



PASSAGES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

JANUARY 2017
VOLUME 39 No. 1

26th Polar Bear Swim

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Finding Love in the Aftermath of Tragedy

O.W.L.S. Member Kathy Leipuanani Tyler Ayala recounts her experience in the Pearl Harbor attack, and how it led to her meeting the eventual love of her life.

I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on December 27. I was only 6 years old, going on 7, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. My brother Jack was 5 ½

and my sister Ruth was 9 months old. My father had recently died on May 31, 1941. My mother went to work, so Jack and I were sent to stay with a baby-sitter, while my grandmother cared for Ruth. That's where we were when the Japanese began their attack.

I will never forget that Sunday morning. The sounds of explosions, Japanese airplanes flying overhead, sirens going off... People were screaming. Car horns were honking. It was complete chaos. As we ran outside, our babysitter dropped dead of a heart attack. If the Japanese



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016—2017

**Established in 1976**

Mission: To improve the quality of life of Association members, and preserve and increase the value of Association members' properties.

Chair

Ida Rodkey

Vice Chair

Brian Stives

Board Directors

Jo Ann Fernandez

Gene Guido

Essy Lechon

Mel Stallings

Mark Zoller

ELECTION ARTICLE*Director*

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2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS NOMINATIONS

Nominations, Candidate Biographies & Photos due by
12:00 Noon February 16, 2017

Please come by the GNW Lodge during normal business hours: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday thru Friday, to pick up a Nomination Packet, or download a packet online at:

www.greatnorthwest.org

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Board Briefs

Each Board meeting takes a couple of hours as the Board considers items of business on the agenda. While Board Briefs list decisions made by the Board, Members are encouraged to attend meetings to hear the Board as it discusses and debates matters upon which decisions must be made.

November 17 Regular Board Meeting**The Board:**

- Transferred \$41,291 from the operating budget to the MR&R reserve to finalize the transfer of fund in accordance to the 2016 budget.
- Approved an Education Assistance Policy.
- Transferred \$3,987.40 from the MR&R Reserve to Operating to pay for a 7 Gang Mower.
- Approved the purchase of 2 Halsey Taylor ADA Compliant Drinking Foun-

tains for Silver Creek, and 1 Drinking Fountain Doctor for Emerald Valley's Kuwamura Park.

December 1 Executive Meeting**The Board:**

- Reviewed four deed restriction violation accounts. One account was sent to the lawyer, DRACO was asked to work with the bank on one account, and two accounts were resolved prior to the meeting.

A New Year, a New Opportunity

Help Foster the Great Northwest Spirit
Ida Rodkey



As we close out 2016, let's take a moment during the holidays to reflect on the past forty years in our community. In 1976, the Gaudet family became the first to move into the Great Northwest. Since then, the community has flourished. Parents have raised their children, who have grown and started families of their own. Strangers have become close friends. People have come together to create a better community. Olivia Theriot created the "Welcome Wagon" that helped new families feel at home in the neighborhood. Jacque Callanen helped lead the committee that directed the construction of the Silver Creek Lodge. Kathy Callahan and Melba Fey started the recreation department out of Callahan's own garage. Jeff Kuwamara spearheaded improvements to what is now known as Kuwamara Park at Emerald Valley. Those are only a few in a long list of people who have dedicated their times and talent to making the Great Northwest, their community, a better place for their families and neighbors.

Today, Great Northwest neighbors continue to dedicate their time to improve the neighborhood. A-Team volunteers spent hours cleaning up Tezel Road, the Greenbelt, and covering graffiti. GNWatch members have helped make the neighborhood safer by raising awareness about crime and teaching safety to children. Fifty volunteers helped make the Haunted House and Hayride a huge success this year. Great Northwest clubs have also created a space for residents to socialize and meet one another. The O.W.L.S., the Great Northwest Book Club, and the High Steppers Line Dancing groups are all groups where neighbors can gather and enjoy similar interests.

The community spirit of Great Northwest neighbors and the dedication of the Great Northwest staff have made this neighborhood a home for thousands of families.

Here are ways that you can foster community spirit in the Great Northwest:

Come to an Event. The Great Northwest holds more than twenty community events throughout the year, starting with our traditional Polar Bear Swim. This year we are adding a Valentine's Parent and Child Dance, an additional Family Dive-In Movie Night, and we are changing the Annual Luau to a family-friendly, End of Summer Pool Party. That is in addition to our normal event line up, which includes: Bulk Drop Offs, Yard Sales, Market Days, an Easter Egg Hunt, Haunted House, and Car Show, just to name a few. Don't forget to attend GNW events, and bring the family along, too.

Join a Great Northwest Team or Club. There are plenty of opportunities to give to your community through volunteering. Even if you only have an hour or two to give per month, there is a Team for you. If you are more interested in socializing, discussions, or finding others with similar interests, join one of our Great Northwest clubs. If you don't see a club you like, consider creating your own!

