

NORMANDY FOREST



January 2019

Official Publication of the Normandy Forest Homeowners Association

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ENERGY \$AVERS



With all the holiday decorations safely stored away, here's a few quick and easy tips on how to save a few dollars on energy use. Without all those extra lights and blow up yard decorations, energy bills should return to normal rather

quickly. But with a few little adjustments, you could lower your energy bill even more.

Pull the Plug

Appliances draw power even when not in use. Unplugging devices (laptops and cell phone chargers) and small appliances (coffee pots and toasters), could add up to hundreds of dollars in savings per year.

Turn down the Thermostat

Lowering the thermostat on your water heater can save 3%-5% in energy costs for every 10°F decrease. Many manufacturers set water heater thermostats at 140°F, but acknowledge 120°F is more than adequate for most households.

Change those Filters

Regularly replacing filters on your furnace and AC can save 5%-15% on heating and cooling costs.

Fill it Up

Load up that dishwasher. Experts claim, a load of dishes cleaned in a dishwasher requires approximately 35% less

water than washing dishes by hand. Additionally, opening the door after final rinse to air dry dishes, and running the dishwasher during off-peak hours will reduce your energy costs even more.

Choose Cold

Much of the energy used to launder clothes is for heating the water for hot and warm water cycles. Many laundry detergents available today are formulated to clean using cooler water temperatures. When possible, choose "Cold" to wash your clothes.

Put it in Reverse

Ceiling fans are a great way to cool your house in the summer. But did you know you can use those same fans to warm your house in the winter. Simply reverse the direction of the fan blades to recirculate the warm air collecting near the ceiling, throughout the room.

Adopting even one of these money saving ideas could add up to a little extra spending cash within a few short months. Happy new year!



NORMANDY FOREST

NORMANDY FOREST COMMITTEES

THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

Cecil Mixon 832-663-5200

The Association has an active Architectural Control Committee that approves or denies all construction and any improvements. You may request an ACC form by contacting Chaparral Management 281-537-0957 or the association website. Please keep in mind that the Association has thirty days (30 days) to approve or disapprove any ACC and verbal approvals or disapprovals are not given.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

In the event of an emergency please call "911" or for Precinct 4 please program your cell phone with the number below.

Precinct 4 281-376-3472

Jim Norris 281-924-5828

POOL MAINTENANCE & LIFEGUARDS

Jeffery King 281-655-8675

CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

Chaparral Management / Valerie Overbeck 281-537-0957

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

John Nemec 281-651-8606 | jnemec@normandyforest.org

Paul Diaz 281-687-2045

POOL TAG COMMITTEE

Lindsey McPherson 713-898-9878

Chaparral Management 281-537-0957

BLOCK CAPTAIN

Sherri Cabrera 512-709-8476

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Paul Diaz | Vice President 281-687-2045

Willmarie Muniz | Secretary 973-930-4839

Lindsey McPherson | Treasurer 713-898-9878

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John Nemec | Coordinator 281-651-8606

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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Call Centerpoint for street light repair or outages

Electric | Reliant Energy 713-207-7777

Phone | AT&T www.att.com

MUD #28 Meet 4th Tuesday of the Month @ 6:30pm

Hayes Utility South (Water & Sewer) 281-353-9756

Trash | Republic Waste 281-446-2030

Heavy Trash 2nd Friday of the Month

Fire Department | Spring VFD 281-355-1266

County Commissioner | Jack Cagle 713-755-6444

Constable 281-376-3472

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Chaparral Management Company, AAMC
6630 Cypresswood Suite 100 | Spring, Texas 77379

281-537-0957 phone | 281-537-0312 fax

Valerie Overbeck | Association Manager

voverbeck@chaparralmanagement.com

OFFICE HOURS

9am to 5pm | closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:15 pm



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TOMBALL ART LEAGUE

January 12th Meeting welcomes guest demo artist Doug Hiser, renown wildlife artist. Doug is a master at traversing the wilds and wrapping it all up in a renaissance of creativity meant to inspire a closer look at the world around us. He will talk about his methods of painting: sketches to creation.

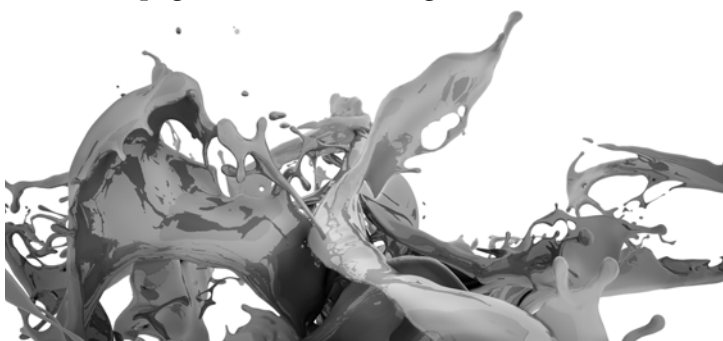
Are you an artist? Do you paint in watercolor, acrylics or oils? Do you work in clay? Draw in pastels? Are you a photographer? If you enjoy the fine arts you are invited to join the Tomball Art League and see what we are all



about. Membership is a nominal \$25/single or \$35/family. We gather together to promote Art Appreciation in Tomball and the surrounding communities and are always striving to meet new artists in the area! Meeting and demo is free

and open to the public!

Our meetings are held at the Lone Star College-Tomball Community Library meeting room, 30555 Tomball Pkwy, 77375 . Join us for socializing/networking at 10:00 AM followed by a brief league meeting at 10:30 AM and finish with an inspiring artist demo. Hope to see you there! For more information please visit our Facebook page Tomball Art League - TAL.



