



ACIA

Happenings

Ivy Point, Pinehurst, Club Point, Golf Villas, The Shores, The Pines and Estates of Pinehurst

November 2016

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 6, Issue 11

NOTICE OF ANNUAL BOARD MEETING

Dear Homeowners:

The Board of Directors for the Atascocita Community Improvement Association will hold the ANNUAL ACIA MEETING, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10th, 2016 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00:pm., at The Overlook 20114 Pinehurst Drive, Atascocita, TX 77346.

The subject of the meeting is to elect one ACIA Trustee for a three-year term and to discuss general business of the Association, including but not limited to, discussion of items related to the Association budget and expenditures as well as discussion of repair and maintenance of the assets owned by the Association. An appeal from the denial of an architectural application may be considered during executive session.

Discussions involving personnel, pending or threatened litigation, contract negotiations, enforcement actions, and confidential communications with the Association attorney, matters involving invasion of privacy of owners, and other matters that are confidential by request of an affected party and agreement of the Board are discussed in executive session.

We hope you will join us to hear what is going on in your community!



Why is Voting important?

"The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

-Lyndon B. Johnson, 36th President of the United States

In order to gain an understanding of why voting is so important, let's take a look back at the history of voting rights. Contrary to popular belief, the United States' Constitution did not originally guarantee citizens the "right to vote". The United States was created with the understanding that only certain individuals would make the decisions when it came to government.

There are several amendments to the U.S. Constitution which address the right to vote and who actually has this "right". Here are only two. Google "Why is Voting Important?" to see much more.

- 14th Amendment– All persons born within the U.S. are citizens and guaranteed rights and privileges (1868)
- 15th Amendment– No citizen denied the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude (1870)



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

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 Robert Comstock, Chair rcomstock1@comcast.net
 Bart Peterschick bart@humblesignco.com

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency 9-1-1
 P-4 Constable Dispatch 281-376-3472
 Humble ISD Police (Schools) 281-641-7900
 Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)
Non-Emergency Number 281-852-2181
 Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
 Texas Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers) www.powertochoose.org
Power Outages 713-207-7777
Street Light Outages 713-207-2222
 Gas, Centerpoint Energy 713-659-2111
Gas Leaks 713-659-2111
 Water, Severn Trent 281-579-4500
24 Hour Emergency Number 281-209-2100
 Telephone, Centurylink 877-290-5458
 Trash, Waste Management 888-964-9734
 Humble Post Office 281-540-1775
 Harris County MUD #132 www.hcmud132.com
 Harris County MUD #151 www.hcmud151.org

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD 281-641-1000
Website www.humble.k12.tx.us
 Pine Forest Elementary 281-641-2100
 Maplebrook Elementary 281-641-2900
 Atascocita Middle School 281-641-1000
 Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor - Sue Boaz Raymond sueboazraymond@comcast.net
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10 Reasons Why College Students Should Vote

The primary season is underway with the general election coming in only a matter of weeks. The national and local leaders chosen will have significant influence on many important issues, including initiatives of great concern to college students. Learn why it's as important as ever that you turn out at the polls.

1. It's your right.

Just as you've been told since elementary school, voting is an important right we have a duty to exercise. Many governments around the world allow citizens no part in electing officials. You do have the opportunity to help select government leaders, and the health of our democracy relies on your participation.

2. Your vote matters.

Many students don't believe their vote will make any difference, but recent history has shown that elections can be decided by a handful of votes. In fact, many local contests end in ties each election year with winners being determined by a coin flip. Taking the initiative to vote can help prevent elections from being left to chance.

3. Shape the social agenda.

Are you passionate about a particular social issue? Gay marriage, capital punishment and the separation of church and state are only a few of many contentious topics that dominate the political discourse. Learn about candidates' views on issues that are important to you, and vote in support of your beliefs.

4. Economic policies will affect your future.

Most expect Social Security benefits to be gone or greatly diminished by the time college-aged individuals reach retirement age - which will be higher than it is now. Politicians continually make decisions about higher education costs and student loan policies. These and other issues prove you have an important economic interest in every election.

