

BRIAR MEADOW NEWS

Volume 5, Issue 2

January 2004

BMHOA Membership STATUS, *John Pitlik, Membership Chair*

I would like to give a big **THANKS** to all current members and to those members who have been with us over the years. Your commitment to the Association has helped maintain and greatly improve our three entrances and to keep the Association alive. We hope the non-members will join in. For 2003/2004, with our current membership numbers (83 households), we just have enough in our budget to continue the upkeep through May.

Unfortunately, if our membership stays at its current number for 2004/2005, we will have to further reduce the amount of maintenance performed on the entrances and may be forced into a difficult decision next year to eliminate the homeowner association and turn these duties over to the City of Plano.

A voluntary association like ours relies on the goodwill of the neighborhood rather than contractual agreements to function. Our association By-Laws do not allow us to be anything beyond the functions of: 1) Common grounds maintenance of 3 entrances, 2) Newsletter, 3) Social Activities, and 4) Crime Watch.

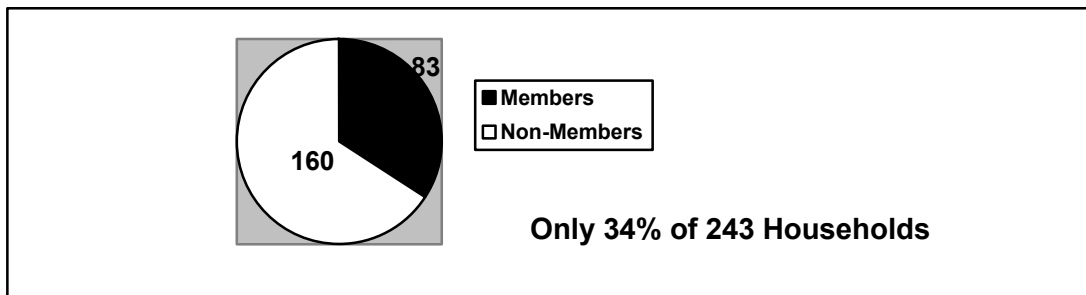
We have done all that we can possibly do to keep our expenses low and still provide the needed maintenance to maintain our entrances. It is important to understand that if the Association does not maintain the entrances, the City of Plano will take over with minimal attention to the ascetics. Once again, unless we increase our members next year, we may be in an unfortunate situation of having to extremely cut-back on what is done at the entrances or possibly turning these duties over to the City of Plano.

What happens if the City of Plano takes over?

- the sprinklers will be taken out, common areas watered by the rain,
- the grass will be cut when ever the city gets around to it,
- no fertilization or weed control,
- no flowers or foliage at any entrance,
- no trees or plants replaced by the city
- the value of our homes will fall because we will lack the “curb appeal” that we currently enjoy.

I hope it does not come down to this but this is where we stand. If you are currently not a member, please talk your neighbors who have joined and ask how they feel membership benefits them. **To join the Association, please submit the membership application on the back page of this newsletter or contact John Pitlik at jjwpitlik@verizon.net or 972-618-3813.**

A special thanks to Gary and Denise Twitty for your additional contribution to the Association!



Join now and support your Briar Meadow Homeowner Association!

Seasonal Landscaping Tips

John Domin, Beautification Committee Chair

Although the winter season is a slow time of year for landscaping, the Briar Meadows Beautification Committee would like to provide you with a few small tips for the season. The biggest bit of advice is to sit back and enjoy the fact that you don't have to spend much time in your yard right now. Unless, of course, you have planted Winter Rye – then we wish you happy mowing.

Remember, a neighborhood with well-maintained yards creates a community that we are all proud to live in. Also, if the majority of homes in our neighborhood have attractive curb-appeal, it will help the resale of those who are trying to sell their home.

