

# STONE FOREST

## Flyer

November 2012

Volume 2, Issue 11

### From Stone Forest HOA President

*Bob Wise*

I am sure most of you read the recent letter from Bridgestone MUD about the water situation and I think we can really pat ourselves on the back for conserving water over the past year. The restrictions and voluntary rationing seems to have paid off and it has certainly been reflected in the water bills. I think the whole MUD district benefited and we played our part. Luckily the summer has not been as hot as 2011 which no doubt helped and at time of writing we are having a relatively 'cool' spell! South East Texas has been very lucky this year not to have suffered the same kind of drought that we experienced last year. Mother Nature certainly helped. In addition the hurricane season is winding down.

FYI – the average temperature this year is slightly higher than last year. Hard to believe but it is because of the early heat wave.

We will shortly begin the budgeting exercise for year 2013 with our annual crystal ball gazing as we have to complete the budget before the final figures for the year have been closed. Unfortunately that is the law.

As I mentioned last month that budgeting process includes trying to figure out how our assessments will end up and despite what anybody thinks we cannot collect delinquent dues by simply forcing them into court. The law protects homeowners from predatory Associations and ensures that the homeowners have every chance to make up the shortfall in payment. The law is very slow and in the

years I have been here we have only ended up in court once with very clear and concise instructions from the judge to be fair and sympathetic because he gave us a very powerful tool to use if the payment defaulted, and that was foreclosure. Something that we at the HOA do not want to do since it is very expensive and does not solve the problem at the end of the day. Neither does Stone Forest Homeowners Association want to be real estate owners! We try our best to be helpful and work with homeowners who are in difficulties contrary to what one homeowner thinks, who sent us an a nasty potty mouthed email to vent.

On a happier note, we are redesigning the website and hope to shortly announce that it is ready. With all the new State laws we have to be more communicative electronically and hopefully the new site will be easy to navigate and be user friendly so that it is an good reference tool for our community.

Happy Thanksgiving to all, including the disgruntled emailer!

Sincerely,

Bob Wise  
President,  
Stone Forest HOA.



# COMMUNITY CONTACTS

STONE FOREST HOA  
Spring, Texas 77379

## HOA BOARD

### PRESIDENT

**Bob Wise**..... 5714 Valley Scene Way  
Contact..... 281-257-6183 (Home)  
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Harris County Precinct #4 ..... [www.hcp4.net](http://www.hcp4.net)  
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### NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Publisher - Peel Inc..... [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)  
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## PET CORNER

### CAN I GIVE MY DOG THANKSGIVING SCRAPS?

Submitted by Kristen West

We know it's tempting, but most Thanksgiving scraps are not safest treat for your pets. Cooked turkey bones are a big no-no as they can splinter and result in a trip to pet ER. Additionally, overindulging your pet in other fatty foods can lead to stomach upset, diarrhea or even life-threatening pancreatitis. Other items to avoid are onion, sage, garlic ... and please, don't ever give your pet alcohol.

If you can't turn away from those puppy-dog eyes, a bite or two of pet-safe veggies like plain broccoli, sweet potato or carrots, or a small taste of plain turkey is usually OK. Put the treats in a Kong or other puzzle toy while you sit down to eat with your family so that your furry begger is happily preoccupied!



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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

## ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing [Bob@bobwise.us](mailto:Bob@bobwise.us) or by going to <http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php>. All news must be received by the 8th of the month prior to the issue. So if you are involved with a school group, scouts, sports etc – please submit your articles for the Stone Forest Flyer. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.



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*"If I Installed Solar, How Much Electricity Would It Generate and How Much Would I Save?"*

*By Chris Lee*

For those of us living here in Houston, we're all acutely aware that the sun is a plentiful, if not unrelenting, source of heat and sunlight (okay, the heat is really a byproduct of the intense sunlight). And for many of us I bet that we've thought, "Gosh, if I could harness just some of that free sunlight...." The harder part is trying to answer the obvious questions about installing a solar array or solar panel system on the roof of your home - "How much electricity would it generate and how much money could I save on my electric bills?"

Without having to know much about solar or needing to contact a solar installer or solar company, you can easily get those estimates at your fingertips. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), which is operated by the US Department of Energy, has created a website allowing anyone to calculate the amount of electricity a PV (photovoltaic) system (aka: solar panel array system) would generate. Here's the website (notice that it already takes into account that you're in Houston): <http://rredc.nrel.gov/solar/calculators/PVWATTS/version1/US/Texas/Houston.html>

Here's a shortened link: <http://goo.gl/bRurv>

Once on the website, for your initial estimate, you can use the default information presented and just click on "calculate" at the bottom. On the results page you will see that in Austin, a South facing solar panel array (which means the Array Azimuth = 180 degrees) that's built for 4 kW of electricity generation, would generate 4879 kWh in a year and save you \$473.26. To give you a better estimate, there are 3 settings you can go back and change:

- 1. Array Azimuth in degrees.**
- 2. DC Rating in kW.**
- 3. Cost of Electricity in cents.**

#### **ARRAY AZIMUTH:**

If you're considering placing your solar array on the side of your roof that gets the most sunlight and that part of the roof faces due South, then the Array Azimuth would be 180 degrees. If your proposed solar array will be facing Southwest, the azimuth would be 225 degrees. Southeast would be 135 degrees. And so forth. The more accurate your submission, the more accurate your estimate.

#### **DC RATING:**

The DC Rating (in kW) default is 4 kW in the calculator. This would be the "size" of electricity generation by your solar array - basically, by adding (or subtracting) more solar panels to your proposed system, the DC Rating would increase (or decrease). Makes sense - if you add more solar panels to your array, you'll increase the amount of electricity generated and therefore increase the amount of money saved.

#### **COST OF ELECTRICITY:**

The default is the Texas state average of 9.7 cents per kWh. For those of you with an electricity provider with higher (or soon to be higher) rates, you should change the rate accordingly to get a more realistic estimate.

So that's it, an easy way to determine what you would be generating with a solar array on the roof of your home. This is a simple but fairly accurate way to determine the benefit of installing solar on your home. Of course, YMMV (your mileage may vary) but by getting a fairly accurate estimate of the amount of electricity generated and the money saved, you can better determine whether or not installing a solar array on your roof would make financial sense for you and your family. If you have any questions, please ping me at [leec89@gmail.com](mailto:leec89@gmail.com).



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