

Ivy Point, Pinehurst, Club Point, Golf Villas, The Shores, The Pines and Estates of Pinehurst

December 2015

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 5, Issue 12

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

The ACIA Board of Trustees want to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Christmas is that time when families get together for good times, good food, share presents and maybe a party or two. ACIA hopes everyone makes the best use of this time for creating all those special memories that you will have for a lifetime. To ensure that you have those exceptional great memories, please Do Not Drink and Drive. Use a designated driver who does not drink for your Christmas Celebrations, or call a cab. As free rides are announced in the Humble/Atascocita/Kingwood areas we will try to post them on the ACIA website: aciahomeowners.org. If you have not signed up for this awesome tool, please do. Fewer than half of the residents of ACIA are signed up for this site.

It is anticipated that AAA will continue the Tipsy Tow Program again this year. They started this New Year's Eve program a few years ago. It tentatively will be from 6 p.m. December 31 to 6 a.m. January 1, 2016. The service provides a free tow up to 10 miles from the point of pickup (beyond 10 miles is customers cost). You do not have to be an AAA member to participate. If you need to request a Tipsy Tow call (800) AAA-HELP (222-4357).

Please make this a safe time with only good and precious memories for your best Christmas Season ever.

ACIA Trustees



Christmas Yard Decorating Contest

The ACIA, in collaboration with the Atascocita Garden Club, announced a Christmas Yard Decorating contest last month. Any resident can nominate a yard within the ACIA boundaries. The Atascocita Garden Club will choose the winner/winners and the winners' yards will be featured in the January 2016 newsletter and on the ACIA website. The Atascocita Garden Club will judge yards the week of December 1. Please have your outside lights on by dark if you wish to participate. Submit your nominations by email to Tammy Broussard with the Atascocita Garden Club @Trbrouss@ embarqmail.com or to any ACIA Trustee.

LAKE HOUSTON LADIES CLUB DECEMBER MEETING

Lake Houston Ladies Club will have their meeting and luncheon on Tuesday, December 15, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Walden Country Club, 18100 Walden Forest, Humble TX 77346. Ivory Touch performers, Diana and Steve Warner, will be providing wonderful Christmas selections. If you wish, wear Christmas Pajamas and you could win a prize. The categories are funniest, most creative, and prettiest. 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, Lunch and Look, Tea Time, Movie Group, Supper Club, Mah Jongg, and Girl's Night Out. Please join us. New members are always welcome. Reservations need to be made by Friday, December 4, 2015. For more information about the club and for luncheon reservations go to http://www.lakehoustonladiesclub.com/ or call Linda at 832-379-3009.

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EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emerg	ency 9-1-1
P-4 Constable Dispatch	
Humble ISD Police (Schools)	
Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)	
Non-Emergency Number	
Harris County Animal Control	
Texas Poison Control Center	800-222-1222

UTILITIES

Electric, (multiple providers)	www.powertochoose.org
Power Outages	
Street Light Outages	
Gas, Centerpoint Energy	
Gas Leaks	
Water, Severn Trent	
24 Hour Emergency Number	
Telephone, Centurylink	
Trash, Waste Management	
Humble Post Office	
Harris County MUD #132	www.hcmud132.com
Harris County MUD #151	www.hcmud151.org

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD	
Website	www.humble.k12.tx.us
Pine Forest Elementary	
Maplebrook Elementary	
Atascocita Middle School	
Atascocita High School	

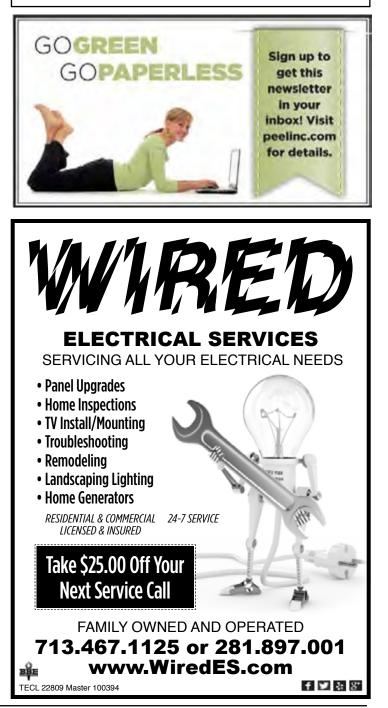
NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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Make a Difference in Your Family

The holiday season is generally a time of family get-togethers, increased community service and an overall joyful experience as we share this wonderful time with family and friends.

