

ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY GAZETTE



THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

INFRASTRUCTURE WORK IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: FAQS

We've received quite a few questions about the waterline improvement work throughout the neighborhood. We wanted to take the opportunity to provide answers to some of those questions in order to help residents better understand what's going on, who's behind it, and what to expect.

1. **What is all of the digging that's going on in the neighborhood?**

The MUD district (Trail of the Lakes MUD) is upgrading the water main line throughout much of the neighborhood in order to continue to provide excellent, reliable water service for years to come. Many of the pipes in our community are 30+ years old concrete and have reached the end of their serviceable lifespan. The old pipes are being replaced with PVC – the large blue pipes you've probably seen stacked in various locations in the community.

2. **What is the process for the water pipe replacement?**

First, the crews must dig to lay the new water pipe and connect it to the system. Large holes or trenches must be dug where the new pipe is laid. In many cases, these holes and trenches will be located on utility easements on residents' property. Once the new pipe is laid and connected to the system, the disturbed areas will be filled back in with dirt in order to prevent any safety issues (people / children falling in holes, etc.). Note, however, that the filling is only temporary. Once the new pipe is laid and connected to the system, crews will have to re-dig in those areas in order to visually inspect the pipes and ensure there are no leaks or issues. Once all of the new infrastructure is laid, tested, and inspected, then crews will go back and permanently refill holes and lay new sod as needed.

3. **My yard has been damaged during this work. Is it going to be fixed?**

Absolutely, yes – all damaged lawns will be restored to their previous state after all of the work is complete and inspected. Crews will come in to smoothly fill holes with soil and lay new sod.

4. **Who is in charge of the work being done in the neighborhood?**

The work is being performed by contractors hired by the MUD's

engineering firm, BGE. Please note that SiEnvironmental, our water service company, is not performing this work.

5. **I have a problem or complaint; whom should I contact?**

Please contact Jeff Campbell with the MUD by email at jeff.campbell@trailofthelakesmud.com with any issues or questions. Please be sure to include your name and the street address of the issue in your email so that it can be addressed.

HELP DURING THE HOLIDAYS

This has been a very rough year for Houston – Hurricane Harvey has caused so much damage, trauma, and disruption to so many, that the holidays will be a very challenging time for many. Financial strain is one of the biggest issues people face during the holidays, and this year it will likely be much worse for many, as any extra dollars will likely be spent on home repairs and necessities.

Due to financial strain, essentials such as groceries can be an even bigger struggle for many families. We wanted to share information about a program at the Houston Food Bank that can help families struggling due to any financial issue, not just storm damage.

The Houston Food Bank's Emergency Food Pantry is available to anyone who is currently employed and needs assistance with groceries. On their website it states, "The purpose of the Emergency Food Pantry is to serve working families who can't access their neighborhood pantry." Under this program, anyone who is employed can bring their photo ID and proof of employment (paycheck or paycheck stub from an employer dated within 30 days of your visit) to the location at 535 Portwall Street, Houston, TX, and be able to select from a supply of food items once each month (every 30 days). There are no limits or maximums on income – anyone, regardless of income level, is eligible to utilize this resource.

The hours for the Emergency Food Pantry are as follows: Monday – Friday from 3:30 PM to 7:30 PM, Saturday from 9 AM to 2:30 PM, and Sunday from 9 AM to 11:30 AM.

For more information, please call (832) 369-9390.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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EMERGENCY911
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Poison Control..... 800-222-1222

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Pct 4 Constable Non-Emergency Dispatch..... 281-376-3472
Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept. 281-852-2181
Harris County Precinct 4 281-376-3472
Texas No Call List Registration 866-TXN-OCAL
Emergency Roadside Assistance..... 800-525-5555

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD 281-540-1775
Whispering Pines Elementary..... 281-641-2500
Humble Middle School..... 281-641-2500
Humble High School 281-641-6300

UTILITY NUMBERS

Report Power Outage - Centerpoint..... 713-207-7777
Report Street Light Outage - Centerpoint 713-207-2222
Report Gas Leak - Centerpoint 713-659-2111
Centerpoint (Gas) 713-659-2111
Call Before You Dig 811
Water - SiEnvironmental..... 832-490-1600
Emergency Number 832-490-1601
Electricity - Multiple Providers www.powertochoose.org
Trash - RR&R of Texas..... 866-516-9805
MUD District www.TrailoftheLakesMUD.com

PUBLIC SERVICES

Humble Post Office..... 281-540-1775
DPS Office..... 281-446-3391
Harris County Clerk (Will Clayton Pkwy.) 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

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SECURITY CONCERNS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

One of the less fun aspects of the Holiday season is the uptick in crime – specifically theft. Listed below are a few tips to hopefully help you avoid becoming a victim of theft crime during the season.

