

AMBER WOOD  
AT FALL CREEK



# THE AMBER WOOD

YOUR  
COMMUNITY  
NEWSLETTER

FALL/WINTER 2018

# BRIEF

## Board Update:

ARE YOU READY FOR FALL? WE'VE GOT A FUN OCTOBERFEST EVENT PLANNED. COME JOIN THE FUN AND MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Yard of the Season: Decorate your yard in festive décor. A winner for each season and for each Fall Creek village will receive a nifty certificate, gift card, and a yard sign acknowledging their decorative yard.

- Fall/Halloween Event: Judging October 8-10
- Winter/Holiday Event: Judging is usually the end of November or early December - TBD

Octoberfest: Celebrate fall and cooler weather with your Amber Wood neighbors!

- Saturday, October 20th from 4-6 pm
- Sausages provided by our HOA will be grilled at Sabine Scott's residence, 7205 South Commons Walk Lane
- Bring your favorite beverages, an appetizer or side dish and lawn chairs
- RVSP OR QUESTIONS: Contact Monti Keep; 832-567-2245; monti.keep@hotmail.com



### FALL CREEK CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE:

Please be diligent in keeping Fall Creek safe. Remember to remove valuables from vehicles parked in the driveway or on the street. Also lock your vehicle's doors and keep your garage door closed. Lastly, report suspicious activity to the Harris County Non-Emergency number: 713-221-6000/option 6; one of the local deputies will be dispatched.

As a reminder, the days are getting shorter. Please watchful for walkers, strollers, runners, bicyclists, and children. Amber Wood and Aldine Bender do not have sidewalks. Use caution when driving in Fall Creek when it is dark, as unfortunately many runners and bicyclists do not wear reflective wear.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE:** Please visit our website at: [www.mascapi.com/amber-wood-at-fall-creek.html](http://www.mascapi.com/amber-wood-at-fall-creek.html) for useful information!

# AVOID GAS PUMP SCAMS

Skimmers are illegal card readers attached to payment terminals — like gas pumps — that grab data off a credit or debit card's magnetic stripe without your knowledge. Criminals sell the stolen data or use it to buy things online. You won't know your information has been stolen until you get your statement or an overdraft notice. Skimmers are nothing new, but technology has made them smaller and harder to find. There are two types of skimmers — internal and external. For external skimmers, take a good look at the card reader. Does it look different than other readers at the station?

External skimmers are installed over an existing keypad or card reader. There are some tell-tale signs that an external skimmer has been installed:

- Check to see if the keypad is raised by running your fingernail along the edge. A skimmer is also likely to be loosely installed and will wiggle.
- Also look at the weathering of the keypad. Most fuel dispensers get weathered because of the elements and a new keypad on a weathered dispenser should be a warning sign.
- Check the top right front of the machine for tiny keyhole cameras that are recording your debit pin numbers as you enter them onto the keypad.

Internal skimmer devices are installed by opening the dispenser door and inserting a skimmer. Look to see if the dispenser door appears to have been forced open. In some cases, the door does not align properly or has unusual scraping or wear around the edges.

If you suspect the machine has been tampered with, alert the attendant, and if one is not available, call the police. Be safe and be on the lookout for this scam!

# TRASH CAN DO'S AND DON'TS

## PLEASE KEEP TRASH CANS CLOSED

Outdoor trash cans can attract bugs and animals. It's always a good idea to try to prevent insects and animals from being attracted to your house. Whether it's neighborhood dogs, raccoons or some other animal, if they are getting into your garbage it's bound to be a mess. Keep unwanted animals out of your garbage by keeping trash can lids closed. Also, please avoid the temptation to overfill your trash can, which can lead to unsightly spillovers and also serve as an invitation to animals.



## STORE TRASH CANS OUT OF VIEW ON NON TRASH DAYS

Except when placed at curbside for pickup, trash cans or receptacles should be stored behind a fence, enclosure or should otherwise be screened from view. This means that you should not store your trash cans and/or recycle bins in front of your garage door, or at the side of the house if they can be seen anywhere from the street or sidewalks (public view).

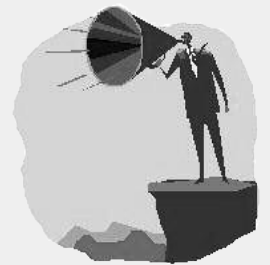


# PLEASE CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

## SAFETY FIRST: CALL BEFORE ANY DIGGING PROJECT

Building a deck? Planting a tree? 811 is the new number you should call before you begin any digging project.

A federally-mandated national "Call Before You Dig" number, 811 was created to help protect you from unintentionally hitting underground utility lines while working on digging projects. People digging often make risky assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked due to concerns about project delays, costs and previous calls about other projects. These assumptions can be life-threatening.



Make a call for every digging job — even small projects like planting trees or shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs.

