The Official Neighborhood Publication for December, 2020 - www.oakcreekvillage.org

Inside December

- It's Just Ducky, TWRC
- Family Adventure Hike at Mercer
- Houston NW Chamber of Commerce Moves

Season's Greetings



OCV HOA Board Meeting Minutes Held On November 10th, 2020

The meeting was conducted remotely and the Board members present were Elizabeth Davis, Lloyd Bratton, George Arreguin, Jim Bowers(JB), Jon Whisler. The meeting was called to order by Jon Whisler, at 7.30pm since Sharon Kuester could not attend the meeting.

The October meeting minutes were read and approved.

Recreation Report: There was no written report that needed approval. The pool is closed.

Maintenance report: no written report. The Director said they were waiting to get bids for some work that needs to be done in the club house.

Security report: the report was approved.

Deed Restrictions: no written report.

Treasurer's report: submitted and was approved.

Kindly read the treasurer's and the security reports in the newsletter.

New Business:

A motion was made and approved by the Board to raise the maintenance fees for 2021 from \$320 to \$327 an increase of 2.19%. The invoice will be mailed early December. A motion was made and approved by the Board to add .50cents to our current security fees which is 1.67% increase only. We are currently paying \$30 and it will go up to \$30.50.

The meeting adjourned at 8.30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ooma Lakshmanan, Secretary

Flags Across the Community

For over 20 years, the young men of Scouts BSA Troop 1659 have been placing flags in yards around Oak Creek Village in recognition of our patriotic holidays. In 2021, a U.S. Flag will be placed in your yard for Presidents' Day (February), Memorial Day (May), Flag Day (June), Independence Day (July), Patriot's Day (September), and Veterans' Day (November). We will provide you with an outdoor flag and pole, installing a flat device in your yard that will not interfere with lawn maintenance.



This coming year, we are pleased to also offer military branch flags. Choose from Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard. You can add as many as you'd like to your order. U.S. Flag only is \$35 for the year; U.S. Flag plus one military branch is \$50. Additional military branch flags can be added for \$10 each.

Please visit <u>www.ihtroop1659.org</u> to place your secure order online, or email <u>IronHorseTroop1659@gmail.com</u> for more information.

The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts Register for January Session at PFMFA School of Art

Registration for the next session of classes at the new Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts *School of Art* is now underway, with classes set to begin January 11.

The School of Art offers curriculum-based art instruction taught by some of Houston's cont.on page 4

OCV Executive Board

President, Sharon Kuester
Treasurer, Jon Whisler
Architectural Control, Darrel Johnson317 250-1920
Recreation, Elizabeth Davis
OCVRecreation@yahoo.com
Secretary, Ooma Lakshmanan281 444-5687
Security, <i>Lloyd Bratton</i> 832 217-4522
Maintenance, George Arreguin Unlisted
marielaareguin@yahoo.com
Deed Restrictions, Jim Bowers281 781-7160
jbowers58@yahoo.com

Committee Numbers

Clubhouse Rental, Sam Elliott 281	236-7979
Information Officer, Sharon Kuester 281	444-1532
Newsletter Publisher, Allison Marks346	336-8122
Publish1@copperheadfarms.net	

Emergency

Emergency, Police, Medical, Fire	911
Ambulance	
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	artment
- (report neglected swimming pool)	713 274-6300

Helpful Numbers

OCV Accountant, TXMGMT	832 9	10-7525
Vacation Watch/Cypresswood Annex	281 3	76-2997
Forms (713 221-6000)		
Post Office-Cornerstone	281 4	44-1355
Gas, Centerpoint	713 6	59-2111
Trash,Texas Pride Disposal	281 3	342-8178
Telephone, AT&T	800 2	46-8464
Water & Sewage, Bammel Utility District	281 3	76-8802

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 December 15!

OCV Community Association Board of Directors Meeting Reminder Tuesday, December 8th at 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

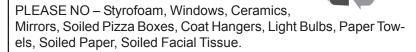
How To Reach Us (Financial Matters Only) TXMGMT



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Recycling Tuesday is your only recycling day!



