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Spring Meadow

A PUBLICATION OF THE SPRING MEADOW ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.
www.springmeadowestates.net

Manager's Corner



I want to welcome all to a great new year and all new residents to the Spring Meadow Estates Community. The community is developing nicely, with 97 homeowners. As a homeowner in Spring Meadow Estates, you are automatically a member of the homeowners' association and, as such, are able to enjoy planned community living at its best. Some of the advantages of planned community living include community activities, the enhancement of property values and the enforcement of protective standards.

A big thank you goes out to all committee volunteers. I would like to recognize each and every one of you for your service to the community. It is understood that you are volunteering your time, ideas and in order to pull the community together in friendship and a sense of family.

Please allow us to offer some important reminders regarding your community:

- Trash receptacles are to be placed out no sooner than 6:00pm the evening before the day of collection, or on the day of collection only. They must then be stored out of public view. Your neighborhood will look much better with the cooperation of all residents.
- Lastly, the holiday décor during the holiday season was beautiful and was enjoyed by all. However, the holidays are now over, and all holiday decorations, including lights on the home, should be removed from the residence in the near future. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

We hope everyone is utilizing the Spring Meadow Estates PremierConnect™ website (www.premiermgtconnect.com/springmeadow) to stay up-to-date on neighborhood news, information and your account status. If you need registration information for PremierConnect™, please feel free to call Account Services at the number below.

We are happy to offer a new Customer Service phone number which is available to you during normal business hours. Below you will find both the new Customer Service number and the Maintenance Emergency phone number. Please keep these available for future reference.

Account Services from 8:00am – 5:30pm 877-378-2388

Maintenance Emergency (24/7) - 214-871-9700 ext 350

Regards,

Caroline Guerra
Director of Management
877-378-2388
caroline.guerra@premiercommunities.net



A Word from Your Safety Committee

As the economy continues its slow recovery, it seems like the crime has increased in the town of Sachse. It has not yet hit any of the residents in our development. So let's keep it that way. Make sure you get your mail out of the box when you get home and only put the outgoing mail in the box in the morning. (There was a case in the subdivision next to ours of mail being taken out of the mailbox) Keep the garage doors closed. If you notice any suspicious vehicles/people in our subdivision, please report it to the Sachse Police department and they will have an officer check it out without you being identified as the reporting party. Report any misconduct to the Sachse Police.



If you are not yet receiving the E-watch information and would like to be a part of the Watch Community, please contact me via email at gosmandewitt@yahoo.com and I will get you enrolled or you can contact the Sachse PD directly.

George Dewitt
Safety Chair
gosmandewitt@yahoo.com



Spring Meadow Estates Homeowners Association is a neighborhood that thrives on its sense of togetherness, which is what makes this community feel like home. Community groups or committees are the best way to achieve that cohesiveness. Currently, we have four committees you can join and we will add more as the number of residents increase.

- **The Social Committee** initiates and plans social events for the community. Activities range from holiday parties, community barbecues, playgroups, special events, etc. Plan to meet your neighbors and let Premier help you get started!
- **The Safety Committee** works with the local police department to help form a neighborhood watch. Additionally, the committee works with the city to address other safety concerns such as traffic flow, speed enforcement, or other civil issues.
- **The Communication Committee** works closely with other committees, especially the Social Committee, and reports their activities and other community events to the rest of the neighborhood. The Committee also assists with the community newsletter and directory, welcomes new neighbors, and updates the community on important information.
- **The Landscape Committee** is the "eyes" of the community and advises Premier of any landscaping needs. We realize that you are the first person to notice if the landscaping looks great, if a sprinkler head needs repairing, or if the entry lights need replacing. The Landscape Committee can also implement a "Yard-of-the-Month" contest or other related activities.

If you are interested in participating in one of the committees, contact the Director of Management, Caroline Guerra via email at caroline.guerra@premiercommunities.net.

After you sign-up, you will receive updated information such as contacts or meeting times.

