**Next Board of Directors Meeting**

Our next meeting board meeting is scheduled for **April 14 at the end of Winton Park** at 7:00 p.m. **Refreshments will be provided.** If unable to attend, then feel free to join us next time. Our board meetings are held every other month on the second Tuesday. Don’t forget to visit our website occasionally for the latest updates on your Association. [www.ParklandsHOA.org](http://www.ParklandsHOA.org)

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**Late Newsletter**
*by Robert Treadwell, Communications*

Sorry everyone for the late newsletter. We weren’t able to come up with enough news articles to justify the expense in December / January.

Appropriate articles are welcome from all Parklands residents. If you have an item you’d like to see included in a future newsletter, just send it to me at Webmaster@ParklandsHOA.org.

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**National Night Out 2008**
*by Tomala Gueringer*

A huge THANK YOU! to all of the block captains and social committee members for the contribution of their time and effort that went into making the night such a huge success. The arrival of the S.A.P.D squad car was a big hit with the children and adults alike. The hot dogs as always were gone in a flash, thanks to our resident grill master Christine Hester, social chairman. Bill Miller’s BBQ donated 5 gallons of tea and 11 doz. brownies thru the effort and connection of a mystery resident (thx L.L.) David Mireles donated Spurs items from TIME WARNER raising the level of excitement in young and old. Last but not least, a very special thanks goes out to MARK MONTALVO and his BAND!!!!! They donated their night and music to the residents of Parklands making this the most memorable of all gatherings. You guys ROCK and so did all of us!!!

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**Homeowner Assessments Due**

Homeowner assessments were due on Jan 1, 2009. If you haven’t yet paid, then please make take time to do that today!

If you are experiencing financial difficulties, AMS and the Board of Directors are willing to discuss options. Neither our homeowners or the Board really want to pursue attorney or collection agency involvement.

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**Property Improvements**

Don’t forget about the need to comply with our Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. We continue to have homeowners who don’t obtain the Architectural Control Committee’s (ACC) approval for their property improvements before starting.
A new change to our contract with our management company, AMS, has resulted in our association being charged $15 for every improvement request. To stress, this is NOT paid by the home owner. Our ACC asks that if you are submitting requests for multiple projects, that you use the following guidelines.

- One form for projects that are related; such as a project which involves landscaping, deck, pool, etc.
- Multiple request forms for unrelated projects; such as installing a fence, and setting up a basketball goal. (AMS has agreed not to charge our association for any requests received as a package.)

The forms and instructions are available from our website at the top of the Resources page. We all want to ensure our property values are not lowered by an unsightly improvement on our neighbor’s property. Your cooperation is appreciated!

**New Block Captains**

*by Tomala Gueringer, Block Captain Chair*

In the last newsletter we asked for two people to volunteer to serve as Block Captains. We got them. Thanks to Fidel Flores and Brenda Mireles for stepping up. It’s residents like you that help make a difference.

**Christmas Decoration Contest**

*by Tomala Gueringer, Block Captain Chair*

The participation in the second annual decorating contest was outstanding. Decorations and lights ranged from the classic to the whimsical, creating a magnificent Holiday tour through the neighborhood. All of your Christmas spirit and hard work made the final selections very difficult with literally at times the winners being only points apart. The winners were:

- **1st**: Robert & Kathy Treadwell, 8036 Winter Park
- **2nd**: Tom & Tomala Gueringer, 7903 Highland Park
- **3rd**: John & Christine Hester, 7918 Cominsky Park

Honorable mentions go to:

- David & Brenda Mireles, 7709 Highland Park
- Vidal & Miriam Rodriguez, 8036 Estes Park

I would like to thank all of the block captains and social committee members for their time and help in the annual judging - good job guys!

A special shout out to Miriam Rodriguez for creating and posting the contest flyers around the neighborhood and to Michelle Treadwell our resident artist for creating all of the award signs. Keep all of those holiday ideas flowing and we look forward to next seasons contest.

**March – Lawn and Garden Care**

*by ‘Swami’ Swaminathan, Landscape Committee*

**Stay AWAY from chemical fertilizers (like “weed and feed” products) and herbicides. They are dangerous. Why?**

- Reason 1: Chemical fertilizers destroy beneficial soil microbes, deplete essential organic material and contaminate the soil and water resources.
- Reason 2: Herbicides are known carcinogens. Veterinary studies have shown that dogs (and other animals), exposure leads to potentially fatal cancers.
- Reason 3: The herbicides in these products can not distinguish between weeds and your desirable landscape plants. Repeated use will weaken and may kill your trees and other bushes whose roots extend into areas you spray with these dangerous herbicides.

**You can prepare your own very effective natural weed killer by mixing the following:**

In one gallon strong vinegar (10% or higher strength and NOT the grocery store vinegar) you can buy at the local nurseries, mix 1 to 2 ounces of orange oil (available in the nurseries also) plus
one squirt of liquid dish soap. This works like a charm and VERY environment friendly. You can prepare smaller quantities in the same proportion.

**Things to do this month:**

1) Excellent time to start your spring vegetable garden. Use 6 to 8 inch compost piles to start raised bed gardens in our bad soil. Medina soil activator loosens the soil; but it takes several months. Container gardening is a great alternate.

2) Spread 0.5 inch of compost to the lawn and water in thoroughly (at-least one inch deep). One deep watering is a lot more effective than several shallow watering.

3) Good application of good organic fertilizer to your plans and lawn (such a Medina granular organic, Texas Tee or liquid fertilizers such as Medina Liquid Lawn spray, Medina Hasta Gro etc.)

4) To keep lawn fungus away apply a thin dusting of whole ground corn meal (available from feed lot stores)

5) To control fire ants use ‘Green Light Fire ant Control”

6) Feed flowering plants with “Rose Glo” for beautiful flowers (use them for roses, crepe myrtles, sweet olives, salvias, bougainvilleas, and all flowering plants)

7) Avoid chlorosis (yellowing of leaves) with an application of Medina Micronutrients or greensand (natural iron supplement)

8) To control fleas and ticks (watch for any early June bugs), apply beneficial nematodes (available from Fertile Garden supply and Rainbow Gardens in refrigerated blue sponge) to your lawn and water in thoroughly. These live nematodes (also known as “friendly lawn petrol”) eat eggs and larvae of these bad bugs.

9) Prune spring flowering shrubs AFTER blooming

10) Plant blooming annuals. There are many varieties available (pansies, dianthus, cyclamen, snapdragons, etc. etc.)

Due to the long drought we’ve had, all of the newly planted trees on our lawns need deep watering to survive. Place the water hose at the base near the trunk and turn the water on to a ‘small trickle’ and let it sit for 6 to 8 hours for deep watering to reach the roots of the trees. Regular surface shallow lawn watering is NOT ENOUGH for trees.

Finally – be kind to our deer. Drive slowly especially late evenings and early mornings when they are out. Due to the severe draught, they are suffering from food shortage and water. You may feed them deer corn & protein pellets (available from feed lot stores). **Spring is here! Get out and enjoy!**

*Source: The Garden Gazette, The official newsletter of Shades of Green nursery (www.shadesofgreensa.com)*