



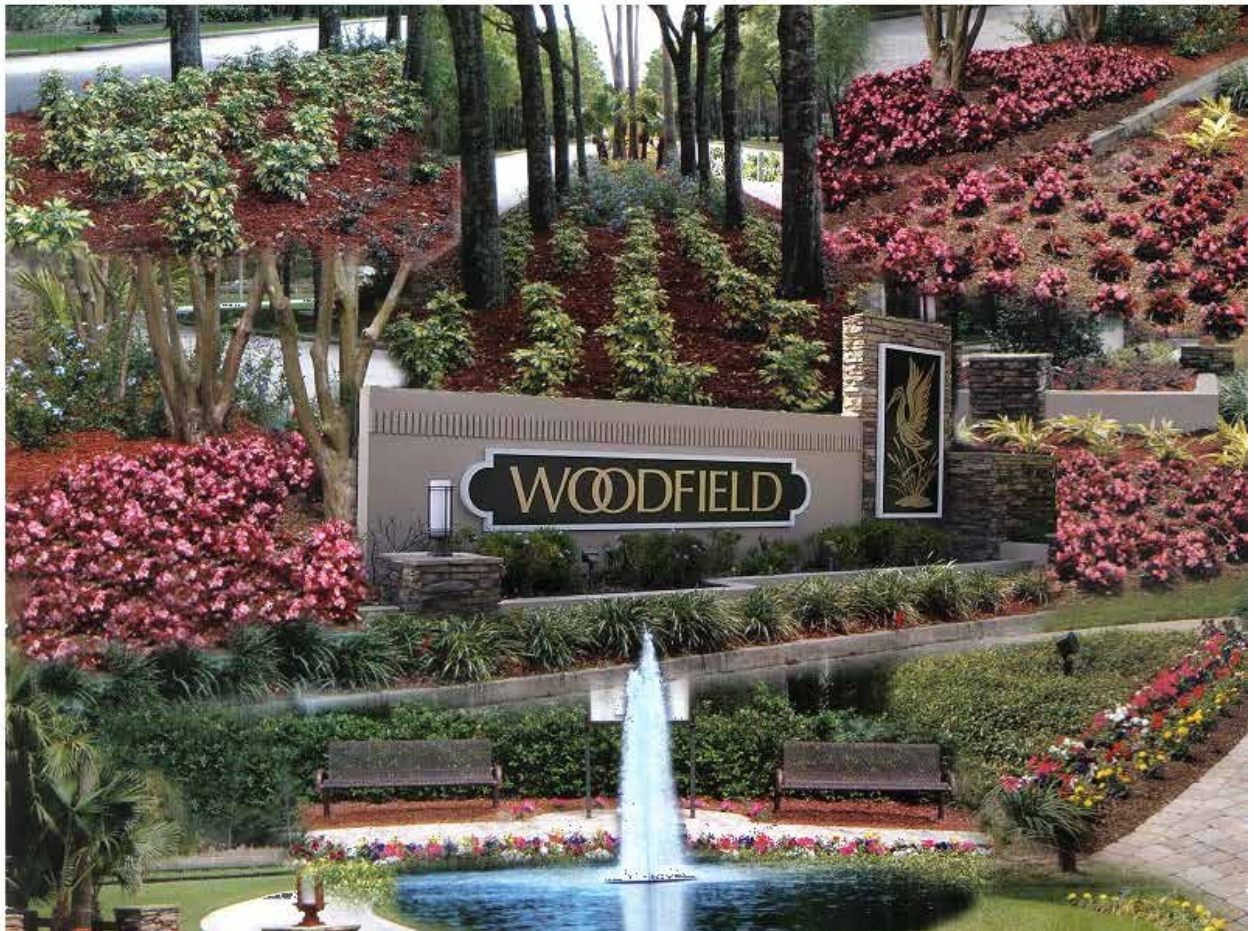
Volume 34, Issue 4

A Publication of the Woodfield Community Association, Inc.
 HOA Publishers, Inc., 5420 Pioneer Park Blvd. Suite C, Tampa, FL, 33634

Fall 2017

Woodfield Community Association, Inc.
 Tarpon Springs, Florida

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**Fourth Quarter
 Assessment Reminder**

The Fourth Quarter Assessment of \$110 is due on October 1.

