

Westchester RAP

Letter From The Board

Happy Holidays to all Westchester residents. We're looking forward to a great 2024. Check out the winners from the Holiday Decorating Contest on **page 3** of this edition of the RAP.

The WOC **Annual Meeting** is **Tuesday January 16, 2024**. Start time is 7:00 PM, sign-in starts 6:45 PM. All of our homeowners are encouraged to attend. Vote for the 2024 Board members, get neighborhood updates and visit with your neighbors. See you there!

Nottingham Elementary School in the Cafeteria 570 Nottingham Oaks Trail Sign-in starts @ 6:45 pm. Meeting starts @ 7:00 pm

Mr. Nick Kovics has stepped down from the Westchester Architecture committee (ACC) as of January 2024. We thank him heartily for his service in helping us all protect our investments in the neighborhood. We would love for a volunteer to step us and participate onto our ACC panel as his replacement. Please reach out to any trustee if you are interested. Our regulations require ACC members to be independent from the board.

The Constables of Precinct 5 had reached out to our board with warnings about possible patrolling rate increase. This change appears to not be happening. We are monitoring the situation and will keep the HOA informed on what we find.



Pool Pump Room Repairs

Our insurance claim for the failed and leaking water pipe in the pump room of the pool house has been serviced and completed. The pump room is cleaner and is in better shape than it has been in years. The 2024 Pool Schedule is in progress and will be available soon. Questions? Email: <u>pool@westchesterhouston.org</u>





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FRWILLIAMS

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Bloom Where You are Planted

Sow wildflower seeds October through December for spring blooms. Bluebonnet, coreopsis, Drummond phlox, gayfeather, gaillardia, Mexican hat, Indian paintbrush, larkspur, purple coneflower, scarlet flax, toadflax, winecup, and yarrow all do well in Houston.

Remove any mistletoe in trees by removing the twig or branch it is attached to as soon as you notice it. Mistletoe is a parasitic plant that takes nourishment away from the tree and will spread to other twigs and branches if not removed.

Plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, alyssum, dianthus/pinks, petunias, calendulas, and stock for winter color. For areas with shade try alyssum, petunias, cyclamen, English daisies, and Sweet William/wild blue phlox.

December and January are considered two of the very best months for planting new shrubs and trees except for those that might be freeze-tender. Continue to be prepared now through April for quick freezes. Make sure plants are well watered before the freezing temperatures begin.

If you want to move azaleas, camellias, or other shrubs to a different location, November and December are the best months to do that. You may need to remove some of the top growth to compensate for the shrub's loss of roots. In the case of azaleas and camellias this will affect their next bloom season but they will recover in the following year. A root stimulator can be applied.

Keep the transplanted shrubs moist in the coming weeks and months until they are reestablished.

Be prepared November through April for quick freezes. Watering in-ground plants before a freeze is beneficial, but never water during the freeze. Having a good layer of mulch helps preserve the warmth in the soil. Plan to cover plants that you know are freeze-tender to trap radiant heat from the ground and to help protect them from cold winds.

If desired apply a broadleaf weed killer spray containing 2,4-D to eliminate dandelions, clover, henbit, etc. Follow the label directions carefully. As chrysanthemums and other perennials finish blooming, cut the flower stalks to the ground to permit all the strength to be used in root growth.

Plant pansies, violas, snapdragons, alyssum, dianthus/pinks, petunias, calendulas, stock, lobelia, and ornamental cabbage and Kale, etc. for winter color. For areas with shade try alyssum, petunias, cyclamen, English daisies, Sweet William/wild blue phlox, and forget-me-Nots.

These tips are drawn from *Lone Star Gardening* by Neil Sperry and The River Oaks Garden Club's *A Garden Book for Houston and the Texas Gulf Coast*, 5th edition. The latter book advocates organic gardening practices but has a wealth of information specific to our area that is useful to all.

Yard Of the Month - Holiday Edition

Sponsored By: Keller Williams Realty – Memorial https://www.kwmemorial.com/

1st place: Xiomara and Jorge Nunez at 14610 Oak Bend



2nd Place: Dominique Salet at 14622 River Forest



3rd Place: Ruth and Craig Parks at 14603 Kellywood Ln







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Spring Branch Independent School District

Academic Calendar 2023-2024

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Grading Periods								
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9 Weeks								
Aug. 16 - Oct. 5:	36 days							
Oct. 10 - Dec. 20:	47 days							
Jan. 9 - Mar. 8:	42 days							
Mar. 18 - May. 30:	51 days							



Revised Calendar Approved by the Board of Trustees December 9, 2022. Staff development, grading windows, and early release dates set by Administration.