



## Waterford Park

### COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OLDE OAKS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

#### Litigation Committee Update

On July 14, 2015, Williams ACMI Ventures, L.P. (“ACMI”) filed a lawsuit against Olde Oaks Community Improvement Association, Inc. (the “Association”). In its lawsuit, ACMI claimed that the Association breached its contract with ACMI by terminating ACMI. The Association retained legal counsel and filed a response to the lawsuit on August 10, 2015, generally denying all allegations.

From the beginning of this lawsuit, the Board of Directors has adamantly denied ACMI’s allegations and has sought a resolution that is in the best interest of the Association. After careful consideration and advice from counsel, the Board determined the decision that was in the best interest of the Association was an early resolution. Among the factors the Board considered were the uncertainty of litigation and the substantial cost (including attorney fees and expenses) that the Association, win or lose, would incur in defending itself. Therefore, the Association and ACMI have agreed to settle this lawsuit for \$11,188.34, an amount substantially lower than the amount ACMI was seeking in its lawsuit, which was estimated to be over \$150,000.

Though the decision to settle is never easy, in this case the Board determined that a settlement was the best decision for the Association. Now that this lawsuit is behind us, the Association can focus its energy and resources on other issues important to the continuing growth of the community.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel to contact the Board to further discuss.

*Submitted by HOA Vice President Norman Nelson*

#### Notice to Homeowners

#### OOCIA Board Meetings

Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.

November 11, 2015

MUD 44 Bldg. at 16030 TC Jester

#### OOCIA BOARD NOTES

Join us every month and bring ideas to the meetings.

Residents are invited to attend and participate in a Q&A session held after the general meeting.

For specific property or account concerns, contact Crest Management at 281-579-0761.

Please sign up to receive email notification of Board meetings at [www.oocia.org](http://www.oocia.org). Register your email address at [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com) for important community announcements.

Find us on: **facebook.**



Olde Oaks and Waterford Park



**TUESDAY,  
OCTOBER 6**

Neighborhood fun!  
More photos and raffle winners on pages 6 and 7.





# Who You Gonna Call?

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS TO KEEP

### OOCIA MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Crest Management Company, AAMC.....281-579-0761  
(for deed restrictions, neighborhood management and property improvements)  
PO Box 219320, Houston, TX 77218-9320  
Fax 281-579-7062 | www.crest-management.com

### OOCIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nicholas Summerville, President | Norman Nelson, VP  
Mia Cordova, Sec/Treasurer | Greg Green, Director at Large  
Chuck Cornelius, Deputy Coordinator

### REPORT UTILITY ISSUES Add these numbers to your cell phone for easy access

Gas Leaks (Centerpoint) ..... 713-659-2111  
Power Outages (Centerpoint) ..... 713-207-2222  
Street Light Outages (Centerpoint)..... 800-332-7143  
*Reporting resident will need pole number and street, including immediate side streets*

### Road hazards, street sign and light issues, bridges, flooding

Harris County Precinct 4.....www.hcp4.net  
Monday–Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. .... 281-353-8424  
After hours, weekends, or holidays..... 713-755-5000

### Trash & Recycling

WCA Waste Corporation .....281-368-8397  
(Regular trash receptacles outside your back door on Monday and Thursday)  
Recycling and yard waste curbside on Thursday only  
Trash receptacles storage out of view from street (per Deed Restrictions)

### General Safety

Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services..... 713-274-6300  
*Report dirty pools, unsafe/unsanitary habitation*  
Request Vacation Watch (call 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.) .....281-376-2997  
Harris County Alarm Detail (Permits) ..... 713-755-4600

### PETS – DISTURBANCES, LOST & FOUND

Report injured, vicious animals and bites  
Animal Control.....281-999-3191

Complaints about barking dogs  
Sheriff Non-Emergency.....713-221-6000

Report lost or found pets in OO/WP  
Julie Brown, Pet Liaison.....jbrown@apex-staff.com, 713-302-9148

### MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICTS (MUD)

Manhole/Sewer Backup..... 713-983-3602

MUD #20 ..... www.edpwater.com  
Billing, Service & Emergencies ..... 832-467-1599  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:  
John Dougrey | Robert Skinner | Larry Foster | Brian Wright  
Board Meetings: First Tuesday of month, 11:30 a.m.  
10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 260, Houston, TX, 713-951-0800

