



PROUDLY SPONSORED BY THE CHAMPION FOREST WOMEN'S CLUB

August 2008

Patriotic People and Pets Proudly Participate in Parade



(see page 14)

Garden Club Donates \$1,000 to Pearl Fincher Museum



(see page 6)



Klein ISD and Cy-Fair ISD

What's Inside...

- Digging for the Pearl..... Page 6
- Wally Bircher Sets Record as Loyal Volunteer Page 20
- Another Fun and Historical Road Trip Page 32

Remember...

Cypress Forest PUD Meeting
No Meeting in August
PUD Building
16215 Champion Forest Drive
5:30 p.m.

CF Civic Club
No Meeting in August
PUD Building
16215 Champion Forest Drive
7:30 p.m.

CF Fund/HOA Meeting
No meeting in August
PUD Building
16215 Champion Forest Drive
6:30 p.m.

CF Neighborhood Watch
Thursday, August 28 (Staff Only)
PUD Building
16215 Champion Forest Drive
7:30 p.m.

GROW WITH CF WOMEN'S CLUB

The Champion Forest Women's Club has grown larger in numbers than in many, many years. Join your neighbors. Join the Women's Club! 2008 dues are due! Please contact **Kim Shahjahan** at 281-826-0077.



FRIENDS IN THE FOREST

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Ladies of the neighborhood, are you getting ready for the start of the 2008-2009 school year? If you don't have kiddos in school, maybe it's grand kiddos! Either way, that time of year is fast approaching. It is the time when the kids go back to the books, and the Women's Club gets back to the business that we know best. Please join us for the fun.

We build friendships and acquaintances, contacts and resources – the cement holding together any great neighborhood. We tie it all in a bow neatly with philanthropy and service, and we have got a winning game plan. A game plan that we would like to share with you. Please join us for the fun.

Two big events pop to the forefront when you think of fall and Women's Club: **September's Health Fair** and **December's Luncheon**. Planning for both is definitely under way, making them better and more appealing to our growing membership. Get a toe in the water by planning to attend, wade in by asking a friend to join you, or take the plunge by volunteering to help. Please join us for the fun.

Not only are we planning better for 2008-2009 events, we are planning more. We won't steal time from you; we will allow you to steal away for a few hours to treat yourself. We won't be a chore; we will be a delight. We won't bore you; we will indulge you. We promise.

Enjoy the waning weeks of summer. Fall is around the corner. Let's get busy together. Please join us for the fun. You owe it to yourself. Hoping to see you at an event soon!

Angela Greenberg
President, Champion Forest Women's Club

Newsletter Editor — Marilou Schopper

9103 Herts Road • 713-302-8851 • marilou@swbell.net

Please email your news to marilou@swbell.net or deliver all articles and photos to the front porch newsletter box. The newsletter is published without charge to Champion Forest residents through advertising purchased from Champions Printing & Publishing. For advertising information call 281-583-7661.

Deadline for the September 2008 newsletter is August 10.

CF WOMEN'S CLUB MISSION STATEMENT

The Champion Forest Women's Club is a neighborhood social and service organization. The mission of CFWC is to bring Champion Forest women closer together through community activities. The CFWC fulfills this goal by hosting programs and socials, sponsoring special interest groups, undertaking fund-raising for scholarships, hosting an annual luncheon and charity auction, and producing the monthly Champion Forest newsletter. Meetings are held on a regular basis in homes and local venues. To be part of Champion Forest Women's Club, contact our membership chairman or any Board member.

THE 2008 CFWC BOARD

President	Angela Greenberg , 281-379-1559	Sunshine/Welcoming	Laura Smith , 281-374-0909
Vice President	Lisa Hardin , 281-655-0845		Jackie Peden , 281-376-0281
Secretary	Stephanie Schonherz , 281-370-9230	Special Interest	Christy Geary , 281-320-2746
Treasurer	Barb Smith , 281-251-3093	Ways & Means	Susan Barris , 281-257-5404
Hospitality	Susie Thorpe , 281-257-8785	Scholarship	Karla Canchola , 832-717-3854
Membership	Kim Shahjahan , 281-826-0077	Communications	Elizabeth Stewart , 281-251-5132
Newsletter Editor	Marilou Schopper , 713-302-8851	Historian	Julia Harmon , 281-320-2123
Assistant Editor	Barb Smith , 281-251-3093		Mandy Dewbre , 281-376-2132

Champion Forest Newsletter Available on the Web at championforestonline.com

Charity Auction Planning

Susan Barris (chairperson) and CFWC are planning the annual Charity Auction for early December. If you would like to donate an auction item, contact Susan at drsbaris@hotmail.com.



Fitness Fun

Champion Forest Women's Club is excited about another year filled with fun and interesting programs for the women of Champion Forest. **September** will kick off our year with a **Fitness Fair**. **Kim Shahjahan** and **Christy Geary** are planning this Fitness Fun for late September. Specific events and educational opportunities will be outlined in the September newsletter. Don't miss your chance to share health tips and fitness with the girls in the neighborhood.

OOPS!

Somehow a typo (no errors allowed) got into The Champion Forest 2008 Directory. The correct listing for our garbage and recycling company is: Royal Disposal and Recycle (713-526-1536).



Membership Form

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Email Address: _____

Champion Forest Women's Club is here for you.
Please join us for a year filled with sunshine,
opportunity and friendship.

Make checks payable to "**Champion Forest Women's Club**." Mail checks to **Kim Shahjahan** at 15926 Cumbria.



CHAMPION FOREST *Garden Club*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President Anita Martin
 First Vice President – Yearbook Sally Blackhall
 Second Vice President – Programs Donna McDaniel
 Third Vice President – Membership..... Bonnie Ellis
 Secretary Kathy Hughson
 Treasurer Ruth Lynch
 Club Delegate Chris Agan
 Parliamentarian Wendy Fryfogle
 Historian Barbara Smith

MISSION STATEMENT

The Champion Forest Garden Club (CFGC) is a neighborhood special interest organization chartered in 1978. The mission of the CFGC is to stimulate knowledge and love of gardening and floral design, to encourage civic beautification, to promote conservation of our surrounding natural resources and to foster a close community spirit. The CFGC fulfills this mission by hosting monthly meetings and periodic field trips throughout the year, along with various community projects such as our Arbor Day celebration. Meetings are held monthly at a member's home. Board members are elected annually. To get involved, please contact the membership chairperson.

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Proper Lawn Care Is Difficult in August

August is one of our hottest months, and without proper care our beautiful lawns that we have worked so hard on all year can turn brown in a few days. When the temperatures are over 93 degrees consistently, you should water your lawn every two to three days. To determine how long to water, place an empty can in your yard at the farthest point the water spray reaches. The length of time it takes for the can to have one inch of water in it, is the length of time you need to water. Watering too much can cause brownpatch, and watering too little can cause chinch bugs. Either one can destroy a beautiful lawn in a couple of weeks. I know this personally, as I had brownpatch in my yard last year. Hopefully I will be able to prevent it from recurring this year.

Brownpatch fungus is caused by watering too long at one time, poor drainage and/or too much fertilizer. The fungus likes moist soil and nitrogen, the prime ingredient in lawn fertilizers and cool nights. This usually does not occur until September. Brownpatch causes the leaves of St. Augustine grass to be pale green and shorter than the rest of the grass.



Yard of the Month

Ned & Jan Moore
9626 Fenchurch

Congratulations!

NOTE: Due to the camera limitations we were able to show only a portion of this beautiful yard. We encourage you to take the time to drive by this home and enjoy the entire yard. - the Publisher

An irregular circle of dead grass develops and slowly reaches out into green areas. If you had brownpatch last year, it is important to start treatment of your lawn in August as it has a tendency to recur about this time. Consider using Horticultural Corn Meal as a fungicide on your lawn, rather than the commercial fungicides. Horticultural Corn Meal is **not** the same as Corn Gluten Meal. That is used in early spring as a herbicide to prevent weeds.

