

# ONION CREEK MEADOWS property owners association

P.O. Box 434

Manchaca, Texas 78652

Volume 2012

Neighborhood Newsletter

Issue 4- December

## Read Me - I'm Your Newsletter

This last newsletter of 2012 includes details of our annual Holiday Lighting Contest. Join the fun. Do a little, do a lot, but why not join the party and let Onion Creek shine for a few weeks. Don't forget to drive around our streets, and "oh" and "ah" over the creativity of your neighbors.

We are on *new* water use restrictions, so please be a *good citizen* and save and recycle water wherever you can.

And Deed Restrictions! Oh no, do we have to talk about those again? Apparently so, since our Committee keeps getting complaints. Please read your copy or go to our OCMPOA website to see if you comply.

Welcome be ye that are here,  
Welcome all, and make good  
cheer,  
Welcome all, another year.

## Light Up Onion Creek Meadows



### DROUGHT II ALARM STAGE

The Barton Springs Edwards Aquifer Conservation District at its November 15th meeting declared a "**Stage II Alarm Drought**," effectively immediately. The monitor well which is in South Austin dipped below its alarm level and all District permittees (such as AquaTexas) have to achieve a 20% reduction in use.

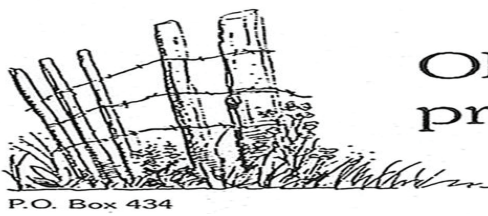
Usually, restricting outdoor water use (including limiting landscaping irrigation, pool filling and refilling, car washing, and other non-essential water use) is enough to reach the targets for Stage II Alarm Drought.

Although the Aquifer District has exceeded the average rainfall for 2012, precipitation has not been enough to generate runoff to recharge the aquifer. This is likely due to the exceptional rainfall deficit and low water levels of 2011. **Conserving water now will slow our water level decline and assure continued water availability.**

## Our Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

With less than a month until Christmas Day, holiday lights have begun to twinkle brightly all over Onion Creek Meadows in anticipation of our annual **Holiday Decorating Contest**. Anyone living in OCM can decorate, of course, but only those who are dues-paid members of our Homeowners Association are eligible to win the contest's cash prizes. A return on your \$20. dues payment could be over seven times that if you won the First Place award of \$150. Second Place pays \$100., and Third Place \$75. (All prizes would cover your membership fee, and then some.) Even an Honorary Mention will receive a free one-year membership in the Association, worth \$20.

Judging is done by an impartial outside panel of three, and this year their decisions will be made as they tour the neighborhood on Sunday, December 15th, and Tuesday, December 18th. Board member Sherry Krupinski chairs this committee again this year. Winners are announced soon after, and signs placed in winners' yards.



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## STEPS YOU CAN TAKE TO PROTECT YOURSELF

The bad guys seem to always be a few steps ahead. They see opportunity everywhere. APD is reporting that theft always increases during the holiday season. This year UPS, FedEx and Postal Service trucks are being followed as they leave deliveries on doorsteps, and packages are taken within minutes. Thieves take what they want, and leave discarded items and boxes behind, as happened in one South Austin neighborhood this week.

Police suggest you ask that deliverymen get a signature for your package before it can be left, or have it delivered to a neighbor, or ask to pick it up personally at the nearest shipping facility, or have it sent to your office..

As you fill your car with packages at the mall, make sure they are out of sight in the trunk and that you **LOCK** all your car doors.

**BE AWARE OF WHO'S AROUND YOU AS YOU RETURN TO YOUR CAR.**

## Yup, Deed Restrictions Again!

What you can and can't do with your property out here in Onion Creek Meadows has *nothing* to do with what other communities do and *everything* to do with what you agreed to when you purchased your property. While your **deed restrictions** do put some limitations on you, compared to other neighborhoods we have relatively few. As repeated many times, **deed restrictions** are in place to preserve and protect the value of **your** investment, not control your life. Changing them requires a vote of 51% of the membership.

