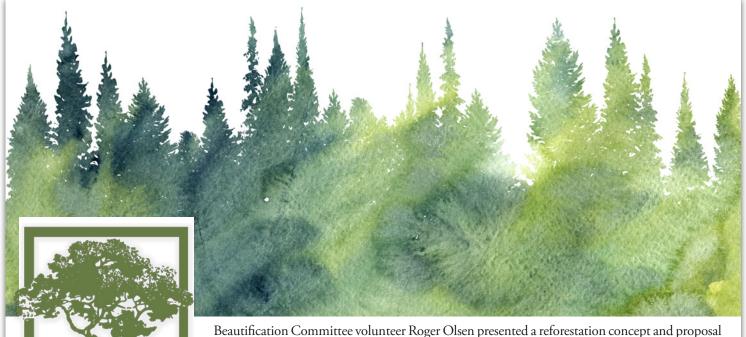


THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING TRAILS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VOL 1 ISSUE 2



to the MUD 94 Board, at their monthly meeting January 4th. The primary scope of the proposal involves the planting of 550 Texas-native trees, donated by Trees for Houston. Finer details include the soil preparation, labor and equipment, after-care services, as well as future planting of understory for the maturing trees. The planting locations proposed by the Beautification Committee include open areas at Kallie Hills Lane and Cameron Park Lane in Pecan Crossing, and along Spring Trails Park Drive. Specific locations and the full proposal can be viewed on the

Spring Trails website under the Residents tab, HOA Updates.

TREES FOR

HOUSTON

Roger worked diligently with MUD 94 Engineer Jon VanderWilt to ensure all infrastructure concerns were considered and addressed. As a result of their collaboration, the proposal was Board-approved as submitted. Focus has now turned to soliciting a qualified contractor to assist the Association with execution of the proposal. A formal statement of work was prepared and a request for proposals issued to local contractors.

The Planting Event is February 16-18. Planting efforts will be directed and supervised by the landscaping contractor. Volunteers are needed to assist with the actual planting and staking of the trees. Anyone over the age of 15 is welcome, and yes, this project qualifies for school service hours. Younger volunteers are welcome too but must be accompanied by an adult. Sandwiches and snacks will be provided, as well as water and sodas. The Association will provide work gloves and bug repellent. Volunteers are asked to bring a shovel or spade if available.

Bring your friends and neighbors. Join the fun!! Be a part of Spring Trails' legacy as we give back to nature and enhance Spring Trails' "forest of possibilities". Register online through the Spring Trails website, Events, Upcoming Events.

On behalf of Spring Trails Community Association, the Board of Directors would like to thank everyone on the Beautification Committee for their persistence and dedication to this project: Roger Olsen, Jessica Hansen, Stanley Ruggerio, John Rigsdell, Craig Pennington, Fernando Guirola, Marcia Rueschhoff, Collin Blood, Genette Willbanks, Jackie Robinson, Bob Shasteen, and Jim Schwartz.

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Who ya gonna call?

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Oak Ridge High School (10th-12th Grade)	832-592-5300
Grand Oaks High School	281-939-0000
Conroe L.S.D. Administration	. 936-709-7752

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CenterPoint Leak Line
CenterPoint (electric)
MUD 94/Gulf Utility Services (water and sewer) 281-355-1312
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MUD 94/ST Recycle (trash recycling)

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Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack	936-539-7817
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Constable Ryan Gable	281-364-4211

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HOANEWS

Updates to the interior monuments are complete with the stacked stone and castings installed, and the foundations, caps and planters sealed and painted. Irrigation system changes have begun to redirect the water spray away from the monuments, and install drip lines to address over-saturated areas around the monuments.



Spring Trails continues to experience vandalism at Cardinal Park and recently Heron Park. The Board of Directors is

considering several security and surveillance options and have presented some options to MUD 94 for consideration. But we can make a difference now. You've heard the phrase "If you see something, say something." It works! Residents are urged to report any questionable behavior to the local law enforcement officials as soon as possible. Call 911 in emergency situations. Or if appropriate, for non-emergency situations call the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office at 936-760-5800.

