

&

Waterford Park

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

OLDE OAKS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

OLDE OAKS/WATERFORD PARK FALL 2022 *Community Garage Sale*

SEPTEMBER 23 & 24

A neighborhood-wide garage sale is a good alternative to random individual garage sales; it provides motivation to clear up some clutter, helps coordinate security awareness on the designated days and is an excellent opportunity to meet some of your neighbors as you sell or shop for treasures.

Take this opportunity and get motivated to clear out some clutter! Choose one day or both days to participate. Send an email to oociagaragesale@gmail.com if you wish to be included on the participants Google Map and list by September 20. Late submissions might be accommodated but it's not guaranteed. The email should include name, address, cell contact phone number, day(s) participating and some general descriptions of items offered and special items of note (for example: wall art, home décor, kitchenware, treadmill etc.) Keep in mind this is a volunteer driven activity and assistance will be needed at least to set out and pick up the entry signage. **Please email** oociagaragesale@gmail.com **to volunteer.**

Spread the word to your treasure-hunting friends and groups! Participants should take initiative to promote their individual sales on various sites such as the Nextdoor; Facebook; Beg, Borrow or Barter sites; where pictures of items can be included and then highlight Community Garage Sale with map link as an extra draw. The Google Map for the event is dynamic so as more participants opt in, then that info will be added to the Map. Once you open the Map you can click

on individual pointers to see the general description of items offered at that location.

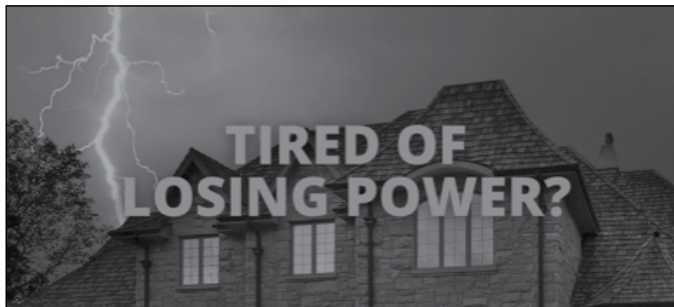


This is the web address and QR code to our 2022 Fall Community Garage Sale Google Map: tinyurl.com/25dzsdnm.

Safety and Security Suggestions

- Safety and security is always key especially when complete strangers are at your home.
- While your garage sale is underway keep all exterior doors, back/side gates locked.
- Do not let strangers know your living situation.
- Do not permit strangers inside your home to use a phone, restroom or whatever.
- If your garage has a door leading into your home, keep that door locked.
- Garage sale early bird shoppers are not uncommon, so be prepared and watchful for early guests.
- Use the buddy system, and keep snacks and drinks handy to avoid leaving the garage unattended.

(continued on page 3)



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Moore Care..... 2

Wired Electrical Services 2

Jose Handyman 11

MEDICAL

The Methodist Willowbrook Hospital 12

REAL ESTATE

The Patel Group, Alexis Delgado-Mize 2

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BH&G, Laura Cox..... 7

Coldwell Banker United, Jan Kopfler 9

BH&G, The Jockers Team 12

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 9

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

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281.583.7661

Community Garage Sale - continued from cover

- Position yourself where your neighbors can see you from the street as they drive by.
- Keep your cash close. A money belt, fanny pack or small cross body purse works well.
- Always keep a cell phone with you.

If you are not participating in the community sale make sure that you keep your garage doors and gates locked regardless of whether you are home or away. Don't leave things out that might attract criminal attention and can be quickly grabbed. Be watchful for your neighbors. This is just good everyday advice and even more so when there is extra activity in the area.

As always, report suspicious activity to the non-emergency Sheriff's number at 713-221-6000 and emphasize Olde Oaks/WP has a deputy contract. Program that number in your cell phone for quick dial!

After the Community Garage Sale

Whether or not you participated in the community sale but went through the trouble of pulling things together, less clutter is good so don't lose ground. Consider extending your effort to keep that stuff from creeping back in. There are many nearby options to donate items and many venues to sell, such as eBay, Nextdoor, Facebook and consignment shops.

