



# Village Voice

Official Publication of Villages of Hidden Lake  
Homeowners Association

June 2006

Volume 1, Issue 3

## Yard of the Month

By Marshall E. Addington

Congratulations! To Lee & Cherrie Jones at 18708 Dry Lake Lane and Mel & Asia Alvord at 18812 Sandy Shore Drive for winning the May 2006 Yard of the Month. These two outstanding yards were chosen as winners by the newly formed Yard of the Month Committee.



*18708 Dry Lake Lane*

The Yard of the Month committee's objective is to recognize outstanding curb appeal of an individual home within the boundaries of Villages of Hidden Lake. To encourage homeowners and residents to create and maintain front yard facades that promote curb appeal for the home and continue a neighborhood beautification development process.

The committee's chairperson is homeowner Judy Arnold, current committee members are homeowners Abby Gonzalez and Marshall Addington. The committee would like to increase by at least two more



*18812 Sandy Shore Drive*

members, if your interested please contact Judy.

The committee is planning to meet the last Monday of each month to vote on their nominees for the upcoming month. Two winners will be selected for May,

June, July and August. Winners will be recognized with a yard sign and featured the following month in the Village Voice as well as receive a \$50.00 gift certificate to Home Depot.



**Marshall E. Addington**

## Editor's Update

By Marshall E. Addington

Hope everyone had a great May, survived the spring storms, enjoyed honoring your Mother or being an honored Mother on your day and remembering those fallen to protect our freedom on Memorial Day!

We got some great feedback on the May issue of Village Voice I am glad you are enjoying and commenting on it. We will continue to do our best to provide you a great association newsletter.

As most of you know, we lost our latest association manager Eddie Moreno who resigned recently. His replacement was announced by PCMI/Severn Trent to be Ward Phelan. Mr. Phelan's experience includes serving as Manager of a 4400 lot development of Timberlakes/Projects America in East Texas, running his own Management Consulting Company and serving as a Senior Vice President of Risk Management for a public Professional Staff Leasing Company in Phoenix, Arizona. He is available for your calls and questions and has made it his personal goal to work to protect our investment within the Association and maximize the appreciation that investment can develop. Please welcome him, he has written an article for this issue to all of us.

We have the Yard of Month started with its new chairperson Judy Arnold and committee members Abby Gonzalez and I. This issue features the first winners named for the HOA representing the month of May.

I was able to go to the dedication of Lake Pflugerville on April 20th get some photos for those of you who were unable to be there. This month I would like to especially thank Joseph Davis and Jeff Boortz for their contributions to the newsletter and encourage all of you to participate in the HOA.

*(Continued on pg. 2)*

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# Village Voice

## HOA Contact Information

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1779 Wells Branch Parkway ..... Fax 512-716-0024  
Suite #110 B, Box 314  
Austin, Texas 78728

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### Yard of the Month

Judy Arnold, Chairperson, VOHL Homeowner  
lejuro@sbcglobal.net ..... 512-569-3038

Committee Members, Abby Gonzalez, Marshall Addington

**VOHL Weather Station...** [http://www.wunderground.com/  
weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=KTXPFUG3](http://www.wunderground.com/weatherstation/WXDailyHistory.asp?ID=KTXPFUG3)

### Community Message Board:

<http://villagesofhiddenlake.org/>

*This message board site was created as a means of communication for all interested members and was created by VOHL Homeowner but is not sanctioned by the HOA Board.*

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(Continued from Cover Page)

Remember, we need those Teenage Job Seeker listings they are free to teenagers in the neighborhood. Also, If you are selling a car or piece of furniture or anything like that and would like to run a free classified ad please contact me. I also ask for all of you to encourage your favorite businesses in Pflugerville, Round Rock and Austin to advertise in our newsletter, have them contact Peel, Inc or myself.

In July, I hope to be able to publish the HOA minutes, give you all an update on the city and/or HOA parkland development and much more. Until then have a great month and Happy Fathers Day!

## Pflugerville is Open for Business!

*By Marshall E. Addington*

The Pflugerville City Council has been seriously announcing the readiness to welcome new residents and commerce to Pflugerville with the campaign "Pflugerville is Open for Business!". The campaign opened with a ribbon cutting for the SH130 and SH45 project on March 2nd followed by the ground breaking of Pflugerville Parkway.

