

Brook Meadows Messenger

The Official Publication of the Brook Meadows Homeowner's Association

Volume 1, Number 1

www.brookmeadows.org

October 2006

Message From Your Board

Neighbors,

Welcome to the new “all inclusive” Brook Meadows Homeowners Association (BMHA). Your BMHA Board is very excited to be able to communicate with you in this first issue of your new monthly BMHA newsletter – “The Brook Meadows Messenger.”

It is our pleasure to inform you that this newsletter is being formatted, printed, and mailed to all Brook Meadows homeowners by Peel, Inc. at no cost to you or your BMHA. Peel, Inc. specializes in publishing community newsletters for homeowner associations. Your Board submits Brook Meadows-related articles to Peel, and they take care of all advertising, publishing and mailing of this newsletter to you. If you would like to submit an article for a future issue or would like to make a comment or suggestion on how we can improve the newsletter, please email to Howard Wixson, Editor, at hwixon@comcast.net.

When we convened our first Board meeting, each of us talked about the impact we wanted to have during our one-year term, and quite a few key strategic initiatives that we wanted to accomplish as a Board. We concluded that we should initially focus on these three initiatives:

1. Increase the frequency and openness of two-way communication between the Board and all Brook Meadows homeowners, by initiating a new monthly BMHA newsletter
2. Return to a more “social” environment in our community
3. Help raise the sale price of homes in Brook Meadows.

We are very pleased to demonstrate the initial result of our 1st key strategic initiative, by sending you this first issue of your new monthly BMHA newsletter. This is not the completion of our 1st initiative, just the beginning. The ultimate success of this initiative will be determined by you, the homeowners in Brook Meadows. The measurement of our success in this initiative will be your acceptance and participation in future issues of this newsletter.

We are in the final stages of completing the first step of our 2nd initiative: re-establishing a revitalized Social Committee. The scope of this committee will be not only to handle some of the standard annual events, but also to pull together less formal events, where we can simply enjoy getting to know one another. Expect more details on this committee in our next issue of your newsletter. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Social Committee, please send an email to Kevin Elder at kevin.elder@gmail.com.

We believe that the average sales price per-square-foot for Brook Meadows homes appears to be significantly less than in other comparable communities. We also believe that there are some things we can do to positively impact this issue. Jim Tressler and Dick Cress are pulling together preliminary statistics on home sales in Brook Meadows and other Colleyville communities and will be discussing it with real estate professionals. If you would like to provide input or participate, please email Dick at rhcress@sbcglobal.net or Jim at jtressler@jetdirect.us. This is a very strategic initiative and we consider it to be a very important for all Brook Meadow homeowners.

Your Board has been busy during these last several months. A few other initiatives completed and in progress include:

- We completed the filing of the new CC&R's in June for the BMHA to be an “all inclusive” Association.
- We are in the final stages of a major revision of the original Bylaws to make them compliant with the new CC&R's.
- We retained the services of a new landscape company, in order to significantly improve the quality of our Brook Meadows entrances and commonly maintained areas.
- We established a new Architecture Review Committee (ARC) and are in process of creating new ARC policies, procedures and forms to guide ARC members and homeowners on how to and work with each other. If you have questions or comments regarding the ARC, please send an email to Carole Taylor at Carole-Taylor@sbcglobal.net.

If you would like to read all the details of what we have been working on during these last several months, please go the BMHA web page - <http://www.brookmeadows.org/> - and then “click” on: “BMHA BOARD,” “BOARD MINUTES,” and click on any of the minutes listed under “2006-2007.” If you have any problems viewing the meeting minutes or questions and comments regarding the meeting minutes, please send an email to directors@brookmeadows.org.

In summary, we know we have much more to do, and we will continue to do our best to make significant progress in resolving issues and advancing initiatives, which we believe are in the best interest of our community. We will be reporting our progress to you in each monthly issue of your new BMHA newsletter. Thanks to each of you for your support.

Best Regards,
Your BMHA Board of Directors

Brook Meadows

Brook Meadows Homeowners Association, Inc.

