

SYDNEY HARBOUR

News For The Residents at Sydney Harbour

March 2014 Volume 2, Issue 3

SYDNEY HARBOUR HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION INC. **FORMAL NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

The Association of Sydney Harbour Homeowners Association will hold its Annual Meeting for all members on:

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2014
TIME: 6:00 PM (Sign in at 5:45)
PLACE: Cypress Crossings Christian Church
15751 Cypress Rosehill Road

This meeting will provide information about what your Homeowner's Association is all about, services the organization provides to its members, and how you as a member may get involved. The following Agenda describes the topics that will be discussed at the meeting.

BUSINESS AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Announcement of Quorum
- II. Introductions
- III. 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes
- IV. Election of 2 Directors
 - A. Nominations
 - B. Election of Directors
- V. Neighborhood Development Report
- VI. Financial Report / Directors Report
- VII. Committee Reports
 - A. Advisory Committee
 - B. Landscape Committee
 - C. Events Committee
- VIII. Open Forum
- IX. Adjournment

The By Laws of the association require that at least ten percent (10%) of the members be present to constitute a quorum. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please sign the enclosed proxy and mail or fax it to Sterling Association Services, Inc. no later than 3:00 p.m. on March 10, 2014. Any homeowner interested in placing their name in nomination for election of Director should call Roxanne Martinez at (832) 678-4500 or email roxanne@sterlingasi.com or Janine Cruz at janine@sterlingasi.com by Friday, March 7, 2014 for placement on the ballot. Nominations will also be taken from the floor during the election process.

Only comments and questions regarding the association or its common area will be addressed at this meeting. For questions or concerns regarding your property, account or a letter you received please get with Sterling ASI to discuss at a later date



SYDNEY HARBOUR

SYDNEY HARBOUR EVENTS FOR 2014

Mark your calendars. More details coming soon!

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny
Saturday, April 12th 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Pool Opening/Ice Cream Social
Saturday, May 17th 1:00-3:00 P.M.

Adult Luau
Saturday, August 23rd 7:30-10:30 P.M.

National Night Out
Tuesday, October 7th 7:00-9:00 P.M.

Garage Sale
Saturday, October 18th 8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Christmas Lighting Contest Judging
December 20th ends at 8:00 P.M.

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LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Spring has sprung! Soon we will begin to see the beautiful re-birth of Mother Nature.

The Landscape Committee will be out reviewing the effects of this winter's severe weather damage on our landscaping in the coming months. Hopefully we won't have too much damage and can go forward with some great plans we have for the spring.

Don't get discouraged by a tough winter. Many plants that look dead now will revive with some TLC from you. In light of our recent freezes, here are some landscape plants that may help you to attain a landscape that is attractive and hardy. The secret is: plants that are NATIVE to the area. These plants typically will tolerate droughts and freezes much better than plants that are not native to this part of Texas.

SOME OF THE PLANTS INCLUDE:

Purple Coneflower – a drought tolerant native that is a butterfly magnet! Blooms last about a week. Likes sun to partial shade.

Black-eyed Susan – Coneflower with golden flowers with a black center. The native plant has long lasting, large blooms that are drought tolerant and will tolerate full sun.

Inland Sea Oats – This is an interesting grass for shade areas. Low maintenance and known for its large graceful seed heads and blue-green bamboo like leaves. Good for controlling soil erosion.

Texas Lantana - Large yellow to orange flowers that are attractive to butterflies. Drought and salt tolerant. This Texas native will tolerate full sun.

Red Turks Cap – A native plant of Texas and Mexico to use in shady areas. Red flowers that never fully open to allow stamens to protrude. Flowers resemble a Turkish turban.

Texas Olive – Fast growing native tree with ever-blooming large white flowers. Drought tolerant, once established. Produces purple fruit edible for wildlife. Grows to about 15ft. tall.

Gulf Coast Muhly Grass – A native grass with large airy seed heads that is about half as tall as the entire plant. The spiklets are purple and in the fall turn a feathery pink hue.

Vitex Tree (Chaste Tree) – This hardy small tree will delight in the spring and summer with grape-like clusters of beautiful purple blossoms. This tree is drought tolerant. The plant may freeze with winters like the previous one, but even if cut down to the ground, will usually come back with a vengeance.