Show your support. If you don't have time to spare, consider taking a few moments to show your support to Great Northwest volunteers. If you see them working while you are out, give them a wave and let them know how much you appreciate them. See an improvement that you really love? Hop onto our Facebook page, [facebook.com/GNWCIA](https://www.facebook.com/GNWCIA), and post

Let's Make the Great Northwest Even Greater

Cindy Gates, CMCA®, PCAM®
Community Manager

Two thousand sixteen was a huge year in terms of projects and goals attained so it is with a high degree of satisfaction that we close out the year and begin 2017. In 2017 we will:

- ▶ Contribute \$113,296 to Major Repair & Replacement Reserve account.
- ▶ Collect assessments:
- ▶ Extend a neighborly hand to residents who need options to pay their assessments. We will call, email and go door to door and work with owners of delinquent accounts, saving them additional costs of collection.
- ▶ Transfer unresolved delinquent accounts to new attorney, Tom Newton of Allen, Stein & Durbin, where the owners of such accounts will be liable for collection fees.
- ▶ Enforce deed restrictions:
- ▶ Additional DRACO officers' time and hours including mornings, evenings and weekends.
- ▶ Expand coverage with Security staff patrols.
- ▶ Send unresolved deed restriction violations to small claims court.
- ▶ Send unresolved deed restriction violations to our new attorney.
- ▶ Fund scholarships with monies from the 7th Annual GNW Car Show and Silver Creek Pool's Barefoot Café.
- ▶ Install a new phone system in the Association's offices to better serve residents.
- ▶ Save \$25,000 after bidding out the 2017 insurance package.
- ▶ Undertake Emerald Valley Flores Hall and pool drainage projects.
- ▶ Enhance internal organization.
- ▶ Transition to a new updated database software package that will be more efficient, improve data storage, and provide updated management options as well as updated and contemporary services to residents such as a resident portal.
- ▶ Renew and update our website.
- ▶ Paint the maintenance shop and garage.
- ▶ MR&R Project: Resurface the Silver Creek Pool decking with a coolcrete substance that will be cooler on bare feet.
- ▶ Start what will be an annual professional updating of our MR&R schedule.
- ▶ Continue recycling effort, which now captures and recycles 80% of all Association waste.
- ▶ Refine a Greenbelt pathway.
- ▶ Support volunteers!
- ▶ Review and strengthen internal controls and operating efficiency
- ▶ Communicate the benefits of membership.
- ▶ Enhance city connections with the city of San Antonio and Bexar County with the goal of increasing returned services for property taxes paid by association members.
- ▶ Work to maintain at a high level, restore and update entrances and grounds.
- ▶ Work with the Board, residents and staff to plan for the future of the Great Northwest.
- ▶ Enhance staff coordination, efficiency and effectiveness wherever possible.

That's the highlights of what will be another great year to build on all the good work and achievements made by Boards of Directors, volunteer projects and staff work. We invite you to join us because we are stronger together. And together, we can make the Great Northwest even greater, again. All the best in the New Year!

JANUARY

Community Calendar

HIGHLIGHTS

**JAN
1**

POLAR BEAR SWIM

11 a.m., Silver Creek Pool

We're celebrating 2017 with a Great Northwest tradition--swimming across the chilly junior olympic pool! Participants who brave the cold water will receive a free t-shirt. We will have refreshments for participants and onlookers.

Arrive 10-15 minutes early to register. You can also pre-register by visiting our office: 8809 Timberwilde St, Monday through Friday 10-7 pm.

**JAN
31**

ASSESSMENTS DUE

It's the last day to pay your annual assessment and avoid late payments.

COMING SOON

**FEB
10**

VALENTINE'S PARENT & CHILD DANCE

7-10 p.m., Callanen Hall (Silver Creek)

Come to our first ever Valentine's Parent and Child Dinner and Dance. Enjoy time with your children and celebrate the love between a parent and child while dancing. We will have spaghetti dinner plates with a salad, dessert, and tea or lemonade.

Tickets are \$5 per person and available for sale at the GNW Office from Jan 2 - Feb 8.

Proceeds benefit the GNW Scholarship Fund.

1 Polar Bear Swim ■ 11 am	2 Happy New Year Office Closed	3 ACC Mtg ■ 4:30 P	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 O.W.L.S. Luncheon ■ 11 A GNWatch Mtg ◆ 6:30	11	12	13	14
15	16 ACC Mtg ■ 4:30 P Poker ■ 7 P	17	18 Book Club ■ 7 P	19 Reg Board Mtg ■ 6:30 P	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 ACC Mtg ■ 4:30 P	31 Assessments Due	1	2	3	4

Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	12 P	SA Tumble Tots	SC \$10; Age 3-5
	3:15 P	Greater SA Ballet	SC \$15; Age 3-4
Tuesdays	6 P	Mahjong	SC
Wednesdays	11 A	Dominoes	EV
	5:30 P	SA Tumble Tots	SC
	6 P	Chess	EV
	6:30 P	SA Tumble Tots	SC
Thursdays	10 A	Line Dancing	SC
	3:15 P	Greater SA Ballet	SC \$15; Age 5-6



HAPPY NEW YEAR , HAPPY NEW EVENTS

Connie Chavez

Community Events Team Leader



On January 1, we welcomed 2017 with our 26th Polar Bear Swim. If you missed it, check out a few pictures of the event on page 8.

