



September/October 2014



Vol. 8 No. 5



Official Newsletter of the Forest Oaks Homeowners Association



[www.forestoaksonline.com](http://www.forestoaksonline.com)

## ACC Update

Hi, neighbors!

I hope you're all staying cool through another sweltering summer.

On behalf of the Architectural Control Committee, I'd like to thank you for doing your part to keep our neighborhood looking beautiful and making it a desirable place to live. To keep our neighborhood this great, we all need to do regular maintenance. To that end, it looks as if some of the properties are starting to look their age. It happens to the best of us.

Some items that have come to our attention are home painting, trim painting, fence maintenance, roofing, and landscape requirements. Rather than send a lot of DRV letters, this notice is a friendly reminder to schedule these maintenance issues in a timely manner. The management company and the ACC will hold off taking a closer look at homes until October to give everyone time to complete updates.

For home painting, like-for-like jobs do not require prior approval. The same applies to trim colors. As long as the paint colors are the same, go ahead and paint! Should you change the color of the home or trim, you'll need to submit a request to the ACC; we are waiving the normal \$10 fee from now through October to help ease the application process for painting.

Make sure all fences are clean and kept in good condition. Roofs should also be inspected for damage and missing shingles. Again, like-for-like repairs don't require ACC-request submission. General landscaping maintenance doesn't require approval, but any new beds, new hard-scapes, and plants over 2 feet tall do.

Please see our new xeriscaping guidelines for information, helpful links, and recommended plants and trees. It's a great resource even if you're not looking to do a typical xeric landscape. Visit <http://www.forestoaksonline.com/resource-center/architectural-change-control> and click on the ACC Guidelines link.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Architectural Control Committee



## Mark Your Calendars Now!

**Friday, November 7, 5 PM-8 PM**  
**Forest Oaks Family Food Trailer Night**  
**Community Center**

Come enjoy some great food before the VR football game or stay for an enjoyable evening of food, family activities, and unwinding from your week. More details to come via e-mail. Contact: [forestokssocial@gmail.com](mailto:forestokssocial@gmail.com) for more info.

Event details will be available at: [www.close2myhome.com](http://www.close2myhome.com) (scroll for Forest Oaks).

Julie Levy,  
Recreation and Social Committee

[www.forestoaksonline.com](http://www.forestoaksonline.com)

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The deadline for article submissions is October 25, 2014 for the mid-November 2014 publication. Please submit any suggestions for future articles to [newsletter@forestoaksonline.com](mailto:newsletter@forestoaksonline.com)

## 2nd Annual Forest Oaks Five K Medical Identity Theft

On August 23rd, the 2nd annual Forest Oaks Five K attracted more than 100 runners and raised over \$1,000 for our neighborhood elementary schools. The family friendly event drew runners of all ages, shapes, and sizes.

Congratulations to our first place man, Steven Melito (20:10) and first place woman, Laura Mitchell (20:20), and to all the runners who completed the 3.1 mile course. Vista Ridge freshman Cole Connor took the prize for first place under-16 runner (23:08) and Matthew Foley was the first elementary student across the line with a blazing time of 23:17!

I'd like to thank all our sponsors for their support: Ja-Mar Roofing, Rogue Running, Safeguard Aquatics, Road ID, and RealManage. Thank you also to Ryan Connor State Farm for the generous use of their tent and flags; Blue Corn Harvest for donating gift cards for our men's and women's winners; and to Don Garritano with Ja-Mar for the additional donation of gift cards for our under-16 and elementary winners. Please support these local businesses to show your appreciation for their community involvement! In addition, I'd like to thank the volunteers who helped put on the event, including members of the VRHS Cheerleaders and the VRHS Cross Country team!

If you didn't make it out this year, don't worry. We will do it again next August. Start training!



David Karabinas, Vice President  
Forest Oaks Homeowners Association

*Autumn*  
*begins*  
*September 22*

Medical identity theft is on the rise, and the consequences to victims can be fatal. Aero Jet Medical Air Ambulance Authority urges everyone to take steps to protect medical identification and to look for signs that you may be a victim. According to research done by the Ponemon Institute, approximately 1.85 million Americans are victims of this crime, and the economic impact is estimated to be \$41.3 billion per year.

