



# NORMANDY FOREST

October 2015

Official Publication of the Normandy Forest Homeowners Association

Volume 4, Issue 10

**Sponsored by Normandy Forest  
HOA and MUD #28**

## National Night Out

Tuesday, October 6th  
6 - 8 PM

Normandy Forest Clubhouse and Field

*Come check out the Firetruck,  
EMS, Constables vehicles*

*DJ*

*Food*

*LaserTag*

*Bounce Houses*

*Rock Wall*

*60 ft Obstacle course*

*Farm Blowup for Toddlers*

*Free Giveaways*

# 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  
 Paul Diaz ..... 281-651-8606

### ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Michelle Tsatsaronis ..... michelletsatsaronis@gmail.com  
 ..... 281-907-2276

### POOL MAINTENANCE & LIFEGUARDS

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

### CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

Chaparral Management / Valerie Overbeck ..... 281-537-0957

### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

John Nemec ..... 281-651-8606 | jnemec@normandyforest.org  
 Paul Diaz ..... 281-687-2045

### POOL TAG COMMITTEE

George Tsatsaronis ..... 281-323-9900

### BLOCK CAPTAIN COORDINATOR

Karen Zuckero ..... 713-504-6469

## IMPORTANT CONTACTS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Diaz | President ..... 281-687-2045  
 John Nemec | Vice President ..... 281-651-8606  
 Judy Doll | Secretary ..... 281-528-9110  
 George Tsatsaronis | Treasurer ..... 281-323-9900  
 Tim Benjamin | Director at Large ..... 281-704-3570

### BALLPARK RESERVATIONS

John Nemec | Coordinator ..... 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

### EDITOR

Judy Doll ..... txcadlady@sbcglobal.net

### PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181  
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### ADVERTISING

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## PUMPKIN PATCH

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# HALLOWEEN SAFETY

- Know where your children are at all times
- Wear bright costumes and carry a flashlight
- Trick or Treat in a group
- Do not eat unwrapped or suspicious candy
- Be careful crossing streets

## WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Harry & Sherrienne Cabrera*  
*Julio & Mirna Lopez*

## INTERNET SAFETY

With the start of a new school year parents are concerned with Internet safety and security. Children should be taught not to open emails from persons they are not familiar with, as they can contain links that allow someone to take over your computer. Some of these emails may try to tempt children into opening them by having "free stuff" in the subject line. Talk with your children and explain that some people will try to take advantage by taking money and information. Explain that not everything is what it appears to be and they should think before connecting. Another important point to make is never give anyone your computer password. With a password, data, identity and property are out of your control. Parents should also be aware of cyberbullying. Polls have shown that over 25% of teens have been cyberbullied. Watch for these signs if your child does not want to go to school, can't sleep, has declining grades, low self-esteem or feelings of helplessness. Parents can check out the following websites to keep their children safe online: [www.gcflearnfree.org/internetsafetyforkids](http://www.gcflearnfree.org/internetsafetyforkids) or [kids.usa.gov/onlinesafety/index.shtml](http://kids.usa.gov/onlinesafety/index.shtml) or [www.connectsafely.org](http://www.connectsafely.org)

Do not make this a one-time conversation, speak about Internet safety often!

KLEIN COLLINS  
HIGH SCHOOL

# 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

October 10	@ Spring Westfield	2PM
October 16	vs Klein	7PM
October 23	@ Montgomery	7PM
October 31	vs Spring	2PM
November 6	@ Klein Forest	7PM



# NORMANDY FOREST



## Partnerships for Children

Marques is a charming and quiet young man. He loves basketball and enjoys most all sports. He also enjoys riding his bike, playing video games and listening to music. He would enjoy being in a family that would provide activities for him to be active, especially sports. He would like to have a Mom that is caring and loving. He would also like to have a father that will do “guy things” like playing basketball and camping.

Adopting a child from the foster care system requires little or no cost to the adoptive family and funding may be available to help the adoptive family support the child or sibling group.