This New Year's, I am excited of our new family events for 2017. First, we are having our first Parent and Child Valentine's Dinner and Dance on February 10 from 7 pm-10pm. We are serving spaghetti with meat sauce with a salad, dessert and tea or lemonade.

Get your tickets now. They are available at the GNW Office until February 8. Tickets are \$5 per person and proceeds will go towards our GNW Scholarship Fund. So come spend an evening with your child with food and music.

This year, we are continuing

some great community traditions and improving others. In April, we are celebrating Easter as we always do, with the GNW Easter Egg Hunt and pictures with the Easter Bunny. Plus, by popular demand, we now have three family movie nights at the pool this summer. Speaking of summer, we are changing up the Annual Luau this year. It will now be an End of Summer family fun night at the pool.

I am really excited about this year's events, and hope you are, too. Keep a look out for dates and times for these upcoming events. You can also stay up to date by following us on Facebook or checking our events calendar on the Great Northwest website.



2017 ATHLETICS

TY SIMPSON

Recreation Manager

We're off to another great year in GNW recreation. Basketball is right around the corner, with practices starting January 2nd and games get underway on January 14th.

A lot goes into bringing great sports programs to the Great Northwest every year. Many hours are spent organizing teams, scheduling gym practices, and keeping the soccer field grass fresh and green and lines straight and bright. Not to mention all of the work that is put in by volunteers in the community who help coach and organize events.

If you want your children to gain the experience of teamwork and sportmanship while promoting healthy and active lifestyles, consider joining one of our great programs. Recreation programs are also open to the public, so invite your friends to register as well.

Keep track of registration periods with the Athletics Calendar. Calendars are also available at the GNW office and on the GNW website. We give registration updates on the Great Northwest Facebook page, too.

Athletics Calendar

Sport	Registration Period	Practices Start	Games & Times
Youth Basketball (U8 – U15)	Nov. 7, 2016 - Until Rosters Fill	Jan. 2, Mon - Wed Timberwilde Elementary 6:30-8:30 pm	1/14/17 – 3/11/17 Saturdays, Crossroads Baptist Church 9:00am – 6:00pm
Youth Spring Soccer (U6 – U14)	Feb. 6 - Mar. 10	Apr. 3, Mon- Thu GWN Soccer Complex 5:30 - 8:30 pm	4/15/17 – 6/3/17 Saturdays, GNW Soccer Complex 9:00am – 3:00pm
Spring Adult Softball (Adult Co-Ed)	Feb. 6 - Mar. 10	No organized practices scheduled	3/19/17 – 6/4/17 Sundays, Leon Valley Fields 2:00pm – 7:00pm
Summer Swim Team	Mar. 6 - May 19	TBD, Mon-Fri Silver Creek Swimming Pool	June – July 2017 Mondays/Tuesdays Location/Opponent TBD
Youth Fall Soccer (U6 – U14)	Jul. 24 - Aug. 19	Sep. 4, Mon-Thu GWN Soccer Complex 5:30 - 8:30 pm	9/16/17 – 11/11/17 Saturdays, GNW Soccer Complex 9:00am – 3:00pm

BACK THE BLUE WITH CITIZENS ON PATROL

The San Antonio Police Department offers residents the opportunity to participate in a special community involvement program named Citizens On Patrol (COP). The purpose of the COP Program is to prepare residents to be the "eyes and ears" of the police and to promote closer cooperation between residents and city agencies that exist to serve them.

To participate in this program, you will attend a four hour training class. Following completion of the class, you will have the opportunity to "ride along" with a police officer during a routine patrol shift. Class participants will complete an application and a background check.

For more information, or to attend a class at the Prue Road Substation, please contact Officer Bryan Cowan at (210) 207-6087.



COP CLASS SCHEDULE

**SAPD PRUE ROAD SERVICE AREA
5020 PRUE ROAD, SAN ANTONIO, TX 78240**

JANUARY 18	WEDNESDAY
MARCH 9	THURSDAY
MAY 3	WEDNESDAY
JULY 27	THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 27	WEDNESDAY
NOVEMBER 9	THURSDAY

CLASSES ARE FROM 6PM-10PM



January 18
7 p.m. in the Olivia Theriot Room -- Silver Creek

Join the Book Club as they discuss
[The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their
Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics](#)

For more details contact:

Lynda Welchel - txsun@satx.rr.com
JoAnn Sanderson - code318@aol.com

HAPPY 2017

Renee Townsend

Outgoing GNWatch Team Leader

Welcome to a brand new year! As we begin tearing the pages off another calendar, I would like to propose the following to my fellow neighbors in the Great Northwest:

