

THE *Leaves* OF

SPRING 2023

FALL CREEK

UPCOMING EVENTS

MUSIC IN MAY



**Every Friday in May
7:00pm – 10:00pm
Fall Creek Sports Complex**

It's that time again – The Merry Month of MAY! Come out to The Fall Creek Sports Complex every Friday evening in May and enjoy an outdoor concert by a great local band. Bring your dancing shoes and party with your family and neighbors under the stars. There will also be fabulous offerings from local food trucks each week. Don't forget cash or card to purchase food items and support local businesses! And remember to pack your lawn chairs, blankets, and cooler with your favorite beverages!

SPRING GARAGE SALE



Fall Creek will host a community-wide garage sale on Saturday, April 29th, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The sale will be held throughout the community. No registration or permit required. All you need to do is place your unwanted items out during the time of the sale and remove all unsold items after the event. Directional signs are permitted on this day but **MUST** be removed that same afternoon.

Gated communities will be exempt from this sale but can participate at the Clubhouse parking lot.

FARMERS MARKET

Hey neighbors,

Spring is here and our market is growing! We practice Yoga every Sunday starting at 10a and the first Sunday is FREE! The seasonal veggies are looking great and new additions have been added to our quality weekly market: Local microgreen and sprout grower, who's a firefighter in Atascocita! Succulents and plant starters and a new regenerative practicing farm with pastured proteins to name a few. Did you know that Egg-o-Rolls is a Fall Creek resident?! We love giving our neighbors a platform to grow their business. Check out these weekly grocery staples: seasonal produce, grass fed meats, pastured chicken and eggs, Indian cuisine, wild caught seafood, gourmet mushrooms and the best local honey around.

Thank you Fall Creek for your continued support. #buylocal
See you at the market!

Fall Creek Farmers' Market

Sundays 9a-1p weekly, rain or shine

Fall Creek Clubhouse

7930 Fall Creek Bend Dr. • Humble, TX 77396

For vendor spotlights and updates follow, like and share on Instagram, Facebook and Nextdoor
IG @fallcreekfarmersmarket • FB @buylocalfarmersmarket

Vendor Inquiries apply online - buylocalmarket.org

FARMERS MARKET



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FREQUENTLY CALLED NUMBERS
Homeowners Association: Spectrum
Association Management
281-343-9178

Harris County Sheriff (Non-Emergency)
713-221-6000 Option 6

Eastex Fire Dept. — Emergency #
281-847-3300

Fire / Police (Emergency)
911

Humble Independent School District
281-641-1000

Fall Creek Elementary School
281-641-3400

Woodcreek Middle School
281-641-5200

Summer Creek High School
281-641-5400

Humble Area Chamber of Commerce
281-446-2128

Humble Post Office
281-540-1775

Electricity: CenterPoint Energy
713-659-2111

Natural Gas: CenterPoint Energy
713-659-2111

Water/WCID #96 SI Environmental
832-490-7600

WCID #96: Residential Recycling and Refuse of Texas
866-516-9805

Water/MUD #49 TNG Utility Corp.
281-350-0895

MUD #49 Best Trash:
281-313-2378

Phone, Internet, Cable: AT&T
800-464-7928

Phone, Internet, Cable: Comcast
713-462-1900

Golf Club of Houston
281-459-7820

The Clubhouse at Fall Creek
281-458-8000

Deceased Animals Pick-up on streets in Fall Creek
281-353-8424

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ARE YOU WATERING YOUR LAWN CORRECTLY?

C. Boykin, Landscape Committee Member

As Summer approaches, we face the dreaded increase in water bills as we water our lawns to keep them looking lush or just alive. But what if we are watering all wrong? Experts have long said that over half of water used on Texas lawns is wasted due to improper watering. By correcting our sprinkler systems or hand watering properly, we can save water and save ourselves money. Here are a few steps to take:

Sprinkler Systems

If you have a sprinkler system, before you “set it and forget it”, give it a checkup. Manually run your system for a few minutes at each station and be sure that (a) sprinkler heads are not damaged and are pointing the correct way and not on your driveway, (b) changes to landscaping or hardscaping have not affected sprinkler head location or run times, and (c) the date and time on your controller are correct. While you’re at it, watch how long each section operates before the water is just running off into the street instead of being absorbed into the soil; you’ll need that information later. If you can’t remember how to run your system and can’t find the user’s manual, most can be found online these days. You could also consult an irrigation company.