PO Box 492
Colleyville, TX 76034

Please visit our website often:
www.BrookMeadows.org

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If you have any ideas to make our newsletter better, please contact the editor. We want your input, ideas, and even your articles.

Do you have a Home Based Business right here in Brook Meadows ?

You can get information about your service or products to every home in Brook Meadows, by running a business classified in the Brook Meadows Community Newsletter. It is a great way to get your name and contact information to many potential customers in your neighborhood. The cost is \$45 for up to 40 words. Display ads are also available. For more information, please contact Peel, Inc. at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The deadline is the 20th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

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Thank You

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Peel, Inc for making this monthly newsletter possible. It will be published once per month at exactly zero cost to your Association. If you, or any of the local businesses that you frequent, would like to advertise please have them contact Peel, Inc at the address and number listed below. The rates are reasonable and will reach all of your neighbors on a monthly basis.

THANKS AGAIN TO PEEL, INC., and specifically Kelly Peel for making this happen!

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(512) 989-8905
Kelly@PEELinc.com

Your ARC....

Per the newly filed Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions, in effect since June 13th, we have an approved Architectural Review Committee (ARC). The ARC was put in place to protect our property values by ensuring that all visible new construction, maintenance, and landscaping is in concert with the look and feel of the neighborhood. It is necessary for each of us, BEFORE making any visible exterior changes, to make contact with the ARC for plan approval. General maintenance or replacement of exterior features with 'like kind and color' does not require ARC approval. The ARC is currently working on a procedure for reporting your proposed changes. Once the procedures are finished and approved, we will post them on the website and in our newsletter. Until that time, please send notice to:

ARC
PO Box 492
Colleyville, TX 76034
directors@brookmeadows.org

**View the Brook Meadows
Homeowner's Association Newsletter
each month online at
www.PEELinc.com**

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“LETS KICK IT UP A NOTCH”

Curb Appeal, that is!

Your BMHA Landscaping Committee is reinstating the “Yard of the Month” award.

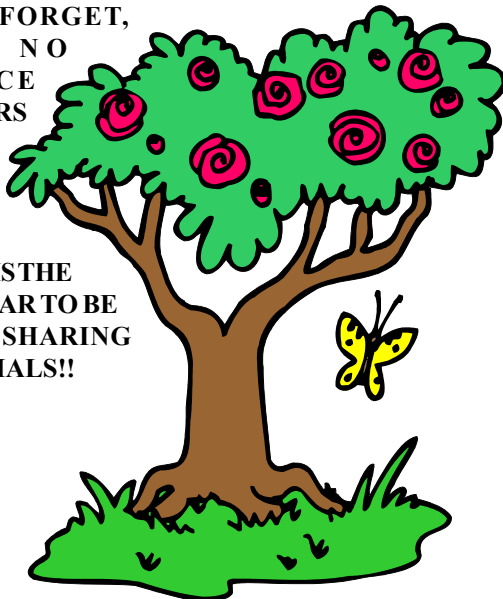
SOOO, we thought a little friendly competition would inspire us to get out there and put some extra thought into improving our yards’ curb appeal! It’s good for us individually and collectively!!! AND, it will be fun!! Here is how it will work:

At the end of the month, the committee members will ride through the neighborhood and select the “Yard of the Month” using criteria such as being well-maintained, colorful, tasteful, uses yard art effectively, has a total look, creates a positive impression, and in general, just gives you that urge to stop and admire.

We will be launching this recognition program in October. The first winner will be sporting a new “Yard of the Month” sign in their yard through October, AND, will have a picture in the newsletter that will recognize the homeowner’s efforts.

Now if you’ve really got that competitive gene, you could strike up a competition with your neighbor, and if you win, then the neighbor has to cook dinner or take you and your spouse to your favorite restaurant!

