

CTCA NEWSLETTER

COMANCHE TRAIL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 2011



Sarah Eckhardt, our new County Commissioner

COMANCHE TRAIL NOW IN TRAVIS COUNTY PRECINCT 2

As a result of redistricting, the Comanche Trail Community, as well as Steiner Ranch and River Place, are in now in Travis County Commissioners Precinct 2. Sarah Eckhardt is our current Commissioner. Her term extends through 2014.

Our area was formerly part of Precinct 3 served by Commissioner Karen Huber.

This change took effect through the adoption of revised precinct boundaries by Travis County Commissioners Court on September 13, 2011. County-wide redistricting occurs every 10 years based on population numbers from the US census.

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HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 2011 CTCA DUES?
Send \$20 to CTCA Treasurer, 13905 Panorama Dr., Austin TX 78732

Contact information for CTCA Officers, Directors, & newsletter editor is on Page 2.

CTCA HOLIDAY PARTY TO BE ON DECEMBER 11

Our annual Holiday Party will be held on December 11, 4:30 - 7:30 PM at the home of Eddie Abraham, 7084 Comanche Trail.

Turkey, ham, salmon, mac&cheese, shrimp cocktail, water, and soft drinks will be provided. Members are asked to bring potluck dishes according to their last name, Dessert: A-H; and sides or appetizers: I-Z; plus their holiday beverage.

Santa Claus will arrive at 6:30 PM to present gifts to children. Please provide a wrapped gift for your child.

Donations to Brown Santa (Travis County Sheriffs Department) in the form of a wrapped new toy are encouraged.



LIN SWANNER

REGGAE ON AT THE HOLIDAY PARTY

Moe Monsarrat and his band, Stop the Truck will provide reggae and holiday music.

This party is for members only. Dues may be paid at the door.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING SLATED FOR DECEMBER 6

A CTCA Membership Meeting will be held at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at the home of Lin Swanner and Gene Barnes. A vote will be taken on an amendment to the Bylaws restoring our community boundary. Details are on Page 3.

CTCA Directors, Officers Contact Information

| | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Lin Swanner, President | lswanner@austin.rr.com | 266-8997 |
| Steve Bello, Vice President | stevebellog@gmail.com | 257-9745 |
| Valerie Rawlings, Secretary | valrawlings@earthlink.net | 422-0654 |
| Donna Ackman, Treasurer | donnaackman@austin.rr.com | 266-3476 |
| Keith Powell, Past President | lucidlife@yahoo.com | 963-6883 |

Directors (2010 - 2012)

| | | |
|---------------|------------------------|----------|
| Ray Charo | titorac@juno.com | 266-1546 |
| William Cones | coneswillie@yahoo.com | 266-1981 |
| Eva Wiley | evawiley@austin.rr.com | 266-6000 |

Directors (2011 - 2013)

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Gene Barnes | ebarnes002@austin.rr.com | 266-8997 |
| Susan Cloyd | cloydss@aol.com | 266-5871 |
| Jennifer Plent | jenniferplent@gmail.com | 216-965-5483 |

Newsletter Editor: ads, corrections, news, and photos to: ct-editor02@austin.rr.com

Neighborhood News



Beau Theriot, veteran CTCA member

BEAU THERIOT TELLS OF “THE TEXAS HOWDY”

BY DONNA ACKMAN AND JEANNE GRAVES

Our Comanche Trail neighborhood is described by many as a unique and friendly place to live. People smile and say “Hi” and wave when they drive by. Our community tries to make you feel welcome here, so even if you’re a newbie, please join in and lift a finger or hand in greeting.

In the middle of the road near the entrance to the Oasis restaurant, you must have noticed the two very large marble sculptures of a hand. Beau Theriot tells the story of why they are there. That’s the Texas Howdy!

“I grew up in Beaumont, Port Arthur. My granddad had this farm on the north side and at nine years old - I was always big - I would drive him around the community. He was a county commissioner. I would be driving this Buick in the 50’s and everybody as they were driving along would raise their finger up off the steering wheel to greet and acknowledge you as a neighbor. Well when I saw these statues of the hand with the raised finger, I thought, that’s the Texas howdy! So that’s the reason I wanted those marble hands out there...that’s how we said “Hi” in east Texas growing up.”

Donna Ackman and Jeanne Graves have been researching the past 40 years of our neighborhood history and collecting interviews of neighbors. The result will appear in a publication, *The Character of Comanche*.

An excerpt from their interview with Beau Theriot, right, is one of several articles planned for issues of the *CTCA Newsletter*.

