



# Brook Meadows Messenger

The Official Publication of the Brook Meadows Homeowner's Association

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www.brookmeadows.org

September 2009

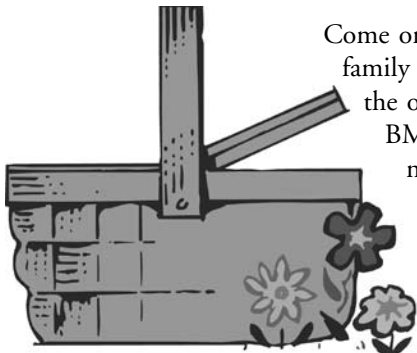
## LAST TUESDAY REPORT

Thanks to all that came to MAC's for the July last night, as we caught a little lightning in a bottle. Great turnout of 25 with everyone in a social mood and most staying for the Prime Rib special. Walter Aue's seat was empty ("missing man formation"), catch the picture this edition of the newsletter. So sad!



July 'Last Tuesday' at MAC's! Where is Walter?

## FALL NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC



Come one, come all to the BMHA Fall Picnic. Mark your family calendar for October 6th and get ready to pack up the ole' picnic basket. Barb Francis and Kevin Haynes, BMHA Board members, have volunteered to stage a neighborhood picnic and dog show! What's that you say, it sounds like fun and you'd like to help out. The more the merrier! Contact Barb or Kevin using the information on page one of the newsletter and join in the fun!

## Social Calendar 2009

### SEPTEMBER 29TH

Last Tuesday @ 6:30  
Boomerjack's @ Hwy 183 & Central

### OCTOBER 6TH

National Night Out Against Crime  
and Fall Neighborhood Picnic  
*An Evening of Family Fun,  
Picnic, Pet Show etc.*

### OCTOBER 27TH

Last Tuesday @ 6:30, TBD

### OCTOBER 31ST

Halloween Parade  
Volunteer Coordinator Needed

### OCTOBER TBD

Garage Sale  
If there is enough interest

### DECEMBER TBD

Ladies Ornament Exchange  
Susan Wilson, Host

### DECEMBER TBD

Holiday Party  
Mitch & Lassisa Milby, Host

Go Green  
Go Paperless



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# Brook Meadows

## ASSOCIATION INFO

### Brook Meadows Homeowners Association, Inc.

PO Box 492 • Colleyville, TX 76034

Please visit our website often: [www.BrookMeadows.org](http://www.BrookMeadows.org)

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### PUBLISHER

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Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

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Turn to the Experts

## Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Even though we use water every day, it's easy to take it for granted. Just imagine how you would function without clean water. It's everyone's responsibility to conserve and protect water resources. The decisions and actions you make today truly affect our water resources for the future. The following suggestions will help you get in the habit of saving water in the great outdoors:

- Use mulch around landscape plantings. Mulch will help eliminate weeds and hold moisture in the soil.
- Select hardy plants that don't need much water. Native plants that are well adapted to your climate and soils will survive well without supplemental watering. A copy of the Steiner Ranch Approved Plant list is available on the website at [www.steinerranchhoa.org](http://www.steinerranchhoa.org).
- Water during the cool part of the day to avoid rapid evaporation.
- When watering is necessary, water slowly and thoroughly. If you notice puddles or runoff, turn water off and wait for water to soak in. Also be sure your sprinkler puts water where you need it—not on driveways or sidewalks.
- Wash cars efficiently. First give the car a quick rinse, and then turn the water off. Wash one section of the car at a time and rinse that section quickly. Turn the water off each time.

Visit [www.auduboninternational.org](http://www.auduboninternational.org) for more conservation tips.