Mayor Cat Callen and City Manager David Buesing continue the city's public campaign with the official dedication of Lake Pflugerville on April 20th. The 48 million dollar 180 acre body of water is the city's new water supply designed to support a rapidly growing suburb of Austin over the next 20 plus years servicing the current population 28,000 residents that is expected to grow to 100,000 by 2025. Lake Pflugerville is also an exciting recreational addition to this small community.

May 4th the city council participated in the ground breaking of a new 203,000 square-foot Wal-Mart Store located at Pfenning Lane and FM 685. Wal-Mart will open in spring of 2007 and will bring to Pflugerville approximately 400 jobs and be the city's largest tax generator. Tax expectations exceed \$500,000 which will be a 25% increase to the city's tax revenue.

Expectations are that retailers and other businesses will flock to Pflugerville with the completion of the SH 130 and SH 45 projects with the additional growth around the new Wal-Mart and Pflugerville Parkway that will stretch from IH 35 to SH 130 through the city. Rumors are already circulating that Home Depot and Target are considering stores off FM 685 near Henderickson High School.

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## Community Concerns

By Marshall E. Addington

With the opening of Lake Pflugerville there will possibly be more traffic through our neighborhood. There is very little the HOA can do to prevent this because the streets are public property. We can however report any parking violations such as a blocked driveway or parking in front of a fire hydrant etc. to the sheriffs department. The HOA may at some point produce some signage if necessary to indicate our common areas that adjoin the lake are private property. We should monitor this closely and report any problems to the city and the HOA.

May 1st my neighbors the Rochas son in law Juan Gonzalez killed a 4 to 5 foot water moccasin "Texas Cottonmouth" between our houses on Hidden Lake Crossing. Please be aware of your surroundings out here at all times. This land used to be farm land that was not heavily populated. We are also surrounded by bodies of water large and small and water moccasins are traveling in search of food and water this time of the year. This is a highly poisonous snake that can be very aggressive if provoked. For those of you who are new to this area of Texas other pit viper snakes in the area are Diamondback Rattlesnakes, Copperheads and the Texas Coral Snake. Another neighbor Raudel Camacho had reported that he killed what he believed to be a rattlesnake on May 4th on his front porch, but it turned out upon closer inspection to be a rat snake which often mimics the rattlesnake by vibrating its tail and striking at potential predators.

The Texas Coral Snake is venomous; this snake with an average length of 2 feet has red, yellow and black bands encircling its body, with the red next to the yellow. Throughout Texas there are other snakes that mimic the coral snakes colors, such as the common non-venomous milksnake. To identify look at the stripes and remember this rhyme "Red and yellow, kill a fellow and Red and black, friend of Jack" The Texas Coral snakes stripes are red next to yellow and the milksnake stripes are red next to black. In the Austin area, if it looks like a coral snake, it probably is one, as they are common to this area. Milksnakes, are not as common as a wild snake but have been known to be escaped or released pets. Copperheads are venomous snakes usually 2 to 3 feet long. These snakes have broad bands in alternating colors of copper and light tan. Many of them may appear orange and brown. They tend to blend very well in fallen leaves and into the red soil found in this area. The Texas Cottonmouth water moccasin is generally olive green, black or dark brown in color can be as long as 5 feet. It is generally found near bodies of water but not always. This snake can be aggressive if provoked or startled and may warn you by shaking its tail and showing its mouth and fangs which looks a lot like cotton when exposed. This snake can bite under water. The Western Diamondback Rattlesnake is the most common rattlesnake in this area. This snake varies in color but generally is

*(Continued on Page 5)*



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# Village Voice

## Neighborhood Watch Update

By Joseph Davis, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

**Vandalism** is a criminal act against property, but when it's your property being damaged, it affects you on a personal level. You feel violated, and wonder how such a thing could have happened to you. While vandalism hurts and more than just in the pocketbook there are ways that you can prevent vandalism. Like other crimes against property and people, the first step to preventing vandalism is understanding the crime. People feel angry, sad, and frightened when something of theirs a mailbox, a garden, a car antenna is destroyed for no reason.

