



Why It's in Homeowners' Interest to Attend the Annual Meetings

Annual HOA meetings usually address topics that may sound dry as dust to you, as a homeowner. These might include the association's budget, election of directors, and voting on amendments to the HOAs governing documents. The meetings can also address other issues the board believes need the attention of the entire membership.

Attending the annual meeting is nevertheless important (and may be more interesting than you expect.) The decisions being made may, after all, directly impact your quality of life and the value of your property.

For instance, the new budget may require higher assessments in order to make a major repair or upgrade. Homeowners who don't want their dues to go up or don't believe the changes are necessary will want to attend the annual meeting and make their voices heard before a decision is made. (Or if you're in favor of the special assessment and its use, you'll want to make sure the homeowners in opposition don't drown out your position.)

Likewise, a homeowner may want to make sure directors are elected to the board who will make good decisions for the community as a whole, as opposed to decisions that benefit his or her friends.

Although major issues are often reserved for the annual meeting, important topics and issues may still be discussed at regular board meetings. These topics and issues often include reports from the HOA treasurer and property manager, and discussion of any remodel or new construction proposed by other community members. The board may also discuss homeowner complaints and suggestions that lead to rule amendments related to what you can and can't do with your home.

Board meetings are typically open to all members of the HOA. They're often concluded, though, with the board going into an "executive session," which is closed to the general membership. Topics discussed in executive sessions may include legal matters, employment issues, and contract negotiations. Some states, such as Oregon, limit the topics that can be discussed in executive sessions.

Remember, whether a decision is made at a board meeting or annual meeting, these rules must be followed, even if you weren't present. When a community is heavily involved in meetings and the decisions that are made, those decisions tend to better reflect what the community as a whole desires, not what a few board members want.

**Homeowners'
Annual Meeting at the Pavilion
Saturday, July 16th
6:00 p.m.**

JUNETEENTH

"Celebrate Freedom" at Emancipation Park

June 17-June 19, 2016
Friday - Sunday

EMANCIPATION PARK
3018 Dowling, Houston TX 77004
Commemorating...

153 years since the Emancipation Proclamation, 151 years since Texas slaves were granted freedom, 144 years of Emancipation Park Freedom Celebrations & 43 years of Central Houston Freedom Parades

**JUNE
2016**

4th Splash Day
5th Newsletter
14th Board meeting
14th Flag Day
19th Father's Day
19th Juneteenth

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Emergency Situation	911
Constable Precinct 5	281 463-6666
Sheriff Emergency & Non.....	713 221-6000
Harris County Sheriff (Store Front).....	281 564-5990
Harris County Sheriff (sub-station)	281 463-2648
Poison Control.....	800 764-7661
Crime Stoppers	713 222-TIPS

EMERGENCY

AT&T (Repairs).....	800 246-8464
Center Point Energy (Electric).....	713-207-2222
Center Point Energy (Gas)	713 659-2111
Comcast (Cable)	713 462-9000
Mud #120 (Water)	713 405-1750
Reliant (Electric)	713 207-2222
Street Light Repairs -need Pole#.....	713 207-2222
Trash (Texas Pride Disposal)	281 342-8178

PUBLIC SERVICES

Local U.S. Post Office	281 920-9337
<i>12655 Whittington Dr, Houston, TX 77077</i>	
Toll Road EZ Tag.....	281-875-EASY (3279)
Volunteer Fire Dept.....	281 498-1310
Steve Radack (<i>County Commissioner</i>).....	713 755-6306
Animal Control.....	281 999-3191
Dead Animal Pick-up (Precinct 5).....	713 439-6000
Dead Bird Report.....	713 440-3036
Graffiti Clean-up.....	281 463-6300
Mosquito Control (Health Dept.)	713 440-4800
Mow the Bayou.....	713 684-4000

SCHOOLS

Alief Independent School Dist.	281 498-8110
Alief Transportation (to report Bus).....	281 983-8400

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MONTHLY BOARD MEETING EVERY 2nd TUESDAY

7:00p - Executive Session

7:30p - Board Meeting

Butler's Bridge Pool

3915 Summit Valley Dr.

Houston, TX 77082

Happy Father's Day!

Sunday, June 19th

Father's Day is the day to recognize, honor and celebrate the sacrifices and accomplishments of fathers. In 1910, the Washington State Governor declared Father's Day on the 19th of July. It then became a permanent federal holiday in 1972 when President Richard Nixon proclaimed that the third Sunday in June would be further known as Father's Day. On this day, children celebrate their fathers and father figures to show their love and appreciation. Father's Day was created to complement Mother's Day and is celebrated on the third Sunday in June.

