



# NORMANDY FOREST

December 2013

Official Publication of the Normandy Forest Homeowners Association

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## COOLER WEATHER SIGNALS BROWN PATCH SEASON IN LAWNS

*By Dr. William M. Johnson, Galveston County Extension Agent - Horticulture*

Lawn grasses in the Texas Upper Gulf Coast region, especially St. Augustine, have taken a pounding over the summer from dry weather, chinch bugs, and white grubs.

With the onset of cooler temperatures and rainy weather, there is the possibility of yet another threat to the health of area lawns. The menace is known as brown patch which is a disease caused by a fungus.

The good news is that brown patch does not present as widespread a problem as that imposed by overly wet or very dry weather conditions. The not so good news is that because area lawns have been so stressed throughout the year, they are more subject to brown patch problems. If brown patch was a problem in your lawn in previous years, then it's especially likely to again be a problem this fall given the stressful growing conditions this year.

The moist conditions of fall with its mild days and cool nights are ideal for the development of brown patch. The disease occurs most consistently in the fall but it may also appear in the spring. St. Augustine is the most common lawn grass affected, but Bermuda grass and zoysia grass are also susceptible under certain conditions.

Affected patches of this lawn-devastating disease are brown in color and circular in shape but may become irregular as diseased areas enlarge and merge. They range in size from small spots during the early stage of development to areas over 50 feet in diameter later in the season.

In addition to circular patterns of brown grass, brown patch can be identified by the ease in which yellowing leaves can be readily pulled from the stolon or main stem. Select

yellowing leaf samples from the outer edge of an affected area for the "pull test." As affected areas enlarge, new green growth may develop toward the center of the patch, causing a donut-shaped appearance.

The disease is most easily controlled when symptoms become first evident but early infections can go unnoticed unless regular inspections of the lawn are made. Of course, symptoms are most apparent during late October and into November when large patches of brown grass become blatantly obvious. The fungus causing brown patch will be active until a lawn goes dormant.

Heavily fertilized and over-watered lawns are very susceptible to brown patch. Lush-growing, moist grass creates an ideal environment for development of this disease. An attractive lawn can be maintained with a balanced fertility program and moderation in watering. And doing so will not only substantially lessen the potential for brown patch development but it will also save money! By the same token, lawns subjected to relatively low maintenance levels seldom have the disease.

Brown patch is strictly a cool weather problem, so do not be confused by brown areas of the lawn that developed during the summer. These were caused primarily by chinch bug damage.

Not only is brown patch unsightly, but weeds more likely to invade the lawn in disease-weakened areas. Also, spring recovery is delayed in areas damaged by brown patch.

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# NORMANDY FOREST

## NORMANDY FOREST COMMITTEES

### THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

Danny Rodriguez ..... 281-528-6640  
Mark Lawson ..... 281-651-8034

*The Association has an active Architectural Control Committee that approves or denies all construction and any improvements. You may request an ACC form by contacting Chaparral Management 281-537-0957 or the association website. Please keep in mind that the Association has thirty days (30 days) to approve or disapprove any ACC and verbal approvals or disapprovals are not given.*

### SECURITY COMMITTEE

In the event of an emergency please call "911" or for Precinct 4 please program your cell phone with the number below.

Precinct 4 ..... 281-376-3472  
Jim Norris ..... 281-924-5828 | jnorris@normandyforest.org

### ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Michelle Tsatsaronis ..... michelletsatsaronis@gmail.com

### POOL MAINTENANCE & LIFEGUARDS

Jeffery King ..... 281-655-8675

### CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

Sally Rodriguez ..... 832-788-4186

### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

John Nemec ..... 281-651-8606 | jnemec@normandyforest.org

### OPEN POSITION

### POOL TAG COMMITTEE

Sally Rodriguez ..... 832-788-4186  
Ashley Blackburn ..... 713-854-4144

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## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

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Jim Norris | Vice President ..... 281-907-0099  
Sally Rodriguez | Secretary ..... 832-788-4186  
Scott Marder | Treasurer ..... 281-682-3056  
Jon Hopkins | Director at Large .....  
Karen Zuckero | Block Captain Coordinator... 713-504-6469

### BALLPARK RESERVATIONS

John Nemec | Coordinator .....  
..... jnemec@normandyforest.org | 281-651-8606

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

Gas | Centerpoint Energy ..... 713-659-2111  
Electric | Reliant Energy ..... 713-207-7777  
Phone | AT&T ..... www.att.com  
Sewer | Harris County MUD #28 ..... 281-353-9809  
Trash | Republic Waste ..... 281-446-2030  
Fire Department | Spring VFD ..... 281-355-1266  
County Commissioner | Jack Cagle ..... 713-755-6444

### MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Chaparral Management Company, AAMC  
6630 Cypresswood Suite 100 | Spring, Texas 77379  
281-537-0957 phone | 281-537-0312 fax  
Valerie Overbeck | Association Manager  
voverbeck@chaparralmanagement.com

### OFFICE HOURS

9am to 5pm | closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:15 pm

## NEWSLETTER INFO

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Sally Rodriguez ..... onesalrod@aol.com

### PUBLISHER

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## *Brown Patch Season (Continued from Page 1)*

Fungicides containing bayleton (such as Green Light's Fung-Away and a variety of other labels), chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787), or PCNB (Terraclor) will control brown patch when applied according to label instructions.

For the fungicides to be most effective, it is best to apply them during the early stages of disease occurrence. Even in cases where the disease is in advanced stages, it will be well worth the effort to treat such cases as soon as possible. In lawns to be spot-treated, be sure to also treat the areas that were previously infected since the disease has a tendency to reappear in the same areas.

It's also a good idea to raise the mowing height to 1½ or 2 inches for affected bermuda lawns. The taller grass provides more cover and insulation for the growing points of the grass in addition to reducing overall plant stress and the possibility of winter kill. Raising the mowing height will also provide similar benefits for St. Augustine lawns.

Following these management practices for brown patch will result in a more healthy and vigorous lawn next year.

## Normandy Forest Reminders

### PARK REMINDERS

- The park is open to residents from dawn to dusk.
- Help keep our park clean. Pick up after yourself when picnicking, and clean up after your pets.
- Keep your pet on a leash.
- The jogging trail is for walkers and joggers. Bikes are not allowed, as they create ruts in the trail. Please remind your children not to ride on the trail.
- If you see any suspicious persons or odd activity in the park or greater neighborhood, contact the constable at 281-376-3472. Add this number to your cell phone contact list for your convenience.

### GOING ON VACATION?

Don't forget the Precinct 4 Constable's office offers protection for your home while you are on vacation. Go to [http://www.cd4.hctx.net/online\\_forms.php?formID=vacation](http://www.cd4.hctx.net/online_forms.php?formID=vacation), and simply fill out the request form.

### MUD BOARD MEETINGS

MUD Board Meetings are held every fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:00 PM, at 3327 La MER in Normandy Forest. The meetings are open to all residents.

### HOME OWNER ASSOCIATION MEETING

The HOA Meeting are held on Tuesdays 7:00 pm, in the Normandy Forest Clubhouse. Watch for the signs throughout our neighborhood reminding you about the meeting. All residents of Normandy Forest are invited and encouraged to attend.

### TRASH PICK UP

- Trash is picked up twice a week, on Monday and Thursday mornings. Please remember to remove your trash can from the curb and out of the driveway by the evening on those respective days.
- Heavy Trash Pick Up Day is every second Friday of the month, only once a month.

## NEIGHBORHOOD VISION & DENTAL CARE

Dr. Crosby Wallace, Optometrist | Dr. Michelle Lam, Dentist

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## PRECINCT 4 CONSTABLE UPDATE

As much as I hate to say it, the opportunity exists for anyone of us to become a victim of crime these days. Criminals are always looking for an easy target or an opportunity crime. Unfortunately we provide them with too many opportunities to do just that, such as unlocked car doors, a residential window left unlocked by accident, etc. One of the latest crimes involves wallet's being taken from purses while shopping. Criminals scout the store for an easy target. They stalk their victim and simply wait for her to lean away from the shopping cart for just a moment and then they grab the wallet. In most cases the victim doesn't even realize their wallet is gone until they check out.

The above information brings me to my article for this month. We need to start making it harder for these guys to commit crimes! When I say we, I include myself. Recently I had the misfortune of becoming a victim of crime. Someone broke into my vehicle and stole numerous items. I blame myself since they were left them in plain view, thereby asking the criminal to just come and get it. I was lazy and made the mistake of thinking that it wouldn't happen to me. The old adage of "Practice what you Preach" comes to mind here. What's worse is that I hadn't taken serial numbers or marked any of them for identification purposes so unless a miracle takes place I most likely will never see my property again.

