



CLEAR LAKE CITY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION COMMUNICATOR

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visit us at

www.clcca.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Ray Banks, *Oakbrook West Trustee*

By the time you read this the national politics will be over ... for a while ... and the neighborhood politics will have begun. I hope everyone voted in the primaries.

The annual Trustee election will be held Saturday, May 3 with candidate filing running from Monday, March 24th through Friday, April 18th. Candidate filing must be done in person at the CLCCA office Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. A completed filing form and \$5.00 filing fee are required.

Up for election to three year terms this year are Trustees from Camino South, Meadowgreen, and the Commercial representative. Early voting will be from April 21st through May 2nd at the CLCCA office Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The election will be held on Saturday, May 3rd in Room B at the Recreation Center from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

From section 4 of the Bylaws, qualifications for residential trustees and voters includes ownership and occupancy of a residence in the Core or subdivision for six months prior to the beginning of the filing period; in full compliance with all applicable deed restrictions at the time of filing and remain in compliance throughout the election process; current in all CLCCA assessments and fees; filing as a candidate prior to the closing date established by the Board of Trustees; not convicted of any felony, theft, or crime involving moral turpitude and, if having served previously as Trustee, that the candidate complies with section 5.5 of the Bylaws. The records of ownership of the CLCCA will provide the basis for candidate qualification.

From section 4 of the Bylaws, qualifications for the Commercial trustees and voters includes ownership/proprietorship of a commercial/industrial establishment within the CLCCA for six months prior to the beginning of the filing period; in full compliance with all applicable deed restrictions at the time of filing and remain in compliance throughout the election process; current in all CLCCA assessments and fees; filing as a candidate prior to the closing date as established by the Board of Trustees; not having been convicted of any felony, theft or crime involving moral turpitude and if having served previously as a trustee, that the candidate complies with section 5.5 of these bylaws. The records of ownership of the CLCCA will provide the basis for candidate qualification.

As I drive through our cores, and I do that regularly, I notice that the vast majority of the residents are keeping their homes and yards in good shape. We are approaching the season when everything starts growing. Let's all take a little extra time to keep our yard mowed and trimmed for the spring and summer seasons and make those little repairs we need to our houses. This way we can keep Clear Lake City a great place to live.

The Board of Trustees (and the office staff) have been through some very stressful times lately but it looks like things are slowing down a bit. If you have a question or a concern, please call one of your trustees or the office. We will try to get you an answer promptly.

Lastly, in answer to a question from a neighbor - the new entry signs are completed and awaiting city permits for installation. We have been working with the city for almost a year to complete this project. Councilman Sullivan has provided his support in helping us cut through some of the red tape that is holding up the project. I will tell you this. It will be worth the wait. The new signs are striking. If you would like to see the designer's rendition of the new signs, drop by the office.

Have a great spring!

DOES ANYBODY USE THE CLEAR LAKE RECREATION CENTER?

by Larry Wilson, *Gym Supervisor*

Recently I was made aware that many residents don't believe the "Clear Lake Recreation Center" gets much use from organizations from the area. This is so untrue.

There are many different groups that utilize our facilities. With extreme amazement, I often marvel at the number of young men and women I've watched grow into the people they have become.

I've witnessed countless young kids involved with organizations that frequently play here move on to, in some cases, outstanding achievements.

One young man that grew up playing basketball here is now in the NBA with the Utah Jazz. Another young man that played here with a current organization is now playing with the University of Texas.

Two young women who grew up playing here - and one's family are current members - are now playing college basketball. One is at Sam Houston and the other is at Baylor.

Several young men and women from a volleyball organization that uses our facility, along with CCISD, have gone on to college this year via scholarships. And the list goes on.

Throughout the year we cater to and provide services and facilities to the following:

- Clear Lake Boys Basketball has two seasons in which they hold tryouts and league games here. They have a winter league and a summer league.
- Gulf Coast Volleyball practices here year round. There are a couple of tournaments they hold here as well. Gulf Coast Volleyball is a huge organization and they use our facility along with schools in the CCISD.

PROGRAM IDEAS

by Jim Keith, *General Manager*

CLCCA is always interested in ideas for improvement. The facilities are here to serve all of the homeowners. Some parts of the facilities do meet the needs that some residents have and other ideas are certainly always welcome. There is no guarantee that your idea will happen right away, but if the office never hears of it, it can never consider it. If there is something you would like to see, contact Jim or Sarah in the office at 281-488-0360 and let's discuss your idea. It might just be the next great program.

- YMCA is here year round, too. They hold many different events here. When space is available, the YMCA is always eager to rent from us.
- Rockettes, a girl's dance organization, was here three weekends recently.
- The Swim Stars use our pools regularly. The Oakbrook West pool is home to them, but they use the Rec. Center Pool several times a year for competitions.
- Bay Area Christian School maintains a year round presence here.
- NASA Area Little League uses our baseball practice facilities throughout the year.
- Clear Lake High School uses our gym each year for their Lacrosse practices.