Architectural Review Committee

As the only committee required by the Spring Trails governing documents, the purpose of the Architectural Review Committee is to preserve the architectural and aesthetic appearance of the Spring Trails community. Many exterior renovations, upgrades and landscaping efforts begin during the cooler months. The Architectural Review Committee encourages Association members and residents to review the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) when considering home or landscaping modifications. If an ARC request is required, allow sufficient time (2-4 weeks) for your application to be processed and reviewed. The CC&Rs, Builder Guidelines, ARC request and instructions can be found on the Spring Trails website, under the Documents menu.

Communications

Thank you to this month's Newsletter Contributors: Sylvia Sudeth, Property Manager Khara Mathews, Roger Olsen, and J.P. Moynahan. Residents interested in submitting stories or articles for inclusion in the newsletter can do so online at www.peelinc.com - Then click "Submit An Article" under the residents tab on the menu. Articles are due by the 10th day of the preceding month.



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"We all carry, inside us, people who came before us."

-Liam Callanan

More Americans than ever before have linked themselves together through three little letters: DNA. Estimates from a variety of sources place the number between 7-15 million people worldwide. Perhaps you or a family member received a DNA testing kit as a gift last month. But what do you do after you receive your test results? Identifying the ancestors in your family tree is like unraveling an exciting mystery.

Spring Trails resident, Alfonso deBenito has experience in tracking down ancestors and is familiar with helping others do the same. Though DNA testing may provide information regarding ethnicity, migration, and some health-related data, depending on which company you use, much of what can be found about your ancestors often comes the old-fashioned way...searching ancestors through birth, marriage, and death certificates, as well as census records.

"I wanted to know more about my father's side of the family. I never met my paternal grandfather and had only seen my grandmother a couple of times. I had heard of stories about them that perked my interest, but my father was dead and my mother's knowledge about my father's family was limited, fragmented and lacking in details that could help me put a family tree together." Alfonso said. With dedicated research and the use of powerful internet databases for Family History, he discovered, "My father's paternal grandfather and my mother's maternal grandfather were born in the same little 'pueblo' of Sotillo del Rincon, Soria, Spain. Stories like this one strengthen my belief that there are no coincidences, that all things are subject to the Lord's plan for us."

Mark Sudeth, another Spring Trails resident, grew up hearing family stories that his ancestors were part Cherokee. When his DNA testing returned there was no evidence of Native American ancestry but to his surprise his largest ethnicity by far was Scandinavian. No stories about ancestors migrating from Sweden were part of the tome of his family's oral history, though stories are an excellent place to start. Much can be gleaned from asking questions.

Interview your relatives. Record their stories and the information they give you. Start an online family tree. Success will ebb and flow. "Many years went by and, even though I was still interested, I was not doing much about finding my ancestors. It did not move forward until I moved with my family from Spain to Texas and was able to access information about my family by networking through the three largest internet databases: Family Search, Ancestry and My Heritage," said Alfonso.

When asked about tips for success in researching family members he said, "Be committed and surround yourself with people that are as committed as you are. You can support and help each other in moments of need. Learn how to navigate the

websites and become proficient at it. If you believe in prayer, PRAY."

Family connections can support our understanding of who we are and where we came from. One of the most popular aspects of identifying ancestors is the power of belonging to something



bigger than ourselves. In a TED talk British journalist Johann Hari said, "The opposite of addiction is not sobriety. The opposite of addiction is connection."

Mr. deBenito has generously offered at no charge to help any Spring Trails residents who are interested in getting started in this process of connecting to and discovering ancestors from the past. His email address is benprof@sbcglobal.net.

Mark Your Calendars



February 5th - MUD 94 Board Meeting February 7th – Spring Trails HOA Board Meeting (rescheduled due to Valentine's Day)

February 8th – Heavy Trash Day

February 16-18 – Community Tree Planting Event
February 18th – Presidents Day (no school) Be ALERT for kids biking and playing in your neighborhood.

