



# NEWSCASTER

A publication of  
Spring Shadows Civic Association, Inc.

10355 CENTREPARK DRIVE, SUITE 220  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77043

TEL. 713-460-1718

FAX 713-460-2399

PCT. 5 CONSTABLE 281-463-6666

[www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org)

**ISSUE 276**  
**PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY**

**OCTOBER 2018**



# ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

## CALENDAR

- Executive Committee Meetings: Mondays Oct. 1, Nov. 5, 6:45 pm
- Board of Directors Meeting: Monday Nov. 12, 6:45 pm.
- ACC Meetings: Wednesday Oct. 10, Tuesday Nov. 6, 6:45 pm
- General Meeting: Tuesday Oct. 23, The Pavillion on Gessner, 7:00 pm,  
PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGE
- Garbage pickup: Fri. Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Fri. Nov. 2, 9, 16, Sat, Nov. 24, Fri. Nov. 30
- Recycling: Friday: Friday Oct. 12, 26, Friday Nov. 9, Saturday Nov 24
- Large Trash, Junk Pick-Up: Friday Oct. 26
- Tree Waste Pick-Up: Friday November 23

### OCTOBER

Oct. 2, Tues. Neighbors Night Out  
Oct. 8, Mon. Columbus Day  
Oct. 9, Tues. Special Meeting  
Oct. 23, Tues. General Meeting  
Oct. 31, Wed. Halloween

### NOVEMBER

Nov. 4, Sun. Daylight Savings Day Ends  
Nov. 6, Tues. Election Day  
Nov. 11, Sun. Veterans Day  
Nov. 22, Thurs. Thanksgiving Day

### Important Phone Numbers

**Pct. 5 Constable** 281-463-6666  
**Graffiti Removal** 311 (713-837-0311)  
**Emergency** 911  
**Houston Police (Non Emer)** 713-884-3131  
**Houston Fire (Admin)** 832-394-6700  
**SBISD Police** 713-984-9805  
**Brenda Stardig Council Member District A**  
832-393-3010  
**BARC (Roaming Dogs)** 713-229-7342

Contact information correct at time of printing.

### Online Newscaster

The Newscaster is delivered to members' homes by the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, April, June, August, October and December. It can be viewed online at [www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to delivery.

### Office Information

10355 Centrepark Drive, Suite 220  
Houston, Texas 77043  
Tel. 713 460 1718  
Fax 713 460 2399

[www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org)

email: [sscaoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:sscaoffice@yahoo.com)

Office hours Mon. – Fri. 8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

INFORMATION POSTED IN THE NEWSCASTER IS FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY AND IS NOT ENDORSED BY SPRING SHADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED OTHERWISE. SPRING SHADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION WILL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR DECISIONS MADE BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED IN THIS PUBLICATION.

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## **SPRING SHADOWS AREA CLUBS\***

**Spring Shadows Moms Club** meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 pm. Contact Caroline Clay or Heather Morse at [ssmomsclub@gmail.com](mailto:ssmomsclub@gmail.com) for more information.

**Spring Shadows Book Club** meets the second Monday of every month at 6:30 pm for dinner and discussion. For more information, contact: Sandy Lynch at [San-lyn@hotmail.com](mailto:San-lyn@hotmail.com).



### SPRING SHADOWS WOMEN'S CLUB

invites you to join us for our social and speaker gatherings on the third Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm.

For more information, please contact:  
PRESIDENT | Cindy Portis: [cindy.portis@gmail.com](mailto:cindy.portis@gmail.com)

**\*Clubs have no affiliation with the Association**

**AUTHORIZED SPRING SHADOWS  
CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
ONLINE SITES**

[www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org)  
on Facebook **LIKE**  
Spring Shadows Civic Association

Check the website often for current updates

## **WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Welcome to "almost fall" in Spring Shadows. We are to a time of the year that the temperatures should start to gradually cool. It will be a nice change from the heat we have been experiencing.

