



# Highland Meadows Home Owners Association

Colleyville, Texas

Spring 2021 Newsletter

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER...

A quick note from what I hope will be several more throughout my tenure as Highland Meadows HOA President. I am kicking this off as we have been busier than usual with a couple of projects going on, some of which we discussed at the Annual Meeting. I want to keep the neighborhood apprised of our activities as some of them drew a fair amount of attention.

The most significant issue at the Annual Meeting was the question of trees along Hall Johnson. This issue has been mitigated for the time being as all parties have come together with a strategy that benefits both the HOA and the residents on Ballantrae. The city has agreed to take down up to 9 trees and has already taken down three, with three more to be taken down soon. We fear that over the course of the next few years many of the trees will continue to decline and will have to remove them as needed. In return for the Ballantrae neighbors who have lost a tree and would like a replacement, the HOA has agreed to provide a tree with defined conditions – the tree must be planted more than 15 feet from the wall, and come from a list of trees approved by the city and the HOA.

Our issue with the trees along Hall Johnson is more than just a tree issue. It represents an image of our neighborhood to the community. It is our hope as a Board to upgrade our image and beautify it. We are limited to what we can do because of the overhead utility lines. It is our hope that we can make the best of what we have available to us including a good working relationship with the City to make both Highland Meadows HOA and Colleyville present the best we can.

The second issue of interest is the speed limit within the neighborhood, as brought to the board by concerned homeowners. We have developed a committee made of current committee members and residents with a Board Sponsor. We have had one discussion with the City discussing our desires and received directions on the details of how to proceed. Another meeting has been tentatively scheduled. At this time the scope of the committee is to address the feasibility of lowering the speed limit to 25 MPH from 30 MPH, and address the need for 4 way and 3 way stop signs. We recognize the increasing population of children and will keep everyone apprised of our progress.

We just came out of what was a major winter storm and are still assessing the damage to our trees and landscaping. Fortunately, it appears our neighborhood was spared any major water or electrical issues. This spring cleanup might be busier than usual.

You might have noticed we have a new logo for Highland Meadows. This was just approved this past week and was one of our active projects. You will soon see this on our web site, stationery and Newsletters. We wish to thank Mary Ann's daughter, Susie Sheehey, for volunteering her time to help create a new logo.

Thank you for time and please let us hear from you should you have any concerns or questions.

Stuart C. Gardner, President  
Highland Meadows Home-Owner Association

## New Landscaping for Wall Section 5 – Ray Allee



The landscaping along section 5 of the wall has been completed. It appears that all the plants have survived the freeze and snow of mid-February. The design was developed to improve the look along Hall Johnson as you enter Colleyville from the East – and more importantly - to expand the “Curb Appeal” of Highland Meadows.

The Highland Meadows HOA is working in partnership with the City of Colleyville to solve the appearance issues with the Hall Johnson corridor bordering Highland Meadows. Several years ago, the city quit maintaining the strip between the curb and the sidewalk. Our HOA is responsible for maintaining the entire area between the wall and the curb along the entire length of the Highland Meadows wall. Once issues are worked out with the city on the irrigation of the area between the sidewalk and the curb, then we can look at what to do with that area, i.e., hardscape with rocks, crushed granite, turf grass, or other material.

The section 5 landscaping is a “test” area to see how the plants do over the next year. If they do as well as expected, then a similar design concept will be used to landscape sections 6, 7, and 8. Here are some pictures of the section 5 landscaping looking from the East to the West. As the plants mature the variety of colors will become more visible

Ray Allee  
Landscape/Wall Committee Chair



At left, the Eastern-most end of Section 5...

At right, a view from the median showing the shaded area that has been planted with jasmine...



A view looking west at the east end of Section 5...



A view showing the sandstone separators and the various plants...



At right, this view looks toward the Whitehaven intersection. The Bermuda grass area has been expanded. This area gets a lot of sun, so the Bermuda will do well here. It also more closely matches the other side of the Whitehaven entrance.

***NOTE: See the landscape map on the last page of this newsletter which gives details on wall sections. Section 5 is the area which just received the new landscape plantings.***



### **HM HOA MARCH BOARD MEETING**

The next meeting of the HOA Board will be on Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at Market Street (Colleyville Blvd.) Refreshments will be served. Please let the HOA President, Stu Gardner, know if you plan on attending or have an item you wish placed on the agenda. Stu Gardner - stu@sgaconsulting.net

### **WELCOME COMMITTEE – Becky Prentice**

The Welcome Committee extends a warm welcome to our newest neighbors from the past six months. We hope to get together with them soon, but if you happen to meet them, please give them a big Highland Meadows welcome!!