Determining Water Needed

According to the folks at the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office a majority of homeowners water incorrectly. Watering too little too often or too much can affect susceptibility to insects and fungus. Watering small amounts with more frequency causes grass to develop shallow roots. On the other hand, excessive watering will result in run off, especially on clay soils. Regardless, both methods can increase susceptibility to insects, fungus and disease. Their research shows that turf requires 1 inch of water per week to sustain healthy vigorous growth. Landscaping plant requirements also affect watering plans. Ideally plants with similar needs should be grouped together where those that need most water can be hand watered as necessary to supplement the automated system.

How Long to Run Those Sprinklers

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension has created a website (and App) “WaterMyYard.org” to help determine the amount of time of watering per week for individual addresses. (Caveat: not yet personally tested.) They can email weekly estimates if you sign up. See their site for details.

If using the website is not your thing, a way to determine how long you will need to water is to perform an irrigation audit. This can be done with a sprinkler system or with hose-end devices. Randomly place a couple of coffee cans, takeout containers, or rain gauges in the yard and measure how much water is accumulated in a predetermined amount of time. This will allow you to gauge how long to water per station.

Using the 1 inch of water per week guideline, if after performing an irrigation audit, you determine that it takes 15 minutes to apply ¼ inch of water, you can assume that you will have to water for 30 minutes twice a week to equal that inch of water.

During your sprinkler system check, if you noted that run off occurs before the 30 minutes, then water in increments with a 15-minute break between them until you’ve met the total time. Most automated sprinkler systems allow multiple run times to be programmed, along with days, times, etc.

Another Water Waster: Evaporation

Another big waste of water is Evaporation when those lovely water droplets just add to our humidity rather than reaching the grass. To minimize evaporation, take these simple steps: don’t water on windy days, water in the morning when it’s cooler and water demand is generally lower, use irrigation devices that produce large drops or heavy streams of water. Fine mists and small drops of water have a greater chance of evaporating and not making their way down into

(cont’d on page 3)

ARE YOU WATERING YOUR LAWN CORRECTLY? *(cont'd from page 2)*

the soil. One option is to set your sprinkler system to run before sunrise to minimize evaporation while being finished before the kids are heading to school. (Evening watering may encourage disease.)

Quick and Dirty Approach

If all the proceeding steps are enough to make your eyes glaze over or give you flashbacks to High School math, then take the Quick & Dirty approach. Grab pen and paper, and a watch or timer. Manually cycle your sprinkler system and for each station, jot down when run off occurs. Make those the "Run Times" for your system, and set that up twice a week. At a minimum your grass will stay alive, but more importantly you won't be wasting both water and your money.

Whichever method you choose, it's important to check your system monthly or so to be sure everything is in tip top shape. Happy Summer!

CRIME WATCH COMMITTEE SPRING 2023

FC-Crime Watch Committee is a group of Fall Creek volunteers, that serve as a focal point for routine communication with HCSO. Through collaboration with HCSO, our mission is to educate neighbors on crime prevention strategies, encourage reporting of suspicious activity, and promote social interactions which strengthen our community.

Strengthen our Community by Coordinating a Block Party

Block parties are great events especially, if you are new to the area/community and have not had a chance to meet your neighbors. Other advantages of having block parties include:

- Create friendships and look out for each other
- Share tips and information about the area and community
- Great time for kids and adults (games, music, food)

These block parties are intended to be small and conveniently held within each of our 27 villages.

Our next Block party is schedule for April 22nd with a rain date of April 29th. If you don't recall seeing a flyer in your village last year, there is a good chance that we need your help coordinating one. Please inquire by emailing us at fallcreekcrimewatch@gmail.com to confirm that your village has a block party coordinator.

