



The Hampton Hills Herald

HAMPTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SPECIAL
QUARTERLY
EDITION

SUMMER 2010

hamptonhills.net

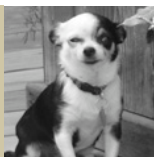
SUMMER GARDEN Q & A WITH NEIL SPERRY — TEXAS' MASTER GARDENER



For more than four decades, Neil Sperry has been dispensing horticultural advice on the radio, in the newspaper and through his books. Now he's offering tips and updates on Facebook. Check out his answers to North Texans' questions about chinch bugs in St. Augustine lawns, nutsedge and crape myrtle aphids.

2

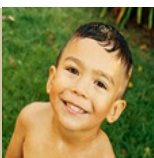
SAFETY TIPS FROM TEACUP — HHNA'S NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MASCOT



Every crime-prevention program relies on citizen participation to be truly effective because police can't be everywhere at once. Learn how you can be the eyes and ears of law enforcement in Hampton Hills, particularly when it comes to reporting incidents of gunfire.

3

NOTICIAS E INFORMACIÓN PARA RESIDENTES DE HAMPTON HILLS QUE SE HABLAN ESPAÑOL



Más de una cuarta parte de los residentes de Hampton Hills son predominantemente hablantes de español. Para mantener todos informados, esta versión condensada del boletín es sólo para ellos.

4



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Sizzling Season

Make an extra effort to stay connected with neighbors during the dog days of summer

As we enter into the hottest weeks of the summer season, be sure to watch out for your neighbors, especially those who are seniors, young children and people with special needs. Many of our older residents live alone and could suffer unnecessarily in the heat because they are isolated from friends and family or because they can't afford high energy bills.

If you have an air-conditioner, use it! If you don't have one, keep rooms well-ventilated with open windows and fans. Avoid strenuous activity, especially during the sun's peak hours (from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.). If you must do something strenuous, do it during the coolest part of the day (between 4 and 7 a.m.). Finally, taking a cool shower or a refreshing swim may be helpful, but avoid extreme temperature changes. Never take a shower immediately after becoming overheated — extreme temperature changes may make you ill, nauseated or dizzy.

BANKING INITIATIVE

The City of Dallas has teamed up with the FDIC, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and numerous banks and credit unions to make it possible for residents to establish savings, build a credit history, gain access to low-cost sources of credit and invest for the future. The "Bank on Dallas — It's Safe

Continued on Page 2

THIS NEWSLETTER SPONSORED BY



**Castro's
Tree Service**

Free Estimates
Jeff Castro

Ph#: (214) 337-7097

Cell#: (214) 725-1171

Fax#: (214) 337-5144

E-mail: jridefree@aol.com

"Insured
&
Bonded"

Specializing in: Tree Trimming, Cutting & Removal



GARDENING TIPS



Q & A with Neil Sperry

Q. My St. Augustine is yellowing and looking dry along my sidewalk and out in the middle of the lawn. What's wrong?

A. Suspect chinch bugs. They will show up in the hottest part of the yard and in the middle of the summer. The grass will appear dry, but watering won't bring it back around. You can see the BB-sized insects with white diamonds on their wings flitting around in the interface between dying and healthy grass. If left untreated, they are capable of killing the grass in large patches. Use a general-purpose turf insecticide to eliminate them. Check again in a week to be sure they're gone. They often reappear summer after summer in the same parts of the yard.

Q. How can I rid my yard of nutgrass?

A. It's actually not a grass, but a sedge, so conventional grass killers won't impact it. You can identify nutsedge by its triangular stems. If you roll them between your thumb and index fingers, if the weed is a true grass, its stems will be round. If you can feel a triangular shape you have a sedge. Use a herbicide that is specifically for the control of nutsedge such as Image or Manage. Read and follow the label directions carefully. Now is prime time for control.

Q. It looks like it's raining from my crape myrtle leaves. They're also shiny and sticky. What causes that?

A. That's the honeydew secretion from crape myrtle aphids. You'll see them congregated on the plants' leaves and new growth, generally from mid-summer on. By the time the leaves are completely coated in the residue, the populations will be severe. Treat at first evidence. Watch for shiny speckles of honeydew on the leaves as you mow and work in your landscape. Apply a labeled synthetic insecticide to control them. Left unchecked, the honeydew will give rise to black sooty mold growth which can, in turn, lead to premature leaf drop.

Gardening Tips are sponsored by T Square Gardening & Lawn professional lawn and garden services. Ask about seasonal specials. Call 972-514-9595 or e-mail TedThomas54@gmail.com.

President's message (continued)

and It's Smart" program offers residents no- or low-cost checking accounts with no minimum balance requirements and free money management training classes.

Research indicates that about 20 percent of Dallas households do not have a bank account. Members of those households may pay up to \$40,000 over a lifetime to simply cash checks. Plus, households with no safe place to keep money become a magnet for crime. To learn more, call 214-671-2265 or visit www.bankondallastexas.com.

BECOME A CITIZEN FORESTER

If you're interested in helping grow a greener Dallas, consider becoming a Citizen Forester. Supported by the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department, the city's Urban Forest Advisory Committee and the Trinity Blacklands Urban Forestry Council, the Citizen Forester Program teaches participants how to care for and preserve the city's trees and urban forests and make Dallas a more livable city through tree education, planting and preservation.

