

NORTHLAKE FOREST

Herald

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE NORTHLAKE
FOREST HOA

June 2013

Volume 3, Issue 6



to all of the
Northlake Forest Dads!

HOA Dues Reminder

If you opted for the deferred payment plan, the remainder of your HOA payment is due.

You will be able to pay the balance of \$271 on or before Monday, July 1st 2013 without interest or penalties.

If you do not pay in full by July 1, 2013 the Association will void the deferral and charge all interest and late fees under the Association credit policy.

NO REMINDER INVOICES WILL BE SENT.

If you are unable to pay your assessment, please contact PCMI immediately.

Planned Community Management, Inc.

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Northlake Forest **Pool Hours** June 2013

Full time beginning June 6th

Day(s)	Pool Times
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday-Saturday	11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Special Announcements

Congratulations to our daughter, Laura Schulz. She will graduate from Cy-Woods on June 7th and will attend Texas State University in the fall. We love you and are so proud of you kiddo. Love, Mom, Andy and Byron

NORTHLAKE FOREST

NORTHLAKE FOREST COMMITTEES

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Chair Chanda Serhus/Charlotte Smith
Newsletter and Board LiaisonPaul Rath

WELCOME

Chair Maureen Cummings

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

All of our committees are seeking volunteers to help continue making our community a fun place to be. Just a little bit of your time can go a long way. If you are willing to help, in any way, please contact a board member with your interest.

NEWSLETTER INFO

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PUBLISHER

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance/Fire/Police 911
Poison Control 1-800-222-1222

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Constable, Precinct 4 (281) 376-3472
Harris County Sheriff (713) 221-6000
Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department..... (281) 550-6663
Cypress Substation (281) 376-2997

GOVERNMENT NUMBERS

Animal Control (281) 999-3191
Health Department (281) 439-6290

Harris County Commissioner Precinct 4

Jerry Eversole - Community Assistance Office .. (713) 755-6444
Harris County Appraisal District (713) 957-7800
Social Security..... (800) 772-1213
Department of Public Safety (*Grant Rd*) (281)-890-5440
Department of Public Safety (*Hempstead*) .. (979)-826-4066

POST OFFICE

USPS (Cypress) (281) 373-9013

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NW Harris County Library (*Lonestar College*) .. (281) 618-5400
Barbara Bush Library (*Cypress Creek*)..... (281) 376-4610

SCHOOLS

Administrative Offices (281) 897-4000
Farney Elementary (281) 373-2850
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Cy-Woods High School (281) 213-1800

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SUMMER WEED AND ALGAE GROWTH

Mac McCune



As you may be aware, over the past few weeks, algae and weeds have begun to explode just about everywhere. There are several reasons for this, primarily all the rain we had which brought in fresh nutrients and, now that the rains are over, hot temperatures, lots of sun and almost no wind. Lakes and ponds could not be in a better position for weed and algae growth. The bottom line is that algae and weeds cannot be eradicated or prevented from growing, only controlled. The products we have available to use must be approved for aquatic use by the EPA. However, for the EPA to approve a product such as this, the products are very mild in efficacy and, in truth, do not perform as well as they should given their expensive cost. Unfortunately, we have no alternatives. There are only eight active ingredients in the entire world approved by the EPA for aquatic use. And, there are many species of weeds and algae that are highly resistant, if not totally resistant, to these products. When these species emerge, we can only treat them over time in an effort to slow their growth and reproduction.

When growth is abundant, the only way to effectively control growth is by multiple, on-going applications on a very frequent basis. Aquatic weeds and algae can literally explode overnight. If, for example, we only make once a month or twice a month visits, it is almost impossible to stay ahead of the growth this time of year and under these conditions. Even weekly visits may not be enough if your goal is to have "swimming pool" water. When you chemically treat aquatic growth, you are treating a symptom not solving the source(s) of the problem. These sources can be lack of winter, excessive rainfall, clear water, fertile water, warm water and sunlight.

Another major factor is dissolved oxygen. The warmer the water the less oxygen it holds. If your lake or pond has little or no mechanical aeration and is dependant on heat and wind-generated current, then oxygen levels can become dangerously low this time of year. As weeds and algae die from being treated, the decomposing process causes an even further loss of oxygen. Therefore, treating weeds and algae can cause a significant oxygen crash thus suffocating fish and, even more importantly,

benthic organisms that live in the bottom muds and are crucial to utilizing organic matter that enters the water. Even with mechanical aeration, if enough plants are treated at one time, oxygen levels can crash as well. This time of year, if you treat just enough to keep the oxygen levels from crashing, you likely cannot treat enough to get ahead of the growth which then becomes overabundant. We perform dissolved oxygen tests each time before we treat. If the levels are low (<6.0 mg/l), we do not treat unless authorized by the customer. Many chemical manufacturers recommend "split-treatments" during the summer to help reduce this risk. Unfortunately, waiting two weeks between treatments allows the untreated areas to virtually grow back into the previously treated areas.

