

New Grads...

Red Cross Babysitting Clinic

Another group of Red Cross trained babysitters is now eager-to-learn young ladies attended the Association's latest babysitting clinic at Jumano Park.

What did they learn? A lengthy list of must-knows—methods and sanitary precautions related to feeding, burping, changing diapers, handling minor mishaps, incidents of choking, and lots more. Each participant was treated to hands-on training plus printed materials as well done videos teaching them even the minutest details related to taking care of children while parents are away,

including when to call for the assistance of the parents, their own parents, neighbors, or, most importantly, the assistance of 911 responders.



For safety reasons, your Association cannot make contact information for trained sitters available via broad media venues. Should you desire to hire a Block House Creek Red Cross certified babysitter, please make your desire known via the Association's website, www.blockhousecreek.org. Once we are aware of your desire, your contact information will be forwarded to the parents of recent or past Red Cross certified sitters. ■



Coming to Texas October 2nd...

National Night Out in Block House Creek

National Night Out, a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, has proved to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. For Texas, this year's 29th Annual National Night Out is scheduled for October 2nd.

National Night Out has four primary and valuable objectives:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and community/police partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Your Association strongly

endorses National Night Out. Block House Creek residents are encouraged to personally plan activities for their particular area of the community and to directly initiate communication with police and fire officials to arrange for their attendance at the special event you have in mind.

Just how big has National Night Out grown over the years? 2011's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 15,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide.

In all, over 37 million people participated! Let's keep that number growing! Begin putting the wheels in motion for the National Night Out event you and your neighbors desire for your particular area of Block House Creek. ■



There are Ways...

Getting Rid of Rats

Anyone who sees rats scurrying through their yard or garden has reason to take some quick defensive measures to get rid of them before they do any damage. It's important to act quickly as rats can bring disease into your yard that can affect your children and pets and damage vegetation.

Give rats an eviction notice by removing places where they nest—piles of wood planks, lumber or limbs that are stacked permanently and not often disturbed, overgrown bushes, vines and shrubbery, piles of rocks, holes in the foundation that allow rats to scurry back and forth, old furniture, appliances or other box-like discards laying around, unclean barbeque pits, and compost piles.

Stop feeding rats by enabling them to feast on a garbage buffet. Open garbage containers and containers with unsecured lids allow the food contents to spill out—an aromatic signal to neighborhood rats that there's ready and available chow. Make sure you seal your food garbage



in plastic bags prior to putting it into the trash bin and always keep your trash bins covered and adequately sealed so that there is no food, drippings, or other enticing litter. If you must store foods like pet chow in the garage, make sure it is in sealed metal containers that can't easily spill open. The use of metal containers is important as rats will gnaw through plastic.

Bring on the heavy artillery if the suggested steps have not succeeded. Visit your local gardening or hardware store to invest in some organic rodent repellent that can be shaken in pellets over the ground. This type of repellent carries the scent of a predator animal that rats fear. They will avoid any area of your yard where this repellent has been distributed. Although stronger poisons and traps can be effective, they are not recommended if children or pets use the yard. It's best to stay with more humane solutions for ridding your yard of rats. If you own a dog, you'll appreciate the fact that rats typically do not congregate in an area where Fido rules the roost. ■

Block House Creek Owners Association • [WWW.BLOCKHOUSECREEK.ORG](http://www.blockhousecreek.org)



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705 House Creek Drive
Leander, Texas 78641



THIRD QUARTER • 2012

Election of Officers

BHC OA's Annual Meeting

During your Association's upcoming Annual Meeting, scheduled for September 15th, 2012, 11:00 AM, at Tumlinson Park Pavilion, elections will be held to fill two open positions on the Board of Directors. One position is for a three year term of office and one is for the remaining two years of a vacant position. Important information related to the work of your Association will be shared by the current Board of Directors. Join us, cast your vote, and enjoy lunch with all (bring lawn chairs).

Giving Back to Your Community

Your Association is looking for neighbors willing to contribute their time and talents by serving as a Board Member. Current and previous Board Members will tell you that serving Block House Creek through your Association is a very rewarding experience, one that offers the opportunity to give back to the community, to effect positive change, and to collaborate with dedicated people who have the same interests as you.

