



# SPRING MEADOW ESTATES NEWS



WINTER 2007

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

## A WORD FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MANAGER - ALISHA HOSACK

Welcome to all new residents of Spring Meadow Estates! We currently have 50 Homeowners in our community, and are continuing to grow into the New Year! I am your Association Manager, Alisha Hosack, available to assist you in any way possible, to aid in creating and maintaining a cohesive community.

As I continue to drive the community, I notice primarily lawn maintenance concerns. We want to ensure a manicured look for the community; therefore, removal of all grass and weeds from flower beds and tree wells is greatly appreciated. Also, if any plant material has struggled with disease or has died, please turn your attention toward extracting and replacing with like plant material. To satisfy the removal of a tree, replacement should be a comparable tree of such size, number, and location.

The Architectural Control Committee, working in conjunction with Premier Communities, has worked on many modification requests over the last couple of months. All modification requests have a 30 day turnaround, however the ACC typically reviews with approval or disapproval within a couple of weeks; this is no small feat. Thank you to the committee for their attention and commitment to the needs of this community! We would like to remind all homeowners who are considering an exterior modification to their home, including major landscape changes, to first submit an ACC request form. Please submit your proposed request with enough time for the ACC to review.



There are several components that make for a tranquil, safe and cohesive community. A few of these are:

- Landscaping and home maintenance - increases the value of your home and attracts desirable new homeowners to the community,
- Strong, informed and attentive Committees - strengthens the community as a whole, bringing neighbors together as family, and
- A management company who responds to homeowners in a timely and professional manner, with up-to-date information and answers to questions about your HOA.

The Communications Committee has constructed a fantastic community website, please visit us at [www.springmeadowestates.net](http://www.springmeadowestates.net). This includes the information such as: the Governing Documents of the HOA (aka CC&R's), prior newsletters, in case you are new to the community you can recap, or simply for your convenience of viewing online. Our dedicated Safety Committee has a link to post recent safety concerns and tips. In addition, we have a web board, and photos of community events and lots more!

If you have any questions, or concerns, we welcome your feedback. You can contact me directly at 214-451-5449 or through email at [Alisha.Hosack@PremierCommunities.net](mailto:Alisha.Hosack@PremierCommunities.net).



## Communications Update

Spring Meadow Estates HOA has a new community website: [www.springmeadowestates.net](http://www.springmeadowestates.net). The site was designed and built by a Spring Meadow Estates neighbor, Darin Petersen, so it'll definitely be kept up to date. By visiting the website you can see what's going on in our neighborhood, see pictures of past events and be on the neighborhood mailing list. There is a discussion board for posting neighborhood news and concerns. Local information about the Sachse Government is posted there, as well. Hopefully the website can serve as a central online meeting place for our neighborhood and do its part to help build a cohesive community. If you have a side business or trade and would like to advertise, there is a page for that too. It's free to put your business listing there and meant to allow neighbors to help neighbors. So, please visit our website. If you have suggestions for it or content that would be helpful to the neighborhood, you can email [darin@springmeadowestates.net](mailto:darin@springmeadowestates.net).



## PROTECTING YOUR HOME... AND YOUR FAMILY

In many cases of home burglaries, thieves enter the house through a door or window that was left unlocked. The fact is, thieves are "lazy," and many burglaries could be prevented by using simple strategies to deter them from attempting to enter your home. Keep in mind that there's more at stake than your possessions - a significant number of violent crimes that occur in the home are committed during household burglaries. The following are some tips to follow to protect your home - and your family - from burglars.

- Lock all doors and windows when you leave the house and when you go to sleep. Lock your garage door as well.
- Install a dead-bolt and/or a secondary locking system on doors that lead outside. Using a lock that can only be operated from the inside is an extra security measure.
- Remember that patio doors with glass panels can be especially vulnerable. Consider installing double-cylinder locks - the kind where you need a key to unlock both sides - so that a burglar can't enter your home simply by breaking the glass next to the lock. Also, insert a board in the bottom of the door, to prevent the door from sliding.
- Be suspicious of anyone who asks to enter your home for any type of "maintenance" reason. There are numerous cases of people impersonating electricians or gas line inspectors who turn out to be dangerous. Always demand to see an official company ID.
- Install peepholes or even wide-angle viewers in your doors.
- Fasten air conditioner units securely to the window sill or window frame; otherwise, burglars can too easily remove the unit and enter your home through the window.
- Replace burned out light bulbs quickly. Thieves like homes with inadequate lighting. Consider incorporating lighting into your landscaping or even installing floodlights to light the walls of your house.
- Keep trees and shrubs around doorways, windows and porches trimmed. The bushes that provide privacy also give burglars a place to hide. Dense shrubs can even make for a makeshift ladder, helping a thief into your home through a window.
- Get involved in a "neighborhood watch" group. Local police departments can provide you with information on how to establish a watch group in your neighborhood.
- Consider installing an alarm system.



