

# fłock safety

### Flock Safety Initiative - Your <u>VOTE</u> is Needed!



In our previous newsletter, the White Oak Springs HOA announced that they were looking to enter into a partnership with Flock Safety, an Atlanta, GA based company that specializes in neighborhood safety through the use of license plate reading cameras. As was reported, the camera is entirely self-sufficient in that it is solar-powered and sends its footage via mobile technology to a secure cloud-based storage that is maintained by Flock. The camera records footage but also has both day and night-time capability to read and record license plates that pass through the front and back entrances of the neighborhood. Several of our neighboring communities are using the Flock technology and have reported great success with the program.

At this time, the WOS HOA Board has determined that we would like to proceed with adding the Flock Safety Program to our community, which would include two cameras, one at the front entrance and one at the back of the neighborhood. The cost of adding the Flock program will have little to no impact on the current association dues as we have had several positive cost cutting initiatives this year. We detailed the total costs associated with the program for your review below.

In order to move forward, we need you as homeowners to submit your vote to approve/deny the proposal. We will need 10% of the total homeowners (140 homes) to provide us with feedback and submit your vote on or before July 31, 2020 to officially move forward with the Flock Safety Initiative. We will post the results on August 1, 2020.

You can submit your vote by logging into the WOS Website, and filling out the "Comment Form", see figure A, which is located on the homepage of our website. Include your name, address, email, phone number and include your vote in the comment section of the form. www.whiteoakspringshoa.com.



Figure A

Cost Br	eakdown			
Contract Details - 2Yrs	Price	QTY	. 3	SUPEOMY
Flock Safety	Faicon Can	nera		
Annual Recurring Fee	\$2,000.00	2	\$	4,000.00
instaliation (One-Time Fee)	\$ 250.00	2	\$	500.00
	1st Year	Total	Ş	4,500.00
	2nd Year	Total	\$	4,000.00
WOS Homeowner	· Continue		navi p	
1st Year Total	140	iouse	5	32.14
2nd Year Total	140		Ś	
Zijo Year Iotal	140		Þ	28.57

Included with Pricing		
riarciware	Services	
Automated Dc. Plate Reader	Unlimited Users	
Solar Panel	Maintenance Warranty	
12ft Pole	CrimeSupport	
Software	Setup	
Real-Time Alerts to Police	Camera Setup	
Real-Time Footage Access	Shipping and Handling	
Cloud Footage Hosting	Mounting Equipment	
Ongoing Updates	"Flock Safety Protected"	
Cellular LTE	Sign	

#### A Message: To All of Our WOS Graduates



Congratulations to all of our WOS Graduates! You have done an amazing job staying positive through this challenging time of COVID-19. Your persistence, determination, and resilience will take you farther than you can imagine. Wishing you all the best as you embark upon your new endeavors (college, trade-school, the military or starting your careers)! We are all so PROUD of you and your accomplishments!

Sincerely, The White Oak Springs HOA Board



#### HAPPY ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Have any wedding, birthday, graduation or other special day announcements?

Want to thank someone for doing something great for you?

Email

woshoaboard@gmail.com
with the subject "Newsletter
Announcement" and we will post it
right here in our newsletter!

### **HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS**

Hurricane season officially began on Monday, June 1. There are several things you can do to prepare.

Check your insurance coverage. Homeowner's and renter's insurance policies may not cover wind and water damage caused by hurricanes. Keep in mind one inch of water in your home can cause up to \$25,000 in damages. Without flood insurance most residents have to pay out of pocket or take out loans to repair and replace damaged items. Federal assistance is not always available and is not enough to get you back to your pre-disaster condition.

Remember, there is usually a 30-day waiting period from the date of purchase until your flood insurance policy goes into effect. For those with a flood insurance policy, FEMA is extending the grace period for policy renewals from 30-days to 120 days for policies that have an expiration date between February 13, 2020, and June 15, 2020, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Visit www.floodsmart.gov to find other resources to help you prepare for the Hurricane Season.



Make a plan. Decide where you and your family will go if you need to evacuate. Decide on a meeting place if you and your family get separated. Designate an out of town contact so you can let your family know where you are and that you are safe. Make sure everyone in your family knows and understands the plan. Practice your plan.

