We Had our Annual Meeting!

By: Dyan Montesclaros

Homeowners of Encino Park - on October 13 we held our annual meeting. We had a small group of homeowners present who got to hear first-hand the information the Board is required to share with its members and to hear the results of the Board elections. Three directors were elected to join the Board. Tim Lamb was re-elected to serve another three-year term, Margaret Marble who had been appointed last year to fill a board vacancy was elected to a three-year term and Bobby Cline was elected to serve a three-year term. We appreciate their willingness to serve our community.

At the annual meeting, the HOA’s financial status was reported and the projects that were completed in the past year as well as those being considered for 2017 and 2018. Our Spectrum Community Manager acknowledged that the Board has done a great job at managing expenses to the budget for the past year including putting funds into the reserve. There was an update on our DCCR amendments. We are only about half way to quorum; all were encouraged to vote. Not voting doesn’t inform the Board of your opinion of the changes and could prolong the project and incur unnecessary costs to gather votes.

We had our local Police Officers report on security issues in Encino Park and how to be more secure as we head into the holidays. They reported our biggest issues are unattended open garages and advised us to always lock car doors when parked outside. Also, with the holidays coming soon they advised to get our mail as soon as we can and to be conscientious about package delivery. We also got an update on the improvements to US Highway 281 scheduled for spring 2017. It’s confirmed - it will be non-tolled. Also, the TX DOT
representative advised us that the No U Turn sign just before the light at 281 and Encino Rio is enforceable and should be observed. (So now you have been warned.)

The Newsletter was highlighted as the monthly communications vehicle from the Board to homeowners. The Board has been working on improving the quality of the information in the Newsletter and hope that all homeowners take a few minutes to read through it. If you have ideas for articles or have ideas about information that should be shared in the Newsletter, please let us know. We have web sites that contain pertinent information too. We are looking for all ways to communicate including using text and email blasts. So, if you prefer either of those methods, please make sure that you have passed on your email or phone number to the HOA office.

The Board has an open invitation to homeowners to join the HOA Committees so that more ideas are offered and activities planned for that the community wants. Currently, we have the Pool Committee and the Community Involvement Committee who advise the Board on activities that bring the neighborhood together. We would like to form another Committee to gather ideas and plans to improve the Park. Please consider these opportunities for you to get involved and share in making Encino Park even better.

At the October 25 Board meeting, Officers were elected. They are Tim Lamb as President, Bobby Cline as Vice President, Dyan Montesclaros as Secretary, Margaret Marble as Treasurer and Liza King as Parliamentarian. Scott McNea was appointed to fill a vacancy created recently when a Board member moved away from San Antonio.

All homeowners are invited to the open Board meetings to keep informed on decisions and plans being made. The next open Board meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 p.m. Please come.
The Holidays are upon us. WOW. Can you believe it? Think the Women’s Club is winding down? Not even close! The Market Days was a success as always and I want to thank all the vendors that participated to make this another successful year.

Our November meeting will be held November 14 at the Community Center at 7:00 p.m. The theme is “Decorate a Glass Brick for the Holidays”. It’s always a fun experience when we incorporate crafts and creativity and equals fun. A nominal fee of $15 will cover your materials. Let’s see what you can design.

December is another fun meeting with our Annual Holiday Dinner and Auction. The catered dinner is free for members but if you would like to invite a guest, it’s only $10.

This year, the meeting on December 5th, will be held at Liza King’s home and festivities start at 6:30 p.m. Don’t forget to bring money for the auction. It’s always great to see members at this special time of the year. Please consider joining us.

Not a member but want to join? Email us for more information on how you can make a difference in our community and meet lots of great women! EPwomansclub@encinoparkhoa.com

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Save the Date!
Santa is coming to Encino Park!!!!
Saturday, December 10, 12 to 2 p.m.

Kids – bring your parents to see Santa. For $5, each child can have a picture with Santa, craft an ornament and decorate a cookie. Look for more details in the next Newsletter.

No letters were submitted to the Editor this month.

If you have a question you would like addressed to the Editor (a current Board representative), write to Editor@encinoparkhoa.org. Be sure to include your email. All letters will be responded to, but may not be published in the Newsletter.

Announcing the Holiday Lighting & Decorations Contest

Are you and the family decorating for the holidays? Are you waiting for the day after Thanksgiving to work off that fabulous turkey and fixings dinner? Here in Encino Park we enjoy the spirit and creativity our residents demonstrate in lighting up and decorating their homes and surrounding property. As is our tradition, this December we will be judging the homes of those who have excelled in categories of Best Lighting and Most Creative. There will be one winner in each category who will receive a $50 gift card to Home Depot and two runners up who will receive a $25 gift card to Home Depot. One change to this year’s contest, is that winners cannot have won in last year’s contest. Judging will take place on Saturday, December 10, starting at 6:30 p.m. So come on Encino Park, light up our neighborhood!!!