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a program of Partnerships for Children. To learn more about the adoption or fostering process, please call the Heart Gallery of Central Texas at (512) 834-4756, email [heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org](mailto:heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org) or visit our website at [www.partnershipsforchildren.org](http://www.partnershipsforchildren.org)



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## 2015 Fall Festivals

- Oct 10 - 11 • Bayou City Art Festival.....[ArtColonyAssociation.org](http://ArtColonyAssociation.org)
- Oct 10 - Nov 29 • Sat & Sun - Texas Renaissance Festival .....[TexRenfest.com](http://TexRenfest.com)
- Oct 17 - 18 • Wings Over Houston Airshow .....[WingsOverHouston.com](http://WingsOverHouston.com)
- Oct 17 - 18 • 18<sup>th</sup> Galveston ARToberFEST, Galveston .....[ARToberFEST.com](http://ARToberFEST.com)
- Oct 23 - 25 • International Gem & Jewelry Show .....[NRGPark.com](http://NRGPark.com)
- Oct 24 • 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Texian Market Days .....[TexianMarketDays.com](http://TexianMarketDays.com)
- Oct 24 & 31 • Kemah Boardwalk Halloween Costume Contest.....[KemahBoardwalk.com](http://KemahBoardwalk.com)
- Oct 25 • Houston Wedding Showcase, NRG Park .....[HoustonWeddingShowcase.com](http://HoustonWeddingShowcase.com)
- Oct 29 - Nov 1 • International Quilt Festival .....[Quilts.com](http://Quilts.com)
- Oct 31 • 2015 Annual Race For The Cure, 8 AM, Sam Houston Park .....[Komen-Houston.org](http://Komen-Houston.org)
- Nov 12 - 15 • 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Houston Ballet Nutcracker Market .....[NutcrackerMarket.com](http://NutcrackerMarket.com)
- Nov 12 -19 • Annual Houston Cinema Arts Festival.....[CinemaArtSociety.org](http://CinemaArtSociety.org)
- Nov 14 - 15 • 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Native American Championship Pow Wow.....[TradersVillage.com](http://TradersVillage.com)
- Nov 14 & 15 • 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Festival .....[WoodlandsCenter.org](http://WoodlandsCenter.org)
- Nov 14 - Jan 10 • Festival of Lights, Moody Gardens.....[MoodyGardens.org](http://MoodyGardens.org)
- Nov 19 - 22 • Jr League Holiday Market, The Woodlands.....[JLTheWoodlands.org](http://JLTheWoodlands.org)
- Nov 20 - 22 • Holiday Christmas Gift Market, Katy TX.....[HomeForTheHolidaysGiftMarket.com](http://HomeForTheHolidaysGiftMarket.com)
- Nov 20 - 28 • 2015 World Weightlifting Championships .....[HoustonIWF2015.com](http://HoustonIWF2015.com)
- Nov 21 & 22 • 2015 ViaColoriHouston .....[CenterHearingAndSpeech.org](http://CenterHearingAndSpeech.org)

## OMG HOMEWORK

OMG – It’s homework time and I need a drink!

Ah, the school year starts. Parents everywhere rejoice with visions of free time!

Free time to catch up on shows that aren’t animated, to work out, to get your mani/pedi, to shop without listening to whining, to have conversations with complete sentences and big words.

But, instead that free time is:

Free time to get the oil changed! In both cars, to take the dogs to the vet for annual check ups, to call a plumber to fix the tub jets, to call an electrician because the plumber won’t fix the tub jets, to call a tub dealer because the electrician won’t fix the tub jets, to have an appliance guy come and tell you the tub has to be removed because the pump was installed backwards – and nope, he doesn’t remove tubs, to call BOTH a plumber and the appliance back together – that may take forever to get scheduled, to take a bath IF you ever get the tub fixed!

Still it is easier than doing all of those fun chores AND playing referee to the kids.

With great joy comes great pain and agony – namely Homework!!

Seriously, even Charles Dickens agrees... “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” (A Tale of Two Cities)

O.M.G. Homework.

When. Did. Homework.

Become. Such. A. Big.

Horrible. Fricking.

NIGHTMARE???

I remember homework:

I remember homework from when I was a child. The teacher taught something in class. I listened and learned. I took the book home and did the “odd numbered problems” on page 72. This didn’t take long because I actually knew the material. I had seen it recently – that same day! Homework – 15 minutes BOOM. Skill reinforced, mom not involved, and STILL time for playing outside.

Homework today?

Now kids stare blankly at the homework page which covers things they discussed months or even grades ago...and maybe, just maybe something they have actually seen before in class. Who refreshes their memory about these long forgotten skills? Mom, of course AND without the help of a textbook!

