



January / March 2009

CLEAR LAKE CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATOR

Inside This Month!

PAGE 2

Recreation, 2009

Get in Shape for New Year

PAGE 3

Brand New Year

Community Programs

PAGE 4

Thank You, After Ike

Heavy Trash Collection

PAGE 5

Parking Tickets

Keep Children Safe

PAGE 6

Pool Reminders

Local Recycling Centers

PAGE 7

Pool Reminders CONTINUED

Important Phone Numbers

visit us at

www.clcca.org

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

by a CLCCA Resident

It's the roof over our heads, a place for shelter and repose, a haven for introspection, and for memories of all kinds. Our home is our largest fixed asset, and, for most of us, a reward for many years of hard work, sacrifice and commitment.

Therefore, all of us should regard the upkeep, maintenance, and appearance of our homes and neighborhoods as a necessary collective endeavor for protecting and further enhancing the appeal and the quality of life of our community, and the market value of our properties.

If there ever was a right time to heed this kind of advice, it is certainly now. It is particularly fitting during these trying economic times, where hanging on to what's dear and valuable to us, is decidedly in our best interest. But in order to accomplish this we must expand our concerns and contributions beyond our homestead, and embrace the community-at-large. In a block-by-block microcosm, the value of anyone's home is greatly affected by the upkeep and appearance of all the other homes on your block. It is an effort by the many. Neglectful residents and in-absentia landlords are definite drawbacks who should be referred to the Homeowners Association, the City of Houston, or both.

While the narrow interpretation of home ownership describes someone who keeps a neat and orderly "indoors," it should not stop at our front doorstep. But too often it does. Maybe we also keep our yards in good order; that's commendable as well, but is that enough? Well yes and no. Yes, it is enough, but only if we lived on an island. There is much out there that needs our collective attention and monitoring, be it some litter right across your own street, a toppled traffic sign 10 blocks from your home, or a debris choked storm drain at the end of your block. The most successful communities are those in which residents dare to go beyond their homestead boundaries to correct existing or potential problems. Somewhere I once read that trash-riddled and unkempt neighborhoods imply in the mind of a visitor or passerby that the community lacks civic pride and involvement. While city and county agencies will understandably be needed at times to correct more specialized tasks, let's not automatically burden these notoriously strapped organizations with trivial issues. I have grown tired of hearing some rationalize their way out of some minor community tasks, such as picking up a soda can or a fast food container, by unconvincingly stating: "that's what I pay taxes for," with the misguided expectation that some City of Houston "Soda Can Task Force" will come to the rescue post-haste.

Seemingly servile community tasks should not be considered beneath us. I do it all the time, and frankly, it is rather fulfilling and even rewarding. Let's give each other a helping hand. We will all be better off for it. *Have a Happy New Year!*

THANKS FOR THE CHEER

CLCCA extends our thanks to all the residents who created warm glows amid scenic landscapes during the holidays. With hours of labor, including repeat trips for more lights, neighbors created individual versions of “winter wonderlands.”

After enjoying the fruits of one’s labor and sharing with others, now comes the inevitable task of removal and storage of all those outside decorations which can prove to be a real challenge. Be safe in this endeavor because neighbors are looking forward to what will be displayed in December 2009!

CURBSIDE RECYCLING SURVEY RESULTS

There was a survey about Curbside Recycling in the last publication of the Communicator. The question was: Are you interested in Curbside Recycling?

The answer was:

35 residents said YES

1 resident said NO

This information has been passed on to the City of Houston Solid Waste Department and Councilman Mike Sullivan. Thank you for participating in this survey.

RECREATION, 2009

by Larry Wilson, *Gym Supervisor*

Well folks, we have another year behind us and a new year to look forward to. Starting in January, there will be many changes in our nation, city, and community. We are looking forward to a prosperous new year and to providing services for all of our patrons in the Clear Lake City area.

Jokingly, parents and officials with the volleyball and basketball leagues that rely on us for their seasons and practices have demanded we build another gym. I don’t know all the details, but growth, as well as Hurricane Ike, have caused damage and over-engagement of CCISD gym facilities, and there’s always a scrambling to find gym time for our area youths.

Clear Lake Boys Basketball is back with us for another year. It was a basketball parent who suggested, jokingly, that she and I build another gym in a single day. That’s because of their limitations at the schools they normally use in addition to the Clear Lake Recreation Center. They’ve been here the 10 years that I have and we always tell each other what a pleasure it is to have each other. They rely on us, profoundly.

