

ACIA

Happenings

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

June 2017

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 7, Issue 6



"The Duck Whisperer of Lake Houston"

To say that 14 year old Lake Houston resident Jameson Young has a love of nature and the Wood Duck in particular would be an understatement. His interest in birds and nature started at a very young age with a tremendous influence from his Grandfather, Mr. Jerry Williams or PaPa as known to Jameson.

Jameson and his PaPa began feeding birds and ducks from their home on Lake Houston when Jameson was just 3 years old. He immediately knew that this was something he thoroughly enjoyed and wanted to continue to do with his PaPa every day that they could. One of Jameson's favorite ducks is the Mallard species. In

(Continued on Page 4)

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 Humble ISD Police (Schools)..... 281-641-7900
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 Texas Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

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 Water, Severn Trent 281-579-4500
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 Telephone, Centurylink..... 877-290-5458
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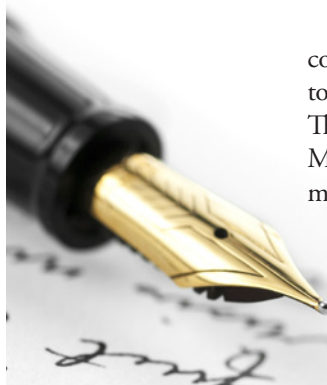
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 Website..... www.humble.k12.tx.us
 Pine Forest Elementary..... 281-641-2100
 Maplebrook Elementary 281-641-2900
 Atascocita Middle School 281-641-1000
 Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor..... OPEN
 Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com

Letter from the President



We invite all the members of the community to get involved. Come to the monthly meetings to see how. The ACIA board meetings are the 4th Monday each month. Hope you can make it to the Overlook at 6:30 PM.

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Atascocita Golf Club Announces Opening of New Par 3 Golf Course

Last month's article on the Atascocita golf course provided a brief history and overview of the course.

This month we focus on the January 1, 2010 shutdown of the course by the new owner, Pinehurst Trails Holding Company (PTH), and the efforts made to secure the property for its future to the community.

PTH was unable to locate a buyer that would continue the operation of the course. They opted to shut down entire former Atascocita Country Club operation. The tennis courts and pools were sold to an individual, and the tennis courts are subsequently being operated today by Lifetime Fitness. Kevin Kilgore was interested in acquiring the clubhouse and the property immediately adjacent to it for what we know today as The Overlook.

The most significant concern to the community was the fact that the golf course property was totally unrestricted to its use. This property could be sold to anyone and used for any purpose! In fact, PTH threatened to subdivide the property and offer it for sale in parcels. This provoked a couple of groups within the community to solicit pledges from community members to fund the purchase of the golf course property. One individual proposed that groups of property owners living adjacent to the course purchase the various parcels to protect their own properties from questionable development behind their homes. The ACIA even initiated an effort to acquire the property to protect the community's interest and restrict its future use. The ACIA effort met with strong resistance

from residents not living adjacent to the course. Most ACIA community members did not want to bear the cost of acquiring the property. The ACIA effort was eventually defeated. In fact, all these efforts ultimately failed.

A local attorney, who was raised in The ACIA community and who's family continues to reside in the community, sued PTH. The basis was founded on the fact the course was part of a "golf course community" and should be restricted to "golf course use only". The suit resulted in a lengthy jury trial that failed as well. Subsequent appeal failed to get the property restricted.

Six community members assembled to pursue a last resort plan. The plan was hatched by the attorney above. The committee was called The Sensible Solution Committee (SSC). The attorney contacted Kevin Kilgore, asking him if he would buy the golf course property if the community would help by raising half the purchase price. The only stipulation being that Kevin Kilgore restrict the property to "Golf Course Use Only".

He agreed and the SSC proceeded to ask the community members to support the effort by summing their checks, not pledges. The community stepped up, wrote their checks, and after months of continued solicitations, funding was achieved. Kevin Kilgore purchased the property and the property was deed restricted to "Golf Course Use Only." The SSC effort was successful!

Watch next month for the continuing story of how golf returned to Atascocita.

