

Oak Creek Village Swimmers

All children, ages 3 to 18, are invited to join the Oak Creek Cudas Swim Team. We teach children to swim – they just need to be willing to get in the water. Our season runs from April 29 through June 21, and we are looking forward to an exciting time.



We are excited to welcome a "new" Cuda – Coach Oliver Sale! Oliver swam as a Cuda several years ago and now swims for Southwestern University in Georgetown, TX. We are very glad that Oliver is coming back to join

us this year. He is looking forward to working with the swimmers and helping them to develop a love for the sport just as he did when he was a Cuda swimmer!

Registration will be held on Sunday, April 13, from 2:00 – 4:00.p.m. at the OCV pool clubhouse. You can also register online at www.ocvcudas.com.

...continued on page 7

POOL OPEN MAY 3, 2014!!

The pool will open on weekends beginning May 3rd. Saturdays 11 AM - 8 PM and Sundays 12 PM to 6 PM. The pool will be open Memorial Day Monday, May 26, Friday, July 4 and Labor Day Monday, September 1 from 11 AM to 8 PM.

The pool will be open weekdays beginning Tuesday, June 10: Weekday hours for June, July and August are: Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-8, Wednesdays and Fridays 1:00 - 8:00. The pool will close every Monday for cleaning and maintenance. Weekend hours remain the same May through August until the close of the season following Labor Day.

Pool Passes will be issued beginning in April.

Pool passes are issued to residents only. Adult children, grand-children and other family members who do not reside with you year-round are always welcome at our pool as your guests. Pool passes cost \$1.00 each. Please provide the following information for the passes:

NAME: ADDRESS: EMAIL:

PHONE NUMBERS:

NUMBER OF ADULT RESIDENT PASSES: NUMBER OF CHILD/MINOR RESIDENT PASSES:

...continued on page 7

/OTE!

APRIL 17TH 4:00PM UNTIL 8:00PM AT THE CLUBHOUSE. GENERAL MEETING TO FOLLOW AT 8:00PM.

Remove the ballot from the center of this newsletter and either mail it, or drop it in the ballot box on the porch of 15111 Parkville Drive, in plenty of time for it to arrive before April 17th. You may also bring your vote to the clubhouse on April 17th.

www.OakCreekVillage.org



How To Reach Us...

Oak Creek Village Community Association, Inc. P.O. Box 1052

Cypress, Texas 77410-1052

OCV EXECUTIVE BOARD

President, Sharon Kuester	281/444-1532
Architectural Control, Tim Cooley	281/513-3067
Tim.J.Cooley@gmail.com	
Treasurer, Jon Whisler	832/249-1342
Maintenance, Ron Halk	OCVMtce@gmail.com
Recreation, Elizabeth Davis	713/775-5458
OCVRecreation@yahoo.com	
Security, Lloyd Bratton	832/217-4522
Deed Restrictions, A.J. Salinas	281/444-1292

COMMITTEE NUMBERS

Clubhouse Rental, Laurie Elliott	.832/283-2541
OCV Accountant, Nelson Jones	.281/351-2010
Newsletter Editor, Meri Lou Fry	.281/440-8915
3903 Midforest Dr. (box on doorstep)	
MeriLouLy@sbcglobal.net	
Newsletter Publisher, Diana Baskett	.281/755-1959
6211 Hickorycrest Dr. Spring, TX. 77389	
Di@DianaBaskett.com	

EMERGENCY

Ambulance
Crimestoppers 713/222-8477 Crisis Hotline 713/527-9864 Fire 281/251-0101 Interfaith 281/367-1230 Hospital 281/440-1000 Poison Control (poisoncenter.org) 800/222-1222
Crisis Hotline 713/527-9864 Fire 281/251-0101 Interfaith 281/367-1230 Hospital 281/440-1000 Poison Control (poisoncenter.org) 800/222-1222
Fire
Interfaith
Hospital
Poison Control (poisoncenter.org)800/222-1222
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Sheriff (Harris Co.)713/221-6000
()
Water & Sewage (24 hour Emergency)281/376-8802
United Way (Information & Referral)281/292-4155

HELPFUL NUMBERS

Vacation Watch - Cypresswood Annex 281/376-2997 (Forms 713/221-6000)

Street Light Out ~ Centerpoint 713/207-2222 (Be sure to have the six-digit ID# off the pole.)

