The Oak Creek Village
Community News

The Official Neighborhood Publication for October, 2026 - www.oakcreekvillage.org

Inside October

- **Hey Dr. K - Breast Cancer**
- **Common Journey of Gratitude**
- **Turtle with a Big Stink!**



Society for the Advancement of Floral Design

The Society for the Advancement of Floral Design (SAFD) will hold the November meeting of the 2026/2027 season on Monday, November 16, 2026, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 16833 T C Jester Blvd., Spring, Texas 77379. Please enter the parking lot off of TC Jester and access the building through the rear entrance. SAFD signs will be posted.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 pm with announcements and presentation beginning at 7:00 pm.

We are very blessed to welcome back one of our most beloved and talented presenters, Alan Masters, AIFD, CFD, and PFCI. Alan's presentation is titled "Gathered, Grateful and Growing; Celebrating the Beauty of Harvest, Heart and Home." Alan Masters has been designing since age 16, starting at a small hometown shop in Lufkin. Having won numerous industry awards, he is an avid competitor and loves finding new places to showcase his skills. Alan is the former recipient of "Houston Designer of the Year", "Texas Designer of the Year," and "Louisiana Designer of the Year" awards. He now has more than 41 years of industry experience and is a Jim Johnson Cup winner and a National Alliance of Floral Association Designer of the Year. With a passion for education and a love for inspiring others, Alan also taught Floral Design at the Dr. Kirk Lewis Career and Technical High School in Pasadena, Texas. Now, Alan focuses on his own business, Magnolia and Pine Floral and Events.

Reminder: The Membership Chair will collect Renewal/New Membership dues: $40 per member, or $25 if you are a student, 24 years of age or younger.
Meetings are held every other month starting in September, generally on the third Monday. (September, November, January, March, and May) Community Service projects and Outreach opportunities enable members to give back to the community year-round. Hence our motto: "We learn how, share the knowledge, and then give it away."

We encourage anyone interested in flowers and the art of designing to join us. Our members range from novice designers to floral shop owners and Texas Master Florists. All are welcome to join us to learn and socialize together!
Connect with SAFD:
www.safdhouston.org
www.facebook.com/SAFD

Keep Halloween Safe for Kids, Walkers, Drivers



Kids love the magic of Halloween, but costume and traffic safety are essential for trick-or-treaters. These tips can help make a safe and happy holiday for everyone.

Costume Safety - To help ensure adults and children have a safe holiday, follow these Halloween safety tips:

- Be sure to choose a costume that won't cause safety hazards; all costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks
- Opt for nontoxic Halloween makeup over masks, which can obscure vision; always test makeup in a small area first to see if any irritation develops
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation

When They're on the Prowl - Here's a scary statistic: Children are more than

cont. on page 5

OCV Executive Board

President, Jon Whisler
jon.whisler@sbcglobal.net
Vice President, Darrel Johnson
johnsonone1@yahoo.com
Recreation, Shawn Lane
ocvrecreation@yahoo.com
Security, Lloyd Bratton
ldhurley68@gmail.com
Maintenance Director, Joshua Donaho
jdonaho76@gmail.com

Deed Restrictions, Raquel Lona
ocvdeedrestrictionscommittee@gmail.com

Committee Contacts

Secretary, Ooma Lakshmanan
ooma.lakshmanan@gmail.com
Jim Bowers
jbowers58@yahoo.com
Clubhouse Rental, Katie Donaho
832 492-6698
oakcreekvillageclubhouse@gmail.com

Emergency/Helpful Numbers

Emergency, Police, Medical, Fire……911
Ambulance……281 440-4300
Animal Control,612 Canino Road……281 999-3191
Crimestoppers……713 222-8477
Crisis Hotline……713 527-9864
Harris County Public Health……713 439-6000
Poison Control, poisoncenter.org……800 222-2222
Sheriff, Harris County……713 221-6000
Water & Sewage (24 hour Emergency).....281 376-8802
Harris County Environmental Public Department
- (report neglected swimming pool).....713 274-6300

