

&

Waterford Park

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OLDE OAKS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Celebrating Thanksgiving in 2020

2020 may be a more intimate experience with less people than the usual traditional dinner as the CDC recommends avoiding travel and large gatherings. Ideas to celebrate include:

Hosting a Thanksgiving picnic or backyard bash –

The CDC says being outdoors reduces the risk of exposure to COVID-19 and Houston is usually nice this time of year. Start a new tradition with barbeque or fried turkey. If watching the big game on TV is part of your Thanksgiving tradition, you could set up a projector or TV outside to screen football, a parade or a family movie. Outdoor games like horseshoes, bocce ball, croquet, badminton or cornhole can be a fun way to safely get together while social distancing. If the evening goes late, you can build a fire, toast marshmallows and make s'mores.

Potluck. Take the stress and pressure off yourself by hosting a potluck meal. Friends or relatives can bring their favorite dish. To make sure the meal is well rounded, you may want to assign a category (i.e. appetizer, side dish, salad, dessert) while you prepare or purchase the main dish. If someone is traveling, to make it easier on them, they could contribute money. With less people, you could serve a turkey breast, baked chicken or small ham. Another version of this is the holiday meal drop off, where each household prepares a portion of the holiday meal, and drops off the food to other family members.

Takeout meals. Support your local restaurants by purchasing dinner to go. You can enjoy being with your family and friends (instead of slaving by yourself over a hot stove) with little or no cleanup!



Dine in at a restaurant. Most tables are limited to six or eight people, which is just right for a small family dinner. Everyone can order what they want and there is no cleanup before or after. Afterwards, you could retire to someone's house for after dinner drinks and possibly games or a movie.

Early delivery of a care package to shut-ins and a have a video visit on Thanksgiving day. A great way to show thanks this year is, if you know of someone celebrating alone (especially those at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19), to deliver your famous recipe, such as pumpkin pie, in a contact free way. If family or friends live further away, you could order something special in advance (since a lot of places aren't open on Thanksgiving) for delivery and then have a virtual visit (such as Skype, Zoom or Google Hangouts) on the actual holiday.

Tanya Pilant, Editor

OUTSMARTING CANCER

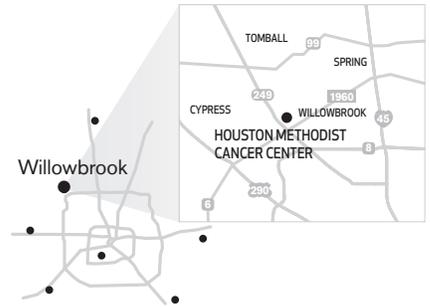
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*The upcoming Holidays are a
time to reflect, give thanks and enjoy
time with family and friends.*

During this time of uncertainty in our country and community, let us stay mindful of the safety and health of those around us while still giving thanks to everyone and everything!

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SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

For those of you who are new to the neighborhoods, you may not know about Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP). SHP is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charity with over 200 chapters throughout the U.S., Canada, and the

Bahamas. The charity builds cargo-style beds (bunk or single) and gives them, free of charge, to kiddos from 3 to 17 years of age who don't have beds of their own. Olde Oaks residents, Gary and Nikki Akin, established a chapter of SHP in the Houston Northwest area in mid-2018. To date, the chapter (whose motto is "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town") has given 1114 beds to kids in need (385 families). The bed components are delivered, assembled, and made up with mattress, kid-friendly, age and gender appropriate sheets, comforter, and pillow all for free!

After a long COVID-19 pandemic hiatus, volunteers of SHP Houston NW are back in the Build Shop and delivering beds. Monetary donations are needed to keep this charity in business. Lumber prices have risen, i.e. a 2x6x10 piece of lumber has doubled in price since during the time SHP was on hiatus. A bunk bed now costs about \$400 to produce. This includes all brand-new bedding. Monetary donations can be made through www.shpbeds.org, with the funds stipulated for TX Houston NW or by contacting the Akins at 832-326-3678.

Brand new, **twin size**, kid-friendly, age appropriate (3-17) bedding is needed. Sheets and comforters need to be **twin size**, **not** twin XL. Complete sheets and comforter sets, "Beds in a Bag," are ideal for SHP's purpose. Also, at this time, there is plenty of bedding in stock for the older kiddos, since there are few requests for 15-17 year olds. Bedding can be dropped off at the Akins home at 3219 Chapel Bend Drive.