February 23rd – Spring Trails Document Shredding Event

March 5th - MUD 94 Board Meeting

March 8th - Heavy Trash Day

March 8-15 – Conroe ISD Spring Break

March 14th - Spring Trails HOA Board Meeting

Visit the Spring Trails Website, Events tab for details on these and future events. www.springtrails.com



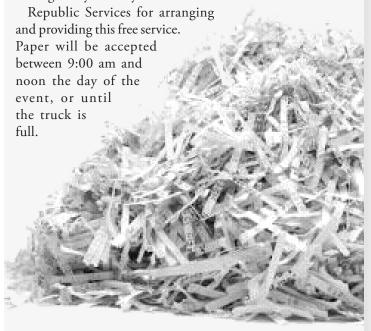
Do you have papers, magazines, tax forms or other paper products piling up or spilling out of your file cabinet? You're in luck. Montgomery County MUD 94 and Republic Services are sponsoring a free document shred event for residents of Spring Trails.

Load up that unwanted paper into boxes or bags and bring it to the Spring Trails Visitor Center parking lot, Saturday, February 23, 2019, between 9:00 am and noon. Republic Services will take your boxes/bags of paper, empty it into the Shred Pro Truck bin, and return your boxes/bags to your car. Residents are asked to remain in their cars. Please no walk ups.

Acceptable items: notebook paper, magazines, tax documents, newspapers, paper folders, etc. Residents are not required to remove staples, paper clips, thin metal brads, or other metal that can be easily bent with your fingers.

Unacceptable Items: NO 3-ring binders or binder clips, wet paper, hard drives, CD's or disks of any kind, video tapes or film reels, cardboard boxes or other cardboard items and no plastics.

The Spring Trails Community Association thanks Montgomery County MUD 94 and



Feral Hog Control Efforts



J.P. Moynahan and his team at Texas Feral Hog Control are actively monitoring the movement of 7 hogs spotted just outside of Spring Trails. Another larger sounder (group) of about 25 hogs has been spotted across Spring Creek and are being closely watched.

While hog activity within Spring Trails is minimal right now, J.P. suggests these simple measures could help to deter late-night visits from these unwanted guests.

- 1. Lightly sprinkle granulated grub worm poison over the lawn and flower beds. Grub worms are a favorite food source for feral hogs.
- 2. Install motion activated lights on your patio, in your flower beds and/or along your sidewalk. The sudden light will startle hogs enough to look elsewhere for a midnight snack.

Spring Trails residents are asked to report feral hog sightings to Inframark using the Spring Trails website, Request Manager. The information will be shared with Texas Feral Hog Control to better enable them to track and control hog movements and ultimately capture hogs feeding within Spring Trails.





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February Cleaning Tips

It's February. Put away your winter blues and use those extra daylight hours to spruce up your home. Local home inspection companies and nurseries offer the following "Spring" cleaning tips.

Kitchen

Deep clean your fridge and garbage disposal. Nasty germs creep up in the kitchen, so empty your fridge and wipe it down with a disinfectant or green alternative white vinegar and baking soda to clean both your refrigerator and garbage disposal.

Clean out your spice cupboard. Expired spices and herbs won't add much flavor to your food and might actually harbor mold or other bacteria. Clean out your spice cabinet twice a year to ensure freshness.

Organize the junk drawer, dishes, and food containers. Decreasing clutter cuts down on stress, so give your mental state a break by organizing drawers and cabinets.

Bedroom/Living areas

Sanitize hand-held devices. Wipe down your phone, remote controls, tablets, garage door openers, and other small electronics to remove germs, dust, and general ickiness.

Clean/Wash your bedspread and shams. Dust mites that cause allergies, mold, and more can accumulate on your bedding and drapery. And don't forget to vacuum your mattress.

