



T C N O T I E S

www.traviscountry.com

Travis Country BiAnnual Garage Sale April 9 & 10, 8-5

ANNUAL HOMEOWNERS MEETING & BOARD ELECTIONS

Mark your calendar for May 11! But first! get your application in by **April 22** if you want to run for any of the 4 board positions (3-3 year terms and 1-1year term) open for this year's elections. You can find the required Application Form on the website, www.traviscountry.com/Documents, or at the TC office on Blue Valley. It must be turned in by noon in order for your name to be on the ballot and your application information to be included in the newsletter. Candidates can also be written in on the ballot at the time of the meeting, of course, or you can wait until the meeting to announce your candidacy.

UPDATE ON POOL ACCESS

Now that insurance and other major issues have been resolved, a conciliation meeting is scheduled between Board members, the attorney, HUD representatives, and the City of Austin's HUD attorney around April 1. In a letter to our attorney, HUD accepted two of the three options proposed by the Board (as reported in the March newsletter):

- * Permanent ending of lap-swimming program and closure of pools if no lifeguards are on duty
- * Adoption of swim at your own risk policy (SAYOR) for all residents at the Hilltop pool when no lifeguards are on duty.

HUD disagreed with the Board's 3rd option, "reinstating lap swimming program without an

age restriction, but with a swimming proficiency requirement."

The Board wants HUD to clarify use of the pool by private parties and the Swim Team, when the pools are not officially open. They also want to know why HUD is opposed to proficiency testing. Once these questions are answered to the Board's satisfaction, they will have to decide whether or not to put a swim at your own risk program in place. If they do, new rules may have to be developed and implemented.

Planning for normal pool hours is going on. The lifeguard contract for summer is in place. Blue Valley pools will to open to the TC Swim Team the first week in May for practice. Pools open to all residents May 7 and May 8.

NO MORE EXCUSES

Now you can get a bag for your dog's pile and dispose of it properly. A waste station with bags and trash can is located on the south side of the Blue Valley pond. There is also one at the entrance to Gaines Park on Republic of Texas Blvd.

Please help keep YOUR neighborhood clean and safe by picking up after your pet.



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News from the TCCSA Board of Directors Meeting

By Bonnie Grobar

This report does not represent the official minutes of the meeting. Once approved, the minutes are posted on the website and at the office on Blue Valley Drive. At the March 23, 2005 meeting these directors were present: Mark Hoffman, Terry Horton, Al Janelle, Alan Lish, Anthony Peterman, Russell Pinkston, Janice Smith, and Jules Weldon. The Board took the following action or accepted the following reports:

- Unanimously accepted Philadelphia as insurance carrier; premium, at \$26,866, is less than in 2004
- Noted that Fiscal Committee has dissolved and Security Committee is ad hoc; Alan Lish agreed to check status of Land Use Committee
- Agreed to re-install the dog waste station (containing bags for picking up waste and trash can) on the creek side (south) of the pond at Blue Valley
- Accepted manager's recommendation to use Crystal Clear to bring wading pools into compliance with current City of Austin Standards; bid is under \$1,000
- Agreed to seek clarification from HUD on the issue of reserve use of the pools on a contract basis (such as private parties and Swim Team) when pool is not officially open
- Agreed to seek clarity on why HUD is opposed to proficiency testing as part of a swim at your own risk/lap swimmer program
- Referred issue of homeowner improvement of Association property adjacent to their own property to the Grounds Committee to develop guidelines
- Agreed to create beds and purchase plants for the Blue Valley entrance; cost not to exceed \$1,500
- Tabled repair of rock wall at Blue Valley entrance to the April Board meeting
- Tabled discussion of placing items on the ballot for the annual meeting to the April Board meeting

