

WORTHAM
VILLAGES



THE WORTHAM VILLAGES

OFFICIAL
COMMUNITY
NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2018

BRIEF

Splinters from the Board

By Stan Schoen, @ sschoen@worthamweb.org

Welcome to our inaugural edition of the all new Wortham Newsletter! You may have received a newsletter but I assure you this is the only version sanctioned by WVCA (Wortham Villages Community Association). We sincerely hope you like what you see. This newsletter will be published once per quarter, not the monthly newsletter you were getting in the now distant past. Personally, I am very pleased that we can bring you what I feel will be a quality product but it can be made better – if you participate. We need your help, we need your content. This newsletter will only be as good as we are in providing information to feed ‘the beast’ (newsletter). Pictures, news, family, anything you wish, please forward your thoughts and pictures, etc to the editor of this newsletter at info@preparedpublications.com.

Continuing on the theme of participation – my goal this year is to actually have committees. Any committee you can recommend, it’s ALL about participation and getting you, our homeowners, active and involved. This is OUR community, not mine, not theirs but ours so let’s make this an even better place to live by putting your fingerprints on it.

Hurricane Harvey was devastating to so many Houstonians and I wish all folks affected by Harvey the best as this was truly a disaster. Having said that, Wortham held up very well and probably for many reasons, some unbeknownst to me, but location is one of them. Our ‘system’ was another, in that our retention pond and everything else designed for us did what it was supposed to do - drain the water off the streets via our storm sewers and retain the water in our pond until the runoff can occur into the bayou. If we had a weakness it was on the Fallbrook side with a retention pond belonging to a M.U.D. (not #222 which is ours), but we had some water come into our subdivision. Our M.U.D. folks are very aware and are being proactive and working with the others to learn what the issues are and how they can make it better.

Our association is doing quite well, with low fees as compared to communities with similar amenities, financial stability with annual audits and plans for continuous upgrades to keep ourselves relevant and desirable to our homeowners and prospective homeowners. This newsletter is just a part of the things you will see in the future and my notes in Splinters will attempt to keep you in the know as to what is going on.

We have an upgraded website and a Facebook page. We’re fiercely moving into the 21st century! We’ve been planning some of these communication initiatives and now it’s all coming into fruition. I’m not sure of all the things this will allow us to do but I need something to write about in our 2nd edition. *(continued on page 2)*

Recreation Facilities Corner

By Rick Anderson

Well it's hard to believe that another swim season is almost upon us, but here it is April. Hope you all have had a great start to the year. The pool season starts on May 5, 2018 this year. As in past years the Wortham Board and Recreational Facilities Committee members will be handing out pool tags for the residents at the clubhouse. The pool tag handout will be done on Saturday (4/28) and Sunday (4/29) from 1- 3 pm each day and also on Tuesday (5/1) from 6:30-8:30 pm. Only homeowners who are in good standing (annual assessment fees are paid) with the Homeowner's Association (HOA) at the time the tags are picked up can receive their tags. Crest Management will be sending in the mail information and forms related to the pool tag handout, pool hours and pool rules. If you cannot pick up the tags during these times you will need to contact Crest Management and a \$20 fee per household will be required to be paid to Crest Management for these tags.

Also, as we do every year, the Wortham Villages HOA will be sponsoring a Pool Opening Party to be held on Sunday (5/6) from 12-3 pm. Food, music, door prizes and games for the kids will be provided. Please plan on attending this event to meet your neighbors and enjoy our facilities. We have had great turnouts in the past and hope to have it again this year. The Recreational Facilities Committee plans and staffs this event and we could use some volunteers (kids as well as adults) to assist. If interested, please contact Rick Anderson at the contact information below.

The Committee was put in place to not only perform the functions/events noted above, but to also look at ways to improve our facilities for the use of our homeowners/residents. The facilities we are responsible for include the pool/clubhouse; tennis courts; pool area grounds; as well as the detention area playground, park, baseball field and soccer/volleyball areas. We are looking for ways to better maintain/upgrade our facilities and need additional volunteers to join the Committee. If interested, please contact Rick Anderson at rick_anderson@efiglobal.com or 281-890-4878.

GET READY FOR SPRING: To-do list for your lawn and garden

“SPRING IS THE TIME OF PLANS AND PROJECTS.” —LEO TOLSTOY

Every season brings a different set of chores in the garden. Spring is an exciting time for gardeners as preparations are made for the bounty and beauty of the garden as it awakes from winter hibernation. It can also, however, be a bit overwhelming to know how to prioritize your gardening time at this time of year. Here is a helpful list of chores that should be tended to in the spring.

