



The Happenings

Volume 2 | October 2025

4th of July Festivities ... It just keeps getting better!



Wow, this year's 4th of July celebration was one for the books! More than 20 floats participated in the parade with a record number of neighbors lining the streets, and we had three amazing firework displays (thank you Eubanks, Webers and the Stonewall/Bull Run Crew)!



Welcome to the Wilderness



- Jeff and Peggy Myers, 264 Stonewall, purchased and are almost done with the remodel of the Timmerman home
- Ron and Jennifer Szeglin, corner lot on Stonewall/Shenandoah
- Jose Martinez, Shenandoah lot 140, building a house
- Scott Ford, new modern house on Stonewall
- Cole & Elizabeth Francisco, Lincoln lot 4/5, new build has begun
- David & Melody Mesmer, Lincoln lot 6, between Flemings and Franiscos
- Terry Peterson, Stonewall lot 34A, next to Szeglins
- Juan & Sol Delgado, Bull Run lot 84A, across from Schmidts
- Hamiltons, purchased Tom and Diane Jones' home on Stonewall

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Facilities Update

from Andy Ditterline, Facilities Director

- We are adding more security cameras to the trailer storage and wired motion sensor lights along with license plate readers, and the automatic gate to the trailer storage is installed.
- We have updated the camera system at the main gate and have added several new cameras and license plate readers.
- There are some overgrown trees encroaching the roadways, dead trees along Ernie's fence line and a few other issues that we will be addressing in the coming weeks.
- Some of the split rail fencing along the roadway by the water crossing will be repaired or replaced as needed.
- You may have noticed the burn pile is significantly smaller. The main reason for the change was due to safety – the huge piles were dangerous to burn and took several weeks to completely burn out. If the burn pile is smoking, please DO NOT pile new brush on the hot spots. Stack your items to the side (inside the berm) if possible and we will push it up when we are able to watch it burn properly.

Architectural Control Committee

from Kevin Smith

- We have had a few new families that are in talks with the ACC to discuss building houses, some of which have now started their dream homes. The Franciscos are working on their foundation on Lincoln and we will soon have our first ever house on Shenandoah with new owners, the Martinez Family. Both homes are compliant and look great!
- We have been told the new spec home on Stonewall has sold, and the builder is possibly adding a small outdoor kitchen on the back porch as requested by the new owners.
- Reminder that the speed limit is 25 MPH. Please make sure your guests and contractors are aware of this as our streets are very active with wildlife and families.

Compliance Update

from Kevin Smith, Compliance Director

We live in one of the nicest, most beautiful neighborhoods on the lake and I want to keep it that way. Lawns and lots are looking great, thank you for that. We are working on cleaning up some other things that are against the POA guidelines or are just unsightly. This includes things like yard equipment, materials, non-permitted or unapproved screening, and boat docks that are in disrepair. If you have some of these items, please remedy them so I don't have to be the bad guy!

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD, CONT.

Treasury Update

from Dan Eubanks, Treasurer

Although we have had some significant expenses, we continue to remain slightly below budget for the year, and we have implemented some cost saving measures to reduce our annual operating costs.

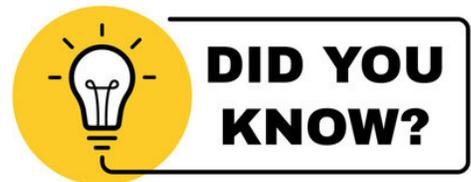
Message from Leroy Weber, President

Please join us for the annual POA meeting, October 18 at 1 pm at Lakeside Methodist Church. I also want to thank all our wonderful volunteers that work behind the scenes to make our neighborhood the best on the lake.

The Perfect Fall Cocktail

The Captain Cider

- 1.5 oz Captain Morgan Original Spiced Rum
- 1.5 oz Cranberry juice
- 1.5 oz Hard apple cider
- Garnish: Cranberry, apple slice and cinnamon stick



Did you know the POA office and the land where Ernie roams is privately owned and not included in The Wilderness subdivision? The private owner has graciously donated the use of those parcels to The Wilderness.



At some point in our boating lives, we all run into a situation where we're in the middle of the lake and need a helping hand. Whether it's a dead battery, a stump jumped in front of your boat, or worse, there are always neighbors you can count on.

