



Ivy Point, Pinehurst, Club Point, Golf Villas, The Shores, The Pines and Estates of Pinehurst

September 2018

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 8, Issue 9

GOOD NEIGHBORS CREATE GOOD COMMUNITIES

A Case for Green Spaces

Our Atascocita community is one of the most livable communities in the area with many amenities both natural and planned. Our quiet, tree lined streets lend themselves to outdoor activities for both people and pets. In a planned community such as ours there are often forgotten, sometimes neglected green spaces that with just a small effort can be transformed into useful recreation areas. One of these areas is the flood control easement along Rogers Gully and its drainage area (G103-24-04-x005) from Kings Parkway to Pinehurst Trails, other areas in our community may also be considered improvable green space areas. ACIA residents can often be seen walking or jogging this Rogers Gully circuit with their pets. Although the Harris County Flood Control District maintains it throughout the year, during the summer months growing season, it does require additional maintenance. For many years, some of my neighbors and I have been mowing sections of this area, creating groomed areas behind our yards for our use and the use of other ACIA residents.

As one of its county improvement projects, Harris County Precinct 2 has proposed building a walking trail in this area for the benefit of our community. Until the Precinct 2 project is completed, each resident along this flood control area or along other utility easement areas should consider a little extra maintenance effort. It only takes a small amount of time from residents who border this area to provide a space that can be enjoyed by the entire community. If your neighbor is unable to mow their area along the easement, I'm sure they would not mind a little assistance. The path need not be wider than a few feet, enough to comfortably walk through, but it will be of great benefit to your neighbors.

Sometimes, we as neighbors, banding together, can accomplish things that a formal organization is not equipped to handle.

Let us be good neighbors, keep and make our community livable and safe.

ACIA MAINTENANCE FEE ISSUE

The Ad Hoc Committee studying the financial issues facing the ACIA made their report to the ACIA Board at their July Board Meeting. One important area in the report addressed the fact that the Reserve Fund is woefully underfunded. The July, 2018 Financial Cash Balance Report showed the Reserve Fund Account to be \$36,568.00. This balance is not adequate to cover potential repair and/or replacement costs of ACIA's capital assets should they be affected by future storms or other causes.

Between the need to increase the Reserve Fund and the unusual expense incurred this last year as a result of Harvey inflicted damages, either the maintenance fee will need to be increased or ACIA services and/or common facility use will need to be trimmed back. Of course, the actions could entail a combination of these measures.

The Ad Hoc Committee recommended that the Board conduct a survey of ACIA residents to determine their preference to either raise maintenance fees or to cut back on common facilities and services or a combination of these actions. The results of the survey would help to guide the Board as it moves forward to address the problem.

The Ad Hoc Committee which was composed of Dr. Michael Say, Dr. Brad York and Mr. Gregg Mielke also made other recommendations to the Board that could potentially improve the operations of the ACIA to help cut costs in the future. You can find the full report on the ACIA web site.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

BOARD MEMBERS

Ric Halbrook, President ric@atmyacia.com
Bob Garlington, V.P. bob@atmyacia.com
Ron Jones, Treasurer..... ronacia73@gmail.com
Karen Davis, Secretary..... karen@atmyacia.com
Jeremy Williams, Trustee..... jeremy@atmyacia.com
Community Asset Mgmt, (CAM) 281.852.1155

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Robert Comstock comstock1@comcast.net
Karen Davis karen@atmyacia.com
Susan Bergquist ms.susan.sb@gmail.com

TENNIS COMMITTEE

Pam Hailey, Chair pamelagenehailey@yahoo.com

CONTRACT / PROJECT REVIEW

Gregg Mielke, Chair..... mielkehome@comcast.net
Bob Garlington bob@atmyacia.com

PRECINCT 2 MAINT. INTERFACE COMMITTEE

Ron Jones ronacia73@gmail.com
Laura Lammers laura@atmyacia.com

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Robert Comstock, Chair rcomstock1@comcast.net
Bob Abrahamsen abetex281@gmail.com
Jeremy Williams..... jeremy@atmyacia.com
Ken Hemby..... khembey@gmail.com
Jimmy Wells..... humtex1949@yahoo.com

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency 9-1-1
P-4 Constable Dispatch..... 281-376-3472
Humble ISD Police (Schools)..... 281-641-7900
Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)