Horticultural Corn Meal is a natural organic fungicide. It helps fight root and soil-related fungal problems. It will build the soil quality, and unlike chemical products, it will not burn or damage plants. Apply the corn meal at the rate of 20 lbs. per 1000 feet. You should reapply again in 7-10 days. You may need to apply a third time after 30 days. Do not overwater your yard, and make sure you are watering in the early morning. You can find Horticultural Corn Meal at most nurseries and feed stores.

Normally, chinch bug damage (dead places of grass) becomes noticeable in August when it is hot and dry. Chinch bugs invade our grass when it becomes too dry and is not watered enough. Chinch bugs cause patches of grass to die with a distinctive line between the dead and live grass. A way to check for chinch bugs is to cut out both ends of a tin can. Push one end of the can a few inches into the soil. Keep the can filled with water for 10 minutes. Black or brown insects with white wings, $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch long or less, will float to the surface

if they are present. As soon as you know you have chinch bugs, water the lawn with $\frac{1}{2}$ - to 1-inch of water to bring the insects to the surface. Then apply a liquid insecticide every 7 days, up to three applications. You must break the egg hatching cycle to get rid of the chinch bugs. Diatomaceous earth is a good organic insecticide, but hard to find.

August Gardening Tips

- Deadhead spent flowers on annuals, perennials and roses to encourage more blooms.
- Potted plants may need daily watering. Water plants in the ground slowly and deeply to avoid runoff and to moisten the soil several inches down.
- Watch for lantana lacebugs, mealybugs, scale and whiteflies. If you see them on your plants, spray with citrus oil, an organic pesticide. You can make citrus oil by soaking the rinds of two orange peels in one gallon of water closed for 10 days. Strain out the rinds and store in closed jars. To spray on plants, dilute two ounces in one gallon of water.
- Do not fertilize your lawn in August! It is too hot now. You can add an iron supplement if your grass is yellow.

Happy gardening!

Anita Martin
Champion Forest Garden Club



Garden Club Members **Go Digging** for the Pearl Fincher Museum

Wednesday evening, June 18, several Garden Club members volunteered to go to the water district office of HCWCID 132 to dig up plants the water district had donated to the Pearl Fincher Museum. The plants were loaded into pickup trucks and taken to the museum for planting in their landscape. Members who brought their gloves and shovels for the “Digging Party” included **Barb Smith, Carol Mason, Mavis Kiefer, Connie Nolan, and Anita Martin.** **Jim Nolan** also volunteered for much-needed muscle support.

Jesse Starkey (Facilities and Operational Manager of the Pearl Fincher Museum) and Carol Fraser (Educator and Master Gardener) were there to organize the volunteers and assist with digging up the plants.

If you have not been to the Pearl Fincher Museum, take time to go see the African Gold exhibit of gold statuaries from the Gold Coast in Ghana and the exhibit of Metal Worked, which is contemporary blacksmithing and jewelry making from local Houston artists. The museum is located on Cypresswood in front of the Barbara Bush Library. We hope you will notice the landscaping at the entrance, some of which was donated by WCID 132 and transplanted with loving care by the CFGC volunteers.





Garden Club Explores the Pearl

On Thursday, June 26, we were treated to a wonderful evening at the Pearl Fincher Museum. Delicious food, the Remington Exhibit and a chance to see our landscaping made for a wonderful evening. We are so fortunate to have this museum in our own neighborhood. Take the time this summer for a family outing to visit the Pearl Fincher Museum.



CFWC SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

What a great way to have fun and meet your neighbors! We have many Special Interest Groups with a full variety of interests. Call the Special Interest Chairman of the group that interests you and give it a try. And if there's not a group for your "special interest," contact **Laura Smith** at **281-374-0909**, and she'll see if there's sufficient interest out there to start a new group! Be sure to check out the potential new groups at the end of this section! The only requirement for participation in CFWC Special Interest Groups is to be a member in "good standing." (Article VIII, Section One.) Membership includes annual dues paid to the CFWC.

CF Mothers of Young Children

Elizabeth Stewart, 281-251-5132

Christy Geary, 281-320-2746

Mothers of young children meet weekly for playgroup and monthly for Mom's Night Out. Please contact **Christy** or **Elizabeth** for more information!

Book Club

Connie Nolan, 281-379-5302

Ruth-Ellen Mack, 281-376-2107

Thank you, **Amy**, for hosting our July meeting. On **Tuesday, August 12** at noon we will meet at **Nancy DiPaolo's** to discuss *People of the Book* by Geraldine Brooks. **Please note that this is a change from the original schedule.** Don't forget to notify the hostess if you are unable to attend.

Mom's Night Out

Ruth-Ellen Mack, 281-376-2107

On **Monday, August 19** at 7:30 p.m. we will dine at Raoul's. Please let me know if you are planning to attend.

Couples Gourmet

Second Saturday Evening

Linda Anderson, 832-717-3661

If you are interested in joining the Couple's Gourmet Group, please contact **Linda**.

Wine Tasting Group

Third Saturday Evening

Gloria Myer, 281-379-6783

Meets every other third Saturday evening. If you're interested in this group, please contact **Gloria Myer** at **281-379-6783**.

Investment Group

"Smart Women Finish Rich"

Third Wednesday 9:15 a.m.

Diane Weidenheft, President, 281-370-1653

Connie Nolan, Vice President, 281-379-5302

Please contact **Diane** or **Connie** for information about this interesting group.

Potential New Group

En Francais – Est-ce que vous

voulez parler en Français?

Telephenez nous á **281-257-3260** pour discuter l'organisation d'un group de conversation Française.

Got News?

Email your news to marilou@swbell.net or drop it in the front porch mailbox at 9103 Herts Road.

Welcome Packets – Don't Forget

The Civic Club wants to make sure that every new resident gets a warm "hello" and helping hand. A neighborhood Welcome Packet delivered by a smiling face accomplishes both. If you know of a new resident on your street, please contact Heidi Baty at 281-235-6621. The packets include a CF directory, a CFWC newsletter and other helpful information about the community that can aid new residents.

CFWC Sunshine and Welcome

Champion Forest Women's Club would love to share the sunshine in your life. If you are new to the neighborhood, we would like to come by and give you a welcome gift. If you are a new parent or grandparent, please send us a picture and information to brighten up the newsletter. We would like to share anything that brings sunshine into your life. Call CFWC Laura Smith at 281-374-0909 or email Marilou Schopper at marilou@swbell.net.



Call Ruth or Jim Lynch at 281-320-9570
to report a lost or found pet.

Welcome to Champion Forest

NEW RESIDENTS



Please fill out this form and return to Heidi Baty at 16125 Parish Hall (281-235-6621) before the 10th of the month. (Check box(es) that apply):

- We would like to be included in the newsletter
- We would like to be included in the neighborhood telephone directory
- We would like to make changes to our information in the telephone directory
- I would like someone to contact me regarding neighborhood activities

Name: _____

Children's Names and Ages: _____

Moved from: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Husband is employed by: _____

Work phone: _____

Wife is employed by: _____

Work phone: _____



CYPRESS FOREST *Public Utility District*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Petrick, President
Linn Smyth, Vice President
Fred Jones, Secretary
Greg DiCioccio, Assistant Secretary
Jim Lynch, Assistant Vice President

MISSION STATEMENT

The Texas State Legislature created the Cypress Forest Public Utility District (CFPUD) in 1971. The mission of the CFPUD is to finance, construct, own and operate waterworks, wastewater, and drainage facilities and to provide such facilities and services to its customers. The CFPUD is governed by a five-member board of directors that is elected by the public and has staggered four-year terms. Meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the PUD Building on Champion Forest Drive. The CFPUD Board also hosts a regular Brown Bag Lunch for all interested residents. To get involved, please contact a Board member.



REMEMBER...

An Architectural Review Application must be submitted BEFORE you begin any home improvements.

