



THE VILLAGES OF *Compass* NORTH POINTE

ISSUE 1, VOLUME 5

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGES OF NORTH POINTE HOA

JUNE 2010

COMPASS CORNER

(aka "All Things MUD")
by Paul Hicks

Neighbors, well we come together again for another thrilling adventure in all things "NorthPointe". I'm afraid this month's entry is a little more serious than in the past as we all have financial issues we are dealing with in this recession. To wit, I recently received in inquiry on our high MUD tax rate and our lack of exemptions on same. Since yours truly is the lone director on MUD 281, I will be taking this up with the board at the next few MUD meetings (the first Monday of the Month and yes, you are invited) as it is incumbent on us to ensure that we meet our MUD obligations but are as fair as we can be about same. Yes, it is true that our MUD taxes as well as NorthPointe West's are the highest in the area and the reasons for this are twofold. First, we are still selling bonds to complete the construction of our respective neighborhoods and second, we have extensive debt obligations on those bonds already sold to finance infrastructure already completed. It is my fervent desire to get our tax rate lowered as fast and as far as possible but we do run some risks in doing so. First, as many of you are seeing your appraised values drop, the MUD receipts decline as well but the debt obligations remain the same. If we are to keep the current tax rate at \$1.10 we must carefully manage any reserves to ensure we are covered. Any exemptions on our MUD taxes for "over 65", "disability" et al must be balanced with any possible increase in the tax rate should we fall short. Please be aware that at present we are not in any danger of failing to meet these obligations and the powers that be have declared our MUD district healthy. Also note, it is our intention to NEVER put ourselves in a position where we would need to increase the tax rate. It has been at \$1.10 since forever and there it will remain as long as necessary till we can get some bonds paid off and we can start to lower it. The board does understand that other costs have risen, to wit, the water bills courtesy of the new surface supply mandated by the state. For those on fixed incomes, this is onerous and we would like to assist by taking a serious look at some of these exemptions. I would like any input you may have on this issue to take to the board since I know it's very difficult for many of you to attend the meetings. Please forward same to paul@paulhicksrealtor.com. There, that wasn't so bad was it? I'll reward your diligence in getting through the above with the following courtesy of www.worst-jokes.com.

News Flash! A number of wigs have been stolen from local shop...police are combing the area!

Till next time...God Bless, Paul.

NEIGHBORHOOD E-MAIL GROUP

As a reminder, we'd like to get everyone in the neighborhood on the Villages of NorthPointe Yahoo Group so we can quickly communicate to you when necessary. We currently have ~350 neighbors on the group. We are using the Yahoo Group to communicate information as needed concerning issues, problems, requests and events that affect our neighborhood. We have a VNP Facebook page set up for casual chit-chat, as this Yahoo Group is not intended for such. You can be set up to receive individual e-mails, daily digests, or no e-mail with access only to view when you choose.

You must be a Villages of NorthPointe resident to be in the group. Please contact Debbie Parker at dparker39@att.net, your Block Captain, or make a request through the Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthpointeNeighborhood>.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

To submit newsletter articles, event information and for general information, please contact Pam Ferguson at 713-724-6978 or at pamelaferg@comcast.net. Ideas are welcome!

The next newsletter deadline for submission to the editor is June 5th for the July newsletter.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Chaparral Management Company (*association issues*) 281-537-0957
Waste Management (*garbage – paid through MUD #281*)..... 281-376-8802
..... 281-376-8802
Centerpoint Energy (*street lights – get 6 digit # off lamp post*)..... 713-207-2222
..... 713-207-2222
Tomball Post Office..... 281-516-0513
Harris County MUD #281 (water and recycling)..... 281-376-8802
Harris County Constable Precinct #4..... 281-376-3472
Electric Company Choices 866-797-4839
..... www.powertochoose.org

SCHOOLS

Tomball Independent School District..... www.tomballisd.net
Canyon Pointe Elementary 281-357-3122
Willow Creek Elementary 281-357-3080
NorthPointe Intermediate..... 281-357-3020
Willow Wood Junior High..... 281-357-3030
Tomball High School..... 281-357-3220

TAX ENTITIES:

Tomball ISD Tax Office..... 281-357-3100
www.tomballisd.net and follow the link to the Tax Office
MUD #281 & NorthPointe WCID 713-462-8906
..... www.wheelerassoc.com
Harris County Appraisal District 713-957-7800
..... www.hcad.org

MANAGEMENT

Crest Management (*NorthPointe Boulevard Landscape Issues*)
Please direct all questions, comments, and concerns about the
landscape along NorthPointe Blvd. to:

CREST MANAGEMENT
P.O. Box 219320
17171 Park Row, Suite 310
Houston, TX 77084
P: 281. 579-0761 , F: 281.579.7062
Email: bettie@crest-management.com

WEBSITE

www.villagesofnorthpointecai.com

Contact Brian at bforneer@mail.com to request information
postings on the website.