MUD #44 ..... www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/harris-county-mud-44  
Billing, Service & Emergencies ..... 281-376-8802  
Board of Directors: Rolf Flemming | Toby Landry  
Robert Ramsey | Tom Sooy | Harry Swanstrom  
Board Meetings: Second Tuesday of month, 7 p.m.  
16030 TC Jester

Bammel Utility District Office ..... 281-376-8802  
<http://www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/bammel-utility-district>

### Board of Directors:

Nicholas Fava | Garey Nelson | Alan Kaniss  
Al Habinak | James Armand

Board meetings: Second Monday of month, 7 p.m.  
3904 Gladeridge (clubhouse)

### SCHOOLS

Spring ISD Schools ..... www.springisd.org  
Pat Reynolds Elementary School ..... 281-891-8240  
Edwin Wells Middle School ..... 281-891-7750  
Westfield High School ..... 281-891-7130

### OLDE OAKS INTEREST GROUP CONTACTS

Arts and Crafts ..... Barbara Smith, 832-732-9920  
Book Club ..... Kathy Hall, 281-569-4967  
Bridge, Women’s ..... Susanne Bailey, 281-580-1717  
Dinner With Friends ..... Lauren Hensley, 281-893-1833  
Mixed Bowling..... Francine Alvarez, 281-580-8815  
Playgroup..... Joyce Ray-Latson, 832-231-3201  
Water Oaks Social Club ..... Dionne Hill, 713-884-5501

### OTHER

Olde Oaks Greenbelt Preservation Association .....<http://oogpa.com>  
Greenbelt Preservation Association:

Craig Lewis, President | Kathy Zigler, Secretary  
Tanya Morland, Treasurer | John Edmonson, Director at Large

Barbara Bush Library ..... 281-376-4610  
6817 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

Hours: Monday 1-9, Tuesday 10-9, Wednesday 10-6,  
Thursday 10-9, Friday 10-6, Saturday 10-5, Sunday Closed

Northgate Country Club.....[www.northgatecountryclub.com](http://www.northgatecountryclub.com)  
General: ..... 281-444-5302  
Membership: ..... 281-440-4006

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Police – Fire – Ambulance ..... 911  
Nonemergency Sheriff ..... 713-221-6000  
Fire Department – Klein Volunteer ..... 281-251-0101  
Animal Control ..... 281-999-3191  
24 hr. Emergency Poison Control Center ..... 1-800-222-1222  
Centerpoint Electric ..... 713-207-2222  
Centerpoint Gas ..... 713-659-2111  
Harris County Pct. 4 (M-F, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) ..... 281-353-8424  
Harris County Pct. 4 (outside regular hours)..... 713-755-5000  
Registered Sex Offenders ..... [www.familywatchdog.us](http://www.familywatchdog.us)

**DISCLAIMER:** Articles in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Champions Printing & Publishing, Inc. or its employees, Olde Oaks Community Improvement Association or Community Newsletter. Champions Printing & Publishing, Inc., Olde Oaks Community Improvement Association and Community Newsletter are not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others.

# ACC reminder

Apply for approval before you start your project.

Are you thinking of taking on an exterior remodeling project? Do you feel it's time to change out your windows, install new siding, replace your fence or cut down a tree in your yard?

Don't forget to apply for approval for **all** exterior remodeling or improvement projects **before** starting. Whether you are painting your home the same color, installing a new door, or replacing your roof or cedar fence, the deed restrictions and bylaws require approval of the Architectural Control Committee (ACC).

Depending on the project, actual samples may be required with your application, such as roof shingles, paint swatches or photos and specs of a door or windows. Not obtaining ACC approval beforehand could result in a deed restriction violation and cause you to have to redo the project in accordance with ACC and deed restriction standards (and no one wants to repaint their house after just undertaking the expense or install a new door twice).

The ACC application can be found on the Olde Oaks Community Improvement Association website at [www.oocia.org](http://www.oocia.org) under the "Architectural Control" tab on the left-hand navigation menu.

For questions about the ACC approval process, please contact Surron Stokes at [surron.stokes@crest-management.com](mailto:surron.stokes@crest-management.com) or 281-579-0761.

