

Blue Lake News

Spring, 2007

A joint publication of BLPOA and LCMUD #1

CRIME STRIKES BLUE LAKE!

Due to a spate of recent thefts in Blue Lake, it's obvious that the rapidly changing demographics in the area have caused our historically and relatively crime-free community to have now been "discovered".

A rundown of reported thefts that have occurred since the 2007 year began are as follows:

01/09/07- LCMUD # 1 / BLPOA Office
Tuesday- Stolen computer system

01/09/07- Blue Mountain Trail
???- Golf cart and charger
(exact date unknown)

01/30/07- BL Golf Club
Tuesday- Golf Cart

02/06/07- BL Golf Club
Tuesday- Golf cart battery charger

02/20/07- BL Golf Club
Tuesday-three Golf cart battery
chargers

02/23/07- Packsaddle Drive
??? – boating equipment
(exact date unknown)

02/23/07- Blue Mountain Trail
???- Golf Cart
(exact date unknown)

03/07/07- Hillview Drive
Wednesday- Golf Cart

04/16/07-Sandy Lane
???-Golf Cart
(exact date unknown)

Because we have many non-resident home owners who visit Blue Lake infrequently, there may be other incidents of theft that we are not yet aware of.

Some steps have already been taken to prevent or help deter such crimes as those we have recently experienced, in the future.

1) The MUD / POA Office has had a new security system installed.

2) Golf Club members have installed a new security system to help protect their assets.

3) On March 19th, 2007 a meeting, including representatives of the BLPOA, BL Golf Club Board, LCMUD # 1, DH POA, and representatives from the Llano County Sheriff's Dept., was held at the MUD / POA Office in Blue Lake to discuss ideas for alleviating this recent problem. Increased community awareness was the thrust of the meeting.

4) The BLPOA Board has made a decision to install security cameras at our entranceway. The estimated cost of this system is about \$8000.00. We hope that this decision will alleviate the majority of our security issues. In addition, the Llano County Sheriff's Dept. supports this positive improvement.

All of the above actions are, of course, reactive, much like locking the gate after the horse is gone, but, a good start towards protecting our property in the future.

Community awareness remains the greatest deterrent to any criminal activity. If you see suspicious or illegal activity in our community, call the **Llano County Sheriff's Dept. at 1- 800- 832- 9271.**

Your ideas, comments, donations and/or assistance are welcome and greatly appreciated.

SPECIAL GARBAGE PICK-UP

It's that time of year again for Spring cleaning! Our "**Special Garbage Pick-up**" has been scheduled for **Tuesday, May 15th, 2007.**

Now is the time to clean out garages and attics and get rid of those unwanted items that BFI cannot pick up on their normal runs.

As always, there are guidelines we **MUST** abide by in order to keep having the special pick-ups.

Items that MAY be left out for pick-up include: old mattresses, appliances, (without Freon), and lumber or tree trimmings that are bundled in lengths of not more than four (4) feet and weighing less than 40 pounds.

Items that WILL NOT (cannot) be picked up include: batteries, tires, paint cans (unless they are empty or dried out), motor oil, oil filters, or appliances that contain Freon. Refrigerators and air conditioners, for example, CANNOT be picked up unless the Freon has been removed and a certified refrigeration technician has tagged them. BFI is prevented from picking up these items due to environmental and/or safety regulations. Also, these items **CANNOT** be placed in the dumpsters for the same reason.

GARBAGE ISSUES

The Llano County MUD # 1 receives continual complaints regarding the illegal use of the dumpsters at the Firehouse and, in some cases, with individual residents' garbage. In an effort to clear up some of the confusion and help make Blue Lake Estates more aesthetically pleasing, we are offering the following information:

1) To ensure that your garbage does not get strewn about the neighborhood, please make sure that you have properly bagged and placed your garbage into garbage cans that have tight fitting lids.

2) If you leave to return home on the weekend, please do not leave your garbage at the road to be picked up on the regular pick-up day. Please take it to the dumpsters at the Firehouse as you leave Blue Lake, so it will not be scattered, this will alleviate the look of unsightly garbage cans sitting on the sides of the roads all week long.

