

# SPRING TRAILS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING TRAILS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VOL 1

ISSUE 12

## The Election Results Are In!

Spring Trails elected 2 members November 14th to serve 3-year terms on the Board of Directors: Mr. Anthony “Tony” Domingo and Mr. Roger Olsen.



### **Anthony “Tony” Domingo**

Tony and his wife Dorothy have been residents of Spring Trails since 2007. He is retired from the U.S. Postal System and currently serves as the Election Chairman of Postal Union NALC 283.

Tony has prior experience serving on a community Board of Directors, 9 years as President. He is an active volunteer on the Spring Trails Events Committee, and previously served on the Monument Committee and Landscape Committee.

Tony’s goal as a Board member is to work toward improving Spring Trails and keeping it a desirable location to live.



### **Roger Olsen**

Roger and his wife of 43 years, have 3 children, and 11 grandchildren. He is an Army Veteran of 27 years Active Duty with a Master of Healthcare Administration from Baylor University. After retirement in 2016 Roger served 10 years with Harris Health System and Texas Childrens.

Roger Olsen was appointed Director in July to serve out the balance of a vacated term ending November 2019. Since joining the Board, Roger has served as Treasurer and steward to the Beautification Committee. Prior to joining the Board, Roger served as a member of the Fence Committee 2014 to 2018, and Chair of the Beautification Committee which oversaw the community reforestation efforts in 2019.

Roger’s goals as a Board member include:

- Looking for opportunities to enhance the beauty of our

community through easily adaptable solutions.

- Consistently evaluating how the safety of our community can be maintained and improved wherever possible, especially for children.
- Ensuring “best practices” are always used when considering our community.

On behalf of the Association, the Board of Directors thanks all candidates for their dedication desire to serve this wonderful community.

## Announcement

In accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws, Officer positions were appointed at the November 15th meeting of the Board of Directors.

**Leanne Kessler, President**

**Ian Grain, Vice President & Assistant Secretary**

**Roger Olsen, Treasurer**

**Tony Domingo, Secretary**

**Jerry Rueschhoff, Association Liaison to MUD 94**

Connect with any member of the Board of Directors through the Spring Trails website under the Requests menu - [www.springtrails.com](http://www.springtrails.com).

# SPRING TRAILS

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## Plant it Forward!

Another successful reforestation effort was completed in November thanks to the efforts of the Beautification Committee, resident volunteers, and Trees for Houston.



*Sixteen crape myrtles planted at Rebecca Fields Ln. on November 2nd.*



*53 Texas-native trees were planted November 9th at Hawthorn Trails entrance, Redbud Creek Pond and the Tot Lot behind Mulberry Park.*



*Seed stomp November 2nd at future bluebonnet/wildflower garden across the street from Cypress Park.*

Thank you to the committed volunteers of the Beautification Committee for ensuring Spring Trails continues to be "The Forest of Possibilities". Beautification Committee volunteers: Collin Blood, Fernando Guirola, Craig Pennington, John Rigsdell, Jackie Robinson, Marcia Rueschhoff, Stanley Ruggerio, Michael Ruggerio, Jim Schwartz, Genette Willbanks.

## 2019 Outstanding Volunteers and Community Partners

Spring Trails came together at the Annual Meeting of the Members, to celebrate another successful year. One of the many highlights of the evening was recognizing resident volunteers and community partners for their contributions and dedication to Spring Trails. Certificates and beautiful plant arrangements, donated by Silversand Services, were presented to each as a token of appreciation and thanks:

### Brett Bruschke

for his service on the Board of Directors,  
March 2018-November 2019.

### Genette Wilbanks

for her service on the Communications, Events and  
Beautification Committees.

### Ruth Hutyra and Malinda Seger

for their leadership and service planning and coordinating  
community events throughout the year.

### Al and Mary Nowak, and

### Dolores and Ralph Jones

for their unwavering support and service at Spring Trails events.

### Jacob Corbin

for his leadership and service coordinating and developing a  
plan to renovate the tennis courts at Cardinal Park.

