

# SUMMERWOOD

LIFE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Area Wide Crime Prevention Program

*...to be presented by  
Harris County Sheriff's Office*

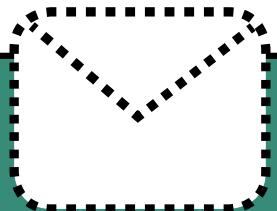
*By Barbara Probandt*

All area residents and business owners are invited to attend a Crime Awareness and Prevention program that will be held at Summer Creek High School on Tuesday night, March 8th. The program will be held in the school auditorium beginning at 6:30 PM, and is being sponsored by the Summer Creek Community and Business Association that serves the entire attendance area of Summer Creek High School. The Summerwood Crime Watch Committee and the Fall Creek Crime Watch Committee are supporting and promoting this event.

Harris County Sheriff Adrian Garcia is in charge of the presentation and he will bring with him several of the Harris County Sheriff Majors and Deputies. The HCSO contract deputies that serve Summerwood and Fall Creek will be invited to participate. The program will focus on awareness of problems that law enforcement is dealing with and the discussion will be structured around what is important to the communities in our area, after which the session will be opened up to a question and answer period from the audience.

Drop by the Summerwood Crime Watch Committee table where you will find give-away items for the Summerwood residents who attend this event!

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## Reporting Problems and Items of Concern to Maintenance

*by Angela Douglas*

Have you been to one of our wonderful Summerwood parks or facilities only to find something broken or even worse, vandalized? So what did you do? You called C.I.A. Services and reported it, right? Now there is an easier way of reporting these issues...no waiting till the office is open or even forgetting about the situation entirely.

Simply log onto [www.SummerwoodLife.com](http://www.SummerwoodLife.com) and at the top of the homepage there are some new tabs. One tab allows you to make a report straight to the maintenance coordinator so that an assignment can be made quicker to get the issue corrected. No more making two or three phone calls or sending emails. Just one click, fill out the information, and send it in. It's that easy! There will also be tabs to make contacting the HOA Board of Directors and various committees easier as well. Log in and check it out!

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South Lake Houston EMS (Dispatch) .....	281-459-1277
Dead Animal Pick-Up (Precinct 1) .....	281-820-5151
Animal Control.....	281-999-3191
After Hours.....	281-221-5000

### UTILITY SERVICE NUMBERS

Public Utility Commission Consumer Hotline ..	888-782-8477
Entouch Systems .....	281-225-1000
(Telephone, Cable, Alarm Monitoring)	
AT&T .....	800-288-2020
CenterPoint.....	713-659-2111
Reliant Energy.....	713-207-7777
South West Water Company (MUD #342, #344, and #361) Customer Service.....	713-405-1750
Garbage Pick-Up (Republic Waste) .....	281-446-2030
(Pick up on Mon. & Thurs - Garbage must be out by 7 a.m.)	

### SUMMERWOOD MARKETING

Summerwood New Home Center .....	281-225-0025
16402 Boulder Field Lane; Houston, TX 77044	

### SCHOOLS

Summerwood Elementary .....	281-641-3000
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## NEWSLETTER INFO

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## Crazy for Chocolate

by Third Grade Teacher Ashere' Potter

Do you know how many cocoa beans it takes to produce one pound of chocolate? Summerwood Elementary third graders do! The first week in February kicked off a six week study on chocolate. Students engaged in TEKS-based activities that have everything to do about chocolate. Third graders read various genres of books about chocolate, such as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and the Biography of Milton Hershey. They also discovered the history and science behind the making of chocolate and completed math related activities.

Summerwood third graders teamed up with the Hershey Company and Summerwood HEB to have guest speakers and a chocolate making demonstration on campus. The unit ended with a student-directed Chocolate Factory Day. Students organized five factory rooms (classrooms) by third grade TEKS from science, reading, math, and social studies. They also had a cooking room which was the students' favorite. Summerwood Elementary third graders love CHOCOLATE!

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## Health & Safety

### Annual Home Safety Checklist

**N**o one knows when an emergency will strike that could confine us to our homes, possibly without electricity, running water, or working telephones. That is why experts recommend keeping an "Emergency Preparedness Kit" on hand.

Listed below are items to include in your kit.

**Drinking water** – enough for several days for each family member.

**Non-perishable Food** – enough to nourish the family for several days. Include a manual can opener and special food items if required.

