



Building a caring community for residents who want to remain in their homes safely and affordably while maintaining a meaningful lifestyle.

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022

PRESIDENT'S POST



Welcome to Spring. The redbud tree down the street is flowering and tiny leaves are starting to appear on the frost damaged plants that I thought, for sure, were dead. We just have to survive this next little cold blast and it won't be long before we are seeking out some cooling shade.

This month, I would like to recognize the work being done by Margo Pearson and by Bruce Cunningham. As announced previously, Margo has taken the leadership role for Membership and the Call Manager team. Margo has a very logical approach and has been updating the processes and documentation to ensure the system works well and is in compliance with the various rules and

requirements. Thank you, Margo.

Bruce is the leader of our Social Team, and despite the challenges and personal restrictions imposed by covid, Bruce continues to provide opportunities for social engagement. Thank you, Bruce and your dedicated little team. Hint hint, Bruce can do with a few more volunteers.

The recent Zoom call on protecting ourselves from scammers was very interesting. Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Unit Specialist Eric Medina highlighted ways to avoid the pitfalls of scams and identity theft. Holly Steinke from The Woodlands Township Neighborhood Watch Program offered to send information to any of our members on safety assistance, including important phone numbers and web addresses to have close by should you become a crime victim or wish to report suspicious activity. She can also send you a free File of Life form to record your medical and prescription data to have in your home should a medical emergency arise. Holly can be reached at 281-210-3884.

I realize that Zoom can feel somewhat overwhelming to some of our members. Having personally taught my 83-year-old aunt how to use Zoom and Facetime, I understand the challenges for those who are not tech savvy. That being said, we all need to keep up with the times and learn how to use these empowering aids. If anyone is struggling with using Zoom, please let the Call Managers know (281-845-4441 or email aiptwtx@gmail.com) and we will assign a volunteer to help you. I encourage all our members to take advantage of these free

Zoom, get-togethers, informative talks and entertainment. Hybrid events that include both in-person and online options are becoming the wave of the future for organizations like ours. The hybrid format literally offers the best of both worlds. You can participate in the comfort of your own home or in person, whatever works best for you.

Bruce is planning an in-person luncheon on the screened in terrace at Tommy Bahama for members, friends and guests who feel comfortable mixing in person again. (See details below.) Each of us has our own tolerance for risk when it comes to our health. I personally have a low risk tolerance and still do not feel comfortable attending very large indoor events, or crowded events held outdoors. I realize it is a personal choice and, as a membership organization, we will always encourage our members to make their own decisions as to whether it is safe to attend events or not. Regarding vaccinations, I choose to socialize with people who have a lower risk of transmission should they be unfortunate enough to have contracted the virus. In any caring organization, we must think about one another's health and safety, not just our own.

Thanks again to all our volunteers who give their time and talent so generously. Have a great St. Patrick's Day and enjoy the first days of spring.

Until next month,
Best wishes

Robyn



Come out for our first in-person meal in two years on Tuesday, March 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Tommy Bahama in The Woodlands Market Street Center, 9595 Six Pines Drive.

Tables will be on the screened in terrace. Order from the menu. Self-pay. Please make your reservation with Bruce Cunningham by Sunday, March 20, bruce.cunningham@gmail.com, or call or text 281-686-7979.

A sample menu can be found at:

<https://www.tommybahama.com/content/dam/tommy/restaurants/the-woodlands/Woodlands-food-drink.pdf>. The macadamia nut crusted snapper, filet mignon salad and everything else is delicious, according to regular patrons. Portions tend to be large and will probably provide a second meal for most. If you have questions about the menu the restaurant's phone number is 281-292-8669. **If you need a ride, please give us a call at 281-845-4441 or email aiptwtx@gmail.com.**



MEET THE SIX VIRTUAL VOLUNTEERS WHO ANSWER PHONE CALLS AND EMAILS

Virtual volunteering is a perfect fit for our six dedicated Call Managers. They can answer the phone and emails from their homes or wherever they happen to be with their smart phone, tablet or other mobile device. **Herb Reinhold**, the weekend CM, says he has fielded calls at airports, in a rental car on his way to a vacation destination, and while boating on Lake Conroe. The husband of former board president **Peggy Reinhold**, Herb recently stepped down as board treasurer, one of the many ways he has devoted his time and talent to AIP-TW.