Medical identity theft involves someone stealing your personal information specifically to obtain medical care such as surgery or medications, or to submit fake billings to your insurance in your name. Not only can this damage your credit rating, but it also can endanger your life. Someone using your medical ID could cause your hospital to list the wrong blood type, drug allergies, or medical conditions in your medical records. They may also max out your benefits and even cause you to get arrested or have your children taken away from you.

Protect your medical identification in the same way you protect your financial information: shred medical bills and old insurance cards rather than just throwing them away; don't give information to anyone that calls and claims to be asking for payments or helping you to settle claims; and don't give out your insurance information to people claiming to be conducting health surveys.

Contact your insurance company immediately if you receive bills for services you didn't receive, calls from debt collectors about a medical debt that you don't owe, or a notice saying that you have reached a benefit limit.

For more information about medical ID theft click on these links:

- <https://forms.oig.hhs.gov/hotlineoperations/>
- [http://www.ponemon.org/local/upload/file/Third\\_Annual\\_Survey\\_on\\_Medical\\_Identity\\_Theft\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ponemon.org/local/upload/file/Third_Annual_Survey_on_Medical_Identity_Theft_FINAL.pdf)

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## Forest Oaks Owners Association Management Team

**Kim Gogulski, President**  
board@forestoaksonline.com

**David Karabinas, Vice President**  
board@forestoaksonline.com

**David Oliver, Secretary**  
board@forestoaksonline.com

**Robert Medure, Treasurer**  
board@forestoaksonline.com

**John Miri, Director-at-Large**  
board@forestoaksonline.com

**Community Association Manager**  
Keri Scott  
keri.scott@realmanage.com

**Assistant Association Manager**  
Carol Green  
On-site hours at FOHOA Community Center  
Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00 PM–5:00 PM

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## Forest Oaks Committees

Association Committees are composed of Forest Oaks residents who serve on a voluntary basis. Committee Chairs are appointed by the Board of Directors. All residents are welcome to serve on committees of choice. Please contact the following committee chairs to participate:

- Architectural Committee Chair,**  
**Bill Mauer, acc@forestoaksonline.com**
  - Reviews all plans and specifications for improvements to lots within the Association
  - Assists in enforcement of Deed Restrictions
- Recreation & Social Committee Chairs,**  
**Julie Levy,**  
**Kimberly Rodriguez, social@forestoaksonline.com**
  - Plans neighborhood parties and other Association events
  - Helps organize neighborhood clubs or groups
- Amenity Center/Pool Committee Chair,**  
**Jennifer Butler-Harrison, pool@forestoaksonline.com**  
**Kim Gogulski, Chair**  
Makes recommendations regarding operation of:
  - Community Recreation Center
  - Swimming pools (including rules and hours of operation)
- Neighborhood Watch Committee Chair,**  
**Bryan Hickers, neighborhoodwatch@forestoakonline.com**
  - Makes recommendations to the Board regarding safety and security of the community
  - Coordinates the "Neighborhood Watch" program
- Landscaping Committee**  
**Mel Kirkland, landscaping@forestoaksonline.com**  
**John Miri, Board Liaison**
  - Maintenance of common areas of the community
  - Considers special recognition awards for "Yard of the Month"
- Publicity Committee Chair,**  
**Param Gyani, param@gyani.com**  
**Carolos Santillana, newsletter editor**
  - Works with the other committees to publicize Association events and news on the Website and in the Forest Oaks newsletter to inform the members of all activities and functions of the Association.

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# Succeed as an Effective HOA Leader

## Conference & Expo Will Teach Best Practices to Help You Become the Best Volunteer Community Leader You Can Be

Austin, Texas. Community association volunteer leaders almost without exception look to preserve the value of their residents' homes and maintain the quality of life their homeowners have come to expect through their homeowner association (HOA) or similar community governing body. But we don't always have the requisite knowledge and experience to do the best job possible. The school of hard knocks, trial and error, may get us there eventually, but it can be a long and arduous journey.

Join us at Austin Community Associations Institute's (CAI) 2014 Conference & Expo on Thursday, October 30th at the Palmer Events Center for an afternoon learning best practices. Hear what others have discovered is working to help build better neighborhoods. And admission is free!

"Hear industry leaders speak on a range of topics from 'Gearing Up for the 84th Legislative Session' to 'Common

Mistakes of Condo Boards' to 'Board Leadership Challenges,' just to name three of the six lectures to choose from in this year's Conference Lecture Series" notes Jill Nathman, Chair of CAI Austin's Conference & Expo.

