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# AMBERWOOD

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AMBERWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## WINTER PREPARATION CHECKLIST

When wintry weather blows, will your family be prepared? Take time now to review how prepared you and your family are. Preparing now will save you in the future.

### The Inside Story:

Household emergency supplies should include enough food, water and supplies to last four days without power or help. Check your home emergency kit against this basic checklist:

- Food that doesn't require heating or refrigeration, such as canned meats, soups, stews, cereal, and energy bars.
- Manual can opener
- Paper plates, cups and plastic utensils
- One gallon of water per person per day (allow enough for four days)
- Flashlights and batteries
- Battery-powered radio
- Battery-powered clock
- Cell phone
- First-aid kit
- Four-day supply of prescription medicines
- Blanket and cold-weather clothing for each family member
- Pet food and additional water for household pets

### On The Road:

Winter transportation can mean ice, snow, and hazardous roads. Road conditions can change in an instant. Before traveling, give cars a winter preparedness exam:

- Check antifreeze
- Check and replace older batteries

- Remember to keep the gas tank near full to avoid freezing water in the fuel line.
- Check tires and spare tire for proper inflation



Make sure automobiles contain the following emergency supplies:

- Bag of sand, road salt or non-clumping cat litter. The bag's extra weight means better traction, and the contents can be spread under slipping tires.
- Ice scraper
- Jumper cables
- Small shovel (to dig snow away from wheels, or scatter sand on roadway)
- Tire chains (every driver should practice putting them on)
- Flares or reflective triangle to warn other motorists if you break down.
- Blanket
- Flashlight and batteries
- Gallon jug of drinking water
- First aid kit
- When traveling by car, include emergency food and clothing for each traveler. Pack supplies in a backpack in case you need to abandon your car.

An emergency backpack should include:

- A jacket, hat, gloves and sturdy, snow-proof boots for each traveler.
- Nonperishable food
- Cell phone
- Money

Source: [www.organizedhome.com](http://www.organizedhome.com)

## New Traffic, Criminal Laws Go Into Effect September 1, 2009

HB 2730 is the DPS's Sunset Legislation, and many of the DPS-related bills this session were included in HB 2730. Notable traffic and criminal laws that go into effect on September 1 (unless otherwise indicated) include\*:

### Seatbelts:

HB 537 requires all occupants of a vehicle, no matter their age, to be secured by a safety belt, no matter where they are seated in the vehicle; changes the definition of a passenger vehicle to include a passenger van designed to transport 15 or fewer passengers including the driver; removes the current exemption for third-party Medicaid transportation provisions regarding the use of child passenger safety seats; and prohibits a motorcycle operator from carrying a passenger under the age of 5 unless the child is seated in a sidecar attached to the motorcycle.

SB 61 amends the existing statute regarding child passenger safety seats. The bill requires any child younger than 8 years of age be restrained in an approved child passenger safety seat unless the child is at least 4 feet, 9 inches in height. The fine is no more than \$25 for a first offense and \$250 for a second offense. The law creates a new court cost for conviction of an offense under this section to be collected and used by TxDOT to buy safety seats for low income families. The law becomes effective September 1, 2009, but tickets for this offense cannot be issued until June 1, 2010. Police officers are allowed to issue a warning before that date.

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## KEY CONTACTS:

**Thomas Witt**  
**President**

**James Havis**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Mike Rubsam**  
**Vice President**

## Do you want to get involved?

### Join a COMMITTEE!

Contact the chairperson below to join or just stop in at the next scheduled meeting!

#### Covenant Committee

Chairperson: Mrs. Vicki Rubsam.....295-4304  
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#### Beautification Committee

Chairperson: Ms. Kay Rush.....262-0527  
.....krush@txfleetfuel.com

#### Newsletter Committee

Chairperson: Mr. Sonny Tamayo.....262-7246  
.....jay2fair@msn.com

#### Safety Committee

Chairperson: Mr. Duane Ammerman.....789-2493  
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Co-Chair: Mr. Richard Vasquez.....426-4248

#### Social Committee

Chairperson: Ms. Linda Freeman.....ladybfree04@gmail.com

#### Website Committee

Webmaster: Mr. Chris Villanueva.....484-5133  
.....chrisv@texas.net  
Co-Chair: Ms. Linda Freeman  
Co-Chair: Ms. Peggy Farrell

#### RealManage Property Management

Manager: Ms. Jodie Walker.....866-473-2573  
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## FLU SEASON INFORMATION

(Below are excerpts from the latest news online)

### Virus characteristics

Pandemic H1N1/09 virus



The virus is a novel strain of influenza. Existing vaccines against seasonal flu provide no protection. A study at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, published in May 2009, found that children had no preexisting immunity to the new strain, but that adults, particularly those over 60, had some degree of immunity. Children showed no cross-reactive antibody reaction to the new strain, adults aged 18 to 64 had 6-9%, and older adults 33%. It was also determined that the strain contained genes from five different flu viruses: North American swine influenza, North American avian influenza, human influenza, and two swine influenza viruses typically found in Asia and Europe.