- H Hello.** Take some time to meet a new neighbor. It all begins with a simple, "Hello!"
- A Attitude.** An attitude change begins with yourself. Determine to do something, and it will happen. Smilers are generally happier than sourpusses.
- P Plan.** Plan to do something to better your life. Choose a hobby and take some time to expand your horizons.
- P Purpose.** Live your life with a purpose. Don't just bump along down the road. Purpose to make a difference.
- Y You.** It all begins with you. As a man thinks in his heart, so is he!
- 2 Two.** You have two eyes, two ears, two hands and two feet. Put them to work for you.
- 0 Zero.** Zero is a lonely number. Buddy up with someone else and reaching your goals will be much easier. Burdens are also lighter when carried with someone else.
- 1 One.** Don't always assume that some "one" else will do the job. You very well could be that person.
- 7 Seven.** Each week has seven days. Won't you take one hour from one day each week to do something to better our community? Together we can make our community a better place to live.



Kicking Off 2017

A Visist to the Sophienburg Museum

JANET ANDERSON

O.W.L.S. Communication Officer

Ever ready and raring to find new sites to explore, our Senior group, known to you all as the OWLS, will kick off the New Year at the Sophienberg Museum in New Braunfels. Our museum outing takes place on January 17th.

The Sophienberg was built after Prince Carl of Solms-Braunfels (now the federal state of Hesse in Germany) became interested in Texas. In the mid-1800s, Prince Carl arrived in Texas and established the small colony of New Braunfels. At the time, Prince Carl was engaged the Princess Maria Josephine Sophie (Princess Sophie) of Lowenstein-Wertheim-Rosenberg. He built the Sophienberg in her honor, but when Princess Sophie refused to leave her homeland, Carl went back to Germany and never came back. Today, the Sophienberg is a historical museum and a piece of New Braunfels Heritage.

Won't you come to the OWLS meeting on January 10th to sign up and find out more?

The OWLS will also be dining out together on January 24 at a fairly new place called ASPEN CREEK on Bandera Road near 1604.

Our seniors just delight in exploring San Antonio as well as neighboring environs.

It's just \$10 to join for the entire year. Call our office at 681-2983 and ask for the number to call Pat Walker, our president. She will be so glad to hear from you!



Holiday Lights

Contest Winners

Emerald Valley

1st Place

Mello Family on Valley Bend

2nd Place

Ruiz Family on Valley Bend

3rd Place

Gutierrez Family on Valley Gate

Honorable Mention

Sanchez Family on Belle Village

Ridge Creek

1st Place

Logsdon Family on Ridge Shadow

2nd Place

Flores Family on Ridge Mill

3rd Place

Grathwol Family on Ridge Breeze

Honorable Mention

Juarez Family on Ridge Breeze & the Gunst Family on Ridge Place

Silver Creek/Timberwilde

Note: Because of the size of Silver Creek and number of available judges, Silver Creek was judged in two parts.

East of Timberwilde

1st Place

Logsdon Family on Ridge Shadow

2nd Place

Flores Family on Ridge Mill

3rd Place

Grathwol Family on Ridge Breeze

Honorable Mention

Juarez Family on Ridge Breeze & the Gunst Family on Ridge Place

West of Timberwilde

1st Place

Schultz Family on Timber Cabin

2nd Place

Bowling Family on Timber Cabin

3rd Place

McGowan Family on Timber Rail

Honorable Mention

Sanchez Family on Timber Hunt and the Chesser Family on Timber Run

Village Northwest/ The Commons/ Stagecoach Crossing

1st Place

Pappas Family on Woodland Hills

2nd Place

Rodriguez Family on Elm Glen

3rd Place

Smith Family on Woodland Hills

***Donut miss this chance to learn about volunteer opportunities within the City of San Antonio!**

Parks & Recreation, Development Services, SAPD Volunteers in Policing, Department of Human Services, Animal Care Services and the San Antonio Public Library will be in attendance to answer any questions.

