

THE Canyon Call

The newsletter of the Sunset Canyon Land Owner's Association
September 2025

www.sunsetcanyon.org



Tips for Creating Drought Resistant Lawns

Article summarized from tips found at wtcpua.org/resources

Currently, our neighborhood is on Level 2 water restrictions, which limits outdoor irrigation to one time per week between 6 and 10 am and 7 to 10 pm. The following tips will help your lawn thrive despite the heat and reduced watering.

1. Water your lawn less: Watering deeply but less frequently will encourage stronger roots that utilize the water more efficiently.

2. Remove weeds: Removing the weeds means more water available for the grass.

3. Raise mowing height: Longer blades of grass reduce stress on the roots during droughts.

4. Plant drought-tolerant grass:

Buffalograss, Bermuda, and Zoysia are drought-tolerant and require less water.

5. Maintain a healthy soil: Testing your soil annually allows you to treat it with the necessary nutrients for optimum health before heat and drought conditions arrive.

6. Install an efficient irrigation system:

Consider installing a smart irrigation system that can adapt to weather conditions and soil-moisture levels.

7. Use sustainable lawn care practices:

Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing to act as natural mulch and provide soil nutrients.

Refrain from fertilizing during extreme temperatures to maintain your lawn's well-being.

8. Use drought resistant plants: Think about including varieties such as sedum, yarrow, lavender, and native grasses that flourish in arid environments.

National Night Out

Neighborhood Night Out will be Tuesday, October 7, 2025 this year!

This is a night for Sunset Canyon to stand together to promote awareness, safety, and neighborhood unity. 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:

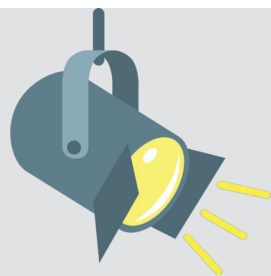
Sandy Hale

skhale902@verizon.net

512-775-2300.

Please plan to attend one of the following parties this year between 6 and 9 pm:

1. 1011 Foothills
2. 907 Oak Meadow
3. 405 Roy Creek
4. 702 Canyonwood North
5. 1208 Canyonwood North
6. 707 Blue Hills
7. 14044 Timberline
8. Canyon Church
9. 505 Bending Oaks



Local Spotlight

Natkhat Flavors

Across the highway from the HEB in Dripping Springs, Natkhat Flavors provides tasty Indian dishes you can enjoy at home or in the restaurant. Delicious curries and crispy samosas are some of the treats that await. Vegan and gluten free options are available. Open Monday through Saturday for lunch and dinner. Call 512.601.0656 for takeout or delivery.

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

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

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For contact information and
committees please visit our
website at [sunsetcanyon.org/
board](http://sunsetcanyon.org/board)

BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets at
7:00 PM. in the annex of the
Sunset Canyon Baptist Church 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.



WASTE CONNECTIONS RECYCLING GUIDE

Here's a handy list of items that should never be placed in our recycling bins! More helpful tips can be found at wasteconnections.com.

Misc. Items

- Propane canisters
- Batteries for e-cigarettes
- Butane canisters
- Flares
- Helium tanks
- Ceramic plant pots
- Needles
- Lighters and matches
- Bear spray
- Electronics
- Knives
- Paint
- Flammable liquids
- Household batteries
- Ammunition

Plastic Containers

- Containers for motor oil, vehicle lubricant or antifreeze products
- Packaging labeled biodegradable or compostable
- Plastic or foil lids from coffee and tea pods
- Liquid-absorbing pads, e.g., in trays of meat, poultry, fish, etc.
- Lawn edging, tarps, plastic furniture or toys
- Plastic blister packs e.g. plastic/foil protective packaging for chewing gum and pills
- Garden hoses
- Plastic wrap
- Plastic string or rope
- Microwavable bowls with metal rims
- Plastic paint cans
- Pails for lubricants and oils

Steel Containers

- Steel paint cans
- Coat hangers (return to dry cleaners)
- Metal toys
- Pots, pans and baking trays
- Appliances
- Metal hardware or other scrap metal
- Propane cylinders
- Wiring or metal cords, extension cords