For a complete list of acceptable recycle items please visit Http://www.oakcreekvillage.org/trash.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

October 1-31, 2021	Total	Malloy	Schnur	Segovia	Other
Total	272	59	124	13	76
ACCIDENT MINOR	1	0	0	0	1
ALARM LOCAL	2	1	0	0	1
ANIMAL HUMANE	1	0	0	0	1
BURG OTHER	1	1	0	0	0
CHECK PARK	1	0	0	0	1
CONTRACT CHECK	198	31	104	12	51
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF	1	0	0	0	1
DISCHARGE FIREARMS	1	0	0	0	1
DIST FAMILY	4	0	0	0	4
DISTURBANCE LOUD NOISE	3	0	0	1	2
DOMESTIC PREVENT	1	0	1	0	0
INFORMATION CALL	3	0	0	0	3
MEET THE CITIZEN	11	5	3	0	3
MUD BUILDING CHECK	9	9	0	0	0
ROBBERY AGGRAVATED	1	0	1	0	0
ROBBERY INDIVIDUAL	1	0	1	0	0
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	3	1	0	0	2
TELEPHONE HARRASSMENT	2	0	1	0	1
THEFT OTHER	1	0	0	0	1
TRAFFIC INITIATIVE	10	6	4	0	0
TRAFFIC STOP	6	0	6	0	0
VACATION WATCH	3	1	2	0	0
VEHICLE STICKERED	3	3	0	0	0
WELFARE CHECK	5	1	1	0	3



TEEN JOB SEEKERS

*CPR Certified

B=Babysitting, **P**=Pet sitting, **Y**=Yard Work, **H**=House Sitting S=Pool Help

		0	
<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Jobs</u>	<u>Phone</u>
Dominique B.*	18	B+H+P	281-455-7397
Michelle P.	14	B+P	715-821-2280
Annette M.	16	B+H+P	281-455-7397
Keith	18	Р	832-375-1613
Jason	15	Р	832-375-1613

Please email your work information to publish1@copperhead farms.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 any services listed.

OCV Community Association November 10, 2020 Treasurer Report

Financial Report -

Balance Sheet

The September 30, 2020 balance sheet shows \$531,502 in the bank.

Statement of Revenue & Expense

For September 2020, revenue was above budget by \$975 primarily due to higher than budgeted Security Receipts income. Expenses were above budget by (\$1,615) was mainly due to higher than budgeted collection expenses.

Transaction report

We had our normal operating expenses in the month of September.

Additional Notes:

I am making a motion to accept a 2.19% increase to the annual Maintenance Fee bringing the amount to \$327 for 2021. Motion was seconded and approved at the meeting

I am also making a motion to accept a 1.67% increase to the security fee in 2021 that is being charged by Bammel UD on our behalf which will increase the fee from \$30.00 to \$30.50 (1.67% increase). This change will start in February 2021 to coincide with our annual contract renewal. Motion was seconded and approved at the meeting.

Our 2021 Maintenance Fee will be mailed out at the beginning of December and will be due in the amount of \$327 by the first business day in January which is January 4th this year. If it is not paid by January 31st there will be fees and interest added to it until paid.

PLEASE DRIVE SAFELY

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What is Real Food?

Vikki LeBeau • 1st Certified MoxiFit Coach focusing on nutritional education to improve your quality of life teaching Ketogenics.

Put food where your mouth is, what does that mean? Simple, eat REAL food. Too many times I get folks in telling me they eat good healthy food, a cereal for breakfast, tacos for lunch, a menagerie of things for dinner and don't forget dessert. By the time I look up all the things that they have put in their bodies through out the day, no wonder why they feel terrible. Things like Carrageenan, Guar gum, Xanthan gum, Potassium benzoate, Potassium, modified food starch and our beloved sugar all cause issues in our guts. If you haven't heard by now if your gut isn't healthy, neither are you. Then there's all that CORN, corn flour, cornmeal, cornstarch, corn oil, corn syrup, high fructose corn syrup, Dextrins, Maltodextrins, Dextrose, Fructose and crystalline fructose all used as additives in our food. Corn is what they use to fatten up cows, can we say moo? No! We didn't know any better till right now! Well, now you know and it's up to you to learn how to make yourself feel better just through the food you put into your body. If you feel like junk, can't sleep or poop it's probably your food. Change it and for more than a week or two. Your life may depend on it.

