



Canyon Call

The official newsletter of the Sunset Canyon Land Owner's Association • June 2022
www.sunsetcanyon.org



The **Canyon Call** is your newsletter! We want to hear from you.

Email tips, stories, articles, recipes or whatever else you'd like to share to Sarah at scla.news@sunsetcanyon.org



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2022

National Night Out will be October 4th this year. This is a night for Sunset Canyon to stand together to promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. National Night Out is designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. It is a great way to meet your neighbors and visit with law enforcement personnel.

If you would like to host a NNO party this year, please contact Sandy Hale at skhale902@verizon.net. We would love to have a party on every street in Sunset Canyon. We appreciate your help, and we will help you with your party.

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATES

By Gary Hale, Infrastructure Committee Chair

There have been some minor complaints about the road work in Section I. The complaint was about loose gravel on some of the roads. I emailed Walt Smith and the Road Supt. responded back that there is some loose gravel on the roads after the job is completed. Usually, after a short period of time with people driving on it, the gravel smooths out. They did finish one small section on Roy Creek. It was finished a couple of months ago. That section was left over from when they were working in Section V a while back.

The two Large SCLA Signs in front of Section I and Section II/III have been repainted.

The new road from US 290 down to the new Patriots Hall site is now complete. The road that was never finished back in 1987 was originally called West Canyon Dr. It was still just a gravel road. It has now been completely finished and renamed Patriots Hall Blvd. The road crews are still working to finish the gravel road which is an extension of the partially paved Pier Branch. This road will be widened and a new culvert will be put in. It will tie in with the completed Patriots Hall Blvd.



COMMUNITY CORNER

- Mighty Fine Burgers is coming to Belterra Village in late 2022 or early 2023. It will be the company's fifth brick-and-mortar location in the Austin area.
- Sunset Canyon continues to experience problems with postal theft. Please check your mail daily, and consider using the post office to send important letters.
- Please be considerate of your neighbors! Pick up your pet waste when walking your dogs.
- Patriots' Hall of Dripping Springs celebrated the opening of its first building with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 21. The new building is the Meeting House for local chapters of Veterans of Foreign Wars and The American Legion. A larger building is currently in the permitting phase, and will be completed in 2023. The 10-acre site will ultimately include a Wellness Center to assist veterans with Veterans Association claims, an obstacle course, a fishing pond and a healing garden.

CITIZEN PATROL INCIDENT REPORTS

A report was made about the suspicious activity of a vehicle that turned out to have an arrest warrant associated with it. The identification information was passed on to law enforcement by Sunset Canyon Citizen Patrollers who drive marked vehicles patrolling the neighborhood.

Another incident reported to the Constable involved a car which was parked on the side of Windmill. After several passes the car drove away.

The Citizen Patrol needs your support by either volunteering time to patrol and/or make a \$10 minimum donation (mail to SCLA, PO Box 588, Dripping Springs, TX 78620) to help cover operating expenses.

It's all about neighbor's helping the neighborhood! For more information, email Paul at scla.board.5@sunsetcanyon.org.



TIMING OF TRAFFIC LIGHTS

This update applies to the traffic lights at Canyonwood and Sunset Canyon at 290. There have been many inquiries about the timing of the lights. A representative from TxDot said that the lights along 290 are set to maximize traffic flow and will function differently depending on the time of day. He said the worst case scenario for wait time to turn green is 140 seconds.

If you are the first car in line waiting to enter 290, be sure you pull up to the wide white intersection line (they are very faint now and will be repainted when the street resurfacing is completed) so that the sensing mechanism sees your vehicle. All of the lights along 290 are scheduled to be reprogrammed in the Fall of 2022.

TIME TO TRIM YOUR OAK TREES

According to the Texas A&M Forest Service, the best time to trim oak trees is during the heat of the summer and the cold of the winter. To learn about Oak Wilt and how to prevent its spread, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/OakWiltFAQS/>.

For excerpts from the Texas A&M website, turn to page 4 of this newsletter.

WASTE CONNECTIONS PRICE INCREASE

As agreed upon per our contract with Waste Connections, there will be a scheduled rate increase of 8.25% effective July 1, 2022. The increase is calculated based on national averages published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Current Waste Connections customers will see an increase of a few dollars on their next bill.

OAK HILL PARKWAY

For those that travel to Austin regularly, there can be interruptions and delays due to the construction on the Oak Hill Parkway. You can sign up for email updates so that you will always know what to expect. Go to:

<https://www.oakhillparkway.com/connect/updates> and enter your email address to receive information on travel delays, lane shifts, closures and detours. Choose weekly construction alerts and/or newsletter updates to keep on top of the latest impacts.

