



Canterbury Farms Community Association - Community Newsletter -

Volume 1, Issue 6

December 2009

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**Community Meeting—
Weds. 12/9 6:30 pm**
Garza Community Center -1450 Mira Vista
Guest Speaker—
Vernon Dunigan, Assistant
Superintendent, NISD

**Join us for our next
Volunteers Meetings —
Jan. 13th, 6:30 pm**
Garza Community Center

Committee Chairpersons—
Communications:
Lizette Yanes-Lew— 421-3357
liz.yanes@yahoo.com

Safety Committee:
Elaine Mahler-Joseph—
391-4107
elaineemj@yahoo.com

Social Committee:
Melissa Castillo— 380-0473
destro02@prodigy.net

HOA President:
Leroy Martinez— 393-1946
Leroy.martinez2@att.net

HOA Secretary Treasurer:
Trudy Edwards—954-682-6033
trudye04@yahoo.com

National Night Out—

On October 6th, over 200 residents took part in Canterbury Farms' Inaugural National Night Out Event.

Canterbury Farms Community Association President, Mr. Leroy Martinez, and Secretary/Treasurer, Trudy Edwards, welcomed residents at an Opening Ceremony for the community event at Kensington Run.

Canterbury Farms Community Association sponsored our neighborhood event by supplying food, drinks, and activities for our community members. Children enjoyed a variety of games, craft activities and a bounce house as attendees were entertained by local band, Los Infiles del Norte, who donated their time and talents for the event. Attendees also took part in prize drawings for door prizes.

Representatives of Councilmember Justin Rodriguez' office visited our event and provided informational bags for attendees. CPS, a sponsor of National Night Out in San Antonio had provided safety information.

On behalf of Canterbury Farms Community Association, we would like to thank all our volunteers that made this event possible by planning, setting up, helping with entertainment, maintaining the various stations and bringing down the event. Thank you for your generous contribution of time and talent that

helped make National Night Out 2009 such a tremendous success!

We would also like to thank our neighbors adjacent to the event location for their generosity in helping to make this event possible.

Our thanks also go to Fieldstone Homes for donating some door prizes and public conveniences for the event.

Thank you again for joining us. National Night Out is a great opportunity to help reinforce neighborhood unity and strengthen our on-going partnership within the community. We hope the information and camaraderie were positive and that you will be able to celebrate with us again next year!

We appreciate your comments about this year's event and welcome you to join us in planning our National Night Out 2010!



National Night Out is sponsored nationally by National Town Watch and locally by the City of San Antonio, to promote year-round efforts to keep our neighborhoods crime and drug free.

This year the City of San Antonio placed 2nd Nationally among cities with populations over 300,000 for its participation in National Night Out 2009! Texas was #1 among the states!

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW SCHOOL?

**Join us at Garza Community Center for a
Community Meeting on
Wednesday December 9th at 6:30pm**

Our guest speaker will be Northside Independent School District Assistant Superintendent for Facilities & Operations, Vernon Dunagin, who will talk to us about planned developments regarding the new Elementary School, Jim G. Martin Elementary.



Annual Assessments Are Due January 1st

If you are a homeowner in Canterbury Farms you should have recently received your invoice for Annual Assessments for 2010. This was sent out in Mid November with the proposed budget for 2010. The annual Assessment for Canterbury Farms remains at \$120 a year.

Annual Assessments are due on the 1st of January, 2010. Pay by January 30th to avoid incurring late fees. If you have not received your invoice, please contact John Bouchier at Association Management Services.

Payments should be mailed to 261-CF Community Association, C/O AMS Payment Processing Center, P.O. Box 8, Phoenix, AZ 85082-6728

Christmas Light Safety **Safely Using and Storing Christmas and Other Holiday Lights**

By Rod Brouhard, About.com Guide - http://firstaid.about.com/od/injuriesathome/qt/06_xmaslights.htm



Christmas lights are beautiful and much safer than candles, but all that electricity can cause problems if not used properly. Christmas lights can get hot enough to burn or ignite other decorations. The cords can fray, leading to a short. Decorating with lights often requires the use of a ladder, and improper use could lead to an injury. Practice ladder safety when you are putting up Christmas lights.

When you put up Christmas lights this season - or holiday lights during any season - be sure to follow these Christmas light safety tips.