In July 2009, the CDC noted that most infections were mild, similar to seasonal flu, recovery tended to be fairly quick, and deaths to date had been only a fraction of the number of people who die every year from seasonal flu. The CDC noted that the 1918 flu epidemic which killed hundreds of thousands in the United States was preceded by a wave of mild cases in the spring, followed by more deadly waves in the autumn. Researchers from the University of Maryland mixed swine flu and seasonal flu and concluded that the swine flu was unlikely to get more lethal.

### Symptoms and severity

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to other influenzas, and may include a fever, coughing (typically a "dry cough"), headaches, pain in the muscles or joints, sore throat, chills, fatigue, and runny nose. Diarrhea, vomiting, and neurological problems were also reported in some cases. People at higher risk of serious complications include people age 65 and older, children younger than 5 years old, children with neurodevelopmental conditions, pregnant women, and people of any age with underlying medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, or a weakened immune system (e.g., taking immunosuppressive medications or infected with HIV). Most hospitalizations in the U.S. were people with such underlying conditions, according to the CDC.

### In adults

In adults, shortness of breath, pain in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness or confusion may require emergency care. In both children and adults, persistent vomiting or the return of flu-like symptoms that include a fever and cough may require medical attention. Dr. Thomas R. Frieden, Director of the CDC, suggests that people with "underlying conditions" who come down with flu symptoms should consult their doctors first before visiting an "emergency room full of sick people," since it "may actually put them in more danger." This was especially true of pregnant women.

### In children

As with the seasonal flu, certain symptoms may require emergency medical attention. In children, signs of respiratory distress include blue lips and skin, dehydration, rapid breathing, excessive sleeping, seizures, and significant irritability including a lack of desire to be held. In children without chronic health problems, it is a warning sign if they seem to recover from the flu, but then relapse with a high fever, Dr. Frieden added. The relapse may be bacterial pneumonia, which must be treated with antibiotics.

### Prevention

The Mayo Clinic suggested personal measures to avoid seasonal flu infection were applicable to the 2009 pandemic: vaccination when available, thorough and frequent hand-washing, a balanced diet with fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean protein, sufficient sleep, regular exercise, and avoiding crowds. The leading health agencies stressed that eating properly cooked pork or other food products derived from pigs would not cause flu.



# NEW TRAFFIC, CRIMINAL LAWS GO INTO EFFECT SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 ...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## Driving:

HB 55 makes it illegal to use a wireless communication device in a school zone unless the vehicle is stopped or a hands-free device is used. Cities or counties wanting to enforce this law must post a sign at the beginning of each school zone to inform drivers that using a wireless communications device is prohibited and the operator is subject to a fine. It is a defense to prosecution if the operator was making an emergency call.

HB 2730 increases the penalties for driving while intoxicated with a child passenger by adding an automatic driver license suspension period for first-time offenders and an increased suspension period for repeat offenders. The driver license reinstatement fee for completing an education program will rise from \$50 to \$100.

For a recorded sound bite on this topic, call 512-424-2606. Read about DPS online at [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us).

HB 2730 allows a new Texas resident to operate a vehicle without a Texas license for 90 days instead of the current 30. (This provision went into effect June 19, 2009.)

HB 2012 creates two new punishment enhancements: a Class B misdemeanor if a person drives with a suspended license and without insurance; and a class A misdemeanor if the person driving without insurance or a valid driver license has an accident and someone is seriously injured or dies as a result of that accident.

SB 129 authorizes neighborhood electric vehicles (NEVs) to be operated on roads with a posted speed limit of 45 miles per hour or less. The bill authorizes driver license holders to operate NEVs without having a motorcycle endorsement, clarifies that drivers and passengers in such vehicles are not required to wear helmets and specifies that enclosed three-wheeled vehicles as described in the bill are authorized to operate in preferential lanes.

## Driver License:

HB 2730 requires that all applicants under the age of 18 take the driving skills exam to receive a driver license. The law also requires that a provisional driver license (under 18) or instruction permit expire on an individual's 18th birthday, removes the requirement that a provisional driver license or instruction permit be renewed annually and increases the fee for those licenses from \$5 to \$15. It also extends the current phase-two restrictions for holders of a graduated driver license from 6 months to 1 year. These restrictions include limited night driving and limits the number of passengers.

HB 2730 and HB 339 restrict all drivers under the age of 18 from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle.

HB 339 increases the total hours of behind-the-wheel driving instruction a teen receives from 14 to 34 after TEA develops criteria for curriculum. (Goes into effect May 1, 2010)

SB 1317 creates a six-hour driver education course required for driver license applicants 18 years of age or older. It also mandates that applicants 25 or under must submit to an approved driver education course. (Goes into effect March 1, 2010.)

For a recorded sound bite on this topic, call 512-424-2606. Read about DPS online at [www.txdps.state.tx.us](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us).

