

The Official Newsletter of The Steeplechase Community Improvement Association, Inc. and Steeplechase

AMENITIES... NOW WHAT

Residents' Comments:

"Splash pad, exercise station, volleyball court – I would make this minus 10 if possible. Sturbridge can't even have plants around the sign or the bayou mowed, and we need a splash pad/volleyball court. Come on get real and"

"Additional amenities need to be put into the restricted pool area. I have no desire to add amenities for non-Steeplechase residents. The amenities should be for paying Steeplechase residents only....."

"Keep kids from neighborhoods across Jones from using the pool. I've seen them walk from the pool across Jones to other neighborhoods."

"The splash pad would be great for kids, just concerned about nonresidents hogging it. Maybe attach it to the pool and re-fence? Add a gate? Maybe it's easier to attach it to the existing plumbing? Exercise station is very interesting, I would like to know more about what would be built and where....."

"No more amenities necessary. Just keep the ones we have nice...."

"Addition of exercise station would be beneficial to 50+ adults...."

"I would like to have a fenced dog park area. Many of the surrounding neighborhoods have them and it is an amenity we are lacking."

RESPONSE:

The SCIA BOD has been, is and will continue to be focused on maintenance, improvement, renovation and if needed, replacement of all Association assets before any amenity addition would be built. Recently SCIA has picked up responsibility for maintenance of the MUD funded improvements including the Bayou Trail and the three rebuilt parks thereby increasing the Association's expenses.

Well maintained, modern amenities help to stabilize, maintain and improve property values. Maintaining property values is an important objective of the SCIA BOD. Amenity addition, if any, would be targeted to meet or match residents' needs and wants. As residents change (move out, move in, age in place), amenities that residents want evolves. The BOD, with surveys and open BOD meeting discussion is trying to understand what Steeplechase residents want so that the Association can stay in sync with these wants and needs, if financially feasible.

THE HARVEY EVENT

On Friday August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey slammed into the Texas Coast near Rockport, Texas, causing massive damage. Harvey was downgraded to a tropical storm and wandered around the area for several days before moving back into the gulf. Upon reentering the gulf, Harvey moved along the coast toward the Texas / Louisiana state line.

A long time Steeplechase resident has a weather station and shared the following data:

- Friday August 25: 1.03 inch rain / top wind gust 12 MPH
- Saturday August 26: 8.65 inch rain / top wind gust 25 MPH
- Sunday August 27: 17.99 inch rain / top wind 21 MPH
- Monday August 28: 6.30 inch rain / top wind 22 MPH
- Tuesday August 29: 2.02 inch rain / top wind 19 MPH

Five day total was 35.99 inches.

Steeplechase community was most fortunate. We experienced a lot of rain but no damage to the clubhouse, tennis courts, pool or parks. There is some erosion on the trail and steps are being taken to make repairs. The news media said Hurricane / Tropical Storm Harvey was a five day event; however, in time we will find that this is not near enough time.

The BOD has surveyed (2016 and 2017) and will continue to survey residents for input on longer term planning and objectives for Steeplechase. Keep in mind that your participation in surveys is requested. If you recall, after the 2016 Amenity Survey was completed, the BOD decided that it would not consider any additional amenity in 2017 or 2018 due to other capital projects planned for existing assets utilizing available funds.

A REMINDER: If you have suggestions for the Steeplechase Community, concerns about what the BOD is doing, problems with Chaparral Management attend a BOD meeting (every meeting is open to residents) and sign in to talk during the resident input session that is held at each BOD meeting

IMPORTANT Telephone Numbers



Emergency
Sheriff's Dept
Cy-Fair Fire Dept911
Cy-Fair Hospital
Animal Control
Center Point (Street lights)713-207-2222
http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage
Neighborhood Crime Watch SteeplechaseSecurity@gmail.com
Library
Post Office713-983-9682
Steeplechase Community Center 281-586-1700
Deed Restriction Issues (CMC) 281-586-1700
Water/Sewer
Architectural Control (CMC) 281-586-1700
Trash Pick-up (Best Trash, LLC) (Wed. & Sat.) 281-313-BEST
Harris Co. Pct. 4 Road Maintenance 281-353-8424
Harris Co. MUD #168hcmud168board@gmail.com
Community Events
Clubhouse Rentals: Private Parties and Community Events
(Jinnie Kelley)
Traffic Initiative
Private Pool Parties
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. (Advertising).....kelly@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444 Articles.....lwikenczy@chaparralmanagement.com

Community Center Contacts

Community Maintenance Concerns Chaparral Management Company 281-586-1700 **Clubhouse Rentals** Private Parties and Community Events **Pool Company Contact** www.houston-pmg.com **Board Member Contact** Chaparral Management Company 281-586-1700

