

FORREST LAKE TOWNHOMES



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 7

Paula Williamson, Editor (FLNewsletter@yahoo.com)

August 25, 2010

Election News

Three of the five Forrest Lake Board positions will be coming up for election this year. The Board members currently occupying these positions are **Elva Bryant**, **Stephanie Rush**, and **Earline Soteris**. They have indicated that they will seek re-election, but the Board is also required to extend this opportunity to other qualified homeowners who may wish to be candidates.

Such applications should have been submitted to the FL office by noon, **September 17, 2010**, with a short biography statement (not more than 100 words please) for inclusion on the ballot paper to be prepared by the Nominating Committee. Postings to this effect will be placed in the mailroom August 30th. The three Board positions for election are concerned primarily landscaping and grounds operations, leasing compliance, data base updates and building/facilities maintenance. These assignments require a willingness to devote considerable personal time to monitor day to day operations, oversight of details, and to achieve the required standards and goals.

What does it take to be a Board member?

The annual Board election will be coming up next month and there will be three of the five places up for review by homeowners. This seems a good time for me to comment on what is involved in being a Board member. The bylaws call on us to meet once a month to review, decide, and initiate action on a large number of activities and issues that impact our community. Details of this work are recorded in the monthly minutes that are published in the Newsletter, but they in no way cover the vast amount of work that Board members do every day in taking care of the multitude of details that make Forrest Lake function effectively. They are involved in a wide range of activities including Maintenance, Landscaping, Security, Social work, Contract negotiation, Financial administration, Employee Relations, Insurance, Social activities, Community outreach, Property Sales promotion, to name just a few. We have been asked many times why we do not turn this operation over to a property management company. However, in our very frequent conversations with other Community Boards, they have without exception told us that this has resulted in substandard performance, deteriorating services, and facilities. Despite the very heavy personal work load involved, your Board does not feel that a move to contract management would provide any advantage to Forrest Lake homeowners. Therefore, that leaves us to run our own show; but I feel that in the years ahead, we must look to other devoted people to help shoulder the load.

What does it take to be a Board member? Firstly, dedication. The demands in terms of time, ingenuity and attention to detail are great. Secondly, ability. This is no place for passengers, so good communication skills, computer familiarity, and one or more of a range of administration and business skills are necessary. Thirdly, the capacity to work with others, both inside and outside the Board, in defining and achieving common goals. Sounds like a tall order? Not really because, with the right attitude, it has always taken ordinary people to achieve extraordinary results, for it is people themselves who make things happen - not elaborate plans.

Who Can Vote?

To be eligible to vote in this election, one must be the **legal owner** of a Townhouse in Forrest Lake. If there is more than one owner of a single townhouse, the two or more owners must agree how to cast the one vote to which they are entitled. **One per townhouse**. If one person owns more than one townhouse, that person may cast a vote for each townhouse he/she owns. If a non-resident owner or any other owner wishes someone else to cast his or her vote, this is called a proxy. A proxy form appears below (on this page) and must be completed and returned to the Secretary (via the Office) by **Noon, Monday, October 18**. Proxies are valid for up to 11 months.

- **Note these Important Dates:**

Friday September 17	Deadline for Nominations
Monday October 4	Ballots mailed to all owners
Monday October 18	Noon Deadline for receipt of ballots and proxies
Wednesday October 20	Election Committee certifies and counts ballots
Thursday October 21	Annual General Meeting of Members – Announcement of election results
Monday November 1	New Board takes office

The Proxy Form:

TO: Secretary, Forrest Lake Townhouse Association

I, _____, being
(Please Print Name)

the deed holder and legal owner of FL
Townhouse # _____ do hereby designate

_____ to vote in
(Please Print Name)

My absence in the 2010 Board of Directors
Election and/or in the General Meeting of
Members to be held Thursday, October 21,
2010.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

**FORREST LAKE TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2010**

Present: Ken Barker, Earline Soteras, Elva Bryant, Stephanie Rush, and Bob Wharton

Earline Soteras called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

The Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Treasurer: There is an YTD loss of \$27,704. The majority stems from nonpayment of maintenance fees by homes in foreclosure. Below is the breakdown:

	<u>Budget YTD</u> 6/30/10	<u>Actual YTD</u> 6/30/10
Total Income	\$593,833	\$592,745
Total Expense	\$578,633	\$581,569
Net Surplus before Appropriations	\$ 18,200	\$ 11,176
Total Appropriations	\$ 38,880	\$ 38,880
Surplus to General Fund	\$(20,680)	\$(27,704)

The Budget for Fiscal 2011 has now been completed by the Board and is nearly ready for Audit Committee review. It shows a substantial increase over the Fiscal 2010 Budget with about 80% of the new Budget Cost being made up by just 8 items: Payroll, Security, Water & Sewer, Grounds Maintenance, Trash Removal, Material Costs, Roofing Fund and Cable TV. We now have five FL owners who have volunteered to serve on the required Audit Committee and will be passing details on the budget to them for their review by the end of July.