UTILITIES

Post Office - Cornerstone	. 281/444-1355
Electricity - Reliant Energy	.713/207-7777
Gas - Centerpoint Energy	.713/659-2111
Trash - J&S Trash Services (pick-up schedule)	.713/635-2500

OCV has a heavy trash pick up day EVERY Friday.

On Fridays, J&S does not have as much trash to pick up as on Tuesdays so that is when they will pick up "one" heavy trash type item like bundled up tree branches, refrigerators, stoves, hot water heaters, dishwashers, etc. If a homeowner has multiple heavy trash type items, the homeowner will need to spread them out over multiple Fridays or a special fee can be paid to have multiple heavy items all picked up on a single Friday.

If you need to dispose of any hazardous material please visit the website below for dates and locations:

Hazardous Waste Disposal www.CleanWaterClearChoice.org

Telephone - AT&T	800/246-8464
Water & Sewage - Bammel Utility District	281/376-8802



Recycling

Friday is your only recycle day. Paper, magazines, books, boxes (no debris inside), plastic containers and aluminum containers will be picked up, NO GLASS PLEASE.

OCV GARDEN CLUB BOARD



President, Meri Lou Fry	281/440-8915
1st Vice President, Stella Franklin	281/440-7657
Program	
2nd Vice President, Carol Barziza	281/444-8957
Yearbook-Historian	
Secretary, Gene Rasmussen	281/440-1249
Treasurer, Kathy Colbert	281/583-0652

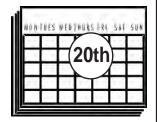
Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month.



The deadline for the April issue is March 20th, 2014

You can deliver your typed articles, classified ads* or other submissions to:

Meri Lou Fry via email at MeriLouLy@sbcglobal.net or 3903 Midforest Drive, (box on doorstep) prior to the deadline each month.



*Classified advertisements are only available to residents at no cost, and are not intended for business purposes.

If you would like to advertise in this publication, please contact:

Diana Baskett

281.755.1959

Di@DianaBaskett.com

Did You Know???

The Oak Creek Village Newsletter is published and delivered to all of the residents in Oak Creek Village every month. That's 659 homes! This is only possible through the support of our advertisers, so please show them our appreciation.



VISIT US ON THE WWWEB...

Have you seen the website yet? You can access a wealth of

information as well as email your Board of Directors.

We are continually updating it to keep our residents informed, so check it out today!

www.0akCreekVillage.org

TEENAGE JOB SEEKERS

If you're looking for a responsible teen to watch your child, house, pet, or to do some yard work or power washing, look no further! These teens live in your neighborhood and have references from your neighbors!

NAME	AGE	SERVICE(S)	PHONE
Dominique Boulay	15	B+H+P `´	281/455-7397
Estefhany Chavarria	15	B+H+P	832/818-8671
Paula Lamas	18	B+H+P	832/801-6384
Kaitlyn Linehan	16	B+H+P	281/836-5028
Kayla McMillan	16	B+P+H	832/799-3470
Cameron Owens	15	B+H+P+PW+Y	281/746-1118
Crescendo Robinson	14	B+H+P	281/706-6009
Cameron Smith	18	B+H+P	281/898-0014

B-Baby Sitting H-House Sitting P-Pet Sitting PW-Power Washing Y-Yard Work

* CPR Certified

Are you a teen that is interested in earning some extra \$\$\$?

If you would like to be added to this list, please send your name, address, date of birth, phone number and service(s)

you can provide to: Diana Baskett

6211 Hickorycrest Drive • Spring, TX 77389 email ~ Di@DianaBaskett.com

Oak Creek Village Community Association Board of Directors

Annual Meeting Reminder April 17th, 2014

Residents are reminded that the Oak Creek Village Community Association Board of Directors meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM. All residents are invited and encouraged to attend. Anyone wishing to present ideas to the Board should call a Board member prior to the meeting so we may allot time for you on the agenda.



OCV President's Letter

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Well, here I am, going on about elections again, but, as I promised last month, we do have the annual Board of Directors election to be held on April 17th, from 4-8 p.m. at the clubhouse. You may also vote early by mailing your ballot, which you will find in this newsletter, to the address on the ballot or drop it off on my porch. Please do vote. It is VERY important.

