

STONE FOREST

Flyer

February 2016

Volume 6, Issue 2

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Hello neighbors,

Last evening during the January SFHOA Board meeting, it was brought to our attention that there have been several car burglaries recently. Please remember to lock your cars and do not leave anything of value inside that will tempt someone to brake in. I know that many of you do not have room in your garage to park your car, so please take extra precautions and leave an outside light on for deterrence.

During last night's meeting the board approved the installation of new beds and greenery along the new sidewalks on Edgewood Place. These new beds may already be in place as you read this, so please let us know what you think and if there could be somewhere else that could use a little sprucing up.

Also, if not by now, then shortly we will be repainting the curb numbers throughout the subdivision. And the park benches and table will be refinished within the next couple of months.

The next Board meeting will be March 16th, at 6:00 pm at Chaparral Management on Louetta near the library.

Tod Bisch
Board President



TIPS FOR KEEPING WARM

1. If it feels slightly chilly in your home, make sure all your windows, doors, garage doors and fireplace are closed and tightly sealed. Take a small blanket or towel, roll it up and wedge along the bottom of the door.

2. Close the blinds! It doesn't sound like much but it really helps keep the place warm.

3. You better make sure those pipes don't freeze by leaving a steady stream of water running throughout the night. If the water is only trickling out, there's a good chance there won't be enough pressure to keep the pipes from freezing!

4. Leave the cabinet doors under your sinks open. This will allow more warm air to circulate and reach the pipes below, which prevents freezing as well as de-thawing frozen pipes!

5. Turn off any unnecessary appliances or lights in rooms you're not occupying.

6. Layer, Layer, Layer! It's not about having the thickest jacket or what type of material it's made from, it's about layering. Wear gloves, even if you think you won't need them.

7. Don't forget your four-legged children! If it's too cold out for you, it's too cold out for them! Please make sure and bring all your pets indoors!

8. Drink something hot on your way to work or school.

9. Use God's gift to mankind, disposable hand warmers. You can put them in in your pockets, your gloves, even your shoes to give your toes a little extra warmth. Make sure to buy these in bulk, because they last for about ten to fifteen minutes.

10. While lighting up a fireplace, whether it's gas or wood, can make a room look warm and cozy, the flames don't generate enough radiant heat to warm up a room because the heat simply goes up and out of the chimney. Closing the damper when a fireplace is not in use is very important.

11. Try to keep something cooking in the home, this will provide extra heat, especially if you are cooking soups, chilies, or hot beverages to drink.

12. Heating blankets, fleece throws, down comforters and flannel sheets are all good bedding items to invest in to avoid cranking the heat at night.

13. The elderly or disabled should ask family, friends, or neighbors to visit once or twice daily.

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

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Interested in adoption for your family? The Adoption Collaborative of Central Texas is made up of organizations that are adoption focused and committed to raising awareness about the children in our communities that are awaiting families. The collaborative is driven by the mission of sharing the responsibility to strengthen the adoption community and build forever families. You can work with these agencies to become licensed to foster and/or certified to adopt. There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system regardless of which agency you work with. There is only one pool of children, and they are all in care of the state, every licensed agency has the ability to assist in adoption of any foster child in Texas. Child placing agencies are also foster care providers. The first step is to choose a child placing agency to begin your journey.

Learn more about starting the adoption process and the children waiting for forever families at www.heartgallerytexas.com.

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Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club

Please join us for the Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 beginning with the social at 6:30 PM where light snacks and drinks are served, followed by the meeting at 7:00. Meetings are held at the Houston Distributing Company, 7100 High Life Drive, conveniently located near Willowbrook Mall at the intersection of High Life Drive and Cutten Road. Our guest speaker will be Porter S. Garner III, President, Association of Former Students. We will also hear

from several student run organizations who wish to present their organizations in hopes we will help fund their activities.

SAVE THE DATE!

Don't miss the Annual China Luncheon and Style Show on Saturday, February 20, 2016 from 10:30 a.m.

to 1:30 p.m. at Shirley Acres located at 217 Woerner Rd., Spring, Texas. Get your ticket(s) at the meetings or visit our website. For more information contact Tami Denault at tamidenault@sbcglobal.net.

The Northwest Harris County Aggie Mom's Club meets August thru May on the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 pm at 7100 High Life Drive. Refreshments are served at 6:30 with meeting beginning at 7:00. For more information on monthly speakers or upcoming events visit our website at www.nwhcaggiemoms.org or contact Patty Rabel, Club President at rabelpp@aol.com.

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Kids' Track Team Season Starts February 15

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is now registering new and returning athletes for the 2016 spring and summer track season. All athletes new to the sport who are not on school track teams must pass a fitness test at their first practice in order to join the team. Practices are held on Mondays and Thursdays at Cypress Creek High School track, 9815 Grant Rd., Houston.

