2013 Firewise Recertification Document

December 20, 2013

Prepared by

Sun City Texas Firewise Group





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Firewise is a project of the National Fire Protection Association

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Sun City Texas, a Pulte/Del Webb development, is located within the Georgetown, Texas city limits, 5.5 miles from Interstate 35 on Williams Drive. Sun City Texas is an urban community with wild land vegetation (juniper, hardwood, and native grasses) in the parks, open spaces and adjacent properties. When built out, Sun City Texas will have 7,500 homes on 4,100 acres of which approximately 800 acres are common area. As of November 30, 2013, there are 6,615 homes with a Sun City population of 11,241 residents with an estimated population of over 13,000 at build out. Sun City is presently the largest Home Owners Association as a Certified Firewise Community in Texas.

The Sun City Texas Community Association (CA) is responsible for the management of all non-residential property. CA documents define a set of four maintenance levels. Included in these levels are federally defined protection areas for karst formations (including underground caves) for endangered species. The CA also owns and maintains three golf courses.

There are two creeks, Berry and Cowan, that have hardwood and cedar trees in the flood plain. The presence of Ashe Juniper (cedar) trees, an invasive native, posed a fire hazard from the trees themselves as well as being accumulation points for debris that occurs during periods of creek floods. The 2010 flooding event deposited a significant amount of debris while adding a significant amount of fuel that could be a part of any wildfire that occurs. The community had two heavy concentrations of Ashe Juniper that pose a significant wildfire threat should a wildfire happen. Applying Firewise principals we removed Ashe junipers and flood debris reducing the wildfire and flooding hazard.

Sun City has 740 Landscaped Maintained Homes (LMH) managed by the CA. The lawns, beds, and trees are maintained under a contract with the CA. The CA Staff and the Landscaped Maintained Homes Committee apply the Firewise Home Ignition Zone principles to LMH properties.

All other residential properties depend on individual property owners for the implementation of the Home Ignition Zone principles. Homeowner education is the key to providing information to community residents concerning the dangers from wildfires and to encourage the management of defensible spaces around their homes.

The Sun City Texas Firewise Group is a subcommittee of the Sun City Texas Emergency Management Committee.

The Firewise Group assigns specific tasks to the following program groups: Education Program, Home Ignition Zone Assessment Program, Community Wildfire Protection and Recertification Process Program, and Firewise Clearing Program.

The Firewise Group hosts an annual community wide Firewise Town Hall. Presentations and participation at community events such as special town halls, quarterly New Homeowners orientation, community events, and clubs and neighborhood meetings provide face-to-face contact. The monthly CA magazine *Sun Rays*, the weekly CA Communicator e-mails, and special e-mail blasts are used to communicate additional information about Firewise and about high fire danger situations that occur in our continuing periods of severe drought.

The Firewise Group maintains a trained core team of 50-60 Home Ignition Zone evaluators to conduct Home Ignition Zone Assessments. These individuals not only conduct assessments as requested by residents but also become neighborhood sources for Firewise information.

The Firewise Group works with the CA, the Property and Grounds Committee, the Wildlife Management Committee, and the Golf Committee to reduce the potential for wildfires in the CA owned common areas. The volunteer Firewise Clearing Crew meets weekly (weather permitting). Working with the CA Landscaping staff, the Firewise Clearing Crew removes small

Ashe junipers and vines in common areas that could become ladder fuels in a wildfire.

2013 Accomplishments

Table 1 contains the volunteer time and Community Association contributions for the 2013 calendar year.

A management approach has been developed to reduce the potential for wildfire and flood risks. The primary goal is to maintain a balance between the hazards and the effects on vegetation while maintaining or enhancing wildlife habitat. Using the CA owned tracked Bobcat fitted with a forestry mulcher plus a chipper has allowed the crew to clear 8.5 miles of Berry and Cowan Creeks.

Projects were identified by Firewise leadership who have many years of experience in land management and the fire service. During the first half of the year, the Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew, supported by the CA staff, assembled weekly to remove small Ashe junipers and ladder fuel in the common areas. The Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew and CA Staff and equipment have cleared approximately 176 acres.

Sun City Texas Firewise and Firewise publications continue to be distributed in the New Homeowners Packets given to each new resident. The publications are also available at all Firewise presentations and events.

Three articles about Firewise were published in the monthly *Sun Rays* resident magazine. Additional information items about Firewise and fire dangers were produced for the weekly CA

Table 1. The 2013 hours and costs contributed by volunteers, homeowners, and CA.

item	number	units	value	<u>total</u>
Volunteers				
Firewise volunteers	1,826	hours	\$ 39,778	
Home Ignition Zone Assessments	49	hours	1,068	
Volunteer Clearing Crew	3,191	hours	69,521	
Subtotal-Volunteer Contribution	2,999	hours		\$ 110,367
Landscape Maintained Homes (740 houses) ¹				\$ 452,050
Community Association				
Creek Clearing Crew ¹			\$ 41,776	
Contractor Work ¹			38,500	
Staff Work ¹			37,611	
Subtotal-Community Association Contribution				\$ 156,387
Resident contribution (prorated) houses				
Paid to vendor		\$ 1	,482,157	
Own care			2,989,481	
Subtotal-Resident Contribution				\$ 4,471,638
Subtotal Resident Contribution				ψ +,+11,030
Total				\$ 5,129,590
Values represent amount spent for Firewise remediati	on only.			

Communicator e-mails. The Firewise USA publication "How to Have a Firewise Home" was distributed to all residents.

The Sun City Texas Firewise Certification had allowed Sun City Texas to receive a reduced property insurance premium. Following a severe hail storm, the reduction is no longer available.

Partner Groups

Texas A&M Forest Service

This has been an excellent year working with the Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS). In February we hosted the Texas Firewise Workshop. Sun City coordinated the space, meals, and a tour of what had been done to mitigate the wildfire hazard. A presentation covering the Sun City Firewise Group's organization and activities was provided. The Firewise Group had their displays available.

In June, representatives from USAA Insurance visited Sun City. Sun City, together with TFS and Georgetown Fire Department representatives, discussed the Sun City Firewise program, toured selected sites and reviewed many aspects of how USAA could encourage their policy holders to become Firewise.

TFS representatives attended the April Home Ignition Zone Assessment Training allowing them to understand how and why Firewise principles are applied to the Sun City Texas environment.

Georgetown Fire Department

The Firewise Group partnered with the Georgetown Fire Department (GFD) in the annual Firewise Community Town Hall, held during the National Fire Prevention Week in October, 2013. GFD presented the 2013 Fire Prevention Week topic "Kitchen Fires". Members of the Department also interacted with residents by exhibiting structure and wildlands gear, other support equipment, and the Engine and Brush Engine housed in Sun City Texas.

Sun City Community Association Advisory Committees

Property and Grounds Committee (P&G)

The Firewise Group continues to work with P&G. We provided an annual review of progress and proposed activities and provide advice on the management of common areas. P&G provides a liaison to the Firewise Group meetings.

Wildlife Management Committee (WMC)

The Firewise Group continues to work with WMC to improve wildlife habitat while meeting the goal of reducing the wildfire potential. Removing the Ashe juniper (cedar) has changed the habits of the deer and turkey populations. Deer are now using the creeks and golf courses as travel ways to neighborhoods and the landscape materials. The turkey population has increased, possibly, as a result of opening many trees as roosting habitat. Also, the turkeys use the yards of many residences as food sources. WMC provides a liaison to the Firewise Group meetings.

Sun City Staff

The Firewise Group works with the CA Landscaping Staff by advising on routine

maintenance situations where a potential wildfire hazard exists. We also participate in the walking tours of new neighborhoods prior to the developer turning the common areas over to the CA. This process insures the developer has mitigated any wildfire hazards and removed any debris resulting from construction.

The Firewise Group works with the Water Management Staff by advising on the clearing and maintenance of all native common areas. A meeting is often held with the interested residents adjoining the work area to provide the rationale for the work. By involving the residents in the process, modifications can be planned to maintain privacy desires and similar requests before the work begins.

NFPA's "Backyard & Beyond" Conference

"Firewise Concepts and Implementation – A Community Perspective" was one of the Education sessions at the NFPA 2013 "Backyards and Beyond" Wildland Fire Education Conference held in Salt Lake City, Utah in November. The session highlighted the Sun City Texas multi-faceted program with needs for actions concerning wildfire and flooding while protecting wildlife and adhering to various governmental environmental regulations.

Activities Within Sun City

Firewise Town Hall

The Annual Firewise Town Hall was held October 9 with Texas A&M Forest Service and Georgetown Fire Department during National Fire Prevention Week. Attendance was low with about 80 people plus the TV live audience over Channel 79. See Georgetown Fire Department for more information.

Community Management International Association Meeting

The Firewise Group participated in the Community Management International Association meeting held in Austin, Texas in April. Over 50 managers from across the USA were given a presentation about the SCT Firewise program.

Media Coverage

The Central Texas CBS television affiliate, KEYE-TV, produced a news segment about the SCT Firewise activities in early July. Video of the clearing the common areas showcased the work of the staff using the tracked Bobcat with a forestry mulcher, power saws, and a heavy duty chipper to remove Ashe Juniper trees in order to reduce the wildfire hazards. The station did a live on-site broadcast for the 5:00 PM news and segments on the 6:00 and 10:00 PM editions.

