

MERRY CHRISTMAS! * Winter, 2020 * HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

First and foremost, I would like to give thanks to all the Board members who have faithfully attended Board meetings and have been in communication with each other via email and telephone. I look forward to an even more productive year. We humbly thank each homeowner who attended the Annual Meeting. Although a small gathering, the meeting was very informative and personable. We thank each one of you.

The Board members and I would like to welcome our new Board Member, Kathy Alexander, and she has already hit the ground running as our GOPOA secretary. Also, two of our Board members, Donna Vezie and Kandi McCann were re-elected and will continue as Members-At-Large for three more years.

Our POA has had another busy year. This will be my third year as President, and supported by a strong Board of Directors, we have been able to work on a wide array of issues. My view of our POA is that it serves to improve our collective quality of life and keep property values up. The most important message I'd like to convey is that it truly does take a village to address so many concerns, and we welcome everyone's help in the form of committee participation and volunteerism.

• Goals for 2021:

There are Three Primary Goals that any board must try to accomplish:

(1) PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND ENHANCE THE VALUE OF THE COMMUNITY AND ITS ASSETS.

(2) ENHANCE THE LIFESTYLE OF THE RESIDENTS

(3) PROVIDE FOR A HARMONIOUS
ATMOSPHERE WITH THE COMMUNITY.

Speeding: A big problem! The neighborhood wide speed limit is 40 mph. We have asked the Medina County Sheriff's Department to patrol the area and ticket violators. Great Oaks streets are relatively narrow and have a lot of beautiful curves

in addition to the occasional straight-away, but they are NOT RACETRACKS! Our cars are more powerful than ever, and cell phones add an element of distraction, but our children still play in the neighborhood, and their safety – as well as the safety of joggers/walkers – should not suffer as a result. At this point, all I can say is: PLEASE SLOW DOWN!

Due to COVID-19 pandemic and per our Government officials, we have taken the following actions:

*Cancelled all contact meeting, including business meetings.

*Cancelled all planned events where people would gather

Please stay healthy and safe as the COVID-19 numbers are increasing.



Vice-President's Message – Jada Pitman

There are times when it seems like just yesterday when we were all together and there are times when it seems as if we have not been together for a very long time. 2020 has been very unusual and difficult as everyone has tried/struggled to create some sense of a normal and safe environment for their family. Climate change, COVID-19, and the 2020 Elections have dominated the news. None of these topics have provided positive feelings, inspiration, or hope. It has been said that Character is both developed and revealed by a test. Actually, all of life is a test building our character. Presently, testing is the norm for our everyday life. With this said, WE are confident in knowing that if one looks long enough and hard enough into a mudpuddle, they will find a rainbow that brings hope, possibilities, and opportunities. 2020 is nearly over and hopefully the stressful situations that we are all under will subside and we will move forward together renewed and stronger. Our community is

withstanding these times together. Neighbors helping neighbors, families together, the community staying positive, supportive, safe, clean, and GREAT.

The future – OUR FUTURE – brings new possibilities! When we change the way we look at things, things change the way they look and we will be given new opportunities to make the best of everything for others, each other and ourselves. The upcoming holidays provide creative opportunities for togetherness when celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas while being safe, careful and staying healthy.

SMILE! We are in this together. Our community is vital, caring and supportive. The color of the leaves on the trees are changing, leaves are falling, deer are prancing and decorations are going up. The Yellow Limousine is stopping and going with our future on board, people are out walking, jogging, riding bicycles and horses. Great Oaks is a safe and vibrant community! A community that emphasizes the word great in GREAT OAKS!

Treasurer's Message - Kerry Lynn McDow

As we wrap up 2020, I have hope that 2021 will be a year of healing and prosperity. I am excited to be able to transition from the GOPOA Secretary to the Treasurer position. Donna Vezie has done a tremendous job bringing our association up to date and keeping detailed records.

I bring 25 years of experience as an Executive Administrative Assistant to the CEO's of several major corporations. During my career I have worked at Apple Computer, Knight-Ridder and Cardima which was a start up medical device company. I have worked in Finance and HR positions, as well. I pride myself on my ability to fairly represent my employer and employees without crossing boundaries. I am dedicated to continuing to improve our processes and procedures as we refine our business model.

I have been working on the set up of the accounting software Quickbooks which will automate our record keeping and it will contain all audited data for the past 3 years. Invoices this year will be mailed but you will have an option to have them emailed as well.

With an emailed invoice you will be able to pay online. The transaction will be processed through Intuit and funds deposited directly into the GOPOA account at the bank. No financial data will be shared with us or retained online. Please email greateoakstexas18@gmail.com to request an email copy of your invoice. Additionally, Quickbooks offers an audit trail function so any changes to the data is identified and tracked. This will give an extra level of security and accountability to our financial data.

In these uncertain times, I am grateful for our community and my neighbors. I look forward to in-person meetings and community events resuming. Be well.

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

The Annual Meeting was held October 3, 2020, outdoors to enable social distancing and masks were required. A quorum was met and elections were held. The annual minutes of the 2019 meeting and the annual Treasurer's report were read and approved. Kathy Alexander was elected as the newest member of the Board. Kandi McCann and Donna Vezie were re-elected. Due to COVID-19, the Great Oaks Christmas party and the Decorating contest are cancelled for 2020. Also due to the late mailing of invoices and the pandemic, late fees will be waived for 2020. If a late fee has been paid, it will be credited to the 2021 invoice.

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## Executive Meeting

An Executive meeting of the Board of Directors was held October 14, 2020. Officers were selected and Frank Garza and Jada Pitman agreed to continue as President and Vice President, respectively. Kerry Lynn McDow accepted the position of Treasurer and Kathy Alexander accepted the position of Secretary. The proposed 2021 annual budget was approved.