We've been asked recently if there are any restrictions on parking motor homes, RVs, trailers, boats and campers in driveways. The answer is **NO**. However, no one can live in them. And you might want to consider how they *look* in the neighborhood. Of course, you may **not** operate a business from your home.

We have a **Deed Restriction Committee**. If you have a question or a problem or a comment you can email

**ocmpoalertlist @ocmpoa.org**

**Deed Restrictions** are posted on our Association's website: **ocmpoa.org**

## FREE PET MICRO- CHIPPING AND TAGS

The City of Austin's Animal Services Office offers residents of Austin and Travis County communities free pet I.D. tags and microchips to help keep pets out of the animal shelter system.

The free I.D. tags, collars and HomeAgain microchips are available to all pet owners in these communities from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily at the Austin Animal Center in Central East Austin at 7201 Levander Loop. Consider calling before you go to verify times as they may change.

## BUT IS ANYONE LISTEN- ING?

In an appearance before the House County Affairs Committee, outgoing **Travis County Commissioner Karen Huber** asked state lawmakers to rein in the abuses of investor-owned water utility companies that are raising rates,

Huber said the time had come to enable counties to represent aggrieved water users in rate case appeals before the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. "We've probably had at least a dozen small utilities in Travis County that have been bought by these investor-owned utilities," Huber told the committee. "The way the process works is that some of these utilities have jacked up rates as much as 95 percent, sometimes overnight. Travis County is well aware of problems with both water quality and rate hikes from the for-profit privately owned firms, such as Monarch Utilities, and AquaTexas. **"Some companies are charging \$120-150. just to turn on the tap,"** testified Huber.

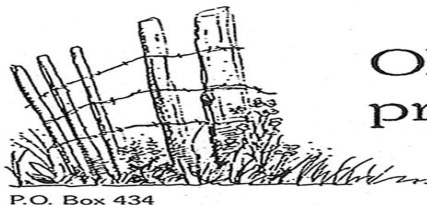


Our thoughts and prayers are with our men and women who serve our country here and overseas. We thank them and wish them a safe and healthy return home.

## 2012 NATIONAL NIGHT COOK-OUT A BIG SUCCESS

**We had the largest turnout ever for our NNO in October. Lots of hot dogs were consumed.** We are especially grateful to **Billy and Vickie Koonce** for once again providing the lemonade stand, **Andrea Bright Fontana** for organizing and for obtaining informational materials, and **Luz and Tony Lopez** for grilling, **Phyllis Stegall** for buying the food, and **Sherry Krupinski** and **Debra Tompkins** for setting up tables and cleaning up. Our Manchaca Volunteer Fire Department brought their monster firefighting truck for kids of all ages to climb all over. The Travis County Sheriffs who stopped by asked that, since they were really "cops," could we have doughnuts for them next year? We sent a couple of plates of cookies back to the firehouse with them instead.

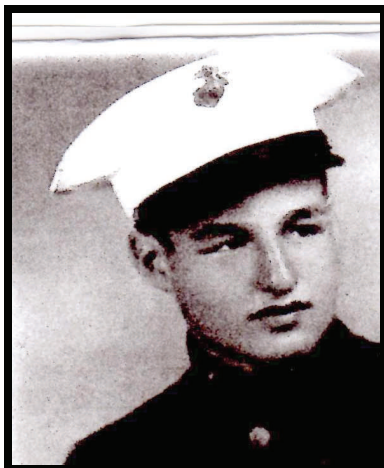
**Season's  
Greetings**



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## MEET THE NEIGHBORS

**Gabriel Tamayo** on Easley was one of the World War II veterans selected last month by **Honor Flight**, a central Texas non-profit group that transports veterans residing in Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop and Caldwell counties from Austin to Washington, D.C., on an emotional visit to those memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifices. A "guardian" accompanied each veteran helping with any personal needs on the trip. Gabriel was one of 50 Texas veterans so honored last month, a story carried on local television KXAN. His guardian was a former Army nurse who volunteers her time with Honor Flight. Austin **Mayor Lee Leffingwell**, himself a former Navy pilot, also accompanied Gabe's group.

