

The Official Neighborhood Publication for January, 2024 - www.oakcreekvillage.org

### **Inside January**

- · Mardi Gras Galveston
- War Memorial at Collins Park
- Building Garden Beds for Roses



#### Flags Across the Community Scouts BSA Troop 1659

A heartfelt thank you to all of our 2023 customers for continuing to support our Scouts BSA Troop! Your flag orders allow us to keep our troop active and our gear in tip-top shape!

For over 20 years, the young men of Scouts BSA Troop 1659 have been placing flags in yards around Oak Creek Village in recognition of our patriotic holidays. In 2024, a U.S. Flag will be placed in your yard for Presidents' Day (February), Memorial Day (May), Flag Day (June), Independence Day (July), and Veterans' Day (November). Our scouts provide you with an outdoor flag and pole, installing a flat device in your yard that will not interfere with lawn maintenance.

We are pleased to also offer military branch flags. Choose from Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard. U.S. Flag only is \$35 for the year; U.S. Flag plus one military branch is \$50. Additional military branch flags can be added for \$10 each, and you can add as many additional military flags as you'd

continued on page 4

# OCV HOA Board Meeting Minutes - 12/12/23

The meeting was called to order December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:35 PM by Jon Whisler. The board members present were Jon Whisler, Raquel Lona, Shawn Lane, Darrell Johnson, Lloyd Bratton, and Committee member Jim Bowers. There were five residents in attendance and the HOA daytime sheriffs personal.

Floor was opened up to residents.

There was concern expressing the lack of respect that some neighbors have regarding the playing loud music especially late at night. The board told the residents that if the music is loud and can be heard in their house to call the non-emergency police number and they address the concern. Please if you play music outside be respectful of your neighbors and keep the volume at a reasonable level.

Please place a red bow on your mailbox. This has been an Oak Creek Village tradition and makes the neighborhood more festive.

Deed restriction directors report was read and approved. See newsletter for report. Treasurers report was read and approved. See newsletter for treasurer's report.

Security report was read and approved. See newsletter for securities report.

There were no reports for Architectural Control, Recreational, or Maintenance.

#### Old business

The agreement between Oak Creek Village and Bammel Utility District for usage of the clubhouse was signed by the utility district and a motion was made allowing for the Oak Creek Village vice president to sign the agreement. The board approved the motion.

#### New business

Board tabled another resolution until next meeting to get clarification from the lawyer on the updated policy for board meetings.

Recreational director made a motion to approve the pool maintenance contract for 2024. The board approved the motion.

Motion was made to proceed with attorney for collection lawsuit against nine (9) properties for overdue maintenance fees. The motion was approved by the board. A board resolution related to a temporary easement was read by the President and was approved by the board.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27 PM

### **OCV** Executive Board

President, Jon Whisler
jon.whisler@sbcglobal.net..
Vice President, Darrel Johnson
johnsonone1@yahoo.com
Recreation, Shawn Lane
shawn,lane33@gmail.com
OCV - Recreation@yahoo.com
Security, Lloyd Bratton
dhurley68@gmail.com
Maintenance Director, George Arreguin
cm2arreguin@gmail.com
Deed Restrictions, Raquel Lona

#### **Committee Contacts**

ocvdeedrestrictionscommittee@gmail.com.

Secretary, Ooma Lakshmanan ooma.lakshmanan@gmail.com Jim Bowers jbowers58@yahoo.com Clubhouse Rental, Katie Donaho oakcreekvillageclubhouse@gmail.com

### Emergency/Helpful Numbers

911
281 440-4300
281 999-3191
713 222-8477
713 527-9864
713 439-6000
800 222-2222
713 221-6000
281 376-8802
Department
713 274-6300
832 910-7525
281 376-2997
281 444-1355
713 659-2111
281 342-8178
800 246-8464
281 376-8802

### **OCV Garden Club Board**

President, Anita Cook	281 440-1093
Treasurer, Kathy Colbert	281 583-0652
Directory, Carol Barziza	832 298-8351
Telephone Comm. Mary Quinn	662 312-8150
Telephone Comm. Georgette Popeney	281 444-3497

## The deadline for the next issue of the OCV Community News is January 15th!

# OCV Community Association Board of Directors Meeting Reminder January 12, 7:30pm



Residents are reminded that the Oak Creek Village Community Association Board of Directors normally meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm. As always, all residents are invited an encouraged to attend. Anyone wishing to present ideas to the Board should call a Board member prior to the meeting so we may allot time for you on the agenda.

