

# SPRING TRAILS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING TRAILS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VOL 2

ISSUE 6



Have you noticed the wildflowers growing in a small area across from the swimming pool? Great! Thank you Mrs. Marcia Rueschhoff for championing that superb effort! Now, what's all the activity at the walking trail near Broadway Elementary? Well, it's a pollinator garden makeover!

**THE BACK STORY:** In the Spring/Summer of 2018, Christian Hansen, a local Eagle Scout candidate was looking for an Eagle Scout project. He had always loved wildlife and animals. While attending a presentation by Mercer Arboretum, he learned about pollinator gardens which ultimately became his chosen project. Christian originally selected the Nature Center as the recipient of the garden, but his Mom Jessica convinced him to consider Spring Trails as the project recipient.

Over the winter, Christian prepared by designing the garden layout and growing flower sprouts indoors at his home. By March of 2019, he was ready to execute his plan. With the help of a team of volunteers, Christian excavated the site, tilled the ground, and introduced the flower sprouts he had so carefully cultivated to their new home.

Fast forward to January 2020, the Beautification Committee was tasked with updating the garden. Spring Trails resident volunteer and member of the Beautification Committee Michael Ruggerio agreed to take the lead. He designed decorative

additions to the garden and selected a variety of Texas native flowers to compliment the existing plants and attract a variety of pollinators. And when April arrived, Michael and the Beautification Committee launched.

Under the direction of Michael and his gardening expert Mom, Stanley Ruggerio, members of the Committee and Spring Trails Board widened the garden path, installed decomposed granite and stepping stones, added a space for a future seating area, and planted dozens of colorful flowers.



SO WHAT NOW you might ask? Residents are invited to admire the garden as it grows and children in particular are encouraged to visit and see Mother Nature's phenomenal artistry at work. But don't blink, cause coming soon are roses, bird houses and more.

*Continued on Page 2*

# SPRING TRAILS

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### Continued from Cover



#### Learning moment

*The more color in your garden, the wider variety of pollinators you will attract. Bees are attracted to bright blue and violet colors. Hummingbirds prefer red, pink, fuchsia or purple flowers. Butterflies enjoy bright colors such as yellow, orange, pink and red. The flowers found in the community pollinator garden include: African Blue Basil, Agastache, Bidens Blaze, Blue*

*Mist Flower, Cleome, Coneflower Echinacea, Cosmos, Cupea Karalee, Daylilies, Euphorbia, Honey Dew Melon Sage, Lantana, Lemon Balm, Mexican Mint, Mexican Milkweed, Milkweed, Pineapple Sage, Porterweed, Ruellia (Mexican Petunia), Sage, Salvia – multiple varieties, Shrimp Plant, Sweet Basil, Turks Caps, Verbena, Vitex, Wedelia, Yellow Cape Honeysuckle and Yellow Wild Indigo.*

Special thanks to our resident volunteers and service partners for their vision, contributions and devotion to our community: Eagle Scout Christian Hansen and his mom Jessica Hansen; Beautification Committee members, Jim Schwartz and Craig Pennington for their help in planning and work in the Garden; Committee members Stanley and



Michael Ruggerio as guiding lights and champions for the refreshed garden; the Plants for All Seasons team for their expert advice; Spring Trails Board members Jerry Rueschhoff, Roger Olsen and Leanne Kessler for physically supporting and cheerleading the project; Cameron and Lane Cross and George and Jennifer Lendvai for donating decorative stones used in the garden; Mr. Frank Moore (Trees by Frank) for shaping the trees near the garden; the MUD 94 Board for their enthusiastic support of the project; and the numerous walkers and runners who stopped to thank the garden volunteers and offer greatly appreciated encouragement.





## Mark Your Calendars!

June 2nd – MUD 94 Board Meeting

June 3rd – Recycle Day

June 11th – Spring Trails HOA Board Meeting

June 12th – Heavy Trash Day

June 17th – Recycle Day

July 1st – Recycle Day

July 7th – MUD 94 Board Meeting

July 9th – Spring Trails HOA Board Meeting

July 10th – Heavy Trash Day

July 15th – Recycle Day

*Community events are temporarily suspended in accordance with federal, state and local social distancing guidelines.*

## HOA Updates

### Cardinal Sports Park

LED lighting upgrades and new digital timers were installed at the community tennis and sports courts, completing the park's courts renovation project. Park rules have been updated and new signs installed. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, temporary park rules have been imposed in accordance with CDC health and safety guidelines. These temporary park rules supersede standard park rules and will be updated and announced as new COVID-19 related guidance is received. These temporary park rules are being announced via email to all residents registered through the Spring Trails website, are posted at the park, as well as the Spring Trails website.