Steven and Stacie Thompson, Connie Lane  
Clay Pollard and April Vargas, Montford Drive  
Richard and Amy Vitek, Highland

Jeffrey and Christa Stapleton, Highland Hills Lane  
Matthew and Rachael Clark, Kenshire Drive

## 2021 Calendar

Please mark your calendar for the following HM HOA Board meeting dates:

**March 22**, HM HOA Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; location Market Street upstairs meeting room.

**May 15, Saturday, Community Garage Sale**; 9 am to 2 pm

**May 17**, HM HOA Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; location TBD

**July 19**, HM HOA Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; location TBD

**September 20**, HM HOA Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; location TBD

**October 21, Annual Meeting, 7:00 p.m. at the Colleyville Center (6:45 check-in)**

**November 15**, HM HOA Board Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; location TBD



**NEW SOCIAL DIRECTOR:** We are pleased to welcome Joanna Budries as our new Social Committee Chair. We are looking forward to scheduling some new ideas for Highland Meadows. If you have an idea, or would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to Joanna at Joanna\_77@hotmail.com

**COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE** is on **Saturday, MAY 15<sup>th</sup>**, from **9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**



We'll bring you bargain hunters by posting an advertisement in the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, garage sale FB pages, and signs at each of the HM entrances. Please set-up your sale on your driveway where it is visible from the street. You may want to place a sign on the corner of your street to help publicize the event. If you are part of an online garage sale page, please be sure to add our Community Garage Sale!



Please put-up balloons or a sign at your mailbox or driveway to indicate that you are part of the community garage sale. In past years, we've spotted lemonade and popcorn stands set-up by enterprising young Highland Meadows residents!!! (There will be another fall Community Garage Sale – date has not been set.)

## **NOMINATE A YARD FOR CURB APPEAL AWARD – Lee Spilker**

If you would like your home considered for our “Curb Appeal Winner” award, or have a neighbor to nominate, please reach out to our new Chair, Lee Spilker. We have a sign to put in your yard to announce to your neighbors that your yard was chosen, and we'll include a photo of your yard in our next newsletter. Lee Spilker, leedub1@att.net



## **WEBSITE REGISTRATIONS - Dean Fittz**

**Cmamanagement.com (Business) or Highlandmeadowshoa.com (Social)**

Thanks for registering on our management company's website. Benefits: pay your HOA bill; check your account balance; file ACC requests; address questions or concerns regarding our HOA; see copies of our newsletters, By-Laws, Deed Restrictions, Fining Polices, etc.; request resale certificates; and receive HM HOA Newsletters. We currently have 329 out of 367 homeowners registered on the website. Please check out our new Social website at highlandmeadowshoa.com



## [Freeze Damage to Your Landscape – MaryAnn Nicholson](#)

If your yard is like mine, brown is the new green! I've posted a few articles to the HOA FaceBook page in regards to damage to our garden plants after the "Great Freeze" in February. All experts say the plants "might" survive, and to be patient until April – don't rip them all out thinking they have died. As replacing landscape plants can be very expensive, we'll copy a few of the articles giving advice...

### **From Neil Sperry: Garden Tips: DAMAGED SHRUBS**

Texas is a huge state, so the extent of damage done by the cold to our landscape shrubs is going to vary. It's even likely to vary within any one landscape on the same species of shrub. Nothing should surprise us.

Forget the plants' leaves. LET THEIR STEMS BE THE INDICATORS, at least at the outset. If the stems are dried and brittle – if they have split in lines parallel to their sides – those parts of those shrubs have probably frozen. Those tissues ruptured and fluids drained out as their cells broke down.

Those stem tissues can be trimmed away whenever you wish, and you can start at the top of the plant and cut them down sequentially until you reach live, green tissue. At that point, stop trimming. Give the plant a week or two to send out new shoots (or to die back even farther).

With other shrubs you can easily see that they have frozen completely to the ground. Plants like that can be pruned completely to the soil line. You may not know for sure for a few more days, but that's very likely to happen to oleanders in much of the state (they will come back from their roots) and also to gardenias and pittosporums (they will not come back from their roots).

So, the take-away from this message is that STEM TISSUE SHOULD BE YOUR BENCHMARK. Look at it closely to determine the long term vigor of your plant. And know your plant type. That's where your Texas Certified Nursery Professional can help guide you (at a local independent retail garden center, not the big national chains).

