



# Spicewood Estates

<http://www.spicewoodestates.com/>

October 2011

No. 106

Spicewood Estates Homeowner's Association Quarterly Newsletter

## Calendar of Events

October 30	SEHA Fall Party
October 31	Halloween
November 17	Christmas Tree Order Due
November 24	Thanksgiving
November 23-27	RRISD Thanksgiving Break
December 3	Christmas Trees Delivered
December 19	RRISD Winter Break Begins
December 25	Christmas
December 31	New Years Eve
January 3, 2012	RRISD School Begins
January 16	RRISD – No School

## From the President's Corner

Dear Neighbors,  
 Hope this communication finds you and yours in good health. With the extreme hot and dry weather showing no signs of relenting, LCRA forecasts that this drought could become the worst on record by early spring. I'm sure you all are aware that we are now in Stage 2 Water Restrictions as follows:

### Stage 2 - What does that mean for you?

#### One Day Watering ONLY

**STAGE 2 WATER RESTRICTIONS TOOK EFFECT SEPTEMBER 6**

RESIDENTIAL ODD ADDRESS	RESIDENTIAL EVEN ADDRESS	COMMERCIAL, MULTIFAMILY ODD ADDRESS	COMMERCIAL, MULTIFAMILY EVEN ADDRESS
AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION SYSTEMS: BEFORE 10 A.M. HOSE-END SPRINKLERS, SOAKERS: BEFORE 10 A.M. or AFTER 7 P.M.			
Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday	Friday

REPORT VIOLATIONS TO 3-1-1

### Stage 2 Water Use Guidelines

- Residents may only water outdoors once a week. Homes with odd-numbered addresses can water on Saturday, even-numbered on Sunday.
- Businesses and multifamily units may only water outdoors once a week. Those with odd numbered-address can water on Tuesday. Business and multifamily units with even-numbered addresses can water on Friday.
- Restaurants may not serve water unless requested by the customer

- The washing of sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, or other paved areas is prohibited except to alleviate an immediate health or safety hazard
- Automatic sprinklers can only operate before 10 a.m. on your watering day. Hose-end sprinklers can be used before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m.
- May only use an irrigation system, soaker hose or hose-end sprinkler once per week.
- If you wash your car at home, do it on your watering day before 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m.
- You must use a hand-held bucket or a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle.
  - You may use a waterless cleaning product or a commercial carwash to wash your car on any day at any time.
- No charity carwashes unless a waterless cleaning product is used instead of water.
- No ornamental fountains may be operated except to provide aeration for aquatic life. Automatic fill valves for pools and ponds must be turned off as well.
- Violations of mandatory watering restrictions will result in an official warning followed by a citation if the violation is not corrected. Citations will be issued in Municipal Court with fines starting at \$475.

Water waste is prohibited year-round in Austin. Leaking faucets, pipes and the operation of irrigation systems with misdirected or broken sprinkler heads are just some of the ways water is wasted in our community. The Water Use Management Ordinance, Chapter 6-4, Water Conservation, Title 6, Austin City Code will provide you with more specific details concerning water waste and water use restrictions. Watering restrictions help conserve our treated drinking water and preserve our water supply in the Highland Lakes. Please note that violations of this ordinance are considered a Class C Misdemeanor, with each instance punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

**To report violations: online reporting form or call 311.**

## ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEES (ACC) – SECTIONS 1 & 2

These committees, one for each section of Spicewood Estates, are responsible for administering and enforcing the Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions. These committees are here to maintain the character of Spicewood Estates (SEHA). The ACC strives to maintain the residential and neighborly character that attracted folks to choose Spicewood Estates for their home. They help maintain the neighborhood character as existing homes are enlarged and enhanced.

### Section 1

- Larry Sandell - 331-0239
- Sue Laurent - 258-2258

### Section 2

- Bruce Greiner - 335-4854
- Marilyn Blewett - 258-0424

I'd like to take this opportunity to advise you to please consult the Spicewood Estates Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions for Sections I & II when you are considering changing and/or updating your front yard landscaping, adding rooms, fences, pools, building new structures, or any other improvements. Please err on the side of caution no matter how small you may think your project is. You **MUST** advise the Architectural Control Committee. Residents are required to receive approval from the Architectural Control Committee before proceeding with home expansion or other improvements as outlined in the deed restrictions. Before spending too much money on home improvements, you should review your deed restrictions and familiarize yourself with the various building restrictions, etc. The covenants, are in the directory and also online at our website <http://www.spicewoodestates.com/> under the SEHA Info. Tab.

Please remember that while the ACC enforces the deed restrictions, they also allow for flexibility and creativity, while protecting your investment as well as your neighbors' investments.

As always, I am available to assist and/or direct you to the proper arena so don't hesitate to contact me should you have a question.

My best to all,

*Fern Westhead - SEHA President*

## Fall Party & Annual Holiday Lights Spectacular

Two exciting events are on the horizon for SEHA.



