



The HOME FRONT

January 2018

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NEW YEAR, NEW BEGINNINGS

Each year people make New Year's resolutions as a declaration of commitment to themselves to make changes in their lives. Have you wondered how effective resolutions are? Do you achieve your New Year's resolutions?

If you achieve your New Year's resolutions you are in the minority. Surveys suggest that less than one percent of New Year's resolutions are achieved. It is merely a ritual people have followed for decades. The question is, "Do you want to make changes in your life?" Making a resolution to accomplish something without a plan to achieve it is like putting gasoline into a car that doesn't have an engine.

The beginning of a new year, finishing school, leaving a job, a relationship or changing homes-are times that spark our minds to start anew. The advantage is that each event brings with it the energy of the event, creating a tide of change around us that we can ride to the next crest.

The truth of the matter is, we can choose to start anew anytime. In any moment you can decide that a difficult moment or a relationship that has gotten off on the wrong footing can be renewed. It is a mental shift that will compel you to clean the slate and approach anything with fresh eyes, and you can make that choice any time.

Starting anew is most powerful when you focus your attention on what you choose to create. Focusing your attention on the unwanted aspects of your life allows what you focus on to persist. Focus on the steps to take to create what you desire.

You need to remember to leave room in the process of a new beginning to be kind to yourself, because it takes time to become accustomed to the new, no matter why you choose it. There is no need to pressure yourself if you choose to move the process of change slower than others might think is appropriate or as fast as you would hope you could. Instead, acknowledge the forward motion and choose to keep your focus on one step at a time, knowing that with each choice you will learn, grow and move in the direction of your goal.

Just like using the energy of an event to foster change, your choice to start anew has its own energy-it is your commitment you made to yourself that creates the energy. The momentum creates a vacuum behind it, pulling toward you all you need to continue moving toward your goal. Once your journey has begun, it may take unexpected twists and turns, but you will reach your intended goal, if you continue to strive for it. Like cycles of nature, there are periods of growth and periods of dormancy that signal a time of waiting for the right moment to burst forth to the next plateau. Each time you choose to start anew you dedicate yourself to being the best you can be.



PARK LAKES

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Park Lakes Property Owners Association

Sterling Association Services Inc.(832) 678-4500
SplashPad Texas Onsite Office.....(281) 441-3557
Recreation Center Onsite Office.....(281) 441-9955
Gate Attendant.....(281) 441-1089

Utilities

Comcast (Customer Service)(713) 341-1000
Electricity (TXU)(800) 368-1398
Gas (Centerpoint)(713) 659-2111
Trash (Republic Waste).....(281) 446-2030
Water & Sewer (EDP Water District).....(832) 467-1599
Electricity (Centerpoint-Report street light outage)(713) 207-2222
Texas One Call System (Call Before you Dig)..... 811

Property Tax Authorities

Harris County Tax.....(713) 368-2000
Harris MUD #400.....(281) 353-9809

Public Services

US Post Office.....(281) 540-1775
Toll Road EZ Tag.....(281) 875-3279
Voters/Auto Registration(713) 368-2000
Drivers License Information.....(281) 446-3391
Humble Area Chamber(281) 446-2128

Police & Fire

Emergency 911
Constable/Precinct 4 (24-hr dispatch)(281) 376-3472
Harris Co. Sheriff's Dept./Prec 4, Dist 2 (24-hr) (713) 221-6000
Eastex Fire Department.....(281) 441-2244
Emergency Medical Service (281) 446-7889
Poison Control.....(800) 222-1222
Humble Animal Control.....(281) 446-2327
Texas DPS.....(281) 446-3391

Area Hospitals

Renaissance Northeast Surgery(281) 446-4053
Kingwood Medical Center(281) 348-8000
Northeast Medical Center Hospital.....(281) 540-7700
Memorial Hermann Hospital (The Woodlands)(281) 364-2300

Public Schools

Humble ISD(281) 641-1000
Park Lakes Elementary (K-6).....(281) 641-3200
Humble Middle School (7-8)(281) 641-4000
Summer Creek High School (9-12)(281) 641-5400

Private Schools

Holy Trinity(281) 459-4323
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic.....(281) 446-8535
The Christian School of Kingwood(281) 359-4929
Humble Christian School.....(281) 441-1313

DISCLAIMER:

The Association doesn't verify, endorse, or approve any products, information, or opinions mentioned at Association sponsored functions or contain in this community newsletter.

