

STONE FOREST

Flyer

September 2016

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS

Each year NOAA and the American Red Cross publishes a preparedness guide of tropical cyclones to help us prepare for such an emergency. You can download a copy of that guide at <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/hurricane/resources/TropicalCyclones11.pdf>. This guide gives great information on the metrological terms associated with tropical storms and what to expect from those storms. Most importantly, it lists critical information about how to prepare for an incoming storm.

Guidelines each year prior to hurricane season:

- Determine safe evacuation routes inland
- Learn locations of official shelters
- Check emergency equipment such as flashlights, generators and battery powered equipment such as cell phones and your NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards receiver.
- Buy food that will not spoil and store drinking water.
- Buy plywood or other material to protect your home if you don't have it.
- Trim trees and shrubbery so branches don't fly into your home.
- Clear clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Decide where to move your boat if applicable.
- Review your insurance policy.
- Find pet friendly hotels on your evacuation route.

During the storm and when Houston is in the warning area, you should:

- Closely monitor radio, TV or NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards for official bulletins.
- Close storm shutters.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. Leave immediately if ordered.
- Stay with friends or relatives at a low-rise inland hotel or at designated public shelter outside of the flood zone.
- DO NOT stay in a mobile home or manufactured home.
- Notify neighbors and a family member outside of the warned area of your evacuation plans.

- Take pets with you, but remember that most public shelters do not allow pets other than service pets for people with disabilities.
- Identify pet friendly hotels along your evacuation route.

If you are staying home to "hunker" out the storm:

- Turn refrigerator to maximum cold and keep it closed.
- Turn off utilities if told to do so by authorities.
- Turn off propane gas tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Fill bathtub and large containers with water in case clean tap water is unavailable. Use water in bathtubs for cleaning and flushing only. Do NOT drink it.
- Stay away from windows and doors, even if they are covered. Take refuge in a small interior room, closet or hallway.
- Close all interior doors. Secure and brace exterior doors.
- If you are in a two-story house, go to an interior first floor room.
- If you are in a multi-story building and away from water, go to the first or second floor and stay in the hallways or other interior rooms away from windows.
- Lie on the floor under a table or other sturdy object.



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..... **7717 Louetta Rd., Spring, TX 77379**
Republic Waste
Trash pick-up days: Mondays & Thursdays

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For more info contact Joan Barkovich

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www.thetomballartleague.com

NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY AGGIE MOM'S CLUB

www.nwhcaggiemoms.org



Come join us, on Tuesday, September 13, 2016 at 6:30 pm. at the Houston Distributing Company, 7100 High Life Drive, Houston, Texas 77066. This fun-filled Aggie evening is a great way to meet other Aggie Moms, find out about upcoming events, buy care packages for your student and win door prizes! Enjoy light refreshments and learn a few yells

from the Yell Leaders. We are looking forward to meeting all Moms of freshman Aggies, current Aggie students and former Aggies!

Also Check Out Upcoming Events:

Sat, Sept 10th is Shop Til You Drop from 9am-5 pm at the Berry Center!

Sat, Sept 17th is Hullabaloo Huddle! Football Watch Party starts at 6 pm at Swanny's Grill, 6224 Theall Rd, Houston. 12th Man Silent Auction & Door Prizes! Cheer for the Aggies as they play Auburn, and have a fun evening with other Aggie Moms.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

National Night Out 2016

National Night Out is a great opportunity for citizens and law enforcement to partner up against crime.

This year, National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016, from 7 to 9 p.m.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support and participation in crime efforts
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
- Let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

During the event, residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin and across the nation are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics. Events such as cookouts, block parties and neighborhood walks will all occur simultaneously throughout the city and nationwide.

NW Flyers

Kids' Running Team's Cross Country Season Starts September 6th
The Northwest Flyers Track Club Youth Cross-Country Team kicks off the fall season with registration and a mandatory orientation for parents and athletes on Tuesday, September 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. at Cypress Creek High School, 9815 Grant Rd., Houston. Registration starts online September 1 at www.northwestflyers.org. Practices are held at the Cypress Creek YMCA and Spring Creek Park in Tomball.

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a member program of USA Track and Field (USATF), the national governing body for track and cross country. The club is celebrating its 30th year in the northwest Houston area. Ages 6 - 18 may participate in the team, and both beginners and experienced runners are welcome. Middle school and high school cross country athletes can also register, but should compete after their cross country season is over.

For more information contact Coach Eric Wentworth at emw185@gmail.com or 281-961-6603. Visit www.northwestflyers.org to get updates and learn more about the team.

Association Crime Stoppers

Everyone wants a safe place to call home, and our association strives to make all residents feel secure. While we're diligent in our efforts to reduce possible dangers in our community, we can't do it alone. It's up to everyone to pitch in to keep crime rates down. Thankfully, taking a few simple steps can go a long way in keeping theft, vandalism and other felonies and misdemeanors out of the association.