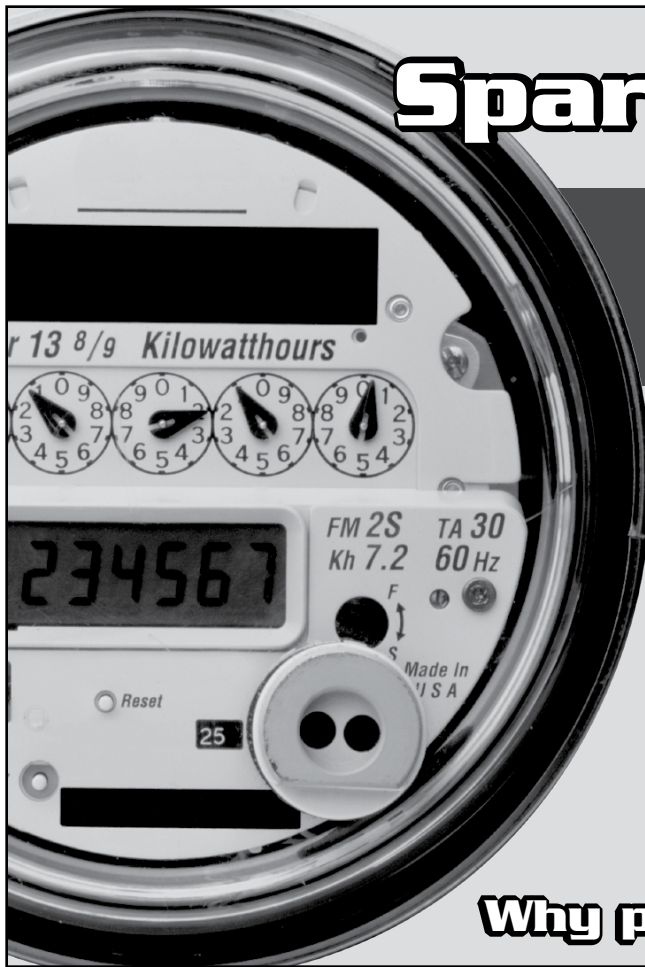
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You can get information about your service or products to every home in Brook Meadows, by running a business classified in the Brook Meadows Community Newsletter. It is a great way to get your name and contact information to many potential customers in your neighborhood. The cost is \$50 for up to 40 words. Display ads are also available. For more information, please contact Peel, Inc. at 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The deadline is the 20th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

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## Why pay more than you have to?

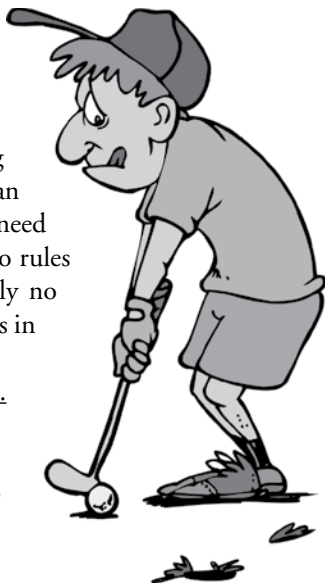
# Brook Meadows

## Join the Golfer's Pool !

Finally after much prodding and interest expressed at numerous BMHA events - we are introducing the Brook Meadows HOA Golfer's Pool! Rules are simple as there are no rules. Just give us your contact info (email will be the primary) if you are interested in being alerted to a golf opportunity with your neighbors. We will start slow and let it grow; it will work something like this: "Who's up for playing Indian Creek on Sunday morning" or "We need a fourth for Iron Horse". Again, no rules because it's all good, and eventually no owner either. Available to members in good standing.

Contact me: [Brett@vinunici.com](mailto:Brett@vinunici.com) with name, number, and email address which will be the primary means to communicate to the group.

Brett Flournoy, 214-695-0780



## Recipe of the Month

### Dream Delight

Sandy Dinges



- 6 egg whites
- 1 cup pecans
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 2 cups crackers (Club or Waverly)

Beat egg whites until stiff. Gradually add sugar and cream of tartar. Add vanilla. Fold in crackers and pecans. Spread in a 9 x 13" pan cake pan. Bake at 350° until light brown about 20-25 minutes. Cool completely. Top with your favorite fruit and Cool Whip.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*

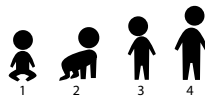


## COLIN'S HOPE

Increasing water safety awareness and standards

### FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT DROWNING

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death in children ages 1-4



### DROWNING WILL AFFECT YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW



Drowning is the 2nd leading cause of unintentional injury-related death ages 1-14.

For more information, check out our website at

[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)

### DROWNING CAN STILL OCCUR EVEN IF YOU KNOW HOW TO SWIM

NO ONE is "drown proof" - no matter their level of swimming ability.

Falls, entrapments, and injuries lead to drowning regardless of swimming level.

A majority of people overestimate their own and their child's ability to swim, especially in a panic event.

### DROWNING IS QUICK AND SILENT



Drowning occurs in as little as 2 minutes.



Irreversible brain damage occurs in as little as 4 minutes.



Most children are out of sight or missing for less than 5 minutes and usually in the presence of 1 or both parents.



Most children die who are submerged for as little as 6-10 minutes.

Children who drown do not **scream, splash, or struggle**. They silently slip beneath the water, even with adults & lifeguards present.

