

# SUMMERWOOD LIFE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## BIG HEROES, TINY HOMES SCHS BEGINS PROJECT TO ASSIST HOMELESS VETERANS

Summer Creek students are laying the foundation for a real-world service learning project that will benefit their community. Students will join together across subjects and disciplines to build a tiny home for a veteran in need. Big Heroes, Tiny Homes is an initiative organized by teachers and students of Summer Creek and Kingwood Park High Schools. Its goal: "to eradicate homelessness for veterans everywhere," said Julie Sahmel, SCHS Student Council adviser.

On Wednesday, December 12, Summer Creek High School hosted its first annual wall raising ceremony. The event had a festive, holiday theme as a Christmas tree was decorated with ornaments from each academic department. Visitors ate cookies and enjoyed performances by the school's choir, band, and orchestra. Principal Brent McDonald estimated that between 300 and 400 community members were present. SCHS Student Body Vice President Blayne Adams said, "The event was a recognition time for the people who have been involved to say thank you, to show the community what we've done, and then to actually raise the wall [of the tiny house]."

Big Heroes, Tiny Homes was initiated by one of Summer Creek's assistant principals, Al Segura. He happened to see that in Kansas City a tiny homes project existed that benefitted homeless veterans in which vets did the actual construction of their houses. "Why can't we do that with students? Why can't students design and build these?" asked James Gaylord, SCHS architecture teacher. After receiving approval from the school board and administration, Mr. Segura pulled a team together including the student council, architecture students, and many other departments on campus. Big Heroes, Tiny Homes eventually hopes to partner with a nonprofit organization in order to grow the initiative from a small project to an ongoing construction project. "Our ideal would be to start each tiny house at the beginning of the school year and finish at the end of the school year, and every year we would build a new one," Mr. Gaylord said. "It would be designed and built by our students, so that every year students would have an opportunity to contribute to the tiny home."

Students have begun construction on the 320-square-foot house, and they will complete all the framing, sheetrock, roofing, and

plumbing for the home. "It's totally student-driven, but they're partnered with local professionals, so that the students can learn from the professionals and the professionals can certify the quality of the work," said Mrs. Sahmel.

All students were required to have safety certification training before being authorized to work on the home. Architecture students volunteer their time each Wednesday afternoon, and spend about two hours of the day working outside on the home. The students involved with the project have a unique opportunity to work on a project with immediate real-world application and significance. Mr. Gaylord tells his students, "We will do this today, because if we put this off another day, that will be another day a vet has to be on the streets."

Currently, the project coordinators are requesting donations of funding and supplies in order to minimize delays to the project. The estimated cost of this year's tiny home is \$25,000. With the proper funding and attention, Big Heroes, Tiny Homes could expand beyond just Kingwood Park and Summer Creek. The vision is to see this become a nationwide initiative.



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### SCHOOLS

Summerwood Elementary ..... 281-641-3000  
 Lakeshore Elementary ..... 281-641-3500  
 Post Office ..... 713-695-2690  
 4206 Little York, Houston, TX 77078

## SUMMERWOOD ONSITE MGMT OFFICE

The Onsite Management Office is located inside Resident Club Central at 14111 Summerwood Lakes Drive.

### Office Hours

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.  
 Saturday 10 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
 Office phone: 281-225-2786

*If you require assistance, please contact Jennifer Northington at 281-852-1700 or at [customercare@ciaservices.com](mailto:customercare@ciaservices.com).*

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## Message From The Northeast Water Purification Plant Expansion Project

Thank you to those that attended our quarterly meeting in January at Lakeside United Methodist Church. We hope we answered your questions about the expansion of the Northeast Water Purification Plant. This expansion project is said to be the largest public works project in the country at this time. We realize it is inconvenient having this big of a construction site in your neighborhood, which is why we are doing everything in our power to try to reduce the disruption.