Some groups or nearby churches may be accepting items for their fall and holiday events. For example nearby St. Ignatius usually accepts "nice" items for their Fall Festival (October 1-2) silent auction baskets and rummage sale, so drop-offs will probably be getting accepted right after our community sale (<https://ignatiusloyola.org>). This is just one venue very nearby that comes to mind. You can check websites and dates for other organization-related opportunities and be sure to share them on Nextdoor.

Local nonprofits accept useful items, and some will even pick up larger items such as furniture and can provide receipts for tax deduction purposes. Some nonprofits with nearby locations include:

- Deseret Donation Center, www.deseretindustries.org
- Habitat for Humanity NWHC Restore, www.habitatnwhc.org
- Goodwill, www.goodwillhouston.org
- Northwest Assistance Ministries, www.namonline.org
- Salvation Army, www.satruck.org

*Thank you, Mia Cordova,
for submitting this article and
for getting the garage sale going!*

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Ada Johnson, Director at Large
adajaye.oocia.board@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 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)

Important September Dates

Labor DaySeptember 5

Patriot DaySeptember 11

Homeowners' Meeting..... September 20 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.)

Worthwhile Organizations in Our Area

There are so many worthwhile organizations in our area and I would like to mention just a few:

- **Between Jobs Ministry** is a Christian centered job support ministry and employers can also posts jobs with BJM. For information, contact betweenjobsministry.org or call 281-376-1110.
- **Caregivers Support Group** is for anyone caring for a loved one or friend with physical or mental health issues including dementia, mental loss and Alzheimer's. They usually meet twice a month at Cypress Creek Christian Church, room 205. You do not have to be a church member to attend. Contact pitts13534@sbcglobal.net
- **Justserve.org** is a free service that pairs the volunteer needs of organizations with volunteers desiring to serve. Contact justserve.org.
- **Northwest Assistance Ministries:** Visit namonline.org to see the various services NAM provides.
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace** provides both beds and bedding to children in need. Visit www.shpbeds.org or contact gary.akin@shpbeds.org for more information.

Increase in Monthly Telephone Bills

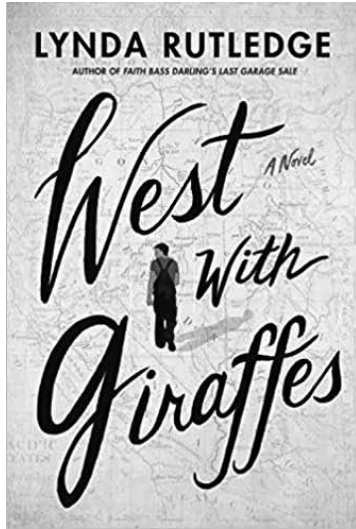
Effective August 1, 2022, telephone customers may notice an increase in their monthly bills due to a recent court order requiring the Public Utility Commission of Texas

(PUC) to fully fund the Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF). A recent court order now requires the PUC to take steps to fully fund the TUSF, paying back more than \$200 million owed to rural telecommunications providers. In response, the PUC increased the TUSF assessment rate from 3.3% to 24% for all phone customers in the state – both urban and rural – to collect the money it owes. In lieu of charging the maximum 24%, your voice telecommunications provider can elect to raise it to various percents; 24% is the maximum it can be raised. The actual amount is at the discretion of your carrier.



Book Club “Footnotes”

Summer is over although the heat remains, but the book club is starting up again on September 27 with our meeting at the home of Jane Michel. The book we’ll discuss is *West With Giraffes* by Lynda Rutledge. Two giraffes survive a major hurricane in 1938 while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a 12-day road trip in a customized truck from the east coast to the San Diego zoo, their first giraffes. This trek is during the Great Depression.



Lynda Rutledge is a very interesting writer in that her freelance career has been so eclectic. She has been a professional writer for over 25 years as a copywriter, a restaurant and film reviewer, book collaborator, non-fiction author, travel writer, and freelance journalist. During that time she has interacted with various animals, experienced outdoor adventures, and then wrote articles about them for national and international publications. Ms. Rutledge has an MFA in creative writing, an MA in American literature, and has won various writing awards. The creative writer in her inspired her to write this story.

Contact Kathy Hall, Coordinator, at 281-569-4967 for more information.

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
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NOT QUITE READY TO SELL?



