



TRICK  
OR  
TREAT?

## Board of Directors

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## A Letter From The President

Dear Homeowners and Home Renters,

Fall is here and Halloween is just around the corner. Fall is such a wonderful time of year in our area. The cooler weather, the foliage, and the outdoor activities make our city a great place to live. Let's make this a great time for our neighborhood children. Also, now that the kids are back in school we ask that you remember to be extra cautious and please drive slowly on the streets.

One of the goals of the board is to increase communication with the neighborhood. During the past few months the board and committees have worked to improve two methods for communicating with our neighborhood; through our newsletter and our website ([www.fhhoa.net](http://www.fhhoa.net)). Sending your feedback, questions and comments directly to the Board is now simply a click away. We need the communication to be a two-way street. Please let us know what issues are most important to you: trees, development, community events, traffic, safety, quality of life, etc. A quick email from you will help us know what we need to change or do better. We appreciate the support of our homeowners and want to be responsive to them.

The board and the various committees have been actively pursuing several items these past few months. The Publicity Committee has worked hard to bring you quality newsletters and flyers. The Activity/Social Event Committee has been organizing various events for our community to enjoy and getting those flyers to your door. They are always in need of volunteers to help with the many tasks involved. The Landscape/Architect Committee has been taking the time to walk through our neighborhood noting violations to send on to our management company. In today's tough real estate market, it is vital that we do everything in our power to maintain our property values and make Franklin Heights a desirable place to live.

National Night Out is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>. The Board and Social Events Committee met to discuss how our neighborhood could best plan for this event. We decided that it made more sense to combine this event with our Fall Festival on October 25<sup>th</sup>. This would allow us to celebrate on a weekend, take time to provide fun & creative games for the children and, **most crucial**, enroll volunteers (we need lots of help to make this evening successful). Social Activities are a fantastic way to get to know your neighbors and build our community.

On a final note, thank you to all the neighbors who have been working so hard to maintain your home and making our neighborhood a more beautiful place. Keep up the good work!

As your Association President I am available to assist you should you have any questions regarding your community.

Barbra Ardila  
President, Franklin Heights Homeowners Association



## Halloween Costumes

Kids love to dress up for Halloween. Deciding on the perfect costume can be a tough decision for many kids, but this list of the 10 most popular costumes for kids may help with the decision.

- Pirate
- Princess
- Superhero
- Clown
- Athlete
- Animal
- Ghost
- Cheerleader
- Witch
- Monster

## Halloween Safety Tips for Kids

Halloween is a favorite holiday for many kids, with the chance to dress up and go door to door in search of sweet treats. To ensure a safe Halloween for all involved, follow these safety guidelines and you and your little witches, goblins, and super-heroes will enjoy a fright night to remember:

- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.
- Cross the street only at corners.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and brooms, too!)
- Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- Keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Only visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.

## Halloween Tips for Homeowners

As homeowners, we look forward to seeing all of the ghouls, princesses, and pirates that haunt our neighborhood on Halloween. As always, please drive safely and look out for kids in the dark on Halloween. In addition, keep these tips in mind:

- Make sure your yard is clear of such things as water hoses, flower pots, and other obstacles that can trip young ones.
- Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater.
- Battery powered jack o' lantern candles are preferable to a real flame. If you use candles, place the pumpkins well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
- Make sure paper or cloth yard decorations won't be blown into an open flame.
- Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes or cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later. Consider non-food treats such as plastic rings, pencils, stickers, erasers, or coins.



## Need a Copy?

Copies of the 'Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Franklin Heights' are available on our website at [www.FHHOA.net](http://www.FHHOA.net).

## Newsletter Submissions

We would like your input for this newsletter. If you would like to submit an article, recipe, funny story, or just brag on your kids, please let us know!

Also, if there is something you would like to see in this newsletter, please tell us.

You may submit your articles, comments, or suggestions to the Publicity Committee at [publicity@fhhoa.net](mailto:publicity@fhhoa.net).

