



GRANADA HILLS

JUST SOUTHWEST OF WEIRD

FALL 2023

HOA Board Members Escape the Heat of Summer!

The summer of 2023 has been one for the books! Like many of you, the HOA board members did what they could to stay cool. Some sought out water close to home, and others went jet setting to far away places. Here, a few glimpses of their summer escapes:



Ryan Mikulenska (President) with his family in the Czech Republic



Lisa Cmerek (Director) with her family in Cape Cod



Sara Headden (Communications) with her son in Finland



Scott Budd (Parks) with his wife in Camden, Maine



Jen Martin (Vice President) with her daughter in her backyard pool



Linda Garner (Treasurer) with her family in Cape Cod



Roy Ribelin (Director) and his daughter in Port Aransas



Mary Woodruff (Secretary) with her husband in Alaska

Have you traveled somewhere recently? We would love to hear from you and showcase you in our next neighbor spotlight. Meanwhile, let's all look forward to some eventual cooler temps and shared time together this fall.

Your Granada Hills HOA Board

Fun Times at the July 4th Celebration

The July 4th Parade and Celebration is such a special event here in Granada Hills. This year, residents kicked off the fun with an early morning fun run, and then continued with a neighborhood parade, followed by swimming and games. It was a fun time for all... both big kids and little kids. We want to give a special thanks to the Oak Hill Fire

Department for being the star of the show, and also to our lovely neighbor Kat Sherby, who brought all the hula hoop fun to the celebration!

This is a big event that requires a great deal of work and planning, but it is so worth it. If you have ideas for the 2024 celebration, please reach out to the HOA!



Granada Hills Home Owners Assoc



Granada Hills Home Owners Assoc

A family-friendly 5K fun run through Granada Hills; One of a kind decorations in the parade. Photo Credit: Paul Woodruff



**The fastest
growing sport
in America!**

What is pickleball? Pickleball is fun and can be played by all ages and skill levels. The rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn. It combines many elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. It's played on a badminton-sized court with a slightly modified tennis net, and it's played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. It can be played as doubles or singles. So grab some friends and come join this new sport right here at the park!

The Granada Hills tennis court has recently been striped for pickleball and is available to all current HOA members. Please bring your own paddles and balls. The court is available to reserve for 1.5 time slots through our reservation tool. If you need to get set up for access to the tennis court, please email our tennis coordinator at tenniscourt@granadahillshoa.org. The tennis court is open from 7:00 AM to 9:00 PM. If you are playing early or late, please be considerate of the neighbors who live close to the tennis courts and not be too loud.

Your Voice is Being Heard

Getting input from residents is important to the HOA board. It helps us know where to focus our efforts beyond the administrative requirements of our job. The radar sign on El Rey was an initiative brought on by concerned residents about the speeding. The pickleball striping on the tennis courts was completed after a resident attended a board meeting. And our Kids' Triathlon event was started by a resident who approached the board for support. Your voice matters in the work that goes on here!

Quite often we get notes from members thanking the board for volunteering their time to be on the HOA board and for taking such good care of the neighborhood. Some messages identify needs to be taken care of, or express criticism. We do appreciate any input from homeowners, good or bad. Feedback alone, however, is not enough. When a need is identified, we encourage residents to participate in finding solutions. Please let us know if you have ideas or suggestions ... or maybe you've served on the board before and have some knowledge you could share with the current board. We are always available to discuss your ideas and/or concerns, and residents are always welcome to attend our monthly board meeting on the third Monday of each month. Let's continue to work together to make our neighborhood the best it can be.

HERE'S THE DIRT ON DIRT

Gardening Tips from the Yaupon Garden Club of Austin

Okay, not dirt, which is dead, but soil which is full of living things your plants need. This article is all about **soil**: testing it, building it, and most of all, feeding its **microbiome**. Here are a few **principles** and **resources** for wherever you are in your process. Fall is coming ~ relief and a chance to recover!!



***Test your soil before changing its pH value.** It doesn't take much and is well worth the effort. Much knowledge is here to help us! These links go right to the subject at hand.

*<https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/assets/environment-natural-resources/soil/soil-testing/>

***Feed your soil's microbiome, and the plants will prosper.**

*<https://travis-tx.tamu.edu/about-2/horticulture/soils-and-composting-for-austin/>

*<https://txmg.org/resources/books>

*<https://www.wildflower.org/learn>

*Also look for the many free e-newsletters, classes, podcasts, radio shows, public TV shows and of course, the public library.

Soil is a complex combination of elements both organic and inorganic. Building healthy soil is an ongoing process. We need a balance of **clays & silts** (to hold water), **sands** (for drainage), and **compost** (for the living biology and nutrients in organic matter). Each of these elements is vital. The blend of all these is generally called **loam**. I often amend my soil for better water retention or drainage – and

always for the living micro-organisms. It's important to use compost that is still in the decaying process, (no dense sludge).



All over Austin you will find nurseries that sell healthy compost. If you make your own, use both green matter (e.g. fresh lawn clippings) and brown matter (e.g. dead leaves). Another good source for brown matter is shredded bark. **Be sure your lawn clippings do not contain weed seeds.**

Avoid reliance on “miracle” additives guaranteed to instantly “solve” problems or increase productivity. While they may work in the short term, they are not the best thing to enrich your soil for long term health. I do use “miracle” products from time to time in annual pots, but not for in-ground vegetables or perennials. One good example of an easy-to-handle soil additive is compost tea, full of living organisms. Use it right away because it does not keep. The seller will happily advise you as to how long it will be fresh and viable.