HOMEOWNERS' COMMENTS

- Residents have always taken care of certain portions of the common areas; problems arise when they are used as trash dumps; some

residents are erecting structures which is not allowed

- Graffiti on mailboxes at Mission Oaks
- Is George Huezo, maintenance staff, a Goodwin employee? (Yes)
- Resident wants to see all correspondence between Board and HUD on pool issue; (Emails are privileged communication between Board members and attorney; HUD records are public information; TCCSA records are public and available at office, weekdays, 9-5)
- Residents who maintain common areas may be able to claim it as their property after a certain period of time
- Board agenda is created online and available on website message board; need to make copies for residents who come to meeting
- Pool issues with HUD need to be resolved; lap swimmers want to use the pool; Board appears to be delaying the decision because insurance and other major issues appear to be cleared up
- Homeowners using common areas without permission; need guidelines
- All residents need to act with civility when dealing with each other
- Solar panels are not addressed in covenants/architecture rules; represent an advancement in technology since these were written

Travis Country Community Service Association

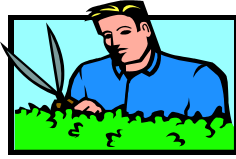
Travis Country Office
 9am-6pm.....892-2256
 After hours.....289-1616
 Fax.....891-9554



Travis Country Board of Directors
 board@traviscountry.com

Travis Country General Email
 tcoffice@traviscountry.com

The TC Board of Directors meets at 6 pm the 3rd Thursday of every month, except December, at the Blue Valley Office. All residents are invited to attend. Homeowner comments occur at 7pm. The Directors and management need your input to do the best job



It feels a lot like Spring and many residents are out working in the yard. Please **do not cut or trim your oak trees until JULY**. This is the recommendation of

the Texas Forest Service to reduce the spread of oak wilt. Thank you for your cooperation.

OAK WILT TRENCHING UPDATE

By Russell Pinkston

Trenching (map showing where it will be dug is on the web site and available at the office) will begin in a few weeks. Oak Wilt Specialists of Texas has placed small white flags along the proposed path.

On Thursday, March 24, at 9am, representatives of TCCSA, Goodwin Management, Oak Wilt Specialists of Texas, and a team of experts from the City of Austin met to initiate the permitting process for the portion of the trench that will be on city streets. Representing TCCSA were Association President Janice Smith, Grounds Committee Chair Terry Horton, Oak Wilt Subcommittee Chair Russell Pinkston, and TC resident Tom Curran, a civil engineer, who volunteered his services in preparing the final plans for the street cuts. Dan Robertson, Associate Director of AISD and a TC resident, was also at the meeting.

The oak wilt suppression trench is expected to cost approximately \$65,000, paid for as follows:

- \$16,000 from TCCSA reserve for Blue Valley common area trenching
- \$16,280 raised so far in voluntary contributions from residents
- \$ 5,000 contributed by AISD
- \$ 5,000 contributed by TFS
- \$26,280 matching funds-TCCSA reserve
- \$68,560 total

This should be adequate to pay for the trench, with about \$3,500 available for contingencies.

The Travis Country Board of Directors and the Oak Wilt Subcommittee would like to thank AISD, Texas Forest Service, and the more than 400 TC residents from over 220 different homes who contributed to the oak wilt fund. Their names are listed on the TC web site.

Correction:

Residents **Maryann Ruiz** and **Cindy Hert** also deliver the TC Notes. Their names were accidentally left off the list published in last month's issue of the *TC Notes*. We apologize for the error. We would also like to extend a TC Thank You to Pat Pore and Sally Wetzel,

VANDALISM ON SYCAMORE CREEK TRAIL

Have you discovered the lovely trail through the woods that connects the two amenity areas in Travis Country? You can access it near the lower tennis courts at Blue Valley and behind the playground at Hilltop. There is also an entrance on Republic of Texas Boulevard. This trail is for the use and pleasure of TC residents for walking, running, and non-motorized biking. Recently, someone has been vandalizing it by placing large rocks, tree limbs, and other debris in the pathway.

This trail is NOT private property. It is for the use of all TC residents and is being maintained by TC volunteers. Please respect this property, and use it wisely. Please report vandalism to the manager, 892-2256.