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

The club was founded 29 years ago by local Olympic gold medalist Fred Newhouse to foster the development of youth track & field in the northwest Houston area. Those who missed the mandatory orientation on February 6 may register online at www.northwestflyers.org. Contact the club at linette.roach@sbcglobal.net or 281-587-8442.



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TOP THREE TIPS TO BE REMEMBERED IN ANY SITUATION

Rule Number One: Must Have Clean Humor

Networking. This will either sound exciting to you or send a shudder up your spine. Whether you are a spouse wondering what in the world you are going to talk about at the next office get together outside of business or wondering how you can stand out in the crowd of other entrepreneurs, here are Rules to Successful Networking that may help smooth your nerves.

Nothing says stay away from me faster than a bad, tasteless joke, or worse, to have someone remember you for the wrong reasons. It is hard to find clean jokes to make everyone smile and for certain have someone else remember you as they repeat a clean joke when they get home or at the office the next day to get a few laughs.

So when "Want to hear a dirty joke?" has everyone leaning in.... say, "Actually, I do have one (Dramatic pause or have everyone lean in....) "White horse.....fell in the mud.....and got dirty! Argh. Argh. Say "Oh yes, you are groaning, but I'll bet you'll find yourself repeating it somewhere down the line!"

Laugh or Groan. Hey, someone will fall for this joke. Okay, Okay, you'll just have to know your audience, but when it was my job a long time ago to find good, clean jokes I really, really found out how hard it was to FIND a good, clean joke. At networking events, you'll have only a few minutes and all heads turn when you hear laughter, right? Here is one that I bet you'll repeat at least once!

Best Clean Joke

The local sheriff was looking for a deputy, so a young woman (or gentleman), went in to try out for the job. "Okay," the sheriff drawled. "What is 1 and 1?"

"Eleven," she/he replied. The sheriff thought to himself, "That's not what I meant, but that is right."

"What two days of the week start with the letter "T"?"

"Today and tomorrow."

He was again surprised that the young woman/man supplied a correct answer that he had never thought of himself.

"Now, listen carefully: Who killed Abraham Lincoln?"

The young woman (or gentleman) looked a little surprised herself/himself, then thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted, "I don't know."

"Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?"

So, the young woman (or gentleman) excitedly met with her/his friends, and they just couldn't wait to hear the results of the interview.

The young woman (or gentleman) was excited beyond belief. "It went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

At least start the chuckling yourself. Go ahead be bold and say a joke anyway. A clean joke.

Second Best Clean Joke ...

A jock and a geek were applying for the same job. The boss said, "Boys, you need to take a test before you can get this job."

So they took the test and the next day they came back to see who the boss chose. "Well, he said, "Both of you got the same score except I'm going to choose the geek."

The jock complained, "Don't you think that's unfair?"

"Well," the boss said, "Let me tell you what happened. Both of your papers were right all the way through until the last question came up, and the geek answered, "I don't know," and then when I looked at your paper, you answered,

"Me either!"

When the chuckling subsides, say "I only have two jokes". I am always looking for another one to trade up, has anyone heard something funny lately?

Rule Number Two: Be Interesting

To be remembered as someone who IS interesting, you'll have to BE interested in other people. Yes, it pays to have something to add to the conversation, and you'll be forearmed after reading the rules of Networking above. Have a few questions ready in case there is a pause in the conversation.

What keeps you occupied outside of your business? This question will help you gain common ground or something interesting to write about in your follow up note.

Have you seen any good movies lately? Did you see? See, this is where you will sound interesting.

That was terrible aboutDid you see it on the news this morning?

What are your thoughts on ?

Getting other people to talk about themselves and their interests ultimately makes you more interesting.

Your mission: look in the newspaper, look at your local networking clubs and go make some new clients, friends or even dates! You don't have to be a Toastmaster to feel comfortable in new environments.

Oh, a Bonus Rule. Keep your nails nice. Keep your nails nice. Whether handing your business card over to your next big client or holding a drink (preferably soda), you'll be sending a message that you think about yourself as much as you'll care about them as an account.

Rule Number Three: Remember Names

Actually, Rule Number Three: Remember Names should be Rule Number One. Remembering names is crucial. Asking for a business card. Ask how they spell it. Except for the easy, easy names. Try "Is that Linda with an "i" or a "y"? Making up a rhyme, word association, movie association, actor association. Be deliberate and really slow to repeat their names in your head or at least in re-working the introduction. "My pleasure to meet you, Linda". You'll already be thinking of your next question, so please think slowly on remembering someone's name. As crazy as it sounds, try saying "Linda, Linda, Banana Fanna Bo Binda Fee Fi Bo Binda, Linda" (ahem, in your head, please). Anything works. ; You'll surely brighten someone's day and impress them with your Savant-mindedness. Don't use this if you wind up saying "My pleasure to meet you, Binda"? or worse "Bimba".

Linda Bates is a Freelance Writer who has been writing and volunteering in the Houston area community since BEFORE the word "Apple" actually meant fruit.

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