A Word from your HOA Board President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope this issue of the Heather Ridge Herald finds your household well after the New Year and in anticipation of the spring. There were many positive events within our community during 2016. Likewise, there are a few new items to note with regard to 2017. Here are a few of the highlights:

The HOA Communication Committee began 2016 by establishing a new HOA website (www.heatherridgeestates.net) and conducting a campaign to register as many residents as possible on the website such that they receive timely notifications regarding HOA news and events. The committee also began publishing the Heather Ridge Herald on a periodic basis again in 2016. I would like to recognize Angela Brown (website) and Greg Lockhart (newsletter) for their successful efforts in leading these initiatives.

The HOA Architectural Review Committee (ARC) was especially busy during 2016 with a significant number of ARC request forms being submitted by homeowners as a result of the inclement weather experienced last spring. It should go without saying that the sounds of contractors replacing roofs and gutters have been commonplace within our community over the last year. Many thanks to Marybeth Tiemeyer, Julie Richard and Donna Ivy for their continued support as ARC committee members.

I am very proud to note that the resident turnout for all three of our Social Committee community events in 2016 was exceptional. We were very fortunate to experience great weather and I believe that all that attended had a great time. I would like to recognize Pam Lockhart for taking on the role and responsibilities of Social Committee Chairperson beginning in 2017.

During 2017, the HOA board members will be considering design plans and bids to replace the brick walls containing the “Heather Ridge Estates” marquee on each side of our community entrance. The two brick walls are exhibiting a significant amount of deterioration and the marquee on the north side of the entrance has sustained a number of large cracks that run the length of the sign. Under these circumstances, we have noted that it will be imperative to replace them in the near future. The initiative will be adequately funded through our HOA Reserves which have been specifically designated to pay for these types of projects. I will provide more updates as we proceed with the project in our next edition of the Heather Ridge Herald.

Regards,

Chuck Migl
HOA Board President
Angela Brown, our Heather Ridge Webmaster

No doubt you've noticed a fresh new look to the HRE website. Frequent updates, meeting minutes, and event calendars make our community even more tight-knit.

With the relaunch of the Heather Ridge Herald, there was also a need for a web portal to compliment the newsletter.

Enter... Angela Brown. As a career educator with a strong emphasis on science and technology, Angela, a relative newcomer to HRE, accepted the challenge. She worked with a web developer who specializes in the online needs of HOAs to create our sleek new web design. And it's been a huge success.

We sat down with Angela to discuss it.

HRH: Hi Angela. First, what brought you to HRE?

Angela: Our realtor found a house he thought we’d love. But it went under contract just a few hours before we were scheduled to see it. My husband, Josh, and I decided to check out the area anyway. We immediately fell in love with the community. The park, the quiet neighborhood... and NO traffic! We watched the MLS like hawks over the next few months until the perfect home became available. And now... here we are.

HRH: Why'd you decide to take on the website?

Angela: As an educator, I've tried to stay plugged into the tech industry. Pun intended. I find real beauty in scripting languages like Java and Python. It's technologies, in the form of a computer or an iPad, that are invaluable to me in the classroom. It seemed only fitting to further hone my skills on the web in service to our community.

HRH: Now that it is complete, what are best reasons for HRE residents to register?

Angela: The registering process is as easy as it gets. Simply go to www.HeatherRidgeEstates.net, click “Register” in the upper right-hand corner, fill out the online form and voila, you now have access to meeting minutes, event pictures, and so much more! The website will only get better and better as our neighbors join us online. I am always accepting news stories, event pictures, and suggestions!

HRH: Do you send out email alerts to residents?

Angela: I do, but only a few times a year. I don't want to clutter residents' mailboxes! I send out emails regarding HOA meetings and event reminders as well as any important information that our HOA board feels deserves a quick email blast.

HRH: Thanks for sitting down with us today, Angela. We appreciate the online presence in our neighborhood that you've provided!

Angela encourages HRE residents to send their event pictures and news stories her way! After logging in to www.HeatherRidgeEstates.net look for her contact information under 'Contact Us'. Also, ask your neighbors if they have registered for our website!
Join the Richardson Police Department’s Crime Watch Program

Richardson’s Crime Watch Patrol group (#20) patrols the neighborhoods in the Richardson panhandle West of Breckinridge Park and East of Shiloh. This includes both the Knolls and Heather Ridge. We have folks that walk and others that drive. The walkers normally wear either a Richardson CWP vest (when hot) or windbreaker (when cold) while the cars have magnetic signs so people can see we are patrolling. We are not always going to be there when a crime occurs, but hopefully our presence helps to minimize it.

We are always looking for folks in the neighborhood that would be interested in joining us. The more people, the more days/times we get covered. Our Crime Watch Patrol is multiple neighborhoods and the members are free to just patrol their neighborhood or all of the neighborhoods. I personally tend to try and hit all at one patrol or another. I walk your neighborhood 1-2 times a week myself.

