

INFORMATION FOR New Residents

First and foremost- welcome to the neighborhood! Moving into a new community is both exciting and stressful. As your professional community association management company, we are here to help. There are many useful tips on living in Parkside at Mayfield Ranch as well as links and number that you will need to set up your utilities below. If you have any questions that are not answered below, please contact the Southwest Management Services office and we will be happy to assist you.

How do I obtain a pool key?

Please login to the community website with your user name and password and complete the online request form -Pool Use Agreement. Here you will agree to the terms and conditions of using the amenities, purchase, and submit your request to the management office. All requests will be filled within 48 and the card will be mailed to your home address on file with us.

How do I obtain a mailbox key?

Please take a copy of your closing papers or lease to the local post office box and they will issue a mailbox key.

How do I reserve the amenity center for a private event?

We make reservations easy for you! Please log in to the community website with your user name and password provided, and click on Activities-Reservation-Request a Reservation. There you can view dates available and submit your request. You will receive a response and further instructions from our office.

Who maintains the ponds at Parkside at Mayfield Ranch? The Parkside MUD maintains the ponds.

WHY HOA'S NEED PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

There's a lot more to managing a community association effectively than you may realize. It's much more than property management; it's also about governance—enforcing rules, conducting elections and more. Your home and your ownership interest in the common elements represent a huge asset—possibly your largest asset. Doesn't it make sense to have a knowledgeable, trained, professional community association manager watching out for your interests? Consider all they have to offer.

• Professional managers must be aware of many laws and regulations—real estate, corporate and labor laws; federal laws and state statutes and government regulations.

• Professional managers must have a working knowledge of finances, accounting, budget preparation, taxes and insurance.

• Professional managers must have strong personnel management skills—hiring and supervising contractors and staff.

• Professional managers must work and communicate effectively with residents, resolve disputes and facilitate communications.

• Professional managers must have a keen understanding of property maintenance—landscaping, repairs and replacements, facilities upkeep and mechanical maintenance.

• Professional managers coach and mentor the board members who govern the association. They help conduct meetings, supervise elections and ensure compliance with governing documents. Governance is one key area where property management and community management differ.

CONTACT INFORMATION

ON THE WEB:

Parkside at Mayfield Ranch Official web site: www.southwestmanagement.net/parksideatmayfieldranch/home.asp Parkside at Mayfield Ranch Official Facebook page:

COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALLY MANAGED BY:

First Service Residential PO Box 342585 Austin, TX 78734 Phone: (512) 266-6771 Fax: (512) 266-6791 www.fsresidential.com

E-MAIL CONTACTS:

Accountingaccounts@fsresidential.com (for questions about your HOA account or vendors with billing questions)

Board of Directors: board@fsresidential.com

(for feedback and requests to address the board at meetings)

Lifestyle Director:

Ali Vonal ali.vonal@fsresidential.com (for questions or suggestions about events or activities)

Community Manager: Sophie Carrington.....sophie.carrington@fsresidential.com

Community Assistant Manager: Kerbie Andersonkerbie.anderson@fsresidential.com

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911	1
Fire	1
Ambulance	1
Williamson County Sheriff (Non Emergency)512-943-1300	0

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD	
Parkside Elementary School	
Stiles Middle School	
Rouse High School	

UTILITIES

AT&T/Uverse (phone, internet, cable)	800-288-2020
Atmos Energy	800-460-3030
City of Georgetown	
Pedernales Electric Co	512-331-9929
Time Warner (phone, internet, cable)	512-576-3521
Wastewater (Parkside MUD)	512-930-3640

OTHER NUMBERS

Williamson County Phone	
Williamson County Road Department	
Parks & Recreation Department	512-943-1920
Williamson County Regional Park	
Williamson County Animal Shelter	512-943-3322
Georgetown Post Office	512-868-9925
Georgetown Animal Control	512-930-3592
Round Rock Animal Control	512-218-5500
Travis County Animal Control	512-972-6060