Beth Kulkarni says the way the system is set up she can fit most of her regular activities in between the Call Manager duties she performs one day a week, usually on Wednesdays. Often that means she is busy quilting baby and lap-size small quilts. She also tutors several people with limited English proficiency.

When she joined AIP-TW about three years ago she knew very well the importance of family, friends and community support for aging in place. Her late husband eventually had to be admitted to a memory-care facility but she took care of him at home as long as she was able to do so. She had to depend on friends and family for transportation to visit him. As a Call Manager she feels especially good when she can provide rides for those with medical needs, including post-surgery doctor's and therapist's visits and ongoing medical visits for those with chronic illnesses.



Erika Bondy Pratt says "My life goes on as usual when I'm the CM. The only times I cannot do it is when I am with my grandchildren or out of the country." One caller was in the habit of phoning at 11 p.m. but she answered with her usual friendly hello. Oftentimes, on the day she is CM, she is updating other things she does for AIP-TW. Erika is a current member of the board of directors, a former board secretary and current coordinator of the rideshare program. She is a talented artist and graphics designer who created our organization's logo.



Margo Pearson has been a friendly voice answering our phone since 2019 even when she's traveling or enjoying time at the beach. She originally got involved with AIP-TW so she could meet and help people as she drove them places as a rideshare volunteer. "Being a call manager adds to that goal. I have more chances to talk to people and help them get the resources they need." Most calls are requests for rides. "Often I hear a 'slice of their life' as they explain where and why they are going someplace," she says. During one call a man told her about his writing and painting and that he was well over 90 years old. She later had the chance to visit him and see the wonderful murals he painted.



Pat Goodpastor is a friendly voice, problem solver and resource, a role she has been fulfilling since she first became a Call Manager in 2018. "It's nice to hear from our members and most of them are so grateful for any help we can give them," she says. She continues with her usual activities—gardening, playing cards and mah-jongg, water aerobics, chores around the house—while monitoring phone calls and emails.

When she first started scheduling rides she discovered that the number of transportation resources in Montgomery County is fewer than the number of people who need them. Rides are particular scarce for people who are wheelchair bound or need assistance getting to and from the car. According to the transportation coordinators for Meals on Wheels and Interfaith of The Woodlands, they require, as does AIP-TW, that the client be able to get to and from a vehicle without assistance. Pat is a member of the board of directors and former Membership team leader.



Vicki Bradley is the newest member of the virtual office team. She is a good listener who likes to spend time helping others. She has been a CM for almost a year and still enjoys the feeling of accomplishment when she completes a ride service request on the AIP-TW website since several steps are involved in matching a client with a driver.

Vicki goes about her usual routine when she is the Call Manager. "Sometimes I am out shopping or on Zoom with friends." In those cases, unless the call needs to be answered immediately, she lets it go to voicemail and calls back when she is at home with pen and paper near her computer. Those of us who have visited with Vicki during a Zoom social are awed by her collection of artworks and her own unique knitted creations visible in the background.

SAVE THE DATE FOR EVENT YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS



TOWNSHIP TO HOST EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS 'GET READY' EVENT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Are you really prepared to face any emergency? Is your information up to date?

The Woodlands Township Neighborhood Watch Program invites all residents and businesses to a fun, free family event on emergency preparedness from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2, at The Woodlands Township Town Hall, 2801 Technology Forest Blvd. Various agencies will provide information at indoor and outdoor booths. Firetrucks and other emergency equipment will be on site for demonstrations. For more information, please contact Holly Steinke at 281-210-3884.

Meanwhile, if you haven't already done so, subscribe to the Township service that will keep you informed during significant communitywide emergencies. To subscribe, go to www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/notifyme and follow the "Notify Me" direction; under Alert Center choose Emergency Notifications.

Additionally, to stay in touch with the Township go to www.thewoodlandstowship-tx.gov/mobileapp for information on downloading the The Woodlands311 mobile app on an iPhone or Android device. Search for TheWoodlands311 in the app store or on Google Play.

The Neighborhood Watch's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/townshipneighborhoodwatch, is also a source of information on upcoming events and programs.



"Nature gives to every time and season some beauties of its own." Charles Dickens

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"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home." –Edith Sitwell

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