

BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 2

DECEMBER 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 \$50, 2nd place \$35 and 3rd place \$15. Photos will be taken of the decorated residence, which will be posted on the Butler's Bridge / West Bend website and in the newsletter.



NEWSLETTER CAN BE EMAILED

We hope you are enjoying our new Monthly Newsletter! We are so exiting in keeping you informed with community news, reminders, and events. Should you have an article or information that you would like to see or to post in the newsletter, please contact wbcianewsletter@yahoo.com.

Starting in January 2016, in order to "Go Green" and save money on postage, the newsletters will be sent to you via email. Please make sure your updated email addresses are on file with C.I.A. Services, Inc., by contacting them at www.ciaservices.com or by phone.

For those of you that do not have access to an email or computer, you may request the newsletter to be mailed to your address by contacting Gina Victor, C.I.A. Manager, at 713 981-9000.

THE GARDEN PARTY HEY, WOODLANDS, STOP USING BLACK DYED MULCH (EVERYONE ELSE WHILE WE'RE AT IT, TOO!)

By Randy Lemmon GardenLine Host

The Woodlands homeowners associations try hard to control what can and can't be done there to keep things "woody" and natural. So, how and why have they allowed so much unnatural dyed mulch to dominate new home construction?

"Wood mulches can slow the growth of established plants and just plain starve new ones to death by 'tying up' the available food in your soil, a process known as "nitrogen immobilization." Those are the exact words of one of the nation's leading experts on mulch - Dr. Harry Hoitink, revered soil scientist and professor emeritus at The Ohio State University.

"Wood is carbon, and carbon always looks for nitrogen to bond with so it can break down into new soil," Hoitink says. "That's the principle behind composting. Wood mulches take that nitrogen right out of the soil, out-competing your nitrogen-needy plants. And dyed mulches ARE THE ABSOLUTE WORST offenders. The wood in these old pallets, chipped up and sprayed with dye, is the worst type of mulch for

(Continued on Page 3)

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

NOVEMBER

5th	Newsletter
3rd	Board Meeting
TBD	Beautification Committee Mtg

DECEMBER

5th	Newsletter
No Board Meeting	
13th	Holiday Decorating Contest

JANUARY

1st	2016 Assessments Due
5th	Newsletter
12th	Board Meeting

*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

Board Members 2015-2016

PRESIDENT

Lisa Crane

VICE PRESIDENT

Rudy Benitez

SECRETARY

Linda Hermon

TREASURER

Ani Caloustian

DIRECTOR

Aaron Williams

DIRECTOR

Bill Hammer

DIRECTOR AT LARGE

(OPEN)

(Continued from Cover)

use around new landscapes ... especially on smaller shrubbery, annuals, perennials and just smaller plants."

Double-shredded Texas native hardwood mulches are composed of finely shredded wood mixed with compost, Texas-native varieties that also include ample compost, which is beneficial to the soil, not harmful. Dyed mulches are nothing more than chips and chunks of wood - neither mixed with anything organic nor shredded. Gardeners can see the sick plants almost always brought on by nitrogen immobilization.

Some landscapers do know this. But a homeowner says they want black, and instead of running the risk of losing business, the landscaper simply puts down black mulch. Unscrupulous landscapers who know that black-dyed mulch loses its color quickly count on re-applications throughout the year for a customer who wants a consistent "black look."

Equally as guilty are real estate agents who encourage the use of black-dyed mulch to stage a house for sale, telling homeowners black mulches look classy. Educated landscapers and gardeners think it looks unnatural and inelegant. A fresh application of Texas native mulch has much more curb appeal.

Read more at <http://www.ktrh.com/onair/gardenline-with-randy-lemmon-25172/hey-woodlands-andeveryone-else-stop-using-blackdyed-mulch-12327883/> - ixzz37jBdmOnA

Editor's Note: GardenLine with Randy Lemmon airs every Saturday and Sunday, 6am-10am on KTRH (740AM) Call-in line: 713-212-KTRH(5874).www.randylemmon.com



It Must Be The Mistletoe

SELL US YOUR CAR!™

TEXASDIRECTAUTO.COM

West Bend CIA

Committee Volunteers register online:

www.ciasevices.com

*Landscape/Beautification; *Yard of the Month; *(ACC) Architectural Control Committee; *Social Committee; Communications Committee; Neighborhood Watch;

ANNUAL DUES

The West Bend C.I.A. Annual Assessments are due on January 1st of each year.

The annual budget and finance report can be reviewed on the website on or before January 2016. Should you have questions, contact us at www.ciaservices.com

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

Holiday Schedule

At Texas Pride Disposal, we observe four holidays: New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day. In the event that your regular collection day falls on a holiday, collection services will roll to the next scheduled collection day.

Christmas Day - Friday, December 25th, 2015
Collection services will roll to the next scheduled collection day.

