



Waterford Park

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OLDE OAKS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Skunks: Our Woodland Neighbors

There have been skunks seen all around in the Olde Oaks neighborhood at night. You can see them prancing through yards and going from flower bed to flower bed. They are seen late at night, when outdoor activity has gone down, but before sunrise. Skunks (also called polecats in America) are mammals known for their ability to spray a liquid with a strong odor. Different species of skunk vary in appearance from black-and-white to brown or cream colored, but all have warning coloration. The warning coloration may take the form of conspicuous spots or stripes. These warning signals are beneficial for both the predator and prey, both of which avoid potential harm.

The word "polecat" (with "pole" from either the French poule "chicken" or puant "stinking"), which in Europe refers to the wild relatives of the ferret, has been used in America to refer to the skunk since the 1680s.

Although the most common fur color is black and white, some skunks are brown or grey and a few are cream-colored. All skunks are striped, even from birth. They may have a single thick stripe across back and tail, two thinner stripes, or a series of white spots and broken stripes (in the case of the spotted skunk). Some also have stripes on their legs. From a distance you may mistake them for a

cat or a small dog. But once you get close to one you should notice the smell that accompanies them – smell that most likely you will never forget.



Skunk species vary in size from about 15.6 to 37 inches and weigh from about 1.1 pounds (spotted skunks) to 18 pounds (hog-nosed skunks). They have moderately elongated bodies with relatively short, well-muscled legs, and long front claws for

digging. They love to dig. They dig for their food. Skunks are omnivorous, eating both plant and animal material and changing their diets as the seasons change. They can eat insects and larvae, earthworms, grubs, small rodents, lizards, salamanders, frogs, snakes, birds, moles, and eggs. They also commonly eat berries, roots, leaves, grasses, fungi, and nuts.

In a settled area like Olde Oaks, skunks also seek human garbage. So be sure that your garbage is not left out on the ground in the bag. Less often, skunks may be found acting as scavengers, eating bird and rodent carcasses left by cats or other animals. Pet owners, particularly those of cats, may experience a skunk finding its way into a garage or basement where pet food is kept. Skunks commonly dig holes in lawns at night.

Skunks are one of the primary predators of the honeybee, relying on their thick fur to protect them from stings. The skunk scratches at the front of the beehive and eats the guard bees that come out to investigate. Mother skunks are known to teach this behavior to their young.

Skunks are crepuscular, meaning that they are those that are active primarily during twilight, which is during dawn and dusk.

(continued on page 3)

Notice to Homeowners of Olde Oaks CIA Board Meeting

When: 2nd Wednesday of each month unless otherwise posted

Where: MUD 44 Bldg. on TC Jester on south side of the bridge

Time: 6:45 p.m.

October 9 • November 13 •

Monthly meetings are conducted to address the Board's new and old business. Residents are encouraged to attend; however, discussion during the Board Meetings is limited to the directors. A brief Q&A session will be held at the end of each meeting for resident questions

and comments. Residents with specific property or account concerns should address these questions to ACMI directly. If you want to receive an email reminder for upcoming meetings, send an email request to info@ACMIgmt.com with your name, address and email address.

Who You Gonna Call?

ACMI Management Company 281-251-2292
 12603 Louetta Rd., Suite 101 Fax 281-370-9238
 Cypress, TX 77429.....www.ACMIimgmt.com
 Bert Williams, Property Mgr.info@ACMIimgmt.com

Harris County Pct. 4, Commissioner R. Jack Cagle
 Curb & Street Repair, Flooding, Storm Drains 281-353-8424
 website.....www.hcp4.net

Alarm Detail Office of HCSO 713-755-4600

Power Outage? Call to Report 713-207-2222
Street Light Out..... 800-332-7143
 website: www.centerpointenergy.com/services/electricity/residential/reportastreetlightoutage

Dirty Pools
 The Environmental Public Health Dept. 713-274-6300

Greenbelt Preservation Association (<http://oogpa.com>)
 Bruce Ganer, President 281-537-2716
 Craig Lewis, Vice President.....
 Kathy Zigler, Secretary 281-580-5512
 Tanya Morland, Treasurer..... 281-631-9479
 John Edmonson, Director at Large

Justice of the Peace..... 281-376-5512
 (Barking Dog Complaints)