TENNIS COURT ETIQUETTE

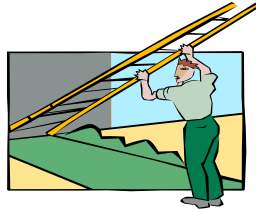
Gates to the lower tennis courts at Blue Valley are being blocked open. Blocking the gates open leaves the courts vulnerable to animals and people not authorized to be on the courts. The Association resurfaced these courts last fall at considerable expense. Help us take care of this valuable Association asset. It is YOUR money!

neighborhood notices

WELCOME NEW TC OWNERS!

David and D'Ann Welch and their four-month old twins, Ian and Aja, have moved into the neighborhood. They're looking forward to hiking all the cool area trails this spring.

GETTING READY FOR SPRING: Tips From the Architecture Committee



Are you considering making changes to your property this spring? Changes include new paint colors, landscaping, placement of buildings or playscapes, and exterior features. Before you make these changes, contact management to find out what you need to do to get a permit from the Architecture Committee: 892-2256 or tcoffice@traviscountry.com. The forms are on the web site under Documents/Forms, www.traviscountry.com, click on Documents or may be obtained from the office on Blue Valley Drive.

- ⇒ The Committee meets once a month to consider permits which have been logged in properly with the TC office.
- ⇒ The required copy of the legal title survey to illustrate a request will expedite applications. All elevations should be shown with construction details. When appropriate indicate or include a sample of materials including paint.

For more information, check your covenants!

GARDEN CLUB announces YARD OF THE MONTH

CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Kurt Somerholter
4414 Eagles Landing Drive.

POOLS OPEN FOR SWIM SEASON
MAY 7 AND MAY 8. WATCH FOR CALENDARS NEXT MONTH

For other club events, see Events Calendar on back page

TC TEEN WINS AWARD

Harrison Cole of Travis Country was awarded first prize for "Secret Agentism," a short comedy film that he and 3 team members created for this year's M.A.F.I.A (Make a Film in a Day) Film Competition, sponsored by Austin filmmaking school, Motion Mac.

Ten films were screened as a part of SXSW. Judging was based on creativity, writing, and overall production.

Filmmakers aged 12 to 18 sign up to completely write, shoot, edit, and produce a three to five minute film in a 24 hour period. The teens worked at Crockett High School from 10am Saturday, March 12 to 10am the following morning. Most stayed up the entire 24 hours, making changes until the last minute.

Harrison is very proud of his award, especially because he is 14 years old and most of the other filmmakers were in high school.

TCCSA BUDGET

Here is a condensed version of the financial figures prepared by Goodwin Management for Travis Country as of March 31, 2004. More detailed information can be found on the website under Documents. Select TC Budget from the list. For comments or questions, contact board@traviscountry.com or call 892-2256.



Item	Amount	Year to Date	Annual Budget
Income	\$45,949	\$137,029	\$533,316
Expense	\$29,775	\$ 64,767	\$510,609
Difference	\$16,174	\$ 72,262	\$ 22,707
Cap. Reserve	\$ 323	\$ 513	\$ 51,199



MAILBOX



Want to send us a letter? Email us at tcnotes@traviscountry.com or drop it at the TC office, attn: TC Notes
Please note that the TC Notes staff reserves the right to edit letters for brevity, grammar, style and clarity.

TC Notes Editor:

As an animal lover, I am writing to plead with residents to be aware of your neighbors when leaving your dogs all day. It has been especially painful to listen to dogs barking all day, when my own dog has been in failing health and will leave us soon. I've lived in this neighborhood for over 3 years, and have awakened every single day to barking dogs. My guests on many occasions told me they slept well--until dogs began barking. I realize that you may not know how disturbing and upsetting it is to others to hear your dogs, if you are not home to hear them.

