

STONE FOREST

Flyer

December 2013

Volume 3, Issue 12

Happy Holiday Neighbor...

I hope you all had a Wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and are looking forward to the Christmas Season and New Year! This is the best time of the year!

As I am writing this to you it is early November and we just concluded our Halloween Trick or Treat night in Stone Forest! The neighborhood looked scary and all the kids had a great time!

Thank you for everyone's hospitality!

The streets of Stone Forest accommodate a lot of activity: Thru-traffic from Kuykendahl and Spring-Cypress, garbage trucks, lawn care folks, fire trucks or ambulances for neighborhood emergencies and our children! Please consider pulling your personal vehicles and trailers into the driveway and off the roadways when you can!

One other consideration as Homeowners is to be sure to remove the accumulation of pine needles from our gutters and roofs! Pine needles that settle in the roof valleys can

grow lichen and algae. Eventually this will remove shingle granules and decrease the strength of your roof.

Finally, here are a couple improvements coming soon to the Stone Forest Subdivision:

- Watch for three new street lights to be installed along Edgewood Place.
- Upgrades and repairs continue to be considered for our community playground. We want the highest quality option for the most economical price.

Thank you again for making Stone Forest a wonderful community! Please let the Board know if you have any concerns or questions!

Sincerely,

Robin Jones
Treasurer/Secretary

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TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Here are some tips that will help make your drive smooth sailing.

Submitted by Kristen West, Owner of Gusto Dogs LLC.

1. Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.
2. Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.
3. Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris.
4. Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.
5. Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.
6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.
7. Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!
8. Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself!

COOLER WEATHER SIGNALS BROWN PATCH SEASON IN LAWN

Lawn grasses in the Texas Upper Gulf Coast region, especially St. Augustine, have taken a pounding over the summer from dry weather, chinch bugs, and white grubs.

With the onset of cooler temperatures and rainy weather, there is the possibility of yet another threat to the health of area lawns. The menace is known as brown patch which is a disease caused by a fungus.

The good news is that brown patch does not present as widespread a problem as that imposed by overly wet or very dry weather conditions. The not so good news is that because area lawns have been so stressed throughout the year, they are more subject to brown patch problems. If brown patch was a problem in your lawn in previous years, then it's especially likely to again be a problem this fall given the stressful growing conditions this year.

The moist conditions of fall with its mild days and cool nights are ideal for the development of brown patch. The disease occurs most consistently in the fall but it may also appear in the spring. St. Augustine is the most common lawn grass affected, but Bermuda grass and zoysia grass are also susceptible under certain conditions.

Affected patches of this lawn-devastating disease are brown in color and circular in shape but may become irregular as diseased areas enlarge and merge. They range in size from small spots during the early stage of development to areas over 50 feet in diameter later in the season.

In addition to circular patterns of brown grass, brown patch can be identified by the ease in which yellowing leaves can be readily pulled from the stolon or main stem. Select yellowing leaf samples from the outer edge of an affected area for the "pull test." As affected areas enlarge, new green growth may develop toward the center of the patch, causing a donut-shaped appearance.

The disease is most easily controlled when symptoms become first evident but early infections can go unnoticed unless regular inspections of the lawn are made. Of course, symptoms are most apparent during late October and into November when large patches of brown grass become blatantly obvious. The fungus causing brown patch will be active until a lawn goes dormant.

(Continued on Page 4)



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Brown Patch Season (Continued from Page 3)

Heavily fertilized and over-watered lawns are very susceptible to brown patch. Lush-growing, moist grass creates an ideal environment for development of this disease. An attractive lawn can be maintained with a balanced fertility program and moderation in watering. And doing so will not only substantially lessen the potential for brown patch development but it will also save money! By the same token, lawns subjected to relatively low maintenance levels seldom have the disease.

Brown patch is strictly a cool weather problem, so do not be confused by brown areas of the lawn that developed during the summer. These were caused primarily by chinch bug damage.

Not only is brown patch unsightly, but weeds more likely to invade the lawn in disease-weakened areas. Also, spring recovery is delayed in areas damaged by brown patch.

Fungicides containing bayleton (such as Green Light's Fung-Away and a variety of other labels), chlorothalonil (Daconil 2787), or PCNB (Terraclor) will control brown patch when applied according to label instructions.

For the fungicides to be most effective, it is best to apply them during the early stages of disease occurrence. Even in cases where the disease is in advanced stages, it will be well worth the effort to treat such cases as soon as possible. In lawns to be spot-treated, be sure

to also treat the areas that were previously infected since the disease has a tendency to reappear in the same areas.

It's also a good idea to raise the mowing height to 1½ or 2 inches for affected bermuda lawns. The taller grass provides more cover and insulation for the growing points of the grass in addition to reducing overall plant stress and the possibility of winter kill. Raising the mowing height will also provide similar benefits for St. Augustine lawns.

Following these management practices for brown patch will result in a more healthy and vigorous lawn next year.