In the meantime, you might want to consider making some home improvements. Let me help you see your home through the eyes of a potential buyer.

Then when you are ready to sell, we will pick the best time to put your home on the market. Contact me today!

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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



JULY SHERIFF'S STATISTICS

Accident FSGI.....	2
Accident Minor.....	1
Alarm Local.....	16
Assault Agg. Family.....	1
Compliance Check.....	2
Criminal Mischief.....	7
Discharge Firearms.....	4
Disturbance Family.....	2
Disturbance Fireworks.....	3
Disturbance Loud Noise.....	7
Disturbance Other.....	4
DOA.....	1
Domestic Prevent.....	2
Information Call.....	4
Meet the Citizen.....	18
Meet the Officer.....	1
Mental Health Call.....	1
Project Lifesaver Field Int.....	1
Sex Offender Verification.....	3
Suspicious Person.....	6
Telephone Harrassment.....	1
Terroristic Threat.....	1
*Theft – Other.....	5
Traffic Stop.....	53
Unknown Medical Emergency.....	2
Vacation Watch.....	9
Vehicle Abandoned.....	1
Vehicle Suspicious.....	2
Welfare Check.....	2

Note: 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.

** Theft Other – Only one was an actual theft where something was stolen by someone unknown to the homeowner.*

August Yards of the Month

Photos courtesy of Ryan and Royale Jockers. Homes are selected by the Yard of the Month Committee. Contact HOA Committee Chairman David Pichowsky at david.pichowsky@redfin.com to submit nominations.

3003 Smokey Hollow



14919 Pebble Bend



15126 Ripplewind



15503 Rana Court



15611 Autumnbrook



CONGRATULATIONS!

Time to Grow!

Let's begin again! September marks a new beginning as the extreme heat subsides, our energy is renewed and our plants are ready to grow again! Time to get out and garden!

Weed and prep first. It's time to weed and fertilize your yard and garden! Purchase mulch, fertilizer and my newest favorite, decomposed granite! It's cheap, helps break up our gumbo soil and holds and releases water when needed! I'm in love! The big sales usually start in September and you can plant/feed/mulch at the same time, saving you even more hard work and money! Get up early, get out your shovel, hoe, spade, gloves, sun hat and knee pads or gardening stool and get to it. Great exercise and a cathartic stress reliever! I'm a much nicer person after I have been weeding! For weeding areas like sidewalks, driveways and bed/lawn edges, use a mixture of ½ cup salt, 1 cup vinegar, and 2 cups water to kill the weeds. Use a squeeze bottle rather than a spray bottle for precision. Just don't use it near plants! As always, I suggest organic fertilizer and compost so as not to burn the precious life-giving microbes in our soil, leaving it depleted, dry and in need of even more water. It's a true time and money saver!

Plan to plant. If you're thinking of planting new trees and shrubs, now is the time! Now through the beginning of

November is a safe bet as the heat is no longer a factor and plants thrive in the moderate temperatures with water and food. Remember to plan ahead before going to the nursery by taking pictures of your beds so that you will have an idea of just what to plant and where. Choose tall plants for the back graduating to short plants in the front. Choose native species and those that have proven to survive our winters and summers. You may think that knockout roses are a good bet, think again; they don't have the aroma or beauty of traditional roses and though prolific, their blooms fade and drop quickly and they die easily.

Plant flowers: phlox, snapdragons, primroses, lobelia, alyssum, dianthus, mums, petunias, crotons, pentas, periwinkles, and dusty miller.

Feed the birds: Plant turk's cap, hamellia, shrimp plant, firespike, salvia, lobelia (cardinal flower), Mexican oregano, Pride of Barbados, anisacanthus, and cigar plants.

© Eleese Lester Baier, August 9, 2022



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Understanding Your Water Bill and Water Saving Tips

Your standard water bill for MUD #44 is going to be around \$58. MUD #44's sewer bill is \$40 a month (a set fee that includes the trash fee from Texas Pride Disposal). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) fee is minuscule-just a few cents. The Northwest Harris County Regional Water Authority (NHCRWA) fees are the highest expenditure on your water bill. The North Harris County Regional Water Authority fee increases annually and it goes into effect April 1 each year. This fee is currently charged at a rate of \$5.56 per 1,000 gallons. More information on the NHCRWA and their programs is on their website, www.nhcrwa.org.



