

# SUMMERWOOD LIFE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Summerwood Annual Meeting and Board Elections Update



The Summerwood Community Association Annual Meeting was held on September 26, 2019 starting at 6:00 pm for sign-in, coffee, and cookies. The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. This year, residents that voted early using the online access, email, US mail, or fax, met quorum! Those that were able to attend the meeting were able to hear an introduction of each candidate and brief information of what each candidate aspired to bring to their seat, before casting their vote. Topics for this meeting included accomplishments made since the last annual meeting, future projects and concerns that will be addressed in the upcoming year, and the 2020 operating budget. The election results were announced with four candidates winning a seat.

These newly elected four residents will serve on the Summerwood Home Owner Association Board of Directors from September 2019 to September 2021: Dr. Janice F. Nickie-Green, David Shaye, Norma Sutton, and Jody Vizena. Please congratulate each of them as they embark on their 2-year volunteer position! They will join Rhonda Geddis, Kevin Voison and Kwan Johnson who will continue their term thru September 2020. To all of those who will be serving on the board of directors this year, volunteering can be very time consuming and your consideration of forfeiting personal time for the greater good is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to everyone that cast their vote!

Do you want to vote online for your next community elections? Be sure you are a registered homeowner on [www.Crest-Management.com](http://www.Crest-Management.com)!

## SCHS Bull Dogs Swimming & Diving Thanks Summerwood HOA



The Summer Creek High School Swimming and Diving Team extends its appreciation to the Summerwood community for allowing the team to utilize the Central Pool for practice while the SCHS natatorium underwent repairs. The work was extensive and included an overhaul of the ventilation and air-conditioning system. The team was finally back in their SCHS Natatorium October 1st. SCHS Swimming and Diving is a 6A division team whose season runs August through February.

We are proud of this team of leaders. The SCHS Swim Team hits the cold water before most of us hit the snooze button each morning! Many of our SCHS athletes are waking up before 5 a.m. and are practicing two hours per day before school even starts. SCHS athletes must maintain GPAs per UIL standard and many of our Swimmers and Divers are taking Advanced Placement classes in addition to other extra-curricular activities. There is BULL-DOG strength and dedication behind this swim team. #TeamOfLeaders

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Crest Management ..... 281-579-0761  
 ..... [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com)  
 ..... 17171 Park Row Suite 310, Houston, TX 77084

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Situations ..... 911  
 Constable - Precinct 3 ..... 281-427-4791  
 Houston Fire Station #105 .... 14014 W. Lake Houston Pkwy  
 ..... Houston, Texas 77044  
 South Lake Houston EMS (Dispatch) ..... 281-459-1277  
 Dead Animal Pick-Up (Precinct 1) ..... 281-820-5151  
 Animal Control ..... 281-999-3191  
 After Hours ..... 281-221-5000

### UTILITY SERVICE NUMBERS

Public Utility Commission Consumer Hotline.. 888-782-8477  
 Entouch Systems ..... 281-225-1000  
 (Telephone, Cable, Alarm Monitoring)  
 AT&T ..... 800-288-2020  
 CenterPoint ..... 713-659-2111  
 Reliant Energy ..... 713-207-7777  
 MMIA (Water District Operator) ..... 281-651-1618  
 Garbage Pick-Up  
 MUD 342 & 344 (Republic Waste) ..... 281-446-2030  
 MUD 361 (Wast Management) ..... 1-800-800-5804

### SCHOOLS

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

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### EDITOR

Article Submissions ..... [protexan@entouch.net](mailto:protexan@entouch.net)

### PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)  
 Advertising ..... [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com), 888-687-6444

## BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

### RAINCO IRRIGATION SPECIALIST:

Commercial & Residential. Backflow Testing, Irrigation (Sprinkler) System Service, Maintenance and Repair, Rainbird - Hunter. Fully Insured. License # 9004 & 9226. Call 713-824-5327.

