



# NEWSCASTER

A publication of  
Spring Shadows Civic Association, Inc.

10355 CENTREPARK DRIVE, SUITE 220  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77043

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

**ISSUE 280**  
**PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY**

**APRIL 2019**



# ASSOCIATION INFORMATION

## CALENDAR

- Executive Committee Meetings: Mondays, Apr.1, May 6, 6:45 pm
- BOD Meetings: Mondays, May 20, 6:45 pm
- ACC Meetings: Tuesdays, Apr. 2, May 7, 6:45 pm
- General Meeting: Tuesday, Apr. 9, Spring Woods Baptist Church (see page 7)
- SSCA Spring Festival: Saturday, Apr. 27, Spring Woods Baptist (see page 9)
- Garbage pickup: Fridays
- Recycling: Fridays: Apr.12, 26, May 10, 24
- Large Trash, Junk Pick-Up: Friday, Apr.26
- Tree Waste Pick-Up: Friday, May 24

### APRIL

Mon. 1, April Fool's Day  
Sun. 14, Palm Sunday  
Mon. 15, Taxes Due  
Fri. 19, Good Friday  
Sat. 20 - Sat. 27, Passover  
Sun. 21, Easter  
Mon.22, Earth Day  
Wed. 24, Administrative Professionals Day  
Fri. 26, Arbor Day

### MAY

Wed. 1, May Day  
Sun. 5, Cinco De Mayo  
Mon. 6, Start of Ramadan  
Sun. 12, Mother's Day  
Sat. 18, Armed Forces Day  
Mon. 27, Memorial 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

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

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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**

This has turned out to be a year of substantial changes compared to last year. As you may know, in the office, Michelle and Steve are leaving us this year. Michelle is leaving us first. She has done an outstanding job for us over the years and we wish her well in her future endeavors. We have hired Susan Swiatoviak to be our new Financial Assistant/Office Manager, starting in mid-March. Susan also is a Spring Shadows resident and we are hoping for a smooth transition from Michelle to Susan. Michelle will help train Susan in office procedures, etc.

The Board of Directors has approved a two-part mosquito control program, dunks and fogging, with education being a third supporting component for 2019. The most obvious change will be the resumption of mosquito fogging. The second phase is the insertion of “dunks” in the storm drains to kill mosquito larvae. The third component is education. If we all do our part, we can reduce the number of mosquitos in Spring Shadows. There is an article on mosquito control elsewhere in the Newscaster.

You may have noticed flashing yellow lights for left-turns, both ways, off Gessner on to Kemp Forest. This has come about as a result of substantial work performed by our David Van Bergen and Council Member Stardig’s Office. This should allow traffic to flow smoother at this intersection and decrease traffic backed up on Gessner.

A bill which we’ve worked on to restore our election of directors according to the provisions contained in our bylaws has been filed by Rep. Bohac (HB 1025). We will be working trying to get it passed into law.

Other initiatives we are continuing to pursue include trying to get traffic signals at Kempwood and Rosefield; working on flooding issues with the city and Harris County, and trying to get paramedics at Fire Station 77, on Kempwood. Additionally, with the ongoing construction of new homes and apartments immediately around Spring Shadows (currently in excess of 1300 units by my count) we will be calling attention to this construction in the hope that our neighborhood schools will have planned to be able to care for the anticipated increase of students in our immediate area.

So, stay tuned. We have a lot on our plate this year.

Rob Cooms, President

## **ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE**

Here we are at the beginning of Spring when the weather is warmer, the days are longer, the trees push out new leaves, the lawns green up, and the mildew blooms on the house siding and brick! We realize that mold/mildew is a yearly battle here in hot, humid Houston, but there are steps we can take to reduce the seemingly endless battle into a (mere) yearly chore.

Spraying your house with a fungicide will kill the mold/mildew and help keep it from coming back for almost a year. In the October 2017 Newscaster<sup>1</sup> we told you about various fungicides you can use. Shamelessly copying from that article:

There are many fungicides available at Home Depot, Lowes, Ace Hardware, and other stores. Two of the most popular are “Spray and Forget”®, and “Wet and Forget”®, but there are others. Be sure to read the labels and follow the directions and take all the necessary safety precautions noted on the labels. These products can be applied with a pump-up garden sprayer, there is no need for a high pressure washer. Best of all they keep working for many months!

