



# Steeplechase

## NEWSLETTER



The Official Newsletter of The Steeplechase Community Improvement Association, Inc. and Steeplechase

## SAFETY CORNER - TIP OF THE MONTH

"The holidays will soon be upon us, and as usual, faster than we expected. During this festive season, our thoughts turn to gifts, visiting friends and relatives, and delightful culinary experiences. However, there are others who think about unoccupied appliance filled houses or apartments, distracted shoppers with extra cash in a purse or wallet or they are planning their next "charity scam."

Statistically, crime usually increases during the holiday season. The basic reason for this is really very simple. More people with more cash, gifts, etc. are "out and about" which presents more opportunities for the criminal looking for an easy "score." Of course, the happy shopper is rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done or thinking about what to buy "the person who has everything." The happy shopper is not thinking about the person in the store or parking lot that has followed you and knows exactly where you keep your cash or where you parked your car. Do not give a thief an even chance this year.

Please exercise caution during this upcoming special season. Trust your instincts, if something does not look or feel right, it probably isn't. Remember, being safe should to observe who may be watching you. Park in a highly visible well-lighted space. It may be daylight when never take a holiday.

### WHILE SHOPPING

- Stay alert and be aware of everything around you. Take a minute you arrive at the Mall, but when you come out at 5 or 6 P.M. it will be dark

- Lock your vehicle both when driving and parked
- Carry your purse close to you body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket
- Have your car keys in your hand and be ready to open the car door immediately
- Place all shopping bags, packages and gifts out of sight (trunk, under seat).
- Always know where you have parked your car, so you do not spend unnecessary time walking around the parking lot
- Look inside and under your car before entering
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash – use debit card, credit card or check
- Do not overburden yourself with packages. This will help deter pickpockets or purse snatchers
- Do not park next to a van or truck where people can hide
- If you take children shopping, teach them to go to a police officer or a store security officer if they get separated or lost. Ensure children know that mommy and daddy would never send a person they did not know to "take them home" or "take them to find mommy or daddy."

### OUT FOR THE EVENING

- Turn on lights, television or radio so that it appears that someone is home
- Lock all doors and windows, even if you plan to be gone for a few minutes
- Holiday gifts should not be displayed where they can be seen from the outside

### HOLIDAY TRAVELING

- Ask a neighbor to watch your house or apartment, ask them to park in your

driveway or space from time to time

- Use automatic timers for your lights
- Stop your mail and newspaper deliveries
- Arrange to have snow shoveled (if necessary) while you are away

### WHILE DRIVING

- Be alert at intersections and stoplights. They can be favorite spots for persons with a criminal intent
- Keep your car in gear. If you are threatened, blow the horn, then drive away. Leave enough space between you and the car in front of you to pull around if necessary
- Keep windows rolled up and doors locked at all times
- Keep valuables (purses, packages, wallets, etc.) out of sight
- If followed – do not drive home. Go to a police station, fire house, gas station or other public place
- If car breaks down, stay with the car and accept NO rides. If someone stops to help, ask them to call the police. Use a cell phone if available
- Keep your vehicle well maintained and gassed up
- When partaking of "holiday cheer," good judgment is always in order. Remember seatbelts do save lives

### AT HOME

- Keep all doors and windows locked, even if you step out for a moment
- Mark all your property with an "identifier" type number. DO NOT use your social security number. Some prefer their driver's license number
- Video tape valuables as a record of ownership