January

- **Plant** cool-season annuals if you haven't already (i.e. pansies, mums, ornamental kale & cabbage, daffodils, narcissus, grape hyacinths)
- **Plant** Spring-blooming tulip bulbs before mid-January
- **Prune** fruit trees such as peach or pecan

February

- **Plant** cool-season annuals – it's still not too late (i.e. pansies, mums, ornamental kale & cabbage, daffodils, narcissus, grape hyacinths).
- **Prune** Crepe Myrtles

March

- **Plan** your Summer annuals – wait until after last freeze to plant (which is usually early April to be safe)
- **Plan** major landscape projects like planting trees, shrubs or making new beds – Spring is the best time to do these planting projects (again, wait until early April to actually plant them)
- **Scalp** turf after last freeze – this can be done in late March or early April
- **Apply** pre-emergent to turf to control summer weeds

Happy Landscaping!!!

From the Briar Meadow Beautification Committee



Check out our neighbors 'U-Mail-It' for all of your mailing needs. Authorized shipping center, fax, notary, business cards, shipping supplies, copies, laminating, 24-hour Mail Boxes, UPS, Fed Ex, and US Mail.

U-Mail It

2220 Coit Road, Suite 480
(north-east corner at Park Blvd)
Plano, TX 75075
(972) 758-1144 Fax: (972) 758-1244

Benny and Nancy Sandler

Thank you for providing the BMHOA mailbox!

Yard of the Quarter Award

The Beautification Committee is delighted to announce the winner of the Yard of the Quarter for the first quarter of 2004:

**Laura and Kevin Lucia
3820 Nash Lane**

For their efforts in maintaining their yard, they will be presented with a \$50 Gift Certificate to Calloway's Nursery and the Briar Meadow Yard of the Quarter sign for their yard.

The next winner will be chosen in April 2004, so now is the time to start planning your spring color. You must be a current member of the Briar Meadow Homeowner Association to be eligible for this award. To recommend a member for next quarter's award, please contact John Domin at 972-491-5818 or domintexas@aol.com.

Welcoming New Neighbors

As co-chairs of the Welcoming Committee, Sally and Dawn welcome our new neighbors and introduce themselves and the BMHOA. They drop in to see new families and welcome them to our community. If you know of a new neighbor, have ideas for the Welcoming Committee, or would like to help, please contact Sally or Dawn.

Sally Kammer
972-208-2003

sally.kammer@msm.umn.edu

Dawn Dodd
972-491-1413

winkie40@juno.com

Skaggs "Rising Star" Library Time

Tuesday, March 2, 2004 1:30 p.m.

Bring your 4 and 5 year olds to the Skaggs Elementary school library in preparation for kindergarten next year.

Briar Meadow News is published quarterly by the Briar Meadow Home Owner Association (BMHOA) to communicate information to all residents in Plano's Briar Meadow subdivision. Material published may be opinion and does not necessarily represent the views of the BMHOA or its Board of Directors. Advertising in the newsletter does not represent endorsement by the BMHOA.

Advertising Rates

Insert or full page	\$100
Half page	\$50
Business card	\$35

For articles or advertising, please contact Linda Chang, Editor, at 972-618-2523 or linda.chang@verizon.net. The next newsletter will be published in April, 2004.

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS: NOT AS EASY AS YOU THOUGHT

Meri Garrett-Perez, Briar Meadow Resident

When is Crime Prevention funny? When you try to find it on the World Wide Web. I set out to write a quick article on something we, in Briar Meadow, have had to deal with lately. I thought it'd be rather easy to hunt up some websites and summarize them. Oh contraire!

What I found was, How to Commit a Burglary, for example. Tips given were to "wear black as it renders you virtually invisible" and "after you blow open the door, it's time to act quickly as someone has probably woken up by now." I assumed this site was a joke because it suggested that you hide the plastique in a celery stalk and, "...pretend to eat it as you walk casually to the door, but don't really, 'cause that would be bad."

What I didn't find was the Plano Police Department's Crime Prevention link... apparently it's been stolen.