And then there are those we have to turn away for a lack of space. This forces us to turn away organizations with kids who are often times very disappointed.

In regards to the Recreation Center not getting much use, that is just not the case. Many people, and far too many kids to count, benefit from these facilities.

Most of these organizations are allowed use of area schools. But, the number of kids and teams are often so great that they have to find other alternatives. Clear Lake Recreation Center is a preferred choice.

I know parents and kids both like our facilities. I've been made aware of this many, many times.

I think the residents of Clear Lake should be proud we have a Recreation Center so much in demand. Everyone that uses it loves it. What better way to love and nurture our youth than to give them a gym they can call Home Court Advantage.



OFFERINGS FROM THE CLCCA OFFICE

by Jacki Oliver, *Accountant*

By now all of you have received your refund for the garbage service. The association owed you the money from the garbage fees you paid for in your yearly mil assessment statement. This amount was prorated from February 1 to June 30, 2008. If there are changes to be made on how your check was made out or how your statement needs to read, we need to know. If you have any other questions please call the office. Thank you!!!!

I want to share with you how our facility is used day in and day out. In 2007 we sold 2,186 pool tags and 295 fitness tags. We also offered many classes including water fitness classes Monday-Friday, Yoga classes twice a week, and Martial Arts for all ages, Monday-Friday. We have the YMCA, Gulf Coast Volley Ball team practice and private lessons, Clear Lake Boys Basketball, Kimberly Hoff School of Dance, Clear Lake Christian Basketball, and a Stroller Fit Program (5 days a week) in and around the Gym. NBA Healthcare has therapy classes during the day in the pool and we have daily open swim and lap swim times. During the swim season time, the Clear Lake Stars hold practice and races at our outdoor pools. During local, state, and federal elections, our rooms are used as polling places. We have pool parties, receptions, birthday parties, graduation parties, Bible studies, Church Services (one Church meets here for four hours on Sunday), scrap booking, and an Asian group used our facility indoors and outdoors for a festival.

Please contact the office if you would like any information about this facility, pool, fitness room, or classes. We are open Monday-Friday 8AM-5PM. We do not close for lunch. Those numbers are 281-488-0360 and fax 281-480-3226.

RECENT EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

by Alice Purcell, *Meadowgreen Trustee*

Some notable residents were recognized at recent Board meetings. In January, the board presented an award for alertness and bravery to two young men, who called lifeguards' attention to a swimmer in trouble at the indoor pool. In February the board recognized Rig and Joyce Joosten and the Bowline Carolers for their forty years of building a spirit of community in Clear Lake City.

Alice Purcell was appointed in December to fill the unexpired term of Meadowgreen Trustee Sami Jaroudi after his two and a half years of dedicated service.

Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) units have been purchased for the CLCCA facilities and will be in place in time for this year's pool season.

Personal storage lockers will be installed and available at our pools prior to this year's pool season.

LETTERS, LETTERS

by Jim Keith, *General Manager*

The office often receives letters from "a concerned citizen" or some similar closing. These letters are a wonderful outlet for the author to vent, but very often, they are venting at the wrong party or for the wrong reasons. They are unsigned, apparently to keep from suffering retribution.

It would be greatly appreciated if when an individual sends a letter, they would sign it, or otherwise indicate a means of discussing the situation. Often, the author does not really understand the underlying reasons for a particular situation and they vent their frustrations based on their understanding or perception of a situation and totally miss the actual reason for why they are angry.

The office does not keep a list of people who complain to later look for reasons to send out letters. There are over 4,300 homes and 600 commercial entities that have to be looked at every month, and there is no time for "keeping score." Instead, your input is valuable and needed, but sometimes it needs to be redirected to be effective. Please help the trustees and the office staff by communicating with us in a way we can interact with you. It will help all of us.



MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS AT THE POOL!

by Alice Purcell, *Meadowgreen Trustee*

Four-year-old Kaeden splashed over to the shy little girl sitting alone in the baby pool. “Want to play with my turtle?” he inquired, showing her his green plastic turtle with flipper action. She nodded silently, and the two started a game with the toy. Soon the mothers of the two children began to chat and realized that they live just around the corner from each other and know several people in common. The families became close friends as they started meeting at the pool a couple of days a week and invited each other over for play dates and cookouts.

Cooling off at the neighborhood pools in the summer is a great way to meet new friends who live nearby, or to visit with old friends, or just get to know an acquaintance better. What better way to get the children out of the house for a little exercise! Mine were always ready for those naps after an hour at the pool. Older children and teens can beat summer boredom by meeting up at the pool, giving mom or dad a few quiet moments at home. One family I know cooks out at the Meadowgreen pool once a week on the outdoor grill. The local pools are great places to get to know your neighbors and build community. Pool passes may be purchased at the Rec Center Office on Diana Lane during business hours.

