

Southern Oaks

Neighborhood Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2014

Engaging with our Community: HOA Board and Neighborhood Volunteers

Your Southern Oaks Home Owners Association Board and committee chairs for 2013-2014 are beginning a renewed commitment to make this great neighborhood even better. The articles in this newsletter are intended to provide all Southern Oaks residents with information about their efforts, as well as the other amenities and programs offered by the City of Orlando. We look forward to communicating with you on a biannual basis through this newsletter and through other means about pertinent neighborhood information throughout the year such as community events, the neighborhood watch and recognition of fellow residents.

If you would like to ensure that you receive email notifications about events, emergency incidents, and other news, please contact Evelyne Mitchell at evelynemitchell@yahoo.com to be included on the email distribution list. As well, the Southern Oaks neighborhood has also created a Nextdoor page that only residents can join.

Log on to www.southernoaks.nextdoor.com for updates, announcements and requests from your neighbors. You can also view the official neighborhood website at www.SouthernOaksHOA.com.

Tell us what you think

We want to hear your concerns, thoughts and questions about living in Southern Oaks. This newsletter is meant to give our residents an open forum for communicating on a bi-annual basis with neighbors, and we want to include your feedback in each upcoming issue.

Inside, you'll read articles that pertain to our neighborhood, with

the ability to provide feedback through an online survey. We hope you will take the opportunity to complete the survey located at www.bit.do/HOAsurvey and provide your suggestions to our HOA board at the end. We look forward to hearing from you and including your thoughts in the next issue that will be published in September.

Inside...

What's Happening Nextdoor
Tree Services from the City
Neighborhood Watch
Keep Orlando Beautiful
Your HOA Dues
Community Calendar
New & Noteworthy around the Neighborhood

Here's What Your Neighbors are Saying on



One of my participants in my Magic Season Ticket Package has dropped out for 2014-2015 season. If you have interest in going in on tickets, please let me know.

Looking for a reliable handyman. Anyone have any recommendations?

I belong to a group called "West Point Moms Bake" and send boxes each month to our troops overseas. Please email me if you would like to add someone you know who is serving our country to send them a package!

Have you wanted to share news with your neighbors but not the whole Internet? Now you can join the private social networking site, Nextdoor.com, to get the latest news and updates from neighbors that have been verified as living in Southern Oaks. You do not need a Facebook account to join, and you can select settings so that your information remains private.

Join today to be kept in the loop on comments from your neighbors as well as household referrals, crime and safety notices, events and other recommendations. It's also a great way to meet your neighbors and help keep Southern Oaks a great place to live! Go to www.nextdoor.com to get started.

Tree Beautification: Services Offered by the City of Orlando

Did you know that the City of Orlando offers free trees to individual homeowners for the right-of-way along the street? If owners agree to water, feed and care for the tree until it is established, the city will plant the most appropriate tree for that area (must be three feet wide).

The City will also provide tree trimming for trees in the right of way, as well as remove dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees on City property. If you are concerned about a tree on your private property, a professionally trained forester can inspect and assess the

health of your tree and provide a recommendation, though they cannot trim or remove trees.

Call the Parks Division at (407) 246-2283.



Helpful Tip:

Large trash items such as mattresses or old furniture are actually picked up on Wednesdays along with lawn and yard collections.



Keeping a Watchful Eye

The Southern Oaks HOA held its first two Neighborhood Watch meetings in December and February in partnership with our City of Orlando representatives. Key to the success of the Neighborhood Watch is assigning a "Block Captain" for each street that is responsible for maintaining the Neighborhood Watch Telephone Chain Card to keep residents aware of any suspicious behavior or emergencies in the area. If you would like to help keep our neighborhood safe through this program, please contact our Block Captain Leader, Rye Merriam, at Elginm2@aol.com.



Two efforts of the Neighborhood Watch include the potential to install security cameras at the entrances of the neighborhood, and limiting access by closing the wall at the west end of Sweetbriar. The HOA volunteer leaders are addressing these issues with neighbors and appreciate your input.

Please take a survey available at www.bit.do/HOAsurvey.

Keep Orlando Beautiful: Help Stop the Poo-llution

It's a problem that many people face, but hate to deal with: dog waste. The City of Orlando has created a campaign to make people aware of the problems surrounding pet waste. For example, did you know that dog waste does not help fertilize at all, but that it contains several toxins and can spread nasty parasites? If it doesn't get picked up, it washes into storm drains, which drain directly to local lakes and water bodies, harming human health and the environment.

Help do your part and clean up after your pet and keep Southern Oaks beautiful.

While the City of Orlando does not have any programs that assist with installing pet waste stations, many neighborhoods elect to purchase and maintain pet waste stations on their own. What do you think? We would welcome your feedback in this online survey (which also has questions about neighborhood safety).

Please visit www.bit.do/HOAsurvey to give your opinion on important neighborhood issues.



Southern Oaks Directory Published

Back by popular demand, HOA volunteers helped compile the Southern Oaks homeowner directory and distributed copies to all dues-paying HOA members.

To send any changes or updates to the directory, please email Evelyne at evelynemitchell@yahoo.com.



Your HOA Dues at Work

We hope you find this newsletter helpful, and as well as enjoy the social events described inside that are coordinated by HOA volunteers. Your homeowners' fees not only cover services such as these, but also costly expenses that beautify our neighborhood. More than half of the annual budget goes toward common area maintenance of the entrances, roundabouts and islands, which includes lawn work, irrigation, lighting and flowers.

Our fees are only \$150 annually! Other communities with similar amenities charge this amount monthly and have initiation fees and assessments.

If you have already paid your dues, THANK YOU! If you have not, we would greatly appreciate it if you would contribute. If you can't remember if you paid your 2013 dues, please email Sam Oswald's assistant, connie@oswaldandscott.com, or Crystal Eisen at crystaleisen@aol.com, and they can email or mail you another invoice as well as provide a detailed listing of the HOA accounting budget. If all of our Southern Oaks homeowners would be generous enough to pay their HOA fees, we can build an even stronger community that is more desirable and as a result, helps increase our home values.

Community Calendar

Spring Fiesta in the Park
Saturday and Sunday, April 5 – 6

Southern Oaks Easter "Egg" Stravaganza
Saturday, April 19
2-4 p.m.

National Night Out / Southern Oaks Block Party
Tuesday, August 5

Annual Southern Oaks Halloween Block Party
Friday, October 31

**Do you have any ideas for neighborhood social events?
Submit your ideas through the Southern Oaks survey at
www.bit.do/HOAsurvey.**

New & Noteworthy Around the Neighborhood

Make sure you welcome our newest Southern Oaks neighbors: Bill and Darla Talley on Sweetbriar, Bret and Michele Anderson on Wald and Ed and Lynn Simpson on Northglenn!

Congratulations to Kristi Camera who was named one of four Neighborhood Leaders at The Mayor's Neighborhood Champion Award on March 1 at the 9th Annual Neighborhood and Community Summit.

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