Misc. Flexible Plastic Packaging

- Plastic blister packs e.g. plastic/foil protective packaging for chewing gum and pills
- Plastic squeeze tubes
- 6-pack ring
- Plastic-lined paper
- Biodegradable plastic
- Cellophane wrap
- PVC/vinyl
- Plastic strapping
- Squishy foam

Paper Packaging/ Cardboard

- Paper bags with foil layer
- Paper bags with plastic layer
- Paper towels, napkins
- Cardboard boxes with wax coating
- Tissues

Aluminum Containers

- Spray paint cans
- Aerosol cans with any contents remaining
- Propane cylinders
- Foil-lined cardboard take-out containers and lids

Glass Bottles & Jars

- Ceramic products
- Drinking glasses or dishes, cookware
- Light bulbs and fixtures
- Whole or broken window glass or mirrors

Plastic Bags/ Overwrap

- Kitchen stretch wrap
- Packaging labeled biodegradable or compostable
- Garbage bags
- Lumber or construction wrap

Paper

- Rubber bands
- Hardcover or paperback books (donate or sell)
- Ribbons or bows
- Musical greeting cards with batteries

Foam Packaging

- Foam board insulation
- Liquid-absorbing pads used in trays for meat, etc.
- Squishy or flexible foam
- Labels, tape, paper and cardboard on foam packaging
- Furniture cushions
- Foam peanuts, packing chips, or noodles



COMMUNITY CORNER

BEE PRESENTATION

The SCLA is hosting a presentation, "Bee a Good Neighbor" at the Sunset Canyon Baptist Church on Thursday, October 9 at 7 pm. The speaker, Autumn Paul, DVM, is a bee enthusiast and veterinarian, so she is uniquely qualified to give advice keeping in mind the needs of both the birds and the bees. For a whimsical view of a bee's life, check out her essay in the sidebar to the right, "Bee in Fall".

TRASH BIN SAFETY

Remember to place trash and recycling bins at least 4-5 feet away from your mailbox so that postal workers can deliver your mail. Out of consideration for a tidy and beautiful neighborhood, store your bins out of sight of the street when it is not a trash pickup day. Please inform your trash company if their employees are leaving bins in the street and creating hazardous conditions for cars.

Bee in Fall

Article contributed by Autumn Paul, DVM

She felt the change in temperature before she crawled down to the exit of the hive. No other sister workers hung at the bottom of the frames now- they stayed higher up away from the draft. The yellow and black fuzz on the bee sensed moisture in the air, her feet tasted its crispness. Slowly the angle of the sun had changed as she had made this venture out every day, but today was her first day as a foraging bee. Her job was to gather nectar, pollen, or protein in whatever form she could find. Sometimes that was a flower, but sometimes it was chicken feed or the odd dust at the bottom of a bird feeder. But the queen bee would not be laying as many eggs soon, so the need to feed the fat larvae protein wouldn't be such an emergency. It was no longer her job to feed the fat larvae bees- she was old enough now and wise enough to find food for her colony and that was now her job. The new fuzzy bees hatching now would be the nanny bees- feeding and grooming the larvae floating in jelly. Suddenly a big bee with huge eyes dropped from the frame above- he fell on his back and took a moment to turn himself over. He was weak because he was no longer being fed. Suddenly she was upon him, dragging him to the drop off and pushing him off with her chelicerae and front feet. He would weaken with the cold. He would likely die today, but if he returned the same eviction would happen again and again until he was gone. Drones, as the male bees were called, were for breeding with queen bees from other bee colonies. There were several hundred in her colony of 40,000 bees. But as the cold approached and the nectar and pollen diminished, only workers or their queen were permitted survival. The spiders and mice below the hive would make short work of the bodies, and their own life cycles would continue. Warmed by the sun, the forager bee lifted off and beat her wings hunting for the flowers humans called ragweed and golden rod.