OCV Accountant, *TXMGMT*.....832 910-7525
Vacation Watch/Cypresswood Annex.....281 376-2997
Forms (713 221-6000)
Post Office-Cornerstone……281 444-1355
Gas, Centerpoint……713 659-2111
Trash,Texas Pride Disposal……281 342-8178
Telephone, AT&T.....800 246-8464
Water & Sewage, Bammel Utility District.....281 376-8802

OCV Garden Club Board

President , Anita Cook……281 440-1093
Treasurer, Kathy Colbert.....281 583-0652
Directory, Carol Barziza……832 298-8351
Telephone Comm. Mary Quinn…….662 312-8150
Telephone Comm. Georgette Popeney.....281 444-3497

The deadline for the next issue of the OCV Community News is October 15th!

OCV Community Association
Board of Directors Meeting Reminder
October 13th, 7:30pm



Residents are reminded that the Oak Creek Village Community Association Board of Directors normally meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30pm. As always, all residents are invited an 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.

Please Notice This



How To Reach Us
(Financial Matters Only)
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Service@TXMGMT.com, www.txmgmt.com
To pay your maintenance assessment on line, go to https://txmgmt.cincwebaxis.com/?

Visit Us On The Web
www.OakCreekVillage.org

Recycling
Tuesday is your only recycling day!



PLEASE NO – Styrofoam, Windows, Ceramics, Mirrors, Soiled Pizza Boxes, Coat Hangers, Light Bulbs, Paper Towels, Soiled Paper, Soiled Facial Tissue.

For a complete list of acceptable recycle items please visit http://www.oakcreekvillage.org/trashservice.html

Call 811 before you dig - Be Safe. It's free. It's the law.

- ***Call 811 before you dig.***
- ***Give two working days' notice before digging. (48 hours)***
- ***Utility companies will mark the location of underground utility lines.***

Remember, you are responsible for marking your private lines such as invisible pet fences, sprinkler systems, yard lights and gas grill lines.

Attention OCV Residents. Non-commercial advertisments, classified ads and notices can be placed free of charge. Club information, birthdays and other important non-profit events are also welcomed! Letters to the editor are also accepted and published with your name. *Thank you.*

To report a streetlight out go to Centerpoint (713 207-2222)
Energy.com - (Get the 6 digit number off the pole)

Oak Creek Village Contract
HCSO - SHERIFF Ed Gonzalez
www.sheriff.hctx.net
Captain J. Coons, District 1 Patrol

08-01 to 08-31, 2026

	Total	R. Guillen	All Others
TOTAL	240	224	16
ALARM HOLDUP	1	0	1
ALARM LOCAL	2	0	2
ANIMAL HUMANE	1	0	1
COMPLIANCE CHECK	1	0	1
CONTRACT CHECK	117	117	0
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	1	1	0
DISCHARGE FIREARMS	1	0	1
DISTURBANCE LOUD NOISE	1	0	1
DOMESTIC PREVENT	1	1	0
FOLLOW UP	2	1	1
INFORMATION CALL	2	0	2
MEET THE CITIZEN	21	19	2
MENTAL HEALTH CALL	1	0	1
NEIGHBORHOOD CHECK	35	35	0
PROPERTY FOUND LOST	1	1	0
RUNAWAY	1	0	1
STATIONARY VISIBILITY PATROL	18	18	0
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	1	0	1
TRAFFIC HAZARD	1	1	0
TRAFFIC INITIATIVE	2	2	0
TRAFFIC STOP	22	22	0
UNK MEDICAL EMERGENCY	1	1	0
VACATION WATCH	4	4	0
VEHICLE SUSPICIOUS	1	1	0
WELFARE CHECK	1	0	1



OCV Community Association
September 8, 2026
Treasurer Report

Financial Report –

Balance Sheet
TheJuly31,2026, balance sheet shows $317,541in the bank.

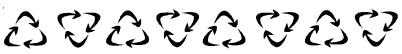
Statement of Revenue & Expense
For July 2026, revenue was belowbudget by ($1,687) primarily due totiming ofresale and security receipts income. Expenses werebelowbudgetby $1,041, whichwasmainly due tolower-than-expectedground repairexpenses.

Transaction report
We had our normal operating expenses in the month ofJuly.