Directory

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Vice President Bob Bloomfield
Secretary Jamie Gillespie
Treasurer David Kaplan
Director Peter Dubos

PROPERTY MANAGER

Fay Suber

Management and Associates

720 Booker Creek Blvd. #206, Oldsmar, FL 34677
Office: 813-433-2018 Email: fsuber@mgmt-assoc.com

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www.WoodfieldCommunity.net

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Sheriff's Office (727) 582-6200

ALLIGATOR REMOVAL

1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286)

PINELLAS COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

www.pinellascounty.org/emergency – (727) 464-3800

PINELLAS COUNTY INFORMATION CENTER

(727) 464-3000

HUMANE SOCIETY OF PINELLAS

24 Hours / 7 Days a Week (727) 797-772



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



September 4

Labor Day

September 19

Board Meeting



September 22

Autumn Begins

October 1

Fourth Quarter Assessment Due (\$110)

October 31

Halloween



November 21

Budget Meeting

November 23

Thanksgiving



November 29
FREE Bulk Pickup

WOODFIELD VIEW

Client Services Manager Liza Carde
Design Manager Claudia Huerta

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Do you have concerns?

You may address your concerns by writing to the Board of Directors, c/o of Property Manager Fay Suber, Management and Associates, 720 Brooker Creek Blvd. #206, Oldsmar, FL 34677. You may also email fsuber@mgmt-assoc.com.

Your concerns and comments will be reviewed on their merit and your name will be kept confidential if you so desire. Please note that anonymous letters are neither acted upon nor taken seriously.

Visit Us on the Web...

www.WoodfieldCommunity.net



Street Light Outages

It's quick and easy to report a street light outage online at www.progress-energy.com. Click on the Report an Outage link, then follow the prompts. It's quicker than waiting on the phone for a representative as long as you have the pole number. The repair is usually handled within a few days. Or, if you prefer to phone, please call Duke Energy Florida's Customer Service at 727-443-2641. NOTE: Each pole has a metal strip (approximately eye height) with the pole number embossed on the strip. Be sure to have the pole number when you call or go online.

Bite Back Against Mosquitoes

Just as the summer rains make the grass grow, they also provide the ideal conditions for mosquitoes to breed. Bite back against mosquitoes by following the three D's:

- Drain standing water from flower pots, bird baths, pet water bowls or other containers.
- Dress in light-colored, loose-fitting clothes, choosing long pants and shirts where practical.
- Defend yourself with an insect repellent to keep those biting pets away.

For more information, go to:

www.pinellascounty.org/resident/mosquito_control.htm
or call 727-464-7503.



Pressure Washing Season

Autumn is the perfect time of year to pressure wash your sidewalk, driveway, and tile roof if you have not done so already. We are entering the coolest/driest part of the year. So a good thorough pressure washing of exterior surfaces will produce lasting results.

Please do your part to help Woodfield look its best for the holidays and throughout the dry season. Thank you!

Avoid Thanksgiving Weight Gain

Cooking carefully can help avoid that much-feared aftermath of the Thanksgiving Day meal – weight gain. Although you can't eliminate all calories from the feast, you can at least lower the fat content.

Remember to:

- Use no-fat or reduced calorie substitutes whenever possible.
- Avoid butter or margarine when cooking vegetables. Instead, place the desired amount of non-fat or low-fat butter substitute directly on your cooked vegetables, allowing it to melt naturally. Do not pre-melt non-fat spreads on the stove or microwave because coagulation may occur.
- Do not butter-baste the turkey while it is roasting, but rather, brush its skin with vegetable oil to prevent drying.
- Do not eat the skin, which contains much of the turkey's fat.
- Use skim milk in mashed potatoes, puddings and sauces.
- Use substitute sweeteners for desserts, or at least replace half the sugar.