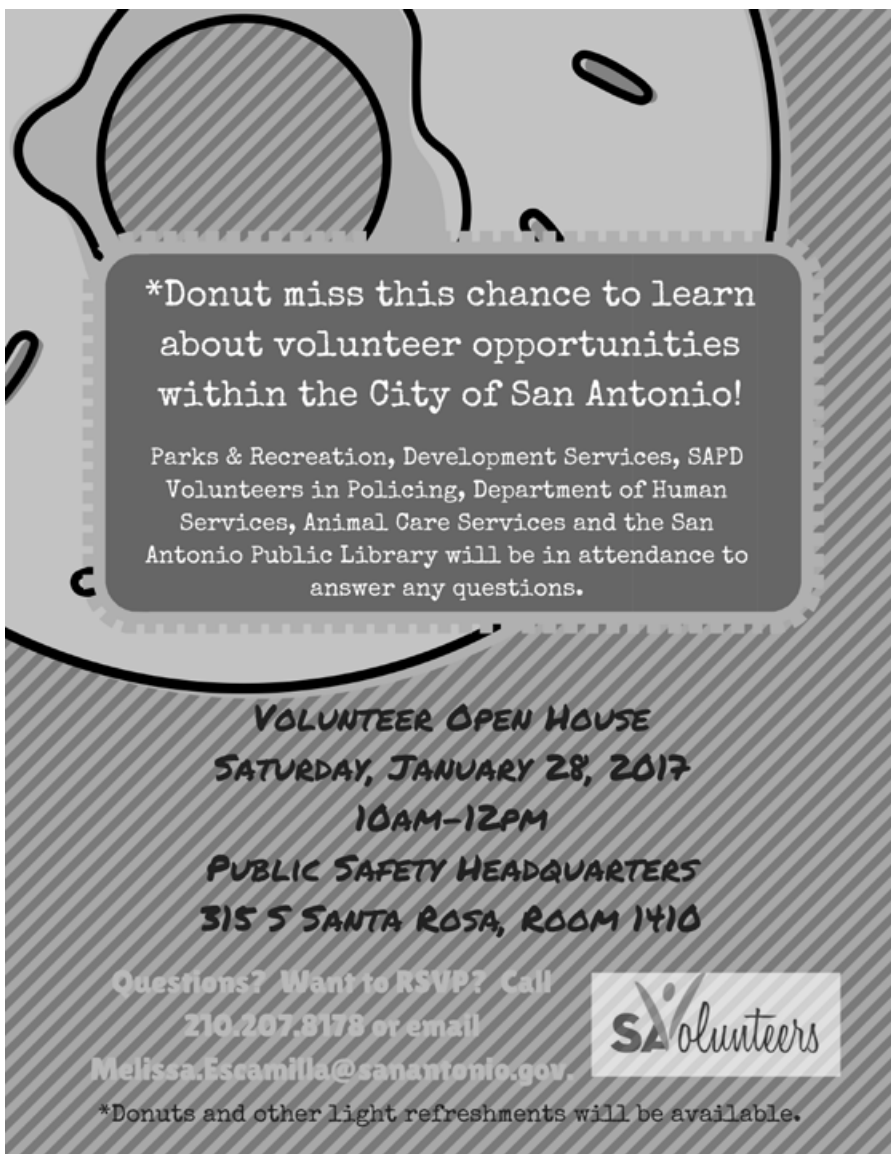
VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2017
10AM-12PM
PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS
315 S SANTA ROSA, ROOM 1410

Questions? Want to RSVP? Call
210.207.8178 or email

Melissa.Fscamilla@sanantonio.gov.



*Donuts and other light refreshments will be available.



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www.lancemeyerphotography.com

Valentine's Parent & Child Dinner & Dance

February 10 7 pm 8809 Timberwilde Dr.

Dinner Plate includes:

Spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, dessert and tea or lemonade

Tickets

\$5

Per Person



2016's Most Frequently Asked Questions

Jose Morlett

Deed Restriction and Architectural Control Officer

Q. My neighbor will not maintain his lawn and shrubs in a neat and orderly manner. What can I do?

A. Contact the deed restriction officer. A warning ticket will be put on his door and if the violation is not corrected in a timely manner, the resident will then be sent a letter with a fine.

Q. My neighbor has a dog that barks all the time, and when the dog is out, it runs free and messes up my yard. What can I do?

A. First of all, do the neighborly things -- go talk to your neighbor and see if this will help. If it does not, you should call 311 or animal control.

Q. My neighbor is loud, plays loud music, has parties, etc. What do I do? Who do I call?

A. Try to talk to the neighbor first. If this does not work, call SAPD. Neither the Association or Board of Directors have the power

Q. I never got a copy of the Covenants. Where can I get one?

A. You should have received a copy of the Covenants from your closing date when you purchased your home. If you did not, there are copies at our office and you can get them on line.

Q. I have a car with no license plates and/or current inspection. Can I park it on the property?

A. No, the association prohibits inoperable or non-current vehicles to be parked on preproperties. All vehicles parked on the residents property must be in operating condition, both legally and mechanically (cannot be inoperable). Current registration/inspection, and no flat tires as per deed restriction 6.16 (b). Any vehicle not in operating condition legally and/or mechanically will be given a citation.

By being familiar with your documents, declaration, covenants and restrictions and your association's rules and regulations, you will then avoid most misunderstandings that can take place in association.

Q. What if I can't correct the violation within the time allowed?

A. The most important thing to do is communicate with the deed restriction officer. He's not only here to enforce the deed restrictions but also here to help the residents resolve them. Let him know what your situation is and he'll help come up with a plan to help resolve the violation



DEED RESTRICTION

Activity from November 3, 2016 - December 1, 2016

Below is the list of calls/complaints to the Deed Restriction Department made during **November 3, 2016- December 1, 2016**. **Calls per day: 8-15. Correction Rate: 90%**. Abbreviations of sub-divisions are as follows: Silver Creek (SC); Timberwilde (TW); Ridge Creek (RC); Sage Coach Crossing (SCC); Commons (C); Village Northwest (VNW); and Emerald Valley (EV).

