

West Bellfort Property Owners Association

www.westbellfortpoa.com

Monthly Newsletter

February 2018

2018 POA DUES

The due date for the 2018 WBPOA dues was January 31st. If you have not paid or executed a payment plan as yet, you are now late and subject to late fees. For the POA to best serve the community and properly maintain our amenities, POA dues are to be paid promptly. Non-payment of dues severely impacts our community, as we cannot maintain the common areas, clubhouses, parks, pool and tennis court without your dues. Therefore, non-payment of dues will restrict your use of community amenities as it is not right to allow usage if you are not paying for the upkeep. The invoices were mailed in November 2017. If for any reason you did not receive your notice, contact Sterling ASI as soon as possible at (832) 678-4500 and ask for Roxanne, Amy or anyone at Sterling, who will be more than happy to assist you. See box below for more helpful details.

POA DUES – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Payment coupons are included with the invoice for your POA dues to be paid in advance. Those coupons are not an agreement to enter into a payment plan, but there is a payment plan option. However, you MUST notify the management company that you are selecting this option before January 2018 by sending in your first payment by the date specified on the coupon. If for any reason you cannot make payments by end of January 2018, please contact Sterling or your POA Board AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, as it is imperative that the HOA receives payments so as to stay in line with the 2018 Budget. Should you lose the payment coupon, you are welcome to mail your payment to the following:

West Bellfort POA
c/o Sterling ASI
PO Box 38118
Houston, Texas 77238-8118

Please specify the property address you are making payment for in the memo line of the check; alternatively, you are welcome to include a separate piece of paper with the address and any other particulars to ensure your payment is properly applied.

WBPOA BOARD MEMBERS:

Barbara Hite, President
Jeannette Calhoun, Vice President
Phil Abrams, Secretary
Mari Angelo, Board Member
Asher Belles, Board Member
Joy Cunningham, Board Member
Dyaz Godfrey, Board Member
Lorie Gonzalez, Board Member
Glenn Gundy, Board Member
Jonah Nathan, Board Member
James Thottam, Board Member
Marc Warren, Board Member
Marcy Williams, Board Member

WBPOA MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Roxanne Martinez, CMCA, AMS
Sterling Association Services
6842 N Sam Houston Parkway N
Houston, TX 77064
Phone 832-678-4500
Fax: 832-678-4510

Email: roxanne@sterlingasi.com
Alternatively can ask for Amy Duran
or any other Sterling Representative

Ludington Clubhouse Rental

Joy Cunningham 713 / 417-8154
Joycunningham@sbcglobal.net

Braesridge Clubhouse Rental

Jeannette Calhoun 713 / 203-2407
jcalhoun@insurepointe.com

For vacation planning needs, please be sure to register for a deputy vacation watch by visiting the Precinct 7 website and select "Vacation Watch" – or visit <https://constable7.harriscountytexas.gov/Pages/VacationWatchRequest.aspx>

WBPOA is patrolled by :

Harris County Constable Precinct 7
Constable May Walker
Precinct 7 Dispatch 713 / 643-6602

Deputies assigned to WBPOA:

Sgt. J. Meeks
Deputy Antone
Deputy Nowlin
Deputy Pyland

Please contact your alarm company and have the Constable's precinct listed as the first police authority contact.



February is American Heart Month! See pages 3 and 5 for a healthy recipe and tips toward a healthy heart!



Masks CARNIVAL
New Orleans Rio de Janeiro
Celebrate Parades
CARNIVAL BALL Colors
FAT TUESDAY Food
festivals FLAMBEAUX
MARDI GRAS
King Cakes Gumbo
Green PURPLE Gold



Volunteers Needed to Serve as Block Captains



Block Captains are residents who volunteer their time and efforts to The community to serve as “point persons” between the residents, the POA Board, its committees and The property management team.

You will not be asked to do anything that puts yourself in harm’s way. The time involved is minimal. By serving as the “eyes and ears” of The community, you will play a big part in keeping it safe, friendly and beautiful. You can even “co-share” and team up with a neighbor. If you have an interest in serving as a Block Captain, please contact any of the Board members or Roxanne Martinez of Sterling Management, or attend the upcoming Board Meeting **on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at 6:30pm, Braesridge Clubhouse.**

Junk Waste
EVEN months

**REMAINS SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

JUNK WASTE SUSPENDED FOR FEBRUARY

Northfield III & IV (North of West Bellfort): N/A

Northfield V (South of West Bellfort): N/A

CURBSIDE RECYCLE DATES – FEBRUARY:

February 1st and 15th

Tree Waste

ODD months

January / March /

May / July /

September / November

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING REGULATIONS

The City of Houston has very strict parking regulations which apply to neighborhoods. At the back of this newsletter is a short overview. **Please adhere to these parking regulations, or risk receiving a parking ticket from HPD and / or a violations notice from the WBPOA.** Please note: Although you are legally required to maintain your sidewalk at your own expense, the sidewalk is actually city property. As such, you are **NOT ALLOWED TO PARK WHERE YOU BLOCK THE SIDEWALK AS IT CROSSES YOUR DRIVEWAY.**

POA Rules Regarding Garbage / Recycling / Yard Waste / Junk & Tree Waste

PLEASE SEE “TRASH FACTS” ARTICLE ATTACHED TO THE NEWSLETTER

- Garbage Bins: Weekly pick up. To be placed at the curb the night before scheduled pick up date (ie, Wednesday before a Thursday pickup)
- Recycle Bins: Bi-weekly pick up. To be placed at the curb the night before pick up date.
- Yard Waste (grass and flower bed clippings, etc.): Weekly pick up with regular household trash, but must be in City approved clear plastic compostable bags with a city seal on the bag
- Junk Waste & Tree Waste (tree trimmings, large limbs, etc.): Alternate Monthly pick up. Can be placed at the curb up to 4 days prior to scheduled pick up date. Pick up dates for Junk Waste and Tree Waste alternate months (Junk Waste – even months / Tree Waste – odd months).

