



# Brook Meadows Messenger

*The Official Publication of the Brook Meadows Homeowner's Association*

Volume 4, Number 8

[www.brookmeadows.org](http://www.brookmeadows.org)

August 2009

## Social Calendar 2009

### AUGUST 25TH

Last Tuesday @ 6:30 ..... The Bar @ Mainstreet  
..... Chop & Fish house

### SEPTEMBER 29TH

Last Tuesday @ 6:30 ..... TBD

### OCTOBER 6TH

National Night Out Against Crime.... Volunteers Needed  
..... [www.nationalnightout.org/nno/about.htm](http://www.nationalnightout.org/nno/about.htm).  
..... *An Evening of Family Fun, Picnic, Pet Show etc.*

### OCTOBER 27TH

Last Tuesday @ 6:30 ..... BoomerJack's @ Hwy 183  
..... and Central Drive

### OCTOBER 31ST

Halloween Parade ..... Volunteers Needed

### OCTOBER TBD

Garage Sale ..... If there is enough interest

### DECEMBER TBD

Ladies Ornament Exchange ..... Volunteer Host Needed

### DECEMBER TBD

Holiday Party..... Mitch & Lassisa Milby

## Last Tuesday at Joe's, or Tony's or...

Peter's, or Paul's or Mario's, or.... Last Tuesday on June 30 turned out to be a brain twister. I'll explain further - we were supposed to be at Joe's on Colleyville Blvd., but uh, Joe's wasn't open. No sign, no warnings, just not open. Fear not, I redirected the early show ups to "Tony's" further up the street near Glade Road. 1 ringy dingy, "Amy, what do you mean there is no Tony's?" "Peter's!" "Close enough!"

Eventually, we got everyone to Peter's and had a good time, with several new participants, and new introductions. The pictures prove we made it!



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# Brook Meadows

## ASSOCIATION INFO

### Brook Meadows Homeowners Association, Inc.

PO Box 492 • Colleyville, TX 76034

Please visit our website often: [www.BrookMeadows.org](http://www.BrookMeadows.org)

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## NEWSLETTER INFO

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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 1-888-687-66444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 20th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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## Teenage Job Seekers

Name	Age	Baby Sit	Pet Sit	House Sit	Yard Work	Phone
Kelly, Laura .....	17 .....	• .....	• .....	• .....	• .....	817-571-8956

\*-CPR Training

+First Aid Training

### Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all The Bridgeland Times teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to [directors@brookmeadows.org](mailto:directors@brookmeadows.org) by the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month!

Don't want to wait for the mail? View  
the current issue of the Brook Meadows  
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## Babysitters Needed

In last month's newsletter, we put out a call for babysitter's in Brook Meadows to send us their information so that we could build and publish a listing in the newsletter. We have one sitter who is ready to work and awaiting your calls!

If you are one of those who would like to baby-sit, email your name, phone, address, to the [directors@brookmeadows.org](mailto:directors@brookmeadows.org). We will start including this information in our monthly newsletter.

## Babysitting Jobs wanted!

Dear Parents -

I read in our neighborhood newsletter that parents are looking for babysitters close to home. My name is Laura Kelly and I live at 4703 Shadywood Lane and would love to baby-sit for any of our neighbors. My home number is (817) 571-8956, my cell phone at (817) 320-2022.

I will a junior at CHHS this fall, have my drivers license and have been babysitting for a couple of years (references are available). I really enjoy children and pets (we have four dogs in my home). I do a lot of volunteer work with the childrens' summer reading program at the Colleyville Public Library and, if you would like, I would be willing to take children to the library, as the library is running many fun events specialized in kid-friendly fun. I have been playing soccer since I was four, play the flute, am ranked 18th in my class at CHHS and hope to be a teacher.

Thank you for considering me and I hope to hear from you.

Laura Kelly

## Advertise to 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 \$50 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](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The deadline is the 20th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

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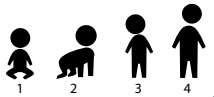


## COLIN'S HOPE

Increasing water safety awareness and standards

### FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



### DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury-related death ages 1-14.

For more information, check out our website at

[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)

### DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" - no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

### DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.



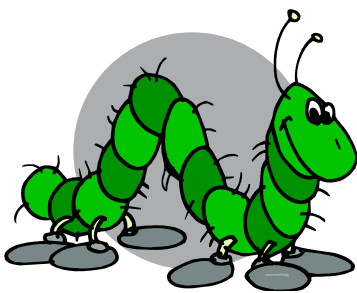
# Brook Meadows

## Those Darned Grub Worms

It's August and, as many of you know, time for the annual ritual known as grub worm treatment. Well, not us - not this year - we're going green to save some green here at 4617 Shadycreek.