Another exciting happening afoot is the imminent opening of the pool. If you have read the minutes of the last two meetings, you may have noticed references to improvements to the pool. We are constructing a pergola on the southwest corner of the pool enclosure so that those of you who do not care to fry yourselves, can watch your kids in the (mostly) shade. We are also redoing the pool deck, so the pool will be almost like new this year. It is not too early to be thinking about getting your pool passes, and be sure to thank Elizabeth. She sure works hard.

Someone else who works hard is A J. For instance, recently someone was reported stockpiling garbage in the backyard, rather than pay J & S. The offending party was renting the house, so A J had to go to HCAD to find the owner, and notify him. The people have been evicted, so another problem solved by A J., but all this takes a lot of time, so when you see weeds as tall as small trees in your neighbor's yard, why don't you get another neighbor and go ask the tree grower if he needs to borrow your lawn mower, or the name of a good yard man. As the neighborhood gets older, we have more people who don't see the value of keeping up their property. I think we all need to help, instead of asking A J to do it all.

Once again, please vote from 4 to 8 at the clubhouse or before, as stated above, and I'll...See you around the neighborhood,

Sharon Kuester, prez





- New and Old Wiring
- Residential and Commercial

18810 Tomato St. Spring, TX 77379

WESLEY SALYERS 281-370-6347 FAX: 281-257-2414



The Spring Interfaith Dialogue Council is once again sponsoring a series of dinner dialogues on Tues., May 6, 2014, 6:30 to 9:30 PM. Participants in the dinner dialogues will share a meal and thoughts about faith in a safe setting. Designated hosts will prepare a vegetarian dinner for 8 to 10 guests in their homes and will provide an environment for meaningful discussion about faith and how it impacts our lives. The dinner dialogues are free and open to anyone interested in interfaith dialogue.

Those interested in participating can register online at: www.springinterfaith.org, or by calling 281-370-4200. Please register by April 28 to help us coordinate homes and guests.

Check out more on the web at: OakCreekVillage.org Stay informed, stay connected.





OAK CREEK VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB TRIP 4TH TUESDAY - APRIL 22, 2014

Our last trip this season has been changed. We were no longer able to book the Bayou Wildlife tour. In its place, we will visit Washington County with stops at some special places such as Brenham, Independence and Washington on-the Brazos. This area is known as the 'The birthplace of Texas'. Our bonus for this tour will be blooming bluebonnets.

The precinct 4 bus will leave the Oak Creek Village clubhouse at 9:00 a.m. Please be on time. We will have lunch at a local restaurant. Perhaps we will have time for a stop at one of the many garden centers that dot the area...or a bowl of Blue Bell! Need to know more? Call Meri Lou Fry at 281-440-8915.



At the time of this printing we had 15 members added to the Group, we need more members to make this a success!

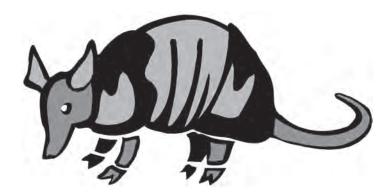
If you are interested in buying or selling personal items to/from your neighbors, please join our new **Facebook** group "**Beg, Barter, Buy & Sell in Oak Creek Village**." This is a closed group where residents can post personal items for sale, items that they are seeking to purchase, or any local news or events that they wish to share with their neighbors. Many Facebook groups like this one have started up recently and have been taking off like gangbusters, so take a minute to join the group today and watch it grow into a resource we can all utilize!

If you cannot find the group by searching, please use the following URL...

https://www.facebook.com/ groups/576126842451935/







Pat Reynolds Elementary School PTO's annual **Helping Hands Carnival** Saturday, April 26 from 11:00am to 3:00pm **School Parking Lot** 3975 Gladeridge Drive There will be lots of food, fun and games, face painting, petting zoo, jump house, etc... Come out and take advantage of our famous silent auction of goods and services Want to help your neighborhood school? Looking for volunteers, sponsorships, donate goods or services to the silent auction, All donations are tax deductable and appreciated!!! For more information or donations please contact **Rarfias Bradley at 281.891.8240**



If you have personal items for sale, please submit your classified ad to Diana Baskett via email to Di@DianaBaskett.com, or deliver them to 6211 Hickorycrest Drive, Spring, Texas 77389.