I've learned that approaching neighbors can be hazardous, and that is why I'm appealing to people here. I talked to one neighbor, who was indifferent. I approached another who responded so badly I feared for my property and myself. And both of these dogs continue to bark, yelp, or howl all day. Beyond my not understanding why these people want to "own" dogs, I'm amazed at the discourteous response they had when approached about the problem. I believed the neighborly thing to do in these situations was to approach the person, but now I see that involving the neighborhood association or police is the only safe option and perhaps the only option that will motivate compliance. I implore people to please consider whether their dog is continually barking and possibly disturbing others. I'd like to think neighbors in Travis Country care about each other, as well as their pets, and that they will be open to this possibility and to taking steps to help the situation.

Name Withheld at Resident's Request

REMINDER FROM THE TRAVIS COUNTRY SHARKS

by

Margaret Mendoza, Secretary, TC Swim Team Board

Registration for the Travis Country Swim Team is **Sunday, April 10th, 2:00 to 4:00 pm** at the Blue Valley pool pavilion. If you cannot be there, contact Registrar, Barbara Alkis (balkis1@austin.rr.com) before then. At registration each family will be required to sign up for a volunteer position. We especially need a Ready Bench Coordinator who aligns swimmers for each event by heat and lane, and supervises several volunteers.

The Swim Team is open to all TC residents age 5 (as of May 1st) through 18 who can swim the length of the pool. Kids who are under five or who cannot yet swim the length of the pool join at the coach's discretion.

Registration fee, due on April 10, is \$90 per swimmer. The increase is due to unforeseen fee increases from UT, league sponsor.

Questions? Volunteer? Contact Kris Etz 892-7645 or e-mail her at krisetz@aol.com. Sharks website is <http://swimsharks.org/> for scheduling information.

CLARIFICATION ON GREENBELT USE

Our HOA owns about 500 acres of common area, also known as "greenbelt." Many homeowners have cut the grass and weeds, planted trees and bushes, and otherwise enhanced the greenbelt and easements adjacent to their homes. But some people are erecting structures, putting up toys for their kids, cutting down trees, and otherwise, treating these areas as their own property, which is not acceptable. The covenants (Art. IX Sec. 9.0106) specifically state: "The Board (of Directors) shall be the sole judge as to the appropriate maintenance of all grounds within the Common Area." To that end, they have asked the Grounds Committee to develop guidelines for their approval to help homeowners who want to maintain these areas. Absolutely no trash, brush, or other wastes may be dumped in these areas. Please call the manager, 892-2256, if you have comments or complaints.



TC Notes Classifieds Policy

Services are advertised only for TC residents under 18. You must let us know each month if you want your service advertised. We reserve the right to edit ads for space. Services provided by adults can be placed on the website under Classifieds, or you may

Wanted

My sister wants to buy a one-story house in TC, looking for a 4-2 or 3/study-2, prefers home that backs up to a greenbelt. She is a landscaper and would add to the beauty of TC. Diane at 892-3354 or katslawn@austin.rr.com.

For Sale

2000 BMW 328i, Steel Metallic Blue, automatic, premium package, premium sound, Xenon headlights, tinted windows, extended warranty to 100K miles. Garage kept, only serviced at BMW, 1 owner, 76K miles. \$19,500. 891-7663 or jkatz1@austin.rr.com.

Yamaha Alto Saxophone w/ Selmer mouthpiece, hardcase and gig bag. Great beginner's horn. \$700 OBO, 892-3991, ask for Summer.

1993 White Chevy Suburban, leather, excellent condition, well maintained, \$7300 OBO. Game room Blackjack table, 1 year old, \$175. Solar System Mobile, never used, \$45. Suzette, 899-9429.

New Dell 17" CRT monitor, never used, in box with all accessories, black, model E773c, \$120. PC Powerpad Pro game pad and three PC games: Frogger, Road Rash, and Half-Life Game of the Year Edition. \$10 each or make a deal for all. More details and PICTURES of all items <http://home.austin.rr.com/forsalebylauren/>. Contact lauren@alumni.utexas.net, 899-0011.

Two sofas : 6.5 year old Norwalk store medium sized couch, light denim blue, \$250, and 6 year old queen size futon sofa bed from Texas Futon Company, purple pattern, \$150. Both have some wear and tear but are still in good shape. 891-9951.

