



NORMANDY FOREST

January 2013

Official Publication of the Normandy Forest Homeowners Association

Volume 2, Issue 1

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Roger Rumsey* is the new HOA Secretary
- *Michelle Tsatsaroni* is our new Activities Coordinator

Welcome!

REMINDERS

HOA FEES due by January 31, 2012 Clubhouse, Pool rentals, & Pool tags will not be issued or allowed unless your HOA fee is paid. CALL CHAPARAL MGNT FOR PAYMENT INFORMATION 281-537-0957

- Regular garbage collection is on Monday and Thursdays
- Heavy Trash collection is the second Friday of each month
- Fireworks are not allowed in Clubhouse parking lot or in the Normandy Forest Park area



WINTERIZING THE YARD

- Winterizing the Yard (Fall Feeding): Most winterizers become relatively worthless if the soil temperature gets too cool. That usually takes a couple of weeks of consistent 40s overnight or a few nights in the 30s. We haven't even come close to those temperatures this year. Translation: if you haven't done your lawn's winterizer/fall feeding, get it done today.
- Pre-emergent Herbicides: Even if we had the aforementioned cooler nights, it still would not be too late to do the right thing when it comes to pre-emergents. However, it's also worth noting that if they weren't applied by Nov. 1, they won't provide 100 percent prevention. Translation: If you put down pre-emergent herbicides today, don't be surprised if you get some weeds in late December.
- Fungicide Control: Normally, when daytime temperatures get consistently below 80 degrees and nighttime temps are steadily below the 60s, we seldom have to worry about brownpatch or diseases like it. Unfortunately, we haven't reached those points steadily yet this year. Translation: If you've seen a flare-up, treat it, because some 80 degree days are coming again.
- Top Dressing with Compost: I've been known to say, "I wouldn't do it when it's freezing or below, or when it's 100 and above." We haven't been close to any of those temperature extremes. This rule, however, is different from top-dressing in general. If you have a top-dressing with compost, do it now. But top-dressing with a soil-sand mix is usually best put off until April, May and June.
- Dormant Oil Spray/Horticultural Oils: Actually, "Is it too early?"
- Pruning Trees: We are in the heart of the dormant season! Enough said!!!
- Deep Root Feeding of Trees: While the leaves may be dormant, the roots still need TLC.
- Planting Cool-season Annuals: You can plant season-specific annuals for two more months. And they will carry you through to the first warm-up next spring.
- Pruning Hibiscus: First, it makes them easier to cover on really cold nights. Secondly, remember that pruning several times in a year is actually good for hibiscus.
- Putting Out Mulch: There is never a time that's too cold or too hot to put down more mulch.

NORMANDY FOREST

NORMANDY FOREST COMMITTEES

THE ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE

Danny Rodriguez 281-528-6640
Rod Selman..... 281-731-0297

The Association has an active Architectural Control Committee that approves or denies all construction and any improvements. You may request an ACC form by contacting Chaparral Management 281-537-0957 or the association website. Please keep in mind that the Association has thirty days (30 days) to approve or disapprove any ACC and verbal approvals or disapprovals are not given.

SECURITY COMMITTEE

In the event of an emergency please call “911” or for Precinct 4 please program your cell phone with the number below.

Precinct 4 281-376-3472
Jim Norris 281-924-5828 | jnorris@normandyforest.org

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Michelle Tsatsaronis michelletsatsaronis@gmail.com

POOL MAINTENANCE & LIFEGUARDS

Jeffery King 281-655-8675

CLUBHOUSE RENTALS

Sally Rodriguez 832-788-4186

MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

John Nemece 281-651-8606 | jnemece@normandyforest.org

OPEN POSITION

POOL TAG COMMITTEE

Pam Selman pselman@normandyforest.org

OPEN POSITION

WEBMASTER COMMITTEE

Emily Nget..... enget@normandyforest.org

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Nemece | President 281-651-8606
Paul Diaz | Vice President..... 281-355-8890
Roger Rumsey | Secretary 281-323-0640
Scott Marder | Treasurer 281-350-5118
Jim Norris | Director 281-907-0099