3) The monthly fee on your Blue Lake utility bill helps pay for the dumpsters at the Firehouse, so they are for paying utility customers use. If you own a vacant lot, and, do not pay utilities, you are not entitled to use the dumpster service. **However**, the dumpsters are for **household garbage** only. This does not include bags of leaves, boards, lawn furniture, old BBQ pits, rotten wood, old paint, batteries, tires, yard clippings, etc. Please limit the dumpster use to **household garbage ONLY!**

4) As the dumpsters are not for lawn refuse, please do not take your bags of leaves to the dumpsters. If you pay a lawn service company to rake and remove your leaves, it should be up to the lawn service company to dispose of them. However, our residents do have

the option of using the reclamation center at the end of Hwy. 2831. Simply come by the MUD Office and pick up and pay for the permit and you may take your yard refuse to the reclamation center.

5) If you have a large quantity of garbage, please take the overflow to the dumpsters so it won't be left out on the roadway.

6) If you see someone using the dumpsters that does not appear to be a Blue Lake property owner, please take down the make and model of the car, as well as the license plate. With that information, we can get an owners' name and address and fine the perpetrator for illegally using our dumpsters.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the MUD/POA Office and talk to Betty or Sally; they can answer any questions you may have regarding the dumpster use and the use of the reclamation center.

BLUE LAKE GOLF CLUB

The Blue Lake Golf Club wishes to thank **Bill Curtis** for his great job keeping us informed with his hard work in editing the Blue Lake Golf Club website and the monthly newsletter. It takes many hours of his time and effort to maintain the site.

Brian Pickens has done a great job this past year in maintaining the course despite the drought and hot weather. Everyone comments on how good the course is to play on. We can never thank all of the volunteers enough for all their hard work in helping Brian maintain the course. They always show up when needed.

ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

As a service to our property owners-both residents and non-residents, and as a special request by the Llano County Sheriff's Dept. we would like to remind everyone that Llano County adopted an Animal Control Ordinance in April, 2001. The Ordinance is well-defined in the provisions it sets forth:

1) An animal **MUST** be under physical restraint (a leash or behind a fence). (An invisible fence is acceptable).

2) An animal is considered a "public nuisance" when it is repeatedly at large or repeatedly molests or intimidates pedestrians or passersby, **while at large**.

While the Animal Control Ordinance is generic in the term "animals", it includes cats, as well.

Please remember that in order for all property owners to enjoy Blue Lake it is imperative that **all** animal owners / caregivers keep your animals on a leash, behind a fence or inside your home **at all times**.

If you have reason to call the Llano County Animal Control Officer, her name and number are: Sandra Kott at (325) 247-5767.

A full copy of the Llano County Animal Control Ordinance may be picked up at the MUD / POA Office.

RV / TRAILER STORAGE

When exiting Trailer Storage areas **PLEASE CLOSE & LOCK THE GATE** for security purposes, especially in light of recent thefts in Blue Lake.

The POA Board of Directors, at the March 12, 2007 meeting, approved increased storage fees for trailers and recreational vehicles in both storage

areas effective with the new billing cycle effective September 1, 2007.

Statements will be mailed in mid August, 2007 and are due and payable September 1, 2007. The statements will also include the **new padlock combinations** for the locks that secure the entrance gates at both facilities. The combinations will be changed effective October 1, 2007.

The new annual fees are as follows: Devil's Hollow recreational vehicles (travel trailers, fifth wheel trailer and motor homes) will be \$144.00 and includes access to electrical power. Devil's Hollow **and** Sandy Creek trailer storage will be \$72.00 annually per trailer.

A \$20.00 late fee will be assessed for storage fees not received by November 1, 2007. The late fee was approved by the POA Board of Directors late in 2006 due to considerable follow up, additional statements, postage, long distance phone calls, etc. on fees not paid in a timely manner.

BLUE LAKE BOAT RAMP AT DEVIL'S HOLLOW

Over the last year, there have been complaints concerning the numerous non-Blue Lake Residents using our boat ramp to launch their boats and personal watercraft. These persons then go to Wennmoh's park and use this as a place to congregate. Some of our residents have provided the POA with license numbers that have been verified with TXDOT. One person, representing several concerned Blue Lake Residents, at the March 12, 2007 POA meeting asked if the boat ramp could be secured in some manner (a number of years ago there was a locked cable across the old boat ramp – the posts were removed when the new wider boat ramp was

installed). Also, last summer, due to the number of vehicles with boat trailers and the limited parking area and subsequent congestion, the fence and gate for the Devil's Hollow boat storage was severely damaged and had to be repaired. Low water levels in Lake Travis will probably add to the problem.

Last year signage was installed at the boat ramp indicating for use by Blue Lake Residents Only that seemed to have little or no effect.