- Always keep your vehicle locked, and never keep valuables of any kind in your cars. Thieves will walk around testing car doors trying to find an unlocked vehicle and will take anything they can quickly grab – even things as simple as sunglasses!
- Do not leave your garage open and unattended, even if you are home. An open garage door is an invitation for someone to walk in and quickly grab anything valuable.
- With the dramatic rise of online shopping and quick shipping, package theft is a very common occurrence. Consider having any packages delivered to your workplace if possible, or consider getting a temporary PO box at a nearby business (such as a copy / post / ship location) and have packages delivered there. Additionally, you may consider purchasing a security system that will alert you of motion activity at your home, such as a Ring video doorbell or similar. Thieves will grab any box or package and open it later to see what's in it, so don't assume that just because something isn't valuable that it won't get stolen.
- Do not put intact packaging materials for valuables (such as televisions and other electronic devices) on the curb for trash day. By doing so, you're basically advertising that there is something worth stealing in your home. Cut down large boxes and place them in your garbage can if possible, or haul them to another location to throw away.
- Do not leave items such as bicycles, skateboards, scooters, or children's vehicles sitting out in your yard for extended periods. These items are easily grabbed by someone walking or driving by and are very rarely recovered.
- It's unfortunate, but thieves have also taken to taking holiday decorations out of people's yards. Be sure to securely attach or anchor decorations as much as possible, making it more difficult and time-consuming for thieves to remove items from your yard. They are looking for a quick grab and getaway, and generally will not linger trying to remove items that are secured.
- The presence of visible security cameras around your home is perhaps one of the best deterrents against petty crime. Video camera systems that record and interface with your mobile devices are widely available and affordable.
- In addition to being vigilant at home, be sure to stay aware and mindful while you are out and about – working, shopping, or attending holiday events. If you must leave any valuables in your car, put them completely out of sight – preferably in the trunk or a storage compartment if possible. Make sure your vehicle is parked in a well-lit area.



Please remember to pick up after your pets and “scoop the poop”

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 **AtascocitaForest.org** (official website)

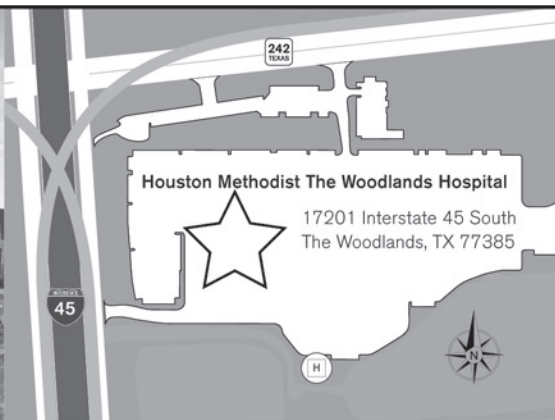
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FINDING HOPE

Sometimes I just feel broken. Broken as in not whole, shattered & not even sure how to begin putting the pieces back together. Are all of the pieces even still there?

I'm not going to lie. Living and dealing with emotional trauma is no cup of tea. You feel lost, beaten, broken, and very much alone. You frequently feel things will never get better. After all, how can they ever be as good as they were (or, at least, as good as you thought they were) when you're this broken shell of a person. Then, you watch and see the rest of the world passing, and think, "Why even try? It's hopeless."

With the passing of spring, I've been thinking about the significance of this particular season at this junction of my life. Spring is the season of rebirth and renewal; the time of fresh starts. So, as I sit & watch the renewal of everything around me, I wonder... What about me? Can I be renewed? Is there enough left of this broken person to put back together, fill the holes, and turn out a new person fresh and whole?

