

March 2009



Your
Neighborhood
Newsletter

A Neighborhood Association
www.rtha.org

Great American Clean Up and Cowtown Community Clean Up

It's that time of year again! Our annual neighborhood clean up is scheduled for March 28th from 9 a.m. to noon in conjunction with the 24th Annual Cowtown Great American Clean Up. Rain or shine, individuals who take pride in keeping our neighborhood and Fort Worth beautiful should register by submitting an email to Bill Rhyan or register online at neighborhoods@fortworthgov.org and supply the group name of "River Trails HOA". Gloves, t-shirts and trash bags are given to everyone who registers by **March 13th**. Our meeting location this year will be at 2971 Seguin Trail. Our focus will involve continued clean up of the greenbelt, neighborhood entrances, the park and nearby roadways. Immediately following the clean up, Fort Worth will hold a celebration at Trinity Park providing entertainment and food beginning at 2 p.m.

Because so many people have expressed interest in donating to the cause in lieu of their availability to volunteer, donations will be accepted this year. Donations will go strictly towards "neighborhood beautification efforts". To make a donation or volunteer, contact Bill Rhyan – Beautification Chairman (Rhyantexas@aol.com or 817-395-2888) or mail your donation to RTHA – P.O. Box 185014 – Fort Worth, TX 76181 and specify that it is for "beautification". Receipts will be available upon request. Sponsors, volunteers and those who donated will be honorably mentioned in the next neighborhood newsletter.

Don't delay...register today!

Crime Update – Crime Prevention Class

There has been an increase in daytime home invasions and neighborhood panhandling. Our neighborhood is no different from any other. The increase is all over Fort Worth and the surrounding areas. As mentioned by Community Policing Unit Supervisor, Sgt. Maldonado, "No police department can function effectively without the assistance of responsible citizens." In addition to the extensive efforts made by Fort Worth Police Department, we need to do our part in preventing these crimes.

- Report suspicious activity. Fort Worth Police Department relies on us to report things that look unusual or out of place.
- Secure your dwellings and belongings.
- Place padlocks on your fences.
- Lock your doors.
- Don't let individuals know you're home alone but, let them know you're home.
- Park in your driveway.
- Lock your car; remove the garage door opened from the car.
- Join your neighborhood Citizens on Patrol. Email mcadomk@yahoo.com to join.

River Trails Neighborhood Association will be hosting a class on "Preventing a Home Invasion" and "How to Handle Neighborhood Panhandlers" on April 11th at 11:00 a.m. at the River Trails Park. Crime Prevention Officer Mike Grigsby from Fort Worth Police Department will be teaching the educational seminar. **Seating is limited, so bring a blanket or a chair. Check website if rain is expected.**

Greenbelt Clean Up

The revamping of the boundary fence on the west side of our neighborhood in the “greenbelt” has begun. The old fence panels have been removed from the posts, and are in the process of being prepared for city pickup. Several members of our neighborhood recently helped in this effort by using a trailer attached to their ATV and transporting the downed fence panels to a pickup area by the guardrail at the west end of Sabinas. All of them live on San Joaquin, and are active members of the local “River Rats” ATV club. More assistance will be needed from them as the old fence is taken down and the new boundary fence starts to take shape. We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their assistance in helping to beautify our neighborhood.

The greenbelt cleanup will continue into the Cowtown Community Clean Up on March 28th with the removal of the trash piles, trimming up the broken tree limbs, and refurbishing the new fence. Many volunteers are needed for this project whether you are an RTHA member or not. The greenbelt is located at the west end of the neighborhood, and can be accessed at the corner of Salado and Sabinas. For information, to volunteer your time, and/or to make a donation toward the refurbishing of the fence, please contact Bill Rhyan – Beautification Chairman at Rhyantexas@aol.com.



No Littering

Oh no! Some individuals have been dumping their broken fence panels and landscaping debris over their fences to the property behind them. Please don't do this. It creates an eyesore, attracts rodents and creates work for your neighbors. While cleaning up the greenbelt, piles of scrap and debris were found tossed over fences.