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Article Submissions	Parkside@peel.com
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DOWN

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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ACROSS

- 1. Bad (prefix) 1. Lava 4. Asks for legally 2. Sleep disorder 10. Monkey 3. Biblical outcast 11. Author of "Sense and 4. Casing Sensibility" 5. Money 12. Gross national product (abbr.) 6. Tree 13. Plan 7. Detail 14. More humble 8. Business note 16. Swab 9. Metal fastener 17. Retired persons association (abbr.) 15. Kilometers per hour 18. Education (abbr.) 19. Cell stuff 20. Headquarters (abbr.) 21. Capital of Ecuador 22. Cool 23. Give 26. Poisonous snake 24. Mud brick 29. African country 25. Inferred 26. Account (abbr.) 31. Penzoil is this (2 wds.) 33. MD 27. Dress 34. Build 28. Secondary 35. Kimono sash 30. Rejoicing 36. Walk quietly
 - 32. Grain

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37. Misty



Avoiding Meeting Mayhem

For many people, meetings are a fact of life. Whether it's a board or member meeting here in our association, a volunteer meeting at your child's school or a department meeting at work, being adept at participating effectively and managing meetings is a useful skill.

Sometimes one or two participants will dominate the discussion, steer it off topic and interrupt others, causing long, uncomfortable or unproductive meetings. Whether you're the meeting chair or a participant, there are techniques you can use to help engage others, limit intrusions and minimize distractions.

• Table the discussion. If a conversation is getting particularly heated, the chair or a participant can move to table the discussion for a later date. This helps clear the air and allows for a calmer and more meaningful conversation at the next meeting. It also sends the signal that debates will be conducted rationally and with respect.

• Take it offline. When a meeting attendee takes a topic off course, everyone's time is wasted. A good tool for the chair to use—or for another attendee to suggest—to get the meeting back on track is to invite the member to continue the discussion privately. Saying, "Let's take this offline so we can talk more," is an easy way to get back on the subject without alienating the sidetracked speaker.

• Use the agenda. The agenda is a useful tool for keeping a meeting moving efficiently. When a chair begins a meeting by saying, "We have a full agenda today," he or she sets the stage for productivity. Periodically referring to the agenda during the course of the meeting keeps all attendees focused on the discussion. If the chair doesn't have an agenda, ask the group pause a minute to create an informal agenda that simply lists the topics to be covered or goals to be accomplished.

• Call on members. To engage more reticent members of the group, and to balance the impact of more vocal participants, it's helpful to call on members by name to ask for their opinions. "What do you think, Mary?" or "Do you have some input here, Steve?" ensures that all members are valued. And you don't have be the chair to ask for others' opinions.



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SELLING YOUR HOME?

For any homeowner who has waited patiently for the real estate market to improve before putting a home up for sale, now is a great time to do so. After several sluggish years, home sales are experiencing a very healthy recovery. But before you put the "for sale" sign in your front yard, take some time—and the following steps—to get your home ready to be viewed by real estate agents and potential homebuyers.

- De-clutter and de-personalize the interior by removing family photos, personal mementos and knickknacks from shelves and table tops.
- Pay special attention to the kitchen: Remove small appliances, like toaster ovens and coffee makers, from counters. Take everything out of the cabinets and pantry and wash off shelves—or even repaint them—and only put a few items back. Arrange canned goods by size and height and spices alphabetically. Stack dishes, glasses and cups neatly.
- Clean out and rearrange closets and other storage areas so they look more spacious and not cramped. Hang clothing items by type, for instance, with shirts buttoned and facing in the same direction and shoes lined up in rows. If necessary, rent a storage unit for any overflow items.
- Make minor repairs, like caulking tubs and showers, patching walls and replacing cracked tiles and grout. Wash windows inside and out, and repaint any uniquely painted inside walls so they are now a neutral color. Replace worn-out bedspreads, throw pillows, curtains or other fabrications. And air out the interior to eliminate any food or pet odors.
- Make sure the lawn is mowed and bushes are trimmed, and place potted flowers on the porch and near the entry.

