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AMBERWOOD

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF AMBERWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

AVOIDING CONFLICT WITH NEIGHBORS

We all can just get along. The key? Communication. It's often the best way to prevent and resolve conflict before it reaches the legal system. You don't have to be friends or spend time together to achieve a peaceful coexistence, but you should try to be a good neighbor and follow these tips:

Say hello. At the mailbox, while walking the dog or when you see a moving van arrive, introduce yourself. Learn your neighbor's names and regularly offer a friendly greeting.

Provide a heads up. If you're planning a construction project, altering your landscaping or hosting a big party, contact your neighbors beforehand.

Do unto others. Treat neighbors as you would like to be treated. Be considerate about noise from vehicles, stereos, pets, etc.

Know your differences. Make an effort to understand each other. Differences in age, ethnic background and years in the neighborhood can lead to different expectations or

misunderstandings.

Consider the view. Keep areas that others can see presentable.

Appreciate them. If the neighbors do something you like, let them know. They'll be pleased you noticed, and it'll be easier to talk later if they do something you don't like.

Stay positive. Most people don't try to create problems. If a neighbor does something that irritates you, don't assume it was deliberate.

Talk honestly. Tolerance is important, but don't let a real irritation go because it seems unimportant or hard to discuss. Let your neighbors know if something they do annoys you.

Be respectful. Talk directly to your neighbors if there's a problem. Gossiping with others can damage relationships and create trouble.

Listen carefully. When discussing a problem, try to understand your neighbor's position and why he or she feels that way.

POLICING AFTER YOUR DOG

As many of us have discovered unexpected surprises in our yards, on sidewalks, and common areas, dog waste is an ongoing problem for Amberwood. We are once again requesting pet owners pick up dog waste to improve our neighborhood's appearance and retain our healthy environment. Below is an edited article from USA Today on the potential impact to our environment and health. If you are a pet owner, we would appreciate your cooperation to police after your dog.



Tom Witt
Amberwood HOA - Vice President

Dog Waste Poses Threat
by Traci Watson, USA Today

For as long as the dog has been man's best friend, dog waste has posed a menace to man's nose and foot. Now science has revealed a more unsavory truth: It's an environmental pollutant.

In the mid-1990s, scientists perfected methods for tracking the origin of nasty bacteria in streams and seawater. From Clearwater, FL to Arlington, VA to Boise, ID the trail has led straight to the hunched-up dog -- and to owners who don't pick up after their pets. Many dog lovers are in denial about their pooches' leavings. But researchers have named the idea that areas used by dogs pump more bacteria into waterways -- the "Fido hypothesis."

Dogs are only one of many fixtures of suburban America that add to water pollution. Lawn fertilizers, rinse water from driveways and motor oil commonly end up in streams and lakes. But unlike those sources, dogs generate disease-causing bacteria that can make people sick. It doesn't take a Ph.D to figure out that dog do is nasty. But it took science to determine how nasty it is.

From mutt to blue-blooded champion, all dogs harbor so-called coliform bacteria, which live in the gut. The group includes E.coli, a bacterium that can cause disease, and fecal coliform bacteria, which spread through feces. Dogs also carry salmonella and giardia. This wouldn't matter if pet dogs were as rare as pet chinchillas. But four in 10 U.S. households include at least one dog, according to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association.

Those numbers add up to a lot of kibble. That wouldn't matter if all dog owners also owned a pooper-scooper. But several studies have found that roughly 40% of Americans don't pick up their dogs' feces (women are more likely to do so than men).

Amberwood Community Website

<http://amberwoodhomeowners.org>

http://amberwoodhomeowners.org/classifieds/1_Kyle/



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Jodie Walker

RealManage

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1-866-473-2573



KEY CONTACTS:

Ray Bryant
President

Diane Hervol
Secretary/Treasurer

Thomas Witt
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

Co-Chair: Mrs. Frances Witt.....295-4651
.....thomaslwitt@austin.rr.com

Co-Chair: Ms. Judy Moss.....504-3475
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Beautification Committee

Chairperson: Ms. Kay Rush.....262-0527
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Newsletter Committee

Chairperson: Mr. Sonny Tamayo.....262-7281
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Safety Committee

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Social Committee

Co-Chair: Ms. Linda Freeman.....ladybfree04@gmail.com
Co-Chair: Mr. Gary Rush.....262-0527
.....kgsagebrush@aol.newscom

Website Committee

Webmaster: Mr. Chris Villanueva.....484-5133
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Co-Chair: Ms. Linda Freeman

Co-Chair: Ms. Peggy Farrell.....576-8775
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RealManage Property Management

Manager: Ms. Jodie Walker.....866-473-2573
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ASSESSMENT PAYMENTS FOR 2011

As a reminder, assessments for 2011 are staying the same as what they were for 2010. **The assessment payment for 2011 is \$330, effective January 1st.** Residents have until February 28th to make their assessment payment before any late fees are applied. Please also be reminded that accounts that remain unpaid after 120 days are sent to the attorney for collection efforts at the owner's expense. Please remember to submit timely payments for the benefit of all concerned.

Automatic Payment Withdrawals

You can eliminate the need to write checks, the trouble of late fees incurred when a check is lost in the mail, and save on postage and legal fees due to delinquent accounts by signing up for automatic electronic payment withdrawals. Just visit the Resident Services tab at www.realmanage.com and sign up today. There is no cost for this service which benefits all by providing added convenience and eliminating hassle. In addition, the more homeowners who sign up for electronic payments, the more money the HOA can save by not having to send past due statements and collection notices which are not required when an owner is on electronic payment withdrawal. Sign up today at www.realmanage.com.

Gold Card Club

Over the years, you have made many contributions to the children and schools of our community. Now, Hays CISD wants to say, "Thank You."

WELCOME!

The Gold Card Club invites residents of Hays CISD to become members at no charge if you are:

- 60 years of age or older
- Retired from your primary source of income
- A resident of Hays CISD

BENEFITS:

- Free admission to all Hays CISD cultural events such as plays, musicals and concerts
- Athletic events
- Lunch at regular adult prices at any district cafeteria
- Use of school libraries
- Free notary service

TO JOIN:

- Fill out the application form
- Return the completed application to Hays CISD Central Admission Office, 21003 Interstate 35 in Kyle
- Upon receipt of your application, a non-transferrable membership card will be given to you.

If you have any questions, please call 268-2141.