Make a kit. Your kit should contain at minimum a gallon of water per day for each member of the family for a week, non-perishable food, a manual can opener, extra clothes, gloves, heavy shoes, cash, and extra medication and eyeglasses. Put in a hand cranked or battery powered radio and a flashlight. Don't forget extra batteries. Don't forget food, water, and medication for your pets. For more preparedness tips go to <a href="https://www.ready.gov">www.ready.gov</a>

# YARD OF THE MONTH

"Your properties exemplify and promotes beautification and pride for both your street, as well as for our entire WOS Community"



MAY 2020 Denise & Luis Lopez

JUNE 2020 Mr. & Mrs. Forsythe

**JULY 2020** 

Lieu Nguyen & Khoi Vu

# "WHITE OAK SPRINGS IS A DEED RESTRICTIONS ENFORCED COMMUNITY – ACC Applications Must Be Approved Before Any Improvements"

White Oak Springs community's covenants, conditions and restrictions (CCRs) require owners to obtain prior written approval for changes or improvements to the exterior of their property. As a few examples, this includes painting a different color, installing a fence or basketball goal, removing one or more trees (whether alive, dead or diseased), adding a planting bed or making other significant landscape changes. The application process will be smoother if your change is consistent with White Oak Spring's CCR's (Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions) and Architectural and Landscape Guidelines.

#### WOS HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marie Godard, President Angela King, Vice-President Jay Hooper, Treasurer Nathasha Fuller, Secretary Rick Scanlin, Director



ATTN: July Community Meeting is cancelled due to COVID-19

\*\* See website for updates \*\*



## CELEBRATE SAFELY - 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY SAFETY TIPS

Fireworks are synonymous with our celebration of Independence Day. Yet, the thrill of fireworks can also bring pain. On average, 180 people go to the emergency room every day with fireworks-related injuries in the month around the July 4th holiday.

Remember, fireworks can be dangerous, causing serious burn and eye injuries. You can help prevent firework related injuries and deaths. How? By following these safety tips when using fireworks:

- Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks
- Avoid buying fireworks that are packaged in brown paper because this is often a sign that the fireworks were made for professional displays and that they could pose a danger to consumers
- Always have an adult supervise fireworks activities. Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers. Sparklers burn at temperatures of about 2,000 degrees - hot enough to melt some metals
- Never place any part of your body directly over a fireworks device when lighting the fuse. Back up to a safe distance immediately after lighting fireworks
- Never try to re-light or pick up fireworks that have not ignited fully
- Never point or throw fireworks at another person
- Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose handy in case of fire or other mishap
- Light fireworks one at a time, then move back quickly
- Never carry fireworks in a pocket or shoot them off in metal or glass containers
- After fireworks complete their burning, douse the spent device with plenty of water from a bucket or hose before discarding it to prevent a trash fire
- Make sure fireworks are legal in your area before buying or using them
- Please put your animals inside the house or in their kennels for safety
- If you do fireworks in WOS Neighborhood, be kind to your neighbors and stop
  popping them at a "reasonable time of night", and please clean-up your mess



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#### Safety protocols for outdoor events include the following:

- Groups of a maximum of 10 people must maintain six feet of distance between other groups of people
- Guests must self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms before attending the event
- Face coverings are strongly recommended for guests

The City of Houston's Fire Marshall's office has been out inspecting about 425 fireworks stands in the county and about 25 indoor stores, making sure they have adults behind the counter, safe storage methods and that they are not selling to children under 16. They will also be out enforcing firework rules across the county over the weekend. They are encouraging families to attend public displays instead of launching fireworks on their own. Below, are some events that are taking place this Independence Day Weekend:

#### **Shell Freedom Over Texas** (Virtual)

Saturday, July 4
Tune into ABC13 to join other
Houstonians in this patriotic 3 hour
long virtual celebration featuring the
Houston Symphony as well as guest
appearances by Trae Tha Truth and
Bun B. While the in-person event is
cancelled, the city will still be setting
off fireworks, so keep an eye out!