### Swimming Pool

Re-opening of the pool is expected early June. Temporary pool rule changes and stricter sanitation accommodations will be required to protect the Association and residents, as well as the Association's pool service partner. These temporary rules will be announced via email to all residents registered through the Spring Trails website, and will be posted at the pool and on the Spring Trails website.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you to this month's Newsletter Contributors: Michael Ruggerio, Roger Olsen, Junior Reporter Samantha R, and proud parents of 2020 graduates. Residents interested in submitting stories or articles for inclusion in the newsletter can do so online at <https://peelinc.com/index.php/submit-an-article/>. Articles are due by the 10th day of the preceding month.

**SEE OAK RIDGE HIGH  
SCHOOL GRADS  
ON PAGE 4!**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy Review, Events and Amenities Committees have been unable to meet due to COVID-19 social distancing limitations but will resume activities as soon as it is safe to do so. Residents interested in participating on a volunteer committee are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors through the Spring Trails Request Manager for referral to the appropriate committee chair.





# *Congratulations Graduates!*

Congratulations Spring Trails 2020 graduating seniors! Graduation is a special milestone. It marks both an end to one journey and the beginning of another. It's warm memories of the past and big dreams for the future. Whatever endeavor you choose to pursue, be confident, be determined, and enjoy your journey.

## GRANT MARTIN



### **Oak Ridge High School**

Enjoys running for his Cross Country team and independently studies computer science.

He received the title of Valedictorian among over a thousand classmates for the class of 2020.

Grant will study Computer Science at the University of Texas at Austin.

## MASON MCWILLIAMS



### **Oak Ridge High School**

Enlisting in the military.

We are proud of his accomplishments and know he will leave his mark on this world.

## MAKENZI MCWILLIAMS



### **Oak Ridge High School**

Will continue her education at Tarleton State University pursuing a degree in Criminal Psychology.

We know that she will accomplish all that she sets out to achieve.

## JUNAH ARIMOND



### **Oak Ridge High School**

Will be attending Lone Star College to pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering



# JUN OR REPORTER

## Cardinals

*By: Samantha R. 4th grade*



Have you seen a pair of Cardinals swooping around your backyard looking for sticks? Well then they might be making a nest in your backyard right now. When Cardinals lay eggs it will take between 11 to 13 days til the eggs hatch. In the meantime the male

Cardinal will guard the nest from squirrels and other birds. The female Cardinal will only lay 1-5 eggs. When the baby Cardinals hatch they will look like a featherless tiny Cardinal with only one or two hairs.

As the baby Cardinals grow they will gain more feathers. The babiness doesn't last long because they will be ready to leave in 9-11 days. Sadly the female and male Cardinals only use the nest once. That means even through stormy, rainy, or very hot days they won't use their nest.



## FUN FACT

Did you know that a male Cardinal will stay with brown feathers until the winter where they get the red and black feathers?



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# Are You Ready to Be a Pet Parent?

*Contributed by Dolores Del Lago*



I was chatting with my friend Max through the fence yesterday about how nice it is having our people at home so much lately. Max asked if we needed to be worried about this virus that's on TV. My person works in the healthcare arena and I informed Max that there is no evidence that animals play a significant role in spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. I tried to convince my owner that we could get it from the Cat, but he wasn't buying it. So the

Cat is still here (sighing). While pets are not considered a risk to our humans, we can get COVID-19 from you if you are positive. So if you are diagnosed with COVID-19, please take precautions to keep us four-legged children safe and healthy.

I have noticed more dogs being out for walks and spending quality time with their people, which is great for both. We pets enjoy our time with you so much and, in turn, we provide a great deal of comfort and healing. Pet owners report having fewer recorded illnesses and even recover more quickly when they do have bouts with illness. They are better equipped to handle daily stress and even experience less cases of depression. When you are petting your dog or cat, not only does it lower your pets' pulse rate and blood pressure, it lowers yours as well. Having a pet around simply helps to make a happy, healing home. So if you have a pet in the house, great! If you don't, I would encourage you to either adopt or look into fostering a sweet little dog or cat from our local Montgomery County Animal Shelter.