The Firewise program received newspaper coverage in the *Williamson County Sun* of the Texas A&M Forest Service workshop (March), of the SCT Firewise program featuring the integration of fuel breaks and a ¾ mile walking and nature trail (July), and of the annual Firewise Town Hall (October).

The CA Communications Department publishes a monthly magazine *Sun Rays* distributed to all residents. Information about the SCT Firewise program was included in 6 of the 12 editions this year. The Communications Department also designed and produced a 4x6 inch information card given to residents to encourage participation in the Home Ignition Zone Assessment program.

New Homeowners Orientation

The SCT Community Association conducts a quarterly New Homeowners Orientation to acquaint the newcomers to the many activities offered in Sun City Texas. The Firewise Group participates in activities held at the orientation providing information about wildfires and the hazards that a resident might experience. Residents are given information about using appropriate landscape plants and continued landscape maintenance to reduce hazards. They are also given the opportunity to request a free Home Ignition Zone Assessment on their home.

Sun City News and Views Program

Sun City has a local TV channel for those residents using Suddenlink Communications. Sun City volunteers have developed a local program *News and Views* that airs each Monday and Tuesday, 11 AM, 2 PM, 6 PM, and 8 PM. Features are recorded in advance. The Firewise Group recorded a 10 minute feature in June for use in July. It covered Firewise principles and how the Firewise Group works with residents to reduce the potential for embers from wildfires or house fires from igniting houses.

Mockingbird Trail

This project is a continuation of a developer program to add amenities to the community. It began in 2012 with the developer identifying an area to add a walking trail in an area with a heavy invasion of Ashe juniper. The trail route was identified and flagged in 2012 and construction began in the fall. The completed trail was opened in January 2013. The trail uses two of the fuel breaks were developed creating serene areas over 50 feet wide with benches under large live oak trees. The area also contains three protected endangered species caves not included on the trail.

Training Program

Home Ignition Zone Assessment The Firewise Group held two training sessions. The April 3 session included 4 new evaluators, 10 evaluators for a refresher, and 3 individuals from Overlook Estates Certified Firewise Community. The October 30 session included 4 new evaluators, 9 evaluators for a refresh, 3 CA Staff members, and 5 individuals from TCB Landscaping, a CA contractor.

<u>Landscape Companies Training</u> The Firewise Group held the annual landscape training session on January 14. The session included 5 companies with 11 individuals plus 1 Texas A&M Forest Service Wildland Urban Interface Specialist.

2014 Plans

- Develop recertification materials for 2014.
- Distribute Firewise information to residents.
- Conduct the annual Firewise Town Hall.
- Continue training for the Home Ignition Zone Assessment Program.
- Conduct a landscape service contractor training session.

- Provide Firewise information at neighborhood, clubs, and community wide gatherings.
- Continue working with the CA Property and Grounds and Wildlife Management Committees integrating Firewise practices into the management of all CA common areas.
- Continue working with the CA Golf Committee and the Golf Courses managers to integrate Firewise practices in golf course management.
- Consider National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day, May 3, 2014 activities.
- Consider promoting National Fire Protection Week with Georgetown Fire Department.

2013 Firewise Recertification Document Appendix A Photos

Some Views of Sun City



Ashe juniper is an invasive native tree. The Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew removes them using hand tools.



The postcard developed to promote the Home Ignition Zone Assesment.



Representatives of the USAA Insurance Company visited to learn from Sun City Texas' experience with Firewise.



Dan Dodson presented a program at the 2013 Backyards and Beyond Conference in Salt Lake City.

Texas Firewise Workshop February 26-27, 2013



The Texas Firewsie Workshop was held in the Worship Place.



Catrin Dubois discussed the Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew Program with workshop members.



Paul Ohlenbusch discussed the vegetation response after removal of the Ashe juniper.



Carlton Mathis explained the Ashe juniper clearing program.



Charles Moore explained the operation of the forestry mulch used for clearing.



Dan Dodson explained how Mockingbird Trail uses fuel breaks while reducing the risk of wildifres.

2013 Firewise Recertification Document Appendix B Media Material

February 13 Texas A&M Forest Service news release for Firewise workshop planned in

Georgetown

March 10 Williamson County Sun article Preventing Disaster

Sun Rays Let's Communicate! April issue

May issue Sun Rays Board Member Views

Sun Rays Let's Communicate!

July 21 City

Williamson County Sun article Firewise Committee strives to protect Sun

September issue Sun Rays Let's Communicate!

October issue Sun Rays October Tips for a Beautiful Water Wise Landscape

Sun Rays October Yard of the Month (Firewise Volunteer's home)

Run Rays Come to the Firewise Town Hall

Williamson County Sun article Protect homes with fire safety

November issue Sun Rays Board Member Views

December issue Sun Rays Let's Communicate!

Sun Rays Board Member Views

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Feb.13, 2013

Firewise workshop planned in Georgetown

GEORGETOWN, Texas - Fire personnel, community planners and residents who want to protect their homes from wildfire are invited to a Texas Firewise workshop later this month.

"Firewise" is a national concept that empowers communities to do simple things like clear overgrown vegetation from around their homes to protect against wildfire threats.

To become Firewise, communities must obtain a wildfire risk assessment, create an action plan for how they will reduce their risks, conduct a community education event and complete a community project that decreases the threat of wildfire. Fifty-seven communities across the state have received the Firewise designation, proving they are committed to taking proactive actions toward preventing wildfires in their area.

The workshop is set for Feb. 26-27 at the Sun City Worship Place Conference Hall, 811 Sun City Blvd., Georgetown, with registration starting at 7:45 a.m. on the first day. The second day is an opportunity for participants to tour Firewise communities from 9 a.m. to noon. It costs \$40 to attend and lunch is included on Feb. 26.

Two educational tracks are planned: One for current and prospective Firewise Community representatives and community planners; another for fire departments, emergency management coordinators and Community Emergency Response Teams.

"This workshop offers a great lineup of speakers from local fire chiefs to leaders in established Firewise communities," said Patrick Allen, Firewise liaison with Texas A&M Forest Service. "If you have any questions about Firewise and how it can work in your community, district, region or business, we encourage you to join us for this exciting opportunity."

Register online or contact Patrick Allen for more information. To learn more about becoming Firewise, visit texasfirewise.org .

Contacts:

Patrick Allen, Firewise Communities Liaison (979) 204-9648, pallen@tfs.tamu.edu

April Saginor, Communications Specialist (979) 458-6619, asaginor@tfs.tamu.edu

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reventing disaster

Sun City hosts 'firewise' workshop

BY C. WAYNE DAWSON

Sun City residents rubbed shoulders with community managers and firemen on February 27, taking a tour of remote, wooded locations in the community where volunteers, Community Association staff and contractors toiled to make Sun City "firewise."

The Texas A&M Firewise workshop hosted by Sun City drew 82 participants from across the state.

Firewise Communication Specialist April Saginor defined "firewise" as "anational concept that empowers communities to do simple things like clear overgrown vegetation from around their homes to protect against wildfire threats."

During the February 27 event, the group began by convening at the Oaks clubhouse, then loaded into two vans and traveled down Lone Star Trail



Above, Paul Ohlenbusch greets the firewise workshop participants near Berry Creek. Below, a forestry mulcher takes down a cedar tree

vening at the Oaks clubhouse, then loaded into two vans and traveled down Lone Star Trail until stopping just north of Berry Creek at Tranquility Trail nature path.

The group proceeded several hundred feet through a clearing and gathered around Landscape Supervisor Catrin Dubois.

She recounted the flood of September 2010 and emphasized the need to prepare for the future. "The flood unhinged garage doors," Ms. Dubois said. "Residents had to be evacuated at 1 a.m."

He also identified the Willow

ring in the next 30 years.

species that began appearing in the 1930s and also contributes to

Bacchkirs, an invasive plant

Clearing trees like cedars not only reduces fire hazard, but also flooding, she said.

The group then picked their

flooding.

way over a field of limestone to a

forest of cedar trees.

Water Supervisor Carlton Mathis said that much of this growth had been under water

When washed into a creek, the tree snags other timber, creating dams along creeks that raise water levels.

Ms. Dubois said cutting these trees when they're still young is the best way to remove them.

The group continued on several hundred feet to an area where Paul Ohlenbusch, firewise

a cutting attachment at the end of the vehicle's two mechanical

training coordinator, delivered

the next lecture.

Above, Paul Ohlenbusch greets the firewise workshop participants near Berry Creek. Below, a forestry mulcher takes down a cedar tree.

Mr. Ohlenbusch said that the arms.

"Our driver will level this juniper in just five minutes," he

by golf course and was a once-in-

However, there is a 26 percent chance of a 100-year event occur-

500-year event.

2010 rain left 14 inches on a near-

The group then returned to their vans and motored up Sun City Boulevard until parking a block south of the water tower.

"We hope to have a parking lot installed in three to five years," Education Coordinator Dan Dodson said.

He led the group across the street to the entrance of Mockingbird Trail, which opened just six weeks ago. The trail brushes close to Rattlesnake Cave, a formation that is off limits to the public.

He indicated that the Sun City Firewise Committee attempts to leave older cedars alone for two reasons: First,

type vehicle, was used to reduce

A forestry mulcher, a Bobcat-

ing removal.

during the last flood, necessitat

strated the shredding effect of

compact soil. The driver demon-



they hold the soil. Second, several bird species use the bark to build their nests.