As I said, there are many sites. One that caught my eye was, Don't Become a Victim of Chainsaw Injury. That hasn't seemed to be a problem around Briar Meadow, so those tips are not included in this article.

Vandalism - Who and Why?

Most vandals are young people -- from grade school to young adults -- who damage property for one or more of the following reasons:

- Boredom
- Anger
- Revenge
- Defiance
- Alliance

You Can Help Prevent Vandalism

- Educate, especially young people, about the costs of vandalism.
- Clean up vandalism as soon as it happens -- replace signs, repair damaged property, paint over graffiti.
- If you see anyone committing vandalism, report it to the police, school authorities, or someone who can take action.
- Remember, vandalism is a crime.
- Protect your house or apartment from vandalism by using good lighting and locking gates and garages.

Burglary Prevention

From several sites I found this fascinating bit of advice - **Lock your doors and windows**. That's right. According to several sites, over 80% of items taken are taken from unlocked homes. (That includes the garage door.)

Call
911!



Top Five Burglary Prevention Tips:

1. Lock your doors! Put deadbolts on exterior doors. If you just moved in, change all exterior locks.
2. Close your garage door at all times
3. (And this surprised me)...place alarm signs in the yard and on windows!
4. Get involved in the Neighborhood Watch program. (Contact Raghu Ram at rraghu75@hotmail.com for additional information.)
5. Install motion sensor lights.

There seemed to be some differences of opinion in some sites about what to do with your home when you leave for an extended time. Use your own good judgement.

Top Two Tips for Extended Absences:

- #1 Make the house look lived in. Have automatic timers on lights throughout the house as well as the TV. (Other sites say to draw the shades so no one can see in and covet your big screen TV).
- #2 Do not stop your mail and paper delivery. Instead have a trusted neighbor pick them up daily and remove any door-hangers. (A different site said to have everything cancelled until you get back)

The best site I found was www.safewithin.com. Not only does it have good information, but it also posts other useful resources.

The Plano Police Department is another good resource www.planopolice.org. Check out **Vacation Safety School**. This is a week-long program for children ages 6 to 9. For additional information and an application call the Plano Police Department at 972-941-2431.

In Home Safety Check. A free evaluation of your home by the Plano Police Department. They will show you your home through the eyes of a would-be intruder and provide safety tips your family can take to limit the possibility of you becoming a victim. Check out the website or contact Officer David Marshall at 972-941-2060 for additional information.

Citizen Police Academy. A 13-week program conducted through the Plano Police Department. For additional information, call 972-941-2431 or contact Officer Dawson at 972-941-2146.

Perhaps the easiest and best tip was to keep an eye out for suspicious behavior or vehicles and call the police to report it...(and hopefully they won't be wearing black, because then they'd be practically invisible...all but the celery!)

THANK YOU to our advertisers for covering the cost of publication:

Meri Garrett-Perez 972-599-7000
Real Estate Consultant, Keller Williams Realty

Yvonne Kearney 972-924-9174
Willow Bend Mortgage

BMHOA Membership

THANK YOU to our members who have already joined!
(Membership list is as of January 28, 2004)

