

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



The annual meeting of the Atascocita Forest Community Association will be held on Monday, February 12 at 7:00 PM at the Atascocita Forest Pool (17415 Woodland Hills Dr.). All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please note that only homeowners are able to vote in the election.

The board is sorry to announce that after many years of dedicated service to the association and the community, Bill Wisenbaker has retired from the Board of Trustees. We would like to express our genuine gratitude for his numerous contributions to and leadership in the community.

Additionally, JoAnn Buehler, who was appointed to the board in 2017 to fill a vacant seat, has opted not to run for election. We would like to thank JoAnn for her service and assistance during her time on the board.

With the departure of Bill and JoAnn, two seats on the HOA board are open for election. At the time of this writing, three residents have submitted for candidacy for the two available board seats. Candidate information and bios, as well as more information about the election, will be available on the Atascocita Forest website, www. AtascocitaForest.org. Please note that residents will be required to be registered and logged in to access the election information on the website.



# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

EMERGENCY	
Harris County Animal Control	
Poison Control	

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

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

#### SCHOOLS

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

#### UTILITY NUMBERS

Report Power Outage - Centerpoint
Report Street Light Outage - Centerpoint 713-207-2222
Report Gas Leak - Centerpoint
Centerpoint (Gas)
Call Before You Dig811
Water - SiEnvironmental
Emergency Number
Electricity - Multiple Providers www.powertochoose.org
Trash - RR&R of Texas
MUD Districtwww.TrailoftheLakesMUD.com

#### **PUBLIC SERVICES**

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

#### **NEIGHBORHOOD MANAGEMENT**

Community Asset Management ...... www.CommunityAssetManagement.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 JoAnn Buehler - Director ........joann@astascocitaforest.org

# **NEWSLETTER INFO**

### PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc	
Advertising	. advertising@PEELinc.com

### CRIME AND SAFETY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Technology continues so many innovative and useful tools to help us safeguard our homes against crime. One of the more popular recent items is the video doorbell. Several different companies manufacture similar models, but the Ring video doorbell is among the most popular. Ring has recently issued an update to their mobile app which allows registered users to anonymously view, comment on, and share video footage captured by doorbell units. You do not have to own a Ring video doorbell to use this free app. Ring unit owners can choose to share clips from their doorbell's footage to the app to be seen by registered users. This allows users to stay more aware of potential safety concerns in their neighborhoods.

Once registered, you can set the geographic zone from which you'd like to see video footage. Note that users remain completely anonymous in the app – your name or identifying information is not visible to other app users, even when commenting on videos.

While crime rates in Atascocita Forest remain consistently and significantly lower than in neighboring communities, we have seen a number of car burglaries recently. Note that these burglars are not breaking windows or forcing entry into vehicles; they are simply walking around and testing doors to find unlocked vehicles from which to steal. Residents are urged to ensure that their vehicles and homes are securely locked at all times.

While law enforcement and our own neighborhood patrol are doing their best to locate and deter these criminals, this type of crime is extremely hard to catch in progress, as the perpetrators duck into dark, shadowed areas any time they see headlights approaching and are not readily visible from the street.

There are a few things residents can do to safeguard their own property and make it harder for these criminals to elude detection:

- Install motion-sensor lights around the exterior of your home, especially in locations that are very dark at night. Make it hard for the criminals to find a place to hide from view
- Install security cameras around your home so that criminal activity can be recorded and the perpetrators (hopefully) identified
- Remove or completely hide any valuables in your vehicles. The theft of items as minor as charging cords and sunglasses from vehicles have been reported.
- Ensure your vehicles and home are securely locked at all times. Double check that your cars are locked before retiring to bed each night.

Also, residents are strongly urged to report any and all crime to the Precinct 4 Constables, regardless of how minor. File a police report, even if the prospect of your property being recovered seems unlikely. As more and more people file reports, patterns will emerge and law enforcement are better able to detect "hot" times and areas, which help them to patrol more effectively. Residents can contact the Constables at the non-emergency number: (281) 376-3472.

## **Woodland Hills Expansion & Future Plans**

As you've likely noticed, the Woodland Hills expansion is now open, providing quick and easy access to Beltway 8.

The Harris County Precinct 4 Constables have been vigilantly patrolling Woodland Hills in order to deter speeding and reckless driving. They will continue to closely monitor this roadway in order to ensure safety through the neighborhood. The Constables encourage residents to report any traffic concerns so that law enforcement may take appropriate action. The non-emergency line for the Pct. 4 Constables is (281) 376-3472.

Please note that there is significant wildlife movement in the wooded areas between Atascocita Forest and the new housing developments further down Woodland Hills, so please keep a close eye out for deer, hogs, and other animals in the roadway, especially at night.