Firewise volunteers also preserve fire-resistant oak by clearing out junipers that strive to gather around them and choke out water.

Sun City residents can find

out more about the local "firewise" effort by going to www. sctxca.org/suncity/community-association/sites/firewise/publications. The site offers access to videos and publications that can advise homeowners on what plants best resist fires and other topics.



Let's Communicate!

Jim Romine, Executive Director

Community Managers International Association (CMIA) Workshop April 7-10

un City Texas was asked, accepted and is honored to host the 2013 Community Managers International Association's (CMIA) annual workshop this month. This means that we, Sun City Texas, along with Steiner Ranch and The Hills in Lakeway, will host a workshop to show managers from across the U.S. what we do best. Attendees are managers (like me) who manage large homeowner associations similar to Sun City Texas and are interested in learning about best practices from other associations to enhance their own properties, programs and procedures.

The workshop will begin on Sunday, April 7, and will conclude on Wednesday, April 10. Our day to shine will be Monday, April 8, and we have lined up a full agenda for the attendees. We will share our best practices and give a tour of the property, specifically showing off our Social Center, including our Crafts Center, Fitness Operations, sports facilities and Veterans Memorial Plaza. In the afternoon, we will tour the Cowan Creek complex, the Woodshop and wrap up the day at the Horticulture Gardens, We have also lined up presenting speakers from our Board, the Developer, Staff, the NRO, Firewise, Wildlife and the Veterans Memorial Plaza.

WHAT EXACTLY IS CMIA?

CMIA membership is open to full-time, on-site community association managers, senior managers and a limited number of affiliates, who service homeowner associations. The objective of CMIA is to provide an environment for the exchange of ideas and member services, and to work with national/state organizations to improve the community association management profession.

CMIA promotes a variety of services to community association managers, including job placement information on its website www.CMIAManager.org, assistance with attaining professional designations, compensation/property surveys, and other services.

The CMIA Annual Workshop was created in 1999 as means for community association manager members to observe best practices and provide seminars in all the aspects of managing and operating a common interest development (CID). The annual workshop provides a quality, hands-on experience for community managers, as well as extensive networking opportunities.

CMIA also provides a registered designation known as the Master Community Manager or MCM, which is based on proven experience as an on-site manager combined with formal college education and/or achievement of designations or completion of educational courses from other related professional organizations. I hold this designation as well as Professional Community Association Manager (PCAM) from Community Association Institute (CAI), another trade organization dealing with homeowner associations.

We are thrilled to host this workshop and to have been asked by our peers in this business to do so. We are proud of Sun City Texas and are excited to show off our community.

Thanks to all of the volunteers and staff who have helped to prepare for this workshop. If you see us out and about on April 8, say a hello! I would also like to thank the community for allowing us to host this workshop and to share our good stories and procedures with our fellow community managers. Thank you!

Thursday, April 4, 4-6:30 p.m., SCB Broadcast LIVE on Channel 79

Want to know about Water Conservation Landscape design?

Come to a special Town Hall meeting sponsored by your CA Modifications Committee!

Topics will include:

- The Seven Principles of successful xeriscaping
- New Sun City Texas Design Guidelines (Rules) for xeriscaping
- Preparing your Application for Modification to submit a xeriscaped design for approval

There has been a lot of speculation about what/how/who/when we should or could landscape to save water, so come hear the current facts straight from the Modifications Committee.

© Come to the BOD Candidate Forum

Wednesday, April 24, 9 a.m., SCB Broadcast LIVE on Channel 79

Please attend the Candidate Forum in person or watch it live on Channel 79. Learn more about the candidates, understand their positions on a variety of issues, and then cast an informed vote for the best candidates. This meeting will be moderated by the Elections Committee and will allow time for each candidate to make opening remarks, answer questions from the community, and finish with a closing comment. Residents may submit questions they would like all candidates to respond to by sending an email to caelections@sctexas.org or by submitting written questions at the Member Services Office to the attention of the Elections Committee. Questions submitted during the forum must be directed to all candidates.

Board Member Views Submitted by Terri Pender, Treasurer

Looking Back

As the end of my current two-year term on the CA Board of Directors approaches, I believe it is appropriate to reflect on where we were two years ago, where we are now and where we are going.

It seems to me the most important thing to mention is how financially stable our Association is. We have never been in better financial shape than we are today! And things will only continue to improve as we move toward transition to a residentcontrolled community.

FIREWISE & WATER WISE

Through this Board of Directors' efforts, our community has instituted advanced Firewise and Water Wise programs to help reduce the potential for wildfires and flooding in Sun City Texas. The Board will continue to look toward future fire safety and water needs, including how to keep water costs low in the community. With the help from our Water Wise team, we will look at possible drilling of additional wells and installing more drought-resistant plants that require less water, while still maintaining the beauty of our common areas.

WHITE WING & CAFÉ ON THE GREEN

Another project accomplished during the past two years is the enlarged patio at the White Wing Golf Course, which was installed at no cost to the residents.

Currently, this Board has a couple more irons in the fire at White Wing, The Request for Proposals (RFP) for adding a patio roof is being prepared with a portion of the cost being absorbed by the developer. There is another RFP in the works for continued food service at Café on the Green when the current lease expires on December 31, 2013. Keep an eye out as our community grows and improves!

GOALS & BUDGETING

Finally, May heralds the beginning of the planning for the 2013-2014 Board Goals and the 2014 budgeting process. As Treasurer, it is my responsibility to oversee this process and make sure that our goals are measurable and achievable. This is a time-consuming endeavor that is necessary to ensure that Sun City Texas' financial platform is sound, yet fluid enough to accommodate our constantly changing economy.

This Board has been very busy during the past two years and will continue to look to the future with the major goal of making sure Sun City Texas is the best place to live!

One last note: none of these projects or goals could be accomplished without our incredibly dedicated staff! So, the next time you have the opportunity to talk with any of our staff, please take a moment to say "Thank you!"

CA BOARD RESIDENT MEMBERS



Steve Fought Vice President 512-863-5543 steve.fought@sctexas.org



Glynn Hatley Secretary 512-863-8695 glynn.hatley@sctexas.org



Kim Moran Resident Member 512-868-5670 kim.moran@sctexas.org



Terri Pender Treasurer 512-864-2997 terri.pender@sctexas.org

Brent Baker, President 512-532-3358 · brent.baker@delwebb.com

Upcoming Board Workshops and Meetings

Workshops and Meetings held quarterly



WORKSHOP

Thursday, May 9 1 p.m., SCB, Live on Channel 79

RESIDENT DIRECTORS' OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, May 15, 3 p.m., CCG



MEETING

Thursday, May 23 1 p.m., SCB, Live on Channel 79 3 p.m., Annual Members Meeting

Board Agenda and Minutes are posted online at www.sctxca.org > Community Association > CA Board.

Board Meetings and Workshops are shown live on Channel 79. BOD Meetings are rebroadcast on the day of the meeting at 6 and 8 p.m., and the following Wednesday at 6 p.m. Workshops are rebroadcast at 6 and 8 p.m. the day of the workshop.



Let's Communicate!

Jim Romine, Executive Director

How do you gauge the success of your community?

Recently, I was asked how we gauge the success of our community. It was an intriguing question and one worthy of a response to the community.

As with many things, gauging the success of a community association depends on many factors. Is the property attractive? Is it safe? Is it financially sound? I could go on and on, but will focus this article on a few areas where I feel our community is successful and why.

To begin with, Sun City Texas is financially sound and secure. With one of the lowest base assessment rates in the country for the level of amenities, our reserves are well-funded, we are on track to fund our Net Working Capital Fund by transition, and we actively fund and utilize our Capital Asset Fund and our collections are minimal. We have excellent policies in place to manage our finances appropriately and are blessed to have wonderful support from our Finance Committee volunteers.

PARTICIPATION

Another measure of success is participation. Our golf rounds are at an all-time high – our resident golfers are happy and the courses are in good condition. Our activities, fairs and outings are well attended and offer a wonderful variety of opportunities for our residents and guests to be active and have fun. Over 1,000 people a day visit our world-class fitness centers and we offer more than 100 fitness classes a week that are well supported.

I would also add that we are fortunate to have excellent participation in the governance of our Association through our committees, boards, task forces and clubs. The level of support and participation we have in this area is a true testament to the success of Sun City Texas and has helped my staff and me to be successful as managers for all of you.

RESIDENT SATISFACTION

Many gauge the success of an organization the old fashioned way, through surveys. Our recent Resident Satisfaction Survey revealed that our residents are happy and revealed an overall satisfaction rating of 92 percent for the community. I believe most organizations would love to have this type of score, and most, if not all, would agree this level of satisfaction points toward the success of our community.

APPEARANCE

The beauty and care (appearance) of our common areas are another method to gauge the success of our community. Our property, even with the current drought, looks good and is well maintained. Our buildings are being repaired, as needed; we have the reserve funds to repair or replace assets as necessary; and housekeepers are doing an excellent job with the day-to-day upkeep. Furthermore, the Firewise/Waterways work done in Sun City Texas is vastly superior to what other HOAs are doing and, in my humble opinion, is another gauge of our success.