Additional Notes:

Our 2026 Maintenance Fee of $372 was approved at the November 2025 meeting and was mailed out the last week of November and is due at the beginning of January 2026. If it wasn't paid by January 31st, 2026, there will be fees and interest added to it until paid. You can call the accountant to find out how much you owe on your account by calling 832-910-7525.

Our 2026 Security Fee to be collected on the monthly water bill in the amount of $34.00 was approved at the November 2025 meeting and will be sent to Bammel UD for the January 2025 bill to help with the increases we received in the new contract in October 2025 for the new year.





Only Rain in the Storm Drain - You may think that it's ok for little things here and there to be put down the storm drain. It's easy to forget that your one little thing and my one little thing eventually add up to create a monster problem. Our storm drains don't filter what we put into them. They run directly into the bay. To help keep them clean, properly dispose of your motor oil, pick up after your pet, take your car to a car wash, follow the directions when you spray and fertilize your yard and **please don't rake your leaves into the storm drain!**

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SPRING INTERFAITH COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO

Many Paths, A Common Journey of Gratitude

AN INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

November 19, 2026

Starts at 6:30 pm

St. Ignatius of Loyola Catholic Church
7810 Cypresswood Dr, Spring, TX 77379

Halloween from page 1

twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day of the year. Lack of visibility because of low lighting at night also plays a factor in these incidents.

Keep these tips in mind when your children are out on Halloween night:

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time children should return home
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home, and take care to avoid any food allergies

Safety Tips for Motorists

NSC offers these additional safety tips for parents – and anyone who plans to be on the road during trick-or-treat hours:

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween. *https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topic*

Oak Creek Village Garden Club

You're invited to join us as we meet each month for a variety of outings in and around Houston, always combined with lunch at a local restaurant. If you're interested in learning more about this group, please contact Jane Flores at 615.423.5410 (call or text), or email to jane.b.flores@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you!



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Scouts BSA
Flags Across the Community



For over 20 years, the young men of Scouts BSA have been placing flags in yards around Oak Creek Village in recognition of our patriotic holidays. For $35, Troop 272 will place a U.S. Flag in your yard for Presidents' Day (February), Memorial Day (May), Flag Day (June), Independence Day (July) and Veterans' Day (November). Our scouts provide you with an outdoor flag and pole, installing a flat device in your yard that will not interfere with lawn maintenance.

We are pleased to also offer military branch flags. Choose from Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, or Space Force. Military flags are $10 each, and you can add as many additional military flags as you'd like to your order.

This fundraiser allows our youth to provide a service to the community, learn patriotism, and work to accomplish various outdoor and high adventure type activities. It teaches them the importance of "earning their own way" in scouting. Your support of our boys is invaluable!

Please visit https://flags.troop272.com/ to place your secure order online. If you have questions, email flags@troop272.com, use the "Contact Organizer" link on the website, or you can call us at 281-606-5640.

B=Babysitting, **P**=Pet sitting, **Y**=Yard Work,
H=House Sitting ***CPR Certified ****** BLS Certified

Mia	14	P+H	346-390-3069
Jack	15	P+Y	715-821-2280
Krissa**	14	B+P+H+Y	360-935-2682
Jameson	16	B+P	360-935-2682
Finley	14	B+P	360-935-2682

Please email your work information to publish1@copperheadfarms.net Include your name, address, age, phone number, choice of work along with any special training, CPR etc. OCV residents only, 18 and under!
Parents: It is up to you to verify credentials for services listed.

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A MESSAGE FROM HARRIS COUNTY ESD 11

Your Care is Our Priority and as your neighborhood's emergency medical service, we're here to keep you informed and prepared.

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month:
Know the Signs, Take Action
Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a time to encourage prevention, early detection, and support for those affected by breast cancer. For our EMS community, it's also an opportunity to remind ourselves and our loved ones to prioritize health - even with demanding schedules.

Top tips:

- Know your normal: Be familiar with how your breasts normally look and feel, and report unusual changes to a healthcare provider.
- Stay up to date on screening: Follow recommended mammogram and screening guidelines based on your age and individual risk.
- Know your family history: Talk with your healthcare provider about your personal and family history to understand your risk.
- Don't put off concerns: A new lump, skin or nipple changes, or unusual discharge should be evaluated by a healthcare professional.
- Support one another: Encourage your coworkers, family, and friends to make their health a priority.