If for any reason a household has too much trash to fit inside the black garbage bin, residents can purchase city stickers to place on the outside of large plastic garbage bags. The stickers can be purchased from Fiesta or Seller’s Brothers customer service windows or at hardware stores. The stickers **MUST** be visible street side, or the bags will not be picked up.

Residents with physical limitations can contact 311 and complete a Solid Waste Pickup Request Form (for either regular trash or recycles, or both) to qualify for special pick up services. If qualified, city services will then pick up from the residents’ specified locations and return them to the same location when emptied. The location **MUST** be out of sight from the street, but accessible to the city services (ie, behind unlocked fence gate).

All bins, yard waste, junk waste and / or tree waste **MUST** be removed from sight by the end of the scheduled pick up date. **ALL BINS MUST BE KEPT OUT OF SIGHT AT ALL TIMES OUTSIDE OF TRASH PICK UP DAYS – NO EXCEPTIONS.**

The Community

Community School

Sephardic Gan/Torat EMET School is back in session. Please keep an eye out for our community's greatest treasures... our children – keep your eyes open and your speed slow.....AND STOP AT STOP SIGNS!!!!

Community Clubhouses

Be sure to book your events at either of our clubhouses. Be sure to get with Joy Cunningham for the Ludington Clubhouse or Jeannette Calhoun for the Braesridge Clubhouse. Their contact details are on the front of the newsletter.

Community Parks

Believe it or not, spring is around the corner! But don't wait to enjoy our Kittybrook and Ludington Parks. Playtime is all year!

And speaking of playing.... Why not enjoy a game of tennis at our community Tennis court soon?

Community Involvement

Want to be an active member of your community? Come to a Board meeting, contact one of your POA Board Members or Roxanne Martinez of Sterling Management to find how you can serve on one of the Board committees or serve as a Block Captain!

Ludington Pool

The pool is closed for the season. But no worries – it will be summer again before you know it!!

Your POA \$\$ at Work



As noted on page 2, the WBPOA rules require that garbage and recycle bins be kept out of sight except on pick up days. Once the bins have been emptied, residents are required to return the bins to their proper locations OUT OF VIEW. It is important to follow this rule as otherwise full bins would be left out all time, meaning trash could be strewn about. Empty bins sitting out is an open invitation to burglars casing houses as it is a sign that the residents are not home – whether that is true or not! All of these bins pictured were still out (most on the road) on a Monday morning, well passed pick up dates. Even those pulled neatly in the driveway are still in view (against POA rules). Every bin that is left out also signals your WBPOA association dues are having to be spent on sending enforcement letters as well as potentially incurring legal fees. Please do your part and help us all keep our POA community safe and our dues down by following the WBPOA rules and regulations.

POA Rules Regarding Home Improvements

Reminder that before doing any landscaping or home improvement project involving the exterior of your home (including the front AND back yards), such as painting, the construction of patio covers, pools, etc., you MUST obtain approval first from the Architectural Control / Review Committee by completing the Architectural Control Application. The application is attached to the newsletter or can be found on the WBPOA website. Failure to receive approval for the improvement and / or change may result in you having to remove, alter or change the improvement in order to comply with the rules and regulations of the POA. **PLEASE NOTE: This also includes obtaining approval for any dumpsters that may be required during improvements / renovations, no matter the size or location. Failure to obtain prior approval may result in the requirement to immediately remove the dumpster from the site.**

See Something, Say Something!

We are able to enjoy a very peaceful neighborhood because our constable patrol works very diligently to keep it safe. Let your POA dues work by contacting Precinct 7 for ANY questionable actions you see going on. It is their job to keep us secure, so please enter the Precinct 7 Constable's Dispatch number in your phones and CALL them! Also, be sure to have the Constable Dispatch the first law enforcement contact for your home alarms. As always, if you see something suspicious, be sure to report it immediately – you do not have to endanger yourself as our patrol officers are quick to respond and will address issues ASAP. **If you plan a trip out of town for the holidays, please get registered with Precinct 7 for a vacation watch – our patrol officers will be happy to help keep an eye on your home.**

HEART HEALTHY SWEET & SPICY CHICKEN STIR FRY

1 cup brown rice
1/2 cup apricot preserves
2 tablespoons cider vinegar
1 tablespoon grated fresh ginger
1/4 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
3 teaspoons canola oil
1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breasts
2 medium carrots
1/2 lb snow peas
1 tablespoon water

Cook the rice according to package directions; set aside. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, combine the apricot preserves, vinegar, ginger, red pepper flakes and 1 tablespoon water; set aside. Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. In batches, cook the chicken until golden brown, 1 to 2 minutes per side; transfer to a plate. To the pan, add the carrots, snow peas and remaining teaspoon oil and cook, tossing, for 2 minutes. Return the chicken to the skillet, add the apricot mixture, and cook until the chicken is cooked through and the vegetables are just tender, 2 to 3 minutes more. Serve over the rice.