Crime Prevention and general Safety Tips (Useful, all year-round)

Motorists

- Keep an eye out for walkers, runners, and bicyclists who may be on the street or crossing at an intersection
- Be especially aware of children on bicycles or walking/running along the sidewalks, as they may not be paying attention to surrounding traffic
- Respect speed limits and stop signs – As a reminder, the HCSO Deputies are diligently working to restore traffic safety within Fall Creek

Runners & Walkers

- Wear reflective gear (or a head lamp, lighted shoes, lighted arm bands... etc.) if you will be out before sunrise or after sunset
- Use caution when crossing streets – just because you see a car does not mean the driver sees you

Bicyclists

- Check to ensure your bike and gear (brakes, tires & helmets) are in good repair before your first ride
- Equip your bike with a light and reflectors if you will be riding at dark
- Double-check children's bicycle and helmet to ensure they are properly sized for your growing child

Around the Home

- Lock all doors and windows & engage a home alarm system
- And, keep your garage doors closed (even when you're at home)
- Lock your vehicles and hide valuables/garage door opener from sight (or remove them from your car altogether)
- Consider how your landscaping can deter criminals.
- Cut large bushes/trees that provide unnoticed access to your home
- Keep bushes in front of windows trimmed below window pane
- Don't leave yard tools and equipment unattended in the front yard – someone can easily pull up and nab a leaf blower or trimmer
- Be aware of suspicious people/cars in your neighborhood – anything you may not recognize
- Call 911 for any crime IN PROGRESS
- Call Harris County Sheriff's Office Non-Emergency Phone Number (713) 221-6000 – Option 6 to report any suspicious activity

CWC Monthly Meetings

Attend a meeting. Meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 7pm at The Clubhouse at Fall Creek.



2ND QUARTER LANDSCAPE TIPS

APRIL

TURF FERTILIZATION – This is typically the time of year the turf will begin to grow and start to show new foliage. That means it is an excellent time to apply the first fertilization of the season to your lawn. Select a fertilizer with a balanced NPK for good root, stolon and leaf blade development.

MULCH – With the warmer temperatures of the season and all it brings also come the appearance of weeds! A two to three-inch layer of shredded hardwood mulch not only adds curb appeal, but it will also aid in weed control.

HERB GARDENING – Bring some of the outdoors into your kitchen! Many herbs such as parsley, basil, oregano and sage can be grown in patio pots to add to your gardening enjoyment and healthy lifestyle. They are easy to grow and handy at dinner time!

MAY

WORDS OF WATERING - They say the earth is comprised of 70% water with only 2.5% of that being fit for human consumption. The water we use to irrigate our lawns is part of the 2.5% potable water available to us. With the heat increasing it may be a great idea to inspect your irrigation system if you have one. Keeping up with needed repairs, adjustments, and scheduling is vital to water conservation!

MULCH MATTERS – Does it really matter what type of mulch I use? You bet ya, and here's why. "Pine Bark Mulch" is a less expensive type, however the drawback is that it contains turpentine that kills helpful microbes essential to plant health. It also "floats out of the beds", attracts fire ants, and depletes nitrogen from the soil. "Hardwood Mulch" is mostly made of tree bark from several types of hardwood trees. This contains an acid that again kills microbes. "Aged Native Hardwood Mulch" is the premium choice, the keyword being aged. This is made from ground trees and brush, not bark. The composting process kills the harmful pathogens and weed seeds, allowing the helpful microbes to multiply. This is the best choice for your gardens and flower beds.

BE AN ARTISAN – With the new growth spring brings, this is the chance to redefine shrub structure. Allow weak areas to fill in and consider how high and wide you want your plantings to be based on the location or need within your landscape. Shrubs that are in a more natural state give a softer appeal, not all hedges need to have right angles all over them! When trimming also consider a pruning style to leave the base of the plant wider than the top. This allows for more foliage to make contact with sunlight, increasing photosynthesis, resulting in more mature & healthy plants. An incorrect angle of trimming is what causes the plants to become bare on the bottoms.