SB 328 gives DPS the power to suspend a minor's driver license if they fail a breath or blood alcohol test while operating a watercraft. Chapter 524 of the Transportation Code also clearly defines the suspension period for an individual who was under the age of 21 at the time when the offense of boating under the influence or driving under the influence of alcohol occurred. The law also increases the reinstatement fee for a license suspended under sections 49.04-49.08, Penal Code from \$50 to \$100.

HB 2730 increases the driver license sanction from a one-year CDL license disqualification to a lifetime disqualification if a person uses a motor vehicle to transport, conceal or harbor an alien. If a child is engaged in conduct involving a severe form of trafficking persons, a judge at a juvenile hearing is required to order the juvenile's driver license or permit to be suspended.

HB 2730 prohibits DPS from issuing a driver license or identification card to a person who has not established a domicile in Texas. The law specifies that an applicant may receive a driver license at a post office box only if the applicant's residence address has also been provided, with some exceptions.

## Crime:

HB 558 allows minors to be charged with public intoxication.

HB 2386 allows courts to immediately seal juvenile criminal records if the juvenile successfully completes a drug court program, or another special program ordered by the court.

HB 1282 makes it a Class B misdemeanor to steal a driver license, commercial driver license or personal identification.

SB 554 makes it illegal to own or possess

dog-fighting equipment and establishes that such equipment and property where dogs are found to be engaged in dog fighting is contraband and is subject to forfeiture. The law also makes dog-fighting subject to the elevated penalties authorized in the Texas Penal Code, Section 71.02(a), in an effort to deter organized criminal activity.

HB 1813 makes it a third-degree felony to tamper with forensic, medical, chemical, toxicological and ballistic reports, as well as reports of certification, inspection or maintenance of instruments used to examine or test physical evidence. (Currently, someone who does this can only be charged with a state jail felony.)

HB 358 allows law enforcement authorities to store only a small part of gambling machines that have been seized, instead of storing the whole machine. They would be able to remove and store just the computer chips in gambling machines, which are the core of the machines and contain the information necessary for prosecutions to go forward.

## Registered Sex Offenders:

SB 689 restricts Internet usage by certain registered sex offenders, and requires registered sex offenders to provide information about their e-mail addresses when they register.

## Motorcycles, Etc.:

Senate Bill 1967 requires that applicants for an original class M license or class A, B or C driver license (including commercial driver licenses and permits) with authorization to operate a motorcycle, provide evidence of completion of an approved motorcycle operator training course. It also repeals the helmet exemption sticker program. Current law requires a person be covered with a minimum of \$10,000 in health insurance for injuries incurred in a motorcycle accident to be eligible for an exception for the offense of operating or riding a motorcycle without a helmet. As of Sept. 1, the minimum amount is removed. The bill requires the Texas Department of Insurance to prescribe a standard proof of health insurance for issuance to persons who are at least 21 years of age and covered by an applicable health insurance plan. The law also increases the penalty for failure to yield the right-of-way if there is a crash that results in injury to a person other than the motorcycle operator.

\* Please keep in mind that this is not a complete list of all laws passed in the past legislative session.

Source: Texas DPS

**Amberwood is a deed restricted subdivision. If any homeowner requires a copy of the Bylaws/Deed Restrictions, please contact RealManage. RealManage also asks that all homeowners update their contact information and mailing addresses by contacting RealManage (contact information listed on page 2).**



# RECIPE CORNER

## Almond Turkey Casserole

### Ingredients:

- 2 cans condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tbsp chopped onions
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp white pepper
- 5 cups cubed, cooked turkey
- 3 cups cooked rice
- 4 celery ribs, chopped
- 1 can of sliced water chestnuts, drained
- 1 cup of sliced almonds

### Topping:

- 1 and 1/2 cups crushed butter-flavored crackers
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds

### Preparation:

1. In a large bowl, combine the soup, mayonnaise, sour cream, onion, lemon juice, salt and pepper.
2. Stir in the turkey, rice, celery, water chestnuts and almonds.
3. Transfer to a greased 13 inch x 9 inch x 2 inch baking dish.
4. Combine topping ingredients; sprinkle over turkey mixture.
5. Bake, uncovered for 35 to 40 minutes at 350 degrees F or until bubbly and golden brown.

## Pineapple Chicken Fajitas

### Ingredients:

- 2 lbs boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into strips
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 medium green bell pepper, 1 medium red bell pepper and 1 medium yellow bell pepper cut into thin strips
- 1 medium onion cut into thin wedges
- 2 tbsp fajita seasoning mix
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tbsp honey
- 1 tbsp dried parsley
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup unsweetened pineapple chunks, drained
- 8 flour tortillas, warmed

### Preparation:

1. In a large non-stick skillet cook the chicken in the olive oil for 4 to 5 minutes.



2. Add the bell peppers and onion and cook for another 4 to 5 minutes stirring occasionally.
3. In a bowl, combine the seasoning mix and water; stir in the honey, parsley, garlic powder and salt. Stir mixture into the skillet.
4. Add the pineapple, and cook for another 1 or 2 minutes, or until the chicken juices run clear and the vegetables are tender.
5. Place the chicken mixture on one side of the tortilla, and fold the tortilla over the filling.

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