Municipal Utility Districts (MUD) Water
Manhole/Sewer Backup 713-983-3602

MUD #20 – Environmental Development Partners
 Billing, Service & Emergencies..... 832-467-1599
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
 John Dougrey 281-580-7010
 Robert Skinner..... 281-580-7885
 Larry Foster..... 281-580-9934
 Brian Beck..... 832-249-8720

MUD #44 – Water District Management
www.wdmtexas.com/districts/ds_hcmudd44.htm
 Billing, Service & Emergencies..... 281-376-8802
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
 Rolf Flemming, Toby Landry, Robert Ramsey,
 Tom Sooy, Harry Swanstrom

Scheduling Use of Building
 (Non-profits only. No private requests, please.)
 Roger Schuett 281-685-1275
 Fax 281-379-1428

Bammel Utility District Office..... 281-376-8802
www.wdmtexas.com/districts/ds_hcmudd44.htm
BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
 Nicholas Fava, President 281-440-8638
 Garey Nelson 713-598-5346
 Alan Kaniss 281-453-6009
 Al Habinak 281-893-4776
 James Armand..... 281-440-4754

Pet Liaison
 Julie Brown 713-302-9148

Reliant Energy
 Entex Natural Gas 713-659-2111
 CenterPoint Energy 713-207-2222

Trash & Recycling Pickup
 Royal Recycle & Disposal 713-526-1536

Olde Oaks Community Improvement Association Current Officers

Christine Potter, President
 Caleb Summers, Vice President/Deputy Patrol Liaison
 Steven Hatcher, Treasurer
 Jacqueline Harvell, Secretary
 Joycelyn Ray-Latson, Director-at-Large

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 911 | Emergency/Crime in progress, Sheriff's Department, Ambulance and Fire |
| 713-221-6000 | Sheriff's Department – Nonemergency |
| 281-251-0101 | Klein V.F.D. |
| 281-999-3191 | Animal Control |
| 281-376-2997 | To request Vacation Watch, call between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. |
| 1-800-222-1222 | Poison Control Center – 24-Hr. Emergency Assistance |

For Deed Restrictions and Neighborhood Management, call ACMI Management Company at 281-251-2292.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Got exciting news to share? Have something for sale?
 Have a community-related event to publicize?
 Want your neighbors to know more about an important issue?
 Submit all of this and more to the *Olde Oaks Waterford Park Community Newsletter*. We want to hear from you!

The November Newsletter Deadline is October 10.

Editor: **Laura Summers**

Email: OldeOaksEditor@hotmail.com

Mail or Hand-delivery: 3511 Kennonview Drive

For hand-delivery, please leave in the box marked "Olde Oaks Editor" on the front porch, not in the U.S. mailbox. All submissions must be signed to be considered for publication.

VISIT US ONLINE AT: www.oocia.org

OLDE OAKS

Interest Group Contacts

If you are interested in joining any of the Olde Oaks Interest Groups, please call the neighborhood representative listed.

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Book Club | Kathy Hall, 281-569-4967 |
| Bridge, Women's | Susanne Bailey, 281-580-1717 |
| Dinner With Friends | Lauren Hensley, 281-893-1833 |
| Museum Excursion | Zelda Kaye, 281-880-8505 |
| Mixed Bowling | Francine Alvarez, 281-580-8815 |
| Wii Bowlers | Zelda Kaye, 281-880-8505 |

Skunks - continued

They are solitary animals when not breeding, though in the colder parts of their range, they may gather in communal dens for warmth. During the day, they shelter in burrows which they can dig with their powerful front claws.

Skunks are not true hibernators in the winter, but they do den up for extended periods of time. However, they remain generally inactive and feed rarely, going through a dormant stage. Over winter, multiple females (as many as 12) huddle together; males often den alone. Often, the same winter den is repeatedly used.

Although they have excellent senses of smell and hearing, they have poor vision, being unable to see objects more than about 10 feet away, making them vulnerable to death by road traffic. They are short-lived; their lifespan in the wild is no more than three years, with most living only up to a year. In captivity, they may live for up to 15 years.

Striped skunks mate in early spring and are polygynous, meaning that successful males mate with more than one female. Before giving birth (usually in May), the female excavates a den to house her litter of four to seven kits. They are placental, with a gestation period of about 66 days.