### Lisa Benoit

for her generous contributions both in service and  
underwriting events.

### Deputy Donald Etheridge

for going above and beyond to protect and serve Spring Trails.

Thank you to all who attended and to all who have so  
graciously served our community and neighbors.



## Mark Your Calendars!

**December 3rd – MUD 94 Board Meeting**

**December 4th – Recycle Pick Up**

**December 6th – Christmas with Santa**

**December 12th – HOA Meeting**

**December 13th – Heavy Trash Day**

**December 18th – Recycle Pick Up**

*No recycle pick up scheduled  
first Wednesday of January*

**January 7th – MUD 94 Board Meeting**

**January 9th – HOA Meeting**

**January 10th – Heavy Trash Day**

**January 15th – Recycle Pick Up**

*Visit the Spring Trails Website, Calendar  
for event times and venues.*

*Happy Holidays from*

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## SPRING TRAILS

# 2019 A YEAR IN REVIEW



Spring Trails was named 2019 Community of the Year by the Community Associations Institute Houston Chapter. This achievement is awarded to a community association “which has exhibited excellence over the course of the past year in the areas of management, governance, finance and lifestyle opportunities.”

A new and consistent look with updated stone veneers were added to village and park monuments.



The community pool was completely resurfaced. Turtle and sea life mosaic embellishments were added for younger residents to enjoy.

All common area wrought iron fencing was cleaned, repaired and repainted.



Two reforestation events resulted in nearly 200 trees being planted throughout the community.

### Beneficiary of 4 Eagle Scout projects in 2019:

1. Pollinator garden
2. Bench at Redbud Pond
3. Rockers at the Gazebo
4. Tree dedication program



# Thank You!

On behalf of the Association, the Board of Directors would like to thank guest speakers Constable Ryan Gable and Mr. Justin Hemperley with CenterPoint for taking the time to share their insights and answer questions at the Annual Meeting of the Members.

## *Holiday Peace of Mind*

You have a lot to think about during the holidays: making plans, decorating the house, hosting parties, finding the perfect gift for everyone on your list. But above all else, you want to keep your family and home safe. The National Safety Council, US Consumer Product Safety Commission, and insurance carriers offer these tips for a safer and happier holiday season:

### **Decorate Safely**

Decorating is one of the best ways to get in a holiday mood. When decorating consider these tips:

- Keep potentially poisonous plants – mistletoe, holly berries, Jerusalem cherry and amaryllis – away from children.
- If using an artificial tree, check that it is labeled “fire resistant”.
- If using a live tree, cut off about 2 inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Remember to water it and remove it from your home when it is dry.
- Place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources, making certain not to block doorways
- Avoid placing breakable ornaments or ones with small, detachable parts on lower tree branches where small children can reach them.
- Only use indoor lights indoors and outdoor lights outdoors.
- Choose the right ladder for the task when hanging lights.
- Follow the package directions on the number of light sets that can be plugged into one socket.
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Opt for battery-operated candles.

### **Minimize Your Risk of Theft**

Don't be a victim. Minimize your risk of burglary by following these simple tips:

- Avoid sharing your plans and intentions on social media.
- Break down shipping and packing boxes before recycling them.
- Be vigilant about locking doors (home and vehicles).

### **Going on vacation?**

- Notify your neighbors, the police and post office of your plans.
- Use a timer to turn lights on and off while away.
- Postpone deliveries.
- Leave a car parked in the driveway.



# SPRING TRAILS

## Be Informed

Stay up-to-date on community news by registering with the Spring Trails website at [www.springtrails.com](http://www.springtrails.com). There you can review the Community's governing documents, preview and RSVP to upcoming community events, contact property management and the Board of Directors, request amenity access, sign up for text and email announcements, read about community initiatives, and much more.

## How Can I Get Involved?

Every month we read about how our community neighbors come together to celebrate, collaborate, and sometimes just play in the dirt. Would you like to be involved? Spring Trails offers a variety of opportunities for residents. For example you may enjoy serving on a committee, or helping out at an event, or even writing an article for the newsletter.