Like myself, I know that hard freezes strike fear in all of us with palm trees. I have lost many queen palms and pigmy

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date palms and have learned a painful lesson. These two palms are NOT FREEZE tolerant. The queens may survive if they have been established for several years. The Pigmy dates will not survive unless you can put them in the garage or house.

SOME PALMS THAT ARE MORE FREEZE TOLERANT ARE:

Canary Island Palms – Very hardy and freeze and drought tolerant.

Pindo Palms – Will tolerate freezes well, although are subject to some fungal diseases.

Sylvestri Palms – Hardy once established but require attention to get them started.

Mediterranean Palms – Freeze and drought tolerant once established. Slow growers.

Mexican Fan Palms – Freeze and drought tolerant. Can be over-watered. Steady grower.

Medjool Palms – Freeze tolerant. Require regular watering. Fast growers

The Landscape Committee will again be awarding Yard of the Month starting in April, so let's make those yards stunning. Look for more good things from the Landscape Committee. Together we can make Sydney Harbour the pride of Cypress!

Sydney Harbour Lakes

One of the roles of your association is to ensure that the lakes are maintained, the fountains and falls are functioning, and our lakes are healthy. To this end, we are in contact with our lake maintenance company to ensure our lakes are healthy and beautiful, but we need your help too.

YOU CAN HELP THE HEALTH OF OUR LAKES BY REMEMBERING A FEW POINTS:

Chemicals that we all use on our grass can wash into the lakes, upsetting the chemical balance we're trying to achieve. Please use caution when applying chemicals to your grass areas close to the lakes and the streets.

Everyone loves a clean car, but detergents from washing your car in the neighborhood feed into the streets and therefore into the lakes. Cars that are washed in the driveways or streets pollute our lakes. The soapy water that runs off the car into the gutters goes into the storm water system. Storm water, unlike the water which enters the sewers, does not undergo treatment before it is discharged into our community lakes. Any pollutants in storm water end up in our lakes, rivers, harbors and oceans.

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The waste water that runs off a car when it is washed contains a range of substances that may pollute the environment. These include soaps and detergents, mud, rubber and grease.

If these substances enter the storm water system, they will find their way into our lakes.

Please wash your cars in an area designed to capture and treat the water, not in our neighborhood where the water directly impacts our lakes.

Your help to keep Sydney Harbour a safe and clean environment benefits us all.

**GO GREEN
GO PAPERLESS**

Sign up to get this newsletter in your inbox! Visit peelinc.com for details.

Home Safety



We have compiled a few home safety tips and reminders to help you take a bite out of crime.

- Keep doors and windows closed and locked at all times, including doors that connect from the garage to the home.
- Utilize outside light and motion light detectors around your home.
- Utilize timers to turn lights, radio(s) or television(s) on and off at appropriate times in different areas of your home.
- Verify that your residential alarm system is operational, monitored, and use it anytime you leave your home.
- Leaving newspapers, mail and / or garbage containers out for extended periods will draw unwanted attention.
- Properly lock your unattended vehicles at all times, including in your driveway.
- Do not publicize vacation plans, especially on social networking sites.
- Report all suspicious person(s) and vehicles in the neighborhood. Call 9-1-1.

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Foreign Student Hosting

We are an educational non-profit organization. I am reaching out to the community looking for volunteers! We are asking volunteers to host a foreign student for this coming fall school year. We have about 200 students waiting to find out where they will spend their year in America! The students are 15-18 from over 60 countries.

Your family can learn about a new culture and change a life. The students come with medical insurance, speak English and bring their own spending money for activities and personal items. You are responsible for providing a bed and meals in your home.

They attend the local high school during the school year and ride the bus to and from school. They arrive in late August and leave in June.

Let me know if you or someone you know would be interested in hosting the 2014-2015 school year? Also, if you know anyone who would be interested in hosting, we will give you \$100!

