

Southern Oaks

Neighborhood Newsletter

Fall/Winter 2014

Southern Oaks Residents Lend a Landscaping Hand for Neighborhood Green Up

The first weekend of October brought with it our first fall weather as well as gifts from the City of Orlando: free plants, shrubs and truck loads of mulch to enhance our neighborhood's landscape. All it took was the helping hands of Southern Oaks residents to do the planting.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, the City of Orlando, the Boys Scouts, Timberland and even our Commissioner Patty Sheehan who came out to get a little dirty!

Thanks to the efforts of more than 50 neighbors who came out, we now have beautiful landscapes in areas that had become neglected including the two entrances, the Buckwood island, the Edgecliffe island and the Wald roundabout.



Coming Soon: New HOA Website

We will soon have a new online resource for the neighborhood found at SouthernOaksHOA.com. Launching in the coming month, you will be able to log on for event

announcements, information about the neighborhood and other news.

Be sure to check back during the month of November!

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Southern Oaks Celebrates National Night Out

In August, the Southern Oaks Homeowners Association volunteers organized a summer block party to take place on National Night Out, an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The event drew more than two hundred neighbors to participate in the festivities, which included food trucks, a dunk tank and prizes donated from local restaurants and companies. Thanks to our wonderful sponsors including OLV, The Egg & I, Flippers Pizza and

Target. As well, thank you to the gracious volunteers for setting up and cleaning up, organizing the event, and even getting wet in the dunk tank. Our neighbors also showed their generosity by donating

money to help 7-year-old Ryland Pierotti raise \$242 for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, adding to her total of nearly \$3,500. Southern Oaks' National Night Out was so well attended, that the photo of the group won the "Best Photo" of all the other block parties in the City of Orlando!



Inaugural Neighborhood Easter Egg-stravaganza a Hopping Success!

Southern Oaks held its first annual Easter Egg-stravaganza last April with a great turnout and a special visit from the Easter Bunny himself.

The HOA board is looking forward to continuing the tradition into 2015 for the Saturday before Easter (April 4).

Stay tuned in the spring for how you can help stuff and hide eggs.



Haunting Good Time Planned for Annual Halloween Block Party

Bring your family out to the annual Southern Oaks Halloween Block Party hosted by your ghoulish neighbors at the Dead End of Wald on Friday, October 31 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Kids can start their night off right with some burgers and dogs donated by our generous neighbors, the DeLoach Family, owners of Freshfields Farm. Once again, we will be collecting food pantry items for the pantries at Boone HS and Conway MS. If you would be available for the grilling, set up or tear down, we would love your help! Please contact Rob Thomson at rtcheese@aol.com.



Neighborhood Watch is Now Official

Thanks to the Neighborhood Watch meetings that were held earlier this year, as well as our participation in National Night Out, Southern Oaks is now an official Neighborhood Watch community with the City of Orlando. You likely saw the neighborhood watch signs posted near the entrances, but behind the scenes, we have a dedicated group of volunteers who serve as "Block Captains" to alert the authorities and their neighbors should they notice any suspicious behavior.

If you see anything out of the ordinary, call 911 first so that they can dispatch someone immediately to check it out. Our new Neighborhood Watch Specialist in the Neighborhood Watch Unit of the Orlando Police Department is Lauri Brooks and you can reach her at (407) 246-3773 or Lauri.Brooks@CityofOrlando.net. Our Orlando Police Department Liaison is Officer Karen Long and you can reach her at (407) 246-2489 or karen.long@cityoforlando.net.

You can stay updated on news and notices from around the neighborhood by joining the Southern Oaks online community on Nextdoor.com. In the meantime, take a look at these home safety tips from an ex CIA officer.

Tip # 1: If you go on vacation and leave your front porch light on at night, be sure it goes off in the day time.

Criminals look for signs such as this to determine if anyone is home or not.

Tip # 2: Consider putting a large dog's water bowl near your back door. Criminals are never sure if you have a large dog or not and will usually skip your house for one that looks less guarded.

If you would like to get involved in the Neighborhood Watch, contact Rye Merriam at Elginm2@aol.com.

Women's Wine Club Becomes New Southern Oaks Tradition

This year, ladies of the neighborhood raised glasses during some wonderful gatherings as part of a new tradition—The Southern Oaks Women's Wine Club. Because of popular demand, we are setting the dates for next year's wine nights. Mark your calendars for four fabulous nights of food, fun and of course wine!

Women's Wine Club will take place on the second Friday:

Friday, January 9 at 7 p.m.

Hosted by Pat Sprague
1450 Wald Road

Friday, March 13 at 7 p.m.

Hosted by Paula Rutledge
1016 Campbell Street

Friday, May 8 at 7 p.m.

Friday, September 11 at 7 p.m.

Men, it's time for you to start the tradition too! If you would like to host the first Guy's Brew Night (scheduled for the fourth Fridays of those months), please let Crystal Eisen know.

Email crystaleisen@aol.com if you would like to host one of these nights.



The HOA board has committed a small amount of funds to make Southern Oaks a little more festive during the Christmas season. We hope you'll enjoy seeing holiday decorations adorning the entrances of the neighborhood this year and long into the future.

Also, in years past, the community used to organize a hayride for Christmas caroling. If anyone is interested to revive this activity, please contact Crystal Eisen at crystaleisen@aol.com.

Thank You for Making Southern Oaks a Wonderful Neighborhood

Through our community-wide social events, we have seen so many Southern Oaks residents taking ownership in our neighborhood. We are able to host programs and maintain the beauty of Southern Oaks thanks to the dues that you pay to this Homeowners Association. Thank you to all of our neighbors who contribute to this voluntary HOA through the small annual fee of \$150. As a reminder, you would have received your bill late this summer (we issue invoices in July, not January).

If you can't remember if you paid your 2014 dues, please email connie@oswaldandscott.com (Sam Oswald's Assistant) and she can email or mail you

another invoice as well as provide a detailed listing of the HOA accounting budget. If all of our homeowners would be generous enough to pay their HOA fees, we can build an even stronger community that is more desirable and in return, helps increase our home values.

Several of our neighbors have expressed an interest in the HOA paying to install and monitor Security Cameras at each entrance, as well as closing the wall at the West end of Sweetbriar. If you are interested in heading up or participating in either of these committees to investigate costs and logistics involved, please contact Crystal Eisen at crystaleisen@aol.com.



Community Calendar

Halloween Block Party
Friday, October 31 from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Women's Wine Club
Friday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m.

Community Garage Sale
Saturday, February 7 from 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Women's Wine Club
Friday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Egg-stravaganza
Saturday, April 4 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Women's Wine Club
Friday, May 8 at 7:00 p.m.

Women's Wine Club
Friday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m.

New & Noteworthy Around the Neighborhood

Please welcome our newest neighbors to Southern Oaks: Jon & Melissa Graham, Dan & Courtney Byrnes and Keith & Pam Hutsell all on Buckwood; James & Courtney Thompson on Campbell; Larry & Cassandra Cunningham on Edgecliffe, Mike & Michelle Giglio on Montcalm; and Chuck & Valerie Read and Karen and Robert Hess on Sweetbriar.

For future newsletters, send your announcements to the Family Services committee, Sara Howard and Mary Lou Moss at sarahoward1401@bellsouth.net and maryloumoss@hotmail.com.

Please note that due to additional pickups in the area, the City of Orlando will begin recycling collection soon after 6:00 a.m. in Southern Oaks. Please make sure to have your blue recycling can at the curb before that time on alternate Thursday mornings.