### WHILE YOU'RE AWAY:

- Use random access timers that automatically change what time your lights go on and off each night. Or use a few inexpensive electronic timers - careful not to set them so that all of the lights go on and off together. Lighting patterns that vary appear more natural.
- Ask a neighbor to park his or her car in your driveway.
- Keep expensive items out of view from the yard or the street.
- Make arrangements to have your mail and newspapers picked up by a neighbor or "stopped" at the post office.
- Ask your next-door neighbors to call the police if they notice any suspicious activity. And leave a phone number where you can be reached in case of an emergency.



## Holiday Party Appetizers

### Teriyaki Chicken Wings

#### Wings:

- 2 dozen chicken wings, about 3 1/4 pounds, rinsed and patted dry
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Olive oil
- 1 tablespoon sesame seeds, toasted in a skillet over medium heat until lightly browned
- Leaves from 1/2 bunch fresh cilantro, chopped

#### Teriyaki Sauce:

- 1 cup low-sodium soy sauce
- 1 cup grapefruit juice
- 1/4 cup hoisin sauce
- 1/4 cup ketchup
- 3 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 fresh, hot red chili, halved
- 5 garlic cloves, halved
- 2-inch piece fresh ginger, smashed with the side of a large knife



Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Season the chicken wings with salt and pepper and drizzle a little olive oil on them to prevent sticking. Lay the wings in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes or until the skin gets crispy and the wings are cooked through.

Meanwhile, combine the teriyaki sauce ingredients in a large saucepan. Simmer over low heat and reduce until slightly thickened. Pour the sauce into a large bowl. Dump the wings into the bowl and toss to coat them with the sauce. Transfer to a serving platter and sprinkle with the sesame seeds and cilantro. Serve hot.

### Spicy Buffalo Onion Rings and Blue Cheese Dip

- Vegetable oil, for frying
- 4 eggs
- 5 cups 2 percent milk
- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 2 tablespoons cayenne pepper
- 1 teaspoon white pepper
- 2 teaspoons black pepper
- 2 teaspoons dry mustard
- 1 2/3 teaspoons salt
- 3 extra-large yellow onions
- 1 tablespoon Cajun spice mix (recommended: Paul Prudhomme's) Blue Cheese Dip, recipe below
- 1 carrot, sliced
- 1 stalk celery, sliced



Fill a large heavy saucepan with 2 to 3 inches of cooking oil and heat over medium-high heat. The oil temperature should be at 350 degrees F when you start frying.

In a large bowl, mix the eggs and milk; then add the flour and baking powder and mix thoroughly with a hand-held mixer. Strain the mixture to remove any lumps. Add more milk if you want a thinner crust. In a small bowl, mix the Cajun spice mix, cayenne pepper, white pepper, black pepper, dry mustard, and salt. Add this spice mixture to the batter. Cut the onions into thick slabs, dunk them in the batter, and fry them, in batches, in the oil until golden brown. Serve the onion rings with the Blue Cheese Dip, sliced carrot, and celery.

This recipe was provided by professional chefs and has been scaled down from a bulk recipe provided by a restaurant. The FN chefs have not tested this recipe, in the proportions indicated, and therefore, we cannot make any representation as to the results.

## **ALL I EVER NEEDED TO KNOW, I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN**

*Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand box at nursery school.*

These are the things I learned. Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you are sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw some and paint and sing and dance and play and work everyday.

Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out in the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why. We are like that.

And then remember that book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK! Everything you need to know is there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation, ecology, and politics and the sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all, the whole world, had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and clean up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.



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214-871-9700 ext. 350

## Auld Lang Syne?

Ever wonder where certain New Year's traditions come from? Why do we sing Auld Lang Syne and eat Black Eyed Peas? You might not leap off a chair and "jump" into the new year like they do in Denmark, but here are some fun ways the world celebrates the new year, and the reasons behind them.

"Auld Lange Syne," which means "old long since," referring to the good old days, stems from a traditional Scottish folk song written by Robert Burns. The tradition of singing this song at midnight stems from the British custom of ending all parties with a song, usually with everybody joining hands.

If you happen to be in Italy on New Years, beware of pots and pans fall-

ling from the sky. Italians throw these from open windows as a symbol of getting rid of the old, and making way for the new. Speaking of cleaning, in Japan, the New Year's preparations begin in December and don't finish until January 3rd, during which the entire house is cleaned and cards are sent to acquaintances with best wishes for the next year as well as thanks for the previous.

The traditional New Years meal in Japan would be long soba noodles, which are to be eaten without breaking them so as to ensure long life. In Spain the tradition is the eat 12 grapes at midnight, which recalls a celebration of a huge grape harvest at the turn of the century. They eat

one grape for each chime of the Plaza del Sol clock to commemorate luck in the past and hope for more in the future. Beans have been associated with good fortune since the Roman times, and eating black-eyed peas on New Years day evolved in the Southern U.S. as a tradition to ensure good luck in the next year. Cabbage is also believed to bring good luck, yet backward moving creatures like crayfish and lobster are to be avoided when everybody is concentrating on moving forward, not back.