New Year's Day - Friday, January 1st, 2016
Collection services will roll to the next scheduled collection day.



Win a Lifetime Super Combo License

This is your chance to win a Lifetime Super Combo License, giving you the right to hunt and fish in Texas without ever having to buy another state license.

Only \$5 per entry and you can enter as many times as you like!

Purchase your entries wherever Texas hunting and fishing licenses are sold, or purchase online <http://tpwd.texas.gov/>

The next drawing will be held on December 30, 2015. Entries will be on sale through December 27, 2015. If you enter before December 27, 2015 and your name is not drawn in the December drawing, you will be eligible for the June 30, 2016 drawing.

The drawing package also includes a 1-year subscription to Texas Parks & Wildlife magazine. All proceeds from the Lifetime License Drawing fees go directly to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for on-the-ground conservation efforts that help make Texas one of the best places in the country to hunt and fish.

WIRED

ELECTRICAL SERVICES

SERVICING ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS

- Panel Upgrades
- Home Inspections
- TV Install/Mounting
- Troubleshooting
- Remodeling
- Landscaping Lighting
- Home Generators

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL 24-7 SERVICE
LICENSED & INSURED



Take \$25.00 Off Your
Next Service Call

FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED

713.467.1125 or 281.897.001

www.WiredES.com



TECL 22809 Master 100394





Make a Difference in Your Family

The holiday season is generally a time of family get-togethers, increased community service and an overall joyful experience as we share this wonderful time with family and friends.

But did you know that you can make the spirit of the holiday season last all year? How you ask? By opening your heart and your home to an International Exchange Student!

Host families reap the benefits of opening their home by sharing their America. When they share with their exchange student, they are also able to see America with fresh eyes through the student. Families often learn new things about the U.S. and have different perspectives after hosting. The experiences and memories that are shared during the program last a lifetime and span international borders.

Make a difference in the life of a student and in your family! If your family enjoys exploring new cultures and nurturing youth, please contact us to request more information about this amazing opportunity to share your life with a special young person and to learn how you can make a difference. The application process for the 2016/2017 school year has begun; it is recommended to start now as available schools spots fill up early.

Ayusa is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to promote global learning and leadership through foreign exchange, study abroad, and leadership programs for high school students from the U.S. and around the world.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact your local representative Vicki Odom at 832.455.7881 or vodom@ayusa.org or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.



Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club Free Registration Breakfast

The Northwest Flyers Youth Track Club will celebrate its 29th Anniversary Season by hosting its annual free Registration/Orientation Breakfast on Saturday, February 6th, 2016. The breakfast starts promptly at 8:30 AM at the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center Forum, 6823 Cypresswood Dr., Spring, TX, 77379.

In July, 2015 the club had one of its most successful competitions ever at the Junior Olympics in Jacksonville, Florida. All boys and girls who wish to join the team for the 2016 spring/summer track season must attend the orientation, which will be highlighted by a special presentation from a member of the USA Track & Field Olympic organization (USATF).

The Northwest Flyers Track Club is a youth (ages 6 -18) track club, affiliated with USATF, that provides a full program of sanctioned "track" events such as sprints, hurdles, middle distance, distance and relays, and "field" events such as long jump, triple jump, high jump, pole vault, shot put, discus and javelin.

For additional information on the Northwest Flyers Track Club, please visit the team website at <http://www.northwestflyers.org>; contact Linette Roach at linette.roach@sbcglobal.net; or "Like" the club on Facebook.



Happy Holidays, Neighbors!

Find the events below for 2015 and get to celebrating!

Festivals/Family Fun:

