

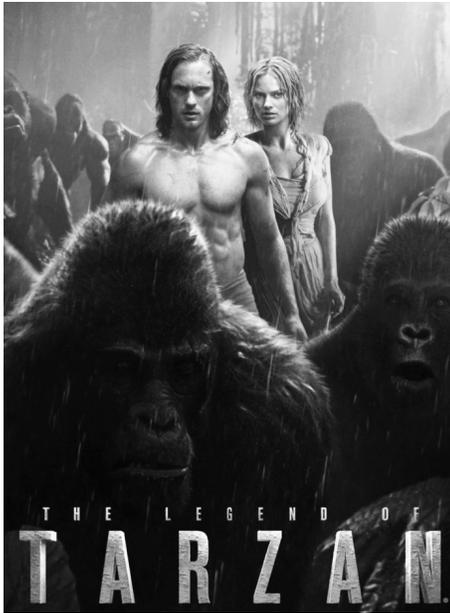


TERRELL HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS & VIEWS ★ AUGUST 2017

MOVIE NIGHT *by Art Ordoqui*

THNA, in partnership with Grande Communications, will host the screening of **TARZAN** at Screen at the Scates on **Friday, August 11, 2017**. Pizza and concessions available at 8:15 p.m. and movie at 8:45 p.m. Come on out and join your neighbors for a family-friendly movie!



MAKE YOUR HOME SAFE BEFORE SUMMER TRAVEL *by James Spencer*

It's summer and time for vacation travel. Your fun is also a chance for criminals to take advantage of your absence. The last thing you want is to get back home and discover your house has been burglarized. But there are several things you can do to increase your security and peace of mind while you're gone.

Burglaries are crimes of opportunity. Criminals look for homes where they have little chance of getting caught. They "case" the neighborhood to determine which homes are unoccupied. Make sure your home looks occupied even when you aren't home. Use timers to turn lights on and off at various times and locations, and to

turn a radio on and off. Use timers and motion sensors on front and back porch lights.

Ask a trusted neighbor to park their car in your driveway, or to move your car around to look like you're home. Ask your neighbor to check your mail, retrieve packages, pick up newspapers, put out and return trash bins, remove flyers left on your door, and walk around your home to check for tampering.

Alarms and security cameras are excellent additions. Some security systems have interactive or home automation features which allow you to control security, lights and thermostats remotely. High resolution camera systems that can detect facial features or license plates are good. Display security alarm stickers and signs in visible locations.

A video camera doorbell system such as Skybell or Ring has an intercom and a one-way camera which can be used even while away from the house. Skybell has a motion sensor which triggers the camera to record as soon as someone steps on the porch, and the recorded videos can be viewed at any time.

Don't advertise on social media that you are traveling! Take all the photos you like, but share them only *after* you get home. Criminals troll social media all the time, looking for unsuspecting victims.

Try to see things from the criminal's perspective, and your chances of becoming a victim will be dramatically reduced.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE NEWS *by Amy Sharp*

The Beautification Committee and volunteers from Mt. Calvary Church participated in a Day of Service in June, cleaning up traffic islands, including weeding, trimming trees, and spreading mulch. Thank you to all who came out to help!

Our next Day of Service will be in

October when we will continue beautifying our neighborhood by spreading wild flower seeds and planting trees.

We would love to have you join us! We need volunteers to help keep our neighborhood beautiful, and we need donations of wild flower seeds and mulch. Then everyone can enjoy the wild flowers in the spring!

Please come and be part of a terrific group of volunteers that keeps our neighborhood looking great. Contact Beautification@terrellheights.org.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT!



COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Compost Queens will demonstrate the bokashi composting system used in their food waste pickup service. Join us at the Terrell Heights Community Garden on **Thursday, August 17 at 7:00 p.m.** Learn about bokashi composting and how it turns all of your food scraps back into nutrient-rich soil in a fraction of the time it takes to do traditional composting without the smell or pests. www.compostqueenstx.com.

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on **Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.** for the Annual Neighborhood Meeting, at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church parish hall. This is a terrific opportunity to find out all the latest that's happening in the neighborhood. THNA members will also be able to vote for new board members.

