



Oak Ridge Forest



April, 2018

Dear Residents

Springtime in Oakridge Forest – Yard and Home Care

With the last of the Winter (and hopefully, the pollen season) behind us, we are glad to be re-summing the Yard of the Month Awards. The freeze was not kind to our yards and vegetation, but most seem to be recovering. This is a good time to wash and pressure wash as necessary to prevent mold and mildew from accumulating on our homes, especially on the side that faces north.

Most Weed and Feed will help control the spread of weeds, while feeding our saint Augustine grass. However, be on the lookout for purple colored blades that appear to be Saint Augustine grass but are not. It could be Virginia Button Weed. Most Weed and Feeds will not kill it. If you find it in your yard, check at the hardware store or garden center for a spray that will kill it.

Montgomery County Vacation Watch

http://www.mctxsheriff.org/divisions/law_enforcement_services_division/vacation_watch.php

You can enter information with the days gone, lights on a timer, emergency contact, pet sitters, and more. The more information that you can give them, the better they will be able to look after your home during your absence. They will make special efforts to keep an eye on your home.

The Montgomery County Sherriff Office also has some excellent advice on what you should do to lessen the chances of your home getting broken into while on vacation. Most of these suggestions relate to making it look like you are not gone for an extended period.

One of the suggestions is to have your mail put on hold during your time away. You can do this on line with the USPS.

<https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail/>

You can enter in the days and specify when you want the mail delivered. However, this does not stop package deliveries from UPS or Fed-EX. It might be a good idea to have a neighbor look out for packages left in view and hold them for you.

The home delivery of the Houston Chronicle can be stopped also.

<https://myaccount.houstonchronicle.com/Login.aspx>

You can log in and manage your vacation hold. However, like the mail, this does not stop the local Montgomery County newspapers from being occasionally delivered. Again, ask a neighbor to keep an eye out for papers laying around and move them out of sight.

Where do you park your vehicle?

All of our homes were built with garages, meant to keep our cars out of sight while not in use. We also have driveways for the cars that are in regular use. The HOA covenant reads “No driveway shall be used for the storage of any automobile or other vehicle except those in day to day use off the property”. What does this mean? It means that your daily use cars are ok in the garage or driveway. Anything else needs to be kept in the garage or out of sight, but not on the driveway. Inoperable vehicles left in the driveway create a negative appearance, detracts from the beauty and ambiance of the neighborhood and lowers overall property values.

What about parking in the street?

The streets are under the jurisdiction of Montgomery County. They expect any vehicle parked on the street to have current registrations, legally parked, and not left in one place for over 24 hours. They will act on complaints.

More importantly, please be considerate of your neighbors and the needs of the neighborhood when parking on the street. Our streets are not wide enough for cars to be parked on both sides. This restricts access for the larger emergency vehicles and creates limited visibility for children playing in the area. Please help keep our neighborhood safe by keeping the streets clear.

NEW TRASH SERVICE

As you know the trash service, which is administered through the Southern Montgomery County MUD, is now being provided by Best Trash. They recently sent a letter and post card explaining their new service and the day for the collection of recycling. On the recycle bins there was a green notice attached to the handle that had a different day of the week. The correct day of the week for recycling collect is **TUESDAY**. The letter and postcard date are in error.

BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS:

Each year in August the board elections are held and the results are announced at the annual meeting. The term for board members is two years. We need the active participation of all homeowners in the business of the HOA and serving on the board is one very effective manner to do that. The board consist of three members and two are up for election this year. Official call for nominations will occur during the summer but please feel free to notify Felicia at the IMC office if you would have an interest in being on the ballot for this next two year term election. Again we need your participation.