STEINER RANCH WILDFIRE PLANNING GROUP HOLDS CLEANUP FOR BCP

As a result of the Labor Day wildfire that destroyed 23 homes in Steiner Ranch, a Steiner Ranch Wildfire Planning Group has been formed. This group, along with many residents, consists of four entities: the Steiner Ranch Savannah Point Firewise Committee, Lake Travis Fire Rescue (ESD 6), the office of Travis County Precinct 2 Commissioner Sarah Eckhardt, and the Wildland Conservation Division of the City of Austin.

On November 12, 2011, this Wildfire Planning Group sponsored the clearing of fire hazards, mainly brush and landscaping debris, from a section of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) next to the Savannah Point neighborhood of Steiner Ranch. This particular BCP tract was originally set aside by the developers in order to obtain permits for clearing home sites and roadway.

A group of volunteers, including 40 residents and 15 students from Vandegriff High School, worked in the cleanup along with



A Travis County worker removing flammable debris from Steiner Ranch.

staff from Lake Travis Fire Rescue and Travis County Natural Resources. John Durham, ESD 6 Assistant Fire Chief, said that by providing a chipper, truck, and workers, Travis County made an essential contribution to this effort. He also credited resident Nathasha Collmann and the Savannah Point Firewise Committee for organizing their neighborhood toward wildfire prevention.

CTCA BUSINESS

CTCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING DECEMBER 6: AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

The CTCA will hold a membership meeting on December 6, 2011, 7:30 PM, at the home of Lin Swanner and Gene Barnes, 14100 Panorama Drive. The membership will vote on an amendment to the Bylaws restoring the historic boundary of our community.

At the CTCA Membership Meeting on November 1, 2011, preliminary approval was given to amending Article 1.02 of the current Bylaws. The Comanche Trail community boundaries in the amended Article would align with those currently on file with the City of Austin Community Registry. That file has remained the same for over 20 years. If the Bylaws amendment is approved, residents of Villa Montana and other parts of Comanche Canyon Ranch would become eligible for CTCA membership. These neighbors were excluded from membership in 2006.

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From Page 3

The existing Bylaws Article 1.02 and the proposed amendment are shown below. The language of the amendment has been approved by all eleven current members of the CTCA Board.

Existing 1.02

The “Comanche Trail Community” includes all properties bounded east by Oasis Bluff, north by Bullick Hollow Road, west by the Cypress Creek Arm of Lake Travis, and south by Lake Travis, excepting any portion of the platted subdivision of Villa Montana within this defined area.

Proposed Amendment 1.02

The “Comanche Trail Community” includes all properties bounded north by Lake Travis, south by RM 620, east by Bullick Hollow Road, and west by Lake Travis. These boundaries are defined further in the City of Austin Community Registry Map 260.

Please note that map 260 also appears on Page 2 of the current (August, 2010) CTCA Directory and is labeled as the boundaries of the Comanche Trail community. The same map has appeared in many of the earlier editions of the CTCA Directory.

VOTING MEMBERSHIP AND PROXIES

At the December 6 meeting, CTCA members in good standing may vote on the Bylaws amendment shown above. Couples residing in the same household are considered as one membership for the purpose of voting.

Members not present may vote by submitting proxies that shall be dated, signed, and submitted in writing at the onset of the meeting stating clearly the person authorized to cast the proxy vote and the agenda items (i.e., Bylaws amendment) for which it is intended.

A sample proxy form is posted at <http://Facebook.com/ComancheTrail>

Minutes of the November 1, 2011 CTCA Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order by president Lin Swanner at 7:39 p.m. Other officials present were Steve Bello, Donna Ackman, Keith Powell, Gene Barnes, Willie Cones, Ray Charo, Jennifer Plent and Valerie Rawlings. The minutes of the October meeting were approved as printed in the last newsletter.

Continued on Page 5

MINUTES

From Page 4

Treasurer's Report

Opening Balance.....\$4500.47
2 Deposits.....312.00
3 Withdrawals
(End of Summer Party)....789.58
Closing Balance.....\$4022.89

Donna reported that we currently have 89 members. We had \$200 in advertising income this month.

Social Committee

Jennifer reported on the next big event for the neighborhood and that is the Christmas party. This year's theme is "Have a Reggae Christmas" which will be fabulously enhanced by the reappearance of Mo Monsarrat's band, Stop the Truck. The party will be Sunday December 11, from 4:30 to 7:30 at Eddie Abrahams home, 7084 Comanche Trail. There is a budget of \$1500 which will cover meats, paper goods, tables, tablecloths, decorations, music and cleanup, among other things. Keith Powell is promising to treat us to fried turkey. The CTCA will also provide ham, and shrimp cocktail. Tina Holmes is going to reprise her famous salmon dish. Guests are asked to bring a donation to Brown Santa and a dessert (A-H), or side/appetizer (I-Z). It is rumored that Santa Claus will make an appearance! I guess he heard about the amazing food that we have at our parties!

