

THE **ATASCOCITA FOREST**
COMMUNITY GAZETTE

VOL 3 ISSUE 11 | NOVEMBER 2019



THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ATASCOCITA FOREST COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Five Ways to Honor Your Local Veterans on Veteran's Day

While most of us are quick to post on social media, fly an American flag, or offer a quick handshake to a local service member on Veterans Day, many are unsure how to show our full appreciation for their service and sacrifice.

Below are 5 ways to truly honor veterans this Veteran's Day:

1. Volunteer Your Time.

There are hundreds of volunteer organizations that work both directly and indirectly with veterans. Turn your appreciation into action by offering your time and energy at any one of these noble causes. Contact your local VFW or American Legion to see what upcoming events may be in need of volunteers. Offer assistance to a local elderly or disabled vet, or volunteer a few hours to a local veteran-owned business. Whatever your skill, put it to use in your community by helping out the veterans closest to you. Visit texvet.com/volunteer to search for opportunities available in your area.

2. Donate Your Dollars

If you're short on time, making a monetary donation is another great way to show support. There are many organizations that offer various forms of aid assistance to our country's service members. For instance, Homes for Our Troops builds specially-equipped homes for injured service members. Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society offers financial assistance and scholarships. The Gary Sinise Foundation creates and supports unique programs specifically for veterans. There are countless organizations dedicated to improving the lives of American veterans, and they can only continue to do so with the financial support of grateful citizens like you.

3. Take Time to Listen

Taking time to have a real conversation with your neighbor seems to be a lost art in today's virtual world. Veterans have a wealth of knowledge and interesting stories to share for those willing to listen. Of course, not every veteran will be willing to share the details of their time in the service, but may enjoy reminiscing and sharing their unique perspective. Rather than simply thanking them for their service to our country, take a moment to open up a meaningful dialogue about their military service and how it has shaped their views on life and liberty.

Continued on Page 3...

Save the Date!

HOA Board Meetings are the 2nd Monday of every month. The next meeting will be November 11th, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at the Atascocita Forest Community Pool located at 17415 Woodland Hills Drive, Humble, TX 77346.

The MUD Board generally meets on the last Monday of the month at noon at the offices of Radcliffe Bobbitt Adams Polley PLLC 2929 Allen Parkway, Suite 3450 Houston, Texas 77019
The next meeting will be Monday, November 25th, 2019 at Noon.

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.

Current Board Members are:

Troy King - President/Treasurer
Kesha Stubblefield - Vice President
Tomasina Sampa - Secretary
Norman Laskie - Director
Janet Cowart - Director

ATASCOCITA FOREST

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
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

BOARD MEMBERS

Troy King - President & Treasurer ...	troy@atascocitaforest.org
Kesha Stubblefield - Vice President....	kesha@atascocitaforest.org
Tomasina Sampa - Secretary	tomasina@atascocitaforest.org
Norman Laskie - Director	norman@atascocitaforest.org
Janet Cowart - Member.....	janet@atascocitaforest.org

Have You Logged On Yet?

<https://www.atascocitaforest.org/>

Features of the Atascocita Forest Community Intranet include:

- Receive e-blasts from the Association (i.e. Association news, announcements, community events, local area happenings and more!)
- Resident Directory
- Current Events and Activities
- Documents and Forms (i.e. ACC guidelines, deed restrictions, financials etc.)
- Event Photos and MORE!

Street Light Out?

Street Light Out? Centerpoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout Atascocita Forest. If a light is out or blinking, please report it. We pay for all of the street lights in our subdivision.... every month...regardless if they are illuminated or not!! This is also a serious safety issue. To report an outage, follow these steps:

Call CenterPoint at (713) 207-2222 during normal business hours (7am -7 pm) or

Report it online at <http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage>.

You will be asked to provide the following:

- 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 e-mail 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.
- Streets

Traffic Issues

When a resident reports that someone has run a stop sign or is speeding, refer them to the local police department's non-emergency number. We can't control the way people drive but we can be understanding of the residents concern and listen. Referring them to local law enforcement is the only suggestion we can make.