For the past several months the trees have been shedding their leaves and a lot of them are ending up in the rain gutters on the house. Allowing the leaves to accumulate and remain in the rain gutters can provide a breeding ground for mosquitos because the resulting ‘mulch’ can prevent the water from completely draining. Also, the leaves can block the drain hole causing the rain water to overflow the gutters and results in the underlying wood structure rotting. In the past month several houses have been cited for having weeds and trees growing in the gutters.

Now is also the time to sod, or re-sod, the bare spots in your lawn. I would like to direct your attention to last months’ Newscaster article<sup>2</sup> on growing grass in the bare spots on your lawn. In it we mention that you may have to have your trees pruned/thinned to allow sunlight to filter through and allow the grass to grow. In that same article I also directed your attention to a publication from the Texas A&M Horticulture Dept on Texas Turfgrasses<sup>3</sup>.

We would also like to remind everyone the Christmas season is now past and there are folks with Christmas lights and decorations still out. Please take the lights and decorations down. These should have been taken down by 15 January.

David W. Jurgens  
Chair, AC Committee

<sup>1</sup> [https://springshadows.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Mildew\\_Removal.pdf](https://springshadows.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Mildew_Removal.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://springshadows.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Acc\\_Sod\\_2019-02.pdf](https://springshadows.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Acc_Sod_2019-02.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/travis/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/2010-Turfgrass-Selection-for-Texaslres.pdf>

## **PATROL & SAFETY COMMITTEE**

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

Many thanks to our Constables, Sgt. Hernandez and Deputies Horn, Robles, Rodriguez, and Ramirez, for keeping Spring Shadows Civic Association safe. As a reminder, **“if you see something, say something”** and call the Pct. 5 Dispatcher at (281) 463-6666 for Constable assistance.

As Spring begins, more people will be wanting to get outside to enjoy the warmer weather. You'll also want to take a walk with your four-legged friends. Spring Shadows Civic Association residents must remember that City of Houston has a **Leash Law** which states that dogs and cats may not run at large in the City of Houston; this is also a state law. Running at large means going on public or private property without the owner or another person having direct physical control of the animal. An animal on a leash is considered to be under physical control of a person.

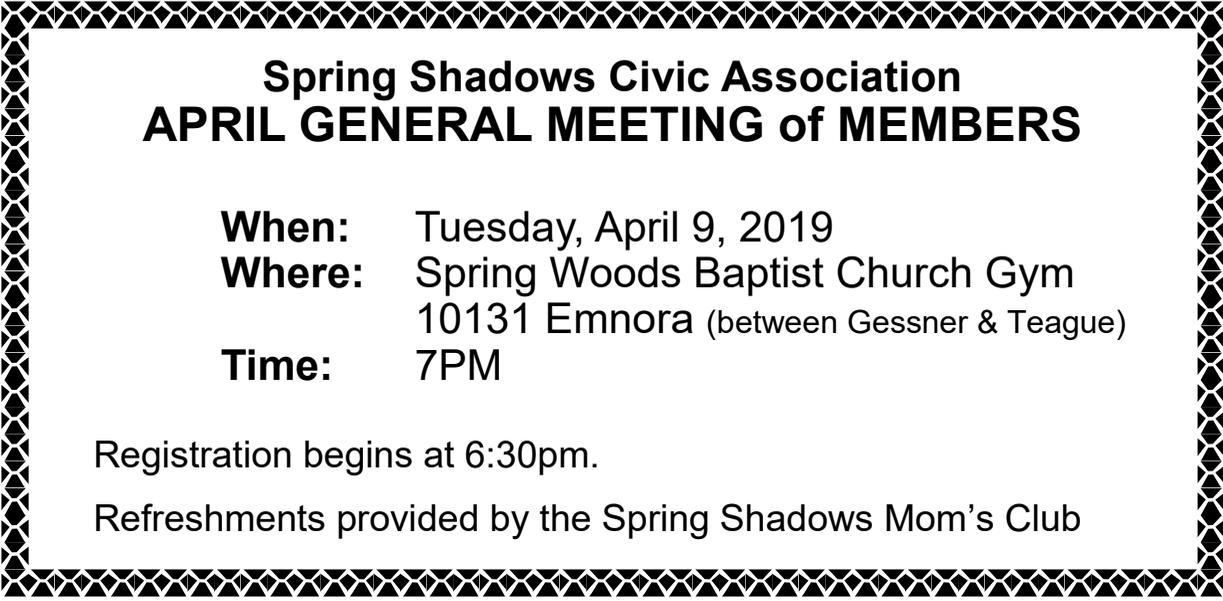
When animals are not on a leash they must be otherwise restrained, either behind a fence or in some other enclosure, that will prevent their escape. Running at large may result in impoundment of the animal, the issuance of one or more citations, and fines. **For more information go to** <http://www.houstontx.gov/barc/index.php>