Classified advertisements are only available to residents at no cost, and are not for business purposes.

Restrictions do apply, call 281/755-1959 for details.



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Security News® from Lt. D. Mayes

Harris County Constable's Office ~ Precinct 4, North Central Office 23008 Northcrest Drive Spring TX, 77388 281/379-6134 David.Mayes@cd4.hctx.net

ROAD RAGE: NO ONE WINS

This month I want to briefly discuss a potentially dangerous situation that is on the rise in our area, road rage. While the majority of these incidents are only verbal in nature they can quickly evolve into a more dangerous situation. With the ever increasing population of Harris County, we also see an increase in traffic. It is imperative that we take steps to ensure that we are sharing the road in a safe manner.

First we want to avoid initiating a situation. This is easily done by remembering it's not personal. Avoid hand gestures, honking and yelling. Most situations in which a driver cuts someone off or drives in an abnormal manner are not intentional. Simply letting them proceed is the best course of action. If the offending driver is driving in a continuous unsafe manner report them to law enforcement and include the vehicle description and license plates if possible.

If you find yourself in a road rage situation the following steps should be utilized:

Diffuse:

Wave and gesture apology if you cut someone off inadvertently

Report:

If an aggressive driver is trying to engage you persistently, call police.

Avoid:

Slow down, change lanes or exit if you can do so safely. Avoid eye contact or exchange.

Sanctuary:

If possible drive to the nearest police station or well lighted open business. Banks often have security or police inside!

No matter what, do not engage the other driver by stopping to discuss the matter!



Oak Creek Village Security Stats ~ FEBUARY 2014

Harris County
Sheriff's Office Patrol Bureau

TYPE OF ACTIVITY	M. Malloy	D. Gilbert	Others	Monthly Total
Alarm Local	1	0	2	3
Assault	1	0	0	1
Burglary/Hab	1	0	1	2
Check Park	1	0	0	1
Contract Check	21	72	1	94
Credit Card Abuse	0	0	1	1
Disturbance/Family	0	0	1	1
Follow Up	0	0	1	1
Disturbance/Other	0	0	2	2
Meet the Citizen	1	0	3	4
Neighborhood Check	0	0	2	2
Solicitors	0	0	1	1
Suspicious Person	6	0	1	7
Theft/Residence	0	0	1	1
Traffic Initiative	24	0	0	24
Traffic Stop	10	0	1	11
Vacation Watch	0	3	0	3
Vehicle Abandoned	1	0	0	1
Vehicle Suspicious	1	0	1	2
Total	68	75	17	160



To initiate a VACATION WATCH at any time, please call the Sheriff's Department at 713/221-6000. The clerk will complete the information and the data will be forwarded to officers that patrol.

SWIM TEAM

...continued from page 1

Registration is \$85 for the first child, with discounted rates for additional family members. "Not only do swimmers enjoy the benefits of exercise, it is also a great way to for swimmers and parents to meet neighbors and build life-long friendships," said Brent Barnett, President of the OCV Swim Team. "There is no experience necessary and the Cudas welcome everyone," he added.

The Cudas hold practice after school on Tuesday through Friday beginning April 29. When school is out, swimmers may choose to attend morning or evening practices. Practices end on June 20. Swim meets are held on Saturday mornings from May 10 through June 21. In addition, team events such as Spirit Rally, Pep Rally, Bingo Night, Cuda-Swim-A-Thon, and the End of Season banquet add up to great summer fun for the entire family.

The Cudas are looking for sponsors to offset costs. A \$300 sponsorship includes a pool-side banner, the company's name on the team's t-shirt, and written and verbal advertisement during home meets.

For more information, visit <u>www.ocvcudas.com</u> or call Brent and Brenda Barnett, 281-440-6825.

The Cudas are members of the Northwest Aquatics League.

POOL NEWS

...continued from page 1

Place the information and money in the box on the front porch at 3903 Highpines Drive. You will be notified when your passes are ready for pick up. Email ocvrecreation@yahoo.com with any questions. Pool rules are posted on the OCV web site.

GUEST POLICY

The pool is for the use of Oak Creek Village residents and their guests. OCV pool passes are required to enter the pool area.

Guests must be accompanied by an Oak Creek Village resident and a guest fee of \$1.00 per guest must be paid.