When born, skunk kits are blind, deaf, and covered in a soft layer of fur. About three weeks after birth, their eyes open. The kits are weaned about two months after birth, but generally stay with their mother until they are ready to mate, at about one year of age.

The mother is protective of her kits, spraying at any sign of danger. The male plays no part in raising the young.

Skunks are notorious for their anal scent glands, which they can use as a defensive weapon. Skunks have two glands, one on each side of the anus. These glands produce a mixture of sulfur-containing chemicals such as thiols, traditionally called mercaptans, which have a highly offensive smell. The odor of the fluid is strong enough to ward off bears and other potential attackers, and can be difficult to remove from clothing. Muscles located next to the scent glands allow them to spray with a high degree of accuracy, as far as 10 feet. The smell aside, the spray can cause irritation and even temporary blindness, and is sufficiently powerful to be detected by a human nose up to a mile downwind.

If a dog is urged to the attack, its courage is instantly checked by a few drops of the skunk's spray, which brings on violent sickness and running at the nose. Whatever is once polluted by it, for example, clothes, robe, etc., it is forever useless.

(continued on page 7)

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road between NASA Pkwy.
and Bay Area Blvd.)

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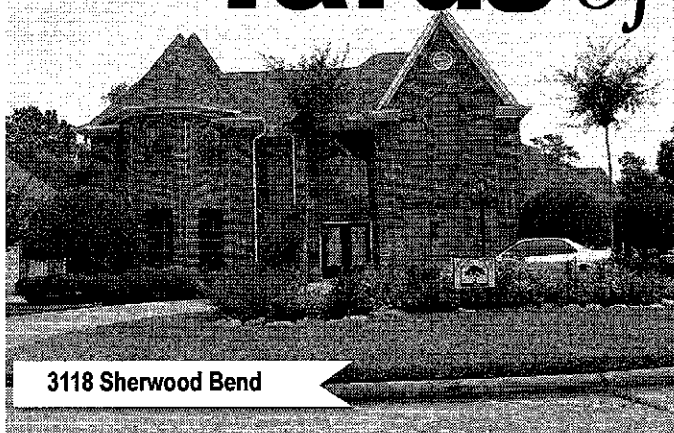
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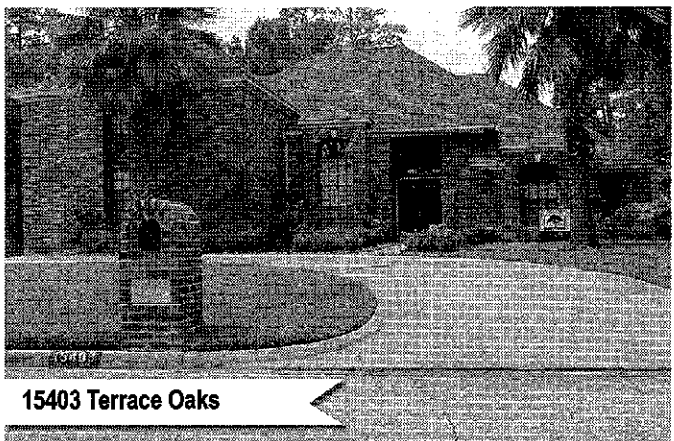
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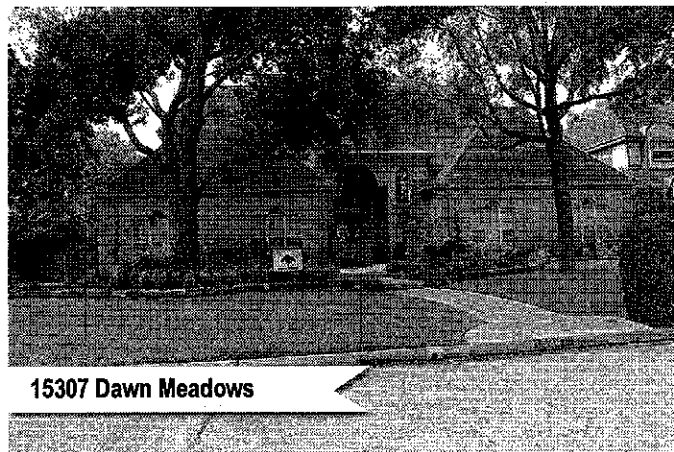
Yards of the Month