Take heart, keep the faith, stay cool and go forward with courage. I'm talking to myself here too, as we are all struggling right now!!

Contributed by Barbara Carlson, Member, Yaupon Garden Club (member of Austin Area Garden Council). Visit us on Facebook: <https://facebook.com/groups/yaupon/> and find us on <https://zilker garden.org/garden>.

Neighbor Spotlight – The Hooten Family

We are the Hootens – Samantha, Chad, Maggie & Jack. We have lived in Granada Hills for six years and were thrilled to find our dream home in this neighborhood. We love the wildlife sightings and trees, but most of all we love the community and our neighbors. They have become some of our closest friends. We love to host parties at our home and have our neighbors over for spontaneous hangouts. We just finished a major remodel, and we can't wait to start hosting again. We met on a blind date in Galveston. We have two children in middle school. We LOVE to travel and we are on a mission to see all 50 states by the time our youngest child graduates high school. So far, we have explored 25 states! This summer we traveled to New York, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. Oh, and we absolutely LOVE Halloween so you may know our house by our outrageous Halloween decorations. Say hi next time you see us around!



Glimpses of Granada Hills



A broad winged hawk on La Fauna Circle

Photo credit: Nicolle Ramia

Have a great photo of Granada Hills that you'd like to share? Submit it to sara.headden@gmail.com.

HOA Events & Membership Information

Upcoming HOA Events:

- Community Garage Sale – Saturday, October 14th
- Trunk-or-Treat in the Park – Saturday, October 28th
- Holiday Craft Fair – Saturday, December 2nd

Become a member of the HOA today and help to keep Granada Hills great! At only \$180 per year, your voluntary membership facilitates community upkeep, neighborhood advocacy, social events, and more. Learn more at www.granadahillshoa.org/membership

We are a voluntary neighborhood HOA who work to build community and make our neighborhood the best that it can be. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with projects, committees, shared spaces care, and neighborhood events. Our monthly board meetings are the third Monday of the month. If you would like to get involved, please email us at board@granadahillshoa.org or leave your correspondence in the HOA mailbox at the park.



Headden Helpers

Eva & Kaia Headden, ages 10 and 12

Need an extra set of hands? We can help with watering plants, dog walking, household tasks or childcare.

Email for more info!
Sara.headden@gmail.com

Thanks for Your Membership!

As a reminder, your dues pay for....

- PEC Electric Bill for security lights around the park so neighbors feel safer and can play basketball and tennis in the evenings
- PEC Electric Bill for the streetlights at Gallant Fox (north and south) and FM 1826, making those intersections safer
- Water bill for the shared park space
- Playscape maintenance and improvements
- Park improvements, like our new sign and the gaga pit
- Tennis court upkeep
- Lawn care, tree care, and landscaping at the park
- Clean up/haul off of parks and pool areas after a disaster from ice or storms
- Property taxes for the park
- Garbage collection
- Port-a-potty at the park
- Neighborhood safety efforts, like the radar feedback speed limit sign
- Community events, like Easter Celebration & Trunk-or-Treat
- 4th of July Parade and Picnic
- And many other things we all enjoy and benefit from

If you haven't already, please join the HOA and do your part to make Granada Hills even better! Membership forms can be found at <https://www.granadahillshoa.org/membership>.

Kid's Corner



Recipe Corner

Easy Tomato and Cucumber Salad

For the salad:

- 5 large **tomatoes**, quartered (tomatoes on the vine are best)
- 1 **English cucumber**, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 large **red onion**, sliced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh **parsley**
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh **cilantro**
- 1 pinch kosher **salt** + 1 pinch **black pepper**

For the dressing:

- 1/2 cup **olive oil**
- 1/4 cup **red wine vinegar**
- 1 teaspoon **kosher salt**
- 1 pinch freshly **ground black pepper**
- 1 **garlic clove**, minced
- 1 teaspoon **honey** or **brown sugar** (optional for low-carb, Keto, or sugar free diets)
- 1 teaspoon **dried oregano**

Directions

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients for the salad. To prepare the dressing, throw all of the dressing ingredients into a small bowl or a mason jar and whisk together vigorously, until well blended. Pour the dressing over the veggies and toss gently. Cover the bowl with plastic and let sit at room temperature until ready to serve, for 1 to 3 hours.



Submitted by Todd Headden

Remembering Taco

Taco, the beloved goat that became the unofficial mascot of Granada Hills, passed away at the beginning of July. He was well-known for standing on his "perch" overlooking his kingdom, and he was loved by many in the neighborhood. Families would bring their kiddos by to say hello and feed him treats, and countless carloads would drive by with the windows down, shouting greetings: "Hi Taco!". Owners Troy and Holly Spink are grateful for all the precious moments shared with him. Onward and upward, you old goat! We will miss you dearly!



JULY 2023

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Market Update



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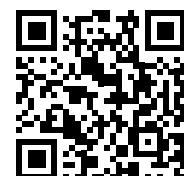
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