I remember homework:

I remember homework from my teaching days. (1988-2004) Each subject had a separate day for homework. For me that meant I only gave homework once a week – 20 minutes homework for language arts. The kids had to know what to do or it wasn’t useful for reinforcing that day’s learning AND the phone rang off the wall the next day with parents complaining. Boom! Skill reinforced, mom not involved, still time for playing outside.

Homework today?

There are no text-books. Everything is online and Lord help me, everything requires ‘signing’ in. We have log in and password information for countless (no seriously, I don’t even want to count them!) accounts:

\*profiles \*schoolology \*band calendar \*PTO information \*lunch account \*soccer schedule \*Prezi \*spelling town \*math practice \*school newsletter AND \*each teacher has a website \*\* I just went to parent night at the school last night and there are more accounts coming soon. Wonderful.

All of the above...for EACH kid. I have trouble keeping track of my own online life and you want me to add 40 logins and passwords per kid? I need a drink.

Skills reinforced? Um...I have no idea what skill this reinforces. Mom involved? You BET! Time to play outside? HAHAAAAHA!

Sigh...remember the good old days?

Homework was easy and painless, dishes washed themselves, fairies did the laundry in the night, beautifully coifed children played happily together while you cooked gourmet meals in your heels and pearls, remember those days? Yeah, me neither. And since none of those things are a part of the world, past, present, or ...well hopefully in the future we need to get it together now!!

Tips for less painful homework time!

1) Pay attention.

Homework time always comes during the witching hour of the day when the baby is crying and the dogs are barking and dinner needs to be cooked... Homework is hard enough when you are focused on it, right? So, do what you can to give yourself the space to pay attention. Like:

\*Make dinner early or use a crockpot.

\*Feed dogs a little earlier so they will not be needy or freaky.

\*Break out the treats for baby.

2) Foster independence.

I’ll wait for you to stop laughing. I know I just said that the kids don’t have any idea what have the homework is even about so how are they supposed to be independent? By trying. Yes, foster that “old college try” while they are still in elementary school. It turns out some of those problems they really CAN do or at least get close.

3) Keep it quiet.

It should go without saying that the house should be quiet. No TV. No DVD. No Internet. Just kids sitting at tables focusing on their task. I have no luck with mine together so I divide and conquer by having them at different work stations. (Fancy word for one at the kitchen table and one at the coffee table.)

4) Free time first.

I believe it a little break between working all day at school and working again on homework, but only a little one. Give them a snack, potty break, time to tell about their day...part of a video game or tv

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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*(Continued from Page 5)*

show or swing set time in the backyard. Thirty minutes of downtime gives everyone a breather before settling down for work.

5) NO breaks.

Just get it done. Whining about it and talking about it and needing a drink and throwing a fit, etc. all just wastes time. Tell the kids to just get it over with. We all know that if they would just buckle down, focus, and get to it, homework would take 1/2 the time!

6) Bring the phone.

OK, perhaps this is the “WTF is math all about this year” part of me, but please keep your phone nearby logged into Facebook so you can bail me out when I post a picture of tonight’s “how the hell do I figure out this math problem?” photo. I’m happy to help you out, too for more reasonable subjects than math.

7) Be ready.

Have paper, pencils, books, drink, snack, dictionary, lap top ready. Do not give kids the chance to ‘forget’ something and waste time wandering around the house looking for it. You’ll save your sanity by spending 2 minutes getting ready.

8) Have a mantra.

When the kids are whining about how hard the homework is

or how stupid the homework is or how ‘mean’ their teacher is for assigning it, you need a mantra. Do NOT engage in this time wasting conversation – even if Mean Mrs. Smith really did assign the dumbest homework assignment ever. Instead, have a mantra to repeat over and over again in response. Mine is, “We are not talking about that right now. We are doing our homework. Focus.” Over and over and over and over.

9) Pat yourself on the back.

Lastly, raise your glass in a toast (we really are drinking now aren’t we?) and give yourself a pat on the back. Homework is tough on everyone and making sure they 1) do it and 2) do it well will give them skills to last their entire life. You are doing a great job, momma. Cheers to you!

Boy, you’ll need a vacation when you get a break from homework for the holidays.

Stop by and see me for tips on making it AWESOME!

Natalie Tanner, The Educational Tourist helps family plan adventures and make them awesome! [Www.theeducationaltourist.com](http://www.theeducationaltourist.com)

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