A Word from Your Communications Committee



The job of communications chairperson is to keep everyone informed about what is going on in our community and within Sachse. There are many tools that make this job easier. We all know about the community website of www.springmeadowestates.net and the website provided by Premier Communities, www.premiermgtconnect.com/springmeadow, but there are also other sources for keeping residents informed. Twitter is one such resource. For those unfamiliar, Twitter is a social networking tool that allows people to post messages, called tweets, and have them sent to anyone who chooses to receive them from a particular person. This is referred to as 'following.' Messages are delivered as text messages on your mobile phone, but you can also see them by going to www.twitter.com. The Sachse Police department uses twitter (and several other similar services) to tweet to its followers with crime information in the area. For instance, if a car gets broken into, followers will know immediately and know to look out for themselves if it's close by. I have setup a twitter account for Spring Meadow Estates, as well. This will be used to broadcast any pertinent information for residents regarding community events or news items.



If you don't already use Twitter, it's simple to sign up. Just go to www.twitter.com, click 'sign up now' and fill in your name and email. Once that is done, click on 'Mobile' from the home page and fill in your mobile phone number. You're all set! Now you add the people you want to follow. Click on 'find people' from the home page and enter **SpringMeadowHOA and/or SachsePD**. This is just one more avenue for keeping informed about our community! If you have trouble signing up, I'll do my best to help. Just email me at darin@springmeadowestates.net with any questions.

Darin Petersen, Communications Chair
darin@springmeadowestates.net

Things to Plant in January



Flower Plants: Alyssum, Butterfly Weed, Calendula, Candytuft, Cornflower, Dianthus, Daisy (African, Michaelmas & Painted), Gallardia, Liatris, Edging Lobelia, Nasturtium, Ornamental Cabbage and Kale, Pansy, Phlox paniculata, Snapdragon, Stock.

BULBS: Allium, Alstroemeria, Amarcrinum, Canna, Crinum, Dahlia, Daylily, Gladiolus, Hosta, Hyacinth, Hymerocallis (Spider Lily), Liriope, Monkey Grass, Rainlily, Society Garlic, Tigridia, Tulip.



Crime Has No Address



Isn't it strange that we all feel so comfortable in our safety? I am sure all of you know your next door neighbor. It is said that: "Love thy neighbor." Why? So that your neighbor does not break into your home or your car window.

Well, your neighbor may be loving and good, but there are strangers who may not love us or our community.

Construction workers are frequently commuting in and out of our community. Due to the bad economy, there may be few more predators, some bad social elements who are watching us or our children or for a chance to just take advantage of our unawareness.

The bad people always have a plan. Do you? Join the safety committee and help protect your community!!

Safety and Crime Prevention

To keep our neighborhood safe and low in crime, please follow these tips:

- Always keep your garage door closed when you are not in the garage. It takes only a moment for someone to steal from an open garage or gain access to the inside of your home.
- Park vehicles in the garage. Plan for a Spring cleaning day to throw away or give away items stored in your garage to make space for your vehicles. Take advantage of the community wide garage sale held twice a year.
- If you cannot park vehicles in the garage, ensure that they are locked at all times and make sure your garage door opener is out of sight!
- Remove any visible items of value from your vehicles parked outside. A thief will break a window just for small change, a GPS device, clothing (especially if it appears clothing is hiding other items), radio/stereo, cell phone, laptop, tools, etc.
- If items must be stored in the car, put them in the trunk, out of sight.
- If items must be stored in the bed of a truck, invest in a locked tool box or cover to hide valuable items.
- Turn your porch light on at night. Add more lighting to the outside of your home. Use motion-sensor lighting. It is especially good to install a motion detector on the outside of your home that will turn on lights inside your home.
- Do not place valuable items on the outside of your home, such as expensive planters and yard items. Ensure that your children's bicycles and skateboards are brought inside each evening.

If you see anything suspicious, day or night, please call 911 immediately.