Website

The website is up and running. Check it out at comanchetrail.org Stay informed about upcoming events, wildfire safety programs, and important issues like marina and road construction. Contact Dave Evans or Keith Powell to post info on the website.

We have a Facebook page [Facebook.com/comanchetrail](https://www.facebook.com/comanchetrail) Post pictures, share stories and keep in touch. You can view this page without an account. With an account you can chime in on anything you want to talk about.

Do you Tweet? Go to [Twitter.com/ComancheTrail](https://twitter.com/ComancheTrail). This will have updates for the community as well as the capability to connect us in case of emergency. Of course you can post to this site anytime you like. If you see "breaking news" let us know!

Advertising

It was moved and seconded that we adopt a new rate structure for newsletter advertising, effective January 1, 2012.

A 30 word personal ad will be free to CTCA members. A business ad of the same size will be \$10. For non-members the rate will be \$15.

| | CTCA | Non-Members |
|--------------|------|-------------|
| ¼ page ad | \$20 | \$25 |
| ½ page ad | 30 | 50 |
| Full page ad | 60 | 100 |

The motion carried unanimously.

Dues Increase 2012

It was moved and seconded that the dues be increased from \$20 a year to \$25, effective in April, 2012. For those who require the newsletter arrive by US mail, the rate was increased to \$30 for printing and postage costs. The motion passed with 6 in favor, 1 opposed and 2 abstaining. Those in favor agreed that this small increase would make a considerable difference in our ability to reach out to the community.

CTCA Boundaries

It was moved and seconded that the proposed vote on the boundaries, take place at the next meeting. While there is no resistance to the actual boundaries that we want described, there is a problem with the language of the boundary proposal. A group of attorneys from the neighborhood will meet and write the new language, in time for the official vote, Dec. 6th, at Lin Swanner's studio. This is, of course, a membership meeting and everyone is urged to attend.

Membership Directory

Dick Allen is almost ready with the new, updated CTCA directory. It will only be available to members and it will be sent by e-mail.

The next meeting is at 7:30, Dec. 6th, at Lin Swanner's studio, 14100 Panorama Drive.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Rawlings, Secretary

ADVERTISEMENTS



We invite you to our special place in the sun on Lake Travis. Come enjoy the new tastes of Soleil—Seafood, Pasta, and Steaks. Reserve the perfect location for your Holiday Party, Business Meetings, Special Occasions, Weddings and Private Parties by calling Adam Tompkins at 512/266-9242.

Soleil (So-LAY) means 'sun.'

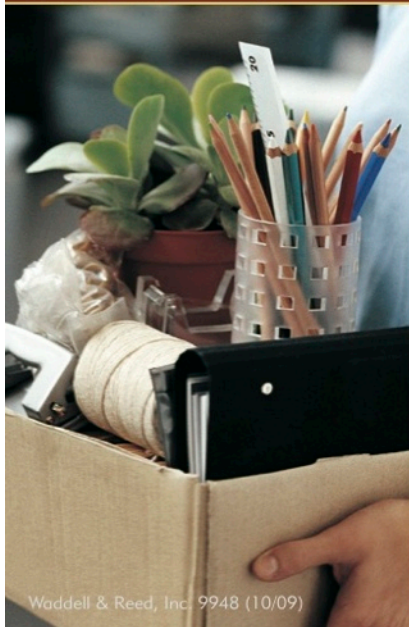


6550 Comanche Trail, Austin, TX 78732

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Taxes are deferred until withdrawn. Withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10 percent penalty and will involve the payment of federal and/or state taxes.

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HOW TO SUBMIT ADVERTISING FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Advertisers must be current CTCA members. Monthly rates: 2-3 line ads, \$10; business cards, \$20; half-page layouts, \$50. Business card and half-page ads must be in 'ready-to-print' jpeg format.

Send to the editor at: ct-editor02@austin.rr.com and a check payable to CTCA to Donna Ackman, Treasurer, 13905 Panorama Drive, Austin TX 78732. The deadline is the 15th for each monthly issue.

Acknowledgements

The editor thanks Donna Ackman, Chuck Graves, Ron Greening, and Jennifer Plent for contributions to articles in this issue.

Newsletter Contact

Corrections, comments, news, and photos are welcome. The deadline for submission is the 15th of each month. Send to the editor at: ct-editor02@austin.rr.com