## **HOA Community Benefits**

By Jolynn Young, Neighborhood News Staff Writer

Homeowners Associations (HOAs) are created to uphold neighborhood standards and are made up of people in the community. A primary benefit of belonging to an HOA is the upkeep of property values. An individual cannot effectively solicit neighbors to take care of their property and often depend on HOA leadership to address concerns. Owning a home is one of the biggest investments most of us will ever make and investments need upkeep and improvements over time. HOAs are established to enforce rules and regulations for improving and maintaining neighborhoods to sustain community property values.

HOAs manage many more community issues. Significant areas of concerns are neighborhood parks and amenities, pets, crime, and vehicle parking. Neighborhood HOAs differ in the complexity and regulations of enforcing restrictions and need community involvement to communicate problems and disputes to the HOA Board for discussion. HOAs develop solutions to resolve and settle disagreements with feedback from the community and then set standards and enforce regulations.

HOAs need members to volunteer, support, and help find effective ways of solving community problems. Joining an HOA Board and attending meetings are ways residents can get involved, meet neighbors, and find solutions that benefit everyone on common issues.

During the COVID pandemic, HOAs have adapted new ways to engage members. This past year many activities have been cancelled or reinvented. Virtual meetings have replaced town hall meetings as HOAs combine Zoom, social media, and newsletters to communicate and keep members informed. Texting and emailing are also good tools to stay in touch with your HOA Board and its members.

As society continues to navigate through the pandemic, HOAs are a great way for neighbors to communicate ideas and opinions for improvement and to dissolve disagreements and differences that may arise. It is beneficial for residents to volunteer in HOAs and have input in budgeting, voting for Board members, and fixing problems in the community. For more information or to register a concern, contact an HOA Board member or visit your HOA portal online. More benefits of living in a community with an HOA can be found at this website <a href="https://www.moving.com/tips/why-you-should-get-involved-in-your-hoa/">https://www.moving.com/tips/why-you-should-get-involved-in-your-hoa/</a>