JUNE

TREE CARE – June is traditionally the start of hurricane season in the Gulf Coast area...and what does that have to do with landscaping you may be asking. Well, the potential of strong sustained winds is the cause of most economic damage in our area resulting from hurricanes. Our trees are susceptible to damage in those conditions. It is prudent to inspect your trees for deadwood or weak branching and have that pruned from the tree. This will help make the tree more structurally sound minimizing the potential for damage to your home.

LANDSCAPE UPGRADES – Curb appeal is easily improved by renovating or adding to your existing landscape while giving a sense of satisfaction and pride in your investment. When planning a landscape upgrade, it is wise to take in consideration the growth habits, light and water requirements of your selections to ensure they are compatible with the area you intend to spruce up. Always give top consideration to bed preparation, irrigation and mulching as part of your plan to ensure a thriving installation!

MANICURED MOWING – Height equals health, just a phrase to remember for proper mowing practices. This relates to an elevated mowing height for turfgrass in the hotter months. It seems best to cut the turf at least on a three-inch level. This helps the turf retain water and nutrients more efficiently. It also helps protect itself in time of drought and has fewer clippings to breakdown to avoid a thick thatch layer.

FALL CREEK ELEMENTARY PTO

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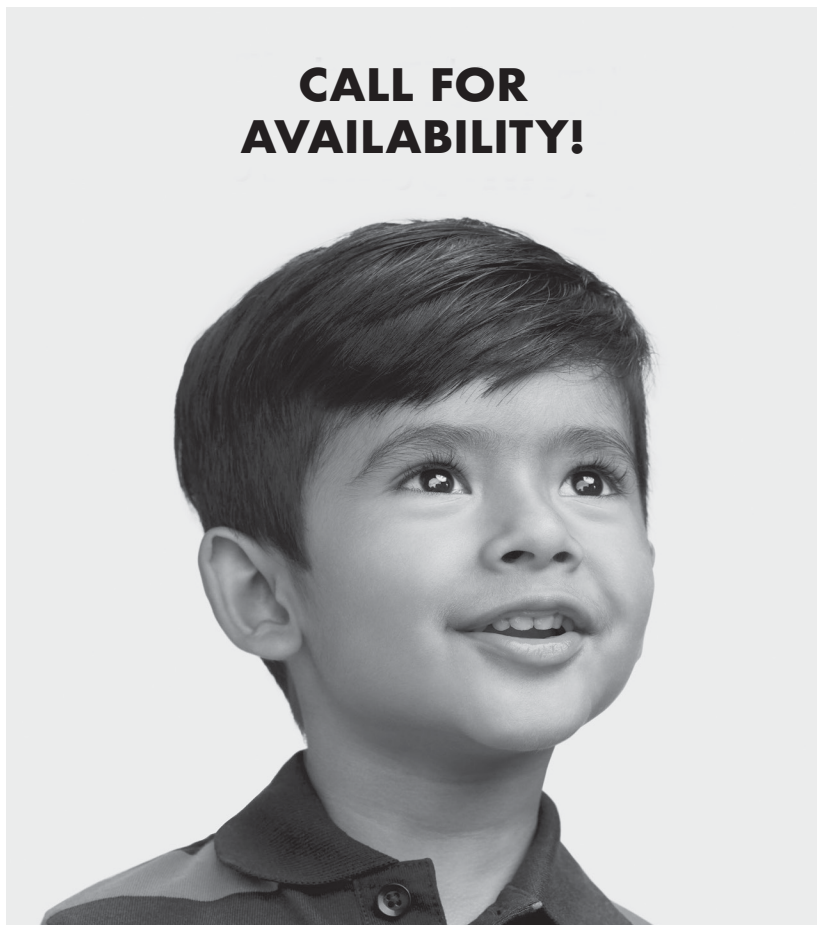
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Dr. Chris Harris is a Board Certified Pediatric Dentist with a Master's Degree in Polymer Science. He graduated with honors from UMMC School of Dentistry and completed his residency in Pediatric Dentistry at the University of Texas. Currently, he serves as an Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of Texas School of Dentistry. Dr. Harris and the team pride themselves on providing a comfortable and caring environment for their young patients.