## Garbage Cans and Newspapers

Please remember to place garbage cans out of sight behind your home or inside your garage and to pick up newspapers from your driveway or sidewalk.

## Homeowner Dues

Thank you to everyone who pays the neighborhood assessments on time. This money is required to maintain the neighborhood and to keep the common areas attractive. There still remain homeowners that refuse to pay their part of maintaining the community. There are several homeowners that have not paid for several years.

# The History of Halloween

It would seem that October 31st has always been about funny costumes, bobbing for apples, and just general mischievous fun. However, it didn't start out as a festive holiday of tricks and treats. Most people even believe that Halloween has its roots in demonic worship rituals. In truth, Halloween is a modern American shortening of All Hollow's Eve — the night before the catholic All Hallows Day or All Saints Day, a day for remembering the saints. That's where the word comes from, but the traditions originated in Celtic Ireland and were brought to America in the 1840's by Irish immigrants.

Around the 5th century BC the Celts officially ended summer on October 31st at a time when they believed the laws of space and reality were briefly suspended and spirits could move between the living world and the afterlife. This day was called Samhain, pronounced "Sow-in," and was the Celtic New Year. During this time, the spirits who had died that year would come back and try to possess a living body as their only hope in an afterlife. To make themselves seem less desirable, the ancient Celts would dress in ghoulish costumes and cause as much chaos as possible. Hence, the mischievous pranks.

Eventually, the Romans adopted the concept of Samhain with their other October holidays. One such holiday was the day of Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees. Her symbol was the apple. It's possible that today people bob for apples as a result of this absorption of Celtic culture. Trick-or-treating may have originated in 9th century Europe on All Souls Day, November 2nd. The early Christians would walk from village to village carrying "soul cakes." Soul cakes were square pieces of bread with currants. We have Irish folklore to thank for grinning Jack-O-Lanterns. An Irish drunk named Jack was said to have trapped Satan in a tree through trickery and carving a cross into the tree's trunk. After Jack's death, he wasn't allowed into Heaven because of his evil ways, nor was he allowed into hell because he had tricked Satan. Jack was doomed to wander for all eternity, and the devil gave him an ember to light his way and placed the ember in a hollowed turnip so that it would last longer. The Irish kept their "Jack's Lanterns" burning in turnips until they came to America and discovered pumpkins were more plentiful.

So, Halloween is only as evil as some people want to make it out to be. While it is true that Halloween started out as a pagan holiday, it was never evil. And now, it is loved by children everywhere.

## Violation Summary: Sept 1- Sept 23rd

### First Letter Reports

Automobile Violation = 1

### Certified Letters

Fence Repair = 7

Landscape Maint = 21

Trash Can = 1

### Postcards

Fence Repair = 1

Landscape Maint = 9

Trash Can = 5

**TOTAL VIOLATIONS =  
45**

## Speeding

For the safety of all of our residents, especially children and pets, please slow down and adhere to the posted speed limit in our neighborhood.

## Website

[www.FHHOA.net](http://www.FHHOA.net)

Please take the time to check out our updated website!



You can find:

- Events Calendar
- HOA Forms
- Pictures
- Contact Info
- Community Events
- Bulletin Board
- Classified Section

If you would like to suggest additions for the website, please contact the Publicity Committee.

# Fall Yard Maintenance

We think of fall as time to sit back and watch the summer come to a close, trees lose their leaves, flowers die, and our grass slows until it lies dormant for the winter. However, there are many things we can do in the fall to prepare for the coming spring. Consider your lawn, your existing perennials, new plantings, and storage of your gardening tools.

## Your Lawn

Aerate your lawn to promote better flow of water, and absorption of fertilizers and air. Aeration also helps grass clipping decompose faster to maintain good root health. Fall is the ideal time to plant grass seed. To begin, rake the area that needs to be over-seeded to allow better contact between the seed and soil. Use a spreader to get even coverage in the area you are over-seeding. Then you just need to water frequently but shallowly, just 10-15 minutes twice a day should do it. Avoid watering in the evening because if the grass stays wet overnight it can lead to fungal growth. Once the lawn is established, a good heavy 45-minute watering once a week is best.