And don't forget to check with the manager or board for rules about real estate signs



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Pet Health

Dogs and cats can be great companions, but they also can carry fleas, ticks and parasites into your home and our community. Infestations can spread quickly through a community when flea-infested carpeting or pet bedding is disposed of improperly, when a flea-infested pet plays with your pet and when pet waste is left uncollected on common areas.

Help avoid harmful pests in your home and community with the following tips, and follow up with your veterinarian to learn more about other ways to prevent and treat outbreaks.

• Apply a topical flea and tick pesticide. Fleas lay 40 to 50 eggs a day. Unless a pesticide kills 95 percent of the fleas, you won't eliminate the problem. To do this, you need to use the products sold by your veterinarian. Over-the-counter products just aren't strong or effective enough. Monthly applications will help keep pets healthy even when they're exposed to parasites—including mosquitos and mites.

• Always leash your pet. Although you may trust your pets to obey commands, keeping them leashed lessens the likelihood they'll be infected by other pets and wildlife.

• Keep your pet clean. Even indoor pets should be inspected for ticks and flea "dirt," which looks like pepper at the base of the coat on the skin. An occasional bath with flea shampoo is a good idea as well. Visit your local pet store or grooming facility or check online for information on bathing routines and options that are best for your pet.

• Monitor your pet's behavior. Scratching is your first indication that fleas have discovered your dog or cat. Apply a topical pesticide immediately. Fleas, ticks and mosquitos carry potentially life threatening pathogens, so pets can experience a wide range of symptoms if infected; be suspicious of changes in behavior and discuss them promptly with your veterinarian.

• Keep the situation contained. Once you've treated your pet and your home (and possibly your yard or outdoor surroundings depending on how severe the infestation), keep the pet close to home until the problem is resolved. Wash bedding and toys that may harbor eggs or larvae in hot water. Infested bedding or carpeting should be tightly sealed in plastic bags before disposing to reduce risk of spreading to others.





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ARE EXTENDED WARRANTIES A WASTE?



When you buy cars, computer equipment, major appliances, home electronics or other expensive household items, chances are you will be offered a service contract or extended

warranty for an additional fee. Often charged as a percentage of the purchase price, service contracts and extended warranties range in cost from less than \$50 to several thousand dollars. While they may seem like a good way to protect your investment and buy some extra peace of mind, consumer advocates generally advise against purchasing this extra coverage and report that it is rarely worth the cost.

Most big-ticket purchases come with a standard manufacturer's warranty that usually covers the item for a least the first year. More often than not, if a product is faulty, any defects will become apparent during that period and will be covered by the standard warranty. If a product is not defective, problems typically show up much later in a product's life cycle, beyond the term covered by an extended warranty. In addition, extended warranties often overlap the manufacturer's coverage—you might buy a two-year extended warranty, but with the manufacturer's warranty covering the first year, you are really only receiving one additional year of coverage.

Another reason consumers are discouraged from purchasing service contracts is that they can contain so many conditions, terms and exclusions that they are virtually ineffective. In most cases, you will not have protection from common wear and tear, and some manufacturers do not honor contracts if you fail to follow their recommendations for routine maintenance.

One more thing to consider when weighing the pros and cons of service contracts is credit card coverage. Some credit card reward plans will double the length of a manufacturer's warranty, free of charge, when you purchase the item with the card, making additional coverage unnecessary.

If, however, you do decide to purchase extra protection for a product, make sure you read the fine print in the service contract and ask the following questions to be sure you're getting the protection you're paying for:

- Does the dealer, manufacturer or an independent company back the service contract?
- How are claims handled?
- Who will perform the service and where it will be done?
- What happens to my coverage if the dealer or administrator goes out of business?
- Is prior authorization required for repair work?
- Are there any situations when coverage can be denied?



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