

NORTH VIEW NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

POOL OPENING / BBQ - Saturday, May 14TH

Pool hours will be from 12-8. The pool will be closed on Mondays for cleaning with the exception of holidays that fall on a Monday in which case, regular hours will be observed and the pool will be closed the on the following Tuesday.

As a reminder, we converted to an electronic entry system for the pool and tennis courts about two years ago. The system incorporates a keypad code and a proxy card. You will use the same cards and codes every year. If you need a card and a code or have forgotten you code or lost your card, contact Chaparral Management at (281) 537-0957. Please note: Chaparral Management Co. charges a \$10.00 fee to issue the cards. There is a \$20.00 charge for replacement cards. The cards are the property of the North View HOA and should you move, the card is to say with the house, please pass it on.

In conjunction with the pool opening, from 12:00 noon to 4:00pm the Community Club will provide a moonwalk and other fun things to do. They will also be serving BBQ hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, sodas, snowcones and popcorn.

Come out, meet your neighbors let the kids play on the playground, on the moonwalk, swim and enjoy some good ole BBQ.

COMMUNITY CLUB MEMBER DRIVE

See more details on last page.



June Gardening

School will be out in only a short time, but your kids are sure to soon complain about having nothing to do. Summer vacation is a great time for children to develop an interest in gardening as a hobby.

A trip to the garden center for inexpensive pots, potting soil, timed-release fertilizer, and a few colorful flowers or vegetables is an easy way to start. Add a child-sized watering can and shovel to give kids a feeling of ownership of the project.

Select flowers or vegetables by checking the labels for like needs of sun or shade and group pots accordingly. Grouping pots together also makes daily watering much easier. Even a small child will love to shovel soil into the pots and play with the water. **GETTING DIRTY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF GROWING UP!**

Some super tough flowers that even beginners can grow include wax-leaf begonia, periwinkle, coleus, blue daze, gomphrena, impatiens, pentas, moss rose, Mexican(narrowleaf) zinnia, 'Profusion' zinnia, salvia, and verbena.

Instant gratification helps a lot. Plant radish seeds even if you don't like them. They come up in three or four days. Growing their own vegetables will generally get kids to try eating things they otherwise wouldn't walk into the same room with. **TAKE PICTURES** of your children with their garden as they begin their planting, and again as the plants grow. You can send these to grandparents or save them for "show and tell".

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

NORTH VIEW NEWS



BEFORE YOU DIG

The Utility Coordinating Committee (UCC) is a Damage Prevention Council. Please allow us to share some important safety information with you.

If you, or a contractor hired by you, are planning any type of digging (such as landscaping, installing sprinkler systems, swimming pools, spas, fences, decks etc.), you should first call the **Lone Star Notification Center at (713) 223-4567** or **(800) 669-8344** to identify potential buried power lines, pipelines, or other service lines. A National Common Ground study reveals that fifty percent of underground utility damages are caused by people digging without knowing the location of buried utility lines. One careless dig can cause the following:

Loss of service - Entire subdivisions, shopping malls and medical centers could lose electric power, gas service, telephone service, cable TV, 911 service and cellular phone connections. *Someone in your neighborhood may depend on life support equipment which requires electric power.*

Expense - Labor, supplies and equipment to repair underground facilities can cost hundreds of dollars, in some cases thousands. Remember that insurance companies pass the cost onto consumers.

Threat to life and health - If you hit a power line with mechanical equipment or hand digging tools, you can be shocked or electrocuted. If you hit a gas line, chances are you will cause a fire.

For safety's sake, plan your project. Call the Lone Star Notification Center 48 hours before you dig. Utility companies will come out and stake their buried lines free of charge. However, in Houston and some surrounding areas, power lines on private property may not belong to the utility (Center Point Energy) and will not be staked. You may contact private location companies for this service for a modest fee. Private location companies are in no way affiliated with the UCC, Lone Star Notification Center or Center Point Energy.

To request the location of underground utility lines, call the **Lone Star Notification Center at 713-223-4567** or **800-669-8344**. After waiting 48 hours, call the **CenterPoint Energy hot line at 713-207-5463** if you have problems locating a gas or electric line.

DID YOU KNOW?



It is against regulation to put debris in our drainage outlet. **DO NOT** blow debris into the drains. For more information or to report violators, call MUD #154.

YARD OF THE MONTH



The North View HOA as well as the residents appreciates a well kept yard. We the members of the community club would like to give you some incentive for your hard work by giving the Yard of the Month winners a \$25.00 gift certificate to HOME DEPOT as well as a sign to be displayed in their yard.

