

SPRING TRAILS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING TRAILS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

VOL 1

ISSUE 9

Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center



The Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center officially re-opened August 3rd after months of renovation efforts following Hurricane Harvey. Hundreds of visitors were excited to see the restored facility, artifacts, live and interactive displays, and a beautiful new patio addition. Along with

the knowledgeable Nature Center staff, Texas A&M Agrilife Extension featured discussions on water-wise lawn care, family and community health, and master gardening. Other presenters educated attendees on reptiles and other inhabitants of the Spring Creek watershed as well as the varieties of fish in the pond adjacent to Spring Trails. Another presenter provided information on classes to help families with 2-5 year olds quickly learn the basics of fishing.

Throughout the year, Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center offers educational and recreational opportunities for all ages with a focus on local plants and animals of the Spring Creek watershed. Upcoming events include:

- Story Time in the Forest - September 16,
- Family Fishing Camp - October 12, and
- Foraging Class - November 2.

The Spring Creek Greenway Nature Center website remains under construction. In the interim, these and future events will be posted on their Facebook page.

Spring Trails is uniquely privileged to have the Spring Creek Greenway watershed as our neighbor. Get up close and personal with many species of local wildlife. Take a walk along the various nature trails winding throughout the watershed. Fish (catch and release only) in the pond conveniently located at the north-west edge of Spring Trails. The Nature Center, located at 1300 Riley Fuzzel Road, is open Monday-Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm, except holidays. Nature trails are open daily, dawn-to-dusk.



Who ya gonna call?

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Beautification Committee

The 2019 Community Tree Planting Day organized by the Beautification Committee was an overwhelming success. All but 2 of the 135 trees donated by Trees For Houston and planted along Spring Trails Park Drive, Cameron Park and Kallie Hills Lane are flourishing in their new home. Building on that success the Beautification Committee intends to prepare a 3-year plan of beautification initiatives including such activities as designating and planting a bluebonnet or wild flower field, adopting and enhancing the pollinator garden, community clean up events, walking trail beautification, a gardening club or educational events, and more.

The efforts and contributions of the Beautification Committee are critical to ensuring our unique and treasured Forest of Possibilities continues to thrive. The Board of Directors on behalf of the Association thanks current and former volunteers of the Beautification Committee, and extends an invitation to residents interested in getting involved with beautification efforts to contact the Board or the Committee for future meeting and event dates.



Before



After



AWANA Program

Registration starts August 14th

2 years old through 6th grade

Wednesdays 6:30pm - 7:45pm

starting August 28th

Register online at www.discovergatewaykids.com



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Amenities Committee

One of the primary benefits to living in a master-planned community is the amenities or common elements. Spring Trails offers athletic facilities, nature trails, playgrounds and an abundance of natural habitat, promoting active and nature-oriented lifestyles for residents of all ages. In order to remain competitive with new developments, maintain property values, and most importantly promote home ownership and appeal to prospective buyers, communities must continually evaluate the usefulness and relevance of assets, and identify creative and unique improvements that align with the lifestyle of residents and prosper a sense of community.

To this end, the Board of Directors established an Amenities Committee task with identifying potential upgrades to Spring Trails amenities. The committee convened in May to discuss the status of Spring Trails amenities, the value amenities bring to a community, and the importance of maintaining safe, sustainable and relevant amenities. The initial focus of the committee, identified by the Board of Directors, is Cardinal Sports Park.

Committee Chair Jacob Corbin and committee volunteers have been aggressively compiling ideas and information addressing various components of the park and surrounding areas. Progress of the committee's activities have been reported at the monthly HOA Board meetings. The Committee intends to present a formal and comprehensive proposal to the Board early this Fall.



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Policy Review Committee

Spring Trails Community Association maintains and enforces governing and use policies established to protect Members' quality of life and property values. These policies are outlined in a variety of governing documents, all available on the Spring Trails website: By-Laws, Builder Guidelines, Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions and Supplemental Guidelines.

In August, the Board of Directors established a Policy Review Committee charged with reviewing the Association's governing documents and proposing changes to clarify, simplify and update the policies and guidelines. The initial objective for the committee will be to consolidate and compile a single set of architectural guidelines, applicable to all sections of Spring Trails, that complies with Texas property codes, incorporates current trends and industry standards, and promotes the original vision of Spring Trails is honored.

The first topics being reviewed and updated are 3 architectural guidelines: roofs, fences and front yard trees. These topics will have an immediate impact on the majority of the community and allow the committee volunteers an opportunity to become familiar with the many various documents in place as well as the process of updating them.