Deep clean floors, blinds, ceiling fans, and fixtures. Take a duster or damp cloth to clean off the surprising amount of dust that builds up on floors, blinds, and light fixtures so you don't breathe it in.

Fill holes in your drywall. Holes may turn into bigger cracks which cost much more to repair.

Clean out your kid's rooms and toys. Wipe down toys to remove germs and grit and organize games, clothes, etc.

Tighten and lube door hinges. Cut down on squeaky doors and protect against accidents.

Bathrooms

Sanitize faucets. Use bathroom spray with bleach or a homemade vinegar-based cleaner to get rid of germs and restore shine.

Check for leaks in your plumbing on supply lines to sinks and toilets. Look at the piping behind toilets and under sinks to ensure water isn't getting out.

Check caulking in bathrooms. If there's mold, scrub it away. If there's a leak, call a repairman or recaulk it yourself.

Laundry and Hallways

Clean lint from the dryer exhaust duct. Driers are one of the main causes of household fires because of built-up lint. Clean your lint trap every time you do a load of laundry and your exhaust duct once every two months.

Outside

Check foundation for damage. Stopping foundation issues before they snowball saves you thousands, so check your foundation often.

Ensure street numbers are visible on your home. Emergency responders need to see your house numbers to reach you, so make sure they're not covered by snow or obstructed in other ways.

Clean windows. Let more sunshine in to naturally heat your home

this winter and keep utility bills down.

Lawn and Landscaping

Pests- Keep an eye out for loopers and aphids on cool season vegetables and annuals. Use the most organic solution possible for treating these insects. Check for scale insects on ornamentals such as camellias, hollies, magnolias, and Japanese blueberries. Treat with horticultural oil spray while it is still cool.

Lawns- Consider applying pre-emergent to stop any spring weeds such as crabgrass, goosegrass and dallisgrass. Corn gluten meal is an organic approach.

Flowers and Shrubbery- Continue to keep an eye on the weather and stay informed on night time lows. Have frost cloth on hand for light frosts. If the temperature drops below 32, double wrap tender plants to ensure proper insulation. Avoid using plastic against foliage, but it can be used as the second exterior layer when covering plants. Remove plastic during the day.

Prune back perennials that are overgrown or have frost damage. This allows for a fresh spring start. Wait to cut back tropical plants until after the last frost, this includes hibiscus and bougainvilleas. Add in green annuals for spring color in the form of poppies, larkspur, hollyhocks, and delphiniums.

Most shrubs, trees, and roses can be pruned now. Wait until after spring bloom cycles to prune spirea, azaleas, redbuds, and oriental magnolias.

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Flooding: How to Protect Your Family & Finances

In many areas, flooding is the most common and costly natural disaster—and it can happen here. Just one inch of water in your home or office can cost thousands of dollars in cleanup and replacement costs, including drywall, baseboards, floor coverings and furniture. You may think you're covered, but many homeowners' insurance policies do not cover flooding.

Here are several reasons to talk to an insurance agent now about flood insurance.

- There is usually a 30-day waiting period before coverage begins.
 - Coverage is relatively inexpensive.
- Renters can buy flood insurance .for personal belongings or business inventory.
- Basement coverage includes cleanup expense and repair or replacement of items such as furnaces, water heaters, washers, dryers, air conditioners, freezers and pumps.
- You do not have to repay flood insurance benefits as you do with disaster-related assistance loans.
- You can receive payments for flood-related losses even if no disaster was declared.

Learn more about flood insurance at www.floodsmart.gov.

There are things you can do to prepare your home and family now for flash floods:

- Make a family emergency plan. Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Write down your plan. Decide ahead of time where you will go if you have to leave and where family members will meet up. Identify an out-of-town emergency contact.
- Get supplies for an emergency kit. Start with three days' water and three days' packaged and canned food. Add a battery-powered radio and extra batteries. Store in waterproof containers with wheels or that you can lift so you can take them with you. For details about preparing an emergency kit, visit www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html
- Stay informed about what could happen. During storm season, listen to local media for up-to-date reports on weather watches and warnings. Keep a battery-powered portable radio—with a NOAA weather band—handy in case the power goes out. Choose one.