THE GARDEN PARTY

To gutter or not to gutter? With all the rains we've been enjoying (or perplexed by, depending on your perspective); I thought it would be appropriate to address a topic that helps handle those rains - GUTTERS.

There has been a lot of discussion for the past decade on whether gutters are even needed. And while I wouldn't blindly put them on a house, I do believe in their use in certain situations. Another controversial topic in this arena, are the "gutter protection" systems that help keep gutters from clogging with pine needles and leaves. Obviously, if you live in a densely wooded area, and you have gutters, you need them. But the controversy, to me, is in how many companies are attempting to install these protection systems, and how they are over-charging for the service.

So, let's start with the need for gutters. In areas where the slope of the roof is such that it will run off and wash out a potential landscape, there is a need for gutter systems. Home improvement experts in years past, used to balk at the addition of gutters and their potential threat the fascias & soffits. But, the technology is such these days that if you hire a reputable company, this shouldn't be a concern.

As for the gutter protection systems, I realize there are way too many of them on the market, but for me it boils down to sticking with the local companies, that understand our rains and our trees. Also by working with a local company, that hopefully manufactures everything here too; you will be saving a lot of money. Lastly, in my concerns about gutter protection systems to block leaves and debris, I think it is ultimately important to find a company that will install a protection system over existing gutters versus those companies that automatically put in an entirely new system, gutters and protection and all.

Also, if you can avoid companies that use subcontractors, it will save you any future headaches, regarding warranty work or repairs. Those that rely solely on sub-contractors will always pose the threat that they can't get the same crew out there to do the follow-up work if need be. While that may not sound important to you, I promise you that a company with its own full-time, on-site crews will always be better at the Customer Service side of this equation.

Randy Lemmon is the host of the GardenLine radio program on Newsradio 740 KTRH.

Facts about Flag Day

June 14th

- On August 3, 1949, President Harry S. Truman signed a congressional order making June 14th of each year National Flag Day.
- Worn out flags may be given to the American Legion or Boy/Girl Scouts of America where they will burn the flags in a formal ceremony on June 14th.
- The Flag should never touch the ground when being taken down. It should be folded neatly and stored ceremoniously.
- You should fly the American Flag only between sunrise and sunset. If left hanging around the clock, it must be illuminated during the dark hours.
- The First Flag Act was signed by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777... Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation.

YARD of the MONTH



The May 2016 "Yard of the Month" award went to Jose Escobar of 4038 Knoll Glen Drive.

Summer bugs

It's important to be able to recognize dangerous insects to protect yourself and your family during your outdoor summer excursions. Although most bugs that you encounter will be harmless, deadly insects and other creepy crawlies are a very real threat. Here are some of the most dangerous spiders and insects in North America and how to spot them.

1. Black Widow Spider

Roughly the size of a paper clip and with venom 15 times stronger than a rattlesnake's, this hourglass-shaped black spider can be spotted by the red markings on its back. Black Widow spiders can live for 1-3 years in the wild and are often found alone.

2. Tarantula Spider

With a lifespan of nearly 30 years Tarantula spiders can grow to nearly the size of a personal pizza. Most Tarantulas are afraid of large predators (like humans) but if provoked – watch out! Though their venom isn't deadly, it's not pleasant and can cause rashes and pain at the biting point.

3. Africanized Bee

Mostly found in the Southern and Southwestern portions of the United States, Africanized Honeybees often travel in swarms to find a new hive. Most do not randomly attack people or animals unless they feel that their new hive is in danger. If you see a swarm of bees or are near a hive, it's important to move away from the area quickly.

4. Mosquitoes

Throughout the world, more people are killed by mosquito-borne illness than any other factor. In the United States, mosquitoes can spread different types of encephalitis and can transmit heartworms to domestic animals like dogs and cats.

5. Red Fire Ants

About ½ inch long and brought accidentally by ship from South America, the Red Fire Ant is a robust type of ant that can sting. Found on golf courses, at picnic grounds, and at playgrounds, Red Fire Ants are very common.

6. Wasps

Wasps usually have a slender, shiny body but they can often look like Honeybees. Unlike Honeybees, when wasps sting their victim they do not lose their stinger, allowing them to sting their victim repeatedly.