**AND DON’T FORGET,
THERE IS NO
BETTER PLACE
TO GET FLOWERS
THAN FROM
FRIENDS AND
NEIGHBORS
WHO HAVE TOO
MANY...AND, IT IS THE
TIME OF THE YEAR TO BE
DIVIDING AND SHARING
THOSE PERENNIALS!!**



The Witten Cemetery

Ever wonder about the 150-year-old Cemetery in our neighborhood? The Witten Cemetery, located at the end of the cul-de-sac on Jackson Court in Brook Meadows, was established for the family of Samuel Cecil Holiday Witten (1819-1891), who came to Texas in 1854. Witten was a successful landowner, Justice of the Peace and Deputy County Surveyor in the area. The cemetery was first used for the burial of Witten’s son, William, in 1857. Records show that another son, George (1841-1968), who drowned while on a cattle drive, and a son-in-law, Ryan Harrington (1829-1984), a participant in the 1849 California Gold rush, are also interred in the Witten Cemetery. Samuel and his wife Jennetta eventually moved to the Corpus Christi area but his descendents erected a stone to honor their memory in 1999. The cemetery received the official Texas Historical marker in 1981. Through working with area historian, Mike Patterson, I was determined to help restore the cemetery for my Eagle Scout Project in May 2004. Using 43 adult and scout volunteers for a total of 270 hours of hard labor, we placed six new headstones in immediate proximity to the deteriorated headstones, removed eight Osage orange tree stumps, repaired chain link fencing, removed two 30 cubic yard dumpsters of debris, and installed a flagpole and flag. Local Colleyville resident and family member, Nancy Rogers, currently maintains the cemetery.

*Submitted by Andrew Sylvester
2704 Jackson Court*

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Please support the businesses that advertise in the Brook Meadows Community Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Brook Meadows residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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Gardening Tips

Welcome to the first Gardening Tips article. Your Landscape committee will try to provide interesting and entertaining articles each month. We hope that you enjoy them.

WORMS!

Earthworms are arguably the most important creatures that inhabit your yard and garden. Although often ignored, they provide many benefits to the gardener. Worms help decompose organic matter, creating a natural fertilizer for developing plants; they concentrate the soil's nutrients seven times over. By digging tunnels up to six feet deep, they go about their business quietly munching on decaying organic matter. Leaves and other organic matter is pulled underground, and the addition of excretory wastes from worms enriches the soil with their nutrient-packed castings, and they do it all without harming a single, solitary living thing along the way.

The earth of the castings and the burrows themselves are exposed to the air and, therefore, aerate the soil, improve drainage and increase its water holding capacity. Earthworms also help wick excess water away from plants during heavy rains.

Believe it or not, your one half acre lot can be home to as many as 1,000,000 earthworms--in particular, the four-inch-long, pale red "wiggler" garden worm often called "nature's plow" because of its ability to loosen heavy soil says master gardener Paul James.

If you want to add worms to your yard and garden and improve your soil just Google "earthworms".



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Restaurants?

Who Said Anything About Restaurants? It is Colleyville's Destiny that Branch Banks Will Soon Crowd Out All Else

By Brett Flournoy

OK, admit it. You do it. I do it. We all do it. It's a Colleyville "thang."

I'm talking about the momentary flush of excitement you get when you spot a new construction site in a commercially zoned area.

I'm not talking about that feeling you get when you see a new residence under construction; we all know what's going to happen there: 5,000 to 10,000 square feet of a Texas Gothic variant.

Nope, I'm talking about that jazzed up feeling you get when you spot, what you hope will be, some dazzling new retail establishment, a Park Cities restaurant perhaps, expanding for the first time -- something really attractive, something you will want to go to. You anxiously await the moment that the sign appears. You sneak a peak every day. The suspense is killing you. "It sure looks like a restaurant; the size is perfect," you say to yourself. Maybe it's that Kathleen's place they have talked about for years; but they wouldn't build new, would they? Maybe Javier's is branching out. That would show those Southlake upstarts!

Then it happens, perhaps on a Tuesday morning around 9 a.m. The sign goes up, and your heart sinks. There it is in all of its glory: First Yukon National Bank.

Argh!!! Why not Siberian National Bank? First Bank of Krakatoa? Old Warsaw National Bank -- at least they could have a primo drive-through! Why us? Why are branch banks, and only branch banks, surrounding us in Colleyville? Will we not spend anywhere else? Are we this untrustworthy, or at least unreliable, to potential retailers? Is this our ultimate destiny?