*Business classifieds* (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### CONTACT INFO FOR CREST MANAGEMENT

The Property Management Company for Summerwood

#### Onsite Hours:

Residents Club Central  
 14111 Summerwood Lakes Drive  
 Houston, TX 77044  
 Wednesday and Friday 1:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.  
 Saturday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

#### Jennifer Donato

**On-Site Community Manager**

**281-225-2786**

[jenniferd@Crest-Management.com](mailto:jenniferd@Crest-Management.com)

Contact Jennifer for property maintenance issues, clubhouse rental, contractors, pool bands, fobs etc.

#### Keni Thibeaux

**Lifestyle Director**

**281-225-2786**

[Keni@Crest-Management.com](mailto:Keni@Crest-Management.com)

Contact Keni for community events, event sponsorships, social media related items, website issues

#### Laura Kane

**Community Accountant**

**281-945-4639**

[laura.kane@Crest-Management.com](mailto:laura.kane@Crest-Management.com)

Contact Laura for payment and accounting matters

#### Marissa Trumbla

**Assistant Portfolio Manager**

**281-945-4623**

[Marissa.Trumbla@Crest-Management.com](mailto:Marissa.Trumbla@Crest-Management.com)

Contact Marissa for deed restrictions, architectural control matters, and general information

#### CJ Hood

**Portfolio Manager**

**281-945-4655**

[cj.hood@Crest-Management.com](mailto:cj.hood@Crest-Management.com)

Contact CJ for board related matters

Crest Management's main office number is  
 281-579-0761.

The hours of operation are:

Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Please visit [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com)

*(Continued from Cover)*



Coach Natasha Burd and Coach Katy Stibrich took over coaching the SCHS Swimming and Diving Team in fall of 2018. They hit the deck running and are ready for another great year of swimming and diving. They are both very excited to take the young, talented, and growing team to the next level. Since taking over the coaching duties of the team, they more than doubled the size of the swim team and have added seven divers to the roster! In addition to coaching, Coach Burd teaches Art for SCHS and is the Art Club teacher-sponsor. Coach Stibrich, who was a stand-out swimmer for LSU, is also the Lead Geometry teacher for SCHS. Both coaches earned their bus driving certification over the summer so they could drive the team back and forth to Central. Our athletes are in the water by 5:45 a.m. Monday through Friday and our coaches are on deck coaching. We appreciate these outstanding, dedicated educators for all they do for our school, students, and community. Strong sports programs are good for schools. Strong schools are good for communities (and property values). Good communities help build strong schools. Energy yields energy. Win. Win. Win. The Creek is Rising!

Again, many thanks to the Summerwood community for supporting our SCHS Swimming and Diving Team.

Summerwood residents are invited to any of SCHS's Home meets, which will take place on October 17 at 5:30 p.m., October 29 at 5:30 p.m., November 8 at 3 p.m., and December 5 at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free.

***GO DOGS! SWIM FAST BULL DOGS!***

## ***Helpful Items for Summerwood from Crest Management Company***

1. Please visit our new Crest website [www.Crest-Management.com](http://www.Crest-Management.com) for your account information, Exterior Modification Request, or to report a service issue.

2. Crest Management is contracted to visit your community once a month for deed restriction violations. With that being said, we won't always see things that you see because you are there every day. When you contact us, we will gladly note your observation and look for it on our next inspection. If you desire a more immediate response please email a time stamped photo to [Marissa.Trumbler@Crest-Management.com](mailto:Marissa.Trumbler@Crest-Management.com) and we will send a letter requesting correction that day.

3. The procedure when addressing a violation is as follows: 1st letter/Courtesy letter, 2nd letter/Reminder letter, 3rd letter/Certified letter (containing legal verbiage required for attorney purposes), and the 4th letter/Final Demand letter (the last two letters are at the expense of the homeowner). At this point the Board will decide when/if the issue is turned over to the attorney's office. At the least, this process takes five months. Due to confidentiality Crest is not able to give details regarding neighboring violations except to confirm if we are aware and addressing the issue.