Benefits of a Clean Garage

To paraphrase President Kennedy, "Ask not what your HOA can do for you; ask what you can do for your HOA". Cleaning your garage is a great way to improve Woodfield's appearance and promote safety in our community. Organize the space, eliminate clutter, and throw away (or sell) items you never use. Get your vehicles out of the driveway and, more importantly, off the street. Protect them from the elements and potential thieves while alleviating traffic issues. Park them in the garage where they belong! Your vehicle AND your community will benefit.

Free Bulk Pick-Up November 29th

Waste Connections of Florida (a.k.a. Progressive Waste Solutions) is scheduled to perform a "BULK Pick-Up" for their customers in Woodfield on Wednesday, November 29, 2017. This service covers all large items (appliances, furniture, etc.) that you would normally have to schedule and pay extra for a "Special Pick-Up". On November 29th, this service will be FREE. Refrigerators, freezers and air conditioners have to be tagged by a licensed tech/repairman to confirm that the freon has been removed. Likewise, lawnmowers and other such yard equipment must have gasoline and oil removed. Brush and small tree branches have to be tied in bundles of less than 50 pounds, branches no larger than 3" in diameter and less than four (4) feet in length.



Items must be curbside no later than 7:00 AM.

Items that cannot be picked up are: construction materials (i.e. dirt, sand, rocks, bricks, blocks, cement, concrete, treated lumber and drywall), solvents, pesticides, propane tanks, pool chemicals, auto parts, paint, tires, kerosene, oil, fertilizer, gasoline.

HURRICANE SEASON

Surviving the storm, it's everyone's responsibility.

Submitted by the Pinellas County Communications Department



The hurricane season lasts from June 1st to November 30th.

Now is the perfect time to complete your plans to survive a storm. This includes building your survival kit, finding your evacuation level and updating your list of important phone numbers. Here are some important phone numbers and websites for tips on how to make a survival plan, prepare your home or evacuate before a storm:

Pinellas County Emergency Management

(727) 464-3800 | www.pinellascounty.org/emergency

Find your evacuation level:

(727) 453-3150 | www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/knowyourzone.htm

Register for special needs:

(727) 464-3800 | www.pinellascounty.org/emergency/specialneeds.htm

Make your plans now, before a storm threatens the Tampa Bay area. Visit www.pinellascounty.org/emergency to learn how to make your plan should the worst happen.

Board Candidates

There will be three (3) vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Woodfield Community Association, Inc. Each vacancy will be for a two (2) year term (2018-2019). Woodfield's Nominating Committee is looking for candidates. If you have something to offer and are interested in serving your community, please send notice of your intent to serve with your name, address, telephone number, a short bio, and the reason you would like to serve to:

Woodfield Nominating Committee
c/o Management & Associates
720 Brooker Creek Blvd. #206
Oldsmar, FL 34677

Please submit your information no later than November 10, 2017, in order for your name to be printed on the ballot. Nominations from the floor will not be allowed at the annual membership meeting.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Furniture and Appliance Guidelines

Below is an outline of Furniture and Appliance Guidelines recently adopted by the Board of Directors and Design Review Committee (DRC) regarding placement of furniture and appliances on Woodfield lots. Please refer to WoodfieldCommunity.net for a complete listing of these and other DRC architectural guidelines applicable to Woodfield homeowners.

1. Furniture of any kind (including but not limited to chairs, benches, tables, beds, hammocks, cabinets, and storage containers) is prohibited from being located on any lot, except as specified below.
2. Appliances of any kind (including but not limited to stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) are prohibited from being located on any lot, except as specified below.
3. Furniture (including chairs, benches, and tables) may be located within the boundaries of a porch or patio adjacent to the front/main entrance of a home.
4. Furniture (including chairs, benches, tables, beds, hammocks, cabinets, and storage containers) may be located within the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of a home.
5. Furniture (including chairs, benches, and tables) may be located in the front yard of a lot, outside the boundaries of a porch or patio adjacent to the front/main entrance of the home, for a period of no more than 12 hours.
6. Furniture (including chairs, benches, tables, beds, hammocks, cabinets, and storage containers) may be located in the back yard of a lot, outside the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of the home, for a period of no more than 24 hours.
7. Appliances (including stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) may be located within the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of a home.
8. Appliances (including stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) may be located in the back yard of a lot, outside the boundaries of a porch, patio, or lanai adjacent to the rear entrance of a home, for a period of no more than 24 hours.
9. Placement and use of appliances (including stoves, ovens, grills, smokers, fryers, fire pits, fans, space heaters, refrigerators, freezers, hot tubs, swimming pools, spas, torch lights, and insect traps) must conform to all applicable governmental laws, statutes, and ordinances.
10. All furniture and appliances located as specified in these guidelines must be in "like-new" condition.