Learn more about preparedness at www.ready.gov/america/beinformed/floods.html.



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SHEDDING LIGHT ON NEW BULBS



Standard incandescent light bulbs may soon become a thing of the past. Under the Clean Energy Act of 2007, required the sale of energy-inefficient incandescent bulbs ti be phased out over a two-year period, beginning with 100-watt bulbs in January 2012. Compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) have become the most popular replacement choice. The typical CFL uses 66 percent less energy and lasts up to ten times longer than an incandescent bulb.

Making the switch to CFLs doesn't require that you throw out all your incandescent bulbs right away. Even a gradual change can result in significant savings. Just replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures can save you more than \$65 each year, as CFLs provide the most savings when a lighting source is used for at least two hours a day. You can continue to use incandescent bulbs for fixtures that are only on for a few minutes at a time, such as closet lights, changing to CFLs as your supply of incandescent bulbs runs out.

One important point to know about CFLs is that they contain an average of 4 milligrams of mercury (about the amount that would cover the tip of a ballpoint pen). The mercury is sealed within the bulb's glass tubing, and no mercury is released when the bulb is intact or use. Special caution must be taken when disposing of used bulbs or cleaning up broken bulbs, however. Some states require used CFL bulbs (broken and unbroken) to be taken to local recycling centers for disposal. And if a bulb breaks in your home, you should follow the Environmental Protection Agency's guidelines to clean up the debris:

Before Clean-up: Air Out the Room

- Have people and pets leave the room, and don't let anyone walk through the breakage area on their way out.
 - Open a window and leave the room for 15 minutes or more.
- Shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system, if you have one.

Clean-Up Steps for Hard Surfaces

• Carefully scoop up glass pieces and powder using stiff paper or cardboard and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.

- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- Wipe the area clean with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place towels in the glass jar or plastic bag.
- Do not use a vacuum or broom to clean up the broken bulb on hard surfaces.

Clean-up Steps for Carpeting or Rug

- Carefully pick up glass fragments and place them in a glass jar with metal lid (such as a canning jar) or in a sealed plastic bag.
- Use sticky tape, such as duct tape, to pick up any remaining small glass fragments and powder.
- If vacuuming is needed after all visible materials are removed, vacuum the area where the bulb was broken.
- Remove the vacuum bag (or empty and wipe the canister), and put the bag or vacuum debris in a sealed plastic bag.

Clean-up Steps for Clothing, Bedding and Other Soft Materials

- If clothing or bedding materials come in direct contact with broken glass or mercury-containing powder from inside the bulb that may stick to the fabric, the clothing or bedding should be thrown away. Do not wash such clothing or bedding because mercury fragments in the clothing may contaminate the machine and/or pollute sewage.
- You can, however, wash clothing or other materials that have been exposed to the mercury vapor from a broken CFL, such as the clothing you are wearing when you cleaned up the broken CFL, as long as that clothing has not come into direct contact with the materials from the broken bulb.
- If shoes come into direct contact with broken glass or mercurycontaining powder from the bulb, wipe them off with damp paper towels or disposable wet wipes. Place the towels or wipes in a glass jar or plastic bag for disposal.

Disposal of Clean-up Materials

- Immediately place all clean-up materials outdoors in a trash container or protected area for the next normal trash pickup.
- Wash your hands after disposing of the jars or plastic bags containing clean-up materials.
- Check with your local or state government about disposal requirements in your specific area. Some states do not allow such trash disposal. Instead, they require that broken and unbroken mercury-containing bulbs be taken to a local recycling center.

Future Cleaning of Carpeting or Rug: Air Out the Room During and After Vacuuming

- The next several times you vacuum, shut off the central forced-air heating/air conditioning system and open a window before vacuuming.
- Keep the central heating/air conditioning system shut off and the window open for at least 15 minutes after vacuuming is completed.



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