

SUMMERWOOD LIFE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

Summerwood's Annual Fall Festival

Huge Success with Fun for All Ages!

The annual Fall Festival was held at Club Summerwood on Saturday, October 25th from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. There were activities for young and old alike and the weather was gorgeous! Highlights of the events included the amazing Boulevard of Business booths, a DJ, door prizes galore, hay rides, a trackless train, a petting zoo and pony carousel, bounce houses, costume contests, games, photo booth, and free pumpkins for residents who remembered to wear their pool bracelets.

A special thank you goes out to the volunteers from Summer Creek High School! These high school students assisted with the crafts and many of the other activities... and their assistance was much appreciated!



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

CIA Services 281-852-1700
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 8811 FM 1960 Bypass Road Suite 200, Humble, Texas 77338

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Situations.....911
 Constable - Precinct 3 281-427-4791
 Houston Fire Station #105 14014 W. Lake Houston Pkwy
 Houston, Texas 77044
 South Lake Houston EMS (Dispatch)..... 281-459-1277
 Dead Animal Pick-Up (Precinct 1)..... 281-820-5151
 Animal Control..... 281-999-3191
 After Hours..... 281-221-5000

UTILITY SERVICE NUMBERS

Public Utility Commission Consumer Hotline.. 888-782-8477
 Entouch Systems..... 281-225-1000
 (Telephone, Cable, Alarm Monitoring)
 AT&T..... 800-288-2020
 CenterPoint..... 713-659-2111
 Reliant Energy..... 713-207-7777
 MMIA (Water District Operator)..... 281-651-1618
 Garbage Pick-Up (Republic Waste) 281-446-2030

SCHOOLS

Summerwood Elementary..... 281-641-3000
 Lakeshore Elementary 281-641-3500
 Post Office..... 713-695-2690
 4206 Little York, Houston, TX 77078

NEWSLETTER INFO

EDITOR

Article Submissions.....summerwoodnewsletter@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.www.PEELinc.com
 Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444

MANAGER'S CORNER

YEAR IN REVIEW

2014 has been a great year for the Summerwood Community Association. Your Board of Directors and C.I.A. Services are proud of the many accomplishments this year.

You would probably agree that member communications have been greatly improved with the introduction of this Manager's Corner, meeting highlights on SummeroodLife.com and a few resident surveys.

One goal the Association has been working on for the last two years is decreasing our water consumption. We are pleased to note that overall water consumption by the HOA has decreased by an additional 33% over the significant savings from last year!

Residents Club Central had a facelift this year with lots of improvements to the clubhouse, pool, and outdoor areas. Inside the club, the men's restrooms were remodeled and now match the women's which was completed in 2013. Also, additional fitness equipment was added, including two new exercise bikes. The ceiling in the original fitness center area was painted. We also had quite a bit of work done to the outside and exterior areas at the clubhouse, including replacing the roof and several security cameras. You may have noticed several of the walking bridges were refurbished and we just recently completed refurbishing the wood awning and pergola at the front of the building. Also, a sidewalk leading from the parking lot to the lake sidewalk was added. The Central Pool saw some changes and improvements, including a new door to lifeguard room. In a successful effort to decrease duck activity within the pool area, railings were added at the bottom of the wrought iron fence and the raised landscaping at pool was removed and replaced with concrete decking.

There are too many other things to list in this article but here are some additional highlights from this year.

- Changed pool companies to Aquatic Advisors
- Pressure washed all and repainted several monuments and stone structures
- Planted 90 new trees within the community as part of the continued reforestation efforts
- Replaced expansion joints at Residents East
- Painted interior walls and exterior doors at Club Summerwood
- Refurbished gazebos at Lakeview Park

It truly has been a great year! The continued support and dedication of the Board of Directors, Crime Watch Committee, Pool Committee, Sports Committee, Beautification Committee, and Communications Committee have been the key. Many thanks to the community volunteers that work to support these efforts!

Precinct 3 Constable Deputies Patrol Summerwood

New Dispatch Number- 281-427-4791

It is very important that you make your alarm company aware of this change and that residents begin using this number when reporting concerns to law enforcement.

The Harris County Precinct 3 Constable Office was recently awarded the contracts to patrol Summerwood, thus replacing the Harris County Sheriff Office contracts. In addition, the number of contract deputies for Summerwood has been increased from three to four, allowing for basically 24/7 coverage in the community.