5. Help shape foreign policy.

National leaders in Washington, D.C., are continually making foreign policy decisions, including when to intervene militarily in world affairs. It isn't the president or Congressional members who deploy to other countries to risk their lives - it's young people. Use your vote to support foreign policies you believe in.

6. Have your say on environmental issues.

The environment stands to be among the biggest political topics of this generation. Many climate experts warn of serious, potentially irreversible weather changes that may drastically alter life on our planet. Whether you agree with this assessment or have other views, your vote is a way to express your convictions.

7. You're part of an important voting bloc.

The college vote can swing elections. There are more than 75 million Millennials, a number that rivals the number of baby boomers - another important voting bloc. The problem is that college students typically vote in much smaller numbers than older citizens.

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(Continued from Page 2)

Mobilized, Millennials represent a powerful political force.

8. Politicians won't address student needs without student votes.

Politicians know who votes each election, and they are more likely to support initiatives that are popular among groups with the highest voter turnout. For college students to have significant political influence, they must turn out in greater numbers than is traditionally seen. You have a part to play in that.

9. Demonstrate concern for the next generation.

By voting you are not only doing your part to influence the present, you are also affecting the future. Demonstrating this point well is the fact that the president selects U.S. Supreme Court Justices for lifetime appointments. These judicial officials may exert powerful influence for decades to come.

10. Honor past sacrifices.

Voting is a way to honor those who have helped to secure our rights. Military members who have fought for this country, suffrage activists and Civil Rights leaders are only a few examples of those to whom we owe our respect and appreciation. Voting gives you the opportunity to help pay that debt.

Article taken from Study.com Insider News Blog

Written by Douglas Fehlen

REQUEST FROM HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLES PRECINCT 4

All Residents:

Please be SURE that your numbers for your street address can be visibly seen. There have been many complaints that local emergency vehicles are delayed in responding to a call due to not being able to read the address. This may only be a 15 or 20 second delay, but when one's life is at stake it could be a matter of life and death.

PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE PROTECTED AND BE SURE YOUR NUMBERS ARE CLEARLY SHOWN ON YOUR HOME, MAILBOX OR STREET.

KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON BY WINNING TICKETS TO THE NUTCRACKER!



This month, The Tracy Montgomery Team is giving away 2 tickets to The Houston Ballet's performance of The Nutcracker. You'll enjoy singing snowflakes, sword fights, dancing dolls and a Christmas tree that reaches the sky. Anyone can enter to win our monthly raffle.

Enter to win by sending us an email. Put THE NUTCRACKER in the subject line. Send us your name, address, and phone number where you can be reached if we draw your name.

TracyMontgomeryTeamRSVP@gmail.com

Congratulations to the Shanks Family for winning last month's prize!

We do this raffle to say thank you for making our team a part of your lives. Selling real estate is no easy task and great clients make it worthwhile. Thank you for the trust, the friendship, and the many referrals that allow us to keep doing what we love.



Tracy Montgomery
Cell: 713.825.5905

Sandy Brabham
Cell: 713.503.8110

Lisa Hughes
Cell: 281.323.5894

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LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB

– November Meeting

Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization dedicated to connecting women through monthly luncheon meetings, social activities and interest groups.

Our next luncheon meeting is Tuesday, November 15 from 10:00-12:00 at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest Drive, in Humble, TX.

For November, Eric Skiles, Professor of Theater and Artistic Director of Theater at Lone Star College-Kingwood will present a few short plays written and performed by his students for us to enjoy.

The club welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Many interest groups are available including: Readers Choice, Tea Time, Lunch 'N Look, Movie Group, Supper Club, Girl's Night Out, and many game groups (Bridge, Mah Jongg, Pokeno, Canasta, Bunco). There are also social events through the year that include spouses or significant others. The club is an excellent way to meet new people and make new friends.

To learn more about the club go to our website: www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com, or call Linda at 832-379-3009.

