

THE TALON

February 2016

Official Publication of the Eagle Springs Community Association

Volume 8, Issue 2



Ladies Fashion Show

February 27th Doors open 6:45

Details inside

Save The Date Spring Egg-stravaganza

March 5th 9 am till Noon

Sports Complex, Soccer & Baseball Fields



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 3..... Twin Villas HOA Meeting
7-8:30 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 9.....Book Club
8:00 pm / Eagle Springs Clubhouse
- 10..... Fiber & Yarn Club
7 pm/ Eagle Springs Clubhouse
- 11.....HOA Board Meeting
5:00 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 12..... Scrapbook Club
12-10:00 pm / Eagle Springs Clubhouse
- 14.....**Happy Valentine's Day**
- 15..... Sports Field Committee Meeting
7 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 16..... Pool Committee Meeting
7 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 18..... Safety Advisory Committee Meeting
7 pm / Valley Springs Clubhouse
- 24..... Fiber & Yarn Club
7 pm/ Eagle Springs Clubhouse
- 24..... Newfield Park HOA Meeting
7 pm/ Valley Springs Clubhouse

ONSITE OFFICE HOURS

Winter Hours are in Effect!
Effective November 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016, Winter Hours will be in effect. Winter Hours are:
Wednesdays 1-6 pm | Saturdays 9-1 pm
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COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

EAGLE SPRINGS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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 Community Manager..... Bill.Higgins@Crest-Management.com
 Clubhouse Rental..... Help@InsideEagleSprings.com
 ActivitiesActivities@InsideEagleSprings.com
 Website Administrator..... Help@InsideEagleSprings.com
 Newsletter Help@InsideEagleSprings.com

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 Atascocita Springs Elementary..... 281-641-3600
 Timberwood Middle School..... 281-641-3803
 Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

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Did You Know?

InsideEagleSprings.com is a valuable tool for learning about community events, meetings, and HOA rules and regulations in Eagle Springs. Meeting agendas and budgets can be found under the HOA Information tab, along with the form to submit questions to the HOA Board. Reservations for both the Valley Springs and Eagle Springs Clubhouses must be done via the Clubhouse Info & Reservations tab. Maintenance request forms can be found under the Resident Information tab.

The wifi passwords to the clubhouses and the Fitness Center can also be found on their respective pages. Community events that require registration (such as the upcoming Ladies Fashion Show) are posted to the community website as well.

To fully access the website, you must be a registered user. You can register via the Register link in the login box. All registrations take a maximum of 3-5 days to approve, though the majority are done much quicker.

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SELLING SEASON IS HEATING UP

2016 is off to a great start with quite a bit of buyer activity in the local market. Pending contract activity remains strong, based on the numbers below for area 1 – Northeast Houston.

Table 1 shows activity in Area 1 – Northeast Houston which includes, Humble/Atascocita/Huffman. Table 2 shows specific data for Eagle Springs.

Area 1 – Northeast Houston – Represents inventory of homes available on January 8, 2016 and contracts executed December 1, 2015 – January 8, 2016

Status	Up to \$99,999	\$100,000-\$199,999	\$200,000-\$299,999	\$300,000-\$399,999	\$400,000-\$499,999	\$500,000-\$599,999	\$600,000+	Total
Active	24	214	203	133	70	16	23	683
Option Pending	6	30	11	5	2	0	1	55
Pending / PS	17	124	68	38	12	5	6	270
Sold	0	4	3	1	0	0	0	8
Total:	47	372	285	177	84	21	30	1016

Eagle Springs - Represents inventory of homes available on January 8, 2016 and contracts executed between December 1, 2015– January 8, 2016

Status	Up to \$99,999	\$100,000-\$199,999	\$200,000-\$299,999	\$300,000-\$399,999	\$400,000-\$499,999	\$500,000-\$599,999	\$600,000+	Total
Active	0	8	16	11	7	1	0	43
Option Pending	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	3
Pending / PS	0	5	4	3	0	1	0	13
Sold	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	13	22	15	7	2	0	59

NOTE: This representation is based in whole or in part of data supplied by the Houston Board of Realtors Multiple Listing Service. Neither the Board nor its MLS guarantees or is in any way responsible for its accuracy. Any market data maintained by the Board or its MLS necessarily does not include information on listings not published at the request of seller, listings of brokers who are not members of the Board of MLS, unlisted properties, rental properties, etc.