We'd like to create a 'text tree' that includes the names and cell phones of neighbors who are willing and able to help in a time of need. We've received a couple submissions – if you would like to be included, please respond to Amy with your name/cell number – fresh0604@gmail.com or 972.400.1238. Once finalized, a waterproof, laminated card will be produced.

Looking for something new to check out this fall?



- Dallas Farmers Market Pumpkin Patch, thru October 31
- Autumn at the Arboretum, thru November 2
- Yesterland Fall Festival, Canton, September 20 - November 2
- Heart O' Texas Fair & Rodeo, Waco, October 2 - 12
- Fused Glass Workshop, Art House Trinidad, October 15
- Kerens Cotton Harvest Festival, October 18
- Hot Pepper Festival, Palestine, October 25
- Rush Herrington Memorial Rodeo, Palestine, October 24-25
- Boo at the Park, Palestine, October 29
- Luminous Art Show, Art House Trinidad, November 1
- Corsicana AirShow, November 7
- Navarro County Pro Rodeo, November 13-14
- The Polar Express Train Ride, Palestine, November 14 - December 28



As the community does not allow trailers to be stored on lots or driveways, we do have a storage facility you may use for free. The only catch ... you have to regularly mow and maintain your assigned spot. To be assigned a spot, contact a facilities compliance director for more information.



Congratulations to our Yard of the Month!

Tom & Jenifer Sparks
145 Bull Run Square

Ernie's Corner



Ernie is doing great and had a fabulous summer thanks to all of his visitors. Ernie loves carrots and apples, and it's best to cut them into smaller pieces to prevent choking. He also receives fresh hay on a regular basis and you'll often see him grazing on it by the fence line.

We continue to have 12 deer that keep Ernie company inside the high-game fence, and they also love a carrot or two!

Did you know the feeder provides deer corn twice a day for Ernie and his deer friends? They also have a pond in the woods that offers clean, fresh water.

Upcoming Social Events

- **Saturday, October 11, 4 pm** – Oktoberfest, 286 Stonewall, hosted by the Rists and the Uredas.
 - Please bring a German dish to share, or whatever you wish! Brats, beer, wine and soft drinks provided.
 - 4 pm - Festivities begin
 - 5 pm - Wine Tasting
 - 6 pm - Dinner
 - RSVP by October 4 to Leslie, 903.388.8214
- **Saturday, November 8, 3 pm** – Chili Cookoff, 113 Bull Run, hosted by Jim and Wendy Middleton
 - If you are entering your chili in the contest, please let Wendy know, 214.794.6364. Last minute entries are also welcome!
- December is going to be a holiday to remember in the Wilderness!
 - **Saturday, December 6, 6 pm:** Holiday Party at the Freshwaters, 136 Stonewall
 - We're trying something new this year. Because there is always so much food, we're going to create a sign-up sheet for a specific number of appetizers and/or bottle of wine to accompany the ham and desserts that will be provided.
 - We are going to once again collect gift cards for the Pleasant Hills Children's Home in Palestine. Last year we were able to donate more than \$600 in gift cards to the children!
 - **Saturday, December 13 and Friday, December 19, 6 - 8 pm:** We are inviting our neighbors on the Southside to drive through and tour Christmas in the Wilderness. Every year more and more homes in our neighborhood are decorating for the holidays and in the spirit of the season we would like to spread joy by showing our fellow Southsiders our holiday spirit! If you wish to participate, we'd like to have all homes decorated by **Friday, December 12**. There will also be a prize for the best decorated home, selected by the residents of The Wilderness. The front gate will be open from 6 - 8 on these two evenings.
 - **Saturday, December 20, 6 pm** — Holiday Hayride through The Wilderness, led by Rudolph and friends. More information will be provided in the coming weeks. Hint hint ... this will be a lot of fun for the kiddos, but also fun for all ages!
 - **TBD** — Wilderness Boat Parade ... more information to follow.

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the Social Committee.

- Amy Freshwater (972) 400-1238
- Pam Bricco (281) 851-7826
- Debby Fleming (469) 223-4303
- Amy Eubanks (817) 271-8346.