Maintenance: We have had two major projects over the past 30 days. One townhome had extensive exterior damage due to termites which repairs have been done. The other problem was a water line repair which cost about \$200 for repair; outside bids were approximately \$2,000. The work continues on the back of the townhomes.

Landscape: Landscaping contract is now due. As we will most likely renew with our current contractor, we are looking at other bids.

Security: It appears that the Luxor Park and Rancho Verde Apartments have been purchased by a new owner. We will have a new Security Officer starting on 7/16/2010. We are reviewing our camera system with the possibility of making some updates. We have had several visits by HPD due to disturbance calls.

New Business: We will be updating our homeowner's data base in the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectively submitted,

Bob Wharton, Secretary

Cleaning for a Reason

Melodye Martinelli

If you know any woman currently undergoing chemo, please pass the word to her that there is a cleaning service that provides FREE housecleaning - 1 time per month for 4 months while she is in treatment. All she has to do is sign up and have her doctor fax a note confirming the treatment. Cleaning for a Reason will have a participating maid service in her zip code area arrange for the service. This organization serves the entire USA and currently has 547 partners to help these women. It's our job to pass the word and let them know that there are people out there that care. Be a blessing to someone and pass this information along.

<http://www.cleaningforareason.org/>

Board Work and Responsibilities

Earline Soteras

One of the ways by which your Board has more efficiently handled community administration is by assigning oversight responsibility for various activities to individual Board members. This program has been in place for several years and enables informed attention to be focused and maintained on various key operations. The work requires considerable time and attention on the part of individual Board members, but has proved very valuable. In certain areas much of their good work becomes very evident but in other areas, although still very much present, it is not so visible.

As an example, I (**Earline Soteras**) am responsible for matters concerning Maintenance operations and, in the course of this, have meetings several times a week with the Maintenance Manager. During these meetings we will discuss and decide action on matters requiring immediate attention such as rescheduling work resources to address emergency situations like water leaks, sewer line breakages, etc, and many other requirements. As current Board Chairperson I also oversee the operations of the Board itself and the direction it is taking.

Similarly, Board member **Elva Bryant** is responsible for Grounds operations and works closely with the Landscaping contractor on routine grounds maintenance operations, seasonal planning, tree and shrub replacement and the changes in overall appearance required to maintain good "curb appeal" for our community.

With much less visibility, but still of vital importance, is the work of Board member **Stephanie Rush** who administers Forrest Lake's (FL) L's leasing regulations program. This work requires extensive knowledge of the city, state and federal regulations on this subject and the ability to use good communication skills in dealing with the FL owners who are intending to lease their property, their prospective new tenants, and the realtors who are usually involved. Stephanie's wide experience in title work and related realty activities has proved very valuable in the success of the program. Why should FL be bothered about whether a property is leased or owned? For a number of reasons we need to very much aware of what is going on, as an increased number of leased properties in FL could quickly lead to difficulties in potential new resident owners being unable to obtain financing for their purchase. In addition, the regulation requirements quickly reveal the existence of criminal records among the proposed new renters. It has already proved to be a disincentive to easy entry and prevented the arrival of problem new tenants into FL. Stephanie does an excellent job in maintaining control of this fast changing situation and protecting the interests of the FL community.

For the record, other Board members (**Bob Wharton**) who handles the oversight of contracts and related operations (like Insurance, Cable, Trash Removal, etc.), and **Ken Barker** (who handles Financial and Security matters), also spend many hours a month on their individual assignments, but more on their responsibilities and work at a later date.

E-Mail Hoax

Paula Williamson

*For those FL residents who were in my contact list on my yahoo account, I again apologize for the scam mail you received. **Dan Coccozza** sent me the following information which is worth passing on to everyone:*

The "I am stranded email hoax" is an old phishing scam that has once again been proliferating. Here is a link with info about the scam:

<http://www.naplesnews.com/news/2010/jul/26/stranded-traveler-e-mail-scam-online-safety/>

Should you be the victim of such a hoax, you need to have your computer checked thoroughly for viruses, spyware and other malware. **Mary Ann Mitscherling** can help provide information on how to get this done through hal-pc.org.

What has this Board done?

