

Volume 19 June 2014 No. 6



Trees of Suburban Houston

by Glen Telge

Live Oak trees are the most common oak. They can be found in almost every front yard in suburban Houston and for some very good reasons: (a) they stay dark green throughout the year, (b) they grow to a moderate height, and (c) they are relatively tolerant of clay or wet soil and construction activities. On the negative side, once they have reached a certain age, they tend to develop a very dense canopy, creating problems for the grass growing under them.

Live Oaks, although basically evergreen, will lose some of their leaves in the late winter. There is also a lot of variation within the Live Oaks. Some exhibit large dark, dense leaves while others have small, light green, sparse leaves. Some are bushy and others are tall. Some are leafy all winter while others will lose a large part of their leaves.

Two other oaks, the Water Oak and Willow Oak are semi-evergreen species, but most other the species of oaks lose all of their leaves in the late fall. Red Oaks for example, are desired particularly for their fall color. There are a wide assortment of oak species, each having a very different appearance: (1) Live Oak -Quercus virginiana, (2) Post Oak - Quercus stellata, (3) Water Oak - Quercus nigra, (4) White Oak - Quercus alba, (5) Black Oak - Quercus velutina, (6) Shumard Red Oak - Quercus shumardii, (7) Nuttal Red Oak - Quercus spp., (8) Willow Oak - Quercus phellos, (9) Burr Oak - Quercus macrocarpa, (10) Chinkapin Oak - Quercus muelenbergii, and (11) Overcup Oak - Quercus lyrata. All of these species are available at local nurseries.

The largest Live Oak tree on record in Houston is located in the Houston Heights and is 60 feet tall, 16 feet in circumference, and has a 118 foot spread. The largest

Live Oak tree on record in Texas is located at Goose Island State Park in Rockport, TX and is 44ft tall, 36 feet circumference, and has a 75ft spread. Another unbelievably huge Oak is in Columbus, Texas.

Water Oaks are actually the tallest of the Oak species. The largest Water Oak tree on record in Houston is located on Woodway Drive and is 110 feet high, 11 feet in circumference, and has a 65 foot spread. The largest Water Oak tree on record in Texas is located in Dallas, Texas and is 146 feet tall, 15 feet in circumference and has a 85 foot spread.

Oak Trees (Originally published in Sep 1999 as Tree Article #2/53)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Harris County Sheriff713-221-6000
Harris County Animal Control281-999-3191
Cy-Fair Hospital
Street Lights & Outages - CenterPoint Energy713-207-2222
CenterPoint Energy713-659-2111
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Incwww.PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 888-687-6444
Poison Control Center800-222-1222
AT&T - Repair800-246-8464
Billing
Trash – Royal Disposal & Recycle713-526-1536
Vacation Watch - Harris County District 5 281-290-2100
W. Harris County MUD #11281-807-9500
Willow Place Post Office
Willowbridge Websitewww.willowbridgehoa.com
Cable/Internet/PhoneCOMCAST713-341-1000

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HOA INFORMATION

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Tracy Graham
E-Mailgrahammanagement@sbcglobal.net
Fax
If you have any questions or comments regarding the
neighborhood please contact the numbers above.

HOA MEETINGS

Willowbridge/Stonebridge Homeowner's Association Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of each month at the community clubhouse at 7:00 pm.

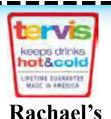
WELCOMING COMMITTEE

The Welcoming Committee meetings are the last Monday of each month.

HARRIS COUNTY ROAD AND BRIDGE

To report street or curb damage, missing/damaged street signs and street flooding: (281) 353-8424 or www.hcp4.net.

