

WORTHAM  
VILLAGES



# THE WORTHAM VILLAGES

OFFICIAL  
COMMUNITY  
NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

# BRIEF

## Splinters from the Board, By Stan Schoen, @sschoen@worthamweb.org

These are the craziest of times to say the least. I hope this finds you all safe, sane and homebound. The most important job we all have is to stay home for right now until we're all told it's safe to resume our normal lives.

As our communities' battle COVID-19 we at Wortham follow all the protocols and any meetings we have are all done online and all of our vendors are following their protocols as well doing what they can do in this effort.

### Coming into Wortham

For those wondering what is happening with the bridge on Wortham, it is being repaired and reinforced by Harris County. Over the years the ground has moved and it was starting to separate. Once the current work is done, they will move to the other side to do the same. For the walkers, runners and bikers trying to get around the construction and don't want to get your feet wet, they have opened up the orange fencing in the median so you can walk down the middle and rejoin the path on the other side.

### Pool Tags and Pool Opening

As of the writing of this article (May 4, 2020) there is a Harris County stay at home order through May 20, 2020. Also, the State of Texas has not allowed community pools to open yet based on the Governor's order which will be reviewed again on May 18, 2020. Pending the release of the County and the State to open pools, A-Beautiful Pools (pool management company) will determine when the pool will open for this summer season. At this time we do not have an estimated date as to when the pool may open. Once we know the pool open date we will determine the dates for pool tag handout. We will update all on Facebook, our website, information signs and mail-outs from Crest Management.

### Address painting (in front of houses)

It has been 3 years since the painting of the home numbers in front of our houses and, as promised, this has now been completed. This is done in order to stay consistent, for safety and beautification purposes and your HOA pays for this included in our fees.

### Parking

I can only encourage you to park in your driveway when possible, usually, when there is an issue, it is due to cars parked in  
(continued on next page)

## Lawn Care Spring Lawn Tips

There isn't much more satisfying to a homeowner than a well manicured, green lawn. For the past few months, your lawn may have turned brown from the cold, gray winter weather. Early spring is an excellent time to get a head start on your lawn care.

Spring is the time of year when the sun is warm, the breeze is cool, and the steady hum of lawnmowers once again fills the air. A healthy summer lawn starts with spring maintenance. Winter can alter soil pH, compact the soil, and create conditions friendly to weeds and disease, so it's crucial that you properly clean, fertilize and mow your yard early in the season. So what can you do if old man winter's cold left bare spots, invasive plants and other problems with your patch of green? Don't panic -- break out the broadcast spreader and read below for a list of spring lawn care tips:

**Stop summer weeds:** Don't let annual weeds ruin the look of your lawn. Spread a pre-emergence herbicide to stop them before they sprout.

**Begin mowing:** Start mowing your lawn as it begins to grow in mid-to-late spring. Don't let thatch build up--Thatch is a layer of old, dead grass stems that builds up on lawns. It prevents air, water, and nutrients from getting to your lawn's root system. Remove thatch before the grass starts growing in summer.

**Fertilizing:** Fertilizer can help your lawn grow thick and lush, but if it's not used properly, it can actually damage the grass. A slow-release nitrogen fertilizer is best, and no more than 1 pound (0.45 kilograms) of nitrogen should be spread per 1,000 square feet (93 square meters). It should be applied early in the season when the turf begins actively growing, so the timing varies among regions. Fertilizer should not be applied too early or late, however, as lingering cold or early heat can stress the grass. Check the packaging to see when and how much you should water after applying the fertilizer.

## Splinters from the Board, continued

the streets and unlocked. The other problem is passage, it is difficult to pass, as you know, especially when there is a car parked on either side of the street and when there is one on each side, well, this is a problem waiting to happen.

### Trash

Trash should be put to the curb after 3 pm on Sunday or after 3 pm on Wednesday. If your lawn cutters put bags on the street on Friday or Saturday you should put it in your garage until one of those days. We can't always abide all of the time but this would help keep our neighborhood nice and pretty as it always is.

I have a sign in my house that I look at every day that simply says- "I hate to spoil the ending but everything will be OK". I know that at times it may seem bleak especially when looking a pandemic in the face and changing our behaviors but I do believe that it will be OK.

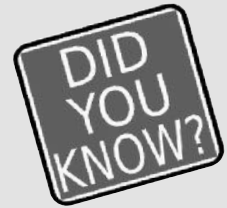
On behalf of me and our Board of Directors we hope and pray you are all safe and doing well.

**Make it a great day!**

### Questions about your water or sewer?

MUD 222 has a website with information for all residents.  
Please visit [www.mud222.org](http://www.mud222.org).

- Setup New Water Service
- Pay Your Water Bill
- Water Billing Questions
- Cancel Water Service
- Pay Tax Bill



## Wortham's National Night Out 2019 was a great success!

A huge THANK YOU to all of the volunteers that made it happen! Door prizes were generously donated by the following vendors:

BEANS Wellness  
Blue Water Seafood  
Chili's  
Chuy's  
Copperfield Embroidery  
Fashion Nails & Spa  
Haute Suburban Mess, A Merle Norman Boutique  
House of Barbers  
Lazy Dog  
Margo Horton, Realtor  
Pet Suites  
Texas Roadhouse  
Wortham Whitesharks

**THANK  
YOU**

Thank you to these vendors for providing such wonderful gifts for our lucky winners!

