



ACIA

Happenings

November 2013

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 3, Issue 11

Christmas Yard Decorating Contest

The ACIA, in collaboration with the Atascocita Garden Club, announces a Christmas Yard Decorating contest. Any resident can nominate a yard within the ACIA boundaries. The Atascocita Garden Club will choose the winner and the winning yard will be featured in the newsletter and on the ACIA website. The Atascocita Garden Club will judge yards the week of December 10, 2013. Please have your outside lights on by dark if you wish to participate. Submit your nominations by email to the ACIA Secretary, anthonyk@embarqmail.com, or to Sterling Association Services at servicedesk@sterlingasi.com or call 832-678-4500.



Your Opinion Counts

Have you ever wished for different types of outdoor amenities other than tennis courts and swimming pools in our neighborhood? Now is the time to express your ideas. The ACIA Board of Trustees is soliciting your ideas and opinions concerning adding new recreation facilities to the south side area of ACIA. So give us your ideas. Complete the online survey in the Atascocita Community Improvement Association website, www.aciahomeowners.org. Let us know what type of outdoor amenities that interests you and your family, the choice is yours!

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS

All Parents and Homeowners, I received this email from one of our neighbors and wanted to pass it along, everybody should be aware.

Hello,

I wanted to write you both just to inform you of an incident that occurred last night, same night as National Night Out, in front of my residence, approximately 7:30pm. My 11 yr. old son was in our driveway shooting hoops and a white male in a "messed up" white, small car stopped in front of my home and asked my son to come take a ride with him. My son responded that he had to go ask his mom and dad and the man sped off. I live on Pinewood Park Drive and the man came from the back of the neighborhood and turned left onto Pinehurst Trail heading towards Walden Subdivision. My husband and I made a police report and I contacted both Maplebrook Elementary (mainly because the school's enrollment encompasses my neighborhood, Walden and an apartment complex on 1960 where this man traveled) and Atascocita Middle School (where my son attends). I would like to notify the community as much as possible because the next child may not be so lucky. Please feel free to send out an email with such info. if you feel it would be a good idea. The principal at Maplebrook Elementary sent an email today to all parents reminding them of Stranger Danger and the principal of Atascocita Middle School will do the same in their school newsletter which will be released Friday. I have a friend who lives in Eagle Springs and the email from Maplebrook somehow made it to the Eagle Springs community blog. The police report is just a paper trail but if the word gets out to our community, we can come together as one and hopefully prevent an abduction. I sincerely Thank You both for your time.

Name retracted by editor

ACIA HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

BOARD MEMBERS

Jimmy Wells, President..... jwellsacia@yahoo.com
Laura Lammers, Vice Presidentl.lammers@yahoo.com
Anthony Karasiewicz, Secretary..anthonyk@embarqmail.com
Ron Jones, Trustee..... rwjaci@hotmai.com
Jon Hubbard, Treasurer jhubbard006@comcast.net
Sterling Assoc. Services.....servicedesk@sterlingasi.com
James Longoria, Chairperson.....Tennis Committee

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Greg Campbell.....
Janel Dale.....
Don Gregerson.....
Ron Jones.....
Tim Mulkey.....

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Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency 9-1-1
P-4 Constable Dispatch..... 281-376-3472
Humble ISD Police (Schools)..... 281-641-7900
Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)
 Non-Emergency Number 281-852-2181
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Texas Poison Control Center..... 800-222-1222

UTILITIES

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Water, Severn Trent 281-579-4500
 24 Hour Emergency Number 281-209-2100
Telephone, Centurylink..... 877-290-5458
Trash, Waste Management..... 888-964-9734
Humble Post Office..... 281-540-1775
Harris County MUD #132 www.hcmud132.com
Harris County MUD #151 www.hcmud151.org

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD 281-641-1000
 Website www.humble.k12.tx.us
Pine Forest Elementary..... 281-641-2100
Maplebrook Elementary..... 281-641-2900
Atascocita Middle School 281-641-1000
Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor - Anthony Karasiewicz..... anthonyk@embarqmail.com
Advertising advertising@PEELinc.com

SCAMMING US AGAIN!!!

Please Read and be aware of this SCAM.

Please pass this on to your residents so they are aware of this Burglary Scam occurring in Harris County. To the best of my knowledge, we have not had any reports of this kind of activity occurring in the Atascocita Area Contract subdivisions.

