

# THE Canyon Call

The newsletter of the Sunset Canyon Land Owner's Association  
June 2026

[www.sunsetcanyon.org](http://www.sunsetcanyon.org)



## Important Announcement: New Canyon Call App Available for Beta Testing

Contributed by Alan Kleymeyer

Hello neighbors. For the past few months, I have been working on a mobile app for our neighborhood. As a retired software developer and avid AI user, I want to replace Facebook and Nextdoor as a way to share communications specific to Sunset Canyon. Our Newsletter The Canyon Call is the SCLA's primary method of communicating with everyone. We have used Facebook and Nexdoor as a secondary method of communicating with residents but of course, not everyone is on those platforms. I don't know about you, but I'm exhausted having to wade through constant ads, inappropriate posts, posts not relevant to our neighborhood, and polarizing political debates. I think we can do better.

I'll be naming the app Canyon Call, after the newsletter. The app will make the current newsletter available to read from within the app. You can also access past issues. The board will send out

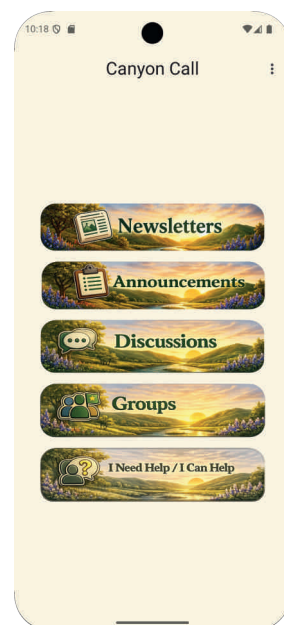
important announcements through the app.

Advanced features include Discussions that anyone can start, Groups that anyone can create (but must be approved) and that people can join, and a Help Board where people can request help with anything, or seek to borrow an item. People can also list talents/services they are willing to provide or items they are willing to lend. This would be all voluntary and no fee would be charged. This app is about being informed, and helping each other, it is NOT about chatting or blowing off steam. You have FB & ND for that!

The app is currently in Beta and I need more testers! I want to know what I'm doing right or what I can improve. I want this app to be "our" app and am open to ideas and feedback. What would you like to do with the app? I'm all ears.

The app can be installed on

Android Phones or iPhones. Since it is still in development, you can't access it from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. If interested in being an early adopter, reach out to me and I'll get you added to my test team. I'll either need your iPhone/iCloud email, or a Gmail address. Email me at [alankley@gmail.com](mailto:alankley@gmail.com) with your interest and your home address.



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](mailto:scla.news@sunsetcanyon.org)

SUNSET CANYON LANDOWNER'S  
ASSOCIATION  
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Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
www.sunsetcanyon.org

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Vice President- Randy Foster  
Secretary- Alan Kleymeyer  
Treasurer- Joan Thomas

Board Members:

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At-Large- Sarah Wigfield  
At-Large- August Arndt  
At-Large- Lynn Dawson  
At-Large- Tom Funnell

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 Canyon Church on the second Monday of each month. Any changes to the monthly meeting dates will be posted on our website- [sunsetcanyon.org](http://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.

## WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS

As we enter the hottest and driest part of the year, it is important to prepare for the possibility of wildfires and work to prevent them where possible. One of the most important tasks is to notify North Hays County Fire Rescue if there is someone who needs special assistance in case of evacuation or emergency. They will keep that information in their secure database. Likewise, if you have a locked gate they would like to have the gate code in their database. Homeowners can contact North Hays County Fire Rescue for a free property inspection to get specific recommendations for their property.

Central Texas fires tend to be different from California fires or even East Texas fires because our vegetation is different. However, fire moves especially fast uphill, so a fire in a canyon can quickly threaten higher structures. It is important to harden the perimeter immediately around our homes, especially the "immediate zone" (0-5 feet from structures). The greatest risk is from embers. They can fly 1-2 miles, even without wind. Embers also can smolder for up to 2 days.

Some recommendations include:

- Keep at least 10' between a wood fence or wood pile and any structure. Wooden gates that touch the structure are a special hazard if the fence catches fire.
- Keep tree limbs at least 10' from roofs and prune bushes so they don't reach the roof.
- Put 1/8" metal mesh on vents,

gutters, eaves, and chimneys to help keep embers out of the house.

- Keep the roof clean. Embers can ignite shingles or leaves on even a metal roof.
- Maintain siding. If the siding is warped or not in good shape, embers can slip between and start a structure fire.
- Move any combustible material, including wood mulch, away from wooden parts of the structure. An ember in wood mulch can start a fire which then can enter the house through windows and other openings.
- Keep any wood piles at least 10' away from a burn area or fire pit.
- There should be green space around any propane tank, small or large.
- If there is a fire nearby, close the flue on any chimneys and put lawn furniture indoors. An ember on a lawn chair can set it on fire.
- Watering plants and wetting structures in the immediate vicinity of a fire may not be useful. The plants won't have time to take up the moisture and the wet structures quickly dry out under the heat and wind of a fire. It may be better to use that time to prepare to evacuate.
- Have a "go bag" with essentials for several days including medications, important papers and identification, and phone numbers. For more information, visit the fire resource page on the SCLA web site, [sunsetcanyon.org/psa/wildfire-prevention](http://sunsetcanyon.org/psa/wildfire-prevention).





## COMMUNITY CORNER

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

This year the event will be on **Tuesday, October 6, 2026.**

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 Donna Bowser at [djbowser1@gmail.com](mailto:djbowser1@gmail.com). The SCLA will provide a gift certificate to each host to help offset any costs. Your participation is appreciated!

