



The HOME FRONT

June 2014

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Gated Communities Access Control Issues

by Chris E McGoe, CPP, CSP, CAM

PERCEPTION OF SECURITY

More and more people want to reside in gated residential communities. Because of this, gated residential communities and garden apartments across the country are being built at record rates. In the 1970s there were approximately 2000 gated communities nationwide. In the early 2000s, there were over 50,000 gated properties with more being built every year. That equates to about seven million households or 6% of the national total behind walls or fences. About four million of the total is in communities where access is controlled by gates, entry codes, key cards or security guards(1). Gated communities offer some benefits and some drawbacks depending whether you are a resident or in property management. I will discuss both sides of the issue in this article.

All gated and fenced residential communities have several things in common. Gated and fences provide the perception of security, safety, and privacy. In affluent residential neighborhoods, privacy means exclusivity and therefore increased property values. Adding an attractive automatic entry gate system can easily add \$50,000 or more to single family home values within some communities regardless of whether it has any effect on crime.

GATES AS AN AMENITY

Large apartment properties often add gate systems as an amenity to attract new residents. Gated communities are desirable to most prospective residents and to most property managers because they can charge a premium for rent. The main purpose of a gate, on a

low-crime property, is not to deter or prevent crime but to provide the perception of security and exclusivity. Let's face it, everyone wants to feel good about where they live and a gated community is like a private club where access privileges are required. Any real benefits of crime prevention are a plus.

DO GATES REDUCE CRIME?

This is the most common question that is asked. The answer is always a qualified, yes. Fences and working gates definitely reduce unauthorized vehicle and foot traffic on a property especially late at night and early in the morning. For many properties, traffic reduction alone is enough to reduce much of the parking lot and street crime. Note my emphasis on "working" gates. Swinging gates in a volatile community will have problems being operational 24-hours per day due to abuse and vandalism.

Formidable gates and fencing by design, restrict access and therefore provide both a physical and psychological barrier for criminals. Good signage is necessary to announce that this is private property and to post your no trespassing policy. Sure, one can tailgate onto a property behind someone else but this requires effort and exposes the criminal to a potential witness. Criminals want to come onto an apartment property anonymously and blend into the community of strangers. Criminals like quick escape routes and don't want to become trapped behind fences or gates should they be discovered. Many criminals will bypass a gated community for one that is not gated simply because of the restricted access.

PARK LAKES

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

Park Lakes Property Owners Association

RealManage/Agent	(866) 473-2573
SplashPad Texas Onsite Office.....	(281) 441-3557
Recreation Center Onsite Office.....	(281) 441-9955
Gate Attendant.....	(281) 441-1089
Houston National Golf Club	(281) 304-1400

Utilities

Comcast (Customer Service)	(713) 341-1000
Electricity (TXU)	(800) 368-1398
Gas (Centerpoint)	(713) 659-2111
Trash (Republic Waste).....	(281) 446-2030
Water & Sewer (EDP Water District).....	(832) 467-1599
Phone Service (Embarq).....	(877) 213-1053
Electricity (Centerpoint-Report street light outage)	(713) 207-2222
Texas One Call System (Call Before you Dig).....	811

Property Tax Authorities

Harris County Tax.....	(713) 368-2000
Harris MUD #400	(281) 353-9809

Public Services

US Post Office.....	(281) 540-1775
Toll Road EZ Tag.....	(281) 875-3279
Voters/Auto Registration	(713) 368-2000
Drivers License Information.....	(281) 446-3391
Humble Area Chamber	(281) 446-2128

Police & Fire

Emergency	911
Constable/Precinct 4 (24-hr dispatch)	(281) 376-3472
Harris Co. Sheriff's Dept./Prec 4, Dist 2 (24-hr)	(713) 221-6000
Eastex Fire Department.....	(281) 441-2244
Emergency Medical Service	(281) 446-7889
Poison Control.....	(800) 222-1222
Humble Animal Control	(281) 446-2337
Texas DPS.....	(281) 446-3391

Area Hospitals

Renaissance Northeast Surgery	(281) 446-4053
Kingwood Medical Center	(281) 348-8000
Northeast Medical Center Hospital.....	(281) 540-7700
Memorial Hermann Hospital (The Woodlands)	(281) 364-2300

Public Schools

Humble ISD	(281) 641-1000
Park Lakes Elementary (K-6).....	(281) 641-3200
Humble Middle School (7-8)	(281) 641-4000
Summer Creek High School (9-12)	(281) 641-5400

Private Schools

Holy Trinity	(281) 459-4323
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic.....	(281) 446-8535
The Christian School of Kingwood	(281) 359-4929
Humble Christian School.....	(281) 441-1313

