

# Forest Ridge HOA

JUNE / JULY 2015

## Beautification projects

The Board has realized that the neighborhood is showing that it is 18 years old!. The Board is offering an amazing deal to those who live on Forest Ridge Parkway with wooden fences that face it. The HOA will pay for half the cost to replace your section of the fence. This is a great opportunity to save some money to get your face replaced. This is a ONE time offer and it has to be done at one time to minimize the disturbance in the neighborhood. The date has not been set yet as we are still looking for best, most affordable, highest quality company for the job. If you would like gates installed there will be an extra cost to the homeowner. Some of the upgrade possibilities ( within budget ) are steel posts and "rot board" at bottom to minimize cost of replacing pickets in the future.

The masonry fence side of Forest Ridge Parkway will be getting a clean up and crack repair which will most assuredly make it look brand new!!! The second major project we are tackling is the sprucing up of the pool cabana! We will be getting some new exterior doors, new pendant lights and a fresh coat of paint as well as getting the pool deck cleaned. The third project is to remedy the dirt washing out onto the sidewalk, we have several people working up ideas on how to take care of this issue.



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## NEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED!!!!

Syd Verinder has retired from the board and has moved to north Texas. Syd will be sorely missed, and hard to replace. But alas we need someone to step up and try and fill his shoes!!!! If you think you might like to give it a shot, then please come to the meeting on June 8th at 7pm in the Bluebonnet Hall at the Civic center and throw your name in the hat.

# Helpful information to keep your pets safe

I'd like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of putting identification on your pets. None of us expect our pet to escape, but it CAN and DOES happen- even to caring, careful owners. The good news is, our neighborhood is FULL of Good Samaritans who would gladly call a phone number on a found animal to notify the owner. When a pet is not wearing identification, however, it becomes very difficult to help. Margaret Kirk (margkirk59@gmail.com) kindly sends out e-mail blasts re: lost or found pets to all residents who have provided her with an e-mail address. Lost/Found pet notices can be put on file with Schertz Animal Services (210-619-1550), but these services are no guarantee that you'll get your pet back. When they DO work, they often take time, causing stress to your pet, worry for you, and additional responsibilities for the person who finds your pet.

Of course, it's best to do everything you can to prevent your pet from escaping in the first place. Check that your fence is secure, your gate latches firmly (or is locked!) and don't leave your pets unattended in your back yard for significant periods of time. (Dogs that are left outside often engage in nuisance barking, digging, and other unwanted behaviors as well.) When outside with your pets, keep them leashed and do not allow them to roam. Please take care to avoid "door dashing."

Tags are the easiest way for someone who finds your pet to contact you. Tags can be made for \$5-8 at the Animal Defense League, 11300 Nacodoches Rd, San Antonio 78217. Petsmart in the Forum also has an engraving machine. It's fast and easy. Please include a current address and/or phone number(s)— ideally, a cell # so you can be reached quickly, no matter where you are. In a pinch (or if you just don't like the sound of jangling tags), you can take a permanent marker and write your phone number directly on your pet's nylon collar. Remember, though, that these only work if your pet is actually wearing his or her collar! It's no good wishing your pet had been wearing his collar after he's gone.

Collars CAN fall off, and pets can escape while a collar is removed, such as bath time. Microchipping is permanent identification, but the animal must be scanned at a veterinarian's office or animal shelter in order to access the contact information on file, so it may be harder to contact you if your pet is found after-hours or over a weekend/holiday. Your vet can microchip your pets for you (cost varies), or you can get it done for \$10 at Universal City Animal Control (134 Athenian Dr. Universal City, Texas 78148 Phone 210-658-0700). Microchipping is available at UC Animal Control Monday-Wednesday, 1:30-4:00pm, and they will register your new microchip for you, then and there! You will need to have your animal's current Rabies Certificate with you.

So, which should you do? Ideally, BOTH, but either method increases the chances that your pet will return to you safely. And please remember, both tags and microchips need to be kept up-to-date. Both carry your contact information, to be accessed by the person who finds your pet. Any time you move, you need to make new tags and contact the company that registered your pet's microchip to update your contact information. Let's do all we can to make sure our lost pets return home.



Forest Ridge HOA has a new Community Manager, his name is Mike Hunsucker,. Mike can be reached at 210-483-8136 his email is mhunsucker@spectrumam.com.

# Bushes, Shrubs and Hedges....



Leggy, woody, scraggly, spindly, yellowish, unkempt, and unsightly. No, it's not roll call for the cast of some dozing-princess fairy story. If you're like most people, it's the perfect description for that sad-looking hedge bordering your yard. Rows of thickly planted shrubs can be a handsome way to define borders and boundary lines, keep children and pets in (or out), and give birds shelter and even food. But like all shrubs, hedges need regular watering, feeding, and pruning to look their best. Though folks may forget to give roots a good drink in hot weather or to fertilize in early spring with a good 10-10-10 formula, the last area is where most of us really lose it. "A lot of people are intimidated by pruning, but it's a science anyone can master," says This Old House landscape contractor Roger Cook. "You just have to learn a few basics."

Here are some expert fixes for common mess-ups when it comes to hedge plantings.

