

# SENDERA

SENDERA HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## NEW BUSINESS, NEW FACES AT SENDERA ANNUAL MEETING

The HOA Board had a lot of ground to cover in the 2018 annual meeting. Guest speaker Brian Thornton was there to summarize District 8 policy news as it relates to Sendera. Our representative from FirstService management, Stuart Jones, put a friendly face to our behind-the-scenes HOA business. And one board member stepped down to make way for a new one.

Brian Thornton opened the meeting by announcing that our District 8 representative, Ellen Troxclair, will be unavailable for several more weeks due to maternity leave. Upon return she will continue to be dedicated to keeping our property taxes and utility bills low. Brian reported that an audit of the Austin Water Utility led to the discovery that 'rogue employees' were recording random numbers from meters, explaining why many water bills skyrocketed in SW Austin. That problem has been fixed, and now we 'should see a slight reduction' in our water bills, he said.

One Sendera resident broached the subject of the 7-Eleven gas station proposed for the corner of Sendera Mesa Drive and Slaughter Lane. Many in the audience were disappointed to learn that the developer has 'grandfathered rights' to the property, making it highly likely the construction will commence as planned. In response to complaints, Brian reminded us that the city charter gives legislative powers to the council but not legal powers; meaning, Troxclair's office does not have grounds to halt development via a lawsuit. Sendera's best course of action would be to pursue a partnership with environmental groups such as the Save Our Springs Alliance (SOS) to see if 'recharge zone concerns' could delay or stop the plan. A board member pointed out that even if construction can't be halted, we should stay involved and make sure we get as many concessions as possible from the developer.

Another resident asked about the much-needed traffic light at Davis & Copano. While Brian couldn't answer definitively at that moment, at the time of this newsletter's deadline, construction was expected to begin before the end of May.

Next on the agenda was HOA board elections. Patrick Pulido's term expired and he was ready to step down from his position as Vice President. The board called for anyone interested in filling the position. Sarah Morse, a 14-year Sendera resident, was the only one

to answer the call to volunteer. She was immediately accepted and confirmed by unanimous 'ayes.' (See profile on page 3.)

The First Service representative, Stuart Jones, stood up and gave a brief presentation of what his company does for Sendera. He presented the management report detailing the budget, and described his company's functions, including collection assessment, financial reports, and obtaining bids from contractors. Angie Flores, HOA President, reminded everyone the new website, [www.senderahoa.com](http://www.senderahoa.com), is the go-to spot for Sendera. She stated they were working on getting a message board up at the website to help transition the neighborhood dialogue away from Nextdoor.

First Service then took some heat from residents about the new \$35 fee required to submit an Architectural Control (ACC) Form. The board defended the policy by stating, 'it's an industry standard to charge a fee.' In addition, they specifically wanted a company that would liaison with residents during the application process. This would ensure all of the paperwork is in compliance before it makes it to the ACC committee. Based on the board's past experiences, this process is necessary to reduce the amount of volunteer time spent on applications. The board announced it is very pleased with the efficiency of the process now.

The meeting was then turned over to the individual committee members to give their reports. Many signup sheets around the room were available for residents who wanted to volunteer to be on a committee.

Patrick Pulido on the Neighborhood Watch team requested more participation in the program, covering any hours, day or night. Volunteers are provided with a vehicle magnet for easy identification and to prevent misunderstandings. James Craft is the point of contact at [senderacrimewatch@gmail.com](mailto:senderacrimewatch@gmail.com). He is compiling a list of residents' numbers who would like to be notified via phone call or text if their garage doors are accidentally left open at night.

Ron Urias, Pool Committee, reported that there is new lighting around the pool amenity to prevent loitering and 'sneaky' activity. He also stressed the need for volunteers to help out with monitoring the pool cameras, tidying up the pool area, and prevent non-residents from using it as a public park. One resident expressed

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Contact First Service Residential Management for all problems or issues regarding neighborhood amenities.

