

A P R I L 2 0 1 1

the
Briarcreek Banter

A publication of the Briarcreek Neighborhood Association

President's Message

By Dan Orza

Briarcreek is now online! Go to www.briarcreekonline.com and check it out. This will be a wonderful new tool to better inform and communicate with our residents. Don't forget to add it to favorites or bookmarks.

We want to reach ALL of our residents, so if you do not have a computer to get email or to view the new website, call one of our board members (*phone numbers on page 2*), we want to know if you need a printed copy of the newsletter.

On a fun note, we have a new 'wild' addition to the neighborhood. We have a swan. It was rehabilitated at WILDCARE wildlife sanctuary after being shot at Lake Hefner. The swan and her best buddy (*a large white goose*) were released into our lake on March 13th. Although released on Briarcreek lake, they have made their home on Silver Lake. They can be seen gliding across Silver Lake at the east end of our addition. Many neighbors have
(continued on back page...)



Pine Wilt Disease

By Susan Brown

Everywhere you look, you see dead pine trees. Not only within Briarcreek, but across the state. According to specialists at the **OSU Extension Center**, the disease that is causing the rapid death is **pine wilt**, which is caused by infestations of the pinewood nematode.

Pine wilt is most devastating to non-native pine species such as Austrian pine, Scots pine, and Japanese black pine. The native North American pine species have better resistance.

The pinewood nematode is transmitted by sawyer beetles. The beetle, about the size of a grain of rice, bores small holes in the pine tree and feeds on young shoots. The nematodes leave the beetles and enter the trees. Beetles average 15,000 to 20,000 nematodes. Pinewood nematodes have a rapid life cycle (4-5 days when temperatures are 77° F); a fast increase in nematode populations.




Symptoms of pine wilt may start with yellowing or browning of needles. Typically, the decline and death of the tree is so rapid that needles will remain attached to the tree and often have a "drooping" appearance. The wood will be very dry and lack resin. Bending of branches on infected trees will often result in clean snapping rather
(continued on page 2...)

Mark your Calendars!

Annual Spring Cleanup:

April 30

BNA Annual Spring Cleanup Day. We need volunteers! More details in Dan's President's Message and on new Briarcreek website. 

Neighborhood Garage Sale:

May 13 & 14

Annual Briarcreek neighborhood garage sale. Read more on the Briarcreek website or contact Camille Glasshoff, 603-6275.

BNA Board & Committee Members

For any neighborhood questions, email us at info@briarcreekonline.com

President

Dan Orza
Phone: 326-1124
Email: danorza9731@gmail.com

Vice-President

Susie Brown
Phone: 728-1084
Email: susanbrown@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Jana Ross
Phone: 470-1120
Email: jr4boys@cox.net

Treasurer

Robert Ross
Phone: 470-1120
Email: jr4boys@cox.net

Newsletter

Susie Brown
Phone: 728-1084
Email: susanbrown@sbcglobal.net

Welcoming Committee

Kelli Moore
Phone: 728-2829
Email: envoyxl@sbcglobal.net

Compliance Committee

Joyce Heidelberger
Phone: 603-4349
Email: joyce.george@cox.net

Landscape Committee

VACANT (*need volunteer ...*)

Pine Wilt (*continued...*)

(*continued from Page 1...*)

than pliable bending due to the lack of resin. The death of the tree can occur as quickly as one to two months.

What can you do to control pine wilt:

- Do not plant non-native susceptible tree species.
- Avoid stress to existing trees by providing sufficient water and fertilization.
- Dead trees should be cut down, burned, chipped or buried before (prior to May 1) before the beetles that transmit the nematodes emerge. ***We are currently in a burn ban, so burning is not allowed. OSU says that chipping or burying is a sufficient alternative.**
- If wood is chipped, do not use the chips for mulch. Nematodes can attack healthy trees from infested wood chips.
- Do not move or dump the wood, as you will be transporting and spreading the nematode and beetles.

In conclusion, we have a lot of dead and infected pine trees right here in Briarcreek. They need to be cut down and disposed of immediately or the infection will spread to other healthy trees in the neighborhood. OSU extension offices have said that with the burn ban, it is acceptable to cut down the trees and have them hauled to the city landfill where it will be buried immediately. BIG TRASH (the first of each month) will also pick up cut trees and bury them in the landfill. The following arborists numbers are not an endorsement, just a starting point for price quotes.

Above All Tree Service/Removal 818-7853

English Tree Service 405-495-1982

Southern Pine Tree Service 405-996-0411

I had to remove a large infected pine tree. I received bids from \$100.00 to \$350.00.

The weather is already very warm. If you have a dead pine tree, please act quickly to get it removed and disposed of properly so you won't infect other pine trees in the neighborhood.

We need your email address! Please email info@briarcreekonline.com

Treasurer Report

By Jana and Robert Ross

Hello Neighbors,

Together we have completed great projects that protect the value of our homes by improving our entrances and perimeter. Your support has been essential - increasing our neighborhood's desirability and protecting it from decline. Your donations made this possible.

