

AUSTIN PARK NEWS: SPRING 2010

Yard of the Month (YOM) – Congratulations to the Spring 2010 YOM winner.... the Asher family at 3923 FELICIA DR.

UPDATE: Austin Park Neighborhood Pool Closing - As many of you may already be aware, FCCA plans to close the Austin Park Neighborhood Pool. The current planned closing date is September 2010. This future action is part of FCCA's Amenities Master Plan. A presentation of the Amenities Master Plan can be found on the FCCA website (http://www.firstcolony.org/amenities_master_plan.php).

The Austin Park Neighborhood reps recently met with Phil Martin, FCCA Operations Manager. We used the presentation referenced above as the basis for our discussions. The purpose of the meeting was:

- 1) To voice concerns over the pool closing, what will remain after closing, and what will eventually replace it
- 2) To gather as much solid information as we could regarding the planned pool closing
- 3) To make certain that Austin Park residents would be kept informed and engaged during the process and that their input would be duly considered
- 4) To positively influence outcomes, as much as possible, for the benefit of Austin Park residents

We learned that the decision to close the pool is essentially something FCCA will not be revisiting. However, much is still unclear about the exact closing date, what will be left on the site after the demolition/closing process, and what redevelopment would eventually be done by what date. We had quite a bit of discussion with Phil on potential alternatives, funding amounts and sources, communication with the neighborhood, etc, etc.

Phil was quite interested in what we had to say. Given that much of what we discussed resulted in more speculation than solid information, there isn't a lot of value in reporting the speculations here. Suffice to say, Phil recognizes residents' concerns. We requested that Phil keep us posted on any new developments surrounding this effort, on a monthly basis (at minimum), and that he provide as much factual detail as possible. We also requested that FCCA develop an official FCCA communication, tailored to Austin Park residents and their concerns, regarding the Austin Park Neighborhood Pool closing. Finally, we requested that FCCA develop a viable mechanism/process to collect and consider Austin Park resident input. We believe all these things will be done and will continue to follow-up.

For now, any time your neighborhood reps are provided any information regarding this matter, we will pass it along to you via email or the Austin Park newsletter. Also, when we are notified that FCCA will be providing any official communications regarding this matter, we will try to give you advance notice so that you don't miss it (i.e. if they provide it in their monthly newsletter, on their website, or via a mailing).

If you have concerns, ideas, opinions, related to the planned closing, it is probably most efficient to directly email them to Phil at FCCA (philm@firstcolony.org) and just CC: your neighborhood reps. CC:'ing us helps keep us on the "same page" for any future discussions we will have with FCCA.

Crime Watch Tips - Residents are reminded to immediately contact police if they see someone suspicious in Austin Park (for SLPD phone #s, see **Useful Phone Numbers, Web Sites, and Email Addresses** section at the end of this newsletter). ***Most burglars look for homes that appear unoccupied in the daytime when most people are at work. The break-ins that have happened in Austin Park in the past, have occurred in the daytime.***

Recently, Sugar Land police arrested and charged four teens with one count of residential burglary and two counts of attempted residential burglary. Three of the teens admitted to their participation in five similar Sugar Land crimes that

mostly occurred north of U.S. Highway 90A ***In each case, the teens rang a doorbell or knocked on a door during the afternoon when most people are at work. When no one answered, they forced entry through the back of the homes.***

Burglary prevention tips are available on SLPD's Web site at:

www.sugarlandtx.gov/police/services/crime_prevention/tips/burglary_prevention.asp

Possible Austin Park Neighborhood Improvement Projects – Several potentially feasible suggestions have been received from residents. However, at present, this effort and its required research have been placed on “hold”. The reason for the “hold” is the planned Austin Park Pool closing. The closing may have significant impact on what we use our neighborhood's voluntary fund dollars for and where we use them. Once we learn more about the facts surrounding redevelopment of the pool area, we'll likely be able to restart this effort with a clearer view of how best to proceed.

Curbside Trash - Curbside trash is OBVIOUSLY NOT ATTRACTIVE, yet a lot of folks continue to put their trash out early and/or allow their lawn mowing crews to leave their bagged grass/debris at the curb. That is a deed restriction violation. For Austin Park, you are considered to be in violation if you place your trash curbside before 6PM on Monday and before 6PM on Thursday. Please be considerate of your neighbors and adhere to that schedule.

Lawn mowing crews do not want to lose your business, especially during depressed economic times. If you tell them to take their bagged grass/debris with them, they will!

General Compliance Reminder – Deed restriction enforcement is one key reason why Austin Park, and First Colony in general, remain attractive places to live. FCCA's compliance inspectors do an excellent job spotting items that are out of compliance and following up until the items are remedied. This helps ALL homeowners maintain/improve property values and keeps our neighborhood aesthetically appealing.

Some types of violations are more “high visibility” than others. Examples: fencing (leaning, broken, missing, dirty); driveways/sidewalks (rising, sinking, uneven, broken, dirty); siding (dirty, deteriorated); roofing (missing shingles, deteriorated shingles); gutters (leaning, full of debris, falling off home); and lawns/beds/shrubs/trees (un-mowed, un-edged, untrimmed, dead, un-ground tree stumps). These typically take some effort to remedy, but have a high positive impact aesthetically. If you have any of these violations, chances are good that you will receive a deed restriction violation letter the next time our compliance inspector drives through the neighborhood.

FCCA Compliance and Modifications Information – The following link will take you to a web page containing links that should be able to provide much of the information the typical homeowner needs regarding FCCA's compliance and modifications rules:

<http://www.firstcolony.org/compliance.php>

FCCA's Newsletters – If you've thrown away or missed an edition of the monthly FCCA newsletter, the following link will take you to a web page that has links to all past and present editions:

<http://www.firstcolony.org/page.php?page=40>

The newsletters typically provide good information on a variety of topics. If you've never read one, try it. You'll find them very informative.

Useful Phone Numbers, Web Sites, and Email Addresses –

<p>Neighborhood Reps:</p> <p>Michael Malke mmalke@comcast.net 281-980-0917</p> <p>Leslye Henderson leslyehenderson@juno.com 281-980-0445</p> <p>Laura Pollock ldpo@earthlink.net ldpo@chevron.com 281-980-4713</p> <p>First Colony Community Association (FCCA) www.firstcolony.org 281-634-9500</p>	<p>Austin Park Neighborhood Watch Coordinator</p> <p>Ted Schumann tas3950@gmail.com 281-265-7916</p> <p>Neighborhood Watch Officer</p> <p>Officer Ron Foster, SLPD rfoster@sugarlandtx.gov 281-275-2579</p> <p>Police Dept.</p> <p>281-275-2500 Non-Emergency. 281-275-2525 or 911 Emergency.</p> <p>Fort Bend County Crime Stoppers</p> <p>281-342-TIPS (8477).</p>	<p>City of Sugar Land</p> <p>www.sugarlandtx.gov 281-275-2700</p> <p>Public Works (General)</p> <p>281-275-2450 (24 HRS)</p> <p>Animal Control (General)</p> <p>281-275-2596</p> <p>Trash/Recycling</p> <p>281-275-2450 (City) 713-937-9955 (Allied Waste)</p> <p>Centerpoint Energy</p> <p>1-800-332-7143 713-659-2111 (to report damaged/out cobra style street lights) or www.centerpointenergy.com/outage/</p>
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