### **GOPOA NEWSLETTER**

**Summer**, 2020

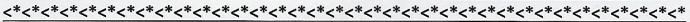
Great Oaks Property Owners Association P. O. Box 744 Natalia, TX 78059

Web address:

greatoakstexas.com

**Email address:** 

greatoakstexas18@gmail.com



## President's Message - Frank Garza

Spring, summer, and now autumn is fast approaching! Due to COVID-19 pandemic and per our government officials, they have asked us to take the following actions:

- . cancel all contact meetings, including business meetings
- . cancel all planned events where people would gather

That is why we have cancelled the GOPOA monthly meetings until further notice, as well as any planned activities. HOWEVER, we are required to have our annual meeting, as stated in the bylaws. It will take place October 3, 2020, at the Community Center. It will be held outdoors with social distancing guidelines. Please watch for specific details on our website at: greatoakstexas.com. If you are unable to attend, please use the proxy enclosed with this newsletter. Your input, your vote is very important to us!

Please care and show some pride in your community. If you see trash on the common area (side of the road) please pick it up. This could be from someone's trash can/dumpsters or a careless driver who discarded their empty water, beer, soda bottles and food containers. Better yet, please keep all your empty containers in your vehicles and empty them out when you get home or when you're at a gas station. You don't want it and neither do your neighbors.

Please keep an eye out for each other and our families during these difficult times.

If you need help or know of anyone that needs assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to a fellow neighbor. Please stay healthy and safe.

## Vice-President's Message – Jada Pitman

This has truly been an unusual moment in time. For some, this time has been a breathtaking heart stopping time. For others, this has been a great inconvenience. For others, this is not real and everyone is over reacting to "whatever". Actually, these three very distinct views are an integral part of how we strengthen ourselves and others by looking at and processing things differently, finding the rainbow in the deep thick mud puddles, and recognizing that we are all in it together, looking at it, and trying to figure it out from different perspectives.

Great Oaks has been impacted by this in several ways. Interestingly, some ways have been positive. There are cars and trucks parked at home. People of all ages are at home together. This in itself is a gift. Family members are usually rushing to work, rushing to practices, rushing to events, rushing! Now people (families) are together, eating, talking, laughing, playing and working together on things. Some are working from home and trying to manage their attention on work while creatively working with the multigenerational demands on space in the home, activities, sounds/noise, and much more. In the midst of all this, we may actually find time to catch up on the needed rest physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. Waving at your neighbors, talking with each other across the road/fence. Hopefully, family and community closeness will reap great benefits. We may not realize the great benefits until all of this is over and we stop and look back on the memories.

The amount of discarded trash on the sides of the roads has not decreased. There were two large coolers full of beer cans/beer bottles discarded at the entrance to Great Oaks (I-35 access). One of your GOPOA Board members picked this up and discarded of it properly. This is something I don't understand. Please help me understand why it is <u>right</u> to discard trash on the sides of the roads in OUR Great Oaks community. This is the epitome of self-disrespect, disrespect for others, and disrespect for nature.

Many fences and/or gates have been repaired and painted, the reduced number of loose pets, house improvements/repairs, the reaching out and helping each other is a good/great neighborly thing to do adding strength and beauty within our community. This is of both tangible and intangible value.

THANK YOU to all who have made and continue to make Great Oaks a beautiful place to call home. We look forward to seeing you within the near future. Please check your Great Oaks website for updated information.

|==|==|==|==|==|==|==|==|==|==|

### Treasurer's Message - Donna Vezie

2020 has been challenging both personally and in my responsibilities as your Treasurer. I sincerely apologize for annual assessment dues invoices being mailed out late and a sincere thank you to everyone for being so understanding and responsive. My term on the Board is ending and Kerry Lynn McDow will be your new Treasurer beginning in October, 2020. While I have been an old school pencil and paper Treasurer, Kerry Lynn will be bringing us into the 21st century with all the bells and whistles. We are hoping to make this a smooth transition and your patience and cooperation will be much appreciated. Great Oaks is fiscally sound and the past two years are being audited now. I am not certain the audit will be complete by the annual meeting but it will all be posted on the Great Oaks website as soon as it is available.

I have worked very hard the past two and one half years and only hope I have

proven myself worthy of the trust you extended to me. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our community.

# \*\*\*\*\* ANNUAL MEETING \*\*\*\*

The Annual Meeting will be held

October 3, 2020! Registration will begin at
9:00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at
10:00 a.m. Due to social distancing,
refreshments will not be provided following
the meeting.

Three Board positions will be ending and three new members will be elected.

There are 326 properties in Great Oaks subdivision. To have a quorum of property owners for our annual meeting we need 10% of the property owners to attend or submit their proxy. That's 32 property owners! Can we count on you being one of them and giving your neighborhood approximately 1-2 hours of your time out of the entire year on October 3<sup>rd</sup>?

