



# Carriage Hills Telegraph

February 2009

www.carriagehillscia.com

## A Message From The Directors

❖ The next **Property Owner's Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** at the Fire Station (located behind Amatos). Attending these meetings is a great way to meet your neighbors, learn about your community and offer your ideas and suggestions.

❖ Please be sure check the Carriage Hills website [www.carriagehillscia.com](http://www.carriagehillscia.com) often for information regarding important information and events and that are happening in the neighborhood.



*Happy Valentine's Day*

## ACC Meeting Nights

The AC committee meets the **first and third TUESDAYS of the month**. Applications must be submitted by the Sunday night prior to the meeting. All improvements (fence, deck, pool, home, or garage, etc) need to be submitted for approval to the ACC. There are applications and regulation agreements to be filled out and signed on all items submitted for construction. These forms are available on the website. Deposits are required on new home construction. Please contact one of the following ACC committee members: Jeff Schrick (Chairman) 271-0313, Willard Sutton 273-3748, Ray Furchak 321-1871 or Pete Kaptain 273-3249.

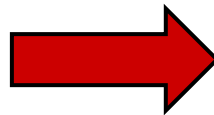


## Annual Board Of Directors Elections

At the Property Owners Meeting held in May, there will be two (2) Board of Directors positions available to be voted upon.

If you are interested in joining the nominating committee to help with the election, we would appreciate your service to the community.

If you are interested in running for a position or joining the nominating committee, please contact Cathy Phillips at [cathy@carriagehillscia.com](mailto:cathy@carriagehillscia.com) for information.



**Don't Miss this Informative Meeting!!!!**



## Dates to Remember

**February 14**  
Valentine's Day

**February 16**  
Presidents' Day  
School Holiday

**February 17**  
Property Owner's Meeting



## Guest Speaker At February's Property Owner's Meeting

**A-1 Cleaning Septic Service** has been serving the Houston area for over 30 years and is offering the residents of Carriage Hills an informative seminar on septic systems. Representatives will be providing important information to residents on the following information:

- ❖ How Systems Work – Aerobic & Conventional
- ❖ The Do's and Don'ts of Septic System Ownership
- ❖ Correct Aerobic Maintenance Inspection
- ❖ Septic System Literature
- ❖ Aerobic System Assurance Policy (ASAP) - *NEW*
- ❖ Pricing & Contract Info.
- ❖ Question & Answer Period

### Services Provided by A-1 Septic:

Aerobic Maintenance Contracts

Aerobic Maintenance Inspections

Tank Pumping Services

System Troubleshooting

Component Repair and Replacement

Line Cleaning, Hydrojet and Vacuuming

Line Repair

System Installation

Grease Trap Service (Residential & Commercial)

### A-1 Septic Cleaning Service

27507 Calvert Road  
Tomball, TX 77377

**281-440-5004 or 281-351-5545**

# Computer Safety in the Modern Age



Computers are wonderful tools. They allow us to display and sort information in new ways and present that information quickly and easily to many people. By using the internet we can connect office and home computers to vast sources of information and to each other. With these connections come a few responsibilities.

## Viruses

Viruses are programs that are written to make your computer do things that you don't want it to do. They can be as simple as making a message appear on your screen to something as sinister as erasing all of the data from your computer. There have even been viruses written that allow the writer to use your computer to attack websites. This causes your computer to run slowly and also slows down the website for those that are attempting to view it.

It is important that every computer that you use has anti-virus software running on it. Some computer systems are more vulnerable than others but all computers need to have anti-virus software. Two major vendors which are both popular are Symantec and McAfee. Such software costs approximately \$60 at this time. It's possible to find it cheaper via mail order. The important thing is to buy a package and install it on your system immediately.

Set the software up so that it checks for updated virus definition files and installs them if necessary. Virus definition files are what the software uses to determine if something coming to your computer is a virus or not. There are dozens of viruses released weekly so Symantec and McAfee update their virus definitions on a regular basis. If you installed anti-virus software a year ago and have never updated the definitions, you may as well not have it installed at all as the virus variations are countless.

The final step is to check the software once a month to make sure it is running correctly. Also, you will want to make sure that it's updating the definitions when it's supposed to. If it's not running or the definitions are old, restart the software, update the definitions, and then check it again in a couple of days. If the software is disabled again, take your computer to a professional to have it cleaned. Some viruses first attack anti-virus software and disable it. That allows the follow-up virus to attack the system.

It's also important to note that viruses can forge the sender name. For example: Jim's computer gets a virus. Jim has George and Heather's email address in his address book. The virus then sends a message to George, and make's it look like it came from Heather. So if you get a message from someone that contains a virus, it doesn't mean that they sent it.

## Spyware

Spyware is software that gets installed on your system and then tracks what you do. Some spyware monitors web sites that you visit and then sends that information to the company that wrote the spyware. They sell that information to advertisers and then create pop-up messages on your system.