*Norman Nelson, II*  
OOCIA Vice President

## MONTHLY STATISTICS

SEPTEMBER 2015

Category	Incident	Category	Incident
911 Hang-Up Call .....	1	Neighborhood Check.....	309
Alarm – Silent/Panic .....	0	Nuisance Abatement .....	3
Alarm – Home Security.....	27	Robbery – Aggravated .....	0
Assault .....	0	Robbery – Individual.....	0
Assault/Family .....	1	Sex Offender Check.....	4
Burglary/Home .....	0	Suspicious Person .....	8
Burglary/Vehicle .....	1	Theft .....	1
Criminal Mischief.....	1	Telephone Harrassment .....	0
Disturbance – Animal .....	1	Vacation Watch.....	3
Disturbance – Loud Noise .....	8	Vehicle – Accident.....	1
Domestic/Prevention.....	1	Vehicle – Abandoned/Disabled ...	3
In Progress .....	0	Vehicle – Speeding.....	16
Medical/Fire.....	5	Vehicle – Suspicious.....	7

## TRASH AND RECYCLING REMINDERS

Trash is collected on Mondays and Thursdays. Recycling is collected on Thursdays. Please do not set out trash or recycling receptacles before 7 a.m. on Monday and Thursday mornings. Remember that we have "backdoor" trash service, but yard waste and recycling must be hauled to the curb. Heavy items are picked up on Thursdays. Any combination of up to eight (8) bags or bundles of yard waste will be picked up at the curb each collection day. Branches (three inches diameter and less) need to be bundled in four-foot lengths. No yard waste bag or bundle should weigh more than 40 pounds.



**CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR**  
AT CHAMPION FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH

**THURSDAY, December 10**  
7:00pm English

**FRIDAY, December 11**  
7:00pm English

**SATURDAY, December 12**  
2:00pm English; 7:00pm Spanish

**SUNDAY, December 13**  
2:00pm Spanish; 7:00pm English

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\*Saturday & Sunday



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[championforest.org](http://championforest.org)  
INFO: 281.440.3800

CHAMPION FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH  
3555 Stuebner-Airline Rd.  
Houston, TX 77069

# ONE TANK TRIP

November brings an abundance of craft shows to help you and your family prepare for the holidays. You can find everything from hand crafted wearable goods to edible gifts. Enjoy a One Tank Trip.

## Northgate Country Club Fall Festival Saturday, November 7, 2- 5 p.m.

Admission is free! Public welcome! [www.waldengolf.com](http://www.waldengolf.com), Join them for carnival games, pumpkin patch, live entertainment, arts and crafts, delicious foods, adult beverages, cotton candy, face painting and hayrides! 17110 Northgate Forest Dr., Houston, TX 77068, 281-444-5302.

## St. Ignatius Women's Club 21st Annual Holiday Bazaar Saturday, November 7, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church Social Hall and Christus Center, 7810 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379 (next to Meyer Park). Make plans now to join us for food, fantastic raffle prizes and lots of great holiday shopping. Have lunch and check out all our baked goodies at our Sweet Shop. Stop by the Attic Treasures Room to discover gently-used treasures. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact [HolidayBazaar@SILCC.org](mailto:HolidayBazaar@SILCC.org). For more information, visit <http://ignatiusloyola.org>.

## Christmas Wonderland Market

Friday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 14, 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

15555 Stuebner-Airline Road (between 1960 and Cypresswood Drive), Houston, TX, 77069. Make plans to attend Champion Forest Baptist Church's 17th annual Christmas Wonderland Market. Come early, shop all day and enjoy lunch at one of several food vendors. Over 150 vendors from across Texas and other states bring their unique hand-crafted gifts, delicious desserts, fabulous fashion items and so much more. Register for door prizes donated from each vendor and get all your Christmas shopping finished by the time you leave! For more information, contact [nburrage@cfbc.org](mailto:nburrage@cfbc.org).

## 24th Annual Houston Turkish Festival

Saturday, November 14, 11 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Sunday, November 15, 11 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Jones Plaza. The 24th Houston Turkish Festival will celebrate all things Turkish, including authentic Turkish food, coffee, music, traditional folklore dancing including the famous



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# The Water Oaks Social Club

whirling dervishes, a kids' corner filled with fun activities, arts and crafts, cultural exhibitions as well as a very colorful Grand Bazaar. This year the festival will also feature a mini world pavilion providing an overview to a mosaic of international cultures Houston prides itself with. As has been the tradition, a Turkish disco dance hour will close out each day's festivities. For more information, visit [www.houstonturkishfest.com](http://www.houstonturkishfest.com).