But did you know that you can make the spirit of the holiday season last all year? How you ask? By opening your heart and your home to an International Exchange Student!

Host families reap the benefits of opening their home by sharing their America. When they share with their exchange student, they are also able to see America with fresh eyes through the student. Families often learn new things about the U.S. and have different perspectives after hosting. The experiences and memories that are shared during the program last a lifetime and span international borders.

Make a difference in the life of a student and in your family! If your family enjoys exploring new cultures and nurturing youth, please contact us to request more information about this amazing opportunity to share your life with a special young person and to learn how you can make a difference. The application process for the 2016/2017 school year has begun; it is recommended to start now as available schools spots fill up early.

Ayusa is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to promote global learning and leadership through foreign exchange, study abroad, and leadership programs for high school students from the U.S. and around the world.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact your local representative Vicki Odom at 832.455.7881 or vodom@ayusa.org or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

A MESSAGE OF HOLIDAY CHEER

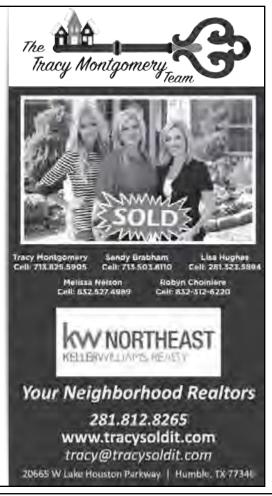
One of the key principles of accomplishing anything is Consistency. Do almost anything with enough consistency and you'll eventually get the desired outcome.

As I closely monitor the economic conditions of our city and nation, it is clear that the media is squarely focused on convincing us of how bad things are. As I speak with friends and clients I can see the impact this consistently poor messaging is having on us. Allow me to change that today.

Real Estate reports can be a window into the heart of a community's economic state. Inventory is low and buyer demand remains high. This has contributed to the consistent home value increases we've seen. Interest rates continue to remain low with 30 year mortgages below 4%. Though oil and gas continues to struggle, investors in other markets continue to spend and grow our city. Home construction continues to expand in Houston as other industries and their investors continue to spend millions on new growth opportunities, bringing jobs and families to our market. Don't buy into the hype of a failing market.

If you're in the market to buy or sell give the Tracy Montgomery Team a call. An experienced, licensed Realtor, will help you consider all the pro's and con's of making the move today. There's no pressure. We know how big the decision is and will ensure you have all the facts you need to make this all important decision.

We would like to once again thank everyone for your support and referrals in 2015 which has allowed us to continue to invest in the community. We wish you and your family Happy Holidays and a Very Happy New Year.



Social Media the Double Edged Sword

Editorial from the ACIA President.

Social media can be used to share news, hobbies, and opinions, both good and bad. When some choose to use it for smear campaigns, the truth usually gets lost in translation. Those who hide behind Avatars (fictional anonymous name or handle), attempt to confuse facts about information and people. If they are honestly confusing the facts, they should investigate further before spreading that confusion. If they know they are sharing incorrect and untrue information to further their own agenda, they are bullies and cowards, in my opinion. This will ultimately hurt the entire community. One person created an account to post a picture of a homeowner's home with an unfinished paint job. This picture went viral, resulting in verbal abuse, unfounded accusations and overall community discord. Avatars created in 15 minutes foddered allegations against the homeowners and your HOA. Your Board of Trustees was tried and convicted of wrong doing based on assumptions. They were very wrong and it wasn't so funny in the end, after damage was done. These same volunteers spend countless hours trying to keep our community well run, from the business side to beautification, all while staying within a budget. As a volunteer to this community, I have endured countless and never ending bashing on social media. Called out by name, with no recourse but to battle an Avatar I could name, but choose not to on Social Media.

I choose not to discuss ACIA business on a public chat site, where it does not need to be. I feel that it would be compromising our sense of community in the ACIA area. These same Avatars come to the meetings and ask redundant questions from last year and years before, taking up valuable time and resources. Time and resources that should be used to improve and advance present and future ACIA business. They use Social Media to bundle statements that make it sound like the 2015 BOT volunteers are guilty of wrongdoing, when the opposite is true.