Thank you to our business members for their support throughout the year:

1111 AUSTIN HWY. APARTMENTS
ALADDIN CLEANING & RESTORATION
ALAMO HEIGHTS DENTAL
ALAMO HEIGHTS EMERGENCY CLINIC
CORIE PROPERTIES
GRANDE COMMUNICATIONS,
JULIAN'S ITALIAN PIZZERIA
SERVICE FIRST AIR CONDITIONING

THNA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Jenny Heymann—President
Mary Miles—Vice President
Walter Brown—Secretary
Brandon Wenzel—Treasurer

MY DOGS ARE BARKING!

by Allison Levine

One of my favorite things about Terrell Heights is our longstanding tradition of mail delivered straight to my front door. However, my dog despises this daily intrusion. The man behind the action on my street is mail carrier Cisco. Cisco has worked for USPS for 25 years and has served our neighborhood route for 6 years now. His favorite part of the job? The exercise and being able to work independently. His least favorite part of the job is rain, and surprisingly not the dogs that chase him (he loves dogs and has two rescues of his own).

Cisco had a couple of recommendations for our residents about mail delivery. First, be sure to clear mail out of your slot or box daily. Second, place a planter or large object near your front door so that delivered packages can be concealed until you are able to retrieve them.

Cisco walks over 14 miles daily on his delivery route. Talk about dogs barking!

NEW SAFFE OFFICER

by James Spencer

After months without a SAFFE Officer (San Antonio Fear Free Environment), it was recently announced that **Officer Chad Tudor** will serve Terrell Heights as our SAFFE Officer. Our neighborhood will once again benefit from having an assigned officer as our point of contact regarding crime, safety and other city related issues.

The SAFFE program is at the core of community policing, focusing on identifying and resolving community crime issues with the help of community residents. SAFFE officers strive to maintain daily interactions within their assigned areas to help prevent crime. They also serve as liaisons with other city agencies.

Officer Tudor is based out of the North Sub-Station. He can be



reached by phone at the sub-station at (210) 207-8350 or by email at Chad.Tudor@sanantonio.gov.

THE ARCHITECT'S VIEW

by Don Seidel, Architect

In this column I will share ideas with our TH residents, based on my 40-plus years as an architect and 20-plus years in this neighborhood. I'll start with some basics, and future columns will cover most aspects of home renovation and maintenance.

Most homes in Terrell Heights are about 70 years old. With proper care, there's no reason they can't last to well over 100. Your first steps are to stop water damage and termites.

As you know, termites eat wood, and in extreme cases can cause enough damage that a house must be demolished. Find a reputable extermination company that provides regular termite treatment with a warranty. Search sites like Angie's List for wise consumer tips. Let your insurance company know you're doing termite prevention treatment and they may give you a discount on your homeowner's insurance. If you have a pier and bean house, remove any trash and scrap wood. That stuff is termite bait.

Water is both life-giving and destructive. It's easy to turn a blind eye to water leaks in your home, but I can promise you it will only get worse. Even a slow leak can cause cumulative damage to your home.

Inspect your roof for leaks (or hire someone to do it). Common leak points are vertical penetrations of pipes, chimneys and such, as well as skylights. Look at the flashing, the metal piece at the intersection of the roof and a vertical surface, such as a roof-to-wall connection. Check the "valleys", where two roofs meet to slope down. If it doesn't look clean, the roofing material may need replacing. Look at the edges of your roof. The water should drip off, not weep back against your house. A metal drip edge strip is always a good thing. Seal the trim at all windows, doors and corners. Do what's needed to prevent water from ponding against your house: rebuild a deck, patio or re-grade the soil.

All other home care builds on these two basic things. They will put you on the right path to maintaining the beauty and value of your home.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Kay Kimbell

With all the turmoil, chaos and divisiveness going on in our country right now, one can't help but worry and feel overwhelmed. What can be done about it? What can *we* do about it?

The foundation of making a difference in our world begins right here at home, in our own neighborhood. It begins with the bond we share as neighbors. It's a connection that exists regardless of political views, artistic tastes, or any differences of opinion. What we have in common is far more important than the things that divide us or put us into constant competition with each other. Despite our perceived differences, we all belong to this community we call "Terrell Heights", and every single one of us has an equal stake in what happens here.

One would think that as stakeholders, more people would want to get involved with their community. But our busy lives often make it very difficult to fit even one more thing into our schedules.

The good news is that getting involved isn't about quantity. It's about quality. Quality is about doing our best, and not about the dregs of our exhaustion. It's about engaging in whatever way we can with something larger than ourselves. When we do that, we empower ourselves, our neighbors, and our community in ways that would not otherwise be possible. The simplest way to engage with our community is to join THNA. It's only \$25 a year . . . less than a week's worth of Starbucks coffee.

THNA is all about rediscovering our common connections and the collaborative power we share for improving our community. There is strength in numbers when we come together to fulfill the potential we have for making our community even better than it already is. I believe that's something we all want.

You can make a difference right now. Join THNA. Send your check for \$25 to THNA, 1248 Austin Highway, Suite 106-220, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Every dollar goes towards community activities and projects.