As members of Spring Shadows Civic Association, you should make sure you exercise your right to vote in the election for the Board of Directors at the General meeting on October 23, 2018 at The Pavilion on Gessner at 7pm. There are 21 positions open. Make sure your vote counts.

Recently many of you should have received a letter from the City of Houston about the placement of speed cushions on some of the streets in the areas bounded by Gessner on the West, Campbell on the East, Kempwood on the North, and Hammerly on the South. I hope each one of you responded to make your desires known as the placement of the cushions is driven by the requests of the neighborhood residents as well as input from some city departments and the fire department.

Don't forget to attend your areas closest Neighbors Night Out get together on October 2nd at 6:30 pm in your neighborhood. We currently have 29 groups all over the subdivision planning to have a function. Elsewhere in the Newscaster is a listing of their locations (page 7). For the very latest on locations please check the SSCA website after you receive the Newscaster as more locations may have been added. We hope everyone has a great time and please remember to take pictures and send them to the office.

As I always say please remember to be neighborly and respectful to all of your neighbors, whoever they may be.

I hope to see you either at Neighbors Night Out or at the General meeting.

David Van Bergen  
President

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Every year the AC Committee sends out over a dozen letters regarding inoperable vehicles being parked in driveways. An inoperable vehicle is a vehicle that (not an exhaustive list): can't be driven under its own power, for whatever reason; has flat tire/tires; an expired registration; is on blocks/jack stands. The Deed Restrictions explicitly prohibit the storing of inoperable vehicles (Article 2, Section 11, Paragraph b).

Both the Deed Restrictions and the City of Houston ordinances prohibit the parking of vehicles on the grass/lawns; vehicles must be parked on a solid paved surface (that is, a slab). City of Houston ordinances state you can park your vehicle on the street for no more than 24 hours without moving it. Any vehicle left unmoved on the street for more than 24 hours is subject to citation by the Constable patrol. Trailers, attached or unattached to a vehicle, can be parked on the street for no more than 4 hours; again, these are subject to citation. Deed Restrictions limit trailer parking to a slab and they must be behind the front build line (Article 2, Section 11, Paragraph a).

City of Houston emergency services need the space at the end of a cul-de-sac to turn-around. Therefore, it is imperative that you park parallel to the curb, not heading into the curb. Parking heading into the curb can result in a citation. Also, be aware that it is illegal to park, at the curb, heading into traffic.

The Fall weather is fast approaching and that means leaves will be falling, in fact the pine trees are already starting to shed their needles. The AC Committee asks all homeowners to keep leaves out of the street and out of the storm drains. Draining the rainwater is crucial to keep our neighborhoods from flooding, so keeping the storm drains free of vegetative debris is a must. Also, keep your roofs and gutters free of leaves and pine needles. Having leaves and pine straw on the roof keeps the wood under the shingles moist and promotes both mildew/mold and rot of roof decking. Clogged gutters lead to gutters overflowing and this results in mildew growing on the house and rotting of the wood trim supporting the gutters.

The AC Committee is comprised of members on the SSCA Board of Directors (BOD) and non-directors (SSCA homeowners who are not on the BOD). Committee members review and approve/reject AC Applications (via email and monthly meetings) and drive the SSCA neighborhoods on a monthly basis noting any violations of the Deed Restrictions or City of Houston ordinances. If you are interested in joining the AC Committee, please email the office at [sscaoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:sscaoffice@yahoo.com) and the Committee will be more than happy to contact you to discuss it further.

## **PATROL & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

John Arnold, Joe Canales, David Durham, Jerry Gilcrease,  
Ben Gillis, Tom Pizzo, and Sgt. F. Hernandez

Greetings Spring Shadows,

As we all regroup from summer and get back to our normal routines I would like to address several issues that you or your neighbors have been reporting. It is becoming more frequent that personal information (credit cards) are being compromised by thieves. These thieves have found various ways to obtain your credit information and/or bank information. Here are a few ways they are obtaining your information and how you can help protect yourself from being a victim to these crimes.

