

Wortham Villages

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Wortham Villages

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Musings on Girl Scout Cookies and Decorations

My daughter(s) and I will soon be appearing on your front porch, hawking Girl Scout cookies. I put the parenthesis in that sentence because, while both of my offspring are Girl Scouts, one is a go-getter, ready at 9 a.m. on the first day of the sale to go out and sellsell till I am about ready to drop on the sidewalk from exhaustion; the other daughter is more of a lackadaisical, can't-you-just-take-the-form-in-to-work-Mommy kind of a person.

I remember distinctly last year asking Daughter #2 on the first Saturday of the sale if she wanted to go out with us. She looked up from her Nintendo DS, considered a moment, and then said doubtfully, as if deciding whether she wanted to move to the Antarctic, "No, I don't think so."

Then, of course, when the prizes for Daughter #1's sales rolled in, including a 6" stuffed animal that she coveted with all her heart, she changed her mind. By then, of course, it was too late.

My favorite part of being the Faithful Companion to the Annual Hawking of Girl Scout Cookies is discovering which of you are my peeps. Y'all know who you are. We are the ones who finally get around to putting up our Christmas tree and decorations around the 15th of December, and then, after all that hassle, we don't want to take them down again till about Valentine's Day.

My Bunko group used to take bets on when I would finally take down the Christmas tree. They don't know that Daughter #1, whose birthday is March 6, is used to having her birthday gifts placed under the Birthday Tree, and would explode in indignation if, for some reason, I chose to take down the tree before her birthday. So, yes, we have Valentine's ornaments for

the tree. And some years, we even have St. Patrick's Day ornaments for the tree. Hey, don't mock. It's green.

I have some friends who put up their Christmas tree on Thanksgiving, and the gifts are barely unwrapped on Christmas Day before they're taking down the tree because they're sick of looking at it. Yeah, I'm not from that planet.

So, when we appear on your doorstep in a few days, if you still have a poinsettia on your porch, or Rudolph on your lawn, not only will you get the chance to help out the Girl Scouts of America, you will get a special grin and nod from me.

*Procrastinators,
unite!*

Some day soon!



Wortham Villages

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MANAGEMENT

Crest Management281-579-0761
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Recreational Facilities Committee - Rick Anderson, 281-890-4878
Sports Fields Reservations - Myra Edwards.....
Social - Rebecca Shane..... 281-890-730
Tennis Committee - Dorota Jankovsky.....281-955-9626
Neighborhood Watch Committee Co Chairs
Shawn Lacagnina, shawnlacagnina@gmail.com, 281-235-5830
Herman de Hoop, hdehoop@worthamweb.org, 281-546-1493

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Life Threatening Emergency..... 911
Fire 911
Sheriff's Department 911
Poison Control.....281-654-1701

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance713-466-4073
Cy-Fair Med. Clinic (24 hr).....281-890-5285
Sheriff's Department713-221-6000
Harris County Health Dept.....713-440-4800 or 3036
Animal Control281-999-3191
FBI713-693-5000
UTILITIES: Electricity - HL&P713-207-7777
Gas - Entex.....713-659-2111
WATER & SEWER - MUD 222 (SouthWest Water Company)
Service & Billing.....713-405-1750
Telephone - Southwestern Bell713-237-6202
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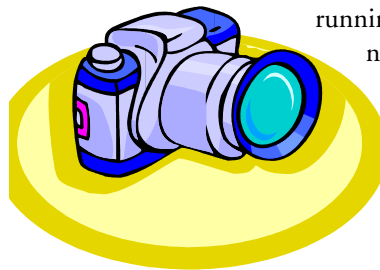
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What's Happening in Wortham?

If you have some news or fun activities happening in your life, please let us hear from you! We'd like to share the news in our future newsletters. Are you or someone in your family



running a marathon? Do you have a new member of your family? Any children accomplishments to brag about? Please share with your neighbors! Send your info and pictures to lorabergeon@gmail.com.