The time to put your home on the market and sell may be right now. For years, Eagle Spring's residents have trusted me in assisting them with selling their homes. My ranking as the #1 Individual Listing Agent in Eagle Springs; in addition to being listed as one of the Top five agents in Area 1 – Northeast Houston for the past several years; confirms my ability to assist you with a proven marketing plan providing full turn-key service to get your home sold.

There are many Relocation Companies that employers use to relocate their employees. If a relocation is in your future, be sure to request me by name with your Relocation Specialist so I can assist you with your Real Estate transaction.

Call me today to schedule a time to discuss your Real Estate needs. I look forward to the opportunity to earn your business.

Respectfully,
Rebekah Snipp

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Wet WinterFest!

We managed to make it nearly 2 hours before the deluge of wet weather rolled in! Our young residents enjoyed horse-drawn wagons, a petting zoo, inflatables, trackless train, and, of course, SANTA!

Thank you to the 20+ craft fair vendors who braved the weather to sell their wares and advertise their businesses. We look forward to having you out again next WinterFest in hopefully better weather! Tipico Catering, Tacos Flores, and Space City Kettle Corn fed the masses.



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Ladies' Fashion Show (with wine!)

Looking for a girls' night out without having to leave Eagle Springs? Once again, we welcome Dragonfly Boutique and In Color Salons, with the new addition of Jack and Monroe Boutique, to show off new springs styles with lots of fun and laughs. Want to see what the newest spring trends are for fashion and hair? Want to taste the delectable eats of The Hometown Chef? Come out with your girlfriends to the Eagle Springs Clubhouse on February 27th. Doors open at 6:45. Raffles for prizes and swag bags are part of the fun!

This event requires pre-registration, and all attendees must be in good standing with the HOA and over 21 years of age. All IDs will be checked at the door to verify age, as wine will be served at this event. Registration for the event can be found on InsideEagleSprings.com. The fee is \$15 (\$25 for non-resident guests) and an item to donate to the Women's Home, located on Westheimer. Donations can include suits, shoes, business casual attire, and toiletries. The Women's Home, along with The Cottage Shop, provides women in crisis the opportunity to rebuild their lives through supportive programs and housing services.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED! If you have any questions, please email Activities@InsideEagleSprings.com.



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2016 Pool Pass Validation Stickers

This year, we are beginning pool card validations this month. If you are in good standing with the HOA and have paid your 2016 dues in full, you are able to come by the Onsite Office and get your cards validated. If you have experienced the madness that is pool card season at either a Pool Committee volunteer event or the Onsite Office, you will know that doing validations before the pools open is strongly urged.

A member of your family will need to bring all of the pool passes with a 2016/2017 space available at the bottom of the card(s) (absolutely no exceptions to this rule; you cannot pull off an old sticker to create space for a new one), along with a valid photo ID and proof of residency. Proof of residency can be a driver's license with current address or utility bill. If you are a renter, a current copy of your lease is also needed.

Validations are free. If you need an access card, you can purchase them in the Onsite Office anytime during office hours.

Detailed information regarding pool cards, validation stickers, and access cards can always be found on InsideEagleSprings.com



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that only
Service Animals
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events.**



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*A place where teachers
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Imagine...

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Home Organizing and De-cluttering Tips

February is a great month to organize and de-clutter your home. Maybe this task is a specific New Year's resolution for you, if not, we bet it ties to one! (e.g. stress less = decrease clutter; exercise more = find your exercise clothes more easily!). Here are a few simple organizing strategies:

Bathroom

1. Control hair product clutter: give unwanted supplies to a friend or donate to charity. Use a plastic tub for your supplies and place it under the sink. When you fix your hair, the whole tub can be taken out and put away.

2. Add style and function with apothecary jars: cotton swabs, Q-tips, and bath salts look great in clear containers, and are handy for guests.

Bedroom

1. Opt for storage under the bed: incorporate sliding or rolling under bed storage bins. These are

perfect for your seasonal attire and bulkier items like backpacks, purses, and blankets.

2. Toy proof a child's bedroom: utilize canvas clothes hampers or crunch baskets to organize toy clutter. Use different sizes, small for books and large for balls or stuffed animals.

