WESTSIDE

NEWS

Volume 7, Number 3 March 2016

Official Newsletter of the Westside at Buttercup Creek HOA

Fence Line

Over the last year, HOA residents have found different property lines on their back fences. Some builders extended the fence structures beyond authorized limits, and subsequently other residents wanted to extend their fences to match. The HOA has no power of authority to authorize those extensions, and those that have extended fences have been advised that if the fencing is beyond or on the easement and the utility companies need to access that area, their fences will be torn down and not be replaced.

We have been advised that Pedernales Electric is now requesting that those fences within easement be removed. This is just a quick note that your fencing is at risk of being torn down without notice or replacement, and for those considering extending your personal fencing, not to do it for the obvious reasons.

Walt Conlin president@westsidehoa.org

Westside HOA Presents our

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Date: Saturday, March 26th Time: 9:00 – 10:30am Location: Kay Redden Park

There will be 4 age groups starting at various times.

Arrive early so you don't miss out!!

The Social Committee social@westsidehoa.org



The Social Committee is planning our neighborhood events for 2016. Please consider joining the committee to help plan and carry out these events! In the past our neighborhood events have included:

Easter Egg Hunt
Neighborhood Picnic
4th of July Parade
National Night Out
Haunted Trail and Truck-or-Treat
Santa in the Park

Contact your Social Committee chair - Tracy Koehler (social@westsidehoa.org).

Remember – these events don't happen by themselves. Get involved and make them happen!

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Peel, Inc.	512-263-9181
Advertising	advertising@PEELinc.com

ADVERTISING INFO

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COMMITTEES

Do you want to help out in the community but don't have a lot of time? Join one of the following Committees and help out as much or as little as you want.

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



Are you a Cheap, Thrifty or Frugal?

Webster's.com says: "Cheap = stingy or miserly." Example...do you water down hydrogen peroxide to make it go farther? Do your own dental work? Time yourself when opening the fridge? You might be frugal if you save leftover bars of soap in a jar with water to make your own soft soap. (OK. I'll confess to trying this one, but with dismal success.) "Frugal = not wasteful and careful." The word "thrifty" sounds even better than "frugal" and has a tremendously positive definition. Noted at Websters's.com as Thrifty = "Successful, wisely economical". As you hunt and experience the thrill of shopping at a resale/thrift stores, think to yourself "I am thrifty! I am successful! I am wisely economical" and laugh all the way to the bank. At times in my life, I have been all three.

The perception of thrift stores several years ago was that many smelled like old socks and Fritos. What you can expect to find in most of today's shops are cheerful, eager volunteers or staff, a daily change of inventory, clean fitting rooms, thrifty pricing, lots of used coffee mugs, and stores offering sales.

Some of the items I have found at local stores are. New Prada scarf~~\$1.00, Fossil Leather purse new with tag~~\$3.00, New Suede Pants with bead embellishments ~~\$7.99 and Whoohoo!,

they sported a new \$230 tag. Genuine Brighton purses and shoes have been purchased too.

I have been shopping thrift for years and have developed the following:

Ten Successful and Wisely Economical Thrift Store Tips to save time AND money:

- Always take donations to drop off if you are planning to bring some things home. Simultaneously bring out and bring in and always clean up your clutter. Make a detailed list for taxes.
- Find a thrift store by your home, visit frequently and check out store websites for sale calendars. Inventory changes daily.
- Have a list when you go in to the store. The clothing in most thrift stores is sorted by color not size. Don't become overwhelmed. If it was super quick to find a deal, wouldn't everyone be doing it?
- Don't buy clothing if it doesn't fit. This is a frugal thing to do. Are you really going to lose 5-10 pounds?
 - Wear bike shorts and slip on shoes for quick changes.
- Look outside the box. You'll need to shop when people are cleaning out their closets and not when retail stores would typically

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have sales. Shop June through September for long underwear and seek out Hawaiian Shirts in November. Housewares, baby items, toys and furniture are good finds at any month. I feel the best time to shop is second or third week of June, and second or third week of January when de-cluttering typically occurs.

- Buy essential wardrobe pieces
- Black turtle neck sweater
- Hawaiian shirt
- Purses
- Jackets, Scour through tons of women's dress and denium jackets.
- Pants that fit. Seek moderate sportswear labels if you are a label snob. Chicos, Liz Claiborne, Banana Republic can be found at \$7.99 vs \$60.00.
 - Silk Black Tank Top~easy to find after Christmas.
- Western Shirt. We ARE in Texas. Someone is always having a party or Go Western Day in February/March Look for shirts in April- Summer.
- Ties. Find a good funeral tie or ripe, ugly tie for about \$2.00 instead of \$20++.
- Try to find someone in the aisle to brag about what you have found, but to avoid spreading the word about your thrift store gold

mines, just call it a "boutique near your home" when talking to friends.