For an established lawn fall is the time to fertilize. A slow release fertilizer will provide nutrients to the grass and soil for the winter and into the spring.

Adjust the cutting height on your mower. It is important

to leave it longer in the cooler months to promote root growth. Three inches is a good height for most grass types found in our neighborhood.

Unless you have a mulching mower remove leaves from your yard with a gentle bamboo rake. Allowing leaves to rot can kill new grass and lead to fungus and insect problems on established lawns.



## Trim Trees and Hedges

Trimming your trees and hedges at the beginning of fall will not only leave you with less mess, it will also improve the appearance of your shrubbery and prevent or correct a safety hazard. While power tools are terrific (and almost a must for a large number of trees or bushes) most seasonal

pruning and trimming can be taken care of with three or four affordable hand tools.

Hand pruners, hedge trimmers, loping shears and a pruning saw will take care of most small branches and limbs. First look for and remove dead or diseased limbs, cut back all excessive growth and then trim the bush into the desired shape.

## Perennials

If your flower gardens have become too thick with perennials, divide them in the fall. To divide perennials dig them up, score the roots with a box knife and separate. Make sure each divided plant has at least one bud and some roots. Gather seeds from your perennial flowers to plant in the spring, and then cut them back to within several inches of the ground. Cover them with a few inches of mulch to keep them protected throughout the winter months. They will come back fuller and even more beautiful in the spring.



## Gardening Equipment

As the gardening season ends do not neglect your equipment. Before storing your lawn mower drain it of any left over gas, clean the blades, and change the air filter. It is a good idea to have your lawn mower blades sharpened in fall so that it is ready to go come spring! Dull lawn mower blades tear grass rather than cut it leading to brown or gray tops to the grass and opening your lawn up to disease and fungus.

Disinfect pruners and trowels, empty and store hoses and sprinklers, and clean and store outdoor furniture before the cold sets in to prevent weathering. When all is cleaned, fertilized, planted, and stored you can enjoy your autumn knowing that you have prepared for spring.

## Bulbs and Other Plantings

Fall is the best time to plant bulbs for spring flowers. You can find a great selection from catalog companies like Springhill and Breck's, both of which have easy to use websites. Crocus, daffodil, iris, tulips, and hyacinth are just a few of the many varieties of bulbs that flourish when planted in fall. Most bulbs do fine in well-drained soil that gets sun at least six hours a day. To plant bulbs, follow the instructions on the package for depth and distance apart, and plant with the roots down and the pointy part up. You can even plant different kinds on top of each other, for continuous blooming throughout the spring season. To plant bulbs, follow the instructions on the package for depth and distance apart, and plant with the roots down and the pointy part up. You can even plant different kinds on top of each other, for continuous blooming throughout the spring.

season. Fall annuals like mums and pansies make a beautiful display in flowerbeds and containers alike. There are many varieties and colors from which to choose at your local garden center. Make a statement in colors that complement your home. Plant shrubs and evergreens to bring a much needed splash of color during the winter months.



## Watering in Autumn

Properly watering the plants in fall, then, can be an effective means of minimizing injury to trees and shrubs during the winter. Water plants lightly throughout early autumn, until the time when the leaves of the trees fall. In late autumn, after the deciduous trees have dropped their leaves, give both evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs a deep watering.

## Calling All Cooks!

There are plenty of great cooks (or chefs, if you will) in our neighborhood. How would you like to have a piece of the action, or at least say your recipe is in the monthly newsletter? Do you have recipes for meals, or for appetizers, desserts, punch, low-carb? How about an accompanying picture? If so, and you would like to share those recipes with other aspiring chefs in our neighborhood, send a copy of the recipe to: [publicity@fhhoa.net](mailto:publicity@fhhoa.net). Family recipes welcome!!!