Each family is allowed to sign in 1 guest per pool pass. Groups of 8 or more must notify the Recreation Director 24 hours prior to pool use.

Groups of 10 or more must reserve the pool as a private party one week in advance, subject to applicable deposit and fees.

MAKE THE NEWSLETTER YOUR OWN

The newsletter is your paper and we want to hear from you!

OCV neighborhood news for the newsletter
Write an interesting or funny article
Tell about a great place to visit
Share your good news

Family Birthdays
New Baby
Kid's Accomplishments
Groups
Service
Holiday Wishes

Let's personalize our newsletter by adding things your family enjoys!

Have a great photo you might like to share? Send it in, share it, and see it on the front cover of the paper for all to enjoy. Perhaps it's funny, pretty, artistically interesting, or just something you want to share.

If you have an interesting idea for the newsletter please let me know, email me at <u>MeriLouLy@sbcglobal.net</u>.

It's your paper - make it your own!







OAK CREEK VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Kuester at 7:38 p.m. Members present were Sharon, Ron Halk, Elizabeth Davis, Tim Cooley, A. J. Salinas, and Jon Whisler. Residents attending were Nick Fava, Adrian & Vene Olavide, Alona Clavo, Alejandra Sanchez, Stephanie Reyes, Bill Taylor, Marilyn Bogle, Lou Bernard, Neil Jennings, Hector Chavez, Judy Wright and Jenni & Jon Olson.

The minutes of the February 11, 2014 meeting were approved as read.

REPORTS

Maintenance – Oral report accepted. Ron mentioned that the area between the pump room and the storage building at the pool were in serious need of a good clean-up.

Recreation – Written report read and approved. A discussion followed regarding companies and products and bids for pool resurfacing and pergola construction. This resulted in the board's unanimous vote of approval for one company to do both jobs. An e-mail board vote will be held when the bids and costs have been finalized.

Security – Sharon discussed the sheriff's report in Lloyd's absence.

Architectural Control – Tim reported a quiet month with no issues brought to his attention.

Deed Restrictions – A J reported that homes with Deed Restriction problems were not always owner occupied making his job more difficult.

Treasury – Written reports read and approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Bammel Utility District President, Nick Fava, spoke to the attendees about the Bammel UD's part in the constructions near Oak Creek Village. He explained that Bammel UD agreed to sell water to KB Homes ONLY if their construction consisted of 1 family homes. Bammel UD has had no business dealings with the Motel 6 going up behind the OCV homes along Gladebrook Drive. Residents living along Gladebrook were interested in the possibility of higher fences where their homes backed up to the Motel 6.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Meri Lou Fry, Secretary

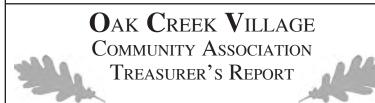
OAK CREEK VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION RECREATION REPORT

FEBRUARY 14, 2014 THROUGH MARCH 10, 2014 Submitted by Elizabeth Davis

I have signed the contract with Amazing Renovations to build the pergola at the pool and provided them with the deposit check in the amount of 50% of the total cost. Work should begin in about a week, once all the materials have been purchased.

I have ordered the pool tags for this year. As soon as I receive them, I will begin issuing them for this season.

I am still comparing pool deck products and installation procedures in order to make the best recommendation.



MARCH 11, 2014

Balance Sheet

The January 31st, 2014 balance sheet shows \$750,849 in the bank.

Statement of Revenue & Expense

For January 2014, revenue was under budget by (\$55) primarily due to lower Misc. income. Expenses were below budget by \$2,012 with the savings mainly being in the Security expense line.

Transaction report

We had our normal operating expenses in the month of January along with payment for the reupholster of the club house chairs in the amount of \$3,064.02.

Additional Notes:

Our 2014 Maintenance Fee was mailed out at the end of last month and is due in the amount of \$272. If for some reason, you have not received your bill, checks should be made out to OCV Community Association, Inc. or contact our accountant at 281-351-2010 to make payment arrangements. Our mailing address is P.O. Box 1052, Cypress, TX 77410. This address is used for all formal correspondence and is checked by our accountant several times a week.