Periodic updates on committee progress will be posted to the Spring Trails website.

Communications

Thank you to this month's Newsletter Contributors: Malinda Seger, Roger Olsen. Residents interested in submitting stories or articles for inclusion in the newsletter can do so online at <https://peelinc.com/index.php/submit-an-article/>. Articles are due by the 10th day of the preceding month.

2019 Election

Spring Trails will elect two members to the Board of Directors this November. Article III of the By-Laws of Spring Trails Community Association, Inc. defines the composition and selection of Board members, and the powers and duties of the Board. Members are encouraged to consider serving the community as a member of the Board.

Formal notifications and announcements will be mailed to all members. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors and have questions regarding the process and/or expectations, please contact Inframark or the Board of Directors through Spring Trails Request Manager.

Yard of the Month

Sponsored by Inframark

Congratulations to the July 2019 Yard of the Month winners:



2103 Plato Point-Magnolia Chase



28010 Emma Gardens-Chestnut Falls



1327 Eden Meadows-Birch Ridge

And thank you to Inframark for sponsoring 3 Yard of the Month winners for May, June, July and August.

ARC Spotlight: Pets

There are a number of proven health benefits to having pets, including physical, mental and emotional improvements, from enhancing social skills to decreasing a person's risk of heart attack. Spring Trails is home to hundreds of beloved pets. This month's ARC Spotlight focuses on the Association's use restrictions specific to animals and pets (reference Covenants, Conditions & Restrictions, Section VII-6). In summary:

- Households are limited to a maximum of 3 dogs, cats or other usual and common household pets in the aggregate;
 - No animals shall be kept, bred or maintained for any commercial purpose on a Lot.
 - Dogs which are household pets shall be on a leash or otherwise confined at all times whenever outside a Residence.
 - The owner of a pet that has caused damage to property shall be responsible for compensating the owner of the damaged property.
 - Exotic animals or animals which endanger health or otherwise constitute a nuisance or inconvenience to the Owners or Occupants within the Properties may be prohibited by the Board.
 - Animal control authorities shall be permitted to enter Properties to patrol and remove pets.
 - Pets shall be registered, licensed and inoculated as required by law.
- Visit www.springtrails.com, Documents menu for additional details regarding pets, as well as other use restrictions and architectural guidelines.

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Text Alerts



Have you signed up for text alerts yet? If not, sign up through the Spring Trails website at www.springtrails.com. Existing users can click “Your Profile” at the top right of the home page enter a mobile phone number to the “Text messaging number” field and save your update. New users must first register through the website by clicking “Register” at the top right of

the home page and completing the required fields. Remember, only one user per household.

Recycling Reminder

The recycling pickup carrier and pick up schedule has changed. 95-gallon recycling carts have been delivered to all homes within Spring Trails. **Republic Services will pick up recycling twice-monthly, on the first and third Wednesdays.** Residents are reminded to place recycling carts at the curb the night before pick up, and to store recycling carts out of sight between pick ups. Residents who wish to opt out of the recycling program, can contact Republic Services at 713-726-7300 to arrange for return of the recycling cart.

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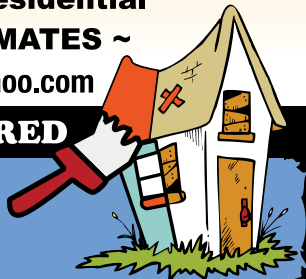
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September 2nd

Back to School Bash and Matthew's Birthday Wish Food Drive

September 3rd

MUD 94 Board Meeting

September 12th

HOA Board Meeting

September 13th

Heavy Trash Day

September 21st

Community Garage Sale

October 1st

National Night Out

October 1st

MUD 94 Board Meeting

October 10th

HOA Board Meeting

October 11th

Heavy Trash Day

October 26th

Monster Mash

Visit the Spring Trails Website, Events tab for event details and to register.

IMPORTANT:

New Recycle Pick Up dates:
September 4th and September 18th.

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Texas A&M AgriLife Extension: Fall Baiting For Fire Ants

The month of September celebrates Fire Ant Awareness Week, so get involved! While you may not be seeing too many mounds yet, fall is a great time to bait for fire ants. Baiting in fall can help reduce the number of mounds appearing in spring. Baits take time for results to be seen, so be patient and schedule a regular baiting program for every spring and fall. If you need fire ants killed quickly, you may want to use an individual mound treatment.