Know Your Neighbors. And not just the neighbors on your block, but also the neighbors from all parts of the association. At the very least, you'll get a better idea of who actually lives (and in turn, who belongs) here. Talking with your neighbors will also give you the chance to find out if there have noticed any crimes or suspicious activity in the association recently so that you can be on the lookout as well. Consider creating and distributing a block list with everyone's contact information on your block so that you and your neighbors can alert each other of any problems that arise.

Leave The Light On. A good way to deter felons from breaking into your home is to make sure your front porch light stays on all night, even when you're out of town. Not only does it signal that someone's home, it also makes it harder for vandals to hide among the shadows. If you're worried that you'll either forget to turn the light on at night or off in the morning, you can purchase an inexpensive timer that will automatically do that for you every day. Also, if you see any street lights around the association that are burnt out, please contact <https://slo.centerpointenergy.com/> or let the clubhouse know as soon as possible so that we can replace them for everyone's safety.

Lock Up. If you want to keep unwanted guests out, don't make your home inviting. Even when you're around, it's best to keep all gates, doors and garages locked at all times. It's also a good idea to keep your windows closed and locked when possible, especially if they're on the ground floor.

Put On Your Walking Shoes. Taking a stroll around the association isn't just good exercise. You can casually patrol the community for anything suspicious or usual, as well as swap notes about criminal activity in the area with other neighbors who are out and about. Also, when more residents regularly walk around the association, it can help scare off hooligans who are afraid of getting caught in the act.

Clean It Up. Picking up litter, removing graffiti and keeping trees, bushes and lawns trimmed not only makes the association look better, but also sends the message that our residents are diligent about keeping the neighborhood a respectable place to live. This can help discourage troublemakers from hanging around our community and encourage responsible and involved people to move to the association.

See Something, Say Something. If you notice a crime or a suspicious activity, regardless of how small the incident may seem, notify your local precinct or notify 911. Keep in mind that our local precinct is already in our area. List this number under A911 on your phone for easy access.

We all have a responsibility to our community to help keep it safe, and incorporating even a few of these tips can go a long way. Do your part to make our association a place you're happy to call home.

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PET OF THE MONTH

Interested in adopting? Please email us to fill out an adoption application; animalrescuekingdom@gmail.com

Randy is 9 weeks old. Mom dog was found pregnant and had her puppies. The mom dog was a white fluffy dog (Westie/Shih Tzu Mix). We do not know what breed the father dog was. These puppies will be medium size max when full grown but may be smaller (their mom was only 15-18 lbs). Randy is a fun loving puppy who would love to find his forever home!



NOBODY IS DROWNPROOF WATCH KIDS AROUND WATER



82 Texas children have already fatally drowned in 2016

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NatureWatch Sun Trackers

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Common Sunflower



Maximilian Sunflower



This time of year, the most notable family of plants are the Helianthus, or sunflowers. From the Greek 'helios' or sun and 'anthos' or flower, these plants are usually tall annuals or perennials that during their growth phase exhibit a subtle behavior in the daylight hours. This behavior, called heliotropism, is the ability for the young flower buds and leaves to gently tilt toward the sun, tracking it as it moves across the sky. By the time the flower heads mature, they are stationary but generally facing east to greet the rising sun.

Sunflowers are typically tall plants with one to multiple flower heads, consisting of bright yellow ray florets or flowers,

surrounding yellow or maroon disc florets. In wild or native species, the rough and hairy stems are normally branched, and the leaves are often sticky and lance or heart-shaped. Sunflowers also exhibit phyllotaxis, or the arrangement of leaves on a stem that forms a distinct pattern, in this case a repeating spiral. Additionally, the disc florets also display a phyllotactic pattern, one that creates the optical effect of criss-crossing spirals in the flower's center.

In our area, the two most abundant sunflowers are the Common Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and the Maximilian Sunflower (*Helianthus maximiliani*). Blooming from May to October, the Common Sunflower grows on dry soils, especially in disturbed areas. It can reach 1.5 to 8 feet tall, and various parts of the branched stems can be either green or dark purple. The heart-shaped leaves are coarse and covered in rough hairs, and grow from 2.5 to 10 inches long. Up to 4 inches across, the flower heads have yellow ray flowers and reddish brown disc flowers. As their scientific name suggests, these plants are annuals.

Maximilian Sunflowers, on the other hand, are perennials that bloom in September and October. They grow 1 to 6 feet tall in colonies on both the dry ground of prairies and the moist ground of roadside ditches and other low places. Shorter, rough hairs cover the narrow lance-shaped leaves, which average 2 to 4 inches long. The 1.5 to 3 inch wide flower heads have yellow ray flowers surrounding

yellow disc flowers, with numerous flower heads growing along the unbranched stems.

Aside from their aesthetic value to humans, sunflowers are generally palatable to deer and numerous species of birds eat their seeds. Their flower heads support nectaring bees, and they are the food plants for several butterfly species such as the Bordered Patch and Silvery Checkerspot. When mixed with other native annuals, these sun trackers provide good cover for many species of wildlife, and would be a great addition to your native wildscape.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!

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DUE: September 30th

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