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Meet Jermaine, Tibreauna, Keatrick, Jaderrion, and Treyveonne

Jermaine is 11 years old and his siblings; Tibreauna, Keatrick, Jaderrion and Treyveonne are 10, 5, 2 and 8 years old respectively. Jermaine enjoys all outdoor activities including riding his bike, scooter, and skateboard. Tibreauna is sweet child who enjoys school. She is protective and nurturing of her brothers. Keatrick is described as silly and funny and likes to play with his guitar and toy cars. Jaderrion is an incredibly cute, active toddler. Treyveonne is an outgoing child who enjoys all sports. The children need a loving family that can provide them with structure and stability. For more information contact Grace Lindgren, LMSW, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter at the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-810-0813 or gracelindgren@adopttexas.org



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INCIDENT REPORT - NOVEMBER 2010

Incident	Offense Total	Incident	Offense Total
911 Hang Up	2	Meet the Officer	1
Accident/FSGI	2	MUD Building Check	34
Alarm Local	5	Open Door/Window	2
Burglary/Habitat	1	Parking Lot Check	1
Check Business	25	Probation Verify	1
Check Park	150	Solicitors	1
Contract Check	26	Suspicious Person	14
Credit Card Abuse	1	Telephone/Harass	1
Criminal Mischief	2	Traffic Stop	67
Disturbance/Loud Noise	1	Vacation Watch	18
Domestic Preve nt	2	Vehicle Abandoned	4
Drug/OD/Poss	2	Vehicle Stickered	4
Information Call	1	Vehicle Suspicious	6
Meet the Citizen	21	Welfare Check	1

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Alan "Petrodamus" Lammey, host of 'Energy Week', can be heard every Sunday on 1070 KNTH in Houston.

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NW HARRIS COUNTY AGGIE MOMS CLUB EVENTS

Meeting - Tuesday, Jan 11, 2011

Get your 2011 year off to a great start with the Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club! All new, current, and former Aggie Moms are invited to join us to hear an awesome motivational speaker, Jim Bob Solsbery. Jim Bob is a former Aggie, class of '67, who is both a comedian and motivational speaker. He is the author of a book entitled, *Humor is an Attitude: Sometimes You Just Have to Laugh Your Way Out*. Mr. Solsbery has spent the last 30 years as a business owner, entrepreneur, educator, professional trainer, and served as the Executive Director for U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jim Bob is the recipient of the National Association of Humor Writers Award and he speaks to groups across the nation about keeping a positive attitude and a healthy sense of humor. Please invite your husbands and Aggie students to join us for a night of humor and get your year off to a great start!

Our meeting will be held at the Houston Distributing Center conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the corner of Cutten Road and 7100 High Life Drive. Please join us there Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 7 pm for refreshments and fellowship with other Aggie Moms. Listen to an excellent speaker, learn more about upcoming Aggie Mom events, explore gift items in our Aggie Boutique, win door prizes and book money for your student, and learn more about upcoming scholarship opportunities. **For more information about NWHC Aggie Mom events, check out our website at www.nwhcaggie moms.org or contact Vickie Hamley at 713-466-4494.**

Accepting Scholarship Applications - Deadline Feb 7th

The time for submitting Aggie student scholarship applications to the NWHC Aggie Mom's Club is fast approaching! They are now accepting Scholarship Applications for the 2010-2011 school year. Last year 6 scholarships totaling \$6750 were awarded to area Aggie students. Complete applications and eligibility requirements are available at www.nwhcaggie moms.org and also at the general meetings. The application must be postmarked no later than Monday, Feb. 7th, 2011. Parents do not have to be a member of the organization in order for their students to apply.

