

President's Corner

Well, just when things could not get any stranger, I have two announcements that potentially undo years of Huntwick tradition. First, you may very well have noticed that this month's Huntwick Herald is brought to you in electronic form by email. After almost 40 years of printing ad-supported "no cost" neighborhood newsletters, Champions Printing is exiting that business. They have been a wonderful partner and represent a vastly shrinking pool of such service providers. The HCA board got creative to identify potential replacements, and while it's too early to call the end of the printed-and-delivered-to-your-door Herald, the low cost service will be hard to replace. For now, we will continue to provide a newsletter (as prescribed in HCA by-laws) via email.

Second, it is expected that the current HCWCID#116 Board (Water District) will no longer formally support 5300 Coral Gables as a functioning address for the HCA. As with all items facing its members, the HCA board is evaluating the best option here. The good news is that with the newly implemented eUnify online payment serviceability, physical payments are on the wane. We will, at minimum, maintain a mailing address. However, we certainly understand the inconvenience of no longer "dropping it off at the clubhouse!" We will email you shortly with an official new address.

Thank you all for your continued efforts to clean up after the storm. The HCA Board expresses its appreciation to Commissioner Tom Ramsey and all of Precinct 3, who responded with timeliness and in a very big and professional way. I realize that many members have significant work remaining to repair homes and fences, especially along Champion Forest Drive where new fence height restrictions are in place. In light of several issues, the "Decorative Wall" project was deemed to be non-viable, so please do not wait on this project.

Well, at least the 16" water line project, brought to you by the Northwest Harris County Regional Water Authority (the 800-pound gorilla of Houston public water projects), is nearing completion. As advertised, the horizontal drilling and auger work did minimize disruption vs trenching. However, I am unhappy with the two vertical pipes and stanchions that remain highly visible. As you might know, this project had little to no positive impact for Huntwick, and I will continue to advocate for them to minimize the unsightly impact. I will see this memorial to NHCRWA every day when I enter the neighborhood and then also monthly in my water bill. I believe we deserve better as tax payers. Just because you are the 800-pound gorilla with an easement does not mean that you should leave behind a mess.

Unpaid AMF reminders will be going out soon, so please be on the lookout if you have not yet paid yours. In addition, we will soon be ramping up yard inspections and potential deed restriction violations, much like we have done with gas lanterns over the last few months. Remaining an "upscale neighborhood" will take combined effort as our homes age, so please

take a look at your yards and attend to the necessary improvements (brown patches at the curb get a free pass of course!).

Efforts to transition to Harris County Constable's office as our new security provider began with a constructive first meeting with Constable Mark Herman. We expect to ramp up toward full staffing beginning in October. You will certainly see an increased presence as we have been sharing resources with surrounding neighborhoods until HCCO can make necessary staff available. This was an unavoidable circumstance as we transition between organizations.

Cheers to interesting times!

Thank you for being great neighbors,

Giff Wilkerson, President

713-444-8723

president@huntwickforest.com

The Beat

Monthly **Crime/Traffic Stats**: August 2024

For loose dogs (attacks or bites) please call Animal Control at 281-999-3191 x3 (not the Sheriff's Department). But, in the case of a life-threatening situation, call 911.

The following is only a summary of crime and traffic. There will be no reports for August and September as we move from sheriff (HCSO) to constable (HCCO) patrol coverage, which will start October 1, 2024.

As we prepare for the constables to take over from the sheriff, I have identified some problem areas on our streets where it seems that traffic laws are ignored.

Running Stop Signs:

- Mittlestadt/Baltimore
- Baltimore/Chelwood Pl.
- Glen Erica/Baltimore
- Glen Erica/Verdant
- Glen Erica/Olympia Fields Ln.
- Glen Erica/Glen Erica/Coral Gables Dr. (in front of HRF)
- Coral Gables Dr./Baltimore Cir.

- Every stop sign on Mittlestadt/Charwell Crossing Ln. toward Bermuda Dunes Dr.

Traffic:

Please observe the 30 MPH speed limit in Huntwick.

Note: You may NOT park within 30 feet of a stop sign, flashing signal, yield sign, or traffic control signal. You may not park on the public street with expired registration. You can review the Texas transportation code online: Sec. 545.303. ADDITIONAL PARKING REGULATIONS.

Note: Please keep your driveway well-lit and mount cameras if possible. If you park in your driveway, please remove valuables and lock your car.

Important Reminder: Let's Not Be a Victim!

Be watchful for anything suspicious, especially when it comes to our children and seniors. You can submit a vacation watch form by [clicking here](#).