Once this project is complete the Northeast Water Purification Plant will be able to purify up to 400 million gallons of drinking water each day for use in the Houston/Harris County area. This water will be drawn from surface water supplied by Lake Houston instead of removing the water from the ground which causes subsidence and ultimately flooding.

While this project is under construction we will maintain open communication with Summerwood and neighboring communities so that we can inform you about our progress and notify you of our plans in your area. If you have questions or concerns please contact us by calling 281-520-3777 or email us at [newppexpansion@gmail.com](mailto:newppexpansion@gmail.com) or go to [www.greaterhoustonwater.com](http://www.greaterhoustonwater.com).

If you would like to submit questions for us to answer in the next Summerwood Life Newsletter, please email us at [newppexpansion@gmail.com](mailto:newppexpansion@gmail.com). Our goal is to submit an update each month to Summerwood Life and we are happy to focus on any specific issues and concerns you and your neighbors may suggest. Thank you for your patience and understanding.



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## Welcome Home to Joy Lutheran, your Summerwood Church

Summerwood residents have seen the rapid growth of our neighbourhood and can now get almost anything without driving more than 10 minutes. But we've been missing a key element, a friendly neighborhood church! Joy Lutheran has been working hard to be just that...we're here for Summerwood and beyond! Pastor Mark Brunette crafts his Sundays by taking a modern approach to the traditional Lutheran service. His goal is to ensure everyone feels welcome and comfortable no matter if it's your first time in a church or you're a lifelong Lutheran.

If you're worried about fitting in, don't be; everyone is new! Do you have kids? Joy Lutheran has a great Sunday school for children from 3 to our high school Confirmation class. Can you sing or ring a bell? We have a great choir and a bell choir too. Want to help our Prayer Warrior team? We need your prayers! There are many more opportunities, ministries and outreach programs that Joy Lutheran has for you. And of course, if you just want to join the worship, eat a donut and slide out, Joy Lutheran has your back on that too.

What's great about Joy being so close is that you meet your neighbors: the family that lives on Southern Spring, those empty nesters on Carolina Hollow, that mom and daughter in the one-

story on Lady Jane Court. Our goal is community and faith in a friendly setting. We're located at 14450 Woodson Park Drive, next to Wood Creek Middle School. For more information please go to our website at [joyforyou.org](http://joyforyou.org) or visit us on Facebook @ joylutheranhouston. We hope to see you at Joy Lutheran and welcome home!



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## What's Happening at Summer Creek BizCom?

Area residents and area business representatives are invited to attend all regularly scheduled information meetings of the Summer Creek BizCom. These meetings pertain to business and economic expansions and concerns, traffic and safety issues, health projects, projected developments in our area, and so much more. The information shared by various speakers focuses on business and community concerns in the area zoned to the SummerCreek High School. BizCom meetings are held at SCHS four times a year and a complimentary lunch is provided to all attendees. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 14 from 11- noon and will be followed by an optional networking session.

In order to reserve your spot and your lunch, please see <http://web.lakehouston.org/events>, or contact the Summer Creek BizCom staff liaison, Chris O'Dell at 281-319-8905 or at [codell@lakehouston.org](mailto:codell@lakehouston.org).

## Summerwood Crime Watch Committee Meets Tuesday, February 12

If you are a Summerwood resident and attend crime watch meetings you can consider yourself a member of the crime watch committee. There is no membership fee or enrollment process or responsibility to perform a task. The meetings are informative and brief. The committee meets at the central clubhouse at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and most likely the meeting will adjourn and you will be home by 8:00 p.m.

Are you interested in finding out what crimes are currently occurring in the area? Would you like to meet your Precinct 3 Constable contract deputies and the HPD officers that patrol Summerwood and hear their monthly reports? Could you benefit from hearing about simple and effective ways to protect your personal self and your personal property? Come and check us out!

If you are a Summerwood resident that participates on Facebook and have not already joined the Summerwood Crime Watch Facebook group, please consider joining for timely posts, pictures, and videos of concerns in the community.

