

THE ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY GAZETTE

VOL 3 ISSUE 03 | MARCH 2019



THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Atascocita Forest Board

The mission of the Atascocita Forest Community Association Board is to represent the homeowners and work for the common good of our neighbors. The members of the board are your neighbors.

They live in Atascocita Forest and serve voluntarily for three-year terms. They are elected to the Board of Directors by Atascocita Forest residents at the Annual Meeting in February. Above all, the members of the board care about the community and the people who live here.

One of the primary duties of the board is to administer the regulations contained in the Atascocita Forest covenants and guidelines. Though these decisions sometimes cause disagreement, please remember that the regulations are designed to protect the property values in our neighborhood, which in turn protects the interests of all residents.

Your Current Board Members Are:

Norman Laskie – President

Kesha Stubblefield – Vice President

Troy King – Treasurer

Tomasina Sampa – Member at Large

Thomas Holt – Newly Elected Member

Please note the position titles will possibly change at the next board meeting in March, when official positions are appointed.

Don't Dump On AFCA

The AFCA must expend considerable funds paying contractors to pick up and dispose of green waste (dead tree branches) that are dumped on common areas. Dumping degrades the environment, is an eyesore, and is difficult to clean up. We should all take our obligation to protect the neighborhood environment seriously.

The trash contractor, Residential Recycling & Refuse of Texas, will pick up branches that are bundled and less than 4 feet in length. Bundles should be no larger than eighteen inches (18") in diameter and weigh no more than forty (40) pounds.

Local business, Dirt Cheap Mulch, will accept branches of any length for a small fee. Costs for all services are continuously rising. Please help keep our neighborhood attractive and clean.

Please do not dump debris in the street or gully (drainage) areas. Harris County will levy fines for cleanup. There have been several complaints in this area. This is against the law, creates rodent and insect habitats, and causes our beautiful neighborhood to be full of trash and decomposing material. Localized flooding of our homes could also occur as a result of the debris clogging the area drainage. We should all be more respectful of our environment.

If you witness anyone dumping, get the license plate number and a description of the vehicle if possible and call the Precinct 4 Constable Dispatch at 281-376-3472.

Decluttering Tips Room by Room

1. Put Away
2. Recycle
3. Fix/Mend
4. Trash
5. Donate

Put Away: This container is for items that have crept out of their storage spaces. This could mean a coffee cup in the bathroom or a sweatshirt in the kitchen. These are items that will go back in their designated spots.

Recycle: This bin is for items that will need to be recycled, such as paper, plastic or glass.

Fix/Mend: Use this container for items that need further tinkering, such as a pair of shoes that you love but which may need to be cleaned.

Trash: Designate one basket for items that are simply trash-things that can go into the household trash immediately.

Donate: Designate one bin for items that you can donate to a charitable organization or another person. These should be items you can imagine another person wanting or needing.

You can use bins, baskets or even just cardboard boxes for this task. You can bring these bins into each room as you declutter or leave them in a central place in your home while you work. The important thing is that you don't go hunting for containers while you're decluttering – set up bins before you begin. These easy steps will help you stay on task and declutter your rooms.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911
 Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
 Poison Control..... 800-222-1222

NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Pct 4 Constable Non-Emergency Dispatch..... 281-376-3472
 Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept. 281-852-2181
 Harris County Precinct 4 281-376-3472
 Texas No Call List Registration 866-TXN-OCAL
 Emergency Roadside Assistance..... 800-525-5555

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD 281-540-1775
 Whispering Pines Elementary..... 281-641-2500
 Humble Middle School..... 281-641-2500
 Humble High School 281-641-6300

UTILITY NUMBERS

Report Power Outage - Centerpoint..... 713-207-7777
 Report Street Light Outage - Centerpoint 713-207-2222
 Report Gas Leak - Centerpoint 713-659-2111
 Centerpoint (Gas) 713-659-2111
 Call Before You Dig 811
 Water - SiEnvironmental..... 832-490-1600
 Emergency Number 832-490-1601
 Electricity - Multiple Providers www.powertochoose.org
 Trash - RR&R of Texas..... 866-516-9805
 MUD District www.TrailoftheLakesMUD.com

PUBLIC SERVICES

Humble Post Office..... 281-540-1775
 DPS Office..... 281-446-3391
 Harris County Clerk (Will Clayton Pkwy.) 281-540-1173

NEIGHBORHOOD MANAGEMENT

Community Asset Management
 www.CommunityAssetManagement.com
 Pam Valentine..... pvalentine@cam-texas.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

Norman Laskie - President norman@atascocitaforest.org
 Kesha Stubblefield - Vice President....kesha@atascocitaforest.org
 Troy King - Treasurer..... troy@atascocitaforest.org
 Thomas Holt-Member at Large .. thomas@atascocitaforest.org
 Tomasina Sampa - Director tomasina@atascocitaforest.org

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Filing for a Texas Property Tax Exemption

Why?

