



# 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 308**  
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## **ASSOCIATION INFORMATION**

- Executive Committee Meetings ..... Mon. Dec. 4 Jan. 8, 6:45 pm
- BOD Meetings ..... Mon. Dec. 11, Tue. Jan. 16, 6:45 pm
- ACC Meetings ..... Wed. Dec.27, Jan. 24,6:45 pm
- Garbage pickup\* ..... Every Friday
- Recycling\* ..... Fri. Dec.1, 15, 29, Jan 12, 26
- Junk Pickup\* Large Trash\* ..... Contact 311 for December 2023
- Tree Waste Pickup\* ..... Fri. Jan. 26

\* Subject to change or delays per City of Houston Solid Waste Department Call 311 for delayed pick up information.

**DECEMBER**

Thur.7 - Fri.15 Hanukkah  
 Thur. 21 Start of Winter  
 Sun. 24, Mon. 25 Christmas Holidays  
 Tue. Dec. 26 - Mon. Jan1, Kwanzaa  
 Sun. 31, News Years Eve

**JANUARY**

Mon. 1 New Years Day  
 Mon. 15 Martin Luther King Day

**Important Phone Numbers**

<b>Pct. 5 Constable</b>	281-463-6666
<b>Graffiti Removal</b>	311 (713-837-0311)
<b>Emergency</b>	911
<b>Houston Police (Non Emer)</b>	713-884-3131
<b>Houston Fire (Admin)</b>	832-394-6700
<b>SBISD Police</b>	713-984-9805
<b>Amey Peck Council Member District A</b>	
	832-393-3010
<b>BARC (Roaming Dogs)</b>	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 15th 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: [office@springshadows.org](mailto:office@springshadows.org)  
 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.**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ASSOCIATION INFORMATION.....	2
CALENDAR, IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS, ONLINE NEWSCASTER, OFFICE INFORMATION, DISCLAIMER	
TABLE OF CONTENTS, SPRING SHADOWS CLUBS, YARD OF THE MONTH, AUTHORIZED SSCA SITE .. HOLIDAY DECORATING.....	3
ACC REPORT.....	4
PATROL & SAFETY REPORT.....	5
SWHS SHREK THE MUSICAL .....	6
TELLERS REPORT .....	7
NEIGHBORS NIGHT OUT, RECOGNITION.....	8
NEW NEIGHBORS, APPFOLIO .....	9
COMMUNITY & GOVERNMENT REPORT .....	10
HOME SALES SPRING SHADOWS	11
MOSQUITO & HEALTH REPORT...	12
HIDDEN NUMBER, EMAIL ADDRESSES, LIBRARY HOURS, FEEDING STRAY CATS & DOGS..	13
ADVERTISEMENTS .....	14-18
ADVERTISING POLICY.....	19

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

**Spring Shadows Moms Club** meets the first Thursday of each month at 7:15 pm. Please contact our leadership team at [ssmomsclub@gmail.com](mailto:ssmomsclub@gmail.com) for more information.

*\*Has no affiliation with the Association*

## HOLIDAY DECORATING

You may begin putting up your holiday decorations the Friday after Thanksgiving on November 24,

Voting will take place on December 15, 16, and 17. Please have your displays lit from dusk to 9:30 p.m.

Thank you to everyone for putting in so much time and effort into their displays. The displays are very cheerful and festive to look at while driving through the subdivision.

YARD of the MONTH will resume in April

## **AUTHORIZED SPRING SHADOWS CIVIC ASSOCIATION ONLINE SITE**

[www.springshadows.org](http://www.springshadows.org)  
on Facebook **LIKE**

Spring Shadows Civic Association  
Check the website often for current updates

## ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE - ELIZABETH EMERY

House Numbers – In driving through Spring Shadows, it is often difficult to tell where a specific house is due to lack of house numbers. Imagine if it were the Police, Firetruck or EMT's needing to find your home in a hurry!

The City of Houston does require you to have house numbers somewhere that is visible – curb, mailbox, house, etc. For the safety of you and all your family, we're asking all our residents to resolve to comply with the code.