FIRE HYDRANTS

Sunset Canyon fire hydrants are maintained by the West Travis County Public Utility Agency (WTCPUA). Currently, there are 78 fire hydrants located throughout our community, North and South. They are silver in color and are inspected annually for proper function. The fire hydrants are spaced approximately 1,000 feet apart.

In the past, the community placed blue reflectors in the road to mark the location of each hydrant. The board proposes to replace these markers after the repaving has been completed in all sections.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Nancy Reinert- At-Large Board Member 1

Nancy grew up in Dallas, and after college she started her own business in the DFW area, setting up computer networks and accounting software for small and medium sized companies. She moved to Austin in 1995 and worked as a financial planner for several years. In 2001, she began working for the state and retired in 2013. She and her husband, Jake, moved to Sunset Canyon in 2010 and really love it out here. They volunteer with the Sunset Canyon Citizen Patrol and assist Sandy with welcoming new neighbors.

Mike Whirlow- At-Large Board Member 3

Mike grew up in western PA , south of Pittsburgh . He retired from the USAF in 2005 after serving 21 years, having spent a total of eight years living in Germany on two separate assignments. He has worked for IBM as a project manager on federal contracts for 17 years. Mike moved from Belterra to Sunset Canyon in October 2019. He became a member of the Sunset Canyon Citizen Patrol this year. He volunteered to serve on the SCLA board to represent the interest of the home owners and contribute where he can.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 11- Monthly Board Mtg 7PM at SCBC
August 8- Monthly Board Mtg 7PM at SCBC
September 12- Monthly Board Mtg 7PM at SCBC
October 10- Monthly Board Mtg 7PM at SCBC
October 4- National Night Out- Check our next newsletter for the locations this year
(SCBC – Sunset Canyon Baptist Church)

Association Information
SUNSET CANYON LANDOWNER'S ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 588 – Dripping Springs, TX 78620
www.sunsetcanyon.org

Officers:

President.....Vacant
scla.pres@sunsetcanyon.org
Vice President.....Randy Foster (512) 858-4038
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Secretary.....Alan Kleymeyer
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Treasurer.....Joan Thomas (512) 632-5118
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Board Members:

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At-Large.....Sarah Wigfield (760) 889-4212
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At-Large.....Mike Whirlow (512)900-0050
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At-Large.....Lynn Dawson (512) 858-0961
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At-LargePaul Wiljanen (361) 265-8161
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Committee Chairs:

Infrastructure.....Gary Hale (512) 858-5637
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Website/Newsletter...Sarah Wigfield (760) 889-4212
scla.news@sunsetcanyon.org
Welcome Committee...Sandy Hale (512) 858-5637
scla.welcome@sunsetcanyon.org
Plan Review
scla.plans@sunsetcanyon.org



BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets at 7:00 P.M. in the Fellowship Hall of the Sunset Canyon Baptist Church usually on the **second Monday of each month**. Any changes to the monthly meeting dates will be posted on our website- sunsetcanyon.org. All residents are welcome to attend. If you have any issue to bring before the Board, please let the Secretary know at least three working days prior to the meeting.

OAK WILT: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

EXCERPTS FROM TEXAS A&M FOREST SERVICE (<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/OakWiltFAQS/>)

What is Oak Wilt?

Oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States. The disease has killed more than 1 million trees in 76 Central Texas counties. Oak wilt is an infectious vascular disease caused by the fungus *Bretziella fagacearum*. The fungus invades and disables the water conducting system in susceptible trees. All oaks can be infected with oak wilt, but some species of oak are more susceptible than others. Red oaks, particularly Spanish oak (*Quercus buckleyi*), are very susceptible to the fungus. White oaks, like post oak (*Q. stellata*) and bur oak (*Q. macrocarpa*), are resistant to the fungus and rarely die from the disease. Live oaks (*Q. virginiana* and *Q. fusiformis*) are intermediate in susceptibility to oak wilt. However, they are seriously impacted by the disease because of their tendency to form root sprouts that result in a vast interconnected root system allowing the disease to easily spread to adjacent trees.

How does Oak Wilt spread?

Oak wilt spreads to other oak trees in two ways – long distances with the aid of certain beetles or locally through common or grafted roots. Sap-feeding (nitidulid) beetles are believed to be responsible for much of the long distance spread of oak wilt. During the spring, the oak wilt fungus forms special spore-producing structures called fungal mats on red oaks. Nitidulid beetles are small (about 1/8-inch long) and are attracted to oak wilt fungal mats because the mats have a sweet, “fruity” smell. Mats form underneath the bark of diseased red oaks and are not known to occur on live oak trees. The fungal mats apply pressure under the bark causing a tiny crack to form.

