

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# ATASCOCITA FOREST HALLOWEEN BASH

When: Saturday, October 28, starting at 2:00 PM Where: Atascocita Forest Park: 17415 Woodland Hills Dr.

IMPORTANT: FREETICKETS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND THIS EVENT. PLEASE VISIT THE ATASCOCITAFOREST. ORG WEBSITE TO RESERVE YOUR FREE TICKETS

Get the kids in their costumes and come out to enjoy a familyfriendly, fun-filled afternoon with your neighbors at the Atascocita Forest Halloween Bash – the neighborhood's biggest and most popular annual event! Even if you don't have kids, this is a great, fun event to meet and get to know your neighbors, so don't miss it!

• Awesome Moonwalks: Haunted House Maze (ages 3+), 25' Excalibur Double Slide (ages 5+), 3-in-1 Little Monsters Bounce Castle (ages 0-4)

• Live DJ & Entertainment: DJ Nick NYCe

• Fun Activity Games: Pumpkin Patch walk (variation of Cake Walk), Musical Chairs, Mummy Wrap Relay Race, Pumpkin Sweep Race, Monster Sack Race

- Carnival-Style Games for all ages
- TONS of candy and fun prizes
- Face Painting & Balloon Artists
- Costume Parade

• Food Vendor (Yummy 4 Ur Tummy) serving delicious hamburgers, wings, gourmet hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, fresh-fried pork skins, nachos, kids meals, snow cones, FUNNEL CAKES(!!!), and more!

• MOVIE AFTER DARK! We will show a kid-friendly Halloween movie in the park at approximately 6:45 pm. Depending on attendee interest, we may have a second showing of a "scary" movie geared toward teenagers and adults after the kids' movie.

All of the activities and games are FREE (except the food vendor) for residents and their guests! We only ask that if you plan to attend, please reserve FREE tickets to the event on our EventBrite page (link available on the Facebook group, NextDoor, and on the AtascocitaForest.org website) This year we will require that attendees either bring their printed tickets or show their digital tickets on their phone to the event check-in volunteers.

Also, we are still in need of volunteers to help us make this event a success! Would you consider volunteering for an hour or (Continued on Page 2)



### TRAIL OF THE LAKES MUD NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

#### When: Tuesday, October 3rd, starting at 6:00 PM Where: Whispering Pines Elementary Pavilion

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes partnerships between communities and the police and first responders who serve them in order to build camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. It provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.

National Night Out for our area is comprised of neighbors from the three neighborhoods and HOAs which comprise the Trail of the Lakes MUD District: Atascocita Forest, The Forest, and Clayton's Park. Representatives from the Harris County Sheriff's Department, Harris County Precinct 4 Constables, and the Atascocita Volunteer Fire Department will be at the event to meet and socialize with neighbors and spread awareness about the services that these agencies provide residents.

Bring the whole family for a fun evening with your first responders and neighbors. The event features moonwalks and activities for kids, as well as complimentary food and refreshments!

### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

EMERGENCY	
Harris County Animal Control	
Poison Control	

#### **NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

Pct 4 Constable Non-Emergency Dis	spatch 281-376-3472
Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept	
Harris County Precinct 4	
Texas No Call List Registration	
Emergency Roadside Assistance	

#### SCHOOLS

Humble ISD	
Whispering Pines Elementary	
Humble Middle School	
Humble High School	

#### UTILITY NUMBERS

#### **PUBLIC SERVICES**

Humble Post Office	
DPS Office	
Harris County Clerk (Will Clayton P	kwy.) 281-540-1173

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD MANAGEMENT**

Community Asset Management ...... www.CommunityAssetManagement.com

Pam Valentine......pvalentine@cam-texas.com

#### ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOC.

Email the Board ...... board@atascocitaforest.org Website Questions/Problems ...... website@atascocitaforest.org Newsletter questions......newsletter@atascocitaforest.org

#### HOA BOARD MEMBERS

Bill Wisenbaker - President .....billw@atascocitaforest.org Norman Laskie - Vice President....norman@atascocitaforest.org Troy King - Treasurer.....troy@atascocitaforest.org Lauren Shwarts - Secretary ......lauren@atascocitaforest.org

### **NEWSLETTER INFO**

#### PUBLISHER

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Advertising	. advertising@PEELinc.com

#### (Continued from the Cover)

two? Even if you don't plan to attend the event, we would greatly appreciate your help! We have all of our volunteer positions / roles and shifts listed on our Volunteer Sign Up page, so you can pick what you'd like to do and when – super easy! Visit the AtascocitaForest.org website and view the 2017 Halloween Bash page for the link to view the available positions and shifts.

