

BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 2015



Holiday Decorating CONTEST

The contest will be held on Sunday, December 13th, in the evening between 6 – 9 pm.

Winners will be notified the same evening as the Judges will knock on your door to deliver your winnings, and to place a sign in your yard.

The contest is for exterior decorations only, including decorations in windows visible from the exterior. Judging will be based on “curb appeal” as viewed from the street. Judges will not enter the property to view back or side yards. Participants should ensure that all lights, animations and decorations are in place and activated for the judging period.

The top three winners will receive Gift Cards; 1st place \$100, 2nd place \$75 and 3rd place \$50. Photos will be taken of the decorated residence, which will be posted on the Butler's Bridge / West Bend website and in the newsletter.



Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow. ~ Melody Beattie

Nextdoor.com

JOIN OVER 200 OF YOUR NEAR-BY NEIGHBORS ON
WWW.NEXTDOOR.COM

Nextdoor is the private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free.

Thousands of neighborhoods are already using Nextdoor to build happier, safer places to call home. People are using Nextdoor to:

Quickly get the word out about a break-in or other criminal activity.

- Find a trustworthy babysitter

- Get a maintenance referral

- Ask for help finding a lost pet

- Find a buyer for an outgrown bike

- Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods.

The Harris County Sheriff's Office announced a partnership with www.nextdoor.com, to improve countywide neighbor-to-neighbor and law enforcement-to-neighbor communication, and virtual neighborhood watch.

Led by Sheriff Adrian Garcia, this integration with Nextdoor will enable the HCSO to use Nextdoor to communicate directly with residents to build stronger, safer communities.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Emergency Situation	911
Constable Precinct 5	281 463-6666
Sheriff Emergency & Non.....	713 221-6000
Harris County Sheriff (Store Front).....	281 564-5990
Harris County Sheriff (sub-station)	281 463-2648
Poison Control.....	800 764-7661
Crime Stoppers	713 222-TIPS

EMERGENCY

AT&T (Repairs).....	800 246-8464
Center Point Energy (Electric).....	713-207-2222
Center Point Energy (Gas)	713 659-2111
Comcast (Cable)	713 462-9000
Mud #120 (Water).....	713 405-1750
Reliant (Electric)	713 207-2222
Street Light Repairs -need Pole#	713 207-2222
Trash (Texas Pride Disposal)	281 342-8178

PUBLIC SERVICES

Local U.S. Post Office	281 920-9337
<i>12655 Whittington Dr, Houston, TX 77077</i>	
Toll Road EZ Tag.....	281-875-EASY (3279)
Volunteer Fire Dept.....	281 498-1310
Steve Radack (County Commissioner).....	713 755-6306
Animal Control.....	281 999-3191
Dead Animal Pick-up (Precinct 5).....	713 439-6000
Dead Bird Report.....	713 440-3036
Graffiti Clean-up.....	281 463-6300
Mosquito Control (Health Dept.)	713 440-4800
Mow the Bayou.....	713 684-4000

SCHOOLS

Alief Independent School Dist.	281 498-8110
Alief Transportation (to report Bus).....	281 983-8400

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

C.I.A. Services, Inc.....	713 981-9000
3000 Wilcrest Drive, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77042	
customer@ciaservices.com	
www.CIASERVICES.com	

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Editor.....	Linda Hermon
WBCIAnewsletter@yahoo.com	
Publisher	Peel Inc.
Advertising.....	www.PEELINC.com

2015 Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

6th	National Night Out
6th	Ice Cream Social
13th	Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

5th	Newsletter
3rd	Board Meeting
TBD	Beautification Committee Mtg

DECEMBER

5th	Newsletter
No Board Meeting	
13th	Holiday Decorating Contest

*The above dates are subject to change with or without notice.
Please check the website for updates. www.ciaservices.com*

Board Meeting and Management

C.I.A. SERVICES INC.
3000 Wilcrest Drive
Suite #200
Houston, TX 77042

Phone: 713 981-9000
Hours: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

www.ciaservices.com
customer@ciaservices.com

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING EVERY 2nd TUESDAY

7:00p - Executive Session

7:30p - Board Meeting

Butler's Bridge Pool

3915 Summit Valley Dr.

Houston, TX 77082

The Architectural Control Committee

The (ACC) Architectural Control Committee must be informed if you are planning to change the exterior style, color, or have plans for additions or any removal to your property. A mandatory Architectural Review Form will need to be completed and signed. You may obtain this form on-line at www.ciaservices.com

Beautification Committee Meeting

The Beautification Committee will meet in November to address the graffiti, over-grown lots, and other topics to improve our community. We need your help! Please contact www.CIASERVICES.com for more information and to JOIN the committee.

**COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS REGISTER ONLINE:
WWW.CIASEVICES.COM
*LANDSCAPE/BEAUTIFICATION
*YARD OF THE MONTH**

Board Members 2015-2016

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VICE PRESIDENT

(Rudy Benitez)

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(OPEN)

Happy Thanksgiving!



Thanksgiving Turkey



Peace Turkey



Secretive Turkey



Love You, Man Turkey



Rock On Turkey



Vulcan Turkey



TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM

Tips To Secure Your Home

*Provided By Kimberly Robinson
(Area Resident)*

1. Protect your Bathroom & Bedroom Windows

– Make sure your windows are protected, even windows that are for decorative purposes only and are not made to open.

2. Don't keep all of your valuables in one place.

– Spread your valuables around your home and don't keep them all in one room (master bedroom, office, etc)

– Most people keep their most expensive possessions in their master bedroom and criminals know this.

– This includes jewelry, extra check books, credit cards, cash, old cell phones, heirlooms, etc.

3. Alarm Systems

– Make sure you get an alarm system, security system, etc and make sure you turn it on even when you are home.

– Average monthly fees are \$30 for monitoring services (\$360 per year)

4. Home & Street Lighting

– Turn on lights at your front door, garage area, sides of your home and backyard EVERY NIGHT. To make it easier, add motion lights or dust till dawn lighting. Add motion lights and lights to the darker side of your back yard, not just your back door.

– If your street lights provided by Centerpoint Energy are off, email CenterPointEnergy.com/outage or call 713-207-2222 and give them the number on the street light pole and they will have someone come and fix it. We are paying for the street lights whether they are on or off.

5. Alarm Permit

– Complete your County's alarm permit form and mail it in. If you are broken into and your information is not on file, once the Sheriff's office is done with investigating your home, they may leave the property in the condition it is in if they can't contact you. This permit costs \$10-\$30.

6. Protecting your backyard

– Put a lock on your backyard gate (key lock, combination, chain, etc)

– Make sure the lock can't be cut off (no ropes, string, thin wires, etc)

– Put a Beware of Dog sign up whether you have a dog or not

– Put excess yard equipment, furniture, etc that is not needed in your backyard in your garage. The criminals are using these items to break our windows.

7. Protecting the inside of your home

– Set various lamps and TV's on timers around your home

– Make sure your house is never completely dark

8. Out of Town notifications

– Make sure you tell a neighbor YOU TRUST when you are going out of town so they can look out for your home.

9. Parents/Elderly Family Members

– Many of our neighbors have parents and elderly family members that are home during the daytime.

– Those family members need to be trained on what to do if your

home is broken into while they are home. Have a plan (call the cops, push a panic button, use golf clubs, mace, etc for protection)

10. Internal Locks

– Change your locks on your doors to dead bolt locks. Get rid of standard homebuilder "turn" locks. Criminals can break through your door window and unlock the standard "turn" locks with their hands and walk right into your home.

11. Report Suspicious Cars

– Check with your neighbor about suspicious cars on your street or in the area. If they are unsure of whose car it is, call the Police. It's better to be safe than sorry.

12. Windows

– Consider putting curtains up at all windows that are visible from the outside of your home including the see through pillar windows next to your front door.

– Never assume that someone isn't peeking through those windows when you are not home.

13. Record Valuable items in your home

– Take pictures of everything valuable in your home (TV's, computers, jewelry, cameras, iPods, electronics, weapons, etc)

– Keep pictures and serial numbers in a secret location (you will need these for the police investigation and for your homeowners insurance if your home is burglarized)

14. Re-evaluate who enters your home in your absence

– Cleaning Services

– Pool Services

– Aquarium Services

– Never leave your key for random people to enter your home. If they can't provide the service while you are home, consider finding another company that can.

LAST POINTS TO REMEMBER

– Don't assume being burglarized won't happen to you!!!!