We look forward to another great season in 2017.

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Out to Lunch

This month we will revisit another of our favorite places, P.F. Chang’s, in the Quarry. We will go on Tuesday, Nov. 29th at 11:30. Plan to put down that turkey salad sandwich and take a break from the Christmas decorating and join us for delicious Chinese food served with a smile. Please call Janet at 481-9956 by Sunday the 27th if you plan to go.

In September eight of us enjoyed going back to Salata on Sonterra. We all loved our freshly made salads and the delicious soup and bread they have there too. It was a fun time together in a nice, casual atmosphere.
Notes from the Office

Summer has come and gone and now we are all starting to think about the holidays. For some of us that means a trip. I just wanted to remind everyone of a service the Constables offer that might give you some peace of mind while you are away. They will actually check on your home for you and notify you if there are any issues. The service is free, and simple to set up.

Go this link: http://www.bexarpolice.org/home/services/vacation-request/ and fill out the information and submit it.

Don’t forget to have the post office hold your mail, as well.

Laughing Matters: A burglar breaks into a house. He starts shining his light around looking for valuables. Some nice things catch his eye, as he reaches for them, he hears, “Jesus is watching you.” Startled the burglar looks for the speaker. Seeing no one, he keeps putting things in his bag, again, he hears, “Jesus is watching you.” This time, he sees a parrot. “Who are you?” the burglar asks. “Moses,” replies the bird. “Who the heck would name a bird Moses?” the man laughed. “I dunno,” Moses answered, “I guess the same kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus.”

Mark your calendars. We meet every first and third Tuesday of the month at 11:30a.m. in the Community Center. Hope to see you there. For questions or information please contact our President, Dyan at 481-7890.

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- Check Freon
- Check reversing valve
- Check defrost cycle
- Check emergency heat

Amazingly enough, both the safety check and tune-up are still only $58

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John Widhelm, Owner
Music in the Park

The Music in the Park event was held on October 8th from 4-6pm. It has been a while since we held an event like this but I am happy to report it was enjoyed by all who attended. The snow cone truck was parked in the front and offered refreshments for the kids who were working up a sweat dancing and playing; some adults even took advantage of the snow cones. I guess on such a beautiful day and the variety of music that was played we all felt a bit younger. Thanks to all the families who attended. We look forward to a springtime Music in the Park event in 2017.

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 6, 2016. Change your clocks back one hour. It’s also a good time to change batteries in clocks and smoke detectors.

Holiday Shopping Extravaganza!

Join us for a fun filled day of shopping with a variety of unique gift ideas and vendors galore!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30th, 2016
10:00am – 3:00pm

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

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San Antonio, Texas 78258
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www.independencehill.com
Where the Wild Things Are

By Dana Nichols, SAWS Conservation Manager

Understory is the unsung hero of your landscape, providing critical habitat for wildlife and requiring zero maintenance. Yet, it’s often underutilized. Here’s why you should love it and leave it in your landscape.

While our heritage trees are revered and protected (as they should be), very little regard is usually given to the understory associated with them.

Countless times I’ve heard remarks about how much better things will look after “clearing out the scrub-brush under the tree.” Yet, all I can think when I hear that is there goes the song bird nesting habitat, food for all kinds of wildlife, a buffer from whatever is on the other side of the tree, and protection of that heritage trees’ roots.

Understory is a critical forest ecosystem component that is described so well by our own Garden Geek, Mark Peterson. And if his article doesn’t quite convince you to plant, cherish and speak up for understory, I’m going to spend a little more ink in that pursuit.

Here are 4 reasons you must have some understory in your landscape.

Did I mention it’s critical wildlife habitat?
Most songbirds spend most of their time foraging and nesting between the ground (leave that leaf litter for them) and about 20 feet up. Try for a continuous curtain, layering small woody and herbaceous plant material from the ground up and about 6-10 feet deep. (Less to mow too!).

My “plant curtain” has both native and non-native plants. I live in an older neighborhood, in an old house that came with a great evergreen loquat that is flowering and fruiting. I’ve been able to use it as a backbone plant, filling in around and beside it with Turk’s cap, an Anacacho tree and a mountain laurel. And the canopy tree — my favorite wildlife shade tree — the much maligned hackberry is the place for the birds to congregate in my yard.

Possibly the lowest maintenance area of your yard.
Not much more to say here. The more understory you have, the less maintenance you have to do. Understory takes care of itself. You can do an occasional pruning if you desire, but it’s generally best to let it do its thing. And you don’t have to water it either. In 23 years I’ve hand-watered my loquat about four times in the driest, hottest of times. Though it probably would have done fine without.