BOARD MEMBERS

Linda Houston – Land Tejas – President (Voting Member)
Maurice Jennings - Homeowner- 1st Vice President (Voting Member)parklakesmaurice@gmail.com
Al Brende - Land Tejas – 2nd Vice President (Voting Member)
Rachel Gwin - Land Tejas – Secretary (Voting Member)
Raj Allada - Homeowner – Treasurer (Voting Member)parklakesraj@gmail.com
Kennetha Smith-Tolbert - Homeowner (non-voting member)parklakeskennetha@gmail.com
Shepard Cross -Homeowner (non-voting member)parklakes_srcross@yahoo.com
Sonya Clay-Lewis -Homeowner (non-voting member)parklakessonya@gmail.com
LaShonda Ramdass -Homeowner (non-voting member)parklakesshonda@gmail.com
Thomas Mosa -Homeowner (non-voting member)parklakesthomas@gmail.com

TO CONTACT THE BOARD:

Please address the Board of Directors via your representative,
RealManage:
Customer Service
(866) 473-2573
service@realmanage.com

*You may also contact the board members
directly with the listed emails.*

Splash Pad Hours

Business Office (2nd floor)
Phone: 281-441-3557

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday-10:00 AM until 6:00 PM

Park Lakes Recreation Center Hours

Business office
Phone: 281-441-9955

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Saturday-10:00 AM until 6:00 PM

Fitness Center Hours:

Seven days a week-5:00 AM until 10:00 PM
Please visit our contact this office to register for
amenity and gate access.

New 2014 Annual Vehicle Stickers

Important reminder! All residents in the village and gated sections need to pick up the new vehicle stickers for 2014. Please visit the clubhouse anytime between Tuesday -Saturday from 10 AM to 6 PM. These are annual stickers and new ones will be issued in 2015.

Trash-Important Information

Remember: Unless it is trash pick up day, your trash cans (and any bags of trash) must be hidden from public view. Please do not store your trash cans in front of your garage or on the side of your home. Your neighbors should not and do not want to look out their windows and see your garbage either.

PARK LAKES TRASH PICK UP SCHEDULE

Monday and Thursday

trash containers must be at the curb by 7 AM on Mondays and Thursdays.

Recycle bins are picked up on Mondays.

Note: heavy pick up day-second Monday of each month.

Service provider: Republic Waste-(281) 446-2030

* For trash and curbside recycling service, call (281) 446-2030

FAQ For June

Q: In the past, landscaping and maintenance is not being properly maintained. Trees are not getting pruned, grass not cut regularly, improper edging and weeding. What can I do?

A: We have recently changed the landscapers to Tru Green Landcare. We are keeping a close eye on the progress; and so should you.

Q: Why did the Association renew the golf contract?

A: Land Tejas board members made the decision to renew the contract. It is not in the best interest of the homeowners. The termination of this agreement will commence December 31, 2015.

Q: What can we do about solicitors?

A: Solicitors are not allowed in the gated sections. They are allowed to be in the non-gated section as this area is open to the public. If you happen to observe solicitors in the gated area, please contact security and/or the Humble PD.

Q: I've noticed that trailers and commercial trailers are parked on my street. What can I do?

A: If possible, please take photos and/or obtain the license plate number of the trailer and forward this information to Real Manage.

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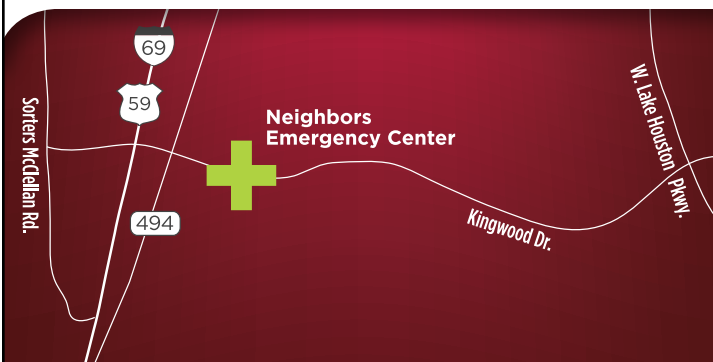
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Yard of the Month Begins July 1st

Yard of the Month awards are just around the corner. We are judging only nominated homes, so email me your favorite Park Lakes front yard! Any home in Park Lakes can be nominated. You can even nominate your own home! Once nominated, your home will be in the running for the next three months.

To nominate a home, please email at parklakesmaurice@gmail.com or parklakesshonda@gmail.com. Please nominate by June 22nd.

We are hosting three Yard of the Month's this year. We'll judge and award in July, August, and September. Prizes are awarded for First place only. Gift cards will be awarded in the amount of \$75. So, if you know of a great front lawn, it's worth taking a second to submit the nomination.

We will judge from the 15th to the 20th of the month, and we will award prizes and place signs on the 1st of that month.

FOR CLARIFICATION, HERE'S AN EXAMPLE FOR THE FIRST MONTH:

- Judge June 22nd to June 29th
- Award July 1st
- Remove signs July 30th and issue awards for the next month on August 1st

Needless to say, have your lawns ready for judging **and your nominations submitted by June 22nd**. Continue submitting yards for awards until August 30th of 2014.

If your neighbor or spouse has worked hard and has a great looking yard, please email at the addresses noted above. Happy landscaping!!!