If you know someone who has an exceptional yard, you may nominate them via our website.

PLEASE BE AWARE!! NORTH VIEW COMMUNITY DOES HAVE SEX OFFENDERS IN OUR AREA.



Information can be accessed via email at **HYPERLINK** <http://www.co.harris.tx.us.\pct.4> or you may contact Harris County Precinct #4 at 281-376-3472.



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE SUN

Skin cancer is the most prevalent of all cancers. Estimates vary on its occurrence but it is estimated that approximately 950,000 Americans develop skin cancer every year.

The principal cause of skin cancer is overexposure to sunlight, especially when it results in sunburn and blistering. Other less important factors would include repeated medical and industrial X-ray exposure, scarring from disease or burns, occupational exposure to such compounds as coal and arsenic, and family history.

Prevention is the best defense against skin cancer. Prevention is a matter of guarding the skin against the known causes. Since the sun and its ultraviolet rays would seem to be the principle culprit, the most effective preventative methods is to limit the exposure of the skin to harmful rays by covering up and by the use of sunscreens with at least a 15 rating.

American Cancer Society
Texas Division, Inc.

Air Conditioner Efficiency

Have a technician check your central A/C's duct system for air leakage. Seal with duct tape or special mastic if necessary: most supply and return ducts are extremely leaky, and it's worthwhile to have them sealed. Your central A/C or heat pump should be on a regular maintenance schedule for a checklist of additional items: motor, compressor, air handler, ducts and leakage, oiling moving parts, dirt buildup, refrigerant charge, filter and coil cleaning, and so on. Proper maintenance will ensure maximum efficiency as well as the equipment's longevity.

Insulate cooling and return ducts that run through accessible areas in the attic (where temperatures can easily reach 120°F) and the

basement or crawl space with foil-faced fiberglass duct insulation. Fasten batts with ratcheting plastic ties, wire, metal tape, or glue-on pins. If you're not up for this kind of job, and your air conditioning technician can't do it for you, he or she may be able to recommend a qualified house doctor or insulation contractor.

Have the refrigerant charge checked. Under- or overcharging compromises performance: a 10 percent undercharge can reduce efficiency by as much as 20 percent. Make sure the technician won't vent the chlorofluorocarbon (CFC or HCFC) refrigerant to the air during servicing. Federal law now requires the capture and reuse of this environmentally hazardous chemical.

Set your A/C to the recirculation option - it takes a lot less energy than if the A/C is drawing hot and humid air from outside.

Set your A/C's thermostat at 78°F - or higher if you have ceiling fans. You'll save 35 percent on cooling costs for each degree you raise the thermostat.

Don't turn the A/C's thermostat lower than the desired setting - the house will not cool any faster and can get uncomfortably cold.

Turn off your A/C when you leave for more than an hour. It's worth it.

MYTH: It's more efficient to leave the A/C running than to shut it off and have to recool the house later.

FACT: You begin saving as soon as you shut off your A/C. If your house is tight and well-insulated, it may stay cool all day. This will only work, however, if you keep your house closed up all day. Opening windows not only heats up the house, but also allows the humidity back in that your A/C worked so hard to remove. The exception: on cool nights with low humidity, you're better off opening your windows and using ceiling or whole-house fans.

Close off unused rooms (or close registers in those rooms, if you have central A/C).

Install a programmable thermostat for your central A/C system to regulate cooling automatically. Such a thermostat can be programmed to ensure that your home is cool only when you want it to be - when you come home from work, for example.

Trim bushes or shrubs around outdoor units so they have unimpeded air flow - a clear radius of two feet is adequate. Remove leaves and debris regularly.

Shade your room A/C or the outside condenser unit on a central A/C from direct sunlight if possible. This can increase the unit's efficiency by 5-10 percent.

Remove your window-mounted A/C each fall. Their flimsy mounting panels and drafty cabinets offer little protection from winter winds. If you don't remove it each fall, at least make sure that you close its vent after the cooling season.

Clean your A/C's filter every month or two during cooling seasons. Normal dust buildup can reduce air flow by 1 percent per week.

Clean the entire unit according to the manufacturer's instructions at least once a year. The coils and fins of outside condenser units of a central A/C should be inspected regularly for dirt and debris that can reduce air flow.

When the cooling season ends, turn off the power to the central A/C at the electrical panel. (Be sure to turn it back on at least a day before you need the air conditioning to prevent damage to the compressor.)