### **Dealing with Freeze Damage on Plants**

#### **Greg Grant, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service (February 27, 2021)**

There is no way of currently knowing the extent of the damage or whether your plants will survive or not. It will take weeks or months to know, if or when, they start to resprout and what part of the plant resprouts.

**1. Evergreen Woody Shrubs, Vines, and Groundcovers** (Asian jasmine, azaleas, camellias, confederate jasmine, eleagnus, fatsia, fig ivy, gardenias, Indian hawthorns, ligustrum, loquat, loropetalum, oleander, pittosporum, privet, roses, sasanquas, sweet olive, Texas sage, wax myrtle, etc.): Wait until they start to resprout from the existing stems or the ground, then cut away dead and leave what is alive and growing. There will most likely be no blooms this year and all old foliage will most likely fall off. Many of these plants are from milder parts of southern Asia and simply aren't used to zero degrees. Most broadleaf evergreens prefer milder climates while narrow leafed evergreens and deciduous plants are more adapted to colder climates.

**2. Palm Trees and Sago "Palms":** Many will be damaged or dead but do nothing but cut off the dead fronds for now. It will take months to see if they resprout. Historically the only palms reliably cold hardy here in northeast Texas and the only ones to survive zero degrees in the 1980s were Mexican/Texas





sabal palms, Brazoria palms, dwarf palmettos, and a number of windmill palms. All others froze and died. Sagos aren't true palms, are less cold hardy, and back then were only cold hardy from I-10 south.

**3. Perennials:** Cut away the dead mush (wait until April 1 if you can stand it) and wait till mid spring to see what comes up. Many perennials are cold hardy but many we grow in the South are more tender and tropical (confederate rose, Mexican heather, Mexican petunia, and lots more) and may not make it when the ground freezes.

**4. St. Augustine and Centipede lawns:** There will possibly be dead areas and freeze damage. Mow as normal but avoid pre-emergent herbicides which can damage injured grass. Do not fertilize until nights are warmer in mid-April and do not water until June, July, and August, once per week, one inch per application. Watering in the spring contributes to gray leaf spot and brown patch. Most folks water too often and cause their own problems.

**5. Crapemyrtles:** There will be different amounts of damage on different cultivars in different microclimates. Don't do anything until they start to sprout then cut back to where new growth is occurring, even it's at the ground. They will grow back vigorously. In the 1980s Lagerstroemia fauriei froze and died, 'Natchez' and many hybrids froze to the ground, and there were varying degrees of damage to most older indica cultivars.

**6. Fruit trees:** Most are cold hardy except citrus, pomegranates, olives, and figs which will have varying degrees of damage and death. Once again, do nothing for now and prune back to live growth when they sprout. Open flowers and fat buds on blueberries, peaches, and pears froze but the trees should be alive and sprout as normal. Unfortunately fruit production will be limited. I'd think blackberries will be fine.

7. If plants are green and not withered, they are most likely fine. It all has to do with their evolutionary and geographical genetics as to whether they can survive zero degrees. Bust just because they are brown doesn't mean they are dead. It's possible that the stems or roots may still be alive. Give them time.

**8. Most deciduous plants** will be fine although they may have lost their bloom buds. Spireas appear fine. Mophead and lace cap hydrangeas may have different degrees of damage. Once again, only prune away what is dead once they sprout. Oakleaf hydrangeas are probably fine.

**9. Most conifers including pines and cedars** will be fine although they may be damaged and broken from snow and ice. Saw off the broken branches close to the trunk or nearest major branch wherever you can.

**10. Bulbs (corms, rhizomes, etc.):** Although the foliage has been damaged and many blooms lost on spring bulbs, most should survive with possibly reduced bloom next year due to less foliage this year. I wouldn't be surprised if many heirlooms produced more foliage and bloomed almost normal next year. Note due to their geographic genetics, narcissus are the least hardy, jonquils more hardy, and daffodils the most hardy. Some daffodils may still bloom. However anything that already had buds won't bloom this year. Tulips seem OK. Spider lilies (lycoris) and oxblood lilies lost their foliage but will be fine with possibly reduced bloom this fall. Cannas and Hymenocallis may have rhizome and bulb damage if the ground froze.

**11. Live oaks:** certainly don't look good right now but brown leaves aren't an indication of a dead tree since live oaks aren't true evergreens and lose every leaf every year, most often when the new leaves push the old ones off. It's not uncommon during cold snaps to lose the leaves early. However, live oaks are a coastal tree which didn't evolve with regular snow, ice, and zero degree temperatures, so there's certainly a chance of there being lingering damage. There's absolutely nothing to do right now except

wait and see. It's important to remember though that Dallas, Tyler, Longview, and Shreveport are out of their native range. All foliage will be lost which would have been lost when the new foliage came out in spring anyway. There however many be varying degrees of damage including death like there was in Dallas during the 1980s when all the bark eventually popped off, but once again nothing you can do right now but wait. Live oaks are coastal trees not used to zero degree weather. Friend Neil Sperry says they'll be fine so we'll all hope for the best!