Schools

Emmott Elementary	
Campbell Middle School	
Cy-Ridge High School	

Contact the Management Company

www.steeplechasecia.com or by phone 281-586-1700

Low Hanging Branches & Wild Bushes



Steeplechase is fortunate to have sidewalks throughout that make it safe to walk, run, exercise etc. without worrying about dodging parked vehicles, cars coming down the street, etc. However,

there are obstacles to using the sidewalks; for example, low hanging tree branches, unkempt bushes, etc... Homeowners and renters, please trim your plants so that the full width of the sidewalk is passable and provides a 7' to 8' height clearance for pedestrians. Likewise, your trees should be trimmed to provide adequate clearance for cars and trucks traveling or parking on the street. Thanks for your cooperation.

If you have any questions or comments, direct them to Lindsey Wikenczy at lwikenczy@chaparralmanagement.com.

BASHANS PAINTING & HOME REPAIR

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- Cabinet Painting
- Pressure Washing
- Fence Repair/Replacement
- Custom Staining
- Gutter Repair & Replacement
- Crown Molding

- Wallpaper Removal
- Wood Replacement
- Interior Carpentry
- Wallpaper Removal & Texture
- Garage Floor Epoxy
- Roofing
- Faux Painting



<u>STEEPLECHASE</u>

2017 RESIDENT SURVEY FEEDBACK

RESIDENT SURVEY COMMENTS

"One suggestion I would like to propose is to have fluctuating board meeting nights to provide more opportunities for home owners to attend."

"Board meeting generally are not at a time convenient for our schedule....."

"Meeting time needs changed. Cost needs to be published and minutes needs to be kept and distributed...nextdoor needs to be used more."

"I cannot attend the BOD public meetings as I am scheduled for other activities on Tues. eve. Would come more often if they were on a rotating nite throughout the year."

"I don't attend board meetings because they are on a night that I cannot come - I have an ongoing obligation on Tuesday evenings."

"Please post meeting reminders earlier on the message board at the neighborhood entrance. Also please post meetings on fb and nextdoor.com"

"Would it be possible to do the HOA meetings via Facebook Live to allow greater participation?"

RESPONSE

The BOD meeting is held on a day (3rd Tuesday of each month, December excluded) and time acceptable to Chaparral and the BOD. A pre-fixed schedule for the year helps to assure that the BOD members can plan personal activities around preset meeting dates and that Chaparral managers are in attendance. A rotating schedule MIGHT be possible if the dates are selected in advance for the entire year. This can be considered by the BOD and Chaparral as plans are developed for 2018.

A January newsletter article will announce the meeting day/dates/ time so that residents can post the meeting dates on their calendars. Advance notices can be posted on the marquee a week ahead of the meeting and an e-blast sent to registered residents. The BOD, together with Chaparral, will evaluate using fb and nextdoor for meeting notices and broadcast via Facebook Live.

Minutes of each BOD meeting are posted on the Steeplechase website. Summary financial data is included in such minutes. Complete financials are available to any resident at a nominal cost from Chaparral Management.

LOOK FOR ARTICLES IN THE FALL NEWSLETTERS ABOUT THE 2017 RESIDENT SURVEY

The SCIA will be providing responses to various comments from the resident survey. Some articles will be focused on specific comments and others will address common themes or topics. Four dominant themes from the survey were 1) pool issues (tags, cost, usage, non-resident usage, etc.); 2) traffic concerns (speed, enforcement, signage, speed bumps, gated community, etc.); 3) deed restrictions enforcement (too lax, cars blocking streets, poor maintenance on houses/fences, trash, etc.); and 4) assessment (too high, pay mid-year, pay monthly, delinquency, etc.). These four themes will be addressed with newsletter articles prior to year end.

SHADOW OAKS FALL FUTSAL LEAGUE

Development at a young age is vital to a player's growth. Our goal is to create technically sound players who are individually more skilled than their opponents. AHFC is launching the Shadow Oaks Futsal League. (Shadow Oaks: 10502 Westview Drive Houston Texas United States 77043). This new league provides a platform for players to express their creativity and put their skills to the test.

Divisions:

U10 Boys U10 Girls U8/9 Boys U8/9 Girls

Registration: \$250 per team (8 player maximum). Get your friends together and come play!

*** Non AHFC players welcome per League, Club, Associations Rules***



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Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is breast cancer awareness month, and physicians affiliated with Memorial Hermann Cypress Hospital say it's a great reminder for women to schedule their annual mammography.