If you would like to get involved or have questions about any of the Association's committees or events, please contact the Board of Directors through the Spring Trails website at [www.springtrails.com](http://www.springtrails.com), under Requests.

## Reminder...

2020 Maintenance Assessments are due January 1, 2020. Contact Inframark at [customer care@inframark.com](mailto:customer care@inframark.com) if you have not received your annual statement or to arrange payment.

## Monster Mash

*Contributed by Malinda Seger*



The annual Monster Mash on October 26th was the best one ever! Over 600 residents came to enjoy the inflatables, music, games, pizza, Kona Ice, and show off the children's Halloween costumes while "trick or treating" from car to car at our very first Trunk or Treat. Twenty-eight families participated in the Trunk or Treat by decorating their

trunk in a Halloween theme, dressing up in costumes, and passing out candy to the children who stopped by their trunk. Many parents at the event said that the Trunk or Treat made the event so much more fun and special for the kids. Thank you to all the wonderful fun-loving participants who volunteered to make the newest addition to the Monster Mash a great success! The children and parents voted for the best decorated trunk and the "Residents' Choice Award" was given to the Stubbs family for their awesome Astros themed trunk.

Several businesses also sponsored a "trunk" or "fun station"; Buddy from HEB, the Chick-fil-A Cow from Chick-fil-A, The Children's Lighthouse, and Lisa Benoit with Abby Realty. The South Montgomery Fire Department also came in a fire truck to pass out candy and remind neighbors that October is National Fire Prevention Month. Their contributions to the event added a lot of excitement for the children, photo ops, and lots of great memories!

The Monster Mash would not happen at all were it not for the volunteers who started preparing for it days in advance, and on



*(Continued on Page 8)*

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# SPRING TRAILS

(Continued from Page 6)



Saturday worked from 9:00 a.m. till 10:00 p.m., setting up, working during the event, and then cleaning up and putting away the supplies. Thanks to Al and Mary Nowak, Dolores and

Ralph Jones, John Rigsdell, Jena and Brandon Ross and their two sons, Marissa Keen, Lisa and Dylan Benoit, and Events coordinators, Ruth Hutyra and Malinda Seger. Thanks to those of you who stayed after the event to help clean the area! We may not have gotten your names, but you are truly appreciated!

More volunteers are needed! The Events Committee would like to invite you to be a part of a great group of neighbors who love to be of service and make new friends. Be sure to check out the volunteer opportunities on the Spring Trails website when the events are announced.



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# Pet Place

## Reasons to “Scoop the Poop”

by Jennifer Magness, DVM

Dogs are a very popular pet and are found in many households. There are 70 million pet dogs in the United States alone. Opening up your home to a dog also means accepting responsibility for that pet, including cleaning up their waste.

Most people have heard the term “scoop the poop” but some people may not have heard the reasons why this is so important. Some people view dog feces (or what most people call dog poop) as a good fertilizer, but this is actually a myth. Dog diets mostly contain animal products such as chicken and turkey. Thus, a dog’s waste contains substances created by the breakdown of the animal products. It does not enrich the soil for plants such as grass. If not picked up, dog feces can enter waterways via storm drains after it rains. Nitrogen in the feces depletes the oxygen from the water, and the water is made harmful to fish and other aquatics. It is often listed as the third leading cause of water pollution. Dog feces are also considered an environmental pollutant as it contains harmful organisms.



One gram of dog feces may contain as much as 23 million bacteria. Harmful bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli can be found in dog feces. Parasites such as Giardia, Cryptosporidium, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms may also be found. Many of the parasites (usually in a resistant egg form) linger in the environment for years, even if the rest of the dog feces breaks down over time. Both bacteria and parasites are health hazards for both humans and animals that come in contact with them.

Besides the “ick” factor of stepping in dog poop and the unpleasant odor of it, dog feces can serve to attract pests (such as flies) and rodents (such as rats). Being a responsible pet owner and scooping your dog’s poop is important for the community health of both humans and animals. It helps Improve local water quality. Scooping your dog’s poop also promotes favorable views towards dogs by others in the community.



