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# THE TOWN CRIER

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TOWNGATE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
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## CONTEST & LANDSCAPE

BY SHEILA RAINES

Towngate is excited to debut our new neighborhood seasonal awards. The months for the contest will be April, July, October and December. These awards will be presented to those neighbors that go "Above and Beyond" in their efforts "add to the curb appeal" of their property. We as a neighborhood appreciate the efforts demonstrated by so many to create and add appeal to their yards, we want to reward them.

These are the months and three categories except for July. **July** is Patriotic Display.

<u>October</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>April</u>
Day of the Dead	Most Creative	Most Colorful
Boo Spectacular	Best of Season	Creative Design
Made Me Jump!	Traditional-Santa	Made You Look!

The judging will take place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and the Award sign will come down at the end of the month. The judges will come from people outside of the neighborhood. There will be 2-3 judges each contest month. A yard can win only once a year. For the winning yards, a sign will be placed in your yard, \$25 gift card, and a certificate.

If you have not decorated for a holiday or planted in your yard, we have a group of people that will be glad to assist you in learning how. Please call Sheila and I will give you their name and phone number. These are the same folks that helped create this program, your neighbors, Sandy Olive, Misty Morley, Danny Roberson, Joe Ebarb, and myself.

Have your display ready by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month to be in the contest!

Look for the Halloween flyer for celebrating the holiday at the tennis court on October 31 from 6-8.

Landscape work is winding down for the year. Randy and his crew took care of 45 lawn and replacement requests and 16 tree/shrub removal or trim requests this year. The yards are also looking great due to all the rain water we had this year. Call Sheila about requests for next year. The list has already begun.



Welcome to our new Homeowners:

Michael & D'aun McCaffrey

Greenhouse Capital

Sameer & Kira Almazayen

Pamela Stewart

Nima Lama

## Antics from Anne

The pool will be closing soon and bring to end another season. Just a reminder that dues are due by the 10th of the month or a \$20 late fee will be assessed. Please email the office with you current email and phone numbers so our records will be up to date. Send the email to:

garlandtowngatehoa@gmail.com.

We have several new homeowners moving into the neighborhood. Be sure and extend a warm welcome to them.

The office will be closed October 12-16.

Need an additional or replacement trash can or if your trash is not picked up.

Call 972-205-3500



## Giving Back

BY Gaby Cruz-Smith

Volunteering has always been viewed as good for your soul. Now it turns out that it's also good for your health and your career. Surprisingly, you don't need to devote huge chunks of time to doing good activities to reap the benefits. Nonprofits have long offered a golden opportunity to network and learn new skills in different areas, something that, in turn, will make you more valuable back in the office. Here are ways to give back

1. Offer to Help Family
2. Volunteer at Your Local School
3. Organize a Yard Sale for Charity
4. Visit a Senior Center
5. Coach a Local Youth Team
6. Tutor a Student
7. Fix and Serve Meals
8. Organize a food Co-o
9. Be a good neighbor
10. Volunteer at a hospital

So find ways to give back to your community today! If you're still on the fence about volunteering, or you're not sure you have the time or energy necessary, consider the five-year, multi-institutional study that proved giving and being unselfish can protect your health and prolong your life. Every day that goes by without helping another is an opportunity missed. Recognize that others helped you achieve your merits, and now you have the opportunity to pay them back while paying the effort forward.

# Parking Issues

By Arnaud LeCousin

We received many complaints from Homeowners having problem parking or even driving thru the neighborhood, especially along Towngate Blvd and Towngate Drive. If you are not using your garage to park at least one of your vehicles when your household has multiples vehicles, do not make a wall of cars in front of your house and your direct neighbors. It gets very frustrating. If your neighbor is doing it, please talk to them first, if the behavior does not change, call Code Compliance CITY OF GARLAND 972-485-6400 and they will fine/tow neighbors that are not complying. Here is some info from the City.