## Islamic Arts Festival

**November 14-15 • 10:30 a.m. till 5:30 p.m.**

Come and enjoy the rich tradition of arts in Islam. View calligraphy, woodwork, ceramic tiles, glass work and paintings from local artists! Experience the art of henna tattoo and calligraphy. View slideshows and videos on Islamic art. Interact with artists and take part in a silent auction. Enjoy local cuisine from Halal Food Trucks. All are welcome! Admission is free!

For more information, contact [info@iafHouston.com](mailto:info@iafHouston.com). The venue is located at 16700 Old Louetta Road, Spring, TX 77379. [www.iafHouston.com](http://www.iafHouston.com)

## Dickens on Cypress Creek: A Victorian Christmas Market

**Friday, November 20, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 21, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

Cypress Creek Christian Church, 6823 Cypresswood Drive (between courthouse and library). Enjoy an array of food, market vendors, and entertainment with a Victorian flair!

The Water Oaks Social Club works to offer a variety of social activities to foster a sense of community. It is the belief of the Olde Oaks Community Improvement Association Board that a neighborhood becomes a tightly knit community when people share in activities and establish friendships. This club will be responsible for social events, welcoming new residents, and fostering the friendly environment. Programs cannot happen without volunteers!

We are looking for a few good residents to help with the development of the Social Club events.

The Welcome Committee met and welcomed personally the following to the neighborhood with a goodie bag:

Nina and Craig Rennpage

Please call or email Dr. Dionne Hill, Olde Oaks resident, if interested at [dionneredmond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dionneredmond@sbcglobal.net) or 713-884-5501.



## Tina Rastegar

*Independent Insurance Broker*

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# GOT MEDICARE? QUESTIONS?

**MEDICARE ANNUAL ELECTION PERIOD  
OCTOBER 15th - DECEMBER 7th**

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[www.GoldStarInsuranceAdvisors.com](http://www.GoldStarInsuranceAdvisors.com)

# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

## Congratulations to these raffle winners at the 2015 National Night Out:

1. John Kulasa – Hasta La Pasta Gift Certificate
2. Larry Gibson – Casa Minerva Dinner
3. Marianne Carney – Northgate Country Club Brunch for Two
4. Travis Trajillo – Oil Spot Oil Change
5. Brook Ballewg – LaBoucherie Gift Certificate
6. Sarah Spoleti – Luby's Gift Certificate
7. Michael Chaney – FitBit
8. Carol Royster – Spring Creek BBQ Dinner
9. Jonathan Thomas – Home Depot Gift Certificate
10. Brian Coles – Home Depot Gift Certificate
11. Toby Rolf – Northgate Country Club Brunch
12. Ray Cordova – Oil Spot Oil Change
13. David McMaster – Oil Spot Oil Change
14. Aaron Wood – Plants for All Seasons Gift Certificate
15. Gayle McMaster – Spring Creek BBQ Dinner
16. Sherri Curry – Hasta La Pasta Gift Certificate
17. Ronnie Williams – Oil Spot Oil Change
18. Chris Lynch – Hasta La Pasta Gift Certificate
19. Annesia Penright – Hasta La Pasta Gift Certificate

Congratulations to all the raffle prize winners and a huge thank you to all of the businesses that donated gift certificates and services to this year's event!



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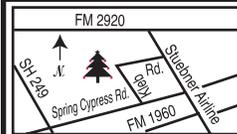
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☆☆☆☆ Thank you to those who attended National Night Out 2015! ☆☆☆☆



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Refer a friend and receive \$100 towards tuition!\*

\*Referred must be enrolled for at least 90 days.

Linder Young Learners Academy  
14600 Gladebrook Drive  
Houston, TX 77068 - 281.537.9090



#LINDER



theyounglearners.com

# FOOTNOTES BOOK CLUB

Kathy Hall, Book Club Coordinator • 281-569-4967

This month we will meet on the November 17 at my house. Susan Muirhead will be discussion leader for Milan Kundera's *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. Since Thanksgiving is in the fourth week, we will meet a week early. Besides discussing the book, we will also choose books for **January through May 2016** and discuss our Christmas luncheon plans for probably the first week of December. So it will be a full meeting.