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# STEEPLECHASE

## IMPORTANT Telephone Numbers



Emergency.....	911
Sheriff's Dept.....	713-221-6000
Cy-Fair Fire Dept .....	911
Cy-Fair Hospital.....	281-890-4285
Animal Control .....	281-999-3191
Center Point (Street lights) .....	713-207-2222
<a href="http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage">http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage</a>	
Neighborhood Crime Watch .....	SteeplechaseSecurity@gmail.com
Library.....	281-890-2665
Post Office.....	713-937-6827
Steeplechase Community Center.....	281-469-CLUB
Deed Restriction Issues (PCMI) .....	281-870-0585
Water/Sewer .....	713-405-1750
Architectural Control (PCMI) .....	281-870-0585
Trash Pick-up (Best Trash, LLC) (Wed. & Sat.) .....	281-313-BEST
Harris Co. Pct. 4 Road Maintenance .....	281-353-8424
Harris Co. MUD #168.....	hcmud168board@gmail.com
Community Events.....	281-469-CLUB
Clubhouse Rentals: Private Parties and Community Events (Phyllis McFarland).....	832-922-8030
Traffic Initiative .....	281-290-2100
Private Pool Parties .....	713-416-5161

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. (Advertising).....	kelly@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Articles.....	newsletter@steeplechasetx.com

## Community Center Contacts

### Community Maintenance Concerns

PCMI .....	281-870-0585
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### Clubhouse Rentals

Private Parties and Community Events (Phyllis McFarland).....	832-922-8030
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### Pool Company Contact

Texas Aquatic Enterprises, Inc. ....	713-416-5161
.....	<a href="http://www.texasaquaticenterprises.com">www.texasaquaticenterprises.com</a>

### Board Member Contact

PCMI .....	281-870-0585
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## Schools

Emmott Elementary.....	281-897-4500
Campbell Middle School.....	281-897-4300
Cy-Ridge High School.....	281-807-8000

## Want to Help Steeplechase Go Green?

Join our E-Mailing List at [www.SteeplechaseTX.com](http://www.SteeplechaseTX.com). Please add [webmaster@steeplechasetx.com](mailto:webmaster@steeplechasetx.com) to your address book to ensure you receive our emails. Your email address will not be shared, published, or used for soliciting.

**Steeplechase Information Line:**  
For all non-security issues email:  
[manager@steeplechasetx.com](mailto:manager@steeplechasetx.com)

## Steeplechase Community Improvement Association Board of Directors

Maurice Amidei	Robert Kaechler	Nace Peard
Michael Cirillo	Virginia Kelley	Wade Wnuk
James Clarke	Bill Kuschmeider	

If you need to contact a Director, please contact PCMI/Severn Trent at 281-870-0585 and they will forward your request.

## Steeplechase Sanctioned Committees

Architectural	Playground	Communications
Security	Welcome	Tennis
Pool	Landscape	Clubhouse

*Happy Holidays*

The Steeplechase Board of Directors sends our very best wishes to all residents for a safe & happy holiday season.



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# STEEPLECHASE

## Safety Corner - (Continued from Cover Page)

- Inspect all holiday lights for frayed wiring before you hang them
- If you are using a ladder to hang holiday decorations, make sure it is properly secured
- Keep holiday decorations and plants away from young children and pets. Some are poisonous
- Place your holiday tree, decorations, etc. away from heating vents or fireplaces to reduce the risk of fire.
- Keep fresh cut holiday greenery watered
- Use extreme caution when using lighted candles as part of your holiday celebration
- Beware of strangers coming to the door asking for charitable donations. Ask them four questions: Can you show some identification, is the donation tax deductible, how will the funds be used, and may I have a receipt. If you are not satisfied with any or all the answers tell them "no thank you" and close the door. Help a work sponsored charitable group or a charity that has special meaning to you or a loved one

### AT THE ATM

- **Stay Alert.** Be aware of your surroundings when you use an ATM, especially at night. Park in a well lighted area and have someone accompany you
- **Report Suspicious People.** If you notice anything unusual, cancel your transaction, pocket your card and leave IMMEDIATELY.