**12. Herbs:** Many herbs like rosemary and lavender will be dead and will need to be replaced, certainly those in pots which are always less cold hardy than those in the ground. Some rosemary cultivars are more cold hardy than others but very few can survive zero degrees. Most herbs are Mediterranean and prefer mild winters and dry soils.

**13. Pines:** Pine in some areas have turned brown. This is mostly likely just freeze damage to the needles but the buds and stems should be fine. Our native pines along with all our other native plants have learned to survive periodic Arctic blasts. Note that nature made sure that short leaf pine occurred further north, loblolly pine with medium length needles occurred farther south, and longleaf pine occurred the most south. It's all about holding up to ice and snow but all have always been cold hardy here for thousands of years.

**14. Vegetables:** Most were frozen and will need to be replanted including onions, potatoes and cool season greens. It's still too early for tomatoes and peppers and I wish folks would quit putting them out for sale. Never plant them before March 15.

**15. Native Plants and Wildflowers:** Most are perfectly fine as they evolved to deal with periodic Arctic blasts and blue northers.

**16. House plants** (aloe vera, Christmas cactus, croton, diffenbachia, peace lily, philodendron, ponytail palm, sanseveria, etc.): If they were left out outside, they should be dead, even if covered. Count it as a minor miracle if not. These plants aren't designed to withstand 32 degrees much less 0!

**17. Succulents (Agaves, opuntia, manfredas, yuccas, sedums, etc.):** Some of these guys are very tender and will be dead while others are more-cold hardy and will be fine. When it warms up and the mush dries, peel it away and see what comes back.

**18. Tropicals (allamanda, bananas, bougainvillea, elephant ears, esperanza, mandevillea, purple fountain grass, tropical hibiscus, etc.):** Cut away the dead mush and stems (wait until April 1 if you can stand it) and wait till mid spring to see what comes up. The general rule on tropicals is if the air freezes the tops die and if the ground freezes the whole plant dies. Those left outside in pots are probably dead and should be replaced in April/May when the nights warm up.

19. Genetics, provenance, and acclimation: Cold hardiness has much to do with the genetics and evolution of a species (Who's your daddy and where are you from?); what part of the historic range the seed source was from (live oak seed from colder Virginia or live oak seed from warmer South Louisiana); and how warm it was and how actively the plant was growing before it froze (plants freeze much more easily when they are growing than when they are dormant). This explains why National Arboretum crapemyrtles never froze in Washington D.C. and more northern climates but have frozen numerous times in Texas over the years.

There is absolutely nothing you can do to speed up this freeze damage/healing process. Watering, pruning, or fertilizing won't make it happen any quicker. Most work now is purely cosmetic. The solution is warm nights, warm days, and longer day lengths. Once the plants start to grow (or not), we will know the answer and what parts to cut away or which plants to replace. Some damage doesn't show up for months and some plants that appear dead come back to life from the root system. Some plants with green stems like roses will show what's dead even quicker and can be cut back sooner.

**From “Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney”:** Hey CMT friends. Here is some great information from our horticulture committee on post-freeze care of your crape myrtles. Be sure to SHARE with your friends who may need this information.

The keyword for your crape myrtles after the February 2021 Freeze is PATIENCE! With more than 120 varieties of crape myrtles in the nursery marketplace, you can expect quite a lot of difference in mature sizes, growth forms, colors – and winter hardiness.

Did your crape myrtles survive the February cold intact, or will they suffer dieback? Here are some quick tips to help you know.