7301 Alandale	2013 Ridgemoor Lane	3908 Sunflower Lane
7309 Alandale	7105 Ridgemoor Lane	3916 Sunflower Lane
7321 Alandale	7205 Ridgemoor Lane	3920 Sunflower Lane
3800 Bow Creek	7213 Ridgemoor Lane	3921 Sunflower Lane
3804 Bow Creek	7305 Ridgemoor Lane	3924 Sunflower Lane
3805 Bow Creek	7316 Ridgemoor Lane	3932 Sunflower Lane
3809 Bow Creek	7020 Rochelle Drive	3941 Sunflower Lane
3813 Bow Creek	7112 Rochelle Drive	3952 Sunflower Lane
3816 Bow Creek	3800 Sagewood Court	3956 Sunflower Lane
3800 Clearwater Court	3801 Sagewood Court	
3801 Clearwater Court	3804 Sagewood Court	
3813 Clearwater Court	3821 Sagewood Court	
3601 Lowrey Way	3704 Skyline Drive	
3609 Lowrey Way	3705 Skyline Drive	
3620 Lowrey Way	3709 Skyline Drive	
3720 Lowrey Way	3712 Skyline Drive	
3721 Lowrey Way	3713 Skyline Drive	
3801 Lowrey Way	3800 Skyline Drive	
3813 Lowrey Way	3808 Skyline Drive	
3824 Lowrey Way	3820 Skyline Drive	
3704 Nash Lane	3828 Skyline Drive	
3720 Nash Lane	3829 Skyline Drive	
3800 Nash Lane	3832 Skyline Drive	
3801 Nash Lane	3701 Stoneway Drive	
3804 Nash Lane	3704 Stoneway Drive	
3805 Nash Lane	3709 Stoneway Drive	
3809 Nash Lane	3717 Stoneway Drive	
3812 Nash Lane	3725 Stoneway Drive	
3813 Nash Lane	3809 Stoneway Drive	
3817 Nash Lane	3812 Stoneway Drive	
3820 Nash Lane	3816 Stoneway Drive	
3824 Nash Lane	3820 Stoneway Drive	
3825 Nash Lane	3824 Stoneway Drive	
3828 Nash Lane	3832 Stoneway Drive	
7001 Ridgemoor Lane	3808 Sunflower Lane	
7005 Ridgemoor Lane	3901 Sunflower Lane	
7009 Ridgemoor Lane	3905 Sunflower Lane	

**MEMBER
STATS**

**83
members**

34%

A Message from the President

Michelle Bebb, President & Michael Bebb, Vice-President

Happy New Year to our neighbors old and new! All of the members of the Board send a big Thank You to the neighbors who have paid their Briar Meadow Association dues. Our budget for this fiscal year is very tight, but providing no unforeseen problems, we will have just enough to make this year's budget. If you have not paid your dues yet, it is not too late! See more about **Membership information** on the first page.

Next month, all current members will be receiving their **2004 Neighborhood / Service Directory**. Sally Kammer spent much time and effort pulling this project together, and she did an outstanding job! Thanks, Sally!

Please take the time to read all of the articles in this newsletter. It is a great way for you to learn what is going on in your neighborhood, understand how your dues are being spent, and become educated on a variety of topics.

The Beautification Committee recently awarded the **Yard of the Quarter** to a beautiful home in our lovely neighborhood. Check the article to see who the new winner is!

Elections for the 2004 / 2005 BMHOA will be held in early June. Please give serious thought to getting involved in the BMHOA. Serving on the Board requires no prior experience, requires minimal time, is a lot of fun, and keeps you involved with your neighbors.

One last note: This is a great neighborhood filled with many wonderful people. Spring will be here soon and many of you will be out working in your yards or walking along the streets. Stop for a moment, introduce yourself, and get to know more of your neighbors. Briar Meadow consists of an excellent mix of many interesting people!

Best wishes for a prosperous 2004.

We are now accepting membership applications for the July 2003 – June 2004 year. Please submit the application below with your check of \$130.00. Make your check payable to "Briar Meadow Homeowner Association". Your canceled check will be your receipt. For questions, please contact John Pitlik, Membership Chair, at jjpitlik@earthlink.net or 972-618-3813.

BRIAR MEADOW HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION 2003-2004 Membership Application

Name* _____

Street Address* _____

Phone* _____

E-mail address* _____

Members in Household: Adults _____ Children _____ Pets? _____

Volunteering Interests or Comments _____

Amount Enclosed _____ Check # _____

*Include this information in the Neighborhood Directory? YES NO

Mail with \$130 check to:

Briar Meadow Homeowner Association
 Membership
 PMB 128
 2200 Coit Road, Suite 480
 Plano, TX 75075