"I am in awe of the Block House Community," says outgoing Board President Ursula Logan. "I constantly receive feedback from residents and individuals outside our community who believe

Block House really is the best place to raise a family. I am honored to be a part of what makes Block House tick. I encourage each of you to volunteer time to an event or cause in our neighborhood. Only YOU can steer

our community in the right direction. Get involved. Be a part of this very special community."

Let us know today that you are ready to have your name placed on the ballot by contacting Pinnacle Texas, 512-795-8461, or via the Association's website, www.blockhousecreek.org, home page.

Proxy Forms

Your proxy forms, which are an important part of the election process, have been mailed to you. If you have not yet returned your form,

please do so quickly. *Your voice counts!*

Blood Donations

During this year's Annual Meeting, the Blood and Tissue Center of Central Texas will be at Tumlinson from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM accepting blood donations. Meeting attendees are encouraged to schedule a donation time and contribute to the effort to save lives. Sign up online: www.inyourhands.org, Source Code: Block House. ■



Block House Creek Owners Association

YOUR BHCOA CONTACTS

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Recreation

Corin Silva, Chair
coringee@yahoo.com

Maintenance & Safety

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This newsletter is a service of
Block House Creek Owners Association.

www.blockhousecreek.org



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The summer of 2012 was a bit kinder to residents of Central Texas. Although we weren't faced with the extreme heat, fires, and drought we experienced in 2011, the weather situation this year has certainly not been ideal. Special thanks to all residents who not only kept the exterior of their homes attractive but adhered to county-wide and state-wide watering stipulations. A BIG pat-on-the-back to all, of course to the winners, but also to every Block House Creek resident—regardless of age—for their devotion to ensuring that our residential area of the world remains the place we want to live, raise our kids, and enjoy the amenities of both our community and our community locale!

Music on the Green

I sincerely hope you and your family experienced the first three of our four-month long Music on the Green series. So many residents, parents and kids alike, shared with your Board of Directors their positive comments on the musical skills of the featured local musicians, their appreciation of the musicians' proximity, and their enjoyment of the events. All performers were local musicians with fantastic skills. If you missed out, mark your schedule. The last Music on the Green event for this year is scheduled for September 15th, Tumlinson Park, and will feature the band Lost Element.

Your 4th of July Event in Block House Creek

BHC OA's 4th of July event was a huge hit! When our residents lined the three-mile loop with American flags, you couldn't help but crave a slice of apple pie, smile a little wider, and experience a heart-felt desire to hug the many flag-placing residents, especially the numerous kids who participated.

Our Volunteers

Our new Volunteer Appreciation program also makes me smile. It is an opportunity for the Board of Directors as well as residents to publicly thank those who set aside their valuable time to volunteer at our events and programs. Our residents are actively working to build our community to be the best that it can be. They are very special residents. If you or your neighbor receive a yard sign designating this household as one of fantastic volunteers, please congratulate them for helping make Block House a destination neighborhood.

Budgeting

This fall, the Board of Directors will begin working on the budget for 2013. Please share your thoughts on what events and programs you would like to see in our community. This year, we focused on healthy living through many various sport camps for all ages. We hope to continue doing so. If you have ideas, share them with us—www.blockhousecreek.org.

Back to School & Scottsdale

Please keep in mind. Many young ones are heading back to school. Schedules are changing and more families are on the road. Let's all keep an alert eye while driving, biking, jogging, or walking in the neighborhood. We want to see every resident make it home safely each night. Speaking of safety, 183A toll road and the Scottsdale intersection are now open. We have already seen a few serious accidents. *Please please please* drive with caution. This is a new traffic pattern and we need to be good defensive drivers. If your children are of driving age, please remind them to use extra caution at the Scottsdale intersection. Be safe! We want to see you and your family at our next BHC OA event.

President
Block House Creek Owners Association

A Round of Applause...

We VALUE Our Volunteers!

Your Association's leaders know the tremendous impact many of the festivals, music events, children's clinics, volunteers make in our neighborhood and other great activities would likely not be able to take place. Not only does their dedication inspire us all, it exemplifies why it is so wonderful to live in Block House Creek. Be watching the website, Facebook, and the newsletter for additional fantastic volunteers to be applauded.

