

# SUMMERWOOD LIFE

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SUMMERWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.

## Winter Alert! Protect your Plants and Irrigation System

### **PROTECT YOUR PLANTS:**

Water your plants thoroughly ahead of time. You need to be sure the roots are wet, not just the leaves. Much of freeze damage is from dehydration. Watering before a freeze could make a big difference in your tropicals and tender perennials.

Cover your tender plants. Remember, you want to be sure the roots are protected, covered, or mulched well. Even if you lose the top growth of these tender plants, if the roots are alive it'll come back in the spring. Don't cover with plastic touching the leaves of your plants. If at all possible, use woven frost protection sheets such



as N-Sulate (which can be folded, stored and reused for many years) or sheets and blankets. In a mild freeze or frost, one blanket will probably do for most plants. If it's a hard freeze (below 30 degrees for any period of time) use a heavy blanket or several layers of sheets. You can even use plastic over that if you want because it won't be touching the foliage. ALSO, don't forget to put rocks or something heavy on the edges of your N-Sulate or blanket to be sure the wind doesn't blow away, exposing the roots of your plant.

Don't do any heavy pruning on freeze-damaged plants until late winter when you think all chance of frost is over.

Remove all of your protective covering if the sun comes out and the temperature goes up, because it can be 32 degrees today and 70 degrees tomorrow.

Along with protecting your tender plants during the winter, remember it's not a good idea to fertilize tender tropicals that are exposed to outside temperatures during these cold months. Fertilizing encourages new growth and that new growth is more vulnerable to freezing and near freezing conditions than old growth. It's ok to fertilize and encourage growth on indoor or green-housed tropicals, although shorter days usually slow down growth no matter how much you fertilize.

### **PROTECT YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM:**

Your backflow prevention device is the most important part of your irrigation system. It's also the most vulnerable part of your system if there is a freeze. It may be located somewhere right outside the garage and next to the foundation. Cover the top/ wrap with a towel the part that is above ground. It is best to turn your valve off.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### MANAGEMENT COMPANY

CIA Services ..... 281-852-1700  
 ..... customercare@ciaservices.com  
 8811 FM 1960 Bypass Road Suite 200, Humble, Texas 77338

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Emergency Situations.....911  
 Constable - Precinct 3 ..... 281-427-4791  
 Houston Fire Station #105 .... 14014 W. Lake Houston Pkwy  
 .....Houston, Texas 77044  
 South Lake Houston EMS (Dispatch)..... 281-459-1277  
 Dead Animal Pick-Up (Precinct 1)..... 281-820-5151  
 Animal Control..... 281-999-3191  
 After Hours..... 281-221-5000

### UTILITY SERVICE NUMBERS

Public Utility Commission Consumer Hotline.. 888-782-8477  
 Entouch Systems ..... 281-225-1000  
 (Telephone, Cable, Alarm Monitoring)  
 AT&T..... 800-288-2020  
 CenterPoint..... 713-659-2111  
 Reliant Energy..... 713-207-7777  
 MMIA (Water District Operator)..... 281-651-1618  
 Garbage Pick-Up (Republic Waste) ..... 281-446-2030

### SCHOOLS

Summerwood Elementary ..... 281-641-3000  
 Lakeshore Elementary ..... 281-641-3500  
 Post Office..... 713-695-2690  
 4206 Little York, Houston, TX 77078

## NEWSLETTER INFO

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## MANAGER'S CORNER

### Dealing with Solicitors

Annoyed by the persistence of solicitors' unwelcome knocks on the door? It seems like no matter what they do, they always manage to show up on your front porch. They come with fliers, door hangers, a rehearsed speech and the distinct ability to ignore the polite decline of the products they're peddling—cleaning supplies, appliances, cosmetics, magazine subscriptions, home-improvement products, coupons for local businesses and other unwanted items—sometimes even making you feel trapped in your own home.

Homeowners associations are particularly easy, frequent targets of commercial, religious and political solicitors; part of the appeal is that population density makes our association an easy environment for them to canvas. Because of this, finding a way to keep solicitors away can be invaluable.