- Play right. Don't take more than the recommended items in the dressing rooms and put back what you don't want.
- Take everything to a \$1.75 cleaners on the same day. This feels like you have been shopping retail. Be "frugal" and buy many clothes that are machine washable, but find yourself a "good, but cheap" dry cleaners.

The National Thrift Shop Day will be August 21st. Yes, it even has its own "day", but I personally think every day is a great thrift store day~~Good luck.





Westside at Buttercup Creek

Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

Families host foreign exchange students for various reasons: to provide a learning experience for teens from another country, to forge friendships with their own children and to exchange cultural insights. The experience must be a good one, because some families host new exchange students year after year.

Hosting requirements are simple, says Vicki Odom, Senior Regional Director for AYUSA, a cultural exchange organization. Hosts "provide room and board, and a loving, nurturing environment," says Odom, a host every year since 2009. "There's no such thing as a perfect host family," she says. Couples and singles, with or without children, and even empty nesters make good host families."

APPLICATION PROCESS

Participating in a foreign exchange program requires some paperwork to get started, followed by an interview process. Applications, which include background checks, "are not for the faint of heart," admits Odom. "The safety of participants is the number one priority," she says. Much of the application process is designed to inform and prepare potential host families for their upcoming experience.

COST OF HOUSING A STUDENT

Hosting an exchange student can add to your food bill, admits Odom. "It's not so bad if you merely provide what you would normally buy for your family," she says. Visiting students usually have their own spending money and are expected to buy their own cosmetics and other items. A discussion about money and expectations at the onset of the student's visit will likely smooth the way for the year.

FAMILY DYNAMICS

"Sibling" rivalries can develop between visiting and host kids who are the same sex or nearly the same age. But usually, "it helps other kids learn to share when there's an extra person in the house," says Heather Wells, a Katy, TX mom who has hosted two students so far. "The exchange experience is often terrific for elementary-age kids

in the host family, despite the age difference with a teen exchange student, because they learn so much," says Wells.

"Hosting an exchange student can be a wonderful experience for the entire family," states Vicki Odom. "It teaches your kids tolerance and gives them great respect for other cultures. It's a way to learn more about the world without leaving home. You get a glimpse at least, by hosting a student. We can't all be diplomats or ambassadors, but this is something American families can do to make a difference."

30+ Years Connecting People & Cultures

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.





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Zika Virus

Zika virus is transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes and there is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available. The best way to avoid getting the virus is to avoid being bitten by infected mosquitoes. About 20% of people with Zika virus actually get ill. Severe disease, requiring hospitalization, is uncommon and death due to the virus is rare.

The incubation period of Zika virus is thought to be a few days to a week, but is still unknown. Symptoms include fever, skin rash, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, and headache. Symptoms tend to be mild and last from 2-7 days. Zika virus can be contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, through blood transfusions, through sexual contact, and from mother to child during pregnancy.

The mosquitoes that are able to transmit Zika virus are also able to transmit dengue and Chikungunya viruses. These mosquitoes are daytime biters, but can also bite at night. Aedes mosquitoes lay their eggs in standing waterbuckets, tires, tree holes, animal water dishes, etc.

To protect yourself from mosquito bites, wear light-colored clothing that covers as much skin as possible, use insect repellent (read and follow label instructions), use screening on doors and windows, use mosquito netting (if needed) while sleeping, and reduce standing water areas.

For more information on Zika virus, please see the CDC website here http://www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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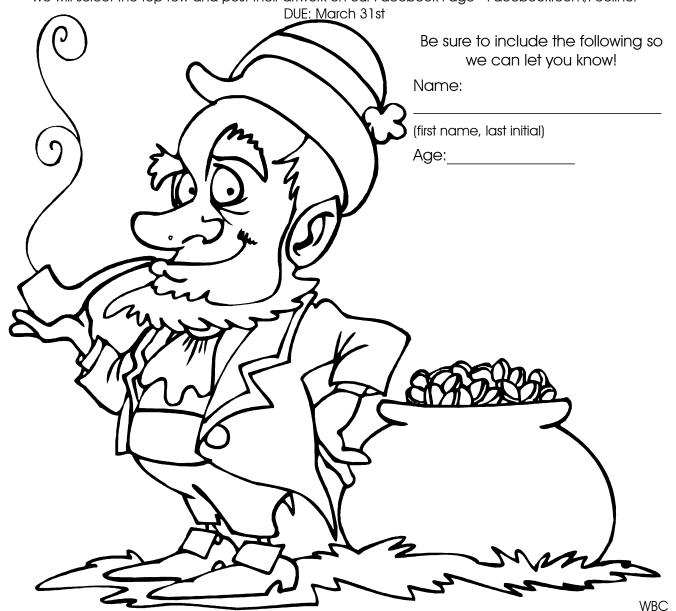
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