THE MINIMALIST GARDENER

By Flint Sage

Continue with your freeze protection effort through the remainder of the winter. When the weatherman predicts a “hard freeze” (or similar), shut off and drain your backflow preventer. Water landscape plants, trees, and vegetables before the freeze. Try not to water foliage. Water is very good at retaining heat in the soil to help prevent freezing. Maintain a layer of mulch on bare areas to retain heat and moisture and to keep weeds down. Best of all, read plant labels before you buy. If they

won't tolerate freezing, consider planting something different.



Lawns: Very little water is required, but water plants and lawns once a month if it doesn't rain.

Plant roses anytime. If planting in January, choose bare root.

Plant annual flowers such as calendula, cyclamen, dianthus, ornamental kale, cabbage, pansies, and petunias. Plant bluebonnet transplants into garden beds.

Pruning: Avoid pruning frost-damaged trees and bushes until February or March. Crape Myrtles are trees and should be allowed to grow as trees. Unless you have a good reason, please don't cut off any branch larger than a pencil. There are many varieties of crape, so select a shorter variety if height is a problem.

Plant cool-season seedlings such as asparagus, broccoli, brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, collards, turnip greens, Irish potato, kohlrabi, leaf lettuces, onions, and swiss chard. Sow seeds this month for beets, carrots, English peas, greens, leaf lettuces, radishes, sugar snap, snow peas, and turnips.



TEXAS CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI NEWS

Elisa Kendall, a graduate of Texas Christian High School, is now ranked 14th nationally and 3rd regionally in NCAA DIII Women's Tennis. This is so exciting to hear for her junior year at ETBU. Texas Christian is so proud of your hard work Elisa!!! We are praying for you!



ATTRACTING WILDLIFE

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

It seems that everywhere we look we are seeing trees being torn down and grassy areas being turned into parking lots. Sadly, there's not much we can do about it. There are things you can do, however, to help replenish some of the natural resources that are destroyed. You can turn your backyards and even small apartment balconies into areas that attract wildlife, butterflies and even bees.

You can provide food by planting wildlife-friendly plants. Choose plant species that bloom and fruit at various times of the year. Like the woodpecker, some birds will dine on insects during the summer but will eat berries in colder weather. Shrubs and trees can provide seeds and berries for mammals and birds while a flower garden will provide food for a variety of insect pollinators and hummingbirds. Bird and squirrel feeders are great to help supplement what is found in nature. If you can, leave dead trees. They can be a food source by attracting insects, lichens, mosses and fungi.

Every living thing needs water. Birds not only need water to drink but to bathe in. The easiest way to do this is to provide a birdbath or a shallow dish of water. Make sure to keep it clean and be careful to use animal-friendly cleaners! No bleach or anything toxic. If you're fortunate enough to own a little land, you can add a water garden or pond to your property.

(Continued on Page 7)

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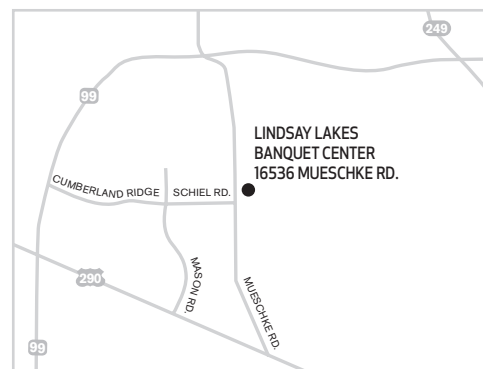
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(Attracting Wildlife - Continued from Page 5)

Wildlife needs cover from the elements just like we do. In our area we don't have to worry about snow but we often get heavy rains and extreme heat. Again, dead trees work great for some species. Planting dense shrubs provide shelter for rabbits, turtles and some bird species. Don't forget about man-made shelters, too, like bathhouses and birdhouses.

There are books available to help you garden for wildlife. One of them is, *Texas Wildscapes* by Kelly Conrad Bender. It's published by Texas A&M. Texas Parks and Wildlife

is also a great resource. Some organizations provide instructions and help so that your school or home can become a Certified Wildlife Habitat. One such organization is the National Wildlife Federation.

You can make this a family project and have fun with it. Get the kids involved. Plant some trees and shrubs, hang some birdhouses and squirrel

boxes and decide where you want your birdbaths.

TWRC Wildlife Center is getting ready for a busy spring and we're looking for baby feeders. We'll train you to care for baby squirrels, baby opossums and baby birds so you'll be ready to start in the spring. No previous experience is needed—just a desire to help wildlife babies, a great attitude and you must be reliable! Send your resume or letter of interest to operations@twrcwildlifecenter.org.



A very "lived-in" squirrel box.



EDITOR'S ELEVEN-MINUTE MICROWAVED BAKED POTATO

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large russet potato
- 1 tablespoon of butter or margarine.
- 3 tablespoons of shredded Cheddar (or your favorite) cheese.
- 2 tablespoons of bacon crumbles
- Dash of Salt
- Dash of Pepper
- 2 tablespoons of seeds such as pumpkin, flax, sunflower, etc. (if desired)
- Add after cooking if desired:
- 2 tablespoons of sour cream
-

DIRECTIONS

- Scrub the potato, and prick several times with the tines of a fork (to avoid having potato explode). Place on a microwave-friendly dish.
- Cook on full power in the microwave for 5 minutes. Turn over, and continue to cook for 5 more minutes. When the potato is soft, remove from the microwave, and cut in half lengthwise. Mash up insides with a fork. Add salt and pepper, butter, bacon crumbles, seeds, and Cheddar cheese. Return to the microwave, and cook for about 1 minute to melt the cheese.
- Top with sour cream (if desired), and serve.





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