



ACIA *Happenings*

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

February 2017

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 7, Issue 2

ACIA SPRING GARAGE SALE

The semi-annual ACIA Community Spring Garage Sale will be Friday & Saturday April 7th and 8th.

This is a great time to do all your spring cleaning to rid your house and closets of unwanted items. These may be things that someone else absolutely must have.

Please remember that any items not sold may be donated to Humble Assistance Ministries to assist those in need.

Thank you all for restricting your garage sales to the community dates.

*Should you have any questions you may e-mail
Sue Raymond @ sueboazraymond@comcast.net*



COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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 Bob Garlington bgarlingtonacia@gmail.com
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 Edwin D'Artois, Trustee dartois@embarquemail.com
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 Robert Comstock, Chair rcomstock1@comcast.net
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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

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 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
 Advertising advertising@PEELinc.com

NOTICE OF NO REGULAR BOARD MEETING FOR DECEMBER

Dear Homeowners:

The Board of Directors for the Atascocita Community Improvement Association will hold it's regular meeting on February 27, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at The Overlook, 20114 Pinehurst Drive, Atascocita, TX 77346.

The subject of the meeting is general business of the Association, including discussion of items related to the Association budget and expenditures as well as discussion of items related to the assets owned by the Association.

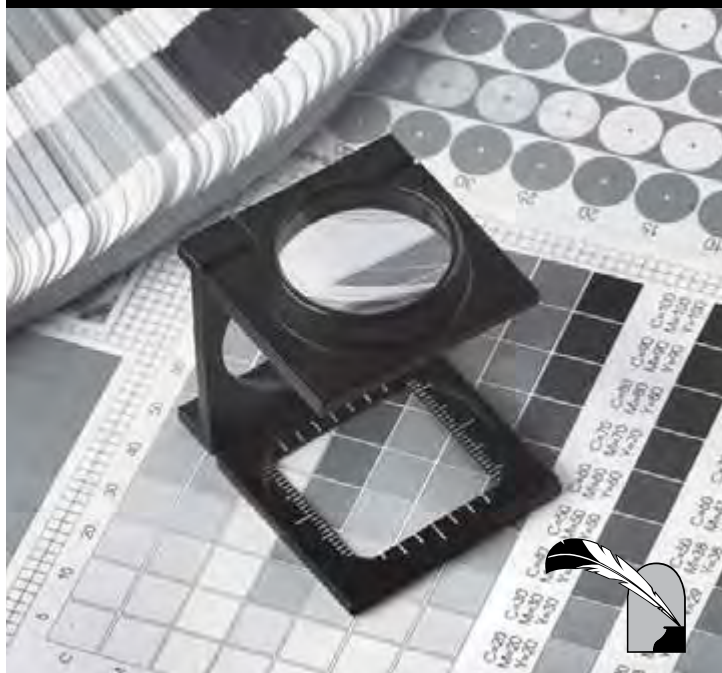
Items that may be discussed in executive session include: actions involving personnel, pending or threatened litigation, contract negotiations, enforcement actions, confidential communications with the Association attorney, and other business that is confidential by request of the affected party.

Very Truly Yours,

Atascocita Community Improvement Association



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MAINTAINING SEWER & STORM DRAIN ACCESSES

In our area, sewer and storm drain accesses are located in resident's yards, driveways, and sidewalks. Over time, some of these drain accesses have shifted, either lifting or sinking. This shifting can indicate damage to the underlying drain. Residents noticing any shifting around the drain accesses should immediately call Harris County Precinct 2 Community Assistance at (713) 455-8104. Harris County will inspect the drain to determine whether the visible shifting is causing any impediment to proper storm water drainage. Repair to the storm drains are critical to preventing flooding in our neighborhood. Harris County will make the determination whether the drain access is a sewer drain or storm drain access. If the access is a sewer drain access the appropriate MUD will be notified to inspect and make repairs. Please help make our neighborhood safe from flooding.

Many leaves are continuing to fall during this season. Please continue to rake all leaves, pine needles, trash etc from the front of your own street and bag them for regular trash pickup. If you have a disabled neighbor or someone is on an extended vacation, feel free to help them out. The street sweepers just cannot efficiently get it all and they don't come as often as we would like.

Thank you for NOT allowing these to go down any of the drains. This is extremely crucial to help avoid possible flooding.

TENNIS NEWS



Please be advised all ACIA Tennis Clinics and Ladies Fun Tennis has been discontinued for now. Please DO feel free to go out on your own to enjoy the beautiful ACIA facilities.