NEWS DEADLINE :
for articles in the next issue is **AUGUST 19TH.**
Submit Articles to: www.hoapub.com

No Fishing

Please respect Woodfield's restriction on fishing. Some residents have chosen to impose their own priorities on the rest of the community by ignoring this important rule. There are many reasons for the "No Fishing" rule. Here are just a few:

- Alligators patrol our ponds – some as long as 8 feet. Encouraging children, especially the younger ones, to stand on the banks is irresponsible and dangerous. We've already had unfortunate incidents where gators have taken pets.
- The people who own homes on Woodfield's ponds paid substantial premiums for their properties. They are entitled to have their space, privacy, and security respected.
- Woodfield's fish are essential to the health of its ponds. They, along with all of our wildlife, should be left unmolested.
- Residents who ignore our "No Fishing" and "No Trespassing" signs encourage non-residents to do the same. Woodfield Boulevard and Forelock Road already carry more non-resident traffic than we'd like. Further, those who park their vehicles off-road damage the grass in those areas.
- Every pond in Woodfield is man-made – engineered and built as a stormwater retention basin, not as a fishing pond. They are the property of Woodfield Community Association, Inc., and not for public use.
- We are all contractually obligated to abide by all of Woodfield's rules – "No Fishing" included.

If you see someone fishing illegally in a Woodfield pond, don't hesitate to report it to law enforcement. The Pinellas County Sheriff's non-emergency number is 727-582-6200.



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Pinellas County Water Restrictions

Irrigation using County Water or Well for unincorporated Pinellas County.

Frequency: Two Days a Week, One Time per Day

Hours: 4:00 PM to 10:00 AM

(watering prohibited between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM)

Addresses Ending In: **Authorized Watering Days:**

Even numbers 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 **Thursday and/or Sunday**

Odd numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 **Wednesday and/or Saturday**

For additional details, please visit:

<http://www.pinellascounty.org/UTILITIES/water-restrict.htm>

Brooker Creek Preserve – “Our Wildest Place”

Woodfield is fortunate to have Brooker Creek Preserve as its next door neighbor. The Preserve, at approximately 8,700 acres, is the largest natural area in Pinellas County. It consists primarily of forested wetlands and pine flatwoods. Bordered by dense urban development, the Preserve provides both a unique refuge for native flora and fauna as well as an opportunity for area residents to explore the natural beauty of wild Florida. The Preserve also serves to protect a significant portion of the Brooker Creek Watershed. A complex of hiking and equestrian trails provide visitors an opportunity to explore the Preserve's many ecosystems. **ADMISSION IS FREE** (donations welcome).

Street and Sidewalk Parking

This is another friendly reminder about parking cars in the street and parking over sidewalks. Article IX, Section 5 of Woodfield's Covenants and Restrictions limits parking and storage of vehicles to garages and driveways.

Woodfield residents have rightfully voiced concerns about vehicles that are parked over the sidewalks, thereby prohibiting pedestrians (including children, parents with strollers, and people in wheelchairs or using walkers) from passing freely.