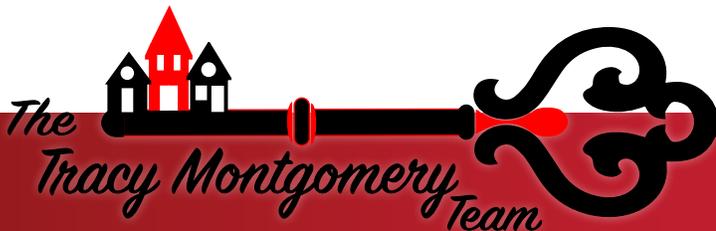
Living Room

1. Coffee table functionality: if your coffee table has drawers, use them for magazines, remotes, coaster, etc. If not, add low storage cubes rolling baskets or bins for under the table.

2. Creatively display photos: if you have a lot of small photo frames, display them in new ways such as collage frames, a digital photo frame, or hang frames on the wall.

We hope these tips help you attain your New Year's resolutions, or simply make you feel calm and clutter-free and your home! May your February be one of organization and peace!

Yours in Organization,
The Tracy Montgomery Team



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LAKE HOUSTON
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FEBRUARY MEETING

Lake Houston Ladies Club will have their meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest, Humble TX 77346. Elvis Tribute Artist, Harvey McFadden, will be this month's entertainer and will be performing "A Salute to Elvis". Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization that welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Several Interest groups are available which include: Reader's Choice, Bridge, Bunco, Lunch and Look, Tea Time, Movie Group, Supper Club, Mah Jongg, and Girl's Night Out. Please join us. New members are always welcome. Reservations need to be made by Friday, February 5, 2016. For more information about the club and for luncheon reservations go to www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com/ or call Linda at 832-379-3009.

10 Easy Ways to Make Your Home Safe

A home should be a sanctuary and a safe haven. You can ensure that you and your loved ones remain out of harm's way in the precincts of your homestead.

To avoid all kinds of accidents you should make it an accident-proof dwelling. It's really simple if you observe specific steps to keep mishaps at bay.

Here are 10 easy ways to make your home safe and secure. These will help you take care and protect yourself, family members and house-guests. Employ these effective tips:

1. Keep interiors and exteriors well lit. This is important at nighttime and also in winters when daylight is not very effective. Critical areas that need to be illuminated are the stairs, outdoors and foyers.

2. Never leave electrical problems pending at any point. The slightest fluctuation should be attended immediately. Make it a cardinal rule to switch off appliances after use.

3. Smoke alarms are a necessity and you must have the very best. Practice regular safety drills with your family to ensure awareness of procedures.

4. Keep ordinary appliances safely as they could be dangerous. Especially with kids around. Make electrical outlets safe by safety plugging and child proofing them. Keep sharp objects like scissors, knives, weapons and match boxes out of reach.

5. Ensure locks and bolts on doors and windows are in order and tamper-proof. Keep an eye out for suspicious characters and never invite strangers into your home. Teach your children not to entertain queries from strangers.

6. Do not share information about working or school hours. Teach family members to avoid telling people about schedules and routines. Do not put personal information online and never respond to voicemails.

7. The risk of accidents goes up when you are getting maintenance or repair work done. Ensure safety and precaution and be prepared to react quickly to accidents or injuries.

8. Do not attempt repair work of appliances involving undue risk. Many home accidents are the result of improper tampering with tools like lawnmowers and trimmers.

9. Maintain caution when driving vehicles in or out of your home. If you are backing the car up, watch out for children and pets on the road.

Make sure you don't leave stuff on stairs that may cause people to trip and fall. Be watchful when clearing snow from pathways that you do not heap it up in areas where people might walk.

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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco
Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis
Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX



Step 1

Step 2

Step 3

Step 4

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand, forehand volley, and the two handed backhand volley. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute the serve, considered as the most important stroke, since the player has complete control of the game at this time. In these pictures, Adolfo Gonzalez, one of the tennis pros at the Grey Rock Tennis Club, demonstrates the proper form and technique for a right-handed player. For a left-handed player, the instructions will be the opposite hands.

Step 1: Ready Position: The body is sideways with the right hand holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is holding the ball under the throat of the racket. The left arm is slightly straight and the ball is held with the thumb, index finger and middle finger. This allows for a consistent toss without using the wrist and/or elbow. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners, it is okay to change the grip slightly toward the forehand grip. As the player gets more advanced, the continental grip will be a better one to give more spin on the ball.

Step 2: Back Swing: The left arm comes down and the right

arm follows it. It is vital to slow down the motions to allow for both of the arms to have good balance in the front and behind the body. Notice that the hand is in the process of tossing the ball in front of the body and the left wrist is bent down. It is imperative to have a good consistent toss since it will dictate the success or failure of the serve.