Tips and Tricks to Keep Kids Occupied this Summer!

CREATE A PLAN

Avoid the dreaded "I'm bored" by getting or creating a calendar that kids have access to. This helps them get excited for upcoming activities while helping you stay sane!

MAKE DATES

Fill up free days on your schedule by planning play dates, visiting family or a day at the beach or pool. Low cost outings such as these will help keep days filled and busy without breaking the bank.

MAINTAIN ROUTINES

Children thrive on structure so help keep them on track for back to school by having set times in the morning for chores & responsibilities.

MULTI-TASKING

While activities and outings are fun there are still things to do around the house during the summer. Get kids involved in helping by gardening, helping clear out storage spaces, prepping their snacks and meals or even turning grocery shopping into a scavenger hunt!



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ACIA HAPPENINGS

YARD *of the* MONTH



Barbra Mayfield

(Continued from Cover)

the spring of 2012, he and his PaPa saw what appeared to be a baby Mallard. As it turns out, it was a “stray” Wood Duck that had been separated from its own mother and nest mates. The Mallard flock that came to eat each day instinctively “adopted” this duckling who turned into a magnificent male that Jameson named “Woody”. For a couple of years until he got his own mate, Woody could be found in the company of his Mallard family, outshining them all with his beautiful colors. This was the first Wood Duck they had seen on the lake, and together they began researching the species and their nesting habitat. Shortly thereafter, they ordered the lumber and built their first ten Wood Duck boxes. These original boxes were given to friends on Lake Houston and surrounding areas in hopes of attracting their own Wood Ducks. Within no time, the Wood Ducks began nesting in the boxes, and thus began something special for the grandfather and his grandson. Over the next nesting seasons, the Wood Duck boxes would have up to 4-5 females laying or “dumping” eggs in the same boxes. The females would fight over the eggs, but ultimately the alpha female would win and tend to the entire nest.

Sadly, in September of 2014, Jerry passed away. It was at this point, Jameson decided that he wanted to do something to honor his PaPa. He knew that giving back to the community was always at the top of Mr. William’s priorities and Jameson naturally came up with a

(Continued on Page 6)



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(Continued from Page 4)

way to carry on his PaPa's legacy. With the help of neighbors Butch and Dawn Sharpe, family and special friends, Jameson continued to make Wood Duck boxes. As a tribute to Jerry, the new boxes are all branded with an original brand created by Cory MacDonald. The "W" represents Williams and it resembles wings in flight. This will forever be a part of Jameson's quest to grow the Wood Duck population on Lake Houston. Jameson has now teamed up with the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation originally founded by David Otis, Butch Sharpe and David Schuller to continue this amazing conservation effort. They have started an "Adopt a Box" program with the purpose to expose other families to the enjoyment of conservation and the beauty of nature. All of the proceeds are being donated to the Lake Houston Sports and Recreation Foundation. To top it off, the team has reached out to local Boy Scout troops and they are now constructing wood duck boxes for the foundation and earning their merit badges at the same time.

Jameson is a tremendous young man with a heart of gold and a love of nature like no other I've ever seen. He calls the ducks in using his own voice techniques at feeding time. He has taken an abandoned domesticated Mallard egg and placed it in a Wood Duck box, only to have the female Wood Duck incubate the egg and take care of the duckling as if it was one of her own. Jameson says the

thrill of watching baby Wood Ducks jump from their box to begin life on Lake Houston is a sight to behold and wishes everyone could experience it. This "Duck Whisperer of Lake Houston" has a bright future, which will no doubt include nature and conservation for years to come.

For more information on LHSRF, the "Adopt a Box" program or if interested in purchasing a box for \$60.00, please contact Butch Sharpe at 832-256-7613 or David Otis at 713-410-1691. You can also follow Jameson on Instagram @duck_whisperer_of_lakehouston.

- Thom W. Holzshu, Jr.

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PERSONAL SAFETY

School's out! Watch out! Talk to your teens about driving safety. But more importantly,

BE AN EXAMPLE!