COMMUNICATION

Some would say that to be successful you need to be good communicators. I would stack up our communications and communications team against any HOA in the nation. We have a wonderful magazine, weekly specific communicators, Channel 79, open meetings, and more. We have open communications with our City and County leaders and, where possible, have gotten involved

Continued on page 11

Resident Directors' Open Session

Submitted by Glynn Hatley, Board Secretary

Wednesday, May 15, 3 p.m., CCG

The Resident Directors of the Sun City Texas Community Association Board will hold their Open Session on Wednesday, May 15, at 3 p.m. in the Georgetown Room at the Cowan Creek Amenity Center. This meeting is to allow for two-way dialog between the resident directors and residents and will mainly focus on matters listed on the May Board workshop agenda. The Open Session meetings have been well attended in the past; all residents are invited to this session.

New Resident Orientation

Thursday, May 16, 8:30 a.m., SCB

If you are new to Sun City Texas, please join us for the New Resident Orientation. At 8:30 a.m., the Club Fair begins. Enthusiastic members will visit with you and tell you about their chartered clubs. The Community Association staff presentation begins at 9:15 a.m. and ends around 10:15 a.m. You will have an opportunity to meet the staff, learn how your Association operates, and gather valuable information. There will be time for questions, so bring them with you. Refreshments will be served.

Gone for the summer? Forward your Sun Rays!

If you are leaving town for the summer and want to have your Sun Rays forwarded to you, please change your address to your new, temporary location at the CA Member Services Office. The magazine will be sent to the new address by first-class mail. If you have questions about this process, please contact the Communications Office.

The Sun Rays is also available online at www.setxca.org.

CITYWEEK

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAFER OF SUN CITY . GEORGETOWN TEXAS . JULY 21:2017



Photo by C. Wayne Dawson

Dan Dodson, education coordinator for the Firewise Committee, on the Mockinghird trail on Saturday, July 13.

Firewise Committee strives to protect Sun City

Managing Sun City

An on-going series looking at the committees and subcommittees dedicated to maintaining and improving the retirement community BY C. WAYNE DAWSON

an Dodson, education coordinator for Firewise Committee, walked to the bottom of Sun City's Mockingbird Trail on Saturday, July 13. It was late morning, and despite the shade of the nearby forest, the temperature was climbing to 100 degrees.

Mr. Dodson pointed uphill toward a clearing made by volunteers called a fuel break. It led to the backside of Neighborhood 38.

"Fires love to travel up a north-facing hill like this one when a southern breeze pushes it," he said. "The heat naturally rises and creates its own wind, then dries the trees in front of it."

The Firewise Committee's focus, he explained, is to assess vegetation, topography, and weather conditions that can lead to a fire. Its mission is to protect the "people, property and natural resources" of the community.

When asked how many people volunteer for firewise duty, Mr. Dodson said that about a dozen show up regularly to clear underbrush and combustible vegetation, and are sometimes supplemented by others who live in the immediate neighborhood.

But that is not enough, he said.

Continued on 2

Committee strives to protect Sun City

Continued from 1

Last year's drought built up a backlog of dehydrated trees. It is ard, but the committee's limited heat, they have temporarily susimportant to clear this fire haz-And because of the summer manpower can only do so much pended activity.

"We have 10,000 residents in Sun City," he said. "But, at our last firewise town hall, only 200 showed up. More people need to get involved."

tation for training its members has certified it to train its own The Firewise Committee has achieved such an excellent repu that the parent organization the Fire Protection Association personnel.

Mr. Dodson, for instance, is a trict commissioner and fireman former emergency services dis from Harris County.

tentional burns can be used to is a former county extension ty. He studied fire behavior for Paul Ohlenbusch, the commit tee's training coordinator, holds a PhD in land management and agent at Kansas State Universimore than 20 years and how in prevent larger fires.

the effort to suppress forest fires tries like Mexico that make litbave less of a problem with them Mr. Dodson said that counin the long run.

of the flammable younger trees He said when nature is al lowed to run its course, much and underbrush are cleared out regulariy

and Pampas grass. Mr. Dodson that the Yaupon Holly growing along the side of his house put urges homeowners to move stance, was shocked to learn it at risk. Other offenders are rosemary, Possumhaw Holly these plants at least five feet from their homes if not But because American firefighting agencies make such an effort to protect property and control burns, it allows this ma-



Photos by C. Wayne Dawson

View of the fuel break toward Mockingbird trail from Neighborhood 38 on Saturday, July 13

plication that will bring out a person to assess ways to make The article's author, for intheir homes safer.



that the parent organization, the Fire Protection Association, has certified it to train its own personnel.

Mr. Dodson, for instance, is a former emergency services district commissioner and fireman from Harris County.

Paul Ohlenbusch, the committee's training coordinator, holds a PhD in land management and is a former county extension agent at Kansas State University. He studied fire behavior for more than 20 years and how intentional burns can be used to prevent larger fires.

Mr. Dodson said that countries like Mexico that make little effort to suppress forest fires have less of a problem with them in the long run.

He said when nature is allowed to run its course, much of the flammable younger trees and underbrush are cleared out regularly.

But because American firefighting agencies make such an effort to protect property and control burns, it allows this material to build up and create a time-bomb.

The result is that fires in the U.S. burn much hotter and are more destructive than in other countries.

The tendency of modern developers to locate homes next to scenic areas only increases the risk, he said.

But Sun City residents need not remain passive, he said.

Mr. Dodson recommends that they order a free and confidential Home Ignition Zone Assessment. If one goes to www. sctxca.org and follows the links to the Firewise Committee, it's possible to print out an ap-



View of the fuel break toward Mockingbird trail from Neighborhood 38 on Saturday, July 13.

plication that will bring out a person to assess ways to make their homes safer.

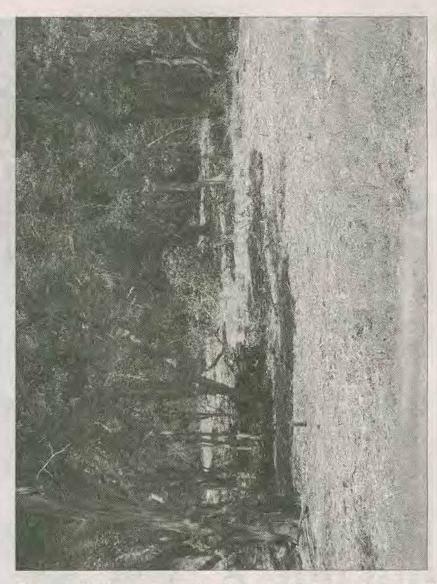
The article's author, for instance, was shocked to learn that the Yaupon Holly growing along the side of his house put it at risk. Other offenders are rosemary, Possumhaw Holly and Pampas grass. Mr. Dodson urges homeowners to move these plants at least five feet away from their homes, if not eliminate them all together.

"Just because a native plant conserves water doesn't make it firewise," he said.

Although the shingles on Sun City's homes are fire resistant, few people realize the danger posed by vegetation that creeps up their drain spouts or falls in their gutters, he said.

"The biggest fire hazard to homeowners is falling embers," he said. "Clean your gutters and downspouts and your home will be safer."

He invites everyone to attend the next firewise town hall at 9 a.m. October 9 in the Sun City Ballroom.



An area cleared out and mulched for fire prevention near the Sun City Boulevard water tower on July 13.



Let's Communicate!

Jim Romine, Executive Director

Sun City Texas Fun Facts

ike other homeowner associations, Sun City Texas has a steady flow of residents moving into our community and residents moving out. With this issue, I wanted to do something fun and provide everyone with various fun facts about our community. Hope you learn something about SCT that you may not have known and enjoy reading these submissions from your staff.

Happy autumn, Jim

PROPERTY FACTS:

- · We have a bat cave on our property
- We have over 30 caves on our property, each with a specific name
- Sun City is built on a portion of the 4T Ranch, which was a cattle operation involved in gene splitting
- A cornerstone of the 4T Ranch house is still located on a residential lot in N26
- More than 11,000 books are stocked in our wonderful library, maintained by a great group of volunteers!
- There are over 34,830 linear feet of nature trails throughout Sun City
- 108 acres of campus have been cleared for Firewise

ADMIN / COMMUNICATIONS FACTS:

- Annual Operating Budget (2013) \$15 million
- Number of current units/rooftops: 6,491 as of 6/30/13 (Buildout is 7,500 and transition from the Developer is at 95 percent of buildout, or 7,125 homes).
- \$1 million—the Communications department's annual advertising revenue.
- 44,000 visits to www.sctxca.org monthly (on average)
- 625 New Neighbor Welcome Kits ordered, supplied and stuffed annually.

- 69.7 percent of those who "like us" on Facebook are female
- 25—The number of countries that have visited our website!

