



Waterford Park

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OLDE OAKS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Tips to **SAVE MONEY** on Your Electricity Bill

It's summer and it's hot! Here are some suggestions to save on your electric bill without spending inordinate amounts of money on upgrades.

Your air conditioner makes up the highest percentage of your bill and if you are home, you use more air conditioning. Large appliances or anything with a motor is probably another energy guzzler (there are websites that will tell you how much energy the various appliances use). There are a lot of gee-whiz appliances which claim to save you money, but most new appliances and light bulbs use much less electricity than you might think. Do a cost/benefit analysis before investing in any so-called energy saving devices, as the savings may be less than the cost of the device.

- **Turn your air conditioning to a higher temperature** – just one to three degrees can make a big difference. Install a programmable energy thermostat that you can program to change the temperature when you aren't home. Change your air filters every three months, more if you have pets or allergies. Draw your curtains or shut your shades or blinds during sunny warm days and open them during the winter to get free heating from the sunlight.
- **Use a fan.** Using a ceiling fan can make a room feel 10 degrees Fahrenheit cooler, and a fan uses 10% of the energy that a central air conditioner does. Ceiling fans should rotate counterclockwise in the summer and clockwise in the winter.
- **Use LED bulbs** as they use at least 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting. It is simpler and cheaper to turn the lights off when you are not in a room, but you can also invest in motion detecting lights that turn on when they sense someone's in the room and turn off when no movement is detected.
- **Use cold water when you wash laundry and wash full loads** – 90% of the electricity used to wash a load goes toward heating the water.
- **Help your dryer work more efficiently by keeping it clean**, and emptying the lint trap after each load. Your dryer vent tube needs to be cleaned once a year also to prevent fires.
- **Use a smaller appliance** like your microwave, toaster oven, slow cooker or air fryer, as they use substantially less electricity than the oven.
- **Turn off your stove burner or oven a little early**; the stove will release enough heat to finish up whatever you're cooking. For energy efficient stovetop cooking, match the burner size to the diameter of the pot or pan you are using. Keep your oven door closed and peek through the window and rely on the oven's light to check on your food while it's cooking instead of opening the door.
- **Don't open your refrigerator or freezer door more than necessary.** Keep the most-used products in easy to access areas. Regularly clean underneath and behind the refrigerator to maintain airflow. If you have a rarely used refrigerator or freezer in your garage, empty it and unplug it.
- **Wash full loads and opt-out of the heat-dry cycle on your dishwasher** (crack open the door and let your dishes air-dry).
- **Turn down your water heater's temperature**, especially when you go on vacation.
- **Unplug unnecessary "vampire devices" that continue to use power** in stand-by mode when you are going to be away for several days. Alternatively, you can get an inexpensive power strip. Switch the strip off or use the smart switch's app to turn off electricity guzzlers when you go to bed or you're not home.

COMPLEX NEUROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

Treated in Northwest Houston

At Houston Methodist Neuroscience Center at Willowbrook, our physicians collaborate across specialties to diagnose and treat common to complex neurological disorders. With innovative and advanced treatment options, state-of-the-art technology and leading physician expertise, we provide specialized neurological care — close to home.

Our team of physicians treats a variety of conditions, including:

- Alzheimer's disease and memory disorders
- Brain and spinal tumors
- Epilepsy and seizures
- Headaches and chronic pain
- Neuromuscular disorders
- Parkinson's disease and movement disorders
- Sleep disorders
- Stroke and cerebrovascular diseases

Your health is our priority. You can be confident we are taking every necessary precaution to keep you safe, including requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for all of our physicians, staff and employees.



**SCAN HERE
TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT**

To schedule an appointment, scan the **QR code**, visit houstonmethodist.org/neuro-wb or call **281.737.1167**.

Hello Neighbor!

THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING?

We are excited to have joined the
Olde Oaks Community. Formerly a
Resident of Windrose, here's a little
more about me:

50 Closed Transactions
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Former High School Principal
Graduate, Realtor Institute
Real Estate Negotiation Expert
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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE AUGUST 9

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

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Homeowners' Meeting Date

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 16 at 6:45 p.m.

Our homeowners' meeting is usually the third Tuesday of each month with the open (member) session starting at 6:45 p.m. Meetings are being held at the Oak Creek Village Clubhouse, 3906 Gladeridge Drive (behind the Oak Creek subdivision tennis courts).

Northwest Assistance Ministries

Northwest Assistance Ministries | 281-885-4555 | www.namonline.org
15555 Kuykendahl Road, Houston, TX 77090

NAM's mission is to strive to meet basic human needs through Neighbors Helping Neighbors. NAM's services include helping with emergency basic needs (such as food and housing), family violence, senior center, learning and vocational training, Meals on Wheels and helping with food and nutrition. NAM has a 24-hour family violence hotline – 281-885-4673. NAM's housing services may include case management, tenant/landlord mediation, advocacy/benefit entitlements, short-term financial assistance, referrals and varied workshops that can help individuals who are at risk of homelessness.