#### Please Notice This

How To Reach Us (Financial Matters Only) TXMGMT



P.O. Box 9184 • The Woodlands, TX 77387 Service@TXMGMT.com, www.txmgmt.com To pay your maintenance assessment on line, go to\_https://txmgmt.cincwebaxis.com/?

## Visit Us On The Web www.OakCreekVillage.org

# Recycling Tuesday is your only recycling day!



PLEASE NO – Styrofoam, Windows, Ceramics, Mirrors, Soiled Pizza Boxes, Coat Hangers, Light Bulbs, Paper Towels, Soiled Paper, Soiled Facial Tissue.

For a complete list of acceptable recycle items please visit http://www.oakcreekvillage.org/trashservice.html

## Call 811 before you dig - Be Safe. It's free. It's the law.

- · Call 811 before you dig.
- Give two working days' notice before digging. (48 hours)
- Utility companies will mark the location of underground utility lines.

Remember, you are responsible for marking your private lines such as invisible pet fences, sprinkler systems, yard lights and gas grill lines.

**Attention OCV Residents.** Non-commercial advertisments, classified ads and notices can be placed free of charge. Club information, birthdays and other important non-profit events are also welcomed! Letters to the editor are also accepted and published with your name. *Thank you.* 

To report a streetlight out go to Centerpoint (713 207-2222) Energy.com - (Get the 6 digit number off the pole)

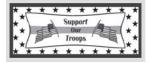


### Oak Creek Village Contract

#### **HCSO - SHERIFF Ed Gonzalez**

#### www.sheriff.hctx.net Captain J. Coons, District 1 Patrol

Nov. 1-30, 2023		rboza	rrow	mirez	thers
	Total	A. Ba	$J_{\cdot}M_{0}$	A. Ra	All O
TOTAL	316	137	77	78	24
ACCIDENT FSGI	1	0	0	0	1
ACCIDENT MINOR	1	1	0	0	0
ALARM LOCAL	4	0	1	0	3
ASSAULT FAMILY	1	0	0	0	1
CONTRACT CHECK	212	124	57	31	0
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	1	0	1	0	0
DISCHARGE FIREARMS	1	0	0	1	0
DIST FAMILY	1	0	0	0	1
DISTURBANCE LOUD NOISE	2	2	0	0	0
DISTURBANCE OTHER	2	0	0	0	2
DOA	1	0	0	0	1
FOLLOW UP	2	0	0	0	2
INFORMATION CALL	6	0	4	0	2
MEET THE CITIZEN	8	3	0	2	3
MENTAL HEALTH CALL	1	0	0	0	1
NUISANCE ABATEMENT	1	0	1	0	0
PROPERTY FOUND LOST	2	0	1	0	1
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	5	2	0	1	2
TERRORISTIC THREAT	2	0	0	0	2
TRAFFIC INITIATIVE	11	0	9	2	0
TRAFFIC STOP	39	0	2	37	0
UNK MEDICAL EMERGENCY	1	0	0	0	1
VACATION WATCH	3	3	0	0	0
VEHICLE SPEEDING	1	1	0	0	0
VEHICLE SUSPICIOUS	5	1	1	3	0
WARRANT SERVICE	1	0	0	0	1
WELFARE CHECK	1	0	0	1	0



#### OCV Community Association December 12, 2023 Treasurer Report

#### Financial Report -

#### Balance Sheet

The October31, 2023 balance sheet shows \$489,272 in the bank.

#### Statement of Revenue & Expense

For October 2023, revenue was over budget by \$19,558 primarily due to timing of security Receipts income. Expenses were above budget by (\$32,799) was mainly due to higher than budgeted major repairs and insurance expense.

#### Transaction report

We had our normal operating expenses in the month of October in addition to repairs of the tennis courts.

#### Additional Notes:

Our 2024 Maintenance Fee of \$352 was approved at the last meeting and was mailed out the first of December and is due at the beginning of January 2024. If it is not paid by January 31st there will be fees and interest added to it until paid.