Changing from the Harris County Sheriff Department Deputies to the Precinct 3 Constable Deputies was not a decision that the Summerwood Board of Directors and MUDs 342, 344, and 361 Directors took lightly. They spoke with HCSO at length regarding concerns about response times, communication and dispatch issues. They also met with representatives from the Constable's Office several times to determine if their office could improve service to residents. Precinct 3 Constable Office has in-house dispatchers dedicated to calls from residents in their contract patrol areas and they also actively work to establish communication with HPD (that also patrols Summerwood) to assist with emergency calls in Summerwood.

The Precinct 3 Constable's Office promises to foster a partnership with residents to build a line of open communication and an increased visible presence in the community. They have given assurance that residents can expect prompt dispatching and shorter response times for calls. Precinct 3 Constables can be reached at 281-427-4791! We are advised to plug this number into our phones for immediate access. All 911 emergency calls will continue to be directed to Houston's emergency dispatch center.

You are urged to update your alarm company to change the law enforcement contact number for your security alarm calls to the above number.

Alarm permits will continue to be issued through the City of Houston.



FIREWORKS NOT ALLOWED

The Summerwood governing documents prohibit the discharge of fireworks in Summerwood.

First, the shooting of fireworks is a safety concern! They do not always go in the direction that you would like them to go! Your neighbors are often quite concerned about safety of their properties when fireworks violations occur. Maybe those experts who put on sanctioned fireworks shows have it right. They give us a great show, we don't get in any trouble, and we don't hurt anyone or ourselves as we have a wonderful time.

Another reason to abide by the deed restrictions is that, while you may be having fun, the noise disturbance from the shooting of fireworks becomes a real problem for so many of our residents who are elderly, have noise sensitive family members, are ill, and/or have children of all ages and pets who are terrified by them.

So as the holidays approach, please be a good neighbor and remember that **FIREWORKS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN SUMMERWOOD!!**



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ADVANCING HEALTH

PUBLIC SERVICE ARTICLE FROM THE SUMMERWOOD CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE

Staying Safe While Shopping

Always lock your car and close the windows, even if you're only gone a few moments. When possible, lock all merchandise or packages in the trunk of your car- out of sight!!

Load your packages before departing each store, and not at the next destination.

Do shop with a partner whenever possible. Have your car or house key in your hand as you approach your car door.

Stay alert to your surroundings and the people around you. Look inside your car and around it as you approach.

Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Keep money, credit cards, wallets, etc., in a pocket. Women, carry your purse under

your arm- or better yet, do not carry a purse at all.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash.

Avoid anyone who approaches you and asks for assistance in a parking lot.

Plan your trips. Instead of one big shopping trip, try several small ones to cut down on the amount of money you carry, the packages you'll be encumbered with, and to make your shopping less stressful.

After dark, be sure to park in a well-lit area.

ABOVE ALL, IF YOU ARE VICTIMIZED, REPORT IT TO POLICE IMMEDIATELY!



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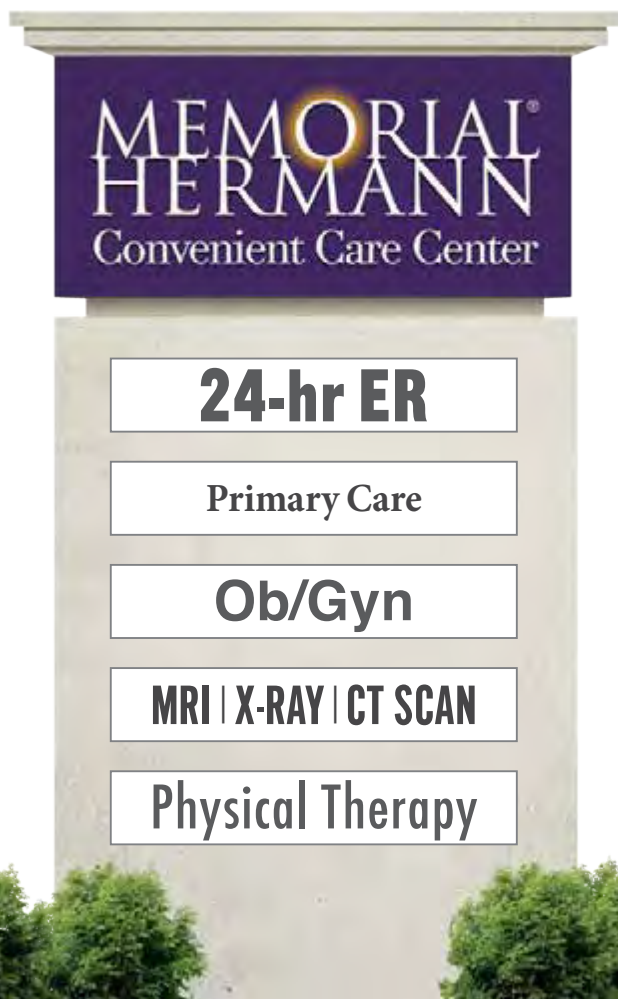
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ADVANCING HEALTH