*Lunar (Chinese) New Year
2018 - Year of the Dog
February 16, 2018*



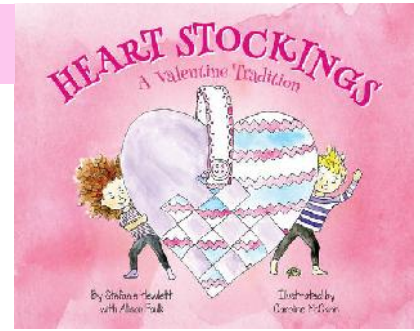
The Chinese calendar is based on the movements of the moon and is linked to the 12 Chinese zodiac animals. Therefore, unlike the Gregorian new year observed on January 1 in most parts of the world, the Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, falls on different days annually, usually between January 21 and February 20. Every new year is celebrated under the next consecutive animal zodiac sign and every 12 years is considered a complete cycle. The lunar year 2018 is Year of the Dog is the second to last in the current cycle. Traditions vary from region to region, but the 10 most common are:

- **Family Reunion Dinner** – On Lunar New Year's Eve, families often travel far distances to gather for sumptuous feasts. Fish is usually served, as is symbolic for increased prosperity.
- **Red Envelopes** – Red is a lucky color, so red envelopes filled with money are given to children by seniors, married couples to younger unmarried family members and sometimes by bosses to employees.
- **Fireworks** – Fireworks were created by the Chinese and are a huge part of their new year celebrations. In addition to enjoying the beautiful fiery displays of color, the loud noise is believed to scare away evil spirits.
- **Lion and Dragon Dances** – the colorful dances are said to bring good luck. They are performed outdoors with drums and cymbals, sometimes as a street parade. Dragon dances are performed by a troupe of acrobatic dancers, whereas lion dances are performed by just two dancers.
- **Decorating** – Festive red decor adorns every street, storefront and home. The color red is associated with wealth and good fortune. Red lanterns are hung on the streets, while windows and doors are decorated with posters and papers bearing characters or phrases of fortune. Chinese knots, potted kumquats and golden orange trees are also common.
- **House Cleaning** – Families give their homes a thorough cleaning in the days leading up to New Years Day in preparation for the new year, sweeping away the bad luck of the past year. No cleaning, particularly dusting, is done on New Year's Day, for fear that good fortune will be swept away.
- **Eating Lucky Food** – Fish (prosperity), dumplings (wealth), spring rolls (wealth), longevity noodles (happiness and longevity), *niangao* (made from glutinous rice - for higher income or position), tanguan (sweet rice balls – for family togetherness) and “good fortune fruits” such as grapefruit, pomelos, tangerines and Mandarin oranges (fullness and wealth) are commonly eaten, displayed and gifted. The color and roundness of some of the items also symbolizes the “rolling” continuation of their symbol.
- **New Year's Markets** – As the New Year approaches, open-air markets selling decorations, red envelopes, toys, clothes and trinkets are a frenzy of activity. In Hong Kong and Macau, where it is a tradition to give flowers for Chinese New Year, street markets are also teeming with flowers and potted plants. Flowers such as orchids, peonies and narcissus are popular because they are considered especially fortunate.
- **Praying at the Temple** - The Lunar New Year season is a busy time for Chinese temples. Worshippers typically visit the temple on the third day of the New Year to light incense and pray to the deities for blessings and good luck in the year ahead. Many major temples will also put on festive dragon and lion dances in the courtyard.
- **Shopping** – Last but not least, Chinese New Year sees a surge in retail every year thanks to holiday sales. The closer to New Year's Day, the deeper the discounts get, including discounts on Spring season items that have just hit the racks.

Wishing everyone lots of luck and profits for this Lunar New Year, and may good fortune smile on you!

A CUTE NEW VALENTINE'S TRADITION!

Your newsletter editor recently stumbled upon this super cute book “Heart Stockings, a Valentine Tradition” by Stefanie Hewlett and Alison Faulk. It’s a story about how a brother and sister come up with an idea of keeping stockings up after Christmas, but filling them with kind notes and performing secret acts of kindness in the days leading up to Valentine’s Day.



On Valentine’s, they empty the socks, read the notes and discover the acts of kindness done for each other or on their behalf. While the book is aimed toward a very young age group, the idea of heart stockings is a great one for every member of the family! The internet has many ideas on how to make your own “heart stockings”, or you can literally hang socks as is done in the book (by the way, if interested in purchasing the book, please visit https://deseretbook.com/p/heart-stockings?variant_id=129794-paperback). Whatever the container you choose, this really is a sweet idea to show your loved ones of all age levels how much they mean to you and spreads love and joy through words and self-less acts of kindness. So maybe start a new tradition today with your own family through Heart Stockings!!

EXTERIOR CHECK LIST TO GET READY FOR SPRING!