PRUNE TREES FOR SAFETY

Our neighborhood and the surrounding areas are fortunate to have a climate that supports a long growing season and a variety of trees which can provide beauty and shade for your home. Trees also serve as a habitat for wildlife and can help homeowners save on energy through shade. However, trees left to grow unmanaged can cause safety hazards. Some tree varieties grow far reaching branches that can obscure traffic signs and other vehicles on the road. This hazard can be avoided by trimming trees away from the street. Low hanging branches can also be struck and damaged by delivery trucks and other large vehicles. Be a good neighbor and inspect and trim your trees regularly. Safety depends on everyone!


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TENNIS NEWS



Pictured is Pam Hailey

your key.

The lock at the Pinehurst Courts is also being updated and will be the same lock as that at the Shores. One will use the same key for both courts. The old keys will NO LONGER work. Go to CAM (Community Asset Management Co.) to purchase your key for \$15.00. The address is 9802 FM 1960 Bypass W, # 210, Humble,

ACIA is very pleased to announce that the construction on the new Shores Tennis Courts is complete! Thank you C L Sports for doing an awesome job. PLEASE NOTE: The gate at these new courts at the Shores have a new locking system. One MUST use the new key to unlock from the outside AND inside. Just make very sure once you enter the courts you still have the key with you. For security reasons the gate will automatically lock once it is closed. To exit, use

Tx 77338. Phone: 281.852.1155

The Friday morning Ladies Fun Tennis continues. Please be advised this currently is every Friday morning at 8:00 a.m. This is for any age and any level of experience.

The clinics continue on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. (OR 6:00 p.m.) This is also for all levels and ages. Please watch for your individual group e-mail on the Distribution List to confirm the time weekly. Recently the Pinehurst lights were not working so some of the clinics started at 6:00 p.m.

If you would like to have your name added to the Distribution List in order to receive a reminder e-mail on either of these please contact Pam Hailey or Sue Raymond.

pamelagenehailey@yahoo.com

sueboazraymond@comcast.net

E-mails will be sent out on Mondays for the following Thursday and Friday's tennis to confirm for the week.

I want to thank Pam Hailey for continuing to do an awesome job with handling these clinics and the ladies fun play. You are truly appreciated Pam. Volunteers at any level of play are invited to assist.

Sue Raymond

ACIA Trustee

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ACIA HAPPENINGS

Finding Balance

I know, work-life balance has been discussed to death. Yet how many of you find yourself nodding and saying, "Yes, I know I need to find a better balance. It totally makes sense that I feel tired and unhappy because I'm rushing around all the time. I'll find a way to make some time for myself"? You tell yourself you'll schedule some free time later, but does later ever come? I know I've been waiting for later for years now. I decided it was time for a change. Here are a few thoughts that have helped me along the way:

- What's really important? It's time to decide what is really necessary and important in your life. Pick 5 priorities that you feel are absolutely vital to your well-being (e.g. family, religion, work, friends, and hobbies).
- How can you cut back? Now, that you've chosen your top 5 priorities it's time for the hard part—cutting back. Find ways to negate, or decrease, of the things that are stressing you out. Maybe you don't have to do _____ for so and so. Or is there a certain person in your life who's been causing more stress than happiness? You don't have to cut that person out of your life, but maybe it's time you take a step back and re-evaluate whether or not the friendship is healthy at this time in your life.
- Scheduled spontaneity. I know, scheduled spontaneity seems like an oxymoron, but it's incredibly important. Create a routine that

works for you, but be sure to block out some free time. This time can be as long, or as short, as you'd like and is time where you can do whatever you want to do. Just make sure it's fun!

As always, I turned to the pasture for inspiration. As I sat and watched my horses going about their day, I made some interesting observations. Horses are masters of prioritizing what's important. Their top priorities fall into line as: safety, comfort, and play. Everything else falls by the wayside if these priorities aren't met. They are terrific partners with a healthy work ethic, while still relishing in their freedom to run and play. Their exuberance is captivating and beautiful to watch.

Once I took a step back to look at the bigger picture, I was amazed at how easy finding balance could be. I didn't need to run myself into exhaustion to please everyone. Doing so always ended with me feeling like I was trying to do so much, but doing none of it as well as I wanted. Finding a new work-life balance would not be possible without the support of great friends (both human and horse!), family, and God. These pillars of support help me stay on track and keep me motivated. I highly recommend you find pillars of your own to utilize in your own transition.