Contact **Consolidated Management Services** at 281-296-9775 (phone), 281-296-9788 (fax) or by email at conmgsvc@swbell.net whenever you need assistance.

CYPRESS FOREST PUD NEWS

This is the latest Term Sheet sent to JP Realty/Kera Development following our Board meeting on Friday, July 11. It is important to be clear that this is not a signed deal, just a statement of terms on which we are negotiating.

*Linn Jensen Smyth, Vice President
Cypress Forest PUD*

Cypress Forest Public Utility District JP Realty/Kera Development Development Agreement Term Sheet

CFPUD Gets:

- Greenspace and Parks and Recreation Preservation
 - o JP Realty to deed all Raveneaux property (other than 26 acres) to CFPUD for \$5,500,000, subject to golf course lease (see below); deed to be signed at time of payment
 - Appraisal required under TCEQ rules
 - CFPUD shall obtain appraisal at its sole cost
 - o Except as provided below, CFPUD would enter into a 99-year lease-back of golf course to country club/golf course operating company; Lease for nominal rent (\$5,500 per year)
 - o Subject to CFPUD voter approval of park plan (November 2008)
 - o No District funds for development or improvement to golf course or clubhouse
 - o 40' buffer from the Mormon Temple to Cypress Creek bridge is not subject to lease; CFPUD can install a trail, berms and landscaping; CFPUD to make accommodation for trail at Cypress Creek crossing to avoid interference with existing golf uses (including cart path)

- o May use District funds for landscaping, berm and trails
- o 11-acre tract (east of Dry Gulley) not subject to lease; may be used by District for flood control or parks or combination, provided, however, Raveneaux/JP Realty may use property for tee box and green for golf course reconstruction
- o Operation of Golf Course
 - Golf Course lease effective upon execution of deed
 - Land can only be used for golf course, tennis courts, swimming pools and otherwise directly golf related and for trails on a limited area of the “new course” property (to be determined) and such trails are only to be operated by a nationally recognized spa/wellness facility operator, subject to approval of the CFPUD Board
 - **If lease property is not used for permitted purpose for first 10 years after payment of funds, then the lease terminates as to inactive part, provided, however, that if the “old” golf course is not used as a golf course at any point in the first 10 years, then 10-year limit is reduced to 1 year; further, after the initial ten years, if any of the “new course” property is not used for a permitted purpose for a 3 year period, then lease terminates as to inactive part and if the “old course” property is not used for a permitted purpose for a one-year period then the lease terminates as to the inactive part**
- CFPUD may develop any area on which lease terminates for park and recreational facilities selected by CFPUD; provided, however, that if any of the property is still operated by Raveneaux/JP Realty as a golf course, then CFPUD agrees that it will not operate any such property as a golf course
- Lease will contain a termination provision if lessee files for bankruptcy
- No assignment of lease without written consent of CFPUD, and such approval shall be within the complete discretion of CFPUD
- JP Realty agrees to maintain inactive areas, including at least 14 mows per year and disposal of dead trees, branches, debris, litter, etc.
- o Cypresswood Buffer in front of 26 acres to Cypress Creek
 - 40-foot width from Cypresswood right-of-way line
 - Allow for trees, berm and jogging trail
 - Easement
 - May use district funds
 - Landscape design in front of 26 acres subject to JP Realty approval
- Raveneaux Development Land Use Restrictions
 - o Development of Raveneaux Property Limited to 26 acres (approx.) at roughly the southwest corner of

(continued on page 12)

Term Sheet – continued

- Cypresswood and Champions Drive – 26 acres to be defined with an exhibit
- Development limited to high-end condominiums, high-rise or mid-rise buildings, three- or four-story townhouses, single-family residential, reconstruction of clubhouse, and limited retail commercial to serve development, hotel and spa
- No development of apartment project; condominium owners will be allowed to rent units but no centralized renting of units
- Any commercial building frontage orientation along Cypresswood subject to CFPUD approval
- No units less than 1,200 square feet without CFPUD approval; provided, however, that five percent of the units may be under 1,200 square feet with a minimum of 900 square feet per unit
- Limited retail within redevelopment
 - Total amount of retail space = 50,000 square feet (unless otherwise approved by CFPUD)
 - No street frontage for commercial without CFPUD approval
- All Raveneaux property is to be annexed into CFPUD
 - No indemnity from JP Realty

JP Realty Gets:

- Utilities for 26 acres
 - Utility capacity of 500 ESFCs (including access to water plant and wastewater plant and CFPUD's Cypresswood lines) plus capacity for hotel/spa and clubhouse provided by CFPUD at no cost to JP Realty
 - Additional utilities necessary to serve 26 acres to be advance funded by JP Realty, subject to reimbursement from CFPUD to the full extent of TCEQ rules
 - Reimbursement to the full extent of TCEQ rules when value of development supports bonds at District debt service tax rate (before definitive agreement executed, need a list of projects to be reimbursed and a cost estimate)
- CFPUD allows access to “fee strip” south of Champions Drive (any issues interfering with platting of surrounding subdivision go away)
 - JP Realty to pay all expenses associated with re-platting
- If park bond election fails, the District fails to secure financing from other sources, or District does not pay by December 31, 2009,
 - 26 acres still developed with utilities and reimbursement described above subject to land use restrictions described above

- o Additional development is restricted to 15 acres at southeast corner of Cypresswood and Champions Drive (plus any work on other property necessary to comply with floodplain mitigation) with 40-foot landscape buffer
 - Includes utility capacity and reimbursement to the full extent of TCEQ rules when value of development supports bonds at District debt service tax rate
 - Development of 15 acres limited to three or four story townhouses
- o JP Realty agrees to maintain inactive areas, including at least 14 mows per year and disposal of dead trees, branches, debris, litter, etc.
- o 40-foot landscape buffer from the Mormon Church to Cypress Creek may be used for landscaping, berms and trails (easement)
- o Annexation of all property into CFPUD
- o No development on the balance of the property, enforced through a restrictive covenant
- Development on 26 acres may commence as soon as definitive agreement is signed
- Developer will support the bond election

Draft as of July 8, 2008.



CHAMPION FOREST *Civic Club*

BOARD MEMBERS

President John Shipp, 281-376-0240
 Vice President.....Ellen Thomson, 281-379-1925
 Treasurer Winn Andrus, 281-370-8723
 Secretary TBD
 Civic Events Coordinator.....Heidi Beale, 281-370-0423
 Marquee Coordinator.....Maura Mulvehill, 281-379-5660
 Directory ChairmanHeidi Baty, 281-257-2634

MISSION STATEMENT

The Champion Forest Civic Club (CFCC) is a neighborhood service organization chartered in 1995. The mission of the CFCC is to unite the community. The CFCC fulfills this mission by publishing a neighborhood directory, hosting a Halloween Happening, supporting National Neighbors' Night Out, sponsoring the CF Annual Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Parade, and other events throughout the year. The Civic Club also maintains the marquees at the entrances to Champion Forest.

CFCC collects \$15 annual dues from all residents. Board members are elected every other year in October. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at 16215 Champion Forest Drive. To get involved, please contact any Board member.

Champion Forest Residents Celebrate 4th of July the Old Fashioned Way

A good number of Champion Forest residents turned out all decked out for the 4th of July parade at Brill. They brought their pets, they brought their kiddos, they brought their four wheelers, bikes and strange vehicles of all kinds – and all were decorated to show their holiday spirit. A water balloon toss, limbo competition and treats for the kiddos finished up the celebration. See for yourself, we have some wacky and patriotic neighbors.