BOARD MEMBERS 2017/2018

Rachel Gwin-President-Land Tejas

(Voting Member)

Jeff Sheehan-1st Vice President-Land Tejas

(Voting Member)

Charles Williams-parklakescharles@gamil.com-Vice

(Resident Voting Member)

Shepard Cross-parklakes_scross@yahoo.com-Treasurer

(Resident Voting Member)

Kennetha Smith-Tolbert-parklakeskennetha@gmail.com

Secretary (Resident Voting Member)

Al Brende-Ex-Officio

(Land Tejas Non-Voting Member)

Julieta Ortiz-parklakejulieta@gmail.com-Ex-Officio

(Resident Non-Voting Member)

Edgar Clayton-parklakesclayton@gmail.com-Ex-Officio

(Resident Non-Voting Member)

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(Resident Non-Voting Member)

Conrell Hadley-parklakesconrell@gmail.com-Ex-Officio

(Resident Non-Voting Member)

HELP MAKE OUR COMMUNITY BETTER

Our community has lots going on, and that includes a range of upcoming social events as well several important ongoing projects. The website needs updating, there's always room for another article in the association newsletter, and several committees. You can be instrumental in helping to plan the community-wide spring barbeque, to renovate the community center, to redesign the common area landscaping, to review and update the association's architectural guidelines, to create the association's 5-year plan and to get involved in any number of other important endeavors. All it takes is a few hours of your time each month and a commitment to your neighbors.

There's a lot to be gained from volunteering your time: new friends, new skills, recognition by your neighbors and—perhaps best of all—an improved community.

Contact the association manager, onsite manager or a member of the board today. Welcome to the party!

PARK LAKES RECREATION CENTER HOURS

Mon. - Fri. 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM / Saturday & Sunday Closed

Fitness Center Hours (Clubhouse & Splash Pad)

7 Days a week - 4:30AM until 11:30PM **Hours are subject to change**

On Site Community Manager: Lisa Walker

Office Phone: 281-441-9955

lisa.walker@sterlinggasi.com

KNOW YOUR HOMEOWNER RIGHTS AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES



As someone who owns a unit or house in a common-interest community, you have certain rights. You also have certain responsibilities to the association and to other homeowners. These rights and responsibilities are described in the association's governing documents, which include covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs) and bylaws. And by virtue of your ownership, the association—your neighbors and fellow homeowners—presumes you know the governing documents exist and have an idea of what they contain.

As a homeowner, you have the right to:

- Participate in the association board's decision-making process
- Attend and participate in all membership meetings
- Vote in person or by proxy
- Access association records, financial statements and governing documents

- Use and enjoy common areas (This privilege can be suspended temporarily for unpaid assessments or rules' violations.)
- Sell or rent your individually owned unit or property

As a homeowner and member of this community, you are obligated to:

- Pay your fair share—via regularly scheduled and special assessments—of the costs of operating the association and maintaining common areas. It costs money to pay property taxes, collect the trash, maintain the landscaping and shovel snow from the roads, parking areas and sidewalks.
- Maintain your personal unit or home in accordance with the association's bylaws and architectural guidelines. Some associations' rules are more strict about paint colors, yard ornaments and landscaping than others. Be aware of and adhere to what this association's architectural guidelines prescribe.
- Be respectful of your neighbors and allow them the "quiet enjoyment" of their own individual units or homes. Loud parties, second-hand smoke or outdoor lighting can infringe on your neighbors' privacy.

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PARK LAKES

PARK LAKES STERLING INTRODUCTION

NOTICE: STERLING ASSOCIATION SERVICES, INC. IS THE NEW COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT SERVICE CONTRACTED BY PARK LAKES PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION.

We are pleased to announce that the Board of Directors for Park Lakes Property Owners Association, Inc. (Park Lakes P.O.A.) has contracted with Sterling Association Services, Inc. ("Sterling") to provide professional community association management services effective September 1, 2017. Sterling Association Services, Inc. provides association services to over one hundred and fifty communities throughout Houston and its surrounding areas. Some of these services include customer care, billing and collecting the annual assessments, paying the community's monthly expenses, and maintaining the association's books and records.

Please note that assessment payments and correspondence to Park Lakes P.O.A. after September 1, 2017, should be directed to our office address below:

Corporate Office:

6842 North Sam Houston Parkway W.
Houston, TX 77064
832-678-4500

On-site Office:

9730 Park Lakes Canyon Terrace,
Humble, TX 77396
281-441-9955

ParkLakes@sterlingasi.com

Along with the financial support mentioned above, Sterling's services will include enforcement of the deed restrictions, processing architectural improvements, contract administration, day-to-day operations and directives, as well as providing support to the members as it pertains to Park Lakes. Your community will be serviced by our dedicated and professional management team which consists of Aly Long, General Manager, aly@sterlingasi.com, Lisa Walker, Onsite Manager, lisa.walker@sterlingasi.com and Susan Marshall Accounting Associate, susan@sterlingasi.com.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact your management team via any of the mediums provided. To receive community emails or to review and update your account, please log in to www.sterlingasi.com.

Friendly Reminder:

If you have not already done so, please make arrangements to pay your 2018 POA Maintenance Fee/Assessment as soon as possible. Statements were mailed out in October and were due by January 1st. All accounts that are not paid in full or on a payment plan by January 31, 2018, will incur a \$100 late fee on their account February 1, 2018.