Be sure to inform your neighbors so they can also watch your home. The constable dispatch number is 281-376-3472

Suspicious Activity. If you're walking or driving around Huntwick and notice a blue light on at Donut Lake park or the Recreation center, you can call 713-364-8869 for details

Carl Shannon, Security Director/Coordinator
713-364-8869
security@huntwickforest.com

Campaign Sign Policies

Greetings!

Election season is upon us again, and it's bound to be an interesting one. With that comes this reminder that although your Board of Directors cannot prohibit the display of political campaign signs, we can and do enforce certain deed restrictions in that regard. Here is a quick rundown of what is allowed and what is not allowed beginning no sooner than Monday, August 5 through no later than Friday, November 15, 2024:

- **One (1) ground-mounted sign per candidate or ballot measure** may be displayed for up to 90 days before the election and for up to 10 days following the election.

- Signs may not contain roofing material, siding, paving materials, flora, balloons, lights, or any other similar building, landscaping, or nonstandard decorative component.
- Signs may not be attached in any way to plant material, a traffic control device, a light, a trailer, a vehicle, or any other existing structure or object.
- Signs may not include the painting of architectural surfaces.
- Signs may not threaten public health or safety.
- Signs may not be larger than four feet by six feet (4' x 6').
- Signs may not violate a law.
- Signs may not contain language, graphics, or any display that would be offensive to the ordinary person.
- Signs may not be accompanied by music or other sounds or by streamers or be otherwise distracting to motorists.

For the full deed restrictions regarding signs of other types, flags, and lawn décor, please refer to the 2022 amendment to the Huntwick Deed Restrictions, as voted and approved by the membership (homeowners) of the Huntwick Civic Association. **Note that any violation of the above and listed in the link below can be removed by the Board of Directors.**

[Click here](#) to view the full deed restrictions.

- NOTE 1: There is no mention of political campaign FLAGS, because there is no provision for them in the Texas Election Code, which our deed restrictions mirror. In addition, the number and types of flags that are allowed is cited in the deed restrictions amendment listed above. Therefore, political campaign flags are not allowed.
- NOTE 2: As all political campaign signs must be ground-mounted, by default this means that a political campaign sign displayed inside the window of a residence and made visible from the exterior is a violation of the deed restrictions.

Above all, let's remember that we are neighbors. We love our neighborhood and we cooperate to maintain its beauty, harmony, and quality of life. Our deed restrictions are the most important of our governing documents because YOU and other members of the civic association devised them, proposed them, and voted to implement them. It takes all of us to enforce them for the preservation of our neighborhood.

Thank you, and happy voting!

Van English, Deed Restrictions Director
deedrestrictions@huntwickforest.com

Huntwick Needs YOU!

The interaction between a **Block Captain** and a new Huntwick resident is crucial to making new residents feel welcomed into our neighborhood. The Block Captain personally welcomes the new residents and delivers a welcome packet that provides varied information about Huntwick Forest, the Huntwick Recreation Facility, and Harris County Water District #116, as well as services offered and places of interest within Harris County Precinct 3. The second function of a Block Captain is the taking of orders for Christmas Eve luminaries and bows during the latter half of October, and the delivery of orders in early December. A **Section Chair** serves as the liaison with HCA Board Member(s) who are tasked with organizing the selling of luminaries for Huntwick's traditional Christmas Eve lighting.

If your area is not listed, but you would be willing to take over duties should an opening arise, **or cover an area that is not in your section**, please send an email to membership@huntwickforest.com requesting to be placed on an as-needed list.

Section 1:

5302-5331 Olympia Fields

Section 2:

5302-5319 Westminster Court

Section 3:

5502-5523 Kingswick Court

Section 9A:

13603-13718 Charwell Crossing

Yard of the Month

A few days after our last Yard of the Month selections, hurricane Beryl tore through our lovely Huntwick, along with Houston and most of southeast Texas. What remained in the wake of this enormous windstorm was a virtual graveyard of our wonderful trees, including many of the proud decades-old pines and oaks. We despaired of ever seeing the former loveliness of Huntwick. But, as usual, the good folks of Huntwick picked up, cleaned up, and piled up the tons

of debris left over from Beryl. So instead of fearing that we would have to suspend our Yard of the Month selection, we again had a nice group of yards from which to choose.



