

SPRING TRAILS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING TRAILS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VOL 2

ISSUE 7

Letter from the President

Happy Summer Spring Trails! And WOW what a ride the past few months has been! 2020 certainly didn't start out like most of us had planned. But through all the uncertainty, confusion, frustration and sometimes tears, one thing shined brightly...the serenity and warm spirit of Spring Trails.

The COVID-19 virus has impacted us all to varying degrees. While adjusting to the sudden disruption to my daily routine, it quickly became apparent all the positive changes that were happening around me. More time with my family. Cooking and eating dinner together. Dozens of smiling faces and friendly hellos during evening walks. Festive rock art popping up when you least expect it. Turtles, cranes, deer, birds, butterflies peacefully enjoying our beautiful landscape. Neighbors helping neighbors with grocery deliveries, cooking and sharing meals, mowing lawns, or a simple hello over the fence to check on each other. The true spirit of Spring Trails is evident everywhere I look.

Now there's no denying Spring Trails experienced some inconvenience over the past few months. Residents were frustrated and on occasion that frustration was directed at the Board of Directors. And for that, I want to thank you. Thank you for taking the time to talk to us, to share your opinions, to ask your questions. The Board of Directors welcomes your input. We are committed to listening to all perspectives and considering all options, especially when difficult decisions are necessary.

Personally, I've learned a lot during the COVID-19

pandemic. Nothing in my professional experience could have prepared me for what we've encountered and the circumstances we've faced. But I'm grateful and honored to have navigated the storm with four remarkable and devoted members of your Board of Directors, a strong and dedicated property manager, a reliable network of service partners, and neighboring communities who made themselves available and freely shared their experiences and business practices. I've gained wisdom, tolerance, understanding and yes, a few more gray hairs.

So hang in there Spring Trails. Soon our lives will return to a new normal. And Spring Trails will be stronger and better for what we've accomplished together.

Sincerely,
Leanne Kessler



SPRING TRAILS

Who ya gonna call?

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Request Manager through www.springtrails.com

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Newsletter Information

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Mark Your Calendars!

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

August 4th– MUD 94 Board Meeting

August 5th – Recycle Day

August 13th – Spring Trails HOA Board Meeting

August 14th – Heavy Trash Day

August 19th – Recycle Day

Visit www.SpringTrails.com for details of upcoming community events.

Communications

Thank you to this month's Newsletter Contributors: Roger Olsen, and the Junior Art Contest Winners. 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.





How Does Your Garden Grow?

Contributed by Roger Olsen

Summer Plant Diseases

It's HOT! How could plants possibly get sick during weather like this? Well, hot weather is a really good time for that. Generally, the best way to prevent plant diseases is to water with a soaking hose, drip line or trickle applicator that puts the water at the roots of the plant and not on the leaves. Sprinklers are phenomenal for aiding disease development but if you must water with sprinklers, do it before 10am and NEVER at night. And you may not need to water every day unless your particular plant calls for it.

Many plant diseases are fungal (warm weather, humidity) and thrive on added moisture, especially on the undersides of plant leaves. If you are growing vegetables, at your next planting, avoid planting vegetable varieties in areas where the same vegetable or vegetables from the same plant family have been planted in the past 24 months. Plants of the same family include these 3 groups:

- 1) Tomatoes, eggplant, and potatoes;
- 2) squash, cucumber, pumpkin, and melons;
- 3) cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, mustard, turnips, and collards.

And if you are able to do so, plant in a raised bed which keeps water from pooling around the plant's "feet". Most plants don't do well in constantly wet soil. You plumeria growers know that VERY well!!

You might ask: Isn't there a wonder antibiotic for plants that keeps them from getting sick? There's no such wonder drug as you already guessed. Again, GENERALLY, you can purchase disease resistant varieties, plant when particular insect varieties will not attack (like vine borer and squash bugs on squash), or for a truly organic approach you can intermingle nasturtium, marigolds and other flowering plants that will frequently repel most of the invaders naturally.

My father-in-law has grown the most outrageously beautiful tomatoes for years and plants marigolds alongside his tomato plants. If you want to remain free of the chemical insecticides, read up on insecticidal "soap" for your veggie plants. It does require you to be more vigilant and more frequent application but you won't be ingesting chemical residues when you harvest your veggies.

For your "show plants" like roses, a healthy plant is always the best defense. Keep them adequately watered, pruned (when needed) and fertilized. Try products like Microlife or Miracle Grow bloom boosters. These help your plants stay healthy and fight off diseases on their own. You can also find plant specific fertilizers that include a systemic "antibiotic".

Sometimes you need extra help to know what is making a plant sick. The **Texas A&M AgriLife** website has numerous helpful articles for the average gardener. One of my favorite references is their online **Texas Plant Disease Handbook** which can be located at this link: <https://plantdiseasehandbook.tamu.edu/>. Make sure you check out ALL the tabs on the website.