There are several cases where two Hispanic males to include a female wearing hard hats. One male will contact the home owner / complainant at the front door. They will tell the owner / complainant he works for the utility company and needs to survey the back yard, and requests that the homeowner walks with him to the back yard leaving the front door unsecured. They will also tell the home owner they work for the County. When the homeowner goes to the back yard, the other suspects burglarize the residence. When the home owner goes back into the house, they realize they were burglarized as part of a scam. The area of operation is Harris County.

Residents are continuing to call our office and notify us of suspicious activity, suspicious person and or suspicious vehicle as we have asked for them to do. May times, residents will tell us after the facts that they really did not want to bother us because they feel we have more pressing issues to deal with. We encourage citizens to contact us when they see suspicious activity, suspicious person lurking around or suspicious vehicles idly driving slow and making numerous passes up and down the street so we can check it out at the time it is happening. Residents telling us of an incident or suspicious activity days or weeks later, seldom helps.

Regards,

*Sergeant N. Lekas
Master Peace Officer*

Your Community Newsletter

The Atascocita Happenings newsletter is a great tool for the community and the ACIA board to share information. This publication will grow if everyone participates. If you are involved in a community club or activity, please e-mail information about your activities and meeting for inclusion in the newsletter to anthonyk@embarqmail.com, or any ACIA Board Member. If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please let us know and we can incorporate these into the publication. The deadline for submission is the 8th day of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

GOLF COURSE UPDATE

Due to Homeowners concerns over the golf course chemical treatment I am publishing this update you may not have read. Due to the publishing constraints of this newsletter this is the soonest it could be distributed to Homeowners. Please check our website for any updates at www.aciahomeowners.org

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

With the recent incidents on two of our ponds involving dead fish, I wanted to get as much information as possible before giving everyone an update as to what we believe caused this and also the progress of the restoration of the Shores course. I also want to dispel some of the mis-information that is out there. I want to assure everyone that I have been involved with Jack Day's crew on every aspect of what they have been doing on the course and how they are doing it. To date, I've been in agreement with everything they have done and how it's been done. Of course, Jack Day and his crew were more than disappointed to see the effect the chemical applications had on two of our ponds last week. While losing fish in a situation like this is not common, it is certainly not uncommon on a golf course, according to several golf professionals and the Parks and Wildlife officials with whom we visited with this week. Here is a rundown for the last two weeks that led up to the occurrence:

- Two weeks ago, a great deal of "round-up" weed killer was applied to all the Shores course greens. No adverse affects were seen whatsoever in any of the ponds.
- Eight days ago Jack Day hired an outside, licensed professional, who does this type of application on golf courses and commercial applications, to apply the normal commercial grade chemicals used to penetrate the soil to attack mold and deep seeding weeds on the greens (the same chemicals used on this very golf course for years)
- These chemicals have to be watered in and were for a total of five days. As of early last week no adverse effects were observed.
- Mid week last week we had a quick forming heavy rain with strong winds to the west. The next day, dead fish were observed in the pond adjacent to the #1 green on the Shores course.
- Then we got 4 inches of rain late Friday and Saturday. Sunday we observed dead fish in the East Overlook pond, next to the Lifetime Fitness Tennis Courts.

Both of the greens adjacent to these two ponds, #1 and #7, experienced run off of the chemicals into these two ponds. The West and Central Overlook ponds and the ponds on either side on Pinehurst Dr were not affected at all, even though all five are connected underground, as they serve as the main irrigation ponds for the golf course.

Also, the #3 green on the course is adjacent to the small pond at the turn from the #3 green to the #4 tee. This pond had no adverse effect either, nor did any of the other ponds on the Shores course.

Some of neighbors understandably were very concerned about what happened, and I am one of those neighbors. The incident was reported to several agencies, including Homeland Security, but the Parks and Wildlife Department have been the only official entity to respond to the incident. In speaking with Jack Day, the feeling initially from the Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens was that it was not an un-common occurrence, and it most likely happened due to two factors. 1) the introduction of a great deal of fresh cold ground water through the sprinkler system into the #1 pond, as it had been stagnant for several years, and, 2) the 4" of rain that caused a severe runoff of chemicals into both ponds affected. I will tell you though, it still seems strange to me that none of the other ponds were affected, especially the other 4 irrigation ponds. This also makes me feel that the concentration of chemicals was far less than many would believe. Otherwise I feel the Overlook would be surrounded by ponds full of dead fish.