Fostering is a great way to see if you are ready to become a fulltime pet-parent. The shelter has put some safety guidelines in place during the COVID-19 mitigation, but they are open for business and they need your help. You can schedule an appointment to adopt or foster by calling (936) 442-7738 or going to their website: <https://app.waitwhile.com/welcome/mcasfoster>. Every dog and cat deserves to be as spoiled and pampered as I am. Please think about adding a loving little soul to your family. If you know someone who lives alone, encourage them to consider a furry friend!



## Thank You

A grateful shout-out to Justin Rana and Dylan Benoit for volunteering their time to pick up litter along the walking trail at Turtle Creek and along Tara Spring Dr. Together they picked up 5 bags of litter/garbage and in the process made our community a cleaner place to live. Justin and Dylan just finished 8th grade at York and donated their time as part of their volunteer service hours for National Junior Honor Society.

If you have a teen interested in earning community service hours, or are simply looking for a way to give back to the community, please contact property manager Khara Mathews for referral to one of the resident-volunteer Committees or Board members.

## GO GREEN



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## June Home Maintenance Checklist

At this point, your garden should be planted and new Spring routine in place. Time to prepare for the heat of summer. Here's a quick checklist to get you started.

### Air Conditioning System

Outdoors clear shrubs and debris from around the air condenser and clean and realign bent or crushed fins. Indoors vacuum the blower unit, replace filters and check/clean the air conditioner condensation drain line.

### Pest Control

Trim shrubs or bushes that touch your home's exterior. Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property. Keep bird feeders at least 25 feet from your house—spilled seeds can attract rodents.

### Refrigerator

Clean condenser coils by removing dirt, pet hair, or any nasty food that may have found its way in there. Clean the door gaskets with a mild cleaner and check the seal integrity.

### Garage

You'll likely be spending more time in outdoors during the summer. A clean organized garage can make that time much more rewarding. Take old paint cans to a hazardous waste drop-off point, sell or give away items you no longer use, and organize the rest (garden tools and supplies, outdoor adventures and sports gear, and household tools).

### Gutters and Downspouts

Clear leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts to avoid leaks and siding damage from summer storms.

### Irrigation Systems

Check spigots, hoses and sprinkler heads for leaks and damage that may have occurred during colder months. Check timers and programmers to avoid over or under watering lawns and flower beds.

### Smoke Detectors

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# SPRING TRAILS



## Yard of the Month

The annual Yard of the Month program kicked off in May. Three yards will be selected each month, May through August. Winners will receive a gift card and their yards highlighted on the Spring Trails website and newsletter (due to the timing of yard selection and newsletter deadlines, the newsletter announcements will begin with the July issue). Good luck and happy landscaping!



## Welcome to Spring Trails!

New to Spring Trails? Welcome! You've probably already figured out how unique Spring Trails is. Well you ain't seen nothin' yet. 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.

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## Kids Can Save Lives by Getting Active at Home



(Family Features) As millions of people across the globe social distance and self-quarantine to help prevent further spread of the novel coronavirus, kids and families can help save lives by getting active at home.

With 55 million students in the United States affected by school closures, teachers, families and kids are incorporating options like UNICEF Kid Power into daily at-home schedules. A free program, the platform hosts a library of interactive dance, yoga and learning videos featuring WWE Superstars, DreamWorks characters and more. These 3-5 minute "brain breaks" help keep kids moving, provide lessons on global citizenship, encourage positive screen time, establish a sense of control and connectivity, and empower them with purpose.

As kids dance, move and learn, they unlock therapeutic food packets that get sent to severely malnourished children around the world. More than 900,000 kids across the U.S. have come together to save 100,000 lives. Through the program, kids also provide meals to their local food banks, give supplies for doctor visits and plant trees in their communities. The more active they are, the more lives they save. Families and teachers can get involved at [unicefusa.org/KidPowerAtHome](https://unicefusa.org/KidPowerAtHome)

Beyond this program, UNICEF USA is also providing practical guides

and resources for families, including ways to keep kids safe from online harm, adjust to online learning and a quiz that unlocks \$2 in funding while outlining how COVID-19 compares to past outbreaks.

Globally, the United Nations Children's Fund is providing relief and support to vulnerable communities as they combat the ongoing pandemic. To date, the organization has reached more than 40 million health care and frontline workers with hospital equipment and personal protective equipment, as well as more than half a billion people with prevention, hygiene and informational messaging. As this crisis will have continuing effects on millions of people, UNICEF has appealed for \$651 million to address the growing humanitarian needs and provide long-lasting response.