Who to Contact Info

Harris County Sheriff <http://www.harriscountysos.org>
(713) 221-6000

Constables Prec. 4 <http://www.cd4.hctx.net>
(281) 376-3472

"Five Ways to Honor..." (Continued from Cover)

4. Stay Informed

How much do you really know about how our country's military works? What is the status of current legislation regarding today's active-duty troops and veterans? What political leaders have a military background or push for better benefits for our active-duty troop and veterans? Many people have little more than a basic knowledge of America's Armed Forces. One of the best ways to show your appreciation is to take the time to understand exactly what role the military plays in today's world. Arm yourself with knowledge by reading (and verifying from multiple sources) information about the military's mission and its history, and always exercise your rights by voting for people and policies that support veterans.

5. Pay it Forward

The service of veterans is the cornerstone on which American freedom stands. It is important to appreciate both the rights and responsibilities of being an American and to work together to ensure that veterans' sacrifices are not in vain. Honor a veteran this Veteran's Day by being a good citizen, a good neighbor and a good friend. Even the smallest good deed can go a long way towards making America a better place for everyone.

Landscaping Tips

November

- You can continue to cut grass until it stops growing.
- Start installing winter burlap screening to protect plants from the winds and temperatures below 50°F.
- The fifth and last application of fertilizer should be done by the second week of the month.
 - Cut down perennial beds after several killing frosts.
 - Clear up any leaves left behind in the landscape.
- Check the catch basins, drainages and window wells.
 - Soil pH levels should be checked.
- Hoses and other gardening equipment should be stored and put away properly.

December

- Clean remaining leaves in the landscape.
- Remove fall annual flowers after they have declined.

HOA Updates

Community Pool – Blue Water Recreational Services LLC has been contracted to maintain and clean the pool and pool equipment for the remainder of the year. Bids are still being received and reviewed for next years services. The board will be standardizing the hours of operation for the coming pool year. A-Z Wrights Tree Service has been contracted to remove 5 trees from the pool area. The pool has officially closed for the season as of Labor Day, September 2nd, 2019.

The Park – Bids are being sought for crushed granite to be brought in for some low lying areas on the park walking trails, particularly in between the two sides of the playground equipment. Bids have been received and are being reviewed for pressure washing of the buildings, play structures, pool and splash pad areas as well as the concrete sidewalks. Daniel & Son Fence Restoration LLC has been contracted to provide fencing repairs to the park and pool areas. They will be repairing and repainting fencing, repainting the camera and light poles, removing and galvanizing the diving board and repairing and repainting the canopy post in the pool area. A-Z Wrights Tree Service will be removing 2 trees in the parks new picnic area for future projects. A complete list of park and pool rules is available at the park entrance and can be viewed on the Atascocita Forest website www.atascocitaforest.org, under Community Amenities.

Community Clubhouse – Two modular buildings have been approved for purchase to for use as a future Community Clubhouse. A deposit has been made to secure the buildings along with the first payment. JDog Junk removal has been contracted to remove the current picnic tables in the park that are in disrepair and relocate the remaining ones throughout the back section of the park in the newly designated area for picnics. They will also be crushing and disposing of the concrete pads that are under the current picnic tables. The Doggy Doo station and trash cans are being removed depending on state of disrepair or relocated as needed. Bids are being obtained for the next phase which will be the tree removal in the current picnic section closest to the street. Bids will be requested to extend the parking into the current picnic area, landscaping needs, utility needs, etc.

Esplanades/Medians – The Forest HOA has been officially advised at their last HOA meeting on October 15th, 2019 that as of 2020 the Atascocita Forest Community Association will no longer continue to maintain the esplanades from the corner of Woodland Hills and Will Clayton Parkway going eastbound on Will Clayton Parkway towards Eagle Springs. A-Z Wrights Tree Service will be removing 58 small, poorly located crepe myrtles throughout the neighborhood.

Coming Soon!

We are looking into adding some new articles in the newsletter. Please feel free to e-mail newsletter@atascocitaforest.org on any of the below and we will do our best to include it. Several suggestions are as follows:

Questions and Answers section: This is your chance to ask questions regarding the neighborhood and potentially have them answered. Please keep in mind this cannot include questions regarding specific deed restrictions violation letters. We will do our best to answer any questions possible.