Treasurer's Update

Joan Thomas
SCLA Treasurer

As of September 18, 2025, we have collected a total of \$15,870.59 and spent \$9,601.79. We currently have 353 paid members out of 753 homes. Won't you help us reach our goal of 400? We appreciate and thank everyone who has joined this year.

We are often asked how is the money spent? Our largest expense is insurance for board members which accounts for 49% of the dollars spent so far this year. The following is a rundown of other expenditures:

- \$990: New lights for both entryway signs
- \$900: Supporting National Night Out parties
- \$572: Printing the newsletter for those who have requested a copy be mailed to their homes
- \$500: A donation to the church for the use of their facilities for meetings
- \$417: Welcome Wagon packets and gifts for new homeowners
- \$400: Mowing of both entryways
- \$397: PEC
- \$200: Post office box rental
- \$146: Postage for newsletters and invoices

There is still time to join the SCLA for 2025 by mailing a check made payable to the SCLA at P.O. Box 588, Drippings Springs, TX 78620 or paying online at: <https://sunsetcanyon.org/payment>

If you have any questions, reach out to me at scla.treasurer@sunsetcanyon.org

Something to think TO-Do TODAY...

TOD: Transfer On Death - One Simple Way to Pass Property Without Probate

By Milena Christopher, Attorney at Law

Planning for the future is something we all think about — whether we're parents hoping to make things easier for our kids, partners wanting to take care of one another, or friends who want to make sure someone we trust inherits our home. In Texas, one of the simplest ways to pass real estate to a loved one without the expense and delay of probate is by using a Transfer on Death (TOD) Deed.

What Is a Transfer on Death Deed?

A Transfer on Death Deed is a legal document that allows you to name a person (or people) who will inherit your real estate when you pass away. Think of it like naming a beneficiary on a life insurance policy or retirement account — but for your home, land, or other real property.

When you sign and record a TOD deed with the county, your chosen beneficiary's name is placed "on deck," but nothing changes while you're alive. You remain the full owner; you can still sell the property, refinance it, or revoke the deed if your plans change.

Why Use a TOD?

The main benefit is that it can avoid probate for that piece of property. Probate can be time-consuming, stressful, and expensive for families. With a TOD deed, ownership passes automatically to the beneficiary when you die — no court process needed.

This can be a huge help for:

- Parents: Ensuring children receive property quickly and without extra costs.
- Unmarried Partners: Protecting a partner who might not otherwise inherit under Texas intestacy laws.
- Same-Sex Couples: Giving peace of mind that property will pass smoothly to the surviving partner.
- Friends or Other Loved Ones: Allowing you to choose who receives your property, even if you're not related.

Special Considerations in Texas

In our community property state, if you're married, most property acquired during the marriage belongs equally to both spouses. If you want to leave your share of community property to someone other than your spouse, you can do so with a TOD deed — but it's important to work with an attorney to make sure everything is set up correctly and fairly.

If you own property separately (such as something you inherited, or bought before marriage), a TOD deed is often the easiest way to make sure that property goes to exactly the person you want.

Keep Your Options Open

Like a will, a TOD can be revoked easily if your wishes change. For example, if you remarry or want to name a different beneficiary later, you can record a new TOD or file a revocation.

Are there Disadvantages to a TOD deed?

As with most things, there are pros and cons. For example, if there are complex estates, or concerns over creditors, minors, special needs children, irresponsible beneficiaries, or other special circumstances (too many to mention), a Will or a Trust may be your best bet.

A Simple Step Toward Peace of Mind

Many people put off estate planning because it feels overwhelming — but a Transfer on Death Deed is a single, powerful step you can take today to make things easier for your loved ones tomorrow.

If you'd like to learn more about whether a TOD deed is right for you, I'd be happy to help you explore your options.

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

Support YOUR Neighborhood Citizen Patrol. It's about neighbors helping the neighborhood! Marked vehicles driven by local residents are now patrolling the neighborhood. We need your help by volunteering time to patrol. Set your own patrol schedule. Training class conducted by Hays County Constables office. For information about the patrol text Mark Bennett, Captain, Sunset Canyon Citizen Patrol at 512.680.3480 and he will contact you.



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