RESIDENT FACTS: (based on the 2012 Survey with 2,096 respondents)

- 81 percent have two people living in the house
- 69 percent have been here for four years or longer
- 21 percent have been here for 10 years or more
- 8.2 percent leave for three or more months per year
- · 87 percent don't work

OTHER RESIDENT FACTS:

- · Average age of homeowner: 71 years
- Approximate number of residents; 12,300
- Most common last name of homeowner: Smith (second most common is Jones)

GOLF FACTS:

- Annual rounds played in 2012: 150,000
- Head Professional Lee Ray Matthews played Junior Golf with future PGA Tour stars Ben Crenshaw, Bruce Lietzke and John Mahaffey.
- Legacy Hills Professional Erik Beyer is left-handed, but plays golf right-handed.
- We give away over 400,000 golf tees in one year and over 135,000 scorecards

FITNESS FACTS:

- This year, the Fitness Centers will offer 6,663 group exercise classes—almost one class for each rooftop in Sun City!
- Our personal training team has offered 3,932 sessions so far this year.
- Number of visits to the Fitness Centers: 339,299 total projected for 2013 (24,712 per month). That's one for each resident of Corpus Christi, Texas.

October 4 and 5 bring Nonprofit/Volunteer Fair and Garage Sale

Fall in Sun City Texas brings a myriad of events for you to enjoy. On October 4, learn how you can give back to the community at the Nonprofit/Volunteer Fair. The following day, attend the biannual Garage Sale, where you can give away or sell your extra "stuff" (or even get something that's new to you!). Mark your calendars for these popular events! Learn more online at www.sctxca. org or turn to page 16.

© Come to the Firewise Town Hall!

Wednesday, October 9, 9:30 a.m., SCB

Submitted by Dan Dodson, Firewise Education Coordinator

National Fire Prevention Week is October 6-13. The Sun City Texas Firewise Group will host its annual Firewise Town Hall on Wednesday, October 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Social Center Ballroom. Presenters will include members of the Firewise Group, the Texas A&M Forest Service, and the Georgetown Fire Department.

The town hall will highlight Firewise activities of the past year, as required to maintain our Firewise Communities USA certification. We will also review actions to take around your home to minimize the risk of a fire. The Texas A&M Forest Service will supply updates on changes in the Firewise program.

The Georgetown Fire Department will provide information about fires in the home, including kitchen fires. Firefighters will also have fire apparatus on display in the Social Center parking lot, as availability permits.

Mark your calendars to attend this very important annual event! Refreshments will be served.

October Tips for a Beautiful Water Wise Landscape

By Winola VanArtsdalen

For gardeners, the delight of fall is not only the cooling temperatures but also the time for planting! This may sound strange to you if you came from the North, but roots continue to grow here during our mild winters, so fall really is the best time to plant. Fall planting makes your plants ready to withstand the stress of high temperatures next summer. The exception to recommended fall planting is tropical plants, such as lantana, which are best planted in spring to develop a strong root structure to withstand cold temperatures.

Plant seeds now for spring bloomers like columbines (in shade), larkspur (in part sun/shade), and poppies (in full sun). Spring bloomers take advantage of spring moisture. Then, when summer stress comes, they have done their show and are ready to rest—very Water Wise! Wait until late spring to sow seeds for summer bloomers like cosmos.

Whether from a local nursery or mail order, purchase seeds of native wildflowers from a reliable Central Texas source. Seeds planted now will give you months of color next spring, as well as the fun of seeing little green seedlings coming up through the winter. Follow these steps for planting seeds:

- Rake the soil surface smooth, removing rocks and sticks. If there is mulch, poke holes for planting.
- Sow seeds evenly over soil; use rake to barely cover them; press seeds to make contact with soil.
- Water gently; keep evenly moist first couple of weeks to ensure germination. After that, Mother Nature should take care of them unless it is an unusually dry fall/ winter.

FIREWISE & WATER WISE

While we are enjoying refreshing, cooler air and continue our Water Wise efforts in fall gardening, Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, reminds us that we should also consider ways to be Firewise.

Location is the most important factor for being both Water Wise and Firewise. To be Water Wise, plants that need the most water should be placed close to the house-a prime position for handwatering. To be Firewise, it is advised to place small, low-to-the-ground plants near the house to avoid a fire being carried to the roof. Keep tall, bushy plants and plants containing oils (aka fuel carriers) away from the house. It is also helpful to utilize plants that retain water, like succulents, for both specimen plants and groundcovers to deter a fire. Adequate spacing between plants also reduces irrigation needs and can provide fuel breaks for fire. Trimming and removing dead vegetation and other clutter is important to a neat landscape, while also reducing fire fuels. Pathways lead the eye to aesthetic points of interest in the landscape and can act as fuel breaks. Most important, the irrigation system must be carefully maintained to be both Water Wise and Firewise.

We need to keep these points in mind while planning and maintaining our landscape for saving water and reducing fire danger. Like many of you, I have made a few changes, but need to do much more for my own safety and that of our community. For Firewise plant suggestions and other Firewise information, visit www.sctxca.org > Site Index > Firewise > Publications & Information.

GARDENING TIPS FOR OCTOBER:

- Remove leaves from turf so grass can get sunlight.
- Add an inch of organics for nutrients, then add two inches (2") of mulch; or use only mulch that will later break down. Mulch not only keeps out weeds, but insulates plants from extreme temperature changes, helps soil retain moisture, and organic mulch improves soil fertility and texture.



NEXT MONTH: Join me for ways to improve your soil to hold moisture while supporting healthy plants and resisting diseases, pests and other stresses.

Winola is a Williamson County Master Gardener, a member of the Sun City Garden Club and a member of the Sun City Water Wise Task Force.

FIREWISE TOWN HALL

Learn more fire safety tips at the Firewise Town Hall on Wednesday, October 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ballroom. If you can't make it, check it out on Channel 79!

- Prune diseased or dead wood any time, but wait until late winter/early spring for heavy pruning.
- Make plans and buy bulbs to plant this fall. Prepare soil with any needed amendments, but do not plant yet. Follow instructions that come with bulbs.

TURE

- Install new sod and grass plugs; water frequently until established.
- Apply last application of fertilizer October 1-15 for turf and beds.
- Spread top dressing that is from a quarter-inch (1/4") to a half-inch (1/2") thick for increased nutrients and soil depth. This will increase soil retention next summer.

Source: Texas Agrilife Extension Service

around sun city



OCTOBER YARD OF THE MONTH 514 INDEPENDENCE CREEK (N62) AGGIE AND CHICK GLADWIN

A soaring American flag is the first object noticed when viewing this relaxing landscape, featuring plants that are Firewise, native and adapted. Drip irrigation, a seating area, a water feature, low lighting and various creative objects of interest are all around. Butterflies love the Gregg's mistflower, mandevilla, flame acanthus and other trumpet flowers. A cactus garden, lantana, roses, sago palm, rosemary, hibiscus, Mexican oregano, Jerusalem sage, purple heart, sea oats, and a native noninvasive pyracantha topiary are a few of the various plants that comprise this lush yearround landscape. This Yard of the Month demonstrates that it's possible to create a Firewise landscaped yard that is attractive, low maintenance, and drought-tolerant.

PHOTO BY A.J. MAYER





SOFTBALL WORKDAY

Above: Henry Schuessler, on tractor, lends a hand at Del Webb Field in a clean-up and beautification project.

Left: A group of dedicated softball volunteer workers put their backs into making beautiful Del Webb Field even better.



Some to the Firewise Town Hall

Wednesday, October 9, 9:30 a.m., SCB

Submitted by Dan Dodson, Firewise Education Coordinator, EMC

The Firewise Group will host a Town Hall on Wednesday, October 9 in the Ballroom. The session will begin at 9:30 a.m. with presentations by the Firewise Group, Georgetown Fire Department, and the Texas A&M Forest Service. Topics include information concerning fire behavior, our Sun City Texas sources of fire danger, our Firewise successes, and the future of the SCTXCA Firewise program.

Prior to and after the presentation, information will be available for residents about various activities relating to the Firewise program, its interactions with other Sun City Texas committees and chartered clubs, and general information about fire prevention. Invited groups include the Emergency Management Committee Education Group, COPs, Sun City Amateur Radio Society, the Property & Grounds Committee, the Wildlife Management Committee, the Georgetown Fire Department, the Texas A&M Forest Service, and Williamson County EMS. Come early and learn from these groups. The Sun City Texas Firewise Group's primary mission is to educate our residents about the dangers of wildfire. For more information, join us at the Town Hall or visit our web page via www.sctxca.org > Site Index > Firewise.

FAST FACTS ABOUT FIRE

- · Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries, followed by heating equipment.
- Smoking is a leading cause of civilian home fire deaths.
- · Almost three-quarters of Americans do have an escape plan: however, more than half never practice it
- One-third of American households thought they would have at least 6 minutes before a fire in their home would become life threatening. The time available is often less. And only 8% said their first thought on hearing a smoke alarm would be to get out!

- Source: nfpa.org

National Fire Prevention Week

Submitted by Dan Dodson, Firewise Education Coordinator, EMC



October 6-12 is National Fire Prevention week. It is observed across the U.S. with various activities to remind us about the danger of fire and about making plans for what to do if we were to be involved in a fire situation.

Here in Sun City Texas, we should be prepared for a fire in our home and for wildfires in our area. Our resident population is statistically more likely to be killed or injured by fires than the general population; we must take the necessary steps to reduce the possibility that we will be one of those statistics.

Consider what you would do if you had a fire in your home.