While the community has "No Soliciting" signs at the entrances, you can also help deter solicitors. The best way is by not buying their products. You can also post a small "No Solicitors" sign on your door or in your front window. If you get knocks on the door anyway, DO NOT open the door! If you speak to the solicitors through a window and they tell you they have permission to solicit in Summerwood that would not be truthful!

While a visit from a solicitor is often annoying, they can sometimes be more than just a nuisance; some might have ulterior motives, such as fraud, canvassing a home to commit a crime or other unseemly behavior. If you believe a solicitor is acting suspiciously or if you feel threatened, please immediately call the Precinct 3 Constable Dispatch number- 281-427-4791 to help you avoid a potentially dangerous situation. Hopefully be able to give a description of what they look like, what they are wearing ...or possibly what time of vehicle they are driving.

So stay safe, keep your sanity and do your part in discouraging solicitors from trolling our community. You'll soon hear just how sweet an un-rung doorbell sounds.

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## Valentine's Day Headquarters



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## Summerwood to be site of 5K Charity Walk

Newland Communities, the developer of Summerwood, is hosting the Slam LAM Charity Walk to raise funds on behalf of a longtime Summerwood resident and Newland employee, Kathi Hawn. In early 2014, Kathi was diagnosed with Lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM), a progressive lung disease striking primarily women and which currently has no cure. All funds raised will go directly to the LAM Foundation.

The Slam LAM Walk will be held on Saturday, March 21st at 9am, with pre-walk festivities to begin at 8:30. The Walk will begin and end at Residents Club Central. There will be a light breakfast provided, a DJ and fun things for families of all ages.

Registration for children 12 and under will be \$15 and registration for those above age 12 will be \$25. All registration fees go directly to the LAM Foundation. For more information, call Jennifer Taylor at 713-575-9026. A website with more information, including registration information, will be live within the next few weeks. Look for more details in next month's newsletter. Plan to join us on March 21st and help us Slam LAM and support our friend, Kathi!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

*February 14*

*March 28*

*April 25*

*May 25*

*July 4*

*September 19*

*October 6*

*October 17*

*November 7*

*December 5*

Casino Night

Spring Festival

Spring Garage Sale

Memorial Day Pool Party

Independence Day Parade

Fishing Tournament

National Night Out

Fall Festival

Fall Garage Sale

Winter Festival



*Dates subject to change.*

*Check [www.summerwoodlife.com](http://www.summerwoodlife.com) for more information.*



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## SWE ANNUAL SPRING CARNIVAL & AUCTION

Summerwood Elementary PTO announces that the Annual Spring Carnival & Auction will take place on April 18, 2015, from 11AM to 3PM. Carnival games, booths and rides will be available along with food and other concessions. A Chance Auction will be run throughout the course of the event. The main goals of this event are to provide a family friendly event for the Summerwood neighborhood and its surrounding communities, to increase school spirit and to raise funds to allow for continued support of the PTO's educational/granting programs.

We need your support to make this the biggest and best carnival yet! Any donations received will be used to build a chance at an auction basket. All auction proceeds go directly back into the classroom in the form of educational grants for the students, reading program incentives, and continuing education grants for teachers. If you are interested in sponsoring the carnival, please contact Mindy Foti at [sweptocarnival@gmail.com](mailto:sweptocarnival@gmail.com).

## The Senior Spotlight Shines on Lauren McMiller

Lauren McMiller is the current Summer Creek High School senior class president and is a varsity cheerleader. She has lived in Summerwood on Covenant Springs Court with her parents Dexter and Neatra and her brother Blake for the past 12 years. She is a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Council where she serves as the Pride and Patriotism Chairman.

Lauren has a passion for serving others and has donated over 1000 hours of her time volunteering at various community sites and events. This includes feeding the homeless downtown and tutoring students at Summerwood Elem. Last year, Lauren was one of sixty high school students from Humble ISD who participated in a homeless assimilation in Waco, Texas. Lauren spent two days living as a homeless individual including eating in shelters and sleeping on the street.

She has been accepted to UT Austin, Texas Tech and University of Houston. She plans to pursue a career as a labor and delivery nurse.



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## Summerwood Book Club Invites YOU!

