

NEWSLETTER

Watering During Drought



As of mid-June, our city was in Stage 2 of drought-related water restrictions. The main change from Stages 1 to 2 is a further reduction of the allowed hours for using sprinklers on your designated weekday. (For complete info on the restrictions, please go to saws.org.)

Even though sprinkler use is limited, **hand watering** is still permitted every day. If you're able, hand watering is essential to keep your lawn alive in times of drought. An unwatered lawn also poses risks to your home's foundation!

Here is information from a real estate developer's website:

"Experts believe shifting ground can often crack foundations, especially during

serious drought conditions. ... Dry soil problems can be [reduced] by using a high quality soaker hose. This provides a consistent water source to your soil [but] doesn't cause any flooding.

...To achieve the best results, place your soaker hose around the house's perimeter. It should be placed 8 to 18 inches away from [the] foundation."

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Note that the use of soaker hoses is also covered in the water restriction rules.

A good watering should cause your lawn to "green up" and grow, so please remember to follow lawn height and appearance standards as well. In other words, don't forget to mow your lawn.

The Cluster Mailbox Break-ins

*Raising our concerns -
Let your voice be heard!*

As we continue to suffer from break-ins to our cluster mailbox units, one approach we might take is to appeal directly to law enforcement and office-holders. *Leave a message if you don't get through.*

US Postal Service/ Lockhill Branch:

210.493.9257

US Postal Service/ Postal Inspections:

1.800.275.8777

Mayor Nirenberg:

210.207.7107

Councilman Pelaez:

210.207.7086

SAPD Non- Emergency Line:

210.207.7273

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#### Newsletter Editor

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**THE RECYCLING CART**

*What goes there?  
...and what doesn't?*

At the 2017 annual HOA meeting last fall, we received an interesting presentation\* from a rep from the City of San Antonio’s Solid Waste Management dept. I learned many new things about trash and recycling disposal. Here are a few of them:

--If your cart is regularly under- or over-filled, you should consider switching to a **smaller** or **larger** bin, respectively. The “standard” size is actual the “medium” size cart. An overstuffed cart is more likely to end up with a broken lid.

--If you are recycling a liquid container, it needs to be rinsed free of organic material such as food particles. Having a few drops of water in the bottle is no problem, though. Also, plastic **lids** should be attached to plastic bottles—the lids by themselves are too small to go through the recycling process.

--Drinking straws should not be put in the recycling. Complete lists of what to put

(and NOT put) in the recycling cart are at the Solid Waste department’s web page. Look for “**Recycling Accepted and Not Accepted Materials.**”

[\*I encourage you to attend the annual HOA meeting each Fall. There are always many fascinating and relevant speakers, and I never fail to learn a lot about what is happening in our city and neighborhoods.]

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**THE C.O.P ., A VALUABLE PROGRAM**

It is a fact that when residents take an active role in watching their neighborhood, crime decreases. We have seen the amount of crime in Huntington Place impacted in the last few years because of the diligence of our small COP group. We are in need of more volunteers for our Citizens On Patrol program as well as residents who have outdoor surveillance cameras. The amount of time required to participate is whatever amount of time you are able to give. Your eyes and ears and camera footage are tremendously helpful. Please consider joining our volunteer COP program.

Remember, this is **your** neighborhood. Please contact Brian Howell at [jbrianhowellhp@gmail.com](mailto:jbrianhowellhp@gmail.com) for more information.

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**Park Beautification Help Needed**

If you’ve walked in our park between Oaks I and III, you’ve probably noticed the small trees and shrubs that give the park more of a scenic appearance. They are the result of the volunteer efforts of HP homeowner Russell DeBerry. He is 91 and has had a hip replacement, and he sure could use some help! If you have interest in park beautification, please contact him at [Russelldeberry@att.net](mailto:Russelldeberry@att.net).

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~ ~ NEWS & NOTES ~ ~

<> For our **Yard of the Quarter** program, we have HP residents who are our new volunteer evaluators, looking at candidates for the “Curb Appeal” awards. Raul & Lauren, thanks for your efforts to identify the success stories out there!

<> When our homes got damaged by the big **hail storm in the Spring of 2016**, nearly every roof in the subdivision required major repairs or replacement. Those roofs have now mostly been fixed, but have the *other* areas of hail damage to your home also been repaired? Those include damaged window screens, siding, garage doors, and similar exterior features.

<> When you or your mowing service is mowing and weed-eating your yard, don't forget to attack the “**weeds in the cracks**”! Large weeds growing up in the cracks between your street curb and gutter, or in the cracks in your sidewalk and driveway, can diminish the otherwise attractive appearance of a house and front yard.

<> If we all leave **our porch and garage (outside) lights** on at night, it will help with the overall security of our neighborhoods. This is well established practice, and is a regular recommendation of SAPD's “San Antonio Fear Free Environment” (S.A.F.F.E.) program.

<> Have you wondered what that **little pipe is above your front door**? It's the backup drain for the air conditioning condensate water. (Sometimes this pipe is located elsewhere on a house exterior.) If you have water flowing from that drain, it means your primary drain, usually located along the foundation, is blocked, which is something that needs to be repaired ASAP! It's also a good idea to pour about half a cup of bleach down the small standpipe in your furnace closet. A good way to remember to do that is to pour the bleach whenever you change your air filter(s).

*BEING A COURTEOUS
NEIGHBOR ...please! :)*

** If you are having a **backyard party**, strive to balance your plans to provide a fun event for your guests with your neighbors' privacy needs and their desire for peace and quiet. Another respectful practice is to let your neighbors know in advance that there will be additional vehicles parked on the street. Partygoers also sometimes leave trash on neighbors' lawns on their way back to vehicles after the party ends. Please clear away any trash the next morning.

** The **green belts** behind our homes are not meant as dumping areas for yard waste and other trash. Most yard waste can be disposed of in the green cart (organics) or put out for scheduled brush collection dates, within Solid Waste Division guidelines.



Have you been to the Huntington Place website lately?

The website provides access to a wealth of information, including past issues of this newsletter, and (through your "Resident Portal," after login) account information, plus the governing documents and forms for our Homeowners' Association.

For example, you can find forms and information to help you submit an improvement request to our Architectural Control Committee (ACC). (See directly below for more about the ACC.)

The Huntington Place HOA website is at www.huntingtonplacehoa.com.



A portion of my "Resident Portal" page on the website.

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For help accessing your account, contact DAMC as shown at the bottom of pg. 1.

☞ ☞ The Architecture Control Committee ✓ ✓

If you plan on making exterior improvements to your home and/ or lot, you need to work with our Architectural Control Committee (ACC) before getting too far along with your planning. The ACC is our Huntington Place Association's method of verifying that 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 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) 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.