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THE SCHOOL ZONE

By Barbara Lallinger

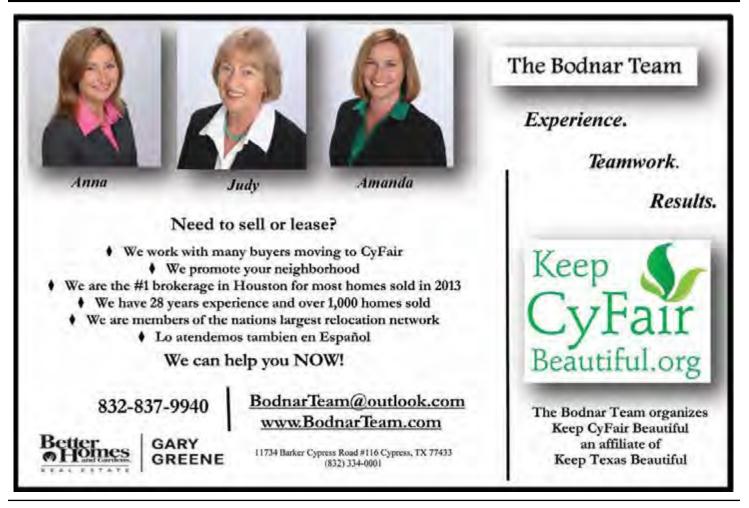
By the time you receive this newsletter, school will probably be out and parents will already be wishing it was starting again; however, some information still remains to be reported.

The Gleason ES PTO Carnival & Auction had another successful season with profits of \$20K+ (which will be used to support students and staff in miscellaneous ways in the following year). Way to go PTO!! Thanks toall of the sponsors (a super big one to Lepow Dental), donors and volunteers! Don't forget to support these sponsors and donors also!

Last semester, Gleason ES Fifth Grader, Vuong Vu placed 5th in the ENTIRE NATION in the my ON second annual Summer Super Hero Reading Program. The program, engaging 65,000 students in 4,200 schools, challenged participants to read as much as possible from 5/15 to 8/15/13, using the myON Readers software. Eight other CFISD students placed

among the top 100 readers nationally, Vuong ranked highest among them. Vuong's favorite classes are Math and Science which allows him to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor and curing people and saving lives.

CFISD changed several elementary school boundaries. For Gleason this means rezoning from Frazier of the Moorpark MHP, Reid Estate and the Taub Rd. area. From Reed to Gleason are Bart/Congo Ln., Burger Estates, Creekside Estates, Cy-Fair TownHomes, N. Pines MHP and the ungated portion of Woodwind Lakes (the gated portion already attends Gleason). Attendance Projections for the 2014-15 school year are: Gleason ES: 946 Reed ES: 1,157 Frazier ES: 773. To view the maps go to cfisd.net and click on: Approved attendance boundaries for Anthony MS and rezoning modification or multiple campuses (following Voting Locations, Dates and Times).



HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

VACATION WATCH:

If you are going out of town, take advantage of a free service offered by the Harris County Sheriff's Office. Our contract deputies will stop by your home and make sure it is safe and secure. To take advantage of this service, call the HCSO District Five Office at 281-290-2100 or you can fill out the attached form and fax it to the station.

CORRECTIONS to May 2014 Issue

- 1. Pool renovations: \$30K+
- 2. Pool hours: Sundays -- Open at 12:00 noon (not 11:00 a.m.)



HURRICANE SEASON IS UPON US!

When the newsletter went to print (5/10) it was hard to believe that hurricane season was right around the corner. We had a nice rain yesterday, (and may get some more over the weekend), but we're also back in drought status. The season runs from June 1 - November 30 (that's also hard to believe!).

Hurricane Highlights:

- 1. Tropical sustained winds of 39-73 mph.
- 2. Hurricane Watch is issued when one is expected to reach
- 3. Hurricane Warning is issued for a particular area when one is expected within 36 hours.