Yards and Flower Beds –

- Fall fertilizer is the most important fertilizer to put down. Fertilizer will ensure healthy grass in the spring.
- Do not use Weed and Feed! Tree roots absorb it and it can poison your trees.
- This is the perfect time to mulch your flower beds. Cedar mulch is ideal as it repels insects and is slow to break down.
- When mulching, be sure to put extra amounts around the base of plants to help insulate them for winter.
- Soft stemmed plants are more likely to die off in below freezing temperatures. Cut them back in the Spring and most often, they will regrow.
- Woody stemmed plants can usually survive below freezing temperature if well protected.
- Cool weather is the perfect time to have trees trimmed – especially pine trees as the sap is less abundant.
- The droughts and freezes are hard on the tree limbs. BUT – falling limbs does NOT mean the tree is dead or dying. A Certified Arborist is who should tell you if the integrity of an entire tree is compromised.
- If the leaves on a tree have turned brown but are NOT falling to the ground, the tree is most likely dead.
- It's a good idea to use a sprinkler controller that is Weather Smart. It monitors the weather, so sprinklers don't run if the ground doesn't need it and can adjust the amount of water dispensed based upon the weather conditions and season. Most are not very expensive and extremely easy to program.

If you have an ACDR violation, we will send you a Courtesy Letter first to let you know we noticed a problem and ask you to get in touch with us to work out a solution before we are required to escalate the issue to a full-blown violation. Our goal is to work with our homeowners in a positive way, not adversarial. If you see a problem, we urge you to contact the office. We will never divulge who reported the issue. Due to privacy though, we cannot share the status of any homeowner issues.

Communicating with us is the key to congenial and successful outcome

## PATROL & SAFETY REPORT - BEN GILLIS - DAVID DURHAM

### 1. When you **SEE SOMETHING---SAY SOMETHING**

Immediately call the **Constables at 281-463-6666**

2. If the situation is **LIFE THREATENING** call 911 immediately!
3. If you park your car on the street or outside the garage in your driveway, make sure the vehicle is locked and no items of value are visible. Most burglary of vehicles that occur in our area happen because a door was left unlocked. This also applies to your home. Most of the home burglaries in our area occur because a door was left unlocked.
4. Reminder, when going on vacation (even for just a few days), please turn in a Vacation Watch to the Constables. The form can easily be found on the Constables website: <https://constablepct5.com> (look on the lower right side of the main page in the Department Links section for the form)
5. Residents walking in the morning or evening (when it is dark) should be keenly aware of their safety as there are many areas in our community with no sidewalks. Residents should wear light and/or reflective clothing. **WALK FACING THE ONCOMING TRAFFIC** so that you know what is approaching you. It is recommended that you **DO NOT WALK** with the traffic approaching you from the rear. Please remember that the streets are for cars and they are not walking trails. Be cautious and be safe!!!!
6. Reports of homeowners walking their dogs, not on a leash. **THIS IS A VIOLATION OF THE LAW.** Violators can be ticketed and charged a steep fine. Also, the owner walking a dog is responsible for the waste/feces if a dog needs to relieve itself. Don't be guilty of leaving dog waste/feces in one of your neighbors yards.



# SHREK The MUSICAL

Spring Woods High School is excited to present the hit Broadway production *Shrek the Musical* and we would love our Spring Shadows community to enjoy the show!

Set in a mythical world of “once upon a time”, *Shrek the Musical* is the story of a hulking green ogre who, after a lifetime of being mocked and feared by anything that crosses his path, has retreated to his own personal heaven (an ugly green swamp) to exist in happy isolation. His solitude is interrupted by a gang of homeless fairy-tale characters (Pinocchio, Cinderella, the Three Pigs, you name ‘em) who say they’ve been evicted from their homes by the vertically challenged Lord Farquaad. Shrek agrees to help them if they promise to leave his home, but Lord Farquaad first requires Shrek rescue Princess Fiona. As Shrek is in the process of delivering on his promise, he meets the hysterical Donkey and comes to realize he likes the rescued princess more than he expected. But why does she always run off when the sun sets?

**The show runs Friday, January 26 through Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> with performances Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays during that period at 7:00 pm and matinees both Saturdays at 2:00 pm.**

You can enjoy Shrek in the Main auditorium at the SWHS campus at 2045 Gessner Rd, Houston, Texas.