Milky Spores is not the name of a new breakfast cereal, but rather, a natural, organic way to treat for grub worms over the long term. Milky spore powder consists of *Bacillus popilliae*, a bacterium harmful to the Japanese Beetle grub, but not to other wildlife. The idea is that you "inoculate" your yard with milky spores, which are then ingested by the grubs during feeding season resulting in death in a few weeks. The decomposing grub then releases a few billion other spores! The entire process of inoculation takes a few months after treatment, but once done, the grub worm population becomes controlled. We have high hopes that a side benefit will be the control of moles, which feed on the grubs.

Application is a bit painful, with a flat teaspoon of the powder required every four feet, in a four foot by four foot grid across your yard. Ground temperature must be above 65 degrees (no problem!) and a gentle water-in is required. It is suggested that other grub treatments be avoided afterwards so that the cycle can complete. The price to treat a Brook Meadows yard is around \$100, and if all goes well, that should last you several years. Milky spore powder is widely available in the local area at home centers and nurseries, and internet searches on "milky spores".



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## Jackson & Glade Update

The BMHA Board is looking for your input on "TRAFFIC CONTROL" ideas for the upcoming work that will be done at the corner of Jackson and Glade in 2010. We would like to work with the city to safeguard our neighborhood streets and be involved in the plan before construction begins. If you have ideas or comments, please send an email to [directors@brookmeadows.org](mailto:directors@brookmeadows.org) so that we might incorporate it into our requests and discussion with the city.

## A Shout Out of Thanks to 118 Homeowners

A round of thanks from the Board and especially Treasurer Paul Plummer to all of you who have paid your 2009-2101 dues before the interest deadline!

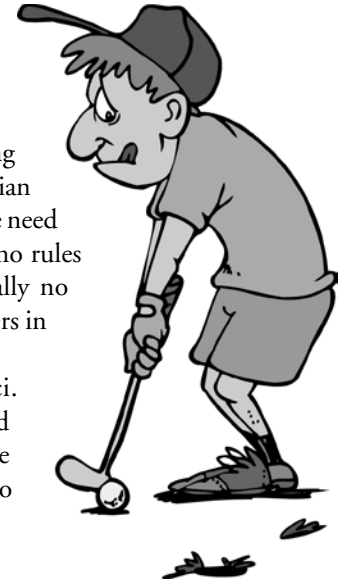
The 29 homeowners who have yet to make their dues payments will be receiving another invoice statement with interest charges added. At this time the board has voted to waive the late fee assessments. Also, if you are experiencing hard ship due to the economy, please contact Paul to make arrangements.

## Join the Golfer's Pool !

Finally after much prodding and interest expressed at numerous BMHA events - we are introducing the Brook Meadows HOA Golfer's Pool! Rules are simple as there are no rules. Just give us your contact info (email will be the primary) if you are interested in being alerted to a golf opportunity with your neighbors. We will start slow and let it grow; it will work something like this: "Who's up for playing Indian Creek on Sunday morning" or "We need a fourth for Iron Horse". Again, no rules because it's all good, and eventually no owner either. Available to members in good standing.

Contact me: [Brett@vinunici.com](mailto:Brett@vinunici.com) with name, number, and email address which will be the primary means to communicate to the group.

Brett Flournoy, 214-695-0780



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## Is Your Home an Internet Broadcaster? *(It might be and you don't even know it)*

*Submitted by Laurie Scott*

Laptop computers have made computing mobile and very convenient. Wireless routers in our homes have made it possible to use our computers anywhere in the home, and not just where the connection comes into your home.

If you have a wireless router at home, then you are using one of three possible levels of security, 1) none, 2) poor and 3) what you SHOULD be using. "None" is real simple, open the box, plug in the router, connect to the Internet. With this connection, ANYONE within range, meaning your neighbors, passersby and that annoying teen-age kid down the who likes to hang around your house in the evening can use your wireless network to access the internet or worse, access your computers at home. Also, any illegal activity over the Internet is going to be traced back to your home, not to the person or computer that may have done it.

