

THE VILLAGE

Gazette™

"It takes a Village..."

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES AT WESTERN OAKS AND LEGEND OAKS I



\$2,500, \$650, and \$150 scholarships for high school juniors/seniors and for grade school (9-15 yr olds)! The Aquifer District, in collaboration with our permittees, offers college and camp scholarships each year. Applications are due the Tuesday after Spring Break--March 24th by 5:00pm! Spring Break is a perfect time for students to work on groundwater-related research. Please pass this info along to interested students.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Many thanks to Centex Materials, Creedmoor Water Supply, Texas Lehigh Cement Company, St. Andrews Episcopal School, City of Hays - Elliott Ranch, and Goforth Special Utility District for donating a portion of their Conservation Credits to support these scholarship programs. We are able to have a wonderful awards program this year!! Here are the details for both programs.... please pass along to any students that may be interested!

2015 AQUATIC SCIENCE ADVENTURE SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

- Students ages 9 through 15 years old
 - Application Deadline: Tuesday, March 24, 2015
 - Scholarship amounts: \$650 or \$150, depending on length of camp
- The District is now soliciting applications and essays for its 2015 Camp Scholarship program for the Edwards Aquifer Research and Data Center's Aquatic Science Adventure Camp through Tuesday, March 24, 2015. We estimate this year's program will provide:
- \$650 scholarships to the week-long Aquatic Science Adventure Camp (Note: Parent will be responsible for providing \$150 camp deposit fee, which will be needed to hold the child's spot.)

- \$150 scholarships to the 2-Day Aquatic Science Adventure Camp (Note: All \$150 will be paid for by BSEACD.)
- The Camp scholarship contest is open to children ages 9 through 15 who reside in one of the six school districts within the District's boundaries. Interested students must submit an application and a 1-page essay/artwork entitled "Why I want to attend the Aquatic Science Adventure Camp!" Scholarship winners will be chosen in a random drawing; only completed applications with essays/artwork will be eligible. Deadline for submissions: 5:00p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

Both English and Spanish application packets available here: www.bseacd.org/education/scholarships/#Camp

2015 KENT S. BUTLER MEMORIAL GROUNDWATER STEWARDSHIP SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY CONTEST

- High school juniors and seniors
 - Application deadline: March 24, 2015
 - Scholarship amount: \$2,500
- The Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District (BSEACD) is now soliciting applications and essays for the 2015 Kent S. Butler Memorial Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest through Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

The District's college scholarship is dedicated as a memorial scholarship honoring one of Austin's most influential environmental planners, Kent Butler. Dr. Butler specialized in bringing science and policy together. He encouraged open conversation, collaboration, and participation from all perspectives. The Kent S. Butler

(Continued on page 2)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-0845

SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
Mills	512-841-2400
Patton	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing)	512-494-9400
Emergency	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing	512-219-2602
Problems	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service	1-800-288-2020
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Article Submissions	villagegazette@peelinc.com
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(Continued from Cover)

Groundwater Stewardship Scholarship Essay Contest increases the awareness of groundwater issues by rewarding high school students for high quality research and writing. The \$2,500 scholarship can be applied toward tuition for any college, community college, or training institution. The essay contest is open to high school juniors, seniors, and immediate graduates. Students must reside in one of the six school districts overlapping the District boundary. These six independent school districts are: Austin, Eanes, Dripping Springs, Hays Consolidated, Del Valle, and Lockhart.

One essay will be selected as the winning entry by an independent evaluation panel, and the author will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to the college, community college, or training institution of his/her choice.

Essays must generally discuss groundwater issues, which may include but are not limited to: non-point source pollution, pollution prevention, water conservation or hydrogeology.

While essays must focus on groundwater issues, applicants do not have to be planning a career path in a water-related field. Deadline for submissions: 5:00p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2015.