4. If you receive a letter that you feel was in error, please call Marissa Trumbler at (281) 945- 4623 so that we can better understand and adjust your file accordingly. It's better to do this with the Courtesy letter rather than when it has escalated to the Certified or Demand letter (if you wait, the fees for these letters are charged to your account and fees will not be waived – your account will be documented appropriately).

5. To locate your community's documents, such as the Architectural Modification Guidelines and the Section Restrictions, go to [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com), in the top right hand corner click **COMMUNITY SEARCH**. On the next page type Summerwood Community Association in the **ENTER COMMUNITY NAME OR ADDRESS HERE** box. On the next page click View Community. At the Summerwood Community Association page click Governing Documents.

6. Summerwood Residents/Homeowners may reserve either Club Summerwood (16136 Hunters Lake Way) or Residents Club Central (14111 Summerwood Lakes Drive) for private parties. The Resident/Homeowner of Summerwood must be the person renting the facility and must be present at the event the entire time. Please visit [www.SummerwoodLife.com](http://www.SummerwoodLife.com) for important information on reservations. Click on Amenities, then scroll down to select either Club Summerwood or Residents Club Central. There you will find information on fees, inventory and table sizes, and you can see/print the rental form. Bring the completed form to Resident Central during office hours, along with the deposit and administration fee, to confirm a reservation. All other fees will be calculated for you and will be due 30 days prior to the reservation. Office hours at Residents Club Central are Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. and Saturdays 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

7. When you contact Crest Management and reach the voicemail please leave a detailed message that includes your name, property address and phone number. You will receive a response within one business day.



## Summerwood Crime Watch Looking for a Chairperson

Darlene Kilburn, Crime Watch Chairman, has announced her retirement from the position, effective December 31. She has been an outstanding chairman, serving the committee well for over four years. No doubt, she leaves big shoes to fill. However, she will continue to be an active member, serve as a block captain, and attend the Summerwood Crime Watch meetings.

If you would be interested in serving as chairman of this committee, or if you know someone who would be interested in the position of heading up the crime watch committee, please contact Darlene Kilburn at [summerwoodcrimewatch@gmail.com](mailto:summerwoodcrimewatch@gmail.com)

The November meeting will be held at the central clubhouse on Tuesday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m. All Summerwood residents are invited to attend!

## Summer Creek High School

In October, Summer Creek High School was a featured campus in the United States and visited by Educational Leaders from across the country during their EdLeader Conference in downtown Houston. Superintendents, principals, administrators, and teachers visited SCHS on October 4th to get a firsthand look at the innovative approach to education at SCHS.

EdLeaders wanted to know how SCHS has had such a tremendous rise in academics, state mandated test scores, college entrance exam scores, and a reduction in discipline with their schedule that was created because of the Hurricane Harvey disaster.

The EdLeaders were able to choose 4 sessions to attend at SCHS and witness our students in action in classes such as: Tiny Homes, Underwater Robotics, Choir, Chemistry, Biology, and many other classes. The EdLeaders were most interested in the school of choice option that SCHS students have from 2:00-3:00 daily and how over 700 students stay on a daily basis to continue their education.

We are proud of the students and staff at SCHS and very excited to share the culture of SCHS with leaders in education across America.



PATIO COVERS | PERGOLAS | CARPORTS | PORTE COCHÈRES  
OUTDOOR KITCHENS | DECORATIVE OUTDOOR FLOORING





RAIN PROOF DESIGN

**CUSTOM PATIO STRUCTURES**  
*Committed to Quality, Value & Service*

 832.570.3990 [www.custompatiostructures.com](http://www.custompatiostructures.com) 

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED WITH OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE  
FREE ESTIMATES & DESIGN CONSULTATION • 100% FINANCING AVAILABLE



**Happy THANKS GIVING!**

**ADVERTISE WITH US!**

YOU CAN ADVERTISE TO 106,968 HOUSEHOLDS THIS MONTH FOR LESS THAN \$0.00 PER HOUSE.

