



# Savannah Times

Official Newsletter for the  
Residents of Lakes of Savannah  
Volume 1, Issue 5  
August 2010

## Developer's Corner

by Lisa Zapalac, Marketing Director – Lakes of Savannah,  
Friendswood Development Company

Summer brings exciting news to Lakes of Savannah, with the addition of new builders and sections. Plantation Homes is the newest builder to join Lakes of Savannah and has a new sales office that is open daily in Savannah Meadows. A new model is planned for the community and will open in late summer or early fall. This well-known award winning Texas builder based in Houston is known for its impressive array of innovative designs, energy efficiency and eco-friendly homes and commitment to outstanding customer service, quality and the community.

Plantation Homes is offering homes priced from the \$140,000s to the \$180,000s. A variety of one- and two-story plans will also be available, ranging in size from 1,421 to more than 2,400 square feet. Plantation Homes is a division of McGuyer Homebuilders, Inc. and MHI Partnership, Ltd. MHI builds thousands of homes annually and is ranking among the nation's top 30 home building companies.

Gallery Custom Homes, a division of First Texas Homes, will also join Lakes of Savannah and offer luxury designs in The Landing and The Cove. Plantation Homes and Gallery Custom Homes join Westin Homes, Lennar and J. Patrick Homes. Each of the new builders will have a decorated model open daily in the community by late summer or early fall.

Open House weekends, which began in April, are continuing throughout the summer. Scheduled for the second weekend of each month, Open House weekends will feature new homes open for viewing on Saturdays and Sundays, and we will include information on resale homes that may be open on Sundays. Resale open house

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

by Otavia Rhone, Executive Committee Chair

I would like to thank everyone that attended our Annual Community meeting on July 6. For those of you that missed it, we will be having one more meeting this year in November. You will be able to access the documents that were handed out at the meeting on the community website (<http://www.lakesofsavannahsouthca.org>). Our guest speakers were Constable Frank Kanter and Strickscapes our landscaping vendor.

The crime in the community has been relatively low so far this summer, and we would all like to keep it that way, so again I encourage you to be familiar with your neighbors. The last incident we had in June was a break in and the suspects were caught, but two of the three suspects are residents here in the community. Be sensitive to your surroundings.

There are quite a few dead trees and bushes in front yards around the neighborhood. Please take the time to replace your tree before you receive a letter asking you to do so. Remember it must be a tree that stays green all year long and approved by AMI.

Keeping Lakes of Savannah beautiful can be a challenge in the summer, so please help in this effort. If you see some trash, please pick it up and dispose of it. This is your community—be proud of it. Our Yard of the Month program is going great, and we have seen improvement across the board in the upkeep of yards. Please continue to keep up the great job!

In closing if you have not already gotten yourself signed up to receive community e-mails, please do so on our website, [www.lakesofsavannahsouthca.org](http://www.lakesofsavannahsouthca.org), so you can stay informed. This is our community website, and we are still working on content, so please be patient as the site grows and changes. If you know of an upcoming community event, car pool opportunities or anything you think the community would benefit from, please send your information to [twc2814316586@earthlink.net](mailto:twc2814316586@earthlink.net). Have an awesome August!

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Andrea Cammack, Hannah Smith, Phyllis Jones, Renae Medlock, Angela Perez, Matthew Stone, Sheryl Stone, Andray Stroud, Bonnie Thompson, and Jing Xiao

*The newsletter committee would like to thank everyone that contributed to the newsletter. Without your help, this publication would not have been possible.*

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181  
Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com

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### Message from the Executive Chair - (Continued from Cover Page)

hours are promoted as 1-4 p.m. on Sundays. Resale open houses are completely optional for residents/Realtors. The Open House weekends will be supported with a large amount of marketing and advertising that will include Realtor marketing, local newspapers, the Houston Chronicle and website marketing, including our Lakes of Savannah website. This event began in our north area communities and has been very successful. We are working hard to continue to promote Open House weekends to home shoppers and Realtors.

### FIRE STATION UPDATE:

One of the newest fire stations in the Pearland area, serving the growing west side, will be located in Lakes of Savannah. The new facility, Pearland Fire Station No. 6, will be located on Savannah Parkway and is one of 48 capital improvements in the Pearland area.

The new facility will be designed to include double deep drive through two bay stations with a meeting room, kitchen, restrooms and storage areas necessary for initial occupation by Emergency Management Services and the Pearland Volunteer Fire Department. The station will be expandable to accommodate the future dormitory and other needs of a 24-hour manned station.

The project is the result of a joint agreement between the City of Pearland Fire Department, Friendswood Development Company and Brazoria County Municipal Utility Districts 21 and 22.

The projected opening date of the fire station is August 2011.

For regular updates on the community, please visit [www.LakesOfSavannah.com](http://www.LakesOfSavannah.com).

