

# BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2016

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*Dorothy Adams*

## 2016 Calendar of Events

### JANUARY

1st ..... The 2016 Assessments due today  
5th ..... Newsletter  
12th ..... Board Meeting

### FEBRUARY

2nd ..... Groundhog Day  
5th ..... National Wear Red Day  
5th ..... Newsletter  
8th ..... Chinese New Year  
9th ..... Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras  
9th ..... Board Meeting  
14th ..... Valentine's Day  
15th ..... Presidents' Day

### MARCH

5th ..... Newsletter  
8th ..... Board Meeting  
15th ..... President's Day  
24th ..... Purim Jewish Holiday  
25th ..... Good Friday Christian holiday  
27th ..... Easter Sunday Christian holiday  
31st ..... César Chávez Day

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### A CELEBRATION OF

# Western Heritage

Every February since 1938 the nation's fourth largest city is transformed from a bustling metropolis to a down-home celebration of Western heritage. Decorative floats intermingle with thousands of men and women on horseback to fill the streets with hoof beats and marching bands. Enthusiastic Houstonians join out-of-town spectators to line the streets and sidewalks to be involved in one of Houston's most popular celebrations!

### SATURDAY, FEB. 27, 10 A.M. PARADE ROUTE

- Begins at Bagby and Walker streets
- Walker Street to Travis Street, right on Travis
- Travis to Bell Street, right on Bell
- Bell to Louisiana Street, right on Louisiana
- Louisiana to Lamar Street, left on Lamar
- ends at Lamar and Bagby



## 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

The above dates are subject to change with or without notice.  
Please check the website for updates. [www.ciaservices.com](http://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](http://www.ciaservices.com)  
[customer@ciaservices.com](mailto: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

# WIRED

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# Garden Party

## THE ANNUAL CRAPE MYRTLE MASSACRE

The Crape Myrtle Massacre is the over-pruning and wrong-season pruning of crapes all over Houston.

You've seen over-pruning ... people chop back crape myrtles to the knuckles each and every year, and new growth comes out like a "feather duster." And wrong-season pruning would mean November and December. Don't let "peer pressure" by neighbors and commercial gardening crews get to you.

Looking through all the horticultural research I could find, nowhere could I locate anything about trimming crapes in November or December. The reason is simple ... we don't have much of a winter. If you trim the crapes in the last two months of the year, and we get a warming trend in January or February, the trees might actually start putting on new growth. And that new growth will be incredibly susceptible to freezing weather should it come on the heels of a warm spell.

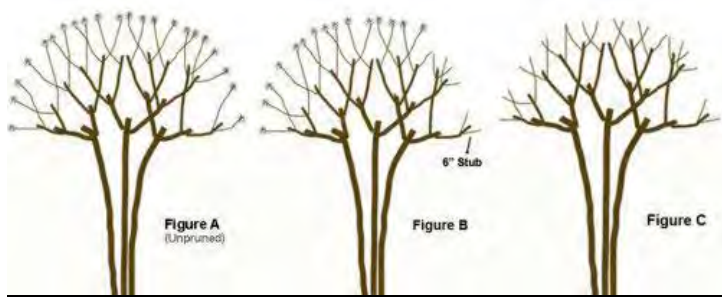
New growth will also tend to draw the cold right into the plant, causing needless damage to a tree that should be resting in dormancy.

So, say it with me: the best time to trim crapes is January through February. For years, I've suggested Valentine's Day is a great time to trim them, because at that time we're also trimming back our roses.

Now, as for how much to trim, it truly is up to you. Since crapes are so resilient, no matter how much or how little you trim really doesn't matter. From an aesthetic point of few, however, I personally don't like trimming back to the "knuckles." But you should at least trim back the expired seedpods (the dried bloom clusters) to insure better blooms in the coming year.

**VISIT THE WEBSITE BELOW FOR TRIMMING SUGGESTIONS**

**CRAPE MYRTLE FARMS  
WWW.CRAPEMYRTLES.COM/PRUNING.HTML**



# THE GANG THREAT

## HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?

The FBI says that "gangs are morphing, multiplying, migrating and entrenching themselves in our inner cities, suburbs and rural communities. They are selling drugs to our kids, shooting up our neighborhoods, invading our homes, robbing our banks and stores, stealing our identities, our money, and instilling fear and violence everywhere they go."

