



Brook Meadows Messenger

The Official Publication of the Brook Meadows Homeowner's Association

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June 2007

Revitalizing the Neighborhood Community Within: Brook Meadows

Whether you moved into Brook Meadows at its beginning or just moved in within the last year, we choose to live here because we recognize the quality of life that Colleyville has to offer and more importantly, the values that Brook Meadows offers as a community: To live together, raise our families and work together to grow as a community. Over the past years, for many reasons, our lives have become more hectic, fast paced and the true sense of living as a community has been lost in the transition.

With the election of this year's Board you will see a desire to "Revitalize the Neighborhood Community Within". Returning as Board members are Howard Wixson, who being the longest serving board member, will bring a history of Brook Meadows knowledge that the new Directors can draw from. The new members can also count on returning Director Jim Tressler to provide detailed knowledge of the rules and rights of the Brook Meadows Association. Joining them this year will be three new Board Members who over the past years have been a part of a 'silent majority' who recognize that everyone needs to be a part of the process in order to make this a true neighborhood community again. Each of the new Directors bring fresh ideas and the desire to return Brook Meadows to the place we all want to live. Carol Crosby, who was the fifth resident of Brook Meadows, has seen the legacy of the original Brook Meadows community, and having been a part of the creation of the original neighborhood, sees the value of revitalizing it. Carol also brings her experience of having served on a Homeowner's Association Board prior to moving to Colleyville. Mic Deakin, who moved his family here in 2000 from California, saw in Brook Meadows the quality of life needed for a transitional family. Mic too

brings two years of service on an Association Board of 450 townhome owners. Chris Turrentine moved here four years ago because he saw the values of our neighborhood. He decided that this was where he would raise a new and growing family. Chris brings his experience and expertise from owning his own business developing software for the Public Safety sector.

Bottom line is that each of us has a commonality with one another because we each see the quality of life, the values and the bonds of a community in Brook Meadows that we all want to be a part. While we may never be a Ward and June Cleaver community, we have the opportunity to "Revitalize the Neighborhood Community Within", so that we can again enjoy the benefits that being a part of a true neighborhood community brings: To happily live together, to share our core values, to raise our families together, to socialize together and to work together to improve our quality of life. Clearly, accomplishing this will increase the quality of life and desirability of our community to others who are searching for the right neighborhood community for their families, thereby increasing our property values as a side benefit.

This is the commitment of this year's Board, to "Revitalize the Neighborhood Community Within", and to have everyone be proud to be a part of it. With that, we value your input, your participation, your commitment to being a part of our community, we respect your opinions and want to hear your thoughts. The common goal is to do what is right for Brook Meadows as a community.

Thanks Neighbor,

Your NEW Brook Meadows Board for 2007/2008.

Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the current issue of the Brook Meadows Homeowner's
Association Newsletter on the 1st day of each month at
www.PEELinc.com

Brook Meadows

Brook Meadows Homeowners Association, Inc.

PO Box 492
Colleyville, TX 76034

Please visit our website often:
www.BrookMeadows.org

Board of Directors:

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Vice-President..... Jim Tressler
Treasurer Howard Wixson
Secretary Carol Crosby
Director At-Large..... Chris Turrentine
Directors@BrookMeadows.org
Howard Wixson, Editor
hwixson@tx.rr.com

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

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The recent weather has many of us replacing our roofs and performing other maintenance, or upgrading construction, to our properties. The new CC&Rs require us to obtain approval from the ARC by using the Form available on the website: www.BrookMeadows.com

Projects that can be seen from the street, or will impact the view of your neighbors, must be presented to the ARC - BEFORE the project begins. Any changes to your property including:

- Major Landscaping*
- External Structural Changes
- Out Buildings
- Exterior Painting*
- Driveway Resurfacing or Paving
- Mailboxes*

Other Projects that will affect the External Appearance of your Property*

* Small plantings in current beds, or structural maintenance of your property with "like kind and color" does not need approval.

Please send completed form to:
ARC, PO Box 492, Colleyville, TX 76034 or
ARC@brookmeadows.org

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May 2007 Yard of the Month

Our yard of the month for May is the new home of Kevin and Brandy Elder at 4816 Lakeside Drive. They have lived in Brook Meadows since 1993 on Shadycreek until they built and moved to their new home two years ago. Kevin is Vice-President of Global Consultants, Inc and is the past President of the Brook Meadows Homeowners Association. Brandi works full time at Odyssey One Source and also served as the Brook Meadows Landscape committee Chair for two years. Also living in the home is their son Nate (age 5) and Brandi's mother, Patricia Fry who is the Owner/Founder of Odyssey One Source, a Professional Employer Organization.

