



# COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Start Time: 8:00 AM End Time: 2:00 PM

- This is a Community-wide event; homeowner participation is voluntary.
- Homeowners must set up their own garages, driveways, etc., for the event.
- Participants will not be able to use the clubhouse area or any common areas
- for the sale.
- Traffic control will be provided for the Mesa Wells/ Northcanyon areas.
- This event is for amateur selling only! Not intended for business sales.
- The HOA Board will place ads on the following websites: www.yardsales.net www.garagesalefinder.com

www.garagesalehunter.com www.gsalr.com

www.garagesales.com

- Signs will be posted at the 249 and Eldridge entrances.
- Entry gates will be opened for traffic flow during the allotted time.
- Please make sure to return property to a pre-garage sale state once the event has concluded (remove signs, trash/debris, return unsold items to the home, etc.).

Let's all do our part in keeping our neighborhood beautiful! Per our Community Deed Restrictions only authorized garage sales may be held by residents of Canyon Gate at Northpointe.

Have a great day and Sell! Sell! Sell!

#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

| CGNOA Recreation Center       .281-290-6723         Guard House       .281-357-4183         SCHOOLS       .281-357-3100         Willow Creek Elementary       .281-357-3080         Canyon Pointe Elementary       .281-357-3122         Northpointe Intermediate       .281-357-3020         Willow Wood Junior High       .281-357-3030         Tomball High School       .281-357-3220         Tomball Memorial High School       .281-357-3170         PROPERTY TAX   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| SCHOOLS         281-357-3100           Willow Creek Elementary         281-357-3080           Canyon Pointe Elementary         281-357-3122           Northpointe Intermediate         281-357-3020           Willow Wood Junior High         281-357-3030           Tomball High School         281-357-3220           Tomball Memorial High School         281-357-3170           PROPERTYTAX         4           Harris County Tax         713-224-1919           Mud #280 and Mud #15         281-376-8802           POLICE & FIRE         Emergency           Emergency         911           Harris County Sheriff ( Non Emergency)         713-221-6000           Klein Vol. Fire Dept         281-376-4449           MEDICAL         281-401-7500           Methodist Willowbrook Hospital         281-477-1000           Houston Northwest Medical Center         281-440-1700           Cy-Fair Hospital         281-586-4700           Texas Sports Medicine Center         281-378-0800           UTILITIES         280-764-7661           Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)         281-378-0800           UTILITIES         281-235-1000           Centerpointe Energy         713-207-7777           Power To Choose         888-794-4839< | CGNOA Recreation Center  | 281-290-6723                            |
| Tomball Independent School Dist   | Guard House  | 281-357-4183                            |
| Tomball Independent School Dist   | SCHOOLS  |   |
| Willow Creek Elementary   |  | 281-357-3100                            |
| Canyon Pointe Elementary  | *  |   |
| Northpointe Intermediate  | •  |   |
| Tomball High School   | The state of the s |   |
| Tomball High School   | *  |   |
| Tomball Memorial High School   281-357-3170   PROPERTY TAX   Harris County Tax   713-224-1919   Mud #280 and Mud #15   281-376-8802   NW Harris WCID   281-376-8802   POLICE & FIRE   Emergency   911   Harris County Sheriff ( Non Emergency)   713-221-6000   Klein Vol. Fire Dept   281-376-4449   MEDICAL   Tomball Regional Medical Center   281-477-1000   Houston Northwest Medical Center   281-440-1000   Cy-Fair Hospital   281-556-4700   Texas Sports Medicine Center   281-351-6300   Poison Control   800-764-7661   Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)   281-378-0800   UTILITIES   Centerpointe Energy   713-207-7777   Power To Choose   888-797-4839   Centerpointe Energy Entex   713-659-2111   En-Touch (Customer Service)   281-225-1000   Telephone AT&T   800-464-7928   Water District Manager (15 & 280)   281-376-8802   Waste Management   413-686-6666   Waste Management   413-686-6666   800-245-4545   Before You Dig   811   TV / INTERNET   800-266-2278   AT&T U-Verse   888-320-2167   DirecTV   888-777-2454   DISH Network   888-825-2557   NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER   Peel, Inc.   512-263-9181   |  |   |
| Harris County Tax   |  |   |
| Harris County Tax   | PROPERTY TAX   |   |
