



The HOME FRONT

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Happy Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is wonderfully full of traditions, with favorite recipes, rituals, and loved ones all around us. We look forward to these familiar ingredients to our celebrations, but sometimes they might become so familiar that we may not be able to recognize and appreciate them as fully as we could. Here are five new suggestions for deepening our Thanksgiving celebrations and others experience the profound gift of thanks giving that makes our lives radiate with love.

1. Serving the poor in soup kitchens and homeless shelters at this time of year is a beautiful way to show respect, love, and care to those less fortunate. But, unfortunately, there is a dire need for help and food year-round. As part of giving thanks, consider extending the bounty you enjoy to include food drives and meal preparation during other times of the year, when there are fewer volunteers but the same, aching need.

2. It's easy to express thanks for what or who we like and to toss away that which is undesirable or broken. Indeed, most of us also have people or things that we do not especially appreciate but that have been placed in our lives for a purpose. This season is a good time of year to look at the breakage in our lives, the relationships that have gone awry or the projects or promises we have made but broken. How can we repair what has been given to us? How can we invite healing so that our thanksgiving is as full as it possibly can be?

3. Many of us gather at Thanksgiving and speak about what we are thankful for. But perhaps we are not quite as articulate about why we give thanks. This year, for every "I'm thankful for my family/job/home/blessings" offered, find specific things to praise about. For example, express thanks for a loved one's quiet strength or bubbling sense of humor. Be grateful for the warmth of an age-weathered home. Sing loudly about the resilience of a church family that supports those in need.

4. Put away the electronic devices, turn off the speakers, give breathing room to hectic holiday schedules, and engage people near and far in heartfelt conversation. Go beyond topics like the weather sports to listen, learn, and laugh. Connect with people face-to-face and heart-to-heart and fill up on fellowship instead of only food.

5. Holidays can be times of conflict as loved ones gather and discover or rekindle profound differences. In reality, even if we grew up together, live in the same town, and share many commonalities, we are, each of us, uniquely different. This Thanksgiving, instead of highlighting what makes us separate or perhaps at odds with one another, try to focus on the essence of Thanksgiving.



PARK LAKES

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Park Lakes Property Owners Association

Crest Management	(281) 579-0761
SplashPad Texas Onsite Office.....	(281) 441-3557
Recreation Center Onsite Office.....	(281) 441-9955
Gate Attendant.....	(281) 441-1089
Houston National Golf Club	(281) 304-1400

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Comcast (Customer Service)	(713) 341-1000
Electricity (TXU)	(800) 368-1398
Gas (Centerpoint)	(713) 659-2111
Trash (Republic Waste).....	(281) 446-2030
Water & Sewer (EDP Water District).....	(832) 467-1599
Phone Service (Embarq).....	(877) 213-1053
Electricity (Centerpoint-Report street light outage)	(713) 207-2222
Texas One Call System (Call Before you Dig).....	811

Property Tax Authorities

Harris County Tax.....	(713) 368-2000
Harris MUD #400	(281) 353-9809

Public Services

US Post Office.....	(281) 540-1775
Toll Road EZ Tag.....	(281) 875-3279
Voters/Auto Registration	(713) 368-2000
Drivers License Information.....	(281) 446-3391
Humble Area Chamber	(281) 446-2128

Police & Fire

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Constable/Precinct 4 (24-hr dispatch)	(281) 376-3472
Harris Co. Sheriff's Dept./Prec 4, Dist 2 (24-hr)	(713) 221-6000
Eastex Fire Department.....	(281) 441-2244
Emergency Medical Service	(281) 446-7889
Poison Control.....	(800) 222-1222
Humble Animal Control.....	(281) 446-2327
Texas DPS.....	(281) 446-3391

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Renaissance Northeast Surgery	(281) 446-4053
Kingwood Medical Center	(281) 348-8000
Northeast Medical Center Hospital.....	(281) 540-7700
Memorial Hermann Hospital (The Woodlands)	(281) 364-2300

Public Schools

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Park Lakes Elementary (K-6).....	(281) 641-3200
Humble Middle School (7-8)	(281) 641-4000
Summer Creek High School (9-12)	(281) 641-5400

Private Schools

Holy Trinity	(281) 459-4323
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic.....	(281) 446-8535
The Christian School of Kingwood	(281) 359-4929
Humble Christian School.....	(281) 441-1313

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November 12, 2016
Fall Festival
1:30 pm- 4:30 pm

November 19, 2016
Community Wide
Garage Sale
7:00 am -12:00 pm

December 17, 2016
Cookies with Santa
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm

April 8, 2017
Easter "Egg"
Stravaganza
1:30 pm – 4:30 pm



For more information please contact the Park Lakes Clubhouse at 281-441-9955. Thank you. We hope to see you at our next event!

Fall Lawn Care

Adjust Your Mowing Height

If you raised the height of your lawn mower in summer to reduce heat stress to your lawn, return the mower deck to its normal mowing height (about 2 inches tall is best for most grasses) in fall. Cutting your lawn slightly shorter in autumn helps prevent the grass from matting down under leaves and snow. Avoid cutting the grass too short, however. Tightly clipped turf has fewer roots and allows weeds to get a foothold.

Water on Schedule

Most lawns need water whenever it's dry -- no matter the season. If drought persists into autumn, water once or twice per week long enough to soak the soil several inches deep. Early morning is the best time of day to irrigate because winds are usually lighter so you'll waste less water to evaporation. Avoid watering in the evening because that encourages fungal diseases.

Overseed

Overseed warm-season lawns with ryegrass each autumn. This type of grass provides a lush, green carpet through the cool winter months. Prepare the lawn for overseeding by mowing it 1/2 inch shorter than

usual and removing the clippings. Sow grass seed over the mowed area, making two passes at right angles to each other.