- **Gutters and downspouts:** Pull leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts. Reattach gutters that have pulled away from the house. Run a hose on the roof and check for proper drainage. If leaks exist, dry the area and use caulking or epoxy to seal the leak.
- **Exterior walls / Siding:** Clean siding with a pressure washer. Check all wood surfaces for weathering and paint failure. If wood is showing through, sand the immediate area and apply a primer coat before painting. If paint is peeling, scrape loose paint and sand smooth before painting.
- **Exterior caulking:** Inspect caulking and replace if deteriorating. Scrape out all of the eroding caulk and recaulk needed area.
- **Window sills, door sills, and thresholds:** Fill cracks, caulk edges, repaint or replace if necessary.
- **Window and door screens:** Clean screening and check for holes. Patch or replace the screen. Save bad screen to patch holes next year. Tighten or repair any loose or damaged frames and repaint. Replace broken, worn, or missing hardware. Securely tighten screens, frames and lubricate door hinges and closers. Wash windows, exterior door side, sills and trim thoroughly.
- **Drain waste and vent system:** Flush out system.
- **Hot water heater:** Lubricate circulating pump and motor.
- **Evaporative air conditioner:** Contact a professional to clean unit and check for necessary repairs.
- **Foundation:** Check foundation walls, floors, concrete, and masonry for cracking, heaving, or deterioration. If a significant number of bricks are losing their mortar or if you can slide a nickel into a crack in your concrete floor, slab or foundation call a professional immediately.
- **Roof:** Inspect roof surface flashing, eaves, and soffits. Perform a thorough cleaning of all cobwebs or other materials. Check flashings around all surface projections and sidewalls.
- **Deck and porches:** Check all decks, patios, porches, stairs, and railings for loose boards and deterioration. Re-treat open decks and wood fences every 4 to 6 years depending on how much exposure they get to sun and rain. If the stain doesn’t look like it should or water has turned some of the wood a dark grey, treat your deck or hire a professional.
- **Landscape:** Cut back and trim all vegetation and overgrown bushes from structures. Limbs and leaves can cut into your home’s paint, damage roofs and clog gutters. Put out pre-emerge weed killers. Re-mulch beds and trees.
- **Sprinklers:** Check lawn sprinkler system for leaky valves, exposed lines, and improperly working sprinkler heads. If there is an area of your yard that collects too much water or doesn’t get enough, run the sprinklers to figure out the problem. If it’s not something you can fix yourself, call a professional before your lawn needs the water.

♥ Happy Valentines Day ♥

February 2018

Happy Mardi Gras!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Recycle Pick Up	2 Groundhog Day	3
4 Super Bowl Sunday	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras	14 Ash Wednesday Lent Begins Valentine's Day	15 Recycle Pick Up	16 Chinese New Year	17
18	19 Presidents' Day	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27 POA Board Meeting 6:30pm Braesridge Clubhouse	28 Purim begins at sunset			

* WBPOA – Northfield III and IV (North Side of West Belfort): Junk Waste SUSPENDED / Tree Waste 2nd Friday of odd months

* WBPOA – Northfield V (South Side of West Belfort): Junk Waste SUSPENDED / Tree Waste 3rd Thursday of odd months

10 EASY STEPS TO A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER HEART

- 1. Take a 10-minute walk.** If you don't exercise at all, a brief walk is a great way to start. Sneak in exercise by parking farther away at stores, taking stairs rather than elevator, walk up the escalator, jog in place during commercials, etc.
- 2. Give yourself a lift.** Lifting a hardcover book or a two-pound weight a few times a day can help tone your arm muscles. Do "wall pushups" by standing about a foot away from a wall; put hands at chest level against wall. Lean into the wall without moving your feet; push back out until arms fully extended. Do 10 times. Repeat often throughout the day!
- 3. Eat one extra fruit or vegetable a day.** Fruits and vegetables are inexpensive, taste good, and are good for everything from your brain to your bowels. A quick and easy salad of greens, strawberries and blueberries with sunflower seeds and a sprinkle of blue cheese crumbles is simple, delicious and very heart healthy!
- 4. Make breakfast count.** Start the day with some fruit and a serving of whole grains, like oatmeal, bran flakes, or whole-wheat toast.
- 5. Stop drinking your calories.** Cutting out just one sugar-sweetened soda or calorie-laden latte can easily save you 100 or more calories a day. Over a year, that can translate into a 10-pound weight loss.
- 6. Have a handful of nuts.** Walnuts, almonds, peanuts, and other nuts are good for your heart. Try grabbing some instead of chips or cookies when you need a snack, adding them to salads for a healthful and tasty crunch, or using them in place of meat in pasta and other dishes.
- 7. Sample the fruits of the sea.** Eat fish or other types of seafood instead of red meat once a week. It's good for the heart, the brain, and the waistline.
- 8. Breathe deeply.** Try breathing slowly and deeply for a few minutes a day. It can help you relax. Slow, deep breathing may also help lower blood pressure.
- 9. Wash your hands often.** Scrubbing up with soap and water often during the day is a great way to protect your heart and health. The flu, pneumonia, and other infections can be very hard on the heart.
- 10. Count your blessings.** Take a moment each day to acknowledge the blessings in your life. It is one way to start tapping into other positive emotions, which have been linked with better health, longer life, and greater well-being, just as their opposites — chronic anger, worry, and hostility — contribute to high blood pressure and heart disease.

Find parking regulations confusing?