| Mud #280 and Mud #15       281-376-8802         NW Harris WCID       281-376-8802         POLICE & FIRE       911         Harris County Sheriff ( Non Emergency)       713-221-6000         Klein Vol. Fire Dept       281-376-4449         MEDICAL       281-401-7500         Methodist Regional Medical Center       281-477-1000         Houston Northwest Medical Center       281-440-1000         Cy-Fair Hospital       281-586-4700         Texas Sports Medicine Center       281-351-6300         Poison Control       800-764-7661         Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)       281-378-0800         UTILITIES       Centerpointe Energy       713-207-7777         Power To Choose       888-797-4839         Centerpointe Energy Entex       713-659-2111         En-Touch (Customer Service)       281-225-1000         Telephone AT&T       800-464-7928         Water District Manager (15 & 280)       281-376-8802         Waste Management       713-686-6666         Waste Management Hazards Waste Pickup-280 Only       800-449-7587         Utility Marking - Texas One Call       800-245-4545         Before You Dig       811         TV / INTERNET       888-320-2167         Direc TV       888-320-2167<                  |  | 713-224-1919                            |
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| Harris County Sheriff ( Non Emergency)  |  | 011                                     |
| Klein Vol. Fire Dept.       281-376-4449         MEDICAL       281-401-7500         Methodist Willowbrook Hospital       281-477-1000         Houston Northwest Medical Center       281-440-1000         Cy-Fair Hospital       281-586-4700         Texas Sports Medicine Center       281-351-6300         Poison Control       800-764-7661         Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)       281-378-0800         UTILITIES         Centerpointe Energy       713-207-7777         Power To Choose       888-797-4839         Centerpointe Energy Entex       713-659-2111         En-Touch (Customer Service)       281-225-1000         Telephone AT&T       800-464-7928         Water District Manager (15 & 280)       281-376-8802         Waste Management       713-686-6666         Waste Management Hazards Waste Pickup-280 Only       800-449-7587         Utility Marking - Texas One Call       800-245-4545         Before You Dig       811         TV / INTERNET       888-320-2167         DirecTV       888-777-2454         DISH Network       888-825-2557         NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER         Peel, Inc.       512-263-9181   |  |   |
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| Tomball Regional Medical Center   | •  | 201-3/0-4447                            |
| Methodist Willowbrook Hospital       281-477-1000         Houston Northwest Medical Center       281-440-1000         Cy-Fair Hospital       281-586-4700         Texas Sports Medicine Center       281-351-6300         Poison Control       800-764-7661         Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)       281-378-0800         UTILITIES       713-207-7777         Power To Choose       888-797-4839         Centerpointe Energy Entex       713-659-2111         En-Touch (Customer Service)       281-225-1000         Telephone AT&T       800-464-7928         Water District Manager (15 & 280)       281-376-8802         Waste Management       713-686-6666         Waste Management Hazards Waste Pickup-280 Only       800-449-7587         Utility Marking - Texas One Call       800-245-4545         Before You Dig       811         TV / INTERNET       888-320-2167         DirecTV       888-777-2454         DISH Network       888-825-2557         NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER         Peel, Inc.       512-263-9181   |  |   |
| Houston Northwest Medical Center  | e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e  |   |
| Cy-Fair Hospital.       281-586-4700         Texas Sports Medicine Center       281-351-6300         Poison Control       800-764-7661         Cypress Creek EMS (www.ccems.com)       281-378-0800         UTILITIES         Centerpointe Energy       713-207-7777         Power To Choose       888-797-4839         Centerpointe Energy Entex       713-659-2111         En-Touch (Customer Service)       281-225-1000         Telephone AT&T       800-464-7928         Water District Manager (15 & 280)       281-376-8802         Waste Management       713-686-6666         Waste Management Hazards Waste Pickup-280 Only       800-449-7587         Utility Marking - Texas One Call       800-245-4545         Before You Dig       811         TV / INTERNET       888-320-2167         DirecTV       888-320-2167         DirecTV       888-777-2454         DISH Network       888-825-2557         NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER         Peel, Inc.       512-263-9181   |  |   |
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| Utility Marking - Texas One Call       800-245-4545         Before You Dig       811         TV / INTERNET       800-266-2278         AT&T U-Verse       888-320-2167         DirecTV       888-777-2454         DISH Network       888-825-2557         NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER         Peel, Inc.       512-263-9181   |  | - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
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| AT&T U-Verse  | Comcast  | 800-266-2278                            |
| DirecTV   |  |   |
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# CANYON GATE AT NORTHPOINTE CLUBHOUSE