SIGN SAFETY

by Jim Keith, *General Manager*

Many of you have signs in your yard for traffic control. These include STOP, YIELD, School Zone, and Speed Limit signs. Many of you also have trees and shrubs to make your homes more attractive. Often these grow over the signs with spring growth.

Please help all of our neighbors by trimming any limbs, branches, shrubs, or other obstructions that block these signs so they may be visible to motorists. Please step back and take a longer view from the street to make sure signs in your yard may be seen from a distance. Also, if they are covered in green mildew, please take a broom and some soapy water and give them a quick cleaning. It only takes a minute and it might save a life.

TRASH POINTERS

by Jim Keith, *General Manager* AND
Carla Yager, *Camino South Trustee*

The City of Houston, Solid Waste Management Department has been picking up our trash now since the beginning of February. Most of the service has been very smooth and professional, but there are a couple of minor points they have asked us to address with the community.

Q: I live on a corner and my driveway is on the side. Can I put my city-provided container at the driveway like I used to do?

A: No. You need to place your city-provided container in front of your house.

The driver of the automated collection truck only drives down serviceable streets, not side streets where there are no other homes.

Q: Which way do I face the city-provided container?

A: The handle and wheels of your container should point toward your house with the Arrow on top of the container pointing towards the street.

Also make sure the container is square to the street, not angled. City-provided containers will not be emptied if they are crooked or backwards.

Q: I do not like the city-provided container and want to use my own can. Why can't I?

A: The automated collection truck only works with the city-provided containers. Your own can is not serviceable and will not be emptied.

Q: I want to use my own cans for leaves, grass, and limbs. Is that O.K.?

A: No. Grass clippings, small branches, and leaves must be put in sturdy one-way containers (bags), not weighing more than 50 pounds. Small branches may also be put in bundles as long as each bundle is less than 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter, and does not weigh more than 50 pounds.

The Solid Waste Management Department regulations for their employees prevent city crews from handling anything except bags and bundles, in part due to Workers Compensation requirements. If you place your own cans of leaves, grass, and limbs out for collection, they will not be emptied.

Continued on page 5 . . .



“Trash Pointers” continued from page 4 . . .

Q: I have some miscellaneous trash, like old flower pots, part of a kids play set, and so on. Can I put that next to my city-provided container and have it picked up every week?

A: No. If it will fit, you can place your miscellaneous trash in the city-provided container and it will be picked up.

If you place it next to the city-provided container, you will find that you still have it that evening.

Q: My lawn service comes the day after my trash is picked up. Is it O.K. to leave those bags there till next week?

A: No. Yard waste should only be placed at the curb between 6:00 p.m. the day before and 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled collection day, just like household and heavy trash.

Your lawn service company is required by their City business license to take any yard waste with them. Remind them they are required to do this.

Q: The lawn service I use refuses to take the trash. What can I do?

A: Change to another lawn service or report them to the City of Houston, who can send them a letter advising them they are in danger of losing their license to do business if they do not comply.

In the meantime, place your yard waste out of sight until between 6:00 p.m. the day before and 7:00 a.m. on the scheduled collection day.

Q: Is it O.K. to leave the city-provided container out front by my garage doors?

A: No. The city-provided container should be stored out of sight, in the garage, behind a gate, behind a tall fat bush, around back, or any other location that suits your particular house.

City-provided containers should only be visible from the street between 6:00 p.m. the day before and 10:00 p.m. on the scheduled collection day, per City of Houston ordinances.

Q: Do I put the bags of yard waste right next to the city-provided container?

A: No. Yard waste should be placed 3 feet to one side of the city-provided container.

Q: What about long tree limbs and tree trunks?

A: Branches less than 3 inches in diameter may be put in bundles as long as each bundle is less than 4 feet in length, 18 inches in diameter, and does not weigh more than 50 pounds. Anything greater than 3 inches in diameter is considered Heavy Trash.

Q: Is it O.K. to put a television or couch out with the yard waste?

A: Televisions and couches are Heavy Trash and will only be removed once a month on your scheduled Heavy Trash collection day. Yard waste should be separated from Heavy Trash.

Continued on page 6 . . .

GARBAGE SERVICE BENEFITS

by Alice Purcell,
Meadowgreen Trustee

Here are some benefits of the new garbage service:

- I only have to remember to take the trash out once a week.
- I get to roll a nice easy-to-handle can on wheels rather than dragging my three cans across the wet grass.
- I've started to recycle my cereal boxes and milk jugs to keep them from taking up too much space in the can.
- The city workers have been courteous and have gone out of their way to be helpful.
- The City has provided durable refuse containers with attached, close-fitting lids to eliminate litter, odor, and insect problems and the design of the containers effectively restricts animals from disturbing the refuse.

