



Carriage Hills

October 2011

www.carriagehillscia.com



❖ The next **Property Owner's Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, November 15th 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.



Halloween Carnival

This year's Halloween Carnival will be held on October 29th at the Tennis Courts.

Each year, the Committee strives to improve the event hoping it will be better than the previous year, but in order to do that, volunteers are a very important ingredient. This year we need volunteers to:

- ❖ Set-up
- ❖ Run a carnival game
- ❖ Clean-up

To volunteer, please contact:
Lisa LeBlanc at 936-321-6690
or
Cathy Phillips at 936-321-4059

A September Newsletter was unable to be published due to a computer crash. We apologize for any inconvenience.

National Night Out Tuesday, October 4th

Get to know your neighbors, create neighborhood awareness and have fun.

1. To volunteer to be a street leader; call Linda Cobb (713-412-2651), Alton Watson (936-321-6450) or Beverly Davis (936-273-6946) with your name and phone number.
2. Choose a location on your street for the evening gathering.
3. Choose a theme: Pot Luck, Snack Time, Neighborhood Watch, Fire Prevention and/or Preparedness etc.

Ideas:

- Bring your own snacks, dinner or drinks: pot luck, snack time, popsicles, ice cream social, etc. Or just meet each other.
- Put balloons on street leader's mailbox or on mailbox of gathering location.
- Get your street residents to fill out a brief survey on what they are interested in. (surveys available from above individuals).
- Street leaders will receive packets with survey and fire preparedness info.

Proposed Amended Deed Restrictions

The updated document has been forwarded to the attorney for review of the changes/corrections. Once it is returned to us, it will be posted once again on the website for review. Please watch for updates. We would like to thank residents for their participation.



Architectural Control Committee

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, 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 Tony Schaffer 321-0311.

Your ACC submissions must include the following:

- 1) Complete and sign the ACC application (website form)
- 2) Signed rules and regulations for construction (website form)
- 3) Elevation, Design or Drawings with measurements.
- 4) Certified plat with placement and measurements for the improvement.

Dates to Remember

October 4
National Night Out

October 10
Columbus Day

October 29
Halloween Carnival

October 31
Halloween

Deep Watering Trees

By Yvonne Stephenson, CH Resident
Montgomery County Master Gardener



Have you driven down FM 1488 recently and looked at the dying trees? What about the trees around our homes? But what can we do? We have water restrictions and rather large water bills to consider.

What can we do to responsibly save the trees in our yards? Proper watering is the key. Water enough to reach the thirsty roots while preventing waste and runoff. Most of the roots that absorb water are approximately 6-12 inches below the surface. It takes 1-4 inches of water to penetrate the soil to the proper depth. OK.... How do you know if your tree needs 1 inch or 4 inches? Then what is the best way to deliver the water? How do you know which tree to water first or which one is already dead? No, you are not going to have to take forestry classes at Texas A&M to determine the answer.

Start by looking up. Even though *really* looking up and praying for rain is the best long-term solution, looking up at the condition of your tree will guide you. Start with the trees nearest a structure and then very large trees that cannot be re-grown in your lifetime. The drought sensitive trees are magnolias, Japanese maples, dogwoods, tulip trees, cypress, oaks, river birches, and newly planted trees. Don't forget to look at sentimental trees and flowering, fruiting, or unusual trees. Now that you have a crick in your neck from looking up, you ask what are you really looking for? The answer is signs of stress.

Since trees can't frown, get cranky, or talk back, how do you know they are stressed? The leaves will give you the best clue. Check the very top part of the tree first. These branches are the farthest away from the roots so the tree allows the leaves on these branches to die first. If all of the leaves on a tree appear to be dead, two tests can help you determine if the tree is indeed dead. Take twigs that are 1/8" in diameter and bend them. If they snap then the tree may be dead. If they bend then hurry up and water the tree. The second test is to scrape bark from a small branch with your fingernail. If the tissue under the bark is green and moist then water away. Even the trees that you are not sure about may surprise you and come back in the spring. That is if you water them or we begin to get consistent rain.

What about the pine trees? Some yellow or red needles on the part of the branch closest to the trunk (that may even drop early) are common during times of drought and indicate stress. The biggest problem is stressed pines are extremely susceptible to the pine bark beetle. When this happens it usually is just a matter of days until all of the needles turn red and the tree is dead.

So now you know which trees to water first, *how* do you water? The most efficient way is to spiral a soaker hose from the trunk with 2 feet spacing. Water out to the drip line. What's the drip line? Again, look up until you are at the end the branches. On large trees you may have to move the soaker hose one or more times. So you laid out the hose and turn on the water but how long do you water? The easiest way I found is to take a long piece of metal like re-bar and push it into the soil. Don't be surprised if you can only push in the metal an inch or two especially if you are checking in your lawn. Even during this drought, in a properly mulched flowerbed you should be able to push the metal in several inches. Yes, mulch really does make a difference.

After watering for an hour, check to see how much progress you have made. You are trying to get the water 6-12 inches below the surface. Be sure to set a timer so that you don't accidentally forget water is running. Also, check the integrity of your soaker hose each time you use it. This heat is hard on anything exposed including soaker hoses. Even though you just used it, leaks can develop.

Is saving that tree really worth the trouble and expense? The increase in your water bill will be far less than the cost of having the tree removed. Also large trees lower cooling costs by providing shade to your home. The shade also helps the lawn and other plants from drying out so quickly and therefore reducing watering needs. Finally, price a replacement tree and the cost of watering suddenly looks much better.

For additional information see the following links:

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=14196>

<http://txforests.tamu.edu/main/popup.aspx?id=1283>

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.

Patrol Report - August

45 hours of Random Patrol Including:
42 Building Checks
5 Suspicious Vehicle/Person
6 Traffic Contacts
1 Public Service

Please note: This report will be a month or two behind depending on when the report is received and the newsletter is published.



Adult Volleyball

Every
Wednesday at 7:00pm
at the tennis courts

For more info, please contact:
Yvonne Savala at 936.445.9754

Board of Directors

Cathy Phillips - President
cathy@carriagehillscia.com

Heath Westfield – Vice Pres.
heathwestfield@carriagehillscia.com

Marv Bradshaw - Treasurer
marvbradshaw@carriagehillscia.com

Lisa LeBlanc - Secretary
lisal@carriagehillscia.com

Beverly Davis

Tony Schaffer

Alton Watson

(Email addresses for the newly elected members will be available soon.)



The influence of a beautiful, helpful character is contagious, and may revolutionize a whole town.

--Collier Graham



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832-458-0416 or 936-449-4412

Date: November 12th (Saturday)
Time: 10:00 until 3:00



Location:
Tennis Court Area



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.

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