NEWSLETTER INFO

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WOMEN'S GROUP INFO

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING – Meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of each month at the clubhouse, with changes in this schedule for holiday or school events. Please watch the neighborhood sign for the current monthly schedule. To be included in the newsgroup emails, please let Rhonda know at rhondakay2003@netzero.net and she can add you.

Book Club – Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in rotating homes. Please contact Karen at 281-516-2395 or karengo@sbcglobal.net for more details. The June book selection is "Belong to Me" by Maria de los Santos. The meeting will be at Flora's house, 18707 Condrey Court, on Thursday, June 17th at 7 p.m. New members are always welcome and there's no need to read the book first if you don't have the time!

BUNCO – We have 2 regular groups.

Monday Bunco night – Meets each second Monday of the month. Please contact Lorie Moore at 281-255-4380 or email her at cinderlorie@hotmail.com for more information or to be placed on the sub list. Subs are always needed!

Thursday Bunco night – Meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. This group has recently gained some new members but always welcomes new visitors, members, and needs substitutes. For more information please contact Robyn Clark at 281-635-4926 or at robyn6020@yahoo.com.

If you would like to get a new subgroup started, such as a new Moms & Tots Playgroup, Garden Club, etc., please send an email out on the Women's Yahoo group, come to a Women's Club meeting, or

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 4th Annual Cookout and Bike Parade – details are unavailable at press time. No one has taken the lead on coordinating this event and it's a real possibility that the event may be cancelled. The Women's group needs more women in the community involved who can be planners and volunteers. These events are for the children and families of the entire community!

Come to our June 21st meeting to offer suggestions and help plan the event, or contact Robyn at robyn6020@yahoo.com or Rhonda at rhondakay2003@netzero.net to volunteer.

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HURRICANE OR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS



Summer is here, and with it the threat of tropical storm or hurricane activity. Houston's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), working in conjunction with all surrounding communities, has prepared an emergency evacuation plan in the event of any man-made or natural disaster. Since any evacuation plan from Houston will affect us greatly, it is important to know the plan before it may become necessary. Many of us remember the disaster of the Hurricane Rita evacuation in 2006, as well as

Hurricane Ike's devastation in 2008, with the resulting multi-day and week-long power outages!

The Houston OEM maintains an excellent website which gives all the information necessary to keep safe before or during any disaster. Their website has a downloadable Hurricane Preparedness Guide, which includes checklists to prepare for any disaster, including tornadoes, floods, and biological threats. There are also links to many other agencies, including the American Red Cross. Please visit Houston's website at www.houstonoem.net and Harris County's OEM website at www.hcoem.org for the evacuation contraflow route map and other important information.

NATIONAL LEMONADE DAY



The Jones family celebrated National Lemonade Day on Sunday, May 2nd by having their very own lemonade stand near their home in the Villages. Lemonade Day is a nationwide educational

event designed to teach kids the skills they need to be successful in the future. Youth learn to set goals, develop a business plan, establish a budget, seek investors, provide customer service, and give back to the community. The Jones girls' efforts were outstanding! All you young entrepreneurs save the date on May 1st 2011 for next year's event!



chalk art
from
the heart



Participate this June 12th - 20th in *Chalk Art from the Heart* and help us promote water safety. Drowning is Preventable!

Check out our website for details, contest rules and PRIZES!

WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG




COLIN'S HOPE

THE COMPASS

CELEBRATE NATIONAL FLAG DAY – JUNE 14TH!



Today, millions of Americans observe Flag Day on June 14th by waving “Old Glory” outside their homes and businesses. Veteran's groups and sometimes whole communities also arrange civic functions and special ceremonies in honor of Flag Day.

As the legend goes, it was George Washington and two other members of the Continental Congress who asked Betsy Ross to sew the first American flag sometime in the late

spring of 1776. She completed the first flag with thirteen stars arranged in a circle.

A year later, in 1777, the Continental Congress officially adopted the design for the national flag, and henceforward the Stars and Stripes symbolized the U.S. around the world.

The idea of an annual day specifically celebrating the Flag is believed to have first originated in 1885. A Wisconsin schoolteacher, arranged for his students to observe June 14 (the 108th anniversary of the

official adoption of The Stars and Stripes) as 'Flag Birthday'. From that day on Bernard J. Cigrand dedicated himself to inspire not only his students but also all Americans in the real meaning and majesty of our flag. His idea spread throughout the country and other states adopted similar resolutions and celebrations.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day was officially established by the Proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30th, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated in various communities for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3rd, 1949, that President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day.

For more information and ideas for celebrating, you can visit the following website at <http://www.nationalflagday.com>.

On a personal note, I can never forget Flag Day as it's my wedding anniversary. My husband usually makes a comment each year, “oh, it's Flag Day next week, must be our anniversary.” Whatever works for helping him remember! ~pf

“Stars and Stripes” Flag Facts!