With summer approaching, don't forget to fill out a **Vacation Watch** while you're away. The form can be found on the Association website [www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org), in the Association office, or at the Harris County Precinct 5 website [www.constablepc5.com](http://www.constablepc5.com). Have peace of mind while you're away knowing the Constables will be checking your property daily.

We've written about “jugging” in previous issues and want to make sure that residents are aware that this crime is still prevalent in the Houston area. Jugging involves robbers looking for potential targets at banks. Oftentimes, one is inside the bank, and alerts an accomplice about a customer who makes a withdrawal, describing what the customer looks like, as well as describing the would-be victim's car. The accomplice then follows the target and strikes when they get out of their car.

Always be aware of your surroundings. Look for vehicles that are backed into parking spaces at banks, with the engine running, and someone inside waiting. Be suspicious of dark-tinted vehicle windows as well. When you drive away, look for a car that may be following you.

Please make sure to lock your vehicles when parked in your driveway or on the street. Be sure to also remove any valuables from the vehicle. Most vehicles that are burglarized in Spring Shadows Civic Association are unlocked, with valuables left in the vehicle. **HIDE IT, LOCK IT, or LOSE IT.**



**Spring Shadows Civic Association  
APRIL GENERAL MEETING of MEMBERS**

**When:** Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
**Where:** Spring Woods Baptist Church Gym  
10131 Emnora (between Gessner & Teague)  
**Time:** 7PM

Registration begins at 6:30pm.

Refreshments provided by the Spring Shadows Mom's Club



**CHRISTMAS HAS COME AND GONE...  
ALL CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS MUST BE TAKEN  
DOWN FROM HOUSES, REMOVED FROM  
PROPERTIES, AND STORED  
UNTIL THANKSGIVING 2019.**



**IF YOUR HAVEN'T REMOVED YOUR HOLIDAY DÉCOR,  
PLEASE DO SO NOW.**



### Missed Pickups

If you are still having trouble with garbage, recycling, junk/waste or tree trash pickups, please contact 311. You'll be asked for your name and (008250) address and you'll get a case number for follow up if you wish.



**Administrative Assistant Position – Spring Shadows Civic  
Association  
Available JUNE 1, 2019**

**Office Hours:** Monday – Friday 9:00am to 3:00pm  
(30 hours per week)

**Classification:** Part Time

**Qualifications:**

- ◆ Working knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite, specifically Word, Excel, and Access
- ◆ Light website maintenance; knowledge of WordPress helpful
- ◆ Strong phone communication and customer service skills a must
- ◆ Strong organizational skills a must
- ◆ Interactive working relationships with Board and Committees
- ◆ Must have valid driver's license and operational, insured vehicle
- ◆ Must be able to lift, up to, 30 pounds
- ◆ Must consent and pass drug screening and background check, including credit check
- ◆ Reports to the Office Manager and President of the Association

Please send your resume to the Spring Shadows Civic Association of-  
fice by email to [sscaoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:sscaoffice@yahoo.com), fax to 713-460-2399, or USPS  
to 10355 Centrepark Dr., Suite 220, Houston, TX 77043.