Meet Your New Board Members

LaShonda Ramdass is a full time Director of Operations in her home, also known as a "Stay At Home Mom." Prior to becoming a wife and mother of 2 dynamic daughters, she worked in the investment industry. She obtained a B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Houston, a MBA from Prairie View A&M University. She is married to the love of her life, Nicholas Ramdass and they are both passionate about family bonding and creating memories for their children.

Prior to moving to the Park Lakes Community, her family resided in Cypress for 6 years. She is committed to creating a safe environment for her loved ones as well as the community.

*You can reach LaShonda via e-mail at:
parklakesshonda@gmail.com*

Kennetha Smith-Tolbert and her husband (Henry) have been together since 1998. The foundation of their love is set upon honor, respect and the ability to effectively communicate. Kennetha has a bachelors in finance and for more than twenty years has worked in the financial services industry. She has developed and managed departments for Quality Control and Auditing purposes. She has managed numerous multi-million dollar commercial accounts, reconciliations, financial reporting and interpreted financial legal documents for Fortune 500 firms across the country. Having served the interest of companies like JP Morgan Chase, GE Capital, Bank of New York Mellon and Wells Fargo.

These are the skills she will bring to bear while serving the homeowners of Canyon Gate at Park Lakes. As a homeowner, she understands the concerns and frustrations her neighbors may have. Her genuine dedication to ensuring the community has clean, well lit streets and that the overall community achieves maximum curb appeal are second to achieving the goal of making sure community assets have the proper care and fiscal management needed.

Kennetha's dedication to her marriage and her career are indicators

that she will provide the same care and concern while performing her role in representing your interest while serving on the board.

*You can reach Kennetha via e-mail at:
parklakeskennetha@gmail.com*

Maurice Jennings and his wife (Kim) of 39 years, parents of three, moved into the community in October 2013. They moved from Northern California, where they had resided for over 27 years, to be closer to their grandchildren.

Maurice is a retired police Sgt. and while in that capacity served in numerous positions: Patrol officer, public information officer, tactical negotiations officer, detective Sgt., Northern District Cmdr., etc. While in the various police capacities, (particularly as the Northern District Commander) he was able to galvanize many in the community to realize that the issues and problems within the community were just not police issues and problems to solve but that the community's involvement was critical and necessary in assisting to eliminate lingering issues.

Maurice has a Masters degree in public administration. Maurice enjoys studying the scriptures, golf, and jogging. Back in March he and his son ran the half marathon in a largely participative event in Beaumont; which is referred to as the "Gusher Marathon." Being that it was his first ever formal running event, Maurice placed near the middle of the pack in his age group.

Maurice has participated in numerous social interactive activities within his former community such as Meals on Wheels, youth mentoring, volleyball, basketball, & softball high school coach, serving on his former city's administrative appeals board, etc. He has a strong desire to assist others in their success and he looks forward to serving within this community.

*You can reach Maurice via e-mail at:
parklakesmaurice@gmail.com*

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A FOCUS ON SUNBURN

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Sunburn is caused from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. While the symptoms (such as red skin that is painful to the touch) are usually temporary, the skin damage is often permanent and can cause serious long-term health effects, including skin cancer, pigmentation and premature aging. In addition to the skin, eyes can get burned from sun exposure; sunburned eyes turn red, dry, and painful, and can feel gritty.

Sunburn results when the amount of exposure to the sun or other ultraviolet light source exceeds the ability of the body's protective pigment, melanin, to protect the skin. Sunburn in a very light-skinned person may occur in less than 15 minutes of midday sun exposure, while a dark skinned person may tolerate the same exposure for hours.

Sunlight contains an invisible form of radiation called ultraviolet (UV) rays. UV A and possibly UV B can harm skin, connective tissue and increase risk for developing skin cancer. Certain drugs such as some blood pressure medication, antibiotics and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs increase sensitivity to sunlight and the risk of getting sunburn.

SYMPTOMS

The first signs of a sunburn may not appear for a few hours. The full effect to your skin may not appear for 24 hours or longer. Possible symptoms include:

- Red, tender skin that is warm to touch. (1st degree burn)
- Blisters that develop hours to days later. (2nd degree burn)
- Severe reactions (sometimes called "sun poisoning"), including fever, chills, nausea, or rash.
- Skin peeling on sunburned areas several days after the sunburn.

FIRST AID

- Try taking a cool bath or shower. Or place wet, cold wash cloths on the burn for 10 to 15 minutes, several times a day. You can mix baking soda in the water to help relieve the pain. Small children may become easily chilled, so keep the water tepid.
- Apply a soothing lotion to the skin.
- Aloe gel is a common household remedy for sunburns. Aloe contains active compounds that help stop pain and inflammation of the skin.
- Over-the-counter steroid cream can also be applied several times a day.
- Over-the-counter pain medication, such as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, including aspirin, may be helpful, and are excellent for reducing burn inflammation whereas Tylenol only reduces pain, not the burn itself.

For more information, check out: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/uvradiation.



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