How to Prepare:

- 1. Determine safe spaces in your home (small enclosed areas indoors, on the lowest level of the house, away from windows and under something sturdy to protect from flying/ falling debris).
- 2. Test smoke detectors, fire extinguishers once a month.
- 3. Make sure all family members know important phone
- 4. Once a WATCH has been issued, check emergency supplies (food, flashlights, batteries, etc.)
- 5. Cover windows with plywood
- 6. Bring outdoor furniture in.
- 7. Store personal papers and important documents in the highest place possible in waterproof containers (safe deposit box even better).
- 8. Once a WARNING has been issued, stay tuned via radio, television or web for instructions from city officials.
- 9. Review emergency plan with family.
- 10. Turn refrigerator(s) to coldest setting.
- 11. Fill bathtubs and other containers with water (if not your safe place).
- 12. Stay away from exposed windows and doors.



FLIPPIN' & FLOPPIN'

In Houston, we can generally wear flip flops almost all year long. But be careful! The weather may permit it, but our feet weren't made for walking around on a thin slab of rubber with no other support all of the time. Flip flops are blamed for everything from sprained ankles to bacterial infections.

According to Dr. William Blank, a foot surgeon at Memorial Hermann Northeast Hospital, he sees patients who develop tendinitis, plantar fasciitis and hammertoes from wearing flip flops too much. The main culprit—there's nothing on your heel to keep the shoe from falling off, so your toes have to do all of the work. The toes start to grip the shoe in the swing phase of the gait cycle. This changes the way you walk, which is hard on the knees and hips. With enough steps, that toe-clenching can strain the extensor muscles on the lower legs, which gives you shin pain. Your toes can also stiffen in that clenched position, creating hammertoes. Flip flops don't provide much support or shock absorption. This can lead to tendinitis or plantar fasciitis, causing pain in your heel and along the bottom of your foot.

If you must wear flip flops, try the following:

- 1. Wear flip flops with thicker soles.
- 2. Don't wear them if you're planning on walking or standing for long periods of time.
- 3. Don't wear them if you plan to do something physical such as sports or yard work.
- 4. Periodically, trade for a more supportive sandal, with a strap, arch and heel backing.
- 5. Use common sense. If your feet or legs begin to hurt, change into a more comfortable/supportive shoe.





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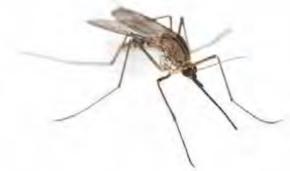
Fight the Bite! Reduce your Risk

BBQs, gardening, swimming pools and hikes...and mosquitoes. Enjoy the outdoors, but remember to protect yourself and your family from mosquito-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus. Your best defense against being bitten is simply to be prepared. Help Fight the Bite!

- When outdoors, use an insect repellent containing the active ingredient DEET, Picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535 to reduce exposure to mosquito bites. Always apply as directed on the label. Do not allow young children to apply repellent to themselves; have an adult do it for them.
- If possible, wear long-sleeved clothing and long pants when outdoors at dawn and dusk which are peak mosquito biting times.
- Place mosquito netting over infant carriers when you are outdoors with infants.
- Don't feed the storm drains. Sweep up lawn clippings, leaves and tree limbs from sidewalks and driveways.
- Remove/empty containers that can hold water such as flowerpots, buckets, tires, toys and plastic swimming pools. Birdbaths and pet water bowls should be changed at least twice a week.
- Cover your boat or store in a covered place. Drain any standing water and make sure the bilge pump is working. Turn over canoes,

kayaks and small boats to store upside down.

- Keep rain gutters clean and draining and repair any outdoor household leaks.
- When watering the lawn, be aware of any excess water that may accumulate. Fill in low areas around the yard.
- When mosquitoes are noticed in your yard, spray with an outdoor mosquito spray. Be sure to use according to directions on the label. To control mosquitoes in your house, use a "flying insect spray". Be sure to use according to directions on the label.
- Household pets can be exposed to West Nile Virus (WNV). Contact your veterinarian for more information.





HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT DISTRICT V VACATION WATCH

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

SUBDIVISION:		ADDRESS	S:				
NAME:		TELEPHO	NE:				
DATE LEAVING:	☐ AM / ☐ PM	DATE RETURNING:	☐ AM / ☐ PM				
VEHICLES:							
COLOR	YEAR MAKE / MODEL	LICENSE #	DRIVEWAY / GARAGE				
			/				
	/						
LIGHTS LEFT ON YES / NO TIMER ON LIGHTS YES / NO IF YES, WHAT ROOM LOCATIONS:							
ALARM: YES / NO PETS: YES / NO TYPE:							
	WHERE:						
EMERGENCY CONTACTS: (Include phone #'s and at least one key holder with alarm codes if alarm is set)							
NAME	PHONE #	KEY HOLDER Y / N Y / N Y / N	ALARM CODES Y / N Y / N Y / N Y / N				
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS							

PLEASE MAIL OR FAX TO HARRIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 23828 Tomball Pkwy Tomball, TX 77375 Fax (281-290-2177)

Know Your ABCDs

(and Pencil Erasers)

No, this article does not belong under The School Zone. ABCD is a good acronym to use for Melanoma (skin cancer).

A is for Asymmetry: One half of a mole or birthmark does not match the other.

B is for Border: The edges are irregular, ragged notched or

C is for Color: The color is not the same all over and may include shades of brown or black, or sometimes with patches of red, pink, white or blue.

D is for Diameter: The spot is larger than 6 millimeters across (about 1/4 inch - the size of a pencil eraser), although melanomas can sometimes be smaller.

Melanomas can be cured if caught in time. Doctors recommend having a professional skin cancer exam annually. Regular total body checkups are the best way to make sure your skin is healthy and continues to stay that way. Call your dermatologist today (especially, if you are a sun worshipper).

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A FOCUS ON SUNBURN

Protect Your Skin From Our Powerful Sun

By: Concentra Urgent Care

Sunburn is caused from over-exposure to the harmful ultraviolet rays of the sun. While the symptoms (such as red skin that is painful to the touch) are usually temporary, the skin damage is often permanent and can cause serious long-term health effects, including skin cancer, pigmentation and premature aging. In addition to the skin, eyes can get burned from sun exposure; sunburned eyes turn red, dry, and painful, and can feel gritty.

Sunburn results when the amount of exposure to the sun or other ultraviolet light source exceeds the ability of the body's protective pigment, melanin, to protect the skin. Sunburn in a very light-skinned person may occur in less than 15 minutes of midday sun exposure, while a dark skinned person may tolerate the same exposure for hours.

Sunlight contains an invisible form of radiation called ultraviolet (UV) rays. UV A and possibly UV B can harm skin, connective tissue and increase risk for developing skin cancer. Certain drugs such as some blood pressure medication, antibiotics and nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs increase sensitivity to sunlight and the risk of getting sunburn.

SYMPTOMS

The first signs of a sunburn may not appear for a few hours. The full effect to your skin may not appear for 24 hours or longer. Possible symptoms include:

- Red, tender skin that is warm to touch. (1st degree burn)
- Blisters that develop hours to days later. (2nd degree burn)
- Severe reactions (sometimes called "sun poisoning"), including fever, chills, nausea, or rash.
- Skin peeling on sunburned areas several days after the sunburn.

FIRST AID

- Try taking a cool bath or shower. Or place wet, cold wash cloths on the burn for 10 to 15 minutes, several times a day. You can mix baking soda in the water to help relieve the pain. Small children may become easily chilled, so keep the water tepid.
- Apply a soothing lotion to the skin.
- Aloe gel is a common household remedy for sunburns. Aloe contains active compounds that help stop pain and inflammation of the skin.
- Over-the-counter steroid cream can also be applied several times a day.
- Over-the-counter pain medication, such as nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, or NSAIDs, including aspirin, may be helpful, and are excellent for reducing burn inflammation whereas Tylenol only reduces pain, not the burn itself.

For more information, check out: www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/uvradiation.





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