## Mistake #1: Shearing hedges without hand-pruning them

Using shears—whether hand-held pruners with long scissor-like blades or a power trimmer—to take off branch tips keeps hedges neat and tidy, and also stimulates bud production near the plants' edges. But as buds multiply, a shrub can get so thick that sunlight can't penetrate it, preventing interior growth. The result: a hedge that gets larger each year and looks lifeless inside. Proper pruning allows some sunlight to get in and enables you to cut back shrubs so they don't get too big.

So at each shearing, be sure to use bypass hand pruners to create some spaces in the hedge for light and air. Every few feet, reach inside and clip a branch or two at a 45-degree angle, just above a nub or leaflet that's growing in a direction you want to encourage. If a hedge is old and seriously overgrown, you'll need to do some rejuvenation pruning using the three-year rule. Remove up to one-third of the thickest stems down at the base of the plant, stimulating new growth; repeat the next year, and the year after. This will leave you with a healthier shrub that's reduced in size.

## Mistake #2: Pruning at the wrong time

Ideally, hedges should be pruned in late winter, when plants are dormant and haven't produced buds—particularly if you're cutting back drastically. "You don't want them to break bud before you prune because you want the plant's energy to go toward producing new growth where you want it," says Roger. "If you take off a plant's buds, you're cutting off spent energy, and it will take longer for the hedge to fill out."

Evergreens, in particular, require pruning early in the season; because they're generally slower-growing, they're likely to be bare (where interior cuts have been made), and off-color at the tips (too yellow) as new growth starts to show, well into the summer. Faster-growing deciduous hedge plants such as privet, spirea, and viburnum are more forgiving. With flowering shrubs, the golden rule of pruning is to wait until the day after blooms turn brown—that way the plant will have time to set buds for next year, whether it blooms on the current season's wood or the next's.



## EASTER EGG HUNT WAS A BLAST FOR ALL!!!



A huge thank you to Margaret Kirk and all the volunteers who made this event possible for the kids in the community!!!

# Helping you stay safe and protect your home

Do you hide your valuables in one of these popular hiding places?

Dresser drawer  Bedroom Closet  Freezer 

Guess what: Those are some of the first places a crook will look.

## TIMING

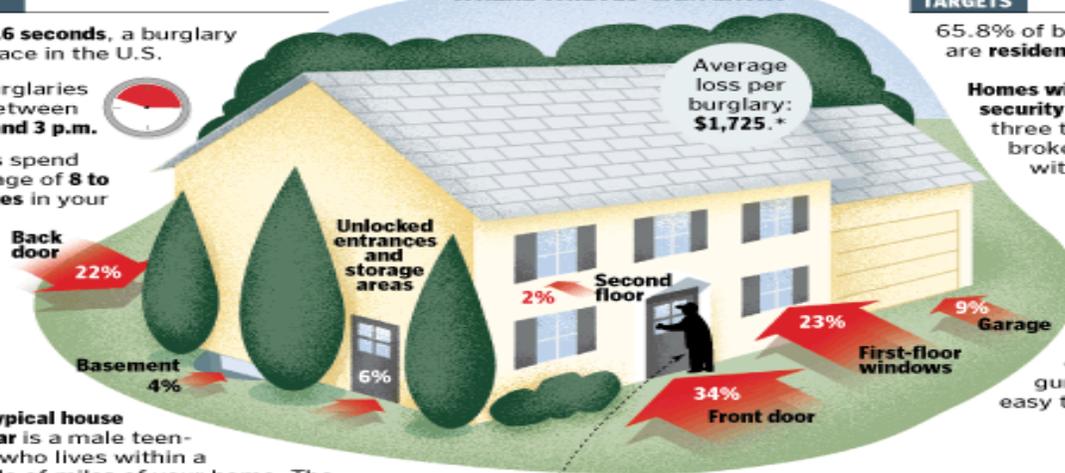
Every 14.6 seconds, a burglary takes place in the U.S.

Most burglaries occur between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Burglars spend an average of 8 to 12 minutes in your home.



## WHERE THIEVES GAIN ENTRY



## TARGETS

65.8% of burglaries are residential.



Homes without security systems are about three times as likely to be broken into than homes with security systems.

**First stop:** Usually the master bedroom because most people keep their valuables there.

**Favorite items:** Cash, jewelry, electronic equipment, silver, guns and other items easy to sell.

 **The typical house burglar** is a male teenager who lives within a couple of miles of your home. The chance of being victimized by a professional thief is low.

## PRECAUTIONS YOU CAN TAKE

**Burglars search for homes that appear to be unoccupied.** A car in the driveway, motion-sensitive exterior lights, interior lights, and radios and TVs on timers all give the impression that someone is in the home. Stop newspaper and mail delivery, and have neighbors watch your home.

**Burglars want to spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into a home.** Measures that raise this time — deadbolt locks, bars on windows, and pins in sash windows — might change a burglar's mind.

**Don't give burglars any help.** Clear shrubs and trees around your home. Don't give burglars a place to hide. Secure tool sheds and ladders. Some thieves will steal tools from around your property and use them to break windows and doors.