Step 3: Point of contact: Once the player is ready to hit the ball, the right arm will force the racket toward the point of contact, while the left hand will come down toward the body. This allows for the "snap" of the wrist to accelerate and bring the ball down. Notice that the point of contact is slightly higher than the center of the racket. Eyes are still focused on the point of the contact and will be ready to look down as soon as the ball leaves the frame. The right hip is extended to allow the body to extend up.

Step 4: Follow Through: The racket speed will extend to the left side of the body. The right foot is coming forward and is pointing toward the net. The trunk is straight and eyes are focused on the direction of the ball. At this point the player will take the split step and will jump either behind the base line to rally with the opponent or will move toward the net to serve and volley.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Half Volley



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TOP THREE TIPS TO BE REMEMBERED IN ANY SITUATION

Rule Number One: Must Have Clean Humor

Networking. This will either sound exciting to you or send a shudder up your spine. Whether you are a spouse wondering what in the world you are going to talk about at the next office get together outside of business or wondering how you can stand out in the crowd of other entrepreneurs, here are Rules to Successful Networking that may help smooth your nerves.

Nothing says stay away from me faster than a bad, tasteless joke, or worse, to have someone remember you for the wrong reasons. It is hard to find clean jokes to make everyone smile and for certain have someone else remember you as they repeat a clean joke when they get home or at the office the next day to get a few laughs.

So when "Want to hear a dirty joke?" has everyone leaning in.... say, "Actually, I do have one (Dramatic pause or have everyone lean in....) "White horse.....fell in the mud.....and got dirty! Argh. Argh. Say "Oh yes, you are groaning, but I'll bet you'll find yourself repeating it somewhere down the line!"

Laugh or Groan. Hey, someone will fall for this joke. Okay, Okay, you'll just have to know your audience, but when it was my job a long time ago to find good, clean jokes I really, really found out how hard it was to FIND a good, clean joke. At networking events, you'll have only a few minutes and all heads turn when you hear laughter, right? Here is one that I bet you'll repeat at least once!

Best Clean Joke

The local sheriff was looking for a deputy, so a young woman (or gentleman), went in to try out for the job. "Okay," the sheriff drawled. "What is 1 and 1?"

"Eleven," she/he replied. The sheriff thought to himself, "That's not what I meant, but that is right."

"What two days of the week start with the letter "T"?"

"Today and tomorrow."

He was again surprised that the young woman/man supplied a correct answer that he had never thought of himself.

"Now, listen carefully: Who killed Abraham Lincoln?"

The young woman (or gentleman) looked a little surprised herself/himself, then thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted, "I don't know."

"Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?"

So, the young woman (or gentleman) excitedly met with her/his friends, and they just couldn't wait to hear the results of the interview.

The young woman (or gentleman) was excited beyond belief. "It went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

At least start the chuckling yourself. Go ahead be bold and say a joke anyway. A clean joke.

Second Best Clean Joke ...

A jock and a geek were applying for the same job. The boss said, "Boys, you need to take a test before you can get this job."

So they took the test and the next day they came back to see who the boss chose. "Well, he said, "Both of you got the same score except I'm going to choose the geek."

The jock complained, "Don't you think that's unfair?"

"Well," the boss said, "Let me tell you what happened. Both of your papers were right all the way through until the last question came up, and the geek answered, "I don't know," and then when I looked at your paper, you answered,

"Me either!"

When the chuckling subsides, say "I only have two jokes". I am always looking for another one to trade up, has anyone heard something funny lately?

Rule Number Two: Be Interesting

To be remembered as someone who IS interesting, you'll have to BE interested in other people. Yes, it pays to have something to add to the conversation, and you'll be forearmed after reading the rules of Networking above. Have a few questions ready in case there is a pause in the conversation.