*Calling all Texans!*

***Spring Shadows Civic Association Spring Fest***

***Saturday, April 27th***

***3:30—6:30 pm***

***Spring Woods Baptist Church***

***10131 Emnora Houston, Texas 77080***

***Free Food***

***Cake Walk, Face Painting, petting zoo, bouncy house  
and balloon artist***

***Questions or inquiries? Email [sscaoffice@yahoo.com](mailto:sscaoffice@yahoo.com),  
call the office at (713) 460-1718 or contact Cindy Portis,  
Chairwoman at (713) 240-5228***

***\*\*Event open exclusively to SSCA members\*\****

# REAL ESTATE MARKET REPORT

## Spring Shadows Market Information for February 2019

Active Listings on 3/03/2019                      21

12 months ending February 28, **2019**:

Number of Homes Sold	110
Average days on the market	51
Highest Priced Home	\$544,000
Average Sales Price/SqFt	\$148.20
Average Sales Price	\$352,504

Prior year - 12 months ending February 28, **2018**:

Number of Homes Sold	105
Average days on the market	67
Highest Priced Home	\$439,000
Average Sales Price/SqFt	\$141.42
Average Sales Price	\$327,282

Prepared by:  
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713-898-0818  
www.ArleneNovick.com

Information obtained from HAR MLS, is believed to be accurate but is not guaranteed. This should not be considered an opinion of value.

# HEALTH & MOSQUITO COMMITTEE

By Kelly Mills

**Mosquito season is upon us once again, neighbors!**

## **2019 Mosquito Control Measures**

The SSCA board of directors voted to adopt a two-part program, dunks and fogging, with education being a third supporting component for 2019. At the January 21st meeting, directors voted and approved the first part, a larvicide control program which consists of dunks in the neighborhood's 206 storm drains. At the February 18th meeting, directors voted unanimously to reinstate the fogging control program which consists of truck-based chemical fogging in the streets of the neighborhood. The board also voted on the frequency of this program, with the majority of directors voting in favor of a weekly schedule during April through October.

## **Homeowner Education Program**

The board also voted and approved a Homeowner Education Program targeted to inform and communicate on the topic of mosquitos more thoroughly. This program incorporates the Newscaster, SSCA website, General Meetings, Spring Fest, Facebook and email to spread our reach with the information you need to make informed decisions for your family and property. Education topics to include prevention measures, natural repellent options, product recommendations, backyard tips, county resources for homeowners, etc.

## **What's next?**

At the March 18th board meeting, the board will review and approve a contract for larvicide and fogging. Both control measures have a target start date of the first week of April. Homeowners will be notified via email and Facebook when a schedule has been determined.

## **More information**

The SSCA website has a dedicated section for mosquito control at <https://springshadows.org/mosquito-control-proposal/>. Currently this is where you will find all the information presented to the board in January and February. The committee is working on an FAQ that will also be posted here, as well as all of the components of the Homeowner Education Program. Please share any questions, concerns, or feedback with the committee via email to [mosquito.sca@gmail.com](mailto:mosquito.sca@gmail.com).

## Origins of April Fool's Day

How the custom of pranking on April 1 came about remains shrouded in mystery. When the western world employed the Julian calendar, years began on March 25. Festivals marking the start of the New Year were celebrated on the first day of April because March 25 fell during Holy Week. The adoption of the Gregorian calendar during the 1500s moved the New Year to January 1. According to the most widely-believed origin postulated for April Fools' Day, [is that] those who could be tricked into believing April 1 was still the proper day to celebrate the New Year earned the sobriquet of April fools. To this end, French peasants would unexpectedly drop in on neighbors on that day in an effort to confuse them into thinking they were receiving a New Year's call. Out of that one jape supposedly grew the tradition of testing the patience of family and friends. But that's only one theory.

Others are:

The timing of this day of pranks seems to be related to the arrival of spring, when nature "fools" mankind with fickle weather, according to the *Encyclopedia of Religion* and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

*The Country Diary of Garden Lore*, which chronicles the goings-on in an English garden, says that April Fools' Day "is thought to commemorate the fruitless mission of the rook (the European crow), who was sent out in search of land from Noah's flood-encircled ark."