BALLPARK RESERVATIONS

John Nemece | Coordinator
.....jnemece@normandyforest.org | 281-651-8606

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Gas | Centerpoint Energy 713-659-2111
Electric | Reliant Energy 713-207-7777
Phone | AT&T www.att.com
Sewer | Harris County MUD #28 281-353-9809
Trash | Republic Waste 281-446-2030
Fire Department | Spring VFD..... 281-355-1266
County Commissioner | Jack Cagle..... 713-755-6444

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Chaparral Management Company, AAMC
6630 Cypresswood Suite 100 | Spring, Texas 77379
281-537-0957 phone | 281-537-0312 fax
Kay Serventi | Association Manager
kserventi@chaparralmanagement.com

OFFICE HOURS

9am to 5pm | closed for lunch 12:30 to 1:15 pm

NEWSLETTER INFO

EDITOR

Sally Rodriguez onesalrod@aol.com

PUBLISHER

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Not Available Online

Klein Collins Girl Scout Earns Lifesaving Medal

*Freshman Rachel Piper recognized by GSSJC for
rescuing her mother in jet skiing accident*

Nov. 27, 2012 – “On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country; To help people at all times; And to live by the Girl Scout Law.” This was more than a promise to 14-year-old Rachel Piper, who was awarded with the Lifesaving Medal of Honor by the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) for rescuing her mom during a jet skiing accident.

While at a family’s lake house in Louisiana during the summer of 2011, Rachel’s mother, Laura Piper, was driving a jet ski that was pulling Rachel on a knee board. After a brief glance to check on her daughter, Mrs. Piper turned back to find that she was too close to the bank filled with bushes and trees and the jet ski came to a halt. On impact, the handle bar struck Mrs. Piper in the chest, broke her wrist, and rendered her unconscious in the water. Rachel, unharmed, immediately swam to her mom’s aide.

Once lucid, Mrs. Piper was in a lot of pain and was unable to move. The jet ski at this point had also become inoperable due to the accident. In an effort to get her mom out of the water and back to the family’s lake house, located nearly 100 yards away, Rachel did what she knew best - she swam.

“I have been taking swim lessons since I was three years old, and loved it so much that I began competing on a local club team when I was six,” said Rachel, who is currently on the junior varsity swim team at Klein Collins High School.

With her injured mother holding on to the back, Rachel held on to the front of the jet ski with one arm and pulled and swam back to the shore. It was because of this act of bravery that her troop leader and mom nominated Rachel for this prestigious award.

“This is a very rare honor presented to only 12 Girl Scouts nationwide this year, and Rachel’s extraordinary courage and heroism are something to celebrate,” said DeAnne Wilson, GSSJC Troop 13112 leader and Klein ISD parent volunteer.

Rachel has been a girl scout for nine years, moving up in ranks from a Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes to recently Seniors. Now a freshman at Klein Collins, she maintains a busy schedule between school, swim team, church and Girl Scouts. Her mom, however, credits Girl Scouts for teaching Rachel several valuable social and character lessons.

“I’m very proud of Rachel. She was very quick to respond, stayed calm and made sure I was awake,” recalled Mrs. Piper. “She was my angel that day!”

Lifesaving awards have been a part of Girl Scouts throughout its 100-year history, recognizing girls who have heroically saved or attempted to save a life. According to Rachel, Girl Scouts has taught her to be a first responder and several social and societal skills, which is evident in her vest with more than 30 patches and pins. Rachel is

also very involved at Klein United Methodist, as she participates in choir and youth programs. Rachel plans on continuing Girl Scouts through graduation, in addition to swimming as she hopes to one day work her way into the record books at Klein Collins.