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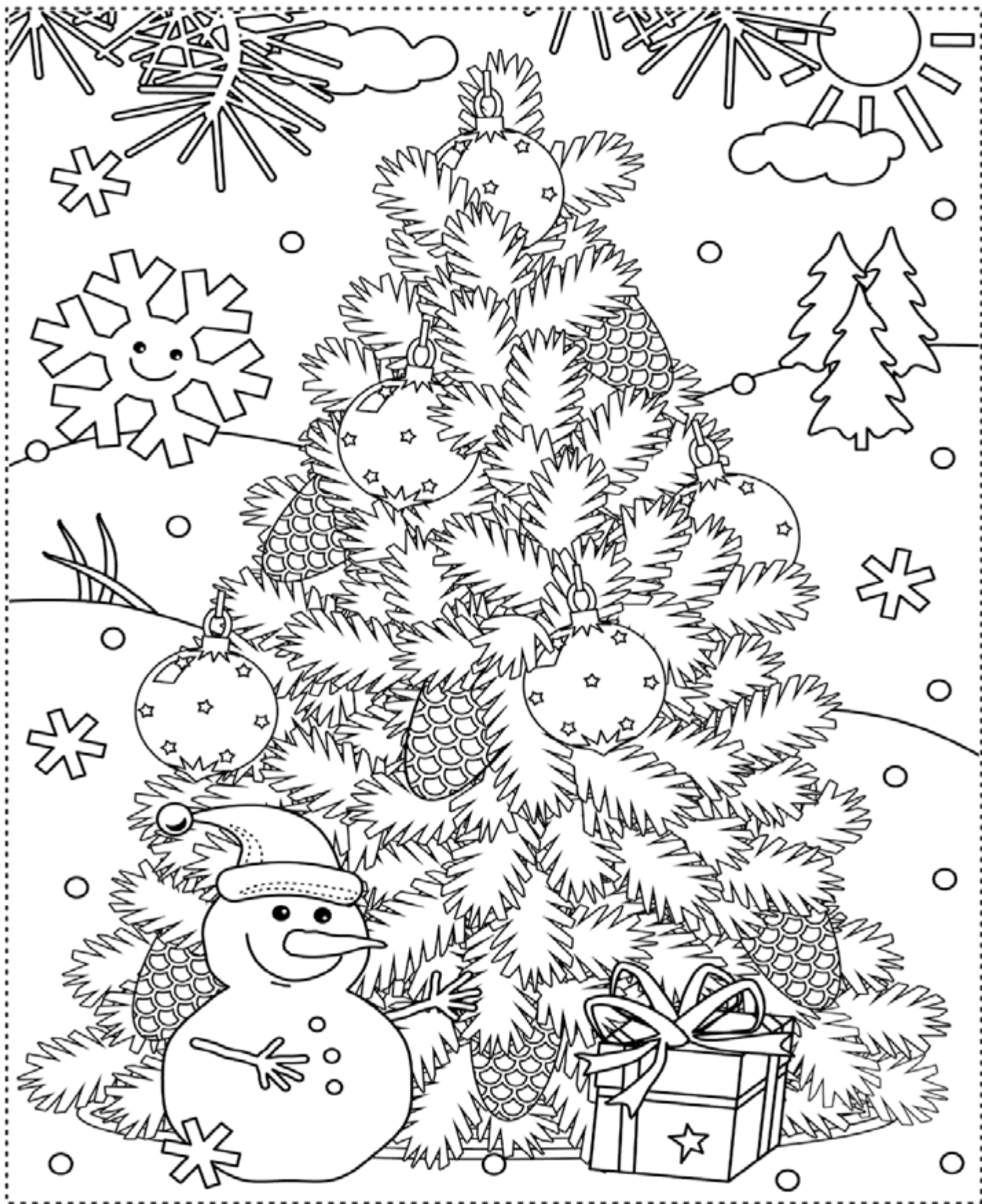
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