Change



to



 parking@houstontx.gov  @ParkHouston

 832-393-8690 City of Houston ParkHouston

 www.ParkHoustontx.org  @Houparking

The City of Houston Parking Management Division
2020 McKinney, Houston, TX 77003



Be sure not to block the **sidewalk** when parking



Be sure not to block a **driveway** when parking



Park at least **15 feet** from a fire hydrant



Park at least **20 feet** from a intersection



Park at least **30 feet** from a Stop Sign or Traffic Signal



Be sure not to park **facing** oncoming traffic



www.ParkHoustontx.org

RECYCLE MORE

The City of Houston accepts recyclables at curbside, the Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Centers and drop-off facilities.

Examples of acceptable plastics and materials:



1 Plastics
Soft drink and water bottles



2 Plastics
Milk jugs, juice bottles, and food containers



3 Plastics
Detergent bottles, shampoo bottles



4 Plastics
Condiment bottles



5 Plastics
Yogurt containers, caps, straws and empty medicine bottles



6 Plastics
Styrofoam blocks
(Not Accepted in Curbside Recycling Program. Accepted at the Westpark Recycling Center and ESC - South only)



7 Plastic
Large water bottles



Newspapers, Magazines, Telephone Books and Catalogs



Aluminum & Tin Cans



Glass

(Not Accepted in Curbside Recycling Program. Accepted at Neighborhood Depository/Recycling Centers and drop-off facilities.)



Used Motor Oil

Do not place in recycling bin. Place on curb or bring to Westpark or ECS's.



Flattened Cardboard



City of Houston
Solid Waste Management
Department

Follow us:
@houstontrash /houstonolidwaste

www.houstonolidwaste.org
or call 3-1-1 for additional information.

2018 Bi-Weekly Collection Schedule

City Holiday *(Follow the adjusted "Holiday Schedule")

Schedule B

Schedule A

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

July

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

August

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

September

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

- If your collection day is during the "A Week" then follow the schedule for the shaded yellow week. Ex: Thursday A service days in January are the 4th & 18th.
- If your collection day is during the "B Week", you will follow the unshaded week's schedule. Ex: Tuesday B service days in January are the 9th and 23rd.

*For the Holiday Schedule and additional information, visit our website at www.houstonolidwaste.org or call the Houston Service Helpline 3-1-1.



Sylvester Turner, Mayor

the TRASH FACTS



Harry J. Hayes Director

The Citizen's Guide to City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department Services

Residential Services: At Your Curbside



Garbage Collection

Household garbage must be put inside the city-provided container which should be placed at the curb between 6 p.m. the day before and 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. The container must be accessible to the automated collection truck and not blocked by obstacles, including parked cars. Drivers will not move improperly placed containers. Containers must be removed from the curblines and/or public view by

10:00 p.m. on the day of collection and stored in a secure location. The garbage container is for disposing of regular household garbage only. Certain items should not be disposed of in your garbage container either because they are too heavy for SWMD equipment or because they may harm employees, property, neighbors, pets, and the environment. Therefore, do not put 1) household chemicals, 2) construction, demolition, and remodeling debris, 3) dead animals, 4) computer equipment, 5) recyclables or 6) yard trimmings in the container.



Yard Trimmings

Yard Trimmings, grass clippings, small branches and leaves must not be placed in the automated garbage cans. They must be in city-approved compostable bags not weighing more than 50 pounds, and placed at the curb 3 feet away from the automated container for separate yard trimmings

TO BAG... yard trimmings recycling
...OR NOT TO BAG!
 You have **CHOICES!**
 Find out how easy your choices are!
 Compostable Bags! Grasscycling! Composting!
 Visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org for details!

Working to make Houston a Cleaner, Greener Place to Live
 Visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org for details!

collection. Small branches may be put in bundles as long as each bundle is less than 4 feet in length and 18 inches in diameter and weighing less than 50 pounds. Yard Trimmings mixed with paper, plastic, or any other type of waste will not be collected. Work performed by a contractor must be removed by the contractor.

Adopt - A - Container Program

Non-profit organizations may request large bulk containers for weekend neighborhood cleanup campaigns. Requests must be sent to the SWMD in writing at least 14 days prior to the anticipated cleanup date. Bulk containers are provided on a "first come, first serve" basis and are delivered on Friday and collected on Monday. Only non-profit organizations and civic organizations coordinating a neighborhood cleanup campaign are eligible to sponsor bulk containers. For more information, call 3-1-1.

Dead Animals

Dead animals can be picked up by calling 311, the City's Customer Service Hotline. A fee is required for large dead animal pickup. For large animal pickup during the weekend, please call 311 from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Do not place dead animals with household garbage or tree waste / junk waste collection.

For dead animals on the freeway and feeder, call TXDOT at 713-802-5000.

Fines

Violation of any provision of the solid waste ordinance is punishable upon first conviction by a fine of no less than \$50 nor more than \$2,000. Each subsequent conviction is punishable by a fine of no less than \$250 nor more than \$2,000. Each day that any violation continues may be punishable as a separate offense. To report a violation or to file a complaint, call 311.