Tickets are available online at [www.safariplayers.com](http://www.safariplayers.com) and at the door (while available). Online ticket sales for each night will cut off the afternoon on the day of the show (10am for Saturday matinees) and remaining tickets will then be sold at the door. A family event will also be planned with games, crafts, and snacks, so keep an eye on social media and our website for more information. Group rates are also available for groups of 10 or more. Contact [info@safariplayers.com](mailto:info@safariplayers.com) for more information.

Shrek the Musical is a creation of DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions, Ltd., with books and lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire and music by Jeanine Tesori.

**Spring Shadows Civic Association  
2024-25 Term Director Elections for subsections  
General Meeting – October 10, 2023**

## Teller's Report

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>		<u>SECTION</u>	<u>CANDIDATE</u>	
Section 1			Section 10		
Position 1A	Ali Andrew Kasral	14	Position 10A	OPEN	
Position 1C	Chris Zoch	20	Section 11		
Position 1E	Debbie Dill	18	Position 11A	Felix Angel	8
Section 2			Section 12		
Position 2A	OPEN		Position 12A	OPEN	
Position 2C	OPEN		Section 13		
Section 3			Position 13A	Robert Blum	12
Position 3A	Ed Kenney (Write In)	1	Section 14		
Section 4			Position 14A	Robert Cooms	4
Position 4A	Arlene Novick	6	Position 14C	OPEN	
Position 4C	Karen Snead	8	Section 15		
Section 5			Position 15A	Victor Schneider (Write In)	2
Position 5A	Zane May	6	Section 16		
Section 7			Position 16A	Susan Boone	14
Position 7A	Susan Aronstein	2	Section 17		
Section 8			Position 17A	Richard Lynch	5
Position 8A	Lee Callaway (Write In)	1	Position 17C	Ken Arnold	8
Position 8C	Elizabeth Emery	13	Section 18		
Section 9			Position 18A	OPEN	
Position 9A	Susan Riemer	11	Section 19 –		
9C	Sam Jones	16	Position 19A	Ben Gillis	10

All candidates in the unchallenged positions won.

Total Votes cast October 2023 179 (3 Write In's included)

Total votes cast October 2022 115

Total votes cast October 2021 275

As prepared by Sharon Noake, verified by Janet Marton October 10, 2023

## NEIGHBORS NIGHT OUT

Rain cancelled a number of NEIGHBORS NIGHT OUT gatherings this year. There were a total of seventeen gatherings. The number of adults attending was 319, children was 106, for a total of 425.

Thank you for those who organized your neighborhood gatherings and to all those that attended.

## RECOGNITION OF PRESIDENTIAL AWARD — KRISHNA VAVILALA

When AmeriCorps, the federal agency for national service and volunteerism of the United States government, called up Krishna Vavilala informing that he has been selected for the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award 2022, the long-time Houstonian thought it to be a hoax call. However, when the realization of the authenticity of the message dawned on him, he was taken aback by surprise.

Endorsed by President of America, Joe Biden, and Vice President, Kamala Harris, the award is considered a symbol of highest recognition of the commitment of outstanding citizens of America who have given their time to volunteer and help their community.

“I strongly believe in the virtue of sincerity and commitment, and that is why, as you must have noticed, the byline of my email is ‘Commitment is key. Everything else is an excuse,’ remarks the 86-year-old Samaritan, while connecting with *Global Indian* from Houston for a video chat.

Krishna Vavilala, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, and immigrated to the United States in 1974, was felicitated on December 4 at a glittering ceremony in Texas. He has been volunteering to bring the Indian community together in America for close to four decades now and has won several awards and accolades along the way.

The humanitarian and changemaker is the founder and chairman of the Foundation for India Studies (FIS), a 16-year-old non-profit, whose signature initiative ‘Indo-American Oral History Project’ won the 2019 Mary Fay Barnes Award for Excellence.



## WELCOME OUR NEW NEIGHBORS



2810 Fontana

2511 Pine Village

2335 Eaglerock

9831 Knoboak

2754 Manila Lane

2622 Bandelier

2910 Quincannon

2535 Pomeran

3015 Bernadette

3018 Riata

9631 Philmont

2522 Rosefield

9830 Emnora

3007 Riata

2330 Eaglerock

2807 Durban

9703 Philmont

2742 Triway



## HOMEOWNER PORTAL

If you have not activated the homeowner portal, please call the office and provide your current email address.