#### 4th of July Weekend at City Centre

City Centre- Free
Friday, July 3, 7-10PM
Sunday, July 5, 5-8PM
Head over to City Centre to enjoy live
music in the plaza, offering a variety
of musical genres including smooth
jazz, Caribbean steel drums, classic
rock and country. The event is free,
but parking is \$10.

#### City of Bellaire Fourth of July Parade

See Parade Route
Saturday, July 4, 9:30-11AM
Normally people go to watch a parade, but this year, Bellaire is bringing the parade to you! Check out their website to see if you are located along their parade route.

#### Six Flags Hurricane Harbor Splash Town Reopening Celebration

Reservations required
Friday, July 3, 10:30AM-8PM
Season ticket holders can opt to visit a
few days before during the preview
dates. Everyone else will be able to
plan their trip to visit Six Flags when it
reopens on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Make sure to
purchase tickets and reserve your spot
as park admittance is limited at this
time.

## 2020 Red, Hot, & Blue Festival & Fireworks Extravaganza

Location details coming soon

Saturday, July 4, Time to be announced
While the festival portion of this yearly celebration has been cancelled for safety, the fireworks are still on!
More details will be released about the location of the fireworks. The
Woodlands Township asks that attendees continue to practice social distancing when viewing the fireworks display.

#### **Gaiveston Island 4th of July Parade**

**Downtown Galveston** Saturday, July 4, 10A.M. Galveston Island is hosting its annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. Come see the parade in action starting at 25<sup>th</sup> St. and Santa Fe Place, continuing south on 25<sup>th</sup> St. then east on Post Office St., north on 21<sup>st</sup>, and west on The Strand, the back to 25<sup>th</sup> St.

#### **Fourth of July at Kemah Boardwalk**

#### Kemah Boardwalk

Saturday, July 4, 9:30PM
Pick up your "Patriot Pass" and head
to the Kemah Boardwalk for a
weekend full of activities. Every Friday
during the summer they offer a
fireworks show starting at 9:30PM
and offering late night specials. On
Saturday July 4th check out the
patriotic fireworks show and live
music celebrating Independence
Day.

### Fourth of July Celebration- Free

High Tower High School, Missouri City

Saturday, July 4, 6-9PM, Fireworks at 9:15PM

Have a safe and enjoyable Independence Day, Weekend!



#### Don't be a Victim - Some Safety Tips to Deter Intruders from Choosing Your Home

Summertime is upon us and enjoying your home involves more than just well-planned décor, landscaping, BBQ's and fun in the sun. After spending valuable time and money creating the home of your dreams, consider adding some easy safety measures that will help protect your family and your home. Some ideas on simple ways to keep you and your home safer from break-ins.

#### Fencing:

Keep your fence and gates in good repair. It will help keep unwanted eyes out and provides an excellent way to conceal your home and valuables. Keep gates locked when you are away and when you turn in for the evening, fences cannot physically keep someone off your property, but because intruders will be unable to easily access your home, they may decide to move on to an easier target.

#### Lighting:

Installing well-placed lights on the outside of your property can also discourage intruders, who want to remain inconspicuous, as lights will ruin their cover.

- All-night lighting. As the name suggests, this type of outside lighting stays on throughout the night. Because of its
  convenience, all-night lighting is the most popular option. This kind of lighting uses more energy and may raise your
  energy bill. If you opt for all-night lighting, using LED or other energy-efficient bulbs will help cut your energy cost. LED
  are brighter and cheaper to run and make this option all the more sensible and an excellent investment.
- Motion-activated lighting. This type of lighting switches on when visitors trigger the sensor. To intruders, motion-activated lighting can be alarming when it suddenly turns on, which makes it a smart choice for homeowners. You can also save on your energy bill with this option, but to effectively utilize these lights, install them in areas where they will be activated by unwanted visitors in all dark spots, such as near the garage, all entry points (gates) and first-floor doors and/or windows.



Solar Powered Gate Lights. You can find great options on solar powered/motion sensor gate lights that work
well and on a budget. These gate/fence lights provide a good amount of light and work well in any dark spot
that will get any amount of sun during the day. The only skill needed to install is how to turn a screwdriver.



