

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPRING TRAILS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 4

# **Clean and Green**

Nearly 30 resident volunteers came out for this year's first community clean up. Two teams walked and picked up trash along Spring Trails Park Drive and along Spring Trails Bend between Broadway Elementary and Tara Springs Dr. Collectively the clean up resulted in a full truck load of garbage, recyclables and heavy trash. And for a little added fun, specially-marked solo cups were strategically placed along the clean up routes for kids to find and turn in for prizes.

VOL 2

Spring Trails' green spaces, natural forestry and landscape are second to none. But it takes all of us to keep our community clean and green. Pick up litter while walking your dogs or at the park. Report heavy trash to property management for removal. Set an example for our kids to respect nature and all it has to offer.

Special thanks go out to the Beautification Committee for coordinating the community clean up. Watch future announcements and the Spring Trails calendar for more activities and volunteer opportunities being planned for upcoming months.



Spring Trails Bend Team



Spring Trails Park Drive Team

Hey Kids! Check out the Junior Art and Writing Contest on page #9.

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## Who ya gonna call?

#### INFRAMARK

(Spring Trails Property Management) ...... 281-870-0585

#### SPRING TRAILS HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Request Manager through www.springtrails.com Anthony Domingo Ian Grain Leanne Kessler Roger Olsen Jerry Ruschhoff

#### NON-EMERGENCY SERVICES

Law Enforcement (Sheriff or Constable) ... 936-760-5800 & press 3 Fire (South Montgomery Fire Department). ...... 281-363-3473 EMS (Montgomery County Hospital District) .... 936-523-5000

#### SCHOOLS

Sue Park Broadway Elementary	
Cox Intermediate School	
York Junior High School	
Oak Ridge High School	
Grand Oaks High School	
Conroe I.S.D. Administration	

#### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY MUD 94**

MUD 94/Board of Directors www.mcmud94.com
MUD 94/Gulf Utility Services (water and sewer) 281-355-1312
MUD 94/Republic Services (trash & recycle pickup) 713-726-7300

#### MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Montgomery County	.936-756-0571
Precinct 3 Commissioner James Noack	.936-539-7817
Sheriff Rand Henderson	.936-760-5871
Constable Ryan Gable	. 281-364-4211

VISIT THE SPRING TRAILS WEBSITE FOR LINKS TO THESE AND OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

## **Advertising Information**

#### PUBLISHER

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### **Mark Your Calendars!**

April 1st - Recycle Pick Up April 4th - Free Document Shredding April 4th - Easter Egg Hunt cancelled April 7th - MUD 94 Board Meeting April 9th - HOA Meeting April 10th - Heavy Trash Day April 15th - Recycle Pick Up May 5th - MUD 94 Board Meeting May 6th - Recycle Pick Up May 8th - Heavy Trash Day May 14th - HOA Meeting May 16th - Family Fun Day May 20th - Recycle Pick Up

Visit the Spring Trails Website, Calendar for event times and venues.





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## IT'S A SHRED EVENT !

Do you have papers, magazines, tax forms or other paper products piling up or spilling out of your file cabinet? You're in luck. Montgomery County MUD 94 and Republic Services are sponsoring a free document shred event for residents of Spring Trails.

Load up that unwanted paper into boxes or bags and bring it to the Spring Trails Visitor Center parking lot, **Saturday, April 4th, 9:00 am-Noon.** Republic Services will take your boxes/bags of paper, empty it into the Shred Pro Truck bin, and return your boxes/bags to your car. Residents are asked to remain in their cars. Please no walk ups.

Acceptable items: notebook paper, magazines, tax documents, newspapers, paper folders, etc. Residents are not required to remove staples, paper clips, thin metal brads, or other metal that can be easily bent with your fingers.

Unacceptable Items: NO 3-ring binders or binder clips, wet paper, hard drives, CD's or disks of any kind, video tapes or film reels, cardboard boxes or other cardboard items and no plastics.

The Spring Trails Community Association thanks Montgomery County MUD 94 and Republic Services for arranging and providing this free service. Paper will be accepted between 9:00 am-noon, rain or shine, or until the truck is full.



Spring Trails has a lot of community activities and events planned for 2020. New activities are being planned as well as updates to some old favorites. A variety of volunteer opportunities are available for adults and kids of all ages. Visit the website and watch for weekly eblasts for dates, locations and opportunities to volunteer.

A number of activities are being planned specifically for teens and kids for 2020. Families interested in getting involved with planning or coordinating these youth activities are encouraged to contact the Board of Directors through the Spring Trails Request Manager.