## Code Enforcement to Address Public Parking Issues



The City of Garland Code Compliance and Police departments share responsibility in enforcing parking violations. Certain violations, such as blocking fire hydrants or parking too close to intersections, are strictly enforced by the Police Department. Others, such as oversized vehicles parked in residential areas, trailers parked on the street and unattended vehicles stored on public property, are enforced by Code Compliance.

In the past, code inspectors relied heavily on resident calls to enforce parking. However, given recent requests from residents and the City's desire to be responsive to the needs of the community, Code Compliance will begin a more intense parking enforcement initiative across the city.

Inspectors will focus on parking violations on city streets with an emphasis on: vehicles that have remained stationary for periods exceeding 48 hours, trailers and oversized vehicles (tow trucks, truck tractors, road tractors, semitrailers, trailers greater than 18 feet in length, passenger motor vehicles designed to carry more than 16 persons, and any modified vehicle with a manufacturer's rating of 9,000 pounds gross weight or more).

Properties that do not have a history of parking violations will be issued notice. Citations and/or towing may occur for properties that have a history of parking violations or fail to comply by the compliance date specified on the notice. Impound fees are required for any vehicle that is reclaimed.

For more information, call [Garland Code Compliance](tel:972-485-6400) at 972-485-6400.

## PAINTING

The office has paint to use for those repairs that you have done. Come by the office during open hours, 9-1 Mon.-Fri. to pick up the paint. Paint colors must be chosen among the approved colors.

## Architectural

By Larry

As many of you are aware we are inspecting properties monthly for needed repairs and/or code violations. We send out 25-30 letters a month.

When repairs are needed we write you a letter advising of the needed repairs and ask that they be completed within 30 days. If they are not completed you will get another letter the next month and for as long as the repairs are not completed. If you receive a 5th letter you are fined \$25 a month until repairs are completed.

We are trying to be proactive and keep you from being fined by the City, which is a lot more than \$25 a month.

Keeping your property in good repair enhances the neighborhood and helps maintain the value of the property.

## TREASURE REPORT

EXPENSE HIGHLIGHTS as of August 31,2017

Landscape: Weekly Maintenance	\$27,415
Tree Trimming	\$12,477
Improvements	\$ 9,894
Pools: chemicals/repairs/maint.	\$ 7,315
Electricity	\$ 5,892
Water	\$ 5,969
Insurance	\$ 2,529
Painting	\$ 21,686
Sprinkler Repair	\$ 3,036
Town Hall Maintenance	\$ 1,418
Telephone/Communications	\$ 1,596
Postage/Office Supplies	\$ 1,631

## POOL/CLUBHOUSE

BY Jay Taylor

Fall is in the air! I can feel it and I bet you can, too. The good news is the pool is still open... at least for now. The temperatures are supposed to be back in the 90's soon but it will probably not be for too much longer.

Please be sure you continue to follow all of the posted rules and clean up after yourself when you go swimming. While we do not yet have an official closing date for the pool, we typically base the date on the weather. After we have continuous days of cold weather you can typically expect an email from Anne announcing the closing of the pool, so get in your pool days while you still can!

## 2017 BOARD MEMEBERS

**PRESIDENT - Sheila—214-274-6412**

**VICE PRESIDENT- Arnaud—214-952-6251**

**TREASURER – Gaby – 479-530-7367**

**SECRETARY – Andrew -972-898-1431**

**LANDSCAPE – Sheila—214-274-6412**

**CLUBHOUSE/POOLS—Jay—214-497-9765**

**ARCHITECTURAL – Larry –214-476-6744**

**PAINTING - Jack—214-695-3835**

**Randy Dale- Landscaper/Pool Maintenance  
214-882-4251**

**Code enforcement 972-485-6400–  
jprewitt@garlandtx.gov**

**Neighborhood Police Officer—Matt StClair  
stclairm@garlandtx.gov**

**WEBSITE: [www.tghoa.net](http://www.tghoa.net)**