Restaurant Reviews: Do you have a review of a favorite local restaurant in our area or would you like to see a review on one? Have you been to a local restaurant and done a review or would you like for us to have someone try it out? Let us know the name of the business and the location and we will try to have your review added or have it reviewed.

Special Announcements: Do you have something special you want the neighborhood to know about? Let us know about special events in the area or anything you would like the neighborhood to know about and we will try to include it!



Ingredients:

- ½ cup (113G) salted butter, softened
- 1 package (8 oz) cream cheese, softened
- 1 teaspoon fresh lemon zest
- 1 ½ cups (300g) granulated sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon lemon extract
- 2 ¼ cups (282g) all-purpose flour
- ½ cup (63g) confectioner's sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder

Topping:




- ½ cup confectioner's sugar, for rolling the cookie dough in

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350°F



In a large bowl using a mixer, beat butter, cream cheese, lemon zest, and granulated sugar until well blended. Add in egg, vanilla and lemon extract and mix until incorporated. Add in flour, baking powder and ½ cup confectioners' sugar. With the mixer on low, gradually beat into a creamed mixture. Using a 2-tablespoon cookie scoop, scoop the dough and then roll in the remaining ½ cup of confectioners sugar. Place approximately 6 dough balls on parchment-lined baking sheets. (Cookies will spread.) Bake until they no longer appear wet on top, 8-11 minutes. After about 5 minutes of cooling on the pan (they will be soft!), place on cooling wire racks to cool completely.

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Carve Your Turkey Successfully on the Big Day

What's a Thanksgiving without a proper turkey? To get the best results from your big meal, use proper carving and slicing techniques. Follow these simple directions for successfully carving your turkey:

- Allow turkey products more than 10 pounds to stand at room temperature from 10 to 20 minutes after cooking and before slicing. This allows the juices to distribute evenly throughout the turkey. Netting and cooking bags are easier to remove after the recommended 10 minutes standing time. The maximum standing time should be 20 minutes.
- Immediately after the 10 to 20 minutes holding time, carve the turkey from its carcass into major sections (i.e., breasts, thighs, drumsticks, and wings).
- Slice or carve on a sanitized cutting surface. Knives, pans, and covers should be sanitized, too. Resanitize board and knives every 30 minutes.
- Wear disposable food-handling gloves while carving, or thoroughly wash your hands frequently.
- To serve turkey hot, place sections in pans. Cover with film to retain heat and moisture and to minimize the possibility of contamination. Hold at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or higher in a hot holding device (i.e., cabinet, steam table, bain de marie). Turkey must be at least 140 degrees Fahrenheit when placed in the holding pans. The heating device will only maintain temperature. A maximum holding time of 20 to 30 minutes is recommended.
- Slice the sections into serving pieces, put them on a plate, and add garnish.

"Thanksgiving is not only being aware of the abundance of good in the world but embracing it." —Richelle E. Goodrich



News from Trail of the Lakes MUD

Lost Garbage Cans

Any garbage cans lost during Tropical Storm Imelda may be found curbside in front of the Apple Hollow Detention Pond or the Clayton's Park Detention Pond.

Replacement Recycling Bin

If you are wanting to order a replacement Recycling Bin, please contact Si Environmental Customer Service at (832) 490-1600.

Excessive Heavy Garbage

The District has received complaints regarding excessive heavy garbage left at curbs by occupants or previous occupants of residences in the District. Please be advised that pursuant to Section 5.A. of the District's Amended Rate Order, "If, in the opinion of the District and/or its garbage collection provider, excessive garbage is left for collection by a renter of property within the District, then the property owner shall be responsible for removal of such garbage. If the property owner fails to remove the garbage from the property within five (5) days of receipt of written notification regarding removal of such garbage from the property, then the District will remove the garbage and backcharge the owner for such removal." *

*Per the meeting minutes: Director Richards then requested a quote from RRRT to perform a special collection of the excessive heavy garbage from the property. Mr. von Mier then stated he will provide the Board with a quote for the same. Ms. Adams** then mentioned that, subject to certain notices, the District may backbill the property owner if there is a rental agreement on file with SE*** per the District's Rate Order. Mr. von Mier then stated that RRRT is quoting \$300 for a special heavy collection.