- Home for the Holidays – November 7–December 20 – Old Town Spring – 403 Main St, Spring, TX 77373
- The local shops come alive and visitors encountered strolling performers and festive exhibits!
- Santa’s Workshop – November 13-January 3 – 18898 Hwy 6 South, College Station, 77845
- Biggest Christmas attraction in the state of Texas! Several ticket options are available.
- Festival of Lights – November 14–January 10 – Moody Gardens – 1 Hope Boulevard
- Galveston, Texas 77554
- Find more than 1 million lights, live entertainment, ice skating, pictures with Santa and the Arctic Slide.
- Ice Land Ice Sculptures with Sponge Bob Squarepants – November 14-January 10 – Moody Gardens – 1 Hope Boulevard, Galveston, Texas 77554
- SpongeBob, Patrick, Sandy, Mr. Krabs, Squidward are all carved out of more than 2 million pounds of ice!
- Polar Express Train Ride – December 4-6, 11-13, 15-23, 26 & 27 – 789 Park Road 70 Palestine, TX 75801
- Ride on the Polar Express! Find the best pricing in November and early December... and book all tickets before they sell out!
- Zoo Lights – November 20–January 9 – Houston Zoo – 6200 Hermann Park Drive, Houston, TX 77030
- Tour the Zoo after dark! The Zoo closes t 5:00pm and reopens at 6:00pm for this event. Check their website for “value” nights and “prime” nights. “Value” nights are less busy and cheaper! Closed December 24 & 25.
- Field of Light – November 24-February 21 – Discovery Green – 1500 McKinney, Houston, Texas 77010
- Field of Light, a dazzling art installation by internationally-acclaimed artist Bruce Munro, returns to Discovery Green this holiday season!
- ICE at Discovery Green – November 26-February 8 – Discovery Green – 1500 McKinney, Houston, Texas 77010
- All ages are invited to skate at Discovery Green. There is a small toddler rink for the littlest ones to practice.
- Mayor’s Holiday Celebration – December 4 – City Hall – 901 Bagby St, Houston, TX 77002
- Tree lighting, music, Santa and family fun in Downtown Houston!
- Dickens on the Strand – December 4-6 – Galveston – Strand Boulevard
- Victorian holiday festival! Six stages, strolling carolers, musicians, bagpipers, jugglers and even more entertainers. Costumed vendors peddle their wares from street stalls and rolling carts laden with holiday food and drink, Victorian-inspired gifts.
- Christmas Train – December 4-6, 10-13, 17-23 – 1407 Victory Lane, Alvin, TX 775711
- Old-fashioned train ride through our winter wonderland of lights and scenery. Over 300,000 lights sparkle along the 3/4 mile track.
- Tomball German Christmas Market & Festival – December 11-13 – Tomball Train Depot – 201 S Elm St, Tomball, TX, 77375
- Great family festival just outside Houston.
- Holiday Party at Kinder Station – December 12, 2015 – Hermann Park – 1700 Hermann Drive, Houston, TX 77004
- Arts and crafts projects and complimentary face painting. It’s the second Saturday of the month so Hermann Park Conservancy members ride the train for free!
- Bayou Bend Family Day: Festive Traditions – December 20 – Bayou Bend – 6003 Memorial Dr, Houston, TX 77007
- Activities, music, demonstrations, performances, craft workshops, giveaways, and more abound throughout the home and gardens.
- Winter Break at the Museum – December 22-January 3 – Museum of Fine Arts Houston – 1001 Bissonnet, Houston, Texas 77005
- Families can explore art created by American artist Mark Rothko.
- Shows/Concerts:
 - A Christmas Carol – A Ghost Story of Christmas – November 20 – December 28 – Alley Theatre
 - The Little Prince – December 4 – 20 – Houston Grand Opera
 - Houston Symphony: A Frosty & Frozen Christmas – December 12 – Jones Hall
 - The Nutcracker – November 27 - December 27 – Wortham Theater
 - Really Really Big Christmas Show – December 17-21 – Second Baptist

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.

Funny Christmas Stories to Share with Your Loved Ones

By: Jasmine Montford

Christmas is a time of goodwill, good cheer and good times with family and friends. Christmas songs are sung, Christmas dishes and desserts are shared, and Christmas decorations are put up in advance of Christmas Day. Well, why stop there when you can also share funny Christmas stories with family and friends gathered in the family home?

Think of these Christmas-themed funny short stories as your family's new tradition for the holidays and, thus, add more fun, more laughter and more levity to the special occasion. While gathered around the dining table on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day, a few selected members of the group will tell humorous short stories about Santa Claus and his elves, angels and shepherds, and even about the experiences of family and friends during Christmas.

With these funny Christmas stories, a few rules must be observed so that everybody can enjoy the tall tales. Keep in mind that Christmas is supposed to be a happy occasion so it is important to respect other people's sensibilities especially about the beloved Christmas characters. For example, the funny short stories must not touch on sexual subjects since kids are around – perhaps, these kinds of jokes can be saved for when the kids are asleep.

It is also important to remember that Christmas is also a special religious occasion for many Christians. You will want to avoid making fun of certain religious symbols and icons (i.e., crosses, saints and Christ) unless you are absolutely sure that everybody within earshot of your irreverent funny Christmas stories sees these tales as just that – jokes that are designed to elicit laughter, not raise hackles. Otherwise, just avoid telling these tales to preserve the peace and goodwill of the season.

What are the benefits of sharing funny Christmas stories, you may ask? After all, there are already songs and dances, food and drinks, and other traditions that make Christmas fun so there seems to be no need to add more to the season. Well, shared laughter strengthens relationships among parents and their children, among friends and acquaintances, and among husbands and wives – and isn't Christmas all about strengthening the family and the community? So, share your funny Christmas-themed stories at the dinner table and watch how love, peace and goodwill flow among family and friends.

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



PEEL, INC.



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St. South
Lakeway, TX 78734

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

WSB



LET US HELP YOU
GROW YOUR NEXT

**BIG
IDEA**



PEEL, INC.
printing & publishing

CONTACT US TODAY!

512.263.9181

OR VISIT

PEELINC.COM