So please clean the junk out of your garage and use it to store your vehicles, as it was designed. If you have too many vehicles to fit in your driveway, then maybe it's time to add a circular driveway. Keeping your vehicle parked off Woodfield's streets benefits all of us. It improves the appearance of the community and reduces the risk of vandalism and traffic accidents.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Design Review

By Thomas Kukulski, Chairperson

Please remember that homeowners must apply for and receive written approval from the Design Review Committee (a.k.a. DRC) before making any modification or addition to the exterior of their property. All such modifications must adhere to the DRC guidelines, Woodfield's governing documents, as well as state and local codes. Failure to comply may result in fines up to \$1,000 per infraction.

- All Design Review Applications must be submitted through the management company and properly date stamped. Only date stamped applications will be acted upon. Although applications can take up to 30 days to process (as allowed by Woodfield's documents), the DRC acts on most applications in 7 to 10 days. You may hand deliver or mail your applications to Management and Associates at the address listed on the application.
- Please submit only ONE (1) project per application.
- Submit all required information (i.e. paint chips, roof tile/shingle sample, photos, site plan drawings, etc.). Incomplete applications will be returned and will not be processed, causing delay of the project.
- Often times, projects can be delayed. Please be advised when an application is near its deadline and an extension is required. Written notification must be submitted to the DRC for approval. If written notification is not submitted, the application will expire and a new application will be required before the project can commence.
- Need a permit? When in doubt, check it out! If you are making an improvement or change that requires a county permit; or a change in county right of ways or easements that are governed by the county, please call the Pinellas County Regulatory Services Group at 727-464-3404 to obtain information regarding necessary permits.

Application forms and guidelines are available online at WoodfieldCommunity.net (click on "Design Review"). Thank you for your cooperation!

Alligator Info

Alligators are an important part of Florida's landscape and play a valuable role in the ecology of our state's wetlands. They are predators and help keep other aquatic animal populations in balance. Generally, alligators less than four feet in length are not large enough to be dangerous unless handled. Visit MyFWC.com/Gators for more information about alligators and a better understanding of the facts and information to help ensure that people and alligators can continue to coexist.



If you need to report a nuisance alligator, please call 1-866-FWC-GATOR (1-866-392-4286). Individuals may call the toll-free number to submit complaints regarding nuisance alligators. The Florida Wildlife Commission will evaluate the complaint and determine if a licensed alligator trapper should remove the nuisance alligator.

The bait and trapping equipment is normally setup on the Association easements which border all ponds in Woodfield. The trapper is required to obtain your permission to cross your property, and subsequently obtain permission from the Association to setup the traps.

Please notify our Property Manager, Fay Suber, at 813-433-2018 after you contact the Florida Wildlife Commission. It is necessary to post signs regarding the trap as our maintenance personnel (pond maintenance, landscapers, etc.) as well as your neighbors need to be aware of the bait and traps. Thank you.



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4 Quick Tips To Keep You Safe On The Road

(BPT) - The warmer weather means longer days, backyard barbecues and weekends away. Before setting out on the open road, make sure you and your vehicle are ready for the journey ahead. Hankook Tire took a look at driving trends and behaviors to identify what drivers do (or forget to do) to keep safe on the road this season.

1. Keep your eyes on the road.

One of the easiest ways to avoid accidents, wrong turns or other highway mishaps is to stay focused. Cell phones are most often responsible for distracted driving, according to the latest Hankook Tire Gauge Index. One-third (33 percent) of Americans regularly take phone calls while on the road, and one in 10 drivers (11 percent) admit to texting while driving. To help put this risk into perspective, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports texting while driving on the highway is equivalent to driving blindfolded for the length of an entire football field. Promising news for drivers is that the Gauge also found that nearly one-half (49 percent) of drivers use Bluetooth, dictation or do-not-disturb features while driving to maintain better focus while on the road.

2. Take advantage of tech.

As automotive technology continues to advance, cars are constantly updated with the latest and greatest to make your time behind the wheel more comfortable, more efficient and safer. Over one-third (34 percent) of drivers reported their vehicles are equipped with a rear view camera, and 26 percent have adaptive cruise control, which automatically adjusts the vehicle's speed to maintain a safe driving distance. While 73 percent of Americans find these enhanced safety features very useful, the Gauge Index found that more than half (57 percent) of drivers don't actually use them. Regardless of the features

in your car, it's important to not let the summer fun distract you from checking rear and side view mirrors, blind spots and speed.

