

# SENDERA

SENDERA HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## Message from the Sendera HOA Board Members

It has been another busy year for the Sendera neighborhood. Some events you may have noticed and others happened out of the sight of residents. These events required us to yet again tap into our reserves. Because of the continued depletion of our reserves, we decided to update our reserve study to determine the appropriate balance for our HOA. Taking it all into consideration, we will once again be increasing our monthly HOA dues by 5% to \$40.11. This increase is necessary not only to recover the costs included in the projected budget but also to replenish the HOA's reserve. Having an appropriate balance of reserves allows us to be prepared for these unexpected events as well as anticipated capital improvements.

This year we have had various scheduled and unexpected events that have required us to expend funds. Those events include the replacement of the gabion wall at the water quality pond located north of Davis Lane after a significant rainstorm, two accidents on Slaughter Lane that knocked over the rock wall, a drunk-driver crashing into the pool, and the Norman Trail Park relocation.

The relocation of the Norman Trail Park was completed in 2016. In preparation of that project, the HOA set aside \$40,000 over a 2-year period. Project costs were slightly over budget due to unanticipated City of Austin permit fees.

The gabion wall replacement was an unexpected expense. As you may recall, the HOA had just incurred about \$50,000 to make improvements to the pond. After the flood, the wall had to be completed rebuilt at a cost of about \$30,000. With these improvements, we are confident that the wall should not be impacted by flooding in the future. In addition, we have entered into a more

stringent maintenance contract to ensure that the pond and wall are kept in the best shape in order to pass city inspections. The HOA Board will also begin discussions with the City of Austin about taking ownership and maintenance responsibilities of the pond.

The rock wall along Slaughter Lane had to be replaced twice after vehicles lost control and crashed into the wall causing it to collapse. In one of the accidents, we were able to recover the cost of the wall construction from the driver's insurance. In the other accident, we were unable to recover the cost as a police report was not filed and the identity of the driver was unknown. Therefore, we were forced to incur the cost. Because the cost was less than our insurance deductible we were not able to file against our insurance. The cost of these two accidents was about \$10,000.

The costliest accident was caused by a drunk-driver crashing into the Sendera pool area, destroying the fence and the kiddie pool. In this case, we anticipate to fully recover the costs from the driver's insurance. Unfortunately, that has not occurred yet.

From a maintenance viewpoint, the Board continually analyzes our costs. This year we hope to address the locations that use large amounts of water in order to reduce our water usage. We will consider landscape alternatives to address high usage areas.

As an HOA Board we generally try planning for maintenance, but as has happened in recent years, it cannot always be planned. As always, please feel free to attend a monthly HOA board meeting or call a member if you have questions.

-Sendera Board of Directors

## NEW SCHEDULE FOR HOA MEETINGS

HOA monthly meetings will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church on the **3rd Thursday of each month**. (This is a change from 2nd Tuesdays.) Mark your calendars for the first meeting on **January 19, 2017, 6:30 pm**.

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## HOA WEB SITE

Sendera HOA Web Site: [www.senderahoa.org](http://www.senderahoa.org)

## NEWSLETTER INFO

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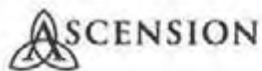
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# THE CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY: AN 'EYE-WITNESS' ACCOUNT

by Alison Carpenter

The Austin Police Department has been burned in the past by negative press from social media. Now the department is using social media to better advertise its community outreach. A recent Nextdoor post called for applicants for the 2017 Citizen Police Academy (CPA), a popular series of free classes hosted by APD twice a year and open to the public. The program allows Austin's citizenry to get a better understanding of APD operations and what police officers do on a daily basis. As of May 2016, the CPA website boasts 2,258 citizen graduates from 87 classes.

Glynn and Tricia Wilson, Sendera residents for nearly three years, attended the Citizen Police Academy this past spring and graduated

do, the training they go through, the difficulties they are faced with every day, and many other VERY interesting facets of the APD. The meetings are once a week, and it's very in-depth and educational. There's no mid-term or final exam, but there is a rewarding graduation at the end."

Q: *What motivated you to apply?*

"We were interested just for curiosity's sake, but when our youngest son decided to become a Round Rock policeman, we were compelled to attend."