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Birch Falls	Carter, Linda	281-894-5821
Brook Mill	Young, Deanna	281-890-0598
Carriage Lake	Boushley, Connie	281-890-3499
Carriage Lake	Meinecke, Betty-J. Hargrove	281-890-4329
Chestnut Woods	Hutchinson, Mark & Jan	281-894-8410
Chestnut Woods	Claiborne, Ed & Pam	281-469-7646
Dawn Point & Elm Bough	Ramos, Angelina	281-970-8545
Dogwood Blossom	NEED BLOCK CAPTAIN	
Dogwood Blossom	Kably, Kimberly	281-970-0861
Elm Bridge Court	Henkhaus, Kim	281-469-7105
Fern Vale	Lawrence, Reschele & Philip	281-469-6321
Harvest Dale	Welch, Terri	281-890-4061
Harvest Dale	Franklin, Vernetta	281-807-3834
Hickory Tree	Pickens, Cindy	281-894-0444
Hillside Glen	Smet, Guido & Shelia	281-970-4766
Hillside Glen (N)	Bell, Tom & Sharon	281-890-7606
Lark Brook	Thomas, Barbara	281-897-1191
Lark Brook	Lara, Peggy	281-970-4052
Magnolia Leaf	MacDonald, Lori	281-469-0874
Magnolia Leaf	Canterbury, Eloise	281-894-8424
Orchard Hollow & Town Elm	Dineen, Mike	281-894-6256
Orchard Hollow	Tolbert, Toney & Shirley	281-894-0085
Plum Vale	Kelley, Dale	281-469-1371
Reedwood Ridge	Crawford, Tracy	281-650-3266
Reedwood Ridge	McGlamory, Kay	281-955-2107
Shady Fern	Thornton, Carolyn	281-807-1816
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Timberland Trace	Peterson, Sandra	281-897-9875
Tulip Garden	Lawler, Tammie	281-807-1323
Tulip Garden	Jones, David & Jill	281-955-8972
Tulip Garden	Chisari, Paul	281-894-7053
Walnut Lake	Heafner, Cissy	281-477-9553
Wortham Blvd.	Culp, Susan	713-599-1000
Wortham Blvd.	NEED BLOCK CAPTAIN	

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With all eyes on North Texas this year as they host the Big Game, you can join the Souper Bowl of Caring and help make this vision a reality! For more than 20 years, groups all over the country have joined forces to demonstrate the power of caring. To date, more than \$71 million in cash and cans has been collected and 100% was donated in communities throughout the U.S. Every penny stays local and every collection matters!

Last year, 1,900 schools, churches, businesses and grocery stores in Texas collected more than \$4.5 million for local charities that fight hunger and poverty. The need is growing and we need your help!

Join the Team. Get started today!

1. **REGISTER** your school, church or business at tacklehunger.org and designate an organizer for your Souper Bowl of Caring event. You'll receive a free Resource Kit!
2. **COLLECT** money and/or canned foods anytime January 17-February 6, 2011. Super Bowl Sunday is February 6, 2011.
3. **REPORT** the amount of your collection to the Souper Bowl of Caring so it can be added to the national tally.
4. **DONATE** 100% of your collection to the charity of your choice in your own community.

Learn more at tacklehunger.org.

What's Happening In Wortham?

If you have some news or fun activities happening in your life, please let us hear from you! We'd like to share the news in our future newsletters. Are you or someone in your family running a marathon? Do you have a new member of your family? Any children accomplishments to brag about? Please share with your neighbors! Send your info and pictures to lorabergeron@gmail.com.



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3 Steps to Kick-Start your Career IN 2011

By Amy Wolfgang, M.Ed.

It's a new year and many of us spend this time evaluating different aspects of our lives: our health, our finances, and our career. Below are the 3 most important actions you can take to kick-start your career in 2011!

IDENTIFY YOUR CAREER GOALS

Before you can begin to make changes in your career, you need to identify what you are looking to change. Identify a few career goals that you want to achieve in 2011. Sample goals include:

- Develop new skills in a particular area
- Make a lateral move at your company
- Earn a promotion
- Start a new job in a different industry

Once you know what you want to achieve you can begin the work to make those changes happen.

Action Item: Write down your career goals for 2011. This does not need to be a formal document, but write them down on paper or type them into a document.

GET YOUR RESUME IN SHAPE

When was the last time you updated your resume? For some it was years ago when they last applied to a job. For others, it was only a few months ago. Regardless of when you viewed your resume last, now is the time to review it and make sure it includes all of your latest accomplishments.

Look at the bullet points on your resume and ask yourself the following questions:

- Do they describe your responsibilities or do they focus on results? A good resume focuses on what you accomplished rather than the tasks that filled your day.
- Is your resume attractive to read or is it too dense with information? Sometimes it can be hard to edit your own work.