The Parks and Wildlife officials did comment that they found no other dead wildlife (birds) as was reported. All of the regular waterfowl, ducks, geese, egrets, and herons are on the ponds, as well as hundreds of turtles. We also observed that 90% of the fish found dead were "Shad", a bait fish. While there were a few Bass and a couple of Catfish among the fish that died, those species seemed to fare better. Exact chemical information was provided to them, which plainly states can be harmful to fish and pets. While Jack Day's superintendent is qualified and licensed to apply these chemicals, Jack contracted these services to a provider that does these applications on a regular basis, to make sure every procedure was followed correctly. Parks and Wildlife officials were given the contractor's information, and he has been interviewed. The Parks and Wildlife department as of today have found no out of the ordinary conditions, have closed their investigation, and as a point of protocol have referred the report to the Department of Agriculture.

New Signage on the Shores Course

Many of you have probably observed new signs on the course prohibiting the casual use of the Shores course. It has been alleged that those signs were put up in retaliation against those who filed numerous complaints about the fish dying. This is simply wrong. These signs were put out because over the next two weeks chemicals and fertilizers will begin being applied to the Shores fairways and they **WILL BE HARMFUL TO YOUR PETS** as well as persons with respiratory problems and young children. These chemicals are the same chemicals that have been used on these same fairways for years. Folks, let's please observe these signs and understand with these chemicals on the fairways, anyone walking their dogs on the course could be heartbroken if these controlled chemicals and fertilizers harmed their pets, or loved ones. **SO PLEASE** observe these signs and do not get on the Shores course in any way. Just as you would not let your pet in

(Continued on Page 4)

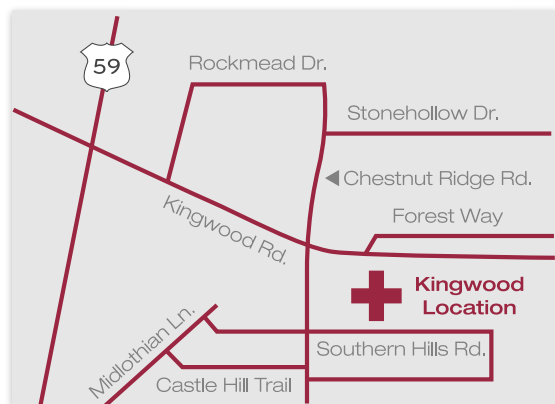


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Golf Course (Continued on Page 4)

your yard after a pest control visit, don't let your pet onto the golf course while these chemicals are being put down on the fairways.

Folks, everything being done to restore these golf courses is exactly in line with what has to be done to repair and restore the four years of neglect and not maintaining the courses. These chemicals have always been used during the life of these courses, as it has and continues to be done on all golf courses. That's why nice golf courses look so great. Ongoing management of chemical and fertilizer applications by licensed professionals is a vital part of golf course management. And from what I've seen, there is a very accomplished group of professionals working tirelessly to bring back these very important 27 holes. At any time if I do not see that as the case, I assure each and every one of you there will be serious consequences as a result. Until I get a full report from any official telling me otherwise, I cannot see at this point that consequences are to be considered. But again, I will leave that to the professionals to determine.

Please know that I have been and still am standing as the Steward of this historic property, and it will not be abused or damaged willfully by anyone. Nor will the wildlife and residents knowingly and carelessly be put at risk for any reason. This was an unfortunate situation that by all indications could not be predicted, and regardless of how many professionals have stated to me that this happens all the time in the golf course world, I, as well as Jack Day, do not take the incident lightly. It does however heighten our sense of awareness and review of procedures to make sure every step is being taken to protect the land and its neighbors. Again, it's my feeling that this was in place and done, with any chemical applications up to this point.

Feel free to contact me with any further concerns or questions and I or Jack Day will address them to the best of our ability.

Respectfully yours,

Kevin Kilgore | Owner

Atascocita/Humble/Kingwood

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Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Atascocita CIA residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail anthonyk@embargmail.com.

ACIA ANNUAL MEETING

The ACIA Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2013 at 7p.m., at The Overlook, 20114 Pinehurst Drive Atascocita TX 77346. Election for the trustee positions will take place at that time by written ballot. Homeowners will receive an ACIA proxy ballot for the trustee election, along with other information, prior to the annual meeting. Any changes to time or place will be posted on our website: www.aciahomeowners.org

The following are short bios submitted by the candidates:

Sue Boaz Raymond

I am running for a position on our ACIA Homeowners Board, because, I believe I understand the importance of keeping our community on par with other desirable areas such as Eagle Springs, Oakhurst, Walden, etc.