They are violent and are responsible for committing crimes from assaults to murder using firearms, machetes, fists and blunt objects to intimidate rivals, law enforcement, and the general public.

They are sprawling our highways, the Internet, and our communities intimidating and infecting all they come in contact with. In some communities, they are responsible for as much as a staggering 80 percent of all crimes.

The National Alliance of Gang Investigators Association (NAGIA) states "The scourge of gangs is a clear and present danger to our internal national security and adversely impacts the quality of life within our communities with violence, drugs and associated criminal activities.

### DANGEROUS CRIMINAL GANG ACTIVITY AND VIOLENCE IS GETTING WORSE

There are about 20,000 violent street, motorcycle and prison gangs in the U.S. today containing approximately one million criminally active members - 147,000 of which are currently incarcerated in federal, state, and local correctional facilities.

While not all gangs are sophisticated and well organized, they all use violence to control neighborhoods and perpetuate their illegal

*(Continued on Page 4)*

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# West Bend CIA

(Continued from Page 3)

money-making activities. Gangs have also become the primary retail distributors of most illicit drugs.

## TYPES OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES GANG MEMBERS COMMIT

- alien smuggling
- armed robbery
- assault
- auto theft
- burglary
- drive-by shootings
- drug trafficking
- extortion
- firearms offenses
- fraud
- home invasions
- homicide
- identity theft
- insurance fraud
- mortgage fraud
- murder
- prostitution rings
- robbery
- theft
- weapons trafficking

Gangs continue to pose a serious threat to public safety in many communities throughout the Houston area and the United States.

### Gangs Are Not Just an Inner City or Urban Problem

Gang movement to suburban areas can be attributed to several factors including the breakdown of traditional hierarchical gang structures resulting from law enforcement targeting of gang leaders, an abundance of wholesale illicit drug suppliers, and the expectation of high profits from new suburban drug operations.

Other reasons include an effort to expand the gang's influence, expanding drug distribution territories, recruiting new members, hiding from law enforcement, and escaping other gangs. As a result, many suburban and rural communities are experiencing ever increasing gang-related crime and violence because of expanding gang influence.

The movement of gang members to suburban areas result in territorial conflicts between rival gang members and competition for the new territory - suburbia. As gangs grow regionally and nationally, they will continue to meet with resistance by other gangs possibly resulting in drive-by shootings, homicides and other violent crimes - now in suburban communities.

### GANGS ARE LIKE PIRATES

Gangs maintain their criminal operations and lifestyles primarily through drug distribution. Members typically launder profits from criminal activities through front companies such as clothing stores, beauty salons, and music recording companies. They commingle illicit proceeds earned from drug sales with income from these businesses to pay their living expenses and the purchase of luxury goods such as vehicles and jewelry. They are like pirates - they commit war-like acts and engage in robbery and criminal violence as a means to sustain themselves.

**Please call Harris County Graffiti Clean-up at (281) 463-6300.  
To anonymously report graffiti or tagging call (713) 759-9454.  
<http://www.harriscountysoc.org/graffitisnew.aspx>**



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## Finding Connection

Do you remember your last first date? I know, for many of you that seems like it was eons ago! Take a minute and try to recall what went through your mind.

For most of us, there were thoughts of, “What if he doesn't think I'm pretty?” Or, “Will he think I'm smart enough? ...Funny? What if he thinks I'm boring?” Take your pick, and fill in the description. Male or female, old or young, we've all worried about these things at some point.

Every self-help book tells you that you need to love yourself before you can make a connection with another person. But how? How do you learn to find that connection within yourself so that you can learn to find connections with others?

For me, it was when I began working with horses. I learned a few simple, but profound, facts about horses. Horses don't judge, and are not impressed by a pretty face. They don't care about the car you drive, what your job is, or how much money you make. There are no concerns about race, sexuality, or religion. All a horse wants to know is, “Can I trust you to keep me safe?” and, “What's in it for me?”

These amazing creatures are incredibly similar to humans in that they instinctively crave the connection formed with other beings.

Through my journey into the world of Natural Horsemanship, I learned that horses are deeply intuitive creatures who can read you just by reading your body language and intent.

Working with these creatures teaches you so much about yourself.