I've found that spending time with friends, both the human and equine variety, is a great healer. They have become my glue that pulls the shattered pieces back together. While spending quiet moments relaxing with my horse I hear God more clearly, telling me that I

have purpose in this life. What came before was meant to happen, if only to prepare me for what is to come and to help me become the person He means me to be. Learning God's plans for me not only helps reassemble the scattered pieces, but leads me to discover new pieces, more vibrant than the old ever were. Suddenly, I find myself renewed and, just like that, there it is--- Hope Resurrected

If you find these things to be true in your own life, and would like to make a change, please visit our website at www.fivehorses.com to learn more about our newest workshop, Finding Courage



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PUMPKIN CAKE ROLL

INGREDIENTS

- 3 eggs 1C granulated sugar
- 2/3 C pumpkin 1 tsp. lemon juice
- 3/4 C flour 1 tsp. baking powder
- 2 tsp. cinnamon 1 tsp. ginger
- 1/2 tsp. nutmeg 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 C finely chopped nuts Powdered sugar

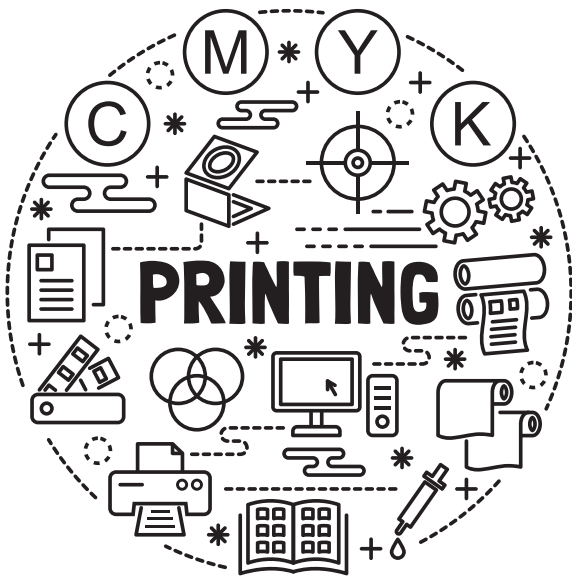
DIRECTIONS

Beat eggs on high speed for 5 min.; gradually beat in sugar. Stir in pumpkin and lemon juice. Stir together flour, baking powder, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, and salt. Fold in pumpkin. Spread in greased and floured 15x10x1” pan. Top with nuts. Bake at 375° for 15 min. Turn out on towel sprinkled with powdered sugar. Starting at narrow end, roll towel and cake together. Cool. Unroll.

FILLING

- 1 C powdered sugar
- 2 - 3 oz. pkg. cream cheese
- 4 T margarine
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla.

Beat until smooth. Spread over cake. Roll and chill.



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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION **CARPET BEETLES**

Carpet beetle adults can be found outdoors on crape myrtles or other plants where the adults eat pollen and nectar. The adults may also be found in rodent or bird nests. When these adults move into homes, they may lay eggs which can lead to problems. These beetles can be pests in warehouses, homes, museums and other locations.



Carpet beetle adults are small, round to oval shaped and often brightly colored. Larvae are small, tan, and ringed with bands of long hairs.

Carpet beetle larvae feed on high protein foods, usually animal based, but they can also feed on plant material. They can be found in a variety of locations throughout the home. In the pantry, you may find them in items such as powdered milk, dried meats (jerky), or pet food. Other areas of the home they can be attracted to items made from wool, fur or feathers, areas where dead insects accumulate (i.e. light fixtures), leather book bindings, hair, silk or dried plant products. If the larvae are seen feeding on synthetic fibers, it is because the material is stained with body oils or food.

A program utilizing sanitation, exclusion and insecticides should be able to get a carpet beetle problem under control.

- Clean accumulations of hair, dead insects, and bird, rodent or wasp nests
- Regularly clean rugs, carpets, upholstery, etc.
 - o make sure to get along edges, under cushions, and under furniture where debris may collect
- Inspect animal based items (taxidermied animals, leather, wool, silk, etc.) once a year to avoid infestations
- Keep pantry items/ dry goods in sealed, air-tight containers
- Infested items (if possible, depending on the items) can be heated or cooled to kill any beetles
 - o freeze 2 weeks at temperatures below 18°F
 - o heat for at least 30 minutes to temperatures above 120°F
- Insecticides should be used as spot treatments- make sure carpet beetles are listed on the label as well as the area/ item you are treating
 - o make sure the product will not stain

If you find a few adult carpet beetles in your home, squish them on vacuum them up. A few adults usually do not warrant a full treatment, but you should watch for a developing infestation.

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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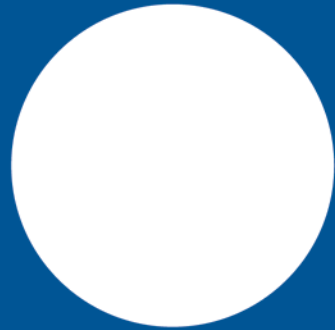
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