It is hoped these activities will start back in the spring which will be sometimes in April. Please watch your e-mails if you are on the Distribution List for each.

Should you wish to have your name and e-mail address added to the Distribution List please e-mail Pam Hailey pamelagenehailey@yahoo.com or Sue Raymond sueboazraymond@comcast.net.

Sue Raymond
Tennis Committee

Are you considering selling your house in the Spring?

If so, now is the time to start preparing your home to be on the market. You will want your home to be welcoming to buyers and comfortable so that they fall in love with your home! The following tips may help impress buyers and get your home sold quickly.

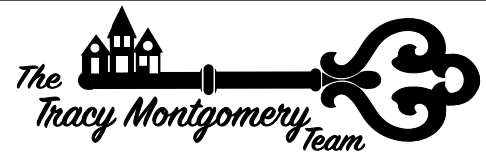
Clutter Busting: Clutter scatters the mind—and order liberates it! Wrangle up stray objects and put them in their proper place. You can even start your first round of packing and remove some of your personal items. Pack some of your family photos, books and some decorative pieces. Organize shelves and clear off your counters.

Eliminate Odors: When preparing a home for sale, homeowners need to remove the sources of bad odor first. Bad smells that deter buyers include cooked food, home appliances, clothing and shoes, pets, smoke and mold. Homeowners often grow accustomed to smells that may turn off would-be buyers. Ask a trusted advisor to do a "sniff" test for you. Carpet and paint can usually help remove odors and give the home a fresh clean feel.

Create a Clean Smell: A 2013 study published in the Journal of Retailing, found shoppers spent an average of 31.8 percent more money in a home decor store when it was scented with a simple orange scent, rather than a blend of scents. Just as foul smells will push a buyer away, pleasant smells can draw them in. Clean your home with citrus scented cleaning products and have one, simple fragrance throughout the house.

Curb Appeal: The front yard is the very first thing that buyers see. Pull weeds, mow the lawn, and prepare your flower beds for some flowers in the spring. Clear out any debris that might have collected around the front door. Is it time for a door mat? This is an inexpensive update that helps create a welcoming feeling.

The Tracy Montgomery team would love to offer you other suggestions to get your home ready to sell. We have the knowledge and experience to price your home right and help you along the way. Please call us to set up an appointment.



Tracy Montgomery
Cell: 713.825.5905

Sandy Brabham
Cell: 713.503.8110

Lisa Hughes
Cell: 281.323.5894

Melissa Nelson
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ACIA HAPPENINGS

LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB

February 21 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, February 21 from 10:00-12:00 at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest Drive, in Humble, TX. The cost is \$15/person for lunch and entertainment.

Prepare for Rodeo time! Diane Mayes from the Kingwood Community Center will be teaching us a few line dances, so wear your dancing shoes or boots and join the fun!

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.

ACIA LOCAL SOCIAL/ACTIVITY INTERESTS

Does your school or church have special activities scheduled? Does your child's football, dance, tennis, karate, swim team, etc have events and/or awards given?

These are special interest stories that ACIA would like to share. If your school, child or group has won a contest, made the finals, etc and you would like a picture to be put in the newsletter please contact Sue Raymond. You may submit that picture, or Sue will be glad to take it for you.

These type ads cost you nothing but must be submitted on the 9th of the month prior to the event. Special awards, trophies, etc may be submitted without a special deadline but to get it in it must be submitted by the 9th. Sometimes it is best to submit your article two months in advance for a large school or church event that you want advertised early.

Please submit all articles as a "Word" document.

Thank you,
Sue Raymond
sueboazraymond@comcast.net

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ACIA HAPPENINGS

Bring the World to Your Child by Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

By Vicki Odom

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same – to educate people about different cultures through person-to-person exchange.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families," says Connie Coutu, regional manager for Ayusa, a non-profit promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture."

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained

community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world including Argentina, China, and France to name a few. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

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NORTHWEST FLYERS YOUTH TRACK CLUB

Holds Registration for 30th Anniversary Season

The Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club will celebrate its 30th Anniversary Season by hosting its annual free Registration/Orientation breakfast on Saturday, February 4th, 2017, for all boys and girls who are interested in joining for the 2017 track season. The breakfast starts promptly at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum located at 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

The event is an opportunity for youth athletes to register for the 2017 spring/summer track season, and to meet the Northwest Flyers coaches, staff, and other new and returning athletes. The event will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic organization (USATF). All athletes and parents who wish to join the Northwest Flyers must attend the orientation.