October 3, 2017 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Join us at the clubhouse for our National Night Out Event. Our Community participates in this National Event each year.

Bring the family. There will be bouncy houses, vendor booths, emergency services, free hotdogs and raffle prizes. Not only is this a great time to meet and enjoy time with your neighbors, it also allows the community to help others by donating non-perishable food items for the local food bank.

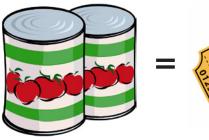
Residents can obtain a raffle ticket by bringing two or more nonperishable food items to the event. If someone forgets their non-perishable food items, monetary donations are also accepted. Raffle tickets are then drawn and the prizes are given out throughout the evening.

Vendors wishing to set up booths are not charged a fee but are rather asked to donate a raffle prize worth at least \$50.

#### **RAFFLE PRIZES**

1 RAFFLE TICKET PER FOOD DONATION GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES

\*LIMIT 1 RAFFLE TICKET PER ADULT RESIDENT (BUT, YOU <u>CAN</u> BRING MORE THAN 1 CANNED GOOD ITEM!)







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## CANYON GATE AT NORTHPOINTE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2017

19522 Del Norte Canyon Dr. Tomball, TX 77377 Ph: 281-290-6723 / Fax: 281-290-6774 / manager@cgnoa.com

## **VENDOR BOOTH REGISTRATION**

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2017

Once again our Community will participate in the National Night Out program promoted by the Harris County Sheriffs' Department. This National Event will be held on Tuesday **October 3, 2017** from 6 pm to 8 pm in our neighborhood. National Night Out is a program designed to bring neighbors together to promote the safety of the neighborhood and ultimately the community at large.

Residents are encouraged to leave their porch lights on, lock their doors and meet their neighbors. This is a wonderful opportunity for communities nationwide to promote police-community partnerships, crime prevention, and neighborhood camaraderie. Many communities invite the Sheriff's Department, Fire Departments and EMS to interact with the residents on that night as well as enjoy vendor booths, food and entertainment.

Our neighborhood's event will be held at the community clubhouse again this year! In past we have received over **400 attendees**. If you would like to set up a booth or display during this event, please fill out the information and submit to our office no later than **September 8, 2017**. Below you will find all the information needed to set up your booth however, please contact our office should you have any questions.

Date: Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Event Time: 6pm to 8pm

Vendor Arrival Time Permitted: As early as 5pm

<u>Fee:</u> Prize Gift valued at \$50 or Greater (example-2 \$25 gift cards) Due the evening of event. To be given away as Raffle Prizes and as Bingo Prizes.

<u>Set Up:</u> At rear of Clubhouse on Covered Basket Ball Court Power is limited. Vendors are to provide their own tables and set up equipment. Pizza & Water will be provided to vendors by Canyon Gate.

<u>Directions:</u> Coming N on 249-Take a left U turn at the new Boudreaux. Make a right on Canyon Gate Dr. Go to the first stop sign and make a left and check in with the guard. Coming S on 249-Take a right at Canyon Gate Dr. just past the new Boudreaux. Go to the first stop sign and make a left and check in with the guard. \*Please do not come in through the back Eldridge Gate.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sherry Carthane National Night Out Coordinator Canyon Gate at Northpointe OA, Inc. CANYON GATE AT NORTHPOINTE
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2015
19522 Del Norte Canyon Dr.
Tomball, TX 77377
Ph: 281-290-6723 / Fax: 281-290-6774
manager@cgnoa.com

