

SYDNEY HARBOUR

News For The Residents at Sydney Harbour

April 2014 Volume 2, Issue 4

HOMEOWNERS' ANNUAL MEETING

The annual Homeowners' Meeting was held on March 11 at the Cypress Crossings Christian Church on Cypress Rosehill Road. Approximately 84 people were in attendance. The meeting was led by Sydney Harbour's present Board member, Doug McCullough. The main objective of the meeting was the relinquishing of ownership of the subdivision by the developer, Academy, and its turnover to the residents of Sydney Harbour.

After introductions and the approval of the 2012 & 2013 Annual Meeting minutes, the three candidates running for the Board Of Directors each gave a short talk as to what they planned to accomplish as a board member. The three candidates running were James "JJ" Martin, Mark Christensen, and Matt Cross. All three agreed that the communication between residents and the HOA – Sterling, and the Board must improve. The website at <http://www.sydneyharbourhoa.org> is one method of communication. Another method is the neighborhood e-mail at sydneyharbour2009@yahoo.com. If you do not currently receive community messages, please ensure your e-mail address is sent to Linda Holmes at sydneyharbour2009@yahoo.com. Also, we

all agreed that there must be better service from Sterling or like any other service company, a new company will be employed by Sydney Harbour.

While votes were being counted, a Neighborhood Development Report was given by Roxanne Martinez of Sterling Association Services, Inc. We also held a discussion about the financial reports for the subdivision. These, too, will now be open to the residents for review. The Landscape and Events Committees then gave a short talk on what they had accomplished in 2013 and expected to do in 2014.

After the votes were counted, please allow me to introduce your 1st, new Board of Directors for Sydney Harbour, Doug McCullough, Matt Cross, and Mark Christensen. We look forward to working with the three of them.

The main thought that we left the meeting with is that there has been a significant lack of communication and transparency of the decisions of the Board. The new Board will be working hard to correct this.

The meeting was then adjourned.

BREAKFAST WITH THE EASTER BUNNY

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Spring is here and it's almost Easter Bunny time. Breakfast With The Easter Bunny will be held again this year at the club house for all Sydney Harbour residents. Bring your little ones so they can say "Hi" to the Easter Bunny. There will be food and prizes, so

come one - come all. Bring your cameras. Please RSVP to sydneyharbour2009@yahoo.com. Volunteers are needed!

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 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!

Make a colorful impact.

Call today to reserve this space.



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Cypress-Tomball Democrats Host **EASTER EGG HUNT**

April 12th

The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will host their 3rd Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12th from 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm. This fun event will be held at the D. Bradley McWilliams YMCA at Cypress Creek, 19915 State Highway 249 at Cypresswood, in the outdoor pavilion.

The free activities are open to the public, and include an Easter Egg Hunt for kids under 12, recreational activities, music, prizes, and a visit from the Easter Bunny. Attendees should bring their own baskets and lawn chairs.



For more information, visit the club website at www.cytomdems.com; contact Glenn Etienne at cytomdems@yahoo.com; or “Like” the club on Facebook.

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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SYDNEY HARBOUR

Pool Opening & Ice Cream Social

Saturday, May 17th 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Sydney Harbour's neighborhood pool will open May 17th, a week before Memorial Day weekend. This is being done so everyone can enjoy the pool opening and still have their individual plans for Memorial Day.



The ice cream social will be held from 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. I'm sure it will already be a hot day in Cypress so come out and enjoy the entire day.

Pool registration will be on Saturday, May 17th, from 10:00 am to 12 noon ONLY. Please arrange to come during these hours if you are not yet registered to use the pool. Please bring identification of your home ownership (electric bill, etc). You will need your pool card to swim in the pool and participate in the ice cream social.

The 2014 pool hours will be from 10:00 am – 9:00 pm.



Elisha Roberts Chapter

The wonderful ladies of the Elisha Roberts Chapter, NSDAR, extend an invitation to any female, 18 years or older, who can prove direct lineal descent from someone who either fought in or provided aid during the American Revolution. We are a family oriented group of ladies who promote patriotism, education and historic preservation. Our motto is God, Home and Country. If this sounds like you, please come and join us for a meeting. We meet the third Thursday of each month, September through May, at the Backyard Grill, located at 9453 Jones Road. Our next meeting will be on February 20, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact the chapter Regent, Cheryl Partney at cpart86@comcast.net or by phone at 832-654-0306. We look forward to meeting you.



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SYDNEY HARBOUR



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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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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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PUBLIC SERVICES

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 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

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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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