



Carriage Hills Telegraph

September 2008



www.carriagehillscia.com

A Message From The Directors

❖ The next Property Owner's Meeting will be held on November 18th at 7:00 pm at the Fire Station. Attending these meetings is a great way to get connected with the neighborhood.

❖ Please be sure to check the Carriage Hills website at: www.carriagehillscia.com often for information regarding updates, alerts and events that are happening in and around the neighborhood.

❖ The Board would like to thank all the residents for their positive feedback on the renovations in the Pool/Park areas.

Notes from the August Property Owners Meeting

❖ Guest Speaker Fire Chief Hosler spoke to residents concerning a voting issue coming up in November. Please see information provided by the Fire Department at the end of this newsletter.

❖ The pool season has been a successful one. The attendance was very high.

❖ The park & pool rentals and fees collected were much higher than expected this year.

❖ A resident presented the Board with a petition requesting the pool season be extended.

❖ The first "Welcome New Residents" gathering was held in July and was great fun.

❖ Carriage Hills has hired a new attorney. The new Deed Restrictions should be ready to be reviewed in the near future.

❖ Security Cameras have been installed at the Pool/Park location and also at the Tennis Court/Park areas.

❖ Due to a rapid overgrowth of alligator weed, professional services have begun on the pond.

❖ New and additional signs for the common areas will be installed soon.

Halloween

Carnival



This years Halloween Carnival will be held on Saturday, October 25th from 5:00-8:00 pm. All residents are invited and encouraged to come. There will be food, games, a 50/50 raffle, costume contest and a silent auction. The silent auction will begin at 5:00 pm and end promptly at 7:30 pm to allow everyone to be present and pick up their items.

We are in need of volunteers. If anyone can spare a few hours, please consider helping to make this a fun night for all.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Setting up and decorating
- Serving food
- Manning games
- Clean-up

Items Needed for Carnival:

- Silent Auction Items
- Wrapped Candy Donations
- 2 liter Soda bottles (full)
- Baked goods for the cake walk
- Money Donations

The funds from this event will be used to improve the Park areas. To volunteer or for questions please contact the Carnival Chairman: Monje' Piron at 936-271-3469 or email at: deweyfiction@yahoo.com

Donation drop-off locations:

- 2326 Carriage Run East
- 2304 Muleshoe Drive
- 2403 Coachman Drive

Admission is \$2.00 per child for 3 years & older.



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. To receive your residential vehicle stickers, deed restrictions, directory or community information, please contact Susan at Investment Management at 936-756-0032.

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. 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.

Dates to Remember

September 1
Labor Day

September 11
Patriot Day

Found

Two bicycle helmets were found in the Pool/Park area. To claim please call Lisa at 936-321-6690.

Vandalism in Carriage Hills

We have had several incidents of vandalism this summer. If anyone witnesses any dangerous acts or acts of vandalism, please call a Board Member or the Sheriffs Dept.

Please check the flyer that was recently emailed and also posted on the website. If you can make an identification, please contact the proper authorities immediately. Thank you for your help.

Pool Season

Extended

Through Sept. 28th
Saturday & Sunday

12 pm – 8 pm

Enjoy!!!!



Board of Directors

Cathy Phillips

(936) 321-4059

cathy@carriagehillscia.com

Lisa LeBlanc

(936) 321-6690

lisa@carriagehillscia.com

Morris Dubs

(936) 273-3268

Bill Royster

(936) 321-9129

billr@carriagehillscia.com

Hats off to these Carriage Hills Residents!



❖ Thank you to Bob Hornick who mows and maintains the grass from the creek to Stableridge on both sides of the road.

❖ Thank you to Larry Reynolds for removing the tree that fell across the road to the park.

❖ Thank you to Monje' Piron for stepping up once again to Chair the Halloween Carnival Committee.

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.

Donations Needed

❖ Garbage Bags

We are looking for garbage bags to provide to the volunteers that pick up trash in and around the subdivision.

"We can't do much about the length of our lives, but we can do plenty about its width and depth."

--Evan Esar

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

Volunteers Needed

The Carriage Hills

"Honey-Do" List

We are in need of some help in maintaining the common grounds in Carriage Hills. To save money, keep our maintenance fees low and still allow these areas to be fixed up, we are asking for volunteers for the following tasks:

❖ A group of volunteers are needed to rake, blow, bag and clean-up the center median of the boulevard.