As a new property owner, you are required to pay property taxes on the real estate. Filing for a Texas Property Tax Exemption will reduce your property tax bill. It removes part of the value of your property form taxation and lowers your taxes.

You will need to notify the taxing authorities of your new ownership so that the taxing rolls will reflect the change. You can do this by contacting the appropriate tax appraisal district in your county.

Where & How?

Harris County Appraisal District	713-957-7800
www.hcad.org	
Montgomery County Appraisal District	936-756-3354
www.mcad-tx.org	
Brazoria County Appraisal District	979-849-7792
www.brazoriacad.org	
Fort Bend County Appraisal District	281-344-8623
www.fbcad.org	
Galveston County Appraisal District	866-277-4725
www.galvestoncad.com	
Waller County Appraisal District	979-921-0060
www.waller-cad.org	

You must file between January 1st and no later than April 30th of the year you are requesting an exemption. In order to qualify for a residential homestead exemption you must provide the following to the County Appraisal District when submitting your application:

****A copy of the applicant's Texas Driver's License or Texas Identification Certificate****

NOTE: The property address on the exemption application must match the address listed on the applicant's Texas Driver's License/Texas Identification Certificate; otherwise the Chief Appraiser is prohibited from approving the exemption.

2019 Tax Exemptions

Contact your appraisal district to learn more about the following exemptions; which ones you qualify for and how to file for them:

- General Homestead Exemption
- Over 65 Exemption
- Disabled Individual Exemption
- Disabled Veteran Exemption
- Agricultural Land Exemption

To receive your exemption(s), you must own the property and be living in the property as of January 1st. This is a FREE service.

Tax statements are generally mailed in October of each year. The taxes are payable on or after October 31st, however, you may elect to pay them as late as January 31st without penalty. Taxes become delinquent February 1st and on this date penalties and interest do accrue. If you receive a Tax Statement and your mortgage company is escrowing funds for taxes from your monthly payments, forward the statement to your mortgage company so they can pay the taxes.



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In 2018 vs. 2017, Houston's Single Family Homes sales rose 3.8%, while Overall Property Sales rose 3.7%, and the Total Dollar Volume jumped 21.5% to a record-breaking \$28 billion.

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bharris@remax-east.com
www.billiejeanharris.com



ATASCOCITA FOREST

Request for A.C.C. Approval

Atascocita Forest Community Association
9802 F.M. 1960 Bypass W., Suite #210
Humble, TX 77338
(281) 852-1155 fax (281) 852-9111

1. Please provide the information requested below, and attach this sheet to your plans.
2. Please provide a sketch of the location of the proposed work on a photocopy of the plat of your property. Scaled architect's, engineer's or contractor's drawings may be used as an alternative if lot lines, easements and building set-back lines are shown. Sketches are not required for re-roof or re-paint. However, re-roofing submissions require shingle weight and color to be specified; re-painting submissions must be accompanied by "paint chip" samples.
3. If you desire a copy of the approved plans, please submit an extra set for review. The principal copy of all submitted plans will be retained by the Committee.
4. Your plans will be reviewed as soon as possible. The Committee is required to act on the plans within 30 days, but the review process rarely takes that long

NAME: _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS (if different) _____

HOME TELEPHONE: ____ - ____ - ____ SEC: ____ BLK: ____ LOT: ____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MODIFICATION FOR WHICH APPROVAL IS REQUESTED:

NAME OF CONTRACTOR (if any): _____

PHONE: _____ ADDRESS: _____

PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION START DATE: ____/____/____

Your project must start within 90 days from the date of approval or you must resubmit for approval

PROPOSED COMPLETION DATE: ____/____/____

All projects must be completed within 120 days from the date the project commenced.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT: _____ DATE: _____

March Landscaping Tips

• **WATER WATCH** – Many homes have an automatic irrigation system. This is a big component to the overall health of your landscape. It is helpful to turn on each zone and check for proper operation now that we are approaching warmer weather. Adjusting the run times, how many days a week it is set to run and making any needed repairs is not only important to plant health but water savings as well.

• **SHRUBBERY, GROUND COVERS & ROSES** – Last month we talked about pruning and shaping these items. You are now likely starting to see the new foliage growth and buds being set on blooming plant materials. Now is not a good time to do any heavy pruning or shearing! Avoid this so the blooming plants can go thru this process. Once the blooming cycle is complete then it is a good time to get things manicured again.

• **SPRING SEASONAL COLOR** – March is a great time to plant seasonal color for those who want to enjoy some fresh new color! There will be a variety of choices at your local nursery to pick from. Here are a couple of things to consider prior to the fun planting part! One, check the bed space where the color will be installed. It's always a good idea to have four to six inches of mixed soil as a good medium for the new bedding plants to grow in. This makes it easier for the tender new root systems to absorb water and nutrients, giving them a better chance to make you happy!