3118 Sherwood Bend



15403 Terrace Oaks



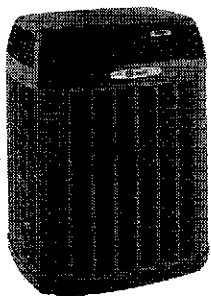
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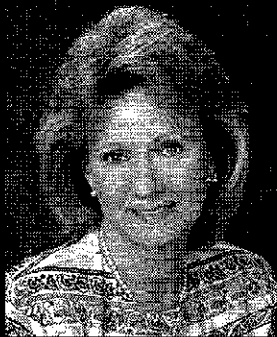
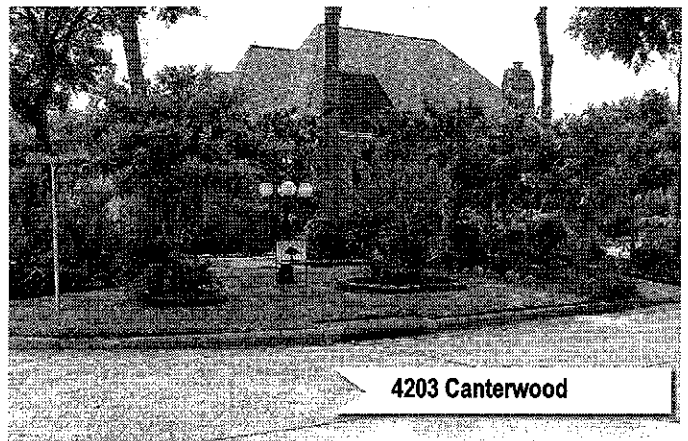
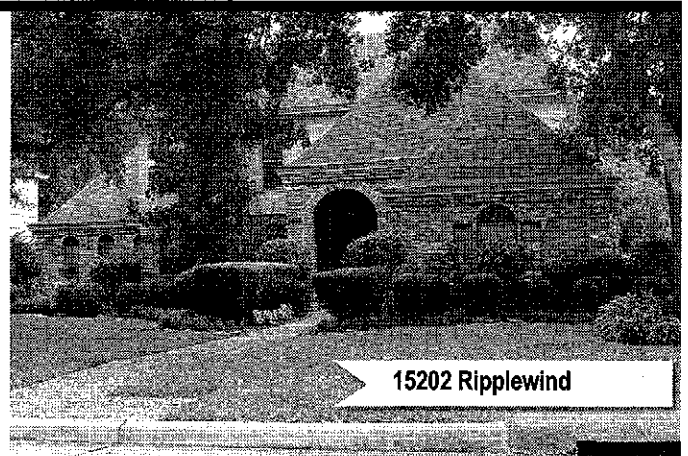
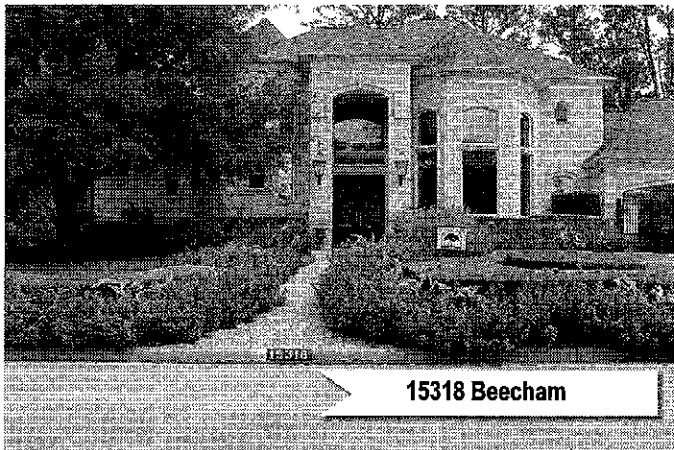


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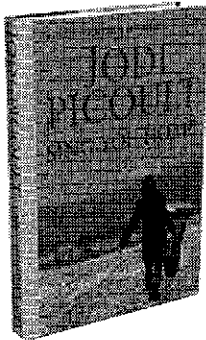
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“Footnotes”

Our group is mighty proud of our longevity as we’ve been meeting for 11 years as of August! We continue with book club on

October 22 at the home of **Virginia McGriggs** with **Heather George** as discussion leader. Jodi Picoult’s *Sing You Home* is the book we chose.