### **Gas Station Pumps (Valero Gas Station at Gessner/Hammerly)**

Thieves have obtained skimming devices that are easily placed over the credit card readers and appear to be the actual credit card reader. Along with the skimming device they also place small cameras around the gas pump facing the key pad in effort to obtain pin numbers or zip codes. This makes it easier for them to steal your hard earned money. The best preventive measures to stop these type of thefts are as follows:

If you are getting gas, pay inside the store. It may take a few more minutes of your time to go inside but it will save you a big headache from trying to restore your credit identity theft.

If you must pay at the pump, check the pump before you swipe. Look to see if there is a security seal sticker on the pump door where credit card access door is located. If there is no seal then it's a possibility that the pump has been compromised. Always pull the credit card reader with a firm pull. Credit card readers should not be easily removable. If the reader comes off of the pump notify the police. Also inspect the pump for small electronic type cameras. These cameras are usually hidden facing the key pad.

If you would like to see videos of skimming devices and how to check for them there are several on YouTube. Here is a link to one of many videos with tips on what to look for: <https://youtu.be/facoeYLO5EU>

### **Grocery Cart Thefts**

Thieves are following and watching every step you take while shopping. Some even work in teams and help create distractions. While you are distracted they go through your purse or bag and only take your wallet or billfold that's containing your money and credit cards or sometimes just take everything. By the time you notice it is missing they are gone and spending your hard earned money. Always keep your purse / bag on you and zipped up. There are also YouTube videos that show you certain incidents if you would like to watch: <https://youtu.be/d0kkfu6PH0Y>

Lastly, I would just like to remind all to keep your vehicles secure at all times. Do not leave valuables inside in plain view or bags that may appear to be purses, or laptop carrying cases. Electronic devices should be out of sight. If you see anything that appears odd report it to the Constables 281-463-6666. With your assistance we can continue to keep Spring Shadows neighborhood safe and protected.

Sincerely,  
Sergeant F. Hernandez, Patrol Spring Shadows

## Neighbors Night Out - Tuesday October 2, 2018



***If you are interested in hosting a gathering in your neighborhood there is still time. Please contact the office at 713-460-1718 or at [sscaoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:sscaoffice@yahoo.com)***

Below is a current listing of Neighbors Night Out parties in your neighborhood. For a complete list of parties, check the Association website at [www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org).

2530 Anniston  
2815 Bernadette  
3003 Bernadette  
9702 Colleen  
2751 Durban  
2927 Durban  
2405 Eaglerock  
2918 Fontana  
2611 Hollow Hook  
2803 Kenross  
2914 Kenross  
2919 Kevin  
9835 Knoboak  
2422 Lexford  
2702 Manila  
2819 Manila  
3007 Manila  
9826 Moorberry  
2403 Moss Hill  
2507 Parana  
2635 Pomeran  
2914 Quincannon  
2511 Rosefield  
3027 Shadowdale  
2719 Stetson  
2915 Stetson  
2519 Talina  
2811 Triway  
2926 Triway  
9707 Truscon

# **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2018**

**6:45PM**

**Spring Woods Baptist Church Gym  
10131 Emnora Lane**

A special meeting of the Board of Directors has been called at the request of the Spring Shadows Civic Association members who signed a petition which stated:

“We the undersigned members of the Spring Shadows Civic Association do hereby petition the Board of Directors to call, hold and attend a Special Meeting of the members to discuss mosquito control measures in Spring Shadows and to obtain residents’ opinions regarding same measures”.

Thank you,  
Spring Shadows Board of Directors

# **GENERAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018**

**7PM**

**The Pavillion on Gessner  
2500 Gessner Road**

The Spring Shadows Civic Association fall General Meeting will be held at The Pavillion on Gessner, October 23, 2018 at 7pm. Please come to this meeting and vote in director candidates for the 2019-2020 term. There are twenty-one (21) positions that need to be filled on the Board. If you cannot attend the meeting in person, proxy and absentee ballots will be available on our website by the end of September. If you are planning to attend the meeting, you will vote via ballot at the meeting.