Come check out the Summerwood Book Club! We read one book per month and then discuss the book at our monthly meetings. Each member of the club may suggest an upcoming book to read. Even if you do not completely finish reading the book for that month, we'd love to have your input. We meet the last Thursday of each month, so come join your Summerwood neighbors who love to read!

For more information, please e-mail Tina Brown @tinalavedabrown@yahoo.com



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## Photo of the Month

The Presley family of Albany Springs Lane moved to Summerwood their son's senior year in high school. They took his senior portraits at Lake Meredith. At first the process was difficult-making the move, making new friends, graduation party plans, etc., but happily now the family feels very much at home in Summerwood.

### PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Have you recently taken a great photo of your family enjoying the outdoors in Summerwood? Maybe you have taken a photo of one of our amenities or perhaps a particular landscaped area that you enjoy? We'd love to publish a favorite Summerwood photo! Please email it to: [summerwood.newsletter@gmail.com](mailto:summerwood.newsletter@gmail.com) and include your name and address along with a short paragraph about why the photo is your favorite. The winner will have his/her photo in next month's newsletter!

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## Precinct 3 Constable Deputies now Patrol Summerwood

DISPATCH NUMBER- 281-427-4791

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU MAKE YOUR ALARM COMPANY AWARE OF THIS CHANGE AND THAT RESIDENTS BEGIN USING THIS NUMBER WHEN REPORTING CONCERNS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

The Precinct 3 Constable's Office promises to work to foster a partnership with residents to build a line of open communication and an increased visible presence in the community. They have given assurance that residents can expect prompt dispatching and shorter response times for calls. Precinct 3 Constables can be reached at 281-427-4791!

You are urged to update your alarm company to change the law enforcement contact number for your security alarm calls to the above number. All 911 emergency calls will continue to be directed to Houston's emergency dispatch center. Alarm permits will continue to be issued through the City of Houston.

## SCHS Students Celebrate Christmas by Giving

Summer Creek High School students and teachers adopted over 75 kids for the Christmas season and donated more than \$600 dollars in gift cards as well as 10 bikes and of course a lot of gifts.

Throughout the district Humble ISD children wrote letters to Santa and this helped teachers identify families that needed help for Christmas. Students from SCHS participated in collecting gifts, toys, gift cards and also cash that was used to purchase more gifts. They wrapped all the gifts and delivered them to North Belt Elementary, where the families picked up the gifts. Over 350 area families also received meat, fresh produce and canned foods from the Houston Food Bank.



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## LAKE HOUSTON **LADIES CLUB**

### FEBRUARY MEETING AND LUNCHEON INFORMATION

Lake Houston Ladies Club will have their meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest, Humble, TX 77346.

A Mardi Gras Cabaret is planned, featuring music from The Great American Songbook, Creole, Zydeco and New Orleans. Lake Houston Ladies Club is a social organization that welcomes new members from all surrounding areas. Several Interest groups are available which include: Readers Choice, Bridge, Bunco, Tea Time, Lunch and Look, Movie Group, Supper Club, Mah Jongg, and Girl's Night Out. Please join us. New members are always welcome. Call Carol at 832-671-4475 for more information about the club and for luncheon reservations call by Friday, February 13th before 5:00 p.m.



## LADIES BUNCO

Summerwood ladies are invited to join the monthly Bunco game night on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM at the central clubhouse. Don't know how to play? No worry! You can learn to play the game in just a few minutes. Come and visit with Summerwood neighbors and make lasting friends.

Bring \$11 for the kitty, a snack to share, and a water or soft drink for yourself. For more information contact Crystal Doherty at [cddboss@yahoo.com](mailto:cddboss@yahoo.com).