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The Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce announces move to new office space

HOUSTON— We are excited to announce that we have moved to a wonderful new office space just two blocks further west from our previous location. We are now located at:

4201 Cypress Creek Parkway, Suite 195 Houston, Texas 77068

We look forward to continuing to serve the residents of Northwest Harris County as we have since 1974.

The Pearl from page 1

finest professional art educators. In a small group setting, students are provided unique opportunities to enhance their creative expression and technical skills, within an atmosphere where the artistic spirit is nurtured and creativity is allowed to flourish.

The early spring session runs from January 11 through March 6. Classes will be offered for ages 8 to 10, 11 to 13, and adults, with subjects including ceramics, watercolor, mixed media, drawing, and acrylic painting.

For more information or to register, visit www.pearlmfa.org/schoolofart or contact Karri Clark, School of Art Coordinator, at karripfmfa@gmail.com.





Holiday Shopping at the Museum Store - Holiday shoppers will find a wonderful array of beautiful, unique gifts at the Museum Store inside the Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts. The shop offers an ever-changing selection of items, including home décor, jewelry, children's art kits, Christmas ornaments, original art and more. The store is open during regular museum hours, Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Members receive a 10

percent discount on all purchases.



Mercer Botanic Gardens - December Calendar

Music in the Gardens, Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 10:30 a.m. Join Mercer Botanic Gardens for Music in the Gardens, in which children from 2 to 5 partner with their parents and experience rhythm and music principles in a natural outdoor setting throughout the garden. Classes use Kindermusik curriculum's songs,



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instruments, and movement to inspire creativity, confidence, and music appreciation in children while building unique Wear closed-toe shoes and bring your own water bottle. Meet at Mercer's East Side Main Garden. Registration is required, as space is limited. To register call 713-274-4160.

Women's Restorative Hike, Tuesday, Dec. 8, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 22, from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. - Be a part of the newest volunteer-supported hike at Mercer Botanic Gardens. This beginner friendly, one-hour hike through Mercer's gardens and forest is for those who believe in the restorative power that nature has on the mind, body, and spirit. For women 18 and older. Consult your physician before starting any exercise program. Meet in front of the Visitor Center located at Mercer's East Side Main Gardens on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Registration is required, as space is limited. To register or for more information, call 713-274-4160.

Seed Ball Take-Home Craft, Friday, Dec. 11, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. -It's the perfect time of the year to make and launch a butterflyfriendly wildflower seed ball! We offer this free take-home craft that includes soil, clay, and the seeds of butterfly-friendly wildflowers such as lanceleaf coreopsis, Maximillian sunflower, winecup, showy milkweed, butterfly weed, prairie goldenrod, lemon mint, and Texas bluebonnet. Take a craft kit home and follow the instructions to have your own seed ball to launch in a sunny field, a meadow, or your own backyard! Each kit con-

Next page



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Anna Yeaple lic 1315497 281.255.4752 990 Village Square, Tomball

Mercer from page 5

tains materials to make one seed ball. Limit one craft kit per person. Registration for a pick-up time is required, as quantities are limited. Call 713-274-4160.

Keep Calm and Yoga in the Gardens, Saturday, Dec. 19, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. - Enjoy a unique opportunity to practice yoga in the natural outdoor setting of Mercer Botanic Gardens. Through gentle and purposeful movements, gain flexibility and strength while releasing body tension This slower-paced yoga program is ideal for beginners to intermediate participants. Led by registered yoga teacher Delyla Ovalle-Bowyer. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel, and a water bottle. This is an outdoor event. Registration is required. For adults 18 and older. Consult your physician before starting any exercise program. To register call 713-274-4160.

Family Adventure Series: Morning Family Hike, Tuesday, Dec. 29, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. - Did you know that Mercer has more than five miles of beginner-friendly riparian trails? Come out to explore old and new hiking spots and take the Family Hiking Pledge for healthy hiking in 2021. Staff will be on hand with maps and to answer questions about specific trails to be found on Mercer's east and west sides. Receive a bamboo hiking stick, one per person while supplies last. Registration is required. Call 713-274-4160 to register.