President Van Bergen has planned to change the format of the meeting to concentrate on Association business; there will be no guest speakers. Instead the Association Committee Chairs will give updates on their projects and answer questions from members.

**HILLEND AHL LIBRARY**  
**2463 GESSNER RD.**  
**832.393.1940**

Current hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 10 am - 6 pm

Thursday noon - 6 pm

Friday, Saturday 10 am - 5 pm

Sunday Closed

**Call the library and ask for information about the following programs:**

Songs of Peace, Baby Story Time, Computer Help Sessions, STEM@ Your Library (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math), Video Gaming. Read With Paws-itive Pups, Toddler Story Time, Basic Mouse and Keyboarding, Teen Craft & Google. Check about senior citizen computer classes.

***SOUNDS TOO EARLY***  
***BUT GET READY FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON***

The day after Thanksgiving, Friday November 23, you may begin your outdoor Christmas Holiday decorating. It is always wonderful to see all of the lights, Santa's, Elves, Candy Canes, Crèches, Reindeer and other holiday décor throughout Spring Shadows.

Judging for the Christmas Decorating Contest will be the weekend of December 15/16. During that weekend, have your display lit from 7pm-9pm both days, so the judges can see your decorations. Winners will be listed on our official website, [www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org) the following week. Check the website [www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org) to get a list of the winners so that you can drive around to see them yourself. The February 2019 issue of the Newscaster will also have a list of the winners. (013670)

We ask that all Christmas décor, including lights, be removed by January 15th, 2019.

Thank you.

## **HURRICANE SEASON REMINDERS**

We're better than half way through hurricane season. But don't become complacent. Here are some reminders you should heed.

### **HOW TO PREPARE**

Staying safe during the hurricane season starts with a simple step, have a plan. People can plan for hurricanes using a simple guide at [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov). Plans need to be worked out for all family members and for your pets.

This plan includes figuring out how to determine whether it's safe to hunker down at home during a storm or whether you are in an evacuation zone. If so, there is likely a specific route you should take in the event of an evacuation, as many roads may be closed. If you are in an evacuation zone, you also need to figure out accommodations during the storm -this could be anything from staying with family and friends to renting a motel to staying in a shelter.

Family members often have trouble reaching each other during hurricanes, so determining a preset meeting place and protocol can be helpful. Sometimes, local cellphone lines are overloaded during a storm, so consider texting. Another alternative is to have a central out-of-state contact who can relay messages between separated family members.

During a storm, pets should be leashed or placed in a carrier, and their emergency supplies should include a list of their vaccinations as well as a photo in case they get lost, according to the Humane Society for the United States. Also important is finding someone who can care for them, in the event that a hotel or shelter does not accept pets. During an emergency, they should also be wearing a collar with the information of an out-of-state contact in case they get separated from you, according to the HSUS. (Humane Society of the United States)

### **STORM-PROOF YOUR HOME**

Anyone who lives in a hurricane-prone area would do well to protect their property in advance of a flood. Because hurricanes often cause their damage when trees fall on property, homeowners can reduce the risk of damage by trimming trees or removing damaged trees and limbs, according to [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

Another easy step is to make sure rain gutters are fixed in place and free of debris. Reinforcing the roof, doors and windows, including a garage door, is also important. Power generators can also be an important tool if the power is cut off for long periods of time. A power generator needs to be kept outside, as they produce dangerous levels of carbon monoxide.

People who are very serious about prevention may even consider building a "safe room" — a fortified room designed to withstand the punishing winds of a tornado or hurricane, according

to the Federal Emergency Management Agency pamphlet "Taking Shelter from the Storm: Building a Safe Room for Your Home or Small Business," (FEMA, 2014).

