

NEWSLETTER

Our Beautiful Neighborhood Parks



Have you been to one of our parks lately?

One of the advantages of living in Huntington Place is having access to our two parks. We have about 25 acres of park areas in HP! There is a small, pleasant park between The Woodlands and The Park (appropriately enough), and the larger park lies between The Oaks I and III.

The latter park can be accessed by going to the lowest area of the Oaks III "loop" of Border Mill and Emerald Creek, or via the dead-end of Newoak Park. Access is restricted to Huntington Place residents and their guests. A cement path takes you into the park,

and additional paths take you through and among the trees. Best of all is the HOA Nature Trail, marked with signage and bordered on one side by the main path and on the other by the railroad spur access road.

The scenic Nature Trail takes you on a roughly oval-shaped path beside and through some scenic woods where I have seen deer, rabbits, and various other wildlife--including a porcupine! (Don't worry, just one in 19 years.)

The parks and Nature Trail are there for our residents. Please enjoy, and if you would like to help with taking care of them, or even making enhancements, let us know!

Curb Appeal Awards

Here's your chance to be recognized for a beautiful home and landscape!

The most beautiful home exteriors will be recognized with quarterly 2018 Curb Appeal awards.

The first judging will be done March 16 through the 20th. Once approved, signs will go up on winners' yards on March 31st or Apr. 1st. They will remain in yards from March 31st thru June 30th.

The 2nd judging will be done June 15th through 17th. Signs will go up June 30th or July 1st and will remain up thru Sept. 30th.

The 3rd judging will be done Sept. 14th through 16th. Signs will go up Sept. 30th or Oct. 1st and will remain up thru Sept. 30th. through Nov. 30th.

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**OUR STONE WALL**

*A distinctive feature of our subdivision*



While not unique to our neighborhood, the stone wall protecting Huntington Place homes and entrances along Vance Jackson is a significant visual structure that provides a positive first impression for visitors and home buyers, especially with the attractive inlaid entrance signs.

We have over 1.25 miles of wall, and the maintenance of the wall is the responsibility of our HP Association.

Every few weeks, someone crashes their car into a section of the wall. Our goal is to recover the repair costs from the driver and his/her insurance company, but **that is only possible if we know whose vehicle it was.**

Repairs to the wall cost our association thousands of dollars each year. It's the single most expensive item in the "Repairs & Maintenance" area of our budget.

If you come across a recent wall-smash accident, please get as much information as you can, especially the license plate number and date & time of the accident. This may sound unlikely--that you would see it happen or drive by not long after a wall accident--but one of our residents, Denise, witnessed a truck run into the wall about two weeks ago as of this writing. She was able to get all of the relevant information and report it, which could save all of us the expense of this one repair!

**WAY TO GO, Denise!!**

One other request for help about the wall:

\*\* If you are a homeowner whose back or side yard borders the stone wall, please **trim** your trees so that their overhang does not block the sidewalk on the other side, along Vance Jackson. It's your responsibility, and a courtesy to walkers.

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**H.P. MAILBOX BREAK-INS**

Despite the hopes of postal officials, break-ins to cluster mailboxes in HP have continued. I was able to speak to the repairman for a 2017 cluster-box attack. He said there is a newer and slightly more secure type of cluster unit, and that he would submit a request for an upgrade. I told him there were boxes all around our HP neighborhoods in need of the same upgrade.



One recommendation to keep your mail safe is to get a P.O. Box. There are postal and commercial options available, although there is a cost. Also, don't put your outgoing mail in the slot until morning.

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**TIME FOR SOME  
“CURB APPEAL!”**



Why Can't Spring Last All Year?  
-- by Tiffany Hansborough

This is my favorite time of year. I love sprucing up the front and back yards, bringing color back to the dreary, brown, and half-dead landscaping. I always want my yard to look its best. It's an...extension of me!

Regardless the age of our community, well-manicured lawns and planting beds create a positive first impression and can make our community the place to be. It doesn't take a big budget, simply some attention to detail.