So how do we make it tougher on the criminals? Use some of the standard precautions I've mentioned before. They do work for both home and automobile. The most important rule is to make sure and lock your doors. Set alarms both at home and in

the car no matter how long you're going to be away. Don't leave expensive items such as electronics, expensive clothes, etc. in plain view. When you're in the store keep your personal items secure in a closed purse or out of easy reach. Keep an eye on your surroundings. Most of these are common sense things that we must get in the habit of doing on a regular basis.

Some of you may have seen recently where the Pct. 4 Constables Office arrested several persons for vehicle burglaries and recovered a large amount of property. While interviewing the suspects we found that they mainly concentrated on unlocked vehicles which according to them were in abundance. Most had valuable items in plain view making the crime that much easier to commit.

Let's say you take all the necessary precautions and you still become a victim of theft. You can still lessen the impact of the crime and possibly help locate your property by documenting serial and model numbers and by keeping record of any other identifying information. If possible place a name or phone number on the property to aid identification if it is recovered. Add to your documentation by using your camera or video camera. This not only helps with recovery and identification but will also be a big help with your insurance reports.

If your property is stolen we can list the items with their identification numbers in a database available to authorities. Good documentation will help recover your property. Stolen property is recovered on a regular basis and many times can't be returned because there is no way to know who owns it.



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## Breakfast with Santa!



Date: Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

Time: 10:00 a.m.

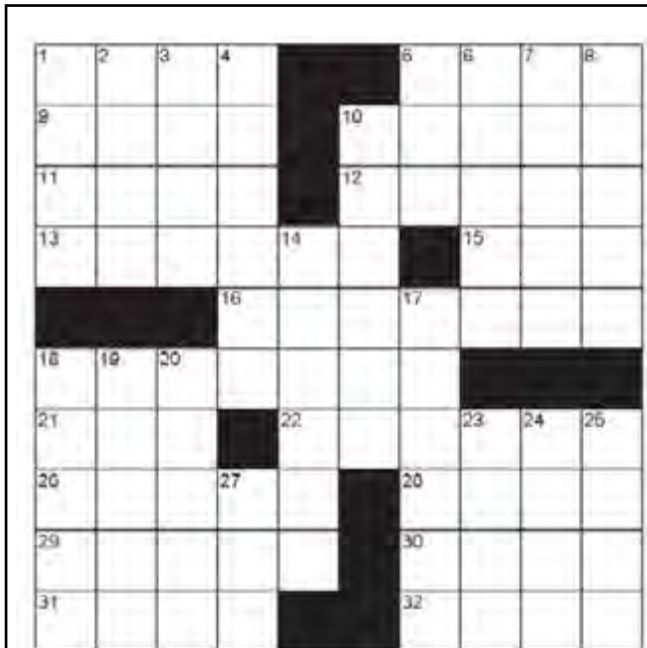
Place: Normandy Forest Clubhouse

Come enjoy Breakfast with Santa and his Elves.  
We will take FREE photos of the children with Santa  
and we'll have a small holiday craft  
for your child to make for your Christmas tree.  
We'll also have a petting zoo and pony rides!

This is a free event for all residents, however we would  
appreciate if you would **please R.S.V.P.** in order for us  
to have enough food for everyone.

*Please R.S.V.P. by December 5<sup>th</sup> to Activities Coordinator,  
Michelle Tsatsaronis  
michelletsatsaronis@gmail.com or 281.907.2276*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Charge
5. Syrian bishop
9. Against
10. Landing
11. Leaves
12. Boom box
13. Allure
15. African antelope
16. Polite
18. Leafy green
21. Marry
22. Esophagus
26. Woken
28. Goad
29. Type of tooth
30. Refer
31. Posttraumatic stress disorder
32. Sieve

### DOWN

1. Nativity scene piece
2. Competition at the Greek games
3. Capital of the Ukraine
4. Symbol
5. Expression of surprise
6. Emblem
7. Pickle juice
8. A ball out of bounds (2 wds.)
10. Twist violently
14. Ripper
17. Strums
18. Slough
19. Ross \_\_\_\_, philanthropist
20. Gods
23. Brand of sandwich cookie
24. Seaweed substance
25. Cabana
27. Blue

View answers online at [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

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7 oz. jar marshmallow cream      1/2 stick butter  
3/4 pound chocolate Hershey kisses      2 cups pecans  
6 oz. can evaporated milk      2-1/2 cups sugar

Place marshmallow cream and kisses into a large bowl. Set aside. Combine sugar, milk, and butter in a saucepan. Bring to a boil and cook for 8 minutes. Pour over marshmallow and chocolate, stirring until well blended. Stir in pecans. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto waxed paper. *Delicious!!!*

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*Sally*

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