Crime Watch Patrol in Richardson is managed by the Richardson Police Department. They provide a training course to help folks understand what to look for and procedures in contacting the Dispatchers when something doesn’t look right. They also run background checks on members before they are enrolled in the course. In this way, we can be sure we do not have any folks that would try to use CWP as a means to scope / rob houses. They also meet with us regularly (our group meets every other month – next meeting in March) to provide information on crimes in our area and crime trends we should watch for and let our neighbors know about so they can be more aware. The RPD Crime Prevention group is wonderful to work with and very helpful. They see a direct benefit in working with citizens together to help deter crime. The application for Crime Watch Patrol can be found at the RPD website using this link http://www.cor.net/index.aspx?page=512.

Help keep your neighborhood informed:

- Sign up for regular crime stats from the Richardson Police Department. They let you know what crimes are occurring in your area.
- Collect email addresses from your neighbors. Share with them the crime stats plus any additional crime trend information you get from RPD.
- Let your neighbors know that if you are going away on vacation. Sign up with the RPD for house checks while away. RPD sends out their Field Operations VIPs who do a thorough check regularly on houses that have registered. These folks are in RPD police cars, so that alone is a good deterrent.
- Join Next Door. RPD posts information on Next Door.

Help protect our families and homes by participating in the Richardson Police Department’s Crime Watch Program.

Thank You,
Jerri
Crime Watch Tips

Crime prevention is the practice of identifying and removing the opportunity for crime to occur.

- Make sure all your doors and windows are locked.
- Keep garage doors closed even while doing yard work.
- Do not keep items in unattended vehicles.
- If you have a security (alarm) system, use it.
- If you must leave a key outside for someone, venture beyond the obvious and find an uncommon location, reducing the opportunity for the wrong person to find a key. The best rule is to not leave a spare key anywhere as most criminals will be able to find it.
- Be aware of your surroundings and report unusual activity. Chances are that if it looks unusual, it is.
- Turn porch lights on at night. Use cost effective bulbs. Use a timer if you work late.
- Use timers inside your house to turn televisions, radios, and lights on when you are not home...giving the crook reason to believe folks are home.
- Keep your yard neat, bushes, shrubs, etc. trimmed, make it easy for a neighbor to spot the unusual and call 911.
- Make sure flood (sensor) lights are working.
- Build your fences with the posts in your property, not on the outside...outside makes for a nice ladder for the criminal.
- Make sure your garage door opener light comes on when you open and close your garage door so as to see inside and outside the area.

And most important: Get to know your neighbors. Exchange phone numbers (home, work, cell) so you can reach each other if you see a problem or need them to watch your home for you.

Jerri’s 2016 Crime Watch Patrol Year End Report

- **Logged** 477.25 **hours** in 2016 patrolling our neighborhoods
- **Reported** 94 **observations** to the Richardson Police (these were simply observations of suspicious situations or homeowners susceptible to crime and not necessarily an actual crime)
- **Heather Ridge** was patrolled 101 times
Let’s be frank...HRE residents apprize high quality living, diverse culture and a strong social and business community. The City of Richardson is hard to beat. Time and time again, newcomers to the area choose Richardson over newer, trendy suburban communities to the north.

One of the crown jewels for our family is the 417 acre wonderland that cradles our Northeastern border... Breckinridge Park. Because of size and countless amenities, the park hosts many special city events, including, as we’ve all seen from our yards, Richardson’s annual July Fourth Fireworks Show. This and other top ratings for safety, park beauty and pet-friendliness put the Breckinridge area on The Dallas Morning News’ top ten list of the Best Neighborhoods in North Texas.

Our park, along with the other natural areas and trails that meander through the city, didn’t happen by accident. They didn’t evolve over time or appear out of thin air. They were a vision. A vision of a man who current City Manager, Dan Johnson, calls a “red-hot shooting star....a Park and Recreation Titan! Al, my Pal.”

Fresh out of Texas Tech University, Al Johnson, became the new kid on the Parks and Rec team in 1968. With a BA in Parks Administration and
Agriculture, and as a registered landscape architect, Al started out as a Park Planner. Four months later he was promoted to Parks Superintendent and 4 years later became Assistant Parks Director under longtime Director, Dave Loughridge. Al took over the top spot when Loughridge retired in 1992. He remained at the helm for decades.

"Al was keenly aware that Parks and Recreation service is about obtaining and developing acreage and assets," Dan Johnson recalls, "But also about creating parks-loving advocates through priceless experiences and the bonding power of shared experiences and service.”

Al was a natural talent. He made landfills into parks and antenna base station structures into park maintenance facilities.

"The Breckinridge community is a great example of how our tradition of long-term planning, which incorporates progressive development standards designed to preserve natural features and turn them into amenities, can provide access to open space and recreation opportunities that make a great home," said Don Magner, Richardson’s first assistant city manager. Not only was Al instrumental in securing the final parcels and development of Breckinridge Park, he was also a key player in the redevelopment of Cottonwood Park, the wildflower planting programs, and the Santa’s Village structures.

Al also turned swamplands into million dollar trails. How’s that possible? Al got wind that there was a beaver pond and a wetlands area near the Eisemann Center at the west end of Galatyn Plaza. When Al also heard that the DART station development would require the relocation of the wetlands, his budgetary and grantmanship genius moved into action.