7. Brown Recluse Spider

Native to the Midwestern and Southern United States, Brown Recluse Spiders can be deadly to children under the age of 7. Displaying a violin-like shape on their back, these spiders can range in color from brownish-tan to yellow-tan. Most Brown Recluse Spiders only bite when provoked.

8. Scorpions

With a crab-like appearance, scorpions are predatory and often come out at night. Scorpions like warm, dry climates and are often found in deserts. Take precautions when hiking and camping by keeping shoes, blankets, and towels secured indoors. Stings can feel much like a Honeybee sting with mild swelling or a rash, or may be more serious.

9. Ticks

Ticks can be very tiny and some can also carry Lyme disease. Prevalent throughout North America, ticks can attach themselves to exposed skin after time spent outdoors. It's important to do a full body check for ticks and to remove any ticks immediately. If bitten by a Lyme disease-carrying Deer Tick, removal of the tick within 36 hours can reduce the risk of disease.

10. Centipedes and Millipedes

Though not poisonous, Millipedes carry venom that can cause an allergic reaction in some people. Centipedes also carry venom that is not deadly but can be toxic to people who are allergic to other types of insect venoms. Both centipedes and millipedes are worm-like creatures.



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GAS LEAK REPORTED

A Gas Leak near a sidewalk on Bellfall Court was reported to Centerpoint on April 30th. Centerpoint will continue to monitor the area to correct the issue. Please be alert for any water leaks or gas leaks on your block and call the proper service providers immediately.

PARKING AT THE POOL

Vehicle parking is available for members using the Pool, Tennis Court, Pavilion, and the Park Facilities Only. All others will be towed at owner's expense.

CALLING FOR BOARD MEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Please email a ½ page bio to the manager, Gina Victor, at gina.victor@ciaservices.com stating your interest of running in this election.

Eligibility - To qualify for election as an officer or director of West Bend C.I.A, one must be a Property Owner and has not been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude.

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Finding Time

by Tara Chatterson

I've recently come to the conclusion that the world today has gone mad. It's as simple as that.

Don't believe me? Let's look at one simple fact--in what other place do the majority of the population spend trying to fit 35 hours into a 24 hour day? And continue to do so almost 7 days a week?

Tell me if this sounds familiar: work an 8-9 hour day, come home to do chores like cook dinner, do laundry, feed the dog, etc. add kids to the mix--forget it!

Our success-driven society tells us that we have to push to do more, do it bigger, and do it better than anyone else. Finding time to live any sort of life has suddenly become over-rated and unimaginable as a one-way trip to Neverland.

Over-scheduling, double-booking, extreme intake of caffeine & constant exhaustion have become our closest companions.


Well, I've decided I've had enough. If Neverland is the place where peace exists, then I want to live there.

Is it possible? I believe it is. It starts with claiming the time for yourself to relax and unwind. I've found my Neverland here at Five Horses, LLC. Working with, and learning from, the horses here

has brought me a peace of mind I never believed possible. I know it seems hard at first, but you owe it to yourself to find time to rebuild and recharge.

Indulge yourself by finding time for yourself. There are some amazing new events coming up this month at Five Horses. Take a look--I promise you won't regret it.





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22 Texas children have already fatally drowned in 2016

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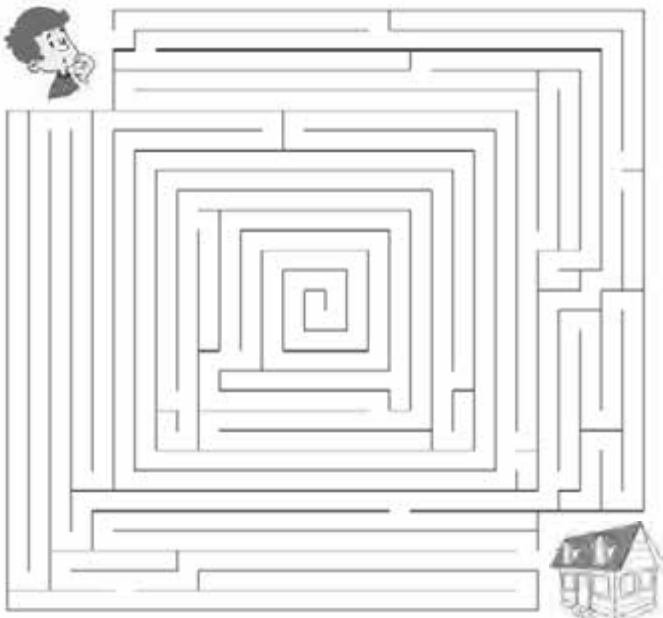
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