Please check the Great Oaks website: greatoakstexas.com for further information.

<><><><><><><><>

# Nominating Committee

Once again, both Betty Taylor and Brenda Butler have agreed to assist as the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving on the Board or know of someone you would like to nominate, please contact them!

Betty Taylor (830) 665-4542 Brenda Butler (830) 663-5447 Again, three (3) positions are available. Nominees must be property owners within Great Oaks subdivision.

#### !!!!! GREAT OAKS WEBSITE !!!!!!

Many thanks to Dave Gast for updating and reconfiguring the website for us! This is the goto place for information regarding our community, as well as reviewing the By-laws and Restrictions and Limitations that apply to all of us and obtaining forms required to be submitted PRIOR to any construction projects. Check it out! It's nice! Great job!

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### Who's Who

WIIO S WIIO	
Frank Garza, President	(210) 725-9045
Jada Pitman, Vice President	(210) 355-8026
Kerry McDow, Secretary	(831) 428-9029
Donna Vezie, Treasurer	(210) 480-6119
Dixie Richards, MAL	(210) 416-3537
David Gast, MAL	(210) 789-5199
Kandi McCann, MAL	(830) 663-9467
George Horvath, MAL	(817) 929-3531
Medina County Sheriff's Office (830) 741-6150	
Jerry Beck	(210) 244-3413
Commissioner, Precinct	4
Malcolm Watson	(830) 665-8005
Constable, Precinct 4	
Animal Control	(830) 741-6150
Game Warden	(830) 660-6887
South Texas Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Devine EMS	(830) 663-2121
<><><><><><><><><>	><><>

#### THANK YOU!

The Great Oaks Board members would like to extend a special thank you to our County Commissioner, Jerry Beck, and our Constable, Malcolm Watson, for their attendance at our monthly meetings and keeping us informed of matters within the area. We appreciate the time and support they lend us, knowing their time is valuable. It speaks highly of their commitment to their positions as public servants and we commend them for their efforts. Also, thank you for the improvements to County Road 770. It was a job well done with minimal inconvenience and for mowing along the roadways.

#### **VOTING BY PROXY**

The insert in this newsletter is the required form to vote by proxy. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, you may complete the form and mail it in or you may drop it off with a Board member or bring it before the meeting begins. This allows you to delegate someone to vote in your place. You will want the person to whom you delegate your vote to be another property owner within Great Oaks. By using the proxy you are still able to have a vote in the upcoming election of Board members.

### 

In an attempt to keep everyone informed of the business conducted by the Great Oaks Board of Directors, a quarterly newsletter is mailed to each property owner of the subdivision. This year has been the exception with only one newsletter mailed. However, it is disappointing to hear so many stating it wasn't received or read. This happens to be one of the major expenses in the budget in an effort to keep everyone informed of work accomplished, changes made, (i.e., annual dues increased at the 2019 Annual Meeting) and upcoming events. Of the last two mailings, seven were returned due to change of address or undeliverable the first time, and four were returned the second time. That seems guite minimal with over three hundred being mailed out. In an effort to reduce costs, we attempted providing the newsletter via email. However, the task proved daunting and didn't happen. Future possibilities are that it appear on the website at the time of printing and those without access to the site can still request delivery by mail. Perhaps in the future this won't be looked upon as junk mail but rather as information to be gained regarding our neighborhood.

Great Oaks Property Owners Association P. O. Box 744 Natalia, TX 78059

## **PROXY**

Instructions on How To Vote by Proxy:

At the yearly election of Board Members, an association member may vote by proxy executed in writing. Such a proxy shall be filed with the Secretary before or at the time of the meeting. A member may give his/her proxy only to another person who is a member of the Association in his/her own right who is qualified to vote and who has agreed to vote the proxy as he/she honestly believes the member giving same would vote if he/she were present. The presence of a member at the meeting shall revoke the proxy theretofore executed by him/her and such member shall be entitled to vote.

As a member of The Great Oaks Property Owners Association, I, the undersigned, hereby appoint my proxy to vote in my stead at the meeting of membership to be held at the Great Oaks Community Center, Natalia, Texas on Saturday, October 3, 2020.
I hereby ratify and confirm my proxy's vote in my stead; dated this of September/October, 2020.
Signature of member giving proxy (Must be signed to be valid)  type or print name clearly
Address:
Address:            City:            State:            Zip code
E-mail:
Lot Number:
To insure your vote is counted, please mail as early as possible. Fold proxy in half and use a first class stamp.  Mail to:  Great Oaks Property Owners Association P. O. Box 744 Natalia, TX 78059 Attn: Secretary

Thank you!

**Board of Directors** 

Great Oaks Property Owners Association P. O. Box 744 Natalia, TX 78059

**Attn: Secretary**