## The Home Energy Audit

Sure, your utility bills are reasonable this year thanks to the seven year low in natural gas prices, but will they remain so forever? I doubt it, so perhaps this is an ideal time to get your home efficiency checked out and, if necessary, spiffed up, for these two very good reasons: (1) Return on your investment, and (2) Enhancement of your asset value.

This checkout is called a Home Energy Audit and properly done encompasses all aspects of your home's utility usage with measurements, leaving you with a picture of how your home performs against the norm. Rather than a "point solution" approach, the audit takes a macro view of your home from four areas: Air Infiltration, Ducting Architecture and Leakage, Attic Ventilation, and Insulation. The result of the audit is a report showing your home's deviations from what may be attainable, and an action plan to get there. We recently had both the audit and the follow on work done at our Brook Meadows home, and are very happy with the results.

There are several companies in town doing this type of work now, just make sure you insist upon the complete audit including pressure testing of the conditioned space and the ducting; expect to pay \$300-400 for the audit. For more details, just give me a call.

Brett Flournoy, 4617 Shadycreek LN  
214-695-0780

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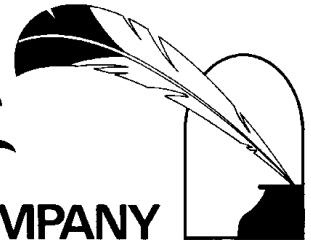
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## It's Not Too Late to Get Organized for the New School Year

*Submitted by Kelly Butcher*

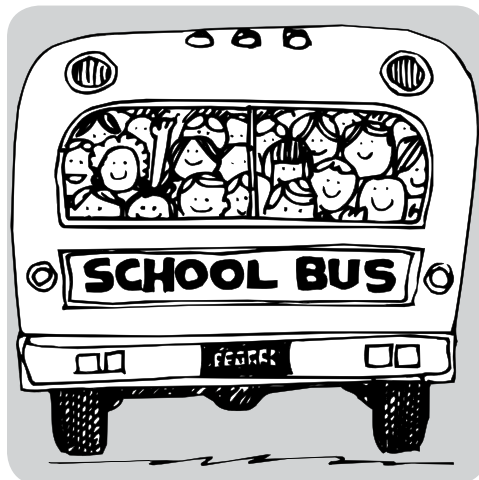
School has just begun and you probably feel like you are drowning in the sea of papers, activities, and homework. As a professional organizer, I work with a lot of busy families who need help setting up routines for handling the abundance of paper from school, the mail, and for getting homework done. I hope to offer a few suggestions about routines to set-up and implement to help you have smooth sailing through this school year.

### SOME GENERAL SYSTEMS TO HAVE IN PLACE INCLUDE:

- Calendar
- Incoming papers
- Homework

A large wall calendar with room enough to write each family member's activities is a must. Display the calendar in a location easily accessed by all family members. If you track your calendar electronically, have a centrally located computer with easy access for all family members. Assign a color to each family member and color-code activities.

Papers consisting of incoming mail, school papers, both school work and items that require a response, and activity-related items (schedules, release forms, etc) are always an issue. Set up an action file system for handling the incoming paperwork such as a desktop hanging file organizer with files for each child or school. Teach your children to get into the habit of putting important papers or papers requiring a signature in a folder marked with "Mom" or "Dad". After you have signed the paper, either place the paper in a folder



to return to school or have your child put directly into their backpack. Also set up an archival system for the treasured school work that you want to save.

Fitting homework into our busy schedules is often difficult. Designate an area for your children to complete their work. For younger students, the kitchen table is probably where most of the homework is completed, so make sure all of the necessary supplies are available, so there is no excuse not to get started. I recommend using lidded plastic shoe-box size containers to hold markers, crayons, scissors, glue sticks, etc. Label the containers for ease in cleaning up. For older students who may complete their homework at a desk in their bedroom, ensure they have the necessary

supplies available as well. A well-lit, clutter-free area away from distractions will help them stay focused on their work.

Establish a set time for homework to be completed. It may not be the same time every afternoon or evening based on after school activities. Look at the week ahead on Sunday evening and map out with your child the time they should complete their homework for each day based on that day's activities and mark it on the calendar. Most importantly, help your child get into the habit of packing their backpack before they go to bed. That way during the morning rush, important papers and items needed for school will not be forgotten at home.

Remember that developing new habits requires consistency and time. Begin setting up and implementing new systems as soon as possible and this school year will be off to a great start!



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Average Price per Sq. Ft. = \$116.99  
Sales Ratio to List Price = 97% Avg



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