- Choose Christmas lights that have been tested and deemed safe by a reputable testing laboratory, the best are UL or ETL. Christmas lights listed as safe by these laboratories will note that on the packaging.
- Try to use the cooler-burning "mini" Christmas lights as opposed to the traditional larger bulbs. The older style burns much hotter.
- Only use Christmas lights that have fuses in the plugs.
- Inspect each set of Christmas lights - old or new - for damage. Return or throw out any set with cracked or broken sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Replace burned out bulbs promptly with bulbs of the same wattage.
- Never hang Christmas lights on a metal tree. The tree can become charged with electricity and shock someone. The tree can also short out the Christmas lights and cause a fire.
- Want Christmas lights outdoors? Use outdoor Christmas lights. The packaging will note whether the lights can be used indoors, outdoors, or both.
- All outdoor electrical decorations should be plugged into a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). You can buy portable units for outdoor use, or you can have them permanently installed by an electrician.
- Use extension cords properly. Outdoor cords can be used inside or outside. Do not overload extension cords - they can get hot enough to burn.
- Stay away from power lines or feeder lines (these go from the pole to the house).
- Secure outside Christmas lights with insulated holders (never use tacks or nails) or run strings of lights through hooks.
- When you leave or go to bed at night, turn off your Christmas lights.

Why Volunteer?



Over the last year, Canterbury Farms has been fortunate enough to have people who have volunteered some of their time on a regular basis to help make Canterbury Farms a better community. We asked some of our volunteer committee members why they decided to volunteer for their community, what kind of commitment it takes to volunteer, what they envision for the community and what they like about being a volunteer committee member.

We asked our Association President, Mr. Martinez, why he got involved as a volunteer in the community and he told us that he wanted "to be seen as a member of this community and get to know my neighbors and others in the community." He especially wanted to "help and assist as necessary within our community." Mr. Martinez has achieved this goal by serving as Association President and making decisions as part of the Board of Directors, but also by being actively involved in the committees, looking out for neighbors' safety as an active member of Cellular on Patrol, and by volunteering his time and skills to help needy neighbors with grass cutting, installing safety lights and planting trees. When we asked what he envisions for our community, Mr. Martinez told us that he wants "this community be viewed as a pleasant clean environment to live in, play and own a home." and for residents to "feel safe indoors/outdoors day or night."

When we asked Association Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Edwards why she became a volunteer and she confided, "I had never pictured myself being a volunteer for the association, let alone a board member. I thought that I wouldn't have time, I was uncertain of my abilities and I wasn't sure what volunteering would involve but I love learning new skills, meeting new people and being able to make a positive difference to my community and so I found that I really enjoy volunteering."

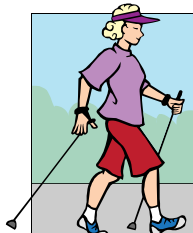
We also asked Mr. Benjamin, an active volunteer for the last year and has spearheaded our community's petition for speed bumps. Mr. Benjamin serves on the Social, Safety and Communications Committees and is a certified member of Cellular on Patrol. As to why Mr. Benjamin volunteers, he told us, "With the help of my neighbors I hope to make Canterbury Farms a proud part of San Antonio's west side. This can be accomplished if more residents pitch in, and realize that getting involved with our HOA committees is the best way to improve things in our neighborhood that they find troubling. I urge everyone to get involved." When asked what he likes about volunteering for the community Mr. Benjamin told us, "I enjoy volunteering because I like the feeling of having been a part of improving Canterbury Farms for the better. I think our National Night Out was a perfect example of what can be done if we come together as neighbors."

Family Events around our Neighborhood!

Senior Programs

Gilbert Garza Community Center is offering variety of fun, social activities for seniors in the community. Play dominos, knit with friends, play cards or do arts and craft projects at the Garza Center, Monday through Friday, 9-11am. Contact 435-6806 for more info.

Walking Club



Also at the Garza Center—10am—12pm, Monday through Friday—Join the Garza Walking Club to get active, get fit and have fun as you chart your progress and meet new people.

Holiday Camp 2009

Looking for something to keep the kids occupied during the Christmas break? Garza Community Center Holiday Camp has Games, Arts & Crafts & Fun for kids for only \$2.00 per day—December 21-23 and also December 28-31, 7:30am—5:30pm. For kids ages 6-14 yrs. Call (210) 435-6806 for more info.

Canterbury Farms 2009

A Year in Review

• February

2009—Canterbury Farms Members Elected our first home owner members to the Association's Board of Directors at the annual meeting.

• **March 2009**—Safety Committee members took part in Cellular on Patrol (COP) training with SAPD.

• **April 2009**—Collections process started on delinquent accounts.

• **May 2009**—Community Garage Sale.

• **June 2009**—Community Meeting with guest speakers from Code Compliance and Animal Care Services.

• **July 2009**—Petition for Speed Bumps submitted for Absolon Farm.