Also note that we welcome volunteers of any age, including mature children and teenagers! If your child needs volunteer hours for an organization or school project, we will be happy to provide information and documentation about their service so they receive credit. Please contact Lauren Shwarts at Lauren@ atascocitaforest.org with any questions about volunteering!

#### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION & TIPS:**

• Residents are welcome to bring guests and their children to the event. When you reserve tickets, please select the appropriate ticket type (Resident – Adult, Resident – Child, Guest – Adult, Guest – Child). It's very important that we know how many kids will be attending the event!

• Each attendee will receive a stamp on their hand when they check in. Residents and guests will receive different colored stamps. This helps law enforcement security to ensure the safety of all attendees.

• PARKING: Parking will be available in the Whispering Pines parking lot (next door to the park) and The Forest Pool parking lot (across Woodland Hills Dr. from Whispering Pines). You may also park at Humble Middle School and walk across Will Clayton & Woodland Hills to the event, or park on the street on Wintergreen or Wells Mark. Very few parking spaces will be available in the Atascocita Forest parking lot.

• Law Enforcement security will be present at the event to ensure the safety of all attendees

• Moonwalks may or may not have supervisors present (depending on volunteer availability). Parents are responsible for ensuring their children play on the equipment appropriate for their age(s) in a safe and courteous manner.

• Attendees are welcome to bring folding chairs and coolers to the event. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE PROHIBITED.

• A lost and found box will be located at the event check-in desk.

• Please explain to your children that if they become lost at the event to approach one of the event volunteers or security personnel and an announcement will be made from the DJ booth to locate their parents.

• Copious amounts of pre-packaged candy will be available to children at the event, some of which may contain nuts or other allergens. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not ingest candy which may cause a health issue.

## ATASCOCITA FOREST & THE FOREST TRUNK OR TREAT

When: Tuesday, October 31st, starting at 6:30 PM Where: Whispering Pines Elementary Parking Lot

#### NOTE: REGISTRATION REQUIRED. PLEASE SEE BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

Several residents have asked about having a Trunk or Treat in the past, so we're going to give it a shot! This event is ideal for smaller kids (babies, toddlers, etc.) to be able to trick or treat in a safe and organized environment, but of course trick-or-treaters of all ages are welcome! Please note that this event is tentative, dependent upon the participation response from the community. If very few people sign up to participate by handing out candy, then we will cancel the event. A final decision on whether the event will take place will be made on Tuesday, October 24.

#### WHAT IS A TRUNK OR TREAT?

Participants decorate the open trunk or rear area of their vehicle and hand out candy to trick-or-treaters! Many communities,



churches, and schools host Trunk or Treat events in conjunction with traditional trick or treating on Halloween with great success!

#### PLEASE SIGN UP!

If you would like to participate by handing out candy, please complete the AF / TF Trunk or Treat Signup Form to register as a participant; this will help us ensure an organized and safe environment for everyone and to have an accurate idea of how many vehicles we can expect. Visit AtascocitaForest.org to access the link to sign up.

If you plan to bring your children to trick-or-treat at the event, please fill out the short Trick-or-Treater signup form so that participants have an idea of how many kids to expect (and therefore not run out of candy!) Visit AtascocitaForest.org to access the link to sign up.



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### ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

#### When: Saturday, October 14th, starting at 8:00 AM

It's time to clean out the garage and make some cash! Residents are welcome to set up garage sales in their driveways and place garage sale signs in appropriate locations in the neighborhood. We kindly ask that garage sale participants remember to pick up all of their garage sale signs after their sale is over in order to keep the neighborhood looking tidy.