Our Yard of the Month for September is at 5223 Fountainbridge Lane. It is the lovely home of April and Jay Barcello. The Barcellos are longtime Huntwick residents— 25 years! They both really love the neighborhood and planned their landscape in what they call a layered design. Instead of creating several small flower beds scattered around the front yard, they started at the front of the house and front porch, planting lines of each type of flower or shrub. These parallel lines of a particular type of plant work out toward the curb. Taller plants are placed toward the back with shorter ones in the front. This arrangement gives April and Jay's yard a very neat and symmetrical look. Plants included in this arrangement are Dwarf Yaupon Holly, Nandina, lime and burgundy coleus, pink and white begonia, Aspidistra, giant lirioppe, Bronze Beauty Cleysera, and red vinca, along with standard and dwarf Mondo (monkey) grass.

The rest of the yard from this long bed to the curb is a green, healthy St. Augustine lawn. There is a T-shaped walkway from the front porch to the curb with a stand of five tall, straight trees to the right side of the walkway. An antique black iron mailbox sits on the left. The Barcello home is a two-story brick with sand colored trim.

Thank you, April and Jay, for your artistry in creating September's lovely Yard of the Month!

A post-Beryl request from your Beautification Committee:

Please give some love to your remaining trees. They have been ravaged by Mother Nature. Cut off any dead or broken branches. Give them plenty of water and perhaps some fertilizer. Be sure that their root system is firmly anchored in the ground. If a tree seems to be suffering, a visit from a local arborist might be in order. After all, we want to keep "forest" as a part of our beautiful Huntwick Forest.

Peg Owen and Denise Balkum, Beautification Committee

Garden Fairy: Feeling Floral

Dear Garden Fairy,

I enjoy having beautiful flowers throughout my house. Do you have any recommendations for creating floral arrangements from what may be already in my yard?

Signed, Flora

Dear Flora,

There are many landscape plants and flowers you can find in your garden that would make lovely arrangements. Here are some popular choices:

- **Roses:** Classic and elegant, roses come in various colors and add a romantic touch to any arrangement.
- **Lilies:** These large, showy flowers are perfect for creating focal points in arrangements.
- **Carnations:** Versatile and long-lasting, carnations come in various hues and work well in mixed bouquets.
- **Daisies:** Cheerful and simple, daisies add a touch of whimsy to arrangements.
- **Sunflowers:** Their vibrant yellow petals make sunflowers a striking choice for rustic or summery arrangements.

Almost anything in your garden can be worked into a bouquet! Now that you've identified some of your own pretty garden flowers that you'd like to put into a vase, how do you start?

1. First, cut your flowers and foliage early or late in the day, when it's cooler and their stems are firm and full of water. Flowers that grow on individual stems should be cut when fully open.
2. Use clean, sharp tools like a small kitchen knife or floral snips to cut delicate stems and pruners to cut woodier stalks. Don't use scissors – they will crush the stem and prevent proper water intake. Cut stems as long as possible to give yourself more options when putting together the arrangement. You can always make them shorter later. Make cuts at a 45-degree angle to allow as much space on the stem to drink in the water.
3. Removing most of the leaves from the stems, particularly below the water level, encourages water absorption and keeps the vase from being too crowded. It also helps retard bacterial growth that shortens the life of the flowers and makes the water smelly and cloudy.

Now it's time to decide how you want to arrange the flowers and in which container they'll look best. Get creative and look for options around the house. Mason jars, cream pitchers, tall vases, buckets or even watering cans make a statement.

Happy arranging!

Most Patriotic Yard Contest

We want to say THANK YOU to all of our wonderful winners who helped make Huntwick full of patriotism and pride for our nation. There were not enough yards for all of the awards but the Beautification Committee congratulates the following winners:

- John A. & Sharon D. Wertz (5414 Olympia Fields)
 - Scott Walters & Jessica Walker (13702 Balmore)
 - John & Shana Stibbard (5402 Olympia Fields)
 - Mark A. & Jennifer A. (Wyneken 13723 Balmore)
 - Michael & Beatrice Bunyan (5211 Westerham)
 - Patricia R. Kealy (5215 Westerham)
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Huntwick Women's Club

Join the Huntwick Woman's Club for an insightful, instructive, and transformational opportunity to gain proficiency in the secrets of organizing your home or special spaces. Naomi Brundrett of Charming Spaces will share her knowledge and expertise as a professional organizer and consultant. She has been serving Houston and the surrounding area and is highlighted on TheContainerStore.com and FindMyOrganizer.com to name a couple of websites. She is a member of id Inspired Organizer™ Network.

The meeting is scheduled at the Huntwick Club clubhouse (5300 Coral Gables Drive) on Thursday, October 17, 2024 at 9:30am when coffee and snacks will be offered. The business meeting with the speaker following starts at 10am. We hope to see you at this highly informative meeting.

Remember to bring a donation for our charity, NAM. We pass a basket at each meeting to provide support for NAM (Northwest Assistance Ministries).