- LED Powered Motion Sensing Light Bulbs. You can purchase motion sensor light bulbs for just about any light fixture. Try motion sensing LED spotlight bulbs for your front entry way that will light up brightly when anyone approaches your front door. They are convenient at night so you never walk up to a dark front door. No more fumbling to unlock the door and no more dark spot for an intruder to hide.
- Programmable Light Switch Timer's for Outdoor House Lighting. You can install light switch timers that power
  on all outdoor house lighting from dusk to dawn or any specific time you choose. They are convenient and
  ensure you never come home to a dark home.
- ,et ]

Indoor Lamp Timers. Another low cost and excellent option, is to install an automatic lamp/appliance timers to lamps or other light fixtures to turn on at specific times of the day or night. Works well to keep your house looking occupied even if you are away.

# White Oak Springs Www.whiteoakspringshoa.com INDER Wall of the Color of the Color

#### Landscaping:

High shrubbery gives intruders places to hide while they're trying to find a way into your house. To eliminate these hiding spaces, trim shrubbery down, especially in front of windows.





#### **Garbage and Recycling:**

Avoid advertising new purchases by the curb. If possible, break down large boxes from items such as TVs or other expensive electronics. For boxes too large for the trash bin, wait until pickup day to put them curbside.

#### **Security System:**

Perhaps the best deterrent to potential intruders is a security system that quickly alerts you to unwanted visitors. Over the years, security systems have become more sophisticated with the addition of cameras and video-monitoring capabilities. Have your local security system company install sensors on all your entry doors and windows.

If you are not looking for the annual contract, you can opt for a DIY (Do-it-Yourself) option and pick up an easy to install camera system from your local hardware or computer store. Most are WiFi enabled and are easy to install for any DIY'er.

Ring Door Bell. Probably one of the best inventions since Wonder Bread. These camera and motion recording devices replace your existing wired or non-wired doorbell and are connected to your home WiFi. They record motion and alert you when someone is at your door or enters your property. You have the ability to set the motion distance and all video/motion is recorded just like a high tech security camera. You can access live feed from your smart phone or tablet and also communicate via microphone. Prices start around \$199 and Ring has several new easy to install and amazing security products available. www.ring.com



#### Security System Sign:

Real or fake, security system signs have been known to ward off potential intruders. When searching for a home to target, intruders prefer homes that will allow them to enter and exit quickly. Homes with actual security systems stop intruders from entering undetected. Place security stickers in windows and advertise in plain view.

#### Safes:

If an intruder does manage to enter your home, you can still protect your valuable possessions. Place heirloom, expensive or priceless items in a safe hidden from prying eyes.

Unfortunately you cannot become Fort Knox, so make your home a force to be reckoned with so intruders will not see it as an easy target. When intruders enter your home, they take more than your valuable possessions—they take your peace of mind. By making your home a difficult target, you can maintain the peace and tranquility that only your home can give you.

More importantly, get to know your neighbors! Look out for one another and be safe and be well.



### 7 Surprising Benefits of Tree Trimming from Your Local Tree Service

There's nothing better than having beautiful healthy trees in your yard. In fact, they can add between \$1,000 and \$10,000 to the value of your property if they're in good shape. And there are few tasks more important for tree maintenance than a regular tree trimming service. But why is tree trimming so important and what does it really do for your property? Here are a few of the most surprising benefits you'll see when you make tree trimming a priority for your home.

#### **Helps Keep Your Trees Healthy**

Keeping your trees healthy can be challenging. And it takes more than just regularly watering the roots and soil around the trunk. If the limbs get too long, it puts strain on the rest of the tree. If left too long, the branches can break, leaving gaping wounds in the side of the tree. Worse, that breakage can encourage diseases and mold which damage the health of the entire tree.

Trimming the branches before this becomes an issue will help you keep your trees healthy. The trunk will be able to support the weight of the branches and you won't have to worry about premature breakage and damage ruining the look and health of your trees.



#### **Improves Curb Appeal**

When trees look overgrown, they can make your landscaping efforts look less impactful. Think of it this way: trees are among the first things people notice about your house when they drive by. When they're in great shape, your landscaping looks pristine, even if your garden beds are sparse or your planter boxes aren't flowering.