Born in Lockhart, TX, in 1925, Gabriel was the third of eight children. His Dad ran the Coca Cola Bottling plant there. In 1943, Gabriel was 18 and a senior at Lockhart High School, when the Draft Board told him to report after his last football game (but before graduation). He knew immediately that meant he would be an infantryman, a front-line foot soldier, so he tried to enlist in the Air Force. They turned down because he had not graduated from high school (!). The Marines, however, welcomed him, and he was sent to boot camp in San Diego where he trained in artillery and explosives. At Camp Pendleton he received advanced training in combat, graduating as a machine gunner expert.

Immediately, his unit was sent into action in the South Pacific joining the First Marine Division on Guadalcanal Island. The Division was tasked with retaking several Japanese-occupied islands, among them New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands, and the Ryukyu Group. When I asked which battles were the hardest, the toughest, he said "All the battles were hard. We were the front line landing on the beaches, and thousands of Japanese soldiers were ashore in the jungles, just waiting for us." The casualties were heavy. "When an enemy is coming at you, and you know it is either him or you, you shoot." For his shrapnel wounds received in the battle for Okinawa, Gabe was awarded the *Purple Heart*.

Japan had also begun to invade China, and Japanese citizens had been sent to occupy the China coastline, building villages and factories, using Chinese labor. Though Japan had surrendered in August 1945, Gabriel was not headed back to Lockhart just yet. Instead, he spent four more months with the first troop of Marines sent to protect the lives and property of the Japanese citizens in China.

Communication with home was infrequent, and letters took at least a month to arrive. So, he was thankful to return to Lockhart in 1946 where he finally finished that senior year of high school. Though post-war jobs were scarce, he found work in Austin as an electrician at Austin Armature where he worked **for the next 47 years** until retirement in 1991. He remembers living *rent-free* on a stretch of S. Congress that was then known as Post Oak in a house owned by his company, making it possible to save money to eventually purchase his own property.

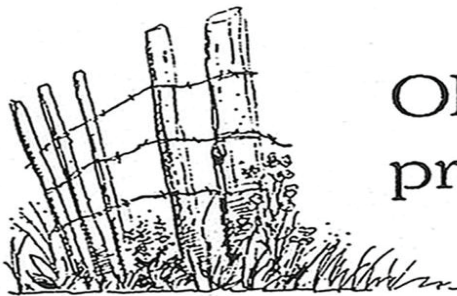
Gabe joined the Marine Reserve for the extra monthly income, little thinking that in 1950 the Korean War would flare up and all Marine reservists would be called back to active duty. Although he argued that he was now married and had a two month old son, he was ordered to rejoin his First Marine Division in California and shipped off to help South Korea fend off the North Korean invasion. He participated in many battles throughout Korea, especially the infamous ones for the recapturing and securing of Seoul and the Chosen Reservoir campaign in N. Korea, and remembers well the firing of General Douglas MacArthur by President Harry Truman for insubordination and disobeying direct presidential commands. One of Gabe's most poignant memories was being among the 18,000 Marines landing by sea on the Korean peninsula where they were flanked on three sides by 300,000 North Korean troops. Outnumbered, they had to fight their way back to their ship, *losing half their men*. He remembers the severe Korean winter weather actually favoring the Marines though, as the enemy was slowed down by frozen equipment and even the useless frozen fingers of the N. Korean soldiers.

**With the rank of Sergeant, Gabriel was honorably discharged from the US Marine Corps in 1951 with eleven ribbons, including a Purple Heart, three Presidential Unit Citations, one Navy Citation, and four Battle Stars. Over 400,000 of his brothers and sisters in arms did not come home. Gabe, 87, is one of nearly 130,000 veterans who served in both WWII and Korea still living today.**

**Aurelia Deleon Gonzalez** of San Marcos and Gabriel were married in 1949. Their first son George Edward was born in 1950, followed by Mark Anthony in 1957. Both sons are UT graduates. George lives on Onion Creek, just a stone's throw from his parent's home. Mark at one

(cont. on page 4)





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## Meet The Neighbors— (cont. from pg 3)

time had a choice between living in California or New York City, and chose NYC. He surprised and thrilled his Dad by showing up in Washington unannounced to be with him for the Veterans' Day ceremonies.

Aurelia was a homemaker while the boys were growing up, but then went to work for the Kress Co. and later Ross. She retired in 2003. In 1999, they celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at St. Ignatius Church in Austin and taking an "unforgettable" month-long tour of Europe. Starting in London, they visited 40 cities.