Non-Emergency Number 281-852-2181
Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
Texas Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers) www.powertochoose.org
Power Outages 713-207-7777
Street Light Outages 713-207-2222
Gas, Centerpoint Energy..... 713-659-2111
Gas Leaks 713-659-2111
Water, Inframark..... 281-579-4500
24 Hour Emergency Number 281-209-2100
Telephone, Centurylink..... 877-290-5458
Trash, Waste Management..... 888-964-9734
Humble Post Office..... 281-540-1775
Harris County MUD #132 www.hcmud132.com
Harris County MUD #151 www.hcmud151.org

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD 281-641-1000
Website..... www.humble.k12.tx.us
Pine Forest Elementary..... 281-641-2100
Maplebrook Elementary 281-641-2900
Atascocita Middle School 281-641-1000
Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor..... Laura Lammers
Advertising..... advertising@PEELinc.com

A BROOD PARASITE

BY CHERYL CONLEY, TWRC WILDLIFE CENTER

For me, everyday at TWRC is a learning experience. I recently saw a post on our Facebook page about a Cowbird and a Cardinal hatchling sharing a nest. I was intrigued so did some research on this and I think you'll find it as fascinating as I do.

The Brown-headed Cowbird is called a "brood parasite" because they don't bother to build nests but rather lay their eggs in the nests of other songbirds. The female will watch other birds who have nests and when the other female is away from the nest, the cowbird will lay one or two eggs in her nest. The cowbird female may even go so far as to damage or push out some of the other eggs to make room for hers. The cowbird lays an average of 40 eggs per season. The host birds then raise the cowbird chicks as their own. Cowbird eggs have a relatively short incubation period and often times hatch sooner than the other eggs. The chicks grow quickly and are usually larger than the others so they can command most of the food. They demand a lot of attention from their foster mom and therefore the other chicks often get neglected. The cowbird chicks have even been known to push the other chicks out of the nest. This is perhaps one reason the songbird numbers are declining.

The Yellow Warbler is one species that has learned to recognize cowbird eggs. Most often, they will build a new nest on top of the oddball egg. New evidence suggests that some bird species that recognize the cowbird egg in their nest will accept it to just to avoid total destruction of the nest by an angry cowbird.

The Brown-headed Cowbirds are native to the US and are a member of the blackbird family. The adult male has a metallic green-black body and a brown head and are about 7.5 inches long. The female is slightly smaller and is dull grey with streaking on the underside. They can be found throughout the United States.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 39-year-old non-profit organization located in Houston, Texas. We are your resource for help with wildlife issues. Check out our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org or give us a call at 713-468-TWRC.



HARRIS COUNTY CONSTABLE, PRECINCT 4 ATASCOCITA COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION JULY STATS

CATEGORIES

Burglary Habitation: 1	Burglary Vehicle: 1
Theft Habitation: 1	Theft Vehicle: 0
Theft Other: 0	Robbery: 0
Assault: 0	Sexual Assault: 0
Criminal Mischief: 3	Disturbance Family: 3
Disturbance Juvenile: 0	Disturbance Other: 12
Alarms: 15	Suspicious Vehicles: 5
Suspicious Persons: 2	Runaways: 0
Phone Harrassment: 2	Other Calls: 267

SUMMARY OF EVENTS

Alarms:

Deputies responded to 15 residential alarms that were cleared as false alarms.

Traffic Enforcement:

Deputy conducted numerous traffic stops and traffic initiatives throughout the contract during the month in the interest of public safety and in an attempt to reduce the risk of motor vehicle accidents.

19000 Pine Cluster Ln- Deputy was involved in a pursuit. Investigation revealed, suspect fled in a stolen motor vehicle which later resulted in a Felony To-BE warrant being filed on the suspect. (Evading)

Contract Checks & Park Checks:

Deputies conducted 95 combined contract checks and park/pool checks during the month. Family Dist.:

6900 Harvest Glen Dr.—Deputy responded to a call regarding a Family Disturbance incident. Investigation revealed the Complainant was involved in a physical altercation with her boyfriend. No charges filed at this time. Report filed.

19000 January Dr. – Deputy responded to a call regarding a Family Disturbance incident. Investigation revealed the Complainant was involved in a physical altercation with her boyfriend. No charges filed. Report filed.