This October, wear pink, spread awareness, and remind the people you care about that early detection can make a difference.



Hey Dr. K:
Subscribe to our You Tube channel so you don't miss important health information from our Medical Director, Dr. Jay Kovar and his monthly Hey Dr. K video series! These short, interesting videos are designed to educate our community and keep you and your family out of the emergency room!/
Trunk or Treat at ESD 11 < Trunk or Treat at Harris County ESD 11!

Get ready for an evening of family-friendly Halloween fun at Harris County ESD 11's annual Trunk or Treat! Bring the kids for an exciting night filled with candy, s'mores, food, games, and up-close fun with big emergency vehicles.

It's a great opportunity for families to enjoy Halloween together while meeting the first responders who serve our community.

Thursday, October 22 5–8 p.m.
18334 Stuebner Airline Rd., Spring, TX 77379

Come in costume, bring the family, and get ready for a spooktacular evening!

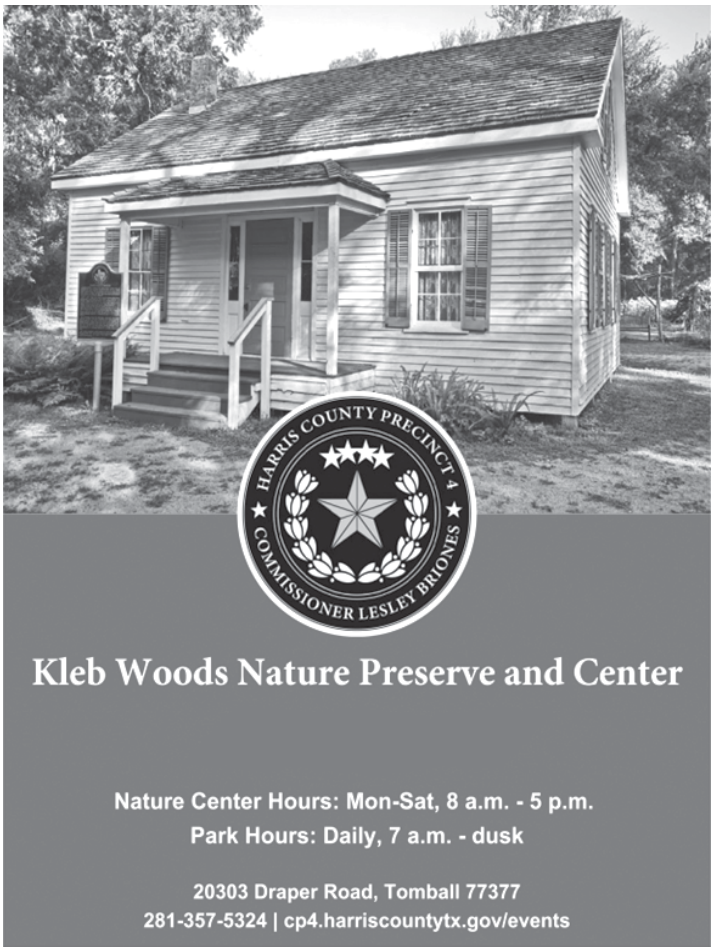
About Harris County ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare:Harris County ESD 11 Mobile Healthcare covers a 177 square mile area of northern Harris County with over 700,000 residents, the largest ambulance-only Emergency Service District in the state of Texas. **harriscountyesd11.gov**



The Woodlands Farmers Market

Located in the Grogan's Mill Shopping Center, The Woodlands Farmers Market is home to vendors offering locally grown produce, grass fed beef, Texas handmade artisan cheeses, goat cheese, sustainably cultivated coffee, local honey, breads & pastries, no sugar-added baked goods, prepared tamales, Indian cuisine & Mediterranean food, gluten-free options, and seasonal products. Dogs are welcome.