**...for more information,
visit our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1**

~Printed on Recycled Paper~

IN THIS ISSUE
TREE WASTE/ JUNK WASTE
GO GREEN WITH SWMD!
RECYCLING
DEAD ANIMAL
INFO

The TRASH FACTS

Tree Waste / Junk Waste Recycling Program

The City will collect tree waste exclusively on odd months on the resident's current tree waste /junk waste collection day. "Tree waste" is defined as "clean wood waste", which consists of tree limbs, branches or stumps. Lumber, furniture and treated wood will not be accepted. On even months residents may set out their junk waste at the curb for city collection. "Junk waste" is used to describe items such as furniture, appliances and other bulky materials. These items should be placed adjacent to the front curb in a location easily accessible to the collection vehicle between the hours of 6:00 p.m. the Friday before, and 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. No more than eight cubic yards per residence will be collected on the scheduled tree waste/junk waste collection day. *Of this amount, only a maximum of four cubic yards of building material (not to include roofing shingles, brick, plaster or concrete) generated by the resident in connection with the maintenance of the residential property may be collected by department personnel.* A maximum of four (4) tires per month, per household may be placed curbside for collection. Sheet rock must be bagged. Appliances containing refrigerant must have a tag attached to them certifying that a qualified technician has removed the refrigerant. Materials should not be stacked under low overhead cabling,



Tree Waste Recycling reduces loads headed to the landfill

signs, or mailboxes; next to fences or posts; or on top of water meters, gas meters, fire hydrants, or other exposed utility components. Also, materials should not be placed in the street, on the sidewalk, or other right-of-way, or in any manner that would interfere with pedestrian or vehicular traffic. Tree waste and junk waste collection is limited to residential units and vacant residential lots only if the waste generated is in connection with the maintenance of the property. The SWMD is not allowed to collect any material that was generated by contractors who were retained by a resident to perform work on his or her residential



property. It is the responsibility of the contractor to remove, or cause to be removed, all debris that may arise from the course of his or her activities. These contractor related activities include, but are not limited to, trimming and removal of trees, remodeling, new construction and roofing. If authorized items placed for collection are mixed with unauthorized items, department personnel shall not be obligated to sort the materials and may refuse the entire load. Solid waste collection services are not available to multi-residential structures of more

than eight units.

Tree Waste/Junk Waste Collection Schedule

January	Tree Waste
February	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste
April	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste
June	Junk Waste
July	Tree Waste
August	Junk Waste
September	Tree Waste
October	Junk Waste
November	Tree Waste
December	Junk Waste

Neighborhood Depositories/Recycling Centers

Residents may dispose of tree waste / junk waste at one of the City's neighborhood depository facilities. Each user must provide proof of residency, including a Texas Driver's License or ID, a current utility bill or city property tax receipt. The depositories accept the same materials as the tree waste / junk waste collection (furniture, stoves, refrigerators, etc.) Depositories will accept up to 10 tires per month, per household. Residents must unload their tires and place them in a specified container. Materials brought in a commercial vehicle will not be accepted. SWMD

personnel will not unload your tires or tree waste / junk waste. Residents may use depositories four times per month. Locations are now open Wed. - Sun., except holidays from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.* Citizens are encouraged to arrive at least 30 minutes before closing to allow adequate time to unload. All depositories also accept recyclables. Materials accepted include aluminum and tin cans, tree waste, plastic bottles and jugs (#1-#5 and #7), newspapers and magazines, glass bottles and jars, and used motor oil.

* Daylight Savings - Hours change from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Neighborhood Depository & Recycling Center Locations

North	9003 N Main	3-1-1
Northwest	14400 Sommermeyers	3-1-1
Northeast	5565 Kirkpatrick	3-1-1
South	5100 Sunbeam	3-1-1
Southwest	10785 SW Freeway	3-1-1
Southeast	2240 Central Street	3-1-1

City Recycling Centers (Junk Waste not accepted)

Westpark Recycling Cntr. 5900 Westpark, 77057	Kingwood Recycling Cntr. 3210 West Lake Houston Pkwy
Ellington Airport/Clear Lake 246 Loop Rd., 77034	

...for more information, visit our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

The TRASH FACTS

Going Green with SWMD

Automated Recycling - utilizes a 96-gallon green cart rolled to the curb for collection.

Recycling must be put inside the city-provided container which should be placed at the curb between 6 p.m. the day before and 7 a.m. on the scheduled collection day. The container must be accessible to the collection truck and not blocked by obstacles, including parked cars. Drivers will not move improperly placed containers. Containers must be removed from the curblane and/or public view by 10:00 p.m. on the day of collection and stored in a secure location.

What items can you recycle?

Newspaper
Magazines
Catalogs
Phone Books
Used Motor Oil



Plastic Containers #1 - 5 and 7 (rinsed & drained)
Aluminum and Tin Cans (rinsed & drained)
Cardboard (flattened)

Effective immediately, glass is no longer accepted in the green curbside recycling bin. You may still recycle glass at all City of Houston drop-off locations. For locations, please visit our website www.houstonsolidwaste.org/recycling.

Environmental Service Centers

The Environmental Service Centers provide drive through drop-off locations for Houston residents to bring their household hazardous waste such as anti-freeze, batteries, fuel, oil, paint, paint thinner, pesticides, herbicides and household cleaners. Residential electronic scrap items will also be accepted (monitors, televisions, printers, keyboards, mice, scanners, fax machines, telephone handsets, VCRs, CPUs, cellular phones and other small consumer electronics). These items should not be placed on the curb with or in your container for collection with garbage or tree waste / junk waste pickup. Clean, white styrofoam blocks (plastic #6) are now accepted at the ESC- South location. Packing "peanuts" are not accepted.