Tips on using fire ant baits:

- Make sure you have a bait, not a granular
 - o Baits are either broadcasted over an entire property or sprinkled AROUND individual mounds for fire ants to pick up as food. Baits should NOT get wet.
 - o Granulars are sprinkled on TOP of a mound and watered in to carry the pesticide into the mound to come into contact with the ants.
 - o Read the product label BEFORE YOU BUY to figure out if it is a bait or granular.
- Broadcasting baits using a handheld spreader saves time and reduces the amount of chemical applied to the environment.
- Use the proper amount of bait and application equipment for your yard size
 - o Read the label; it will tell you the rate of application and equipment required for application.
 - o Many baits are placed at a rate of 1-1 ½ pounds per acre.
 - o Many people do not follow the label and put out more bait than is needed.
- Check that fire ants are foraging before putting out bait.
 - o Place a hotdog slice or potato chip near a mound, leave for 10 minutes, then check for fire ant activity.
- Do not use stale or old bait.
 - o Smell bait to make sure it is not spoiled; spoiled bait smells rancid (if you are using spinosad fire ant bait, it smells somewhat funky normally so do not be alarmed).
 - o Store bait sealed in the original container out of reach of children and animals.

- Get your neighbors to bait the same time as you do; this will push reinvasion boundaries of fire ants further away from your property.

- o Even better, organize a community-wide fire ant management program; they can help reduce the amount of fire ants within your community & save money on chemical costs for everyone in the neighborhood.

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

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



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(We are still working Insurance claims for hail or wind damage in Spring Trails...)



Tips For Packing A Healthy School Lunch

by Stephany Pando, *cooksmarts.com*, edited for space

Packing lunches for your back-to-schoolers is no easy task. It takes time and planning. Plus, every parent knows that just because you pack it, doesn't guarantee your kids will actually eat it.

However, this doesn't mean you have to fill your kids' lunchboxes with pizza and cookies everyday. Below we offer 5 tips for how to pack a nutritious lunch that your kids will look forward to eating and you'll feel good about giving them.

Tip #1: Get Your Kids Involved

- Give your kids healthy food options from each food group and let them make the final decisions on what goes in their lunch.
- Take your child grocery shopping with you and let them have a say (to a certain extent) in what goes into the cart. This promotes feelings of responsibility and empowerment.
- Designate a part of your kitchen as the "lunch packing station" and spend some time there with your kids the night before to get lunch ready for the next day.

Tip #2: Turn Healthy Foods into Fun Foods

- Use cookie cutters to make shapes out of bread, deli meat, cheese, or a melon-baller for fruit.
- Use kid-friendly skewers to make colorful food kebabs.
- Create a theme for the day and have all of the foods in their lunch relate to the theme

Tip #3: Make Your Own Snacks – and limit processed ones

Kids rely on snacks to keep their energy up, but the type of snack is important to consider. Packaged snacks tend to lack important nutrients and can be high in sugar, sodium and

saturated fats. Take control of what is in your kids' snacks by making them yourself!

Tip #4: Incorporate All Food Groups

A balanced diet includes all of the food groups. Luckily, there are so many different ways to enjoy each food group:

- Fruits: fresh, frozen, dried, canned, baked (think apple chips!) or pureed.
- Vegetables: fresh, frozen, or baked (think kale chips!)
- Lean protein: baked chicken, deli meats, hard boiled eggs, beans or nuts (be aware of nut allergy regulations at your child's school).
- Low-fat dairy: milk, cheese or yogurt
- Whole Grains: pita, sandwich bread, tortillas, wraps, and pastas

Tip #5: Encourage Hydration

It's recommended that school-aged kids drink between 6-8 cups of water a day (even more in hot weather or if their activity level is high).

- Let your child pick out their favorite water bottle and encourage them to drink the whole thing at least twice at school. They'll be more inclined to do it if they feel like they are completing a challenge!
- If the "flavor" of water is too boring for them, throw in a few pieces of frozen fruit to sweeten it up – and keep it cooler.

With these tips in mind, you and your child are ready to start out the school year on the right foot. Good luck – and happy packing!



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School Zone Safety Tips



Conroe ISD's first day of school is August 14th. As home to Broadway Elementary and hundreds of school-age kids, Spring Trails residents are reminded of these simple but important school zone safety tips:

- Be alert when driving through area bus stops and school zones. Expect the unexpected when children are present.
- Obey the 20 mph speed limit within school zones.
- Put down the cell phone. Use of cell phones in school zones is **PROHIBITED**.
- Obey the crossing guards.
- Avoid delays and traffic congestion by scheduling your M-F routines around school drop off and pick up times.
- Park in designated areas only. Maintain safe and lawful distances when parked near fire hydrants (15'), intersections/crosswalks (20'), stop signs (30'), etc.