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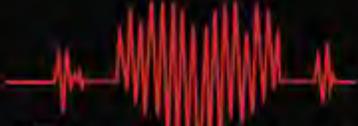
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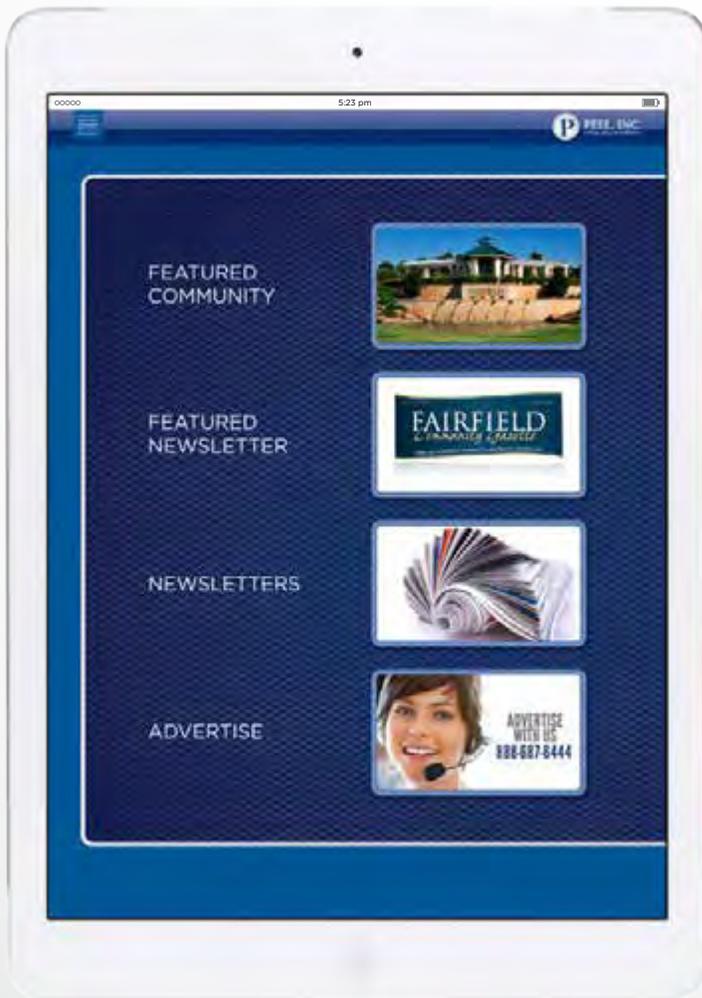
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## 2015 HOUSING PREDICTIONS

If you've been watching the news, or work in the oil and gas industry, you may have some concerns over the price of oil and how this will impact jobs, the value of your home, and overall economy. Though I agree it's smart to pay close attention to the market and follow the news, it's also important to remember that not all stories are true. The media loves "bad news" as it attracts readers and listeners alike. Fortunately there are two sides to every story. Industry experts are predicting yet another fantastic year in Real Estate. Following are a few of the key drivers for a successful 2015.

**Employment:** The nation's employment rate continues to improve. Employment grew on an average of 2% the final quarter of 2014. This growth represents the strongest increase over a 3 month period since March of 2006.

**Millennials:** Young professionals are having great success entering the job market. While job growth increased by 2%, job growth amongst millennials grew by 3%. Experts predict these Millennials will drive two-thirds of household formations over the next several years.

**Houston:** Arguably we live in the strongest city and state in the country. As of October 2014, the Houston metro area had more residential construction that all but two states. Though lower oil

prices will negatively impact our energy sector, Houston continues to experience a demographic growth to sustain it.

**Drop in oil prices could benefit housing:** What? I know this goes against what you've likely heard in the news. According to industry giant CoreLogic, households in the U.S. spend more than \$1,800 annually on energy related costs. 22% of that energy is due to residential real estate. Lowered energy costs at the pump as well as in the home make housing more affordable than ever.

**Interest rates remain low:** Interest rates in January of this year hit a 1.5 year low. Rates have been dipping below 4 percent, lowering the borrowing costs of home buyers. Though these rates will likely see a steady increase over the next 12 months, they remain incredibly low, providing buyers greater incentive to buy your home.

While housing demand remains high and interest rates remain low, now is a great time to either refinance or sell your home. With years of experience in Real Estate, The Tracy Montgomery Team is perfectly positioned to continue to help you with all of your Real Estate needs. If you're in the market to buy or sell call the Tracy Montgomery Team. Our experienced, award winning team will ensure you have a wonderful experience.

### THE Tracy Montgomery TEAM



**Lisa Hughes**  
Cell: 281.323.5894

**Tracy Montgomery**  
Cell: 713.825.5905

**Sandy Brabham**  
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