Then there’s Gulf Coast Volleyball Association, which are here year around, and they, too, are always in need of more gym time. They constantly tell me how much they love our facility and staff, and they count on the service we provide.

In the evenings and on weekends, all I feel and see around the Clear Lake City Recreation Center is extreme excitement watching the kids and parents enjoy themselves. We need to focus on the quality of our facilities and the proper maintenance of our machinery to provide the best environment for our patrons.

The children and young adults that frequent the Clear Lake City Recreation Center are always busy and in tune with the games they play. This is an important and huge part of what the CLCCA represents.

I love this place, love my job, love the people that use this facility, and find it all very rewarding.

GET IN SHAPE FOR YOUR NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION

by Damian Adams

Have you put on some extra pounds over the holidays? Well, come to the Clear Lake City Recreation Center and check out the fitness room. There are no outrageous sign up fees and no excessive prices for a yearly membership. If you want to lose weight, tone up, or build muscle, the fitness room has the equipment to give you the results you want and need.



All CLCCA residents using the fitness room are required to pay a usage fee of \$5.⁰⁰ a day, \$40.⁰⁰ a month, or \$135.⁰⁰ a year (check with the office for more information on other options and fees). Personal training sessions are also available at a cost of \$35.⁰⁰ per session with discounts available for multiple sessions; 3 sessions for \$75.⁰⁰, 6 sessions for \$150.⁰⁰, 9 sessions for \$215.⁰⁰, and 12 sessions for \$290.⁰⁰. Come on over and sign up now because a healthy body is a good body.

A BRAND NEW YEAR

by Sharri Bronas, *CLCCA Assessment Coordinator*

Welcome to 2009! It seems like yesterday it had just turned over to 2008. How time does fly. With the dawn of a new year come new changes. You may be thinking of making some changes to your home and giving it an update. If you are feeling ambitious and are going to make exterior changes, please fill out a Home Improvement Form that is available in our office or online at www.clcca.org and submit it for board approval prior to doing the work. The CLCCA encourages you to keep your homes painted and do general upkeep and maintenance to keep our CLCCA neighborhoods beautiful. The CLCCA is one of the largest communities in the area and takes pride in maintaining its recreational, residential, and commercial properties.

Remember spring is around the corner, and as usual, vegetation will be in full bloom before you know it. Please remember to keep up with mowing and especially edging your yards. Many residents who mow forget to edge, and this little bit of effort greatly improves the appearance of any yard.

If you are thinking of improving yourself for the new year, remember the Clear Lake City Recreation Center is a wonderful facility nestled in the heart of Clear Lake City. Some people may not be aware of what the Clear Lake City Recreation Center has to offer at its facilities. Our indoor pool, fitness room, and gym are open year round and many water exercise and martial arts classes are offered year round. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a current brochure or look us up at www.clcca.org. We look forward to seeing you here at the Clear Lake City Recreation Center.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The new year brings new opportunities to the Clear Lake City community.

The CLCCA is offering new personal trainer services with Certified Fitness Professional Damian Adams. No time is better than now to strengthen core muscles to promote back health or to develop that “six pack” that has been so elusive. Single sessions start at \$35 but are much less when purchased in a package.

Our aquatics department offers a number of opportunities for even those “averse” to exercise.

- Gentle Joints provides low intensity movement and stretch activities designed to improve flexibility and strengthen muscles.
- Water Fitness is a mid to high intensity workout.
- Deep Water Exercise is a bit different as participants stretch and exercise using flotation, giving one a sense of freedom. Our deep water instructor is even certified by the Arthritis Foundation.
- Evening Water Aerobics challenges participants to a dynamic cardiovascular full body workout.
- Aqua Fitness is a total workout for mind, body, and spirit.

All these activities take place in our 82 degree indoor pool facility. Costs range from \$30 to \$50 for an 8 week session. Classes meet twice a week.

Several types of Martial Arts are also available for ages from 5 to 70.

- American Karate meets on Tuesdays for 11 weeks. A new American Karate session begins in early January.
- Cha Yon Ryu means “The Natural Way” and is a blend of eastern martial arts.
- Won't you be the hippest person at the party when you mention your budding skills in Filipino Stick Fighting? Our Modern Arnis/Filipino Stick Fighting class combines a variety of stick, knife, empty hand, and Jujitsu techniques.