VENDOR BOOTH REGISTRATION Tuesday, October 3, 2017

Please fax or email to the numbers listed above

Canyon Gate at Northpointe Owner's Association

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES JUNE 15, 2017**

Call to Order: Lee Stubbert called the meeting to order at to the trip hazards in the pool area and at the walk in gate were 6:30 p.m. Lee Stubbert, Greg Creel, Patrick Kennedy and Sherry Carthane-Clem were in attendance. Association Manager, Tally Jenkins, CMCA, AMS, PCAM and Deputy Dave Enstrom were also in attendance. Mike Roper was absent from the meeting.

**Homeowner Input:** Two residents were in attendance. Discussions included the status of the Boudreaux Fence installation and concrete wall replacement.

Adopt Agenda: Upon a motion by Greg Creel, seconded by Patrick Kennedy the Board unanimously adopted the agenda as presented.

Minutes: Upon a motion by Lee Stubbert, seconded Greg Creel the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 20, 2017 meeting as presented.

Security Report: Deputy Enstrom reviewed the Security Report for May and June 2017.

Financial Reports: Tally Jenkins reviewed the Financial Report for the month ending April 30, 2017.

#### **Interim Decisions:**

Entrance Light Upgrade: The Board approved replacing the broken accent lights at the entrance monuments with LED fixtures at a cost of \$5,795.00.

Removal and Replacement of Damaged Poles: The Board approved the removal and replacement of two light poles in the park area adjacent to the basketball and tennis courts. The light poles were rusted from the inside and presented a safety hazard.

#### **Old Business:**

Concrete Wall Replacement: Tally Jenkins reported the replacement of the concrete wall was temporarily postponed by the vendor. The replacement will begin again in a few months.

Boudreaux Fence: The Board was advised that all but the signatures of two owners were obtained. The Board discussed options available to proceed with installing the fence. Upon a motion by Greg Creel, seconded by Sherry Carthane-Clem the Board unanimously approved proceeding with the installation of the wooden fence on the Association's property directly behind the existing fence line. This option was approved and recommended by the Association's attorney. The Board was advised that there was an increase in the cost of materials for the fence, there will be no change for labor costs.

<u>Landscape Improvement:</u> The Board was advised that the landscape improvements approved at the April meeting were complete.

Irrigation Repairs: The Board was advised that the irrigation repairs approved at the April meeting were complete.

Visitor Lane Drive Repair: The Board was advised that the repair to the concrete at the visitor lane is complete. The installation of a new loop to operate the arm was also required.

Trip Hazard Repairs: The Board was advised that the repairs

complete.

Adopt-A-School Donations: Copies of Thank you letters received from Willow Wood Junior High and Canyon Pointe Elementary Schools for the \$2,000 donation each received from the Adopt-A-School program were presented to the Board.

#### **New Business:**

Stolen Landscaping: The Board was advised that some of the knock out roses installed at the main entrance at 249 and were stolen in two separate incidents. Those stolen during the initial incident were replaced by Vista Landscaping at no charge. Two additional bushes were stolen prior to the meeting and the Association covered the cost of the replacement.

Tree Trimming Proposal: Upon a motion by Sherry Carthane-Clem, seconded by Greg Creel the Board unanimously approved a proposal from Urban Foresters to prune all trees in common areas and cul-de-sacs at a cost of \$12,297.20.

Concrete Raising Proposal: Upon a motion by Sherry Carthane-Clem, seconded by Greg Creel the Board unanimously approved a proposal to raise the remainder of uneven areas on the community sidewalks at a cost of \$2,175.00.

Shade Structure Proposals: The Board reviewed and postponed and decisions regarding proposals from Kraftsman Parks and Playground equipment to install a shade structure over the baby pool pending receipt of additional proposals.

The proposals reviewed were for the following options:

- 1. Cantilever style \$23,235.05 (partial coverage)
- Triangle Sail shades \$41,882.32 (partial coverage)

Proposal to Retrofit Clubhouse Lights: The Board reviewed and postponed a proposal from Prism Electric to replace all of the recessed light fixtures with LED down lights at a cost of \$4308.35 pending the receipt of additional information.