North - 5614 Neches, Building C (open 2nd Thursday of the month from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.)

South - 11500 South Post Oak (open every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Free Reuse Chemical and Paint Take-Away

Every Friday from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m., household chemicals and paint that were brought to the ESC for disposal, but appear to be in good condition are made available for citizen reuse. Citizens may take away these items at no charge. A signed liability waiver will be required before removing materials from the site. There is a limit of six (6) chemical items and a cart load of paint per week. This service is only available at the ESC South location.

WESTPARK RECYCLING CENTER

The Westpark Consumer Recycling Center, 5900 Westpark, allows Houstonians the opportunity to recycle their used goods. The center accepts aluminum and tin cans, batteries, oil filters, used tires, computers and other residential electronic scraps, #1-7 plastic containers, glass bottles and jars, telephone books, office paper, cardboard, magazines, and used motor oil. Newspapers placed in a brown bag will also be accepted.

Clean, white styrofoam blocks (plastic #6) are accepted at the Westpark Recycling Center and ESC South. Packing "peanuts" are not accepted. Styrofoam is not accepted in the curbside recycling program.

The center is open Monday through Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

B.O.P.A.

(Batteries, Used Oil, Latex Paint, & Antifreeze)

The SWMD has a B.O.P.A. recycling operation at the Westpark Recycling Center. Residents may drop off batteries, used oil, latex paint, anti-freeze and tires from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday, except holidays. The facility is a drive through operation so you do not have to unload your own vehicle.

...for more information, visit our website at www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call 3-1-1.

The TRASH FACTS

ReUse Warehouse

Construction material accounts for 38% of the waste stream in the Houston area. The Reuse Warehouse, a component of the City of Houston Solid Waste Management Department, benefits the community by providing space for excess building materials that would otherwise be dumped in local landfills. The facility accepts material from individuals, supply companies, and builders, and makes it freely available for reuse by any non-profit organization. The Reuse Ware-

house is funded in part by a grant from the Houston-Galveston Area Council.

Location:
9003 N. Main St.
Houston, TX 77022

Contact Information:
3-1-1 or
reuse.warehouse@houstontx.gov

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tuesday - Friday:
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Closed: Sunday - Monday

Extra Capacity Collection Fee

On June 19, 2002, Houston's City Council approved an ordinance amending Article IV of Chapter 39 of the Houston Code of Ordinances, approving and authorizing the creation of an Extra Capacity Collection Fee (ECC) for the SWMD. Under the umbrella of the ECC ordinance, the Add-A-Can and the Tags for Bags Program were created. Implementation of both programs began October 1, 2002.

Add-A-Can

This program provides residents with the opportunity of having a second or third garbage can serviced for a fee. Residents will have their first 96-gallon can serviced free. The fee for servicing the second/ third can may be added to the citizen's monthly water bill upon request of the service. Citizens who already have an extra can and wish to continue to have it collected will need to request a sticker for it. Call 3-1-1 to enroll in Add-A-Can.

Tags For Bags

Extra bags of garbage are collected only if they have a special tag attached. The "Tags for Bags" program allows residents the convenience of purchasing "tags" instead of additional cans if they require extra service occasionally. These tags may be purchased at Fiesta, HEB, Sellers Bros. and participating Kroger stores. Residents may also download an order form at houstonsolidwaste.org and send the completed form and payment through the mail. Yard waste bags do not require tags.



REQUEST THE SOLID WASTE MASCOT

To request the Solid Waste Management Department mascot or a Speaker from the SWMD please call 3-1-1, the City's Customer Service Hotline.

City of Houston
Solid Waste Management Department
PO Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

www.houstonsolidwaste.org
Houston residents can dial 3-1-1 for non-emergency calls. The 3-1-1 Service Center provides Houstonians with one easy to remember telephone number for quick reliable access.

The Trash Facts is a newsletter published by the Solid Waste Management Department. Information may be reproduced for public dissemination by civic groups and neighborhood organizations.

Harry J. Hayes, SWMD Director
Irma Reyes, Public Information Officer

PROPERTY ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES: <i>If you would like to serve on one of these committees, please come to the next Board meeting</i>	
Architectural Review (ARC):	Barbara Hite, Jeannette Calhoun
Clubhouse:	Jeannette Calhoun, Joy Cunningham, Barbara Hite
Landscape:	Jeannette Calhoun, Glenn Gundy
Newsletter:	Dyaz Godfrey, Mari Angelo
Parks & Recreation:	Asher Belles
Pool:	Phil Abrams, Glenn Gundy
Safety:	Barbara Hite, Yonah Nathan
BLOCK CAPTAINS:	Volunteers Needed!