- Do you have working smoke alarms? Test your smoke alarm system once a month. Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old. If you have a hearing impairment, get special equipment that will provide a warning.
- · How would you escape? Developing a plan for what to do and practicing the plan could save your life. Identify a primary and secondary exit from each room in your home. A secondary exit might be a window. Can you open and exit from the window? What is on the outside? Is there shrubbery that will prevent your exit?
- · What if the smoke alarm sounds? Get out and stay out. If the room is filling with smoke, get low and go. Smoke and dangerous gases rise toward the ceiling; therefore, air near the floor is less hazardous. Do not try to contact the fire department from inside your home. Exit, then call 9-1-1 from outside your home.
- · Where would you go after exiting the burning structure? Have a meeting place where everyone will go. A common meeting place makes it easier to verify that everyone

has left the building. In Sun City Texas, a good location is your mail box. Never go back inside for people or pets. Wait for the arriving fire personnel and communicate to them if people or pets are not present. Fire personnel have protective equipment that permits them to conduct search and rescue activities in most situations.

· Does everyone living in the home understand the escape plan? Have you practiced the plan recently? If you have overnight visitors (especially children), review your fire escape plan with them.

The theme of the 2013 Fire Prevention Week sponsored by the nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) is "Prevent Kitchen Fires." According to information provided by NFPA, two out of every five home fires start in the kitchen. About one-third of those fires are the result of unattended cooking, 58 percent begin on the cooking surface, and 16 percent occur in the oven. The mantra is "Cook with Caution." Keep flammable objects (i.e. oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packing, towels) away from the stovetop.

Remember, if you have a fire in your home, just get out. Call 9-1-1 after you leave the building.

For additional information, visit online at www.firewise.org or www.nfpa.org/education.

CPR/FIRST AID/AED CLASSES

CPR/First Aid/AED classes are taught monthly in Sun City Texas. For information, contact Barbara Akers at bslrakers@aol.com.





PAGE 2

Protect homes with fire safety

Officials warn of continued danger

By C. WAYNE DAWSON

Spokespeople from Georgetown Fire Department, Sun City Firewise Group and Texas A&M Forest Service held a Firewise Town Hall meeting October 9 in the community ballroom. Together, they urged Sun City to reduce the potential for local wildfires and floods.

"It's too late to do something when there's fire in the area," said Dan Dodson, education coordinator of the Sun City Firewise Group.

He began the presentation by tying fire prevention and flood control together as two sides of the same coin. He outlined the steps the group has taken after the disastrous flood of September 2010, when 32 homes were damaged by Berry Creek's rising waters. Much of this occurred because of the proliferation of non-native Ashe junipers (also known as cedars) along the waterway. The trees accumulated debris over time, blocked the creek's flow and contributed to the flood.

The trees were hazardous because, even when green and flourishing, they are highly combustible. They also absorb an enormous amount of ground water, leaving little for surround-

Continued on 3



Photo by C. Wayne Dawson

William Boettner, a wildland urban interface specialist with the Texas A&M Forest Service greets the audience at the Firewise Town Hall meeting October 9 in the Ballroom.

Protect homes with fire safety

Continued from 1

ing vegetation and contribute to flammable underbrush.

Since the 2010 flood, Firewise, the Property and Grounds Committee and the Community Association have joined to remove tens of acres of the offending trees, but many more need to be cut down.

Mr. Dodson urged everyone in Sun City to have a home ignition zone assessment performed to determine the degree of risk each homeowner faces. Volunteers conduct the assessment without charge and keep the results confidential. Visit www.sctxca.org to schedule an assessment.

Captain Hank Jones of the Georgetown Fire Department spoke next and discussed fire prevention. Mr. Jones said the leading cause of home fires originate from stoves and ovens. Citing himself as a case in point, he said that it is all too easy to wander off and do something else and forget the range a dangerous practice.

"Once we even left the popcorn on the stove by itself at the firehouse," he said, indicating it was embarrassing when visitors to the station walked into a cloud of smoke.

ing extension cords for cooking devices because they can overload a home's circuits and start

Firewise Training Coordinator Paul Ohlenbusch talked next on fire behavior.

"The three essential legs of the triangle necessary to create a fire are fuel, oxygen and heat," Mr. Ohlenbusch said.

Different factors connected to each of these three aspects make a fire more likely: Wind increases oxygen and also heightens fire hazard. Many factors can produce the heat necessary to ignite a fire, such as lightning, cigarettes, and vehicle exhaust. The greater the surrounding moisture, the longer it will take for the fuel to ignite. Mr. Ohlenbusch cited one case where a fragment of an old Coke bottle magnified sun light enough to create a spark.

Mr. Ohlenbusch stressed that, despite all the rain Georgetown has received recently, the town is still in the midst of a drought, which means there is plenty of fuel for a fire around. He said the Firewise group is striving to clear brush from under trees so the heat will remain at ground level and not threaten the vegetation in the He also warned against us- upper branches of the trees.

Board Member Views Submitted by Glynn Hatley, Vice President

What's important to Sun City Texas residents?

In preparation for this article, I approached a few residents to get their input—questions and/or comments about what is important to them in Sun City Texas. The results were not very scientific, but they were very interesting. Thanks to all residents who participated in this effort.

Note: There were no two responses on any one subject and there was nothing said about golf, which seems to me a strong indicator that, in general, the community is pretty satisfied with the way things are being run. Kudos to the staff, our many committees and to the Board.

I can't, in this short space, address all of the issues discussed, so I have picked a few issues that I think have wide interest and what we are doing to address them:

- Residents with special needs: A special task force is now studying this important matter and we should be getting the results of this study very soon.
- Traffic: Traffic is the City of Georgetown's responsibility, but the CA maintains close communications with the city and there is even a Sun City Texas resident sitting on one of the city's traffic boards. This is an issue to which we can all contribute—be cautious and courteous.

- Monthly financial reports, including new home sales:
 These reports are available on the Sun City Texas website.
 On the homepage, www.sctxca.org, under the Community Association tab, click Financial Information. Once on that page, click on Monthly Financials in the bar on the left-hand side. You have the option of looking at the current month and past months.
- What if Pulte elects to build more homes in Sun City Texas? Should Pulte choose to add more homes to our community, residents should be thinking about what additional amenities they would like to see.
- Firewise: This is an ongoing project that is funded in the 2014 Sun City Texas budget.

Finally, we had one potential issue that may win the Gold Medal Award: According to a Fox News release, one HOA has taken DNA samples of the residents' dogs in order to identify and punish those who don't pick up after their pets. Just shows how important this matter can be to a community. So, pet owners—scoop the poop!

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Upcoming Board Workshops and Meetings

Workshops and Meetings held quarterly



WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 7 1 p.m., SCB, Live on Channel 79

RESIDENT DIRECTORS' OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, November 13, 3 p.m., CCG



MEETING

Thursday, November 21 1 p.m., SCB, Live on Channel 79 Board Agenda and Minutes are posted online at www.sctxca.org > Community Association > CA Board.

Board Meetings and Workshops are shown live on Channel 79. BOD Meetings are rebroadcast on the day of the meeting at 6 and 8 p.m. and the following Wednesday at 6 p.m. Workshops are rebroadcast at 6 and 8 p.m. the day of the workshop.



Let's Communicate!

Jim Romine, Executive Director

Year End Wrap-up

appy Holidays to all! I hope this year-end issue of the Sun Rays finds each and every one of you happy, healthy and proud to be in Sun City Texas. I can honestly say, I am honored to be your Executive Director and am proud to tell you that your staff loves serving you and this community. Thanks for allowing us, your 150-plus employees, to work for and with you another year in this wonderful community.

I'm always surprised how quickly the year clicks by and it is amazing that we are wrapping up another year. Looking back over the year, we have met and, in some cases, exceeded our annual goals; with your support and assistance, we have continued to raise the bar on all we do as a community and management team.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Board, our volunteers and staff for their support and involvement to keep me and our team on track throughout the year. We have been busy and our community continues to grow, We started the year with 6,360 homes and expect to close the year with approximately 6,645 homes. We are a large and still growing community and, beginning in 2014, will have 855 homes to be built by our developer to reach the 7,500 planned build-out. There has been a lot of buzz within the community concerning Pulte's plans to continue building past the 7,500 homes, and we are anxious to hear that decision.

Over the year, a few significant events and issues occurred that helped to showcase the outstanding community that we have. In February, we were honored to host the state-wide Firewise Workshop, which was a great way to show off our community and the wonderful work our Firewise volunteers have done to make us safer. In April, we hosted managers from large-scale homeowner associations from all over the United States during the Community Managers International Association Workshop. It was a huge success and I appreciate the Board and community allowing my team and me to host this workshop.

This month, Café on the Green will be closing to make way for a new operator, Putters Café, which will open in 2014. I would like to thank Sally and all of her team for the fine job they did serving our community this year. I wish each of them nothing but the best and, having been in the Food & Beverage business, I appreciate the long and tough hours they have put in to serve our community.

The transition to Putters Café will take approximately 45-60 days, throughout which the restaurant will be closed. During this time, we will be busy cleaning, painting, re-flooring, adding new tables and chairs and re-designing the overall layout of the dining area. We are excited about this new operator and encourage everyone to support them in their new endeavors here in Sun City Texas.

Another significant community issue that actually started during the 2013 budget process is the transition to a new website for our community. This conversion is a huge undertaking, but it will be a shining star that will enhance our overall image, communications and marketing. I would like to thank Krystal and Lance and everyone who has been involved in this project to date and those who will be involved over the next few months during the implementation.