Visit with our 70 exhibitors—experts delivering solutions to the problems keeping you and your board awake at night—. Energize your HOA board and your residents with new, imaginative ideas. Enhance your community's spirit; gain recognition for your community as one of the best places to live in Central Texas; and attract new residents. Come celebrate "what's good" about common interest community living.

Full details on our website at <http://www.caiaustinevents.org/2014conf&expo>.

With nearly 34,000 members dedicated to building better communities, Community Associations Institute (CAI) works in partnership with 60 domestic chapters, a chapter in South Africa, and housing leaders in a number of other countries, including Australia, Canada, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. Texas chapters include Austin, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, and San Antonio. CAI provides information, education, and resources to community associations and the professionals who support them. Visit [www.caiaustin.org](http://www.caiaustin.org), 512-858-5228, or the national website at [www.caionline.org](http://www.caionline.org), 888-224-4321, for more information.

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# Neighborhood TIPS WATCH

Let's all work together to help eliminate neighborhood crime. Please watch out for these activities in our neighborhood:

- Someone running from a car or home.
- Someone screaming. If you can't explain the screams, call law enforcement and report them.
- Someone going door-to-door in the neighborhood or looking into windows and parked cars.
- Someone asking about past residents.
- Someone who appears to have no purpose wandering through the neighborhood.
- Unusual or suspicious noises that you cannot explain, such as breaking glass or pounding.
- Vehicles moving slowly without lights or without an apparent destination.
- Business transactions conducted from a vehicle. This could involve the sale of drugs or stolen goods.
- Offers of merchandise available for ridiculously low prices. The merchandise might be stolen.
- Someone walking or running while carrying property at an unusual time or place.
- Someone removing property from unoccupied residences.
- A stranger entering a neighbor's home that appears to be unoccupied.
- A stranger in a car who stops to talk to a child.

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# How to Control Ants

These TIPS will be especially helpful because the ant populations seem to be on the rise.

## In Your Home

- Dispose of fallen fruit outside your home
- Clean trash containers and trash areas
- Use tight fitting trash lids
- Repair dripping hose connections
- Dispose of uneaten pet food daily
- Keep counters and floors free from food crumbs



## In The Workplace

- Discourage eating at the workstation
- Keep dumpsters away from the building
- Use lids on dumpsters
- Repair dripping sprinkler connections
- Empty trash cans daily
- Keep coffee area free from food crumbs

### Fall Word Search

VZVSLFLYXRVLFOAFE  
 CHESTNUTSKETVIPOD  
 KRKHAUVINAIDPQSOI  
 TPAGDTNOVRTOIZITR  
 ISRNSNVEEACDCRBY  
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acorn	football	nuts
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## Things You Can Do

Have you been a victim of graffiti vandalism? Follow the three

R's:

1. **REPORT** - File a report as soon as possible by contacting the non-emergency police number.
2. **RECORD** - Take a picture of the graffiti (for homeowner's insurance and/or police report).
3. **REMOVE** - Remove the graffiti from your property within 24–48 hours to prevent graffiti from spreading and reoccurring.

Here's what you need to know about graffiti...

### Do

Property owners who have been victimized by graffiti vandalism should record damages for insurance purposes.

- Take photos of the vandalized area and document when the crime occurred; the Police may request this information when you report it.
- Report graffiti in progress by calling 911; graffiti is a crime.
- Call RealManage to report graffiti vandalism, 866-473-2573
- Remove graffiti within 24–48 hours, this is key to graffiti prevention.
- Request graffiti removal by calling RealManage at 866-473-2573
- Follow the 3 Rs (Record, Report, and Remove) to help eliminate graffiti vandalism in your community

### Don't

- Miss an opportunity to record the graffiti, by taking a photo, for police use.
- Approach someone who is vandalizing property.
- Miss an opportunity to have City staff or volunteers remove the graffiti, by reporting it to 311.
- Leave graffiti on your property longer than 48 hours; property that is not maintained will attract more graffiti.

A collage of polaroid photos showing various people smiling and happy. Some photos have captions: "BE HAPPY HELP EACH OTHER BE GRATEFUL", "My New Smile!", "Dr. B and the girls!", "Dude? Really?", "Keepin' it clean!", and "Your Photo Here!".

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