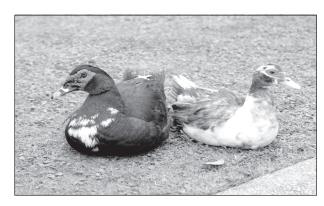
It's Just Ducky, By Cheryl Conley

Unless you suffer from ornithophobia (a fear of birds) or anatidaephobia (the fear that you are being watched by a duck), you probably enjoy watching ducks. It's a way to get us outside to enjoy nature, it's free and it's year-round. Besides, they're cute, especially the babies. It's so touching to see ducklings paddling like crazy to keep up with Mom. How do they know which duck is Mom? Before they hatch, ducklings hear their mother from inside the shell and then, when they hatch, they know who their mother is.

You'll likely see several different species of ducks in our area but here are two species that are very common.

You will more than likely see Muscovy ducks in area ponds and lakes. The males have fleshy red canuncles (warty bumps) on the face and at the base of the bill. Females have smaller caruncles or have none at all.

Muscovies are not native except in three Texas counties near the Mexican border. With the exception of these three counties, Muscovy ducks are considered invasive which means they

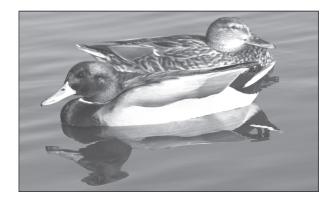


can take over habitats, can stress the natural ecosystems and even eradicate native plants and animals. They are prolific breeders and it doesn't take long for their populations to increase dramatically driving away native species.

Feral Muscovy ducks have become a real problem for many neighborhoods in and around the Houston area. They wander into yards and leave their waste droppings everywhere including sidewalks, porches, driveways, patios, on cars and even in pools. They can destroy landscaping while foraging for food. They can be a hazard for drivers as they waddle across neighborhood streets. Some report that the ducks are aggressive.

In November of 2019, controversy arose in Pearland when city officials gave the go-ahead for residents to legally kill Muscovy ducks on their own property. They had become a nuisance and many homeowners were complaining.

On the other hand, some are happy to have Muscovies around. They eat algae and weeds in ponds, flies, roaches, ants, spiders, small fishes, reptiles and slugs. They also eat mosquitos. For this reason, they are very valuable in keeping unwanted insect populations down. They are "dappling" ducks which means they float and tip themselves forward, butts up in the air, to grab insects, small fish, etc.



Mallards ducks are the most common ducks in North America. The male duck has a bright green head, yellow beak, a light-colored body and dark brown chest. The female is much less colorful and is light brown with dark brown mottling from the neck down.

Mallards begin pairing up in the fall but courtship can extend into early spring. Generally speaking, they are monogamous. I say "generally" because males will engage in "forced copu-

lations." Several males will chase a female and then forcefully mate with her.

Mallards are omnivores with 2/3 of their diet consisting of plant matter and 1/3 animal protein. They eat small fish, snails, moths, flies, bugs, grass, seeds, grains and fruits. They are dappling ducks, too, just like the Muscovy.

- Ducks eat gravel, small stones and sand. However, it's not because they're hungry. The rocks are stored in the gizzard and help break down food.
- Ducks have a field of vision of 340 degrees and can see up close and far away simultaneously. They also see in color.
- Ducks have no blood vessels or nerves in their feet so their feet don't feel the cold in icy waters.
- Ducks normally don't fly over 4,000 feet in the air when they migrate. However, they have the capability of flying much higher. A jet once struck a Mallard at 21,000 feet! This is the highest recorded flight of any duck.
- Preening is a method used to clean the feathers of dirt, dust and parasites. When they preen, they also spread a waxy oil on their feathers making them waterproof.
- Male ducks are drakes; females are hens and babies are ducklings.

Before you grab that loaf of bread to go feed the ducks, please choose a healthier option. Bread has little nutritional value. This applies to popcorn, chips, crackers, donuts and cereal

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as well. Ducks can fill up on these and not eat more nutritional foods. Uneaten bread can get moldy and cause ducks to get sick. It can also add to algae growth affecting water quality. Ducklings can get "angel wing" by eating too much bread. This is a condition causing the wings to point out and making it impossible for the ducks to fly. So, what are healthy alternatives to bread? Peas, cut up grapes, corn, rice, and cut up lettuce and other greens. Dry dog and cat food are good, too.

Many city parks and subdivision ponds and lakes forbid the feeding of ducks so make sure you check.

TWRC Wildlife Center is your source for information on Texas wildlife. Have questions? Call or email us or 713.468.TWRC, info@twrcwildlifecenter.org or visit at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.





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