The NHCRWA assesses a fee for both groundwater and surface water usage by residents. This fee is used by the NHCRWA to fund projects intended to reduce regional subsidence and to meet legislatively-mandated surface water conversion goals. Your Municipal Utility District does not set this fee and has no control over it. This fee will fluctuate depending upon your water usage during the respective billing period.

Both MUD #20 and MUD #44 have smart meters and you can sign up and access the eye on water app at <https://eyeonwater.com> to keep an eye on your water usage.



Tips for saving on your water bill:

- **When watering your lawn** a general rule is that, in the absence of normal rainfall, you should provide 1 inch of water per week. To learn how much water comprises 1 inch, the next time you water, put a couple of flat-bottomed pans or tuna fish cans at various distances from the sprinkler. Time how long it takes to get 1 inch. From then on, you will know how long to water. Watering for longer periods, fewer days a week (rather than short daily watering) allows the water to soak in longer, strengthening the grass roots. Watering early in the morning (before 10 a.m.) allows the water to soak in before the sun comes up and burns it all off or the water evaporates without benefiting the lawn. The worst time to water is after dark. Watering after dark soaks the lawn overnight; and a soggy lawn invites fungus and other diseases to invade your grass.
- **Limit vehicle washing and power washing.**
- **Repair leaks and drips** of indoor faucets, toilets and irrigation systems.
- **Adjust sprinkler heads** to avoid over spraying onto pavement.
- **Do full loads** in the dishwasher and the washer.
- **When filling your pool or spa**, make sure to turn off the water before it overflows.
- **Limit shower times.** A one- to two-minute shorter shower can save 700 gallons per month.

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Voluntary Water Use Restrictions

Olde Oaks and Waterford Park have been under voluntary water restrictions (Drought Stage 1) effective June 28, 2022. As of the submission date of this article to the printer, I don't know if the restrictions will still be in effect in September. If conditions should worsen, you will be notified of more stringent restrictions. Voluntary water use restrictions include, but are not limited to the following:

- Irrigation is limited to the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. on (i) Sundays and Thursdays for customers with an address ending in an even address number (ii) Saturdays and Wednesdays for water restrictions with a street address ending in an odd number and (iii) Tuesdays and Fridays for all other customers.
- Use of water to wash any motor vehicle, motorbike, boat, trailer, airplane or other vehicle is prohibited except on designated watering days between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. Such washing, when allowed, shall be done with a hand-held bucket or a hand-held hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle for quick rinses. Vehicle washing

may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station.

- Use of water to fill, refill or add to any swimming pools, wading pools or Jacuzzi-type pools is prohibited except on designated water days between the hours of 7 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Operation of any ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic or scenic purposes is prohibited except where necessary to support aquatic life or where such fountains or ponds are equipped with a re-circulation system.
- Customers are requested to check for, and repair all leaks, dripping faucets, and running toilets.
 - »The following uses of water are defined as non-essential and prohibited:
 - »Wash down of any sidewalks, walkways, driveways, parking lots or other hard-surfaced areas;
 - »Use of water to wash down buildings or structures for purposes other than immediate fire protection;
 - »Flushing gutters or permitting water to run or accumulate in any gutter or street; and
 - »Failure to repair a controllable leak(s) within a reasonable period after having been given notice directing the repair of such leak(s).



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Summer is over...



Kids are back in school...



Holidays will be here soon...



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Keep Your Pets Safe in the Heat

Provided by My Family Vet, Woodforest, Dr. Clara Scott, Veterinarian



The summer months can be uncomfortable to both you and your pet. The heat and humidity affect our furry friends in very similar ways to humans. We can help keep your pets safe and cool during the hot summer months.

Never leave pets unattended in a parked car... not even for a minute! On a warm day temperatures can reach dangerous levels quickly. Even on a mild summer day, interior car temperatures can rise up to 116 degrees in 10 minutes, even with the windows cracked open and parked under shade. This can lead to heat stroke and is considered illegal in several states.

Headed outside with your pet during the summer?