## Architectural Changes

Before your make ANY exterior changes to your home (such as basic painting, staining, fence, arbor, outdoor fireplace, sheds, landscape updates, walkway, shutters, etc.) you will need to submit an ACC "Change Request" and get approval PRIOR to the start of your work. It's easy! Just go to [www.FHHOA.net](http://www.FHHOA.net) under "Forms/Docs" and click on Architectural / Landscape Committee Submission Form. In most cases, this process is very quick and simple! The ACC Change Request has always been a requirement of our HOA Bylaws & Covenants and is for your protection.

## Advertise in the Franklin Heights Connection

Do you have a product or service to offer? Let your neighbors know by advertising in the community newsletter, please contact [publicity@FHHOA.net](mailto:publicity@FHHOA.net) for more information.

## Got An Idea?

Have something else you'd like to see happen in the neighborhood? We're always open to neighbors stepping up to volunteer their talent and initiative to make our neighborhood a better place for all. If you have ideas and talents you'd like to share, contact us at [events@fhhoa.net](mailto:events@fhhoa.net).

## General Election Early Voting

If you are eligible to vote on election day, you are eligible to vote during the early voting period. The lines are shorter and the days and hours are more convenient. Early voting is open to all voters. Early voting will take place between October 20-27<sup>th</sup>. See the elections page on [www.co.collin.tx.us](http://www.co.collin.tx.us) for locations, dates, and hours for early voting.

## It's a Wonderful Day to be a Neighbor

Get to know your neighbors and keep up efforts to be friendly. Here are a few ways that it can help:

**Networking** – You can never have too many friends and you never know when you might need to borrow a ladder, or ask someone to collect your mail.

**Safety** – The more your neighbor knows about you and your daily schedule, the more likely he or she will be able to notice suspicious activity. You can give your neighbors an emergency contact number in case something happens to your house while you are away.

**Property Value** – The strength of community bonds does have a small impact on property values. The more people feel like they are part of a community, the longer they are likely to stay. Why does this matter? The more frequently neighbors sell, the more likely their homes will have to compete on the market. This usually lowers prices and extends selling time. These factors may have an adverse effect on the appraisal value of surrounding homes.

**Conflict Resolution** – The friendlier and more familiar you and your neighbors are, the less likely there is to be a problem. And if your neighbor is a friend, they are way more likely to knock on your door and talk to you in person than call animal control on your pet, call the tow company on your car, or call the police on your noise level.

It's important to note that although the HOA Board considers it their duty to maintain a nice neighborhood, they don't have the authority to make people obey laws and ordinances. So if you have a problem with a neighbor, this is a great opportunity to walk over to their house and have a polite conversation. By using this approach, not only have you taken immediate steps to resolve the issue, but you've gotten more acquainted with your neighbor and shown them by example how you would like to be treated. Be flexible and tolerant with your neighbor. Later on, you'll be glad you did and grateful to receive the same treatment.

**A good neighbor is a very desirable thing.**

-Thomas Jefferson

# Upcoming Community Events

Check out what's happening in our city and neighborhood!