(continued on page 16)

4th of July – *continued*





CHAMPION FOREST FUND, INC.
Homeowners' Association (HOA)

BOARD MEMBERS

President **Roy Riley**, 281-376-0270
 Vice President..... **Rozann Janek**, 281-655-0262
 Secretary **Cristy Hayes**, 281-257-3260
 Treasurer **Todd Hardin**, 281-655-0845
 Director and Security
 Committee Chairman..... **Wally Bircher**, 281-374-7422
 Community Outreach Committee..... **Heidi Beale**, 281-370-0423

CHAMPION FOREST WEBSITE

www.championforestonline.com
Log on for the latest neighborhood and community news.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Champion Forest Fund, Inc. is a nonprofit tax-exempt corporation chartered in the State of Texas. The association was formed for the purpose of providing for the maintenance, preservation and architectural control of the residential lots within Champion Forest subdivision and promoting the safety, health and welfare of its residents.

CONSOLIDATED MANAGEMENT SERVICES (CMS)

For all deed restriction or neighborhood maintenance questions, contact CMS at **281-296-9775** (phone), **281-296-9788** (fax), or by email at conmgsvc@swbell.net.

CF Homeowners' Association

Long Range Planning – The PUD building will be available for the short courses on the following dates and times:

The Champion Forest Fund/HOA and Neighborhood Watch is hosting short courses at the following dates and times in the PUD building on Champion Forest Drive.

August 19 at 9 a.m. – “Protect Your Home”

August 28 at 9 a.m. – “Out and About”

Back by Popular Demand:

Dog Owners' Common-Sense Alert

We love dogs, honest! But no one likes doo doo. Children at Brill track it back into class. Homeowners step in it in their front yards. So many folks are upset! Please clean up your doggie's doo when you walk your dog! We “doo” appreciate it.





NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE

Name	Home Phone	Email
Roy Riley, CF HOA President, Committee Chair	281-376-0270	President@ChampionForestOnline.com
Rozann Janek, CF Fund VP	281-655-0262	VicePresident@ChampionForestOnline.com
Cristy Hayes, CF Fund Secretary	281-257-3260	Secretary@ChampionForestOnline.com
Fred Jones	281-320-2966	FredPJones@comcast.net
Jackie Kern	281-376-0771	kirkkern@aol.com
Joyce Preston	281-376-5844	jprst@netzero.net

The Neighborhood Watch Committee typically meets at 7 p.m. on the last Thursday of each month at the PUD Building. Everyone is welcome, but please contact a committee member to verify schedules before attending.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

The Champion Forest Neighborhood Watch Committee is a standing committee of the Champion Forest Fund, Inc./Homeowners' Association (CFHOA). The committee's mission is to mobilize Champion Forest residents and law enforcement professionals to reduce crime against residents' person and property. Our strategy is to drive awareness, knowledge, involvement and community pride via education, multiple communication campaigns, and establishment of a communication relationship via CF Connection. The volunteer members serve at the pleasure of the CFFHOA. To get involved, please visit www.ChampionForestOnline.com and select the "Neighborhood Watch" tab at the top of the home page or contact your Section Leader or any of the committee members.



Security Alert!

There were 61 alarm calls in the month of June in the Champion Forest neighborhood. None were valid calls. All were false alarms. Sixty-one times, during the month, an officer came to a home, made a thorough check to make sure there was no unauthorized entry and spent about **20 minutes handling the call.**

For the month of June, that represented 20.3 hours of a patrol officer's time, when the officer was not patrolling, but doing busy work caused by a homeowner's carelessness. Is this how you want to spend your security dollars?

Set your alarm? Yes, of course! But make sure it is set correctly, and there is no chance that your haste or a pet's unrestricted movement in the house can accidentally trip it! The neighborhood will be safer for your attention in this matter.



Constable's Dispatch
281-376-3472

CONSTABLE'S PATROL ACTIVITY REPORT

Type of Activity

Burglary of a Habitation	0
Burglary of a Motor Vehicle	1
Theft from a Habitation	0
Theft of a Motor Vehicle.....	2
Theft - Other	1
Robbery	0
Assault.....	0
Sexual Assault.....	0
Criminal Mischief.....	1
Disturbance - Family.....	3
Disturbance - Juvenile	1
Disturbance - Other.....	1
Alarms	61
Suspicious Vehicles.....	65
Suspicious Persons	7
Runaways	0
Telephone Harassment	0
Other Calls.....	298

Many residents in Champion Forest have not notified their alarm companies as to which law enforcement agency to notify should the need arise. Please contact your alarm company and instruct them to contact the Harris County Pct. 4 Constable's Department at 281-376-3472 should your burglar alarm activate or you hit the panic button and need law enforcement for an emergency.

For the public information synopsis, email Lt. Finley at IFinley@consolidated.net with your name and home address. He will add you to his regular email list.

SUMMARY REPORT

Under Investigation

Burglary of a Motor Vehicle
8200 block of Redchurch Drive

Theft of a Motor Vehicle
16100 block of Rudgewick Lane
8300 block of Herts Road

Theft - Other
9500 block of Godstone Lane

Criminal Mischief
16200 block of Champions Drive

Disturbance (Family)
9700 block of Windrush Drive
8300 block of Rockford Hall Drive

Other Calls
16000 block of Mickleham Drive
16400 block of Emilia Court

Disclaimer: The information contained in the Contract Summary Report is provided by the Harris County Precinct 4 Constable's Office. The Champion Forest Fund, Inc. (the "Fund") is not responsible for the content of the CF Patrol Contract Summary and Activity Reports, and the Fund disclaims and denies any and all liability therefor.

There are registered sex offenders living in many neighborhoods. For more information, go to www.familywatchdog.us and follow the links.

Wally Bircher Sets Record as Loyal Volunteer

He looks like any other neighbor – but his actions beg to differ. **Wally Bircher** is the volunteer-ing-est person of anyone you are likely to meet on any block in Champion Forest, or anywhere else for that matter.

His history with Champion Forest began when his granddaughter, Noelie, started kindergarten at Brill and the kindergarten teacher mentioned to Wally that she could use some help. She got it, to say the least. Wally, an IBM retiree, drove 50 miles twice a week to lend a hand. That lasted through Noelie's 1st grade year, and then Wally moved to Champion Forest. In 2004, Champion Forest and Brill got a handy, neighborhood helper and volunteer extraordinaire.

The photos and quotes tell a story of service. But so does the fact that Wally has been named Volunteer of the Year for the Northwest YMCA, has received a Lifetime PTO Award for Volunteerism, has received President Bush's Silver Award for Volunteerism and was recently nominated Klein Region IV Volunteer of the Year.

In his four years in our neighborhood, he has been security coordinator and Board member of the CF Fund/HOA. If Wally sees something that needs doing, he does it.



*Brill's PTO didn't have a computer so the volunteers were having to use their home computers to keep PTO records. When a volunteer moved on from Brill, too often the records went with the volunteer. Wally secured a donation from IBM for a Pentium IV personal computer. Here, Brill's principal, **Karen Smith**, PTO president **Elena Baer** and **Wally** pose for a photo.*

Wally sums up his joy in lending a helping hand quite well: "He served, would be a great epitaph," he explains.

Note: Wally is very interested in getting more grandparents involved in schools. Should you or someone you know answer the call?



One of several IBM grants that **Wally** secured for Brill included one for this Little Tike computer, built by IBM and installed in a console. Brill is the only school in KISD that has one – and the pre-K kiddos are all over it. In the photo, **Karen Smith**, Brill's principal (on left), staff and students formally accept the donation from IBM and Wally (second from right). Note: Wally's granddaughter **Noelle** is in front of him.

***Do you take time to volunteer?
You are needed.***

High Praise for Wally



*Karen Smith,
Brill Principal*

Mr. Wally Bircher has been one of the most active and effective volunteers we have ever had at Brill. For the past six years, Mr. Bircher has not only helped teachers and students in the computer lab, but he has also donated hundreds of hours of volunteer time to us. Mr. Bircher, as a retired employee of IBM, receives credit for all of the hours he works as a volunteer. Then he matches the funds donated by IBM with his own money. Because of his generosity and the many hours that he has put in at Brill, we have been the recipient of many grants from IBM. One of the most impressive purchases we have been able to make with these designated funds is computer made especially for pre-kindergarten students. It is the cutest thing you can imagine to see four-year-olds using that child-friendly computer.

