



Waterford Park

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OLDE OAKS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION



PRUNE, PLAN... THEN PLANT!

The “freezilla” left us with much to do and unless you have a full-time landscaper, planning first will save you time, money and heartache! So, let’s get started:

Prune

1. The good news is weeds are fully exposed now so get rid of them!
2. Dead, moldy and mushy material needs to be removed from potted plants and beds. This helps your plants regenerate faster and keeps them from trying to feed dead limbs. Leave the green parts and sprinkle with sulfur to prevent mold and fungus.
3. Your shrubs and trees can tell you what needs to be removed if you look and feel. Try the “scratch test” – scratch the bark to see if it is green. If you aren’t sure, look to see if the outward end of each branch is darker, then bend it

slightly. If it is flimsy, brittle or wobbly remove just the dead part. If it is pliable and strong, leave it. Leave an inch of dead branch next to the the green part as we could have a late freeze.

4. Decide which plants to keep and remove. If its roots are rotted, remove it. If when gently moved, the base of the plant moves easily like a stick shift, it is most likely dead. If a plant is still green but unwanted, consider removing it, if you can afford to. Cover the empty area with soil and mulch.
5. If you compost, do not add moldy leaves or material to your compost as this may infect it. Clean pruning and

gardening tools to prevent fungus and mold from spreading,

6. Provide extra water/fertilizer for grass, trees and beds as all are struggling right now!

Plan

1. Before you rush out to the garden center, plan now, by making notes on your yard and beds requirements. Need more soil, compost, or fertilizer? Go online to look at examples of landscaping in the Texas coastal and wooded regions. Consider planting native flowers, shrubs and trees which are resilient and tolerant of temperature

(continued on page 3)



NOTICE TO HOMEOWNERS

Next OOCIA Monthly Open Board Meeting April 20 at 6:45 p.m.

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

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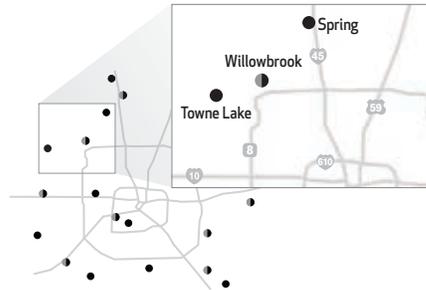
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Help the local businesses that make this newsletter possible.

HOME SERVICES

Lone Star Pool Management	5
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Prune, Plan... then Plant - continued

swings, leaving you less maintenance and watering. They also provide habitats for birds and butterflies!

- When landscaping, remember, tall plants and shrubs need to be placed in the back so as not to block medium height greenery, with flowers and ground cover placed in front. Check the maximum growth height for each plant to make sure. Consult your nursery and make a list of what you will need to purchase before you buy! Offer to plant swap with a neighbor or friend to lower your replacement cost.



Plant

- Turn and loosen the soil in your beds. Thoroughly follow directions for planting and remember to carefully separate roots before planting. Fill each hole with water and the recommended amount of organic fertilizer first. Do not do this with commercial fertilizers as they may burn your roots. Just mix in before completely covering the plant.
- Continue to water your new plants until they are established. You can check to see if they need water by pressing your finger 2 to 3 inches into the soil and feeling for moisture. Keep them moist but not boggy.



The best gardeners wear hats and gloves for protection. Vary your activities while gardening so that you stand, kneel, bend and walk to prevent overuse injuries and sore muscles. Take frequent breaks and hydrate. Enjoy the fresh air, sunshine and benefits of a good workout!

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MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS APRIL 9

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

CLASSIFIED ADS: 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.