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to Spring Trails' May 2020, Yard of the Month winners! Job well done!



27518 Caradoc Springs-Redbud Crossing



2107 Gaylin Hills Ct.-Laurel Brook



1930 Kaytlin-Maple Glen

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. Good luck and happy landscaping!

SPRING TRAILS

Kona Ice Returns to Spring Trails!



Over 400 residents crushed the early Summer heat wave with an ice-cold Kona Ice shaved ice.



CenterPoint Energy - Electrical Circuit Upgrade

Centerpoint Energy Service Area Manager Justin Hemperley reports the electrical circuit upgrade announced last Fall has been completed. The additional circuit provides for much needed capacity to allow CenterPoint to transfer the area's increased power load over more circuits resulting in more reliable service and fewer power outages.

CenterPoint also sent a reminder to prepare for what is expected to be a very active Hurricane season.

- Prepare an emergency plan and practice that plan with your family.
- Gather and maintain essential household, medical and pet supplies.
- Verify important documents are current and readily available.
- Know your evacuation zone/route.

Detailed checklists are available through a number of online resources to help you prepare: National Weather Service, National Hurricane Center, FEMA, State of Texas, Red Cross, and many others.



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Grilling Safety

July is a peak month for outdoor grilling and THE peak month for grill fires. The National Fire Protection Association offers these tips to keep your outdoor grilling experience safe.

General Safety

Propane and charcoal BBQ grills should only be used outdoors.

Position your grill away from the home, deck railings, and out from under eaves and overhanging branches.

Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the grill area.

Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup from the collection trays below the grill.

Never leave a grill unattended.

Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

Charcoal Grills

Charcoal chimney starters allow you to start the charcoal using newspaper as a fuel.

If using starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid. Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to a fire.

Keep charcoal fluid out of reach of children and away from heat sources.

Electric charcoal starters are available and do not use fire. Be

sure to use an extension cord for outdoor use.

When finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.

Propane Grills

Check the gas tank hose for leaks before using for the first time each year.

If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department.

If the flame goes out, turn the gas off and wait at least 5 minutes before relighting it.

FIREWORKS:

Spring Trails is reminded
fireworks are prohibited
within the Community
pursuant to Article VII,
Section 13 of the Spring Trails
Covenants, Conditions and
Restrictions.

SPRING TRAILS

Junior Art and Writing Contest Winners!

The Spring Trails Board of Directors is honored to announce the winners of the 1st annual Junior Art & Writing Contest. Each winner received a Certificate of Award and a gift card from local favorite Chick-Fil-A. Congratulations to each of these young talented artists!!



0-4 years – Art

“Rock People”
by Daniel Jex



5-8 – Art

“Rock Animals”
by Abby Rueschhoff



0-4 years – Art

“Rock Animals”
by Annabelle
Rueschhoff



5-8 – Art

“Starry Night”
by Hazel Jex



9-12 years – Art

“The Texas Horse”
by Haley King

Continued on Page 7



13-15 years – Art

“Reflections on Puddle on Trails” by Riley Gonzales

No Dialogue

This is a very simple story. Details are used, but nothing is said in first person. The obvious will be pointed out and the rest is up to you.

You'll see.

April. The fourth month in the year, but for these two people, Charlene and Leroy, April is used to recall a memory between the two.

Charlene Marie Jackson. Picture her how you'd like. She's fair, very clever, thoughtful and sweet. The first person you'd run to if you needed joy. Her smile was as bright as the moon when it was full, her eyes were as soft as pillows, making handshakes and hugs the absolute best. She wore whatever she liked. Comfortable wear, when she gardened and sundresses whenever the sun refused to hide from the clouds. Communicating with people is what she loved to do, you'll always find her learning a new sentence in Spanish or maybe even German. She wasn't very good at pronouncing the words or using them at the right time, but whenever she spoke another language you could see how wide her smile would get. It was the little things that made her so wonderful and unforgettable.

Leroy James Davis. Now, Leroy or better known as 'L Jay' was

more of a... quiet person. His future was all planned out. Get a job and get paid. Leroy played the trumpet and he was extremely skilled with it too. Some nights he'd go to Jazz clubs and play to get a little bit of cash or maybe recognition. Leroy's laugh was contagious, he rarely laughs about anything anymore and when he does it's a sound of reassurance that he is doing just fine. He's very smart, but music interests him more than money ever did. He is someone you'd go to when you needed to relax and just think about things. You'd feel special if he ever even speaks to you because his friend group is small and even sometimes his closest friends forget the sound of his voice.

Charlene went outside to water her flowers. The sun was shining and to compliment, she wore her light-yellow polka dot sundress. Out in her front yard was a busy street, many people walked past her house to get to their workplaces. Charlene's roses and hibiscus were blooming giving off a pleasant feel to everyone that saw them. As the water hit the petals a faint sound of music approached. Every second the music got louder... it became clear that it was a trumpet.