– Protect your home 100%.....have no regrets later if your home is Burglarized. "To say that you were completely protected after a burglary is so much better than saying I should not have procrastinated on protecting my home and family"

– Don't forget about daytime protection...this is when they are entering our properties the most.

– Don't be in such a hurry to start your day that you don't pay close attention to the cars on your street and in your area that are unfamiliar to you. Remember anyone watching you, is probably in a car and not on foot.

– Don't assume they are unarmed. We are not home to see if they are carrying weapons or not. Assume they will do anything to you and your home to take your property.

Annual Dues

The West Bend C.I.A. Annual Assessment Statements for fiscal year 2016 will be mailed to you by Dec. 1st and are Due January 1, 2016. The annual budget and finance report can be reviewed on the website in January 2016. If you have questions, contact us at www.ciaservices.com

Greater Mission Bend Area Council

The Goal of the Greater Mission Bend Area Council is to provide a voice for the citizens of the Greater Mission Bend area to present and address our common issues.

The Greater Mission Bend Area Council was formed August 16, 2007 by a group of citizens of who live in Mission Bend and surrounding neighborhoods who came together to address the many issues confronting our neighborhood.

Our neighborhood needs more visibility and influence with County Officials in addressing our common problems. Our Homeowners Associations need to band together to speak with one voice so that we can provide the resources to meet our community's challenges. The formation of the Greater Mission Bend Area Council is the first Step in this process.

The issues listed below were defined at the first meeting held on August 16, 2007. These are not all of the issues but by addressing and resolving these, we will have made major steps in the right direction.

- Commercial District and its impact on our community.
- Crime and gang activity in our neighborhoods.
- Deed restrictions and uneven enforcement from one neighborhood to the next.
 - The increase of multiple families living in single-family housing in violation of deed restrictions.
 - The abuse of neighborhood deed restrictions by residents who park 18-wheeler trucks and tractors, sometimes in the actual driveways of single-family homes – in violation of deed restrictions.
 - The violation of our neighborhood by various transportation authorities, including the Harris County Toll Road Authority, METRO, and our friends at TXDOT who seem to have identified Mission Bend as a target neighborhood.
 - Support of Alief Independent School District including school bonds.

Join us the 1st Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

**Community Volunteer Fire Station
16003 Bellaire Blvd., 77083
www.GMBAC.com**

Free Family Things To Do In November

Circus Arts: Free Outdoor Acrobatics

When: Wed, November 4, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Where: Discovery Green, 1500 McKinney Street, Houston, TX 77010

Description: Discover a new art form consisting of ground arts and acrobatics from Houston-based Cirque La Vie. This is weekly through November 11. For folks age 13 and up. You must sign a waiver to participate.

Nature Storytime at Nature Discovery Center

When: Wed, November 18, 4pm – 5pm

Where: 7112 Newcastle St, Bellaire, TX 77401

Description: Free story time for preschoolers with variety of fun: live animals, puppets, short nature walks, crafts or songs and nature stories. www.naturediscoverycenter.org/event-calendar

Seven Free Museums on Thursdays

When: Thu, November 19, 10am – 9pm

Where: Museum District, Houston, TX

Description: Seven museums are free each Thursday, while a number are free every day. {The 8th museum, The Weather Museum, is relocating and not open now.}

Here is the free Thursday schedule:

- Houston Museum of Natural Science — 2 pm – 5 pm
- Children's Museum of Houston — 5 pm – 8 pm
- The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston — 10 am – 9 pm
- The Health Museum — 2 pm – 5 pm
- Houston Museum of African American Culture — 6 pm – 8 pm
- Buffalo Soldiers National Museum — 1 pm – 5 pm
- Holocaust Museum Houston — 2 pm – 5 pm

<http://houstonmuseumdistrict.org/free-admission-times/>

Bat Chats

When: Fri, November 20, 8pm – 9pm

Where: 401 S Heights Blvd, Houston, TX 77007

Description: Arrive 30 minutes before sunset to hear a brief presentation on Waugh Bridge Bat Colony. Watch bats emerge under the Waugh Bridge. Meet on the platform at Waugh Drive and Allen Parkway. Free public parking at Spotts Park.



Veterans Day

**WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 11TH**

Veteran's Day honors all members of the Armed Forces who served this country valiantly, and in a very big way. They served and fought to protect us, to keep our country safe, and to preserve our way of life. Veterans gave their time, and risked their lives for you and me. In some cases, they made the ultimate sacrifice.