** Ms. Adams of Radcliffe, Bobbitt, Adams and Polley LLC

*** SE is short for Si Environmental, LLC, the Districts Operator for water.

Disposal of Yard Waste

To help reduce the impact of flooding within the District, please be reminded that sweeping grass, leaves, grass clippings, yard waste, etc., into a storm drain is a civil solid-waste violation of Texas Municipal Solid Waste rules, (TAC Chapter 330.15 (a)(1)). Civil penalties are \$50 to \$25,000 per day per violation. Criminal penalties, if pursued, are \$500 to \$100,000 per day per violation. Please do not dispose of your grass, leaves and other yard waste in such a way, and require the same of any landscaping services you may use.

WHCRWA: Notice of Fee Increase

At the Authority's Board of Directors meeting held on November 14, 2018, at 20111 Saums Road, Katy, Texas 77449, the Authority adopted increased fees in order to fund the massive water supply projects that are needed to meet the Harris Galveston Subsidence District ("HGSD") groundwater reduction regulations and to avoid the \$9.00 per 1,000 gallons fine that the HGSD imposes for non-compliance.

Effective January 1, 2019, the Groundwater Reduction Plan Fee will be \$2.95 per 1,000 gallons of groundwater pumped and the Surface Water Fee will be \$3.35 per 1,000 gallons of water delivered by the Authority. Such increase correspondingly increases the Imported Water Fee.

ATASCOCITA FOREST

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Holiday Light Contest



It's not too early to start thinking about brightening up the darkest nights of the winter! The Atascocita Forest Christmas Decorations Contest and the Community Favorite Decorations Contest will take place starting the week of December 16th. Entries can be made at www.atascocitaforest.org where homeowners can fill out an application and include a picture of their glowing masterpiece of a home. Entries will be accepted from November 25 through December 16. **NOTE:** You must enter your house in order to be considered for the competition!!

If you don't enter, you can't win! Please make sure you are also reminding your neighbors! The Atascocita Forest neighborhood Board members will begin judging from December 20th-22nd, with a winner being announced on the Atascocita Forest website after December 23rd. There will be 5 categories including: Best Overall (best overall design & installation, including lights and non-lighted décor), Best Lights (best light display and installation), Most Creative, Most Colorful, and Most Elaborate. Judges will award \$50 to Best Overall winner and the Community Favorite and \$25 to the additional winners. The winners will be determined by volunteer judges from our very own community.

For the Community Favorite category, please submit at least 1, but no more than 3 good quality photos of your home's exterior decorations via the form **NO LATER THAN** Monday, December 16 on the website www.atascocitaforest.org/p/Decorations-Contest-Community-Favorit. If you are unable to take good quality photos, check the box requesting photos to be taken of your home. A board member (probably Kesha) will come by your home and take photos to use. The photos will be added to a survey on the official Atascocita Forest HOA website, as well as on the neighborhood Facebook group and our NextDoor site. Residents will vote on their favorite home and the winner will be announced.

Are you looking for a new holiday tradition to establish? Atascocita Forest is looking for volunteers to judge the contest. This could be a fun activity for families and for those who enjoy getting out in the neighborhood and viewing the holiday cheer. If you are interested in being a judge, please email volunteers@atascocitaforest.org with the subject of "holiday lighting" so that we can get you signed up! The more the merrier!

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Just Say No to Holiday Stress



The holiday season is stressful enough without all the additional demands others may make on you. Do you often say “yes” to requests that commit you to things that you don’t really have time for? Learn to say “no” without alienating your friends and family. These tips can help:

- Be polite, but firm. Don’t go into too many details. The person making the request can too easily revise his or her request and make saying “no” more difficult.
- Say no as soon as possible. Don’t drag the situation out.
- Stick to your priorities. If you’re asked to do anything that doesn’t fit in with your responsibilities—or your values—don’t do it. Just say “no.”

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