Without fear, they bundle actions taken by a combination of past boards. They ;ump all on the current BOT. They post gossip and untruths on public forum; bashing the ACIA Community and spreading their disease like wildfire.

Members of the ACIA Community, I am an honest and hardworking volunteer. It is time to step forward and say enough is enough. This virus has the potential of harming our beautiful community and retarding our growth. Members, if you have questions about YOUR ACIA Community, email any of the trustees or contact any of those on the website for answers. Names and e-mail addresses are also listed on page 2 of this ACIA Happenings Newsletter. Do yourself a favor. Don't trust someone who hides behind a keyboard.

Very sincerely, Ric Halbrook President ACIA

Your Community Newsletter and ACIA Web

The Atascocita Happenings Newsletter is a great tool for the community and the ACIA Board to share information. This publication will grow if everyone participates. If you are involved in a community club or activity, please e-mail information about your activities and meeting for inclusion in the newsletter to sueboazraymond@comcast.net. If you have any ideas for the newsletter, please let us know and we will try to incorporate them into the publication. The deadline for submission is the 8th day of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

This newsletter is also available online. Do you have an iPhone? If so, please download the Peel, Inc. iPhone app (https://itunes.apple. com/us/app/peel-inc./id866041578?mt=8). Once downloaded, find your community and subscribe to your newsletter.

Please also sign up for your ACIA website @ aciahomeowners. org. Currently there are 933 residents signed up of the 2,496 total homeowners. Everything residents need is on this site. Updated information is posted very often. All the forms and contact information is there at the click of a button or two. ALL RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SIGN IN @ ACIAHOMEOWNERS. ORG TO BE KEPT IN THE LOOP FOR ALL ACIA NEWS AND E-BLASTS



Description: The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

Roles: Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

Skills: Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

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ACIA HAPPENINGS Illegal Drains

Photos with Santa!

Photos with Santa returns to Vintage Park Shopping Village Saturdays Beginning on Nov. 28 Holiday Season Kicks Off with Visits from Santa and Keepsake Photos HOUSTON – Nov. 3, 2015 – Vintage Park Shopping Village is offering keepsake photos with Santa. Santa will be at the park every Saturday beginning November 28 until Christmas.

Photos sessions will be available in the lobby of Building K at the park from 1-5 pm beginning Nov 28 and subsequent Saturday afternoons, Dec. 5, Dec. 12, and Dec. 19. Building K is located directly across from the management offices

About Vintage Park Shopping Village Vintage Park Shopping Village is Northwest Houston's premier destination for business, shopping, dining and entertainment. Vintage Park is a visual transport to an Italian shopping promenade, with the Piazza, a nearly one acre pedestrian area, as the heart of the center. The Piazza features a series of fountains and beautiful landscaping that can be enjoyed by diners from one of the many venues that overlook the area. Where else can you find award-winning restaurants; world-class healthcare; unique entertainment options and a variety of boutiques and shops available in one location? There's always something happening at Vintage Park; 110 Vintage Park Blvd. (Located at Hwy 249 at Louetta Rd) Visit vintageparkhouston.com

A representative from Precinct 2 has scrutinized our area and noticed the numerous drain lines cut into the curbing that drain water into the streets. Discharging drain water into the streets is illegal unless the homeowner has obtained a Harris County permit and paid a \$5000 bond. Precinct 2 will not pursue enforcement at this time; however, this is a major concern. Cutting into the curb causes substantial damage to the curbing which can further deteriorate with time. Large chunks of concrete curbing have been noticed falling away from the curb and migrating into the street. These concrete chunks can be a serious driving hazard. If residents install drain lines, a Pop-up Drain Emitter is recommended. The pop-up drain emitter allows water to be diverted and released to water-safe areas away from structures, erosion-prone landscapes, and poor drainage areas. The special design allows the emitter to open with a negligible amount of pressure. Since the emitter is closed during dry weather, debris can't enter the drain pipes. The pop-up emitter is opened by the hydrostatic pressure of water flowing through the drain pipe and as the flow diminishes the emitter closes. The Pop-up Drain Emitter is available from local home improvement stores.



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ACIA Happenings - December 2015 5

We Want a "Waste-Free" Community!