Try early morning runs or evening times at a dog park. Look for areas with lots of grass and shade and close to a water source for plenty of hydration! The bottom of dog's paws are very sensitive to heat. Asphalt and concrete temperatures increase during the heat of the day, sometimes upwards of 60 degrees over the outside temperature... This can lead to pets burning the pads of their feet on the heated surface, much like when humans touch a hot pan. Ouch!

Hydration, hydration, hydration! Our pets need plenty of water on a normal day. Be sure your animals are well hydrated when kept outside. While dog houses are great for those colder winter months or rainy weather, during the summer they don't provide much ventilation and often trap in more heat. Make sure your outdoor pets have a covered area with lots of comfy grass, airflow, and water.

High humidity can have an effect on dogs too. Canines pant to evaporate moisture in their lungs which removes heat from their body. If the humidity is high, they are unable to cool themselves and their temperature can skyrocket very quickly.

Watch for signs of heatstroke: heavy panting or breathing, glazed eyes, rapid heartbeat, difficulty breathing, excessive thirst, lethargy, fever, dizziness, lack of coordination, profuse salivation, vomiting, a deep red or purple tongue, seizure, and








unconsciousness. If you notice any of these symptoms, please call your veterinarian or go to your nearest animal emergency clinic. Senior pets, puppies, overweight pets, or pets with heart or respiratory conditions are more at risk for heat stroke. Certain breeds like Oxers, Pugs, Shih Tzus and other dogs and cats with short muzzles have a harder time breathing in extreme heat and are also at greater risk.

If your pet suffers a heat stroke move them into the shade or air conditioning. Apply ice packs or cold towels to their head, neck, and chest or run cool room temperature water over them. Let them drink small amounts of water and call your veterinarian.

If you have a thick double coated dog breed such as Siberian Husky, Akita, Shiba Inu, or Bernese Mountain Dogs, you may be worried they will overheat with all that fur... You may even be tempted to shave them, but don't worry! Their coats are specifically designed to keep warm in the winter and cool in the summer. They naturally lose their undercoat when the weather starts to warm up. This lets the guard hairs stand up and allows for the air to circulate near the skin and shades them from the sun's harsh rays. It can take up to two years after a double coated dog is shaved for their shedding cycle to get back to normal.

Summer months can be fun for both you and your pets! You can make DIY "pupsicles" for them to enjoy on a hot day! Many boarding facilities or dog parks offer water play days and splash pads. Dogs love to splash and play in the water too! So, lather up on the sunscreen, bring plenty of water, and a picnic blanket and enjoy a hot summer day safely with you and your pet!

Be A Considerate Pet Owner

-  Don't let your dog bark for hours. Your dog will be happier and your neighbors will really appreciate this!
-  Please make sure your fence is secure so your pets don't escape your yard.
-  Please be considerate and pick up your dog's poop when walking your dog. No one wants to step in dog poop!
-  Please remember your pets and **don't** leave them in your hot vehicle. If it's too hot for you to sit in your car without air-conditioning, it's too hot for them. At this time of year, the sidewalks can be hot, so don't expect your dog to be able to take very long walks comfortably midday.
-  Make sure your pet has a form of ID on their collar with your contact information. Key tags are available cheap at most hardware stores and work fine for pet IDs. A rabies tag is a great ID, but many veterinarians are not contactable 24/7 and the finder may not be able to keep your pet for several days.
-  If you have your pet microchipped, make sure you register on their database and keep your information current. Pets have been found wandering around the neighborhood and, when taken to the veterinarian, they found out they were microchipped but the information was obsolete, thus making it harder to contact the owner.
-  Have a current picture of your pet and, if lost, post the picture and contact information on websites such as Nextdoor.com and pawboost.com.

Teen Job Seekers

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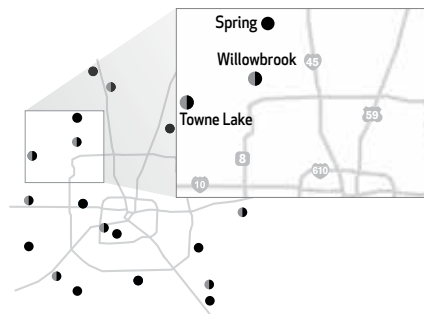
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