Complaint	SC	TW	RC	SCC	C	VNW	EV	TOTAL
Nuisance	51	39	66	40	44	55	77	372
Inoperable Vehicle	15	0	8	2	1	2	8	36
Basketball Hoop	10	1	7	0	1	0	10	29
Fence/Garage Door	9	0	3	3	10	2	16	43
Overgrown Grass	95	35	76	25	28	26	175	460
Boats/Trailers	3	3	5	3	1	2	9	26
TOTALS	183	78	165	73	85	87	295	966

ACC STATS

All exterior construction, additions, changes or alterations must be approved by an "Architectural Control Committee," as per section 5A.2-5A.9 of the deed restrictions.

November, 2016

Street	Improvement	Value
Timber Trace	Solar Panels	\$30,000
Cliff Valley	New siding & New Windows	\$15,104
Deer Village	Paint the exterior of their home	\$500
Deer Springs	Storm doors	\$915
Timber Lodge	Solar Panels	\$30,000
Valley Gate	Paint the exterior of home	\$1,600
Valley Ridge	New Metal Roof	\$17,500
Ridge Glade	Paint exterior of home	\$2,000
Ridgebrook	Solar Panels	\$16,000
Ridge Run	Solar Panels	\$16,070
Belle Village	Roof Addition	\$6,200
	Total	\$135,889

For more information pick up a copy of the GNW deed restrictions and the exterior design guidelines at the **GNW Lodge** or call **DRACO** at **210.681.2983 ext. 111**.

D.I.Y. ROOF INSPECTION

Mark Zoller
Director



Our homes have taken a beating these past couple of years due to heat and hail. The hot summer sun and multiple storms have required many of us to rip off the old shingles and replace them with new. In the Great Northwest roofing contractors have gone non-stop nailing shingles to the roofs of our homes.

The National Roofing Contractors Association recommends that we inspect our roofs twice a year. Your first option is to hire a professional to climb up high to do an inspection. Or, you can safely do a self-inspection from the ground or by climbing a ladder to the roof edge. Here are some DIY roof inspection tips.

1

Look for shingles that are missing or laying any way but flat. This is your first defense against water leaks. A reputable contractor can easily and affordably make these repairs.

2

Flashing is pieces of sheet metal placed over roof joints, on wall construction, and around chimneys to prevent water from entering the home. Check to see if the flashing has come loose or is corroded.

3

Facia and soffits bridge the gap between the roof line and your home siding. Replace any wood or aluminum that is cracked, rotted, or warped. A hole in your facia or soffit is an entrance to your attic for rodents.

4

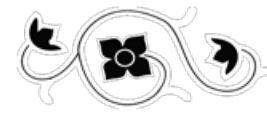
Roof vents and roof pipes often have rubber gaskets that dry and crack in the hot summer sun. Reseal these areas with a high quality sealant to keep out the rain, insects, and rodents.

Be careful and keep it safe. I prefer to stand on the ground with a pair of binoculars to inspect my roof. When I see a problem, I call my roofer to make the repair. Preventative maintenance can save you money in the long run.

The Gardening Spot: Indoor Plants

Camille Fiorillo
Horticulturalist

January can be a down time for gardeners but there are a few things you can accomplish this month to get ready for spring, which as you know, usually comes early in San Antonio.



If you are a seed gardener check out those seed catalogs and plan your spring plantings. Also look over your tools and see what needs sharpening, repair, or replacement. Good time to organize the tool shed and potting table areas as well. Clear out dead branches that may have fallen from the wind, I know I have plenty. Prune dormant fruit trees and grape vines. You may want to top dress your lawn with compost at this time.

With less to do outside, let's take this month to look at indoor gardening. According to a NASA study (<https://ntrs.nasa.gov/archive/nasa/casi.ntrs.nasa.gov/19930073077.pdf>) performed to determine how to clean air in space stations, certain plants were effective in removing benzene, formaldehyde, trichloroethylene, xylene, and ammonia from the air. Most listed are common plants that can be purchased locally or easily propagated. Some of the more popular are: Boston fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata* 'Bostoniensis'), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), Spider plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*), Peace lily (*Spathiphyllum* 'Mauna Loa'), Variegated snake plant, mother-in-

law's tongue (*Sansevieria trifasciata* 'Laurentii'), Weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*), and Aloe vera (*Aloe vera*). For a complete illustrated look at the list check out the e-tip below. They are nature's air fresheners!

Plants on the list have low level light requirements so they grow well indoors. Do not overwater. This is the most common cause of death for houseplants. Too much water in the soil blocks the roots from taking up oxygen and causes root rot. Fertilize with a general houseplant fertilizer according to package directions. Trim off any dead foliage as it occurs. I also find that cleaning dust and debris off the leaves promotes a healthier plant and looks more attractive. In a heated home the air tends to be a bit dry so a daily misting with a spray bottle is beneficial, especially for the ferns.