Pruning

For early blooming shrubs such as forsythia and viburnum, prune them as soon as blooms have passed. Early spring is also an ideal time to prune your roses.

Deadheading

Remove spent flowers from bulbs, but leave the rest of the plant as is for the time being.

Weeding

Pull weeds from your beds and borders before they have a chance to take hold and spread.

Composting

Tend to your compost if it has been neglected over the winter. If you do not have a compost bin, spring is a great time to start one.

Tools

Spring is a good time to prepare your tools for the oncoming gardening season and to make any necessary repairs or new

purchases. You will be happy you have done so when summer sets in.

Plant

Spring is a great time to add new plants to your garden. Be sure, however, that all threat of frost has past. Plant such things as trees, shrubs, hardy annuals, and summer blooming bulbs.

Fertilize & Mulch

Fertilize and mulch beds and borders. Spring is also a good time to fertilize fruit trees. If you applied heavy winter mulch for protection from the cold, you will need to clear it away.

Staking

Stake plants that may be prone to wind damage during the unpredictable spring weather.

Lawn Care

Rake the lawn to remove dead growth and winter debris. This helps bring light and air to the soil level, encouraging the grass to grow. Spring is also the best time to feed your lawn with a good fertilizer. For established lawns, you should start mowing in the spring, but don't cut the grass very short for the first few times.

Hopefully these tips will give you a good idea as to where to focus your attention in your garden this spring.

Enjoy the season!

Splinters... CONTINUED



Soon we will have our very own Fire Station!

We have the pool, tennis courts, hike / bike trail, dog parks, pavilions, boardwalk, clubhouse AND you don't have to drive further West on 290 to live in a great and convenient spot.

Lastly, we have new Sheriff Deputies. For daytime, it's Deputy Sheriff Rolando Delgado and for nights it's Deputy Sheriff Daniel Jaquez. Welcome gentlemen!

Thank you all for being such wonderful people, neighbors and friends. We are Wortham!

Make it a great day! See you at my table.

POOL HOURS FOR 2018!

May 5th through June 1st

Monday through Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Exceptions:

Saturday, May 5th (Time Trails) *	2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 12th (Swim Meet)*	2:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 26th (Swim Meet)*	2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Monday, May 29th (Memorial Day)	10:00am. - 8:00 p.m.

June 2nd through August 26th

Monday	4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Tuesday through Thursday	10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Friday	10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Saturday	10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Exceptions:

Saturday, June 2nd (Swim Meet)*	2:00 p.m – 9:00 p.m.
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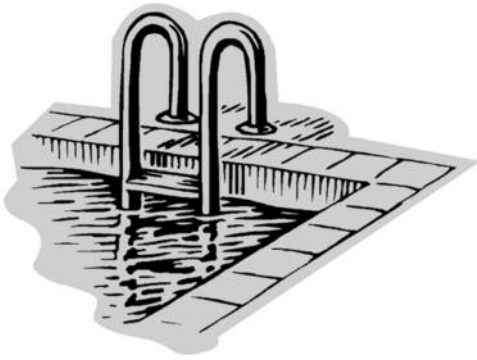
September 1st through September 3rd

Monday through Friday	Closed
Saturday	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Sunday	12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Exceptions:

Monday, September 3rd (Labor Day)	10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
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You will be required to wear your pool tags in the pool area. Guests will be allowed only as described in the Wortham Villages Pool Rules.



POOL TAG HANDOUT DATES

Save The Date!

Pool tag handouts will be on Saturday (4/28) and Sunday (4/29) from 1:00-3:00 pm each day and also on Tuesday (5/1) from 6:30-8:30 pm. Only homeowners who are in good standing (annual assessment fees are paid) with the Homeowner's Association (HOA) at the time the tags are picked up can receive their tags.



A-BEAUTIFUL POOLS

With 33 years of experience in the pool management industry, we are in business to provide safer pools in Houston while empowering employees to succeed in their job. We envision aquatic experiences resulting in happy people and safe, beautiful pools. We consider it a privilege and an opportunity to be working with your community and hope that we are not only viewed as your management company, but also viewed as a part of your neighborhood.

When you walk into one of our facilities you should expect the most qualified and well trained lifeguard and management staff in the city of Houston. Our lifeguards are trained to be ready for any emergency situation.

TRAINING INCLUDES BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- "Proactively Investigate" their water, identifying possible problem swimmers before a problem occurs.
- Frequent in-service training, emergency scenario testing and training.

A clean and orderly facility from top to bottom is also a top priority for our staff. We work hard to deliver a clean pool and spotless restrooms and furniture. If you ever find one of our staff members not delivering on that goal, please do not hesitate to contact the office staff directly.