WEBSITE INFORMATION:	
City of Houston (General Info):	www.houstontex.gov
City of Houston Services (311 Online):	http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/index.php
Constable Precinct 7 Vacation Watch:	http://www.harriscountytexas.gov/conpct/
Texas DPS Driver's License Renewal:	http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/driverlicense/
West Bellfort Property Owner's Association:	www.westbellfortpoa.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Concert Arenas	
Arena Towers	http://www.arenahouston.com
Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion	http://www.woodlandscenter.org
Miller Outdoor Theater	http://milleroutdoortheatre.com
Sports Complexes	
BBVA Compass - Dynamo Soccer/TSU Football	http://www.bbvacompassstadium.com
Minute Maid Park - Astros	http://houston.astros.mlb.com/hou/ballpark/index.jsp
NRG Stadium & Park - Texans & Rodeo	http://nrgpark.com/nrg-stadium
Toyota Center - Rockets	http://www.houstontoyotacenter.com
Things to do in Houston:	http://www.visithoustontexas.com
Volunteering Opportunities:	
City of Houston	http://volunteerhouston.org
Harris County	http://www.harriscountycitizenrcps.com

USEFUL NUMBERS	
Name	Phone Number
Animal Control (BARC)	713-229-7300
Anti-Gang Office	832-393-0931
Brays Oaks Management District	713-595-1221
Citizens' Assistance	832-393-0955
City Council District J	832-393-3015
City Council District K	832-393-3016
City of Houston Services:	311
Emergency	911
Harris County Flood Control:	713-684-4197
Health and Human Services	832-393-5169
Houston Fire Department Non-Emergency	832-394-6700
Houston ISD	713-556-6000
Houston Police Department District #17	713-773-7901
Houston Police Department Non-Emergency	713-884-3131
Mayor's Office	832-393-1000
Milne Elementary School	713-778-3420
Parks Department	832-395-7000
Precinct 7 Dispatch	713-643-6118
Public Works and Engineering	832-395-2511
Solid Waste Management	713-956-6589
Sterling Association Services (WBPOA's Property Management)	832-678-4500 x253
Welch Middle School	713-778-3300
Westbury High School	713-723-6015

TEXAS DPS OFFICE Driving Tests / In-Person Driver's License New & Renewal			
Closest (South Gessner close to West Airport - Approx 2 Miles)			
12220 South Gessner	Mon - Thur:	7:30am - 6:00pm	
Houston, TX 77071	Fri:	7:30am - 5:00pm	
Phone: 713 / 219-4100	Sat:	Closed	
Second Option (Rosenberg - US 59 @ Hwy 36 - Approx 20 Miles)			
28000 Southwest Freeway, Suite A	Mon - Thur:	7:30am - 6:00pm	
Rosenberg, TX 77471	Fri:	7:30am - 5:00pm	
Phone: 281 / 517-1630	Sat:	Closed	
More Info: http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/administration/driver_licensing_control/rolodex/searchresults.asp			

LOCAL LIBRARIES City of Houston Libraries		
Morris Frank Library	Mon&Thur	11am - 6pm
Brays Oaks Towers Building	Tue	12pm - 8pm
10103 Fondren	Wed	10am - 6pm
Houston, TX 77096	Fri	1pm - 5pm
Phone: 832 / 393-2410	Sat	10am - 5pm
<i>on Fondren, just passed Willowbend</i>		
Meyer Branch Library	Sun&Mon	Closed
5005 West Bellfort Street	Tue&Wed	10am - 6pm
Houston, TX 77035	Thur	12pm - 8pm
Phone: 832 / 393-1840	Fri	1pm - 5pm
<i>on West Bellfort, just before Kroger's</i>		
Houston Main / Central Library	Mon--Thur	10am - 8pm
500 McKinney	Fri&Sat	10am - 5pm
Houston, TX 77002	Sun	1pm - 5pm
<i>Downtown at McKinney and Smith; garage parking entrance off Lamar; rate is \$2 /hour, max \$16. Street parking free on Sundays. NO STREET PARKING EXCEPT ON SUNDAYS - TOWING IS STRICTLY ENFORCED!</i>		

Harris County Library		
West University Branch	Mon	10am - 8pm
6108 Auden	Tue&Wed	10am - 6pm
Houston, TX 77005	Thur&Fri	1pm - 6pm
Phone: 713 / 668-8273	Sat	10am - 5pm
<i>@ corner of Auden & Milton in West U</i>		
	Sun	Closed

STATE, COUNTY & CITY OFFICIALS		
Position	WBPOA's District	Currently Held By
Mayor	Houston	Sylvester Turner
County Judge:	Harris County	Ed Emmett
Tax Assessor-Collector:	Harris County	Ann Harris Bennett
Treasurer:	Harris County	Orlando Sanchez
County Attorney:	Harris County	Vince Ryan
District Attorney:	Harris County	Kim Ogg
County Clerk:	Harris County	Stan Stanart
District Clerk:	Harris County	Chris Daniel
County Sheriff:	Harris County	Ed Gonzalez
County Constable:	Precinct 7	Constable May Walker
County Commissioner:	Precinct 1	Rodney Ellis
Metro Transit Authority Chairman:	Houston Metro Area	Gilbert Andrew Garcia
City of Houston Council Member:	District K	Larry Green
HISD School Superintendent:	Houston	Open
HISD School District:	District 9	Wanda Adams
Houston Community College District:	District 9	Christopher W. Oliver
Justice of the Peace (Precinct 7):	Position 1	Judge Hillary H. Green
Justice of the Peace (Precinct 7):	Position 2	Judge Zinetta Burney
State Board of Education:	District 4	Lawrence A. Allen, Jr
State Senator:	District 13	Borris Miles
State Representative:	District 131	Dr. Alma A. Allen
Governor:	Texas	Greg Abbott
US Representative:	District 9	Al Green
US Senators:	Texas	John Cornyn Ted Cruz