Spyware can take many forms, such as search bars, date & time monitors, etc. Don't install them. Make your favorite search engine a favorite and get to it that way. It also doesn't matter if your time is off by a little bit. Set it and don't worry about it. You also need to make sure that you pay attention to what you are doing when browsing the web. One way that spyware gets installed is via pop-ups. I have seen pop-ups worded in a confusing manner. For example, it may say click yes to not install the software. You read it quick and then click no and the software gets installed.

If you suspect that your machine has been infected with Spyware, there are a number of free or low cost removal tools. One that I use often is Spybot Search and Destroy. You can download it from <http://www.safer-networking.org/en/index.html>.

One good way to protect yourself from spyware is to make sure that you never use your computer with administrator rights. All modern operating systems allow you to

create multiple users and give them different rights on the system. Create an administrator user that you will use only when you want to install software and a user account for all other use. The user account should not have the right to install software. Of course you will also want to create an account that your kids or grandkids use. You don't want them erasing or moving your files.

## Urban Legends and Email Hoaxes

There are a number of emails circulating that talk about lost kids or gathering postcards for someone that's dying. There is even one that says that Coke was originally green. These emails sound real and they ask you to pass them along to everyone that you know. Before you pass them along, visit <http://www.snopes.com/>, as it is an excellent reference for urban legends. You wouldn't believe everything that you read in the paper, so don't believe everything that you read in an email.

Another type of email that is gaining in popularity are those that appear to be from your bank. This is known as Phishing. These messages contain the bank logo and talk about security concerns. They ask you to click a link in the email and update your information right away. When you click the link, you are taken to a site that appears to be the bank, but it's not. On the site is a form that asks you for your name, address, account number, password, social security number, etc. When you fill the form out and hit submit, you are giving information to people that are attempting to steal your identity. So, if you get an email like that, open your web browser and go to the bank or brokerage firm site and see if they are looking for updated information. Don't click the link in the email!

## Conclusion

Before you read the next article on the internet, check your virus software. Do you have current software installed? Are the virus definitions current? If not, you're computing on borrowed time.

*Source: Association Times*





## The Carriage Hills Website

Have you ever visited the Carriage Hills Website? The website is full of useful information, downloadable forms, events, alerts and much, much more. Here are some of the items that can be found:

- Alerts
- Monthly Newsletter
- Community Events
- Important phone numbers
- ACC Forms
- Rental Forms
- Pool Rules
- Lost/Found Pets
- Classifieds
- Business Advertisements

Please take a few moments to visit the website and have a look around. Please visit:  
[www.carriagehillscia.com](http://www.carriagehillscia.com)



## Vehicle ID Stickers

If you do not have your Vehicle ID sticker, the form may be downloaded from the website or for more information you may contact Susan at Investment Management at 936-756-0032.

### Board of Directors

**Cathy Phillips**

(936) 321-4059

[cathy@carriagehillscia.com](mailto:cathy@carriagehillscia.com)

**Lisa LeBlanc**

(936) 321-6690

[lisal@carriagehillscia.com](mailto:lisal@carriagehillscia.com)

**Morris Dubs**

(936) 273-3268

[morrisd@carriagehillscia.com](mailto:morrisd@carriagehillscia.com)

**Bill Royster**

(936) 321-9129

[billr@carriagehillscia.com](mailto:billr@carriagehillscia.com)

**Jennifer Dumas**

(936) 273-3268

[jenniferd@carriagehillscia.com](mailto:jenniferd@carriagehillscia.com)



## Be A Responsible Pet Owner

There have been many complaints from residents concerning pet issues. Please be a responsible pet owner and a good neighbor and be conscious of your pets and their activities.

- Please obey the county leash law and do not allow your pets to wander loose around the community.
- Please do not allow your pet to "do their business" in other residents yards.
- Please do not let your pets bark constantly when outdoors.



## Welcome New Residents

We would like to welcome all of the new residents to Carriage Hills. We hope that you enjoy living in the Carriage Hills community. If you have not received your residential vehicle stickers, deed restrictions, directory or community information, please contact Susan at Investment Management at 936-756-0032.



"All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own"  
--Anonymous

## Hats off to these Carriage Hills Residents!



❖ Thank you to resident Mark Lira for keeping the computer that is used to design and generate the Carriage Hills' newsletter up and running.

❖ Thank you to residents Cathy and Mark Phillips, Larry Reynolds and Dave Stephens for all of their hard work clearing and cleaning up the areas around the pond.

❖ Thank you to resident Dave Stephens for donating and installing the new drainage pipe that was so badly needed in the pond. What a savings for the subdivision!!!!!!

Volunteers are an invaluable resource for our subdivision. Without them, many things would not be possible. If you know of a resident who is always doing good deeds, but has not been recognized, please send us the information. We would love to recognize and thank them.

**Carriage Hills is in great need of a Minor Maintenance Committee!!!!!!**



### Carriage Hills Community Improvement Association

C/o Investment Management Co.  
3500 West Davis, Suite 190  
Conroe, TX 77304  
Attn: Susan

**936-756-0032**