At the end of the day, our best accomplishment as a community has been the continued involvement and support by our residents. We have been successful because of your support and input and because we are blessed to have a great staff that embraces the contributions from our volunteers. On behalf of our Board of Directors and your staff, a special holiday wish to all of our residents and a special thanks to those who have contributed to the success of Sun City Texas. Let's do it again in 2014.

Happy Holidays to all, Jim

Board Member Views Submitted by Gary E. Preston, Secretary

'It's a Wonderful Life'

As I write this article, the budget and planning process for 2014 is underway and going well—by the time you read this, we will all know the final outcome. In this interim period, allow me a moment of reflection, not on issues or challenges, but on life in Sun City Texas.

Never in my life would I have guessed that I would live in an "active adult" community, but how lucky we are that we found Sun City Texas! Our "dues" are less per month than a membership to a gym, a good massage, a perm and pedicure, a night's stay at almost any motel, or a dinner for two at a good restaurant! Yet, for this amount, we live in an absolutely beautiful community with a myriad of amenities, clubs and activities to rival ANY community.

But what really sets Sun City Texas apart are the people. For the most part, we are a happy lot. We have worked hard to get here and have a united desire to enjoy what we have left and what wonderfully diverse backgrounds we have! I know a baker, probably a candlestick maker from the Woodshop, and I butcher my golf score. Seriously though, we have teachers, school photographers, retired military, government officials, farmers (ranchers, here in Texas), those with business backgrounds of all kinds, and many more—from all over the country! For the most part, all of us need to watch our finances, but, due to the nature of our community, we get to do so much! We are able to take advantage of the endless opportunities and activities right here in Sun City Texas. We dance, golf, play racquet sports, swim, run, play cards and various games, take bus trips, build, knit, paint, and grow things.

We are also an unusually giving community. Certainly we pay our taxes and use many of the local and state facilities, albeit much less than many of our neighbors, but we give—and we give of ourselves. Here in Sun City Texas, we serve on governance and advisory committees, participate in Adopt-a-Hole, support Salute the Troops, and work for our community to be Firewise. Nevertheless, every day hundreds of us leave the reservation to help our greater community. You can't go to a local hospital and not see us volunteering; we volunteer at the Georgetown Public Library, the Police Department, for the city government—from Mayor to City Council and various advisory committees/commissions. We ring the bell for the Salvation Army, we help at The Caring Place, we deliver Meals on Wheels, participate significantly in Rotary, Kiwanis and Shriners. We are Mentors in both Georgetown and Jarrell

Continued on the next page

CA BOARD RESIDENT MEMBERS



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Dennis Walter Treasurer 512-868-3087 dennis.walter@sctexas.org

Brent Baker, President 512-532-3358 • brent.baker@delwebb.com

Upcoming Board Workshops and Meetings

Workshops and Meetings held quarterly



WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 13 1 p.m., SCB, Live on Channel 79

RESIDENT DIRECTORS' OPEN SESSION

Wednesday, February 19, 3 p.m., CCG



MEETING

Thursday, February 27 1 p.m., SCB, Live on Channel 79 Board Agenda and Minutes are posted online at www.sctxca.org > Community Association > CA Board.

Board Meetings and Workshops are shown live on Channel 79. BOD Meetings are rebroadcast on the day of the meeting at 6 and 8 p.m. and the following Wednesday at 6 p.m. Workshops are rebroadcast at 6 and 8 p.m. the day of the workshop. 2013 Firewise Recertification Document Appendix C Financial Data

Sun City Texas Community Association Firewise Group 2013 Firewise Credits

as of December 1, 2013

	totals			total
item	number	units		value
Volunteers				
Firewise volunteers		hours		\$ 39,908
Home Ignition Zone		number		\$ 1,068
Volunteer Clearing Crew	3,191	hours		\$ 69,521
Subtotal-Volunteer input				\$ 110,497
Landscape Maintained Homes	\$ 904,099	dollars		\$ 452,050
Community Association				
Creek Clearing Crew	\$ 83,552	dollars		\$ 41,776
Contractor Work	\$ 77,000	dollars		\$ 38,500
Staff Work	\$ 37,611	dollars		\$ 37,611
Subtotal-Community Association				\$ 117,887
Resident contribution (prorated)	houses			
Paid to vendor	1,125	paid		\$ 1,482,157
Own care	1,125	hours		\$ 2,989,481
Subtotal-Resident Contribution				\$ 4,471,638
Total Contribution				\$ 5,152,072
Community data				
Roof tops	6,615	houses		
Residents	11,241	people	required difference	\$ 22,482 \$ 5,129,590

38,111.79

total

meeting meet		9		S	total
p meeting 3 6 6 meeting 11 22 22 meeting 14 28 28 meeting 17 22 22 meeting 3 6 6 6 p meeting 11 22 22 meeting 11 22 22 meeting 4 8 8 p meeting 9 18 18 p meeting 2 4 4 p meeting 2 4 4 p meeting 7 14 14 p meeting 6 2 4 4 meeting 7 14 14 4 p meeting 6 16 16 p meeting 7 4 4 p meeting 6 6 6 p 6 <t< th=""><th>e name of group or event 1/16/13 HIZA Work Group</th><th>tunction meeting</th><th></th><th>total cı 20</th><th>redits 435.80</th></t<>	e name of group or event 1/16/13 HIZA Work Group	tunction meeting		total cı 20	redits 435.80
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p meeting 2 4 4 meeting 14 28 28 6 p meeting 4 8 8 16 16 3 p meeting 13 26 26 9 p meeting 2 4 4 4 4 p meeting 7 14 14 3 p meeting 9 18 18 3 p meeting 3 6 6 11	6/19/13 HIZA Work Group	meeting		32	697.28
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p meeting 14 28 28 6 p meeting 4 8 8 1 p meeting 13 26 26 5 p meeting 2 4 4 4 p meeting 7 14 14 3 p meeting 9 18 18 3 p meeting 3 6 6 1	6/26/13 FirewiseGroup	meeting		14	305.06
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meeting 8 16 3 p meeting 2 4 4 p meeting 7 14 14 3 p meeting 9 18 18 3 6 1	Education Work Group	meeting		8	174.32
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	ducation Work Group	meeting	3 6	9	130.74

14 305.06 16 348.64 4 87.16 16 348.64 18 392.22 4 87.16 16 348.64	22 4 87.16 10 217.90 40 871.60 102 2,222.58 9 196.11 4 87.16 20 435.80 8 174.32 8 174.32 8 174.32 8 17830.36 6 130.74	859 18,238.23 300 6,537.00 325 7,081.75 100 2,179.00 5 108.95 10 217.90	
14 4 4 118 4 4 16	22 4 4 10 102 9 4 20 12 84 6	859 85 74 #REF! 300 30 325 32 100 10 5 10	
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meeting meeting meeting meeting meeting meeting	Town Hall workshop tour training session Town Hall Sun City Tv interview Town Hall Town Hall Town Hall	hours outside events hours outside events hours outside events hours outside events hours outside events	
9/25/13 FirewiseGroup 10/13/13 HIZA Work Group 10/13/13 Education Work Group 10/20/13 FirewiseGroup 11/20/13 Education Work Group 12/4/13 FirewiseGroup	ents 2/21/13 New Homeowners Orientation 2/26/13 Texas Firewise Workshop 2/27/13 Texas Firewise Workshop 4/3/13 HIZA Training 5/16/13 New Homeowners Orientation 5/28/13 News n Views 6/28/13 USAA visit 7/9/13 KEYE TV 8/15/13 New Homeowners Orientation 10/9/13 Firewise Town Hall 10/9/13 HIZA Training	year Total Firewise event hours year HIZAs performed Individual input Paul Ohlenbusch Dan Dodson Ron Thompson Jack Maher Art Kroll Roger Dennen	
9/25 10/13 10/13 11/20 11/20	Events 2/21 2/26 2/27 2/27 4/3 4/3 6/28 6/28 8/15 10/30 11/7	year year Individu	

Fred Warman	hours outside events	3 3	3	3	65.37
Sammy Alexander	hours outside events	40	40	40	871.60
David Icks	hours outside events	_	_	_	21.79
Barry Harding	hours outside events	3	3	3	65.37
Jim Mills	hours outside events	22	22	22	479.38
Yvonne Mautner	hours outside events	15	15	15	326.85
Aggie Gladwin	hours outside events	9	9	9	130.74
Individual total		ω	840	840	840 18,303.60

38,111.79

Totals

Sun City Texas Community Association Firewise Group 2013 Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew

Date	Volunteer activity	Hours	People		Total Hrs	value
1/3/13	firewise cutting		8.0	4	32.0	697.28
1/24/13	firewise cutting		22.0	11	242.0	5,273.18
1/31/13	firewise cutting		16.0	8	128.0	2,789.12
2/7/13	firewise cutting		18.0	9	162.0	3,529.98
2/14/13	firewise cutting		14.0	7	98.0	2,135.42
3/7/13	firewise cutting		12.0	6	72.0	1,568.88
3/14/13	firewise cutting		16.0	8	128.0	2,789.12
3/21/13	firewise cutting		12.0	6	72.0	1,568.88
4/11/13	firewise cutting		60.5	19	1,149.5	25,047.61
4/25/13	firewise cutting		54.0	15	810.0	17,649.90
5/21/13	firewise cutting		12.0	6	72.0	1,568.88
5/23/13	firewise cutting		13.0	7	91.0	1,982.89
5/30/13	firewise cutting		10.0	5	50.0	1,089.50
6/6/13	firewise cutting		8.0	4	32.0	697.28
6/13/13	firewise cutting		10.0	5	50.0	1,089.50
			1.0	2	2.0	43.58