#### Landscape Proposals:

- The Board reviewed and declined a proposal for the removal and replacement of the three dead Bottle Brush trees on the side of the clubhouse at a cost of \$1,792.50. The Board requested the dead trees be removed when the trees are trimmed in the common areas.
- Upon a motion by Patrick Kennedy, seconded by Sherry Carthane-Clem the Board unanimously approved a proposal to replace the dead/dying Muhly Grass plants at the main entrance with 40 3-g Mexican Feather Grass plants at a cost of \$2,381.50.

Volleyball Net Replacement Proposal: Upon a motion by Greg Creel, seconded by Patrick Kennedy the Board unanimously approved a proposal to replace the volleyball net at a cost of \$220.00.

Shed Roof: The Board was advised that the roof on the shed along (Continued on Page 6)

#### CANYON GATE

(Continued from Page 5)

the detention pond was losing shingles. The Board advised they will look at the roof and determine what options they would like to consider regarding the shed.

Gutters on Basketball Pavilion: The Board was advised that the gutters and downspouts on the basketball pavilion are in need of repair. Live Oak Construction was contacted to evaluate and provide an estimate for repairs. The proposal will be presented when received.

Section 7 Call Box: The Board was advised that the Section 7 Call box was working intermittently. Upon a motion by Greg Creel, seconded by Sherry Carthane-Clem the Board unanimously approved a proposal to replace the Section 7 call box at a cost of \$5,345.00.

Cleaning of Entry Monuments and Walls: The Board was advised that proposals are being solicited to clean the mildew from all of the entry monuments and walls. The proposals will be submitted when all have been received.

<u>Pool Phone:</u> The Board was advised that the volume on the pool payphone is very low and it is difficult to hear. A proposal will be solicited from an emergency phone vendor. This will be presented to the Board when it has been received. The transition to the emergency phone only should be a more cost effective option.

<u>Playground Upgrades:</u> Proposals are currently being solicited for upgrades to both playgrounds. The proposals will be presented to the Board for review when all have been received.

Tennis Court Repairs Proposal: The Board reviewed a proposal for repairs to the expansion joint, post, fence and equipment at a cost of \$15,215.00. Upon a motion by Greg Creel, seconded by Patrick Kennedy the proposal was unanimously approved.

Tennis Court Lighting Proposals: The Board postponed any action on a proposals to upgrade the tennis court lights to LED fixtures from Prism Electric at a cost of \$10,330.00 and Classic Sports at a cost of \$10,758.00 pending further consideration.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

<u>Executive Session:</u> The Board convened into executive Session at 7:40 p.m. to review the legal status report.

**Reconvene Regular Meeting:** The regular meeting reconvened at 8:15 p.m.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned into Executive Session at 9:37 p.m.

Minutes approved as presented at the August 17, 2017 meeting.



# THE FRENCH DRAIN AROUND MY HOUSE IS CLOGGED. CAN SOMETHING BE DONE TO OPEN IT UP?

Anthony V., Greensboro, North Carolina

A French drain is the term for any gravel-and-tile or gravel-and-pipe-based system. It takes its name from Henry Flagg French, who chronicled its use in agriculture in the mid-19th century. When it's around the house, as you describe, it's actually a footing drain or a foundation drain. It's meant to drain excess water away from the foundation by gravity, directing it to a point on the lawn.

It's not unusual for foundation drains to become clogged by tree roots, shrub roots, and dirt. Old foundation drains can also simply collapse. If the drain is otherwise in good shape and is relatively new, a drain-cleaning company might be able to clear the obstruction using a water-jet drain-cleaning machine. Some operations even employ a digital drain camera on the end of a gigantic reel of fiber-optic cable. These things can inspect several hundred feet of drain.

Repairing and unclogging the drain is the optimal solution. The less desirable and far more expensive solution is to replace the footing drain with a new gravel-and-pipe system. That can cost several thousand dollars and leave disturbed landscaping in its wake. If it comes to that, the good news is that you'll have a dry basement and the work will improve your home's resale value.