Today, the relocated 8-acre wetlands area just north of the Renaissance Hotel is called the Woodland Preserve. Al also called it a grant match… and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department agreed. From that, Al parlayed the in-kind swampland into two $500,000 cash grants that today we call part of the Central Trail. Apparently, swampland does have value.

"I’ve seen a budget for trail development that used county funding, grant funding and in-kind local support that was a zero cash impact for the city budget," remembers Dan Johnson.

Al was a dedicated Parks and Recreation professional but at the end of the day, he wasn’t afraid to let his hair down. An avid folk musician, Al was a key organizer and longtime emcee on the singer-songwriter stage at the Wildflower Festival. Traveling musicians from all over would make the annual trip to Richardson just to sing on Al’s stage. Perhaps it was also due to those after-festival jam sessions Al and his wife Pat were known for throwing at their home. Simply put, Al loved people, his family, his city, great music… and Mexican food.

This article was submitted by board member, Josh Brown. Al was father to one of Josh’s closest friends. "I spent a lot of time at the Johnson house during my high school years," remembers Josh. "I’ll never forget Al’s one-of-a-kind sense of humor and positive attitude towards life.”
SERIOUS CRIME in HRE and vicinity

Recently, a home was burglarized on Appleridge even though a home security sign was evident from the street. The security system was activated at the time of the crime. Even worse, a few blocks away, an armed daylight home invasion occurred weeks ago while the residents were home.

There have also been more “ring and runs” deep into the night here at HRE. One nighttime security video shows a young adult who can be seen peering into the window next to the front door.

Let’s be vigilant and on alert for any suspicious activity.

If you have any concerns or ideas on how to protect our community, please come to our next board meeting to give your feedback. Also, please read the special insert for more ideas on how to protect your home and family by participating in the Richardson Police Department’s Crime Watch Program.

New Heather Ridge Directory in process.

We are beginning to collect information from residents to update our community directory. Your block captain will be contacting you in the near future to make sure your contact information is current. If you are not sure who your block captain is, please contact Jeanette Acuff at (214) 909-9140 or jcacuff@sbcglobal.net.

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Board Meeting

Date: February 28th
Time: 7:00pm
Place: Cornerstone Methodist Church
        7502 N. Garland Ave.

AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Discussion regarding new walls to be built at entrance
- Crime watch presentation by RPD
- Election of 2017/2018 officers (three)
- Financial Report
- Q&A with the board at the end of the meeting

Let’s go slow in the alleys and WATCH OUT!

We’ve talked amongst the Communication Committee, and none of us has EVER exceeded Richardson’s alley speed limit of 10 mph. (And, if you believe that, we have some great lake front property in Nevada we’d like to talk to you about.) In a perfect world, young people would pay more attention when walking or riding their bikes in the alleys.

But, we’ve all been young once and thought we were invincible. Let’s be sure to avoid a tragedy and keep our speed limit to 10 mph or below and always stop before the sidewalk when exiting the alley. (We don’t want to hit a mom walking her baby in a stroller either.) As a final thought, there is a stop sign at our neighborhood entrance as well. Many of us ignore this stop sign. Let’s be more vigilant to protect the safety of all our residents—especially our youngest.
Want to pitch in and have some **before (as well during)** the Block Parties?

I need your help! I'm the new social chair and looking for neighbors who are passionate about HRE and our memorable Block Parties. These occasions are so fun—and create so many new and lasting friendships. Maybe some new friendships can be created during the planning and execution of them as well. (There might be other things we can think of too in addition to the block parties.)

There are a few of us who are taking this on for the first time. We'd love for you to join us! If you think you might be interested, please contact me for more information at 972.741.9197 or pl91987@aol.com. No matter how much time you may have to volunteer, I'd love to hear from you to discuss the possibilities.

Let's keep this neighborhood fun, bring some fresh ideas, and make new friends!

**HRE STREET SIGNS**

| CMRKYJEWEZBHRR | IOQERDAGJRBEAJ | BCPXHGRDOEUKAVN | KELPETIECZKZTEC | AKRVERALKHYORHN | ZYIRKRIEUCVOEDE | SEGOYMNOWBRAG | WDOCRWSOJNXRRDL | EROIXQOKUWEAIL | BFDZQPYOFNVLDDL | JGQBTNYXDTTTKGD | EDOOWLLIMQFAEQL | ETUDETSECIPE | NORTHRIDGESSBNP | KACJIOQWIKAIDA |

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**Heather Ridge Estates Board of Directors**

Chuck Migl, *HOA President*
charles.migl@sbcglobal.net
(469) 371-2490

Violeta Hutchinson, *Vice President*
bohutch@swbell.net
(972) 437-3670

Josh Brown, *Secretary*
joshbrown72@icloud.com
(972) 978-8113

Terry Watson, *Treasurer*
fwatson726@gmail.com
(972) 234-9068

Don Wilson, *Member at Large*
donjanw23@sbcglobal.net
(972) 480-9391