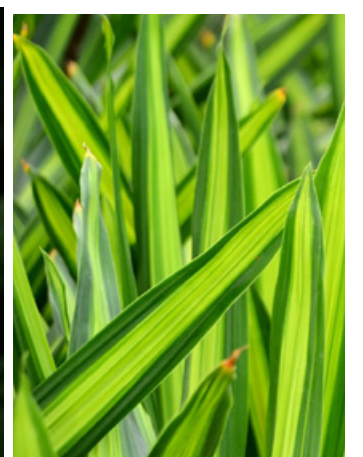
Wishing all a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous New Year and

Happy Gardening!

E-Tip of the Month:

Mother Nature Network shares 15 houseplants for improving indoor air quality.

<http://www.mnn.com/health/healthy-spaces/photos/15-houseplants-for-improving-indoor-air-quality/a-breath-of-fresh-air>



MONTHLY SECURITY ACTIVITY REPORT Activity from July 1, 2016 — July 31, 2016

Below is the list of calls/responses the Security Department made during July 2016. Abbreviations of sub-divisions are as follows: Silver Creek (S/C); Timberwilde (T/W); Ridge Creek (R/C); Village Northwest (VNW); Commons (C); and Emerald Valley (EV).

	SC	TW	RC	VNW	C	SCC	EV	TOTAL
Alarms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Animal Complaints	8	1	6	3	0	0	8	26
Assist Public	10	0	8	3	0	2	5	28
Burglary Res/ Bldg	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Burglary Vehicle	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Child - Missing	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Criminal Mischief	4	0	0	2	0	0	2	8
Criminal Trespass	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Deadly Conduct	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Deed Restriction	3	2	1	3	0	0	1	10
Disturbances	8	1	7	1	0	0	4	21
Lost/ Found Property	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Harassment - Threats	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Salesman/ Soliciting	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Suspicious Activity	4	0	0	2	0	0	1	7
Suspicious Pers./ Veh.	13	0	4	3	0	0	4	24
Thefts	2	0	1	0	0	0	2	5
Traffic Complaints	1	0	1	1	0	0	6	9
TOTALS	62	4	30	19	0	2	38	155

SECURITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES REPORT Activity from November 1, 2016 - November 30, 2016

Below is the list of responses the security department made when assisting the public during November 2016. Abbreviations of sub-divisions are as follows: Silver Creek (S/C); Timberwilde (T/W); Ridge Creek (R/C); Village Northwest (VNW); Commons (C); Stage Coach Crossing (SCC) and Emerald Valley (EV).

	SC	TW	RC	VNW	C	SCC	EV	TOTAL
Alarms	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facility Check	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Lost/Found Animals	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Jump Start Battery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home/Veh. Lockouts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Open Doors	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	7
Vehicle Lights Left On	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Welfare Checks	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Out-of-Town	113	0	0	0	0	17	12	142
Special Watch	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	34
TOTALS	117	0	3	2	0	18	50	190



How Security Serves You

Roger Burton
Security Chief

First of all, everyone in the security department hope everyone in the community had a very nice Christmas and happy New Year. We wish everyone a happy 2017.

I would like to start the New Year by letting the members in the community know some of the services the security department provides.

Please do not hesitate in contacting the on-duty security officer and report suspicious activities. Our number one job is "Crime Prevention". The best tool in combating crime is timely and accurate reporting.

Remember we are not a law enforcement agency. SAPD enforces all criminal laws and traffic violations. The Security Department's main function here is creating a safe and secure environment for the community through Crime Prevention methods. If you have an emergency that needs to be reported, you must call "911" immediately. For any non-emergency you can call SAPD at 207-7273. Once you have reported the incident to SAPD, please contact our Security Department at 681-6268 so we can initiate our own report. The reporting of all incidents helps our department analyze the information and this helps us know where we need to concentrate our resources. Our patrolmen will not get involved in any confrontation with the public. SAPD will be contacted to respond to any incident that a confrontation is likely. We will respond to such complaints as property crimes, suspicious persons and activities, loud noise, graffiti, deed restrictions, curfew violations or any similar type complaints. We cannot get involved in family/ domestic disturbances, so please contact SAPD for this type incident. Another number for everyone to remember is 311, which will reach an operator who can help you with city services, such as Code Compliance, Animal Control and etc. You will find this number to be very helpful. Here are some of the activities which maybe helpful to you.

Out of Town Check. If you are going to be away from home on vacation or other reasons, contact the on-duty patrolman and he will make a report. Our patrolmen will make a check of the property once every shift. At the time of the report our patrolman will give you tips on securing the property while you are gone.

Special Watch. If a homeowner has a continuing problem or the security department sees a possible problem at a certain resident we will place that home. A check of the resident will be conducted once every shift. We normally will do this if we see a trend developing or there is a continuing problem that exists.

Welfare Check. Give your family members the Security Departments telephone number so they can contact us if they are concerned about you. We can do a check on a family member, loved one or friends.

Lockout service. Lockout of your vehicle or home. Anything we do will require the individual to sign a waiver. If we cannot open the vehicle or home we will be able to assist you in contacting an agency that will. If you are having vehicle problems, contact us and we will assist you with a jump-start of the battery.