Picoult is a prolific author, but this is the first time we’ve read one of her books for our group. There are also 10 original songs written by Ellen Wilber who collaborated with Ms. Picoult, the lyricist, to accompany the reading experience of the book.

The back of the book cover describes the content succinctly in saying that “in the aftermath of a series of personal tragedies Zoe Baxter throws herself into her career as a music therapist.” After a divorce an “unexpected friendship blossoms into love,” and she “makes plans for a new life.” To her “shock and rage, some people, even those she loves and trusts most, don’t want that to happen.” The book explores “the delicate boundaries of identity, love, marriage, and parenthood.”

Ms. Picoult is the author of eighteen novels including several that have been #1 New York Times bestsellers. She lives in New Hampshire with her husband and three children.

Kathy Hall, Book Club Coordinator

MONTHLY STATISTICS
OLDE OAKS & WATERFORD PARK
AUGUST 2013

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 9-1-1 Hang Up2 | Disturbance.....16 |
| Accidents3 | Meet the Citizen.....15 |
| Alarms.....32 | Solicitors/Suspicious Person/ Vehicle.....0/6/3 |
| Animal – Aggressive2 | Stolen Vehicle.....1 |
| Animal – Humane1 | Terroristic Threat1 |
| Assault1 | Traffic.....5 |
| Burglary to a Habitation4 | Vacation Watch.....6 |
| Burglary to a Motor Vehicle.....10 | |
| Criminal Mischief4 | |

Don’t make your vehicle or property an easy target for criminals – keep your garage door closed if you are not in the garage or yard, lock your car doors when you exit, and take your valuables, like lap tops, cell phones, weapons, and jewelry out of the car when you go inside.

Olde Oaks/Waterford Park has four full-time Harris County Sheriff’s deputies who patrol the neighborhood at all times. If you see suspicious or criminal activity occurring, call **9-1-1** for emergencies and **713-221-6000** for nonemergencies.

Watch for “Alerts” posted to our community website at www.oocia.org.

For information about registered sex offenders:
www.familywatchdog.us

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Skunks - continued

Skunks are reluctant to use this weapon, as they carry just enough of the chemical for five or six uses – about 15 cc – and require some ten days to produce another supply. It is to a skunk's advantage to warn possible predators off without expending scent: black and white aposematic warning coloration aside, threatened skunks will go through an elaborate routine of hisses, foot-stamping, and tail-high deimatic or threat postures before resorting to spraying. Skunks usually do not spray other skunks, except among males in the mating season. If they fight over den space in autumn, they do so with teeth and claws.

Most predators of the Americas, such as wolves, foxes and badgers, seldom attack skunks, presumably out of fear of being sprayed. The exceptions are dogs, reckless predators whose attacks fail once they are sprayed, and the great horned owl, the animal's only serious predator, which has a poor-to-nonexistent sense of smell.

Skunks are common in suburban areas, such as Olde Oaks. Frequent encounters with dogs and other domestic animals, and the release of the odor when a skunk is run over, have led to many myths about the removal of skunk odor. Due to the chemical composition of the spray, most of these household remedies are ineffective, except for remedies able to break down thiols.

It is rare for a healthy skunk to bite a human. While a domesticated skunk with its scent glands removed may defend itself by biting, there are few recorded incidents. The most prevalent cause of skunks biting humans is the rabies virus. The Centers for Disease

Control (CDC) recorded 1,494 cases of rabies in skunks in the United States for the year 2006 — about 21.5% of reported cases in all species. Skunks trail raccoons as vectors of rabies, although this varies regionally (raccoons dominate along the Atlantic coast and eastern Gulf of Mexico, skunks throughout the Midwest and down to the western Gulf, and in California). Despite this prevalence, the CDC attributes all recorded cases of human rabies from 1990-2002 to dogs or bats.