- Round Up on the Range** **October 18, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**  
This one-day event captures the Old West traditions with chuck wagon cooking, music, animals, Western horse training and many more authentic cowboy activities. Slip on your boots, lasso up the kids, load the wagon and head the horses to Myers Park. Admission: \$5.00 per person. Ages 3 and under free! Includes free parking. \$15 for chuck wagon lunch. Location: Myers Park and Event Center.
- Fall Festival and Neighborhood Night Out** **October 25, 4:00 PM**  
This event will be held in the cul-de-sac on McClintick Road. We would like to bring the neighborhood together to celebrate the fall season and get to know each other better. We will have games, a bounce house for the kids, music, refreshments, and of course FUN! Please let us know if you are willing to volunteer to help out with games, refreshments, or planning.
- The Legends of McKinney Ghost Walk** **October 25, 6:00 – 10:00 PM**  
The Legends of McKinney Ghost Walk will begin at the North Texas History Center, circle the downtown square and end at Chestnut Square Historic Village. This self-guided tour will provide story tellers along the way to share the legendary stories of McKinney. Ghost sightings are not guaranteed, but a night of spooky fun is! Location: 315 S. Chestnut.
- Scare on the Square** **October 31, 4:00 - 6:00 PM**  
This annual event has grown to hundreds of trick or treaters enjoying hayrides, treats and a safe and secure family fun Halloween event. Historic Downtown McKinney is closed off for trick or treaters to cross the streets safely, going shop to shop for goodies.
- General Election Voting** **November 4, 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM**  
Be sure to vote!! McNeil Elemen

## McKinney Named A Best Place to Live

In the August issue of Money Magazine, McKinney was ranked in the top 15 small cities to live in the country. McKinney debuted on the annual list at #14, besting other North Texas cities that include Carrollton, Richardson, and Allen.

Money Magazine uses several criteria to rank cities. It points to McKinney's Historic Downtown area, distinction from other Dallas-area suburbs, open spaces and parks, and unique facilities like the Michael Johnson Performance center for the high ranking. Recent Census numbers also name McKinney as the third fastest growing city in 2007.

## Pet Owner Responsibility



There have been several complaints recently regarding homeowners allowing their dogs off the leash, not cleaning up dog waste and allowing uncontrolled barking. In some of these complaints, dogs are reported to be attacking pedestrians and other dogs.

The Board asks all dog owners in the community to please be mindful of your responsibilities as a pet owner and as a good neighbor. All pets must be kept on leashes at all times for the safety of everyone in the community and all pet owners must clean up their pet's waste. Our Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Franklin Heights have provisions on pet ownership which we urge all pet owners to review.



## Fall Word Search

Find the fall words from the bottom in the fall word search grid. The words can be forward or backwards, vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.

Circle each letter separately, but keep in mind that letters may be used in more than one word. When the fall word search is complete, read the remaining letters left to right, top to bottom, to learn an interesting autumn fact.

AFTER SUMMER  
AUTUMN  
BACK TO SCHOOL  
BEFORE WINTER  
BROWN  
CHANGE  
COLORFUL  
COOL  
FALLING  
HALLOWEEN  
LEAVES  
NOVEMBER  
OCTOBER  
ORANGE  
PICTURESQUE  
RAKING  
RED  
SEASON  
THANKSGIVING  
YELLOW

W A R T H A N K S G I V I N G  
M S U N N E G N A H C Y D N A  
Y S O A N D C H I L O L I Y R  
B A C K T O S C H O O L B U E  
R T T N G N I K A R L O E T T  
E E O F R L E E Z A U T U M N  
M I B N G N U I F N G H Q T I  
M S E M Y A R F E G L T S H W  
U E R I E D E A R E L C E O E  
S N D I L V T I A O O B R N R  
R S R F L O O V R M L R U A O  
E K E I O N E N G S P O T E F  
T C D T W S E A S O N W C A E  
F C U L A R F A L L C N I O B  
A H A L L O W E E N L O P R S

Franklin Heights Connection Issue 04 October 2008 Published by the Franklin Heights Homeowner's Association

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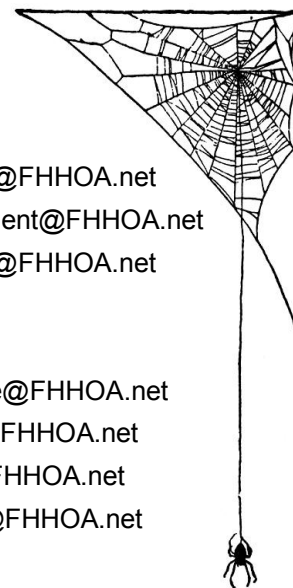
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