Without Mr. Bircher's expertise, we would not have the organized computer lab that we currently have at Brill. He lets us know whenever anything is not working properly, has helped us keep up with the ongoing task of keeping the headphones working and has been instrumental in helping teachers with various computer tasks. I really hate to see Mr. Bircher's daughter go to Kleb. I don't think Mr. Bircher is replaceable.

Brill PTO Recognizes Wally Bircher



I have had the pleasure of knowing and volunteering with **Wally Bircher** for three years now. The students at Brill know him as “Pops” or simply “Noelie’s Grandpa.” He is so much more than that. He single-handedly signed up all of our new volunteers one year and walked them through the new and confusing background

check process. He has been instrumental in getting technology donations from IBM. He has been our computer savior on more than one occasion. He has been our honored keynote speaker on Veteran’s Day, and we simply would not know what to do if he wasn’t around. His contributions to Brill are really too numerous to list. Our sincere hope is that he continues to hang around Brill even though his granddaughter is growing up and moving on to Kleb. Brill just won’t be the same without Wally.

Cammie DeShazer
Brill PTO President

Champion Forest Residents Called to Serve

Dave and Merle Rumsey have been called to serve a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They will serve at church headquarters in Salt Lake City in the Church and Family History Department for 18 months. Their son, **Ford**, will be serving with them.

Merle relates, “We are converts to the church and have looked forward to serving a mission for a long time. One of our sons served in Russia, shortly after the wall fell; one son served in Atlanta; and one of our daughters served in Bilbao, Spain. Ours is not a proselytizing mission but one where we will be trained in doing family history research. We will help patrons in the Family History Library, the largest in the world, trace their ancestry. This kind of research is a very popular hobby. Actually, it is like a mystery or a puzzle, one that involves a great deal of joy as we learn about where we came from, who our ancestors were, and what they were like.”

“I was in the Czech Republic this past September and found some distant relatives. They were as excited to meet us as my

American cousin and I were to meet them! At the end of the week, we found out that the building that we had been looking at from our hotel window all week was on the lot where our great grandfather had his home. I can't describe the thrill we felt!"

"We believe that this desire that people have to search out their kindred dead is fulfillment of prophecy from Malachi



at the very end of the Old Testament- 'Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.' It will be a wonderful project in which to be involved."

The Rumseys and their six children have lived in Champion Forest since July 1979. "This community is one of the greatest places on earth to live and we will miss our friends here. However, our son and his family will be living in our home until we return. It's a perfect situation for us. We look forward to helping people in this area when we return. I've already downloaded our church's family history software on some of our neighbor's computers so they can start entering the data they have. It's exciting to fill in the spaces on our family tree."

The Rumseys will have a blog on their mission. It is rumseymission.blogspot.com.

rumseymission.blogspot.com

Congratulations, 2008 Graduates



Taylor Marie Coles

Taylor Marie Coles, daughter of Marla Coles and Kory Coles, graduated from Klein High School with the class of 2008 on June 7. Taylor decided in September of her junior year to graduate a year early. Not only did she have to complete her regular course schedule, but she also took

additional courses online and at Lone Star College and was still able to graduate in the top 10% of the class of 2008.

Outside of school Taylor worked at Lifetime Fitness as a swim instructor and lifeguard, as well as a youth leader at the

Fellowship of Champions Church. In August she will attend Texas A&M University where she will major in nuclear engineering. She will join her brother Kyle Coles (pictured with Taylor), who will be a sophomore majoring in petroleum engineering. Congratulations to them both!



Nicholas Vincent Weido

Nick Weido, son of Kevin and Michelle Weido, graduated summa cum laude from Klein High School on June 7 and delivered the commencement address. Nick was a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society, a National Merit Commended Scholar and a

member of the National Society of High School Scholars.

Nick was a four-year varsity letterman for the Klein High Swim Team and served as captain his senior year. He was three-time regional qualifier and was nominated for the Wendy's High School Heisman. He has also been named to the USA Swimming Scholastic All-American Team.

In the fall, Nick will be attending the University of Notre Dame where he intends to pursue a double major in business and environmental sciences while also learning a second foreign language. He also plans on becoming a member of the rowing team. Go, Irish!

In the fall of this school year, Lauren was honored with a scholarship to study at the Glassell School of Art at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston in their advanced portfolio class. Lauren has also studied painting and drawing under the instruction of Tina Szajko and Thomas Cleveland, Master Artist, at The Artist Within in Cypress. Lauren has been accepted to Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia where she plans on pursuing degrees in painting and illustration following a year at Lone Star College-Tomball.



Lauren Nicole Schwind

Congratulations to **Lauren Schwind**, daughter of **Brian and Marti Schwind** and sister of **Will Schwind**, who graduated June 7 from Klein High School. At Klein she was a member of the Art Club, Anime Club and the National Art Honor Society. As a member of the NAHS

and Art Club, Lauren participated this school year in The Memory Project where she created a portrait for an orphan in Nicaragua from his photograph, and she also participated in NAM's Art for the Hungry 2008 food sculpture.





Call for Volunteers at Brill



Winnie Muery,
PTO President Brill
Elementary 2008-2009

Volunteers are what make a school a better place for the kids. It is the help with the little things that can make a big difference to a child's learning experience. When you have a good base of volunteers, you are able to reach out to **all** the children and add a little something extra to their day. If you would like to get involved, such as reading to a class, assisting in the computer

lab or becoming a mentor, please contact the Brill Volunteer Coordinators, **Jane Stoneking** at 281-370-8131 or **Sherry Andrus** at 281-370-8723.

Klein Bearkat Bash

This is the 7th year the Klein Bearkat Bash will be held. The money raised from the event is used to help fund the After Prom Extravaganza, better known as A.P.E that was established to keep students safe on Prom night. It has become a well known event, and we now get participants from all over the city. The fact that it is a "chip timed" race attracts many serious racers.

Save the date!!! The 7th Annual Bearkat Bash "chip timed" 5k run/walk and kids 1K run takes place **Saturday, September 6** at Klein High School Memorial Stadium starting at 7:30 a.m.

If you have questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact **Lynne McEvoy**, Bearkat Bash '08 Race Director, at lmcevoy@smithc.com.

Registration and Race Packet Pickup:

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – September 2, 3, 4
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Klein High School Commons Area
16715 Stuebner Airline Drive

Friday, September 5
12 p.m. – 6 p.m.

Fleet Feet
8220 Louetta Road
281-370-4140

Fleet Feet
2408 Rice Blvd.
713-520-6353

Saturday, September 6 – Race Day
6:30 a.m.

Klein High School Memorial Stadium



Raveneaux **Racers** **Swim Team News**

Congratulations to the 2008 Raveneaux Racers Swim Team for an outstanding season for taking second place at divisionals! Post season, The Racers were well represented at the Red, White and Blue Invitational Meet, the AllStar Invitational Meet, and the Ponderosa Championship Invitational Meet. Way to go Racers!!!



Locks of Love



Catherine White (8) is currently a third grader at Brill Elementary. She has been growing her hair for the past several years to get it to a length long enough to donate to “Locks of Love” for kids who have lost their hair due to cancer or other medical reasons so that they can get wigs either free or at an affordable price. She was determined to have it long enough so she could do her part in helping out these kids. She finally did it, and we couldn’t be prouder!

From the Locks of Love website (www.locksoflove.org), Locks of Love is a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United

States and Canada under age 18 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis. We meet a unique need for children by using donated hair to create the highest quality hair prosthetics. Most of the children helped by Locks of Love have lost their hair due to a medical condition called alopecia areata, which has no known cause or cure. The prostheses we provide help to restore their self-esteem and their confidence, enabling them to face the world and their peers.