Milan Kundera is a Czech-born novelist, short story writer, playwright, essayist, and poet who was born in 1929. He had been living in exile in France since 1975 and was naturalized in 1981. Sources say he sees himself as French and wants his work to be studied as French literature and classified as such in bookstores. His writings combine erotic comedy with political criticism and philosophical speculation. He was in and out of the Communist party and finally his works were banned, he was fired from teaching, and ousted from the Communist party. It was then that he and his wife immigrated to France.

*The Unbearable Lightness of Being* seems like an odd title perhaps, but pertains to the lightness of inconsequential living, living above true compassion and concern for others versus the

heavy weight of responsibility when one chooses the opposite course in life. Which is compatible with freedom? Weight or lightness?

Tomas, an intellectual Czech brain surgeon, conquers scores of women sexually in a vain attempt to find a meaningful life. He can't commit and has no aptitude for love. He doesn't woo women or flatter them but commands them, and they comply. Sounds like room for discussion right there! Other characters are involved too to enhance the plot, which takes place in Prague.

## Newsletter Deadline

Do you have exciting information to share? Do you have something for sale? Do you want your neighbors to attend an event or do you just want to share some news? This newsletter is yours, the community of Olde Oaks and Waterford Park. Reach out to each other and share important community information. Your participation enables a positive, strong community. We want to hear from you! Please submit suggestions and articles to "Olde Oaks Editor" via email or front porch delivery. Please do not drop in US mailbox. All submissions must be signed and dated.

**Deadline for December newsletter is November 10.**

Editor: Barbara Smith

Mail or hand deliver to 15714 Winding Moss

Email: [OldeOaksEditor@gmail.com](mailto:OldeOaksEditor@gmail.com)

Register at [www.crest-management.com](http://www.crest-management.com)  
for important community announcements.

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## Matching Donations

### Matching Donations = Twice (or More) the Benefit!

For those individuals fortunate enough to be employees of companies who provide a “company match” for donations benefit, please take advantage of it to amplify the impact of your donations to qualified charities. Check with your HR department, obtain the forms and register your qualified donations.

From time to time certain charities may be the beneficiaries of a “challenge match” from an outside philanthropy. In such cases your donation + company match + challenge match result in \$3 for each \$1 you donate. Companies often extend a grace period into January to register prior year donations.

## Message From Norman Nelson, VP of Our HOA

### Clarification/Correction

Page 10 of the October edition, under “Support Your Neighborhood Newsletter,” incorrectly states “our newsletter is published without charge to the residents of Olde Oaks and Waterford Park...”

This is incorrect, as the residents pay for postage which comes from the Association dues each homeowner pays. In July 2015, the Association paid Champions Printing \$385.89 and in August 2015, the Association also paid Champions Printing \$385.89. Taking this out over 12 months, the cost to residents for the newsletter over a year is approximately \$4,630.68.

## Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is time for family, friends and neighbors to give thanks. Traditions have been established as the holiday has been celebrated through the years sharing memories while we enjoy a home-cooked meal of special recipes that have been perfected by our ancestors. Please remember to share the holiday with neighbors who do not have family near or are alone. We may have neighbors who have raised their children to adulthood and they have moved a distance away or maybe they just don't have the means or health to travel a distance. We have neighbors who have had medical dilemmas or an unfortunate downsizing by their employer. Not all people reach out during the holiday seasons to let you know they need assistance. The gift of kindness is priceless.

Kinsmen Lutheran Church invites you to join them for their 6th Annual Community Thanksgiving Feast at 12100 Champion Forest Dr, Houston, TX 77066 ([www.kinsmenlutheran.org](http://www.kinsmenlutheran.org)) on **Thursday, November 26** from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Spend your Thanksgiving with friends and family at the free Thanksgiving Feast at Kinsmen Lutheran Church featuring a traditional Thanksgiving menu of turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn, sweet potato casserole, cranberry sauce, bread, and desserts. The day includes children's crafts, moonwalks, football.

We will continue to list so join us on [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) or at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OldeOaksWaterfordPark/> for additional fellowships.

*Blessings from our homes to yours!*  
Barbara Smith, Editor

## CARING FOR THE COMPLETE ATHLETE, FROM START TO FINISH.

When an injury or illness forces an athlete to the sidelines, Houston Methodist can get them back to full strength, faster. Applying our experience as professional team doctors, we're focused on helping athletes at every level recover fully. From simple strains to complex concussions, our board-certified and fellowship-trained doctors use the most advanced technologies to provide the most comprehensive care, including

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- Concussion diagnosis and management
- Sports medical clearance and general wellness exams

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### INTRODUCING OUR NEW PHYSICIAN

M. Nameer Sidiquee, MD, CAQSM  
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# Caring Community

## We are a community with a lot of potential.

Our community has many positives, including a wonderfully diverse base of residents who obviously care very much about their neighborhood. Circumstances have led to renewed respect for the gravity of HOA Board elections. Hopefully this will translate into candidates for the three board seats up for election **February 2016**, a solid vote turnout and forming robust committees and clubs participation.