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## LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB - FEBRUARY MEETING

The Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization dedicated to connecting women through monthly luncheon meetings, social activities and various interest groups. Our next luncheon will be on Tuesday, February 19, from 10:00-12:30 at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest Drive in Humble, TX 77346. The cost of the event is \$17 per person and includes lunch and entertainment.

Our guest speaker this month will be Robert "Skip" Richter who will speak about preparing for spring gardening. Skip is a horticulturist, gardening educator, garden writer and avid horticultural photographer. Skip received his master's degree in horticulture from Texas A&M University and has gone on to manage Master Gardener programs in Montgomery, Travis and Harris counties, where he currently coordinates over 325 volunteers. This will be a great talk for all gardening enthusiasts.

The club welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Many interest groups are available including Movie Group, Shooting Club, Tea Time, Bunco, Mah Jongg, Lunch 'N Look, Supper Club, Game Day, Hand Knee and Foot, Mexican Train, Reader's Choice and Bridge. 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 webpage at <http://www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com> or call Karen at 281-900-5584 by Tuesday, February 12.





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## Streetlights

CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout Summerwood. If a light is out or is blinking, please call CenterPoint at (713) 207-2222 or report it online.

**You will be asked to provide:**

- a pole number for the non-functioning lights you want to report
- contact information (in case more information is needed to locate a streetlight)
- an email address (if you want feedback regarding your repair request)
- the number of streetlights you would like to report

The system will guide you through the remaining steps.



## Fight F.O.G.

Did you know that one of the greatest dangers to your plumbing is F.O.G.? Not the gray, wispy clouds that make it hard to see, but FOG... Fats, Oils, Grease that are found in common food and food ingredients such as meat, fish, butter, cooking oil, mayonnaise, gravies, sauces and food scraps.

**F.O.G. Means Trouble!**

If not handled properly, F.O.G. can solidify and stick to the sides of your drain and pipes. Over time, a buildup of F.O.G. can plug your pipes and cause a sewage backup. F.O.G.s also cause operational problems with the sanitary sewer collection system and wastewater treatment facility.

What Can You Do? Follow just a few simple steps to help prevent sewer backups and spills.

Pour cold fats, oils and grease into a covered, disposable container and throw in the garbage. NEVER pour these items down sink drains or toilets.

Soak up spilled oil and grease with absorbent materials such as paper towels or kitty litter and throw them into the garbage.

Before you wash dishes, scrape food scraps, fats, oils, and grease into your garbage.

Use sink strainers to catch remaining food waste while washing dishes.

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The Deadline for filing is April 30, 2019.

## Wood Fencing Standards Must be Harmonious within the Neighborhood

All residents are encouraged to maintain, repair, and keep up the best appearance of their fence possible. No one wants to see fencing that is in disrepair and distracts from the beauty of our neighborhood. Of course, there comes a time when wood fences need to be and should be replaced:

- When replacing a fence it must be of like material and height as originally installed by the builder in order to maintain harmony with surrounding fences. Although rot boards are allowed, the fence should be 6 feet from the natural ground.
- Clear Sealant is permitted.
- Paint, Stain, or Tinted Sealant is prohibited so that fences maintain a more harmonious and consistent appearance throughout the community.

If you deviate from the way the original fence was installed by the builder you should submit a Home Improvement request to the architectural board for approval.

## Ways to Clean Oil off a Driveway

### Cat Litter

Put cat litter on the stain and rub it in.  
Let it sit for a while, then, sweep the cat litter up.  
Repeat at least once.

### Peat Moss

Spread peat moss on the stain. Roll it over the stain.

### Pepsi

Pour some Pepsi over the stain. Scrub the spot vigorously.  
Repeat if necessary.

### Simple Green

Pour lots of Simple Green on the stain. Let the spot soak for a few hours. Wipe/rinse the area.