First is the SEHA Fall Party which will be Sunday, October 30 from 3-5 p.m. Halloween costumes are encouraged for all ages but not required. There will be costume contests, including one for best-dressed pet. There will be a bounce house for the children and there will be food and drinks for everyone. RSVP is encouraged to Rhonda Stokley at 294-5558 so she can anticipate the turnout but if you decide at the last minute that you can make it after all then please come! If you are willing to bring food or drinks, please let Rhonda know. This will be a great chance to meet new neighbors and visit with old friends. Feel free to bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. It will be a fun, informal chance for us to all get together.

The next event that is scheduled is our Holiday Lights Spectacular. We know it's early to be thinking



about the holidays but we have to put together our tree order so they can be delivered to our doors on Saturday, December 3. The order form is included in this newsletter. The trees will cost \$22 each and more than one may be purchased per home. The deadline for orders is Thursday, November 17. Proceeds from the tree sale support many local nonprofit groups. The neighborhood looks so warm and welcoming when we all have a tree lit up in our yards. Please participate so we can continue this wonderful tradition. Additional information is on the order form.

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## Change to Spicewood Estates (SEHA) Email List

In the past, I have maintained a private email distribution list for SEHA. However, in January 2010, we created a Google Group to make it easier to maintain and administer a neighborhood email list. Many thanks to 120 of our Spicewood Estates neighbors who have signed up for the Google Group since its implementation. However, this only represents about half of the neighborhood. The rest of the neighborhood is still receiving information via my email distribution list. It is time for us to complete the process of migrating to the SEHA Google Group so that we can again get back to a single list.

If you haven't signed up for our new neighborhood Google group, please join today our new free, easy-to-use email group service. I will cease sending emails, except through the Google Group, as of **December 31, 2011**. I hope that you understand this change and will follow the easy steps below to sign up. If you have any troubles, email me at [clperdue@swbell.net](mailto:clperdue@swbell.net) or Bart Jacob at [bart.jacob@gmail.com](mailto:bart.jacob@gmail.com). Bart Jacob or I can then assist with your sign up.

We use the Google group as a way of communicating news and information to and among neighbors in Spicewood Estates. For example, it provides a forum for buy/sell/trade of personal items, recommendations for contractors, lost and found notices of dogs, keys, etc., neighborhood activity groups and events, concerns about neighborhood animals or suspicious activities/security threats and City of Austin events and information or anything that you as a Spicewood Estates homeowner is interested in sharing with your neighbors.

Visit <http://groups.google.com/group/spicewood-estates-austin> and click on "Apply for group membership" on the right side of the screen to participate in this group. If you are using a different email address than you usually use for the messages on our current email distribution list, please include some information, e.g. name and address, so that we will recognize that you are a Spicewood Estates homeowner.

If you do not already have a Google Account, you will need to create an account. Note: this is NOT a sign up for a Google email address. It is a way to create a password and nickname that you will use for the Google Group. When you are approved by one of the moderators, you can also receive posts to the site in your regular email box by just adjusting or

editing your membership. You may choose to receive individual mails, a daily digest, just special bulletins, or no mail at all. If you subscribe to monitor discussions and receive announcements, your email address is not visible to the rest of the group. It only becomes visible when you create a post.

## APD Commander's Forum

Please note on your calendar that the next Commander's Forum is Tuesday, October 10 at 7-8:30 PM at Parmer Woods 12429 Scofield Farms Dr (at Parmer Lane East of Metric).

### APD Burglary Unit on Facebook

From Detective Munoz #3029, APD Burglary Unit, (512) 974-4728: The APD Burglary Unit has gone live with its own Facebook page. First stories to include wanted persons, property for victims to identify, success stories of victims reunited with their property, and burglary/crime alerts. They can use all the "Fans" they can get.

This is the direct link to email to everyone you can forward this to.

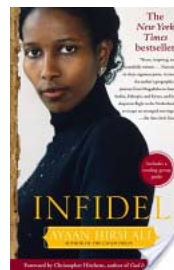
<https://www.facebook.com/APDBU>

## Neighbor's Book Nook

Since so many of our neighbors are avid readers we thought a book review column might be fun! Let's get book recommendations from readers of all ages --- from elementary school, tweens, teens to adults! Why was that mystery or thriller or biography or "whatever" so hard to put down? What is the best new read aloud for toddlers and preschoolers? Submit your recommendation (25 words or less), title/author to [laurene@austin.rr.com](mailto:laurene@austin.rr.com).



John Nemetz shares this review:



*Infidel* by Ayaan Hirsi Ali, is the extraordinary story of a woman born into a family of desert nomads, educated by radical imams in Kenya and Saudi Arabia, and taught to believe that if she uncovered her hair terrible tragedies would ensue. As she matures she grows to believe that Islam as it is too often currently practiced is incompatible with modernity and democracy, especially in its treatment of women. She is currently under death threat for speaking out on her beliefs.

## Rotary Club Raising Money for Local Scholarships

Jim White, a member of the Rotary Club of NW Austin, wants to remind you that each year the club offers fruit to friends and neighbors. By purchasing the fruit offered by the club, tremendous good is done with the proceeds of the sale. Below are some of deserving organizations and individual who received grants. The club gives away all of the proceeds of the sale.