Jon Whisler, Treasurer

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OAK CREEK VILLAGE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET



DALANCE SHEET

JANUARY 31, 2014

A	SSETS		
Trustmark - Checking		5	70.454
Trustmark - Money Market			680.395
Certificates of Deposit			200,000
Prepaid Expenses			
Receivables - Current Year			60.329
Receivables - Prior Years			96.804
Security Receipts Receivable			15.932
Other Receivables			33
Allowance for Bad Debts			(69.743)
Total Currer	at Current		854.203
Total Curter	II Assets		834,203
Land			34,365
Improvements & Equipment			394.436
Accumulated Depreciation			(264,906)
	tal PP&E		163.895
			63552
Tota	al Assets	5 1	018,099
	FUND BALANCES		
Accounts Payable		\$	938
Prepaid Maint, Fees			18
Deferred Revenue			166,804
Accrued Income Taxes			107,000
Reserve for Pipeline Damages			135,906
Total	Liabilities	_	410,666
Fixed Asset Fund - Net			400 DOE
Maintenance Fund			163,895
			302,616
Major Repair Fund			133,879
Current YTD Net Income	Action to the contract of the		7,042
Total Fund I	Balances	_	607,432

Total Liabilities & Fund Balances



OAK CREEK VILLAGE

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND EXPENSES



\$ 1,018,099

JANUARY 2014		Month	1			YTD		
=70.000	Actual	Budget	V	ariance	Actual	Budget	Va	riance
Revenue								
Maint Fees - Current Year	\$ 15,164	\$ 15,164	\$	10 m ± 11	\$ 15,164	\$ 15,164	\$	M. 9
Clubhouse Rentals		50		(50)		50		(50)
Interest Income	143	60		83	143	60		83
Pool & Tennis Receipts				-				-
Security Receipts	15,911	15,911		Q. I	15,911	15,911		-
Transfer Fees	425	400		25	425	400		25
Miscellaneous Income	287	400		(113)	287	400		(113
Total Revenue	31,930	31,985		(55)	31,930	31,985		(55
Euconica								
Expenses		500			500	500		
Clubhouse Contract	500	500			500	500		-
Grounds Contract	938	975		37	938	975		37
Pool Contract	756	750		(6)	756	750		(6
Security Contract	10,655	15,911		5,256	10,655	15,911		5,256
Clubhouse / Grounds Repair	3,064	600		(2,464)	3,064	600		(2,464)
Exterminating - Mosquitos	225			(225)	225			(225
Pool Repairs & Supplies	200	100		100	0.00	100		100
Tennis Court Repairs	221	40.00		(221)	221			(221
Accounting Fees	1,120	1,166		46	1,120	1,166		46
Auditing Fees		-		73		-		
Bank Fees	3	5		2	3	5		2
Legal Fees	1,179	1,000		(179)	1,179	1,000		(179
Insurance		20.00		72	-	1000		-
Street Lighting	2,906	3,000		94	2,906	3,000		94
Other Electric	1.019	900		(119)	1.019	900		(119
Gas	55	35		(20)	55	35		(20
Water & Sewer	-	100		100		100		100
Telephone	36	42		6	36	42		6
Taxes	- 6	11.0		2	2	-		14
Bad Debts	. 6	-		J. J. J. H.	- Jan 19			
Newsletter	981	333		(648)	981	333		(648
Office & Miscellaneous	71	325		254	71	325		254
Major Repairs	1,158	1,158		(0)	1,158	1.158		(0
Depreciation						-		- JP 2
Total Expenses	24,888	26,900		2,012	24,888	26,900		2,012
Net Ordinary Income (Loss)	\$ 7,042	\$ 5,085	\$	1,957	\$ 7,042	\$ 5,085	\$	1,957

Jan Kopfler

26 - Year Oak Creek Resident Top 25 Agents by H.B.J., 2009-2011

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Cell: 713.825.1247 Office: 281.378.1800

jkopfler@cbunited.com







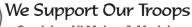
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Lace up your athletic shoes and help fight back against cancer during the American Cancer Society Relay for Life of NW Harris County on May 3rd, 2014. The American Cancer Society's Relay for Life is a life-changing event that brings together more than 3.5 million people around the world to celebrate the lives of those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and empower individuals and communities to fight back against a disease that takes too much. To date, more than \$1.1 million has been raised in Spring, Klein and Tomball to help our friends and neighbors battle all kinds of cancer.