### ARCHITECTURAL

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### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... 512-263-9181  
Article Submissions ..... www.peelinc.com  
Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com

## HOA WEB SITE

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

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY/Fire/EMS..... 911  
Non-emergency Police/Government Services..... 311  
“Call Before You Dig” ..... 811

### City of Austin Utilities (Electricity/Water/Waste)

Customer Service..... 512-494-9400  
To report electrical outage  
(need PowerLink # from your bill)..... 512-322-9100

### Texas State Gas

Customer Service..... 1-800-700-2443  
Gas Leaks ..... 1-800-959-5325

### Schools

Cowan Elementary ..... 512-841-2700  
Bailey Middle School..... 512-414-4990  
Covington Middle School..... 512-414-3276  
Bowie High School..... 512-414-5247

### OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Post Office ..... 1-800-275-8777  
Austin Public Library – Hampton Branch ..... 512-974-9900



## MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER

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*(Continued from Cover)*

concern about the age of lifeguards: is a 15-year-old too young to enforce the rules on other teenagers? She was assured that young lifeguards must still be certified through extensive training and are always paired with an adult/senior lifeguard who supervises them. Ron stated that HOA board members are also on call to assist lifeguards with residents who are non-compliant.

Tom Franke leads the ACC Committee and reported that most applications are for solar panel installation. Also popular are paint color applications. Co-chairs Steven Cannella and Duane Galligher are working with Tom to reevaluate the guidelines for paint, making sure they stay modern and popular. The paint palette was revised in 2016, but the ACC committee says this year they plan to 'work with professionals in the industry' to give more flexibility and choice.

Angie and Stuart closed the meeting by thanking everyone who attended. They both encouraged contact with First Service management for neighborhood questions and problems. Angie emphasized that **ALL questions, problems, or complaints from residents should be relayed to First Service, NOT Nextdoor.** Stuart or his assistant Cassie Burgess (contact information on page 2) are on hand to take care of whatever we need. The meeting was adjourned before 9 pm, allowing residents to hit the pizza and cookie table one last time.

## New Board Member Sarah Morse



Hi neighbors! I'm Sarah Morse. My husband Matt and I have lived in Sendera for 14 years. We have three boys, ages 5, 10, and 12, plus one dog. I'm originally from the suburbs of Chicago, and I have a political science degree from North Central College in Naperville, IL. I've been a stay-at-home parent for several years and am heading back into the job market as my youngest heads to kindergarten this fall. I love to read, write, and work on creative projects. A few of my favorite places in Austin are the HOPE Outdoor Gallery, the Natural Gardener, and Matt's El Rancho. I'm looking forward to getting to know more of my neighbors, so if you see us at the pool this summer, say hello!

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## POOL AMENITY DOS AND DON'TS

by Ron Urias

Here is a friendly reminder about some of our pool regulations. We want everyone to have a great time and we don't want to interfere with your leisure time. Please remember the following rules:

- No glass containers in the pool area.
- No alcohol allowed in the pool.
- No smoking on pool grounds.
- Birthday parties and celebrations need to be scheduled with our management company, First Service Residential.
- The park closes at 10PM. Please tell you teen children it's NOT ok to hang around the pool after hours.
- No pets allowed in the pool at any time.
- The pool closes at 10PM so please leave in a timely manner.
- There are 11 cameras on pool grounds recording activity.
- Do not prop open the door to the pool.
- Minors (under 16) are not allowed in the pool without the company of an adult or parent.
- No "cut-off" shorts are allowed, only proper swimwear.
- The pool guards are there for your safety and that of your family so please obey their orders.

Have a GREAT summer and we'll see you at the pool.



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## Recreation Committee News June 2018

By Suzann Vera

### Seeking New Chairperson:

New chairs are sought for 2019. We would like to begin the transition this summer so that the new chair(s) have sufficient time to shadow and take on the responsibilities.

The Sendera Recreation Committee chairperson is responsible for planning and implementing neighborhood events with other committee volunteers to promote a sense of community in our neighborhood. One can expect an average of 8-10 hours per month time commitment, not including the actual time to attend events. Duties include:

- Set agenda and facilitate volunteer meetings 4-6x per year.
- Recruit volunteers for events.
- Review budget and decide which events will be implemented and which contracted to a vendor.
- Plan and implement events to accommodate all Sendera residents: singles, families, and seniors.
- Work with the HOA management company and event vendor to set dates.
- Promote all events by posting flyers and information on social media.
- Present committee report at annual HOA meeting.
- Attend events to meet vendors and oversee logistics.
- Submit monthly newsletter event information to newsletter editor.