Residents are also welcome to set up their sale in the parking lot of Whispering Pines Elementary. If you choose to do this, please be sure to clean up after yourself and pay close attention to ensure that no trash, debris, or items are left behind after your sale.

The Garage Sale will be advertised heavily on Social Media (Facebook and NextDoor), and an ad will be placed in the local newspaper. We will also put out signs during the week before the Garage Sale day. Note that we have created a public event on the Atascocita Forest Facebook page, which will be shared to numerous local Facebook groups. Please feel free to comment on that event with your address and a summary of the types of items you'll have available, as well as a few photos if you wish.



## Volunteers Needed for Halloween Bash

Halloween Bash has quickly grown to be the biggest and most popular annual event in our community. In 2015, nearly 400 residents attended, despite the miserable weather. In 2016, the number of attendees more than doubled to over 800. This year, we are expecting an even bigger crowd and are hard at work planning the biggest and best Halloween Bash yet! But this also means that we are in desperate need of volunteers to help us make this event successful. In an effort to make things easier and more convenient for volunteers this year, we have broken down our volunteer needs into specific roles and shifts - the longest of which is 2 hours. We kindly ask that you consider signing up for a shift to help us make this event fun and enjoyable for the entire community. Please visit AtascocitaForest.org and visit the 2017 Halloween Bas page to access the link to our page on SignUp.com, where all of our volunteer roles and shifts are available. You can quickly and easily sign up to help directly on that website. Our volunteers are absolutely the most critical aspect to making this event happen, and we greatly appreciate your assistance!







## Staying Connected with Your Community

Did you know that Atascocita Forest has a number of ways for residents to keep current on what's going on in the community? One of the myriad benefits of digital communication and social media is the ease with which information can be rapidly and widely shared, and we have embraced this technology to help you stay informed!

#### AtascocitaForest.org Website & Email

If you haven't been to our website, or haven't been in a long time, we encourage you to check it out, as it contains a wealth of useful information about the neighborhood and the HOA. You can find up-to-date contact information for local agencies and services, information about neighborhood amenities, contact forms to report deed restriction violations and security concerns, information about meetings and neighborhood events, and much, much more. Please be sure to register on the website, as much of the information is visible only to registered, logged in resident users.

The website is also how HOA board members send out email communications to registered residents. Even if you don't visit the website regularly, be sure to register so that you don't miss important communication emails. Please note that we only send out, on average, one email per month, so you're not going to get spammed. Emails will always be from one of the Association board members and contain important, relevant information.

#### Social Media

Atascocita Forest has a public Facebook Page (www.facebook. com/AtascocitaForest) where we will post information occasionally. This is also where we will publicize events such as the neighborhood garage sales. Be sure to "Like" the page on Facebook!

We also have a fun and dynamic Facebook group for the community: Atascocita Forest Neighbors. This group is where much of the online interaction between neighbors takes place, and also where all of the latest news, updates, and event information is posted. If you're on Facebook, be sure to join! www.facebook. com/groups/atascocitaforestneighbors

In addition to Facebook, Atascocita Forest also has a page on NextDoor. If you're not familiar, NextDoor is a social media site targeted exclusively to residential communities to help keep neighbors connected and informed. Visit www.nextdoor.com/join and enter the code YSHHWG to join!

#### Trail of the Lakes MUD Text Message Alerts

Trail of the Lakes MUD offers an emergency alert text message system to residents of the District (including Atascocita Forest, The Forest, and Clayton's Park). Text messages containing critical information about the water system, or about the trash service, will be sent to registered numbers as needed. To sign up, simply send a text message to 77453 containing the name of your section as one word in all caps: ATASCOCITAFOREST or THEPARKATATASCOCITAFOREST. You can stop your subscription any time by messaging STOP to 77453.