POOL PARTIES

Reservations start April 2nd

- * Pool Parties are a great way to celebrate birthdays, graduations, and school events!
- *You can also get a group together for fun at the pool after hours based on your community's policies!

All policies, pricing, information & REGISTRATION are on-line at: www.a-beautifulpools.com. Contact Ann @ 281-376-6510 with any questions you may have.

SUMMER 2018 - NOW HIRING LIFEGUARDS

For Area Subdivisions

- Minimum age 15
- Flexible Hours

*APPLY ON-LINE & SCHEDULE YOUR INTERVIEW at www.a-beautifulpools.com

Incident Report

January 2018

Incident	Total
911 Hang Up	2
Accident/Unk Maj Min	1
Accident/FGSI	3
Accident/Major	3
Accident/Minor	16
Alarm Local	7
Alarm/Rep/Site	1
Alarm/Sil/Pan/HU	2
Animal/Humane	1
Assault/Sexual	1
Burg/Business	1
Burglary/Motor Vehicle	3
Check Business	3
Check Park	22
Child Cstdy Disp	1
Contract Check	108
Credit Card Abuse	1
Criminal Mischief	3
Dist Family	1
Disturbance/Loud Noise	1
Disturbance/Other	6
Domestic/Prevent	1
DWI	4
Follow Up	1
Fraudulent Use ID	1
In Progress	1
Injury to Child	1
Meet the Citizen	2
Missing Person	1
MUD Building Check	36
Neighborhood Check	9
Open Door/Window	1
Parking Lot Check	3
Suspicious Person	3
Telephone/Harass	1
Theft/Other	3
Traf Initiative	6
Traffic Hazard	1
Traffic Stop	12
Unk Med Emer	1
Vehicle Abandoned	1
Vehicle Speeding	1
Vehicle Stickered	1
Vehicle Suspicious	7

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WHAT TO DO IF YOU RECEIVE A Deed Restriction Violation Letter

Deed restrictions serve as a valuable tool. Indeed, it can be argued that deed restrictions are the most valuable tool available to a neighborhood association, to keep property values high in that neighborhood.

Every homeowner should receive a copy of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Wortham Villages upon purchase of their home. A copy of these documents can be read and/or downloaded and printed from the community website at: www.worthamvillages.com. Our management company, Crest Management, inspects the neighborhood once a month and sends letters to residents who appear to be in violation. Here are the steps to take when you receive a deed restriction violation letter from Crest Management:

- First, decide whether the violation existed on your property at the time of the inspection. The purpose of the first letter is merely to bring the attention of the homeowner to a possible violation. There are no legal fees or negative repercussions associated with the first letter. The wording of the letter may sound stern, but is a legal formality to allow the Association to pursue legal action, if necessary at some future date. No legal action will be taken on the basis of only one letter.

- If the answer is no, then call Crest Management to correct the mistake. Make sure that Crest Management has your correct address in their system. If you can see that your neighbor had the problem and it was incorrectly assigned to your address, be sure to inform them of that fact.

- If the answer is yes, but the violation has since been corrected (you had mulch in your driveway but

you have finished spreading it, for instance) then you may ignore the letter - your violation no longer exists. As a courtesy, you may contact the management company to let them know the violation no longer exists. An e-mail would be sufficient.



- If the answer is yes, but the violation is being corrected or will soon be corrected, then you may again ignore the letter - your violation will no longer exist at the time of the next inspection. Again, it would be courteous to notify the management company.

- If the answer is yes, but the violation will not be corrected by the time of the next inspection, a call to Crest Management is necessary. Perhaps there are extenuating circumstances that need to be taken into consideration and you will need extra time to address the correction.

If you choose to ignore a deed restriction violation letter and do not correct the violation, then you will continue to receive letters. If the violation is deemed potentially hazardous or time sensitive, you may receive subsequent letters fairly close together.

If there is no response to these letters, and if the issue is not rectified by the owner, the Association has the right to seek compliance through legal action. All costs related to legal enforcement are to be paid by the property owner. Your assistance through taking steps to improve your property and the community are sincerely appreciated.

Sunni West is our Community Manager with Crest Management and can be reached at 281-945-4615.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

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.

PLEASE PICK UP AFTER YOUR 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. It is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie with you to pick up waste with and then dispose of it 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!

Have you checked-out our new website?
WWW.WORTHAMVILLAGES.COM

Yes, We're Now On Facebook!

The community is now on Facebook. When you get a moment, visit our Facebook page and while you're there, give us a like! Online at:

www.facebook.com/worthamvillagescommunity

HELP KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN

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.



Littering is letting trash or garbage lie in an open place or area. Litter is not only an eyesore it also has very bad effects. Plastic shopping bags are an example. They have become a big issue as their light weight makes it easy for them to travel in the wind. This kind of litter gets stuck in trees, fences and storm drains. This plastic bag litter also impacts the health of smaller wild animals.