The Tamayos bought the lot at the corner of Easley and Onion Creek Drive in 1975, and over the course of the next seven years, working on weekends, they built the home themselves, with occasional hired help. Gabriel paid his workers each weekend so that, in 1982 when the family moved in, their home was mortgage-free.

Gabe remembers that only Onion Creek Drive was paved, the other streets just dirt. **He also remembers that the family who lived where Winnie and Maynard Spitz now live raised lions in their backyard.** Retiring last year after serving the Onion Creek Owners Association Board for over 25 years, Gabriel spent most of that time as our Deed Restriction committee chairman, and we have to wonder how he as Deed Chair would have handled the lions' den issue!

At 87, Gabriel doesn't seem to have slowed down much. Besides twice a week church attendance, he gardens, fishes, shops, helps a 91 year old fellow veteran with shopping and household chores, visits Aurelia's sister in San Antonio weekly, maintains his several vehicles and a boat, and goes to Lockhart where he is restoring the family home "like it was when we lived there."

**We thank you, Gabriel, for sharing your story, for your service to our country in two wars, and for your many years of giving to our neighborhood.**



## HANDY PHONE NUMBERS

Police/Fire 911                      Non-emergency Police 311  
Acting OCMPOA President John Zimmerman 282-1371  
Aqua Texas emergency calls    (877) 987-2782  
Non-emergency Sheriff calls    (512) 974-0845

Please thank the **Volunteers** who delivered this newsletter to your door:  
**Marilyn Buckland, Debra Tompkins, Sherry Krupinski, Emma and Nathaniel Duhon, Robin Field, Lee and Debbie Rapp, Pat Nixon, Robert Walker, and Ryan and Andrea Bright Fontana.**

**A BIT OF HISTORY**.....What we now observe as **Veterans Day** on November 11<sup>th</sup> each year was once called **Armistice Day**. While the actual fighting between the Allies and Germany in World War I ceased on the "*eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month*" in 1918, the **Treaty of Versailles** was not signed until June 1919. Armistice Day officially became a holiday in 1926 to remember those who gave their lives in World War I, but not a **federal** holiday until 1938. In 1954, **President Dwight Eisenhower** proclaimed the day **Veterans Day** to honor **all** U.S. servicemen, living or dead, who had served their country.

## In Memoriam

**Robert Joseph Merkel "Bob"**, 62, of Onion Creek Meadows, Manchaca, passed away suddenly on October 18, 2012 at his home. He was born on April 1, 1950 to William and Ethel Merkel in Rochester, NY. His parents and older brother Bill preceded him in death. Bob was a loving and devoted husband to his wife, Tina; and loving father to his son, Colin, (fiancée Honor Goss) and daughter, Kacie (partner Nathan Holden). He is also survived by his brother, John (Terry), of San Bernardino, CA., and other family members and friends. He worked for the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services for almost 20 years. Bob loved being at home working in his yard and just being outdoors. He was a huge sports fan, especially of football games. Bob will be remembered as a fun-loving, thoughtful and caring individual and will be greatly missed. A memorial service was held at the family home on Easley Drive on October 27th.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with Tina and the family.**

(edited from The Austin Statesman)

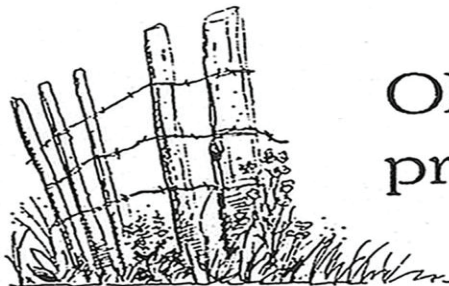
## Merry Christmas



## Onion Creek Meadows Property Owners' Association.

We currently have 78 memberships out of over 200 households. As you read through your newsletter, one of the perks of living in OCM, ask yourself if you have remembered to renew your own 2012-3 membership. If not, a form can be found on the back page making it easy for you to send us your check.

**Won't you write a check today?**



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## *Life's Rhythms*

**Ron and Joellen Simmons** of Onion Creek Drive enjoyed Thanksgiving in Rockport visiting grandsons Mason and Trent, who had a great time with their "Papa." Their son **Jimmy** is a fishing guide, and his wife **Michelle** and her mother own the **New Beginnings** store on Austin Street.