Our 2024 Security Fee to be collected on the monthly water bill in the amount of \$32.50 was approved at the last meeting and will be sent to Bammel UD for the February 2024 bill as March is when the annual contract for Security renews and that bill is due by 20th of March.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain - You may think that it's ok for little things here and there to be put down the storm drain. It's easy to forget that your one little thing and my one little thing eventually add up to create a monster problem. Our storm drains don't filter what we put into them.



They run directly into the bay. To help keep them clean, properly dispose of your motor oil, pick up after your pet, take your car to a car wash, follow the directions when you spray and fertilize your yard and please don't rake your leaves into the storm drain!

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Scouts from page 1 like to your order.

Troop 1659 also participates in Wreaths Across America, which allows us to place sponsored wreaths on the graves of service men and women at Houston National Cemetery. For only \$17, you can sponsor a wreath to be placed on graves at Veterans' cemeteries around the country every December, thanking the fallen hero for their service, and sharing a blessing for their families.

These fundraisers allow our youth to provide a service to the community, learn patriotism, and work to accomplish various outdoor and high adventure type activities. It teaches them the importance of "earning their own way" in scouting. Your support of our boys is invaluable!

Please visit <a href="www.ihtroop1659.org">www.ihtroop1659.org</a> to place your secure order online, or email IronHorseTroop1659@gmail.com for more information.

# Thank You Veterans Unveiling Veterans War Memorial at Collins Park



Commissioner Tom Ramsey recently completed construction on the Veterans War Memorial at Collins Park. This memorial serves as a symbol of America's honor of members with the Armed Forces who served and sacrificed their lives during times of war.

### **TEEN JOB SEEKERS**

**B**=Babysitting, **P**=Pet sitting, **Y**=Yard Work, **H**=House Sitting \*CPR Certified \*\* BLS Certified

Michelle P.	18	B+P	715-821-2280
Mia	14	P+H	346-390-3069
Jack	15	P+Y	715-821-2280
Krissa**	14	B+P+H+Y	360-935-2682

Please email your work information to publish1@copperheadfarms.net Include your name, address, age, phone number, choice of work along with any special training, CPR etc. OCV residents only, 18 and under! Parents: It is up to you to verify credentials for services listed.

The memorial features six monuments, a stone wall entryway, the American flag, Texas flag, and the POW/MIA flag that serves as a reminder of every U.S. servicemember whose fate was never accounted for during war times. It was constructed using granite material for the monuments, each standing 8 feet tall and honors the U.S. Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard.

We invite you to visit the park at 6727 Cypresswood Drive in Spring, Texas, and see this beautiful tribute to our military heroes!



### Oak Creek Village Garden Club

You're invited to join us as we meet each month for a variety of outings in and around Houston, always combined with lunch at a local restaurant. If you're interested in learning more about this group, please contact Jane Flores at 615.423.5410 (call or text), or email to jane.b.flores@gmail.com.

We look forward to meeting you!



#### **Mercer Botanic Gardens**

22306 Aldine Westfield Road Humble, Texas 77338

Blossom Brigade - Wednesdays in January. Registration not required, just show up! For more information call 713-274-4160 or visit mercerbotanicgardens@pct3.hctx.net.

Come out and volunteer with Mercer staff in the Pollinator Garden and Honeybee Corral. Wear outdoor clothing, closedtoe shoes, a visor or hat and bring a water bottle. Meet in front of the Visitor Center. Registration not required, just show up!

The Camellia Connection - Ages: 12 plus. Friday Jan 19, 2024 10:00AM - 11:00AM. Learn about Mercer's camellias and if weather permitting, see them blooming in the gardens! Meet inside Mercer Visitor Center.

Radiant Nature - Magical Family Fun - Holiday light experience honoring Lunar New Year at Houston Botanic Garden with stunning lantern displays

Radiant Nature is a Chinese lantern festival with more than 50 larger-than life installations and interactive activities set among the display gardens and rolling topography of the natural ecosystems of the Houston Botanic Garden. The event celebrates the art, skill, and beauty of traditional Chinese lantern festivals, which have been celebrated across Asia for hundreds of years. Radiant Nature - which was constructed on-site at the Garden by Chinese artisans using more than 1,000 components, including hand-painted fabric - is a partnership between the Garden and Tianyu Arts & Culture, Inc., the largest Chinese lantern festival producer in North America. More than 4.5 million visitors have experience Tianyu light festivals at zoos, parks, and other outdoor venues in 30+ U.S. cities.

