



Carriage Hills Telegraph

March 2010

www.carriagehillscia.com



A Message From The Directors

- ❖ The next **Property Owner's Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, May 18th 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 at: www.carriagehillscia.com often for information regarding important information and events and that are happening in the neighborhood.



Architectural Control Committee Information

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 before the project begins.** There are applications and regulation agreements that need to be filled out and signed and submitted for approval. These forms are available on the website. Deposits are required on new home construction only. Please contact one of the following ACC committee members: Jeff Schrick (Chairman) 271-0313, Pete Kaptain 273-3249 or John Paxton 273-9436.



Attention:
Boulevard Residents
Please:
No Median Parking
or Drive-Thru

We are asking all residents who live along Carriage Hills Blvd. to please refrain from parking and/or driving through the median to enter and/or exit their driveway. Not only does this create a dangerous situation, it also tears up the ground which then does not allow grass to grow and affects the beauty of the boulevard. Please obey the County "No Parking" sign. Please advise your guests as well as your lawn service company to refrain from parking there as well.

Towing

Towing of vehicles in park areas without CHCIA parking permits began on February 22, 2010.

Please make sure to observe park hours. Swimming pool park areas close at 10:00 pm. All cars are subject to being towed after park closes.



Dates to Remember

March 14
Daylight Savings Time Begins

March 15-19
CISD Spring Break

March 17
St. Patrick's Day



Annual
Board
Of
Directors
Elections

At the Property Owners Meeting held in May, there will be one (1) Board of Directors position 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 for information.



Annual
Easter Egg Hunt

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 27th at the Tennis Courts/Park at 11:00 am. If you are interested in volunteering to help, please contact Marianne Furchak at: 936-321-1871.



Bike Found

Please call to identify:
281-732-7818

Using Grocery Coupons Effectively to Save Money



Do coupons seem like a quaint idea to you? Do coupons seem passé in the modern world? Think Again!

Grocery coupons are alive and well in the 21st century, saving shoppers billions of dollars annually. Learning how to use them effectively can easily save your family hundreds of dollars each year. In eighteen years a family of four can save enough, from using grocery coupons, to send a child to college.

History of Coupons

Coupons have been around since the late 1800's when Coca-Cola and Grape Nuts offered coupons to entice customers into trying their new products. Neighborhood grocery stores quickly caught on to the idea and have been using coupons effectively for over 100 years.

Coupon popularity exploded during the depression and by the 1960s there were billions of coupons being used and most American households were using them. Currently more than 3,000 companies issue over 300 billion coupons each year worth an estimated \$280 billion. About 8 billion of these coupons are redeemed **saving shoppers almost \$5 billion each year** on their grocery bills.

Gather Your Coupons

The first step is to begin gathering or cutting coupons. Gather coupons for any product that you have the slightest chance of purchasing. It takes time, but the more coupons you gather the greater your potential for rarely having to purchase an item without an accompanying coupon!

Coupons are available through a variety of different sources. Learning to gather useful coupons efficiently often determines how successful you will be in saving money.

- Store Web Sites

[Supermarket websites](#) generally have an area to print coupons that will acceptably scan at their stores. You can often search the coupons by category and brand names, saving you valuable time as you collect your coupons. See this other article for a [comprehensive list of supermarket websites](#) e.g. [Safeway](#) or [King Soopers](#)

- eCoupons

eCoupons can link additional coupons and discounts directly to the card that you already use at checkout to get posted supermarket discounts. Hint: Look on your supermarkets website for the ability to add eCoupons to your card. Typing eCoupons into a search engine is more likely to waste your time than provide actual savings.

- Sunday Newspaper

The tried and true method of clipping coupons from a Sunday newspaper is still a fantastic way to gather coupons. Relax with a beverage and some music and you might find that cutting coupons can be a pleasant experience each week.



- Mid-week Supermarket Circular

You probably get coupons in your mailbox each week. Spend a few minutes going through the circulars mid-week and cut out any potential coupons.

- Online Coupon Sites

There are many great online coupon sites where you can print coupons. However, be cautious when searching online, you can waste enormous

amounts of time. Even worse, you can lose money or personal information to illegitimate sites. Use common Internet safety practices. If you are a relative novice on the Internet, stick with your supermarket's website. In general: don't pay for coupons and don't bother printing anything that does not have a scannable bar code and an expiration date. Check with your store ahead of time. Some stores don't accept any printable coupons (most do!).

An example of a legitimate website for coupon printing: [coupons.com](#)

- Company or Manufacturer Websites

You can often print coupons directly off of a manufacture's website. This can be a time consuming way to collect coupons so you only want to pursue this option if there are brands that you buy often or in bulk.

- Coupon Racks

At your supermarket there may be racks/bulletin boards where manufactures post coupons. Many modern supermarkets have coupon dispensers attached to the shelving in each aisle. Taking a coupon causes another to feed out of the dispenser and you can generally take as many as you will use.

- Receipt Coupons

Many supermarkets print coupons on the back of your grocery receipt. These are often very good coupons so remember to check the back of your receipt. Some supermarkets also have an additional coupon printer that prints coupons when you checkout - grab these!

Organize Your Coupons

Organizing your coupons is like creating your own filing system. There are many good systems that exist, but you want to pick/modify a system that works for you. This is one area where an Internet search is very valuable. Most people use some variation of an accordion file envelope.

Use Your Coupons!

Matching your coupons to existing sales at the supermarket produces the greatest benefit from your coupons. Sometimes between the sales price and the coupon you can get items at the grocery store absolutely free! This sounds fantastic, but any coupon cutting pro has had this experience at least once. If you watch for sales you can increase your chances of getting items free or for rock bottom prices.