The **Moser/Stegall family** on Wild Turkey are overjoyed with the safe return home from Afghanistan of Phyllis' grandson, **Specialist Tyler Moser**, last month. Tyler has completed his Army service and begins college on his GI Bill in January.

We welcome to the neighborhood **John Estrada** who is acting as his own contractor for the home he is building on Onion Creek Drive, and **Lisa Putman**, a new neighbor at 13402 Onion Creek Drive.

**Diane Thompson** on Bermuda visited her son and daughter-in-law in Taiwan where they are both teachers. The best part of the trip was the joy of holding her first grandchild, Robert Ethan.

**Stephen MacMillan Moser** of Wild Turkey recently showed a collection of his **Made In Heaven** clothing line for the first time in eight years. Called "*ElevenEleven: an evening of Extraordinary Fashion*," the show at the Driskill Hotel was a fundraiser for **Hospice Austin's Pet Peace of Mind** program and raised almost \$10,000 for the Hospice program which helps terminally ill patients keep their pets. Stephen's collection will be shown during February's Fashion Week in New York, and then go on to Las Vegas and Los Angeles.

**Madeleine Coogler** moved to Mystic Drive on the day Stevie Ray Vaughn died. "We love this area... nice to have a home where you can talk without your neighbors hearing you!"

**Milt and Virginia Dunlop** have been on Onion Creek Dr for 40 years. "Our address was Box 103D, Buda TX when we first moved here. Over the years we have thought about moving, but could never find a place that we liked better than here. Our children grew up here and this is "home."

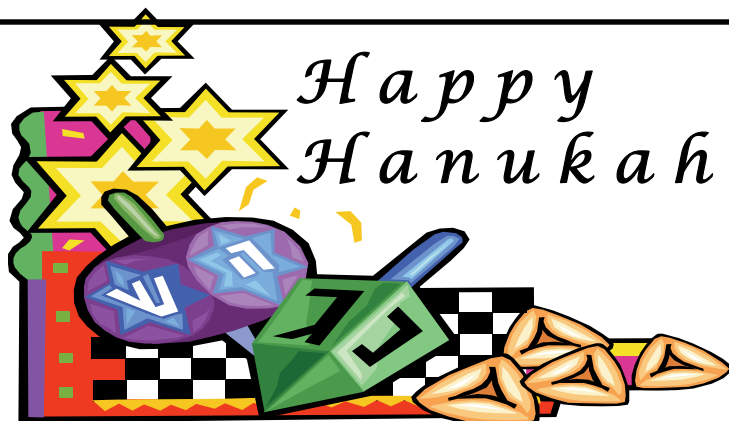
## GOOD NEWS ON ESTANCIA

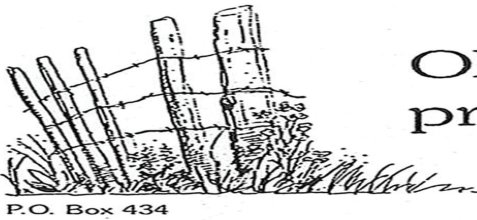
**Ron Ralph**, our Heep Ranch Development liaison, just heard on November 29th the good news that the Austin City Staff does **not** intend to pursue *full annexation* of the **Estancia** property (which was the old Heep Ranch) but rather will grant "*limited purpose annexation*." Dallas developer **Ocie Vest** will restart the new permit process in February 2013. In October Ron, representing OCM, spoke out against annexation before the Austin City Council, holding up a number of letters from residents expressing strong opposition. Most of us felt, should Estancia be fully annexed, it would be just a matter of time before the city came knocking on our door with annexation on its mind. Forced to comply with various city regulations, like connecting to city sewers, would be a financial burden on many of our residents.

So, the premium package of concessions from Vest that our neighborhood fought so hard to get will become a reality. Even though we will still lose that rural feeling, we will not be subject to the additional costs of the City of Austin's municipal services, taxes, ordinances and regulations.

