



#### From The Chair

This is my first From The Chair article for The Trumpet.

The last Group meeting had the election of officers. Mark Marino, Chair; Pete Moldir, Vice-Chair; Cheryl Taylor, Recorder.

There are departing members that made Sun City Firewise a peer group of the FIREWISE, USA.

Thanks to Judy Whitmore for being the Recorder.

Thanks to Doug Lane for being HIZ Coordinator.

Thanks to Dan Dodson for the time as FW Group Chair.

A look back at Meeting Notes shows the names of other active members whose support & guidance of the SUN CITY Firewise Group is to be recognized. Our Group has some important events approaching this year.

Mark Marino

Firewise Group Chair

#### March

March 21 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

March 27 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

#### April

April 18 - Education-Training Work Group, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

April 24 - Firewise Group Meeting, 1:00 pm, Mesquite Room

#### Firewise Volunteer Clearing Crew News

The Crew had to take a break until the weather settled and the CA got caught up with their efforts and could use our help again. Yay, it seems that both were happy to let us get back to it. We start back on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March.

We took time while on break to pull maintenance on our tools, give our joints and backs a rest, and, of course, take some Firewise preventive actions around our own yards. Picking up dead limbs, removing dead foliage, moving dead leaves from around the foundations of our homes to name a few. Since the weathermen are forecasting no more freezes- remember to re-attach those water hoses outside for emergency use, if needed.

This is a reminder for you all to do your bit to, in helping keep our community "FIREWISE SAFE".

Petra Garren

Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator

#### Upcoming Events

The following events will be coming up.

May 3, 2024, Friday - Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, 8:30a 12:00p

May 16, 2024, Thursday - New Resident Orientation, 8:30a-9:15a, SCB

#### Why Firewise Is Important

Research has shown over 80% of structures lost in wildfires are the result of ember ignition. During wildfires, fire protection is limited. What often happens, one structure ignites and the wind pushes the flames to the next structure, igniting it.

Sun City is in a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). A WUI is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels and developed land. The latter can be a neighboring subdivision. (continued on page 2)



#### New Officers

The new officers elected at the February meeting are:

Chair - Mark Marino

Vice-Chair - Pete Mollidor

Recorder - Cheryl Taylor

One change in coordinators was Doug Lane resigning as HIZ Coordinator. Paul Ohlenbusch, Backup Coordinator, will continue until another person is identified.

#### Our Partners



FIREWISE USA  
Residents reducing wildfire risks

Click logo for information!

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**Thank You** for your leadership!

Dan Dodson, Judy Whitworth, and Doug Lane. We appreciate what you have done for the Firewise Group!

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

Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Numbers		
The HIZ completion status:		
<u>As of:</u>	<u>1/26</u>	<u>2/28</u>
Received	1,131	1,131
Completed	1,131	1,131
New requests	0	1
Open	0	0

**Firewise Group Meeting Notes**

\* The January 26 Firewise Group Meeting had 9 members and 3 liaisons present. The following were the topics:

- \* Education/Training
  - Wildfire Preparedness-Appreciation Day
  - Landscape Vendor Training report
- \* .HIZ report (above)
- \* Firewise Clearing Crew report. (see page 1)
- \* Election of Officers

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

The next Firewise Group meeting will be February 28, 2024 at 1 pm in the Mesquite Room.

What about embers igniting Sun City homes? Our homes are relatively fire resistant. The outside materials are fire resistant (stucco, brick, masonry, cement board). The main concerns are exposed wood, gutters, landscape material health, and outside improvements. The potential for embers to ignite these are the concern.

Texas A&M Forest Service has a tool utilizing information including housing density (houses per acre), intermix with wildland fuels, surrounding fire behavior potential, significant fuel hazards, potential fire intensity, and likelihood of a wildfire starting. Additional data used is surface fuels (within six feet of ground) and vegetation (grass, shrub/brush, timber litter, and slash). Maps are developed defining the potential for wildfire for areas. The minimum scale is about 100 feet.

So what does all this mean? First, Sun City has the potential for a wildfire that could produce embers. There have been two small vegetation fires in Sun City in the past 20 years. Neither created a threat to houses. However, the potential for fires does exist.

The greatest wildfire threat to produce embers is from areas outside of Sun City. There are areas within Sun City but they are limited. The primary factor is fires originating up to two miles away. Included are subdivisions adjoining Sun City that have large lots with trees and grass covers.

Sun City has been proactive in countering the potential. The Level 3 fuel break mowing twice each year is the most obvious. The mowed vegetation, particularly during dormancy and drought, provides reduced fuel (vegetation) height that reduces the flame size and can slow the fire speed. Also, a mowed yard is a fuel break!

Berry and Cowan Creeks are being managed to reduce the flooding potential by removing Ashe juniper (cedar), low hanging limbs, downed woody material, and trash. The process also reduces the potential for a grass fire to ignite tree tops.

The one thing a resident can do to protect their property and their neighbor's is to understand what the potential is for their home to be ignited by embers. A Home Ignition Zone Evaluation is a good way to start! It is done by trained evaluators. It is FREE and confidential between you and the evaluators.

Sun City and Firewise needs everyone's help to



Georgetown Fire Department works the March 11, 2011 fire along Cool Spring Way. The fire came from Cowan Creek and crossed two streets along Cool Spring Way.

**Some March Holidays**



March 2  
Independence



March 2



March 10



March 15



March 17



March 19



March 31

**Please promote the Home Ignition Zone Evaluation!**

**Sun City Texas Firewise Web Links**

- [Web Site](#)
- [Meeting Notes](#)
- [Current Publications](#)
- [Annual Renewal Documents](#)
- [2023 Town Hall video](#)
- [Landscape Vendor Service Provider list](#)

**Firewise Group Leadership**

- Chair - Mark Marino
- Vice-Chair - Pete Mollidor
- Recorder - Cheryl Taylor
- Webmaster - Melissa Lane
- HIZ Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch
- Firewise Clearing Crew Coordinator - Petra Garren
- Education Coordinator - Dan Dodson
- Training Coordinator - Paul Ohlenbusch