

NEWSLETTER

Progress on Mailbox Issue

Lockhill Postal Supervisor Provides Information



There have been several community mailboxes (called cluster boxes) broken into in our neighborhoods in recent months. Reports say that mailbox thefts have been committed around the city. In June, I went to the Lockhill post office and spoke to a postal supervisor about this issue.

He told me that these crimes are handled by the Postal Inspection Service of the USPS. The Service is completely independent from the branch post offices, partly

so that their inspections can include postal employees if any are suspected. (By the way, we have Huntington Place neighbors and friends who are USPS employees, and they are just as concerned about this issue as everyone else.) The supervisor said that the frequency of these break-in incidents has been decreasing lately, and there have been a number of arrests.

(Continued -- see MAILBOXES on pg. 2)

Hailstorm Recovery

After an unusually strong hail storm this spring, HPers had broken windows, torn window screens, dented cars, banged-up siding, and many other problems to deal with. The biggest issue has been getting roofs repaired or replaced. Here are a few things to keep in mind.

REPAIR SCHEDULE

By now your process of getting repairs taken care of should have be underway or finished. If your repairs get delayed by contractor backlogs, keep the management company informed about your schedule information. DAMC is at (210) 561-0606.

REPLACE, DON'T PATCH

Damaged areas need to be replaced rather than patched. Patches are unsightly and do not match the HP standards.

(Continued -- see SPRING HAIL, pg. 2)

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**MAILBOXES
(CONTINUED)**

He had two suggestions relating to the problem.

First, if you feel concerned relating to mail being delivered to your cluster box, you might consider renting a P.O. Box. There are boxes of various sizes available at the Lockhill P.O. (and there are also commercial mailbox options available).

Second, if anyone observes any suspicious activity or anything else related to these mail thefts, please contact the Postal Inspectors at their toll-free number, **(877) 876-2455**.

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**SPRING HAIL
(CONTINUED)**

REPAIRING THE FULL EXTERIOR.

As mentioned earlier, additional damage to the exterior of your house and property must also be fully repaired. This includes much more than just the roof and windows. For example, did your metal garage door get dented too? If so, it should be repaired or replaced.

This also a good time to have old satellite dishes or antennas removed. Roofers will do it for you if you ask!

VENDOR SIGNS.

Vendor signs should only be up during the time the repair work is being done. After

repairs are finished, *the signs need to be removed*. Signs are permitted for these storm repairs only and not for other kinds of work such as pools, landscaping, etc. There should be no signs for those other contractors at all.



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**NEXTDOOR -
Many Advantages to
Being On The Site**

We “HPers” have access to an excellent online community resource, the **Nextdoor** community bulletin board website! Personally, I was a bit skeptical about **Nextdoor** before I jumped onboard, but I have found it to be a truly valuable source of information and a effective platform for communication between homeowners.

Here are some of the many benefits I have found from being on **Nextdoor**.

<> Learning what is going on in our neighborhood, including events, services, and concerns such as missing and found pets and suspicious activity. For example, much information has been shared about the cluster mailbox break-ins and thefts covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

<> Asking information questions to neighbors, including homeowners/ neighbors who are on the Board of Directors of the HP Homeowner’s Association.

<> Welcoming new homeowners to the neighborhood.

<> Finding out how neighbors are handling common issues such as home repairs, lawn care, babysitting, and house cleaning, and also getting their suggestions.

The **Nextdoor** posts and discussions have largely been polite and helpful, with few items that are unwanted or “self-promoting.” Getting on **Nextdoor** is pretty easy. Just go on the Huntington Place HOA website. (huntingtonplacehoa.com) or Google “Huntington Place HOA”, then click on the “Nextdoor” button at the bottom of the page and follow the instructions.

(Please note that our association has no direct affiliation with Nextdoor. It is an online community we use to help us communicate with each other.)



THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD LAWN CARE

Let's say you are a possible home buyer coming into Huntington Place to look at houses that are on the market for purchase or rental. Your first impression is very positive, as you see nicely landscaped entrances and classy signage. You drive down the lane, impressed by the well maintained homes and many trees. (Our trees are an advantage over newer subdivisions!) THEN -- oh NO! Here is a lawn that looks like it hasn't been mowed in weeks or even months. You think, "Do I want to live down the street from that lawn?"