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 possible. Visit www.recycleinfo.org/recycling-harris-county.html for local recycling locations and advice on whether certain materials should be collected separately, where they should be taken and how they should be disposed.

To protect, save and improve our environment from litter, it first starts with making observations and changes at home where we live, in our neighborhood and beyond.

Green is possible when we start by cleaning up our own litter. We should be doing this for the good of the earth and its wildlife and humans, as we are the only ones who can make that change.

Thank you for helping to keep our neighborhood beautiful!



Teen Job Seekers

Parent name: Brittany and Cameron Overstreet

Daughter's name: Vanessa Walker-Overstreet (12)

Phone: 713.501.4144

She is available to: Pet sit, House sit, Baby sit.

If you would like to place a Teen Job Seekers ad, please email your information to Prepared Publications at: info@preparedpublications.com.

What To Do About The Mosquitoes!

- Remove standing water - This is one of the most important things you can do. Standing water is a major contributor to mosquito problems, because it is where adult mosquitoes typically lay their eggs.
- Check EVERYTHING! - Mosquitoes like to get tricky. So spots that you wouldn't even expect mosquitoes to reside in are still major potential breeding grounds. This includes children's sandboxes, dog bowls, grill covers, tarps, old firewood, and even plant/flower pots. What do all these secret hiding spots have in common? They can hold leftover excess water. This also means that your gutters are one of the most troublesome hot spots for mosquitoes. Make sure to clean them regularly and often, especially after it rains.
- Take care of your yard - Mosquitoes love to inhabit cool areas with shade. This means you can usually find them hiding under plant leaves and in tall grass. A properly maintained yard, free of weeds and overgrown plants can be a huge help in reducing the number of mosquitoes you have.
- Check out the forecast - There's a great mosquito forecast tool at Weather.com that will give you an idea of the mosquito problem in our area.

GET READY FOR THE SEASON A Spring Home Maintenance Checklist



Spring maintenance can seem daunting to both new homeowners and seasoned veterans alike, but there are a few key things to

take a look at after the cold winter months are officially in the rearview. Take some time to walk the grounds of your home, making note if anything seems out of the ordinary from what you last remember. This simple checklist will give you an idea of what to look for when inspecting your home this spring.

INSIDE

HVAC Systems. A technician should check your ductwork for signs of damage, do some cleaning and service to your furnace and A/C compressor, and clean bathroom vents on a bi-annual basis. The spring is a great time to have this done before the warmer months warrant an increased use of air conditioning systems.

Plumbing. Winter freezes are harsh on pipes, and it's a good idea to make sure your they are still in good condition after the last cold snap of the season has passed. Look under sinks and up at ceilings for telltale signs of water leaks, call a plumber if you think there is damage that surpasses an easy fix.

Chimney. If you used your chimney frequently during the colder months, be sure to give it a checkup this spring. Chimneys can hold dangerous gasses if there's even a small blockage, and an annual chimney checkup and clean up is a great idea.

Smoke Detectors. It's suggested you change the batteries on your smoke detector at least once a year. Why not make it part of your spring cleaning?

Window Screens. Before creepy crawlies start to become more active, make sure to double check all window screens for rips and tears.

OUTSIDE

Gutters. Fall and winter months see leaves falling from the trees and sediment forming from freezing temperatures. Have a professional give your gutters a good clean in time for spring showers.

Roofing. If you're worried winter weather may have damaged your roof (or you experienced any water damage from hurricane Harvey), be sure to give your roof a once-over and call a professional if you think something needs to be repaired.

Paint. If your exterior is painted and there are signs of chips from water damage or rot, you may consider touching up with a fresh coat of paint. If there is no major or noticeable damage to the paint from the winter, it's still a good idea to give your house a light scrub.

Pest Control. If you see any problem nests forming around your home (whether it's a bee hive, wasp, or hornet's nest), be sure to nip the potential hazard in the bud and spray it with a healthy dose of the pesticide of your choice. If your exterminator hasn't visited in a while, it may be time to give them a call to take preventative measures before spring is in full swing.

Home maintenance is vital to your residence's health in the spring, so be sure to take some time before the weather heats up and take note of any changes that may have happened during the cold winter months. The more you take care of now, the less you'll need to worry about later!



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- Is Your Home **GREEN** with Algae?
- Is Your Driveway, Patio or Pool Deck **BLACK** with Mildew?
- Have You Gotten One of **THOSE** Letters from Your HOA?
- Have the Spider Pods and Mud Dobbers Taken Over **YOUR** Home?

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