## 2010 LOS Summer Kickoff

by Renae Medlock, Events Committee Chair

On Saturday, June 5, 2010, we gathered at the clubhouse for the annual Lakes of Savannah Summer Kickoff. Neighbors were able to fellowship together and enjoy delicious food, great music, games and scrumptious desserts. Prizes were awarded for our trivia games. An amazing time was had by all in attendance. This is an annual event for our community coordinated by the Events Committee. We are always in need of assistance to make this community event a success. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Renae Medlock at [ramedlock@hotmail.com](mailto:ramedlock@hotmail.com). Remember, this is an annual event, so look for this event every year at the beginning of June.

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## DEED RESTRICTION ANSWERS

*Bradley Chandler, Deed Restriction Chair*

A few deed restriction questions came up at the community meeting, and I thought that this would be a great time to rope everyone else in on some of those questions.

**Permanent basketball goals are restricted.** The temporary ones are fine as long as they are put up post use. Please be advised this could be costly and is clearly stated in your original homeowner paperwork.

**Trash awaiting trash pick-up needs to be in cans.** This is important for two reasons. First, it keeps our community looking great. Even on trash days, your neighbor does not want to know how many diapers your baby goes through in a week, and they will because the second good reason is that trash in cans helps prevent dogs from getting into your trash and spreading it all over the neighborhood. So please, buy an extra can if you need it and keep LOS looking good.

**Remember to trim those trees that may overhang into your portion of the sidewalk.** The community landscaper does do the public sidewalks, but the trees that are on our property are our responsibility.

Everyone have a great rest of the summer, and I for one am looking forward to the cooler weather in September.

## UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

### Landscape Committee Meetings

- August 31
- September 28
- October 26
- December 14

*Landscape Committee meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.*

### Neighborhood Watch Committee Meetings

- September 7
- October 5
- November 1

*Neighborhood Watch Committee meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the clubhouse.*

### Sports and Recreation Committee Meetings

- August 5
- September 2

*Sports and Recreation Committee meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. at the clubhouse.*

## Community Website

Visit the community website to get up-to-date information about our community and sign up to receive community information sent right to your email inbox. [www.lakesofsavannahsouthca.org](http://www.lakesofsavannahsouthca.org)

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## Brown Patch: The Fungus Among Us

by Bryan Nikolai, Landscaping Committee

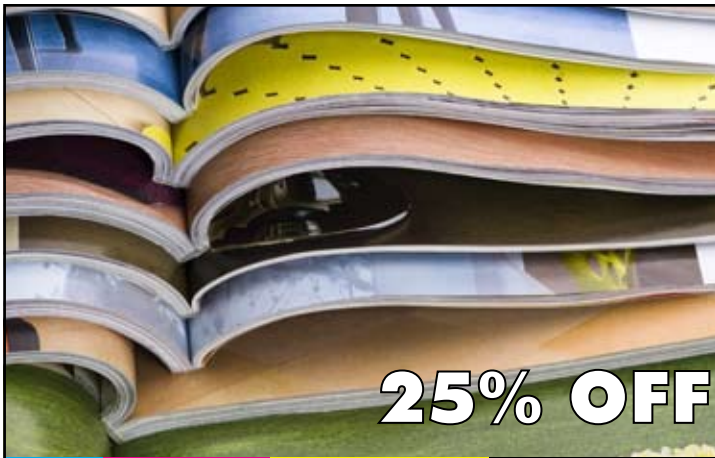


Brown Patch on Grass Blades

The summer months are usually the time we try the hardest to maintain our yard, nothing is more inviting to barbecue guests than a thick, rich lawn. Unfortunately, turf problems can be difficult to diagnose and often the most intuitive treatment can have very detrimental effects on your grass. A common problem that is often experienced in our neighborhood is Brown Patch, a soil fungus that thrives in moist environments high in nitrogen. Brown Patch can be identified by examining individual blades of grass for brown or yellow spots that look like tiny cigarette burns. Often a circular patch of brown grass will form in the lawn, sometimes with a green center where the grass has begun to recover. It should be noted that while this formation is where Brown Patch derives its name, the entire lawn will often show signs of yellow or brown grass with no distinct circular pattern.

The fungus that causes Brown Patch, *Rhizoctonia solani*, likes warm, wet weather and actively growing grass (due to high nitrogen). Houston provides warmth and humidity, and most people's first reactions to brown grass are water and fertilizer. To make matters worse, most of us find it most convenient to water during the evening when we get home from work. This is a mistake since the fungus prefers temperatures between 75 and 85° F, usually the range of our overnight lows. In fact, the cooler it gets at night, the more Brown Patch thrives—something to keep in mind as fall approaches. If you think your lawn might have Brown Patch, ask your lawn care professional about treatment options or use a fungicide product available from local garden centers and hardware stores. If the damage is severe, consider raking out the thatch from

(Continued on Page 5)



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## Brown Patch: The Fungus Among Us - (Continued from Page 4)

affected regions and replacing a few pieces of sod.