As you play it out into the future, this can get ugly pretty fast. The Travel Channel, doing a feature on Dallas/Fort Worth, will highlight "The Branch Bank Museum" in Colleyville as a "must-see" for the business tourist. Those Dan Dipert tour buses will clog our narrow streets, dumping tourists around each of the branch bank epicenters, all the while spewing out those obnoxious diesel fumes. All remaining vacant lots in Colleyville will be rezoned to permit neighborhood branch banks. The Branch Bank Convention moves here in 2008, and within the exhibition hall, vendors will demonstrate the latest drive-through technology including DNA identification, and the simultaneous capability to enact IRA Rollover's, upgrade your insurance, select your seat on your flight to Maui, and order just the right porcini mushrooms for that special entrée you have in mind. We will all retire to jobs as tour guides.

All of this races through your mind in about a minute, the minute that follows your realization, that, yes, another branch bank has broken ground. It could be worse, you know. At least we've been noticed. At least we're on someone's "map." We matter, darn it. And if they overbuild? Well, those drive-in windows can convert overnight to fast food restaurants...just picture your half-pound Burger Doodle getting delivered in one of those pneumatic tubes. Our destiny indeed!



Kick Your Way to Fitness

Are you bored with your current fitness routine?

It may be time to kick your way to one of the hottest workouts around. Kickboxing, also referred to as boxing aerobics and cardio kickboxing, is a hybrid of boxing, martial arts and aerobics that offers an intense cross-training and total-body workout.

It blends a mixture of high-power exercise routines that strengthen the body and mind, decrease stress and hone reflexes while increasing endurance and cardiovascular power. While kickboxing's roots are in full-contact fighting, it has found a safe and very effective niche in the fitness community.

While some estimates of kickboxing's calorie-burning potential have reached as high as 500 to 800 calories per hour, ACE-sponsored research suggests that only very large individuals working out at exceptionally high intensities are like to burn that many.

Instead, a 135-pound person is likely to burn 350 to 450 calories during a typical 50-minute class that consists of a warm-up, aerobic period and cool-down. There are, however, other important factors to consider before taking the first kick.

What is your current fitness level?

Keep in mind that many clubs may not offer classes that are based on progression. Even if your current routine features a hearty combination of cross-training workouts, you may want to take it easy at first, then build as your body adapts.

For this reason, an hour-long session may not be the wisest choice for someone who isn't used to this level of concentrated activity.

Familiarize yourself with the basics

Remember, adequate warm-up and close attention to proper technique are paramount. Classes should begin with basic stretches and a light cardiovascular warm-up such as pushups and jumping jacks.

A typical aerobic kickboxing routine involves a series of repetitive punches alternating with hand strikes, kicks and then a combination of all three. The repetitions help participants focus on proper technique while engaging several muscles groups and getting a fierce cardiovascular workout.

After the main section of the routine, stretches and floor exercises are commonly performed as a cool-down.

Don't forget to wear loose clothing that allows freedom of movement during your kickboxing workout and drink plenty of water.

Beginner beware

When attending your first class, try to avoid these common mistakes:

- Wearing weights or holding dumbbells when throwing punches, which puts your joints in danger of injury
- Locking your joints when throwing kicks or punches
- Over-extending kicks (Beginners should avoid high kicks until they get used to the routine and become more flexible.)
- Giving in to group peer pressure and exercising beyond fatigue
- And of course, you should ask your instructor about their training. Cardio kickboxing is a combination of martial arts and aerobics, and employs different techniques from a "pure" martial arts class.

Many teachers may have boxing or martial arts training, but may not have the appropriate class experience or be properly certified by an organization such as ACE. Finally, once you understand the basics of

this stress-relieving, total-body workout, you can kick your way to a new level of fitness.

Basic moves and equipment

It may seem awkward at first, but the basic moves in a kickboxing class can be mastered with time, patience and practice.