I understand the value of the amenities our area offers, including golf, even though I do not live on the golf course, and would like them preserved and improved.

I will work to implement policies that are good for the overall community and will enforce them equitably.

I will take homeowner's needs seriously and treat them with respect.

I want a peaceful, undivided, safe, desirable community to live in.

I was born and raised in the area, I am now retired. I have worked in industry in difficult environments requiring negotiation, determination, and backbone. I have experience handling legal issues and matters requiring attention to details.

I believe I am the kind of fair-minded person our community needs. I would appreciate your vote for me on our ACIA Board. Thank You

Greg Campbell

My name is Greg Campbell and I been a member of this community for 10 years. I am currently a member of the ACIA ACC. I have attended numerous ACIA board meetings in the past and have a vast understanding and knowledge of the issues facing this community. It is my firm belief that the monies we pay into our association should be used only for the betterment of the ACIA and that we should not be using our monies to maintain or contribute to other entities outside of the association. Further we should look at our budget to find areas of savings and use those savings to improve and maintain our existing facilities and services. An example of this

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ACIA Annual Meeting (Continued on Page 5)

would be to find and fix all leaks in our irrigation system. It is also my firm belief that deed restriction enforcement should be handled in a reasonable, fair and consistent manner. My final goal will be to ensure that the actions of the board will be open to all members of the community within the guidelines of the existing laws, this issue is of utmost importance since this is your community and your monies. In closing I have studied all our governing documents and applicable laws and would bring a wealth of knowledge and practical experience to our board.



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Personal Classifieds

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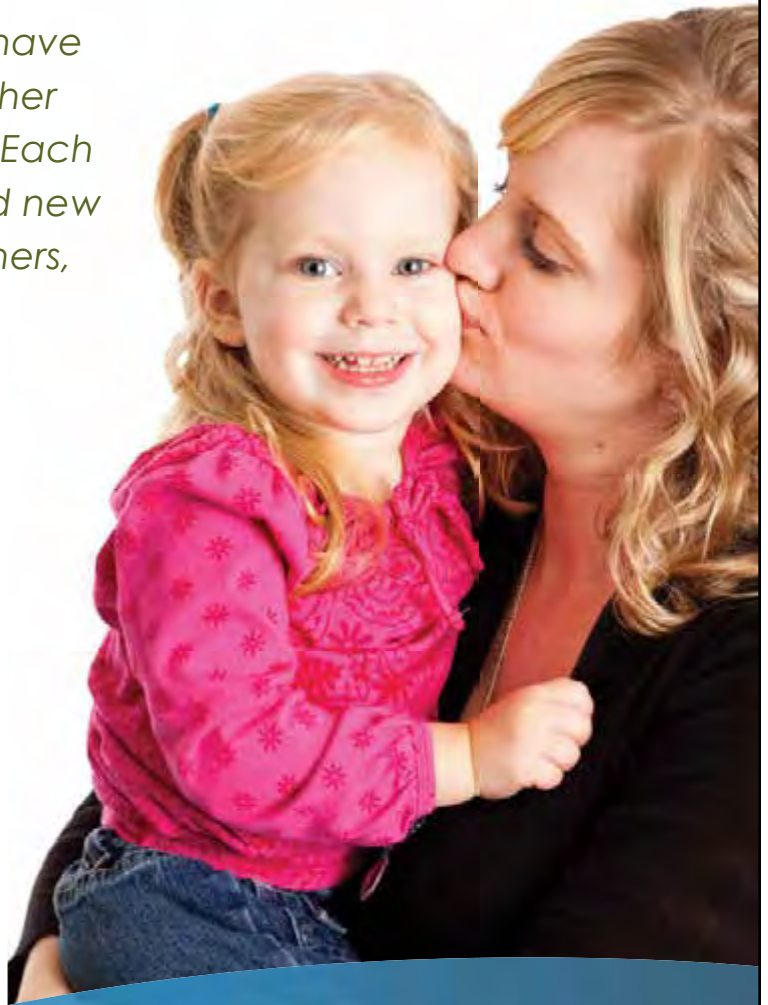
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