Contributed by Roger Olsen

Ever wondered if the soil in your flower / ornamental plant garden is helping you get the most from those Knock Out Roses or other beautiful plants? Think about it like this: Soil is a warehouse for everything your plants need to grow well. Stocks in the warehouse include water, air, organic matter and mineral nutrients. If you do it right, your garden soil gets better each growing season. If you don't, you'll have an amazing crop of weeds!

The most important thing to know at the beginning is what type of soil you have. Here in Spring Trails, our natural soil is mostly clay and sand. Clay holds too much water and can tend to "drown" plants that don't like to get their feet (roots) wet. And once dry, it is hard to get water into the soil. Good garden soil will compact slightly when pressed in your hand but will then crumble. You will be able to see that it has a nice dark brown color. Anything else, especially if it clumps and remains compacted, is not going to be good for your plants. So what do you add to your soil?

Most soil will always benefit from adding leaf mold compost. This is typically a composted mix of leaves, some grass and horse manure that add small amounts of nutrients and provide the organic material most soils need. Just adding leaves and grass to your garden without composting it will not be helpful. Composting ensures weeds and seeds are destroyed and also ensures nitrogen is not stolen from the soil when added to your garden. Nature's Way Resources produces a local product I have used for years and till into my gardens in the Spring. It really helps!

But what about mulch? If you want to keep weeds down and precious water IN your ornamental garden, mulch added on top of the soil will protect it from weeds, allow water to penetrate and provide and attractive cover. 3 inches of fresh hardwood, double ground mulch is plenty. If you have mulch remaining from last year, loosen it before adding more for a TOTAL of 3 inches. While attractive, avoid colored mulch. The dyes used to make the mulch an attractive red or black are not helpful to your soil and can actually cause water resistance. Besides, you don't really want those chemicals in your groundwater do you?

For more info on how to make your soil super friendly for your flower garden, visit helpful sites like TAMU Horticulture, Lazy Gardener, Nature's Way Resources or Montgomery County Master Gardeners. Getting your soil right is a LOT easier than you might imagine and will help make those flowers and ornamentals beautiful.

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- · Severe arthritis and spinal stenosis
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- Stroke/TIA



For more information, or to schedule an appointment: houstonmethodist.org/woodlands-neuro 936.270.3333



## Policy Review Committee

The Policy Review Committee has completed its review of the original Builder Guidelines and drafted the new updated and consolidated Spring Trails Architectural Guidelines. Spring Trails founders and developers established individual builder guidelines for each of the 19 villages. The content of these 19 guidelines has remained unchanged since community development, some dating back to 2002. The new Architectural Guidelines represent a consolidated set of guidelines and incorporate newer building materials, updated design standards and clarify inconsistencies. Following final review, the new Architectural Guidelines will be filed with the county and made available on the Spring Trails website under the Documents menu.

The Board of Directors thanks the resident volunteers of the Policy Review Committee for their time and commitment to ensuring Spring Trails governing documents remain relevant and consistent with current industry standards and trends. *Policy Review Committee volunteers: Jeff Anderson, Tim Chandler, Lane Davidson, Tracie Nutt, John Rigsdell, Brenda Tolbert, Genette Wilbanks.* 



## Home Improvements and Repairs

Are you planning home improvements or repairs this Spring? If so, don't forget to submit an Application for Approval to Modify Home or Property, more commonly known as an ARC Request. Any change or addition to a home or property which would affect the exterior appearance requires prior approval by the Architectural Review Committee. It's easy and painless. Simply go to the Documents tab on www.springtrails.com and click Architectural Review Committee. A list of resources will appear including the ARC request form. Please allow up to 45 days for the review process.

If expedited review is needed for emergency situations, please contact the Board of Directors through Request Manager to alert them of the pending application. Questions regarding the architectural review process may be directed to the Board through Request Manager as well.

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- Crown Molding



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with us

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# GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

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### SUNDAY SERVICES & EGG HUNT SUNDAY • APR 12 • 9AM & 10:30AM EGG HUNT AT 11:45 AM

## **GC** Gateway Church

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## The Results Are In...

A recent poll posted to the Spring Trails website asked residents to select their preference of an unofficial name for the drainage canal that runs along the walking trail. Four names were proposed by the Beautification Committee: 1) Spring Trails Creek; 2) Turtle Creek; 3) Turtle Gully; 4) White Tail Creek. Polling closed February 28 and the results were revealed at the Community Clean-Up event the next day.