### PETS & LIVESTOCK

As a reminder, in addition to the livestock restrictions and fencing requirements in our deed restrictions, Hays County has enforceable laws governing the keeping of animals on individual properties. Generally, these laws are in place to protect the health, safety, and well-being of both the animals and our neighbors.

- All livestock and fowl must be

fenced or restrained in some manner to prevent them from wandering into traffic or onto other properties.

- Dogs must be restrained at all times by fence, chain, or leash.
- Cats should be kept in reasonable numbers and prevented from wandering onto adjacent properties.

The Hays County Sheriff's Dept has jurisdiction in our neighborhood and will enforce leash laws for repeat offenders. Please be neighborly and ensure your pets are secured and unable to attack or frighten others.

### 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.

## OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

### **LOOKING FOR A NEW TREASURER:**

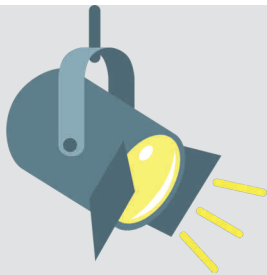
The SCLA needs a new treasurer SOON. Joan's house is going on the market and when it sells, she can no longer be the treasurer. She's not moving far and will help the new treasurer during and after the transition. But, we need someone to volunteer to take over this position.

The main requirement is an attention to detail. Joan currently uses Excel and Quicken. Most months, she only spends 1-2 hours a month working on tracking dues, responding to Title Companies and keeping track of homes that have sold in the neighborhood. She spends more time early December preparing dues notices for the new year for all homeowners and then in first quarter processing payments (1-2 hours a week).

### **BOARD PRESIDENT NEEDED**

The SCLA board position of President is now open. The main duties of the President are to preside over monthly Board Meetings, respond to community member questions or requests, and communicate with local officials when needed. Typically, the President spends 5-6 hours per month on his duties.

Please contact us at [sunsetcanyon.org/board](http://sunsetcanyon.org/board) if you are interested in becoming part of the team.



## Local Spotlight

### **Handmade at Nutty Brown**

This artist's cooperative is located about half a mile past the HEB at 290 and Nutty Brown. Just look for the mailbox shaped like a hammer. Each item at this gift store is lovingly hand-crafted. Their aim is to "celebrate the art of creating one-of-a-kind pieces and strive to connect our customers to the rich history and culture of the Hill Country." Open on Saturday from 10am to 5pm and by appt. at 512-270-0435.

Let's be honest: most Texans would rather be watching Friday Night Lights, tending the smoker, or floating the river than talking about wills and trusts.

And that's exactly how estate-planning trouble starts—because the biggest mistakes usually come from good, busy people who mean well but wait too long. A little planning now can save your family a major headache later.

### **Mistake #1: “We Don’t Have Enough to Need a Plan”**

Maybe it's just the house, the truck, and a 401(k). But if you don't make a plan, Texas has one waiting—and trust me, it wasn't written with your family in mind.

#### *How to dodge it:*

- Write a will (even a basic one).
- Update your beneficiaries on bank and retirement accounts.
- Tell someone where your documents live.

If you own a home, have kids, or any assets in your name, you're officially “estate-planning worthy.”

### **Mistake #2: Relying Only on a Will**

A will is important, but it's not a magic get-out-of-probate card. Think of it as your note to the judge—useful, but still requiring paperwork, time, and court fees.

#### *How to dodge it:*

Stack your plan with a few extra tools:

- Transfer-on-Death (TOD) deed for real estate.
- Payable-on-Death (POD) designation for bank accounts.
- Updated beneficiaries for insurance and retirement funds.

If you want to make it even smoother, a living trust can keep everything private and out of probate altogether.

### **Mistake #3: No Guardian Plan for Minor Kids**

No parent wants to picture it—but if you don't name guardians, a Texas judge will do it for you. That means someone who's never met your kids could decide where they'll live.

# The 5 Biggest Estate Planning Mistakes & How to Dodge 'em, Texas-Style

BY MILENA CHRISTOPHER

#### *How to dodge it:*

Pick your “A-team” (guardians) and backups. Talk with them now, not later, and make it official in your will. Awkward conversation now beats a courthouse debate later.

### **Mistake #4: Ignoring Blended Families**

Second marriages, step-kids, “bonus” grandparents—Texas families are as colorful as Sunday fajitas. But saying “We'll just be fair” isn't a plan.

#### *How to dodge it:*

Be specific. Put every wish in writing. Don't count on memory or good intentions—clarity now prevents conflict later.

*‘Fair’ means something different to every family. So write yours in ink, not in spirit.*

### **Mistake #5: Letting Documents Gather Dust**

Life changes—new babies, divorces, property, even new pets.

(Yes, we've seen people forget to update after adopting a dog.)

#### *How to dodge it:*

Review your plan every 3–5 years, or after any big change. Ask yourself: “If this all kicked in tomorrow, would I still be happy with it?”

If not, update it. Easy fix.

### **Final Word**

Estate planning isn't about doom and gloom—it's about good old-fashioned Texas practicality. Do it once, keep it fresh, and your family will remember your wisdom, not your paperwork. Now, that's a legacy worth leaving. 🐾

**OAK WILT**

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, when fungal spores are least likely to infect a tree. Always paint pruning cuts on oak trees. Any type of paint can mask the smell of a fresh wound from the beetle that can carry oak wilt spores. In our area, Live Oaks are the most frequently infected. To learn about Oak Wilt and how to prevent its spread, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/>. Learn to identify the signs shown.



Healthy live oak leaves



Live oak showing symptoms of oak wilt

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