[info@peelinc.com](mailto:info@peelinc.com) • [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com) • 832.743.5181

## What is Bank Jugging?

Bank Jugging occurs when a thief parks outside of a bank and watches patiently as customers go in and out. The suspect targets anyone who comes out with a bank bag, coin box or bank envelope that looks like it may have a large amount of cash. They then follow the customer and burglarize his car or him directly.

Most often the crime occurs at the destination where the victim stops after leaving the bank at a restaurant, grocery store or even his home. When the customer attempts to leave his vehicle, he is robbed.

Bank Juggers often park where they have clear visibility of the front door, the commercial drive thru lane or the ATM. If the line of visibility is obscured they will change parking spots. Be aware of vehicles that park but no occupants enter the bank.

### How to prevent Bank Jugging:

1. Be aware of your surroundings, especially if something seems strange as you enter the bank.
2. Conceal your bank deposit bags, coin boxes or envelopes as you enter and leave the bank.
3. If you feel like you are being followed, call 911 and drive to a police station, our fire department here in Summerwood, or any public and safe place.
4. Take your bank bag or envelope with you into your next destination. Don't hide it in your vehicle.

Bank Jugging is becoming increasingly prevalent in Texas. It is easy to get in a rush and be distracted, but if you stay aware of your surroundings and report anything suspicious you can avoid getting "Jugged".



**Looking for Sponsors!**

ONE OF OUR GOALS IS TO FORGE BETTER AND DEEPER PARTNERSHIPS WITH THE LOCAL BUSINESSES IN OUR COMMUNITY.

Contact [keni@crest-management.com](mailto:keni@crest-management.com)



SUMMERWOOD HOA PRESENTS

## SAVE THE DATES

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE - 11.2.2019  
 BBQ COOK-OFF - 11.16.2019  
 WINTER FESTIVAL - 12.07.2019  
 SOUNDS OF THE SEASON - 12.17.2019

[SUMMERWOODLIFE.COM](http://SUMMERWOODLIFE.COM) FOR FURTHER DETAILS



SUMMERWOOD HOA

### Annual Meeting Sponsors

Special "Thank You" to all the sponsors that supported our annual meeting!

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 | 7:00PM  
 CLUB SUMMERWOOD



THE LAW OFFICES OF RICK J. MILLER - MANOR SIMPLY SMASHING HOME DECOR - H-E-B  
 CHICK-FIL-A - NOTHING BUNDT CAKES - THE HOME DEPOT - SMASH BURGER -  
 DUNKIN DONUTS - SMOOTHIE KING - WHOLESOME PIES



## Summerwood Residents

Please register on [www.SummerwoodLife.com](http://www.SummerwoodLife.com) for Calendar, Amenities, Forms, and email updates!

Please register on [www.Crest-Management.com](http://www.Crest-Management.com) for your Account, Exterior Modification Request or to report a service issue.

## *How Does Our Community Work?*

How are decisions made regarding our community? Who is tasked with making these decisions? In an effort to educate our community on how Summerwood is run, we are highlighting the structure by which our community operates and makes decisions.

There are two aspects to our community, the residential side and the commercial side. There are different governance entities overseeing each of those portions of the community.

### **What is a homeowner's association?**

A homeowner's association (HOA) is defined as "an organization of homeowners of a particular subdivision, condominium or planned unit development. The purpose of a home owners association is to provide a common basis for preserving maintaining and enhancing their homes and property. Summerwood's HOA, like most homeowner's associations, are non-profit organizations. The associations provide services, regulate activities, enforce covenants, define and enforce deed restrictions, levy assessments, and impose fines. Usually, each member of a homeowners association pays assessments. Those assessments or dues are used to pay for expenses that arise from having and maintaining common property." What does this mean? If you own a home in Summerwood, YOU are a member of the HOA! The HOA is governed by a Board of Directors.

