch Terrace

Section II: Kevin & Stephanie Taparauskas
10904 Wintergreen

December 2011

Section I: Ted & Cindy Skierski
10902 Country Knoll

Section II: Dwight Daniel
10802 Chateau Hill

January 2012

Section I: Marilyn Slough
11003 Arch Terrace

Section II: John & Mary Ellen Nemetz
9401 Ashton Ridge



Around the Yard by Reeve Hobbie

Here's a list of things (updated from last winter's article) to do and **NOT DO** as we all patiently await spring to see the results of what the drought did on our yards, shrubs and trees.

Trees & Shrubs

- Winter is best time to prune most trees (if it's even necessary)
- **DO NOT** prune any oaks after January 31. Why? Oak Wilt!
- Good time to prune shrubs except those that bloom in spring
- Fertilize trees and shrubs



Lawns

- Get the leaves up off your grass so lawn doesn't get diseased/stressed
 - Hand weed unwanted vegetation out of your lawn
- Prepare bare spots, by scratching up soil, to receive new sod in spring
- Apply pre-emergent weed killer before mid February (too early for fertilizer)
- Apply fertilizer to grass in April or later (long past weed killer date)
- **DO NOT** ever apply a combination weed killer and fertilizer (see above dates)

Roses

- Prune no later than mid February (use Valentine's Day as your target)
- Plant new rose bushes in late February (consider Earth-Kind® cultivars)

Perennial Gardens

- Wait to see what comes back this spring
- Plant only low-water requiring native and adapted plants at the appropriate time in spring

Groundcover

- Help prevent mosquitoes by shearing back Asian jasmine, vinca and other groundcovers while dormant
- Cut back cast iron plants and liriopie in February

If you have gardening questions, please call the Travis County Master Gardener Help Desk at 854-9600.

2011 SEHA Fall Party was a hit!



The 2011 SEHA Fall Party was a great success. Thank you to the Kantawalas for graciously volunteering their yard for the party. The weather was fantastic. There was a Halloween theme complete with decorations, party-goers in costume, graveyard cake and plastic spider rings. There was also a moonwalk and lots of great food that appealed to both the adults and the children. At one point there were at least 40 in attendance. Thank you to everyone who helped with the party and to everyone who attended. It is a great time to socialize with your neighbors. See you at next year's Fall Party!

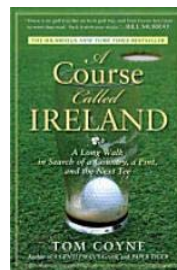
Neighbor's Book Nook

Since so many of our neighbors are avid readers we thought a book review column might be fun! Let's get book recommendations from readers of all ages --- from elementary school, tweens, teens to adults! Why was that mystery or thriller or biography or "whatever" so hard to put down? What is the best new read aloud for toddlers and preschoolers? Submit your recommendation (25 words or less), title/author to laurene@austin.rr.com.



Larry Laurent shares this review:

In his book ***A Course Called Ireland*** author Tom Coyne takes the reader on a long, enjoyable and funny, walk around the Irish coast describing the great golf courses that he plays along the way and the variety of Irish folks he meets. If you are a golfer and have dreamt of playing Ireland, this book is a must read.



www.aatlepets.com

Pet Sitter

Ginny Conklin

*References Available

(512) 799-4848

* Email: tlepets2003@yahoo.com

Illustrations of a dog, a cat, and a hamster.