3. Don't tread lightly.

Before a road trip, most people fill up the tank, gather snacks and make sure the kids are set up with movies and games. What about your tires? Americans are mostly likely to check the condition of their tires if they appear to look low or uneven (65 percent) or if a warning light appears (49 percent).

Even if not prompted by a warning light or unusual sounds, always double check your tires' air pressure and tread depth before an extended trip, as healthy tires improve gas mileage and save money at the pump. In addition to the financial benefits of healthy tires, Americans also recognize the importance of tire tread in providing safety and control, as 75 percent of drivers think about how effective their tire tread is when driving through heavy rain, and 61 percent are mindful of their tread when driving on a hairpin turn. Additionally, close to one-fifth (18 percent) of Americans believe enhanced tire grip provides more safety on tough turns than wider lanes, reduced speed limits or road sign warnings.

4. Who ya gonna call?

Even the most prepared and proactive drivers can end up on the side of the road because of unforeseen driving events. Whether it's a flat tire, dead battery or overheated engine, 41 percent of Americans listed an auto club as their first phone call, followed by their significant other at 27 percent, according to the Gauge Index. Only 3 percent of respondents recognized that their first call should be to local authorities, who can update traffic information, create a safe roadside situation and send the proper help to get you back on the road safely.

By following these quick tips and guidelines to safety, you can go full steam ahead to wherever your destination this summer may be!



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4 Tips for Furniture Arrangement

By Sally Giar

In all my years as an interior decorator, I am asked more questions about furniture arranging than anything else. So here are a few suggestions you might consider when facing the "furniture placement dilemma"!

1. PLACE LARGE FURNITURE PIECES FIRST

It's definitely a mistake to start with your smaller pieces. I guarantee your frustration level will increase if you try to start the process with small tables and accent pieces.

2. IN ROOMS WITH VAULTED CEILINGS, PLACE LARGE FURNITURE PIECES CLOSE TO THE HIGHEST WALL

Furnishings such as oversized entertainment armoires immediately come to mind. Can you visualize a large entertainment center placed on a small wall opposite a high wall in a vaulted room? Balance and symmetry would immediately fly out the window.

3. TRY ANGLING YOUR FURNITURE

When your furniture pieces - chairs, sofas, love seats are all lined up flat against a wall, you lose the opportunity to create interesting conversational groupings, not to mention the fact that your room would resemble an office waiting area!

4. WHEN SELECTING FURNITURE FOR SMALLER ROOMS, FOLLOW THESE RULES OF THUMB:

- Pieces with round corners will work best
- Don't select large or oversized pieces
- Try to find case goods that are tall and shallow to give your small space more height
- Open shelving styles will help your space seem more expansive
- Opt for a more tailored look in upholstered pieces



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Must-have elements for building a sustainable new home



(BPT) - When someone builds a home for you, you have the opportunity to make it as sustainable, eco-friendly and energy-efficient as possible. Not only are sustainable homes more cost-effective over the long term, they have a smaller environmental impact, and can be more appealing to homebuyers when you're ready to sell and move.

In fact, more than half of Realtors report consumers are interested in sustainability, according to the National Association of Realtors' REALTORS and Sustainability report. What's more, 70 percent say a home's efficient use of energy is important to potential buyers.

If you're having a home built for you, it's the perfect time to think about sustainability and energy efficiency. The experts at Coleman(R) heating and cooling offer some points to consider as you're planning your sustainable home:

- * Choose a builder who specializes in sustainable homes. While virtually all home builders today will offer eco-friendly or energy-efficient features, sustainable home builders take a whole-house approach. Their plans should include more than just high-efficiency windows and appliances, and lots of insulation. Sustainability planning should also incorporate elements like the position of the home on its lot, number and position of windows in the home, and shade and ventilation, among other considerations.
- * Heating and cooling typically represent the largest portion of a home's energy consumption. When choosing an HVAC system for your sustainable home, choose an option like Coleman(R) Echelon(TM) Variable Capacity Residential Systems, which use leading-edge technology to tune the system's temperature settings and performance for optimum function give exterior conditions. The systems

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- * The orientation of your home can enhance heating and cooling efficiency. For example, if you live in a colder region, placing your home with the maximum number of windows facing south can allow natural light to help heat your home in the winter. If you live in a warm climate, minimizing the number of windows on the west side of the home and planting shade trees on that side can help with cooling. Plant a tree that loses its leaves in the winter, and you can allow light to reach that side of the house when the weather is colder.
- * The more compact a home is, the more energy efficient it will be. You don't have to build a tiny home to achieve a more efficient design. A two-story home can be more compact and energy efficient than a sprawling single-story design.
- * Insulation and air sealing can greatly improve a home's energy efficiency. Talk to your builder about the best kind of insulation for your needs, and learn about R value and how it affects the efficiency of insulation. Discuss how the builder seals potential air leaks in the home, paying close attention to windows, doors and spots where pipes or wires enter the home.
- * Finally, a truly sustainable home is one that makes maximum use of recycled and recyclable materials. Talk to your builder about the construction materials they will use. Are they sustainably sourced? Will they be able to be recycled someday down the road when they are no longer usable in your home?

Demand for sustainable homes is likely to continue growing, according to the NAR report. Choosing to build your new home with sustainable materials, systems and practices can ensure you reap the rewards of a more environmentally friendly home now and in the future.

Fighting the morning clock? 9 no-fail ways to get out the door on time

(BPT) - As the sun shines through the curtains, you hit the snooze button again. Suddenly you bolt up, realizing you're running late. You skip breakfast, grab your bag and rush out the door. Stress levels skyrocket and your day has barely begun.

The race against the clock at the start of the day is a common problem. Mornings shouldn't be difficult and certainly not something you dread. To get out the door on time and with a grin on your face, consider these nine no-fail tips.

Bedtimes aren't just for kids: A great morning starts the night before. A regular bedtime is as important for adults as it is for children. Go to bed with the goal of getting seven to nine hours of sleep, as is recommended for adults by the National Sleep Foundation.

Use the night prior to your advantage: Mornings flow smoothly when you do a lot of prep work the evening before. That means select outfits, pack bags and backpacks, and organize any paperwork before you hit the hay.

Stock the fridge for health and convenience: It's always smart to have delicious and nutritious ingredients in your fridge like fresh fruits, veggies and eggs. Eggs are especially versatile and packed with nutrition. Look for eggs with added nutritional benefits like Eggland's Best eggs. In a hurry? Try Eggland's Best Hard-Cooked Peeled Eggs for a ready-to-eat lunch or snack.

Meal prep on Sunday: Another fridge-friendly tip is to do Sunday prep for the week. For example, chop up veggie spears or fruits and place in individual containers for easy grab-and-go snack options to pair with your hard-cooked eggs.

Learn to love the alarm: Rather than just setting one alarm for waking up, try setting several to keep your morning routine on track. For example, set one for when it's time for breakfast and another as a five-minute warning for departure.

Eliminate distractions: The fewer distractions you have, the better your chances of meeting the morning clock. That means resist the urge to check your smartphone or have a rule that the TV remains off until all morning tasks are complete.

Check it and forget it: It can be highly effective to make a specific list with morning to-do's for you and your family members. As each task is complete, you get the satisfaction of marking it off your list, plus it keeps the morning moving quickly.

Adjust your attitude: A positive attitude doesn't only start your day out on the right foot, it can also help you stay focused so when you're racing against the clock, you win every time (and with a smile on your face).

Don't forgo breakfast: The most important meal of the day doesn't have to take a lot of time. Make-ahead breakfasts and easy recipes are your key to a delicious morning without running late.

These delicious Make Ahead Breakfast Bowls will fuel your family throughout the day with superior nutrition. By choosing Eggland's Best eggs, you get six times more vitamin D, 25 percent less saturated fat, more than double the omega-3s and vitamin B12, and 10 times more vitamin E than ordinary eggs.