Under *limited purpose annexation*, the City extends its ordinances and regulations pertaining to land development and the environment, and in some cases, health and safety. The City collects no additional taxes and does not provide municipal services such as police and fire protection. Residents in limited annexation areas may vote in city council and charter amendment elections, but they may not vote in bond elections or run for office.

Ron has agreed to work with the developer to develop a cost effective way to protect the archeological site on the north end of the property, and will do a site visit soon with some of Vest's staff. Sadly, some looting of artifacts has already taken place.





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## VOTERS RETURN DAUGHERTY TO COUNTY COMMISSIONER IN PRECINCT 3

Gerald Daugherty defeated Karen Huber for Precinct 3 County Commissioner, the first person since World War II to be re-elected as a commissioner after losing a race for the same office. Onion Creek Meadows is in Precinct 3.

Karen Huber pointed to redistricting as one of the big reasons for her slim loss to Daugherty, but the *American Statesman* found no definitive proof that redistricting determined the election.

Rather, Daugherty's promise of getting Texas 45 Southwest, a proposed tollway, to connect the end of Mo-Pac Boulevard (Loop 1) to Hays County, seemed to do well with voters, as an analysis by the *Statesman* showed that voting precincts near the proposed tollway took big swings in his favor. Huber did not support building the SH45 road during her term in office.

**HAVE A NEED FOR SPEED?** God bless Texas. Home of the crazy fast. We have the only 85 mph road in the US, SH130 from Austin to San Antonio. Critics warned of such dangerous speed, but TXDOT considers the 41 miles of toll road "safe" because it is straight and goes through rural areas. A Cadillac CTS-V, testing to see if toll cameras would catch the license number of a speeding car, traveled about 2 miles of the highway at 220.5 mph, and the cameras worked just fine. Had the car continued to run at that speed, it would have been in San Antonio in 12 minutes, and cost \$6.17 in tolls. Feral hogs accounted for the first four accidents on the roadway, with one car totaled. For each mph over 50, you burn an extra 1/4 gallon of fuel.

## FORMULA ONE- LOVE IT OR LEAVE IT

Economists, accountants, book-keepers are still doing the math, and it will be months before the final tally of the costs and benefits of our first international racing event is known. Most of the tab for extra city services during race weekend will be picked up the Circuit of the Americas.

The 117,429 attendance on race day was *above* average for F1 races but less than the 125,000 projected. **Sixty percent of ticket buyers were from out of Texas, coming from Mexico, Canada, Great Britain, Australia and a mix of Western European and Central/South American countries.**

A few local downtown vendors reported being adversely affected by the F1-related entertainment, but businesses like Spec's reported as much as a 50% increase in its wholesale sales to restaurants and bars. Ruth's Chris Steakhouse credits F1 with its three busiest back-to-back days in its 27 year history, possibly its highest grossing week ever.

Despite careful planning, traffic was congested. Locals stayed away from Fan Fest downtown, possibly because of street closures and a non-Austin feel to the event. ABIA expanded its security and customs officers to handle the thousands flying in and out.

Professional race car drivers praised the track itself but complained about new and still slippery surfaces and a few narrow turns.

Overall, the beautiful sprawling facility got high marks from most, and will be the site of a number of other major entertainment events during the years ahead.

## PLEASE SLOW DOWN

**The speed limit on Turley and Onion Creek Drive is still 30 mph.**

***THE SOLUTION TO THE SPEEDING PROBLEM IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD LIES WITH EACH DRIVER.***

## CHICKEN SOUP ANYONE?

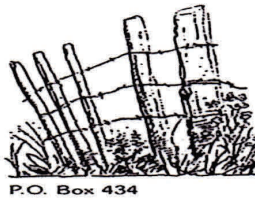
Those old wives tales get passed down because they have some truth to them. **Chicken soup** doesn't just warm you up; it can also honestly help relieve the misery of a cold. Researchers have found that chicken soup has properties that inhibit *neutrophils*, white blood cells that fight off bacteria in inflamed cells. Neutrophils work to create mucus. Unfortunately, when we have a cold, they go into overdrive and make too much mucus which plugs our sinuses and makes our head feel like the size of Dallas. ***Chicken soup slows down mucus production and thins it, allowing some of it to temporarily drain.***



## SHOP SMALL

Sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday is Shop Small Saturday which encourages you to shop in the independent enterprises in your community. When you support a small business, you help create local jobs and spur local economy. When you shop with the big national companies, 40% of each dollar spent leaves the community. When you support local firms, only 13% goes away. Get to know your local businesses. Here's your **bonus**: usually you will receive service that isn't matched by the chain stores.