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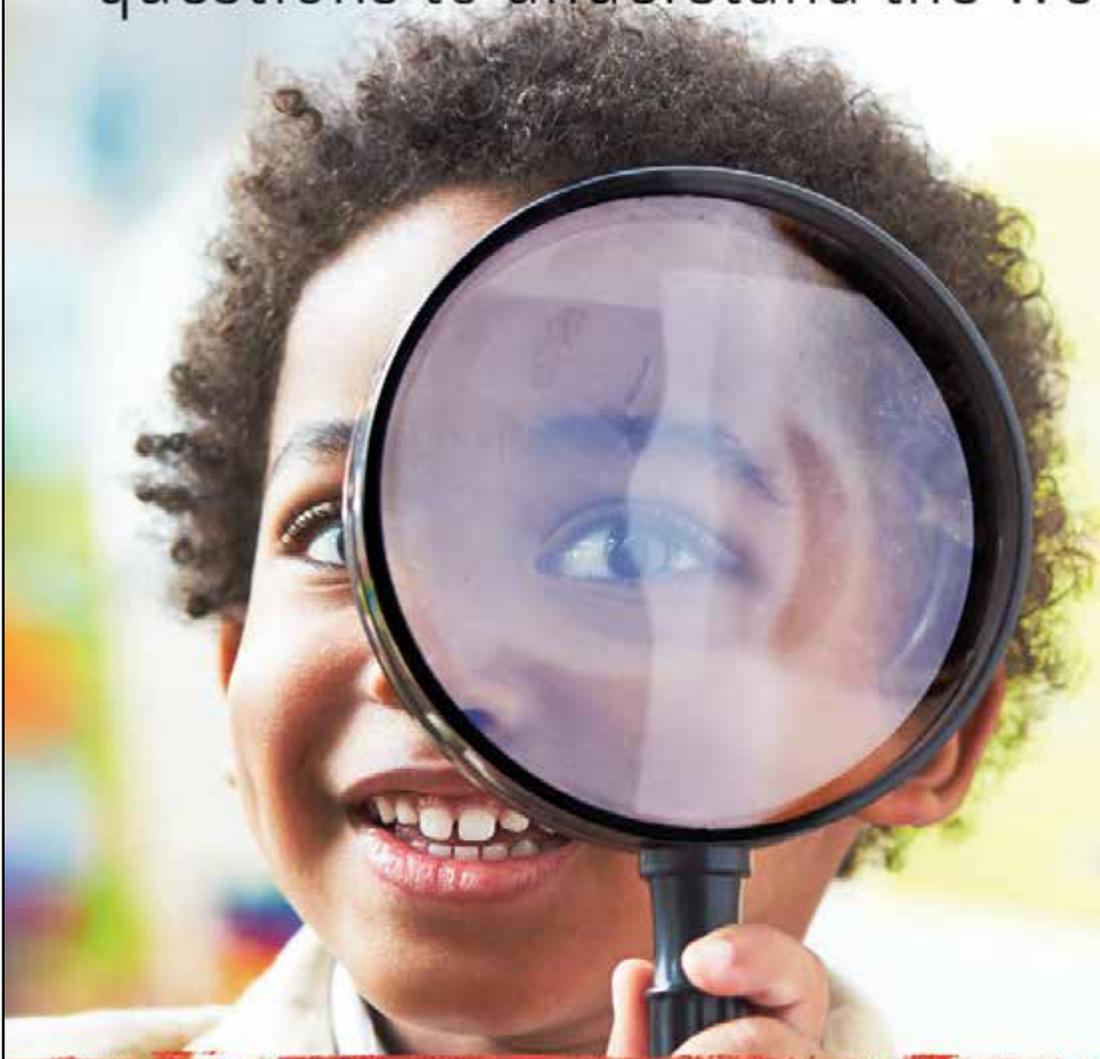
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What keeps you occupied outside of your business? This question will help you gain common ground or something interesting to write about in your follow up note.

Have you seen any good movies lately? Did you see? See, this is where you will sound interesting.

That was terrible aboutDid you see it on the news this morning?

What are your thoughts on ?

Getting other people to talk about themselves and their interests ultimately makes you more interesting.

Your mission: look in the newspaper, look at your local networking clubs and go make some new clients, friends or even dates! You don't have to be a Toastmaster to feel comfortable in new environments.

Oh, a Bonus Rule. Keep your nails nice. Keep your nails nice. Whether handing your business card over to your next big client or holding a drink (preferably soda), you'll be sending a message that you think about yourself as much as you'll care about them as an account.

Rule Number Three: Remember Names

Actually, Rule Number Three: Remember Names should be Rule Number One. Remembering names is crucial. Asking for a business card. Ask how they spell it. Except for the easy, easy names. Try "Is that Linda with an "i" or a "y"? Making up a rhyme, word association, movie association, actor association. Be deliberate and really slow to repeat

their names in your head or at least in re-working the introduction. "My pleasure to meet you, Linda". You'll already be thinking of your next question, so please think slowly on remembering someone's name. As crazy as it sounds, try saying "Linda, Linda, Banana Fanna Bo Binda Fee Fi Bo Binda, Linda" (ahem, in your head, please). Anything works. ; You'll surely brighten someone's day and impress them with your Savant-mindedness. Don't use this if you wind up saying "My pleasure to meet you, BInda"? or worse "Bimba".