Anyone can cut your hair as long as the guidelines listed below are followed. We encourage all of our donors to go to a salon they are already familiar with to ensure their comfort when donating.

Guidelines for acceptable donations:

- Hair that is colored or permed is acceptable.
- Hair cut years ago is usable if it has been stored in a ponytail or braid.
- Hair that has been bleached (usually this refers to highlighted hair) is not usable. If unsure, ask your stylist. We are not able to accept bleached hair due to a chemical reaction that occurs during the manufacturing process.

- Hair that is swept off of the floor is not usable because it is not bundled in a ponytail or braid
- Hair that is shaved off and not in a ponytail or braid is not usable. If shaving your head, first divide hair into multiple ponytails to cut off.
- We cannot accept dreadlocks. Our manufacturer is not able to use them in our children's hairpieces. We also cannot accept wigs, falls, hair extensions or synthetic hair.
- Layer hair is acceptable if the longest layer is 10". Layered hair may be divided into multiple ponytails.
- Curly hair may be pulled straight to measure the minimum 10".
- 10" measured tip to tip is the minimum length needed for a hairpiece.

Please note: Shorter hair will be separated from the ponytails and sold to offset the manufacturing costs. Although the shorter hair cannot be used in the hairpieces, it still greatly helps to reduce costs. Grey hair will be accepted and sold to offset the manufacturing costs. Colored hair is not usable if it is colored over bleached hair.



Thank You

Cub Scouts Looking for Wannabes!



Calling all kindergartners and 1st-3rd grader boys! Looking for things to do to make more father and son time? If your guy likes camping, arts and crafts, Pinewood Derby, and Push Cart races, this is

definitely for you! Look for a flyer this month advertising a big Cub Scout recruiting effort for Brill's Pack 535. Cub Scouts only require a few hours a month and pays off big for a lifetime of skills, values and memories. Did I mention that these guys have fun? These guys have fun. For more information contact **Todd Reynolds** at todd@reynoldsadvertising.com or 713-724-6914 or **Charles Herd** at cfh@lanierlawfirm.com.



National Charity League Cypress Creek Chapter

NCL is a mother/daughter charitable organization.

We will be hosting our Annual Food Drive Saturday, August 23rd

We will be collecting food door-to-door to benefit **Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries (TEAM)**. If you would please place the items you would care to donate outside your door by 9 a.m., we will pick them up and take them to TEAM where we will stock their shelves with these much needed items:

- plastic grocery bags
- toothpaste & toothbrushes
- bar soap
- shampoo & conditioner
- toilet paper
- canned goods
- macaroni & cheese
- non-cream soups
- canned fruit
- anything non-perishable

Monetary donations can be made to TEAM and can also be collected at the same time by placing the donation in an envelope marked TEAM outside the front door.

We appreciate your participation in our annual community food drive.

"We search for charity within ourselves and strive for the graciousness to share it with others."

NCL Wildflowers Out and About

While some teens may be relaxing and taking it easy over the summer, the members of the National Charity League, Wildflowers Chapter are also enjoying their summer, yet are putting in hours of volunteer service benefiting many charities in NW Harris County.

National Charity League, Inc. was founded in 1947 in Los Angeles, California. NCL is a national non-profit organization composed of Mother-Daughter chapters, organized to not only support local charities but to foster the Mother-Daughter relationship through philanthropic, cultural and educational training.

Chapters consist of mothers and their daughters from 7th-12th grade. The Wildflowers Chapter of NCL was chartered in 1996. Over the past 12 years, the Wildflowers have logged countless hours of volunteer service. During the 2007-

2008 year alone, the chapter's 230+ mothers and daughters volunteered over 5,500 hours of philanthropic service.

Local non-profit organizations supported by the Wildflowers Chapter include Northwest Assistance Ministries, Tomball Emergency Assistance Ministries, Barbara Bush Library, Keep Pace, and Special Olympics, just to name a few.

The members volunteer throughout the entire year, but in the summer months when school is out and extra-curricular activities slow down, the mother-daughter teams have more available time to help in the community.

According to Champion Forest resident/Wildflowers president **Elizabeth Soliz**, "The NCL organization is a wonderful organization where Mothers and Daughters are given the opportunity to participate in various ways to give back to the community through their volunteer hours. The daughters also follow a six-year plan designed to teach them to be self-assured individuals, demonstrate good manners, and to respect others and develop leadership skills."

For more information on the organization, please visit the national website: www.nationalcharityleague.org



Pictured are Estates of Windrush residents, Sue Ellen Latham, and her daughter Sarah, volunteering at the Barbara Bush Library.

Road Trip

Wandering In Spring

This tour begins at Klein High School, going east on Louetta road. Louetta was once a small village near the present Memorial Chase subdivision. The center of an agricultural community, Louetta had a lumber mill, a school, and a post office. For a time, in the early twentieth century, the village trade was boosted by the railroad passing through. Now all that remains is the road bearing the village's name.

At 5707 Louetta is Strack Farms. The Strack family has farmed this land since Herman Strack first came to Texas from Germany in the 1840s. Herman bought 1200 acres of land for 50 cents an acre. Vegetable farming became the main occupation of the Stracks, and vegetables were often sold at Old Market Square in Houston, a two-day trip by wagon.

3.2 miles east on Louetta, on the left is Old Louetta Loop Road, where the road used to make a curve. Take the short detour from Louetta to see the old Haude house, which has been restored by a descendant of Charles Julius Haude, who arrived in America from Germany in 1851. In earlier days the large upper

room of the home was the scene of numerous parties and family gatherings. Charles Haude purchased land in Texas and began farming and raising cattle. His land deed was signed by Sam Houston, who was Governor of Texas at the time. When he died in 1893, he left 542 acres to his three children.

Returning to Louetta road and continuing .6 mile, you will come to Budde Road on the right. Turn right on Budde .6 mile on the right is a lane with two older homes. The first, on the right, is the Holzwarth House, originally built by Charles Holzwarth (1866-1941), justice of the peace in spring 1925-1930, 1940-1941. The Tautenhahn house at the end of the lane has magnificent pillars. The house was moved from Westfield, where the Tautenhahns had a flourishing mercantile establishment. Returning to Budde Road and turning right will take you to Budde Cemetery. A large cedar at the center of the cemetery shades many of the graves of the community's earliest settlers, including the Hildebrandts, Wunsches, Haudes, Mittelstädts, and Tautenhahns. Many of the tombstones are over 100 years old.

Returning to Louetta Road, turn right. Travel east .2 mile and turn left on Old Holzwarth Road to reach Spring Cypress Road. Turn right on Spring Cypress Road. Spring Cypress Road connects two towns which owed their existence to the railroad. In 1856, the first building of the Houston Central Railroad reached what was then called Cypress Top. The Civil War briefly halted development of the railroad, but by 1873 the railroad connected Houston and Cypress and surrounding communities with Dallas and the North. In 1845, sixteen German families had settled along Little Cypress Creek. Many of the family names of Teske, Kitzman, Juergen, Bahr, Zahn, Kluge, Christen, Martin, and others have now become road and school names of the area. In 1854, John Peter Christen built a courthouse east of Cypress. The Cypress Court served the area of Hufsmith, Hockley, Tomball, Spring, Klein, Westfield, Fairbanks, Addicks, and Rose Hill. Little remains today of old Cypress except the name of the post office. There is much to see, however, in Spring, at the eastern end of Spring Cypress Road.

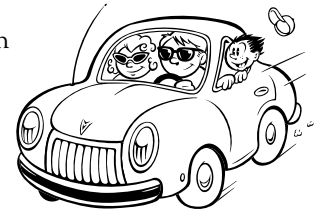
Continue on Spring Cypress Road, crossing I-45 two miles, until you reach Old Town Spring. Spring began as a trading post in 1838. In the 1840s, German immigrants from Saxony, including the Carl Wunsches, began to settle the area, buying land for as little as 10-25 cents an acre. In the 1870s, Jay Gould's International and Great Northern Railroad was routed through the town, and the town began to thrive when it became a major switchyard and fueling place. Hotels, saloons, and gambling halls catered to the railroad workers. Prohibition, the moving of the railroad roundhouse to Houston, and the depression all led to a decline in Spring. Today, however, many of the old buildings are being preserved and recycled as specialty shops. The shop-owners love to share the history of their buildings. The best way to explore Spring is on foot.