If the trees are overgrown, the entire yard will look neglected. Scheduling regular tree trimming appointments will help keep your trees looking properly manicured, improving the curb appeal of your yard. For homeowners that entertain regularly or those looking to sell their property in the near future, this is an absolute must. When your home exterior looks great, people will look forward to seeing what's inside your house.

#### **Improves Natural Light**

Everyone loves trees for the shade they provide. When planted in the rights spots and allowed to grow and thrive, they can keep your home cooler in the heat of the summer. But they do more than shade your house and your yard—they shade the rest of your landscaping. While this can be good, it's not always the best way to care for your other plants.

If plants that need tons of sunlight don't receive enough, they'll die, diminishing the look of your yard. Regular tree trimming will help protect your other plants by improving the amount of light they receive. You'll still get to enjoy your shade trees, but you'll be able to do it without hurting the rest of your landscaping.

#### **Prevents Pests**

Overgrown trees hide disease and damage. And those spots are particularly vulnerable to pests and insects. Believe it or not, pests LOVE dead and decaying wood. It gives them a comfortable shelter and food at the ready.





7 Surprising Benefits of Tree Trimming from Your Local Tree Service, cont.

Tree trimming helps get rid of the dead or dying parts of the tree and keeps the damage from happening in the first place. This allows the tree to naturally prevent pests and insects from taking up residence in the wood. This benefits the rest of your home by reducing the number of insects that live on your property. And when there aren't that many bugs looking for a place to call home, you won't have to worry as much about pest infestations inside your house.

#### **Reduces Liability**

As a homeowner, you're responsible for everything that happens on your property. This means you're in charge of maintenance, repairs, and even the safety of your guests. And falling tree limbs can do some serious damage both to your house and to the safety of those on your property.

If a limb falls and injures a guest or dents their car, you're liable for the cost of their medical treatment or vehicle repairs. Though your homeowner's insurance policy will help cover the damages, it's always best to avoid those issues in the first place. Tree trimming and pruning helps reduce the risk of falling limbs, keeping you and those around you safer.

#### Saves You Money in the Long Run

Trees add tons of value to your property. But when they're damaged or dying, they can lower your property value and increase the amount of money you'll spend maintaining your home's exterior. Regular tree trimming appointments will save you money in the long-run.

Instead of having to pay for tree removal when the tree dies or having to fix damage after a limb falls after a heavy snow, you'll be able to save up and use your funds however you see fit. Remember, preventative maintenance is almost always more affordable and more budget-friendly than paying out of pocket for emergency treatments or repairs. The same holds true for tree care.



#### **Boosts Growth and Bloom Production**

Trees can grow for decades without issue, but sometimes, you just want that growth to speed up. When the limbs are damaged, crowded, or diseased, the tree won't be able to grow effectively. This results in slow progress and underwhelming blooms in the spring even if the tree is otherwise healthy.

By getting your trees trimmed and pruned, you're able to trigger growth when the weather is right. This means your trees will leaf out more fully and produce the blooms you love throughout the growing season. Keep in mind that different trees need to be pruned and trimmed at different times of year. The best way to find out what your landscape needs is to work with a professional and let them assess your yard.



Trimming your trees in White Oak Springs is one of the best ways to keep your landscaping looking great without putting strain on your home maintenance budget. But it's one task you should always leave to the pros.



#### **Dog Walking Etiquette**

When it comes to being dog owners, we often think that the most important thing is to train our dogs to behave properly. This idea of doggy etiquette is often seen as a one way street, where it is important to make sure our dogs have learned all the proper rules. But what about us as owners?

I don't know about you, but I often see people walking their dogs who do not pick up the mess their pets leave behind. There are also plenty of times when owners let their dogs jump on other dogs or people. But most horrifying, is that some owners will let their dogs out without having a leash on.

The problem with all of this is that not only is it quite rude, it can be dangerous, not only for your pet, but also for other people and their pets.