Coming in second was Turtle Gully with 75 votes. And the winner with 94 votes...*drum roll please*...**"Turtle Creek" !** 

Thank you to all who participated in the poll. Markers are being made and will be posted at each end of the walking trail to make the name change official...unofficially of course.

Calling all Spring Trails is seeking young reporters and photographers to contribute to the community's newsletter. Topics and areas of interest include school news (Broadway, Cox, York, Grand Oaks), nature, local events, kids and kindness, and special interests. Interested in joining in on the fun? Email your questions or suggestions to STJuniorReporter@gmail.com.





Curbside pickup of **household recyclable waste** is scheduled the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month (excluding holidays). 95-gallon recycling carts are available by contacting Republic Services at (713) 726-7300.

#### Montgomery County Pct. 3 Recycling Facility

1122 Pruitt Rd, Spring, TX 77380

(281) 367-7283 (call ahead for hours of operation and applicable fees)

- Oil-based & latex paints, stains, pesticides and solvents
- Appliances (including freon)
- Packing Styrofoam (block-style only)

**Local fire stations** will properly dispose of old and damaged flags (United States and State of Texas).

Auto Zone and Byrd Automotive accept automobile batteries, oil, and fluids.

Take a Walk



April 1 is National Walking Day. The American Heart Association started National Walking Day in 2007 as part of their effort to promote healthy living. Every year on the first Wednesday in April cities, towns and communities across around the country celebrate the easiest way to be the healthiest version of you -

#### WALKING.

Studies show that walking for thirty to sixty minutes per day can drastically improve your health and even help prevent ailments such as type II diabetes, cancer, and heart disease. And what a better place to walk and re-energize than Spring Trails.

So get out there and walk for a healthier you. Consider these tips to make your 30-minute walk more enjoyable:

- Wear comfortable clothes.
- Take a friend to pass the time.
- Make sure to stretch those muscles.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Move your arms while you walk.
- Maintain good posture.



We're kicking off Spring with something new. Spring Trails is excited to announce the 1st annual Junior Art & Writing Contest open to community youth aged 0-18. Whether your passion is writing or art, there's an opportunity for you. To participate, submit an original work of art or creative writing on or before May 31st to <u>STJuniorReporter@gmail.com</u> or drop it off at the Visitor's Center any Tuesday between 9:00am-6:00pm.

#### **Contest Rules:**

• Contestants must be residents of Spring Trails

• Contestants must be 18 years or younger. Contest age groups are:

- o 0-4 years
- o 5-8 years
- o 9-12 years
- o 13-15 years
- o 16-18 years

• Contestant may submit up to 2 entries of art and/or writing (limit 1 per category).

- All submissions must be original.
- Submittal deadline is May 31st.

#### **Types of Work:**

Writing: Poem Writing: Short Story Art: Original Painting Art: Original Drawing or Sketch Art: Original Sculpture Art: Original Photography **Contest Categories:** Writing/Art: Spring Trails/Nature Theme Writing/Art: Texas Theme Art: Sports Theme Other: Submit your proposed theme to STJuniorReporter@gmail.com for guidance. Registration forms are available at **<u>STJuniorReporter@gmail.com</u>** or at the Visitor's Center and must be submitted with your writing or art entry. Resident volunteers will be accepting art and writing entries

between April 1-May 31st. Winning entries from each age group will receive awards and be included in the Spring Trails newsletter for all to enjoy.

## **CORRECTION:**

The March 2020 issue of the Spring Trails Newsletter misidentified the committee involved with the renovation of the tennis courts at Cardinal Park as the Beautification Committee. The Association wants to correct the record and recognize the **Amenities Committee** and the resident volunteers listed for their contributions to the project and the community.

Welcome to Spring Trails!

New to Spring Trails? Welcome! You've probably already figured out how unique Spring Trails is. Well you ain't seen nothin' yet. 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.

## Watermelon Salad



- 2 tablespoons white wine vinegar
  1 lime, zested and juiced
  1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
  1 red onion, thinly sliced
  4 cups seeded watermelon chunks
  1 cup crumbled feta cheese
  1/4 cup mint chiffonade
- 2 cups baby arugula

#### Directions:

Add the white wine vinegar, lime zest and juice to a small bowl. Whisk in the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Add the thinly sliced red onion and let marinate for 5 to 10 minutes as you prepare the rest of the salad.

Add the watermelon, feta, mint, and arugula to a large bowl. Toss with the vinaigrette and serve immediately after dressing.

Recipe courtesy of The Neelys, www.foodnetwork.com



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