If interested, contact Suzann Vera at [suzannchili@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzannchili@sbcglobal.net) or 512-291-0174.

### Seeking Volunteers:

The Sendera Recreation Committee's always needs and welcomes volunteers. Our goal is to provide opportunities for all of our residents to socialize and get to know one another, creating a sense of community and building a safer neighborhood. Please sign up! There is no minimum time commitment, simply help out on the events when your schedule allows.

### 2018 Events

- June 9th Dive In Movie at dusk: The Incredibles
- July 14th Dive In Movie at dusk: Jumanji
- August 11th Dive In Movie at dusk: Pirates of The Caribbean
- October 13th Fall Festival, 8:00 pm-10:00 pm
- October - Halloween Decorating Contest
- December- Christmas Decorating Contest

### Up to date information can be found between newsletters at:

NextDoor <https://senderaaustin.nextdoor.com>  
Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/SenderaHOA/>  
Sendera HOA website <http://www.senderahoa.com/>

## Need Help? Find it on Nextdoor



Are you looking for a reliable babysitter, yard worker, or tutor? The best way to find neighbors for hire is to ask for recommendations on Nextdoor.

Create an account at [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com). Then post your inquiry to find neighbors available for

hire, or advertise your own services in a quick and easy way. Nextdoor is a free job listing service that is always up-to-date and based on community participation.

The Sendera neighborhood has over 75% participation on Nextdoor, so it is the most efficient way for residents to solicit jobs or hire help. Best of all, it's online, so the more people use it, the better connected we can all be.

## CALL THE SWAT TEAM!

by Tom Franke

Mosquitos are in your face again. Every year around this time a few citizens reach out to the Surface Water Team of the Watershed Protection Department because they think that droves of mosquitoes are emerging from the neighborhood creek or pond. City environmental scientists have found that this has not yet been true and that the real story is much more insidious.

### Let's start with the lowly mosquito, a little fly (Mosquito is Spanish for "little fly.")

At best, they seem to be a quick snack for dragonflies, and at worst, they are a vector for disease. They have changed the course of human history and remain an important part of the ecosystem, but most of us know very little about them. Besides the basic understanding that they spend their larval stages in water and emerge as adults, most people don't know anything about the diversity, intrigue, details, and ramifications of their life cycle. If they did, we probably wouldn't have as many mosquitoes buzzing around. The Xerces Society at [www.Xerces.org](http://www.Xerces.org) has great information if you are interested. **Mosquito larvae are delicious food for a lot of fish, frogs and predatory aquatic insects like dragonflies, damselflies and beetles. Due to these predators, mosquitos have generally evolved to avoid laying eggs in locations where their predators live (like streams and ponds).** As a testament to this, for over 19 years the environmental scientists of the City of Austin have been monitoring water quality in creeks by collecting aquatic bugs and their records show that out of the 763,126 invertebrates collected to date, there were only 1,440 mosquitos, which is less than two-tenths of one percent (0.0019)!

### So if the creeks and ponds aren't chock full of larvae, where are all the mosquitoes coming from?

In our area, mosquitoes that typically bite us fall in to a group often referred to as "container breeding mosquitoes." These species select small, temporary, stagnant habitats as their egg-laying sites because those areas don't have predators that prey on the larvae. Their natural habitats are places like cavities in trees, pools of rainwater on top of bedrock and small puddles left from receding floodwaters. These pools just need to be as big as a tablespoon of water, last for about a week and are usually nutrient-poor. Residential areas provide an explosion of new habitat options ranging from clogged gutters, French drains, pet dishes, bird baths, buckets, potted plants, old tires, tarps, forgotten cups and lots and lots of trash (<http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu/index.swf>). The trade-off for developing in these nutrient-poor habitats is that female mosquitoes must supplement their normal diet of plant nectar to produce eggs, and they do this by stealing a blood meal from a host animal, which varies depending on the species of mosquito. Most often the sources of nuisance mosquitoes are found within a few feet of the home of the resident calling in a complaint. Species such as the Asian tiger mosquito rarely fly more than 50 feet to bite, and their average lifetime flight distance is less than 200 yards.

