

# HUNTINGTON TRAILS

Summer 2020 NEWSLETTER



## Huntington Trails 2019 Holiday party success, through the storm

Hi neighbors, we wanted to give a little glimpse of how a neighborhood comes together, even through a storm. This past December, we held our annual Huntington Trails holiday block party. Typically, the party takes place in our cul de sac, however, this year we had a slight glitch in our weather radar and it almost got cancelled. However, due to some very quick thinking and on how

to take cover from neighbors all around, we pulled it off with lots of food fun and cheer!

Here's a few pics commemorating the day. It's great to see how everyone took part in planning from providing tents, chairs, more tables, great food and an amazing end of year raffle and grand prize for best show of lights! We are thankful for all of you in our neighborhood and hope you are doing well as you are staying home these next few weeks. Just like now there are always great neighbors who are willing to go the extra mile to help when things are needed.

Let's look out for each other and stay safe.



## Huntington Trails Parking Regulations

Happily, Huntington Trails does not have many problems with vehicle parking on our streets. A few of our parking rules need to be recapped:

1. Be advised that car and personal transportation trucks are permitted to park on our streets.
2. No commercial trucks are permitted except while making deliveries or providing service to a home. No boats or RVs can be parked outside on the street or driveway for longer than 72 hours.
3. No parking at the ends of cul-de-sacs or adjacent to landscape islands. Service vehicles like Fire Trucks, ambulances and trash trucks can not navigate in these narrow road way locations if there are parked vehicles.
4. Vehicles are only permitted to park on one side of the street. It does not matter which side of the street a vehicle is parked. However, once a vehicle is parking on one side, all others are to be parked on the same side.

5. And the biggest complaint, vehicles parked across the sidewalk blocking clear pedestrian access. Please park vehicles in the garage, pull further up on the drive or park in the street. **Do not block sidewalks.**

**DO NOT  
BLOCK  
SIDEWALK  
ACCESS**

## Pond Update

The three ponds within Huntington Trails not only provide aesthetic value that contribute to all our property values, but also provide critical drainage that prevents our streets and properties from flooding.

**KEEP  
PONDS  
CLEAN &  
CLEAR**

Maintenance is also mandated by local government as part of a larger drainage network. We ask that everyone, especially those who have shoreline properties, to take whatever action is necessary to ensure that foreign matter does not end up in our ponds. This may require a discussion with your landscaper, gardener, or others you hire to do yard work for you. One of the worse culprits is grass cuttings, which serves as nutrients for invasive algae.

We are continually working to maintain the health of our ponds, but we need your assistance. Grass cuttings, clippings, chemicals and other accidental additives in our ponds can greatly handicap our efforts.

## Ameri-Tech Representative

Ameri-Tech is the property management company for Huntington Trails. Jenny Kidd is our new community representative. Please contact her if you have any questions or concerns:

### Jenny Kidd, LCAM

Ameri-Tech Community Management, Inc.

24701 US Hwy 19 N  
Suite 102

Clearwater, FL 33763

727-726-8000 Ext. 247

[JKidd@ameritechmail.com](mailto:JKidd@ameritechmail.com)

## 2020 Board of Directors

Helen Renshaw, President

Tom Tracy, Vice President

Kathy Wilson, Treasurer

Joe Incorvia, Secretary

John Racine, Director

**HOA Board meetings are generally held the 4th Wednesday of the month.**

**Due to social distancing, if you would like to attend, please see our [website](#) for Zoom information.**

Hello Fellow Residents,

It's been a while since the **architectural committee** had a posting in the newsletter. I'd like to touch base with you all on a few items. It's very easy, as a homeowner, to feel that our personal taste is shared by others. That's not always the case and why it's a huge benefit, to any community, to have a committee like ours.

Our purpose is to ensure the requests are in line with the aesthetic we want to project in our community. We want to ensure that the choices you'd like to make do not devalue someone else's property. Let me share a few dos and don'ts when it comes to requests:

[Click here for HOA Approval forms](#)

### Do:

- Submit for ANYTHING done to your property that is visible by someone else – in front of you, next to you, or behind you. There are 3 exceptions to that (see below).
- Include pictures with your submission. This even applies to paint colors. URLs and color names may not be valid in the future.
- Submit for solar panels. Even though these cannot legally be denied if the location is functionally necessary, it's best to have the approval on file, for your benefit.
- Think about your neighbors. They must look at whatever you do, every day.

### Do Not:

- Submit for "live" landscaping (i.e. plants or trees).
- Submit for something you already have an approval for, i.e. paint color
- Submit for pond retaining walls. See our website for guidelines on what is acceptable.
- Start work before getting an approval
- Submit a request for work starting in 2 days. We are granted 2 weeks to decide.
- Finalize a paint color until you've painted a section of your home. Just because purple looks nice on a cottage does not mean it will look good on your house. It won't, so please don't.

-Kim, Architectural Committee Chair

Join the Huntington Trails Social Network - [NextDoor!](#)



69% of our Huntington Trail neighbors are on Nextdoor - a social network for Huntington Trails and Safety Harbor. [click](#) to join. A great place to get recommendations and share local information.



## ***Criminal Activity is Everywhere.***

Written by Huntington Trails resident, board member, and former police officer, John Racine



**Stay  
Safe**

Do you realize that crimes happen in our community? This may sound like a dumb question, but if you don't think so, then you are mistaken. From the time this article was written (April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020) and going back one year, there have been 12 crimes that happened within a half mile radius of our community...some more serious than others. And while you may or may not think that is a lot, if you are the victim, then it is a huge deal. You begin to wonder, "What kind a neighborhood do I live in?"

Well, I'm here to tell you that you live in a great neighborhood. Crime is low, but it does happen occasionally. But you can help!

With an influx of wireless home surveillance systems, such as Ring and Nest and so on, you can help monitor activity, at a reasonably affordable cost, if a crime or other strange activity is occurring. And if you have it, the police will absolutely ask you for the footage which will greatly aid in the investigation. Not to mention that you will get a notification if someone comes into the perimeter of your camera, where you, of course, can set the range and sensitivity of the camera's view so that it doesn't bug you constantly.

I'm not asking you to buy one of these systems if you don't have one or don't want one. I'm just presenting options for you to help monitor our great neighborhood.

As I've mentioned in the past, and it always warrants a reminder, that your eyes and especially your instinct are the best security system you can ask for.... BUT ONLY IF you trust it (your instinct that is).

In my time as a police officer, I've said this countless times, "Trust your instinct! If you see something and your instinct tells you that it is suspicious, then it probably is." Call the police. Don't think for a second that you are bothering them or that it's probably nothing. Call the police and let them decide for you. The police would rather stop a crime before it happens, then respond to a crime after the fact. Plus it's much less paperwork.

So if you see a person that you don't recognize and for some reason, makes you look twice and **tingles your spidey senses**, then call the police. If you see a car driving slowly through our streets, with the people inside looking around, and your **eyebrows furrow**. Call the police. Try to take a second look and remember what the car looks like (and get a tag number if possible) or remember what the person walking around was wearing, along with their approximate height and weight.

These things can help in an investigation, should one be needed.

***REMEMBER! Always trust your instinct. Stay Safe and Healthy.***

## **Pinellas County & Florida COVID 19 Resources**

**Here are a few resources we have found helpful during this time.**

**Please Stay Safe and Be Well.**

Florida Information (including data by county): <https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

Pinellas County: <http://www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/covid19/default.htm>