

Tonkawa Talk

TONKAWA SPRINGS NEWSLETTER FALL/WINTER 2023



New Entrance Monument Proposed For 2024

Four years ago, the TSHOA Board adopted a new logo that sought to capture both the heritage of the Native Americans for whom the neighborhood was named and a vibrant visual presence that reflected the timeless beauty of its natural features, wildlife, and water. This logo, affectionately known as the “splash”, has been in use since 2019 in a variety of media applications, and has over time become part of the fabric of our community today.

When the logo was first introduced, a concept showing it’s application on our entrance monument at Tonkawa Trail and Sam Bass was also shown, and the Board authorized a study to explore further design options. It was widely acknowledged then (and now) that the existing sign had fallen into disrepair, the design itself was dated and hard to read, and reflected poorly against neighboring entrances. Now, after confirming with the County that the current road work would not interfere with plans for new signage, the Board is excited to share that study, and present a plan for funding and implementation of new entrance signage in 2024. **To that end, we solicit your feedback on which concept you prefer (including keeping the current sign), and invite your participation in a fundraising campaign to complete the project.** Go to <https://forms.gle/BzWfwCa1J5nosJXj6> or scan this QR code to participate in the survey.



The Plan.

Three different concepts are shown using the existing wall as a foundation for the new sign, and all Options include the following:

- The wall will be power-washed and repaired where necessary. Stone work will be coated with a slurried mortar mixture known as a German Schmere.
- All new landscaping across approx 250 sq ft, with boulders, rock, Native Xeriscaping, succulents and grasses, depending on the design
- 3 x 4’ powder-coated “feather/splash” logo laser-cut from 3/16” powder-coated steel, mounted on 12 1-inch risers
- Front LED lighting. (Electricity and water to area exists) May also include a 4 x 2’ LED message board for events, announcements.

How will this be funded? In a 2022 survey, over 65 % of respondents said they were in favor of a new sign and would support its funding. Therefore, since funding does not exist in the current TSHOA budget, we will be asking residents who are able to give generously to this project, and others to contribute in other ways if possible. Tentative budgets are listed for each Option, along with descriptions that differentiate each. A special fund will be set up to collect and disperse funds, and will be managed by the TSHOA and/or Goodwin. No funds will be used from the annual budget.

Note: All design, concept development, and project management of this campaign has been donated and/or performed by residents and members of the TSHOA. A smaller compatible sign will be erected at the Arrowhead/Sam Bass entrance after all the roadwork there is completed. That cost is not included in this proposal.



Option 1: “Alamo” \$22,000. Mount 20” stand-off metal letters and “splash” logo on monument wall.



Option 2: “Slab” \$27,000. Cut “Alamo” off wall. Re-cap. Set large stone slab in front of wall, mount splash logo to it. Mount 24” dimensional letters on concrete base in front.



Option 3: “Planter/Water Feature” \$30/37,500. Build 40” tall curved, concrete retaining wall to be a planter or water feature with fountains. Mount 20” metal letters on wall.

Congratulations New 2024 Board Members!

A big thank-you to all the candidates who ran for an office this year! The neighborhood appreciates your volunteerism as you represent our commUNITY.

President: John Kurkjian

Vice-Pres: Tom Trefny

Secretary: Sue Yendell

Treasurer: Krista Endsley

Director: Dewey Helmcamp

Director: Melinda Hester

Director: Kelly Hobby

Director: Larry Jolly

Director: Peg Saienga

Director: Jan Vargas

Director: Julie Zhou

Interested in Meeting New Neighbors and Helping Our CommUNITY?

You don't have to serve on the Board!

- Join The Social Committee and help out with various events through-out the year
- Place Meeting and Event Signs at the entries of the neighborhood prior to events
- Award "Yard of the Month" Sign to a beautiful yard on the first of each month
- Post New Announcements, Events, Meetings and General Information to the TSHOA Website and Town Sq

If you have an interest in any of these opportunities, please email Melinda Hester at melhester@austin.rr.com or margaretjolly@att.net. We need you!

Tonkawa: The Movie

Interested in learning about the Tonkawa Tribe? There is a movie in the making, a documentary that describes how in the midst of numerous challenges and two trails of tears, the Tonkawa Tribe "They All Stay together". Perhaps we can learn from the Tonkawa Tribe?