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Chicken Taco Casserole



Makes: 6 servings
Prep 25 mins Bake 350°F 30 mins Stand 5 mins

Ingredients

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 12 ounces chicken breast strips for stir-frying
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 2 teaspoons canola oil
- 1 medium onion, halved and thinly sliced
- 3/4 cup chopped red or green sweet pepper (1 medium)
- 1 ten ounce package frozen chopped spinach, thawed and squeezed dry
- 1 1/2 cups purchased salsa
- 4 six inch corn tortillas, coarsely torn
- 3 ounces reduced-fat Monterey Jack cheese, shredded (3/4 cup)
- 1/2 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered or chopped (optional)
- 1/2 of an avocado, halved, seeded, peeled, and chopped (optional)
- Corn chips, baked tortilla chips, or broken taco shells (optional)

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat an unheated large nonstick skillet with cooking spray. Preheat skillet over medium-high heat. In a medium bowl toss together chicken, garlic, and chili powder. Add to hot skillet. Cook for 4 to 6 minutes or until chicken is no longer pink, stirring frequently. Remove chicken from skillet; set aside.
2. Add canola oil to skillet. Add onion and sweet pepper. Cook over medium heat about 5 minutes or until tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in spinach.
3. Coat a 2-quart square baking dish with cooking spray. Spread about 1/2 cup of the salsa in the baking dish. Top with half of the tortilla pieces, half of the chicken mixture, and half of the vegetable mixture. Pour half of the remaining salsa over the vegetables and top with half of the cheese. Repeat layers once, except do not top with the remaining cheese.
4. Bake, covered, for 30 to 35 minutes or until heated through. Sprinkle with the remaining cheese. Let stand for 5 minutes before serving. If desired, garnish with cherry tomatoes, chopped avocado, and/or corn chips.



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About Thermostats For Your Home

Everyone knows that your thermostat controls your heating and cooling, but many people don't understand just what they do, and the differences between the many styles and brands today. No one type is ideal for everyone, because each of us has differing lifestyles. Some like a simple on-off thermostat or the tech types may want to operate their home from a smart phone. Today, all of this is available.

Thermostats can be mechanical or electronic, and the mechanical ones have all but vanished. I will only discuss electronic ones, since they are prevalent. All use batteries, some as the primary power source, and some as backup for power failure. Either is fine, and batteries should last a year or more. Be aware that most mechanical thermostats also contain mercury, and require special disposal. The simplest thermostat is non-programmable. It is manually set for heating or cooling, and will maintain the temperature you set it at. This may be fine if your home is occupied most or all of the time, and you have no real reason to alter the temperature several times a day.

Programmable thermostats allow you to set automatic temperature changes to save energy during the day. That is, after you leave for work it will "setback" to a higher setting to save power, but will turn back on to a comfortable level before you get home. This can save you 10-25% of power consumption depending on usage hours and setback levels. Some thermostats are 5-2, which is one setting M-F and another on weekends, and some are 7 day, where each day is programmed individually. All these have an override feature to skip a setback if you are home during "unoccupied" hours. Drawback: You have to read the instructions and program the cycles, and if someone messes with them, the system can act like it shuts off in the middle of the night or whatever.

Smart thermostats are the new technology. Versions are available by Nest, Ecobee and Honeywell, to name a few. With these, not only can you program your schedules, but operate your home remotely, and monitor hours of operation and energy usage. Some will send signals to your AC contractor if something goes wrong. Some systems also have options that will lock/unlock your home from a smart phone, and turn off appliances or lights, or operate remote cameras. Next generation is smart panels that operate lights, temperature, alarm, and camera security into one panel.

Last concern is cost. Basically non-programmable thermostats range \$50-100 installed, programmable from \$65-\$225 installed, and smart thermostats \$300-450 installed. Features and options vary too much to list, and new features come out all the time. Spend a little time on the websites of the three companies I listed and you can get a good idea of what's out there.

SUDOKU

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