This holiday originally was called Armistice Day and was first celebrated in 1921. In 1954, President Eisenhower changed it to Veteran's Day, in honor of those who served and died from all wars.

On November 11 at 11:11, 1921 the U.S. France and England each buried an unknown soldier in honor of those who died in World War I. This began the annual Armistice Day holiday. The time and day was picked because fighting ceased in WWI in 1918 on November 11 at 11:11. In keeping with this tradition, work stops on this day and time each year for a moment of silence.

Remodeling During the Holidays?

By: Dave Burr

Are you wrestling with the idea of remodeling for the holidays? There are only a few projects that you should consider. Since the holidays are busy times for both home owner and contractors, there is ample opportunity for delays, miscommunications, parts not showing up as ordered and other stressors. A home owner should only consider non-intrusive remodeling were the work is surface such as replacing a floor, countertops, new window shutters. These types of jobs require only a day or two of crews on site.

If your job requires multiple trades on the jobsite such as plumber, electrician, drywall, you are asking for trouble during the holidays. These guys all have to be scheduled, materials have to be available and on site to produce results in a timely fashion. Better to hold off on intrusive projects until January especially is you have to order materials such as sinks, faucets, or even cabinets. Don't be fooled by promises of delivery especially from the big box stores. Every large company has downsized and is under staffed. And they are hiring cheaper unskilled workers at every opportunity. So the margin for error is up.

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 6)

So shop early for Christmas, plan ahead, allows time for traffic. Plan a stress free holiday. If you wanted that new kitchen in by Christmas to impress the relatives at Christmas dinner, it may be too late. You may have time for pre-fab kitchen remodeling. That's about it. Remodeling is already stressful for most people. Why add that to the stressful weeks ahead of planning for the holidays? You can always buy some trick faucets, wrap them up and give a presents too. Merry Christmas to all!!!

For those home owners who still want to rehab their kitchen for the holidays you might consider cabinet refinishing or cabinet re-facing. With cabinet refinishing we refinish the existing cabinets. This gives your old worn out looking cabinets the look of brand new kitchen cabinets without changing the layout of the kitchen. Cabinet re-facing is when we reface the cabinets with a wood looking veneer. Cabinet re-facing can also give your existing kitchen cabinets a new look without changing the layout of the kitchen. The cost of cabinet re-facing is more than cabinet refinishing. Although it cost less than custom cabinets or pre-fabricated kitchen cabinets.

THE GARDEN PARTY November To Do List

- Keep the moisture level up in your compost pile. This time of year we have a lot more dry material to add to the pile. Use a garden hose to water the pile as needed.
- Continue planting trees, shrubs, rose bushes and perennials. Planting now will ensure better survival next spring/summer and earlier growth and blooms.
- Plant fall and winter color – pansies, dianthus, snapdragons, alysium, ornamental kale and cabbage, dusty miller, etc.
- Replace dead grass with St. Augustine sod. Weeds will sprout in dead patches if you don't. New sod will be well-established by spring.
- Apply pre-emergent weed control such as corn gluten or Barricade to prevent weeds from sprouting.
- Winterize the lawn with an organic, slow release fertilizer.
- Plant herbs and winter veggies. Cilantro, parsley, dill, mint, lavender and rosemary. Lettuce, spinach and other greens are just weeks from the salad bowl. Start onion sets, leeks and garlic now for spring harvest.
- Plant bulbs between Halloween and Thanksgiving for the holidays: Crocus, anemones, freesia, ranunculus, alliums, lycoris, etc. Plant paperwhites in pots by November 11th (Armistice Day) for blooming in time for Christmas. Refrigerate tulips until New Year's Day, then plant every two weeks through Valentine's Day for longer bloom time.
- Plant wildflower seeds through November – bluebonnets, paintbrush, larkspur, etc. Also plant sweet pea seeds in November for better results in spring.
- Last chance to get that mulch down before the weather gets cold. The mulch you applied last spring is long gone! Protect roots and maintain moisture while keeping weeds to a minimum with a 3-inch layer of the mulch of your choice — pine straw, bark mulch, compost, leaves.



NOW HIRING

Advertising Sales Representative

Description: The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

Roles: Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

Skills: Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

Benefits: Commission Based
Apply by sending resume to jobs@peelinc.com



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