3,190.5 69,521.00

Sun City Texas Community Association Staff and Contractor Work on Firewise items 2013

Dates					
start	end	Location	Work Item	mhrs	Amount
1/2/13		206 mustang island		2.0	54.00
1/4/13		149 stetson	remove 3 dead trees	0.9	162.00
1/7/13				8.0	216.00
1/9/13		428 monarch tr	remove dead tree	2.0	54.00
1/11/13		104 dawson	remove dead tree	1.0	27.00
1/14/13	1/16/13	1/16/13 157scissortail/104chicadee	remve 6 large trees standing and fallen	20.0	540.00
1/21/13		214 summit st	oak down	1.0	27.00
1/22/13		106 larkspur	large cedar and cedar elm removal	16.0	432.00
2/11/13		105 san saba	cedar removal	2.0	54.00
2/11/13		912 apache mountain	heavy vine removal	4.0	108.00
2/11/13		510 armstrong	dead tree removal	2.0	54.00
2/12/13		105 san saba	dead wood pruning/ remove 2 trees	0.9	162.00
2/15/13		114 bee creek	cedar removal	0.9	162.00
2/15/13		110 red poppy	dead limb removal	2.0	54.00
2/15/13		106 larkspur	finish dead tree removal	2.0	54.00
2/20/13		208 dawson	limb up trees	3.0	81.00
2/25/13		texas dr. and providence	remove large limb and tree	1.0	27.00
2/26/13	2/28/13	2/28/13 123 yukon	several cedars	33.0	891.00
			remove large cedar off fence		0.00
2/27/13		720 independence	remove cedar off of fence	2.0	135.00
2/28/13		mckinney falls and cool sp.	2 large limbs and 1 small tree	1.0	27.00
2/28/13		independence and cool sp.	I small tree	1.0	27.00
2/28/13		cool sp. And pedernales	large limb hanging on wall	1.0	27.00
2/28/13		bear crk- old blue mnt	5 dead limbs	4.0	108.00
3/5/13			dead wood pruning	16.0	432.00
3/8/13	3/11/13		remove large dead tree	18.0	486.00
3/14/13		216 winter	dead limb removal	1.0	27.00

3/15/13	103 potter	2 dead trees	2.0	54.00
3/20/13	103 stetson	limbs off roof	2.0	54.00
3/21/13		dead wood pruning	8.0	216.00
3/22/13		dead wood pruning	4.0	108.00
4/8/13	500 deer meadow	large dead tree limbs	4.0	108.00
4/9/13	101 monarch	dead limbs	1.0	27.00
4/11/13	cowan hole 3, salt creek	removal of all ladder fuels	60.5	1,633.50
4/17/13	321 yukon	remove large dead cedar	15.0	405.00
4/24/13	126 cold springs	dead cedar limbs	2.0	54.00
4/26/13	109 capono	dead limbs	2.0	135.00
4/29/13	107 aransas	dead limbs	0.9	162.00
5/1/13	113 yaupon	prune limbs of house	1.0	27.00
5/6/13	109 armstrong	remove dead tree	3.0	81.00
5/6/13	5/7/13 311 t.o.f	remove large cedar	10.0	270.00
5/8/13	505 dove hollow	dead limbs and trees	18.0	486.00
5/13/13	315 summit	dead limbs, limb up, brush removal	8.0	216.00
5/10/13	615 sheldon creek	large dead cedars	0.9	162.00
5/12/13	5/13/13 egret cove	dead trees all down drainage	18.0	486.00
5/28/13	216 winter	limb up common area	21.0	267.00
5/29/13	6/4/13 617 sheldon lake	remove large dead cedar	33.0	891.00
5/14/13	5/15/13 409 cooper	cedar clearing	36.0	972.00
5/20/13	119 bright leaf and common	cedar and vine clearing	24.0	648.00
5/24/13	125 mountain laurel	dead cedar removal	0.9	162.00
5/26/13	6/4/13 cowan cedars	dozens of Ig dead cedars	36.0	972.00
6/17/13	114 cowan creek	dead oak limbs	0.9	162.00
6/17/13	505 copper breaks	stacks of dead limbs removed	2.0	54.00
6/13/13	behind fire station	willow bac. Removed	0.9	162.00
6/28/13	6/1/13 armstrong-summer rdg	willow bac. Removed	24.0	648.00
7/2/13	135stetson	dead oak removed	4.0	108.00
7/2/13	along behind verbena	salt cedars removed	2.0	54.00
7/22/13	7/23/13 210 t.o.t.f	firewise clearing of cedars and vines	20.0	540.00
7/23/13	7/25/13 milpond entry	clear dead cedars	24.0	648.00

7/24/13	115 lost peak	limb up common area	12.0	324.00
7/25/13		remove large broken limbs from oak	3.0	81.00
7/26/13		replant pots	2.0	54.00
7/29/13		d cut vines and treat	4.0	108.00
7/30/13		remove tree	2.0	54.00
7/31/13		cut back sage	3.0	81.00
8/1/13		clear ditch	2.0	135.00
8/2/13	9/30/13 cool springs and pedernales	remove cedar elm	4.0	108.00
8/5/13		remove trash	1.0	27.00
8/6/13		vacuum leaves	2.0	54.00
8/7/13		clear all under side	3.0	81.00
8/8/13		clear both drains of willow backrus	4.0	108.00
8/9/13		seal concrete pillar/kill all bees inside	1.0	27.00
8/12/13		pick up contractor's brush	2.0	54.00
8/13/13		clear growth from drainage area	3.0	81.00
8/14/13		limb up all trees in common area	3.0	81.00
8/15/13		limb up live oak	4.0	108.00
8/16/13		treat and eradicate all fire ants	2.0	54.00
8/19/13		clear willow backrus	3.0	81.00
8/20/13		remove dead branches/limb up trees	4.0	108.00
8/21/13		clear trees around buildings	3.0	81.00
8/22/13	10/9/13 building at cowan creek	prune trees away from building	4.0	108.00
8/23/13	10/9/13	plantings/tree pruning/ raising	3.0	81.00
8/26/13		trees in Level 1 area	4.0	108.00
8/27/13		remove tree limb from fence	2.0	54.00
8/28/13		oak limb removal	7.0	189.00
8/29/13		remove dead tree from an island	2.0	54.00
8/30/13		remove dead tree from L3	2.0	54.00
9/2/13	10/15/13 fire station wall	remove willow baccharis	2.0	135.00
9/3/13	10/16/13 714 armstrong	remove 2 dead trees	3.0	81.00
9/5/13	143 Old Chisholm Trail	remove willow baccharis		00.0
9/6/13	9/6/13 117 Lonestar	limb up trees in common area	4.0	108.00

135.00	108.00
2.0	4.0
9/9/13 Trail of Flowers & Rock Rose cremove willows from dd/spray remedy	remove trees blocking the fairway view
9/9/13 Trail of Flowers & F	9/10/13 107 Palmetto
9/9/13	9/10/13

696.5 18,805.50

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ciation Firewise Group	
Sun City Texas Community Association Firewise Group	Creek Crew staff - 2013

Dates

	Amount	7,728.00	20,608.00	1,008.00	1,680.00	1,344.00	2,016.00	1,120.00	6,160.00	25,984.00	0.00	1,232.00	00.800′1	3,584.00	672.00	8,064.00	1,344.00	0.00	0.00	52.00
	Am	7,72	20,60	1,00	1,68	1,34	2,01	1,12	6,16	25,98		1,23	1,00	3,58	19	8,06	1,34			83,552.00
CA Staff	hrs	552.0	736.0	72.0	120.0	48.0	72.0	80.0	220.0	928.0		88.0	72.0	256.0	24.0	288.0	0.96			3,652.0
	Contractor										Austin Land									
	Work Item	debris clean up/cedar clearing	cedar clearing	cedar clearing	debris clean up/cedar clearing	cedar clearing	dead tree removal	drain outfall clearing	cedar clearing	cedar clearing	cedar clearing	cedar clearing	dead tree removal	cedar clearing	cedar clearing	cedar clearing	debris clean up/cedar clearing			
	end Location	1/31/13 Tranquility Trail	3/19/13 LHGC Driving Range	3/7/13 NH 13 Rio Grande Loop	3/26/13 Dovehollow L-water Crossing	3/28/13 W/WGC Hole 7/8	4/13/13 N26	3/16/13 N24A	5/15/13 N30	7/26/13 LHGC Hole 1	7/7/13 Cowan Creek N21,44,45,46,62	8/1/13 N7	8/14/13 Cool Spring Bridge	9/19/13 N46	9/18/13 N7	10/23/13 N51	10/2/13 WWGC Iron Bridge			
Dates	start e	1/1/13	2/1/13	3/5/13	3/20/13	3/27/13	3/29/13	3/13/13	5/1/13	5/20/13	6/1/13	7/29/13	8/12/13	8/19/13	9/18/13	9/23/13 1	9/30/13			Totals