*Note: The Homeowner's Association has authority over residential property only. Commercial property is governed by the commercial association.*

### **What is the HOA Board of Directors?**

The Board of Directors consists of 7 people, all fellow residents, voted in by the residents of our community. Board Members are in charge of making decisions about the budget, the landscaping, the amenities within Summerwood, and enforcing the deed restrictions. The Board is responsible for a budget of almost three million dollars. This is why it is so critical for residents to vote! All Board members are unpaid volunteers, taking time away from other activities to help with our community. To assist the Board with the day to day responsibilities of managing the community, the Board contracts with a property management company.

### **What is a property management company and what does it do?**

The management company is hired by the HOA to carry out the day-to-day business of the community. The management company seeks bids for contracts, follows up on maintenance issues, and collects dues, among other tasks. The management company does not make decisions regarding budget, deed restrictions, etc. The Board of Directors chose Crest Management as the new property management company in late 2018. Our Onsite Office manager, Justin Arhelger, is a member of our management company and is tasked with many of these responsibilities.

All Board meeting agendas, minutes, financials and contact information can be found in the documents section of [crestmanagement.com](http://crestmanagement.com) and [summerwoodlife.com](http://summerwoodlife.com). You must be logged in to access this information.

### **What is a commercial association?**

A commercial association (COA) is created to manage, control, operate, maintain, repair and improve property in a commercial zone. They enforce covenants, conditions, define and enforce restrictions and levy assessments on the commercial businesses operating within their boundaries. The COA is governed by a Board of Directors.

### **What is a COA Board of Directors?**

In Summerwood, the COA Articles call for a Board that consists of no fewer than three and no more than seven members. The Board of Directors are voted in by the commercial property owners of our community. Board Members are in charge of making decisions about the budget, the landscaping, the amenities within Summerwood, and enforcing the deed restrictions. The Board of Director contracts with a commercial association property management company to oversee the day to day responsibilities of managing the commercial property.

### **What is a commercial association property management company and what does it do?**

The management company is hired by the COA to carry out the day-to-day business of the community. The management company seeks bids for contracts, follows up on maintenance issues, and collects dues, among other tasks. The management company does not make decisions regarding budget, deed restrictions, etc. C.I.A. Services is the commercial association property management company employed by the Summerwood COA. Their governing documents can be accessed here: <http://ciaservices.com/cia-community-index.php?id=472>

### **What is a MUD?**

A MUD (Municipal Utility District) is a special governmental entity created by the State of Texas whose main functions are to provide water, sewage, drainage, and other services within its boundaries. They are authorized by Texas law to finance, construct, own, operate and maintain all the facilities necessary to supply water and to provide wastewater treatment for the district's customers. In addition to providing water, sewer and drainage services, MUDs may also choose to provide certain community services like supplemental security patrols, trash collection, and fire service. The law also allows MUDs to enhance their communities by funding parks and recreational facilities.



## LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB NOVEMBER MEETING



The Lake Houston Ladies Club's next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 19th, from 10:00am - 12:30pm at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest Drive in Humble, TX 77346 **The cost of the luncheon is \$20 per person and includes lunch & entertainment.**



This month, a duo from The Honky Tonk Revivalists will entertain our members. The Honky Tonk Revivalists is a local band from Kingwood and they are great! One reviewer stated, "If George Strait had a cover band, this would be it." So, plan on joining us to get your blood pumping and enjoy some country western music.

The Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization dedicated to connecting women through monthly luncheon meetings and social activities. The club welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Many interest groups are available including Tea Time, Hand Knee and Foot, Shooting Club, Scrabble 'N Babble, Artsy Smartsy, Movie Group, Mah Jongg, Lunch 'N Look, Supper Club, Mexican Train, Reader's Choice, Bridge, Game Day and Bunco. 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 web page at <http://www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com> or call Karen at 281-900-5584 by Monday, November 11.

## "FOAL" Wins Best Buy Atascocita Community Grant



The Friends of the Atascocita Library Group has received a grant for \$9,391.71 from Best Buy, to fund an Audio Visual Club for teens. Pictured left to right are: Atascocita Library Branch Manager Beth Krippel, FOAL President Becky Berry, Young Adult Program Librarian Darla Pruitt, Best Buy Atascocita Store #1397 Community Event Coordinator Claudia Washington, and Best Buy Atascocita Store #1397 Interim General Manager R. Tera Vichez.