The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track club, affiliated with USA Track & Field (USATF), that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and sanctioned "field" events

such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus and javelin.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org>; contact Linette Roach at linette.roach@sbcglobal.net; or "Like" the club on Facebook.



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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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Winter Alert! Protect Your Plants and Irrigation Systems

PROTECT YOUR PLANTS:

Water your plants thoroughly ahead of time. You need to be sure the roots are wet, not just the leaves. Much of freeze damage is from dehydration. Watering before a freeze could make a big difference in your tropicals and tender perennials.

Cover your delicate plants. Remember, you want to be sure the roots are protected, covered, or mulched well. Even if you lose the top growth of these tender plants, if the roots are alive the plants will come back in the spring. Do not cover them with plastic touching the leaves of your plants. If possible, use woven frost protection sheets such as N-Sulate (which can be folded, stored, and reused for many years) or sheets and blankets. In a mild freeze or frost, one blanket will probably do for most plants. In a hard freeze (below 30 degrees for any period of time), use a heavy blanket or several layers of sheets. You can even add a plastic over that if you want, since it won't be touching the foliage. Also, don't forget to put rocks or something heavy on the edges of your N-Sulate or blanket to be sure the wind doesn't blow it away, exposing the roots of your plants.

Don't do any heavy pruning on freeze-damaged plants until late

winter, when you think all chance of frost is over.

Remove all protective covering if the sun comes out and the temperature goes up, because it can be 32 degrees today and 70 degrees tomorrow.

Along with protecting your tender plants during the winter, remember it's not a good idea to fertilize tender tropicals that are exposed to outside temperatures during these cold months. Fertilizing encourages new growth, and that new growth is more vulnerable to freezing and near-freezing conditions than old growth is. It's OK to fertilize and encourage growth with indoor or green-housed tropicals, although shorter days usually slow down growth no matter how much you fertilize.

PROTECT YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

Your backflow-prevention device is the most important part of your irrigation system. It's also the most vulnerable part of your system if there is a freeze. It may be located somewhere right outside the garage and next to the foundation. Cover the top by wrapping the part that is above ground with a towel. It is also best to turn off your valve.

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ACIA HAPPENINGS

CROCK POT CHICKEN CHILI DIP

INGREDIENTS

3 - 4 Chicken Breasts
1 can Cream of Mushroom soup
1 can Cream of Celery soup
1 can Cream of Chicken soup
1 can of green salsa
1 16-oz can of chili (without beans)
1 small can of green chilies
4-6 nine-inch flour (or corn) tortilla, cut to strips
1 ½ cups grated American, Cheddar, & Gouda cheeses

DIRECTIONS

Boil chicken breasts in boiling water for 25-30 minutes, or until done; let cool. Tear chicken off the bones (unless boneless) into strips, or bite-size pieces. Place into crock pot. Add all other ingredients until blended. Place crock pot on low for 1 hour to heat thoroughly.





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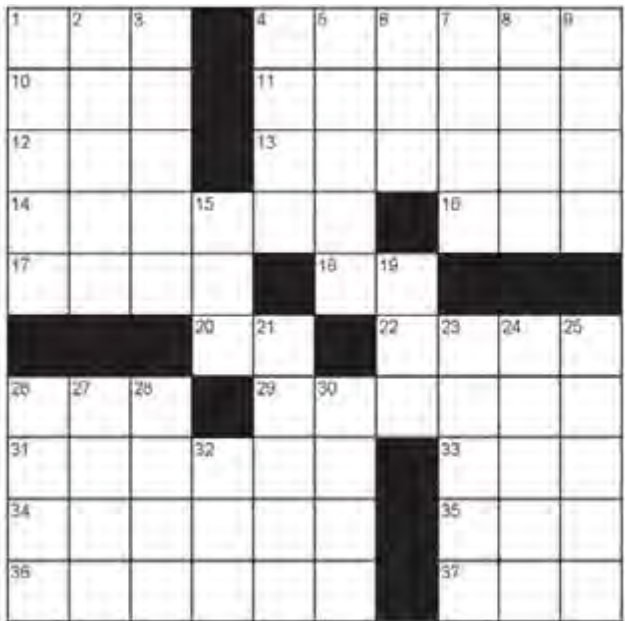
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1. Belong
4. Elevator alternative
10. Fire remains
11. Short guy, hairy feet
12. Manipulate
13. Indoor
14. Coaxing
16. Condensation
17. Adolescent
18. South Carolina (abbr.)
20. New Jersey (abbr.)
22. Hornet
26. Rock
29. Loves
31. Demonstrate
33. Government agency
34. Subordinate
35. Cause of sickness
36. Elapse (2 wds.)
37. Surface to air missile

