

The Cimmaron Chronicle

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Cimmaron Estates, Grand Prairie, Texas

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Community Park Opens

With festivities on hand, almost 200 people showed up for a celebration mid-March of the opening of our community park. Board leaders plan for an official opening in June, allowing some of the landscaping to reach maturity.

Discussion is still under review how to effectively plan park usage, whether it be for private events or social community events. Final decisions should be reached by the opening in June. For the time being, please instruct all children to not climb the locked fences and gates for safety reasons.

Please plan to attend our upcoming meeting on Tuesday to offer your input on the community park.

Crime Watch Update

On the evening of April 19, the Crime Watch Committee had a meeting to get re-organized. People present were Tony Tate, Tom Dragoo, Elayne Coffie, Ticia Garcia, Officer Dennis Porter, and Lt. Barbara Dixon. These are some of the highlights of the meeting:

- Keep a watchful eye and report suspicious activity to the police. We are advised to not take matters into our own hands as there is a risk factor.
- Tony Tate was elected chairperson, Ticia Garcia was elected secretary.
- Crime Watch Signs can be funded by the HOA. They are \$12.50 per sign, and the requirement is for a block to have 50% of the homes either give their signatures or call Officer Porter at 972.237.8844.
- Officer Porter wants to have a meeting with each block and encourages homeowners to work together communicating with one another. It was suggested that Tony Tate be a contact person to gather any statistics of criminal activity.
- The officer reports that from now through summer, crime activity statistically increases. Ladies are warned not to answer doors to any solicitors. People who appear to be loitering should be reported to the police.
- The most common kind of criminal activity in our area is car burglaries. Homeowners are encouraged to not place anything of value with eyesight in your cars, and to note that garage door openers should not be visible in your car. Utilize garages and driveways as much as possible and avoid parking your vehicles on the streets.
- Home burglaries are minimal. Officer Porter stated that he is a certified home safety inspector. By the officer doing a home security survey, you can save up to 20% on your home insurance policy.
- Other organizations within the crime prevention unit: Operation I.D. engraves your driver's license number on valuable property to help in recovery in case it is stolen. McGruff House is a safe home for children to go to when they feel they are in danger. VIN Etching places vehicle identification numbers into the windshields of

cars as a theft deterrent. HEAT Registration places a voluntary sticker on your car permitting officers to pull the vehicle over during late night hours to check for drivers being responsible for stealing the car, particularly for joyriding.

The officer and lieutenant encourage the neighborhood to become involved and to work together. If you wish to help serve on this committee, please contact Tony Tate at ladontate@yahoo.com

Good Neighbor

Hopefully everyone in our community wishes to be regarded as a good neighbor. Here are a couple of thoughts to keep in mind.

First, as summer approaches, the days are longer and kids are out of school. Still, we need to remember that many people in our community must get up early for work even through the summer, so it is important to teach kids to be mindful of all of the neighbors in our community. Loud outdoor activity (basketball, loud music, parties) should all end by darkness and the evening news. Family members should be polite and go indoors allowing all our homeowners the opportunity of a good night's sleep. And on a side note regarding noise, please give attention to barking dogs so that neighbors are not disturbed. That is a pet owner's responsibility.

Second, although not everyone is an experienced landscaper, everyone should have the ability to have their lawn mowed and attention given to unsightly weeds. To keep our development looking attractive and maintained, this is a must. Please don't allow your yard to get out of control. It affects the entire neighborhood.



Unkempt yards such as this one have a negative effect on the entire neighborhood.

Trash Reminders

Congratulations to the many families that contribute to Grand Prairie's recycling efforts. Cimmaron Estates homeowners have done an excellent job of utilizing this program. Recyclables such as aluminum or steel cans, plastic bottles, and glass bottles or jars should be placed in the 18-gallon green recycling bins the city recently provided, or blue bags. Bins may be used for all recyclables. However, brown paper sacks may still be used for paper items such as newspapers, magazines, phone books, junk mail, and flattened cardboard boxes. **Recyclables are picked up only on Tuesday** by a separate truck. Please do not place the green recycling bins on the curb on Friday.

Recyclable items:

- Steel, tin, and aluminum cans. It is not necessary to remove paper labels from steel cans, but please rinse out all cans.
- Paper items. Newspapers, magazines, coupons, junk mail and envelopes, flattened cereal and cardboard boxes, phone books, etc. will be collected. Cardboard boxes must be flattened and placed under the bin.
- Glass items. All glass items, regardless of color, may be recycled. Please rinse all bottles and jars and remove caps and lids.
- Plastic items. Any plastic bottle may be recycled. No plastic grocery bags, please. Rinse all jugs and bottles and remove caps and lids.

NOT recyclable:

- Plastic bags, toys, dishes, bowls, buckets, Styrofoam
- Window glass, auto glass, china, ceramics, light bulbs, mirrors
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic containers that held oil, antifreeze, or pesticides
- Medical waste (needles, syringes, lancets)
- Take-out pizza boxes

Also note, trash should NOT be placed on the curb until the morning of trash pickup. By placing trash in our front yards on the afternoon prior, it causes the neighborhood to look unsightly and the odors can attract unwanted animals. Please wait to place your garbage at the curb until Tuesday and Friday mornings only. Your cooperation is appreciated.

All Families Needed Tuesday

At the last scheduled Cimmaron Estates Meeting on March 21, an insufficient amount of homeowners and families were in attendance to **establish a quorum** to approve changes. It is **extremely necessary** for homeowners to attend, or to give their proxy vote that was recently sent to you to someone in attendance, so that the Cimmaron board can make decisions to improve our community. Admittedly, meetings are not a "hot night out", but the involvement of all our families is **important**, so please plan to attend on May 17. Your voice just might offer the solution to a neighborhood concern. The time of the meeting is 6:45 at the Grand Prairie Library. The address is 901 Conover Dr. (just off Carrier). You can call 972.237.5702 for directions.



Foundation Plantings

At one time foundation plantings were mainly used to hide the bases of older houses. Nowadays plantings at the front of a house are used to complement the home appearance, to blend it into the surroundings and to create an inviting entrance. A well-landscaped yard is an asset to the community, and good landscaping can help increase the value of your home.

Small growing shrubs are the most common plantings for the front of the house. Since these shrubs will be observed closely and seen every day it is important to pick something that looks good all year round. Even though we have a short winter season, it is probably not a good idea to plant something that will drop its leaves at the end of the season. Fortunately there are many shrubs suited to this part of the country that keep their foliage or needles all year long.

There are many nurseries in the Dallas / Fort Worth area, and experts there can you help make the right choices for your landscape. Make sure you understand

how large the shrub will be at maturity and allow enough space for it to grow. Dwarf shrubs will generally stay in the one to three foot tall range. Medium shrubs can reach up to nine feet, and large shrubs can grow up to 25 feet and resemble a small tree.

Ideally shrubs should have been planted a couple of weeks ago, but it is not too late to add shrubs to your landscape now. If you do decide to plant shrubs now you will need to give them a little more care this summer to make sure they have adequate water during our long hot-dry summer months. Once they become established they will be better able to fend for themselves in subsequent years.

Take a look at the nice job these homeowners have done with the landscaping around their home. Each issue, we'd like to take time to showcase a couple of houses in our neighborhood that help make it more attractive. This time around, we thank the homeowners at (clockwise from left) 3537 Canyon, 2507 Carson, 3424 Sedona and 3504 Canyon.

In time, we'll be featuring numerous homes throughout the development. Keep up the good work one and all.



Next Home Owners Meeting:
May 17, 2005