Go to a safe place and call police

- **Be Prepared.** Have everything ready (deposit slips, card) when arriving at the ATM. When you have completed the transaction, pocket your cash and card immediately. **COUNT YOUR CASH AND PUT YOUR CARD AWAY LATER**
- **Drive-Up ATM.** When using a drive-up ATM, remember to always keep doors locked, all other (except driver's side) windows up and the car running
- **Treat Your ATM Card Like Cash.** Guard your ATM card as carefully as you do cash, debit or credit cards, and checks. Never give account numbers or card information over the phone, unless you know exactly who you are speaking to
- **Keep Your Personal Identification Number (PIN) Secret.** Do not write your PIN on your card or keep it written somewhere in your wallet. Never tell anyone your PIN

Please remember to enjoy the holiday season and not be lulled into becoming a victim. Following the few simple suggestions presented can ensure your holidays are safe and enjoyable. Also, do not permit "holiday stress" to get the best of you. Make time to get together with friends and family, and consider reaching out to others in need. By doing your part, everyone can enjoy a safe and happy holiday season – except for the thief or "con-artist." <http://www.ubalt.edu/template.cfm?page=2301>

Lynn Cirillo

Steeplechase Security Coordinator



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**NOT AVAILABLE  
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## **ARE YOU RECEIVING NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY ALERTS?**

Interested in receiving neighborhood security alerts? If so, please send an email request to [steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com](mailto:steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com). Remember, for your safety, emails are sent using 'blind copy' (BCC) so you will need to add [steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com](mailto:steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com) to your safe senders list.

Already on the security alert distribution list? Please make sure if you have changed your email address, to email [steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com](mailto:steeplechasesecurity@gmail.com) so you don't miss-out on important notifications.

## **Neighbor to Neighbor**

You can change the experience you have in your own neighborhood by getting more involved with those around you and taking pride in the area in which you live. The following is a new article that will appear monthly to publish friendly neighborhood notes and reminders submitted by readers. Your own Neighbor to Neighbor note can be emailed to [Newsletter@SteeplechaseTX.com](mailto:Newsletter@SteeplechaseTX.com).

*(Note: Editor reserves the right to edit notes for length and to maintain tone of friendliness. No names or addresses will be published.)*

### ***Dear Neighbor,***

Each week, I observe more and more TRASH CANS being left on the curbs long after the trash has been collected. Some residents leave the emptied containers out from Wednesday to Saturday to Wednesday. This view is not appealing to other residents, or to visitors to our community. Our property values can also be affected because people determine where to purchase their home by observing a community's pride as they drive through the neighborhood. Small things make a big difference. Please bring in your trash cans as soon as possible following trash collection. Thank you!

### ***Dear Neighbor, and DOG OWNER,***

If you own a canine, it would be greatly appreciated if you would be mindful of their barking. Excessive barking can be heard from several backyards at all hours of the night, the early morning and even in the daytime. This incessant barking and howling is a nuisance to the neighborhood. It is important to be courteous of your neighbors as well as properly care for your pet. Please be accommodating and respectful of your fellow Steeplechase community members by controlling your canine's behavioral habits. Thank you!

### ***Dear Neighbor,***

We have a beautiful neighborhood and there have been many improvements made through the years and many more to come. Our neighborhood value depends on us to keep it looking good. There are many ways we all can contribute to make our neighborhood a better place. One of the easiest things to do is to PICK UP TRASH and debris. There are many gutters and drive ways full of garbage and other yard clutter. So much of this garbage ends up in our bayou and breeds rodents and disease. If we all do our part we can have our neighborhood looking great. Also, a lot of trash accumulates behind the homes that back up to the bayou. If you see trash please pick it up, even if it's not in your yard. It is in YOUR neighborhood. Thank you!

## Online Service Option for Citizens Reporting Crimes

The Sheriff's Office has implemented an on-line service called "CopLogic" for Harris County citizens to report crimes. This is for reporting lost property, theft or vandalism ONLY and when the complaint has NO suspect information. This service is provided as an option to the citizen in lieu of waiting for a unit to respond to their location. Examples of incidents that can be reported via CopLogic:

- 1. LOST PROPERTY:** When property is missing or lost, i.e. leaving items in a restaurant or missing from home.
- 2. THEFT:** Property is taken without the owner's permission.
- 3. VANDALISM:** The act of changing, modifying or defacing public or private property, i.e. graffiti, knocking over a mailbox, throwing a rock through a window, etc.