These mats can be found on the trunk and major branches of red oaks. When a nitidulid beetle feeds on an oak wilt fungal mat, spores of the oak wilt fungus will cling to the body of the beetle. Nitidulid beetles also feed on tree sap associated with fresh wounds. If a beetle contaminated with oak wilt spores lands on a fresh wound on a healthy oak, then that tree can become infected. Tree wounds can be made by man or nature, but nitidulid beetles are attracted to both.

Once established, the fungus moves from one tree to the next through common or grafted roots.

How can I tell if my trees have Oak Wilt?

The most reliable characteristic for diagnosing oak wilt in the field is what is called “veinal necrosis” of the live oak leaves. Apparently veinal necrosis only occurs on live oak. Symptoms on other infected oak trees are less distinct. Laboratory culture of the fungus is another way to confirm the presence of oak wilt. Veinal necrosis is characterized by chlorotic (yellow) veins that eventually turn brown. The leaves will fall from the tree and dead leaves with brown veins can be found on the ground under the tree.

Live oak trees infected with oak wilt usually die within two to four months. Adjacent trees begin to drop their leaves and die a few months later as the disease progresses from tree to tree through the interconnected root system.

Infected red oak trees don't exhibit distinct symptoms. Leaves often turn pale green then brown and usually remain attached to the tree for a period of time. This can begin on one branch and quickly engulf the entire tree. Trees generally die within two to four weeks.

When should I prune my oak trees?

New oak wilt centers are started when a contaminated beetle finds a fresh wound on a healthy oak tree. Insect populations in general increase during mild spring like weather and mild spring like weather is when fungal mats are most likely to form. So the most likely time a contaminated beetle will find your tree is when the weather is mild.

The best time to prune is when a contaminated beetle is least likely to find your tree. The heat of summer and the cold of winter are when the beetle populations are the lowest and fungal mats are least likely to form. Therefore that is the best time to prune to prevent against an oak wilt infection.

IDEAS TO MAKE SUNSET CANYON A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE

The SCLA board encourages homeowners to submit ideas to enhance the quality of living in Sunset Canyon. Recent examples include reducing Spectrum cable costs, building a community swimming pool, providing a playground for the children, and creating locked centralized mailboxes for postal security.

We reached out to Spectrum to see if we could provide special rates to homeowners like we did with Waste Connections for trash service. Spectrum proposed a bulk service which would require every home to use the service and bill the home owner's association (SCLA) directly. Since the SCLA is not set up to accept that financial responsibility, we could not get a bulk discount to benefit the entire neighborhood. Each homeowner will need to contact Spectrum to see what discounts/reductions they can obtain individually.

While the idea of a community pool, playground, and secure mailboxes is inviting, the board does not own any land to use for such projects, and administering those amenities would require a complete restructuring of the current Land Owner's Association.

The Sunset Canyon Landowner's Association is not a typical home owners association (HOA) like Headwaters or Belterra. We have restrictions that are reasonable and not excessive. All such restrictions were made by the original developer and not by the SCLA and are reflected in the property deed.

The SCLA was started by a small group of landowner's in about 1987 to help organize neighborhood activities. The original dues were \$15 per year. At \$35 today, the dues remain very inexpensive. Of the approximately 836 lots in Sunset Canyon, only 159 are required to pay dues as per their property deed. The remainder is voluntary. So far, in 2022, approximately 300 owners are paid members.

We do appreciate the questions and do continue to look for opportunities to provide services for the neighborhood and encourage you to join the association if you are not already a member. Here's to neighbors helping the neighborhood!

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Call 512-282-3508 or email sunsetcanyon@wasteconnections.com

Want to know what your property could sell for right now?

Hi Neighbors,

Since the Austin area property values have skyrocketed over the past year, would you like to know what your property could sell for right now? Even if you aren't interested in selling, this could be helpful for **protesting taxes, refinancing, or even taking out a home equity loan**. Call, text, or email me and I will be more than happy to provide a complimentary broker price opinion on your property. My family and I have lived in Dripping Springs for eleven years, have spent the last two in Sunset Canyon, and I would love to not only share my expertise with you but to get to know more of my neighbors as well!



Kelli Whirlow

Realtor®

kelliwhirlow@realtyaustin.com

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Mauricio Mac Gregor

Broker Associate



Mauricio.MacGregor@gmail.com



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

National Night Out is scheduled for October 4, 2022 this year!

What makes
us Different?

Compassion
Advocacy
Responsiveness
Experience



RATED *BEST OF*
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Voted *Best of Dripping Springs*
5 years in a row (2016-2021)

Voted Best of Hays County
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