Flowers and Fruits!
Many understory trees have the best flowers and fruits. We love it, the bees love it, the butterflies love it and the birds do, too. My loquat is a prolific fruiter. And everyone gets into the game. Years when I’ve been feeling ambitious I’ll make loquat jelly with a little Asian flare to use as a dipping sauce with tempura squash blossoms. Though most years I’ll try a few from the tree and leave the rest for my garden denizens.

Other great flowering and fruit trees include: Texas persimmon (with the added bonus of having beautiful silvery bark perfect for a moonlight garden); anacacho with its profusion of small white flowers throughout the summer; Texas mountain laurel (king of flowering understory with all its grape jelly mouthwatering blossom goodness); and Texas red bud, an early bloomer with profusions of pink. The red bud is part of the legume family. The flowers, which taste sort of like peanuts, are great sprinkled on spinach for a nice winter-to-spring salad.

Many varieties are included on our WaterSaver Landscape Coupon package.
For the last two fall coupon releases, we’ve focused the selections on basically understory plants. If you can’t get to it this year, be ready for next year. We’ll be expanding the coupon to a mostly year-round program to give you a little more time to plan, buy and plant.

Understory provides critical habitat for all kinds of wildlife, is zero maintenance, adds additional privacy to your yard, adds flowers and fruits to your garden, and is partially paid for with the WaterSaver Landscape Coupon. So what are you waiting for? Start planning and planting your understory today!

go green

LET’S DO OUR PART IN HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT!
We are proud to announce we are now offering YOU to “opt-in” to having your Neighborhood Newsletter delivered electronically!

HOW?
2. Click on “Let’s do our part” and follow the instructions.

What will change?
Well... nothing! Your address will be removed from the mailing list and a digital copy will be emailed to you within the next couple of issues.
We are so pleased to be offering this new service! Questions? Feel free to contact Neighborhood News at (210) 558-3160 with any website related questions.
Each season, your home goes through changes in temperatures, weather conditions, aging, and of course, human abuse! In order to keep all the components of your home running smoothly, and to avoid costly repairs later, it’s helpful to conduct seasonal maintenance actions each season. As the warmer months fade away, now is the perfect time to prepare for fall.

1.) Examine your roof/gutters/downspouts for debris: Your roof is often forgotten because it is not at eye level to give you a subtle reminder every time you walk past it. Clear leaves and debris from gutters and examine downspouts for damage or loose pieces. Check the flashing around your chimney and any openings in the roof, such as skylights for leaks.

2.) Examine the grounds of your property: Before it is too cold to venture outside, check walkways for cracks and loose paver material. Fix walkway and entryway areas before slippery weather can cause a tripping or falling accident.

3.) Change the filters in your home: If you have a central air conditioning system, change the air filters regularly. Change filters in stove vents, clothes dryers and room fans also if applicable. A clean air filter will keep your family healthier in the fall months.

4.) Still have leaky faucets? Repair them now: Before the temperatures start to dip low, examine leaky faucets in the kitchen, bathrooms, and utility room locations. Most likely, the time and money spent now to fix will be less than a broken pipe in the dead of winter!

5.) Prepare your fireplace: Discard old ashes and ensure the damper is open to allow air to freely move through the chimney. If the air is becoming cold, close back the damper after cleaning. Check the damper handle and springs to ensure the flue is operating correctly. Hire a professional chimney sweep if needed.

6) Drain your hot water heater: If you live in an area with hard water, extra amounts of sediments could be building up in your tank. Now is a perfect time to drain and make sure rust is not developing in your tank as well. If your hot water heater is extremely old or is rusting, consider buying a new one that is more cost-effective and energy-efficient.

7.) Check windows and doors for drafts: The majority of conditioned air in your home is lost through the windows and doors. Go through your home and open windows to ensure the seal and caulking around the window frame is in good condition. Think of adding heavier drapery around windows that are extra drafty to help block some air infiltration.

8.) Clean and store seasonal outdoor furniture: Once you have taken your last plunge in the pool this summer, power wash outdoor furniture and cushions. Once dry, store cushions in a dry area to prevent cracking and fading over the fall and winter months. When spring comes along next year, you’ll be pleased that you stored them and they’re ready for use!

9.) Have garden power tools serviced: Once your grass begins to enter the dormant stage, take your lawnmower, trimmer, and other tools to get their blades sharpened and fluids recapped off. In the market for new garden power tools? Buy now when the season is almost over… you will find great deals!

10.) Take care of your irrigation/lawn needs: Consider having an irrigation service professional fix broken heads before the cold weather sets in. If you want to prevent spring weeds and winter lawn damage, don’t forget to fertilize. Visit your local garden center to find out information on what type of fertilizer to use and when to spread it.