Also, be aware that at between (approximately) 4:00 and 4:20 PM, there is a significant outflow of traffic from Summer Creek High School, located on the opposite side of the Beltway. Law enforcement officers are there to control the flow of traffic to allow the exiting school traffic to move at an expedited rate. During that time, you may experience traffic delays if you are attempting to turn

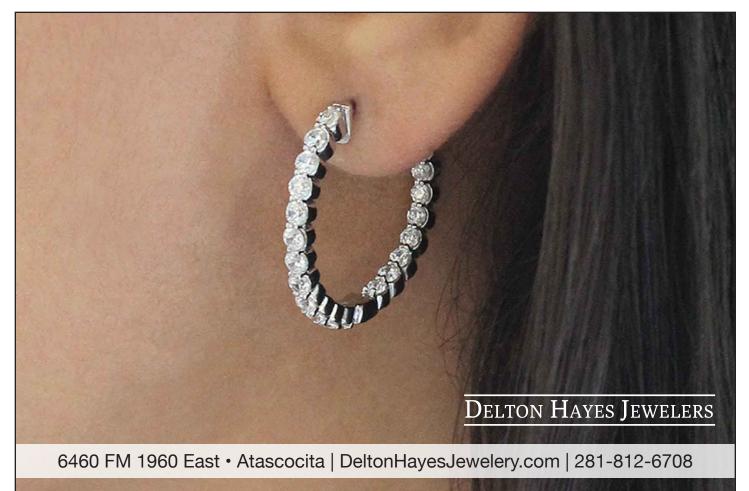
left onto Beltway 8 eastbound from Woodland Hills, or turn left onto Woodland Hills from Beltway 8 eastbound.

#### FUTURE TRAFFIC CONTROL PLANS

Due to traffic concerns and school zone safety, Precinct 4 will be installing a traffic light at Woodland Hills and Wells Mark Dr. An exact completion timeline has not been published on the Precinct 4 website at the time of this writing; however, it is likely that the light will be completed in the second quarter of 2018.

Additionally, Texas Department of Transportation is planning to make adjustments to the intersection of Woodland Hills and the Beltway in the near future. Currently, there is only one left turn lane available, which causes delays during peak traffic times. In an article on Chron.com regarding the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on Woodland Hills (Woodland Hills extension to relieve W. Lake Houston congestion), author Melanie Feuk quotes Jeremy Phillips, senior director of infrastructure for Pct 2, as stating, "a recent study pointed to the Woodland Hills Drive extension as one of the projects that could make the single biggest impact to the area as far as traffic congestion." He goes on to explain, "We've got one more section

(Continued on Page 4)



# ATASCOCITA FOREST

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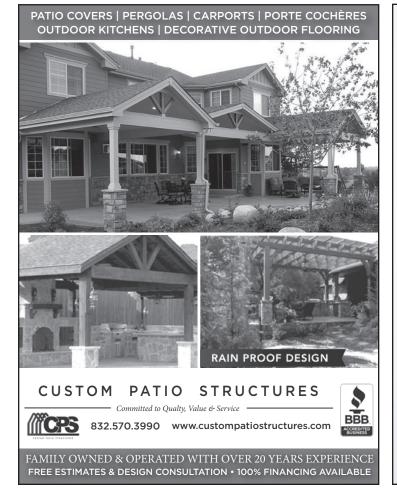
to do down Beltway 8 to get a dual left turn lane underneath the underpass to get more cars through here...[s]o we're working on that right now. The project is designed. We're trying to get the permitting out of the way with TxDOT and start construction on that shortly and get that working." According to Feuk, the intersection construction is "anticipated to be finished in the second quarter of 2018."

## **BUSINESS CLASSIFIED**

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#### **SUDOKU** answers online at www.peelinc.com 2006. Feature Exchange View .

The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



### **MEET OUR STUDENTS**

Hosting an international exchange student is a great way of opening the world to your children and teaching them about new cultures.

STS Foundation is currently looking for families for the 2018/2019 school year. What does it take to be a host family? STS accepts all types of families, be it single parents, young marrieds, empty nesters or same sex couples – we are looking for families that are willing to Share their America with a high school student for the year. All you need to provide is three meals a day and a room for them to sleep in. The student can share a room with a same sex sibling that is within five years of their age. Each student comes with their own spending money and health insurance. Most of all, they come with an excitement to learn all they can about our American way of life.

Here are just some of the many students that are available for placement:

Abby from Denmark – loves being active in sports, nature and at the beach. She is a competitive swimmer and enjoys horseback riding.

Dominik from Switzerland – an open minded, uncomplicated boy, with a real interest in American sports

Maria from Norway – she describes herself as an outgoing, adventurous, mature, compassionate person.

Saana from Finland – she is both sympathetic and empathetic. She enjoys music and sports, and according to her bio – she has a great laugh!

If you are ready for this amazing experience, please give me a call, I'd love to talk with you more about it. I am one of the Houston area STS Local Coordinators, I've worked with foreign exchange students for seven years and have also hosted 13 students on my own. I can tell you anything you need to know about hosting. Please contact Vicki Odom at 832-455-7881 or via email at vicki.stsfoundation@ gmail.com.

STS Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization who mission is to facilitate educational opportunities where all participants can break down cultural barriers, and gain respect and understanding of each other's way of life.



# ATASCOCITA FOREST

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