Jennifer Tausworthe
CI Greenheart
Regional Manager
713-203-6556
jtausworthe@ccigreenheart.org
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m19uom2pWd8>

Street Light Outage

Please report any street light outage to Centerpoint. It's very simple. Go to www.centerpointenergy.com/outage to fill in the required information. You will need the 6 digit number located at the base of the light pole and an approximate address/location of the outage. You can also call 713-207-2222.

Repairs can take up to 3 weeks to be repaired but the last one I reported took 1 day. There are no inspections done by the HOA, specific residents, or Centerpoint so it's imperative that all residents participate in reporting these outages.



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WANT YOUR SKIN TO GLOW?

"All Natural" Might Not Be The Way To Go

If you want your skin to glow, experts at Baylor College of Medicine say all natural products might not be the answer.

"Some people think that by going all natural with their skin care, that it will automatically be safer for their skin. That's not necessarily the case," said Dr. Rajani Katta, professor of dermatology at Baylor.

Whether it is cleansers or moisturizers, you can still have allergic reactions to the ingredients even if they are all natural or organic. Many natural ingredients, such as lavender extract or sandalwood oil, are actually types of fragrance additives. Even though these are natural fragrances, they can still cause the same type of allergic reactions. Other natural ingredients, such as tea tree oil, can also trigger allergic reactions.

Since it may be hard to pinpoint exactly what is causing irritation or allergic reactions just by reading labels, Katta suggests consulting a dermatologist.



SHALOM

Hi Jewish Community!

Let's get connected! To share...

- Shabbat dinners
- Chanukah parties
- Passover Seders
- or simply get together!

INTERESTED?

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Management Company
Sterling Association Services, Inc.
 P.O. Box 38113 Houston, TX 77238-8113
 (p) 832.678.4500, (f) 281.598.4487
 www.sterlingasi.com, servicedesk@sterlingasi.com

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Harris County Sheriff 866.222.7100
 Pct 4 Main Dispatch Number 281.376.3472
 Animal Control (Emergency) 281.999.3191
 Poison Control 800.764.7661
 Cy-Fair Volunteer Fire Department 713.466.6161
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LOCAL UTILITY/SERVICE PROVIDERS

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You can choose your electric provider
 Water and Sewer-Eagle Management 281.374.8989
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 Recycle Pickup Monday ONLY
 Gas-CenterPoint Energy 713-.659.2111
 Telephone- AT&T 800.464.7928
You can choose your telephone provider
 Cable-Comcast 713.895.2539
You can choose your cable provider

PUBLIC SERVICES

United States Postal Service 281.373.9125
 16635 Spring Cypress Road
 Metro Park and Ride 713.635.4000

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Methodist Hospital-Willowbrook 281.477.1000
 Cy-Fair Medical Center 281.890.4285
 Memorial Herman Hospital 281.392.1111
 North Cypress Medical Center 281.894.0003

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Cy-Fair ISD Administration 281-897-4000
 10300 Jones Road
 Farney Elementary School 281-373-2850
 14425 Barker Cypress
 Goodson Middle School 281-373-2350
 17333 Huffmeister
 Cy-Woods High School 281-213-1727
 16825 Spring Cypress Road

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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STERLING ASI PERSONNEL

Roxanne Martinez Association Manager
 832.678.4500, roxanne@sterlingasi.com

Janine Cruz Administrative Assistant
 832-678-4500 ext. 205, janine@sterlingasi.com

Lizbeth Garcia Administrative Assistant
 832.678.4500 ext.206, lizbeth@sterlingasi.com

Any concerns or general questions for the association regarding violations, deed restrictions, acc applications, interest in joining a committee, clubhouse/pool rentals and any other questions regarding the property can be directed to Janine.

Sara Schouten Account Representative
 832.678.4500 ext. 215, sschouten@sterlingasi.com

Any accounting related questions, a payoff quote or a transfer fee, or just want to know how much is due on their account will be directed to Sara.

Angela Villegas Pool Card Administrator/Customer Service
 832.678.4500 ext. 224, angela@sterlingasi.com

Should homeowners need a pool card for access to the pool area or have any general questions they can ask for Janine, Lizbeth or Angela.

Along with Janine, Lizbeth, Sara and Angela, we have 6 customer service representatives that are familiar with the Association and area readily available to assist homeowners.

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