

ASSOCIATION NEWS

April, 2017

OPT-OUT PRUNING OF SHRUBS

The Landscape Committee, with the approval of the Board, has issued a revised, and refined policy for Owners who opt-out of shrub pruning by the landscape contractor. In summary, the revised policy states that Owners who do their own pruning may maintain plants up to the edge of the sidewalk (instead of the 6" clearance previously stated) so long as the plants do not overhang the sidewalk. **THIS MAY REQUIRE FREQUENT PRUNING.** A full statement of this revised policy is posted on the SVOA web site under Landscape Information.

LANDSCAPE CORNER *(courtesy of Doreene Carpenter, Landscape Committee)*

Your Landscape Committee is hard at work on several fronts. We are doing our best both to bring us through this challenging Winter season and to move forward into warm/dry – weather projects on your behalf.

Committee members have completed a thorough observation of pruning alongside and overhead of walkways. We found that there was very little plant overgrowth needing attention. NLS, our service provider, understands that these areas are to be maintained for safe walking.

Thirty-three large plants, mostly mugho pines, were removed months ago from the embankment along Country Club Drive. The Committee has determined species and placements for new plantings. We are in the process of sourcing the plants and pricing the project. Our goals are to choose native species which are suited in growth and habit for their locations; offer a variety of foliage; bloom and fruit at varying intervals; require much less water and pruning. Of course, they are chosen for their privacy and sound buffering characteristics as well.

Two Tracts, F2 and K3 at the NE corner of the campus, are in process of being cleaned up and redesigned. Goals are to reduce watering; use water-filtering native species; eliminate mowing; eliminate invasive weeds.

We are turning our attention to the areas under curb strip trees where mowers are encountering raised root systems. We are considering a variety of ways to treat these tree wells. We shall be inventorying, diagramming, and prioritizing these mini-sites around the campus. We shall be communicating with ARC, our Board, and Owners as we proceed. Again, our priorities will be to reduce watering, fertilizing and mowing by choosing appropriate designs and plantings.

The Native Vegetation Plot has generated much interest with a great deal of enthusiasm from visitors and observers. The Committee has endured a difficult season, being unable to get in there and sculpt properly before applying mulch. Nearly all the plantings are taking off with great vigor. We are excited to be able to start considering the next set of plantings! Gradually the plot will take on an aesthetic naturalized appearance.

LANDSCAPE CORNER – *(Continued)*

In all of this work we are grateful for the assistance of Kurt Powell and for the very good relationship we hold with Will Ward and NLS, our landscape services provider. We appreciate our working relationship with ARC and the Tree Committee, as well as with our very supportive Board. At Wednesday's Board Meeting the Committee was encouraged to consider holding a community meeting to share our work and gather input from Owners. In the meantime, please come visit our bulletin board display in the Meeting Room of the Club House.

PREPAREDNESS TIP *(courtesy of Steve Napack, Preparedness Committee)*

FEMA has started a new preparedness program called "You are the Help until Help Arrives". It recognizes that helping each other is often the difference between life and death. We plan on offering a more advanced CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Teams) course in the Fall. Contact Steve Napack (steve.napack@gmail.com) if you are interested in taking the class this fall and/or in helping on a Stoneybrook Disaster Response Team and/or on becoming a member of the Preparedness Committee. Follow the link below to information and an interactive training video. <https://community.fema.gov/until-help-arrives>

COMMUNITY GARDEN *(courtesy of Doreene Carpenter, Community Garden Committee)*

Despite the discouraging weather, the planting season is underway! It's time to sow seeds and set cold-weather starts. All gardeners who are continuing to maintain a plot must keep up with those pesky vigorous weeds. Three plots remain. Contact [RobinJeanne Parks, 541 753 4897](tel:5417534897), to select a plot if you are interested.

Bluebirds are attempting to occupy the two nest boxes! But they are mild-mannered so we are having to shoo away aggressive swallows and sparrows.

Herbs along the sidewalk are for everyone's use and culinary enjoyment. Please snip rosemary, thyme and lavender as you require for your kitchen. Mint is available in the drain channel along the north planting bed. Also, there is a bay laurel near the debris cart enclosure. It will require pruning so help yourselves to its pungent leaves.

TREES IN THE VILLAGE *(Courtesy of Logan Norris, Tree Committee)*

There has been little progress in our replacement-tree planting project. The tree replacement plan was outlined in the last issue of the Association News. The problem is conflicting advice on species and placement of trees around the back of the clubhouse and pool house. The Tree Committee will redefine the goals for the planting and seek ARC approval and notify the Board.