What interests, skills, expertise and concerns do you have which might connect you to others in the neighborhood? Technology provides us the unprecedented means to connect more easily than ever. Many avenues exist to contribute, get involved, be neighborly or just have fun. We have existing clubs, interest groups and the opportunity to form new ones even if just for temporary purposes. If you are an avid gardener, why not link up with like-minded residents and consider forming a Garden Club? It might prove impossible to switch school districts, but it is 100% possible to help neighborhood schools and students in a variety of ways such as contributing toward classroom needs, assisting one student at a time through a school-sanctioned tutor program, supporting school events, etc. If you have solid ideas and willingness to investigate the cost, benefits and justification for projects and activities for "increasing property values" and "improving the neighborhood," be assured you don't have to be a Board member or even be on a Board-appointed committee to propose and even help spearhead them.

Aided by technology, we can continue to be instrumental in dampening crime and promoting safety in our extended area. Just as our contract deputies encourage us to report suspicious situations within the neighborhood, we can be proactive outside our boundaries. Notice something odd at a local store, suspicious looking loiterers or perhaps reckless driving? Note specifics, maybe even take a picture and report it promptly and persistently, as necessary. Are there habitual dangerous stop sign or red light runner situations at particular places and times? Again, get it put on the record to facilitate targeted police attention. Report pervasive hazardous traffic signs and signal situations directly to Harris County Precinct 4 as an individual or collectively, and present it persistently in a respectful documented format such as an email or letter.

Our proximity to FM 1960 and location between SH 249 and I-45 is both a challenge and an opportunity. Established, safe, great value neighborhoods attract savvy new residents, which in turn can attract a better class of satellite businesses. Nearby businesses, especially those on or near FM 1960 that are a positive presence deserve our patronage to survive and thrive. This in turn can help attract more desirable businesses in lieu of random used car lots, pawn and title loan stores, shady spas, after hours clubs and the like. Given the sheer size of this community, our concerted patronage can help tilt things in the right direction.

We enjoy convenient access to the extensive bike trails off Cypresswood to Collins Park including Meyer Park with its array of soccer fields, walking paths, playground and doggie parks. We are very close to Barbara Bush library, Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts and the concert venue at the Centrum. Nearby are many private school alternatives for those who wish to opt out of the public school system. We are surrounded by large, established church complexes, which offer community-minded activities and classes. In our immediate vicinity is the NW Houston Chamber of Commerce. The MUD#44 building area on T.C. Jester is being increasingly utilized by various Olde Oaks/WP groups. And when the Cypress Creek Greenway Project finally becomes a reality, our well-situated neighborhood stands to benefit.

Mia Cordova  
OOCIA Board Member



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# Spring ISD Mentor Program

The Spring Independent School District is beginning a new mentor program at five schools this fall. Spring Forward: Supporting Our Scholars is designed to empower preteen and teenage students to make positive life choices that will help them maximize their personal and academic potential. The program's greatest need right now is adult volunteers.

"We need trusted adult role-models to serve as mentors to our students," said Dr. Laquita Carter, executive director of family and community engagement. "We are looking for adults within our community who are willing to volunteer their time to establish a consistent, caring relationship with a student or students at our schools."

The mentor/mentee relationship focuses on the student's academic, social and emotional needs and encourages them to develop to their fullest potential based on their own goals and vision for their future.

According to the National Mentoring Partnership, school mentor programs have a significant impact on the dropout rate and attendance rate among high school students. "Students who have a positive adult role model are more likely to stay in school, graduate from high school, and make better and healthier lifestyle choices," Carter said.

During the program's first year, it is being initiated at Dekaney, Spring and Westfield high schools and Bammel and Claughton middle schools with funding provided by the Spring ISD Education Foundation.

Volunteers must successfully complete a screening process that includes an application, background check and reference check and then complete initial training before being assigned to a student. Training will be ongoing with additional workshops held throughout the year.