**Flashlights** – at least one, more if possible, and a **portable radio** – and charged batteries.

**First aid kit and book.**

**Cooler to store ice and food** – one each for ice and food is ideal.

**Large plastic garbage bags and duct tape** – for repairs and other mishaps that might occur.

**Infant necessities if you have a baby.**

**Blankets, pillows, and sleeping bags** – enough for each family member.

**Extra clothing** – store several pairs of sweats that can be easily used by different-sized family members.

**Crayons and coloring books** – to keep small, restless children occupied.

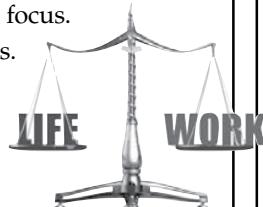


## Helpful Hints

### Balancing Life and Work

**P**eople today work hard and wish for more balance between their jobs and their personal lives. It's no surprise that studies show employees who feel they are achieving a balance in their work and personal lives tend to do better and have more satisfaction in both areas. Creating a balance between work and life outside of work can be beneficial to both employees and employers in the following ways:

- Employees show increased productivity, competency and focus.
- There is more flexibility and team work among employees.
- Morale levels among employees increase, which results in increased levels of motivation and commitment.
- There is a reduction in employee absenteeism.
- Employee retention is increased.



Contrary to popular belief, the over-achieving workaholics are not the ones who are the most successful in their careers — or in their personal lives. Those who realize the most success in both areas achieve a healthy balance in life, on and off the job.

# Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone in communities across the globe a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease. At Relay for Life, teams of people camp out at a local high school, park, or fairground and take turns walking or running around a track or path. Each team is asked to have a representative on the track at all times during the event. Because cancer never sleeps, relays are overnight events of up to 24 hours in length.

Relay for Life began in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in Tacoma, Washington, ran and walked around a track for 24 hours to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Since then, Relay for Life has grown from a single man's passion to fight cancer into the world's largest movement to end the disease. Each year, more than 3.5 million people in 5,000 communities in the United States, along with additional communities in 19 other countries, gather to take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer.

Anyone can participate in Relay for Life. Friends, families, neighbors, classmates, sports teams, etc. Form your own team or join an existing team. No matter who you are, there's a place for you! The only requirement to participate in Relay for Life is a \$10 registration/commitment fee per person, due upon registration.

## EVENT DETAILS FOR 2011 RELAY FOR LIFE OF HUMBLE/KINGWOOD

**Date:** March 25, 2011 6:00 PM

**Place:** Humble Civic Center

**Coordinator:** Kathleen Hughes

**Coordinator Email:** [hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com](mailto:hughes.kathleen@yahoo.com)

**More information about Relay for Life is available at:  
[www.acsevents.org](http://www.acsevents.org)**



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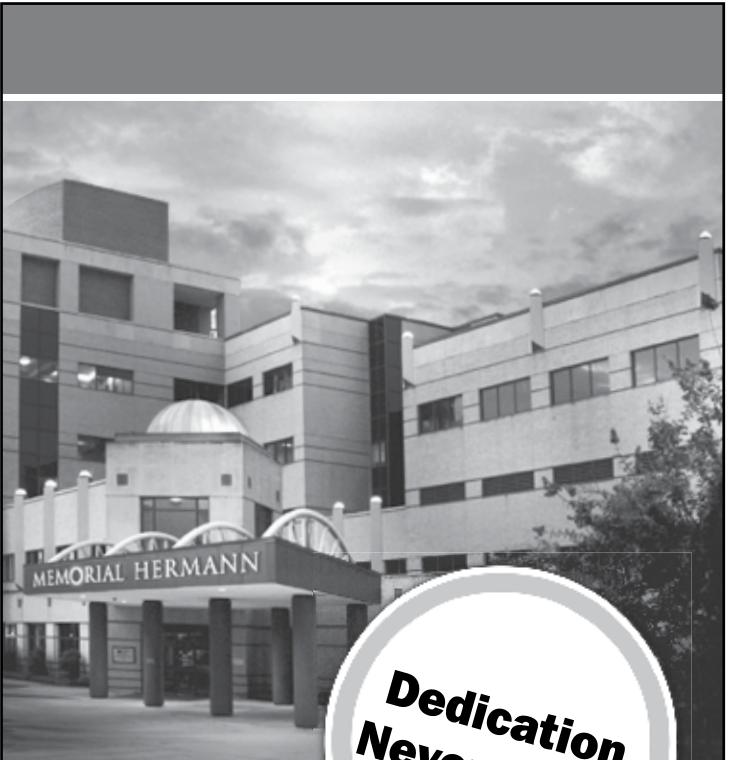
## Recipe of the Month

### 7 Layer Salad

Layer following vegetables in 8 x 10 dish in this order:

- 1 head lettuce, broken up
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 small can sliced water chestnuts, drained
- ½ C green onions, thinly chopped
- 1 box frozen English peas (do not cook)
- 1 pint real mayonnaise (spread over top)
- 6 oz. grated cheddar cheese

Cover and refrigerate 24 hours. Crumble 6 piece of fried bacon on top.