When does vandalism happen?

Vandalism can happen at any time of the day or night and in any season, but it most often occurs, in the evening during summer and fall on weekday evenings.

Vandalism has a tendency to decline during the winter months when individuals spend less time outside and on Saturdays and Sundays when public buildings and open spaces are under greater scrutiny.

Vandalism occurs most often at night, when fewer people are around and property isn't under as much scrutiny. Like most crime, a vandal's greatest threats are the Three Natural Enemies of Crime: Noise, Time, Visibility.

If a criminal has a good chance of being seen, has a high chance of being heard while committing the act, or has little time to vandalize property and get away, there is less chance that vandalism will take place.

Where does vandalism happen?

Vandalism happens everywhere, but most often occurs where the vandal has little chance of being seen. Most often, it occurs:

- Where building design and lighting offers concealment and anonymity
- In areas frequented by young people such as schools, parks, shopping plazas and public buildings
- In unoccupied buildings, open spaces or parked vehicles where minimum surveillance is given to property.

Who and Why?

Most vandals are young people, from grade schoolers to teens to young adults who damage property for one or more of the following

reasons: Boredom, Anger, Revenge, Defiance, and Alliance.

Graffiti is often the first sign that gangs are taking over a neighborhood. Gangs use graffiti as their street "telegraph," sending messages about turf and advertising their exploits. Graffiti identifies territorial boundaries, lists members, and communicates with rival gangs. The gang says "This place belongs to us."

What is vandalism?

Vandalism the willful damaging or defacing of property belonging to another person or to the public. Committing an act of vandalism is a criminal offence.

Is vandalism a serious problem?

People who own property that is damaged or destroyed by vandals usually see red, red rage and red ink. The costs of this unwanted destruction are high.

Should you care?

Experts in the area agree vandalism is a symptom; its presence in the community reflects an attitude of certain people. If enough people are aware of the problem the incident rate will decline.

Your taxes and HOA fees pay for damages caused by vandalism. Because of these costs many public sector educational and recreational programs and other services must be curtailed to absorb these costs. The private business person must simply raise prices.

Given the amount of damage, personal inconvenience and injury associated with vandalism, you should care. You're affected. You can help!

What can I do?

Become aware of the costs, dollars and otherwise. Community attitudes will change as individuals attitudes change. Set a good example for your friends and family. Discourage those you see about to damage something. It's the small things that count!

Clean up your property debris can be tools for vandals. Where you have had problems in the past, consider improved lighting and or security devices.

Cooperate with the Travis County Sheriff, Civic Agencies, your School Board and Neighborhood Watch, report cases you have witnessed!

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## Homeowner's Association Manager Update

*"New Kid on the Block"*

*By Ward Phelan, Project Manager PCMI/Severn Trent*

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your monthly newsletter. As your new Association Project Manager, I am committed to working with you to find acceptable solutions to your Association problems so that together we can improve your communities and neighborhoods.

At the current time, I am committed to a phase that I really wish was over. That is to learn both the systems and policies of PCMI, while also learning the restrictions and rules of your Homeowners Association. I am doing everything I can to absorb it in as little time as possible and get out in the field to meet with you and start responding to the needs.

By now you have learned that the introduction to the "New Kid on the Block" is really about a guy who is twice the age of the previous manager. I come from an East Texas Association with 4400 owners, five lakes, sixty seven miles of Association owned streets, two major floods and one hurricane. I was elected first to the Board of Directors to end two major lawsuits and then as Association Manager. I believe that the age difference brings a maturity of the assessment and decision making process. I hope after we work together, you will agree. I cannot mandate solutions for you that may work elsewhere, BUT, together, we can find those solutions that will work for Pflugerville.

We all have our hot buttons and our pet projects. That is what will make all of our Associations strong and yet diverse. When we work together, there is nothing that we cannot accomplish and if we can negotiate our views in good faith the end result will make our communities better.

I will be through with this training phase shortly. We will also be through the start-up of the pool season and at that point we can begin to work to improve what we have and see that it meets both your needs and those of your neighbors.