Timed entries to Radiant Nature are offered at 15-minute intervals from 6-8:30 p.m. each night the show is open.Last entry to Radiant Nature is 9 p.m.Radiant Nature closes at 10 p.m. Less than a 1 mile walk on compacted rock trail. Bring a flashlight. A variety of vendors will offer a selection of festive food and drink options - including alcoholic beverages - for purchase by credit card. No cash accepted. Timed entry, no pets or wagons. Thru February 25. For ticket and time information visit hbg.org or call 713715-9675 ext. 100.

Houston Botanic Gardens, 1 Botanic Lane (east of I-45 South on Park Place Blvd) 713 715 -9675



At Mardi Gras! Galveston, February 2 - 13, 2024. The extravagance found in Texas's largest Mardi Gras celebration starts with the beads! More than 3 million beads will be thrown at Mardi Gras! Galveston and that's just the beginning of the elaborate parades, headliner performances, family events, feasting, and other festivities that come with hosting Mardi Gras island style.

WATCH...all your favorite Mardi Gras parades (including the Mystic Krewe of Aquarius, KreweGambrinus, and Knights of Momus Grand Night Parade as they come to the Entertainment District) from a balcony party on the Strand! Balcony parties include admission into the Entertainment District, access to the balcony party with a cash bar and music, and a VIP view of the Mardi Gras festivities! DANCE...to non-stop entertainment on the Corona Extra Stage and Salute to Texas Stage. RUN...the 111th Mardi Gras! Galveston Official 5k Run to start the party early!

ROLL...with the 11th Annual Zaniest Golf Cart Parade! Golf Cart parade entries receive FREE entry into the Entertainment District & Best Decorated Golf Cart gets FREE Balcony Party Passes!

RIDE...with your "Ticket to Ride" We provide the float, beads, driver, and balcony party you provide the Krewe! Gather your friends and contact info@yagasevents.com to sign up today and ask about ALL the ways to **PLAY!** Visit mardigrasgalves ton.com for tickets and more information

#### **Houston Rose Society Building Garden Beds for Roses**



January is the perfect time to prepare and build new beds for your roses. We are fortunate to have Angela Chandler teach us how to select the perfect site for constructing a bed to grow roses and companion plants.

Angela owns "The Garden Academy" and teaches gardening and micro-homesteading, Gulf Coast style". She is a lifelong gardener with a passion for learning and for teaching. She and her husband Fred enjoy a half- acre micro-homestead in Highlands, Texas, where they grow vegetables, fruits, herbs, and bee-friendly plants. They have chickens, beehives, and pet goats. Rounding out the family are their two dogs - a Lab mix named Harley, and a little mutt named "Ditch".

next page

**Electrical Repairs & New Installations** 

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#### Roses from page 5

She is a member of the Garden Writers Association, and a retired Texas Master Gardener and Texas Master Naturalist. At The Arbor Gate Nursery in Tomball, Texas, she currently teaches classes, provides a wide variety of horticultural advice, and handles their monthly blog. For more information and how to contact Angela, go to www.thegardenacademy.com or the Garden Academy Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/thegardenacademy.

Please join us Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 7 pm at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church located at 1819 Heights Blvd., Houston or virtually from the comfort of your home using a computer, tablet, or smartphone withGoTo Meeting by clicking on the link below:

https://meet.goto.com/828142133

#### Society for the Advancement of Floral Design

The Society for the Advancement of Floral Design (SAFD) will hold its January meeting on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at Christ the Good Shepherd Church, located at 18511 Klein Church Rd., Spring, Texas 77379. We will meet in the Social Hall this month with refreshments served at 6:30 pm and the meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

We encourage anyone who has an interest in flowers and the art of designing to join us. We have members ranging from novice designers to floral shop owners and Texas Master Florists. All are welcome to join us to learn and socialize together!