Welcome to Spring Trails!



Spring Trails welcomed dozens of new families to the community over the summer. Are you one of them? Welcome! You've probably already figured out just how unique

Spring Trails is. And there's more to come. Stay up-to-date on community news by registering with the Spring Trails website at www.springtrails.com. There you can review the Community's governing documents, preview and RSVP to upcoming community events, contact property management and the Board of Directors, request amenity access, sign up for text and email announcements, read about community initiatives, and much more.

Welcome to Spring Trails, the Forest of Possibilities.



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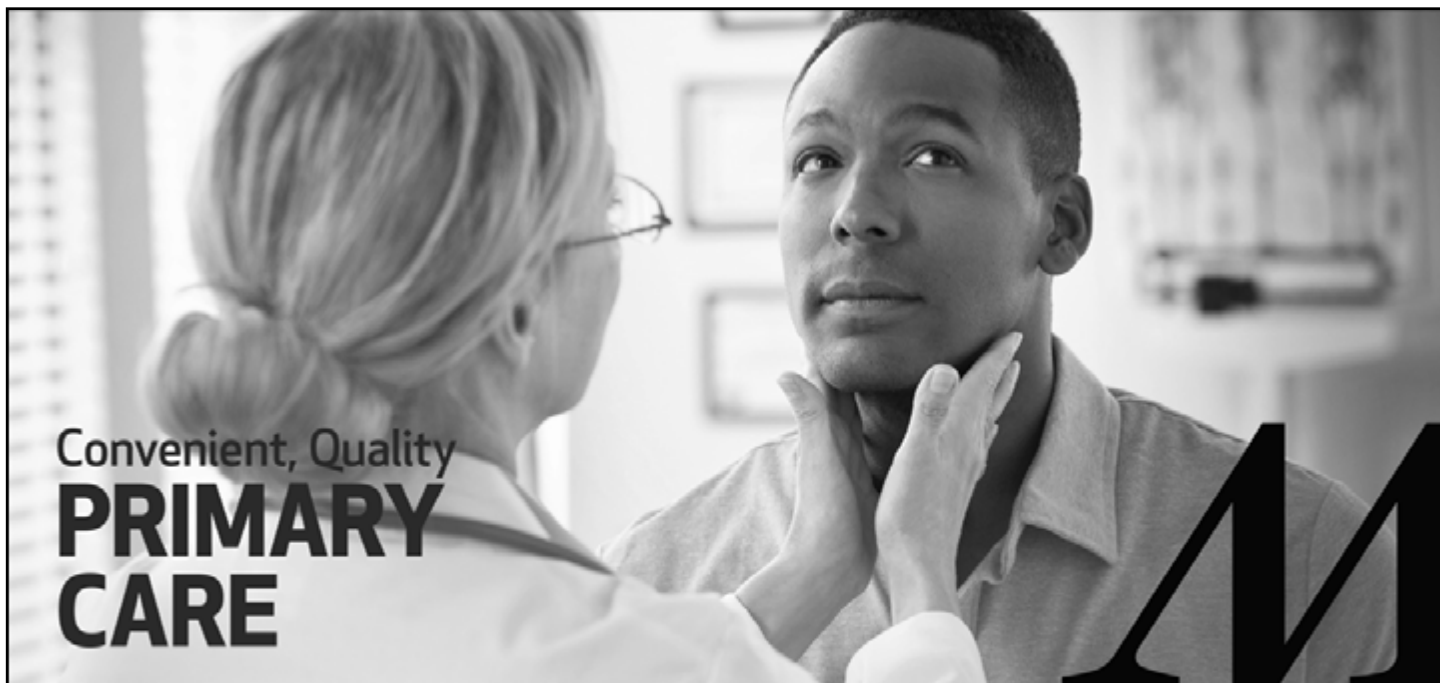
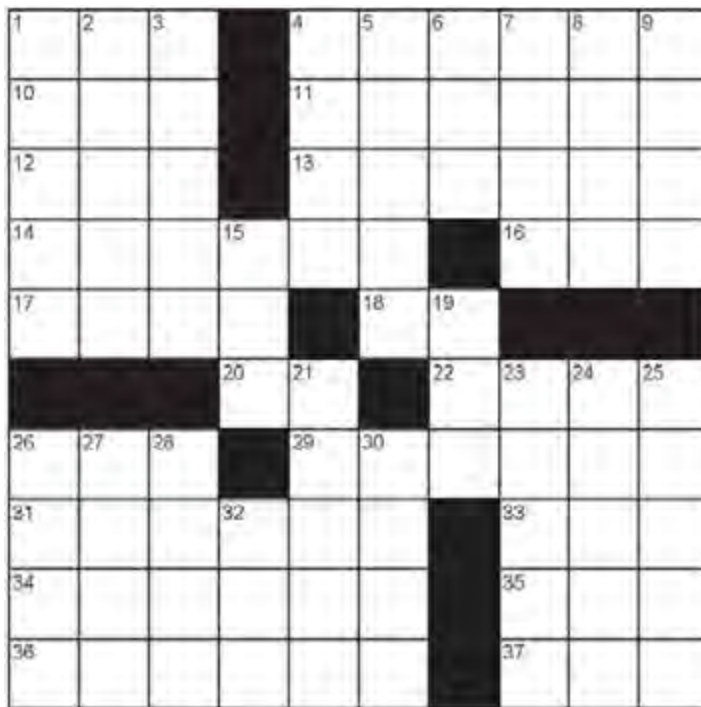
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20. Man's title
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31. Hype
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34. Glistening
35. Cask
36. Star system
37. South southeast