Tara Chatterson works at Five Horses, LLC. Please visit the Five Horses' website, FiveHorses.com, for more information about Natural Horsemanship lessons or Equine Assisted Learning.

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Premier Preschool Nurtures Literacy Skills at All Ages



Research shows that the first five years of a child's life hold the most potential for development – consider it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for learning! During these years, it's crucial to nurture early literacy skills, like rhyming and letter and sound recognition, which lay the groundwork for fundamental abilities such as reading, writing and spelling.

As with any skill or subject, there's no one-size-fits-all approach to teaching literacy skills, especially since children learn to read and write at different rates and ages. At Primrose School of Atascocita, teachers understand the need to support children based on their individual needs. The Primrose-exclusive approach, called *Balanced Learning*®, offers varied experiences that spark children's curiosity regardless of their learning style through a balance of purposeful play with nurturing guidance from teachers.

"*Balanced Learning* is special because it takes into consideration children's developmental levels and provides different, connected experiences so that they can learn in their own way and at their own pace," said Matt Evers, Franchise Owner of Primrose School of Atascocita. "Whether it's literacy skills, motor skills, music, arts, science or life skills, the learning is just natural and fun for the children."

Primrose School of Atascocita

20027 W Lake Houston Pkwy
Atascocita, TX 77346
281.812.6361
PrimroseAtascocita.com



The *Balanced Learning* Approach to Reading and Writing

Every day, Primrose children participate in literacy lessons that are taught in a fun, game-like way. Using rhymes, poems and songs, children exercise oral fluency skills – the ability to communicate clearly – and memory, comprehension skills, new vocabulary and phonological awareness. Similarly, children are guided by teachers at the classroom Writing Center to practice writing at their own level, using meaningful writing activities.

Part of what makes *Balanced Learning* unique is that these literacy lessons are woven into classroom experiences throughout the day. For example, teachers explain and use appropriate higher-level math, science and engineering vocabulary during STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) experiences. Throughout the day, children sing songs and recite poems frequently to develop their oral fluency – an important step toward learning to read. Additionally, children engage in meaningful writing projects that vary from drawing or listing their observations as part of an age-appropriate science experiment to creating thank you notes for loved ones during character development lessons.

"At Primrose, we give children opportunities throughout the day to practice reading, speaking, listening and writing to help them view these skills as not only important, but also a natural and enjoyable part of their everyday lives," said Matt Evers. "Children experience the activities as play and fun, but in reality, each element of the Primrose approach is designed with a purpose to help them develop the foundational skills they need to succeed later on."

Encouraging Reading and Writing Skills at Home

Parents can encourage literacy skills at home through simple activities, like reading with and talking to children, which has been proven to benefit language skills from the time children are born. Examples of other activities that support literacy skill development include:

- Reading cardboard books with infants and toddlers so they can hear language while turning the pages and pointing to familiar objects on the page.
- Practicing animal noises with toddlers to help them identify and replicate different language sounds.
- Playing rhyming games with preschoolers, like trying to name as many words that rhyme with "cat."
- Encouraging both gross and fine motor skill development, which aid children in learning to write. Running and climbing outdoors builds gross motor strength, and stacking and dressing activities grow fine motor skills.
- Making writing easily accessible for children by setting up a writing/drawing table in a common area at home with paper, crayons, markers and more.

To learn about Primrose School of Atascocita, visit PrimroseAtascocita.com or call 281.812.6361. For more helpful parenting tips and information, visit our blog at www.PrimroseSchools.com/blog and sign up for the Pointers for Parents newsletter.

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Cigarette & Drugstore Beetles

Cigarette and drugstore beetles are pests of stored products and can become a pest in the home. These beetles are small, around 1/8" long, reddish-brown with an oval shape. If you disturb the beetles, they often will tuck in their legs and lay motionless.

Adults enjoy dark cracks and crevices, but will fly in brightly lit areas to locate a place to hide. The beetles are most active at dusk and continue activity through the night. Adults do not eat solid food, but will drink liquids. Larvae are small, grub-like and creamy white.