At the fork in the road of Spring Cypress and Gentry is the Spring Historical Museum, located in the old Spring courthouse. Its exhibits trace the history of Spring from 1840 to the present. The museum is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday 1 - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Taking the left fork in the road, which continues Spring Cypress Road and is Spring's Main Street, at the north corner of Keith Street is the 2-story Whitehall, built in 1897. The Alex Klein family, which founded the Klein Funeral Home and the Klein Grocery Store in Tomball, lived in the house in the 1920s and 1930s. Across the Main Street from Whitehall is the Bradley House. This was one of the first houses built by Robert L. Robinson, who began

developing the town of Spring in 1902. Several of the houses now used as shops in Old Town Spring were built by Mr. Robinson.

Turn right on Preston Street, then left on Midway. On the right, halfway down the block, is the old Spring Bank building. The bank was chartered in 1910, and there are local stories it was once robbed by Bonnie and Clyde in the 1930s. At the corner of Midway and Hardy Road is the historic Wunsche Brothers Saloon. Carl Wunsche and his family immigrated to Texas from Germany in 1846. Besides farming, the family had a gin and gristmill operation and eventually opened a sawmill. In the 1850s and 1860s, the Wunsches had over 3000 acres of land in the Spring area. The Wunsche Cemetery is located on I-45 near Spring High School. The Wunsche Brothers built the Wunsche Brothers Saloon and Hotel in 1902 to meet the growing needs of the railroad employees. Prohibition closed the saloon, which later re-opened as the Spring Café.

From the Spring Café, turn right on Hardy Road. Continue on Hardy Road 1.7 miles to Lemm Road #1, on the right. Behind the Spring ISD bus barn, and nestled in the woods on a private road, is the lovely old home of Wilhelm Lemm. Wilhelm Lemm came to Texas in the early 1840s and settled on land given by the Republic of Texas. Wilhelm served in the Civil War and was given 160 acres for his services. He continued to add land to his homestead and eventually owned more than 300 acres.



IN THE MAIL

*This space is reserved for residents with opinions to express, thoughts to share and any question another reader may be able to answer. Jot it down and drop it in the mail to **Marilou Schopper** at 9103 Herts Road, Spring, Texas 77379, put it into the birdhouse mailbox on Marilou's front porch, or contact her by email at marilou@partysport.com.*

Remember: This newsletter will not publish anonymous comments or questions. Please include your name and address.

Thank you, Marilou

To the editor, Champion Forest Monthly Newsletter:

My wife, children and I have resided in Champion Forest since December of 1997. We live in the 15000 block of Maplehurst. When we moved in, we inquired about the seemingly vacant home across the street from us. We were told by a realtor that it was a family situation involving an elderly parent who had been ill, hospitalized and expected to return home. To date, and to our knowledge, no one has lived in that home since, save some dogs on a temporary basis. In case it needs emphasis, that is over ten years.

Two months after we moved in, the renters living in the home next door to us moved out, and it was only then that we discovered that both homes were owned by the same individual.

Both homes remained unoccupied and unkempt. Years passed with us inquiring to the Champion Forest Fund and others about what could be done. We contacted the owner directly. We filed complaints with the Harris County Health Department when raccoons (and rats) moved in. We called the Constables when youths used the properties for parties and when squatters had moved in. There were many calls. We contacted anyone who would take our call because our neighborhood association said there was nothing they could do. Tiring of this response, I accepted an invitation to run for a position on the board and served two years (Feb. 2006 - Jan. 2008). During that time I helped to get our latest deed restriction amendments passed, an important measure which, among other things, allowed us more enforcement capabilities in dealing with problem homeowners. The passage also led to the CFF's successful negotiation with the owner of both houses I mention to sell them, with the Board's approval and oversight, to a third party who agreed to fix them up and sell them to more caring and responsible owners. Handcuffed by the law, our agreement with the new owner was as comprehensive as it could be, but the new owner decided to abandon the spirit of our agreement with him and sold to an individual who has not done what he said he would and that we had hoped for with these properties. In fact, both of these homes, less than one year after being re-acquired, are now in foreclosure. One is already back on the market at a discounted price.

The homes I mention are certainly not the only ones like them in Champion Forest, and I don't want to paint this as a selfish issue, because it is not. I could cite for anyone who asked five to ten other similar houses in Champion Forest. In my position on the Board, I heard from neighbors about similar situations. I personally surveyed these other homes. Yes, maybe, and eventually, these homes will become what they should have been. But we are talking over ten years in my case. Some of my neighbors have sold their homes at significant losses because of these homes. The rest of us fear the same. And after much hard work the past few years, we are now right back where we started years ago on these properties.

"I recently attended the June board meeting of the Champion Forest Fund to discuss this matter once again. Let

me say that most of the current Board members are my friends, and they are people I am proud to have served with. I have nothing but praise for the work they have done and continue to do for our neighborhood. It is a thankless job sometimes to have to represent a neighborhood and deal with the problems it experiences. So, I have no issues with the Board, but their collective response to my request that we revisit this issue on a larger level was not met with the kind of enthusiasm I had hoped for, mostly because there are plenty of other issues they are dealing with and there is only so much one group of people can do. The CFF attorney, who was present at the meeting, advises that there is not much we can do on my particular issue, so it apparently does not deserve the dialogue. And as I mentioned to all at the meeting, I wasn't looking for an answer, I was just following up on an earlier communication to them about the problem and wanted to make myself available to discuss it. That's all I was and am looking for: a more deliberate, thoughtful consideration of the problem without expectation of an immediate solution, and without an immediate response that nothing can be done.

And it is this point that motivates me to write: hearing once again that there is nothing we can do. We can, however, force people to mow and edge their lawns, to paint their houses a certain color, pick up their trash cans, cut back shrubs and trees, remove mold from their houses, park their boats and trailers out of sight. We can keep watch for solicitors, trespassers, and strangers. But we can, apparently, do nothing when we watch our "neighbors" let their properties go to ruin, inside and out, witness obvious mortgage fraud in progress, tolerate people treating their homes and properties more poorly than our standards would allow, and all in a way that affects us, our property values, and our peaceful possession and enjoyment of our own homes and lives.

To me, that is just not right. You can take all the other issues affecting our neighborhood like Raveneaux, property taxes, traffic, safety and security, schools and commercial development, but if we can't do anything about what actually happens next door to each of us in our own neighborhoods, then why even have deed restrictions, neighborhood

associations or property laws? The next time you walk out your front door, imagine your "neighbors" in the way I have the last ten years and see if you don't agree.

I am no attorney, but I do understand that individual property rights in Texas are pretty sacred. That does not give me comfort here. And maybe there is "nothing we can do" about all this, but I am just wondering if anyone else out there feels the same way I do. And if you would be willing to explore whether there is something we can do together. If so, please email me at ross@pembrokeadvisors.com.

*Sincerely,
Ross Richardson
Maplehurst*

My feelings toward the new garbage service have not changed. In fact, I dislike it even more because of the few times the collectors have missed picking up yard waste. I called the company and left messages and no one returned my calls or came out to get it. I also hate the fact that they are leaving garbage in the driveway which I have to sweep up twice a week now.