If You Live in a Humid Climate
An important part of what a conventional air conditioner does is remove moisture from the air. This makes you feel a lot cooler. Unfortunately, some of the highest-efficiency models don't dehumidify as well as less efficient air conditioners. (Air conditioners that are too big for their cooling load have this same problem.) High humidity results in condensation problems and a

sweaty mid-August New York City feeling. People tend to set their thermostats lower to compensate for the humidity, using even more energy. Here are better solutions:

- Reduce your fan speed. This makes the coils run cooler and increases the amount of moisture that will condense in the A/C rather than on your books. (Don't worry, your air conditioner can handle it!)
- Choose an A/C with a "sensible heat fraction" (SHF) less than 0.8. The lower the SHF, the better the dehumidification ability. The American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers has information on SHFs.
- Size your A/C carefully. Contractors should calculate dehumidification as well as cooling capacity. Most air conditioning systems are oversized - many by 50 percent or more. Ask any contractor you may be hiring to show you his or her sizing and SHF calculations to avoid being sold an oversized model or one that won't remove enough moisture.
- Investigate the feasibility of using a Dinhe heat pipe/pump. These devices use no energy to operate, cool the air before it runs through the air conditioner, and warm it again as it blows out of the air conditioner. They can help your existing air conditioner dehumidify several fold more effectively.
- Explore desiccant dehumidifiers which, coupled with an efficient A/C, may save you quite a bit of energy. Desiccant dehumidifiers essentially use a water-absorbing material to remove moisture from the air. This greatly reduces the amount of work the air conditioner has to do, thereby reducing your cooling bill.
- Set your A/C to the recirculation option.

Excerpted with permission from Rocky Mountain Institute's book *"The Energy Efficient Home: Saving Energy, Money, and the Environment."*

NORTHVIEW HOA NEEDS YOUR INPUT

This is a great opportunity for you to become an active part of our community. It is also a good time for you to voice your opinions, offer suggestions, get some information and meet the board members.

We invite you to come to our monthly meetings which are held every 4th Thursday on the second floor of the Fire Station on Imperial Valley

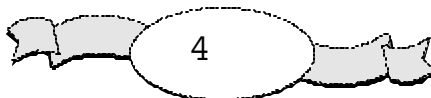
Annual HOA Meeting
Was March 24, 2005 7:30pm.
WE DID NOT MEET THE QUORUM
PLEASE MAIL IN YOUR PROXY'S OR COME TO THE NEXT MEETING ON 5-26-05 7:00pm @ PVFD Station #3

\$50, \$75 and \$100 drawings

COMMUNITY CLUB MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Community Club has been in existence for more than 12 years. It has accomplished many of its goals to better our neighborhood and make North View a fun and happy place for families to live! The Club members finds satisfaction knowing the children enjoy the Easter Bunny and Egg Hunt in the Spring, the barbecue plates and snow cones at pool opening in May, and the Christmas caroling and the beautiful Christmas Light decorating contest in December. Tonight's National Night Out is no exception!

Many of these events wouldn't be possible if it weren't for the time, talent, and treasure the Community Club Members give of themselves. There are approximately 3 active families, out of the over 480



homes North View has, who help plan and carry out these fun-filled events.

Soon, however, if they do not get more involvement, these activities will abolish.

If any of their planned activities have ever affected your daily life in some way, **THEY NEED YOU NOW!**

If you are able to give your time, or talent, it would be the Community Club's treasure to have you.



*Don't let North View become just another neighborhood.
Make it a place to call home!*

Please sign up now via the website.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Chaparral
Management**

281-537-0957

Contact: Betty x29 for ACC applications, and to report park or pool area maintenance problem.

Kendall x23 for deed restriction violations

Susan x21 for questions regarding your statement.

Constable-Emergency:
281-376-3472

Sheriff's Office:
713-221-6000

Fire & Ambulance:
911

Poison Control:
1-800-764-7661

Animal Control:
281-999-3191

NOTES:

Other helpful websites/links

Centerpoint Energy (formerly HL&P)

<http://www.centerpointenergy.com/outage/>

713-207-2222 or 1-888-572-4399;

Choose option "1" for English, then option "4" to report the street light outage. The website is

Precinct 4-Community Assistance

<http://www.cp4.hctx.net/cad/index.htm>

Precinct 4 - Constable Department

<http://www.co.harris.tx.us/pct4/>

Harris County Health Department

<http://www.hd.co.harris.tx.us/Display.htm>

Harris County Vicious Dog Information

713-767-1147 (Pager)

<http://www.countypets.com/webbad.htm>

Low Flying Airplane Noise Complaints

www.houstonairportssystem.org

CCFCC

www.cfcc.org.

North View Subdivision

www.northviewnews.com