BOOK CLUB "FOOTNOTES"

OOCIA MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Crest Management Company, AAMC
281-579-0761 | Fax 281-579-7062

(for deed restrictions,
neighborhood management and
property improvements)

www.crest-management.com
pam@crest-management.com

OLDE OAKS CIA 2021 BOARD

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cgaimari.oocia.board@gmail.com

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MJ Shannon, Secretary
mjshannonooociaboard@gmail.com

Debbie Aiello,
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debbieoociaboard@gmail.com

MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICTS (MUD)

Manhole/Sewer Backup
713-983-3602

MUD #20

www.edpwater.com/your_district.html

Billing, Service & Emergencies
832-467-1599

Board Meetings:
First Tuesday of month, 11:30 a.m.
10000 Memorial Drive, Suite 260
713-951-0800

MUD #44

www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/
harris-county-mud-44

Billing, Service & Emergencies
281-376-8802

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

Bammel Utility District Office

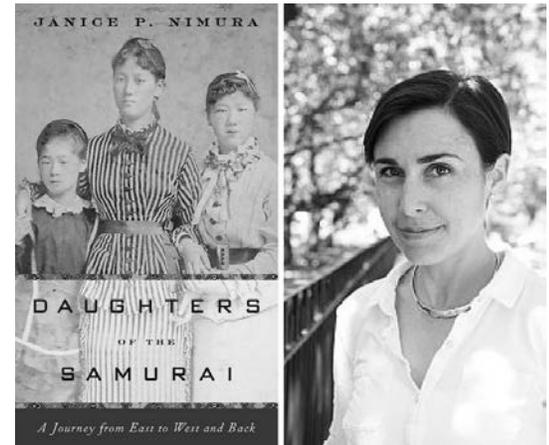
281-376-8802

www.wdmtexas.com/districts-served/
bammel-utility-district

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

On **April 27** our group will meet at one of the area parks to discuss the book choice and eat lunch as we've done in past Aprils. The book is *Daughters of the Samurai* by Janice P. Nimura.

In 1871 five young girls are sent by the Japanese government to the United States to learn western ways and return to help nurture a new generation of enlightened men to lead Japan. The girls were raised in traditional Samurai households during the turmoil of civil war. They became celebrities upon arrival in San Francisco where they learned English and western customs. They grew up as typical American school girls and became well-loved by American families. Ten years later they returned to Japan which was now foreign to them, but they were determined to revolutionize women's education.



Ms. Nimura is a book critic, independent scholar, and American daughter-in-law of a Japanese family and presently lives in New York City. She originally wanted to become a doctor but majored in English at Yale and worked in publishing. Later she moved to Japan with her Tokyo-born husband, and upon return to New York she achieved an M.A. in East Asian studies at Columbia University.

For more information contact Kathy Hall, Coordinator, at 281-569-4967.

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.

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

Registered Sex Offenders | www.familywatchdog.us

www.iwatchharriscounty.com

Download the app for Apple and Android phones
to report criminal activity anonymously.

To have your house checked on
while you're away on vacation go to
www.harriscountysoc.org/vacation_watch.aspx
and complete the form online, or call
the Cypresswood substation.

Sign up for "Alerts" posted for our community at
www.nextdoor.com.

YARDS OF THE MONTH

Due to the freeze
there were no yards chosen
for the month for March.



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5 *easy ways to protect* YOUR PIPES & LANDSCAPING FROM A FREEZE

Hello neighbors, my name is Matthew Burrington, owner of Burrington's Outdoor Living. We are a local, family owned and operated landscape design build company.

After an almost decade long partnership with Warren's Southern Gardens as director of their family of businesses, I have decided to serve my community by sharing the expert knowledge I have gained by surrounding myself with the most talented professionals in the landscaping, garden center, and soil and mulch manufacturing industries. I have always had a passion for designing amazing outdoor spaces, while building long-lasting relationships with my clients, and I'm excited to continue to do that with you, in our community.

Following the most recent extreme cold weather conditions we unfortunately encountered in our area, I've had several folks ask me "what are some things I can do to prevent my pipes and plants from freezing?" So here are five things you can do to help protect your investment.