For instance, working with a creature that weighs over 1000 lbs. makes you feel strong and confident. When a horse chooses to interact with you, you feel honored and special. When a horse offers you his trust, you feel love. And, if you mess up or make a mistake? Well, horses are the consummate teachers of forgiveness. They don't hold grudges or cast blame. They just move on. Really, there's a lesson in life everyone should learn.

Learning to love yourself is imperative to finding and establishing connections with others. Learning how to love yourself is a journey in itself. Begin your journey this month, and enjoy the ride.

Tara Chatterson works at Five Horses, LLC in Waller, Texas. To find out more about how horses can help you and your relationships, check out the natural horsemanship program, as well as the equine-assisted learning workshops provided here:

[WWW.FIVEHORSES.COM](http://WWW.FIVEHORSES.COM)



The advertisement for Quality Printing Company features a large, stylized graphic on the left side. It consists of a white silhouette of a hand holding a pen, set against a black background. Inside the hand and around it are numerous white icons representing various printing and business processes, such as gears, lightbulbs, arrows, boxes, a computer monitor, a printer, a magnifying glass, a thumbs up, a hand, a keyboard, a barcode, and several 'CMYK' logos. To the right of this graphic, the word 'Quality' is written in a large, elegant, white cursive font. Below it, 'PRINTING COMPANY' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further down, the text 'Call today for more info' is followed by the phone number '512.263.9181' in a large, bold, black font. Below the phone number, a horizontal line separates it from the text 'From design to print to mail, Quality Printing can help you with all of your printing needs!'. At the bottom, another horizontal line separates this text from the website address 'QualityPrintingOfAustin.com'.

## Life - On A Shoestring . . .

### TOP THREE TIPS TO BE REMEMBERED IN ANY SITUATION

#### Rule Number One: Must Have Clean Humor

Networking. This will either sound exciting to you or send a shudder up your spine. Whether you are a spouse wondering what in the world you are going to talk about at the next office get together outside of business or wondering how you can stand out in the crowd of other entrepreneurs, here are Rules to Successful Networking that may help smooth your nerves.

Nothing says stay away from me faster than a bad, tasteless joke, or worse, to have someone remember you for the wrong reasons. It is hard to find clean jokes to make everyone smile and for certain have someone else remember you as they repeat a clean joke when they get home or at the office the next day to get a few laughs.

So when "Want to hear a dirty joke?" has everyone leaning in.... say, "Actually, I do have one (Dramatic pause or have everyone lean in....) "White horse.....fell in the mud.....and got dirty! Argh. Argh. Say "Oh yes, you are groaning, but I'll bet you'll find yourself repeating it somewhere down the line!"

Laugh or Groan. Hey, someone will fall for this joke. Okay, Okay, you'll just have to know your audience, but when it was my job a long time ago to find good, clean jokes I really, really found out how hard it was to FIND a good, clean joke. At networking events, you'll have only a few minutes and all heads turn when you hear laughter, right? Here is one that I bet you'll repeat at least once!

#### Best Clean Joke

The local sheriff was looking for a deputy, so a young woman (or gentleman), went in to try out for the job. "Okay," the sheriff drawled. "What is 1 and 1?"

"Eleven," she/he replied. The sheriff thought to himself, "That's not what I meant, but that is right."

"What two days of the week start with the letter "T"?"

"Today and tomorrow."

He was again surprised that the young woman/man supplied a correct answer that he had never thought of himself.

"Now, listen carefully: Who killed Abraham Lincoln?"

The young woman (or gentleman) looked a little surprised herself/himself, then thought really hard for a minute and finally admitted, "I don't know."

"Well, why don't you go home and work on that one for a while?"

So, the young woman (or gentleman) excitedly met with her/his friends, and they just couldn't wait to hear the results of the interview.

The young woman (or gentleman) was excited beyond belief. "It went great! First day on the job and I'm already working on a murder case!"

At least start the chuckling yourself. Go ahead be bold and say a joke anyway. A clean joke.

#### Second Best Clean Joke ...

A jock and a geek were applying for the same job. The boss said, "Boys, you need to take a test before you can get this job."

So they took the test and the next day they came back to see who the boss chose. "Well, he said, "Both of you got the same score except I'm going to choose the geek."