Unfortunately not all sales are advertised and keeping up with coupon gathering and sales can become overwhelming. Also supermarket sale prices are cyclical; so an item may be on sale, but it may often be regularly on sale for an even lower price.

sites all charge a fee for the service but legitimate sites will save you so much money that the fee is cost effective. The best site is probably <http://www.thegrocerygame.com/>. The cost for this site varies depending on how many store's sales you want them to watch for you, but you pay \$10 every 8 weeks for just one store.

Beware Work-at-Home Coupon Clipping Scams

Grocery coupons are a benefit for a family who uses them legitimately but beware of scam artists who offer business opportunity and work-at-home schemes featuring coupon certificate booklets and coupon clipping services. Using the Internet to market these so-called opportunities, fraudulent promoters are promising entrepreneurs, charity groups

"thousands per month" simply by selling coupon certificate booklets or cutting coupons at home.

There's only one legitimate way to use a coupon: Cut it out of the newspaper or other source and use it toward the purchase of the designated product. A coupon is meant to be used only by the consumer who buys the product for which the coupon is printed. Selling or transferring coupons to a third party (e.g. coupons passed through Email) violates most manufacturers' coupon redemption policies and technically voids the coupon.

Related Articles

- [Printable Grocery Coupon Online Directory](#)

Source: Neighborhoodlink.com

William Goodrich Jones State Forest – News from the forest

The Jones State Forest is a Wildlife Sanctuary, a safe haven for wildlife to live wild and free. However that does not mean animals wild or domesticated can be dumped on the forest. Wild animals such as deer, birds, and other small mammals need to go through a permitted group before being released and definitely no domesticated animals or non-native animals are allowed.

Due to development going on around the Jones State Forest it is harder for wildlife to move from the San Jacinto River bottom to the forest. They are having to find new corridors to move safely about, but that is becoming ever so increasingly difficult especially with development and roadway expansion projects.

Dr. Christine LaChance will be speaking on "Wildlife Corridors – Helping Wildlife Move Through Better Neighborhood Planning and Green Space Design" at the **Texas Woodland & Wildlife Expo**, May 1-2. Visit <http://expo.tamu.edu> for a complete listing of classes.

If you ever come across a wounded wild animal, please contact **Friends of Texas Wildlife (FTW)**. FTW is the only Texas Park & Wildlife Department permitted wildlife rehab/release group in Montgomery County. Their volunteers specialize in working with species of animals such as raptors, neo-tropical birds, small and large mammals. Recently a homeowner in Carriage Hills found a hawk that was injured. Friends of Texas Wildlife is rehabbing the raptor and will releasing the hawk soon at the home it was found. Hawks mate for life and Friends of Texas Wildlife hopes the mate to the male hawk is still around waiting to be reunited.

Contact Friends of Texas Wildlife at www.friendsoftexaswildlife.org or call 281/259-0039. If the injury is immediate and life threatening you may drop off the injured animal at Pets Paws Animal Hospital, 936/756-0304 in Conroe, near North Loop 336 by Academy Sports. Post all this information near your phone for fast reference.

John R. Warner, CF | Urban District Forester | Texas Forest Service | 1328 FM 1488 | Conroe, Texas 77384 | jwarner@tfs.tamu.edu
p:936.273.2261 | f:936.273.2282 | e:936.546.3169



Helping you manage your piece of Texas
May 1 and 2, 2010

Lone Star Convention & Expo Center - Conroe, Texas <http://expo.tamu.edu>



Vehicle ID Stickers

If you do not have your Vehicle ID sticker (Parking Permit), the form may be downloaded from the website or for more information you may contact Susan at Investment Management at 936-756-0032. Please allow up to 2 weeks due to mailing.



The Annual Carriage Hills BBQ Cook-Off & Fundraiser Looking for: Cooking Teams

It's almost that time again! This event is the most important fundraising event that Carriage Hills holds. It not only encourages community spirit, and allows residents to meet their neighbors, but it is a very important fundraiser. The funds which are raised at this event allow many of the planned community improvement and renovation projects to be completed.

Community interest in this event dictates whether it will take place or not. This event is planned for late April or early May. If you are interested please contact Cathy at cathy@carriagehillscia.com.

Thank You

Thank you to resident Chad Vogelsang for stopping on the Boulevard and aiding Board Members with an electrical problem with the Marquee lights.



Please be aware of the speed limit through out Carriage Hills.



The Importance of ACC Approval

One of the most important jobs of the Board of Directors and the Architectural Control Committee is to ensure that all improvements, alterations and additions a homeowner makes to their property complies with the Deed Restrictions and is "in harmony" with the homeowners' property as well as within the subdivision as a whole. Unfortunately, when a homeowner does not obtain the proper approval before beginning a project, the homeowner takes a risk on whether or not that project will be approved. This action can result in a loss of time and money for not only the homeowner, but for the Association.

The importance of obtaining ACC approval before beginning a project cannot be stressed enough.

Board of Directors

Cathy Phillips
cathy@carriagehillscia.com

Lisa LeBlanc
lisal@carriagehillscia.com

Marv Bradshaw
marvbradshaw@carriagehillscia.com

Bill Royster
billr@carriagehillscia.com

Jennifer Dumas
jenniferd@carriagehillscia.com



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 parking permits, deed restrictions, directory or community information, please contact Susan at Investment Management at 936-756-0032.

"If you ever need a helping hand, it is at the end of your arm. As you get older you must remember you have a second hand. The first one is to help yourself. The second hand is to help others."

- Audrey Hepburn

Carriage Hills Community Improvement Association

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

936-756-0032
936-756-0023 Fax