There is no shortage of holiday markets this time of year, and we wanted to share a list of some of the most popular spots you may want to add to your weekend plans ... most are within an hour or so of us.

- Hollydays Market of Plano, Plano Events Center, October 10-12
- Deck the Halls Holiday Gift Market, Extract Events Center Waco, October 23-26
- 'Neath the Wreath Holiday Gift Market, Plano Events Center, November 6-9
- Vintage Market Days of McKinney, Myers Park & Event Center, November 21-23
- Texas Christkindl Market, Globe Life Field Arlington, November 21-23 and November 28-December 23
- Shop Local Holiday Market, Kaleidoscope Park Frisco, November 29
- The Boho Market at Preston Hollow Village, December 5
- Rudolph's Hot Rod Holiday Car Show & Vendor Market, Midlothian, December 6



Neighborhood Clean Up

Mark your calendars! We will hold our next neighborhood clean-up on Saturday, November 1 at 8 am. If you're able to help, please meet at the office and we're going to focus on cleaning up in and around Ernie's pasture.

We are going to begin holding these clean-ups twice a year – the first Saturday in November, and the first Saturday in March.

Fall Pumpkins

When fall fades away and it's time to switch out your holiday decor, we'd love to take any left over pumpkins. Feel free to leave them by the office and we'll take them into the pasture so Ernie and the deer can have a little feast.

Local Contractor Recommendations

We all know how important a great referral is, and we'd like our neighbors to help each other out with recommendations for local contractors. If you have an electrician, plumber, landscaper, handyman, etc. that you recommend, please forward the information to Amy so we can include it in the next newsletter. *(These contractors are not endorsed by the board or any resident, this is simply a list of contractors who are currently used by Wilderness residents.)*

Boat Repair

Tony Davis, 214.641.6827

Boat Lift Repair

LB General Construction, Oliver, 903.390.3380

Carpentry

Roger Wilson, 903.391.3277

Concrete Work

2K Concrete & Fencing, 903.681.3667

Demolition/Trash Haul Off

Juan Galindo, 903.229.8269

Dock Repairs

Aaron Williams, 903.257.5434
Boondocks, 903.681.4071
Goodin & Perry, 903.654.9042
JCB, Jason Blazek, 903.654.2287
Kyle Construction, 903.391.7382
LB General Construction, Oliver, 903.390.3380

Electrician

Mick Roberts, 972.467.0070
Jason Andrews, 903.392.5432

Fences

2K Concrete & Fencing, 903.681.3667
Superior Fence & Rail, 903.292.4633
Wilson Fence, 903.551.4807

Fire Pits

Richland Chambers Landscape & Irrigation,
214.697.6676

Handyman

Mark Wilkie, 903.388.9587

Heat/AC Repair

Alliance Air, Justin, 903.467.0085
Johnson Air, 903.388.8228

Holiday Lights

Father & Son Lighting, 214.232.3920

House Cleaning

Maria Galindo, 903.654.8165

Irrigation

Richland Chambers Landscape & Irrigation,
214.697.6676

Landscaping/Lawn Service

High & Tight, 859.250.9327
Jesus Lawn & Landscape, 903.681.7485
Lakeside Lawn Care, 903.390.7942
Pineda, [903.503.0363](tel:903.503.0363)
Richland Chambers Landscape & Irrigation,
214.697.6676

Plumber

JBO Plumbing, Sergio, 903.851.4029

Sand/Dirt

Wayne's Dozer Service, 903.875.4939

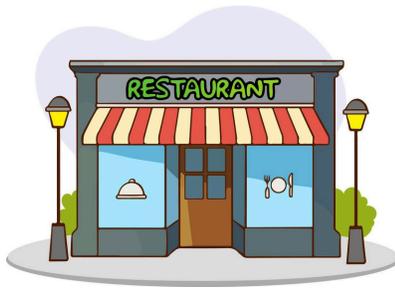
Security Cameras

Texas Day Night, 214.797.0888

Tree Service

High 'n Tight, 859.250.9327
Juan Galindo, 903.229.8269
Treetop Ninjas, 713.303.5766

This list will be posted on the Wilderness website. You can also check with Richland Chambers Hardware for additional recommendations.