A prepared class will have mirrors, a punching or "heavy" bag and hit pads for participants to use. Here are two basic lower-body kickboxing moves that work the hamstrings, gluteals and quadriceps:

- The roundhouse kick - Starting from a basic stance (side of body facing bag, knees slightly bent, shoulder-length apart), lift your right knee and point it just to the right of your target. Pivot on your left foot as you extend your right leg. Kick the target with the top of your foot.
- The side kick - From the basic stance, pull your right knee up toward your left shoulder. Pivot on your left foot as you snap your right leg into your target. Strike with either the outside edge of your foot or your heel.



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Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Brook Meadows residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail hwixson@comcast.net

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Aren't We Lucky?

I have been in 7-Eleven stores all across this great land, but I have never been in a more friendly, welcoming one, than the 7-Eleven at Glade and 121. Let's face it; with a typical 7-Eleven, or Stop-n-Go, your expectations aren't that high, now are they? But at "our" 7-Eleven, you cannot enter the store without being addressed by, well, ALL of the store people simultaneously. And you could perform open-heart surgery in the coffee area, as it is in a constant state of scrub-down. Kudos to a great team, that does the impossible on most days - dealing with me at 7am.

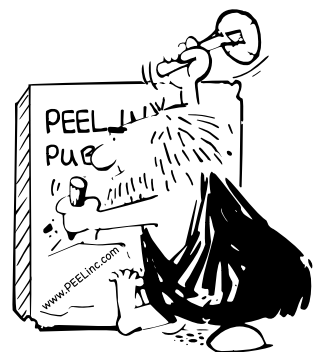
They are not alone however - the What-a-Burger team has the same pride of personal ownership. Always helpful and courteous, they will wear you out with the condiment service at your table. We're pretty lucky to have national brands like these nearby, that feel more like Mom N' Pops!

-Brett Flournoy

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Publishing community newsletters since 1991



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Brook Meadows

Eldorado Heights
Eldorado HOA
Glendover Park

Woodbriar Estates
Woodland Hills

-- Houston --

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Fairfield
Harvest Bend, The Village
Hastings Green
High Meadow Ranch
Lakes on Eldridge
Lakes on Eldridge North

Riata Ranch
Ridge Lake Shores
Sommerall
Steeplechase
Strathmore
Summerwood
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Eagle Ridge
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Lakeside Estates
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Texas Events - October

13-15—MCKINNEY: Third Monday Trade Days US 380, 2 miles west of US 75. www.tmtd.com 972/562-5466 or 972/542-7174

13-15—RICHARDSON: Rent Eisemann Center's Hill Performance Hall. www.theaterleague.com 972/744-4650

13-22—PLANO: Schoolhouse Rock, Live! Plano Courtyard Theatre. www.womproductions.com 214/734-7326

14—DALLAS: 2006 Dallas Symphony Orchestra Gala Includes violinist Joshua Bell and cellist Yo-Yo Ma. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. www.dallassymphony.com 214/692-0203

14—FARMERS BRANCH: Archaeology Fair Children of all ages learn about Texas Indians and Texas archaeology through supervised, hands-on activities. Farmers Branch Historical Park. 972/406-0184

14—GRAPEVINE: Second Annual Stop, Drop & Roll Chili Cook-Off Includes bands, beer and plenty of chili. Bass Pro Shops. www.wpfirefightersfund.org 817/872-1500, 817/229-9750 or 817/870-8006

14—IRVING: Beethoven Gala Irving Symphony Orchestra season opens with guest artists violinist Vesselin Demirev and pianist Valeria Vetrucchio. Irving Arts Center. 972/252-ARTS

14-15—FORT WORTH: 24th Annual RR Show Lockheed Martin Recreation Association. Call for more information between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. central time. www.lmra.org/activity.html 817/249-4965

14-15—GAINESVILLE: Model Horse Show Gainesville Civic Center. 940/668-4530

14-15—GRAND PRAIRIE: 23rd Annual Champion BBQ Cook-Off More than 100 cookers prepare more than 600 judging samples. Traders Village. www.tradersvillage.com 972/647-2331

14-15—RICHARDSON: Texas Reptiles Expo Civic Center. www.texasreptiles.com 501/562-7311