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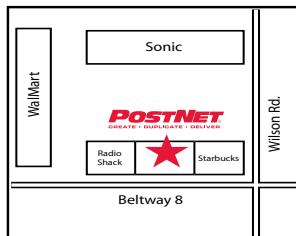
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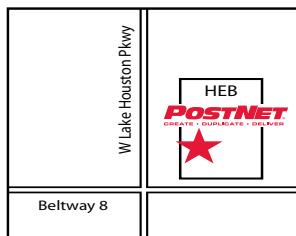
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*Fall Garage Sale*  
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*Independence Day Celebration*  
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*Winter Festival*  
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*2011  
Events*

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## **Yard of the Month Contest Update**

The Summerwood Beautification Committee is suspending the Yard of the Month Contest until the spring when we will begin again with the April Yard of the Month. We have enjoyed publishing pictures of the beautiful yards in our neighborhoods and have also appreciated the really nice October, November, and December decorations. It is because of our residents that Summerwood is and continues to be a beautiful place to live.

Nominations for the April Yard of the Month should be emailed to [summerwoodnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:summerwoodnewsletter@gmail.com) and received by March 8th. Please also submit a jpeg photo of the yard you are nominating if at all possible. This will give you a chance to portray the best possible view of the yard.



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## Align Your Work Values with Your Career

By Amy Wolfgang, M.Ed.

What is your ideal job? How do you make that determination? Many people are unhappy with their current career but are unsure what will make them happy. When individuals want to understand why they are unhappy in their current career the first area to examine is their work values.

Work values are characteristics of the activities and opportunities in a job that help make performing the job a satisfying experience. Examples of work values include: variety in work tasks, job security, ability to travel, recognition, etc. When you are evaluating your own career or making a decision on a new career, it is important for you to assess how your work values align with the career you are considering.

### Action Steps

#### Identify Your Work Values

Before you can begin evaluating your work values, first you must identify them. What are the top 5 – 10 work values that are important to your career satisfaction? Sometimes it is hard to think of what we need, although it can be easy to identify what we do not like in a career. Think back to those times that you may have been upset

about your career situation. For example, the time when you did a lot of work on a project and no one recognized it. This could mean that recognition is an important work value to you. What if you are unhappy in your current career because every day you complete the same tasks as you did the week before? This could mean that variety is an important work value for you.

*To get you started, here are samples of some work values that might be important to you:*

- Variety of Work
- Autonomy
- Flexible Hours
- Education/Training Opportunities
- Workplace Environment
- Status of Job
- Pay/Salary
- Recognition/Praise
- Opportunities for Advancement
- Socialization/Interaction

*(Continued on Page 11)*



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## Align Your Work Values with Your Career -

(Continued from Page 10)

### Rank Your Work Values

Now that you have identified the items that are important to you in a career, you will need to rank them in order of importance. No one job may be able to meet all of your work values, however, a job that is a good match for you should be able to meet your most important ones.

### Evaluate Your Current Job

Now that you know which values are the most important, ask yourself this question: Is your current job meeting your work values? If it's not, don't worry. It does not mean that this isn't the right career for you. It does mean that some things need to change in your job for you to achieve greater satisfaction. This may provide a great opportunity for you to speak with your supervisor about ways some of your work values can be met.

For example, if you value creativity, but always seem to be completing the tasks rather than helping to develop the solutions, talk to your supervisor about potential projects you can assist with on the creative side. If you value learning, then identify areas that seem interesting to you and ask your supervisor about helping in those areas so you can learn new skills. These tactics are also a great way to show your company that you are committed and capable.

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## SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE!

March 26th  
8am-12pm

Summerwood will be holding the semi-annual garage sale on March 26th from 8am-12pm!

We will be offering maps again this season. If you would like your address listed on the map, please log onto [www.summerwoodlife.com](http://www.summerwoodlife.com) and click on the map listing link. The deadline for registration is Friday March 18th.

If you have any questions about the Community Garage Sale, please visit the FAQ page on [www.summerwoodlife.com](http://www.summerwoodlife.com) or email [angela.douglas@summerwoodlife.com](mailto:angela.douglas@summerwoodlife.com).