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3. Fast food meal
4. Ashen
5. Excuse
6. Cocktail drink
7. Follow
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9. Association (abbr.)
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19. Abridged (abbr.)
21. Become less tight
23. Onion like vegetables
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TEACHERS' TOP NEEDS FOR 2019

Great classrooms don't happen by accident. Teachers across the country work hard to build vibrant, energizing learning environments for their students, which often means everything from microscopes to pipe cleaners, graphic novels to oboes, class pets to field trips and much more. As a result, teachers spend more than \$1 billion from their own pockets each year on supplies.

However, parents and community members can lend a hand. Helping to offset teachers' expenses can take many forms, from working directly with your child's teacher to identify needs to participating in school-based fundraisers. Another option is sharing

your assistance with a program like DonorsChoose.org, which makes it easy for any individual to address the inequity in schools, one classroom at a time.

Over the past 19 years, more than 3.8 million people have donated to classrooms through the program. Last year alone, nearly 145,000 teachers had projects funded on the site and over 255,000 classroom requests were brought to life. These requests reveal some of the key things teachers across America need for success:

(Continued on Page 14)

SPRING TRAILS

(Continued from Page 13)

Books, Books and More Books

While books may seem “old school,” teachers know that a single book can change a student’s life. Year after year, teachers request books more than any other resource. Many elementary school teachers ask for leveled reading books to meet their students’ individual needs. Others want to diversify their libraries with books that reflect their students’ identities. “The Hate U Give” and “Wonder” are among the most popular books requested this year, and e-readers have become a popular way to expand libraries beyond what the classroom bookshelf can hold.

Flexible Seating and Classroom Furniture

Many teachers credit flexible seating with transforming the classroom learning experience. Rather than rigid desks, students choose from comfy chairs, bouncy balls, bean bags or wobble stools, all designed to let students get those wiggles out so they can better focus on their work.

Technology

Because of rapidly evolving technology, 65% of children now entering primary school will hold jobs that don’t currently exist. Resources like laptops and tablets help students learn at their own pace and practice 21st century skills like coding. For example, coding robots and 3D printers are becoming some of the most popular items requested in high schools.

Back to the Basics

Many teachers simply need basic supplies: paper, pencils and tissues top the list. Last year, teachers requested enough pens and pencils to write the complete works of William Shakespeare more than 2,000 times.

Life Essentials

Another popular request is “hygiene closets,” which allow teachers to provide students facing poverty with free toiletries to take home such as deodorant, toothbrushes and toothpaste, as well as laundry supplies and clean undergarments.

An Appreciation for the Arts

There are plenty of extracurricular activities at nearly every school that require care and compassion from the community. Drama teams, for example, require supplies to create music, perform plays and more. Donations often allow students to explore their artistic abilities while learning how to create sets, write their own scenes, use instruments and more while simultaneously building their management and teamwork skills.

Community Service

Not all learning must take place in a classroom. In fact, teachers across the country often take aim at new ways to engage students, such as integrating practical life into the daily curriculum through an outdoor learning environment like a community vegetable garden. By requesting composters, rain barrels, seeds, gardening tools and more, educators can take their classrooms outside to help make the planet healthier while students learn how to be healthier themselves. It also gives students an opportunity to give back to their community by donating food to local families in need.

Learn more about how you can make a difference for classrooms in need at www.donorschoose.org.



Most Requested School Supplies

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- **Technology**
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