Ken Barker

From time to time we hear comments and questions regarding what your Board has done for Forrest Lake (FL) in the years that it has been in office. From observations over the last 10 years we have seen many improvements in the way this community has been run and in the efficiency of its operations. Over the last few years these have included:

- Introduction and implementation of a computer based financial cost control system to efficiently monitor over 40 specific cost centers
- Introduction of a leasing control program to identify persons with criminal backgrounds who might plan to move into our community
- Introduction of a Proof of Insurance (POI) program to ensure that replacement values of individually owned townhomes are covered if they become damaged.
- Introduced, and made available to home owners, a flood elevation certificate program
- Developed close links with neighborhood associations (Near Northwest Management District – NNMD and Greater Inwood Partnership - GIP) to promote security action and general development programs for our neighborhood.
- Expanding security coverage to 120 man-hours a week to combat increases in local crime and to provide better surveillance coverage at weekends and early evenings. This has led to a reduction in security incidents in our community
- Installation and operation of over 10 security video surveillance cameras. The presence of these cameras has been a key factor in crime prevention
- Development and utilization of links with realtors operating in our community to aid their sales work and increase their efficiency in these tough market conditions.
- Development and maintenance of a comprehensive website (www.forrestlake.com) to promote and provide useful information on our community
- Initiation and expansion of a lawn irrigation system to maintain that essential “good curb appeal, as a first impression” so necessary for attracting potential new homeowners.
- Refurbishing of our swimming pool to meet required new City codes and training our own maintenance staff to provide the required cleaning and upkeep services, with substantial reduction in costs
- Installation of an electronic pool gate entry control system to deny access to trespassers and to address other issues of potential liability.
- Refurbishing the club house to encourage better use of this important facility
- Refurbishing of hurricane damage from Ike without resorting to assessments as was resorted to by so many other Houston HOA communities.

All of the above does not indicate a Board of Directors lacking in business experience and management skills. The lack of knowledgeable business experienced owners willing to devote the extended time and effort to run a complex operation like Forrest Lake is a major factor in many home owners associations (HOAs) reluctantly relinquishing control of their community to an offsite management company. We have some sad examples in our own neighborhood that amply demonstrate the irreversible deterioration of a community when this happens and have no wish to see Forrest Lake go down the same path. Come election time, we urge all FL owners to pay great attention to not only what candidates promise but to how they specifically propose to change and improve conditions in our community. It is usually quite difficult to reverse and recover from some seemingly attractive actions once the initial steps have been taken, and we remind everyone of that old saying ***“If it ain’t broke ... don’t try to fix it!”***

Letters to the Editor

July 26, 2010

To the many residents who expressed your view of the current operation and care of FLTH property:

It is encouraging to learn that I planted a seed to question the outdated methodology in which the Board dictates rather than serves the FLTH community. Those who may not know me I am a new comer to this community as I have called FLTH my residence since 1999 (yes that was last century). I am also the resident to which Ken Barker answered my question as to the annual cost of security as “Bull Shit” and to “sit down” (Ken never extended the decency to apologize to me personally for his lack of being civil towards me).

I am responding to Debbie Magana’s letter in the recent Newsletter that included a reference to me without actually using my name.

The paint may have been water based but that does not mean other petroleum based and by-products products such as tints, stabilizers, and other oil based chemicals are not part of the total mix. Yes the paint does kill vegetation and makes the common ground look cheap. Nahun was asked on two different incidents by two different owners in two different areas of the community not to dump paint on the grass, but to dispose of it properly. I am not as concerned about the \$80 dollar investment but with the behavior displayed by Nahun for his disregard in the care of the common grounds of his employer.

When hurricane Ike caused extensive landscape damage to the community I was one of the residents that gave freely of my time and energy to make our road ways accessible for all residents to enter and exit as well as keeping a presentable look that FLTH was alive and ready to protect our investment.

In regards to you having knowledge of the board responding to my letter I am puzzled that you seem to indicate that you have access to my personal email account, as I have never received a response from the Board; and my ISP never advised me that my system access was unavailable or that email messages were lost. The only thing I can speak to is the truth, that to this date I have yet to receive an email from the Board.

I have also attended many community meetings over the last decade so if you have not seen me, or heard my Boston accent then I am sorry. I attended the most recent community meeting to question the cost of security to become better informed.

How do you know who voted for who in the past elections or if they voted? The ballots are to be secret. Perhaps you could explain how you have acquired such secure knowledge.

You further indicate that the board repeatedly compares our maintenance crew to qualified licensed professionals when it communicates cost savings. From what quotation were those cost savings obtained and are these tasks not what the maintenance crew is expected to perform as indicated by the board? We need to stop comparing apples to oranges. This is equivalent to comparing the skills and knowledge of a general “jack-of- all-trades” handy-man to a skilled and bonded warranted professional in the private industry that supplies their own tools, materials, and expertise. Professionals are compensated more because they provide a service level that has standards for excellence and customer service or they go out of business. Just the other day I was walking with another resident and we found over a dozen nails, screws, and bolts left in the road way after our maintenance crew finished a repair job, carelessly leaving them there for a potential accident. Pokey was notified and the next day the nails, etc. were cleaned up. All I am suggesting is the establishment of levels of performance that match an industry standard of professionalism from our maintenance crew. When the Board establishes and works from established standards, we can efficiently and effectively collect relevant data to measure the productive use of resources and compensate the maintenance crew or out sourced services using measurable documented data.