Linda Bates is a Freelance Writer who has been writing and volunteering in the Houston area community since BEFORE the word "Apple" actually meant fruit.



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THE GANG THREAT

HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

The FBI says that "gangs are morphing, multiplying, migrating and entrenching themselves in our inner cities, suburbs and rural communities. They are selling drugs to our kids, shooting up our neighborhoods, invading our homes, robbing our banks and stores, stealing our identities, our money, and instilling fear and violence everywhere they go."

They are violent and are responsible for committing crimes from assaults to murder using firearms, machetes, fists and blunt objects to intimidate rivals, law enforcement, and the general public.

They are sprawling our highways, the Internet, and our communities intimidating and infecting all they come in contact with. In some communities, they are responsible for as much as a staggering 80 percent of all crimes.

The National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA) states "The scourge of gangs is a clear and present danger to our internal national security and adversely impacts the quality of life within our communities with violence, drugs and associated criminal activities.

DANGEROUS CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY AND VIOLENCE IS GETTING WORSE

There are about 20,000 violent street, motorcycle and prison gangs in the U.S. today containing approximately one million criminally active members - 147,000 of which are currently incarcerated in federal, state, and local correctional facilities.

While not all gangs are sophisticated and well organized, they all use violence to control neighborhoods and perpetuate their illegal money-making activities. Gangs have also become the primary retail distributors of most illicit drugs.

TYPES OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES GANG MEMBERS COMMIT

- alien smuggling
- armed robbery
- assault
- auto theft
- burglary
- drive-by shootings
- drug trafficking
- extortion
- firearms offenses
- fraud
- home invasions
- homicide
- identity theft
- insurance fraud
- mortgage fraud
- murder
- prostitution rings
- robbery
- theft
- weapons trafficking

Gangs continue to pose a serious threat to public safety in many communities throughout the Houston area and the United States.

Gangs Are Not Just an Inner City or Urban Problem

Gang movement to suburban areas can be attributed to several factors including the breakdown of traditional hierarchical gang structures resulting from law enforcement targeting of gang leaders, an abundance of wholesale illicit drug suppliers, and the expectation of high profits from new suburban drug operations.

Other reasons include an effort to expand the gang's influence, expanding drug distribution territories, recruiting new members, hiding from law enforcement, and escaping other gangs. As a result, many suburban and rural communities are experiencing ever increasing gang-related crime and violence because of expanding gang influence.

The movement of gang members to suburban areas result in territorial conflicts between rival gang members and competition for the new territory - suburbia. As gangs grow regionally and nationally, they will continue to meet with resistance by other gangs possibly resulting in drive-by shootings, homicides and other violent crimes - now in suburban communities.

GANGS ARE LIKE PIRATES

Gangs maintain their criminal operations and lifestyles primarily through drug distribution. Members typically launder profits from criminal activities through front companies such as clothing stores, beauty salons, and music recording companies. They commingle illicit proceeds earned from drug sales with income from these businesses to pay their living expenses and the purchase of luxury goods such as vehicles and jewelry. They are like pirates - they commit war-like acts and engage in robbery and criminal violence as a means to sustain themselves.