I often tell the story of the time I moved to Austin from Sacramento 4 1/2 years ago over the Thanksgiving holiday. I stayed overnight with a friend in Flagstaff, Arizona at her parents' home. Lots of relatives were there and they all smoked (and smoked a lot). Even though it was 35 degrees outside, I went and sat in my car for an hour just to breath fresh air. While in my car I powered up my laptop and discovered a completely unsecured network within range. I connected to it and took the opportunity to check my email and do some web surfing. Then the good Samaritan in me decided to do them a favor. I figured they hadn't changed the default password on their router, and sure enough I was right. I logged onto their router and took a screen shot of it. Since they were also using the default name for their computer network, I changed mine to match and could see that they had a computer turned on

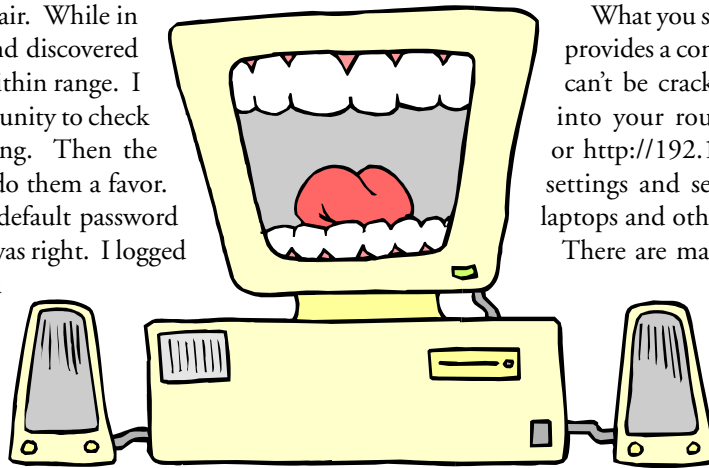
with one of their hard drives shared (no, I didn't peek at it.) I also saw that they had an Epson printer connected to it, so I downloaded the printer driver and installed it on my laptop, opened Microsoft Word and pasted the screen shot of their router into it. I also included instructions on how to keep prying eyes out of their network, thanked them that I was able to check my email, and then I PRINTED the document out on their printer. Keep in mind I have no idea which house I had connected to. I imagine if they were home that they were a little shocked to have their printer start all by itself and print a note from a complete stranger. Lucky for them I wasn't someone who wanted to copy their files, plant a virus or lock them out of their own network.

The two levels of security that are usually displayed with a padlock symbol are WEP and WPA. WEP falls into the "poor" category of security. WEP will keep honest people out of your network, and will prevent someone from accidentally getting connected to your network, but WEP was "cracked" several years ago, and nowadays it only takes a laptop and 60 seconds to break into a network secured with WEP.

What you should be using is WPA (or WPA2) to provides a connection that (with a good password) can't be cracked in a comfortable lifetime. Log into your router (usually at <http://192.168.0.1> or <http://192.168.1.1>), go to the wireless security settings and set it for WPA. Then change your laptops and other wireless devices to match.

There are many different routers on the market, but there are a few standard rules to follow: Changing the security settings on your router should always be done with the computer attached to the router via a

*(Continued on Page 7)*



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## Internet Broadcaster - (Continued from Page 6)

network cable - don't change it over a wireless connection. If you make a mistake, you won't be able to get back in to fix it. In the wireless security settings on your router, you will see WEP and SHOULD see WPA as options. If you don't see WPA as an option, your router is probably several years old. Go to the manufacturer's support page on their web site and look for updated "firmware" to download. Download the firmware and update the router per the instructions provided by the manufacturer. If the latest firmware doesn't provide WPA encryption, then it's time for a trip to Best Buy or Fry's for a new router. ANY new router will provide WPA encryption. Next use a strong password. A strong password should be at least 12 characters long, feel free to make it a lot longer - the longer the better. Be sure to use upper and lower case letters, use numbers AND use special characters like # \* ( \ } [ @ ! &. Write it down and put it in a safe place. If it helps, use 2 or 3 non-related words or numbers that you know but no one is likely to guess. Something like maybe the city you got married in with the year of your first car and the name of your brother's daughter. It might look something like Dallas@1989!Samantha#. Even people you know you won't guess this. Be creative and have fun, but MAKE IT STRONG!

Next month I'll talk about keeping your information secure when you're online both at home and away.

## Recipe of the Month

### Orange Julius

#### Ingredients

- 1 6 oz. Can Concentrated Orange Juice
- 1 Cup milk
- 1 Cup Water
- 1/2 Cup sugar

#### Directions

Put in blender container, fill container to top with ice. Process.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*

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**7 Homes Sold in Recent 12  
Months in Brook Meadows**

Priced from \$395,000-\$520,000

Average Days on Market = 110

Average Price per Sq. Ft. = \$116.99

Sales Ratio to List Price = 97% Avg

**4805 Green Oaks**  
**\$475,000**

Corner Lot with Pool  
& Spa.

- ♦ 4 BR
- ♦ 4 Full & 1 Half Bths



**4604 Green Oaks**  
**\$529,500**

Extensively Updated.  
Pool & Spa. Energy  
Efficient.

- ♦ 4 BR
- ♦ 4 Bths



*Selling Homes of Distinction  
Like Yours throughout  
Colleyville*

\*Statistics from Metrix July 2009