**Community Website:** [WWW.WORTHAMVILLAGES.COM](http://WWW.WORTHAMVILLAGES.COM)

**Facebook Page:** [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WORTHAMVILLAGESCOMMUNITY](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/WORTHAMVILLAGESCOMMUNITY)

# WATER CONSERVATION IN THE HOME



## Start in the bathroom

Did you know that about 75% of water used in the home is used in the bathroom? Look for ways to save water whenever possible. You'll help Texas and reduce your water bill as well.

- **Bathing:** Take a shower instead of a bath to save water. A short shower uses less water than a long one. A low-flow showerhead will save as much as 50% of the amount of water currently used, while still providing a refreshing, cleansing shower. Installing a low-flow showerhead is the single most effective conservation step that can be taken inside the home.
- **Toilet:** Standard toilets manufactured prior to the 1980s usually require 5-7 gallons per flush. Toilets sold during the '80s and early '90s use 3.5 gallons per flush. The greatest savings come from replacing your toilet with a 1.6 gallon model. Since 1992 in Texas and 1994 nationally, new toilets must use 1.6 gallons or less per flush. Do not use a brick in your toilet tank. The brick will crumble and can damage the fixture.
- **Lavatory:** Change your habits! Don't let water run continuously while brushing your teeth, shaving or washing your hands. Additionally, a low-flow faucet aerator can save up to 50% of the water currently used in the lavatory.

## On to the kitchen for more savings...

About 8% of in-home water use takes place in the kitchen. And now for the kitchen sink.

- Run water only when necessary
- Fill the basin or a dish pan to rinse dishes instead of using running water.
- Soak pots and pans before washing.
- Fill the basin or a pan with water to wash fruits and vegetables.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge rather than running tap water until it is cold enough to drink.
- Operate the garbage disposal only when necessary.

## Dishwasher tips

- Wash only full loads.
- When you need to buy a new machine, take a look at the water saving models. Newer models can cut water use by 25% and generally are no more expensive than non-conserving models.

## All around the house

- **Washing machines:** Doing the laundry requires about 14% of water used inside the home.
- Conserve by adjusting the water level to match the size of your loads.
- Wash only full loads.

Even little changes make a big difference with water conservation. Thanks for helping!

# BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



A good neighbor is one who maintains the exterior of their house and lawn to the same level as the rest of the neighborhood. You don't want your house to be the one on the street that drags down the value of homes. If you can't mow your own lawn, hire a lawn service to keep it tidy. Basic exterior maintenance tips include:

- Mow the lawn on a regular basis, trim hedges and keep tree wells tidy.
- Remove mold from the exterior walls and paint when necessary.
- Make sure that trees, shrubs, and other elements don't creep into your neighbor's yard. This includes tree limbs, spreading shrubs, and weeds.
- Remove all bicycles, skateboards, and toys from the front yard at the end of the day.
- Remove rotted, worn fence pickets and replace with new wood pickets.
- Remove any rotting wood siding or trim board and replace with new siding and trim that has a fresh coat of paint.
- Keep gutters clean from leaves and tree limbs.
- Clean exterior windows. Clean exterior windows make your home look nice, and they also protect the lifespan of your windows. Over time, harsh elements outdoors can damage your windows. Weather damage, pollution, minerals, rust, and other elements can adhere to the glass, causing buildup and damage.
- Remove fallen branches and clear the yard. Pick up fallen branches from the yard and clear other debris. This will discourage pests like snakes and insects from setting up homes in fall.
- Fix cracks in concrete. You should fix cracks in your concrete as soon as you notice them, as they are easier to repair while they are still small.
- Remember to only set out trash cans the night before trash pick up day and retrieve them promptly after pick up service. Also, store trash cans out of sight from the street.

Thank you for doing your part to be a good neighbor!



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## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Life Threatening Emergency .....911  
Fire .....911  
Sheriff's Department.....911  
Poison Control.....800.222.1222

### NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Ambulance.....713.466.4073  
Sheriff's Department.....713.221.6000  
Harris County Health Dept.....713.439.6000  
Animal Control.....281.999.3191  
Gas - Centerpoint .....713.659.2111

WATER & SEWER - MUD 222 (Municipal Operations)  
Service & Billing .....281.367.5511

Street Lights .....713.207.2222  
Garbage & Recycling (Texas Pride) .....281.342.8178  
email: [service@texaspridedisposal.com](mailto:service@texaspridedisposal.com)  
U.S. Post Office Fairbanks Station.....713.937.9108  
7050 Brook Hollow West

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# ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY TIPS

Each year in North America, hundreds of people die and thousands more are injured in accidents involving electrical fires or shocks. Most of these incidents can be prevented by following simple electrical-safety rules:

- Never overload electrical outlets, and use only one appliance per extension cord.
- Maintain all electrical cords. Replace any cord that is cracked, frayed or otherwise damaged. Also, replace cords that become hot when in use.
- Never allow an electrical cord to become crimped against walls or furniture.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs or across doorways, and never hang them over nails. This may cause the insulation to deteriorate, exposing a wire that can cause a fire or electric shock.
- Have a professional electrician replace old or damaged outlets with modern, three-wired, polarized receptacles. Proper grounding is essential to minimize fire and shock hazards.
- Plugs should match outlets. Three-pronged plugs require three-wired receptacles or a properly grounded adapter. Polarized plugs with one prong wider than the other require polarized receptacles.
- Never cut off or bend the ground pin of a three-pronged plug. This ground connection protects from severe shock caused by a faulty cord or malfunctioning appliance.
- Never alter the wide prong of a polarized plug to make it fit into an outdated outlet.
- Protect children from electrical shock by installing plastic safety inserts in unused outlets.