TREE PRUNING: WHEN IS THE BEST TIME TO TRIM YOUR TREE?

Article by Randy Lemmon- host of the Garden Line radio program on KTRH News radio 740

In most cases, especially with hardwood trees, the answer is, "December through January" ... the dead of winter, when the tree is in its highest state of dormancy. And here's a list you should review before pulling out the pruning shears or chainsaw.

Do not top your tree. Topping is, unfortunately, a common practice designed to encourage vigorous new growth. While that is achieved, the overall strength and structure of the tree are sacrificed. The limbs that are forced from latent buds are very often weakly attached, which makes them susceptible to wind damage.

Do not remove all the lower limbs on newly planted trees. This is sometimes referred to as "limbing up." Some lower branches should be left intact for a period of time to encourage caliper growth. No more than one-third of the top growth on younger trees should be removed.

Do not make stub cuts.

Do not make cuts flush with the trunk or adjoining limb. The proper cut is made flush with the collar at the base of the branch. The collar is the somewhat raised area surrounding the branch union with the parent branch or trunk. This zone contains chemically-protective

tissue; if it is cut off or severely cut into, proper natural 'healing' cannot occur. And, once this area is damaged, it is damaged for good.

Do not cut large limbs with a one-cut method. This will surely result in bark peeling from the weight of the cut limb. Rather, use the three-cut method.

Do not use pruning paints or wound dressings. They do not encourage healing, nor do they prevent pathogens from entering the tree. Although they will not damage the tree, they will certainly prove to be an unwarranted cost. Painting could be justified where aesthetics are concerned. A dark paint can hide the glaring spots made from fresh wood being exposed from a recent cut.

Do approach the tree, and look for any limbs that might be a hazard to someone underneath it or to a building or structure nearby. Broken branches, weak branches, narrow crotch angles, and other obvious faults should be identified. First and foremost, these limbs should be taken care of.

Do remove any dead or dying material on the tree.

Do remove limbs that are rubbing each other or cross over one

(Continued on Page 9)



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Tree Pruning (Continued from Page 8)

another. Limbs that rub will develop wounds that attract insects and diseases.

Do remove excessive vertical sprouts. Some may need to be left in place to encourage caliper growth.

Do prune to encourage fruiting. In the case of fruit trees, thinning out of limbs will allow allocation of nutrients, etc., for fruit production. In addition, practices such as open-center pruning allow sunlight penetration for fruit ripening.

Do choose to keep branches with wide crotch angles. Wide crotch angles are generally from 40 to 90 degrees, and are very strong as a result of being composed of solid wood. Narrow crotch angles are less than 40 degrees, and contain a bark inclusion that causes them to be very weak. Narrow crotch angles should preferably be pruned out while the tree is still young. In older, established trees, bracing and cabling may be the only resort.

Do prune the tree to your liking. There are many different ways that one particular tree may be pruned. Even experts will have differing opinions on which branches to remove. The bottom line is: whatever you like is what you should do, so long as you utilize proper cutting techniques and pruning methods.

<http://www.ktrh.com/onair/gardenline-with-randy-lemmon-25172/>

Lone Star College/Atascocita

Pet Supply Drive: December 1 - 19

With the holidays just around the corner, most of our pets are warm and cozy at home but we sometimes forget that not all animals are as lucky. The LSC-Atascocita Library will be collecting donations for VAP (Volunteers for Animal Protection). Items can be dropped off at the library during normal business hours: Monday–Thursday 7:30am -5:00pm; Friday 7:30am–2:30pm.