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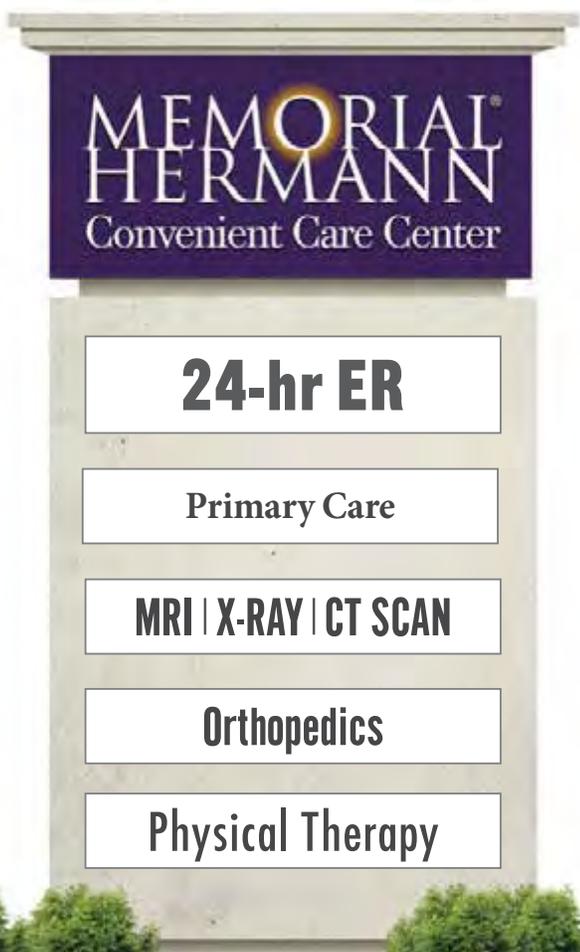
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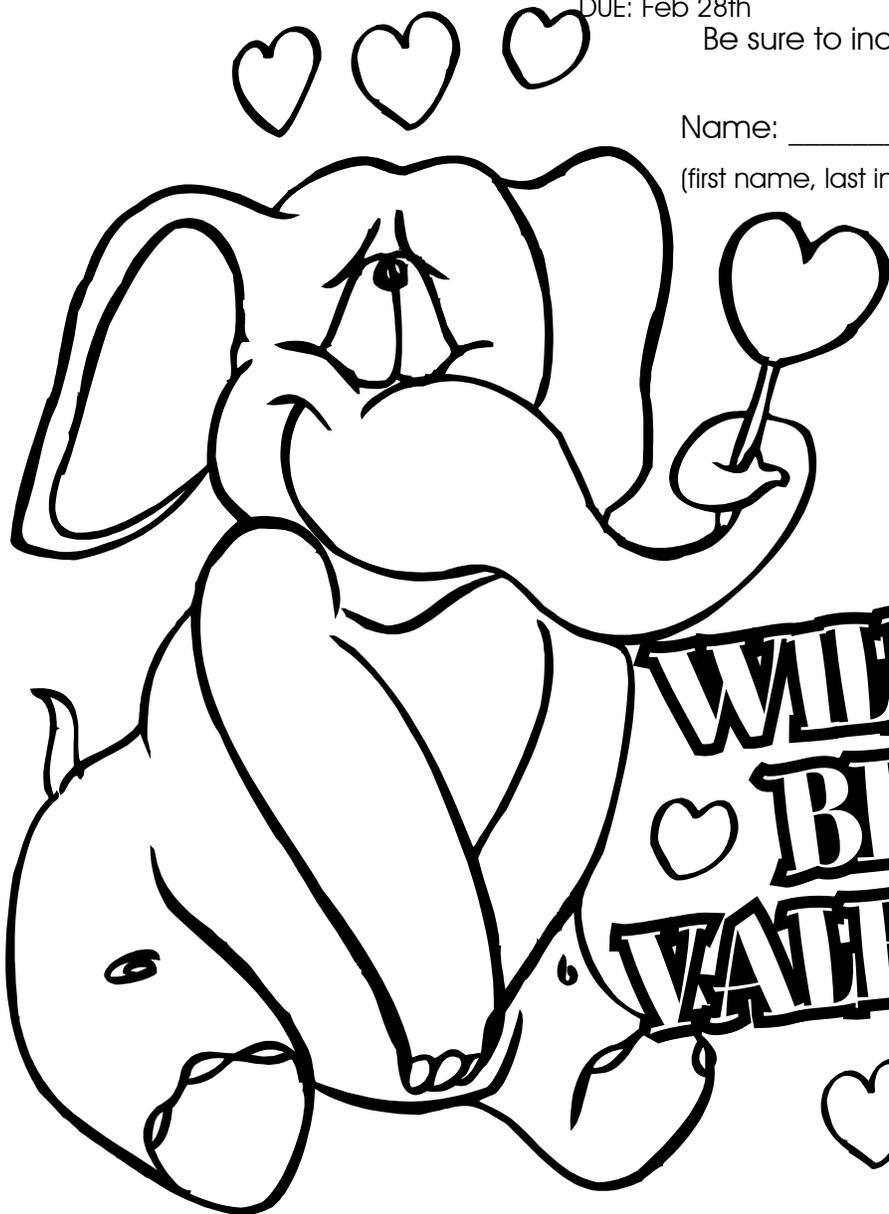
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