It doesn't take much to remember that we have pets in our community. In fact, if you don't watch your step, you just might step in one such reminder!

Besides being unsightly and smelly, animal waste can be hazardous to the health of our children who play in the community and other pets. One of the most common problems of disease transmission between dogs is through fecal matter.

When walking your dogs in the ACIA community, remember that they should be leashed. It's the law!

Also, it is important to remember to immediately clean up after your pet. Take along a baggie to pick up the waste and then dispose of it properly. Bags are provided at both of the ACIA Parks. Please take a few simple steps to clean up after your pet. You also contribute to the beautification of this community. This helps to eliminate one of the most irritating nuisances in our community. Some go a step further and actually take along a trash bag to pick up pieces of trash as they enjoy their walk.

The gully areas also provide a great place to walk your pets. The Flood Control District mows these areas four times per year. Some of the neighbors also keep the area behind their homes mowed on a regular basis. Yes, dogs must be leashed at all times when they are out of your back yards (even at the parks and gullies).

Thanks to all who did a great job in keeping leaves, pine needles, etc bagged for trash pickup and kept the drainages clear during the October/November heavy rains. No flooding was reported in the ACIA area and it was noted that water flowed quickly and properly to these drains.

Thank you for your cooperation!



A four-year-old may ask constant "why" questions to understand the world.

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Don't Dump On ACIA

The ACIA must expend considerable funds paying contractors to pick up and dispose of green waste (dead tree branches) that were dumped on common areas. Dumping of green waste has also happened on the petroleum pipeline running through the sections located on the south side of FM 1960. Dumping degrades the environment, is an eyesore, and is difficult to clean up. We should all take our obligation to protect the neighborhood environment very seriously.

The trash contractor, Waste Management, will pick up branches that are bundled and less than 4 feet in length. Local business, Dirt Cheap Mulch, will accept branches of any length for a small fee. Costs for all services are continuously rising. Please help keep our neighborhood attractive and clean.

Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club Free Registration Breakfast

The Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club will celebrate its 29th Anniversary Season by hosting its annual free Registration/ Orientation Breakfast on Saturday, February 6th, 2016. The breakfast starts promptly at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

In July, 2015 the club had one of its most successful competitions ever at the Junior Olympics in Jacksonville, Florida. All boys and girls who wish to join the team for the 2016 spring/summer track season must attend the orientation, which will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic organization (USATF).

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track club, affiliated with USATF, that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus and javelin.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at http://www.northwestflyers.org; contact Linette Roach at linette.roach@sbcglobal.net; or "Like" the club on Facebook.



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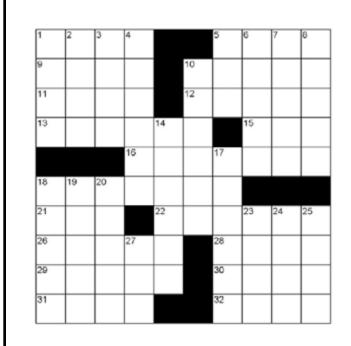
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

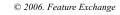


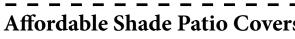
ACROSS 1. Catch in nylons

- 5. Speed 9. Station 10. Scoop out 11. Healing plant 12. Colder 13. Geneve 15. Consume 16. Collective Israeli farm 18. Chewbacca's partner (2 wds.)
- 21. Card game
- 22. Legume
- 26. Coding system
- 28. Portend
- 29. Induct
- 30. Look
- 31. Loch monster
- 32. Opp. of yeses

- DOWN
- 1. Male deer 2. Large African river 3. Long time 4. Mediterranean island dwellers 5. IBM Competitor 6. Adios 7. Sports shoe projection 8. Hz 10. Apt 14. Purplish color 17. Candy 18. Woman 19. Negative battery terminal 20. Averages 23. African nation 24. Bored 25. Dregs
- 27. Bro.'s sibling

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Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at: Peel, Inc. - Kids Club 308 Meadowlark St Lakeway, TX 78734-4717 We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc. DUE: December 31st

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name:

 (first name, last initial)

.....









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TEAM WORK...Whoever said "Many hands make light work" really understood a team work concept. Each member of my team (including you) will have specific duties towards our common goal to ensure the strength and endurance needed to get this transaction closed.



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