### **EMERGENCY SUPPLIES**

People living in hurricane country also need to have a stash of emergency supplies, ideally placed in multiple locations throughout a dwelling. A basic disaster kit should include:

- A gallon of water per person per day for at least three days
- A three-day supply of non-perishable food
- All necessary medications
- A battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- A first aid kit
- A whistle to get help
- Dust mask
- Moist towelettes, garbage cans and plastic ties for sanitation
- A wrench or pliers for turning off busted pipes
- Maps
- A can opener for food
- Cellphone chargers
- Propane or charcoal for use in outdoor grills so you can prepare food
- Make sure your vehicles have full gas tanks
- If you have a generator have it full and have extra fuel in safe containers

### **ESSENTIAL PAPERWORK**

All insurance papers; list of doctor, dentist, and other health providers; any necessary health information including prescription numbers; title papers for home and cars; and any other information that you may need, should you find yourself and family in a shelter or away from your home for an indefinite time. It is a good idea to ALWAYS have these papers together in a safe location. Having these papers ready means that if you have hurricane damage, a fire, or other home damage that requires you to leave, you will have the paperwork of your life with you.

For the 2018 hurricane season, the following hurricane names could come into play in the North Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, according to the WMO: Alberto, Beryl, Chris, Debby, Ernesto, Florence, Gordon, Helene, Isaac, Joyce, Kirk, Leslie, Michael, Nadine, Oscar, Patty, Rafael, Sara, Tony, Valerie.

Originally published on Live Science. See also Ready.gov

The SSCA office has decals  
for your car  
that identify you as a  
Spring Shadows resident.  
Be sure to pick one up  
for each of your vehicles.



View pictures of Yard of the Month  
winners on our website at  
[www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org)

### August

Area 1: 2614 Hollow Hook  
Area 2: 2718 Quincannon  
Area 3: 2911 Manila  
Area 4: 9610 Colleen  
Area 5: 2202 Eaglerock

### September

Area 1: 2618 Talina  
Area 2: 2703 Manila  
Area 3: 2919 Durban  
Area 4: 9702 Colleen  
Area 5: 9907 Emnora

### No Winner

### \$50.00 prize this issue!

Your six digit account number is the top line of your address label. The number is included in one of the articles in this issue. When you find your number, contact the office by letter or email. Give us your name, your account number, the article in which you found it and a check will be in your mail box soon. Prizes must be claimed within 45 days and unclaimed prizes roll over into the next issue. The numbers are randomly picked by SSCA's CPA firm. Association dues are not used to fund the prize.

### NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Please let the office know your email\* address so you can be included on important Association news. The office needs only **ONE (1) good email address per family.**

Email your name and street address to the Association at **sscaoffice@yahoo.com.**

If you are currently receiving group emails from the Association, then you're already in the system and do not need to take further action.

Thank you.

\*email address will be used for Association business only

*Thank  
you!*

There are many individuals in the Spring Shadows Civic Association who should be thanked regularly but are not. So, here's a thank you to all of you.

Michelle and Steve for keeping the office organized and on top of things. They answer the phones and deal with whatever questions are asked. The questions range from how to get a new garbage can, to questions regarding payment plans, to the angry... "why can't I paint my house orange?" They also answer emails, deal with walk-ins, plus doing the standard office procedures. Michelle and Steve know where to get the answers you need for the questions you ask. They do so pleasantly and very cheerfully, even when dealing with irate individuals. They truly keep the association functioning.

Then there are the Executive Committee members and the Board of Directors, all of whom are volunteers. They work their day jobs and put in extra hours as unpaid board members to insure the Spring Shadows Civic Association maintains the quality that keeps us one of the best HOA's (Home Owners Associations), and one of the largest in Texas.

And the committee members. Again all volunteers giving hours to help Spring Shadows subdivision maintain the quality we as homeowners enjoy. Yard of the Month, Community/Government Relations, Beautification, and Patrol and Safety to name some of the committees.

So thank you to each of you who volunteered to be a member of the Board of Directors and to all those who volunteer on committees. You may not always be noted but you are always appreciated.

### Calling all teenagers...

Are you looking for extra money from babysitting, pet sitting, plant care or mowing lawns? Call the Association office at (713) 460 -1718 to have your name placed in the Newscaster for jobs you are wanting to do and be added to the Teenage Job Seekers list below.