Child's booster car seat, \$5; Eureka upright vacuum cleaner, \$20; Antique oak desk chair with arms, \$50; Bentwood 21" cane seat stool, \$15; Footjoy golf shoes, size 10, \$5; Yoga mat (new), \$5; Four tier shoe rack, \$5; Small table with removable legs, \$3; Metal 5 shelf unit, \$10; FREE stuff: Christmas lights and decorations; misc. kitchen stuff; 2 telephones. 891-9374.

Free gold fish for pond, a dozen ranging from 4" to 8" long. 892-3324. roybean51@mac.com.

Pottery Barn Kids Quality Toy Chest/Book Case (60"w x 20"d x 36"h), Adorable, red and off white, 4 deep drawers along bottom in primary boy colors (yellow, green, blue and red) with big knobs, paid \$1,000 new, will take \$400. Matching Chest of Drawers (36"w x 20"d x 40"h), paid \$850, will take \$300. Perfect for little boy's room and/or play room. Must see to believe! 892-7754.

TV Armoire, cherry wood, fits up to 28" TV, \$150; Couch, sage, pillow back, excellent condition, \$200; Kitchen table with 6 chairs w/hide a leaf, \$175; 3 drawer chest, maple, \$30. Judy 892-1455.

Polished brass modern ceiling light fixture, dining/family room \$39. 892-3832 or 797-4311.

World Book Encyclopedia 20 volume elite set, 1961 ed. with yearbooks, 1962-2003, "excellent condition", some yearbooks in original wrapping not opened, \$198 OBO, 892-3832 or 797-4311.

Lady LaJolla starter golf clubs, 4 irons, 1 putter, 2 drivers, bag. 1year old. \$125. 892-5347.

EZ hang Elfa shelving brackets, perfect for garage or children's room. 892-5347.

Oak gun cabinet, \$155. 892-3832 or 797-4311.

Oak dining room table and 4 oak chairs \$250; Matching oak china cabinet with hutch \$400 (like new condition); Oak wine rack \$50; Taupe leather couch with matching loveseat \$800; Coffee table \$70; Queen bed with frame \$50; Great looking matching area rugs--1 very large, 2 approx 5'x8', 1 approx 4'x6', 1 small--\$300 for all. Photos www.cash33.com/furniture. 899-9259

Babysitting

Cathryne, 17, and Dana, 15, Wellman. Available day or evening. Seton certified, no infants. 892-5347.

Mignon Isaacs Bryant, 14. Red Cross Certified. Creative, reliable, 2 younger siblings. References. 892-1176 or mignonib@yahoo.com.

Madison Parker, 16. First Aid and CPR certified. 892-5081.

Abby Wetzel, 16, Red Cross Certified. Adult, Child, Infant CPR, Standard First Aid, CPR for Professional Rescuer and Lifeguard Training. Experienced with kids. References. Available during week days. 892-1148 or 653-3730 (cell).

Erin Cassell, 17, experienced. Available for all your child-entertaining needs, preferably two years of age and up. Can arrange own transportation. 892-5376.

Eric Espinoza, 14, would love to entertain your child/children, 3 and up, Red Cross trained. 892-1817.

Mallory Motal, 17. CPR Certified. First Aid Certified. Experienced. 892-4029.

Lawn/Pet/Plant Care

Eric Espinoza, 14. Quality lawn mowing at reasonable prices. One-time or regular service. 892-1817.

Garni kids (16, 14, 11, 7) earning money to help raise service dog will take care of home and pets while you are away. Parental supervision. 899-2740.

Kaylyn Remsing, 13, pet, plant, home care, very reliable, 7 years neighborhood experience, parental supervision. 892-2246.

Matt Motal, 15, responsible and trusting for pet and plant care, 892-4029.

David Knippa, 17, lawn care, experienced and responsible. 892-0952 or 923-5107.