Volunteers who are interested in serving as mentors and can commit to the program for at least one full year are asked to contact Tranita Carroll, parent engagement coordinator, at 281-891-6019 or by email at [tcarrroll@springisd.org](mailto:tcarrroll@springisd.org).



## Happy Thanksgiving!



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# Spring ISD Board of Trustees Approves 2015 Tax Rate

**\$1.47 rate continues district trend of decreases over the last two years.**

The Spring ISD Board of Trustees approved a 4-cent property tax rate decrease on Tuesday, during its regular board meeting. The vote continues the district's two-year trend of tax decreases. The 2015 total tax rate of \$1.47 per \$100 valuation includes a maintenance and operation (M&O) tax rate of \$1.04 and an interest and sinking (I&S) tax rate of \$0.43.

"We are very pleased to be able to decrease the school district's tax rate – helping offset the increase in appraised values and resulting increase in property taxes that the Spring community has recently seen," said Spring ISD Chief Financial Officer Ann Westbrooks. "While property owners may not see a decrease in their overall tax payment, they will see a decrease in what they pay to Spring ISD. The district's ability to reduce its tax rate is largely due to a new priority-focused budgeting process that was implemented this past year. Re-evaluating how every district dollar is spent, Spring ISD advanced several priority projects as well as increased teacher salaries while also bringing forward a budget that did not require it to request additional resources from the public."

In June, the Board of Trustees adopted the 2015-16 operating budget that included increased salaries for teachers, expanded transportation services and the development of an in-district Disciplinary Alternative Education Program. Funds were also set aside for various other priorities, including improved curriculum and a strengthened technology infrastructure.

According to Westbrooks, the two-year savings to property owners with a house valued at \$100,000 in 2013 would be \$187. Individual increases in values may adjust the total savings taxpayers actually see.

Naturally, the increased property values seen in Spring have also influenced the district's ability to propose a reduction in the tax rate. Year over year, Spring ISD has seen a 17-percent increase in overall property values, including the increased taxable value from ExxonMobil, which completed its relocation into the Spring community this year.

The Harris County Appraisal District suggests that the value of residential property in the county rose 15 percent and almost 90 percent of the homes in the county increased in value since 2014.

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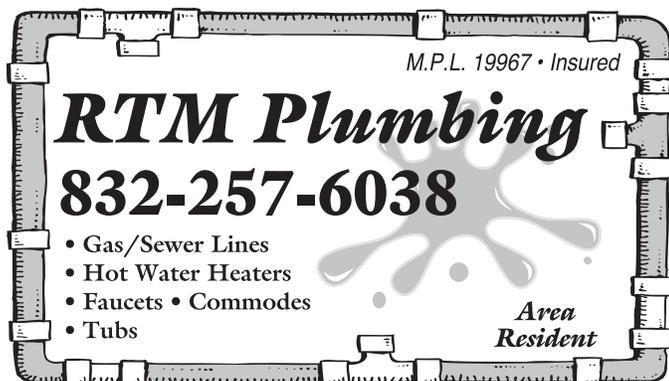
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## Houston Dance Theatre's 33rd Annual Production of *The Nutcracker Ballet*

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Two performances are scheduled to take the stage: **Saturday, November 28** at 7 p.m. and **Sunday, November 29** at 2:30 p.m. The performances are held at the beautiful Westfield's Geiger Performing Arts Center, 16713 Ella Boulevard, one mile south of 1960.

Reserved seating tickets are \$25 each and may be purchased online at [www.houstondancetheatre.org](http://www.houstondancetheatre.org).

Featured Russian professional guest artists Marina Goshko and Andrey Prikhodko will join the cast of 75 local dancers, including the Houston Dance Theatre Company. **Included in the cast from Olde Oaks and Waterford Park are Alyssa Gatlin, Nailah and Zya Mensah.**

Houston Dance Theatre is an Honor Company of Regional Dance America. This exceptional production continues to enhance the arts in our community!

### This is the one to see!

For best available reserved seating, purchase your tickets early. Girl Scouts earn the Nutcracker Patch by attending! Group sales are available. For further information or ticket sales, visit our website at [www.houstondancetheatre.org](http://www.houstondancetheatre.org). Our box office is located at American Academy of Dance/Home of Houston Dance Theatre, 15775 Bammel Village Drive Houston, TX 77014. For telephone credit card orders, call 281-444-9698.

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