❖ Landscaping timbers on the boulevard @ Cobblecreek need to be repaired and/or replaced.

❖ Volunteers are needed to help keep the common grounds mowed and looking nice. (The areas that are not being maintained by the lawn service.) Gas and training on the CH tractor will be provided.

❖ Volunteers are needed to replace lighting at the Pool/Park area.

If you are able to do one or more of these jobs, please contact Cathy at 936-321-4059 or Lisa at 936-321-6690. Please remember that volunteer work is done at your convenience and when your time allows. Any and all help is greatly appreciated.

Curfew



Did you know that there is a curfew in Montgomery County?

The law states that anyone under the age of 17 may not be out in public unattended from the hours of 12:01 a.m. until 6:00 a.m. Monday through Sunday. If caught, the fine can up to \$500.00. For more information and to view the law please visit the website at: www.co.montgomery.tx.us/jp1/index.shtml

NEEDHAM FIRE & RESCUE

Needham Fire & Rescue and the Emergency Services District #4; How do they work together?

ESD #4 is the legal taxing entity that collects up to \$.10 per \$100 valuation on property values in the district. The ESD is a Board of five Commissioners responsible for providing fire and emergency medical coverage for their area of responsibility. Fortunately, the Montgomery County Hospital District manages the ambulance service throughout the county leaving only medical first responder responses for the ESD to provide. The ESD contracts the Needham Fire & Rescue Company and the Needham Volunteer Fire & Rescue Inc. to provide those services.

The ESD authorizes an operating budget for the fire department and employs a Fire Chief to manage the department's operations. Day to day operations and standard operating procedures are controlled by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief is accountable to the ESD to insure quality services are rendered to the district.

The ESD and Fire Chief collaborate regarding the purchase of apparatus, equipment and the maintenance or purchase of facilities. Together, the ESD and Fire Chief insure you have the equipment and facilities to provide the quality service required by the citizens of Emergency Service District #4.

Rising Cost of Operations

The ESD and the Fire Chief are working diligently to operate the department in a cost effective manner. However, the rising cost of fuel for the apparatus has far outpaced budgeted fuel costs. Vehicle repair costs, station maintenance, fleet maintenance and employment costs have also outpaced budgeted expenditures. The Chief has implemented many cost cutting measures, some drastic to offset these rising costs.

Alternatives

As a result of these rising costs, the Chief has examined all other means of funding the basic operation of the department without cutting essential emergency services. ***We must now look at changing the sales tax allocations in the district. This does not mean that our citizens will be paying more for goods and services at local merchants. Citizens will be paying essentially the same amount of taxes for goods and services purchased now in the district. The merchants will still be charging the same sales taxes that are being collected now. The state will be reallocating this amount that is now profit for the local retailers and will apply it to the district as tax revenue.*** For example, for every \$1.00 sold, the merchants are keeping this amount as profit. After passing this tax request, The State of Texas Comptrollers Office will allocate .2 back to the fire district. Nearly 40% of the Departments' calls are to render aid to citizens from outside our district. Those citizens do not financially contribute via sales tax or ad valorem taxes to the ongoing funding of department operations. Since there are no major retailers in our district we anticipate this change will be borne by this group of non district residents.

The Future

With this planned reallocation of tax revenue to the fire district not only will we be able to offset rising costs, we will also be allocating this revenue to provide additional and more diverse training for our personnel. We also plan to begin construction of a new central fire station in the Montgomery Creek Ranch subdivision. The construction of this new central station will allow for better training facilities, better housing for our crews and better management of the department while reducing our response time in the district. This building will also be built as an emergency shelter for department operations in the event of a natural disaster. Our current main station is not built to this standard. Additionally, we plan to provide better firefighting gear that is up to current fire service standards.

With these and other changes the ESD and the Chief are implementing we anticipate our district ISO rating will drop thus resulting in lower insurance costs for our residents.

Emergency Service District #4 and Needham Fire Rescue are committed to providing the best fire protection and medical first responder services available in Montgomery County.

Needham Fire Rescue provides fire protection and medical first responder services in south central Montgomery County, Texas. Operating from 3 stations with nearly 60 paid and volunteer firefighters, Needham fire Rescue covers a district of nearly 25 square miles of predominantly suburban area consisting of residential housing and small businesses.