The City of Fort Worth offers curbside collection of bulky trash. Our neighborhood's pickup week is the week that contains the second Monday of each month (recently changed from the week of the first Monday). Just place your fence panels, debris or landscaping materials on the curb no earlier than the Friday before your week. The pile can be no longer than 8 feet long, 6 feet wide and 6 feet tall for pick up (otherwise charges may apply). Do not place bulky items out before the designated week. Crews have until the following Saturday to pick up the bulky trash. For more information on city trash services, call Customer Service at (817) 392-EASY (3279) or visit www.fortworthgov.org/dem. Thank you!

No Trespassing

This article is provided per the request of Fort Worth Police Department Neighborhood Police Officer John Choyce... “Trespassing is forbidden into the wooded areas surrounding River Trails and Lakes of River Trails neighborhoods. The property is privately owned and the property owner(s) do not want individuals on their property.”

**Easter Egg
Dash &
Easter Bunny
Visit
April 4th
11:00 a.m.
River Trails
Park**



Don't be late for your picture with the Easter Bunny!! The fun starts promptly at 11:00 a.m. and you don't want your kiddos to miss the fun of scooping up all the eggs they can find! If possible, please drop off one dozen plastic eggs filled with wrapped candy for each child in your household that will be attending. You can drop them off anytime before Saturday, April 4th at 9033 Tyne Trail or 2971 Seguin Trail

Did you know?

Only 10% of River Trails residents are members of RTHA! Use the form on the back of this newsletter to sign up, or renew your current membership. Just \$25 annually. All members who sign up before April 15th will be eligible for a Movie Prize Basket for 4!

Free Lawn and Garden Seminar!

Fort Worth Water Department's Semi-Annual Yard Smart Seminar is Saturday, March 21 at the Fort Worth Botanic Garden's Lecture Hall. Learn environmentally friendly and water-saving landscaping tips that can help you create a healthy and beautiful lawn or garden. This event is free, and no pre-registration is required. Just show up by 8:45 a.m. and the class will run through 12:30 p.m.

RTHA OFFICERS: 2008-2009

President: Don Devous
Vice-President: Melissa McDougall
Secretary/Treasurer: Bill Rhyan

Great News!

The old Walker Branch recycling center, recently cleaned by a grant from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, has been sold. The company that purchased the land is expected to use it for his landscaping and paving business and may lease part of it to the lime company next door.

Neighborhood Re-zoning Application

River Trails Elementary is in the midst of a re-zoning request to increase the soccer field fence from 4' to 12' on the south end. This will prevent balls from leaving the field and flying into neighboring yards. Check website for updates – more information to follow.

Upcoming Events

March 24, 7:00 p.m.

PTA Meeting at River Trails Elem. Cafeteria

March 28, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Neighborhood Clean up

See page 1 for more information

April 4, 11:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt - River Trails Park

April 11, 11:00 a.m. – River Trails Park
Preventing Home Invasions & Handling
Neighborhood Panhandling

April 18, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

River Trails Elem. - Family Fun Day

Tickets available at the school April 13th -17th

April 25, 10 am – Noon

Next RTHA Meeting – East Regional Library

May 1, 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

River Run

1 mile fun run at 6:45 p.m.

5k run/walk at 7:15 p.m.

Food, Music, and Awards at 8:00 p.m.

(817) 285-3235 for more info

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The River Trails Newsletter is distributed to 1,500+ households. Articles and letters to the editor are welcomed. To be published as written, letters must be addressed to the editor, signed and include a phone number. Anonymous letters will not be published.

Articles may be submitted for publication, signed or unsigned, subject to approval and editing by the editor. Letters to the editor are limited to a half page (approximately 350 words). For current advertising rates, letters, and deadlines, please e-mail rivertrailshoa@yahoo.com.

The inclusion of advertising in this newsletter does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services so advertised by RTHA or it's officers.

**RIVER TRAILS HOMEOWNER'S
ASSOCIATION APPLICATION**

Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

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Please make \$25 check payable to:
RIVER TRAILS HOMEOWNERS ASSOC.
PO Box 185014
FT Worth, TX 76181