I believe we need to change how we operate, think outside of the box and bring the direction of FLTH into the 21 century. Our community has diversified in many directions in

the past 10 years. The infusion is a positive force of necessary change, demanding that the Board models a servant role more than dictating.

Oh yes, as far as being an educated person most would say that I am an educated person based upon my attainment of 3 post-graduate advanced academic degrees.

Ron Watts

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August 21, 2010

To the Editor – FL Newsletter:

From time to time we become aware of comments circulating through the community regarding the Forrest Lake Board's handling of the multitude of tasks necessary every day to keep our complex in good shape and running efficiently. Some of these comments provide very useful ideas to us and have been incorporated into our planning and operational programs. Others do not, and one such suggestion was that it would be prudent to add to the Board's very heavy workload a requirement that they explain in great detail every action they take. We feel that this is quite unrealistic. Our elected Board members are mainly from the business "real " world (as opposed to a "theoretical" one) and know only too well the perils of micro-management and the resulting stagnation which usually results when that type of discipline is widely applied. Thanks for the suggestion folks, (it is certainly your right to make it), but .... no thanks!

On a related matter, back in 1968 President Kennedy said "Ask not what your country can do for you; ---- ask what can I do for my county?" The same statement applies to FL so perhaps we should also say "Ask not what your community can do for you, but what can you do for your community?" Sadly, we currently have a lot of residents riding in the Forrest Lake (FL) wagon and only a few people pushing it. So many of the riders appear to view FL as just a place to sleep and keep their "stuff". However, we do have a few residents (a very few) who quietly and efficiently perform many essential tasks around the community each week like picking up deposited trash, mowing grass on Cole Creek, welcoming new residents, watering lawns, tending to pool-side shrubs, etc (I include no names here, but they know who they are and we are so thankful for what they do). Their numbers are very small and, unfortunately, not growing. Despite their efforts, and that of the members of the elected Board, we need more resident interest and participation in FL if we are to avoid the fate of other communities round us with their dismal un-maintained facilities and grounds, deteriorating property values, and crime-threatened life styles. Without doubt, lack of personal involvement in a community quickly impacts its property values and life styles.

*Ken Barker*

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August 22, 2010

Dear Editor:

It was with great interest that I read Debbie Magana letter in the recent newsletter. She pointed out how appalled she was that some residents spout out things that they seem to know nothing about. She also wrote about people not knowing the facts before they speak. And that a resident who formerly ran for the board supported the use of contract labor but later retracted that idea. As pointed out by the editor of this newsletter in a previous newsletter, I am apparently the only member of the association that has run for the board in the recent years so I can only deduce that Ms. Magana was writing about me.

So let me take this opportunity to set the record straight so that Ms. Magana won't go around spouting out things that are incorrect. I do support the use of contract labor when appropriate and have not retracted my support for its use. Contract labor usually consists of either an individual contractor who provides services or services that are contracted from a company. The independent contractor is broadly defined as someone who is self-employed, bears responsibility for his or her own taxes and expenses, and is not subject to an employer's direction and control. An example of an independent contractor is when the association contracts with someone to augment the maintenance staff; e.g., when staff is absent due to vacation or illness. The landscaping and the security companies that we have contracts provide

contracted services. So the association does use contracted labor.

What Ms. Magana was really writing about was that I allegedly support the use of a management company at Forrest Lake Townhomes, which I do not. When I was on the board of Belmont Park Townhomes, another community built by the builder of Forrest Lake in the southwest portion of this city, they had a management company and we had a number of issues with the provision of services by the contracted management company. Because of that experience and others, I do not support the use of a management company instead of the current staff at Forrest Lake Townhomes. I stated that verbally at the Meet the Candidates event in 2009 and I put it in writing and distributed a flyer to almost every residence in our community in 2009. Yet in spite of this I continued to receive information that I allegedly supported use of a management company. I have nothing to retract as I have repeatedly stated that I did not support the use of a management company.

In the future Ms. Magana should follow her own sage advice of people not spouting out things that they know nothing about and knowing the facts before they speak or write. If any member of the association has any further questions on my position, I would be happy to answer them.

Thank you,
Phillip Salerno

Paula,

I received an email from Comcast (many people might have if they are signed up to receive the information) which listed the new channel line-up effective 8/17/2010. I thought it might help if we put this information in the news letter. Our FLTH contract gives us the Basic Service and the Expanded Basic Service.