We all know that San Antonio's spring rains caused lawns to grow more quickly, and generally there is a cost in time and personal budget in maintaining our lawns. Still, there are many reasons to take proper care of them. For one thing, it is required by our HOA's bylaws (covenants). It's just the right thing to do for your home and for your neighbors!

How can we each do our parts to help the neighborhood look its best? Start with following the "Lawn Care" information from our association. They have been available in many places, but one way to access them is through the HP HOA website:

www.huntingtonplacehoa.com, click "Resident's Resources," then "Announcements," and scroll down to "Lawn Care." One major item is regular mowing and trimming, and watering within the current watering rules. Lawns need to be

mowed at least twice a month, or as often as weekly during times when there has been heavy rain. Also, don't forget to care of the weeds that grow in the cracks in sidewalks,



street gutters, and driveways!

The lawn watering information can be found in various places including the Express-News and the SAWS website.

Another thing to consider is xeriscaping your yard, which could also earn you rebates from SAWS! If you pursue this option, please submit your plans through the Architectural Control Committee (ACC). For more info on the ACC, see the related item in this newsletter.

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SECURITY & THE C.O.P PROGRAM

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We are organizing a Citizens On Patrol (COP) group for Huntington Place. This is completely run by you, the homeowners.

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If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Brian Howell @ jbrianhowellhp@gmail.com or send a private message to Brian Howell on Nextdoor.

BEING A COURTEOUS, RESPECTFUL, AND RESPONSIBLE NEIGHBOR

Besides each of us doing our part to keep our properties and neighborhood looking their best, there are other things we can do to keep Huntington Place a great location for our homes. *Really, this is a variation on The Golden Rule: you would like to be treated courteously, so treat your neighbors that way.* This is something that only really works if we all do it together.

Here are three areas where we can all be respectful and courteous to our neighbors.

PARKED CARS. If you have a multi-car family, try to make use of your garage to park at least one them, and then park as many as you can in your driveway rather on the street. This will possibly involve a “logistics” plan, including possibly setting up a shed in your backyard to move items and clear garage space. With driveways, on my walks I have seen driveways with four vehicles parked there, so I know it can be done! Last, please don’t park in front of

neighbors’ houses unless you have their permission.

~~ COURTESY ~~

CITY TRASH CANS. The trash cans should be brought back in (off the street) no later than the morning after collection. Homeowners who routinely leave them out for an extra day or two are being disrespectful to their neighbors, because the left-out trash cans are unsightly. And, really, how difficult is it to roll the trash can back to its out-of-view storage location? It takes less than a minute.

PICKING UP DOG POOP. Back to that Golden Rule. Do you enjoy seeing it on your front lawn? No? Then don’t leave your dog’s feces on other people’s lawns. Just starting carrying a couple of leftover plastic shopping bags with you, or bags made for this, available at pet supply shops

PLANNING HOME IMPROVEMENTS? USE THE ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE!



One way that homeowners in Huntington Place keep our homes and properties looking so attractive is complying with our architectural guidelines and standards. Several HOA members have generously

volunteered their time to be on the Architectural Control Committee (ACC). They work under the oversight of the Board of Directors to ensure that repairs, renovations, additions, landscaping and other exterior changes to homes meet the standards. Our responsibility as homeowners is to submit requests for planned changes through the ACC prior to any work being done. In turn, our neighbors on the ACC commit

to reviewing and turning around requests as quickly as they can, serving both the community as a whole and the individuals making requests.

The entire ACC process is explained under “Resident’s Resources” on the HOA website, and it also includes links to the application form and the design guidelines.



TAKE PART IN YOUR HP NEWSLETTER

Help make our newsletter interesting and add to our variety of features! We are looking for recipes, handy household hints, “news to know,” etc. (but not advertising). Submissions in good taste will be gratefully accepted at the editor’s HOA email address.