Looking for a quick bite to eat? We received so much positive feedback regarding this section that we're going to continue to build on the existing list. Please share your favorites so we can include them in the next newsletter ... this is especially helpful for our new neighbors. Most of these suggestions are within 45 minutes.

Within 5 minutes

- Fisherman's Point Lighthouse Cafe, 903.389.5218
- Spanky's, 903.389.3197
- Joe's Pizza, 903.599.1701

Just across the bridge

- The Harbor Restaurant*, 903.874.7000
- Pelican Grill, 903.948.8466

Athens

- Twisted Root, 430.340.5230
- McAlister's Deli, 903.677.0170
- Tia Juanita's Fish Camp, 903.292.0390

Buffalo

- The Pharm Restaurant, 903.322.2229

Corsicana

- K & K Bar-b-que, 903.467.3038
- Ellinya Italian Restaurant, 903.602.5180
- Napoli's Italian Restaurant and Bar, 903.874.9004
- Old Mexican Inn Restaurant & Cantina, 903.874.9061
- Calle 7 Latin Cuisine, 903.851.4064
- La Pradera Mexican Restaurant, 903.641.0077
- Tastytown Cafe (take-out, great burger!), 430.236.1514
- Corsicana Steakhouse at the Opry*, 430.333.4232
- Across the Street Bistro, 903.218.2118
- Timbers Coffee Cafe, 903.503.0363

Fairfield

- El Jimador, 903.389.5820
- Ponte's Diner, 903.389.5555
- The Butcher's Choice, 903.389.3043
- TX Burger, 903.389.3914
- The Courtesy, 903.388.5817
- Te'Jun, The Texas Cajun, 903.390.5145

Kerens

- Milanos Pizza (they deliver to The Wilderness with a minimum \$ order), 903.396.2970
- Big 6 Bar-B-Que (take out)

Malakoff (Cedar Creek)

- The Dock*, (903) 489-7095

Palestine

- Giovanni's Italian, 903.384.3038
- Queen St. Grille*, 903.723.2404
- Pint & Barrel Draft House, 903.727.2711
- Fox House Bar & Grill, 903.221.8883
- Switch Brick-Oven Pizza & Wine*, 903.729.7700

Tool (Cedar Creek)

- Fig's Steakhouse*, 903.432.0628
- Fig's Backyard, 903.608.3034

Trinidad

- The Whistlestop*, 903.778.5133
- Triple N's Ranch Winery and Vineyard, 361,867.9463

Wortham

- The Old Gin, 254.255.4300

** reservations recommended*

Send your local recs to Amy Freshwater at fresh0604@gmail.com and we'll share in the next newsletter.

Holiday Lighting



The owner of this holiday lighting company will be in The Wilderness on Saturday, October 4, to provide estimates based on your home/needs. If you are interested in having Craig stop by your house, please reach out this week.

Newsletter Ideas

If you have suggestions for the next newsletter, please pass them along to Amy at 972.400.1238 or fresh0604@gmail.com.

The Enchanted Forest Trails

Big shout out to Kevin, Dustin and all of our residents who have helped make the Enchanted Forest a special place to visit. If you ever have items that you'd like to donate to the Enchanted Forest, feel free to reach out to Dustin or you are welcome to add your own trinkets!

ENCHANTED FOREST SCAVENGER HUNT #2

HAPPY LITTLE GUY 	CUT ABOVE THE REST 	SPRING IS BUG SEASON 
SURFS UP 	I SEE DEAD PEOPLE 	WIND RATTLES MY BONES 
THIS IS FAIRY BRIGHT 	I'M NOT LIKE THE OTHERS 	NOT SO HEAVY METAL 
-3 EVILS 	DON'T MESS WITH 	I LOVE CORN 
GREEN IS OVER RATED 	TIS THE SEASON 	OWL BE RIGHT BESIDE YOU 
GREAT BALANCE 	CREEPY CLOSE UP 	I'M A MUSIC FAN 
I'M ALL ALONE 	GUEST 47 YOUR TABLE IS READY 	ERNIE CROSSING 

All items can be seen from the trail. Please do not remove or move any items
Reminder watch for snakes and other wildlife

What was the hardest thing to find? _____
 What was the easiest to find? _____
 Whats your favorite Item in the trails? _____