Use these ten tips to help you get a jump start on your fall home maintenance. Your home will thank you!

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**TEN TIPS FOR FALL HOME MAINTENANCE**

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Thanksgiving – Separating Fact from Fiction

Thanksgiving is traditionally a holiday for families to enjoy the fellowship of one another as well as savoring favorite foods. It falls on Thursday, November 24st this year. The holiday reunites family and friends and is a time for creating memories. You may look forward to the delicious, juicy turkey or your grandmother’s pumpkin pie. Families often see each other only once a year on this special holiday. After dinner, some gather around the television to cheer for their favorite football teams. What do we know about the origins of this holiday? Is what we “know” true, or do we believe legends that have been embellished over the years?

Pilgrims who sailed to the New World aboard The Mayflower were Puritans, a conservative religious sect who fled Europe to escape religious persecution. They landed at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620. With inadequate provisions and shelters to survive winter, 46 of the original 102 settlers died that first year from starvation or disease.

The following year, with time to build homes, plant crops, and hunt, life improved dramatically. Nearby Native American tribes helped the Pilgrims improve their planting skills and taught them how to fertilize their soil with fish. They also taught them to locate and hunt wild game and fowl, making it possible to dry, smoke, salt, and preserve adequate provisions for the upcoming winter. Crops were bountiful that year, and the Pilgrims held a feast to celebrate their good fortune, inviting their Native American comrades to join them.

Rather than this being an official holiday, it was a feast to celebrate their bountiful harvest. In England, the country from which most of these colonists came, harvest celebrations occurred every year when yearly grain crops had been gathered and the Harvest Moon appeared. They celebrated with music, dance, song, feasting, and drink.

Men from the colony hunted game, ducks, geese, and other types of fowl (all referred to as “turkey” back then.) The feast also included venison, fish, lobster, clams, wild berries, dried fruit, plums, watercress, and boiled pumpkin. Some of these foods are found on Thanksgiving tables today, but no pumpkin pies were served since supplies of flour, brought from England on their original voyage, had long since been depleted.

Many believe that Thanksgiving has been an ongoing holiday since that first celebration among the Puritans and Native Americans, but this is a myth. In the late 1600’s several governing councils attempted to establish an official day of thanksgiving to recognize colonists’ victories over “heathen natives”. The good will for the very people who helped the colonists survive and establish the first New World colony was gone.

George Washington made the next attempt to proclaim Thanksgiving an official holiday. Many illustrious figures, such as Thomas Jefferson, opposed it, so the issue was abandoned.

Thanksgiving, as we celebrate it today, became an official national holiday in 1863 with a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln who set the date as the 4th Thursday of November each year. President Franklin Roosevelt tried to change the date to an earlier week to create a longer Christmas shopping season. Due to popular demand, he changed it back to the original date a few years later. Today, although the date for Thanksgiving hasn’t been changed, with holiday decorations appearing on the shelves in mid-September, we nevertheless have an extended holiday shopping season.

In legends of the past we find some similarities to ways we celebrate Thanksgiving today, but as with many matters, changes occur over time. At the heart of Thanksgiving today is family. We gather and enjoy food, conversation, sports, and games. Most importantly, we give thanks for the bounty of blessings in our lives.
### Encino Park Teen Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emma Cline</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>210-912-9588</td>
<td>Pet-sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samantha Damon</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>884-9666</td>
<td>Baby-sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kendall Dunlap</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>287-4211</td>
<td>Pet-sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deven Garcia</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>(210)643-300</td>
<td>Lawn Mowing &amp; Pet-sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Garcia</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>(210)643-300</td>
<td>Lawn Mowing &amp; Pet-sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy Massa</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>(210) 913-8126</td>
<td>Pet-sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rachael Poe</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>445-3020</td>
<td>Baby &amp; Pet sitting, CPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebekah Poe</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>788-4003</td>
<td>Baby &amp; Pet sitting, CPR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RJ Poe</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>800-3403</td>
<td>Landscape Maint. &amp; Pet sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan Nally</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>885-9132</td>
<td>Baby-sitting and Pet sitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aja Laun</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>313-8004</td>
<td>Pet-sitting, Babysitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella Laun</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>313-8004</td>
<td>Dog walking, Babysitting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Fry</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>210-307-7188</td>
<td>Lawn Mowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evan Slaughter</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>210-727-7479</td>
<td>Baby-sitting and Pet-sitting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Teen Service listings are free to all Encino Park residents under nineteen (19) years of age. Classified ads are free to Encino Park residents. Ads will run for one month only, unless the advertiser calls and requests renewal. To place, remove, or edit a teen directory listing or classified ad, call 558-3160 or email Ariel@NeighborhoodNews.com.

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