Adults and kids can combat the impact of coronavirus, one dollar or dance move at a time. Just \$3.30 can provide 100 pairs of disposable gloves to health workers. To help fund relief programs, visit [unicefusa.org/CoronavirusRelief](https://unicefusa.org/CoronavirusRelief)

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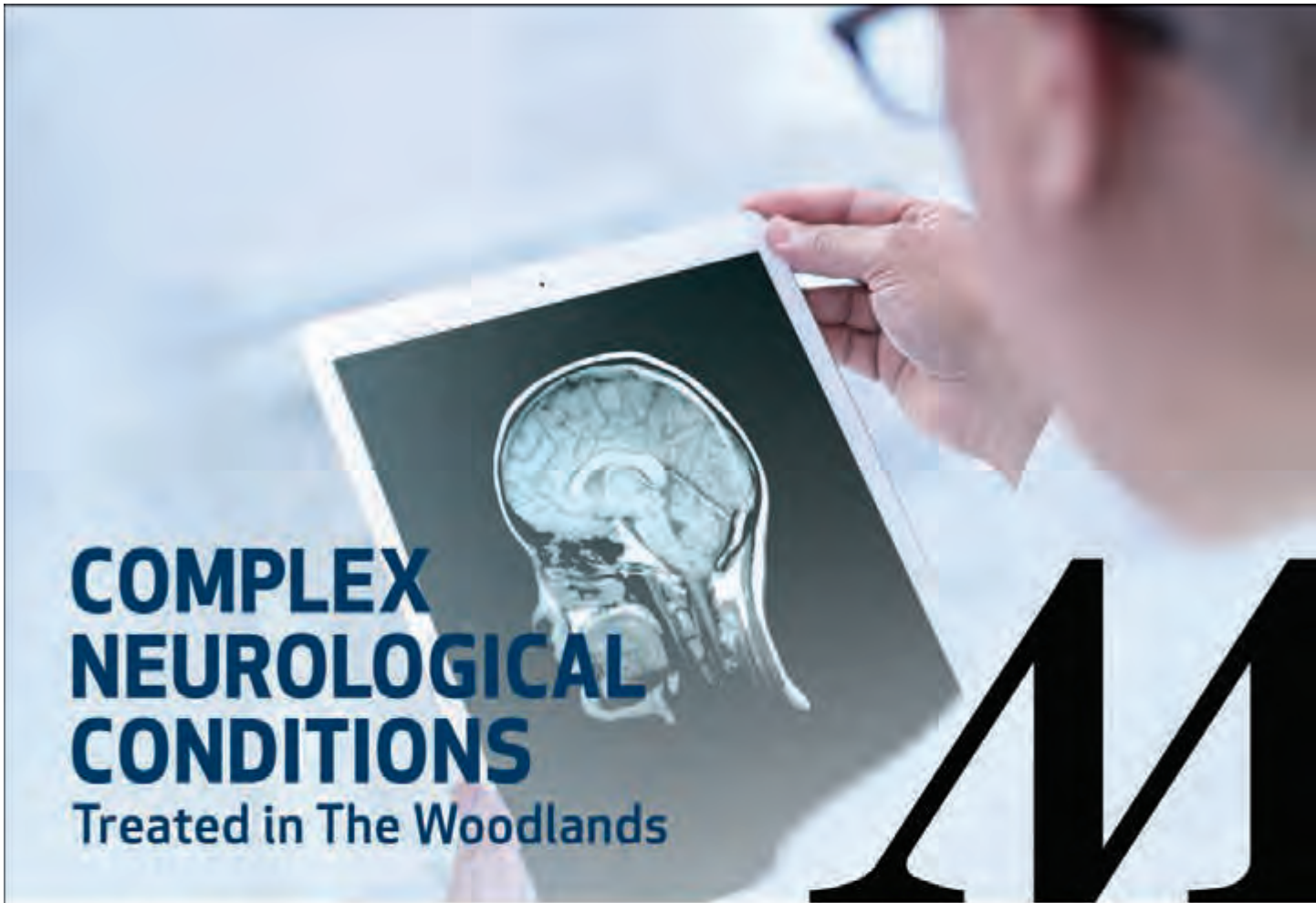
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S	B	W	K	I	S	U	N	W	M	K	W	V
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N	A	D	A	O	B	D	N	J	I	N	A	M
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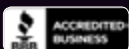
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