Thanks,
Bob Wharton

Thanks, Bob – See the last page of this newsletter for the listing. – pw



Kudos to Rose McGill

...for once again, staying on the City to provide services to our neighborhood. Remember the "Dead Dog letter" in last month's newsletter? She received a follow-up from the city (see below.) See her reply. We need more good neighbors like her!

The city e-mailed the following letter to her on July 29:

Ms. McGill,

The Mayor's Office forwarded your e-mail regarding a dead dog that was reported on July 16th to the Solid Waste department. May I ask, have the animal been picked up? Also, was this called into 311? Anytime there is a need for city service, please contact 311 to make a report. If you have other matters regarding the Solid Waste Management Department, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Darlene D. Williams

Administrative Specialist
Solid Waste Management Department
713-837-9284 (work) ~ 713-837-9110 (fax)
darlene.williams@cityofhouston.net

Rose's reply back to the city:

A call was made to 311 about 8AM on Friday, July 17th, then a follow up email at 2PM.....the dog was not picked up until sometime on the 20th....this was after the dog had blotted and burst and began to decay....

I find that when I call 311, I still have to do a follow up email with pictures and copies to the Mayor and all my council members....it seems that the northwest area of Houston is left

out of the loop on keeping the city clean....we have the Candle Light Condos that have been abandoned for years, there are Metro trash contains that are always overflowing, shopping centers were trash is dumped in the rear of the stores only to sit there for weeks, and of course streets in need of repair....the only thing good that I can say about our city services is that the police are very visible...

Forrest Lake works hard to keep our grounds clean, townhomes in repair, and our community safe....but to tell the truth I do not venture outside of the Forrest Lake property at night and when I go out during the day time I take my dogs with me in my car.....

Rose McGill



Important Phone Numbers

Office Manager (*Cheryl*) 713-681-3591
 Property Manager (*Pokey*) 713-956-6236
 Security (*Garner or Phillip*) 713-201-5656
 Emergency (Life Threatening) 911*
 Houston Police Dept. (non-emergency) 713-222-3131
 City of Houston (Loose dog pickup) 713-222-3501

Board Members:

Earline Soteras 713-688-3730
 Ken Barker 713-681-1115
 Elva Bryant 713-688-5807
 Stephanie Rush 713-812-1080
 Bob Wharton 713-680-8377

Maintenance (for after-hours appointments)

Francisco 713-409-4820
 Willie 713-828-2428
 Nahun 713-202-7148
 Omar 713-818-4738

FYI:



Earline Soteras

- We have completed 5 buildings – painting and repairs. We will start on other buildings in the fall.
- Our plans to repair storage closets with hardy plank have been put off. We will be repairing closets as we have in the past. Hardy plank is 3 times more expensive than regular wood and at the present time, we do not have the money to go to hardy plank.



Financial News

Ken Barker

It is surprising how fast these monthly reports on Forrest Lake's (FL) financial situation come round. Here is the latest financial position and the news is not good. We continue to run a deficit which means that we have had to transfer money from our Contingency Fund to pay some of our bills this month. Several factors are causing this situation, but a key one is the fact that our revenues are being impacted by a number of units which are in a foreclosed situation. This means that their payment of maintenance fees has also stopped, and these are our prime source of revenue. Happily, we are seeing some recent sales of FL property and these will ease the situation a little, but only over time. We are also still seeing significant increases in the costs of many of the essential services (like water and sewer) that we must have, but for which we have no alternative but to pay. In addition, it is an unavoidable fact that our 37 year old complex is now requiring a lot more repairs than before in order retain that good appearance and the initial "curb appeal" that is so essential for maintaining property values and attracting new home buyers. It is no consolation to learn that most other homeowners' associations are going through similar problems but all this means that Forrest Lake will shortly be faced with some tough decisions on possible cuts in services and standards, or an increase in maintenance fees (our last one was 18 months ago in March 2009), or both.

	Budget YTD Thru 7-31-10	Actual YTD Thru 7-31-10
Total Income	\$ 668,063	\$ 664,122
Total Expenses	\$ 647,588	\$ 657,321
Net Surplus before Appropriations	\$ 20,475	\$ 6,801
Total Appropriations due	\$ 43,740	\$ 43,740
Surplus to General Fund	\$ (23,265)	\$ (36,939)

As required in our Bylaws, and also as part of our aggressive cost analysis program, a series of meetings has just been completed by the Board and members of the Audit Committee regarding the Fiscal 2011 budget (Nov. 1, 2010 thru Oct. 31, 2011). Much detailed work and many hours of discussion were involved and the Audit Committee will be issuing its own report in due course. In addition, details will be available for all residents at the FL annual general meeting in October. I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all members of the Audit Committee, and Board members, and to thank them for all their hard work in completing this important task. Folks, these are your neighbors, (all unpaid volunteers), working for you and the good of your community.

Security Corner

Ken Barker

As we have said many times before, our security is not a war that can just be won and then forgotten, but an almost never ending series of battles against a constantly changing foe. It is an action in which every single resident is involved in one way or another. As part of this campaign Forrest Lake (FL) has recently been actively supporting a crime prevention study conducted by one of the Precinct One Constable's deputies who patrols our area. His excellent report has provided many ways in which FL's security could be improved, ranging from better lighting in certain places, a cut-back of masking vegetation that was providing hiding places, and a host of other useful hints. By and large, FL's security received a good report, but there will always be ways that it can be improved. We do listen and we do act!

The extension of our surveillance camera system (we now have 10 cameras operating in FL) is providing valuable assistance to our security officers on security matters. In some cases our video recordings have also been accessed and used by Constable's Office Deputies, and HPD, in their own investigations of local incidents.

Some recent comments have been made on the fact that we do not seem to be patrolling the grounds with the same frequency as before. One of the measures we use is to often vary patrol times and routes. Potential trespassers and others quickly learn patrol routines and time their own entry and actions accordingly. Because a security cart remains in one location, and apparently unmanned for an extended time, frequently means that the officer is on duty patrolling elsewhere on the property and/or monitoring, and evaluating for possible action, a developing situation at a number of other points around our community. This is often with the aid of the cameras which continually screen back visual information to the security office. Also, in these 100+ degree days we have encouraged our security officers to take frequent breaks from outside activity. There are no air-conditioning units in our security carts and officers suffering from dehydration are not very effective.

Neighborhood News:

- Condolences to **Margaret Smith** on the loss of her brother.
- Happy Birthday to **Herb Weaver** who just turned 75!! Some residents on his block celebrated with him at the home of **Ken** and **Tommye Barker**.
- **Toni Troxell** is recuperating from a hospital stay with a bout of pneumonia. She was one sick lady, but seems to be on the mend now....we're all so glad!
- Condolences to **Debbie Magaña** who had to put her beloved black cat, Ebony, to sleep. Debbie adopted Ebony about 7 years ago and gave her a good home and love.



COMCAST Channels

You have probably already noticed that Comcast has changed their lineup beginning August 17th. Our FLTH contract gives us the **Basic Service** and the **Expanded Basic Service**.

HOUSTON CHANNEL LINE-UP

As of August 17, 2010

Basic Service (Econ) Ω

2 KNWS
3 KZJL
4 KTXH - My Network TV*
5 KIAH - CW*
6 ON KTMD - Telemundo
7 KPXB - ION
8 ON KUHT - PBS*
9 KRIV - FOX*
10 ON KXLN - Univision
11 ON KHOU - CBS*
12 ON KPRC - NBC*
13 ON KTRK - ABC*
14 KETH - TBN
15 KFTH - Telemundo
16 Municipal Channel
17 Houston Media Source
18 Houston ISD
19 HCC TV
20 KLTJ †
53 KAZH-Vassalovision
54 WGN
55 KTBU-The Tube
74 KUVN-Azteca †
75 Leased Access †
76 Leased Access †
310 11 NOW †
315 13NOW †
319 Universal Sports †
320 This TV †
321 KPRC-LA TV †
322 KLTJ-Daystar †
323 KUHT2- PBS †
324 KUHT-V-ME †
325 KHLM-TV Informa †
326 KVQT †

604 KTXH-My Network TV HD †
605 KIAH-CW39 HD †
606 KTMD Telemundo HD †
607 KPXB-ION HD †
608 KUHT-PBS HD †
609 KRIV-FOX HD †
610 KXLN Univision HD †
611 KHOU-CBS HD †
612 KPRC-NBC HD †
613 KTRK-ABC HD †
615 KFTH Telemundo HD †
685 13TV3 - Live Well HD †
Expanded Basic Service
21 ON USA* (Econ)
22 ON Cartoon Network* † (Econ)
23 ON A&E* (Econ)
24 Hallmark Channel (Econ)
25 ON CNN (Econ)
26 CNN Headline News Ω
27 The Weather Channel* (Econ) Ω
28 QVC (Econ)
29 ON Discovery Channel* (Econ)
30 ON MTV (Econ)
31 ON FX*
32 ABC Family*
33 ON ESPN*
34 ESPN2*
35 ON Golf Channel*
36 ON TNT*
37 Fox Sports Houston*
38 Fox News* (Econ)
39 Turner Classic Movies

40 ON Lifetime (Econ)
41 ON Disney Channel* (Econ) Ω
42 ON Animal Planet* (Econ)
43 ON Nickelodeon* Ω
44 ON E!*(Econ)
45 CNBC
46 ON BET (Econ)
47 ON HGTV* Ω
48 ON Spike TV* (Econ)
49 ON Versus*
50 Galavisión
51 ON TBS*
52 ON Food Network* (Econ) Ω
56 C-SPAN (Econ) Ω
57 ON AMC* (Econ) †
58 ON History* (Econ)
59 ON Comedy Central (Econ)
60 ON SyFy Channel* †
61 ON VH1
62 ON Travel Channel*
63 ON TLC*
64 Home Shopping Network (Econ)
65 ON Bravo
66 ON Discovery Health
67 TruTV (Econ)
80 MSNBC **Digital Starter**
1 Channel 1 On Demand
110 Sports
119 Lifetime Movie Network*
129 Comcast Sports Southwest
239 ON Mun 2
340 ON Style*
801-845 ON Music Choice Channels (Econ) **Digital Preferred**
100 ON TV Guide Network (Econ)
101 ON NBA TV

102 Reelz TV
103 Hallmark Movie Channel
104 ON Gol TV
105 Fox Soccer Channel
106 CBS College Sports
107 Current TV
108 MLB Network
113 ON NFL Network
115 Outdoor Channel
116 ESPNNews
117 ON WE
118 Ovation
124 ON NHL Network
125 ESPNU
126 Fit TV Ω
128 ON PBS Kids Sprout
131 Sportsman Channel
132 Retirement Living
141 ON MTV Tr3s
149 ON MoviePlex
160 ON LOGO
167 Indioplex
168 Retroplex
170 Flix
172 ON Gospel Music Channel
173 ON TV One
174 Jewelry TV (Econ) Ω
175 Shop NBC
202 Inspiration Network
204 EWTV (Econ) Ω
205 NASA Channel
208 CSPAN 2 (Econ) Ω
209 CSPAN 3 Ω
211 DIY Ω
212 ON G4
213 ON Investigation Discovery
218 Great American Country
219 ON VH1 Classic Rock
220 MTV2
221 ON Fuse

222 ON Country Music Television
223 Centric
225 Cooking Channel
226 ON BBC America
228 Bio
229 History International
230 Texas Cable News
234 Fox Business
235 Bloomberg
238 Si TV
240 The Africa Channel
241 ImaginAsian TV
250 ON Nat Geo WILD
252 tvK
327 ON Oxygen
328 ON Planet Green
329 Soapnet
335 ON National Geographic Ω
336 ON Discovery Kids Ω
337 ON Science Channel Ω
338 ON Military Channel
339 Game Show Network
341 ON Disney XD Ω
342 ON Nick Jr.
343 ON Boomerang Ω
346 TV Land (Econ) Ω
347 ON TeenNick Ω
348 ON Nicktoons
397 Fox Movie Channel
398 ON Sundance
399 ON Independent Film Channel
670 Discovery Theater HD
673 HDNet
674 Palladia HD
675 Universal HD
Encore Pack- Part of Digital Preferred

400 ON Encore
402 Encore Love
403 Encore Westerns
404 Encore Mystery
405 Encore Action
408 Encore HD **HBO Pack**
444 ON HBO East*
445 HBO West
446 HBO2
448 HBO Signature
450 HBO Family
452 HBO Comedy
454 HBO Zone
456 HBO Latino
460 HBO HD **Cinemax**
425 ON Cinemax East*
426 ON Cinemax West
427 MoreMax
428 ActionMax
429 ThrillerMax
430 Wmax
431 @Max
432 5Star Max
433 OuterMax
434 ON Cinemax HD **Starz Pack**
410 ON Starz*
411 Starz Edge
412 Starz in Black
413 Starz Cinema
414 Starz Kids & Family
416 ON Starz - HD **Showtime Pack**
470 ON SHOWTIME HD*
474 ON SHOWTIME*
475 SHOWTIME
476 SHOWTIME
479 SHOWTIME
480 SHOWTIME
481 SHOWTIME
482 SHOWTIME
483 SHOWTIME The Movie Channel Pack
488 ON The Movie Channel