How you can help:

Volunteer: Volunteers serve in a multitude of roles at NAM. They sort merchandise at NAM Resale, enter data, answer hotline calls, organize toy drives and so much more.

Donate: You can donate money, food, clothing and other household items (see their website for details of what they accept). You can donate old phones even if they don't have an active cell provider or aren't a "smartphone" (by law, they just need to be able to dial 911). When you donate your old cell phone to NAM's Family Violence Center you could be saving a life!

Below is from their website (www.namonline.org):

NAM's Everyday Food Wish List

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Fresh Produce | • Soup | • Dry beans |
| • Fresh fruit | • Tomatoes | • Peanut butter |
| • Fresh vegetables | • Tuna | • Jelly (any flavor) |
| Canned Foods | • Pasta | • Macaroni and cheese |
| • Spaghetti sauce | Dry Goods | • Dry pasta |
| • Vegetables | • Rice | • Tuna Helper |
| • Fruit | • Dry soup | • Hamburger Helper |

For more information, please call Joanne Watford Nutrition Center at 281-885-4589. Cash donations are always appreciated. Please note that the Joanne Watford Nutrition Center at NAM cannot accept dented canned goods or expired food.

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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 Dr., 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)

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 who 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 an election** and the signs must come down within 10 days after the election.

PLEASE BE A CONSIDERATE NEIGHBOR

- No one wants to listen to barking dogs, loud music and/or playing basketball late at night (that thump is louder than you think!)
- Pick up your pet's poop. Secure your fence so your pets cannot escape the yard and run loose in the neighborhood.
- Consider putting your trash in bags so when the trash is picked up, there will not be leftover trash all over the neighborhood.
- Don't litter. Help keep our neighborhood a beautiful and nice place to live.



Black Summer Health Summit

Saturday, August 6 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The Kingdom Builders' Center • 6011 W. Orem Drive

This event is **free** and open to the public. It's sponsored by the non-profit Black Health Matters Foundation Inc. Attendees will be able to hear from and interact with leading medical experts and health and wellness advocates, benefit from on-site exhibits, get free health immunizations and screenings and engage with local community partners. Raffle prizes will be awarded and a light breakfast and lunch will be served. Register at www.bhmsummersummit.com.

www.blackhealthmatters.com | #BlackHealthStartsHere



The School of Science & Technology is located at 15015 TC Jester Boulevard, Houston, and starts school on August 10, 2022. Please be aware of the school zone on TC Jester and slow down. Note that cell phone use is prohibited in a school zone and there is a possible fine of up to \$200 if you are caught using a cell phone in a school zone while the car is in motion.



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.harriscountysos.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.

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DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO SHARE?

Email oociaeditor@gmail.com. If you have a picture, please include it separately from the text. I am also looking for reporters/assistants to help with our subdivision newsletter and you will get credited (a byline) for the article. Please contact the editor for more information. – Editor



JUNE SHERIFF'S STATISTICS

Accident FSGL.....	1
Accident Minor.....	3
Alarm Holdup.....	1
Alarm Local.....	10
Alarm AUDSILHU.....	3
Animal – Humane.....	1
Arson Fire.....	1
Compliance Check.....	2
Disturbance Family.....	3
Disturbance Juvenile.....	1
Disturbance Loud Noise.....	9
Disturbance Other.....	2
DOA.....	1
Domestic Prevent.....	3
Follow Up.....	1
Fraudulent Use ID.....	1
Information Call.....	4
Meet the Citizen.....	12
Robbery Aggravated.....	1
Sex Offender Verification.....	2
Suspicious Person.....	2
Theft – Business.....	1
Theft – Other.....	3
Traffic Stop.....	48
Unknown Medical Emergency.....	1
Vacation Watch.....	17
Vehicle Abandoned.....	1
Vehicle Stolen.....	1
Vehicle Suspicious.....	3
Welfare Check.....	2

Note: Not all of these incidences happened in the subdivision, as some happened elsewhere and were reported when they got home. This report was produced by the Harris County Sheriff's Office and contains raw data subject to change as cases are investigated and reclassified. Editor edited list to eliminate routine checks.

July Yards of the Month

Photos courtesy of Ryan and Royale Jockers.

3511 Stony Oak



3514 Tierwood



3611 Brimwood



4223 Bayglen



15222 Climbing Branch



CONGRATULATIONS!