If you quit putting chlorine in a swimming pool, algae will grow and very fast at that. This is nature and we cannot use chlorine in lakes and ponds. We can put a man on the moon but no one has the technology to prevent weed and algae growth. Likewise, no one has a magic potion that can be applied to turn the lake or pond into a "swimming pool". Unfortunately, nature does not care about marketing or people's impression that the lake or pond resembles a swamp. In fact, that is exactly what nature tries to do. Nature has a pre-chartered course for all lake and ponds whether natural or man-made and that course is not conducive to urbanization. If you want or already have clear water, you will have weeds and algae no matter how much chemical you apply. These products only treat what is there, biodegrade within a day or two and do nothing to keep the weeds from growing back.

What we try to do, this time of year, is to control the growth from taking over the entire body of water, not eradicate it. Imagine the cost if you had to maintain a 5 or 10-acre swimming pool. As summer winds down and the growing season comes to an end, usually in October, growth will slow and the water will cool and hold more oxygen allowing us to treat more effectively. Until then, we are working extremely hard and long hours to try and keep your lakes and ponds looking as good as possible.

Cypress-Tomball Democrats Meeting

Features Harris County Chairman

The next Cypress-Tomball Democrats monthly meeting will be on Tuesday, June 18th, 2013. It will be held at Rudy's Grill & Cantina, 11760 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77429, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

June's guest speaker will be Lane Lewis, who is the chairman of the Harris County Democratic Party. He will discuss "Engage 365" which is the Harris County Democratic Party's new non-election season, civic engagement program, designed to keep Democrats active and engaged in the community by taking part in civic-oriented, community service projects in communities and neighborhoods.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month. For more information, visit the website at www.cytomdems.com or contact Glenn Etienne at cytomdems@yahoo.com.

Crimson Cadette Drill Team

Dance Clinic

The Cy-Woods Crimson Cadettes Drill Team will host their 8th annual dance clinic for K – 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on August 14 – 16. This is a major fund-raiser for the cadettes and enables them to participate in activities throughout the 2013-2014 school year. Please register by July 31, 2013 to get the Pre-Registration price of \$55 which includes dance technique, specially choreographed routines for each age group, a t-shirt, drinks and snacks each day and a picture for each participant. Showoffs will be held the last day at 11:30 a.m. For more information email meh11@sbcglobal.net. Or check out our website at www.crimsoncadettes.com On the website, you will find a sign-up form and a link to PayPal for easy payment.

WHEN: August 14-16, 8:30 – 11:30

WHERE: Cypress Woods High School

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Travel the World

*without Leaving Your Hometown by
Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student*

By Heather Wells

Who hasn't dreamed about walking among the Egyptian pyramids, or soaking in the sun on a beach in Spain, or wandering along the Great Wall of China? Every parent wants to give their children a taste of the world, but the economic reality of international air travel for a family, not to mention hotels, passports and food, makes it tough for most of us to consider except in our daydreams.

There is a way to give your children the world – without leaving your living room. How? Host a foreign exchange student from a country you've always admired! Fascinated by France? Curious about China? Intrigued by India? By welcoming an international student from one of these countries into your home, you instantly open a portal to a far off land.

"My husband and I have been hosting for the past three years

(Continued on Page 6)

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NORTHLAKE FOREST

Travel The World (Continued from Page 5)

and have enjoyed every minute of it!" said Vicki Odom, an Ayusa host mom from Pearland, Texas. "The various students we've had in our home have taught us a great deal about their home countries. The students also love learning about life in Texas and participate in a good deal on community service. Their latest service projects was volunteering to be Super Scoopers at the San Antonio Battle of Flowers Parade."

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families," says Connie Coutu, Regional Manager of Ayusa, a non-profit that promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to

learn more about a different culture."

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

"Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience – for the student, the host family, and the host community," says Coutu. "There is no better way to teach your children about the world around them than through welcoming an international high school student into your home."

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2012 – 2013 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.



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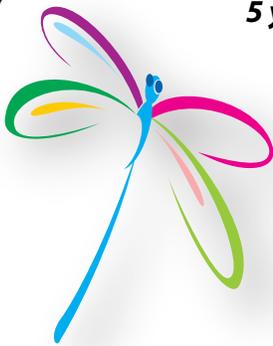
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- Ongoing:** Volunteers needed to stuff and distribute water safety packets info@colinshope.org
- Ongoing:** Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed! <http://www.tinych.org/signup>
- Now-June 18:** Discount Schlitterbahn Tickets for sale. <http://www.tinych.org/tickets>
- June 18:** World's Largest Swim Lesson at Schlitterbahn Waterpark New Braunfels
- July 1:** Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 4 Miler (solo or relay) <http://www.tinych.org/got2swim4>
- July 21:** Colin's Hope Kids Got2Swim Pure Austin Quarry Lake <http://www.tinych.org/got2swimkids>

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