Cold Weather Emergencies



'Tis the season to FREEZE! As January begins, we experience more cold winter days and nights. Excessive exposure to cold can cause life-threatening emergencies.

To help you be aware of the dangers of cold exposure, here is some important information for you and your family.

Cold-related Emergencies

Cold injuries can occur whenever the air temperature is below freezing (32 degrees F.).

Frostnip

*Freezing just on the skin surface is called FROSTNIP. Frostnip involves the freezing of water on the skin surface. The skin looks red and maybe gets swollen. Even though it is painful, there is usually no damage after the area is reheated. Repeated frostnip in the same area can cause the skin to dry out, making it sensitive and crack. First Aid for frostnip consists of gently warming the affected area by putting it next to a warm body part, (like your armpit), or by blowing warm air on the area. Do not rub the area and be aware that frostnip may be the first sign that FROSTBITE may be next.

Frostbite

*Freezing that goes deeper into the skin and into the flesh is called FROSTBITE and it occurs when the temperature drops below freezing. Frostbite affects mainly the feet, ears, hands, and nose. These body parts don't have large heat producing muscles and are not near the body's own heat-generating sources. If untreated, frostbite complications can be gangrene and amputation.

Newsletter Advertising

Ad Size	<u>Approx. Dimension</u>	Resident Cost:	Non Resident Cost:
Business Card Size	3.5" x 2"	\$20.00	\$40.00
1/4 pg.	3.75" x 5"	\$40.00	\$80.00
1/2 pg.	5" x 7.5"	\$60.00	\$120.00
Full Page	10" x 7.5"	\$80.00	\$160.00

For more information or to obtain a form, please contact Gracette Rivera at gracette.rivera@premiercommunities.net.

SPRING MEADOW ESTATES HOA
C/O PREMIER COMMUNITIES MANAGEMENT COMPANY
3102 OAK LAWN AVE, STE 202
DALLAS, TX 75219

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WWW.PREMIERCOMMUNITIES.NET
TELEPHONE: (214) 871-9700
FAX: (214) 889-9980

Director of Management-

Caroline Guerra
(877) 378-2388
caroline.guerra@premiercommunities.net

Accounting / Billing questions-

(877) 378-2388
accountservices@premiercommunities.net

Amenities/Reservations Questions-

reservations@premiercommunities.net

Resale & Refinance Certificates-

(888) 679-2500
www.premiercommunities.net/resale.html

After hours Property Emergency number-

(214) 871-9700 ext. 350

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Chicken Tortilla Soup

Ingredients

- 6 tablespoons vegetable oil
- (6 inch) corn tortillas
- coarsely chopped 6 cloves garlic
- minced 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 (29 ounce) can diced tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 3 bay leaves
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 5 boneless chicken breast halves, cooked

Directions

- In a large stock pot heat oil. Add tortillas, garlic, cilantro and onion. Saute for 2 to 3 minutes.
- Stir in tomatoes and bring to a boil. Add cumin, chili powder, bay leaves and chicken stock. Return to a boil, reduce heat to medium and add salt and cayenne. Simmer for 30 minutes, remove bay leaves and stir in chicken. Heat through and serve.



The ability of soups to warm and nourish our bodies, and to lift our spirits, is both remarkable and universal. There are few foods which make more economical use

of raw ingredients; a distinction which has endeared them to anyone who's ever had to feed customers, a large family, a threshing crew, or even an army on a limited budget. And yet, while the frugal housewife has been the great innovator in worldwide soup making, soup may also be a sophisticated or even extravagant item of haute cuisine.

Did you know that Americans sip over 10 BILLION bowls of soup every single year! That's a lot of soup!

- Every year, 99% of all American homes buy soup - turning it into a \$5 billion business.
- In the late 1700s, apparently the French King was so enamored with himself that he had his royal chefs create a soup that would allow him to see his own reflection in the bowl. But as a result, consomme (clear broth) was born.