Eight years ago, the library discontinued their Scenes and Screens drama and film program due to a lack of current technology. One day, Darla Pruitt, the Young Adult Program Librarian, was approached by a young man who told her that that program was one of the best experiences of his teen years. After consulting her teen library board, Ms. Pruitt wrote a grant to upgrade their ancient Flip video camera to a DSLR camera and added laptops for video editing, microphones for film and podcasting, soundproofing for a podcasting studio, and other accessories for film and audio production. Thanks to Best Buy, Scenes and Screens will be revived as an AV Club with an emphasis on student filmmaking and podcasting.

According to Ms. Pruitt, "One of the opportunities denied to many teens is the chance to explore the creative side of their nature. Many times practicality trumps creativity. With this program, they will be learning skills that will allow them to pursue their dreams, express themselves, and enhance their lives."

AV Club will officially start meeting in January. If you are interested in participating, contact Darla Pruitt at 832-927-5560 or at [darla.pruitt@hcpl.net](mailto:darla.pruitt@hcpl.net).



Happy Thanksgiving from  
**WIRED** GENERATORS  
 ELECTRICAL SERVICES by **WIRED**

**713-467-1125**  
[www.wiredes.com](http://www.wiredes.com)

*Residential & Commercial Service  
 Family Owned & Operated*

- Panel Upgrade / Replacement
- Additional Plugs and Outlets
- Smoke Detectors
- Troubleshooting
- TV Mounting

**\$20 OFF** Your Next Service Call!  
Not to be combined with any other discounts or offer. Expires 12/1/19

**5 Year Warranty\***  
 100% Customer Satisfaction Guaranteed!



713-467-1125  
 wiredes.com

VISA  
 MasterCard  
 American Express  
 Discover  
 BBB  
 Master #100394 TECL # 22809

# GO GREEN



Receive your newsletter in your inbox

For details go to  
[www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)  
 and click the RESIDENTS tab







**HELP KEEP OUR  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
BEAUTIFUL**

Have you registered on the new  
**SUMMERWOODLIFE.COM**  
website? You will need to create a new login.  
This is the best way to stay plugged into the  
Summerwood community!



Having technical difficulties? Email our Event  
Coordinator [jessica.tomesacrest-  
management.com](mailto:jessica.tomesacrest-management.com).



## AFFORDABLE SHADE PATIO COVERS

*Creating Comfort for Outdoor Living...  
with Affordable Shade.*



*We obtain City Permits,  
TDI Windstorm Certification,  
and help with HOA Approvals.*



*Call to schedule a free estimate.*

**713-574-4648**

Visit our website to view more designs.  
**AffordableShade.com**



**Custom Patio Covers**  
Cedar & Treated Pine Shade Arbors  
Aluminum Patio Covers & Arbors  
Palapas & Tiki Huts & Screen Rooms  
Decorative & Structural Concrete



**Financing Available\* with Payments as Low as \$250**

*\*Subject to Credit Approval*



At no time will any source be allowed to use the Summerwood Life's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the Summerwood Life is exclusively for the private use of the Summerwood HOA and Peel, Inc.

**DISCLAIMER:** Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

\* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

\* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

\* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.



**Old Time Christmas Tree Farm**  
**Choose & Cut Your Own Christmas Tree**  
*Premium Pre-Cut Fir & Spruce Also Available*  
 Open after Thanksgiving Daily 9am-5:30pm

**Train Rides, Giant Slide & Santa: Sat. & Sun. Only!**

7632 Spring Cypress Rd. • 281-370-9141  
 ★ TURN ON KLEB RD ★  
 group outings available by appointment only  
[www.oldtimechristmastree.com](http://www.oldtimechristmastree.com)



ADVERTISE HERE

512.263.9181 | [INFO@PEELING.COM](mailto:INFO@PEELING.COM)

**FACT:**

Social and emotional intelligence may be the most important determinant of a child's future success.