2015 Groundwater Essay Contest application form and rules available here: www.bseacd.org/education/scholarships/#College

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SILVERFISH

I recently noticed silverfish lurking in my house while handling holiday decorations, so I'm sure others may have the same problem. Silverfish can eat and stain books, fabrics, food and wallpaper, but are often considered being more of a nuisance than a pest. These insects have flattened carrot-shaped bodies with three long "tails" that come off the tip of the abdomen. The body is covered with fine scales that give them a silver sheen. Immatures look just like the adults, but are smaller in size.

Usually silverfish are not seen by homeowners because they are most active at night. They can commonly be found in attics, closets or near bookcases. They may also be found behind baseboards or around door and window casings. Silverfish feed on starchy foods like paper, flour, oats or glue.

Tips for managing silverfish:

- Remove old books, papers & magazines
- Store items in sealed, plastic bags or plastic containers with tight-fitting lids

- Clean closets on a regular basis- vacuum/ sweep floors and wipe down any shelves
- Reduce humidity with fans, air conditioning or dehumidifiers
- Repair any water leaks
- Inspect all items before bringing them into the house
- Target treatments to where silverfish live- wall voids, closets, attics, behind baseboards, etc.



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Bag Ladies

By Jim and Lynne Weber

NATUREWATCH

While winter is the time of year when we hang man-made ornaments on our trees and shrubs to commemorate the holiday season, it is also the time of year when nature-made ornaments are most apparent in the landscape. These ornaments are as widely unique as snowflakes, and their appearance varies with the bits and pieces of leaves, twigs, and bark fragments woven into silken bags in a shingle-like fashion. They reveal themselves on the bare branches and limbs in winter, and they are created by female bagworms.

Members of the Psychidae family, there are about 1,350 species of bagworms worldwide, also commonly known as bagworm moths or bagmoths. Although different bagworm species vary slightly in habits and life cycle, bagworms spend the winter months in the egg stage sealed within the bags produced by females the previous fall.

In late May to early June, very tiny caterpillars hatch, produce a silken strand by which the wind can carry them to new foliage (called 'ballooning'), and construct a tiny conical bag carried upright with them as they move. During leaf-feeding, the caterpillars emerge from the top of the bag and hang onto the host plant with their legs, sometimes aided with a silken thread. The bottom of the bag remains open to allow fecal material (called 'frass') to pass out of the bag.

By August or September, fully grown caterpillars have developed larger bags, and pupate within them. Seven to 10 days later, the pupae of the male moths work their way out of the bottom of the bag, and emerge from their pupal skin. These males have half-inch long clear wings, feathery antennae, hairy black bodies, and they spend their time seeking out a female to mate. Females, on the other hand, are immobile and stay in the larval stage, do not develop into moths, and remain inside the bags. After mating, the females produce a clutch of 500 to 1000 eggs inside their bodies and then die.



Bagworm in juniper

Bags vary in size, up to 2 inches long and about a half inch wide, and are spindle-shaped. They can be quite ornamental, covered in a somewhat patterned array of bits and pieces of plant matter. A wide range of broadleaf and evergreen trees and shrubs serve as hosts for bagworm species, including juniper, cedar elm, bald cypress, live oak, persimmon, sumac, sycamore, willow, yaupon, and native fruit and nut trees.

Since these bags are composed of silk and plant materials, they are naturally camouflaged from predators such as birds and other insects. While birds can eat the egg-laden bodies of female bagworms after they have died, the eggs are very hard-shelled and can pass through the bird's digestive system unharmed. This represents yet another way to disperse bagworm species over a wide-ranging area, and helps in creating a whole new generation of bag ladies!



Bagworm in yaupon

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

EARTHQUAKE CAKE



- 1 cup coconut
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1 - 2 layer pkg. German chocolate cake mix
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup melted oleo
- 1 - 1lb. pkg. confectioners sugar

Sprinkle coconut and pecans in greased and floured 8 x 14" cake pan. Prepare cake mix using package directions. Pour into pan. Beat cream cheese and oleo in mixing bowl. Add confectioners sugar; mix well. Pour over batter. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes or until cake tests done. Yield 15 servings.

