



From The Chair

APRIL FOOLS DAY will be here soon. The 'three stooges' is a popular vintage series. Make believe I'm a Stooge. I'm on my way to my charcoal grill with lighter fluid and matches. I wanted to check the gas level in my mower, stored in a dark part of the garage. So I decided to light a match before taking off the gas tank cap. Your lawnmower is a toy - a dangerous toy.

Another disaster event. I was in my to Sun City moving days. My car needed a jump start at a hardware store parking lot. Then I drove to a nearby South Austin auto parts store. I finished my battery exchange. I see the dark sky. Smoke in the sky is not the brown color of landscape burning. This was black. The smoke column grew to a size larger than smoke stacks I've seen. I hear sirens wail. I asked a man on this in the parking lot, "What's happening?" He said "Got a call from my friend. Long Motors South Congress garage caught fire". Repair shop techs had made a mistake!

Sun City, Please don't start up a dead vehicle that's been sitting for a long time inside your garage. Tow it to a shop.

Mark Marino, Firewise Group Chair

Firewise Partners Corner

An idea: One neighborhood Partner discussed the Home Ignition Zone Evaluation at a neighborhood meeting with printed request forms available. An email reminder was sent 2 weeks later. The result - 7 HIZ requests!

Community Wildfire Preparedness and Awards Day is May 9. If you can add the date to your neighborhood's calendar it would be appreciated! More information for the day will be coming. The plans will be reviewed and updated at the April Education-Training Work Group meeting.

A Look Back

The March 2014 issue of the Trumpet had some interesting items! They included a review of the February 20 wildfire behind Walgreens (now The Hacienda), a house fire and a yard fire. It featured information on the **FIRST** Community Wildfire Preparedness Day!

Our Partners



FIREWISE USA™
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Click logo for information!

March

March 20 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00mp, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

March 26 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00mp, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

April

April 17 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00mp, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

April 23/26 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00mp, Mesquite Room/The Oaks

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

Sun City Texas is a great community to reside in! All the amenities offered; inside/ outside activities to be involved with; and most of all the people who care about their community. As you drive around our community, you'll notice all the effort that has been made not only by our Community Association (CA), but also by residents managing the landscaping on their properties. You may not realize this, but this strongly assists the Firewise Group in their efforts to reduce fuel for potential fires, which we have been doing for 16 years. We are a Recognized Firewise USA community.

The task for the Firewise Clearing Crew (FWCC) is to assist the CA beyond the resident's property line, known as the Level 3/4 areas (when needed). These areas **are the sole responsibility of the CA**. Under their guidance, the FWCC performs removal of dead wood, trash pick-up, removal of small Ashe Juniper and limbing those low limbs (preventing flames from going up the tree), and a little flood prevention by clearing ditches, when in our work area.

We've noticed on our workdays that some areas have been cleared by resident(s) and leaving the cuttings or that yard debris have been dumped there. Please, help us keep our Level 3/4 areas clear of unnecessary waste and adding fire fuel. More information can be found on the HOA Governing Covenants on the CA's website. When there is a concern in the Level3/4 area, contact the Native Area Facilities Supervisor.

Thank you to everyone for your support and assistance in keeping this a "Recognized Firewise USA community".

Petra Garren

Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew Coordinator

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The Trumpet is published monthly except January. If you have information to share, please send it to ole7734@suddenlink.net by the 28th of each month.

Firewise Group Meeting Notes

The February 26 Firewise Group Meeting was attended by 16 members and 3 liaisons.

The items covered were:

* The Landscape Vendor Training on January 31st had 5 companies and 11 people. In addition, the Georgetown Fire Department had 8 members and 2 members of the Austin Area Firewise Alliance.

* Community Wildfire Preparedness Day is May 9 in the Cowan Creek Amenity Center.

Meeting Notes for this and previous meetings can be found on the [web site](#).

The next Firewise Group meeting will be March 26, 2025 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room.

May 9 - Firewise Community Wildfire Preparedness and Awards Day

May 9 will be a day of work and celebration!

Weather permitting, an area near the Cowan Creek Amenity Center will have juniper (cedar), downed wood and trash removed.

The day will start with sign in at 8:30 followed by an instruction and safety session. A group photo will be taken and the work will start. After lunch, recognition of guests and sponsors and awards will be held. The awards will be for 5 and 10 year Firewise volunteer service awards.

More next month!

March Holidays

2 Texas Independence Day

15 The Ides Of March

17 Saint Patrick's Day

19 National Let's Laugh Day

21 World Poetry Day

22 National Goof Off Day

31 World Backup Day



WHAT ARE FUEL BREAKS?

Been thinking about fires lately? The pictures from California have an eerie similarity to what my mind envisions when I think of a fire in Sun City. Houses close together. Puffs of smoke and debris, with the only thing reminiscent of a city is the presence of streets.

Could it happen here? One more thing to keep me up at night! The answer to that question is "Yes, but not likely!" Our CA creates fuel breaks between green areas and our homes. Saving lives and homes, and not landscaping is the objective. That's partly because the CA and Firewise Clearing Crew are busy maintaining the **fuel breaks** which reduce the size of the fire.

A fuel break is a strip of land where vegetation has been mowed. This reduces the size of the fire. You see them around electric and telephone lines.

I always feel a little sad when they mow down the pretty weeds, like mulleins, but I remind myself...it's for the greater good.

You will see our Firewise Clearing Crew maintaining the fire breaks by removing dead brush, trash and some Ashe juniper. Don't stand in their way! We need the fuel breaks! There weren't enough of them in California! You can create your own fuel break around your homes by making sure tree branches above your roof and your home, developing a Firewise landscape, avoid planting bushes under windows, and clearing dead brush in your yard. More information can be found on the Firewise Group's [website](#).

Barbara Bergin-Nader



Upcoming Events

May 9, 2025, Community Wildfire Preparedness & Appreciation Day, Florence-Georgetown Rooms, Cowan Creek Amenity Center

May 15, Meet Your Community Welcome Day, SCB

October 7, Firewise Town Hall, 9:30 am, SCB

October 24, Home Ignition Zone Evaluator Training, 9:00 am, Andice Room

What's With the Weather?

Ever heard - 'in like a lion, go out like a lamb'? There are a lot of explanations for what it means. For Texas weather, March is usually windy. The late February Drought Monitor indicates we are in a severe drought. The Climate Predication Center projects that drought conditions will probably persist. Result? We could have several 'Red Flag' warnings. Be alert!

Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links

[Web Site](#)

[Meeting Notes](#)

[Current Publications](#)

[Home Ignition Zone Evaluation](#)

[Annual Renewal Documents](#)

[2024 Town Hall video](#)

[Landscape Vendor Service Provider list](#)

Home Ignition Zone Evaluations

As of:	1/22	2/26
Received	1,153	1,165
Completed	1,153	1,157
New requests	0	12
Open	0	8

Firewise Group Leadership

Chair - Mark Marino

Vice-Chair - Pete Mollitor

Recorder - Cheryl Taylor

Webmaster - Melissa Lane

HIZ Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch

Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren

Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson

Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch