



FORREST LAKE TOWNHOUSE ASSOCIATION  
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**COMMUNITY NEWSLETER**

Autumn 2022

Volume 22, Issue 2

- Special points of interest:**
- Office Visits & Maintenance Requests
  - Simple Neighborhood Safety Tips
  - Annual Board of Directors Election
  - Questions About Vehicles Parked on Lumberdale Road
  - Committee Activities
  - Vehicle Registration Update

## Annual Board of Directors Election



This year there are three positions on the board up for election. The positions are currently held by Brook Baker, Sam Gotsdiner, and Jeff Weller. There are three candidates that have been nominated for the three board positions: Brook Baker, Pam Meerbrey, and Jeff Weller. Envelopes containing the election instructions and ballot will be mailed out by September 16th to each townhomes' owner on file. If you did not receive the envelope, please contact the office to obtain a replacement ASAP. All ballots must be received no later than **5 PM on October 14, 2022**. Any ballots received after the deadline, or that do not include your name and townhouse number on the outside of the ballot envelope will not be counted. PLEASE be sure to follow the instructions included in the envelope exactly.

The annual meeting of the Association is October 20, 2022 at 7:30 PM in our clubhouse.

### Candidate Bio's In Alphabetical order

#### Brook Baker (Incumbent)

I have been a resident of Forrest Lake for 19 years and have served on the board for the last decade. It is an honor and a privilege to serve on the board of the Forrest Lake Townhomes and I look forward to continuing in that capacity.

#### Pam Meerbrey

I feel I am qualified to be on the board because I have held many positions through my volunteer work with CFISD. I was a parent volunteer at my children's elementary through high schools. This included being on the PTO board at Reed Elementary, volunteer coordinator at Dean Middle School and Project Prom board member at Jersey Village High School. I also was a member of the district's VIPS (Volunteers in Public Schools) Executive Board.

I am currently a substitute teacher in CFISD. I have a BA from The University of Illinois. I have been a resident since 2012.

#### Jeff Weller (Incumbent)

My name is Jeff Weller and I'm running for re-election to the Forrest Lake Board of Directors. I have lived at Forrest Lake for the last eight years. During that time, I have volunteered on the Landscape Committee and the Election Committee. As a board member, I chair the maintenance committee that selected the new paint color pallet for the townhouses and worked with the maintenance crew to oversee several projects. I have always tried to listen to my neighbors' concerns and accomplish our goals.

I hope to get your vote this election. Thank you.

## Vehicle Registration Update

The Board approved an update to the Vehicle Registration Resolution at the July Board meeting. And it became effective September 3, 2022. The change will replace the previous vehicle decal with an improved design and the new decal will be placed on the windshield on the passenger's side for easy identification.

Current residents need to display their new decals effective September 3, 2022. Failure to do so may result in a fine. The security guards will begin checking for the decals and will take appropriate actions to identify non-residents coming into the community.

## Office Visits & Maintenance Requests

Due to the volume of work, it is necessary to require residents wishing to meet with the General Manager to make an appointment. This is best done by email, but if computer access is not available, a phone call will suffice.

To assure your requests for maintenance action are processed timely and accurately, please submit these in writing to the General Manager, either by email or by putting it into the drop box outside of the main door. Residents should not contact the maintenance staff directly to request services be performed.

### In this issue:

Home Page & Locations of Notifications	1
Vehicle Registration, Dog Waste Disposal, & Annual Board of Directors Election	1
Outdoor Cooking, Office Visits and Maintenance Requests	1
Who Owns What	2
Trash & Recycling and Committee Activities	2

## Questions About Vehicles Parked on Lumberdale Road

So you may have noticed the occasional commercial vehicle or a truck and a trailer parked on Lumberdale Road and wondered if those are legally parked. A recent presentation to the Regulatory & Neighborhood Affairs Council Committee meeting provided some very interesting information.

Park Houston is the primary City department to handle reports of illegally parked commercial vehicles and trailers. Reporting an illegally parked vehicle should be made through 311. However HPD also is involved especially with regard to large vehicle towing between the hours of 2:00 AM-6:00AM. Park Houston is adding staff and will have four shifts working so that may lower the resource needs on HPD. If you feel that your 311 request is not being responded to within a couple of days, please contact the Association General Manager at the office and let us know of the details about the vehicle and how long it has been parked in the same space on Lumberdale Road. We will contact our HPD DRT officer for assistance.

The City Code of Ordinances 26.94 covers trailers parked on a residential street in excess of two hours. 26.95 covers commercial vehicles parked on a residential street between 2:00 AM-6:00 AM. 26.96 covers large vehicles that are parked for more than 72 hours on a residential street but **not leased or borrowed vehicles**. This is a large loophole that I will comment on below.

Commercial vehicles are defined by the State of Texas as having signs on the front doors. That's right, if the vehicle has all kinds of signage on the vehicle body but not on the door then it is not deemed a commercial vehicle. However pick-up trucks with signage on the front doors are considered commercial vehicles.

The big issue with towing large vehicles; e.g., tractor and trailer, is that it has to be verified that it has been parked for over two hours. It then takes approximately 1.5 hours for the heavy-duty wrecker to arrive as there are a limited number of them and they stay busy. It takes approximately one hour for the wrecker to hookup. So that takes 4.5 hours approximately from an HPD officer's time. The fee for the heavy-duty towing is \$1200 to be paid by the owner of the large vehicle and trailer. Another issue is that most large vehicles are leased and not outright owned so they get away with parking using that loophole.

## Simple Neighborhood Safety Tips

1. **Get to Know Your Neighbors and Communicate:** Always get to know your neighbors. Don't just meet them but really try to get to know them. Have a way to reach your neighbors if they're gone and something is amiss in the neighborhood. It's helpful if you know who is at home during the day and if any neighbors work during the night. Are there kids around? Communication is a big factor in safety.
2. **Make it Less Appealing to Steal:** Keep your blinds closed at night so thieves can't see your belongings, such as a big-screen TV, appliances, or other technology. Also, keep your windows closed when you're out during the day and at night. Consider installing motion-sensor outdoor lights on each home.
3. **Don't Announce When You're Away on Social Media:** In a Safewise study, 60% of the burglary victims said they were active on social media about when they were away. Posting night-out plans with location tags or live beach shots from vacation is a very bad idea. You're telling criminals just what they need to know to get in and out while you're not home.

## Committee Activities

The Social Committee is hosting an Ice Cream event on September 18th and future events include a holiday cookie exchange and a Christmas tree decorating session with toy collection for underprivileged children. Meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM in our clubhouse and you are invited to drop in and share any ideas and energy.

The Maintenance Committee has completed its work on selecting the new exterior paint colors for the fronts of the townhouses. Townhouses will be painted by building based upon the length of time since most of the townhouses in the building were last painted. A form to indicate your first and second choices of primary and trim colors will be distributed to the owners of each townhouse when that building is to be painted. This will be a multi-year project.

The Landscaping Committee has selected trees to be planted in 15 areas. This will be a multi-year project to replace the trees that were removed. Also the Committee will be conducting an inventory of the flower beds to determine the need for replacement/additional bushes and shrubbery in late September. The trees to be planted this Autumn will occur in

October with the remaining trees planted during the Spring of 2023.

### Important Phone Numbers:

General Manager (Mattie Arnold-Anderson):  
713.681.3591  
Office@forrestlake.com  
Security Cell Phone 713.201.5656

### Board of Directors:

Brook Baker (President):  
Philip Salerno (VP & Treasurer) :  
Sam Gotsdiner:  
Kay Edwards (Secretary):  
Jeff Weller:  
Forrest Lake Website:

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