## Spring Shadows Teenage Job Seekers

**L - Lawn care      P - Pet Care Only      B - Babysitting      P/P- Pet/Plant Care**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Leslie - B,P/P (small dogs only)	Shadowdale	713-722-8689
Charlotte - B,P/P	Palo Pinto	832-581-6958
Josiah - P,P/P,L	Shadowdale	713-384-8986
Gabriela - B	Shadowdale	713-384-8986

**Note: Spring Shadows Civic Association does not endorse any of the teenagers listed, and is not responsible for any of their actions.**




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[www.johnknoxhouston.org](http://www.johnknoxhouston.org)

**Rev. Becky Ardell Downs**

*Sunday School 9:15 a.m.*

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Robin Castellanos - Spring Shadows Resident



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*direct* 713.898.0818  
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**MEL REYNA**  
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**Stephanie Schoggin**  
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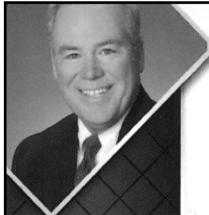
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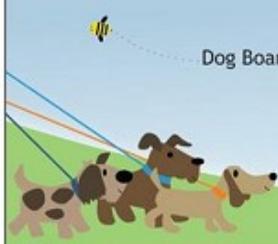
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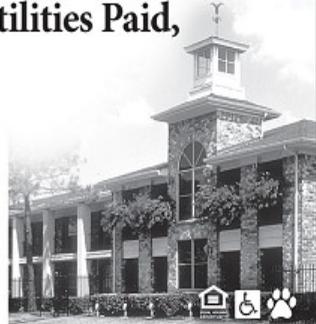
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## Advertising Policy for Spring Shadows Civic Association

[Approved by the Board of Directors on May 15, 2017](#)

***It has been suggested that the Civic Association establish an advertising policy that will allow more community businesses to advertise in the Newscaster. A policy would establish a fixed number of advertising spaces and allow those businesses currently advertising, and those who would advertise if space was available, an equal opportunity to submit camera ready advertisements together with payment, by January 1, 2018, for the initial 2018 Newscaster, and following editions.***

The Newscaster is a bi-monthly publication of the Spring Shadows Civic Association, Inc. presenting information about the subdivision and the neighborhood to the residents of the Spring Shadows Subdivision. Spring Shadows has 1,966 homes comprising the membership of the Association. The Newscaster is published in February, April, June, August, October, and December of each year.

Beginning January 1, 2018, the Newscaster will make available approximately 40 advertising spaces for local businesses to advertise their goods and services to residents and homeowners. Each advertising space will be the same size, 1/8<sup>th</sup> page (approximately business card size, each measuring 3.5" x 2" (including border or background).

An advertisement may be purchased and placed issue-by-issue, or six issues may be purchased in January, at a cost of \$50.00 per issue. All advertisements will be placed in the Newscaster on a space available basis, in the order received. Advertisements must be submitted to the Association's office in a camera-ready format and must be paid for in advance. Advertisements, together with payment, must be received in the Association's office by the following deadlines:

December 1<sup>st</sup>, for the following year's February Newscaster  
February 1st for the April Newscaster  
April 1st for the June Newscaster  
June 1st for the August Newscaster  
August 1st for the October Newscaster; and  
October 1st for the December Newscaster.

Advertising rates for the next calendar year are determined by the Association each October.

The Association reserves the right to refuse advertising if, in its sole discretion, the Association finds that the advertisement is not in the best interest of the residents. Advertisers must comply with any applicable laws or regulations regarding their advertisements. The Association is not liable for the content of any advertisement and does not endorse nor assume any responsibility or liability for an advertiser's product or service.

Spring Shadows Teens ages 13 years to 18 years, who offer a service to Spring Shadows residents, may be listed in an Association advertisement at no cost. Teens interested in offering a service should contact the Association's office.

SPECIAL MEETING OCTOBER 9  
GENERAL MEETING OCTOBER 23

See Page 8