A recent study revealed that nearly half of homeowners who plan to dig this year won't call 811 to learn the approximate locations of buried gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines before digging, putting their safety and the safety of others at risk. According to data collected by CGA, when an individual makes a call to 811 before digging, damage occurs less than 1 percent of the time. So, before you dig, call 811. More details online at: [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com).

# Please Pick Up After Pets

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you're liable to step in one such reminder! Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common forms of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter. When walking your dog in our community, remember that it should be leashed. Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take a baggie along with you to pick up your waste and have it disposed of properly. By taking a few simple steps to clean up after your pet, you can contribute not only to the beautification of our community, but also towards the elimination of one of the most irritating nuisances in a neighborhood. Thank you for your cooperation!



## ARE YOU ON NEXTDOOR?

The official communication mode for the Fall Creek community is Nexdoor. Be sure to join [Nextdoor.com](http://Nextdoor.com) to receive communication from the Fall Creek HOA Board and information about Fall Creek activities. Once you've joined Nextdoor, make sure you also join the Amber Wood neighborhood group for information about our neighborhood!

## HURRICANE PLAN AND SUPPLIES KIT

Everyone needs to be prepared for the unexpected. Your friends and family may not be together when disaster strikes. How will you find each other? You may have to evacuate or be confined to your home. What will you do if utilities are shut off? For help building a hurricane plan and supplies kit, visit: [www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php).

# CONSERVATION: WATER USE TIPS

## Why Water Conservation is Essential for Sustainable Communities

Residents want their communities to be sustainable. However, to achieve sustainability and long-term viability, it's important that residents work together to implement successful water conservation practices. Water efficiency and conservation contributes to reduced subsidence, which aids efforts to reduce flooding, and helps improve the health for our aquifers and rivers, which will provide adequate sources of drinking water for future generations. Additionally, water efficiency results in less run off into lakes and rivers and less energy used in the provision and treatment of water, which increases the opportunity to create a sustainable environment now and for the future. Most people don't realize the complexity of the distribution of quality drinking water and the collection and treatment of sewage and may not be aware that water and wastewater facilities represent one of the largest electrical consumers within the community. Thus, each of us has a responsibility to use less water to ensure adequate water supplies for the future and to reduce overall energy consumption.

### Do Your Part to Keep Our Water Clean

1. Use fewer and better pesticides and fertilizers to avoid chemical runoff to our waterways.
2. Water wisely. Watering too heavily or too often weakens your lawn and causes erosion and runoff pollution.
3. Using less toxic cleaning products can reduce pollutants in both the air and water, and help improve the air quality in your house.
4. Collect your food scraps, oil, and grease to avoid clogging sewer lines, which can cause overflows that pollute nearby creeks and streams.
5. Whenever you change your oil or other vehicle fluids at home, make sure you recycle them. NEVER pour used motor oil down storm drains which will carry the oil directly to Texas waterways.
6. Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent like kitty litter or sand.

Please do your part to conserve our valuable resource - water!

AMBER WOOD AT FALL CREEK  
C/O MASC Austin Properties, Inc.  
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Phone: (713) 776-1771

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## AMBER WOOD AT FALL CREEK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Sauda Callahan - President  
Sabine Scott - Vice President  
Laura Flocks - Secretary  
James E. Hughes - Treasurer  
Eric Kennison - At Large

### MASC AUSTIN PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT TEAM

Property Manager: David Rivera  
drivera@mascapi.com

Accounts Manager: Hayle McAnalley  
hmcanalley@mascapi.com

Work Orders: Lucero Vilchis  
lvilchis@mascspi.com

## KEEP STORM DRAINS CLEAN

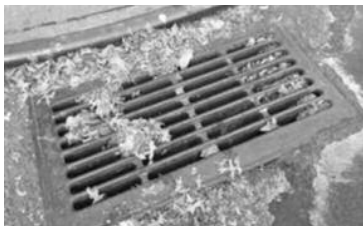
To lessen the possibility of street flooding, we ask residents to please keep storm drains clean and free from yard debris and trash. Please do not put any items down the drains. They are meant to drain water out of the streets only.



**THIS**



**NOT THIS**



## TRASH IN THE COMMUNITY

Every minute a sack of fast-food trash gets thrown from a vehicle's window. Did you know that 33 percent of all littered garbage is fast food waste? Styrofoam containers take many years to decompose. It also takes many years for aluminum cans to biodegrade, of which these make up 28 percent of incorrectly disposed trash. Littering certainly doesn't help the environment but most importantly it hurts humans as well as resulting in the deterioration of our planet. Reversing neighborhood litter and pollutants back to green environments is our challenge.



If you see litter in the community, please pick it up and dispose of it properly. It is good practice to recycle the litter you've collected, if at all possible. Contact a local recycling center for advice on whether certain materials should be collected separately, where they should be taken on how they should be disposed. Thank you!