This story appears in the September 2017 issue of Popular Mechanics.

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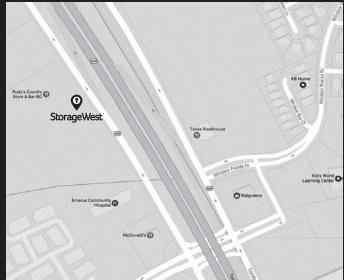
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## THE EASIEST VEGETABLES TO GROW INDOORS

The Next by Libby MacCarthy

Want fresh produce all year long? Grow them at home! Check out this list of eight easy-to-grow vegetables.

There's nothing quite like freshly picked produce and between the growing popularity of community gardens, farmers' markets and CSAs (Community Supported Agriculture), it would seem that many people across the country agree. The benefits of local, seasonal, farm-fresh foods are easy to see — they not only taste better, but their purchase helps to strengthen and support local communities and they're a little bit easier on the environment (especially if grown organically) than those you'll find in the supermarket, since they're typically grown on a smaller scale and require less travel. Growing your own food is another option and offers a few additional bonuses — like knowing how and where your fruits and veg were grown, not to mention the satisfaction of having grown them yourself.

Even if you don't have a yard of your own or call a pint-sized apartment home, you can still reap the benefits of homegrown produce — a simple windowsill, a little counter space or a small corner will do.

Herbs - If you're not ready to go all out just yet, herbs are a great way to get your feet wet. Start with seeds or a starter plant (a much easier, hassle-free option), potting each in a container with plenty of drainage holes and placing them in a well-lit spot in your home. Water often — about once a day — trim regularly and be sure to keep flower buds in check whenever they pop up, which will encourage plants to grow and produce more leaves.

Carrots - Glazed, roasted or pureed into soup, carrots are easy to grow at home and offer plentiful culinary possibilities. If you're short on space, look to short varieties, which can be grown in small boxes, troughs or 8\,\mathbb{D} pots. Look to 12\,\mathbb{D} pots for long varieties. Seeds can be sown almost any time of year and will start two produce carrots only a few short weeks after planting. Keep soil moist and when harvest, pull straight out to avoid damaging other carrots' roots.

Tomatoes - It's a well-known fact that store-bought tomatoes are sub par (globular red cardboard, anyone?), so growing them at home when you can't get them fresh from the farm is the way to go. And with so many varieties available, you're bound to find at least one that will work within the confines of your space. Put them in Just remember, lots of light is key!

Radishes - Radishes are one of those majorly underrated legumes. They boast some pretty fantastic health benefits (what vegetable doesn't though, right?) and they're delicious. Two words: glazed radishes. You've seriously got to try them. Like carrots, these pintsized root vegetables don't need a much space to grow and things like pots, pans, boxes or any other spacious container can be repurposed into planters. Globe and round varieties are great for small spaces.

**Potatoes** – Potatoes can easily be grown in a confined space with just a few buckets, large pots or bags. Fill the containers with good quality compost, leaving enough space to add more compost as the spuds develop. Place tubers near the top of the bag, giving them

plenty of space to put down roots. Cover with a few more inches of compost and water sparingly. The soil should be moist, never wet. As the potatoes grow, soil should be added so that only the top inch or so of the plant is poking through. You'll know they're ready to harvest one they start to turn yellow. Green potatoes are poisonous and are best avoided.

**Mushrooms** - Mushrooms are a low-key crop that require minimal effort — perfect if you're not the most attentive gardener. You can buy kits with compost and mushroom spawn ready and raring to go, which require nothing more than a little watering before being placed in a cool dark place like a cupboard.

Beans - Fresh, homegrown beans are well within reach as long as you have a nice sunny spot on hand. Dwarf varieties are best for indoors and seeds can be sown in late winter onwards. As the beans grow, adding a stick to the pot will give the plant a little stability and support.

Microgreens - While everything from bok choi to kale and cabbage can be grown indoors, microgreens are delicious, nutrient-packed and stress-free. What are they? Essentially, sprouted seeds, so as long as you can get your greens to sprout, you're golden. To grow microgreens all you need is a flat dish, a little bit of soil and time.