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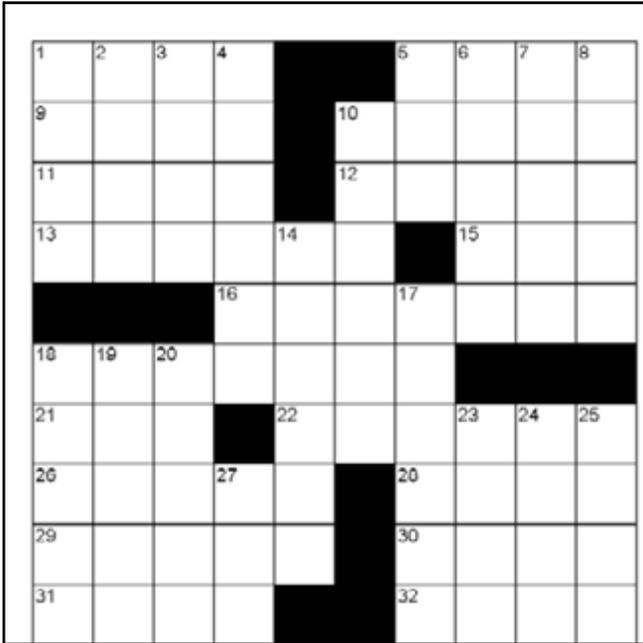
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. Charge
5. Syrian bishop
9. Against
10. Landing
11. Leaves
12. Boom box
13. Allure
15. African antelope
16. Polite
18. Leafy green
21. Marry
22. Esophagus
26. Woken
28. Goad
29. Type of tooth
30. Refer
31. Posttraumatic stress disorder
32. Sieve

DOWN

1. Nativity scene piece
2. Competition at the Greek games
3. Capital of the Ukraine
4. Symbol
5. Expression of surprise
6. Emblem
7. Pickle juice
8. A ball out of bounds (2 wds.)
10. Twist violently
14. Ripper
17. Strums
18. Slough
19. Ross ____, philanthropist
20. Gods
23. Brand of sandwich cookie
24. Seaweed substance
25. Cabana
27. Blue

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- Kids Stuff -

Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!



Eleven-year-old Cait was trying to fall asleep when her 8-year-old brother, Doug, came into her room. He looked around a bit, but seemed really out of it.

Then Doug went back into the hallway and stood there staring up at the hall light.

Little brothers can be weird, but this was really strange. Cait didn't know what to do. Just then, Cait's father appeared and explained that Doug was sleepwalking.

WHAT IS SLEEPWALKING?

Not all sleep is the same every night. We experience some deep, quiet sleep and some active sleep, which is when dreams happen. You might think sleepwalking would happen during active sleep, but a person isn't physically active during active sleep. Sleepwalking usually happens in the first few hours of sleep in the stage called slow-wave or deep sleep.

Not all sleepwalkers actually walk. Some simply sit up or stand in bed or act like they're awake (but dazed) when, in fact, they're asleep! Most, however, do get up and move around for a few seconds or for as long as half an hour.

Sleepwalkers' eyes are open, but they don't see the same way they do when they're awake and often think they're in different rooms of the house or different places altogether. Sleepwalkers tend to go back to bed on their own and they won't remember it in the morning.

Researchers estimate that up to 15% of kids sleepwalk regularly. Sleepwalking may run in families and sometimes occurs when a person is sick, has a fever, is not getting enough sleep, or is stressed.

IS SLEEPWALKING A SERIOUS PROBLEM?

If sleepwalking occurs frequently, every night or so, it's a good idea for your mom or dad to take you to see your doctor. But occasional sleepwalking generally isn't something to worry about, although it may look funny or even scary for the people who see a sleepwalker in action.

Although occasional sleepwalking isn't a big deal, it's important, of course, that the person is kept safe. Precautions

should be taken so the person is less likely to fall down, run into something, or walk out the front door while sleepwalking.

WHAT WILL THE DOCTOR DO?

There's no cure for sleepwalking, but the doctor can talk to you about what's happening and try to find ways to help you sleep more soundly. Most kids just grow out of sleepwalking.

For kids who sleepwalk often, doctors may recommend a treatment called scheduled awakening. This disrupts the sleep cycle enough to help stop sleepwalking. In rare cases, a doctor may prescribe medication to help someone sleep.

HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO HELP PREVENT SLEEPWALKING:

- Relax at bedtime by listening to soft music or relaxation tapes.
- Have a regular sleep schedule and stick to it.
- Keep noise and lights to a minimum while you're trying to sleep.
- Avoid drinking a lot in the evening and be sure to go to the bathroom before going to bed. (A full bladder can contribute to sleepwalking.)

HOW DO I TAKE CARE OF A SLEEPWALKER?

One thing you can do to help is to clear rooms and hallways of furniture or obstacles a sleepwalker might encounter during the night. If there are stairs or dangerous areas, a grown-up should close doors and windows or install safety gates.

You also might have heard that sleepwalkers can get confused and scared if you startle them into being awake. That's true, so what do you do if you see someone sleepwalking? You should call for a grown-up who can gently steer the person back to bed. And once the sleepwalker is tucked back in bed, it's time for you to get some shut-eye, too!

Reviewed by: Larissa Hirsch, MD Date reviewed: February 2008
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