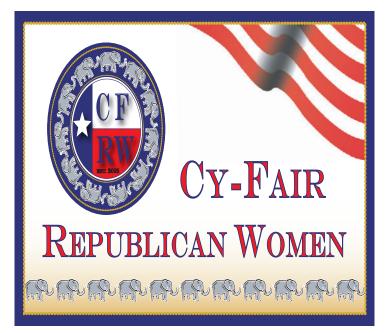
"I chose to go into medicine after a close family member passed away from breast cancer at a young age. That's why I encourage all my patients to have an annual mammography beginning at age 40," says Iyabode M. Ogunlade, M.D., an OB-GYN affiliated with Memorial Hermann Cypress.

Symptoms of breast cancer include any lump, thickening, or swelling in the breast or armpit, pain in the breast, or change in size or shape of the nipple. However, the American Cancer Society says many women don't experience any symptoms.

"The key to successfully treating breast cancer is detecting the cancer early. That's why having your annual mammography is so important," says Dr. Ogunlade. "There are also several types of mammograms, including 3-D mammograms, so make sure you speak with a physician about the different screening methods to determine which is right for you."

MD Anderson Breast Care with Memorial Hermann- Cypress combines the convenience and advanced technologies of Memorial Hermann's breast care centers with interpretation and consultation provided by expert radiologists from MD Anderson. This innovative partnership ensures the high quality, safe imaging and expert reading that are critical for precise diagnosis, effective treatment and follow-up for breast cancer patients. MD Anderson Breast Care with Memorial Hermann- Cypress offers 3-D mammography (breast tomosynthesis), breast MRI, breast MRI biopsies, breast ultrasound, stereotactic breast biopsies, and ultrasound biopsies. All of these advanced technologies are conveniently offered close to home for Cypress area residents, and appointments can be scheduled by calling 346.231.6950.





October Meeting

CFRW will meet on **Tuesday, October 10th** 10:30 AM to Noon. Hearthstone Country Club, 7615 Ameswood, Houston, TX 77095

Meeting is \$3 – Meeting with Lunch at Noon is \$23.

The program will be the State Representative Panel that was scheduled for September. See the website for details and RSVP to www.cfrw.net by October 3rd. We look forward to seeing you there.

HIGH HEELS & HIGH TEA tickets are available now. Event is November 3rd at Sterling Country Club. This is our biennial fundraiser to help local candidates and our Scholarship fund. You'll want to be part of the fun!

> Nancy Roberts Publicity Chair 713-466-4199 nancyroberts004@att.net Cy-Fair Republican Women info@cfrw.net





The next meetings of the Cypress Texas Tea Party will be on:

Saturday, October 21, 2017 NOON - 2:00 PM - John Devine, Justice of the Texas Supreme Court

Saturday, November 11, 2017 NOON - 2:00 PM - County Judge Ed Emmett - Judge Renee Magee, Candidate for 184th District Court - Judge Catherine Evans, 180th District Court

The Cypress Texas Tea Party meets every three weeks on Saturday

Noon until 2:00 PM at: Spring Creek BBQ 25831 Northwest Freeway Cypress, Texas 77429 Map: http://goo.gl/maps/OoNjY

A schedule of our meetings and confirmed speakers can be found at our website, www.cypresstexasteaparty.org





- Atascocita Forest
- Blackhorse Ranch
- Briarhills
- Bridgeland
- Canyon Gate at Northpointe
 Shadow Creek Ranch
- Cardiff Ranch
- Cypress Creek Lakes
- Cypress Mill
- Cypress Park
- Eagle Springs
- Fairfield
- Grand Lake Estates
- Lakeshore
- Lakes of Fairhaven
- Lakes of Rosehill
- Lakes on Eldridge
- Lakes on Eldridge North
- Legends Ranch
- Meverland

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- North Lake Forest
- Park Creek
- Park Lakes
- Riata Ranch
- · Silverlake
- Steeplechase
- Sterling Lakes
- Summerwood
- Towne Lakes
- Village Creek
- Villages of NorthPointe
- · Walden on Lake Houston
- West Bend CIA
- · Willowbridge
- Winchester Country
- Woodwind Lakes
- Wortham Villages

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Floodwater Mosquitoes



If you've been outside lately, you have most likely noticed the giant mosquitoes that seem to want to pick people up and **EXTENSION** carry them off. With recent weather conditions, floodwater mosquitoes have

emerged in large numbers.

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs above the water line in ponds, ditches, pastures, or other places where water collects. The eggs can remain in dry areas and when these areas are flooded the eggs hatch, leading to swarms of hungry mosquitoes. These mosquitoes are larger than mosquitoes we are used to and can swarm in high numbers.