We feel a personal connection to what we have accomplished and we should, however, we do not need to include every accomplishment for every position we have ever held.

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3 Steps to Kick-Start your Career - (Continued from Page 8)

Action Items: Review the bullet points on your resume and make sure your accomplishments jump out. Then make sure your resume is easy to read. Ask others to help you decide what you should and should not keep on your resume.

DEVELOP CONNECTIONS

Finding a new job typically takes more than just applying for a position on a website. You need to tap into the hidden job market by making connections with other professionals. These connections can often help get your resume on top of the pile in front of the hiring manager. Additionally, knowing people at the company you are applying to can help you understand the culture better and the type of individuals that succeed at that company. Developing relationships now will help you in the future, even if you are happy at your current job.

Are you already using professional social networking sites? Great. Are you utilizing them effectively? Have you recently added connections to your sites? Have you joined all relevant groups on the sites?

Professional social networking sites are an important tool to use in a tech-savvy town like Austin, Texas. Once you are connected virtually, it's time to start making an effort to connect with people in your network. Take them to coffee or schedule a phone conversation. You want individuals to keep you in the front of their mind for when an opportunity comes up. Remember, part of developing relationships is reciprocating. It's a two way street. Think about how you can help the individual you are connecting with and offer that help.

Action Items: Join professional social networking sites and "invite" those you know to join your network. Then search for good contacts to have personal meetings and conversations with.

In a tight job market, you need every advantage you can get. These actions will give you a leg up and lead to a great career in 2011!

Good Luck!

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For more information or any questions, please contact Herman or Shawn
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Smart Financial Moves for New Parents

If you've just had a new baby, your life is filled with more joy (but less sleep). You're probably already aware of the time and effort you must invest in raising your child, but you may not have thought as much about another aspect — the financial one.

Consider this: The average cost of raising a child to age 17 is now \$222,360, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report on how much middle-income, two-parent families spend on their offspring. And this is the amount you might spend *before* your son or daughter heads to college. Clearly, you need to start making the financial moves necessary to take your child from diapers to a degree. Here are some suggestions for doing just that:

- **Purchase sufficient life insurance.** When it was just you and your spouse, it was a good idea for you to have life insurance — but now that you have a child, it's an absolute necessity. If you have any doubts about the value of life insurance, just look again at that \$222,360 figure above, and then tack on the costs of four years of college. If you or your spouse were to die unexpectedly, would the survivor earn enough to raise and educate your child? In this day and age, that isn't likely. So make sure that you have adequate life insurance in place.

- **Prepare a will.** Obviously, you hope to enjoy a long life — one in which you see your child grow to adulthood. But none of us can predict the future, so it's essential that you draw up a will to provide for the care of your child, both financially and physically. When you create a will, you can name a guardian to step in and take care of your child, if necessary, and you can make sure your child receives your financial assets. However, many people go beyond writing a will and establish a living trust, which gives them more control over how and when they want their assets distributed. Your legal advisor can help you prepare a will and determine if a living trust is appropriate for your needs.

- **Maintain adequate cash.** To

(Continued
on Page 11)



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Smart Financial Moves - (Continued from Page 10)

help pay for all those expenses related to child rearing, keep enough cash on hand. By having enough resources available in liquid accounts, you can avoid having to dip into your long-term investments to pay for short-term needs.

- *Save early and often for college.* It's never too soon to start saving for the high costs of higher education. A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged vehicle and may be a great option for your college savings. Contributions to a 529 plan are made with after-tax dollars, and have the opportunity to grow tax-free. Withdrawals used for qualified higher education expenses are also tax free. Furthermore, your 529 plan contributions may be eligible for a state tax deduction or credit depending on the plan and state.
- *Stay balanced.* As we've seen, it takes a lot of money to raise a child. But even as you're meeting these expenses, think about your own future, particularly your retirement. Strive to strike a balance between the money you spend on your child and the amount you invest in your 401(k), IRA and other retirement-savings vehicles.

You can't put a price-tag on your child's future, but when it comes to taking care of that child, you'll want to know the costs involved — and be prepared for them.

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