When environmental scientists from the City respond to citizen requests to investigate a creek near the source of a mosquito complaint, the sampling reveals that mosquitoes are rare or absent from the creek, but are numerous in nearby containers.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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## What should I do?

The historic strategy of scorched-earth, broad-spectrum mosquito management has led to environmental disasters both on large and small scale. Attempts to treat ponds and creeks would kill a lot of other invertebrates and it would not even be effective at controlling the species that bite most frequently (the container breeding species that live around homes). The most effective way for homeowners to control container breeding mosquitoes is to conduct a careful inspection of areas around the home and to reduce or eliminate containers of standing water adjacent to the home. Bird baths and pet dishes are okay, as long as the water is not allowed to stand for more than 4 days. When treatment is absolutely necessary, fungal and/or bacterial treatments are better than broad spectrum pesticides as they are better suited to targeting mosquitoes and other flies without affecting other beneficial organisms. These types of treatment are most effective when they were used in proper places like gutters, rain barrels, yard drains, air conditioner condensate collectors, etc.

## Useful Links:

- Request a site assessment to look for mosquito breeding habitat: [www.austintexas.gov/department/vector-control](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/vector-control) or call 512-978-0370
- Go on a virtual safari to hunt for mosquitos - <http://mosquitosafari.tamu.edu/index.swf>
- Download a fact sheet to share with neighbors - [www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/mosquitos.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Watershed/growgreen/mosquitos.pdf)

## Etiquette for dog owners

Dog owners have a responsibility to manage their pets' behavior and follow certain rules of etiquette. Follow these guidelines to ensure that you and your dog are being courteous community members.

- **Scoop your poop.** Bring several bags on your walks to be sure you have enough. If you run out, either come back and clean it up later, or ask another walker if they have a bag to spare.

- **Prevent barking.** Practice getting your dog's attention to easily redirect him if he barks at people or other dogs. If you know your dog acts this way, only allow him in the yard when supervised.

- **Only let your dog greet a stranger if they ask.** The same rule applies if you see another dog and owner approaching. Ask first and respect the other's response.

- **Always leash your dog on walks.** Not everyone is comfortable around dogs. Keep your dog close to you and stay alert to others. Your leash should be short enough to prevent your dog from contacting or jumping on passersby.

- **Don't play while on leash.** If you meet another dog on a walk (and it's alright with their owner) let the dogs sniff each other for five seconds and move on. Letting your dog play with another dog while on leash can result in injury and teach your dog that all dogs enjoy this kind of interaction, although many don't.

- **Be aware of other people's feelings.** If your dog does something to upset someone (jumping up, barking) apologize to them and take measures to prevent the situation from reoccurring.

*This information and other pet resources can be found at <https://www.animalhumanesociety.org/training/pet-behavior-library-0>*

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# Coffee-Chocolate Chip Cookies

## INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups flour
- ¼ tsp baking soda
- ¾ cup butter softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 3 tbsps cool strong brewed coffee
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 pkgs (8 ozs.) semi sweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 ½ cups chopped walnuts

## DIRECTIONS

- Heat oven to 325 degrees.
- Combine flour and baking soda.
- Beat sugars & butter until light & fluffy.
- Blend in coffee, egg & vanilla.
- Gladually beat in flour mixture until well blended.
- Stir in chopped nuts & chocolate. Refrigerate 30 mins.
- Roll dough into 60 x 1" balls, place on cookie sheet 2" apart.
- Bake 10-12 mins. Enjoy!

# TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION

## MUD DAUBERS



Mud daubers are a great wasp to have around. They are solitary, generally docile, and can help to reduce various bugs in the landscape. Mud dauber wasps are ¾- 1" in size and come in a variety of colors. They have a very thin, thread-like waist.

Mud daubers create a mud structure that they provision with insects and/or spiders; they lay an egg on each prey item within a cell in the nest, and then seal the nest off. When larvae hatch from eggs, they eat the items provisioned for them, pupate, and then emerge as adults to begin the process over.

Management is not usually needed for mud daubers as they do not guard their nest like other wasps. While they are capable of stinging, they are not considered to be aggressive. If you do not like the look of the mud nests, you can remove them with a putty knife.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

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