Costs range from \$40 - \$100. Call or drop by the office to sign up for a class today. The new session begins February 16!



HEAVY TRASH COLLECTION

The City of Houston Solid Waste Department resumed its Heavy Trash Collection service in December. For 2009, they will be following the Tree Waste Schedule below:

MONTH	COLLECTION
January	Tree Waste ONLY
February	Junk Waste
March	Tree Waste ONLY
April	Junk Waste
May	Tree Waste ONLY
June	Junk Waste
July	Tree Waste ONLY
August	Junk Waste
September	Tree Waste ONLY
October	Junk Waste
November	Tree Waste ONLY
December	Junk Waste

***Don't forget, Trees are odd!
Junk is even.***

2nd Monday	Oakbrook
2nd Tuesday	Oakbrook West
2nd Thursday	Camino South
2nd Friday	Meadowgreen

This schedule does not apply to the weekly yard waste pickup on Thursday.

For more information, visit www.houstonsolidwaste.org or call the City of Houston Customer Service Hotline at 3-1-1.

THANK YOU, AFTER IKE

by Roberta Toppin, *Oakbrook Trustee, President*

To every neighbor, from all cores, who extended their assistance to the many that had lost power after IKE . . . THANK YOU.

It was amazing to see the chainsaws buzzing away, the Bar-B-Que pits working laboriously to cook what was left in refrigerator(s) and freezer(s); the twenty-six people that gathered together, in one kitchen, to again prepare and cook meals so that nothing would spoil.

Let us not forget the neighbor(s) that allowed children to sleep over due to the lack of electricity within their respective homes . . . WONDERFUL.

The sharing of generators that created a haven for some . . . EXCELLENT.

IKE did us a favor; he made everyone realize that we are a wonderful community and that we can become united when needed.

THANK YOU AGAIN . . . PLEASE REMEMBER, WE MAY HAVE TO DO THIS AGAIN. TALK TO YOUR NEIGHBOR(S) AND SAY THANK YOU.

APOLOGY / CLARIFICATION

The special insert in the last issue of the Communicator dealing with fencing provided by the General Manager contained incorrect information. The CLCCA Board of Trustees and office would like to apologize for this mistake.

The following information is provided to clarify what is needed for repairing fences damaged from Hurricane Ike.

Fence Repair Guidelines:

- Restoring the same type, style, and size of fence as you had before the storm DOES NOT require approval by the CLCCA. However, it is recommended that you add a 6" rot board horizontally under the pickets of wood fences.
- Fences may not exceed 6'6" in height (rot board included).
Exception: With prior approval, residential fencing which abuts commercial property can be 8' in height.
- Restoring to a different type, style, or size requires approval by the CLCCA. Please call the office at 281-488-0360 to request approval.
- Fences shared with neighbors are "good neighbor" fences. Ideally both owners will share in the expenses/labor for fence repairs or replacement.
- Street-facing fences belong to the individual homeowner and should be oriented with the finished side facing the street.
- Homeowners with concrete fences backing to major thoroughfares may purchase replacement panels from Concrete Systems, 713-995-5114 or 713-724-4479, or they may purchase HardiPanel and cut to fit. Replacement panels should be painted to match existing panels.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKING TICKETS

by Glenda Stroud, *Camino South Trustee*

At the CLCCA Meeting held October 14, 2008, Mr. Roland De La Cerda of the City of Houston Parking Management Division gave a PowerPoint Presentation to the Board of Trustees and to residents in attendance. This division will “sweep” neighborhoods to call attention to residential parking violations and will initially issue warning tickets. For whatever reason, Camino South seemed to be the subdivision that was issued the most warning tickets in addition to tickets with fines. Most residents contacted the CLCCA office.