**BALANCED LEARNING<sup>®</sup> WAY:**

Being school-ready is just the beginning.

**CALL TODAY FOR A TOUR!**

**Primrose School at Lakeshore**

16460 W. Lake Houston Parkway | Houston, TX 77044  
 281.454.5000 | [PrimroseLakeshore.com](http://PrimroseLakeshore.com)

**Primrose School at Summerwood**

14002 W. Lake Houston Pkwy | Summerwood, TX 77044  
 281.454.6000 | [PrimroseSummerwood.com](http://PrimroseSummerwood.com)





## 3 Holiday Activities to Engage with Loved Ones

Any time can be the right time to enjoy memorable moments with family members, but the holidays present a special opportunity to have meaningful conversations and interactions with loved ones.

One of the best ways to spark creativity and generate memories is through activities that get the conversation started, whether it's remembering favorite moments from the past or simply sharing notes of appreciation. This holiday season, consider these activity ideas from the Funeral and Memorial Information Council, which created the "Have the Talk of a Lifetime" initiative to encourage families to facilitate conversations that become invaluable when the time comes to honor a loved one.

While these conversations can be difficult to engage in and even harder to begin, the natural bonding moments that stem from activities like these can help make the process easier.

### Gratitude Tree

Start a new tradition by creating a gratitude tree, a simple decoration you can look forward to using each year as a reminder of what you and your family are thankful for.

To make a gratitude tree, collect twigs or branches, dry them out and cut them to the desired lengths. Put the branches in a vase or decorative container. Punch holes at the tops of fall-colored paper to be used as tags then instruct guests to write what they're grateful for on each tag.

Take turns reading the tags and tie them to the branches then keep the handwritten tags in a safe place until they can be read again each holiday season. Over the years, as the tree fills up, you'll have a lifetime of memories to share.

### Time Capsule

Making a holiday-inspired time capsule can help strengthen family bonds while preserving treasured memories and creating opportunities for future holidays when it's time to reopen the contents.

Use a sealed container or plastic bag to protect items from moisture and mold then place the container in a box that can be decorated and stored in a safe place with related holiday decorations. Mark on the container the date it was created for future reference, and pack it with items like family-favorite recipes; notes about significant



events from that year like births, weddings, graduations and more; copies of newspapers detailing high-profile happenings; and pictures, drawings and notes from the year.

If you're patient enough to wait, try leaving the contents undisturbed at least five years to give the memories even more meaning when the time comes to relive those special moments.

### Memories Tablecloth

To help keep important family footnotes front and center during future celebrations, a memorial tablecloth provides each person an opportunity to personalize a piece of popular decor. As you gather around the table for holiday meals, ask each family member to jot down a favorite memory or something he or she is thankful for along with a signature and date.

You can make it an annual event by using the same tablecloth each year and, before long, it will be filled with personal memories as a way to cherish relationships as time goes on. Just use an appropriately sized, inexpensive white canvas drop cloth. Place fabric markers in the center of the table before inviting guests to participate, and to help distinguish each year, try using different colored markers.

*Find more ways to celebrate the holidays with your loved ones at [talkofalifetime.org](http://talkofalifetime.org).*

*Photo courtesy of Getty Images #14949*

*Source: Funeral and Memorial Information Council*

*Content downloaded from [familyfeatures.com](http://familyfeatures.com).*



**PEEL, INC.**

1405 Brandi Ln  
Round Rock, TX 78681

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

SW



*The*  
**Tracy Montgomery**  
*Team*



**Tracy Montgomery**  
Cell: 713.825.5905

**Lisa Hughes**  
Cell: 281.323.5894

**Melissa Nelson**  
Cell: 832.527.4989

**kw** **NORTHEAST**  
**KELLERWILLIAMS. REALTY**

*Your Neighborhood  
Realtors!*

**281.812.8265**  
**www.tracysoldit.com**  
**tracy@tracysoldit.com**

20665 W Lake Houston PKWY  
Humble, TX 77346