The program provides information about tree identification and physiology, proper planting and pruning techniques, insects and diseases, care and maintenance.

Classes begin on Aug. 21 and continue through November. Training consists of six class sessions, including three hours of classroom instruction and three hours of field work. Registration fee is \$75. To register (deadline is July 31) or for more information, call Eric Larner at 214-670-1509 or e-mail citizenforester@tx.rr.com.

WATCH YOUR CAR!

Because the highest number of cars tend to be stolen in July and August, July is "Watch Your Car Month."

Each year, an estimated 800 to 1,000 vehicles are stolen because the driver has left the keys inside the vehicle. It is against the law to leave your keys inside a vehicle while it is unattended. Fines can range from \$100 for leaving the key in the ignition to \$200 for leaving the engine running. Don't become another statistic! And don't risk getting a ticket. Always lock your vehicle and take your keys with you.

— Jon Garinn, HHNA President

UPCOMING

Around Oak Cliff...

BASTILLE ON BISHOP
Featuring mussels cook-off,
crepes stands, wine walk,
Vespa rally and more
July 14
6 to 10 p.m.
Bishop Arts District &
Environs
www.gooakcliff.org

**OAK CLIFF CULTURAL
CENTER OPENING**
Featuring local artists
August 12
1 p.m.
www.dallasculture.org

In Our Neighborhood...

**'LAST FRIDAY, FIRST
CALL' HAPPY HOUR**
Friday, July 30
6:30-8 p.m.
1510 Hollywood Ave.
RSVP: 214-621-9530

BULK TRASH
Second full week of August
Earliest set-out: **Aug. 5**

HHNA MEETING
Tuesday, August 10
7:30 p.m.
Rosemont Christian Church
Focus: National Night Out



SECURITY

Working from Home?
Protect yourself and your environment

Increasingly, businesses are allowing their employees to telecommute and entrepreneurs are running businesses from their homes. Thieves know that home offices are equipped with the latest computers, scanners, printers and other expensive equipment. If you're one of the many Hampton Hills residents who works from home, consider taking these steps to improve your safety:

- Hang window treatments that obstruct the view into your office;
- Keep bushes and trees trimmed so that you can see into your yard and neighbors can see your house;
- Install a wide-angle viewer in the door of your home office if it is detached from the main house;
- When meeting a client for the first time, arrange to meet in a public place, such as a coffee shop or library — not your home;
- Let someone know when and with whom you have appointments;
- Mark your equipment with identification numbers and keep an updated inventory list (with photos, if possible) in a home safe or a bank safe deposit box. Keep backups of your work in a secure, off-site location.
- Use the same caution with deliveries as businesses do. Do not allow a delivery person to enter your home, and make sure to ask for proper identification.

YARD OF THE MONTH

The Yard of the Month program promotes neighborhood unity and makes Hampton Hills a more appealing place to live.

In selecting the Yard of the Month, the following is considered:

- Curb appeal
- Well-maintained and manicured lawn
- Creativity
- Array of colors (plants, flowers and decorations)
- Seasonal additions

Winners receive a \$25 gift certificate to Calloway's Nursery in exchange for displaying the recognition sign in their front yard. Help promote the spirit of Hampton Hills by participating in Yard of the Month!

SAFETY

Teacup's
Tips

PARTNERS IN CRIME — PREVENTION

The next time you're joking about donut-eating cops, remember that these people have a lot more than pastry on their plates. They're responsible for investigating crimes, catching crooks, carrying out crash and fire investigations, patrolling the beat, enforcing traffic laws and helping motorists, looking for missing and lost children, answering domestic complaints, writing reports, interacting with other governmental and justice officials, testifying in court, attending public meetings and preventing crime. Every crime-prevention program relies on citizen participation to be truly effective. Police can't be everywhere at once. That's why they rely on us to be their eyes and ears. When criminals fear they're being watched and their activity is being reported, they're more likely to move on.

GUN CONTROL

Don't tolerate low-level lawlessness such as random gunfire. If you hear gunshots, call 911 immediately. Remember, police can't respond instantaneously. It takes time to dispatch a resident's call to police. It takes time for police to arrive on the scene. Police usually give random gunfire incidents a low priority, meaning they generally stay on the scene to investigate for a relatively short time, because offenders are highly unlikely to remain at a gunfire location long enough for the police to arrive. But the more residents who get involved by alerting police to such incidents, the better our chances of influencing the delivery of police services. The single biggest problem with random gunfire is under-reporting.

When gathering intelligence about gunfire, begin by ascertaining the type of gunfire. Random gunfire is distinguishable from other types of shooting incidents such as urban sniper attacks, gang shootouts, domestic homicides and revenge shootings because 1) it is strictly an outdoor activity; 2) it is not usually part of other criminal activity such as drug dealing, assaults or robberies; and 3) random gunfire shooters do not fire their weapons to intentionally injure or kill people. Learn to distinguish between random gunfire and other shooting incidents.

As the official mascot of the Hampton Hills Neighborhood Watch program, tiny Teacup is always looking for ways to help her neighbors improve their personal safety, home security and quality of life. For more safety tips, visit <http://teacuptips.blogspot.com>.