DOWN

1. Finds _ -
2. Make available
3. Not here
5. Tibia
5. Fire iron
6. Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
7. As previously cited
8. Cycle
9. Soup
15. Hotel
19. Cash with order (abr.)
21. Rachel's husband
23. Regions
24. Reddish brown
25. Sacred song
26. Pearls
27. Vile
28. Brief
30. Refuse to believe
32. Pinch

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ACIA HAPPENINGS

JACK AND JILL OF AMERICA ASSOCIATES PLAN "PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ" CHARITY GALA



The "Awesome, Amazing, Associates" of the Jack and Jill of America, Inc., North Houston Suburban Chapter will hold a "Puttin' on the Ritz" dance on Saturday, March 4th, 2017. The event will take place from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Northgate Country Club, 17110 Northgate Forest Drive, Houston, Texas. The suggested attire is formal black and white.

"Puttin' on the Ritz" will benefit the Jack and Jill of America Foundation, which supports education, literacy, scientific and charitable projects that benefit children. Tickets are \$65 per person. To purchase tickets, please contact Shirley Carter, at 281-222-7765 or sjmcarter@att.net.

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. is a non-profit family organization which is dedicated to nurturing future leaders by supporting children through leadership development, volunteer service, philanthropic giving and civic duty. More information about the organization can be found at www.jackandjillinc.org.





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Smart Talk About Home Remodeling

The temperatures feel like Spring already and the time of year that you start looking at your home and thinking about remodeling is almost here. You may have noticed that the outside of your home needs a little work or you may be looking at putting your home on the market. When it comes to remodeling, where do you start?

Every year, "Remodeling" magazine looks at the average costs of home remodeling projects with the value of those projects retain at resale in over 100 U.S. cities. The smartest investment that you can make when remodeling may surprise you. Many homeowners go to the time honored update of the kitchen and bathrooms to garner the best price per square foot at resale.

However, "Remodeling" magazine ranks "re-siding with fiber cement as the #1 return on investment when compared to other mid-size remodeling projects" for the fourth year in a row. Compared to adding a bathroom, re-siding your house with fiber cement nets a 25 percent higher return on investment. Re-siding with fiber cement will also increase your return by 11 percent over vinyl windows and a whopping 24 percent greater than a major kitchen remodel or roof replacement.

The next question in remodeling is who to trust with your home remodeling project. Choose a company with a good reputation that offers solutions for your remodeling needs. Ask trusted friends for recommendations, check out the company's BBB rating and know that the cheapest estimate may not always be the best. Michael Berry, KTRH 740AM personality and host of the Michael Berry Show, endorses Houston Siding. Berry states, "I have spoken for Houston Siding Company for 10 years and have never had a complaint."

Texas has its own set of challenges with temperatures in the highs and lows as well as high humidity and storm potential. With a familiar slogan in Texas being "if you don't like the temperature just wait a few minutes," you should look for products that are durable as well as suited for the climate.

An innovative product from James Hardie brings new technology to siding. James Hardie Insulated Lap Siding offers siding backed with foam insulation. It is engineered to keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Because foam insulation helps maintain a more consistent temperature in your home, it can help reduce your energy bills and conserve resources for long-term energy efficiency. James Hardie insulated siding is available at Houston Siding, a James Hardie Elite Preferred Contractor.

As Spring time approaches and remodeling projects start, you want to ensure that you're using the best possible products and company for your next remodeling project.

About Houston Siding

Houston Siding Company is a Houston based company that provides replacement siding, installation and repairs along with windows and roofing. They were established in 1991. They are a James Hardie Elite Preferred Contractor. For more information, please see www.houstonsiding.com.





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ACIA HAPPENINGS

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Common Structural Termites

There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites.

Native subterranean termites have nests in the soil and must maintain contact with soil or an above-ground moisture source to survive. If native subterranean termites move to areas above ground they make shelter (mud) tubes of fecal material, saliva and soil to protect themselves.



Native subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.



Formosan subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants (and can be found living and feeding on trees), consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

Drywood termites do not need contact with soil and reside in sound, dry wood. These termites obtain moisture from the wood they digest. Drywood termites create a dry fecal pellet that can be used as an identifying characteristic. They have smaller colonies- around 1,000 termites- than subterranean termites; they also do not build shelter tubes.



Drywood termite fecal pellets.

If you are concerned that you may have termites, call a pest management professional to inspect your home for termites.

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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