*Angie Sammons
Ashridge Park*

IN THE MAIL - *continued*

For CF newsletter

It is an exciting time for Champion Forest and certainly the best time to live, work and play here. It is wonderful to know that the next chapter of our life will be even better than the last. The positive change that is taking place at Raveneaux Country Club will have a ripple effect far around us. I commend the Cypress Forest PUD for countless hours and efforts to **protect our green space, to implement a plan for park and recreational facilities and increase our home values.** The revitalization and changes we will see when a final agreement with Raveneaux and Cypress Forest PUD is executed will **enhance our personal economics and increase our quality of life.** My prediction is that the benefits we will enjoy, such as keeping our green space on Cypresswood Drive and new amenities including a trail and state-of-the-art recreational facility, will be worth the two (2) long years of wondering what will become of our precious neighborhood.

Cypresswood Promenade – our tree lined haven is unique to our area (thank you, Jackie Kern, for coining the phrase). This is one of many reasons we are labeled the River Oaks of the North.

Nancy Grayson with Heritage Texas Properties distributed copies of the Kiplinger Report of June 4, 2008 found at Kiplinger.com, which shows the brightest future

in the USA is right here in Houston, Texas! Did you know Houston is ranked #1 as the Best City to live and work? It is ranked as #1 and projected to only get better. We are on the top and expected to stay on top, according to Kiplinger. I am in awe of how friendships have grown and visions have become clearer for what our legacy will be. We are blessed to be in the middle of a vibrant, healthy Champion Forest with a bright future.....Put on your sunglasses!

Linn Smyth shared with me The Perryman Group report which shows how the impact of local parks and recreational facilities positively impact home values by 20%. **That means \$40,000 on a \$200,000 home.** The impact is greater than 20% if the home is facing a park. This report found at perrymangroup.com also says it has been demonstrated on many occasions that park and recreational facilities positively influence the desirability of communities, attracting viable companies and educated individuals. It is every county and metropolitan area in the state that benefits from the presence of parks. Expenditures to support local parks represent a good investment. The Perryman report proves to me that numerous studies document how the future of Raveneaux along with park and recreational amenities will directly affect you and me.

You will see us continuing to attract public companies to live, work and play in Champion Forest. If you take a look at a list of companies investing in office space along Cypresswood Drive and Highway 249 corridor, it looks like the Wall Street Journal directory. Chasewood Crossing, located just south of Lowes at 19500 Highway 249, is a prime example. A few of the first to stake claim on this new luxury, class "A", six (6) story office building include Dr Patrick Krupka, Bank of America, Nutrecology, InterAmerican Coffee, and Natural Gas Exchange/The Toronto Stock Exchange.

Salute to our neighborhood, our developer Don Hand and all the groups so dedicated to keeping us the best. I especially give a standing ovation to our Cypress Forest PUD: Tom Petrick, Linn Smyth, Fred Jones, Jim Lynch and Greg DiCioccio. You are superb stewards of our resources. I am so glad you are passionately looking out for our best interest.

*Brenda Pennington
Windrush Drive*

Classified Ads

For Sale: 42" upright Yamaha piano (Model M402) with bench, new in 1995, oak finish, played on for only 3 years, \$1249. Call John or Sandi Williams at 281-320-1243.

For Sale: Wonderful queen-size Sleep Number 5000 by Select Comfort bed. We upgraded to a king and do not have room to store the queen. This bed includes a wireless remote control for firmness control in two air chambers, cushioned mattress protector, bed foundation, foundation cover and bed frame. The Sleep Number 5000 features a pillow top with a plush 11-inch mattress and a firmness control system that provides quick and whisper-quiet adjustments to the Sleep Number. The retail on this bed is over \$2,500. We're asking \$1,000 obo. Email Amy at amy.welch@hotmail.com.

Part-time/Full-Time Work: A local teacher, CF resident, is looking for a kind, caring CF woman to assist her mother and be a companion. Call 713-502-5669 or 281-376-2220.

Tahoe 2-Bedroom Timeshare. For details call Barbara Spaeth at 281-370-5322.

Piano Teacher: Experienced with all ages, National Guild Teacher certification, in your neighborhood. Call Diane Cameron at 281-376-3804.

Wanted: Music... Vinyl records, LPs. If you want to get rid of those old records you have never used for ages and never will, please call me and I'll be glad to come and buy them from you! I am your neighbor and my hobby is collecting and listening to records. I am interested in LPs/33s vinyl records and collections of all kinds of music: jazz, rock, blues and mostly progressive music from all over the world (not interested in classical, country or pop/easy listening music). If you want to get rid of your turntable, I'll help you with that too. Thanks. Call John at (cell) 832-368-4543, email jchara@oceanengineering.com or Helen at (cell) 713-458-0907, email helengeorgiadou@hotmail.com.

Editor's Note: The Champion Forest newsletter's classified ads are available at no charge for resident personal property wanted or for sale, or for resident services that directly help the children of Champion Forest. Submitted ads are run in the newsletter at the discretion of the editor. The Champion Forest Women's Club board of directors will hear an appeal to the editor's decision. Thank you.

YOUTH SERVICES

Find your new Champion Forest Baby-sitter, Lawn Care or Pet Care provider here!

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| B - Baby-sitting | P - Pet Care |
| C - Car Detailing | PS - Pool Service |
| E - Entertainment, Piano, Singing | S - Party Serving and Clean-up |
| L - Lawn care | SW - Swim Lessons |
| O - Odd Jobs | W - Pressure Washing |

* Klein Vol. Fire Dept. Certified

** CPR Certified

SERVICES	NAME	TELEPHONE
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Please Note: Law enforcement agencies advise that publishing children's contact information on the Internet compromises their security. For this reason, the teenage job seekers list has been omitted from the online version of your newsletter.

CF Lost and Found

*If you've found a lost item and would like to try to get it back to its owner, please contact **Kathy Lawrence** at 281-370-6925.*

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The *Champion Forest Newsletter* is published monthly for the residents of **Champion Forest**. It is made possible by your neighborhood businesses and friends from ads purchased in the newsletter. Please support these businesses. If you would like to help sponsor this newsletter by purchasing ad space, please call **Champions Printing & Publishing, Inc.** at **281-583-7661** by the **10th of each month**.

Published by **CHAMPIONS PRINTING & PUBLISHING, INC.**
 6608 FM 1960 W. Suite G, Houston, TX. 77069
 281-583-7661 Fax 281-583-2669
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YOU GOTTA PROBLEM?

Animals

Dead in Public Roadway –
 Commissioner Eversole's Office..... 281-353-8424
 Loose – Animal & Rabies Control 281-888-3191

Electricity

Reliant Energy..... 713-207-7777

Garbage and Recycling

Royal Disposal and Recycle 713-526-1536

Gas

CenterPoint Energy 713-659-2111

Mosquitos

Harris County Mosquito Control..... 713-440-4800

Neighborhood Eyesore

Consolidated Management Services 281-296-9775

Phone Repair

Southwestern Bell Telephone 1-800-246-8464

Security

(Nonemergency) Constable's Dispatch.....281-376-3472

Street

Curb Repair, Street Repair, Signs, Sweeping
 Commissioner Eversole's Office 281-353-8424
 Traffic Signals
 Houston Transtar 713-881-3210

Street Lamps

Reliant Energy 713-945-3219

Water

Cypress Forest P.U.D..... 713-405-1760

Emergency? Call 9-1-1.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Backdoor Garbage Pickup & Recycling	2
3	4	5 Backdoor Garbage Pickup	6	7	8 Backdoor Garbage Pickup & Recycling	9
10 CF Newsletter Deadline	11	12 Backdoor Garbage Pickup	13	14	15 Backdoor Garbage Pickup & Recycling	16
17	18	19 Protect Your Home Course (PUD Bldg.) 9 a.m. Backdoor Garbage Pickup	20	21	22 Backdoor Garbage Pickup & Recycling	23
24	25 First Day of Classes Klein ISD & CF ISD	26 Backdoor Garbage Pickup	27	28 Out & About Course (PUD Bldg.) 9 a.m. CF Neighborhood Watch Staff Only Meeting 7:30 p.m.	29 Backdoor Garbage Pickup & Recycling	30
31						

**Champion Forest
Women's Club**

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