The POA Board of Directors, at the March 12, 2007 meeting, approved installing a barrier gate at the Devil's Hollow boat ramp. The barrier will have a combination padlock. The combination will be available at the MUD Office (830) 598-5460 during regular business hours Monday through Friday; 9AM to 5PM, after the barrier is installed – hopefully by the end of April, pending acquisition of materials and volunteer labor.

NEW PROPERTY OWNERS

The MUD and the POA welcomes several new property owners to our beautiful area. Please help them feel welcome:

Gary & Cinthia Shaw at 3702 Packsaddle Drive

Rick & Elizabeth Rosenblum at 300 So. Blue Ridge Trail

Stephen & Giselle Rohleder at 3806 Packsaddle Drive

David & Anita Merkel at 3610 Packsaddle Drive

Michael Doerr at 100 W. Blue Rock Drive

WELCOME TO BLUE LAKE!!!

BL POA ANNUAL MEETING

The BL POA will hold its' Annual Meeting on July 7th at the Blue Lake Golf Club at 4:00 P.M.

As the BL POA is designed to work for you, the property owner, please make plans now to attend this important meeting to see how **your** POA Board works for you, the BL Property Owner.

WATER METER BOXES

The MUD Office would like to remind all property owners to inspect their water meter boxes **monthly** for ants, obstructive landscaping, bees, etc.

During the warmer summer months, the meter boxes are often a haven for insects, pests and snakes. Our meter readers need to have access to the meter boxes without risk of injury or obstructive landscaping.

Several meter boxes in the subdivision need to have cactus cleared away, trees or bushes cut back, ant beds treated, etc.

Please check your meter box and ensure it is cleaned up and not a haven for snakes and other pests.

The water meters will be read again in June, September and December.

911 INFORMATION

The Llano County 911 Coordinator has provided the following useful information for your benefit.

If you move into Blue Lake or within Blue Lake or change your telephone number, call the 911 Coordinator at (325) 247-2039 and provide the pertinent information, particularly your name, address, and new phone number. Sometimes the information obtained

through building permits or through third parties is incorrect. This is just a way of insuring that the correct 911 information about your residence is correct in the system. Also, if you have multiple telephone numbers within your home, notify the 911 Coordinator so that these numbers may be entered into the 911 system.

If you want to make sure that your 911 address is correct (recommended), call the Sheriff's Office in Llano at (325) 247-5676 and tell the dispatcher that you want to call 911 to check on the accuracy of their information. Then, ***with their approval (since sometimes they are busy with emergencies)***, dial 911 and they will intercept the call to prevent it going into the 911 emergency system.

Also, if you are a cell phone user, you should be aware that there are significant problems establishing your location if you call 911 with a cell phone in an emergency. To avoid these problems, call the Sheriff's Office directly at (325) 247-5676 to give them the emergency information. The 911 Coordinator suggests that you tape this number to your cell phone. However, calling 911 on the cell phone should work but may result in considerable delays in reaching help.

DRIVEWAY CULVERTS

The MUD Office has noted that there are several homes in Blue Lake that have culverts under the driveways that are blocked. The blocked culverts create drainage problems as runoff from the recent floods have backed up and are causing more damage to our roadways.

We ask that you inspect your driveway culverts and make every effort to keep them clear to minimize our drainage

problems. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the MUD / POA Office.

TAX COLLECTIONS

As of the print date for this newsletter, Approximately 99.45% of the 2006 property taxes have been collected. There is only one (1) outstanding tax account at this time. This is an excellent collection rate- kudos to our Tax Assessor-Collector, Betty Brooker.

PROPERTY SURVEYS

The MUD / POA Office requests that all property owners provide a copy of your current survey to this office, if you have one. The surveys are kept on file for future road improvements, variance requests, building files, etc.

The Service Application and Agreement on file for each customer in this office states in Paragraph 14: ...”the customer shall provide the District with a copy of the Customer’s property survey, clearly showing the boundaries of the property, the location of all structures on customer’s property (including the location of water meter, grinder pump and sewer valve box) and the District’s Right of Way boundaries adjoining customer’s property...”

As we do have some property surveys on file, the MUD requests that you call the MUD / POA office to see if your property already has a survey on file. The phone # for the Office is: (830) 598-5460.

TRASH DUMPSTER USE

Another reminder regarding the use of the dumpsters at the Fire Station: If you use the dumpsters to dispose of your trash, please break down any cardboard boxes that you throw away.

If the boxes are not broken down when thrown away, they take up too much space, which leaves less room for the property owners that must use the dumpsters to dispose of their trash.

Please be considerate when using the dumpsters: break down your cardboard boxes and do not use the dumpsters for prohibited items.