SHP is always eager to welcome new volunteers. At this time, masks are worn by all volunteers and all precautions are taken to make the Build Shop safe. Hand sanitizer is located throughout, tools are disinfected, gloves are provided and various building tasks are spaced for adequate social distancing. If you are interested in helping build beds (no experience necessary), the Build Shop is located at TheMET Church on Jones Road. This is a family friendly activity where kids as young as 7, supervised by a parent or guardian, are welcome. Individuals, families, companies, church groups and organizations join together to get kiddos off the floor in our area. You may contact the Akins at gary.akin@shpbeds.org with any questions.

Submitted by Nikki Akin

The *Olde Oaks Community Newsletter* is published monthly for the residents of Olde Oaks and Waterford Park in partnership with Champions Printing & Publishing, Inc.

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS NOVEMBER 9

Editor: Tanya Pilant | Send information and questions to ooeiaeditor@gmail.com

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NOTICE TO HOMEOWNERS

Next OOCIA Monthly
Open Board Meeting
November 17 at 6:45 p.m.

Currently being held at Oak Creek Village
clubhouse, 3906 Gladeridge Drive

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MUD #44

[www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/
harris-county-mud-44](http://www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/harris-county-mud-44)

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281-376-8802

Board Meetings:

Second Tuesday of month, 4 p.m.
(Call before to confirm),
15705 N. Greenfield Drive

Bammel Utility District Office
281-376-8802

[www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/
bammel-utility-district](http://www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/bammel-utility-district)

Board Meetings:

Second Monday of month, 7 p.m.
3906 Gladeridge (clubhouse)

KINSMEN LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERS CURBSIDE PICKUP FOR A FREE THANKSGIVING FEAST

For the 11th year in a row, Kinsmen Lutheran Church will host a free Community Thanksgiving Feast on Thanksgiving Day, November 26. Of course, as with most things in 2020, this year's celebration will look a little different. Rather than gathering at the church to share the feast together, neighbors are invited to receive their traditional Thanksgiving meal via curbside pickup, then take it home to enjoy with family and friends, either in-person or perhaps by phone or video. The traditional Thanksgiving meals are free of charge and will include turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy, green bean casserole, cranberries, rolls and pie. Meals will be given to the first 500 people starting at 11 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day.

"Celebrating Thanksgiving together with our neighbors and community is one of the highlights of the year at Kinsmen," said the Rev. Dr. Beth Warpmaeker, senior pastor of Kinsmen Lutheran Church. "We will certainly miss that large gathering this year. But Kinsmen is 'in the community for good,' and right now that means finding ways to celebrate and encourage one another while staying healthy and safe. To all of our neighbors, know that we love you, we miss you, and we hope these meals will be a small reminder of God's love for you even in difficult times."

In preparation for the holiday, a Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be held on Wednesday, November 25. Another Thanksgiving tradition at Kinsmen is the annual Run for Your Turkey 5K/10K walk or run, which is now in its 9th year. This year's event will be virtual, so participants can choose for themselves when to walk or run, then post photos on social media using the hashtag #KinsmenRun4Turkey. Registration for the 5K/10K walk or run is \$30, with proceeds benefiting the Thanksgiving Feast. To register, visit www.kinsmenlutheran.org/events. For more information, please visit the website at www.kinsmenlutheran.org or call 281-444-3126.

BOOK CLUB "FOOTNOTES"

This month we'll meet on the third **Tuesday, November 17**, and not in the fourth, Thanksgiving week. The book for discussion is *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd. We'll also choose books for January through May 2021.

Indigo blue dye! Who thinks of the origin the dye that makes your jeans the color blue or any other fabric blue? This book is an historical fictional novel of real life Eliza Lucas Pinckney who in the 1730s had an interest in botany. Her father was Lieutenant Governor of Antigua and owned three plantations in South Carolina. In trying to grow cash crops, he sent her some seeds of indigo plants from a trip back to Antigua. Growing these indigo seeds seemed to be the most promising. Here was Eliza, a 16-year-old girl, who absent of her father, and with a sickly mother, became the first person to produce commercial-grade indigo in the American colonies. She is one of those entrepreneurial innovators and challenger of societal norms who has been overlooked by historians but whose accomplishments influenced the course of American history. Although there is a romance element to this story, it is fascinating to learn about the struggle to make this dye.