THE CYNTHIA WOODS MITCHELL
PAVILION

Live music is back

SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Wiz Khalifa and Logic with 24kGoldn & Fedd the God

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

Incubus with Sublime with Rome and The Aquadolls

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

Rob Zombie with Mudvayne with Static-X
and Powerman 5000

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25

KIDZ BOP LIVE 2022

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

Jack Johnson with Ziggy Marley

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

The Australian Pink Floyd Show

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28

One Republic with Need To Breathe

All shows are tentative and subject to change without notice. Visit www.woodlandscenter.org for the most current schedule. The Cynthia Woods Pavilion is located at 2005 Lake Robbins Drive, The Woodlands, TX 77380.

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Summer is almost over...



Kids going back to school...



Holidays will be here soon...



READY FOR A CHANGE?

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Fishermen Folklore & Sayings



For centuries, anglers' charms, omens, beliefs, and superstitions have explained (or excused) the results of a day on the water.

- When a boat leaves the dock, if a cat begins to purr, fishermen are pleased: It's said that cats love fish and can smell them from afar.
- Similarly, when a cat tries to ankle-polish a grizzled fisherman who is seaward-bound, his haul will be bountiful.
- A black cat on the deck of a ship of its own free will is considered good luck. However, many commercial fishermen claim that a cat carries a gale in its tail or can excite a storm by licking its coat the wrong way.
- Superstitious fishermen refer to small ripples on the surface of the ocean as "cat's paws," while a great disturbance of the water is called "cat's skin."
- Birds are not necessarily a fisherman's friend. Dreaded is a crow flying across the bow.
- Many skippers are superstitious about setting out. Leaving the dock on a Friday can mean bad luck. And a ship that is watched until it is out of sight may bear the worst kind of luck: It may never be seen again.
- Never enter a fishing boat with a suitcase or wearing gray gloves: All hands may be lost.
- If possible, drop a cake of ice overboard when preparing for a trip. It means good luck and a big catch. Another item to toss overboard is a penny. It will bring the wind.
- If at all possible, avoid letting a boat captain spit in the water ahead of him. He will drive away the fish. But spit into the mouth of your first catch, and you'll greatly increase the day's haul.
- When baiting a hook, you can double your luck by reciting this ditty while doing it: "Fish, fish, fish, come bite my hook; You'll be the captain and I'll be the cook."
- When you do catch and cook your "captain," do not consume it from tail to head: That's unlucky on land or sea!

Source: almanac.com



Texas Wildlife Rehabilitation Coalition

Our mission is to take in and rehabilitate orphaned, injured and ill wildlife with the goal of releasing the animal back into the wild.

Temporary Care Instructions for ALL Animals:

- TWRC recommends that you wear gloves or use a cloth barrier when handling wildlife.
- Place baby animals in a box lined with a soft cloth such as a T-shirt.
- For injured adults, use a stick, broom or rolled up newspaper to gently push the animal into an appropriately-sized, secure (closed) box with a soft cloth on the bottom and holes in it for ventilation. **Do not** put the animal into a plastic bag.
- Do not give the animal any food or liquids. Feeding an animal an incorrect diet can result in injury or death. Also, a captured animal may get food and water stuck on its fur/feathers, potentially causing damage or leading to hypothermia.
- Keep the animal in a warm, dark, quiet place. Darkness makes the animal feel more secure. If the animal is a baby, the box can be placed half on and half off a heating pad set on low. If the animal gets too warm it can move to the other end of the box. Do not place adult animals on a heating pad.
- Leave the animal alone. Human noise, touch and eye contact are very stressful to wild animals and can result in shock or

even death. This is extremely important in the case of injured or adult animals.

- If a mammal or bird has been caught by a cat or dog, please call TWRC immediately at 713-468-8972. Even if wounds are not visible, the mammal or bird needs medical intervention as soon as possible.
- Keep children and pets away. **Be careful!** An animal that is hurt or frightened may bite.

**Call TWRC at 713-468-8972
as soon as possible!**



KEEP YOUR HOME IN TIP-TOP SHAPE

AN INCREDIBLY HANDY HOME MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST

MONTHLY

- Inspect, and possibly change out HVAC filters.
- Clean kitchen sink disposal.
- Clean range hood filters.
- Inspect your fire extinguisher(s).

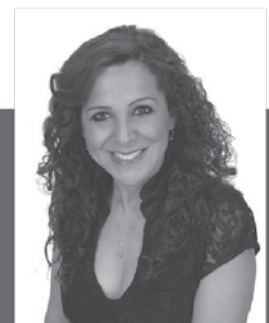
QUARTERLY

- Test smoke/carbon dioxide detectors.
- Test garage door auto-reverse feature.
- Run water and flush toilets in unused spaces.
- Check water softener, add salt if needed.

BIANNUALLY

- Test your water heater's pressure relief valve.
- Give your house a deep clean.
- Replace batteries in smoke/carbon dioxide detectors.
- Vacuum your refrigerator coils.