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## Summerwood Stork Report

Congratulations to Josh and Jennifer DeMoss, and big sister Luna, on the birth of Aurelia Rae DeMoss. She was born on Friday, Feb. 4th, weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz, and was 18.5 in long.

*Email us your new bundle of joy announcement with photo at summerwoodnewsletter@gmail.com.*



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## FINANCIAL FOCUS

### *Are Your Investments Getting Enough Exercise?*

Now that spring is here, you may find it easier to get outside to run, bike or take part in other physical pursuits that you enjoy. As you know, the more active you are, the more efficiently your body will work. And the same can hold true for your investments — the more exercise they get, the more potential to work on your behalf.

Just how do investments get "exercise"? Through lots of activity. And you can keep your investments active in at least two ways: through systematic investing and through dividend reinvestment. Let's take a look at both these techniques.

When you engage in systematic investing, commonly called "dollar cost averaging," you are continuously putting your money "in motion." Essentially, you put the same amount of money into the same investments at regular intervals. So, for example, you might decide to invest \$100 per month, in Company ABC stock. To impose this investment discipline on yourself, you could even have the money sent directly from your checking or savings account.

Of course, since the price of ABC stock, like that of all stocks, is constantly changing, your \$100 investment will buy different numbers of shares each month. This can work to your advantage, because when the stock price of ABC goes down, your \$100 will buy more shares. When the price goes up, you'll automatically be a smart enough "shopper" to buy fewer shares, just as you'd typically buy less of something when its price goes up.

Over time, systematic investing typically results in an average cost per share that's lower than it would be if you were to make sporadic lump sum investments. If you can lower the cost of investing, this may help boost your investment returns. This also can be an effective way to fund your retirement account(s) each year. (Keep in mind, though, that even systematic investing can't guarantee a profit or prevent a loss in declining markets. Also, you'll need to have the financial resources available to keep investing through up and down markets.)

Dividend reinvestment is similar to systematic investing in that it allows you to build more shares of an investment. But when you reinvest dividends, you don't even have to take money from other sources to increase your shares — you simply have to request that a stock or a mutual fund, instead of paying you a dividend in cash, reinvest the dividend right back into that same stock or mutual fund. It's an effortless way of adding shares. Similar to dollar-cost averaging, dividend reinvestment imposes an investment discipline on you — you automatically keep putting money in the market during up and down periods. (Keep in mind that dividends can be increased, decreased or totally eliminated)

Exercising your investment dollars in these ways can help you go a long way toward keeping your portfolio in good shape — enabling you to make healthy progress toward your important long-term goals.

# RE/MAX Green Checklist for Home Owners



**W**ant to green your home to market its amenities to eco-conscious buyers? Or are you looking simply to lessen your home's carbon footprint? Here's a checklist of items that will help bring your home up to a greener standard. These are just some of the practical, easy fixes you can do to make your home more eco-friendly for your family or potential buyers.

## **Plug air leaks**



Use weather stripping and caulk to help save money on heating and air-conditioning bills and more. Common leaks occur around windows, doors and other wall penetrations.

## **Tune up your HVAC system**



Get a checkup every two years to make sure it's running efficiently. Clean the filter monthly during times of peak usage.

## **Choose ENERGY STAR® appliances**



These appliances sometimes cost more, but reduce your energy bill by \$50 annually for each appliance. Also, many electric utility companies offer purchase incentives.

## **Use natural flooring, cabinetry**



Flooring made from rapidly renewable resources, such as cork or bamboo, and native woods for furniture or cabinetry are greener and stylish.

## **Reduce water use**



Inside, install aerators to your sink faucets and change to low-flow showerheads. Motion-activated toilets or faucets can minimize water usage and waste.

Outside, native plants, xeriscaping and turf grass also reduce water consumption.

## **Explore solar power**



Use it to create electricity, heat water and improve indoor lighting. The U.S. Department of Energy can help you find the right solar solutions for your home.

## **Switch to CFL bulbs**



Compact fluorescent light bulbs can be a huge energy saver and typically have a longer life than other bulbs. Replace some (or all) of your regular bulbs with CFLs.

## **Use low-VOC products**



Switch to products, such as paint and carpeting, that don't give off volatile organic compounds, or VOCs. This will greatly improve your indoor air quality and protect your health.

## **Plant shady trees**



Save money on heating and air conditioning bills while providing beautiful views around your home.

Also, using native plants can mean less need for water, fertilizer and pesticides.



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