489 The Movie Channel Extra Sports Entertainment Pack 101 ON NBA TV* 104 ON Gol TV 105 Fox Soccer Channel 106 CBS College Sports 108 MLB Network* 109 ESPN Classic 111 Fuel 112 Tennis Channel 113 ON NFL Network 114 ON Speed Channel 115 Outdoor Channel 116 ESPNNews 120 Fox College Sports - Atlantic 121 Fox College Sports - Central 122 Fox College Sports - Pacific 123 ON Big Ten Network 124 ON NHL Network* 125 ESPNU 130 NFL Red Zone MultiLatino 500 ON CineMexicano 501 Once TV - Mexico 502 TeleFormula 503 VideoRola 504 ¡Sorpresa! 505 LaTele Novela	506 ON MTV Tr3s 507 Canal 52MX 508 Mexico TV 509 CNN en Español 510 ON Mun2 511 ON Gol TV 512 Fox Sports en Español 513 ESPN Deportes 514 AYM Sports 515 Discovery en Español 516 History en Español 517 Galavisión 520 EWTN en Español 521 La Familia Cosmvision Ω 522 Bandamax 523 CB TU TV Michoacán 524 Cine Latino 525 RitmoSon 526 HITN 527 Telehit 528 Mexico Canal 22 529 SUR 530 TBN Enlace 531 Teleritmo 532 De Pelicula 533 DePelicula Clasico 534 TVE Int'l 535 Utilisima 536 ON Venemovies 537 WAPA America 538 Gran Cine 539 Mexicana 540 TV Colombia International Channels 560 Zee TV (South Asian) 561 TV Asia (South Asian)	562 STAR India PLUS (South Asian) 563 SET Asia (Sony) (South Asian) 568 SBTN (Vietnamese) 569 The Filipino Channel (Filipino) 570 GMA Pinoy TV (Filipino) 573 CTI-Zhong Tian Channel (Mandarin/Chinese) 578 ART (Arabic) 579 RTN (Russian) 581 TV5Monde (French) 582 Rai Italia (Italian) Digital Pay-Per-View 900 PPV Preview 901 PPV1 903 PPV2 904 Penthouse 905 Sexsee 906 Playboy 907 TEN 908 Vavoom 910-919 NBA League Pass/MLS 920-925 ESPN Sports Package 930-943 NHL Center Ice/MLB 944 PPV Sports 1 945 PPV Sports 2 Music Choice Channels - ON 801 Hit List 802 Hip Hop & R & B 803 Mix Tape 804 Dance / Electronica 805 Rap	806 Hip Hop Classic 807 Throwback Jamz 808 Classic R & B 809 R & B Soul 810 Gospel 811 Reggae 812 Classic Rock 813 Retro Active 814 Rock 815 Metal 816 Alternative 817 Classic Alternative 818 Adult Alternative 819 Soft Rock 820 Pop Hits 821 90's 822 80's 823 70's 824 Solid Gold Oldies 825 Party Favorites 826 Stage & Screen 827 Kidz Only! 828 Toddler Tunes 829 Today's Country 830 True Country 831 MC Classic Country 832 Contemporary Christian 833 Sounds of the Season 834 Soundscapes 835 Smooth Jazz 836 Jazz 837 Blues 838 Singers & Swing 839 Easy Listening	840 Classical Masterpieces 841 Light Classical 842 Música Urbana 843 Pop Latino 844 Tropicales 845 Mexicana Channels Available in HD* 600 NFL Network HD 601 Speed Channel HD 602 NBA TV HD 604 KTXH-My Network TV HD 605 KIAH-CW39 HD 606 KTMD Telemundo HD 607 KPXB-ION HD 608 KUHT-PBS HD 609 KRIV-FOX HD 610 KXLN Univision HD 611 ON KHOU-CBS HD 612 ON KPRC-NBC HD 613 ON KTRK-ABC HD 615 KFTH Telefutera HD 621 USA HD 622 Cartoon HD 623 A&E HD 625 CNN HD 627 The Weather Channel HD 629 Discovery HD 631 FX HD 632 ABC Family HD 633 ESPN HD 634 ESPN2 HD	635 The Golf Channel HD 636 TNT HD 637 Fox Sports Houston HD 638 Fox News Channel HD 640 Lifetime HD 641 Disney Channel HD 642 Animal Planet HD 643 Nickelodeon HD 644 E! HD 647 HGTV HD 648 Spike HD 649 Versus HD 651 TBS HD 652 Food Network HD 657 AMC HD 658 History HD 660 Syfy HD 662 Travel Channel HD 663 TLC HD 670 Discovery Theater HD 671 Lifetime Movies HD 672 Bio HD 673 HDNet 674 Palladia HD 675 Universal HD 676 National Geographic HD 677 Fox Business HD 678 Science Channel HD 679 Planet Green HD 680 Hallmark Movie Channel HD 681 NHL HD 682 MLB HD 683 Style HD
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684 TV ONE HD

685 13TV3 - Live Well HD

714 NFL Red Zone HD

Channel line-up subject

to change without notice.

† Additional equipment may be required; service charges may apply.

(Econ) Economy Tier (part of Digital EconomyTier)

ON On Demand

* HD content available

On Demand varies

Ω Family Tier