*To access this service, please visit the Sheriff's Office web site: [www.hcso.hctx.net](http://www.hcso.hctx.net) • Click on "Report Crime" link at top of screen • Click on "Report an Incident" • Follow instructions on the screen for filing an offense report*

CopLogic is an alternative method for the citizen to report the crime quickly, get a case number and print a copy of the report. It does not replace entering a call for service for a unit to respond if the citizen prefers to see a unit or does not have access to the Internet.



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# STEEPLECHASE

## STREETLIGHT OUT? Report It!

CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout our electric service territory in and around Houston. In order to report an outage, you will be asked to provide:

- a pole number for the non-functioning light(s) you want to report
- contact information (in case more information is needed to locate a streetlight)
- an e-mail address (*if you want feedback regarding your repair request*)
- the number of streetlights you would like to report

### TO REPORT IF YOU KNOW THE STREETLIGHT NUMBER, VISIT:

<http://cnp.centerpointenergy.com/outage>

### TO REPORT USING CENTERPOINT'S MAP SYSTEM, VISIT:

<http://gis.centerpointenergy.com/sloreporting/> The process is easy, simple and will take no more than five minutes.

## Support During Tough Times

**DEPRESSION & BIPOLAR SUPPORT ALLIANCE**  
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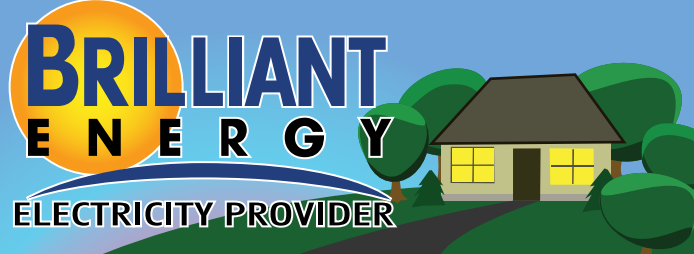
[www.dbsahouston.org](http://www.dbsahouston.org)

DBSA Greater Houston is a non-profit organization that sponsors both free and confidential support groups for those who have been diagnosed or have symptoms of a mood disorder. Families and friends of those with mood disorders are also invited to attend any one of our over 50 support groups across the Houston metropolitan area. Moreover, DBSA Greater Houston provides personal support and direct services to its members, educates the public about the nature and management of these treatable disorders and promotes related research.

**CRISIS INTERVENTION OF HOUSTON**  
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<http://crisishotline.org/>

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## RECYCLABLES

*Here is the guideline for using your recycling bin:*

### YES - IT'S RECYCLABLE

- Paper - Dry & Clean; Loose (not in plastic bags)
- Newspaper & inserts
- Magazines, catalogs, or phone books
- Junk mail, envelopes
- File folders
- White or colored computer paper (staples and paper clips ok)
- Corrugated cardboard boxes
- Cereal & gift boxes, etc. that tear brown or grey (remove liners)
- Paper bags
- Wrapping paper (remove metallic paper and bows)
- Containers - Empty & Clean; Loose (not in plastic bags)
- Glass
- Aluminum cans
- Aluminum foil, and foil pans and plates
- Plastic bottles, jars, tubs, and buckets
- Metal food cans and lids
- Metal pots and pans

### NO! ITS NOT RECYCLABLE!

- Ceramics, dishes, coffee cups, drinking glasses
- Glass cookware or bakeware
- Window glass, mirrors, light bulbs
- Plastic bags, Styrofoam containers, packaging peanuts
- Take out containers, plastic cups, and plastic tableware
- Containers of hazardous or toxic materials
- Tissue or paper towels, books
- Tyvek envelopes, carbon paper
- Paper cartons for milk or juice
- Wax coated boxes

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