This is only a small sampling of the many types of produce you can grow at home. Once you get comfortable with these, go ahead and give everything from eggplants to endive and leeks a try!

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#### **COULD YOUR AIR CONDITIONER BE MAKING YOU SICK?**

A few steps can help ensure that indoor air isn't bad for your health

By Christina Dabney - Consumer Reports

On a scorching summer day, air conditioners do more than help you stay comfortable indoors. They help protect against such serious maladies as heatstroke and filter out some pollutants and allergens.

Air conditioners can be especially important for people with lung or heart disease who might struggle to breathe easily when air is hot and humid, says Norman Edelman, M.D., a senior science adviser for the American Lung Association.

But without proper care and maintenance, air conditioners also have the potential to cause health problems, especially when mold grows inside them. Here, how to stay cool and healthy when using portable or window air conditioners.

Watch for Mold

Mold that finds a way into your home can cause such symptoms as throat irritation, wheezing, and congestion, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Living with a moldy air conditioner "would increase your chances of having a respiratory infection," says Mark Mendell, Ph.D., an affiliate scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory who has studied the health effects of ventilation systems. Here's how to know whether mold has taken up residence in your air conditioner and how to prevent that from happening.

Spot the spots: Chris Regan, senior test project leader in Consumer Reports' air-conditioner lab, says harmful mold can first show up on the air duct just inside air-conditioner louvers—the openings where cold air comes out—as clusters of tiny black spots.

Those spots can indicate that even more mold is hiding deep inside the machine. Cleaning the louvers is a good first step, but only a partial solution. If the mold grows back, consider replacing the unit, Regan says.

Check the angle: Make sure a window air conditioner isn't tilted into the interior of your home. It should be tilted slightly toward the exterior, Regan says. When it's tilted the wrong way, rain can end up inside, and the slow buildup of moisture can create mold.

Keep a portable drained: If you're using a portable air conditioner, it most likely has a little light that will indicate when the water

(Continued on Page 11)



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#### CANYON GATE

#### (Continued from Page 10)

reservoir needs to be drained. When you see that light, open the drain plug—usually located at the bottom of the unit—and drain the water into a tub or outdoor area, Regan says. Standing water can "attract all kinds of mold," Edelman says. During the off-season, you should store the unit drained, with the cap off, so it can air out.

#### Banish Bad Air

Avoid buying a window unit with a vent—a small opening that lets in air from the outside—especially if the air quality where you live might be poor, say, near a power plant or a school where buses idle.

You want to avoid letting in particulates like diesel exhaust that can cause or exacerbate health problems such as asthma and lung inflammation. Vents can also let in pollen, ragweed, and other allergens, so if you're sensitive enough to avoid opening the windows, stay away from vents as well. (Very few air conditioners have a vent; most only recirculate air from the interior of your living space.)

You should also make sure an air conditioner's side panels are installed snugly against the side of the window frame so that hazardous outside air can't creep in. For extra protection, use the foam strips that come with most air conditioners and lay them across the top and underneath the air conditioner when you're installing it to create a better seal.

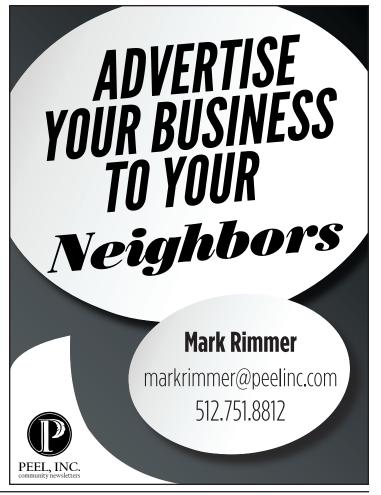
#### Avoid Quick Temperature Changes

If you have asthma, you might experience respiratory problems if you breathe in very cold air after being out in the heat. Older people often have a hard time with extreme changes in temperature as well, according to the CDC.

Avoid these sudden shifts by decreasing the temperature gradually when you come back inside during the summer, Edelman suggests. And if you suffer from a respiratory condition, try to avoid going directly from very cold air to very hot air.











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