Not only all they dear to the Association, they are dear to all Block House Creek residents. Without their commitment,



When next you see one of our fantastic volunteers, be sure to thank them as we do for their hard work. ■



Rayan Horak

Rayan Horak, who grew up in Block House Creek, is our longest serving Block House Creek Recreation Committee member. Balancing a busy family life and job, Rayan has helped plan

nearly all of the Block House Creek festivals and clinics over the last three years. Always with a smile on her face, she is willing to offer a helping hand to our OA committees and neighbors. Rayan's positivity is infectious and she demonstrates fantastic commitment to making Block House Creek a special place to live.



Michelle Kuhn

Michelle Kuhn is one of Block House Creek's most dedicated volunteers. In addition to being a Mom with a full-time job, she makes time to help BHC OA by leading the Maintenance and Safety

Committee. This Committee organizes our Yard of the Month program, Block Watch, the Smoking Out Crime Cook Off, and National Night Out. She also steps up and helps other committees when an extra hand is needed. Michelle is creative, energetic, and focused on making Block House Creek the best community around!

Pets, Pests, and Pet Peeves!

In the past couple of months, conversation has been held with a number of residents about dogs. We all love our pets but our neighbors don't always love them.

If your dog is barking, it is bothering more than one neighbor. It may be keeping your neighbor up, you know, the one who sleeps during the day due to his work hours. Or that newborn and mother who are trying to nap during the day. Yes, your barking dogs are keeping the newborn awake. Please be considerate of others. We live in a

tight knit community and neighbors are not always comfortable knocking on their neighbor's door to ask that the dog(s) be kept quiet.

Being a pet owner is a responsibility. You must keep up on the waste and not let it affect your neighbor's property. You must keep your dogs on your own property or they must be on a leash. By all means, do not let your dog(s) wander the neighborhood.

As per our Deed Restrictions, residents are only permitted to have four animals at one time on

the property with no more than two of the animals being dogs. If you have three or more dogs on your property, you are in violation. Our yards are not big enough to accommodate the needs of more than two dogs.

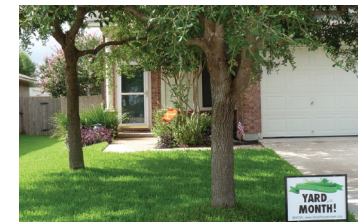
Rats, certainly not as cute or loveable as dogs, are also gaining attention in the neighborhood. Please read the article in this issue of your newsletter focusing on rats and how to handle a growing rodent problem in Block House Creek. ■



YARD of the MONTH!

Keeping a yard in award-winning presentation during the sweltering summer months is certainly not easy. Congratulations to our Yard of the Month winners for June and July!

Should you like to



1305 Fairlawn



1404 Dillon Lake

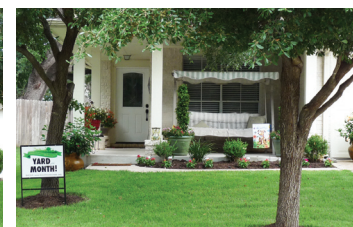
submit your yard or the yard of a neighbor for our Maintenance & Safety Committee's consideration, it's easy! Contact Michelle Kuhn via the website, www.blockhousecreek.org, home page, bottom right. ■



2507 Winslow



16211 Copperleaf



1115 Pine Portage Loop



17517 Port Hood



1419 Mojave Bend



2601 Winslow



3301 Bardolino



1260 Pine Portage Loop

Calendar Markers...

What's In Store for You and Yours!

Mark your calendar now for Harvest Fest, Saturday, October 20th, at Tumlinson Park. There'll be lots of exciting things for you and your family to enjoy—great food, a live band, pumpkin painting, bouncy houses. There just might be hay rides and Kettle Korn. Event planners are hard at work, ensuring that this year's Harvest Fest will be as fantastic as always. As the event grows near, all the finalized details will appear on your website, on Facebook, and sent to you via e-blasts. Be on the lookout for the latest greatest information. ■



BHC Fitness Classes & Boot Camps

September/October

Boot Camp with Freedom Fitness
Wednesdays and Sundays: 7:00 PM • Tumlinson Pavilion

October/November

Zumba with Instructor Tracy Machalek
Tuesday and Thursday Evenings • Tumlinson Pavilion

November/December

Boot Camp with Integrity in Modern Fitness
Friday Evenings • Tumlinson Park

Be watching your website for details.