- If you can scratch the bark and see moist, green tissue, that wood is probably still alive.
- But remember that it’s normal for a crape myrtle, a sub-tropical plant, to have 6-8 inches of dead twig wood each winter. Don’t worry about that. It will drop off as new growth begins in the spring.
- If you do not find moist, green tissues as you progress down the stems, your plant may have frozen partway or completely to the ground.
- In our plantings of 40,000 crape myrtles across the city of McKinney in the past 20 years, we have seen frequent dieback of five specific varieties: Natchez, Tuscarora, Muskogee, Sioux and Country Red. It is probable that these will be damaged this year, and possible that others will, too.
- Watch crape myrtles in your neighborhood. If you have a plant that lags behind in leafing out by more than two weeks, it’s probably frozen back to the ground.
- If that’s the case, you can retrain your plant by cutting it back to the ground as you remove all the deadwood. Select the strongest shoots that it puts up from the ground and train them to be its new trunks. You’ll be surprised at how quickly you’ll have a handsome new plant.
- For the record, this is the same technique The Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney recommends for salvaging plants that have previously been topped.
- Crape myrtles benefit from applications of nitrogen fertilizer (same as you apply to your turfgrass). Feed crape myrtles in early April, early June and early August.
- If you have a crape myrtle that needs to be transplanted, get that done in the next 3-4 weeks while it’s still dormant. Dig it with a ball of soil intact around its roots. Replant it immediately, and water it deeply.
- If you have been troubled with aphids or crape myrtle bark scale in the past (either of which can give rise to the black sooty mold), treatment time to prevent them is mid-May. Watch for details here at that time. There is no call to action now.

For everything related to crape myrtles, visit <https://crapemyrtletrails.org>

**For more information on dealing with the freeze damage, visit:**

Aggie Horticulture Facebook page;

Smith County Master Gardener Facebook page;

Neil Sperry’s GARDENS Facebook page;

[www.Texas Tree Surgeons.com](http://www.Texas Tree Surgeons.com) “Will Live Oaks Survive Freezing Temperatures, Ice and Snow?”;

[www.Plantanswers.com](http://www.Plantanswers.com) (Greg Grant from Texas A&M AgriLife)

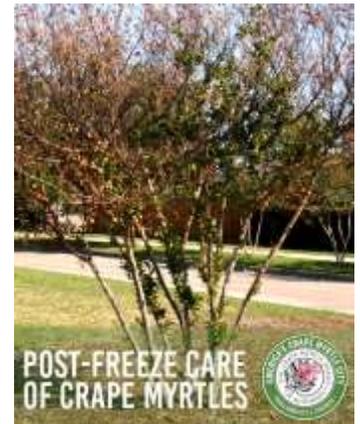
[www.Aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu](http://www.Aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu)

[www.Neilsperry.com](http://www.Neilsperry.com) – Neil Sperry’s Gardens, The Definitive Word in Texas

Fort Worth Botanic Garden at [www.fwbg.org](http://www.fwbg.org)

Crape Myrtle Trails of McKinney, [Crapemyrtletrails.org](http://Crapemyrtletrails.org)

[www.texasmonthly.com/travel/how-to-care-for-plants-damaged-by-texas-freeze-prep-for-spring/](http://www.texasmonthly.com/travel/how-to-care-for-plants-damaged-by-texas-freeze-prep-for-spring/)





**SIGNS OF SPRING!!!** Some plants made it through the “Great Freeze” in February. Check out these pansies, tulips and daffodils planted by C&T Lawns & Landscaping at our entrances.

**2021 HM HOA Board and Committee Volunteers**

- President: Stu Gardner stu@sgaconsulting.net (817) 296-1682
- Vice President: Dean Fittz dean@serenityintx.com
- Treasurer: Kim Wallace kimberlyaf@aol.com
- Secretary: Becky Prentice apretnice1@verizon.net
- Director: Roderick Capelo roderickcapelo@gmail.com
- Director: Adrian Lewis amlewis42@yahoo.com
- Director: MaryAnn Nicholson nicholsonma@verizon.net
- COMMITTEES:
- ACC Committee: Kourtney Miller Spilker (Co-Chair), Brandon Weaver (Co-Chair), Sharon Bothe, Dean Fittz and Mike Vitek
- Curb Appeal: Lee Spilker (Chair)
- Landscape/Wall Committee: Ray Allee (Chair), Joe Buchanan, Andrew Phelan, DeWayne Smart, Al Voelkle and Ron Ziolkowski
- Newsletter: MaryAnn Nicholson
- Social Committee: Joanna Budries (Chair), Becky Prentice, Ann Spicer, Kourtney Miller Spilker, Michelle Appling and MaryAnn Nicholson
- Tree Committee: Stu Gardner (Chair), Ray Allee, Terry Brown, Joe Buchanan, Ian Kelly, Adrian Lewis and Ron Ziolkowski
- Website: Dean Fittz
- Welcome Committee: Becky Prentice (Chair) and Lorna Phelan
- General Volunteers: Jill Van Over and Jill Farish

If you would like to volunteer to help with the HOA please email the President and we’ll add you to the list of volunteers. Likewise, if you have an idea for a Social activity or one of the other committees, please let us know!



**FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK:** Highland Meadows HOA – Colleyville, Texas  
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