#### Visit www.TrailoftheLakesMUD.com/emergency-notification for more information

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### Get Connected with Atascocita Forest! AtascocitaForest.org (official website) FB Group: Atascocita Forest Neighbors Not officially endorsed by the AFCA HOA Nextdoor.com: Atascocita Forest



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# TRASH SERVICE IN ATASCOCITA FOREST

Trash and recycling service in Atascocita Forest is provided by Residential Recycling and Refuse of Texas (RRRT) and is contracted through Trail of the Lakes MUD (and is therefore included on your water bill). Trash service days in the district are Mondays (household trash only) and Thursdays (household trash, heavy trash, and recycling). Trash service typically runs between 8 AM and 5 PM, but depending on circumstances, the trash service may start late or run late.

#### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW:

• Please have your trash placed in appropriate bags or containers at your curb by 7:30 in the morning. The trash service does not always travel the same route every time, so they may pick up earlier or later at your house depending on their route.

• You are not limited to the provided blue recycling bin for recyclables. You may put additional recyclable garbage in clear or blue garbage bags on your curb, clearly separated from your household trash, on Thursdays and recycling will pick them up. Alternatively, you can get a large recycle logo sticker from the trash company to place on ANY garbage can, which will designate it as a recycling container (note that a designated can should ONLY contain recyclables – please do not mix household trash and recyclables in the same can). Contact the trash company (information listed at the end of this article) to request the stickers. They will mail them out to you ASAP.

• The weight limit for standard trash or branch bundles is 40 lbs. Up to 6 cans of household waste (weighing no more than 40 lbs each) will be collected each trash day. If limbs or branches will not fit in your garbage can, they must be cut to a maximum 4' in length and 3" in diameter (each) and tied together.

• Any items which the trash company cannot take due to size, weight, or other restriction will be tagged explaining why they could not take it.

• A comprehensive list of items that cannot be taken by the trash company is provided on the Trash Service page on the AtascocitaForest.org website.

• You may sign up for text message notifications through the MUD, which will alert you of any service delays or interruptions with the trash service, as well as important emergency announcements. To sign up, send a text message to 77453 with the name of your section, all one word: ATASCOCITAFOREST, THEPARKATATASCOCITAFOREST. You will receive a response verification when you are added to the system. This information is also available on the MUD website at www.trailofthelakesmud.com/emergency-notification/

### WHAT YOU SHOULD DO IF YOU HAVE AN ISSUE OR COMPLAINT WITH TRASH SERVICE:

The trash service provider is aware of the issues that we have had with service in the past and is working hard to remedy them. They are committed to making our residents happy and providing great service for years to come. They have requested that residents please contact the company directly with any questions or complaints so that they can be addressed immediately, including damaged or lost trash containers, missed trash, damaged property, issues with employees, etc. The trash company has cameras on all of their trucks, known as "third eye", which monitor activity inside and outside of the trash truck via video cameras, allowing them to review service and address any issues. The trash company's contact information is provided below, and is always available on AtascocitaForest.org > Services & Utilities > Trash Service.

> RRRT Phone Number: (866) 516-9805 Email Address: info@rrrtx.net

If, after contacting the trash company and alerting them to the issue, your problem is not resolved, then please contact Jeff Campbell with the Trail of the Lakes MUD and explain the issue and what you have attempted to do to resolve it. He may be reached at jeff.campbell@trailofthelakesmud.com

### Waterline Work in the Neighborhood

You've probably noticed all of the digging happening on Woodland Hills Drive in the neighborhood. The MUD is in the process of completing some much-needed repairs and upgrades to our water service infrastructure. The Water Line Rehabilitation Project will begin on Woodland Hills Dr. from Will Clayton Parkway to Misty Ridge Dr., and on Will Clayton Parkway from Atascocita Road to Silver Bend Dr. The second phase of the project will include Atascocita Forest Sections 2 and 11. The whole project is expected to be completed in early 2018. Please feel free to direct any questions or concerns to the MUD via their website: www.trailofthelakesmud.com

Additionally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to the MUD board for their persistent efforts to keep the drainage systems in and around our neighborhood cleared and maintained so meticulously. The design and maintenance of our drainage systems played a tremendous role in preventing significant flooding in the neighborhood during Hurricane Harvey. Thank you for all that you do!



Atascocita Forest - October 2017 7



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