Academy of Lifelong Learning (ALL) Open House

The ALL open house will be held January 8, 2015 at 2pm. Yearly membership is \$20 from Sept. 1-August 31. This entitles anyone age 50 and over to register for our free courses. Many classes are offered right here on West Lake Houston Pkwy, including Gardening, Computers, Discussion groups, Health and Fitness, History, Photography, Science and Travel.

Now Hiring Part-time Faculty

There are various part-time teaching opportunities available at the Center during the daytime hours. Visit lonestar.edu/jobs and type in Atascocita Center in the keyword search. We are currently hiring in these areas:

Computer Science
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Lake Houston Ladies Club

December Meeting and Luncheon Information

Lake Houston Ladies Club will have their meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, December 16, 2014 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest in Humble. Christmas music will be provided by GERALYN MOUNDS on the keyboard and Santa will be there. Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization that welcomes new members from all surrounding areas.

Several interest groups are available which include: Readers Choice, Bridge, Bunco, Tea Time, Lunch and Look, Movie Group, Supper Club, Mah Jongg, and Girl's Night Out. Please join us. New members are always welcome. Call Carol at 832-671-4475 for more information about the club and for luncheon reservations call by Friday, December 12th before 5:00 p.m.

Summerwood ARC

The Summerwood Architectural Review Committee (known as the ARC) consists of a five residential member board that meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the central clubhouse. The responsibility of the ARC is to maintain and enhance the character of our community as established by the builder guidelines. The function of the committee is to:

1. Safeguard the architectural integrity of Summerwood and
2. Protect property and property values.

The ARC reviews all changes to the exterior of a residential property and the guidelines have been developed in accordance with the Builders Guidelines for the Summerwood subdivision and are compatible with similar well maintained communities throughout Houston.

All exterior modifications to your property must be approved in advance by the Architectural Review Committee. The ARC will review your request to make sure that the improvement will be done in a professional, sound manner and will fit in with the aesthetics of the community.



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Photo of the Month

Have you recently taken a great photo of your family enjoying the outdoors in Summerwood? Maybe you have taken a photo of one of our amenities or perhaps a particular landscaped area that you enjoy? We'd love to publish a favorite Summerwood photo! Please email it to: summerwood.newsletter@gmail.com and include your name and address along with a short paragraph about why the photo is your favorite. The winner will have his/her photo in next month's newsletter!

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DECEMBER FIT - IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START

It's all too easy to put off our fitness plans when the New Year is around the corner. Why work now when we can put it off for another month, vowing to get "everything fit" in the coming year.

As you start your personal fitness program now you will be on your way to creating good habits. Experts say it takes at least 30 days to form good fitness habits. These positive habits you start forming today will help you to accomplish your goals in the coming year.

The weather outside is beautiful. Following are some tips to help get you on your way:

Take advantage of the crisp air as the next few months provide us a wonderful opportunity to exercise outdoors. Cycling, walking and running are incredible activities this time of year.

Taking the kids and a pet to the park in August is not for the faint of heart. December however is a perfect time to get quality time with the family outside. Take your Frisbee, play on the swing set, challenge someone in a game of Bocce. These activities are not only fun but they'll keep you fit as well.

Integrate exercise into your life - Instead of reading a book while the kids practice soccer, take a jog around the park. Don't panic over a parking spot at your favorite mall. Purposefully park at the

back of the lot. You'll not only relieve yourself of stress but you'll get a few more steps into your day.

Don't let the shortened days get you down. Just because the sun goes down at 6pm doesn't mean you can't play outside. Get a good headlamp, wear reflective clothing, and enjoy the peace and solitude the evenings can offer.

December also provides us with a great opportunity to make our homes look better than ever. Homes show beautifully when decorated for the Holidays. If you are considering the sale of your home, remember that buyers are often more emotional during the Holidays. This can translate to them being more likely to pay your asking price. Additionally, many people are looking to buy before the end of the year for tax reasons.

We'd be remiss if we didn't thank you for yet another wonderful year in Real Estate. We are well aware that many of our readers are clients. It has been a pleasure to serve you and we hope you know that the relationships we have formed are a significant part of our happiness. We wish you a wonderful Holiday season, Merry Christmas and God Bless.

Tracy Montgomery Team

THE *Tracy Montgomery* TEAM



Lisa Hughes
Cell: 281.323.5894

Tracy Montgomery
Cell: 713.825.5905

Sandy Brabham
Cell: 713.503.8110

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