15—DALLAS: Ballet Folklorico de Mexico Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. www.dallassymphony.com 214/692-0203

17-22—RICHARDSON: NEWSical Eisemann Center's Countrywide Theatre. www.newsicalthemusical.com 972/744-4650

19-21—DALLAS: Dallas Symphony Orchestra & Dallas Symphony Chorus Includes conductor Andrey Boreyko and violinist Karen Gomyo. Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. www.dallassymphony.com 214/692-0203

20-21—CANTON: The Heritage Quilt Show Includes more than 100 quilted entries, vendors, bazaar, silent auction, demonstrations and more. Civic Center, Hwy. 64 W. 903/567-2991 or 903/567-4511

20-21—FRISCO: Storytelling Festival Includes fables from ancient cultures, Native American legends, chronicles of childhood, misadventures, anecdotes and tunes, award-winning storytellers, puppet shows, musicians, folk art and crafts. Frisco Commons Park. www.friscofest.org 972/335-5510

20, 22—DALLAS: Meadows Symphony Orchestra Caruth Auditorium in the Owens Arts Center. 214/768-2787

21—DALLAS: Penguin Exhibit Opening 1462 First Avenue & MLK Boulevard. 214/670-5656

21—WAXAHACHIE: Cotton Fest Includes dancing, music, historical re-enactments, arts & crafts, food and cotton exhibits. Historic Courthouse Square. 972/938-9617

21-22—RICHARDSON: Exotic Bird & Pet Show Richardson Civic Center. www.birdsandpets.com 337/725-6365

22-Nov. 26—FORT WORTH: Focus: Nigel Cooke Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. www.themodern.org 817/738-9215 or 866/824-5566

24—DALLAS: Meadows Chorale Begins at 8 p.m. Caruth Auditorium in the Owen Art Center. 214/768-2787

25-29—DALLAS: Fabulation Margo Jones Theatre in the Owen Arts Center. 214/768-2787

27—RICHARDSON: Irvin Mayfield & the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra Eisemann Center's Hill Performance Hall. www.thenojo.com 972/744-4650

27-28—DALLAS: The Lost World —Halloween Silent Film Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center. www.dallassymphony.com 214/692-0203

27-29—FORT WORTH: Storytellers Bass Performance Hall. www.fwsymphony.org 817/665-6000

27-29—FORT WORTH: Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering & Western Swing Festival Enjoy music, ranch rodeo, cowboy poetry and more. Stockyards National Historic District. www.redsteagallcowboygathering.com 888/269-8696

28—CEDAR HILL: Days of Old Celebration Includes wagon rides, carnival booths, live entertainment and more. Historic Penn Farm. 972/291-3900 ext. 232

28—FORT WORTH: Bird Mart Will Rogers Exhibit Hall. www.thebirdmart.com 817/478-8320

28—IRVING: Annual Main Event Annual festival offers food, fun and entertainment for the whole family. Heritage Park. www.ci.irving.tx.us/calendar 972/721-2426

28-29—DALLAS: Age of Scream Halloween Celebration Includes arts & crafts, games, spooky stories and more. Age of Steam Railroad Museum. www.dallasrailwaymuseum.com 214/428-0101

28-29—DALLAS: Boo at the Zoo Features treat stations, games, crafts, special treats, musical performances and more. www.dallaszoo.com 214/670-5656

28-29—RICHARDSON: Huffhines Art Trails Features traditional and contemporary crafts, fine art, live stage entertainment and kids activities. www.huffhinesarttrails.com 972/744-4580

228-29—WAXAHACHIE: "Age of Elegance" Elegant & Depression Glass Show Waxahachie Civic Center. 972/938-3434

28-Nov. 5—NIXON: Centennial Celebration Includes an Inter-tribal Indian Powwow, Halloween party, western day, entertainment stages, exhibits, parade, youth ranch rodeo, carnival and more. www.nixontx.com

29—WAXAHACHIE: Bow-Wow Halloween Hustle Dog Walk or Run Includes a 1- or 2-mile walk and a variety of dog contests. Begins at noon. Getzendaner Park. 972/935-0756

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.



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