• **September 2009**—Community Meeting with a guest speaker from

Neighborhood Housing Services. NHS provides a Post-Purchase Counseling Program to educate homeowners how to maintain their home and their finances. (Please contact Sec./Treasurer Trudy Edwards, if you would like to attend a post-purchase workshop.)

• **November 2009**—Canterbury Farms celebrated its first official National Night Out Event.

• **November 2009**—Safety Committee volunteers gathered signatures and submitted completed applications for speed bumps for Harefield Drive, Kensington Run, Ridingate Farm.

• **November 2009**—Councilman Justin Rodriguez attended our volunteers committees meeting to hear our concerns and let us know that his office is available to help.

• December 12th -2009

Community Clean Up Day—Landers Farm & Canterbury Dr. 9:45am—1pm.

What's ahead for 2010?

• **March 2010**—Annual Meeting and Board of Directors elections. The current Board of Directors was set to serve one year. The following, and subsequent Board members will serve for two years.—

• **August 2010**—Jim G. Martin Elementary School opens.

• **November 2010**—National Night Out.



Protect Your Decorations!

- Use the panic button on your car remote to scare away vandals if seen approaching the house or your Christmas decorations. .
- Do not confront or attempt to capture vandals for police. If they are hurt and they are minors, you could find yourself facing assault charges.
- If you are a victim of theft, call 911 right away and be ready to provide them with descriptions, ie., the license #, make, model and color of vehicle, race and age, color of clothing. Record the time of incident.
- Use a timer on your Christmas decorations to turn them off and on several times over night.
- Simply bring the decorations in overnight.
- Ask neighbors to keep an eye on your home if you're going out for the evening.

By Leroy Martinez

Neighborhood Association Communications and Information Sharing

Did you ever wonder how you can find out about a neighborhood association event? Have you ever wanted to quickly publicize a lost pet to your fellow neighborhood residents? Check out our official neighborhood association web site, www.canterburyfarmssa.com. The website is a great resource for information about the neighborhood, the community association, association committees, the community events calendar and has copies of official association documents such as the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions as well as the Architectural Improvement Request forms, copies of past newsletters in English and Spanish. The website also has useful information and links for homeowner and financial matters, City of San Antonio resources and many other interesting items.

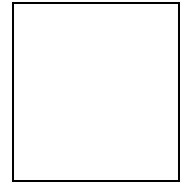
www.canterburyfarmssa.com is the

only official neighborhood association web site, and the place to go for up-to-date neighborhood association news and information. If you need to get the word out about a lost pet, lost and found items, neighborhood association programs, projects or events, and important neighborhood association business, you can post a message on the discussion section of the website.

This Newsletter is another vital source of communications in our neighborhood association. If you would like to submit an article for the Newsletter, please contact Lizette Yanes-Lew, Communications Committee Chair, at 210-436-5142, or liz.yanes@yahoo.com. Please remember the Communications Committee reserves the right to edit any Newsletter article and to reject items that are not in good taste or not relevant to the neighborhood association and our members.

By Lizette Yanes-Lew

Association Management Services
1600 N.E. Loop 410 Ste. 202
San Antonio, TX 78209



Canterbury Farms has a new web address!

www.CanterburyFarmsSA.com

*SI TU NECESITA ESTA PUBLICACION EN ESPANOL
POR FAVOR VISITAR EL SITIO WEB*

Canterbury Farms Community Meeting

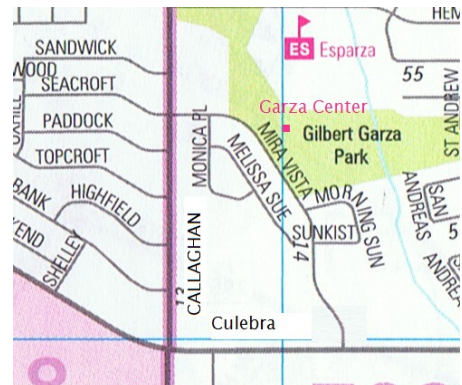
When: **WEDS. December 9th 6:30pm**

Where: **Garza Community Center
1450 Mira Vista**

Guests: Vernon Dunagin, Assistant Superintendent
for Facilities & Operations, Northside
Independent School District

Agenda: Martin Elementary School and member concerns

Refreshments will be served.



USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS:

Association Management Services: Mon-Fri 8:00am-6:00pm Tel: 829-7202 Fax: 829-5207

Canterbury Farms Property Manager: John Bouchier— john@ams-sa.com

SAPD (non-emergency): 207-7273, 207-7744

COP Coordinator & SAFFE Officer Rob Valle #0551: 210-827-3707

City Assistance: 311

Animal Control: 737-1442 or 737-1600

Councilman Justin Rodriguez' Office— 210.207.2727