Charlene looked up in the music's direction, as she continued to water the plants. Leroy walked up the street, trumpet in hand playing an upbeat tune. He swayed a little bit in rhythm of the sound.

Continued on Page 8

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Continued from Page 7

Charlene turned off the hose and hurried to the sidewalk to stop him. Leroy noticed her sudden move and stopped playing. She smiled at him and he stopped walking. He looked at her with confusion. Charlene gestured to him to come near her to play more. With a slight hesitation he did exactly that.

They sat on the porch drinking cold lemonade, making new songs for the trumpet to play and Charlene pretended as if she was also playing the trumpet. After an hour or two Leroy would play a mellow tune that would have Charlene to rest her eyes long enough for him to leave and continue on his way to wherever he was going.

This repeated every day of the month. Music, Lemonade, happiness all bundled up on April days at the same time. Some of the other people walking by would stop just along the white picket fence to listen to Leroy play his music on Charlene's porch, but he paid no attention to them, the music was for Charlene. After a while a small crowd would arrive before Leroy did just to listen to the songs hoping they'd sound just as good as the ones from yesterday before.

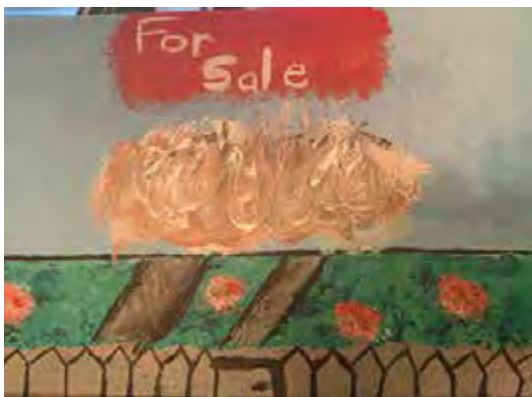
With all this attention, Leroy got an opportunity to perform at concerts across the country. His future was finally going as planned and without saying his 'goodbyes' he left.

Charlene waited every day of May, with a tray of cold lemonade, for Leroy to walk on her porch. People still gathered around to hear a song that wouldn't be played. Eventually Charlene knew he wouldn't come by and to keep her from looking out at the street she boarded up all her windows and stayed inside. Her flowers died and so did the grass and her vegetables. The paint on her house faded and the spiders took liking to her porch.

Soon enough Charlene moved out of the house, far away from it too and with people knowing the history of the music playing, no one would buy it. People would just look at it whenever they passed it and remember how alive it used to be. But sometimes, if you go in front of the house in the earliest days of April you can smell the fresh roses that no longer grow and hear the mellow tune of a trumpet that was never played there again.

Short story written by:

Naylani Myers-Goode, 15-year-old



13-15 years –

Short Story

No Dialogue
by Naylani
Myers-Goode



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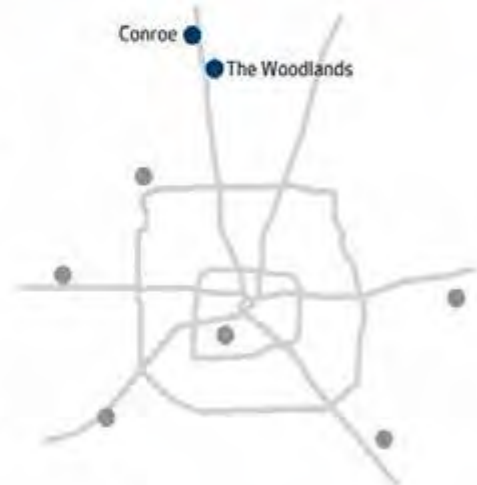
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SWEET CAROL'S VELVET CUPCAKE

A hint for sweet bread and pastries

INGREDIENTS

- 3 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 cup cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sour
- 1/2 cup
- 1 bottle Red Food Color
- 2 teaspoons Vanilla Extract
- 1 package cream cheese

PREP TIME

- Prep | 20 m
- Cook | 20 m
- Ready in | 40 m
- Duration | 5 days

PROCEDURE

01

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
Mix flour, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Set aside.

02

Beat butter and sugar in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed 5 minutes or until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time.

03

Bake 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted into cupcake comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire rack 5 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely.

04

Bake 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted into cupcake comes out clean. Cool in pans on wire rack 5 minutes. Remove from pans; cool completely.

C.D. York Junior High Gets a New Track



Conroe ISD announced in June that the track at York Junior High was to be replaced with a brand-new surface. Completion of the project is scheduled for early July. Congratulations York students and faculty on this exciting, new and improved facility. Go Grizzlies!!

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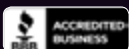
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