Your irrigation backflow device is the main connection point for your irrigation system to the main water line, and must be protected. First close both valves, there is one on either side of the backflow device (usually blue handles). Next, with a flat head screw driver, turn the two test ports on the backflow open to drain the water from the backflow. Lastly, make sure any exposed pipes are thoroughly wrapped with pipe insulation, and cover the backflow device. You can purchase an

insulated jacket made specifically for backflows, but if that's not an option, wrap it with a blanket, and secure it firmly with tape.

Hose spigots are an easy one to forget, but given the fact they are exposed pipes, and connected to your homes water lines, they need to be protected. You can purchase an insulated jacket made specifically for spigots (Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace Hardware, etc.), but if that's not an option, cover the exposed pipes with pipe insulation, and wrap spigot with a towel, and secure firmly with tape. Lastly, any exposed pipes in the garage need to be wrapped with pipe insulation.

Protecting your plants doesn't have to be difficult. Firstly, bring anything potted, if possible, inside your home or garage. Next, identify the plants most susceptible to freeze. Any tropicals are the most fragile when it comes to extreme cold, and coving them with a freeze cloth is the best protection. If that's not an option, blankets usually work well. Next, any newer plants or shrubs that may not be established are also at risk to the extreme cold. Also cover with freeze cloth or blankets to help ensure their survival.

Protecting your citrus and ornamental trees is also essential. Japanese blueberries, mountain laurels, bottlebrush, Japanese yew, lemon, lime, grapefruit, orange, etc. Covering them with freeze cloth is ideal, but sheets or blankets secured around the base of the leaves will help, especially if they are established. I have even seen some folks wrap them with incandescent Christmas

lights to keep the trees warm when sheets weren't an option, and it worked!

Dripping the faucets inside your home is absolutely a must do. Especially if the power goes out like it did for most of us at the end of February. Just turning on all of the restroom and kitchen faucets to a slow drip will keep water circulating through the pipes, and in turn, will keep the water from freezing inside the pipes. I understand most of us pay for water, but a higher water bill once or twice a year is much better than a plumbing and sheetrock repair bill.

I hope these tips help you protect the investment you've made in your home and landscaping, and if unfortunate freezing weather ever happens again, we'll all be more prepared. Please feel free to email me anytime with questions pertaining to anything landscape related through our website, www.burringtons.com, or email me at info@burringtons.com. I would be happy to help, and we look forward to hearing from you for any of your landscaping needs.



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OUTDOOR LIVING Matthew Burrington, Owner

THE HOUSTON ZOO

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GAME ON!



April 22, May 20, September 23 & October 28

Game On! presented by TXU Energy is coming soon. Puzzle your way through a **brand new** adults-only, escape room-style experience series at the Houston Zoo! Find the clues, solve the puzzles, and save the day as themed game prompts safely guide you through the outdoor areas of the Houston Zoo. This experience will take place after-hours, and food and beverage items will be available for purchase. Solve the puzzle – enjoy the Zoo!

Learn more about this new experience by visiting www.houstonzoo.org/events/game-on.

PREHISTORIC BEASTS

Through September 6, 2021

See these towering animatronic predators and their real modern-day descendants. TXU Energy presents Prehistoric Beasts offers guests an exciting opportunity to get an up-close look at towering predators that once roamed the earth.



Come face-to-face with an 8-foot-tall terror bird, sabertooth tiger with 11-inch-long canines, dire wolf large enough to hunt bison, t-rex's larger cousin gigantosaurus, and many more. Before you leave make sure to get your picture taken inside the jaws of the massive megalodon.

We'll help you spot the connections between animals at the Zoo and these prehistoric creatures during your journey back in time. After you experience the exhibit make sure to visit their modern-day descendants, including the Malayan tiger, green anaconda, black bear, bald eagle, and more. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind experience never before seen in the U.S.

For more information visit www.houstonzoo.org.

Due to precautions related to COVID-19, some events and activities may be curtailed, postponed, or canceled. Please refer to provided contact information before making plans.

PET OF THE MONTH

OC is a 2-year-old male. He is very sweet and loving. He is good with cats and dogs. He is neutered, vaccinated, chipped, and combo negative.

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