Natasha Boyd has a background in marketing and public relations, holds a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology, but has become an internationally best-selling and award-winning author of contemporary romance and romantic comedy novels. She describes her home environment in Carolina low country as "living with Spanish moss, alligators, and mosquitoes the size of small birds."

To join or for further information, please contact Kathy Hall, Coordinator, at 281-569-4967.

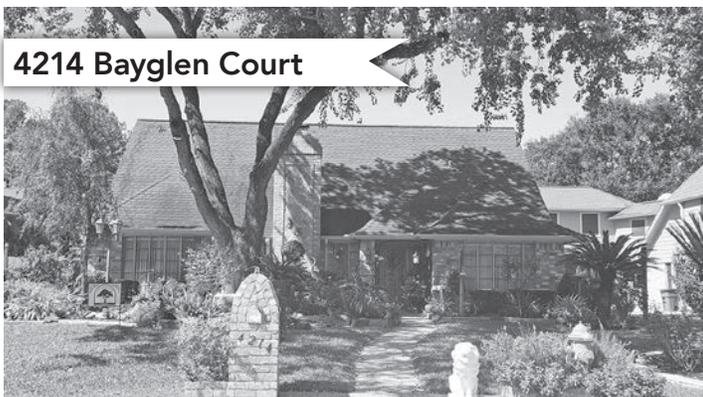
YARDS OF THE MONTH FOR OCTOBER

Congratulations

TO OUR OCTOBER WINNERS!

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Pictures are courtesy of Ryan and Royale Jockers.



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ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE REMINDER

Each homeowner who plans any improvements to the exterior of the home or elsewhere on the property must obtain **written approval** from the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) prior to beginning work on the modification. Completion of work without prior approval could lead to a requirement to remove and restore the property to its original condition.

Remember: The goal of the ACC is to serve both you and the community by determining that your finished improvement will comply with the deed restrictions, architectural standards and guidelines and enhance the value of your property.

To seek approval the owner must complete an application form and submit it to the ACC. The committee has 30 days to review the application and render a decision, so please plan accordingly. *The 30-day period begins on the date that a complete application has been received including all required documentation, not on the date the original application is signed by the owner.* All work must be completed within 90 days of the approval or a new approval request will be required.

ACC approval is required for any changes or additions, including but not limited to items such as:

- A swimming pool
- Addition of or modification to fencing
- Painting of the exterior of the home, trim, or front door (even if using the same color)
- Replacement of windows
- Addition of a gazebo, fountain, or large play equipment
- Addition of a garage, storage shed, garden house, outdoor kitchen or other structure
- Roof replacement, if a different type or color of shingle will be used

Architectural Control Guidelines and a link to submit applications online may be found at oocia.org/architectural-control-1.

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can protest the value set by the Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD) on your home. Property Tax Notice of Protest forms are available on HCAD’s website at www.hcad.org, by telephone at 713-957-7800, at the HCAD offices located at 13013 Northwest Freeway in Houston or at any Harris County Tax Office. Good luck!
- Harris County has a home appraisal exemption for those 65 or older and those permanently disabled. The benefits for this exemption include deductions for your home appraisal value for school, county and even MUD taxes. School taxes are capped at the amount you paid the first year you qualify (unless you add on to your house). You do **not** need to be 65 years old at the first of the year to qualify, so apply early.
- Just because you are not actually inside a flood plain, it doesn’t mean you won’t get rising water in your home during a hurricane. Hurricane season is officially June 1 through November 30. Harris County Flood Control advises everyone living in Harris County to get flood insurance on their property. Flood insurance is a separate insurance policy and your homeowner’s policy **will not** cover damage done by rising water. You can buy a separate policy to cover most types of flooding from the same insurance agent that sells you auto and home insurance. Check out www.floodsmart.gov to gather information on flood insurance.
- Those holes at the bottom of your brick house (called “weep holes”) aren’t foundation problems that need correction or need to be filled in. Weep holes are an essential part of brick structures. The holes between the exterior brick and the plywood beneath is an air gap that functions as a rain screen. Any moisture that gets behind the brick drains down to the bottom of the wall and out through the weep holes.
- Your thermostat’s placement in the house makes a huge difference in its readings. Many people assume their thermostats measure the temperature being released from their air conditioner/heating system, but it actually measures the temperature where the dial is located.
- Metro offers a 50 percent discount for bus and Light Rail services for students, seniors (65-69 years old) and the disabled. Seniors age 70 and over ride free. Check out www.ridemetro.org for more information.
- Bandit signs are illegal (a Class C misdemeanor). This includes signs on telephone posts, traffic signs, and trees on a public right of way. These typically are advertising for lost pets, garage sales, maid service, buy houses, etc.
- Texas law prohibits campaign signs from going up prior to 90 days before the election and the signs must come down within 10 days after the election.

BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER

Reading the Nextdoor website, the main topic I read about in the Olde Oaks/Waterford Park site is lost and found pets and strays. Some people are afraid of the loose dogs and have complained about being worried for their own personal safety or that of their children or pets. Please keep your pet under control, get it neutered and micro chipped, as sometimes the collar gets lost or can’t be read by a bystander. When you walk your dog, it should be on a leash and you should carry bags to clean up its poop. Check your fences, replace rotted/chewed boards and fill up any holes under the fence. You may want to consider a pet fence system with a receiver collar to keep your pet in the yard.

If you have a complaint about a barking dog or a dangerous dog, or have any questions about lost pets, stray cats, pet adoptions, leash laws, etc, give the Harris County Public Health a call at 281-999-3191 or check their website at www.hcphtx.org/vph. This is a free county service for domestic animal issues. Our Sherriff’s non-emergency phone number is 713-221-6000; call if you aren’t worried about an imminent attack, but remember that a barking dog is not going to be their number one priority.

Tanya Pilant, Editor

JOY OF GARDENING

Howdy neighbors and fellow gardeners! November is the perfect month to introduce a monthly article of tips and tricks for making your yard and garden spectacular and saving you money! Curb appeal increases the value of your home and it just makes you feel good to enjoy a beautiful front and backyard. Gardening is not only healthy for your plants – sunshine, fresh air, exercise and appreciation of nature helps your body and your mental attitude. So let's get out and garden together!

You may think that gardening organically is expensive but it can actually save you money and help the environment. For many, our "go to" lawn and garden fertilizers have been products like Weed and Feed or Miracle Grow. These fertilizers can actually burn the soil and kill the tiny microorganisms that keep soil moist and alive with good bacteria and fungi. Over time the soil is burned to the point it can no longer hold moisture or nutrients, so water and fertilizer just wash away. You spend more and more time and money with disappointing results and infestations of unwanted pests!

Organically treated soil is healthy and able to retain moisture and nutrients so you water and fertilize less as healthy grass and plants smother weeds. The soil is also resistant to pests! So you may want to rethink how you fertilize your lawn and garden. Here are a couple of places that sell organic fertilizers. PFAS (Plants for All Seasons) sells MicroLife and Arborgate sells their own organic brand. My personal preference is Arborgate but both products are great.

Lots of flowers, herbs and vegetables can be planted this month. Flowers which can naturally help repel pests include marigolds and chrysanthemums (repel aphids/ mosquitoes), nasturtiums and petunias (natural pesticides) common lantanas repel mosquitoes, four o'clocks (poisonous to Japanese beetles), and geraniums (repel leafhoppers). Veggies planted in gardens or containers include carrots, lettuces, beets, butternut squash and greens like spinach and kale. Herbs include cilantro, chives, parsley and thyme.

By Eleese Lester-Baier © 10.11.2020

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
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
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www.familywatchdog.us
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OLDE OAKS & Waterford Park

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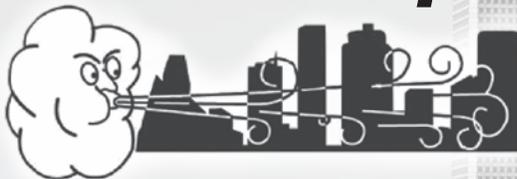


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