Here are a few ideas to spruce up your little part of our community:

> Refresh your lawn - Trim and prune any trees and bushes that took a beating over winter or look overgrown. Add mulch to your flower beds and around trees to give them a well-kept look.

> Flower Power – Go to the local DIY store and buy some flowering plants and some bright colored spray paint. Once you're home, spray paint your old flower pots and transplant the flowers. Place the flowering pots on your front porch to create depth and dimension.

> Pressure Wash – A good overall power washing of the home, porch, garage, and driveway will provide a clean slate to work from. Homeowners can rent a power washer from Home Depot for about \$40 a day. Get together with neighbors and share the rental.

> Curb appeal doesn't have to be extravagant. A freshly cut lawn, clean driveway, inviting entryway, and weeded sidewalk present a home that is neat, taken care of, and respected. So, my friends, get out there and make your piece of our community bright!

We will be looking for Huntington Place's next Yard of the Quarter soon. Will it be yours?

*See front page for Curb Appeal schedule.*

Check out our current and past Curb Appeal Winners at [www.huntingtonplacehoa.com](http://www.huntingtonplacehoa.com).

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## *MAILBOXES (continued)*

Some mailbox safety suggestions from SAPD San Antonio Fear Free Environment (SAFFE) officers:

<> If you live near one of these cluster mailboxes and have video cameras, consider pointing a camera at them.

<> Those who have relevant vehicle information including license plate numbers are asked to call SAFFE at 210-207-7169.

<> Check your mail daily so that if a mailbox theft does occur, "the bad guys don't get days or weeks worth of mail."

<> You can report mail thefts to the Postal Inspector at 1-800-275-8777.



NEWS & NOTES

<^> Our Texas state representative, Diana Arevalo, attended the Jan. '18 meeting of our HP Board of Directors. Among the issues discussed was the cluster mailbox problem.

<^> **National Night Out** interest?

Are you interested in having a Huntington Place event for National Night Out? This year's is on Aug. 7th. Would you like to help organize such an event, or just help at the event itself?

If so, please email the newsletter editor.

<^> If the branches of a tree in your yard overhangs your neighbor's property, you should trim the branches back. Your neighbors are also legally permitted by Texas law to cut off branches that go into their yards. Of course we suggest neighbors **talk** to each other first!

<^> **City trash carts:** By city ordinance, trash containers shall not be put out before 6:00 p.m. the day prior to collection, and shall be put away out of sight before 10:00 p.m. on collection day. This is a continuing problem in Huntington Place -- carts left out, creating an EYESORE for our community. To comply, get help from a neighbor if necessary. For those few who have trouble with this, please join the vast majority of your neighbors in complying.

<^> **No car repairs or covered cars are allowed in driveways**, per city ordinance and HOA standards. Avoid receiving a courtesy notice by complying with this.

<^> Please respect our **parking** rules by parking cars in the driveway rather than on the street when there is open space in your driveway, and talking to neighbors before parking in front of their homes.

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👉 👉 The Architecture Control Committee ✓ ✓

The Architectural Control Committee is our Huntington Place Association's method of verifying that exterior home improvements line up with our standards (contained in the *Covenants*). The ACC is made up of fellow homeowners, unpaid volunteers who review your requests and compare them to standards for improvements such as new/replacement fencing, roof repairs or replacement, backyard sheds, driveway changes, and landscaping/xeriscaping (often mistakenly called "zero-scaping"). Those are just a few examples.

Besides their main role in reviewing requests, the ACC's other job is to help you succeed in your improvements. With their combined experience, they will often catch things that will save you time and money! They have reviewed about 120 requests in the past two years (w/ 14 open at the end of January)--they take pride in turning requests around quickly, often within just a few days. It helps to provide as much information as possible in your request. Check our website ([huntingtonplace.com](http://huntingtonplace.com)) for more ACC info.



TAKE PART IN YOUR HP NEWSLETTER

Help make our newsletter interesting and add to our variety of features! We are looking for "news to know." (but not advertising). Submissions in good taste will be gratefully accepted at the editor's HOA email address.