<https://www.tonkawathemovie.com/>



Letter from the President

Adios 2023. It's been a long year—or two—which is kind of amazing given that time seems to dissolve the older I get. It has been a privilege to serve as your TSHOA President during this time. I am humbled by the opportunity to know and work with a group of people who demonstrated time and again the meaning of grace and dignity, especially in times where those qualities were sorely lacking in others. Sometimes in myself. These folks are more than neighbors...they are friends. Together we actually managed to accomplish a few things. We inherited a Deed Restrictions campaign that was at least 1.5 (more like 40) years in the making, and through it learned much about what works and what doesn't. I hope that the ground we plowed in that effort allows future boards to address the issues we posed with clarity and purpose. We introduced a fine policy to help enforce the restrictions we do have without resorting to stronger means. We saw the tennis courts re-surfaced and striped for both tennis and Pickleball, and enjoyed by more people. We helped launch a community-wide effort to rejuvenate our beautiful ponds and repair our dam. We re-introduced a newsletter, published a directory, built up our web site, worked hard on improving communication, expanded and refined our brand, and set the stage for an exciting new entrance monument in the coming year. Mostly, I think we proved that it really is a good and noble thing to serve one's community, and well worth the effort. Thank you all, and Merry Christmas! — Larry Jolly

Tonkawa Talk: UPDATES

Social Committee

The Social Committee has been busy this year: Several **Flamingo Fridays, Pickle Ball Clinics, Easter Egg Hunt, Annual Barbecue, and Halloween in the Park**. Join us for our **Annual Cookie Exchange, Sunday 12/17 at 2 pm at the Commons**, and look for the **Holiday Luminaries on Christmas Eve!** Thank-you to Margaret Jolly for her hard work coordinating these fun events. We are always looking for new ideas and neighbors to help out. Contact Margaret if interested at 512-496-2281 or margaretjolly@att.net.

Holiday Lights Contest

We will hold our Annual Holiday Lights Contest again this year! Judging will take place the evening of December 21st, so make your plans and have a wonderful time decorating Tonkawa Springs. The categories for an award are Best Themed, Best Traditional, and Best Griswold. Award signs will be placed in yards by the Social Committee. A big THANK-YOU to the crew who faithfully lights up our neighborhood entrance every year!

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

This dedicated and compassionate group of ladies have visited and provided meals, cards and plants to over 10 families in our neighborhood this year who have experienced either a crisis or life challenge. Interested in helping your neighbors? Contact Kelly Hobby at 512-733-7307 or khobby@austin.rr.com.

2023/2024 Directory

The new neighborhood Directory for 2023-24 was printed and distributed to all who requested one. An electronic version of the Directory will be sent to those who have requested this format in December. Thank-you to Ann Straseke, Janet Pool, Larry Jolly, and Melinda Hester for their work in collecting, verifying, and formatting our beautiful new directory. **A special thank-you to Phil Ryals for the cover photo and map!**

Friends Of The Pond

The Pond Remediation Program has so far been a huge success! Beginning in August and through September of this year we completed a massive shoreline clean up effort across all four ponds on the Beaver Creek system. And recently, Aquatic Features Inc finished installing four submersible aerators on Ponds 4 & 5, and four additional surface aerators on Ponds 3 and 6. Aquatic will be back out in the spring of '24 to begin algae-cide, herbicide and phophate treatments when the alga is in its growing stage. We are so grateful for the participation of the many pond owners (and even a few landlubbers!) who pitched in to help reverse the decades of decline and neglect to our neighborhood aquatic treasure, and look forward to continuing these efforts in the future!

HOA Pond and Dam Remediation

On September 18, the TSHOA held a special meeting to discuss and vote on two measures. One was to approve funding for the HOA's share of the Pond Remediation work performed by Friends Of The Pond for \$2,000. The second measure was to approve funding of \$17,000 for repair and remediation of the spillway on the HOA Commons property, to be performed by Remediators LLC. Both measures passed by approximately a 2/3 majority, with around 170 people voting. The work on the dam spillway was completed before the rains, and the pond remediation continues!

Financials

Revenue (YTD 2023): \$25,499.87 (thru 31 October)

Expenses (YTD 2023): \$40,336.91 (thru 31 October)

Board-approved expenditures (non-budgeted; included in YTD expenses): \$1,325

Approved reserves expenditures (included in YTD expenses): \$19,000

Reserves balance (thru 31 October): \$17,591.04

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TONKAWA SPRINGS NEWSLETTER

Melinda Hester: Editor

Larry Jolly: Design/Contributor

Margaret Jolly: Assistant

Tonkawa Springs HOA 2023 Board Members

President:	Larry Jolly
Vice-President:	Melinda Hester
Secretary:	Tom Trefny
Treasurer:	John Kurkjian
Director:	Frank DiGesualdo
Director:	Nate Endsley
Director:	Sarah Grantham
Director:	Kelly Hobby
Director:	Janet Pool
Director:	Peg Saienga
Director:	Ann Straseske