As with most lawn and garden issues, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. The same is true when it comes to controlling Brown Patch and related fungal problems. Avoid watering late in the day and consider watering every morning to wash the dew from grass blades. As the sun comes up, the grass will have the moisture it needs for the day and the fungus will perish in the heat without the little dew balls it has been growing in all night. Bag your grass clippings and dispose of them in the trash or isolated mulch bin. Use a fungicide every spring and fall to prevent Brown Patch and avoid over-fertilizing, especially with high-nitrogen products. For thick and green turf, it can't be emphasized enough: cut often, fertilize sparingly, and only water in the morning. Following these three rules will correct and prevent most turf grass issues.

## Attention All Mommies!

Looking for a way to meet other moms in the community? Interested in receiving and sharing information important to moms? Join the Lakes of Savannah Mommy Group. Contact Otavia Rhone at [twc2814316586@earthlink.net](mailto:twc2814316586@earthlink.net).

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## Do You Know Where Our Property Will Be This Summer?

By Melissa Hernandez, Neighborhood Watch Committee Chair

Most people look forward to the summer months. We spend more time outside, whether it's a backyard barbecue or working in our yards. We tend to take vacations or go away on more extended weekend trips. Our children are outdoors later, perhaps running in and out of the house. They might even leave bicycles outside unlocked where anyone passing by can help themselves. It may be 7 p.m., but it is daylight so we don't lock our doors and windows—we think we are safe. We also get relaxed in not making sure our garage door is closed. We enjoy summer, but so do criminals because many people do not practice the same safety precautions that they do in the winter. People might not lock and secure their homes when they go out or they might leave windows or sliding doors open. They might just latch a screen door so they won't return to a stuffy home.

Did you know that most burglaries occur during the day? Often criminals are opportunists that remove items of value from a garage because it is left unlocked and open. The criminal might be tempted when they pass a vehicle with a purse, wallet, GPS device or laptop computer left in clear view.

It is your job to harden the target in hopes that the criminal will pass you by and go somewhere else. We can never say for sure that you will not be a victim of any crime, but hopefully these simple reminders will help keep criminals away from your valuables so you won't need to ask "where did my property go this summer?" We hope if you remember some of these safety tips, you won't need to call the police for service.

### AT HOME:

- When you go out (even next door) or retire for the evening lock your doors and windows.
- Install a peephole if you do not already have one.
- Secure sliding glass doors (be sure it cannot be lifted out of the track).
- Look into security glass (Break-resistant plastic or treated glass around doors and in windows gives added security).
- Consider an alarm system; but remember not everyone needs an alarm. Shop around, compare features (don't forget about the 2nd floor) and ask trusted friends and/or neighbors about what system they use.
- Install motion or dusk to dawn lighting at front and rear doors. Also make sure your yard has adequate lighting and check at night for dark areas where a criminal may hide.
- Your shrubs and hedges should be trimmed so intruders cannot use them to hide.
- Plant thorny shrubbery or plants around windows and doors.
- Store ladders and tools in a locked garage or shed. Don't leave them out for an intruder to use.

### MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK LIVED IN:

- Use electric timers on lamps, radios and televisions.
- Don't spread the news about your travel plans to strangers but do tell your trusted neighbors.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to collect your mail or stop mail and newspaper delivery while you're away.
- Mark your valuables and make a video or take pictures of all your household property including jewelry.
- Secure valuable household papers in a safe place that is fire proof.
- Create a security and disaster preparedness plan for you and your family.
- Report all suspicious activity to your local sheriff department.

## Calling All Young Writers!

We would like to print items written by the youth in our community. If your child has a story, a poem or an informational article that you would like to share with the community, please email it to [slwstone@comcast.net](mailto:slwstone@comcast.net). We would love to hear from you! All material turned in is subject to board approval. Due to space limitations in the newsletter, all pieces may not be able to run.

## Back to School Helpful Hints

by Renae Medlock

August is right around the corner and the school bells will be ringing once again. Reduce the stress of getting back into the school routine by following these helpful hints:

- Pack lunches the night before & refrigerate.
- Make sure backpacks are packed and ready to go the night before.
- Create a homework center. Stock with crayons and extra supplies to do homework. Make sure it is not near a TV.
- Lay out clothes the night before.
- Remember kids need to make as many decisions as possible. Avoid power struggles by allowing them to make small decisions.

## Getting Psyched for Back to School

by Renae Medlock

- About 2 weeks before school starts, begin going to bed & getting up on a school schedule.
- The weekend before school starts, don't make any stressful plans or big events or trips.
- Don't forget to check out that bus schedule!
- Make sure to get all physicals and immunizations done.
- Make a list or rules and adjustments (i.e. homework schedule, tv schedule, bedtime, bath time, etc.)
- Make sure to arrange after-school daycare.
- Go over school rules with your child.
- Make a calendar to place in a visible spot & fill in events and school vacation days.

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