The jock complained, "Don't you think that's unfair?"

"Well," the boss said, "Let me tell you what happened. Both of your papers were right all the way through until the last question came up, and the geek answered, "I don't know," and then when I looked at your paper, you answered,

"Me either!"

When the chuckling subsides, say "I only have two jokes". I am always looking for another one to trade up, has anyone heard something funny lately?

#### Rule Number Two: Be Interesting

To be remembered as someone who IS interesting, you'll have to BE interested in other people. Yes, it pays to have something to add to the conversation, and you'll be forearmed after reading the rules of Networking above. Have a few questions ready in case there is a pause in the conversation.

What keeps you occupied outside of your business? This question will help you gain common ground or something interesting to write about in your follow up note.

Have you seen any good movies lately? Did you see .....? See, this is where you will sound interesting.

That was terrible about .....Did you see it on the news this morning?

What are your thoughts on ?

Getting other people to talk about themselves and their interests ultimately makes you more interesting.

Your mission: look in the newspaper, look at your local networking clubs and go make some new clients, friends or even dates! You don't have to be a Toastmaster to feel comfortable in new environments.

Oh, a Bonus Rule. Keep your nails nice. Keep your nails nice. Whether handing your business card over to your next big client or holding a drink (preferably soda), you'll be sending a message that you think about yourself as much as you'll care about them as an account.

#### Rule Number Three: Remember Names

Actually, Rule Number Three: Remember Names should be Rule Number One. Remembering names is crucial. Asking for a business card. Ask how they spell it. Except for the easy, easy names. Try "Is that Linda with an "i" or a "y"? Making up a rhyme, word association, movie association, actor association. Be deliberate and really slow to repeat their names in your head or at least in re-working the introduction. "My pleasure to meet you, Linda". You'll already be thinking of your next question, so please think slowly on remembering someone's name. As crazy as it sounds, try saying "Linda, Linda, Banana Fanna Bo Binda Fee Fi Bo Binda, Linda" (ahem, in your head, please). Anything works. ; You'll surely brighten someone's day and impress them with your Savant-mindedness. Don't use this if you wind up saying "My pleasure to meet you, BlnDa"? or worse "Bimba".

Linda Bates is a Freelance Writer who has been writing and volunteering in the Houston area community since BEFORE the word "Apple" actually meant fruit.

## 10 Easy Ways to Make Your Home Safe

A home should be a sanctuary and a safe haven. You can ensure that you and your loved ones remain out of harm's way in the precincts of your homestead.

To avoid all kinds of accidents you should make it an accident-proof dwelling. It's really simple if you observe specific steps to keep mishaps at bay.

Here are 10 easy ways to make your home safe and secure. These will help you take care and protect yourself, family members and house-guests. Employ these effective tips:

1. Keep interiors and exteriors well lit. This is important at nighttime and also in winters when daylight is not very effective. Critical areas that need to be illuminated are the stairs, outdoors and foyers.

2. Never leave electrical problems pending at any point. The slightest fluctuation should be attended immediately. Make it a cardinal rule to switch off appliances after use.

3. Smoke alarms are a necessity and you must have the very best. Practice regular safety drills with your family to ensure awareness of procedures.

4. Keep ordinary appliances safely as they could be dangerous. Especially with kids around. Make electrical outlets safe by safety plugging and child proofing them. Keep sharp objects like scissors, knives, weapons and match boxes out of reach.

5. Ensure locks and bolts on doors and windows are in order and tamper-proof. Keep an eye out for suspicious characters and never invite strangers into your home. Teach your children not to entertain queries from strangers.

6. Do not share information about working or school hours. Teach family members to avoid telling people about schedules and routines. Do not put personal information online and never respond to voicemails.

7. The risk of accidents goes up when you are getting maintenance or repair work done. Ensure safety and precaution and be prepared to react quickly to accidents or injuries.

8. Do not attempt repair work of appliances involving undue risk. Many home accidents are the result of improper tampering with tools like lawnmowers and trimmers.

9. Maintain caution when driving vehicles in or out of your home. If you are backing the car up, watch out for children and pets on the road.

Make sure you don't leave stuff on stairs that may cause people to trip and fall. Be watchful when clearing snow from pathways that you do not heap it up in areas where people might walk.

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