With the online portal, you can:

- View the SSCA Calendar
- Submit payment for maintenance fees
- Submit Architectural Control Applications
- Access SSCA documents, including deed restrictions and policies

Call the office at 713-460-1718 for assistance if needed.

## COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE - JANET MARTON

### Spring Branch Trail.

Regarding Phase Two, current plans call for the Trail to cross Gessner at the Center-Point easement, as the safer option. Safety features of the crossing design includes a pedestrian hybrid beacon (a pedestrian-focused traffic signal), a 'Z' design crossing that requires walkers and bikers to turn to face traffic at the median before continuing to cross the other lanes of Gessner, and safety striping and signage for additional visibility.

### Clarbak Apartments.

The City has given approval for a new apartment complex to be located on Clarbbiak, near the intersection of Clay Road and Campbell Road. 80% of the units are anticipated to be allotted for low income housing. Drainage is expected to flow into a ditch on the west side of Campbell Road continuing to Brickhouse Gully. Questions have arisen as to the capacity of the existing ditch to handle significant amounts of runoff from the proposed apartment complex. (013770)

### Outflow into Buttermilk Creek at 2500 Pine Village.

Houston Public Works has advised that this project has been completed.

### City Election.

City of Houston runoff election is on Saturday, December 9, 2023. Mayoral candidates, Sen. John Whitmire and U.S. Representative Sheila Jackson Lee advanced to a runoff. Also in a runoff, At-Large Council Position 1, between Julian Ramirez and Melanie Miles, At-Large Council Position 2, between Willie Davis and Nick Hellyar, At-Large Council Position 3, between Richard Cantu and Twila Carter, and At-Large Position 4, between Letitia Plummer and Roy Morales.

### Tree Giveaway.

Trees for Houston is planning a Tree Giveaway on Saturday, January 6, 2024, between 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. Information about available species and location will be available on the organization's website, at <https://www.treesforhouston.org/public-events>. Trees for Houston also has a program to provide service for individuals desiring larger sized trees to be planted in private front yards. Street Trees are available to plant from **November to March**. Information about this program is also available on the organization's website, at <https://www.treesforhouston.org/trees>.

## SPRING SHADOWS MARKET INFORMATION — ARLENE NOVICK

Active Listings on 11/2/2023	11	
12 months ending October 31, <b>2023</b> :		
Number of Homes Sold	75	(43% decrease over prior year)
Average days on the market	52	(29% increase)
Highest Priced Home	\$740,000	
Average Sales Price/SqFt	\$216.74	(6% increase)
Average Sales Price	\$493,162	(5% increase)
Sold Price range	250,000 - \$740,000	
Prior year - 12 months ending October 31, <b>2022</b> :		
Number of Homes Sold	131	
Average days on the market	37	
Highest Priced Home	\$739,000	
Average Sales Price/SqFt	\$203.87	
Average Sales Price	\$469,005	
Sold Price range	\$263,000 - \$739,000	

### HOUSTON HOME SALES SLOW THEIR ROLL IN SEPTEMBER

**HOUSTON — (October 11, 2023)** — Houston home sales were down for an 18th consecutive month in September as interest rates continued to keep prospective homebuyers headed toward the rental market or putting their buying plans on hold. The slower sales volume enabled inventory to expand and prices to moderate, creating more buyer-friendly conditions once consumer confidence is restored.

According to the Houston Association of Realtors' (HAR) September 2023 Market Update, single-family home sales across the market fell 10.9 percent year-over-year with 6,886 units sold compared to 7,728 in September 2022. Months supply of homes climbed to 3.5, the highest level since November 2019 when it was at a 3.6-months supply.

Single-family home prices continue to moderate. The average price edged up just 0.8 percent to \$416,664 while the median price fell 2.2 percent to \$333,000. Those figures are well below the record highs of \$438,350 (average) in May 2022 and \$354,000 (median) in June 2022.