For further information, please contact Christine Givens at 281-387-6626 or email givens 3@sbcglobal.net.

#### **Catfish Restocking**

Fishing Fun in our Parks - An Exciting Collaboration with the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD)!At Precinct 3, we've joined forces with Texas Parks & Wildlife to enhance the beauty and vibrancy of our com-



munity parks. We've restocked our lakes with catfish, creating new opportunities for everyone to embrace the outdoors. We received 2,000 catfish at Deputy Darren Goforth Park Lake, 1,080 catfish at Kickerillo-Mischer Preserve, and 2,000 catfish at Cypress Park Lake. Get ready for a season of fishing, fun, and unforgettable moments with your loved ones in our stunning parks. Don't forget to follow Texas Parks & Wildlife Fishing Regulations for a fantastic experience.

# Deadly Consequences By Cheryl Conley Lake Creek Nature Preserve Board of Directors

I can remember as a child when my teacher brought helium balloons to class and gave one to each child. She explained that we were going to write notes, attach them to the strings and release them. We were all hoping that someone would then find our notes and contact us. It would be so much fun to see how far our balloons traveled. Sadly, no one responded. Now, decades later, I have learned just how hazardous to animals those balloons were.

At least once a month, I hear of or see on the news people releasing balloons in remembrance of a lost loved one or in celebration of a special day or event. We know that those who organize and participate in balloon releases have the best intentions but they don't consider the consequences of their actions. As you know, what goes up must come down and those balloons turn into unsightly litter. They can be found along beaches, in rivers, lakes, and oceans, as well as in forests, farmland, and other green spaces. You can see them wrapped around power lines, in trees and even in yards.

In addition to being unsightly litter, balloons are extremely hazardous to domestic animals and wildlife. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) states that animals often believe the balloon pieces are food.

"balloons that are released into the air don't just go away, they



either get snagged on something such as tree branches or electrical wires, deflate and make their way back down, or rise until they pop and fall back to Earth where they can create a lot of problems. Many balloons that are not properly disposed of end up in the ocean and along shores, becoming marine debris...Balloons can be mistaken for food, and if eaten and ingested, balloons and other marine debris can lead to loss of nutrition, internal injury, starvation, and death."

The latex or mylar gets lodged in the digestive tract and the animal can no longer eat. It's a slow, painful death by starvation. The strings or ribbons attached to the balloons are just as deadly. Birds can get them wrapped around their necks, beaks or feet. Again, it's a slow and painful death. So many animals have been killed—marine species like dolphins, whales, and turtles; cows and sheep; pet dogs; ducks and geese.

The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service and local chapters of the National Audubon Society are urging people to stop releasing balloons and to find alternatives that are safer for animals and our planet. Several states and cities in the U.S and abroad have passed laws regarding mass balloon releases. The following ten states have laws banning or limiting the release of balloons: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Virginia.

More than 270 scientists and other experts rated balloons as one of the major threats to marine mammals, seabirds, and turtles. During an examination of more than 1700 deceased seabirds, researchers at the University of Tasmania found nearly one in five died from ingesting a balloon or balloon pieces. Soft plastics represented just five percent of the debris ingested but caused 40 percent of deaths. In an effort to convince people to stop releasing balloons, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has even posted disturbing images of dead wildlife on their website.

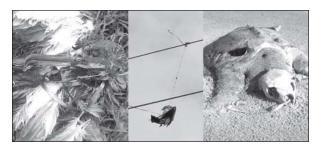
What can you do instead of releasing balloons?

- 1. I've seen many families and organizations plant trees in honor of someone. This gives you a chance to honor that person year after year as you watch the tree grow.
- 2. Blow bubbles. You can make an eco-friendly bubble solution with dish soap.



- 3. Throw flower petals.
- 4. Hold a beautiful candlelight vigil.
- 5. Have a bonfire.
- 6. Fly kites.

Get creative. Come up with some other ways to honor/celebrate. Be responsible and think about your actions. No one wants to cause harm to animals or our environment.



Left: Bird Carcass Strangled by Balloon. Photo/Virginia Stranding Response Program. Center: Bird Carcass Hanging by Balloon String. Photo: USFWS Right: Sea Turtle Carcass Caused by Balloon Suffocation. Photo: USFWS





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