*Adapted from Wikipedia and submitted by
OO/WP Resident Nicholas Summerville*

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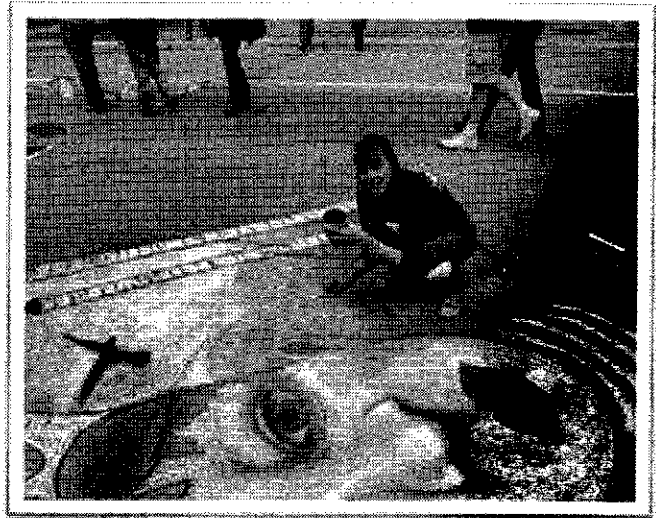
CreekFest Houston 2013

The Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce CreekFest Houston 2013, a celebration of the arts and outdoors in Northwest Houston. CreekFest 2013 will be held along Cypress Creek between Collins Park and Meyer Park along Cypresswood Drive on Saturday, October 12 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine. The event is free to the public.

CreekFest starts the day with a 5K/10K Run and Adventure Race at 8 a.m. After the race, patrons will enjoy a variety of family and children's activities, including free children's concerts at the Centrum, demonstrations from a variety of outdoor sports authorities, sidewalk chalk artists, family day at the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts, a bookwalk and sale at the Barbara Bush Library, an art show and marketplace, a local, family fun dog show, BBQ cook-off, free music stages, and a variety of food and retail vendors.

To sponsor or participate in this event contact the Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce at 281-440-4160 or email MeredithB@HoustonNWChamber.org or visit the event website at www.CreekFestHouston.com.

The Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce has enjoyed over 39 years of service in Spring, Klein, Champions, FM 1960, FM 2920, SH 249 and Sam Houston Tollway Corridors. The Chamber has over 700 members and is committed to its mission of developing successful businesses and a thriving community.



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St. Ignatius Loyola Fall Festival and Craft Fair

St. Ignatius Loyola Catholic Church is having its annual Fall Festival & Craft Fair on **Saturday, October 5** and **Sunday, October 6**. Come and join the fun, live entertainment, games, crafts and tasty international foods. We will have bingo, children's train, inflatables, used book sale, talent show, silent/live auctions, sports live auction and much, much more. We are located at 7810 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, Texas, 77379. For more information email us at Festival@silcc.org.

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 (3" diameter and less) need to be bundled in 4-foot lengths. No yard waste bag or bundle should weigh more than 40 pounds.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted: Dining Room Table – Looking to buy a quality wood dining room table with 8 all-wood chairs. Please call Jim 832-286-8127.

For Sale: Twin/full wood bunk bed, in good shape – \$75. HP All-In-One Printer – \$20. Rabbit Hutch, like new – \$50. Kenmore Sewing Machine with beautiful blonde cabinet, probably from the 1950's, still works well! – \$50. Call Jane at 281-684-9799.

Classified Policy

Don't forget that the classifieds are FREE to all Olde Oaks residents. Use this section to buy and sell personal items. All we ask is that no adult-owned business ads be turned in, such as real estate, in-home operated businesses or fee-based services. If you'd like to advertise your adult-owned business and support our newsletter, call Champions Printing & Publishing, Inc. at 281-583-7661. The editor retains exclusive right to accept or reject any classified deemed unfit. Your classified will run for one month. If you want to run it for a longer period of time, please resubmit your ad by the newsletter deadline for each month you'd like it to appear.

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Teen Job Seekers

Attention, Teen Job Seekers!

To be listed as a Teen Job Seeker, email your name, phone number and job preferences to OldeOaksEditor@hotmail.com. To keep the list up-to-date, your listing will run for three months. You will need to resubmit your listing every third month. This column is for informational purposes only. No recommendation is being made by OOCIA.