RFL of NW Harris County 2014 is a history-making event as this year we will take to the track from noon till midnight at Klein Oak High School the first Saturday in May.

Teams of 8 to 15 participants will walk the track on this date. Recruit a team from your company, organization, church or neighborhood and join the excitement of raising money to fight cancer and create a world with more birthdays. Entertainment, games, great prizes and team building experiences are added bonuses.

Contact DeLin Konicki at bdkonicki@aol.com or call 832-693-0607 about starting or joining a team.



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Dr. Michelle Stern, DPM Dr. Brad Bachmann, DPM Dr. Amy Walsh, DPM



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*X-rays and treatment not included. Inclusive only of co-payment for HMO, PPO and Medicare patients.

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Stick With Chocolate

By Cheryl Conley, Vice President TWRC Wildlife Center

Chocolate bunnies, chicks and ducks are great. Stuffed animals are great. Live ones are not. At Easter time, many live animals are purchased for kids. Afterall, who can resist the soft, cuddly little animals and of course, you don't want to disappoint your kids, right? Sadly, these cute little animals grow up to be adults requiring a lot of care. As adults, they are no longer cute and cuddly. The kids are no longer interested and now your only thought is, "How do I get rid of it?" The animals are either let go into the wild, turned in to shelters or wind up at a wildlife center like TWRC Wildlife Center.

There are health risks that should be considered as well. Most people do not understand that baby chicks and ducklings often carry a harmful bacteria called Salmonella and can infect your children.

Releasing an animal into the wild to fend for itself usually ends tragically. They're unable to fend for themselves and will die of starvation, exposure to the elements or are killed by other animals. Don't think that turning your animal into an animal shelter or rescue group is the answer either. Most groups are not equipped to handle animals given as Easter gifts and if they are unable to re-home the animal, it is often euthanized.

Adopting a pet, no matter what it is, is a life-long commitment and you should go into purchasing one with that in mind. Ducks live an average of 10 to 15 years, chickens 8 to 10, and rabbits 7 to 13. Unless you are willing to keep and care for these animals their entire lives, don't buy them.

*TWRC Wildlife Center is a 33-year-old non-profit organization



that rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife with the goal of returning healthy animals back to the wild. Through educational outreach programs and camps for children, we promote awareness of the vital role of wildlife in our community. We have two locations, one at 10801 Hammerly Blvd. in Houston and one at 1118 Pruitt Road in The Woodlands. Last year nearly 6,000 animals were admitted to our centers needing our help. If you'd like more information go to

www.twrcwildlifecenter.org or call 713-468-8972.

Ferret Legging What the what????





Adult ferrets average about 18 inches from nose to the tip of the tail. Ferret legging is an endurance test or stunt in which ferrets are trapped in trousers worn by a participant. Also known as put 'em down and ferret-down-trousers, it

is a sport that seems to have been popular among coal miners in Yorkshire, England. Contestants put live ferrets inside their trousers; the winner is the one who is the last to release the animals. The world record is five hours and thirty minutes.

The sport may have originated during the time when only the relatively wealthy in England were allowed to keep animals used for hunting, forcing poachers to hide their illicit ferrets in their trousers.

Description and rules...In the sport of ferret legging, competitors tie their trousers at the ankles before placing two ferrets inside and securely fastening their belts to prevent the ferrets from escaping. Each competitor then stands in front of the judges for as long as he can. Competitors cannot be drunk or drugged, nor can the ferrets be sedated. In addition, competitors are not allowed to wear underwear beneath their trousers, which must allow the ferrets free access from one leg to the other, and the ferrets must have a full set of teeth that must not have been filed or otherwise blunted. The winner is the person who lasts the longest.

The sport is said to involve very little "native skill", simply an ability to "have your body bitten and not care". The former world champion, Reg Mellor, is credited with instituting the practice of wearing white trousers in ferret legging matches, to better display the blood from the wounds caused by the animals. Competitors can attempt, from outside their trousers, to dislodge the ferrets, but as the animals can maintain a strong hold for long periods, their removal can be difficult.

The ferrets are occasionally put inside the contestants' shirts in addition to their trousers. An attempt to introduce a female version of the sport - ferret busting, in which female contestants introduced ferrets down their blouses - proved unsuccessful.