Our focus for the 2010-2011 fiscal year has been to maintain our investment while rebuilding savings. Savings are needed for future improvements as well as emergencies. The recent accident that damaged the perimeter fence cost \$4,700 to repair. Fortunately, the driver was insured. But, it is important to maintain savings for such instances.

Currently, our donations are down 10% from last year while our costs have increased 10%.

We understand these are lean times for many. We appreciate your donations and are diligent custodians of neighborhood funds. For a detailed



expense report, please visit the new briarcreek website at www.briarcreekonline.com.

A cost saving option is a digital newsletter and website (*donated services*). For this to succeed, we need everyone's email address. If you haven't received emails from BNA, then we don't have yours. You can email me at jr4boys@cox.net (subject: Briarcreek), and I will add you to our list (*your email address will not be made public*).

Have you paid your dues? Annual dues are \$50. Make checks payable to B.N.A. and mail to 6604 N.W. 94th. If you are not sure if you've paid for this year, there is a list of BNA Members, in my treasurer's report on the website (under the news tab). If your name is not listed, then you have not paid.

Together, we can maintain and improve our neighborhood just as you maintain and improve your homes curb appeal. Thank you for your commitment in time, energy and donations to make Briarcreek a great place to live.

Welcoming Committee Report

By Kelli Moore

Welcome new neighbors! If you didn't get a Welcome basket from BNA, let me know. My home number is 728-2829 and my e-mail address is envoyxl@sbcglobal.net.

Block captains, please remember to let me know about new neighbors in your area.

Briarcreek sends its condolences to the Lackey family on the loss of their loved one and to the family of Jim McGuffin, NW 94th Street, at his recent passing.

And last, wishing all residents that have a birthday in March and April a very **HaPpY BiRtHdAy!**

Compliance Committee Report

By Joyce Heidelberger

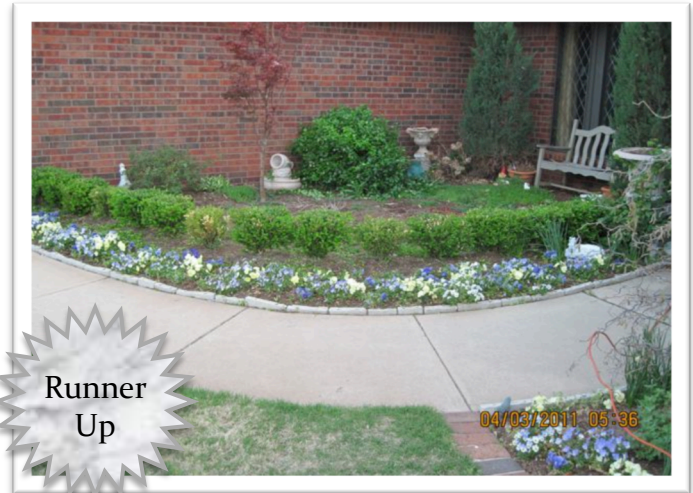
A large section of the Briarcreek perimeter fence on Britton road was damaged in an auto accident. BNA Board members responded immediately to gather vital insurance information, file the necessary claims and oversee the repairs. This exemplifies the importance of a good neighborhood association. We were able to

mobilize and get the \$4,700. in repairs taken care of. But, we barely break even each year after paying expenses. We need to be prepared if a future motorist doesn't have insurance. If you haven't paid your BNA dues, please do so. We critically need your support (*see Treasurer's Report*).

April Yard of the Month Winners



Norm & Victoria Tindall
7017 Basswood Canyon



James and Darla McDowell
10013 Rockwell Terrace

President's Message *(continued...)*

(continued from Page 1...)

commented on how much they enjoy the beautiful new 'wild' addition to the neighborhood. *(View pictures on the Briarcreek website.)*

April 30th is the Annual BNA spring cleanup. We need a crew of volunteers to trim crepe myrtles, shape hollies and do general entrance bed work. This is a fun event and a great opportunity to clean up our public areas. We were not able to schedule the LARGE dumpster this year. So, we will trim, bundle and bag the trimmings for the May 2nd big trash pick-up. If you can volunteer, please let me know or send an email to the new briarcreek email address at info@briarcreekonline.com.

If you aren't physically able to help with the manual work, we need volunteers to help with food, drinks

and orchestrating volunteers.

Spring has sprung. No more complaining about the cold. Now, it's time for wind and sun. It also means beautiful flowers, pretty yards and the Yard-of-the-Month contest. I hope you will all take part and spruce up your yard and our neighborhood. Winners receive a \$25 gift certificate from Bethany Country Store and photo recognition in our newsletter. To get more people involved, the winner each month can help me judge the next month's best yard, anyone can email me their choice for Yard -of-the-Month or if would like to judge Yard-of-the-Month please call me at 326-1124.

Downtown trolley free for one year

The Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority recently announced that beginning July 1, downtown Oklahoma City trolleys will be free to ride for one year thanks to a sponsorship by Platt College.

Visit the NEW Briarcreek website at <http://www.briarcreekonline.com>