In the North, overseed thin lawns or large dead areas. Keep the newly seeded sections moist while seeds sprout. Frequent light sprinklings are best at first. Gradually increase the interval between waterings to encourage the roots to grow deeper into the soil.

Fertilize

Fall is the best time to fertilize your lawn if you live in the North. Cool-season grasses, such as bluegrass, fescue, and ryegrass, respond well to feeding in early September and again in late fall (late October or November). It helps them green up earlier and look better in spring.

Avoid fertilizing dormant warm-season grasses in the South unless they have been overseeded with winter ryegrass.

Attack Perennial Weeds

Dandelions, clover, and other broadleaf weeds are easy to spot in spring, but fall is the best time to rid your yard of these pests. Perennial weeds readily send herbicides containing glyphosate, 2, 4-D, and MCPP applied as a spray or granules to their roots in fall.

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PARK LAKES

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Sprays work best on days with moderate temperatures and when the soil is moist.

Repair Dead Patches

Early fall is a great time to reseed any small dead or thin patches in cool-season lawns. If you seed in autumn, you'll have fewer weeds. And the seedlings will become established before stressful hot weather conditions arrive. A mulch product embedded with seed and fertilizer is a convenient way to fill the gaps.

Lay Sod

Spring or fall is a good time to start a new cool-season lawn or patch existing turf with sod.

Moderate temperatures and abundant moisture get sod off to a quick start. High-quality sod will be thick, dense, and weed-free. It's a convenient way to get an instant solution to bare spots.

Check for Thatch

Thatch is a layer of dead organic matter mixed with living plant parts that can lead to disease and insect problems as well as damage from drought and cold weather. Thatch may develop when you overfertilize your lawn or water too frequently. Check for thatch by removing a plug of grass and soil. One-half inch of thatch or less is not a problem. If there is more than that, your lawn is ready for a thatch-management

program. (See the next slide for tips on dealing with thatch.)

Remove Excess Thatch

Dethatching involves cutting through the thatch layer and ripping out the debris.

Power rakes or vertical mowers are effective tools for this. Use a hand rake to remove the thatch from the lawn after it has been pulled out by one of these machines.

Note: Power raking and vertical mowing can damage centipede grass, St. Augustine grass, and others that spread by surface runners. Use a machine that has knives correctly spaced for these grasses.

Aerate

Aeration reduces thatch, improves drainage, and loosens soil. Make sure that the aerator you use pulls plugs of soil from the turf rather than simply punching holes in the ground, which actually increases compaction over time. Aerate cool-season grasses in early fall and warm-season grasses in spring.

Apply a Top Dressing

Top dressing means applying a thin layer of soil or compost to your existing turf. The process improves growing conditions by reducing thatch, increasing the amount of organic matter in the soil, smoothing bumps in the lawn, and lessening the need for fertilizer.

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Spread a thin layer of equal parts loam, sand, and peat. Be sure to dethatch or aerate before you apply a top dressing. Then work the top dressing into the soil by raking it in.

Remove Fallen Leaves

Remove fallen leaves by raking them or mulching them with a mower before they mat down and smother your grass. A mulching mower works well to shred small amounts of leaves and returns the shredded organic matter to the soil, much like top dressing. When many leaves are present, rake them off the lawn and compost them.

Drain Irrigation Lines

Completely drain your lawn's irrigation system before freezing weather arrives. You can empty the system with compressed air or use drain valves. For best results, shut off the water to the system and drain each zone separately. Also drain the main supply line from the house. If you use an air compressor, don't exceed 50 psi of air pressure.

5 Tips to Keep Your Children Healthy this Fall

The weather is changing and school is in full swing. It is autumn! Keeping your children engaged with healthy habits in the fall can be challenging, especially with the weather getting cooler by the day. What are some ways you can keep your children healthy this fall so they can feel good and achieve success? Here are 5 ways you can help them out.

1. Pack Your Child's Lunch

While some schools have been making great strides with providing kids a healthy lunch in their cafeterias, more often these lunches don't provide proper nutrition for their growing bodies. And vending machines may tempt your children into making some bad decisions. Preparing a balanced meal for their lunch can help them stay healthy when away from home.

2. Take a Walk

A healthy fall can be full of leisurely walks after dinner with the help of a light jacket or scarf. If you have a pet, that's a perfect excuse to take your kids out for a 10-40 minute walk after dinner. This

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helps balance children's blood sugar levels and keeps them healthy

3. Eating Healthy Snacks

Fall is full of seasonal foods that are tasty and cheap. Fill your pantry and refrigerator with fresh fruits and veggies such as pears, apples, and root vegetables. These foods are jam-packed with nutrition and will actually be healthier than foods that are not in season!

4. Play Outside

Fall is the perfect time to get some bike time in or play games of soccer and football at the park! And since the weather is neither too hot nor too cold, your children will be in less danger of getting dehydrated or sustaining an injury.

5. It's the Perfect Time of the Year for Soup

Fall soups definitely take the cake! You can use ginger, carrots, potatoes, parsnips, sweet potato, apples, and other seasonal foods to create a nice soup that is low in calories, sodium, and fat. Plus they taste great!

RESIDENT PORTAL

<http://www.canyongate.com/communities/park/>

Features of the Park Lakes Community Intranet:

- Receive email blasts from the association (association news and announcements, community events, local area happenings and more).
- Resident Directory
- Classifieds
- Current Events and Activities
- Documents and Forms (ACC guidelines, restrictions financials, etc.)

You can also sign up for the email list with Crest Management

<http://www.crest-management.com/>

You can find Park Lakes under the community tab to access management information such as copies of the articles and by laws of the community payment plans and collection procedures for HOA dues as well as policies for parking

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