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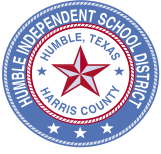
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Humble ISD 2019-20 Calendar

August

- 1-2 Staff Workdays**
- 5-9 Staff Workdays
- 12 First Day of School
- 15 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 16 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 22 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 23 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 29 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 30 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal

September

- 2 Labor Day Holiday
- 12 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 13 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 19 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 20 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 23 Elementary Holiday/Staff Workday
- 26 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 27 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal

October

- 3 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 4 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 7-11 Student & Teacher Holiday
- 17 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 18 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 24 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 25 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 31 MS and HS Late Arrival*

November

- 1 Elementary Holiday/Staff Workday/
Parent Conferences
- 1 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 7 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 8 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 14 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 15 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 21 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 22 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 25-29 Thanksgiving Break

December

- 19 MS and HS Early Release
- 20 Early Release for All Schools
- 23-Jan. 3 Winter Break

* HMS and SMS do not participate in Late Arrival days

** District Comp Days: Aug. 1 & 2

Legend

- Holiday
- Semester Begins/Ends
- All Students Holiday/Staff Workday
- Elementary Holiday/Staff Workday
- Summer Closing Days
- Student & Teacher Holiday/ Administrative Workday
- STAAR/EOC: Projected State Testing Days
Calendar subject to change if the state changes testing days.

January

- 6 All Students Holiday/Staff Workday
- 7 Spring Semester Classes Begin
- 16 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 17 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 20 MLK Day Holiday
- 30 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 31 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal

February

- 3-7 Student & Teacher Holiday
- 13 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 14 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 17 Elementary Holiday/Staff Workday
- 20 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 21 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 27 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 28 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal

March

- 5 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 6 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 9-13 Spring Break
- 16 Elementary Holiday/Staff Workday
- 19 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 20 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 26 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 27 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal

April

- 2 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 3 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 10 Good Friday Holiday
- 23 MS and HS Late Arrival*
- 24 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 30 MS and HS Late Arrival*

May

- 1 HMS/SMS Early Dismissal
- 22 High School Early Release
- 25 Memorial Day Holiday
- 28 MS and HS Early Release
- 29 Early Release for all Schools
- 29 Last Day of School

June

- 1-4 Teacher & Staff Workdays

Inclement Weather Days:

Feb. 3 & 4

May become student school days if time is lost to bad weather. Otherwise, will be Student & Teacher Holidays/ Administrative Workdays.

Regular School Hours

Elementary School: 7:55 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.
Middle School: 8:25 a.m.* to 4 p.m.
**HMS/SMS begin at 8:20 a.m.*
High School: 7:15 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Student Days

Elementary School 171
Middle School & High School 175

Teacher Days 187

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28	29	30				

All grade levels (K-12) will have 9-week grading periods.

Edited 01-22-2019

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Early Spring Means Early Spring Cleaning

We all love spring; it is that time of the year when we say bye to a chilly season and hello to a warm one. However, the one thing that we soon realize is the spring cleaning comes with the season. Every year and without fail, we are reminded of the level of neglect we show to our homes. Yes, winters are dark, dreary, and cold with short days that just drain the energy out of us. So my suggestion is to read these spring cleaning tips and give your house a good clean. It is meant to bring back that freshness and sparkle into the home as you and your family look forward to a great summer.

Include Your Family-Spring cleaning should be a family activity where everyone gets to chip in and have a vital part to play. For it to be done right, then you need to know what to do, and this calls for a reliable house cleaning plan and having several important tips that can make the job easy.

Spring Cleanup - Make Your Plans

Giving your home a spring cleanup entails a lot of work; you have to clean it top to bottom to ensure all the dirt and dust is gone. As mentioned earlier, it is important to put your house in order and have a plan of attack. So plan how it will go, room by room.

Getting Rid Of Clutter-A surprising thing that dawns on us almost every year as spring arrives is the amount of clutter we have in our homes. It is thus necessary not only to clean but to also organize, and work at getting rid of clutter. You will have to put away what you are not using and be brutal about getting rid of things that you no longer use. Remember the family should be involved so that everyone identifies the items that are of little or no use.

Work Room by Room-When it comes to spring cleaning, it is easy to get carried away and start tackling several areas in the house at once. Doing this seldom works and only turns the spring cleanup into a tedious affair. The right approach to cleaning your house is to take things one step at a time option to work from one room to the next starting with the kitchen followed by the bathroom and then the family room, for example. Since you have the family in on the spring cleaning, they can be handling other sections of the house such as their bedrooms, the attic, balcony, or patio. Have each person finish their job or room before starting a new project. These spring cleaning tips are meant to encourage you to make your plan and take action. Cleaning and getting rid of clutter will make your place sparkle and shine, lifting your mood and making your dwelling much easier to live in.



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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