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Dr. Robin Stratmann is a Board Certified Orthodontist with a Masters Degree in Orthodontics. She is also a Board Certified Pediatric Dentist. Dual Board certification in both specialties gives her a unique perspective on your child's growth and development. She earned a BS at LSU, and her DDS and MS at University of Texas School of Dentistry. We invite you to join the fun at Northeast Orthodontics!



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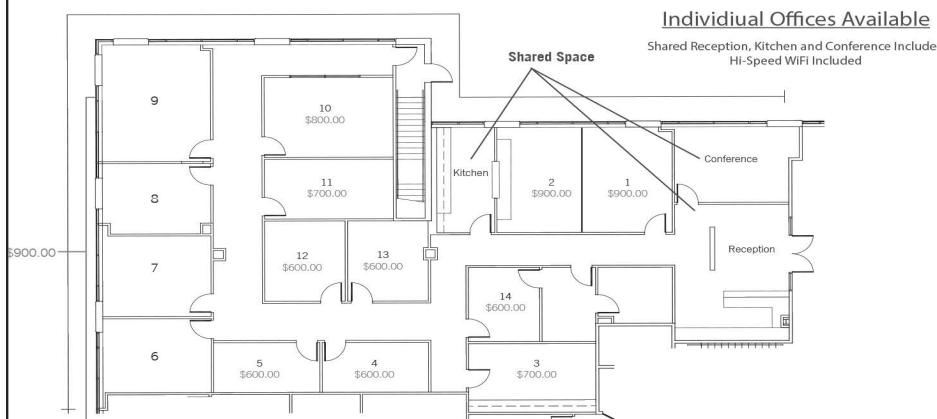
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Fall Creek Market Update

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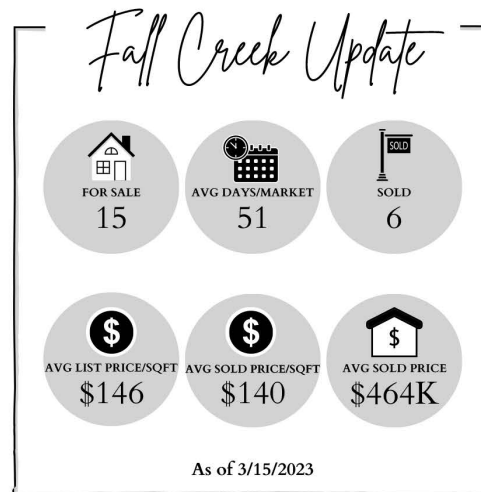
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Hi Neighbors!

As a local Realtor, I'm happy to keep you updated about all things real estate related in our community. If you are looking to buy or sell, these statistics should help:



Per Houston Association of Realtors

If you are wondering where to get started, leave it to someone who has specialized in the Fall Creek Market for over 10 years! We are incredibly low on inventory and have plenty of buyers. Please be in touch, so I can help you get started!

****I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT I NOW OFFER MOBILE NOTARY SERVICES. I WILL COME TO YOUR HOUSE TO NOTARIZE YOUR IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS****



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FALL CREEK

Residents, please visit the Fall Creek website
and make sure to sign up to receive email
notifications on the Community.
fallcreekhouston.com

COUNTY PETITION FOR COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

As many of you know, we are in the process of collecting petition signatures for Harris County to enforce no overnight commercial vehicle parking.

The county requires signatures from 25% of homes in the community. We are very close to our goal. If you would like to support this effort, we ask that you please sign our online petition. The link to this petition and more information on the county statue can be found at <https://fallcreekhouston.com/document-library/>

Please note, Harris County will only accept one signature per home. If you or a member of your household has already signed, you do not need to submit again.

Use the QR code below to access the petition form.