Driving

- No Cell phone use when behind the wheel
- Slow down and observe the speed limits in neighborhoods.
There are a lot of young children out and about during the summer – take care to care for them.
- Stay focused and always use proper seat belts

Cycling/Skating/Scooters

Wear a helmet properly.

A helmet should be worn snug, fitted and level.

Replace a helmet after three to five years and/or if cracked.

General Water Safety

Do not combine alcohol and water-related activities. The same

laws are applicable when using any motorized water craft.

Be aware of sandbars. Use feet-first entry into water.

Do not dive in less than 9 feet of water.

Good rule – no diving board, no diving.

NEVER leave children alone near or in water.

Protect the Home Front – A home that looks deserted makes an easy target for thieves. To keep your home looking occupied, set your lights on a timer and stop your newspaper and mail delivery so it doesn't build up while you are away. Be sure to put trash cans away before you leave. Mow the lawn prior to leaving and if on an extended stay, have a service or neighborhood teen mow for you.

For added security, ask a trusted neighbor to check your home periodically and alert the police of suspicious activity. Grant easy access to authorized visitors by storing your spare key in a portable key safe.



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April ACIA Security Statistics

Categories

Burglary Habitation: 1 Burglary Vehicle: 3 Theft Habitation: 0 Theft Vehicle: 0 Theft Other: 1 Robbery: 0
 Assault: 1 Sexual Assault: 0 Criminal Mischief: 1 Disturbance Family: 1 Disturbance Juvenile: 0 Disturbance Other: 2
 Alarms: 30 Suspicious Vehicles: 18 Suspicious Persons: 5 Runaways: 2 Phone Harrassment: 2 Other Calls: 320

Detailed Statistics By Deputy

Unit Number	Contract Calls	District Calls	Reports Taken	Felony Arrests	Misd Arrests	Tickets Issued	Recovered Property	Charges Filed	Miles Driven	Days Worked
228	32	10	10	0	0	11	0	0	487	10
314	13	17	10	0	0	23	0	0	393	8
315	31	13	3	0	0	23	0	0	409	8
316	35	4	11	2	2	24	0	2	604	7
317	23	10	15	0	0	5	0	0	339	9
321	26	2	5	0	2	12	0	4	451	8
E80	15	7	4	0	0	32	0	0	498	9
E81	30	17	3	0	0	24	0	0	388	8
E82	55	14	10	0	0	27	0	1	1004	14
E84	40	4	4	0	1	45	0	1	641	11
TOTAL	300	98	75	2	5	226	0	8	5214	92



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HOUSE FLIES TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION



Moving into summer, we should prepare for the inevitable....house flies. While many see house flies as a nuisance, they are capable of spreading diseases such as dysentery or food poisoning. Due to the locations house flies frequent- garbage, manure, and

carrion- they can pick up bacteria and other disease organisms which can transfer to other areas where they may land such as dishes, food, or countertops. House flies regurgitate onto food to liquefy it before eating and they can further contaminate items by defecating upon surfaces.

The common house fly has two wings and is dull gray with black stripes on the thorax (the section where the wings are attached). Adult flies can only eat liquid foods and have sponging mouthparts specialized to help them feed.

Eggs are usually laid on decaying matter such as animal fecal material, grass clippings, or garbage. Around 100-150 eggs are laid by the female. Depending upon temperature (warmer temperatures speed things up); eggs may hatch within 8 hours to 2 days.

Maggots, the immature stage of a fly, are small, white, carrot-shaped, and legless. There are 3 larval molts then mature larvae seek a dry location for

pupation. Pupae are reddish brown and somewhat oval in shape.



During the summer, house flies may live up to 2.5 weeks while during cooler times of the year they may live up to 3 months.

The key to fly management is sanitation, or cleaning. Eliminate breeding sites by picking up animal waste one to two times per week; empty garbage cans regularly; clean garbage cans at least once a month with soapy water. Keep garbage cans located away from doors that lead into the home and make sure they have tight fitting lids.

Other items that can help reduce fly problems include keeping window screens in good repair; making sure doors and windows have a tight seal and weather stripping is in good condition; and using fly swatters or sticky fly paper to get rid of adult flies.

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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