Dates: Every Saturday, rain or shine. Time: 9:00am-1:00pm (October – June), 9:00am–noon (July – September). Address:



Jesse H. Jones Park
Park & Nature Center

20634 Kenswick Drive
Humble , TX , 77338, 281-446-8588



This 312-acre park has several miles of short trails covering several different ecosystems, including the swampy Cypress Boardwalk trail and a hardwood and pine forested floodplain of the Magnolia Trail. A short 0.3-mile walk from the nature center parking lot will take visitors to the Redbud Hill Homestead and Akokisa Indian Village, a replica of a pioneer farm and Native American plot. Jesse H. Jones Park is also situated near the beginning of the Spring Creek Greenway with 16 miles of paved trail system along, you guessed it, Spring Creek, drawing many cyclists, so keep those eyes peeled if you choose to hike this path.



A Little Turtle With A Big Stink

By Cheryl Conley,
Lake Creek Nature Preserve



Growing up in South Dakota, I remember my mom jokingly referring to me as a "little stinkpot." I carried on the tradition, often calling my own daughter the same thing. Little did I know that an actual animal shares our family nickname—and earns it quite honestly.

The common musk turtle, Sternotherus odoratus, is also known as the stinkpot. When threatened, it releases a foul-smelling secretion from its musk glands. It may also bite, making it clear that it would prefer to be left alone.

Stinkpots are among the smallest freshwater turtles in North America, with adults measuring approximately 2 to 5 inches in shell length. They have a pointed snout and two yellow stripes along each side of the head and neck. Their carapace, or upper shell, is brown or black, although a coating of algae can give it a green appearance.

These turtles inhabit slow-moving streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps, and canals. They spend much of their time walking along the bottom, searching for food or sheltering among vegetation and debris. Most active around dusk and at night, they are easy to overlook. They do occasionally bask, sometimes climbing onto branches overhanging the water.

During cold weather, stinkpots enter a period of dormancy called brumation, sheltering in underwater mud. The timing depends on local conditions and water temperature rather than a strict October-to-April schedule.

Although stinkpots can swim, they are slow-moving and often walk along the bottom in search of food. They use sight and smell to locate a meal, scavenging dead fish and other animal remains. They also eat live prey, including snails, worms, insects, and crayfish, along with fish eggs and some plant material.

Stinkpots typically live 15 to 19 years in the wild, although some live considerably longer. They take several years to reach sexual maturity, with males generally maturing at about 5 to 6 years and females at about 8 to 9 years. Mating takes place in the water, with breeding activity often peaking in spring and fall. In warmer southern regions, however, they may breed throughout much of the year. Females can store sperm over the winter, allowing them to fertilize their eggs later.

Females lay their eggs in shallow nests near water, often beneath logs or leaf litter or in grassy areas. They may produce one to four clutches annually, with one to six eggs per clutch. Incubation generally takes 65 to 86 days.

Interestingly, the temperature surrounding the developing eggs helps determine whether the hatchlings will be male or female. Consistently warm incubation temperatures above approximately 82°F favor females. What matters is the temperature within the nest, which is influenced by shade, soil conditions, and weather—not simply the outside air temperature.

Now that I know the story behind the name, I'm glad Mom used "little stinkpot" as a term of affection. At least I never had to defend myself with musk glands!

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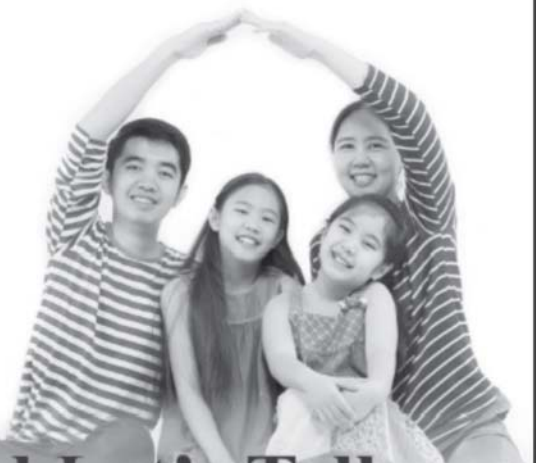
In Our ever-changing market, it is challenging to know when to sell or buy.

Kids are Back in School and Holidays will be fast approaching!



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