

ROLLING CREEK RANCH

Board Dashboard

November 2023

Accomplishments

- **Board officers elected**
- **Identified a new service provider for cleaning the pavilion**
- **Added sign on Maverick Court**
- **Added new section to monthly Dashboard called “The Green Thumb”. Many thanks to Laura Paulsen for her willingness to develop monthly gardening tips for our RCR neighborhood.**

Board Officers for 2023:

President Tony Austin
Vice President Derrick Boyd
Treasurer Vince Blankenship
Secretary Dwayne Adkins
Member at Large Oscar Iturralde

Work in Progress

- **Reviewing vendor bids for pond maintenance**
- **Working to identify solutions for wild hog control**
- **Updates to By-laws and CCRs under review**
- **Traffic Calming Committee work ongoing**
- **Working with the property management company to establish quarterly communications meetings for 2024**

Neighbor Helping Neighbor

Beginning in November, Luly Blankenship has agreed to spearhead a new section in the Dashboard called “**Neighbor Helping Neighbor**”. The purpose of this section is to highlight on a monthly basis a significant example of an RCR neighbor helping someone else within the neighborhood. Please take the time to recognize that friend or special someone who has helped you. Ground-rules for implementing this will likely evolve over time but the initial ground-rules are:

- All write-ups will be considered.
- Please limit the size of the write-up to 300 words or less.
- Submit your nomination to Luly Blankenship at lulyb80@gmail.com
- Deadline for submitting nominations is the 20th of each month.
- Any nomination received after the 20th will be considered for the following month.
- Luly will review the submitted nominations and down-select to three candidates.
- The Board will review the three candidate write-ups and vote on a selected candidate.
- Publication of the nomination will occur in the next month edition of the Dashboard. As an example, nominations received in November will be published in the December edition of the Dashboard

So, take advantage of this new opportunity to highlight goodness and friendship in our neighborhood. We anxiously await your nomination submissions.



THE GREEN THUMB

by Laura Paulsen

Take a walk or a drive up or down Martin and you will be inspired when you see Stacey and Andy Klein's spectacular roses! If these gorgeous pink blossoms have you yearning for a little paradise in your yard....well Friends you're in luck...Now is the perfect time to prepare!!!!

First — Site selection is critical:

- 1) at least 6 hours of sunlight per day
- 2) an east-facing site if possible as the morning sun will dry foliage quickly which reduces pest problems
- 3) a site that receives gentle breezes, providing air circulation to reduce insect and disease pressure.

Create a raised bed of well drained, highly organic soil, at least 10 inches tall. Edge the bed with brick or stone or timbers or simply crested towards the middle.

Preparing Soil

Dig up the soil in the proposed area with a shovel and go at least 18 inches deep. Leave the big clods of dirt for a few days, letting them naturally break up and fall apart as much as they will. Usually, after about a week, you can move on to Add soil amendments (Goal is half amendments to half existing soil): add compost, organic fertilizer, shredded bark, fallen leaves and expanded shale to the new area by sprinkling over the top. Once all of the amendments have been added, use a garden fork to work the amendments into the soil well. Go back and forth and side to side. When the soil has been amended well, you will be able to see the difference in the soil texture and feel it. Water the area well and let sit again for about a week. Stir the soil up lightly after that time and smooth out with a hard toothed rake, or if you have some fallen leaves to get rid of, dump some of those on this new rose bed area and work them in with the garden fork. Water the area lightly and let sit for a few days to a week.

After a week, place some landscape fabric that allows good air flow through it over the top of the entire area and pin it down, so as not to be displaced by the winds. This fabric helps keep weed seeds and such from blowing into the new area and planting themselves there.

The new rose bed area can now sit there and "activate" over the winter. If it is a dry winter, be sure to water the area once in a while to keep the soil moisture going. This helps all the amendments and soil keep working to become a truly awesome "soil home" for those new rose bushes next year.

Things to do in spring before planting:

Carefully remove cover and re-work the soil with a garden fork to loosen up nicely.

Sprinkle just enough alfalfa meal over the top of the soil to make a light green coloring or tone to soil. There are a lot of great nutrients in alfalfa meal that are great soil builders, as well as for the plant's nutrition. The same is true of kelp meal, which can be added at this time as well. Water the area lightly and let sit again until actual planting begins.

If you've prepared your soil well, you will be able to dig a hole for your new rose with your hands (although shovel preferred).

Rose selection dreams to follow thru the winter months. Get ready to dream together! Happy Gardening Friends!

“For everything there is a season and time for every purpose under Heaven... a time to plant and a time to pluck...a time for garden living.”