19000 Atascocita Pines Dr.—Deputy responded to a call regarding a Family Disturbance incident. Investigation revealed the Complainant advised a day later that the ex-girlfriend violated a

(Continued on Page 4)

HOUSTON METHODIST PRIMARY CARE GROUP
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Welcoming Dr. Ojomah Emono

Houston Methodist Primary Care Group is pleased to welcome Dr. Ojomah Emono to our new Kingwood location. Dr. Emono is a board-certified family physician with expertise in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses. Driven by a personal commitment to practice medicine with compassion, Dr. Emono can provide the best health care experience for you and your family.

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ACIA HAPPENINGS

(Continued from Page 3)

current protective order by arriving at his home unannounced. No charges filed in this incident. Report filed.

Burglary Habitation:

20000 Atascocita Shores Dr. Deputy responded to a Burglary of Habitation call. Investigation revealed, suspect(s) entered complainant's home without permission and took a firearm and other items.

Burglary Motor Vehicle:

19000 Pine Cluster Ln- Deputy responded to A Burglary of Motor Vehicle call. Investigation revealed, unknown suspect(s) entered the complainant's unlocked vehicle while parked in the driveway. Suspect fled undetected. Report generated.

Theft Habitation:

8800 Pine Shores Dr.-Deputy responded to a Theft type call. Investigation revealed that an unknown suspect took the complainant's ladder without permission.

Criminal Mischief:

7600 Pine Cup Dr. – Deputy responded to a call regarding criminal mischief. Investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) caused damaged to complainant's tires on his vehicle. The suspect(s) fled undetected. Report generated.

19000 Clear Dale Dr. – Deputy responded to a call regarding criminal mischief. Investigation revealed unknown suspect(s) made a dent on his vehicle while it was parked in the driveway. The suspect(s) fled

undetected. No damage reported to either window. Report generated.

8100 Pinewood Crest Ln.-Deputy responded to a call regarding criminal mischief. Investigation revealed that his girlfriend damaged his vehicle by kicking it. No charges filed. Report generated.

Phone Harassment:

8100 17th Green Dr.-Deputy responded to a Harassment type call. Investigation revealed that the complainant's ex-wife has been harassing by calling and texting. ARS report completed.

19000 Atascocita Pines Dr.-Deputy responded to a Telephone Harassment type of call. Investigation that the Complainant is being harassed by his ex-girlfriend. ARS report was completed.

Other Calls:

19000 Autumn Creek Ln. – Deputy responded to Unknown Medical Emergency type call. Investigation revealed that the complainant was transported by EMS to a local hospital due to health complications. Report generated.

19000 Autumn Creek Ln. – Deputy responded to a call regarding fraud using the Complainant's identity. Investigation revealed that Unknown suspect(s) opened a Direct Energy account without permission. Report filed.

20000 Powers Court Dr.-Deputy responded to a lost property call. Investigation revealed that known Complainant's property was misplaced while moving into a new home. Report generated.

(Continued on Page 5)



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ACIA HAPPENINGS

(Continued from Page 4)

19000 Pinewood Bluff Dr.-Deputy responded to an Information type call. Investigation revealed that the complainant wanted to document that her ex-husband picked up his kids on an unscheduled day. Report filed.

8000 Hurst Forest Dr. – Deputy responded to an Aggressive Animal type call. Investigation revealed that the complainant was bitten by the neighbor's dog. ARS report completed.

20000 Legend Oak-Deputy responded to an Information type of call. Investigation revealed that the Complainant requested this report because the neighbors called SPCA on him. ARS report completed.

8000 17th Green Dr.-Deputy responded to a Terroristic Threat type call. Investigation revealed that the complainant's ex-wife has been harassing by calling and texting. No charges. ARS report completed.

19000 Firesign Dr.-Deputy responded to a Terroristic Threat/Criminal Trespass type calls. Investigation revealed that two suspects had committed criminal offenses. Charges were filed on both suspects. Report completed.

8200 Amber Cove Dr.-Deputy responded to a Drug/OD Possession type call. Investigation revealed that a juvenile took pills and was transported by EMS as a precaution. Report completed.

20000 Spoonwood Dr.-Deputy responded to a Lost Property call. Investigation revealed that the complainant lost her Texas driver's license. Report completed.

LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization dedicated to connecting women through monthly luncheon meetings, social activities and various interest groups.

We will greet old friends and make new ones at our first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, September 18 from 10:00-12:00 at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest Drive in Humble, Tx 77346. The cost is \$17 per person for the luncheon.

The club welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Many interest groups are available including Reader's Choice, Bridge, Bunco, Mah Jongg, Lunch 'N Look, Tea Time, Movie Group, Supper Club, Hand Knee and Foot, Girls Night Out, Mexican Train, Shooting Club and Game Day. There are also events during the year that include spouses or significant others. The club is an excellent way to meet new people and make new friends.

Please join us. New members are always welcome. For more information about the club and for luncheon reservations, please go to the club web page at <http://www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com> or call Karen at 281-900-5584 by Wednesday, September 12.

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BROKEN CURBS

All curb repairs, except those of driveway aprons/transitions to the street are the responsibility of Harris County Precinct 2 Road Maintenance. Driveways are the responsibility of individual homeowners along with their sidewalks. Please report any broken curbs with the specific address directly to Harris County Precinct 2 at (713) 455-8104 or <https://www3.harriscountytexas.gov/servicerequestform/default.aspx?pct2> on-line work orders for street maintenance. Your efforts to report these items help to keep our neighborhood beautiful!

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ASPS/PUSS CATERPILLARS



Did you know that some caterpillars are able to inflict a painful sting? Various caterpillars have urticating hairs or spines that are connected to a poison gland. When part of your body comes into contact with the hairs, they can stick in the skin, injecting venom, and sometimes causing a rash.

Asps, also known as puss caterpillars, are about an inch and a half long when fully grown, teardrop-shaped with long, silky hair. They are usually tan, but can be anywhere from pale yellow to grey. Smaller instars (stages of the caterpillar) are yellow in color while later instars turn pale green to white. Spines containing venom are concealed in later instars by long, soft-looking setae (hairs). Asp caterpillars are typically found on trees and shrubs around homes, and generally do not cause long-term harm to plants.

If stung, pain will immediately be felt and blood-colored spots may form at the sting site. Other symptoms that may occur are nausea, headache, vomiting, or respiratory distress. To remove spines from the skin, cover the sting area with strong tape and peel tape off to pull out spines from skin. Repeat tape process as needed to remove all spines. Applying an ice pack to the sting area may help to soothe the skin. An oral antihistamine may also be taken to relieve itching.

If respiratory distress occurs, seek medical attention.

If you have large populations of these caterpillars and want to manage them, you can try *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (this targets caterpillars only, but will also kill "good" caterpillars). You may also look for active ingredients such as spinosad or azadirachtin (both naturally-derived products). These products tend to work best on smaller instars. Another option would be a residual pesticide labeled for caterpillars that is also labeled for use on plants.

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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2018 Schedule

GO TEXANS!

WEEK	DATE	OPPONENT	TIME(ET)	SCORE
1	Sun, Sep 9	at New England	1:00 PM	_____
2	Sun, Sep 16	at Tennessee	1:00 PM	_____
3	Sun, Sep 23	NY Giants	1:00 PM	_____
4	Sun, Sep 30	at Indianapolis	1:00 PM	_____
5	Sun, Oct 7	Dallas	8:20 PM	_____
6	Sun, Oct 14	Buffalo	1:00 PM	_____
7	Sun, Oct 21	at Jacksonville	1:00 PM	_____
8	Thu, Oct 25	Miami	8:20 PM	_____
9	Sun, Nov 4	at Denver	4:05 PM	_____
10		*BYE		_____
11	Sun, Nov 18	at Washington	1:00 PM	_____
12	Mon, Nov 26	Tennessee	8:15 PM	_____
13	Sun, Dec 2	Cleveland	1:00 PM	_____
14	Sun, Dec 9	Indianapolis	1:00 PM	_____
15	Sat, Dec 15	at NY Jets	4:30 PM	_____
16	Sun, Dec 23	at Philadelphia	1:00 PM	_____
17	Sun, Dec 30	Jacksonville	1:00 PM	_____



Tracy Montgomery
Cell: 713.825.5905

Sandy Brabham
Cell: 713.503.8110

Lisa Hughes
Cell: 281.323.5894

Melissa Nelson
Cell: 832.527.4989

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