### Liquid Tide

Cover the area with liquid Tide.  
Pour ¼ cup of water on top of the Tide.  
Use an old broom to scrub the area for about 5 minutes.  
Wipe down the area and/or rinse it with a hose.  
Repeat if necessary.

### Oil-Removal Product

Go to local hardware store and ask for a product that will clean up the oil. Pour oil cleaner on the ground, rub a little with a rag and let it vaporize. Repeat if necessary.

### Oxy Clean Laundry Spray

Spray generously with Oxy Clean laundry spray.  
Let this stand for a few minutes. Scrub with a stiff brush.  
Wipe with a paper towel or flush with hose.

### Pour N Restore

Pour this white liquid on the oil stain.  
Let it dry into a powder and brush the powder away.



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## PROTECT OUR SUMMERWOOD LAKES

Please Catch and Release!



Summerwood residents are invited to enjoy fishing in either of the two larger lakes in Summerwood located on each side of West Lake Houston Parkway at Summerwood Lakes Drive. Sound like fun? The lake by the central community building is Lake Anne, and the lake where the gazebo is located is Lake Meredith. Both are designated for catch and release fishing! Have fun fishing there, but please remember to release the fish from your tackle as gently as possible and place them back in the water, hopefully before the fish experiences serious exhaustion or injury.

Please note that the two smaller lakes near the waterfalls at the beltway entrance of Summerwood are part of the protected wetlands and residents are not to disturb this area in any way including fishing or feeding the wildlife.

## DISTANCES AROUND THE SUMMERWOOD LAKES

Lake Ryan is the small lake by the tennis courts: 724 feet (.13 miles)

Lake Anne is the lake by the clubhouse: 3,444 feet (.65 miles)

Lake Meredith is the lake with the gazebo: 4,803 feet (.91 miles)

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## National Time Management Month

Time is one of life's most valuable possessions, as it is something you can never get back. Subsequently, one of the most essential life skills to master is time management. After all, time management is really life management. Learning how to make every day count for something is the objective. But it takes ridding your life of procrastination and a great deal of self-discipline.

Mastering time management does more than just increase productivity. It can yield important health benefits as well. When time is managed wisely, it minimizes stress and improves the overall quality of your life.

### **Lay the foundation for effectively managing your time.**

Delegating the appropriate amount of time to get adequate sleep, maintain a healthy diet and exercising regularly are all essential elements to improve both focus and concentration. Making the time to create a healthy lifestyle will help improve your efficiency throughout the day, allowing for more time to complete other tasks.

### **Identify and evaluate how you are currently spending your time.**

If you drive to work, how do you pass the time during your commute? How many audiobooks or language tapes could you have completed while in traffic last month?

These are the best times throughout your day to incorporate all those little things that you "wished" you had time for. Over time, these habits become a lifestyle, and you will find yourself well ahead of the pack.

### **Say no to nonessential tasks and prioritize the ones of extreme value.**

Consider your goals and look at your schedule before agreeing to take on more work. If a task is time consuming but not necessarily important to the main goal, pass it off or add it to the bottom of the list.

### **Dedicate time blocks and limit distractions.**

Everyone has a place where they work the most effectively. Some people love to have music in their earbuds, while others need complete silence. Some people can work just as efficiently from their dining table as they can in a library cubicle. Wherever that place is, utilize it. Turn the television off, silence the cell phone, put away the tablet and dedicate complete focus to the task at hand. No responding to texts, no browsing the web.

When you operate your life in a healthy, organized fashion, and are able to execute daily tasks efficiently, stress is reduced, productivity increases and overall satisfaction manifests.

### **Never hesitate to take a break if needed.**

Everyone gets worn out from time to time and piling on more and more tasks leads to stress that will simply derail you from the mission at hand. Take a walk, go to the gym, get some fresh air or take that sick day you've been holding out on. Sometimes all we need is a moment of clarity and solitude to clear our overworked minds and recharge our bodies to give us that next big push.

After all, time management is really life management.



**Tracy Montgomery**  
Cell: 713.825.5905

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