Daniel Rowe, 14, experienced mowing, edging, weed eating, raking, bagging, clean-up afterwards. Also will take care of your pets when you go out of town. 740-5734 (cell), 358-0255 (home) or fredjones12715@hotmail.com (checked daily).

Best Pet/Plant Care in Travis Country! Going on a trip? Need Help? Nicole Benard, 11, will take care of your pets! Experienced with cats, dogs, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, snakes, fish, birds, and farm animals! Adult supervised! 892-2926.

Mark Knippa, 15, lawn and pet care, experienced and responsible. 892-0952.

Let us "doo" your dirty work! Pick-Up-Poo. Prices: one time, \$8, one dog, \$2, each additional dog; weekly \$5, one dog, \$2 for additional dogs. Call us for pet sitting as well. John, 12, and David, 13, Walter. 892-5531.

Abby Wetzel, 16. Experienced and responsible. Have been taking care of many different kinds of pets for 3 years. Also plant care. References. 892-1148 or 653-3730 (cell).

Mallory Motal, 17. Petcare. Experienced and responsible. 892-4029.

Homes for Sale/Lease

A gem! 4BR, 2BA, one-story brick, open & airy, woody, remodeled bathrooms, shaded deck, garden with lots of native plants, new sprinkler system, landscape lights & new roof. Wired for Surround Sound. 4606 Trail Crest Circle. FSBO—\$259,900. Earl or Ellen Russell at 358-7302

For Lease. 5400 Painted Shield. 3/2. Dbl. garage, fireplace, fenced yard. \$1800/month. 444-7744.

For lease: Lovely home on quiet street. 4BR, 2BA with swimming pool. New SbS refrigerator, washer/dryer, dishwasher, microwave. Available now. \$1650/with lease. 653-6440.

EASTER EGG FESTIVITIES GREAT SUCCESS

By Cody Remsing, Event Coordinator

Winners of the egg hunt:

1-18 mo.	Gregory Keirns	14 mo.
19 mo.-3 yrs	Sadie Austin	2 1/2 yrs
4-6 yrs	Grant Andruss	4 yrs
7-9 yrs	Carly Williams	8 yrs
10 and above	Tessa Garni	14 years

Every one had a great time even with the weather threatening rain. It held out until the last of the clean-up was done.

THANKS so much to these great volunteers:

Dane Johnson for announcing for events.

Chad Johnson, cotton candy specialist.

Lisa Geiger, referee for the moon walk.

Roger and Susan White, tattoo and snack tables.

And our extra special guests, the Easter Bunnie(s) **Kaylyn Remsing** and **Tessa Garni** who took 30 minute shifts. We couldn't have done it without you!

OAK HILL ELEMENTARY DROP 'N SWAP

Got some kids books you want to donate to a worthy cause? Kids can drop off 3 good condition, used books and pick up 3 they haven't read during the last days of school. They especially need chapter books for 4th-5th graders. This great summer reading program is being coordinated by the school, or if you need to donate books now, you can contact Cody Remsing, 892-2246 for more information.

April Events Calendar

Bunco Club	Mon. 4/4	7:30pm	TCCSA Office
Salsa Dance Club	Weekly, Wednesdays	8-9pm	5934 Republic of Tx Blvd.
Grounds Committee	Wed. 4/6	7pm	TCCSA Office
TC Garage Sale	Sat. & Sun. 4/9-4/10	8am-5pm	Houses all around the
Pool Committee	Mon. 4/11	7:30pm	TCCSA Office
Architecture Committee	Wed. 4/13	7pm	TCCSA Office
Scrapbook Club	Thurs. 4/14 & 4/28	7pm	TCCSA Office
TC Home and Garden Tour	Sat. 4/16	Noon-4pm	Get maps at TC Office
Board of Directors	Thurs. 4/21	6pm	TCCSA Office
Deadline for Board Applications	Fri. 4/22	5pm	TCCSA Office
TC Notes Deadline	Fri. 4/22	5pm	tcnotes@traviscountry.com
Notes Delivered to Captains	Sat. 4/30	Noon	