While floodwater mosquitoes won't last forever, other mosquitoes called container breeding mosquitoes emerge when floodwaters begin to recede. Many of these species are ones that we are used to seeing around our homes.

Many things can help to reduce mosquito problems around the home. Eliminate all sources of standing water. Containers such as watering cans, buckets and bottles can turn into mosquito breeding grounds. Water should be drained from birdbaths, gutters, flowerpots and pet dishes at least once a week. Children's wading pools should be emptied of water at least once a week and stored so they cannot collect water when not in use. Tree holes should be filled in with sand or mortar, or drained after each rain. Leaky faucets and pipes located outside should be repaired.

Areas that cannot be drained, such as ponds or large rain collection systems, can be stocked with mosquito fish that eat mosquito larvae. Dunks can also be used in these areas. Dunks are a small, donutshaped product that contains Bacillus thuringiensis var. israeliensis. The donut disrupts the life cycle of the mosquito and is non-toxic to humans, amphibians and fish.

When outside, wear loose-fitting, light colored clothing with long sleeves & long pants. Repellants containing active ingredients such as DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or oil of lemon eucalyptus can be effective to keep mosquitoes from biting when activities cannot be rescheduled.

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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INGREDIENTS:

3 3/4 cups flour
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
2 sticks unsalted butter, room
temperature
1 cup sugar
1/2 cup dark brown sugar
1 cup pumpkin puree
1 large egg
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

FOR THE COATING:

1/2 cup sugar1 teaspoon ground cinnamon1/2 teaspoon ground gingerDash of allspice

DIRECTIONS:

 In a medium bowl, combine flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Whisk together to blend. In a large bowl, beat together butter and sugars on medium speed until well combined. Next, still on medium speed, beat in pumpkin. Then, add the egg and vanilla extract. Lastly, add in the dry ingredients. Beat until combined, but do not over mix. Cover the dough, and refrigerate for one hour, until firm.

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
 - Line baking sheets with parchment paper. In a small bowl, mix together the sugar and spices for the sugar coating. Scoop dough (approximately 2 1/2 tablespoons) and roll into a ball. Roll the dough ball in the sugar mixture, and place on the lined baking sheet, leaving about 2 inches between each cookie. Take a drinking glass with a flat bottom and moisten with water. Dip the glass in the sugar mixture, and use it to flatten the dough balls. Re-sugar the glass as needed.
 - Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes. Remove when the centers of the cookies have set. Let cool on the baking pan for approximately 5 minutes, and then transfer to wire to cool completely.

HARVEY

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



Just as Hurricane Harvey displaced thousands of people. Harvey also displaced thousands of wild animals. Compassionate residents have brought birds, snakes, squirrels and even an alligator to TWRC Wildlife Center for care.

Although there is no way

of knowing the actual number of animals affected, the numbers are, no doubt, very high. It is human nature to want to help these animals but in some cases, it is better to leave them alone.

- DEER Many deer were forced to move to higher ground. People are seeing deer in their yards, in the streets and other areas with dry land. It is for your own safety that you do not try to catch these animals. Make sure that gates are open so they have a way to exit your yard. Sadly, there's nothing else you can do.
- ALLIGATORS AND SNAKES It seems silly that we would have to warn people to stay away from them but sometimes curiosity gets the best of people. Keep your distance. If you need help identifying a snake to find out if it's venomous, call

us and we can help. We can also refer you to a professional who can assist with the removal of snakes. For help with alligators, we recommend you call your Game Warden. To find the Game Warden for your area, go to the Texas Parks and Wildlife website.

It is baby squirrel season right now and in the case of these animals, your intervention may be needed. If you find a baby, you will first need to try to reunite the baby with its mother. You can do this by placing the baby in a small container near the area where you found it. Make sure the container is safe from dogs and cats. Watch to see if mom comes to get her little one. If, after a couple of hours, the mom has not returned, you will need to intervene. The most important thing is to keep the baby warm. You can accomplish by placing the baby in a box along with a soft cloth and place the box on a heating pad set to low. Do NOT attempt to give the baby food or water. Bring the baby to TWRC Wildlife Center as soon as possible.

Chances are very low that you will encounter any other wildlife babies at this time of the year. You may encounter injured adult raccoons, opossums and birds, however. We advise that you do not try to rescue these animals. Their intention is not to hurt you but they may bite or scratch because they are afraid.

If you have questions about wildlife, we are available from 10am to 2pm to help you. Before attempting to rescue an animal and before bringing it in to us, we suggest you give us a call first. After hours, our website can provide you with many answers.

Thank you for your support during this difficult time.



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