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Don't Mess With Texas

Help keep our neighborhoods clean. If you find trash in your yards or on your street, take a moment to pick it up and put it with your household trash.

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*



“Trash Pointers” continued from page 5 . . .

No more than eight cubic yards per residence will be collected on the scheduled Heavy Trash collection day.

Q: I need a second city-provided container, what do I do?

A: Call 311 to request an extra city-provided container.

The Solid Waste Management Department will coordinate with the City of Houston Water Department to start billing you for the extra city-provided container, send you a blue sticker with the year on it, and make arrangements to deliver the extra city-provided container. If you get a response that you are not in the City records for water service, contact the CLCCA office for assistance.

Q: I have just a little bit extra this week. Can I put it next to the city-provided container and have it picked up?

A: No. If you are unable to fit all of your household garbage in the city-provided container, you can obtain stickers at a cost of \$1.00 each for extra bags through the “Tags for Bags” Program.

Stickers can be purchased at Fiesta, HEB, Kroger, and Sellers Bros.

The city-provided container must be accessible to the automated collection truck and not be blocked by obstacles such as trees, parked cars, mailboxes, basketball hoops and poles, holiday arches, and power lines. Drivers will not move improperly placed containers. The following is one of several Houston City Ordinances we need to follow to make sure our trash is picked up.

Chapter 26, Article II

Sec. 26-93. Parking in excess of twenty-four hours.

It shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly leave parked or standing in any public street, alley or other public place any vehicle for a longer continuous period of time than 24 hours.

(Ord. No. 07-464, § 7(Exh. B), 4-11-07)

Once a month, residents can dispose of large bulky items such as furniture and appliances through the Heavy Trash pickup service. Residents may also dispose of Heavy Trash at one of the City’s neighborhood depository facilities. Each user must provide proof of residency, including a Texas Driver’s License or ID, a current utility bill, or city property tax receipt. The Southeast facility is at 2240 Central Street, 713-926-1247, just south of 610 off of Galveston Road.

When there are holidays, your scheduled trash service may change. For the Memorial Day holiday the week of May 26th through May 31st, the garbage service collections for Monday (*Oakbrook*) and Tuesday (*Oakbrook West*) within the Clear Lake City Community Association will occur on Tuesday May 27th (*Oakbrook*) and Wednesday May 28th (*Oakbrook West*).



FALL INTO A NEW HABIT

The change in seasons is a perfect time to make sure your smoke detector is working properly and to change the batteries.

- Check your detector by pushing the test button. If the unit isn't working, replace it. If it operates, you still need to replace the battery to make sure it's ready for the remainder of the warm months.
- Test your detector monthly and replace the batteries if necessary.
- If you have smoke detectors that are directly wired to your household current, make sure they also have battery backups. Otherwise, if the power goes out, the smoke detectors won't work.
- Remember that building codes require all new homes or additions to have hard-wired smoke detectors.
- Also remember to replace all smoke detectors after 10 years. You should also dust or vacuum your smoke detectors every three months or so.

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!

GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCIs) VITAL FOR SAFETY

GFCIs (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) can help prevent electrocution. They should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred. It then interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from electrical shock, says the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

Test GFCIs according to the manufacturer's instructions monthly and after major electrical storms to make sure they are working properly. Replace all GFCIs that are not working properly, but never replace a GFCI with a standard non-GFCI outlet or circuit breaker. Do not use an appliance or device that trips a GFCI on a non-GFCI-protected circuit; instead, take the appliance to authorized repair center to be checked for faulty wiring or replace it.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

CLCCA - office
(281) 488-0360

CLCCA - fitness room
(281) 488-0239

City of Houston Service Helpline 311



EMERGENCY SERVICES



HPD Dispatch
(713) 884-3131

Houston Fire Dept.
(713) 227-2323

Poison Control Center
1-800-POISON-1

Ambulance
911

NON EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Clear Lake Police Substation
(281) 218-3800

Constable Bill Bailey
(281) 488-4040

Sheriff
(281) 488-4717

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

Waste Management (TRASH)
(281) 487-5000



OTHER

Freeman Library
(281) 488-1906

Space Center Houston
(281) 244-2100

Armand Bayou Nature Center
(281) 474-2551

Harris County Courthouse
(281) 486-7250



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The opinions expressed in all
articles are those of the authors
and do not necessarily reflect
the views of this Association.

LIFEGUARDS NEEDED

If you are looking for a summer job, want to develop a tan, have excellent swimming skills, like the out doors and think you are qualified to be a lifeguard for CLCCA, contact Sarah in the CLCCA office at 281-488-0360. She is looking for a few great guards to work in all of the CLCCA pools this summer.

The summer swimming pool hours have not yet been set, but will be posted on the CLCCA website and will be available in the office within the very near future.