Since the home was build on a vacant lot two years ago, the Elders landscaping started from zero. They hired a landscape architect, Kent Ferrar, to create a more natural looking landscape incorporating many native plantings. They also depend on Harvest Landscape to maintain their corner lot. Brandi did plant her own hot pepper garden in the back yard and has already harvested Jalapenos, Serranos, and Habaneros for Kevin, who is a true pepper enthusiast. One of Brandi's favorite features of their landscaping are the Knock-Out Roses. They get bigger and bigger every year, are virtually no-maintenance, and only require a trim down once annually. The back yard is filled with Azaleas and Nearly Wild Roses.

The thing that is unusual about the Elder's landscape is what they did not plant. They stayed away from the fast growing Bradford Pears and Red Tipped Photinia. Both commonly found plantings have many disease and fragility problems they wanted to avoid. Brandi said "I am considering adding more Italian Cypresses to the front yard. I am also converting my backyard into a flower garden, and I finally have enough shade to plant a large fern garden around my pool. We are also considering adding a fountain at some point." She also says "the attention you give your yard adds tremendous curb-side appeal to your property, and the entire neighborhood."

All of us 'old-timers' remember that weed-bound, overgrown, vacant lot, eyesore across from Thornbury and "gracing" our fountain entrance. We want to thank the Elder's for turning the neighborhood eye-sore into one of our neighborhood's show places.





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What is coming to Witten Cemetery?

Did you know we have a small historical cemetery in our neighborhood? It is at the end of the Jackson Court cul-de-sac and is about to get an interesting addition. We are not sure of the timing, but we are soon to have a Civil War Memorial in our community. The current memorial is located at a small Colleyville church and will be moved to the Witten Cemetery. The original memorial dedication ceremony attracted about 250 people, including the mayor of Colleyville, and the mayor of Hurst (whose grandfather is one of the veterans on the marker). The tablets contain the names of over 180 vets of both armies. All lived, owned land, died, or are buried within four miles of where the marker is now sitting.

"Assure the folks around you that quite a bit of routine maintenance of the grounds comes with the marker. I have been mowing and edging the church's 4-1/2 acre lot several times each year, and now I'll be doing it down at your place. I really appreciate you folks moving into the community and not just onto it."



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BBQ TIME IS HERE!

Some cooking tips from Jim Tressler

With these great warm spring days now, and with more promised to come, now is the time to clear the cobwebs off your grill and as they say down under "fire up the ole Barbie" ...here's a few random thoughts about this time honored ritual.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE RIB

To master grilling the perfect steak takes practice and patience, but it's not hard to master it if you follow these simple steps. There are many cuts of beef, but start with 12-16 ounce aged and marbled Rib Eye steaks. Rib Eye steaks are easy to grill and they have great flavor when grilled correctly.

Here's what I do:

1. Let your steak reach room temperature before grilling. Some people might tell you that this isn't necessary; however it helps grill your steak more evenly and faster.
2. If untrimmed, trim off the excess fat. The strips of fat should be about 1/4" thick when trimmed. Also cut through the edge of the fat strip about every 1 1/2" (but not into the meat). This will keep your steaks from curling as they cook because fat shrinks faster than the meat.
3. Season with a light brushing of extra virgin olive oil, some fresh cracked pepper and fresh ground sea salt.
4. Preheat the grill to as hot as it will go for a gas grill (400 degrees) or a single layer of ashy white coals for a charcoal grill.
5. Oil the grate. An easy way to do this is to take a piece of trimmed fat, hold in tightly in a pair of tongs and rub it on the hot grate. Or use a wadded up paper towel or cotton cloth dipped in olive oil held by a pair of tongs. You can cheat and use a non stick vegetable oil spray like "PAM", too.
6. Place each steak on the grill for two minutes. Turn and grill on the second side for an additional two minutes. Now rotate the steaks 45 degrees and grill for half the remaining cooking time. Turn again and repeat the 45 degree step. If you do this right you will get a nice diamond pattern of grill marks on your steaks, just like the pros. By the way, I keep a quart squirt bottle of fresh water handy to deal with flare ups from the cooking fat.
7. Remove when done. I use the pressure test to check my steaks. When you are getting close to having a done steak press it with your index finger or the flat side of a grilling fork to get a feel for it. A rare steak will be soft. A medium steak will be firm but yielding. A well steak will be firm. Once you get the hang of this trick you will be able to remove steaks from the grill at just the right second.
8. STOP! Do not cut or serve your steaks yet. Let the steaks rest for 3-5 minutes on a flat non-paper plate covered with aluminum foil before serving. This will let the juices flow out from the center so the whole steak is nice and juicy.



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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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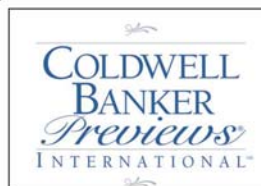


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