Others theorize it may have something to do with the Vernal Equinox.

Some think to tie in with the Romans' end-of-winter celebration, Hilaria, and the end of the Celtic new year festival.

Wherever and whenever the custom began, it has since evolved its own lore and set of unofficial rules. Superstition has it that the pranking period expires at noon on the 1st of April and any jokes attempted after that time will call bad luck down onto the head of the perpetrator. Additionally, those who fail to respond with good humor to tricks played upon them are said to attract bad luck to themselves.

Not all superstitions about the day are negative, though — fellas fooled by a pretty girl are said to be fated to end up married to her, or at least enjoy a healthy friendship with the lass.

Current tastes seem to run more to funny phone calls and media-driven extravaganzas. But it's still okay to reach back to older times for inspiration. Be a traditionalist - on April 1 send a co-worker to fetch a tube of elbow grease or 50 feet of shoreline.

**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.**

Credits for page 12

Hayes, Karen. "At School, A Free Pass to Fool Around." *The Boston Globe*. 28 March 1998 (South Weekly; p. 1).

Knowsley Jo. "Zoo Warns: Don't Monkey with Us." *Sunday Telegraph*. 29 March 1998 (p. 1).

Lee, Thonnia. "Be Careful, Pranksters." *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution*. 1 April 1992 (p. C3).

Pickering, David. *Dictionary of Superstitions*. London: Cassell, 1995. ISBN 0-304-345350 (pp. 10-11).

Switzer, John. "Who Started All This April Foolishness?" *The Columbus Dispatch*. 1 April 1998 (p. B8).

Tuleja, Tad. *Curious Customs*. New York: Harmony Books, 1987. ISBN 0-517-56654-0.

BY DAVID MIKKELSON

**No Hidden Number Winner so  
\$50.00 is the 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

### 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.**



**ANGELINA KECK**  
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## Luper's Pool Service Tom Luper, 713-894-0425

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Warren Sloan  
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Houston, TX 77043  
warrensloan@allstate.com



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**A Spring Shadows Resident**

## **John Knox Presbyterian Church**



2525 N. Gessner Drive  
713-462-5448

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

**Rev. Becky Ardell Downs**

*Sunday School 9:15 a.m.*

Nursery available

*Worship Service 10:30 a.m.*

Robin Castellanos - Spring Shadows Resident



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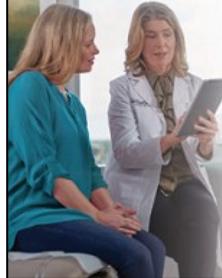
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**C: (713) 240-3305 WEB: GREENMEADOWSINC.NET**



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 Sunday worship: 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.  
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 Spring Shadows residents  
**JW East, a Spring Shadows resident**



**Spring Branch Pet Patrol**  
**Pet Sitting Service**  
**Lois Wingo 713-461-2857**  
 www.sbpetpatrol.com  
 20 years experience, specializing in daily  
 noon visits/walking, overnight stays  
 and med administering.  
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 Houston, Texas 77056

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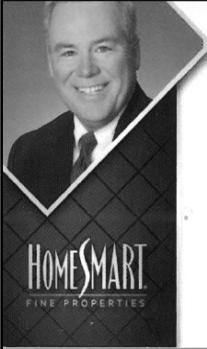
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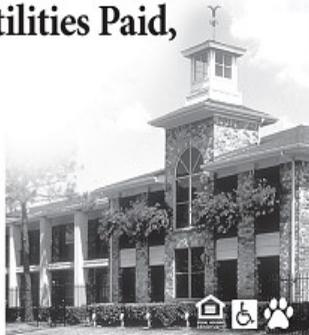
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### NOTE TO ADVERTISERS

The next issue of the Spring Shadows Civic Association Newscaster will be June 2019. Please advise the Association office if you plan to discontinue or change your ad for the new year no later than Wednesday, May 1, 2019. The price is \$50.00 per issue and there are six (6) issues per year. Your support by advertising in the Newscaster is greatly appreciated.

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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.

**General meeting information page 7**

**Spring Festival information page 9**