If a resident received a ticket without a prior warning ticket, that resident may do the following:

1. Contact **Mr. De La Cerda**, PHONE: **713.853.8275**
EMAIL: **Roland.delacerda@cityofhouston.net**
2. Call or e-mail **Mayor White’s Office**, PHONE: **832.393.1000**
EMAIL: **mayor@cityofhouston.net**
3. Contact **City Councilman Mike Sullivan**, Phone: **832.393.3008**
FAX: **832.393.3279**, EMAIL: **districtc@cityofhouston.net**

In addition, to contest a parking citation, that resident should

1. Go to the Parking Adjudication Office, 1400 Lubbock (basement) within 45 days of receiving the ticket.
2. Hearings are held first come, first served, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday - Friday.
3. Bring
 - ✓ Your driver’s license
 - ✓ Parking Citation--or the vehicle citation number
 - ✓ Supporting Photographs other documentation

Although the above information may be considered too late due to the publishing schedule of the *Communicator*, please keep it for future reference. Visit the City of Houston Parking Management website or call 713.837.0311 for further information.
<http://www.houstontx.gov/parking/index.htm>

In summary, please be mindful of these city ordinances re parking:

1. It is illegal to park blocking a sidewalk.
2. It’s illegal to park on the wrong side of the street (park in the direction of traffic flow).
3. It’s illegal to park on an esplanade, median strip, or traffic island.
4. It’s illegal to
 - ✗ Park on a street for the purpose of advertising
 - ✗ Park within 50’ of a railroad crossing
 - ✗ Park with the right wheel more than 18’ from the right curb
 - ✗ Park within 15’ of a fire hydrant
 - ✗ Double park

Safety in School Zones:

- ✗ Read and comply with all signage.
- ✗ It’s illegal to park on the wrong side of the street.
- ✗ It’s illegal to park within 20 feet of a crosswalk.

Our neighborhoods are within the City of Houston. Therefore, as residents we must adhere to City of Houston Ordinances.

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN, ON, AND AROUND THE WATER

- Maintain constant supervision. Watch children around any water environment (pool, stream, lake, tub, toilet, bucket of water), no matter what skills your child has acquired and no matter how shallow the water. For younger children, practice “Reach Supervision” by staying within an arm’s length reach.
- Don’t rely on substitutes. The use of flotation devices and inflatable toys cannot replace parental supervision. Such devices could suddenly shift position, lose air, or slip out from underneath, leaving the child in a dangerous situation.
- Enroll children in a water safety course or Learn-to-Swim classes. Your decision to provide your child with an early aquatic experience is a gift that will have infinite rewards. These courses encourage safe practices.
- Parents should take a CPR course. Knowing these skills can be important around the water and you will expand your capabilities in providing care for your child.

Local Recycling Centers

Ellington Field

Open 7 Days a Week

8 AM - 8 PM @ Ellington Field

*Newspapers, Catalogs,
Phone Books, Magazines,
Cardboard, Plastic, Glass, Cans
(steel, aluminum, tin, aerosol)*

For more information, call City of
Houston Service Helpline @ 311

Metal Recycling Center

1211 College @ I-45

M - F 8:30 AM - 5 PM

Sat - Sun 9 AM - Noon

(713) 943-8456

*Cans, Copper, Brass,
Stainless Steel, Batteries*

Armand Bayou Nature Center

8500 Bay Area Blvd.

*Newspapers, Magazines,
Paper Products*

Clear Lake Elementary

Newspapers, Magazines

Freeman Library

Newspapers, Magazines

Space Center Intermediate

Continuous Newspapers

Clear Lake High School

Continuous Newspapers

GOOD USED BOOKS

Freeman Library

Friends Bookstore



ENCLOSURE OF POOLS REMINDER

As our community continues to recover from hurricane Ike, please remember to block access to your yard if your fence is down and you have a swimming pool. Help us provide a safe place for everyone in our community, especially our children, by following the City of Houston Ordinances regarding the enclosure of pools.

CODE OF ORDINANCES

City of

HOUSTON, TEXAS

Chapter 43 SWIMMING POOLS

ARTICLE II. POOLS FOR SWIMMING AND BATHING

Sec. 43-19. Enclosure of pools.