I encourage you to call me or even better write me an e-mail or letter. Be specific with your concerns so that I can begin to understand your concerns. I promise a returned call or a response within a reasonable time. You know and I know that while my time is committed to the learning process, that "reasonable time" is too long. As I get my feet on the ground that will change. I also am not a magician, I cannot change the past, I ask you to allow me to work in the present and future. I want you to be a PCMI advocate!

## Community Concerns- (Continued from Page 3)

brown, black, gray or green and has definite diamond or chevron or blotched markings. This snake has a rattle for a tail, unless it was lost in an injury. The young rattlesnake can be just as dangerous as the adult and often the rattle is not heard. Last summer a woman in Pflugerville out off Howard Lane left her home leaving the garage door cracked for her dog. When she returned home she drove into the garage and upon stepping out of her SUV in her flip flops a large rattlesnake without rattle warning bit her on the ankle. She is alive after an extended stay in the hospital and her husband has a new snake hat band. Non-venomous snakes common to our area are rat, garter, ribbon, bull, Texas lined, green and brown snakes. These are all non-harmful to humans and beneficial to control rodents in our area. The most common in the area is the Texas Rat Snake. This snake will vibrate its tail and make you think it is a rattlesnake even though they have no rattle. These snakes are blotched with many varieties of colors although most are dark. They are excellent climbers and can appear aggressive when cornered or captured. This snake will strike and even bite but it is non-venomous and harmless to human beings as this snake kills its prey by constriction. Always, be aware of this hazard to our neighborhood. Be careful when moving lumber, rocks or anything that has been stationary for a while, where a snake might like to hang out. Be watchful where you put your hands in foliage around your home. Last, be very cautious not to leave your garage doors open.

As many of you know we have suffered a bout of severe vandalism in our neighborhood. A large portion of the fence line columns from the pool heading west down Hidden Lake Crossing and at the court entrance of Shallow Pool Court have been destroyed by vandals. Also, the pool area was victimized by vandals causing a large amount of damage to the restrooms, trees, columns, signage and landscape lighting. In addition at least two stop/street signs and fencing were hit by what appears to be a paint ball attack. This has been reported to the homeowner's association manager and board of directors with requests to get this damage investigated and cleaned up. If anyone has any information that can aid the HOA and or law enforcement in determining who is responsible for this damage they are encouraged to report it immediately.

### TRACEY McCONKEY

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## Villages of Hidden Lake Resource Directory

### Emergency

Police, Fire, EMS	911
Fire Department – Emergency	251-4100
Pflugerville Police	251-4004
Poison Help	(1800) 222-1222
Travis County Sheriff	974-0845

### Animals

Animal Control (Austin)	972-4738
Animal Control (Pflugerville)	251-4004
Animal Damage Control (coyotes)	854-9613

### Hospitals

Austin Heart Hospital	407-7000
Brackenridge Hospital (County Trauma)	324-7000
North Austin Medical Center	901-1000
Seton NW Hospital	324-6000
St David's Hospital	901-1000

### Utilities & Communications

Allied Waste – formerly BFI (Garbage)	247-5647
AT&T (Telephone)	(1800) 464-7928
Atmos Energy (Gas)	(1800) 817-8090
Atmos Energy (Call before digging)	(1800) 545-6005
Cox Communications	930-3085
IESI (Garbage)	282-3508
Pflugerville Post Office	251-2735
Pflugerville Water	251-9935
Pot Hole (Streets Division) or FixIt Form	990-4388
Quantum Alarm	990-8400
Street Light Outage (Pflugerville Police)	251-4004
Traffic Signal Problem	251-4004
TXU Electric	(1800) 233-2133
Water Leak (City Hall) Regular Bus Hours	251-3076
Water Leak After Regular Bus Hours	251-4004

### Schools

Hendrickson High School	594-1100
Murchison Elementary School	594-6000
Park Crest Middle School	251-2396
Pflugerville High School	251-2238
Pflugerville Independent School District	594-0000

### Other

Better Business Bureau	445-2911
Fire Department (Administration)	251-2801
Greater Pflugerville Chamber of Commerce	251-7799
Pflugerville Library	251-9185
Pflugerville Municipal Court	251-4191
Pflugerville Parks & Recreation (Youth)	251-5082
Victim Services	670-5701