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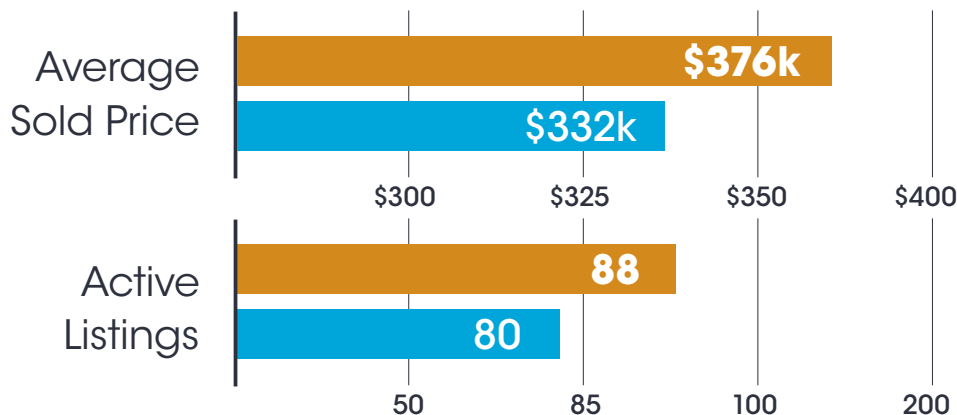
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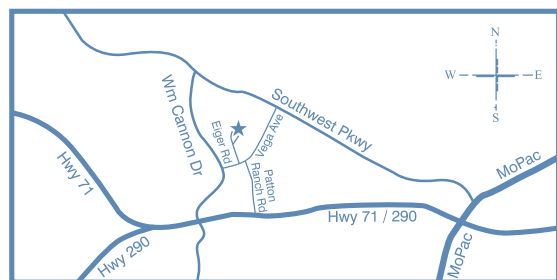
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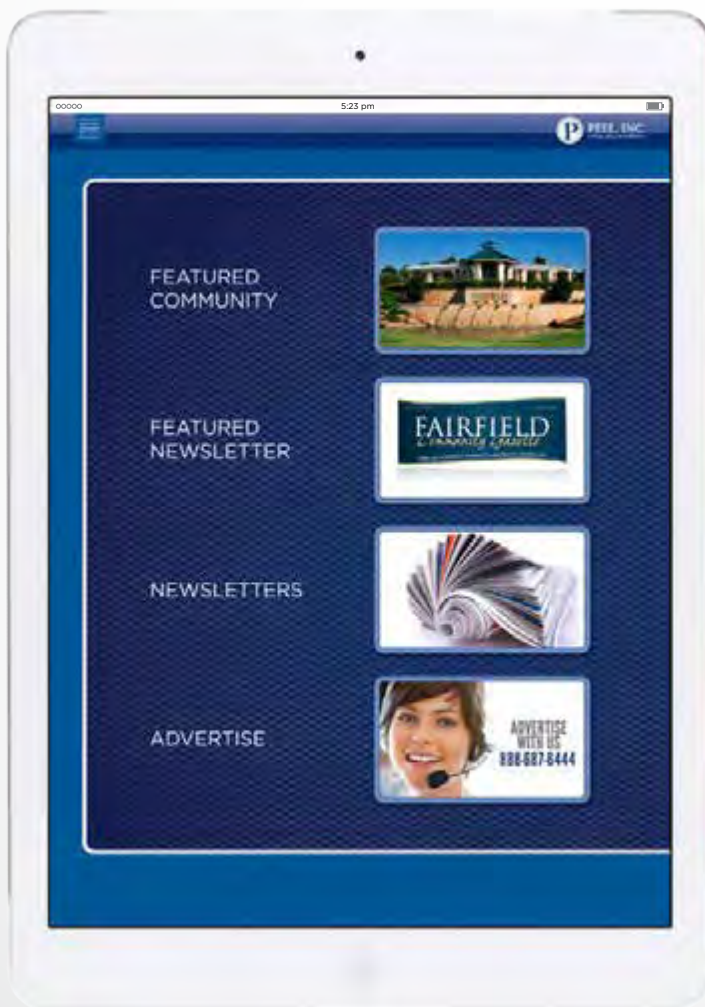
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