#### **Etiquette for dog walking**

- Clean up after your dog One of the most important rules of walking your dog might seem to be obvious, but you should always clean up after your pet. Carry a plastic bag or two with you so you can scoop up the poop.
- Use a leash There are leash laws for a reason. You do not know who or what is out there and if your dog is not on a leash when you go for a walk, then you have no control over them. It does not matter how well-trained your dog is, if they are off leash and run away from you, then what? Dogs can get spooked, no matter how trained they usually are.
- Don't allow your dog to jump As far as etiquette goes, you really shouldn't allow your dog to jump up on other dogs or people. While your pet might be super friendly and sweet, that doesn't mean that everyone is comfortable with them. And there are people out there who are afraid of dogs and it's not fair to them that you are letting your pup jump on them. Plus, you don't know how friendly or not friendly another dog is either.
- Put your cellphone away If you are walking down the street with your phone in your hand, not paying
  attention to your dog and what is going on around you, bad things can happen. You don't have full control
  over your dog, and you can't see anything coming your way. When you are walking your dog, you should be
  keeping them safe, and other people safe from them. Step away from the phone for a few minutes, and give
  your attention your pet, they have waited all day for this time.

While these four etiquette rules are as much guides as they are a way to safely and respectfully walk your dog, everyone should be paying attention to them. Not only is this about safety, it is also about being fair to other people and pets. And if you already do these things...thank you for being considerate of others.

After all, we all want to enjoy taking our dogs out for a walk.



### **Critters in Your Attic?**

Spring has finally arrived and, for some of us, it could not have come soon enough. Between December's ice storm, record snowfalls and a seemingly inescapable polar vortex, this past winter was truly bone chilling. We're not the only ones looking forward to longer days and warmer temperatures. The urban wildlife we share our communities with will once again begin to reproduce and increase in numbers this time of year.



Raccoons, squirrels, skunks, birds and bats all give birth to new litters of babies at various times during spring and summer. Unfortunately for homeowners, they'll all be looking for a warm and comfortable place to have and raise those babies. So what can you do to prevent neighborhood critters from turning your home into a makeshift maternity ward this year?

Wildlife will begin having babies this time of year and they're looking for new homes.

Here are some ways you can protect your home against wildlife:

- Give your property a thorough visual inspection. Snow and ice can be pretty hard on building materials so you will want
  to be on the lookout for any roof damage, rotting wood or other cracks or crevices that may have developed over winter.
  Urban wildlife species such as raccoons, squirrels, and mice will take advantage of any structural vulnerability to gain
  access to your home.
- Be sure to look around garages, sheds and under porches as they too can provide shelter for animals such as skunks and raccoons.
- Trim back trees and vegetation that may provide access to your roof and remove out of service TV antennas.
- Eliminate food sources that may attract wildlife to your home property.
  - Animals can smell discarded food left in garbage bags.
  - > Secure garbage in wildlife-proof containers and avoid storing garbage outside for extended periods.
  - Do not leave pet food outdoors.
  - Pick ripe fruits and vegetables from your garden before animals get the chance to dig in.
  - Use squirrel-proof bird feeders and remove fallen seed from the ground to keep mice away.
  - > Skunks and raccoons love to eat lawn grubs so be sure to have your lawn treated.
- Set up motion sensor lights and sprinkler systems to prevent wildlife from becoming too comfortable on your property.

If these tips and tricks aren't enough to keep wildlife from infiltrating your home you may want to hire a professional. It's best to act quickly this time of year to evict animals that take up residence in your attic, roof, chimney or vents. Once babies arrive the removal process becomes much more complicated and the amount of droppings and damaged produced inside your home increases significantly.

### **MUD # 248 Walking Trails**

As most of you know, the walking trails have been completed and are being utilized. Please remember that these trails have been generously provided to the WOS Community and other surrounding neighborhoods and businesses, "free of charge" by MUD # 248. With this being said, this is still PRIVATE PROPERTY. If anyone is caught vandalizing the trails, they can be prosecuted by MUD # 248. Note that MUD #248 is in the process of adding: rule signs, trash receptacles, benches and such. While they want everyone to enjoy them, there are some rules that they have asked that we adhere to:

- Use the trails at your own risk
- > Trails are open dawn to dusk
- > No bike riding, skateboarding, roller blading or motorized vehicles
- No fishing or swimming
- > All dogs MUST be on a leash and please PICK-UP THEIR POOP





## **Business Referrals**





Please send us your Contact Info for Important Information:		
Name		
Address		
Email		
Cell (texts)		
You may do so by going to the Website Home page		
& sending this info on the Comment Form.		