- \* \$15,000 for ten \$1,500 scholarships to seniors from Westwood and McNeil
- \* \$7,500 RRISD Teachers/Para Professional (30 @ \$250each)
- \* \$2,500 School Supplies for RRISD
- \* \$3,000 for Jollyville Elementary Victory Garden
- \* \$3,000 Rotary Youth Leadership Programs for RRISD High School Students
- \* \$5,000 for Fans for Eldercare
- \* \$1,000 Scholarship awarded to a disabled student AISD.-
- \* \$3,000 for wheelchairs and the PET Program (Personal Energy Transportation)
- \* \$1,700 in Christmas Gifts and Breakfast for Bluebonnet Trails MHMR Clients.
- \* \$2,000 to the House of Friends Alzheimer's Respite Program
- \* \$5,000 for Polio Eradication in Third World Countries
- \* Reward excellence in teachers, and teaching paraprofessionals
- \* Many more Local, National and International charitable contributions

None of this would have been possible without the support of our community and neighbors. You can help by ordering your Texas Valley oranges and/or grapefruit.

Please contact Jim White 10804 Wintergreen Hill; or call H 258-3265 or M 689-4365 email [jwhite42@att.net](mailto:jwhite42@att.net) and he will fill your order. Small boxes are \$25 and large boxes are \$35.

## Yard of the Month Winners

A great big thank you again to Melinda Cassidy and Reeve Hobbie/Jim White for volunteering to judge the Yard of the Month for Sections I & II. Thank you also for the beautiful pictures on the website!

We recognized the following people in Section I & II for their efforts in beautifying their yards and sharing them with all of us during the past few months.

### **August 2010**

Section I: Nancy & Chuck Faerber  
9403 Topridge

Section II: Randy & Michelle Bassett  
10709 Keystone Bend

### **September 2010**

Section I: Nancy & Roger Ring  
10912 Country Knoll

Section II: David & Wendy Dew  
9409 Ashton Ridge

### **October 2010**

Section I: David & Denise Robinson  
11005 Leafwood Lane

Section II: Dana Samuelson  
10709 Leafwood Lane



**Meals on Wheels  
and More  
is critically short of  
Volunteers.**

*Please help your  
homebound neighbors.*

**The Need is Now!  
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It's the right thing to do.**



## Around the Yard

by Reeve Hobbie, Travis County Master Gardener and neighbor

The oppressive summer temperatures may have passed, but the severity of this year's drought continues and will likely do so throughout this winter and into spring.



I think it's rather obvious that if you wish for your trees, shrubs and gardens to survive, they will continue to need water through the coming weeks and months. What becomes of them won't be known for sure until next spring, so be patient.

Due to the heat and lack of rain, our lawns have taken one of the worst beatings, so I would like to concentrate on lawn revitalization. There are things you can do for your lawn and there are things you should not do, particularly this year. I'm going to offer my own thoughts and also paraphrase what Daphne Richards, County Extension Agent—Horticulture, Texas AgriLIFE Extension Service, Travis County, had to say in an article she wrote for the September 17, 2011, *Austin American-Statesman*.



Water your lawn slowly and deeply. If you are using a sprinkler system and are following City of Austin Stage 2 Water Restrictions as you should be, run your system on your one and only allowable day each week (**Saturday for odd numbered addresses and Sunday for even numbered addresses**). If you can adjust your sprinkler system controller, have it operate two short cycles of water on your designated weekend day instead of one long application for each zone. That way water will be taken in much deeper rather than running off and it will also encourage deeper root growth which is beneficial to your grass and other vegetation.

Since most all of our lawns were severely weakened by the drought and heat this summer, Daphne says do not apply fertilize this fall. (Usual fertilization times are after your second spring lawn mowing and again in October, but not this year.) If you do apply fertilizer this fall, you will only be feeding the weeds and stressing your already stressed-out grass. Any weeds you do see may be pulled out by hand. By mid-February (no later than Valentine's Day) apply a pre-emergent weed killer, without fertilizer, if you are not adverse to chemical warfare.

Daphne also suggests you consider aerating your lawn in February, applying half an inch of well-aged compost over your lawn in March, and an application of fertilizer in June next year. Continue to water your lawn, shrubs and trees all through the winter following the latest City of Austin directives.

Should you need your lawn, loosen your First, see absorb take a few add and of compost fertilizer, but in mid- to late-April.



to replace all or portions of remove dead grass and compacted soil. that your soil will water. This may waterings. Then work in a thin layer in March (not compost), and re-sod

Lastly, before considering any drastic changes in front yard landscaping, i.e., replacing lawn with gravel, rocks or xeriscape, consult your *Spicewood Estates Homeowners Association Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions* found in the back of your Spicewood Estates directory. Then talk to your SEHA Architectural Control Committee (ACC) representative if you have plans or questions.

If you have any kind of gardening question or need the name of a certified arborist, please call the Travis County Master Gardener Help Desk at 854-9600.

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