- Never let your flag touch the ground, never...period.
- The flag should not be flown at night without a light on it.

(Continued on Page 5)



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"COLIN'S HOPE" *Prevent Childhood Drowning*

With summer here and the neighborhood pool open, water safety awareness should be a top issue. You may be shocked to learn that drowning is the number one cause of death for children under the age of 4! The story of Colin Holst is too often similar to other sad, but true stories. He was born on September 2, 2003 in Austin, Texas. The year that Colin turned 4, his swimming began to improve and he very proudly got his medal on the last day of his swimming lessons. The very next day, Colin went with his family and some friends to a big pool that he'd never been to before. He was having a ball playing in the fountains and sprinklers with his friends, all while under the watchful eyes of several adults in his group and a number of lifeguards. In the shallow water, Colin demonstrated his improved swimming skills to his mother, who encouraged and applauded him for doing so well. The kids in his group moved around the pool together in a clump, playing and splashing and ducking in and out of the water. And then, in an instant, Colin wasn't with them. Time stood still as their eyes swept the pool looking for him, and then, only moments later, he was pulled from the shallow water unconscious and not breathing. Efforts to revive him at the pool were unsuccessful, and Colin died at the hospital the next day, having never opened his eyes again after his swim.

Life changed forever that day for Colin's family and friends. Fueled by their desire to prevent such a tragedy from happening time and time again to other children, they founded

Flag Day -

(Continued from Page 4)

- When your flag is old and has seen better days, it's time to retire it. Old flags should be burned or buried. Please do not throw it in the trash.
- There is a very special ceremony for retiring a flag by burning it. Your local Boy Scout group or VFW knows the proper ceremony and performs it on a regular basis. If you have an old flag, give it to them. And, attend the ceremony.
- There have been twenty-seven official versions of the flag so far; stars have been added to it as states have entered the Union. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.
- Did you Know? If you like to study flags, then you are a Vexillologist!

(Continued on Page 7)

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LAKWOOD GROVE MARKET REPORT*

	#	Price	Price/SF	Days on Market
Active Listings:	16	\$243,256	\$76.44	118
Pending Listings:	3	\$238,233	\$70.16	153
Sold Since 12/1/09:	4	\$189,916	\$66.86	314

*Average Data Used, Source: Houston Assoc. of Realtor MLS (March 6, 2010)

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THE COMPASS

A WHOLE NEW WAY TOO LIVE

1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Almost 2000 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year. Team Tiara is a non-profit foundation dedicated to raising money to fund research and education for this devastating disease as well as outreach services to those affected by it. Team Tiara started 5 years ago walking in the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer 3-Day. Each member has raised \$2300.00 every year to walk 60 miles in three days, sleep in pink tents and shower in converted semi-trucks. This group of men and women are now at a turning point and are raising money to provide real-time assistance to those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. One way they will be able to do this is to provide mammograms for those without health insurance so they do not have to wait what could be months to get their lump checked at the free clinics. This could mean the difference between a Stage 1 diagnosis and a Stage 4 diagnosis. They will also be able to fund expenses such as babysitting for young children during doctor's appointments and treatments, travel accommodations or any needs these families have.

Team Tiara has been featured on Channel 2 News and will be featured in many other publications throughout the year recruiting new members, participating in many fundraisers that will range from car washes, Southern Living Parties, Cookbook and Calendar Sales to their big event in October – Team Tiara Gala: A Whole New Way Too Live!

Follow them on their journey by going to www.teamtiara.net or you can join them on their journey and be a part of this new way to live.

The Village Gazette Stork Report



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THE COMPASS

Colin's Hope- (Continued from Page 5)

Colin's Hope to promote water safety in their community and to educate children, parents and lifeguards on drowning prevention.

The Facts

- In 2005, there were 3,582 fatal unintentional drownings in the United States, averaging ten deaths per day.
- In 2005, of all children 1 to 4 years old who died, almost 30% died from drowning. Fatal drowning remains the second-leading cause of unintentional injury-related death for children ages 1 to 14 years.
- For every child who dies from drowning, another four received emergency department care for nonfatal submersion injuries.
- 19% of drowning deaths involving children occur in public pools with certified lifeguards present.

The Mission

Colin's Hope is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that creates and supports programs that aid in preventing children from drowning. Despite numerous sources for water safety, the number of children who drown per year is staggering. Colin's Hope of saving children from drowning is being achieved through increased water safety awareness and improved standards throughout the community. To see volunteer opportunities or to get further information, please visit www.colinshope.org.

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	Active	Pending	Sold last 6 months
# of Listings	28	14	29
Price Range	\$129,900 - \$319,000	\$116,900 - \$274,000	\$135,000 - \$209,000
Avg. Price	\$198,411	\$193,000	\$208,470
Avg. PSF	77.9	74.33	75.95
Avg. DOM	79	20	84
High PSF	101.95	117.88	113.45
Low PSF	61.45	41.02	58.35

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