- (a) General. Owners of land or premises upon which pools or pool yards are situated shall comply with the subsection (b) or (c) of this section, whichever is applicable, regarding the enclosure of their pools.
- (b) Pools other than state regulated pools. This subsection applies to all pools other than state regulated pools, and the term "pool" shall be so construed where used in this subsection. Every owner of land or premises within the corporate limits of the city, upon which is situated a pool shall at all times maintain upon such land or premises on which the pool is located, a fence, wall or barrier completely surrounding and enclosing such pool and such land or premises. The fence, wall or barrier shall be not less than four feet in height with no openings, holes or gaps larger than four inches as measured in any direction, except that such openings for a picket fence or a picket-type fence (one composed primarily of vertical members) shall be measured in a horizontal direction between members. Gates and doors opening directly into any enclosure of such land or premises as required by this section shall be equipped with self-closing and self-latching devices designed to keep and capable of keeping such doors or gates securely closed at all times when not in actual use. Said latching devices shall be attached to the upper quarter of such gates or doors. The door of any dwelling occupied by human beings and forming any part of the enclosure hereinabove referred to need not be so equipped. A building or existing wall may be used as part of any fence, wall or barrier constructed as required herein.
- (c) State regulated pools. This subsection applies to all state regulated pools. Every owner of a state regulated pool shall comply with all applicable requirements of chapter 757 of the Texas Health and Safety Code, including provisions relating to enclosures for pool yards, gates, doors, windows and window screens, buildings in pool yards and all other applicable requirements.
- (d) Criminal enforcement. Failure to comply with this section is unlawful and violations shall be punishable by a fine of not less than \$200.00, nor more than \$1,000.00. Each day that any violation continues is a separate offense.

- (e) Enforcement by dangerous building process. The city hereby adopts subsections (b) and (c) of this section, above, as its minimum standards for swimming pool fences and enclosures. The health officer shall issue a report to the neighborhood protection official regarding any swimming pool enclosure or fence that is damaged, deteriorated, substandard, dilapidated or otherwise in a state that poses a hazard to the public health, safety and welfare. In accordance with the applicable procedures established in section 214.101 of the Texas Local Government Code and the laws referred to therein, the neighborhood protection official shall cause the dangerous condition to be abated by the owner or by the city. A lien for city costs shall be placed as provided in subsection (e) of section 214.101. The lien shall include administrative expenses and shall bear interest in the same manner provided in section 10-373 of this Code.
- (f) Suit authorized. In any instance in which the director of health and human services determines that conventional remedies provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section above have not been effective for the abatement of a dangerous condition at a state regulated pool, then the director may request in writing that the city attorney bring an action under section 757.012 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. No further authority shall be required for the filing and prosecution of the suit, and the city attorney may seek all relief authorized under section 757.012 or otherwise by law or in equity.

Community Website

www.clcca.org

Listed are available programs offered by the Center as well as schedules, costs and information on programs and instructors, dates on projects in the communities, minutes and agenda of the Board of Trustees meetings, Architectural Review forms for home improvements. There is also an email address for community feedback.

VANDALISM

Vandalism in our parks is growing rapidly and becoming very costly.

Please report vandalism to the local Constable (281-488-4040) or Houston Police at local substation (281-218-3800). Please help in protecting our communities!

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

All exterior changes, additions and/or modifications to the exterior of your home must be reviewed for compliance with community standards by the CLCCA Architectural Review Committee PRIOR to start of the project! Call CLCCA business office for details . . . application can be found on website www.clcca.org

A Reminder from

Police and Fire Department:

Please have your street address number on your curb, mailbox or housefront. IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CLCCA - office
(281) 488-0360

CLCCA - fitness room
(281) 488-0239

City of Houston Service Helpline 311



EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police, Fire, Ambulance
911

Poison Control Center
1-800-POISON-1



NON EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Clear Lake Police Substation
(281) 218-3800

HPD Dispatch

(713) 884-3131

Constable Bill Bailey
(281) 488-4040

Sheriff
(281) 488-4717

Houston Fire Department
(713) 884-3143



HOSPITALS

St. John
(281) 333-5503

Clear Lake Regional
(281) 332-2511

Memorial Southeast
(281) 929-6100



UTILITIES

Reliant Energy
(713) 207-7777

Centerpoint Energy
(713) 659-2111

Clear Lake City Water
(281) 488-1164



OTHER

Freeman Library
(281) 488-1906

Space Center Houston
(281) 244-2100

Armand Bayou Nature Center
(281) 474-2551

Harris County Courthouse Annex
(281) 486-7250

ELECTION TIME FOR THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Every year the CLCCA elects new members for the Board of Trustees. This year the election will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009. The election will be for candidates from the Meadowgreen, Oakbrook, Oakbrook West, and Commercial/Industrial areas. The term for each of these positions will be 3 years.

Anyone from the areas mentioned above interested in running for the Board of Trustees can file as a candidate at the CLCCA office during the month of March. The opportunity to file for candidacy will end at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2009.

There will be early voting at the CLCCA office for two weeks prior to the election. The dates and times for early voting are April 20, 2009 through May 1, 2009 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



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