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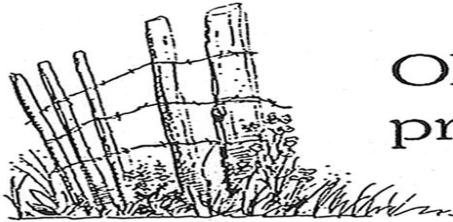
P.O. Box 434

Manhaca, Texas 78652

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<b>John Zimmerman</b>	<b>Board President, Aqua Texas, SH45</b>	<b>282-1371, cell 921-0822, johnz3000@yahoo.com</b>
<b>DeDe Whittaker</b>	<b>Board Vice President, Deed Restrict</b>	<b>280-4270 doroathome@sbcglobal.com</b>
<b>Sherry Krupinski</b>	<b>Board Treasurer, Welcome Committee, Alert Back-up</b>	<b>280-1144 sherrykrupinski@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Jim Cullen</b>	<b>Board Secretary, Database, Membership</b>	<b>447-8201, jcullen@austin.rr.com</b>
<b>Phyllis Stegall</b>	<b>Board Member, Newsletter Editor, OCMPOA Alert, Yahoo Email List</b>	<b>291-0202 pjstegall@austin.rr.com</b>
<b>Debra Tompkins</b>	<b>Board Member, Nominating Committee, Website Manager</b>	<b>282-2380 deblou4@juno.com</b>
<b>Andrea Bright-Fontana</b>	<b>Board Member, Deed Restrictions, Activities Committee</b>	<b>577-6368 abrightfontana@gmail.com</b>
<b>Kelly Mighell</b>	<b>Board Member, National Night Out, Activities Committee</b>	<b>291-0667 keanmi5@att.net</b>
<b>Tony Lopez</b>	<b>Board Member, Block Watch Captain, National Night Out</b>	<b>291-4992 lucy65@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Robin Field</b>	<b>Garage Sale, Heep Ranch Committee</b>	<b>569-9648 robin_302@yahoo.com</b>
<b>Ron Ralph</b>	<b>Heep Ranch Committee Chair</b>	<b>280-9648, ronralph@austin.rr.com</b>



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## MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL FORM (From July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013)

Onion Creek Meadows Property Owners Association  
P.O. Box 434  
Manchaca, TX 78652

**Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lot(s) For Each Per Year Total\***

**Property Owner Membership:** \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

\*Multiple lot owners may choose to pay (1) the minimum \$20 dues for a single lot and one membership vote or (2) \$20 for each additional lot which entitles you to an additional vote.

## Join your **ONIONCREEKMEADOWS@YAHOOGROUPS.COM**

Here is a useful (and often very busy) on-line forum to share your neighborhood news directly neighbor-to-neighbor, such as offering free or for sale items or services, sharing seeds and plants and gardening advice, locating lost and found pets or other items, looking for household help or services, asking questions about area concerns, making announcements or sharing information you think others might be interested in. Anyone living in Onion Creek Meadows and its surrounding neighborhoods is welcome to sign up.

This site is monitored for content and appropriateness by two moderators. Join at

**onioncreekmeadows@yahoogroups.com.**

## Get OCMPOA Alerts

If you are interested in reporting or receiving information about unusual or suspicious activity in the Onion Creek Meadows area, be sure your email address is on **ocmpoalertlist@gmail**. This is a free valuable service available to anyone living in OCM. Your email address will not be shared with anyone else.

## 911 Emergencies

In an emergency your **first** call is to **911**. Make sure that your house has numbers easily readable from the street, especially at night, and that lights are on outside to guide the emergency crews. If possible, have someone outside to help direct emergency vehicles exactly where help is needed.

## Non-Emergencies

The **non-emergency** Sheriff's Department number is **974-0845** to use if you want to notify them you will be out of town and would like them to keep a close watch on your house. When you call, wait out the options until a live voice comes on the line. Ask your neighbors to keep an eye out too.