You can pay your assessment in the Park Lakes Onsite Office, on line, or mail a check to Sterling ASI, 6842 N Sam Houston Parkway W, Houston TX 77064. If you cannot pay your account in full, you still have time to get on a payment plan. You must contact Carol Gordon at 832-678-4500 by January 31, 2018 to set up a payment plan.

WE NEED YOU TO VOLUNTEER!!

Volunteers are always welcome and needed. If you are interested in volunteering for any of our upcoming events or committees please contact your Onsite Community Manager, Lisa Walker at 281-441-9955 or lisa.walker@sterlingasi.com.

WHY JOIN A COMMITTEE?

Committees serve a number of important roles to our association process and the Board of Directors:

- Committees serve as a training ground for future association leaders.
- Committees serve as a conduit through which the Board receives "grass root" input - opinions and attitudes of owners.
- Committees are a vehicle through which Board actions are explained.
- Committees enhance the effectiveness of the Board of Directors by providing research analysis and advice needed for policy decisions.
- Committees can be an instrument for initial implementation of Board policies such as with the Architectural Review Committee.

Committees are an important linkage between the Board of Directors and owners but in order to be effective committees need members! Owner input, involvement and participation is a must. Please consider participating in the association process and volunteering to serve on an association committee. Our community needs you!

Be on the lookout for committee meetings. Meeting times and locations will be sent out via email. Sign up to receive emails at www.sterlingasi.com.

We currently have five committees:

1. **Adopt A School**
2. **Landscaping**
3. **Communications**
4. **Safety**
5. **Community Events**

CLUBHOUSE RECREATION CENTER PARTY ROOM

The Clubhouse is available for rental on a first come first serve basis. Renters will have access to the patio and the clubhouse living space as well as the kitchen and bathrooms. Pool access is not permitted with the rental of the clubhouse.

The deposit for rental is \$300.00 (refundable pending inspection of facility/no damages)

- \$25.00 Admin Fee (non-refundable)
- \$20.00 per hour during business hours (4 hour minimum)
- \$40.00 per hour after business hours and weekends (4 hour minimum)

Please contact your onsite manger Lisa Walker for more information at 281-441-9955 or via email at lisa.walker@sterlingasi.com

- You are permitted to book an event 3 months in advance but no less than 2 weeks prior to your event.
- All deposit/rental checks will be held by the office personnel until the time of the event.
- All events would be pending approval by the board prior to event date.

In order to book one of the areas for an event all HOA dues must be in good standings and all fees must be paid in advance**

BRINGING IT TO THE BOARD

You live in an HOA. You have a great idea. You're not on the board, and elections are months away. What next?

PRESENT IT.

Presenting a good idea, whether to a board or to a boss or to anyone else in the position to approve it, isn't about them. Or you. It's about the idea.

A good idea needs a spokesperson. And if you've come up with the idea, that spokesperson is you. If you can imagine the concept and how it will benefit your community, paint that picture in your presentation. Or, if you can count the ways it will profit your community, tally it up and explain how the numbers will help.

And before you present your idea at the next board meeting (in the agenda as "Other" or "Discussion" or "Comments,"), contact the board secretary and ask if your idea can be featured as a main topic of the meeting.

On the day, you might be nervous. Understandably so. Who wouldn't? That's why advice about picturing audiences in their underwear exists. But better than that, picture your idea. In full regalia.

Give your idea wings and a voice, and it can fly.



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WHAT CAN I RECYCLE?

Many of us regularly recycle soda cans and water bottles, but did you know that many other food and beverage containers and household items also are recyclable? Take a look at the list below for some guidelines for what you can put into your community-provided recycling bin and what should be handled by a waste management professional.

Metal. Aluminum cans, foil and bakeware all are recyclable, as well as steel and tin cans used to package food and beverage items. Ensure these items are free of any food particles prior to putting them into your recycling bin—if they're dirty, recycling facilities may not accept them.

Paper and cardboard. Computer paper, phone books, junk mail, magazines, paperback books, newspapers and cardboard all are fully recyclable and typically can be made into other paper products like egg cartons and packaging forms. Poly-coated paperboard materials like milk and juice boxes also can be recycled.

Glass. Most clear, brown and green glass items used for food and beverage items are recyclable and can be broken down and made into other glass products. However, some glass items like ceramic dishware and ovenware, heat-resistant glass, mirror or window glass, or crystal are not recyclable.




Plastic. Clean plastic items in the shape of bottles, jars and jugs are almost always recyclable, but plastic bags are not. Typically, grocery stores collect plastic bags for recycling facilities that specialize in producing recycled plastic lumber.

Batteries and Bulbs. Car, household and rechargeable batteries are recyclable, but most waste management companies will not accept them via community recycling bins. Along with incandescent, LED and fluorescent light bulbs, these items require special handling. Check the county website for recycling information.

Electronics. Computers and computer accessories, cell phones, stereos, televisions and printers are all nearly 100 percent recyclable, but should be handled by a waste management professional rather than put out at the curb with the rest of your recycling. Check the web for local retailers and manufacturers that offer recycling programs for these items.





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DUE: January 31st

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