### News

Austin American-Statesman	445-4040
Community Impact Newspaper	989-6808
Pflugerville Pflag	251-2220
Village Voice	799-1255

### U.S. Government

U.S. President George W. Bush	(202) 456-1414
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U.S. Representative Michael McCaul	(281) 398-1247
U.S. Senator John Cornyn	469-6034
U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison	(214) 361-3500

### Texas State Government

Texas Governor Rick Perry	463-2000
Texas State Representative Mark Strama	463-0821
Texas State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos	463-0114
Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott	463-2100

### Travis County Government

Travis County Commissioner Karen Sonleitner (Precinct 2)	854-9222
Travis County Constable Bob Vann (Precinct 2)	854-9697
Travis County District Attorney Ronald Earle	854-9400
Travis County Judge Samuel T. Biscoe	854-9555
Travis County Justice of the Peace Judge Barbara Bemby	854-4545
Travis County Sheriff Greg Hamilton	974-0845
Travis County Tax Office	854-9473

### Pflugerville City Government

Mayor Cat Callen	990-4363
Councilman Bruce Wood	990-4363
Councilman Chuck Larosche	990-4363
Councilman Duane Blakeslee	990-4363
Councilman Kurt Reece	990-4363
Councilman Mark Gladney	990-4363
City Manager David Buesing	990-4363

### Teenage Job Seekers

Name:	Age:	Phone:	Job:
Chris Roddy	16	990-5240	Y
Edgar Gonzalez	15	251-1062	Y

B=Baby Sit, P=Pet Sit, H=House Sit, Y=Yard Work

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## Gardening Tips for June

By Jeff Boortz

Plant vegetable seeds. Chard, corn, cucumber, eggplant, okra, black-eyed peas, salsify, New Zealand spinach, Malabar spinach, summer squash, winter squash, tomatillo, Snap Beans, Pepper Plants, Sweet Potato

EARLY JUNE: Lima beans, beets.

Plant vegetable plants. Okra, peppers, tomatoes.

Remove the spent blossoms of flowering plants to keep them flowering. Prune aging annuals, such as petunias, once they become tall and leggy.

Continue to pinch chrysanthemums to obtain compact bushy plants.

Don't forget to provide supplemental water for plants such as hydrangeas, coleus, caladium, geranium, dahlia, azalea, and camellia. Hot, dry summer weather is extremely critical for these plants.

Prepare your pumpkin patch. The 4th of July is the time to plant pumpkin seeds if you want jack-o-lanterns by Halloween! Reserve an 8 foot by 8 foot area for each pumpkin patch. Make a hill of soil in the center and dig ample, good-quality compost into the hill. Go ahead and cover the entire area with at least three inches of mulch for now, to prevent weeds from seeding in. Right before planting the pumpkin seed (anywhere from the day of planting to a week before), gently rake off the mulch from the hill and mix in some good organic

fertilizer, such as Rabbit Hill Farm's "Buds and Blooms," or Lady Bug 8-2-4 with additional rock phosphate or bone meal. Make four to six holes, one inch deep, in the top of the hill. Plant one pumpkin seed in each, and pat down the soil. Water deeply. Sprinkle a light amount of mulch over the seeded area (a half-inch or so) and replace the three inches of mulch onto the sides of the hill. After the seedlings emerge (in seven to ten days) clip all but two or three of the strongest plants. As the plants grow sturdier, more mulch can be added onto the bare soil around them, but do not pile up mulch onto the stems. Keep your pumpkin hill well-watered, since these giants of the vegetable world need plenty of moisture to grow.

Plant herbs. Artemesias (mugwort, southernwood, wormwood), basil, bay, catnip, chives, comfrey, epazote, lamb's ear, lavender, lemon balm, lemon verbena, Mexican mint marigold, mints, oregano, pennyroyal, rosemary, sage, winter savory, tansy, thyme, yarrow

Plant annual flower/ornamental seeds. Amaranthus (including love-lies-bleeding and Joseph's coat), aster, balsam, castor bean, celosias (including cockscomb), cleome, cosmos, cypress vine, feverfew, four o' clocks, heliotrope, impatiens, marigold, moonflower, morning glory, nasturtium, nicotiana, periwinkle, salvia, torenia (wishbone flower), vinca, zinnia



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