

# DRAKESTONE NEWS

April 2010

## COVENANT CORNER

The Drakestone Covenants require homeowners to keep their grass cut below 6 inches, keep weeds under control and to generally keep yards in good order. I was surprised to learn that if there is a property that doesn't comply, the property can be cleaned up and the owner billed.

So then I got to thinking....I know kinda scary...who enforces that? I have decided to propose a new Horticultural Enforcement Unit composed of volunteer residents. A uniform will be provided that will consist of a wide brimmed sun hat, green Bermuda shorts, yellow flowered gloves, yellow t-shirt with Horticulture Enforcement Unit on the front, black socks (just like the real police), sandals, mirrored sunglasses, of course, and a duty belt. Not just a regular duty belt either, it will be a special belt that will have Round Up in a holster for those instances when deadly force must be used against weeds that are out of control and threaten our neighborhood, a ruler to ensure that the 6 inch rule is not violated, a water bottle (horticulture enforcement is hard work!), a whistle in case our HEU officer gets in trouble...ya know, killer beers, overly aggressive grubs, or God forbid...chiggers! Of course this program does have it's costs, we would have to give our HEU Officers some kind of transportation. A riding lawnmower with a green flashing light, a big dandelion on the hood with a circle and a line through it and a siren, maybe a siren is too much....I know! An OOO-GAH horn! When a derelict yard is identified the HEU will be required to stand outside the house on the sidewalk with their arms crossed, shaking their heads and using their most effective verbal tool, commonly referred to as the TSK in horticultural enforcement circles. You know ....tssssk, tssssk, tssssk! This unit could get a little expensive, but can we really put a price on protecting our greenery?

Maybe someday soon you will hear the sound of a riding lawnmower and look outside to see the Drakestone Homeowners Association Horticulture Enforcement Unit on patrol. Don't be afraid, just make sure your yard is orderly!

Have a GREAT April!



## NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> 8am - ??

We're having our annual Neighborhood Garage Sale!

We will have it advertised in The Oklahoman, The Yukon Review, and Craigslist. Our banners and signs will be up at the entrances also!

Get your garage sale permit with the City of Oklahoma for \$7.00.

You can apply for one over the phone at 297-2606.

Start your spring cleaning and let's have a giant neighborhood sale!



## Drakestone Easter Hunt

Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>



## Our Prize Winners

2yrs and under: Brody Griffin

3yrs to 4yrs: Trevor Norrid

5yrs to 7yrs: Aubrianna

8yrs and older: Danielle Daugherty

*Thank You to all the volunteers that helped make this Easter Hunt possible!*

## Questions for Your Lawn Care Service Providers

- Do you have commercial pesticide license?
  - Now, it might seem like jumping the gun to charge right out of the gate with this question, but the answer will tell you much more than whether they are legally allowed to treat your lawn. It will also tell you if the provider has had some formal training with lawn and garden care beyond mowing his or her parents' back yard.
  - The license signifies that the provider has been instructed about how to safely apply fertilizers, weed and insect controls-whether organic or synthetic.
  - Also, if they don't have a commercial pesticide license, they cannot legally apply any chemicals to your lawn. Period.
- Do you have insurance-business, liability and worker's comp?
  - This is another biggie. If the lawn care provider does not have insurance, if they damage something on your property, you may or may not be able to get the damages repaired.
  - Additionally, if the business owner or an employee injure themselves on your property, you want to make sure that they have the proper insurance so that you cannot be held liable.
- May I see your portfolio?
  - Now, this one is more important for landscapers that will be doing more work than just lawn care, but it never hurts to see pictures, regardless.
  - Look for clean edging, no mower marks, healthy plants, etc.
- Do you give notice before spraying chemicals?
  - This is especially important if you have children or pets, as you will want to make sure that they are out of harm's way, and stay off the grass for the specified time.
  - Additionally, you don't want them to come do a massive weed treatment one week before your big garden party or cookout. Burned weeds everywhere? Not pretty!
- What is included in each weekly visit? What treatments are included in my yearly service plan?
  - That might seem like a no-brainer, but it is always good to get in writing what you are paying for.
  - A list of included services will also help you plan any events you have at home. (You don't want your lawn care provider to aerate three days before a party, either.)
- Can the service provider do any seasonal garden maintenance, or just lawn maintenance?
  - A little bit of extra landscaping goes a long way toward increasing your home value. It also makes a home more inviting. However, many people don't add extra landscaping because they don't want to take care of it. Hiring a lawn care service provider that can help with landscaping maintenance makes caring for your garden much easier.

A thorough interview including the above questions will help you find a lawn care service provider you will be happy to use. Less time working on the lawn means more time leftover for fun!

Wes Wilkinson **Elitelawns Inc.** 405-202-8551



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## BOARD MEMBERS

**President,** Kay Wilt  
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**Vice President,** Stephen Geries  
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**Secretary,** Kelly Rahill  
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**Treasurer,** Jerry Williams  
324-0673  
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**New Member,** Don Bloomfield

A huge **"THANK YOU"** to  
Bryan Rizzi

He and his wife, Karen, recently moved from Drakestone & Bryan will no longer be on our Board. He was a wonderful asset to the Board and to our neighborhood. He wrote our wonderful Covenant Corner articles. Bryan, you will be greatly missed!

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