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		9	5					
5	2		3	6				
3		1			2			7
	7			9				1
	9	8				6	7	
4				2			5	
7			2			1		3
				1	4		9	5
				5	7			

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The History of Thanksgiving and its Celebrations

Throughout history mankind has celebrated the bountiful harvest with thanksgiving ceremonies.

Before the establishment of formal religions many ancient farmers believed that their crops contained spirits which caused the crops to grow and die. Many believed that these spirits would be released when the crops were harvested and they had to be destroyed or they would take revenge on the farmers who harvested them. Some of the harvest festivals celebrated the defeat of these spirits.

Harvest festivals and thanksgiving celebrations were held by the ancient Greeks, the Romans, the Chinese, and the Egyptians, to name a few.

THE GREEKS

The ancient Greeks worshipped many gods and goddesses. Their goddess of corn (actually all grains) was Demeter who was honored at the festival of Thesmophoria held each autumn.

On the first day of the festival married women (possibility connecting childbearing and the raising of crops) would build leafy shelters and furnish them with couches made with plants. On the second day they fasted. On the third day a feast was held and offerings to the goddess Demeter were made - gifts of seed corn, cakes, fruit, and pigs. It was hoped that Demeter's gratitude would grant them a good harvest.

THE ROMANS

The Romans also celebrated a harvest festival called Cerealia, which honored Ceres their goddess of corn (from

which the word cereal comes). The festival was held each year on October 4th and offerings of the first fruits of the harvest and pigs were offered to Ceres. Their celebration included music, parades, games and sports and a thanksgiving feast.

THE CHINESE

The ancient Chinese celebrated their harvest festival, Chung Ch'ui, with the full moon that fell on the 15th day of the 8th month. This day was considered the birthday of the moon and special "moon cakes", round and yellow like the moon, would be baked. Each cake was stamped with the picture of a rabbit - as it was a rabbit, not a man, which the Chinese saw on the face of the moon.

The families ate a thanksgiving meal and feasted on roasted pig, harvested fruits and the "moon cakes". It was believed that during the 3 day festival flowers would fall from the moon and those who saw them would be rewarded with good fortune.

According to legend Chung Ch'ui also gave thanks for another special occasion. China had been conquered by enemy armies who took control of the Chinese homes and food. The Chinese found themselves homeless and with no food. Many starved. In order to free themselves they decided to attack the invaders.

The women baked special moon cakes which were distributed to every family. In each cake was a secret message which contained the time for the attack. When the time came the invaders were surprised and easily defeated. Every year moon cakes are eaten in memory of this victory.

THE EGYPTIANS

The ancient Egyptians celebrated their harvest festival in honor of Min, their god of vegetation and fertility. The festival was held in the springtime, the Egyptian's harvest season.

The festival of Min featured a parade in which the Pharaoh took part. After the parade a great feast was held. Music, dancing, and sports were also part of the celebration.

When the Egyptian farmers harvested their corn, they wept and pretended to be grief-stricken. This was to deceive the spirit which they believed lived in the corn. They feared the spirit would become angry when the farmers cut down the corn where it lived.

THE UNITED STATES

In 1621, after a hard and devastating first year in the New World the Pilgrim's fall harvest was very successful and plentiful. There was corn, fruits, vegetables, along with fish which was packed in salt, and meat that was smoke cured over fires. They found they had enough food to put away for the winter.

The Pilgrims had beaten the odds. They built homes in the wilderness, they raised enough crops to keep them alive during the long coming winter, and they were at peace with their Indian neighbors. Their Governor, William Bradford, proclaimed a day of thanksgiving that was to be shared by all the colonists and the neighboring Native American Indians.

The custom of an annually celebrated thanksgiving, held after the harvest, continued through the years. During the American Revolution (late 1770's) a day of national thanksgiving was suggested by the Continental Congress.

In 1817 New York State adopted Thanksgiving Day as an annual custom. By the middle of the 19th century many other states also celebrated a Thanksgiving Day. In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln appointed a national day of thanksgiving. Since then each president has issued a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, usually designating the fourth Thursday of each November as the holiday.



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