Q: *Were any of your instructors memorable or commendable?*

"Our class was organized by Surei Scanlon, a very competent, intense, and beautiful woman and a very experienced, senior police officer. She enlisted other officers to speak about the different units of the APD. In a single class session, there were presentations on two or three different units. Frankly, every one of the 15 classes was interesting and often riveting."

Q: *Did you have a full class (50 people)?*

*What was the class demographic (old, young, diverse ethnicities)?*

"I think we had about 45 folks. I would say that there was a fairly even age mix but not a big diversity in ethnicities. According to Surei, it's not due to the lack of trying. With all of the conflict (misunderstanding on both sides) between the black community and the police, the CPA is a great place for the black community to air their concerns to the police and the rest of the class. Of course, it is also a great platform for the police to demonstrate that the majority of cops are empathetic people who are there to help and protect us."

Q: *Did the class interact with each other or was it strictly lectures? Any anecdote(s) you would like to share about class interaction?*

"The class members were encouraged to interrupt most presentations with questions and opinions. There was plenty of informal discussion between class members and with Surei. [Several] news media people and  
*(Continued on Page 5)*



from Class 86. They were kind enough to share their experience with this readership.

Q: *How would you generally describe the CPA?*

"The classes are to better educate Austin citizens about what the police

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(Continued from Page 4)

lawyers [attendees] gave some of the presenters a run for their money. These folks had an educated perspective regarding law enforcement, and they interacted well with the presenters. The interaction was not adversarial but offered even more clarification to topics like 'use of force.' Probably the best interaction we had was with Chief Acevedo who, on several occasions, stated that he offered no support or protection to police officers who are in the wrong. On one occasion he stated that the problems in Ferguson, MO could have been avoided if the leadership had not been so dedicated to protecting its bad apples. We had much more access to Chief Acevedo during the class than we ever expected. From this interaction with the Chief, it really helped us appreciate the great job he did for Austin."

[Editor's note: Police Chief Art Acevedo was immensely popular (by police chief standards,) but he recently resigned after succumbing to job offer temptations from the Houston Police Department. Our current Interim Police Chief is Brian Manley, a 26-year veteran of the force.]

Q: *What was your favorite/most interesting section that the CPA covered?*

"Every presentation was interesting and educational. I know that sounds like a cop-out (no pun intended), but the most interesting presentations were Burglary and Robbery and the classes on 911 and Dispatch held at the Combined Transportation, Emergency and Communications Center (CTECC). Also, [the classes at] the Austin Police Academy where we learned about SWAT and Air Operations."

Q: *Anything else you would like the readers to know?*

Glynn: "After I had several presentations under my belt, I did a ride-along with an APD officer in the Ida sector [between 51st St. & Anderson Ln.] It was an extraordinary experience. There were three calls with lights and sirens, which were ten times more fun than a roller coaster. Experienced a domestic violence call, an attempted suicide, gangbangers shooting up the neighborhood, saw a couple of crack houses, and a woman who assaulted a security guard at a motel and was pepper-sprayed and eventually arrested. I've left out a bunch but came to the conclusion that these great police officers are peace officers, social workers, medics, and the eyes and ears of the community. I think that ride-along was enhanced by my experience with the CPA.

The total CPA commitment is for 16 weeks (there was a week skipped for Spring Break). Parking is easy and readily available and sandwiches are served at every class. I highly recommend this class to anyone who can dedicate this much time. If you do this class, you will have an entirely different view of the police and a whole new respect for them."

At the time of this newsletter's publication, the CPA application process will be closed for the Spring 2017 classes. Follow Nextdoor for the next class announcement, usually around May. The CPA website has all the information you need if you are interested in a future class. <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/citizen-police-academy>

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# Happy New Year From the Sendera Recreation Committee

*Submitted by Suzann Vera*

Join us at the next meeting for Sendera event planning:

**Tuesday, February 7, 2017**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Backspin Bar & Grill**  
**5000 W Slaughter Ln # 206**

Current information can be found between newsletters at:

NextDoor <https://senderaaustin.nextdoor.com>

Sendera HOA website <http://www.senderahoa.org/>

Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/SenderaHOA/>

**Mark Your Calendars for these 2017 Sendera Events:**

- April 1 Easter Egg hunt
- TBD Spring Garage Sale
- TBD Ladies Night
- June 10 Dive In Movie
- July 8 Dive In Movie
- August 12 Dive In Movie
- October 14 Fall Festival and Chili Cook Off
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