..... continued on the next page.

SECURITY SERVICES CONTINUED...

If it is something that we cannot help with, the patrolman will contact the appropriate agency for help.

Report a lost pet: Our patrolmen can help look for it during their patrol duties. If you have found someone's pet contact us so we can annotate it and hopefully locate the owner. Note: We do not have the facilities to keep pets that are found.

If a patrolman observes signs/flyers that have been placed on poles and mailboxes, etc., we encourage them to take them down. Please do not place any signs up. If you are missing a pet, you can contact the Lodge to see about placing a spot in the classified section of the "Passages" Newsletter.

If our patrolmen should find a home or property left insecure (garage/home doors) they will attempt to contact the resident to advise them. Remember most property thefts are crimes of opportunity. Remember to keep all your property

secured. Crime prevention is our number one priority.

We will assist SAPD in any way they request such as traffic control at traffic accidents.

We check Great Northwest association cards of persons using community recreation areas. We will enforce member and guest policies at recreation and park areas in the community. Please, always have your membership cards in your possession. Please get an updated year sticker placed on yours and all your family member cards by January 31, 2017. Anyone using the recreation areas without a card which has an updated sticker will be asked to leave the premises.

These are some of the services that we provide but are not limited to. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of service to you. We will help a resident in anyway possible. Please do not expect our security officers to do something that we cannot do for the rest of the homeowners.

Great Northwest Library

Upcoming events

San Antonio League of Sidewalk Astronomers WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017, 6 – 8PM

Please keep in mind that the telescopes need clear skies to see objects in the night sky so please call ahead. Come check out the night sky! This program is for all ages. Members of the San Antonio League of Sidewalk Astronomers will be outside with telescopes to show attendees the night sky. Weather permitting.

San Antonio Heartwarmers: Blankets for Critters SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017, 2 – 4PM

This group is for a circle of friends to get together a few hours each month and make blankets for rescue dogs. I started this group as a fun way to help doggies and also to meet other like minded friends!

No skill or talent required! Fleece tie blankets can be made very easily and quickly. For those with the skill and the materials, we can also sew, knit or crochet blankets. Anything goes! Any materials you can bring along are also greatly appreciated.

Mobile Mercado, Friday, January 27, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The San Antonio Food Bank's Mobile Mercado is a combination mobile mini-grocery and a healthy food truck. The Mobile Mercado's main focus is to increase the access to healthy food with an emphasis on seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables. Clients of the Mobile Mercado will experience samples of culinary tastings led by Certified Chefs or Nutrition Professionals highlighting the benefits of foods available for purchase. WIC food items will be available for sale and Lone Star cards (SNAP) will be accepted.

FROM THE COVER: FINDING LOVE IN THE AFTERMATH OF TRAGEDY

had bombed on a weekday, I could have lost two uncles, one aunt, and my grandfather, who were civilian workers at Pearl Harbor.

After the attack, Mom quit work to care for us. I remember her blacking out all our windows; air-raid wardens walking around our blocks; strapping gas masks over our shoulders while going to school and back; and two bomb shelter practice runs every day.

We lived on a main street at the end of a bus run. It seems we had more incidents with young G.I.'s who were not happy to be far away from their families and homes. Thank the Lord we lived through all of it.

Mom would give us a bath every day at about 5:00 p.m. and put our pajamas and robes on with nor more outside playing for the day. One day, she needed a loaf of bread. She asked me to walk three blocks to the store to get it. One block from home, there was a house

with a tall retaining wall. As I approached the wall, I noticed a sailor crouched down, leaning on the wall. He was calling to me, waving paper money and making a sign with his hands. I was only 7 years old but I knew it was a bad sign. I ran as fast as I could, constantly looking back to see if he was following me. I purchased my loaf of bread and ran up to the next street and ran home as fast as I could. There were no more "store runs" for me after that!

We had several more crazy incidents concerning young service men... far too many to talk about here.

Meeting her future husband

Jesse was a civil service worker in San Antonio, Texas. On December 7, 1941, his superiors asked for volunteers to go to Hawaii and help with the turmoil. He volunteered

and became a civilian guard at the Hickam Field AFB gate. My stepfather worked at Hickam AFB and often brought home people who were misplaced by the ugly war.

I was 8 years when he started bringing Jesse home. He was 15 years older than me and watched me grow up. I was shocked when I turned 19 and he asked me to marry him. I refused him because of the age difference. Broken-hearted, he left Oahu and went back to Texas. Our family didn't hear from him for another 35 years.

One day, he called Mom to tell her that he was going to Hawaii to visit them. I was living in Tulsa, Oklahoma at the time. She gave him my phone number, and gave me his phone number, and we "long-distance dated" for two years. On August 5, 1989, we went back to Oahu and got married on te Pali, where he first proposed to me in 1953. By then, the age difference did not mean anything. In fact, it was the

best decision I ever made. He gave me a wonderful life until he passed away from Alzheimer's in 2008. If it were not for December 7th, 1941, I would not have found my true love.



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