“September was a rather lackluster month on the sale side of Houston real estate, and with the holidays approaching, we probably won't see much improvement as this is traditionally a slow time of year for our industry,” said HAR Chair Cathy Treviño with LPT, Realty.

Broken out by housing segment, September sales performed as follows:

- \$250,000 - \$499,999: decreased 11.5 percent
- \$500,000 - \$999,999: decreased 9.9 percent

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

## MOSQUITO & HEALTH COMMITTEE REPORT - DEBBIE DILL

On behalf of the Mosquito & Health Committee, welcome to all new Spring Shadows residents!

In order to protect our residents from mosquitos and the diseases they carry, Spring Shadows Civic Association has contracted with a pest control company from April through October (with an option to extend through November), which this year we did extend. Initially, it was a two-part control program that targeted mosquitos in both the larval and adult stages. The part that targets the adult mosquitos is a weekly night-time truck-based chemical fogging. The larval control program was a monthly dunk-placing in all of the neighborhood's 206 storm drains. Unfortunately, the dunks were stopped because an environmental investigator from the City of Houston thought that service was in violation of a city ordinance. I contacted our City Councilperson, Amy Peck's office to see if this matter might be cleared up so that the dunk placements might be resumed. I will keep you updated on this matter. (Please note, on days that the weekly scheduled spraying is not able to take place because of weather, it is rescheduled by the contracted provider on their next available date/time. The chemicals used in the spraying and the manner that they are sprayed is in compliance with the formulas approved and suggested by the County and City Board of Health.)

If you check the Harris County Public Health website, you can see that West Nile has been detected in several areas of the city, including areas just Northeast and Northwest of us. Please remember that mosquito control is an ongoing battle and we ask that **everyone please continue to do your part to help by eliminating any and all standing water on your property. Please do your best to clean and maintain your pools, hot tubs and bird baths. Please check the curb in front of your home for debris and standing water. Also, please do not blow or put anything into our street drains. When the streets and drains remain clear, it protects yours and your neighbors' property from flooding as well as reduces the mosquito population.**

**PLEASE CALL 311 for the following problems**

**Yard trimming, grass clippings, small tree branches (must be bound) not picked up or street lights out. The office staff will only refer you to 311 if you call about these problems. Call 311 instead. Thank you.**

**No Winner last issue!  
\$75.00 is the prize this issue!**

(We start over in February 2024 with \$25.00)

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.

**HILLEDAHL LIBRARY HOURS**

832-393-1940

Monday	10 am - 6 pm
Tuesday	10 am - 6 pm
Wednesday	Noon - 8 pm
Thursday	10 am - 6 pm
Friday	1 pm - 5 pm
Saturday	10 am - 5 pm

The library has a donation box for used glasses. Donate your old prescription glasses to help others see.

**FEEDING STRAY CATS & DOGS**

According to Houston City Ordinance section 6-22, "It shall be unlawful for any person intentionally to cause, suffer, or permit the maintenance of an attractive environment for the assembly of a congregation of unconfined and unlicensed stray cats or dogs by the placement of dog food or cat food," however colony managers who follow city TNR guidelines are permitted to feed community cats "subject to a trap, neuter, and return program approved by the Director (BARC)."

**NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS**

Please let the office know your email\* address so you can be included on important Association news.

Email your name and street address to the Association at **office@springshadows.org**

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

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[Stchrishouston.org](http://Stchrishouston.org) #heartofspringbranch

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**Joan Kehlhof**  
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**713-686-5444**

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contracts, leases, wills and probate,  
debtor-creditor and bankruptcy law

[jkehlhof@whklp.com](mailto:jkehlhof@whklp.com)  
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## NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

The next issue of the SSCA Civic Association Newscaster will be February 2024. Please advise the Association office if you plan to discontinue or change your ad for the year no later than December 15, 2023. The price is \$50.00 per issue for standard size and \$200.00 for 1/2 page. There are six (6) issues per year. Your support by advertising in the Newscaster is greatly appreciated.

## **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 2019 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 3.25" x 1.80" (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 1<sup>st</sup> for the April Newscaster

April 1<sup>st</sup> the June Newscaster

June 1<sup>st</sup> for the August Newscaster

August 1<sup>st</sup> for the October Newscaster; and

October 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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