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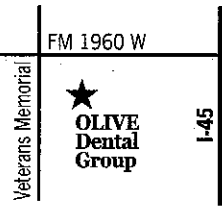
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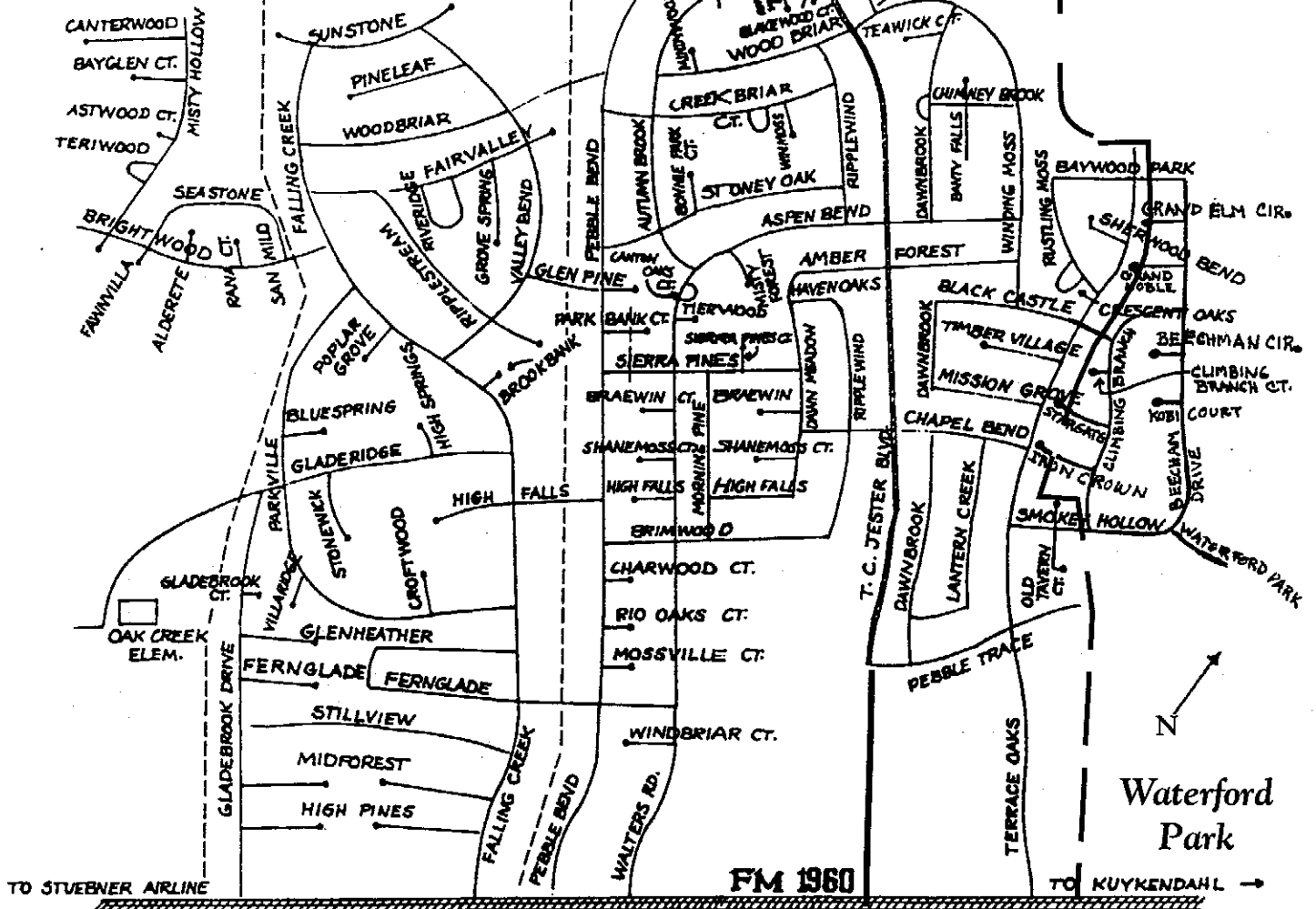
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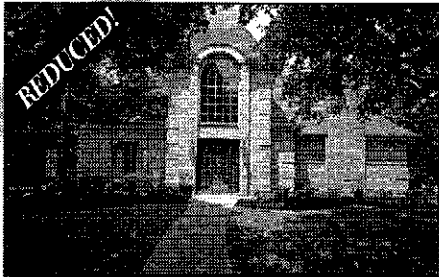
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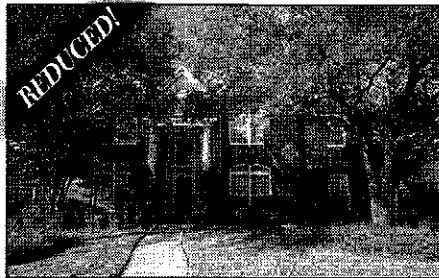
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