SOURCE: artofmanliness.com



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To Shave or Not to Shave

To shave or not to shave your dog during the Texas heat has long been debated. A dog's coat was designed by nature to protect it from the elements. Their coat is meant to protect them from sunburn, bug bites and the outdoor elements. Dogs cool themselves by panting and through the pads of their feet, thus they really may not be cooler by shaving off their coat. If your pet is a single-coat breed (cocker spaniel, poodle,

schnauzer), shaving is generally a good decision to help keep them cool. If your dog is double-coated, (huskies, chows, pomeranians, shelties, etc.), you need to understand the pros and cons of shaving their coat. With certain double-coated breeds, the best advice may be to give them a good washing and good brushing until all dead undercoat is removed, shave the belly fur and trim excess feathering.

PROS

- Shaving reduces the amount of dog hair in the home.
- The dog will dry quicker if they swim often.
- It may help the dogs stay cooler and feel spunkier.
- Shaving will also expose the skin to more air. This is especially valuable if they have skin issues like hot spots.

CONS

- The pet will be susceptible to sunburn. Do not leave them out in the sun.
- They will be more easily bitten by bugs.
- Shaving may not actually make them cooler.
- When shaved, most double coated breeds can have the coat grow back fuzzy, patchy, and a lighter color. The coat may never return to its former appearance.



ARE YOU AN OLDE OAKS BUSINESS OWNER?

92% of consumers say print is **easier to read** than digital



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Sources: Newsworks/Hearst Bay Area/Marketing Profs/Marketing Sherpa/Mansi Media/Top Media Advertising/Burstein/Heitman

Hurricane Season is Here. Be Prepared!

Before a Hurricane

- To begin preparing, you should build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Be sure trees and shrubs around your home are well trimmed so they are more wind resistant.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.
- Plan to bring in pets and all outdoor furniture, decorations, garbage cans, and anything else that is not tied down.
- Fuel your vehicles and generators.

During a Hurricane

- Listen to the radio, TV, or refer to trusted Internet sites for more information.
- Stay inside. Don't go outside unless absolutely necessary. If the eye passes over, don't get caught in the calm of the storm.
- Avoid windows and stay in the interior areas of your home.
- Ensure a supply of water for drinking as well as for sanitary purposes such as cleaning and flushing toilets. Fill the bathtub and other larger containers with water.
- Know that fire and emergency medical services may not respond until sustained winds are below 55 mph.

ready.gov/hurricanes | ready.gov/water



Please visit ready.gov/kit for a list of recommended supplies to include in your emergency kit.



Source: www.championsfire.org

Teen Job Seekers

If you're looking for a responsible teen to watch your child, house, pet, or to do some yard work or power washing, look no further! These teens live in your neighborhood and have references from your neighbors:

O = Odd Jobs Y = Yard Work PW = Power Washing

Service(s)	Name	Age	Phone
O, Y, PW	Jean-Paul Metoyer	15	254-616-0740
O, PW	Grayson Fischer	17	832-721-5755

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HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS SUPPLY CHECKLIST



GARY GREENE

EMERGENCY

- Battery operated flashlights, headlights or lanterns
- Extra batteries
- Extra blankets & towels
- Tent/camping gear
- Knife
- Fire extinguisher
- Matches
- Firewood
- Flares/whistle
- Special needs items (infants/children/elderly/disabled)

ACCESSORIES

- Phone charger
- Toilet paper / baby wipes
- Paper towels
- Cleaning supplies & disinfectant wipes
- Plastic sheeting & duct tape
- Toolbox/rope
- 5 gallon buckets/plastic bins
- Umbrella/poncho/rain gear
- Clothing/undergarments
- Board/card games

PAPERWORK

- Id's (driver's license, social security card, passport)
- Birth certificates
- Insurance cards
- Bank/credit card numbers
- Wills
- House inventory photos
- Titles (cars, boats, house, etc.)
- Vaccination records
- Phone list (doctors, insurance, etc)

FIRST AID

- Band-aids
- Peroxide
- Rubbing alcohol
- Bug spray
- Antibacterial ointment
- Hand sanitizer
- Sunscreen
- Medications/prescriptions (2 week supply)
- Thermometer
- Tylenol

FOOD

- Water (1 gallon per person/ per day) for 7 days
- Manual can opener
- Cooler
- Ice
- Non-perishable food items/ canned food
- Campfire coffee pot
- Vitamins
- Disposable plates & utensils
- Extra propane tanks

PETS

- Leash/harness
- Carrier/cage
- Water for 7 days for each pet
- Dry pet food
- Water/food bowls
- Medications
- Favorite toy
- Shot/microchip records
- Pet bed/blanket

The best time to deal with a hurricane emergency is before it happens. We hope you enjoy your summer and that the weather stays positive for all your outdoor activities. Buying or selling, please remember us!

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