Cigarette and drugstore beetle larvae infest a variety of products such as tobacco, flour, dried fruit, herbs and spices, nuts, rice and pet food. These pests may also infest non-food items such as potpourri, dried flower arrangements, papier-mâché, prescription drugs, cosmetics and bookbinding paste.

The life cycle is dependent upon temperature and availability of resources- with warmer temperatures and adequate resources the life cycle will be faster. Mated females lay eggs in food sources. After hatching from the egg, larvae begin to feed on the food and grow. Eventually, larvae pupate and form a protective cocoon in the food item. Adults live from 1-4 weeks.

To manage these beetles, you must find the source, double bag it and throw it away. All stored food items should be inspected, even those that have not been previously opened. If you do not want to throw

away infested food items it can either be heated or cooled to kill any insects and then sifted to remove any insects. To freeze, put the items in a sealed plastic bag and place in the freezer for about a week. To heat the items, spread on a large cookie sheet and place in a 200 °F oven for 1-2 hours.

To prevent infestations, inspect all food items before buying; do not buy damaged food products. Dried goods can be stored in sealed, air-tight containers. If leaving the home for extended periods store items in the freezer or refrigerator. While inspecting stored food items for infestation, clean the pantry as you go. Vacuum or sweep up any spilled food items. Wipe down shelving with a cleaning product and use caulk to seal any shelf areas where small bits of food may collect.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system regardless of which agency you work with. There is only one pool of children, and they are all in care of the state, every licensed agency has the ability to assist in adoption of any foster child in Texas. Child placing agencies are also foster care providers. The first step is to choose a child placing agency to begin your journey. Learn more about starting the adoption process and the children waiting for forever families at www.heartgallerytexas.com.



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Atacosita Ballet

Atacosita South resident Arianna Fiducia will be dancing in the Houston Repertoire Ballet's *The Nutcracker* at Tomball High School Theatre on December 2, 3 & 4. We would appreciate it if you would include this in your November issue since the dates for the performance are so early in December.

Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB), Houston's premier pre-professional ballet company, celebrates its 21st season, beginning with its 15th annual performance series of *The Nutcracker*, featuring professional guest artists Elizabeth Keller, HRB alumna, as the Sugar Plum Fairy, Justin Hughes as the Cavalier, Andrew Taft as the Snow King, and Joe Modlin as Herr Drosselmeyer, with the Cypress Philharmonic directed by Glynneth Lanthier. Performances will be held on Friday, December 2 at 7 pm – abbreviated Arts & Education performance perfect for young children; Saturday, December 3 at 2 pm & 7 pm; and Sunday, December 4 at 1 pm & 4:30 pm at the Tomball High School Theatre, 30330 Quinn Road, Tomball, Texas 77375. For ticket information, call 281-940-HRB1 (4721) or visit www.hrbdance.org. Tickets are \$18 for students/seniors and \$22 for adults.

The Nutcracker's brilliant blend of beautiful costumes, lavish sets, and fresh choreography creates a magical storybook world enjoyed by

children and adults alike. With a cast of more than 100 HRB dancers and area children, and live music played by Cypress Philharmonic, HRB's masterful production is the highlight of the holidays!

HRB dancers are committed to sharing the arts with the community. Community engagement events include costumed appearances at various nursing homes, group events, and at Arts & Education performances. HRB brings two matinee performances to Tomball ISD third grade students, fulfilling the arts component of their curriculum. To request an outreach event for your organization, call 281-940-HRB1 (4721).

The Houston Repertoire Ballet (HRB) is a non-profit 501(c)(3), founded by Victoria Vittum and Gilbert Rome, both nationally acclaimed teachers and choreographers who served as its co-artistic directors. Today, Ms. Vittum oversees training and programming with an equal eye to serving the needs of the community.

Major funding for HRB is provided by Houston Endowment, Inc. with additional support provided by Vintage Wellness and AirInnovations.

Thanks so much,

Eileen Conery

713-856-8780, eileen.conery@att.net

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