

BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 3

MARCH 2016

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2016 Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

5th Newsletter

9th Board Meeting

MARCH

2nd Texas Independence Day

4th Employee Appreciation Day

5th Newsletter

8th Board Meeting

15th President's Day

17th St. Patrick's Day

20th Palm Sunday

20th March Equinox

24th Purim Jewish Holiday

25th Good Friday Christian Holiday

27th Easter Sunday Christian Holiday

31st César Chávez Day

APRIL

1st (Friday) Pool Tag distribution

2nd (Saturday) Pool Tag distribution

3rd (Sunday) Pool Tag distribution

5th Newsletter

12th Board Meeting

West Bend Community Improvement Association Swimming Pool Tag Policy & Distribution Schedule for 2016

1) Pool Tags are Required to Enter and Use the WBCIA Pool Facilities

2) Pool Tags are available to property owners in good standing with the West Bend Community Improvement Association.*

a.) Residents who have obtained the use of property rights from the owner(s) must present proper documentation**

3) The tag holder must present the current year's pool tag, sign-in on the lifeguard's log, and register all accompanying guests.

4) Each House of registered pool tag is limited to four (4) guests to enter the pool facility, subject to the maximum safety capacity of the pool.

5) Please refer to the Pool Rules for minimum age, and accompanied guest requirements.

6) Misuse may result in forfeiture of pool tags.*

Homeowners may obtain the status of their West Bend Community Improvement Association account by contacting www.CIASERVICES.com or call 713 981-9000.

How to Collect your Pool Tags...

1) Pick-up BEFORE Swim Season at the POOL on...

April 1st FRIDAY 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

April 2nd SATURDAY 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

April 3rd SUNDAY 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

2) Available for Pick-up after April 15th at...

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

(Monday – Friday, between the hours of 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM excluding holidays.)

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

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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

Newsletters via email

Thanks to ALL that have already signed up to “Let’s GO GREEN and save on postage”.

Go Green! Have the Newsletter sent to you via email by logging onto <http://www.peelinc.com/newsletterSubscriptions.php> and select Go Green; West Bend C.I.A.; then enter your contact and email addresses.



The below 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
customercare@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 GARDEN PARTY

by Randy Lemmon

IF IT'S BROWN, TAKE IT DOWN

I once asked a neighbor with several dead pine trees why he hadn't had them removed. He said he wanted to wait to see if they come back in the spring.

I've always tried to make "dead-tree analysis" simple. "If it's brown, take it down."

You don't always need a tree doctor to come out and tell you if a tree is dead. While there are a few exceptions to the rule, if a tree's leaves are 100 percent brown, or if a pine tree's needles are 100 percent rust-colored, the tree is dead, and it needs to come down soon.

There are three reasons why you shouldn't put off having dead trees removed. First, a dead tree could fall on its own or due to winds, so it is a safety threat to nearby houses, fences, garages, automobiles, etc. If an insurance company can prove you knew for some time that a tree was dead and didn't have it removed, they may not pay an insurance claim for damages.

Second, a dead tree falling among other healthy trees can damage those trees, ripping off branches and gauging trunks.

And third, it may actually cost more to have a dead tree cleared away later because removal becomes more intricate with decomposition. In a tree's early stages of death, it is solid enough for an expert to climb and remove it one section at a time. When it's rotting, no one can safely climb the trunk, so the removal process requires more equipment, more workers, and costs more money.

So, if it's brown, take it down ... immediately!!!

How do you know if a tree is struggling to stay alive? Many trees are starting to shed leaves for the fall, as they normally would. However, trees shedding yellowing leaves prematurely are likely having problems and could benefit from deep-root watering and feeding. I encourage you to do it on your own, but older trees need treatment by a professional. Be careful, though: price-gouging tree companies come out of the cracks this time of year.

Be sure you're getting a good deal from a certified tree company. The cost of tree removal depends on the size of the tree and its ease of accessibility. Call at least three companies for bids. Price-gougers will overcharge because they think you may be trapped. Uninsured companies will give you the cheapest bids because they don't have much overhead. However, "rational" bids will never be the cheapest or the most expensive. Affordable Tree Service at 713-699-2663, a company I have endorsed for years, is a good example.

Any tree company that bids your project should provide proof of liability coverage and workman's compensation insurance. If they can't or won't, don't hire them. If something bad happens due to a fallen tree, it'll all be on you and your insurance. Don't let Murphy's Law take part in your removal.

Randy Lemmon is the host of the GardenLine radio program on Newsradio 740 KTRH.

Butler's Bridge West Bend Community Improvement Association Yard of the Month Guidelines

OVERVIEW

Homeowners of Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A. will be sponsoring a perpetual, self-governed "Yard of the Month" program. The purpose of the program is to recognize Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A. neighbors who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the community at large. There is a great award and the program is administered entirely by volunteers. All award winners receive an official "Butler's Bridge Yard of the Month" lawn-sign, to be placed on their property for the duration of their award month. If your sign becomes lost or damaged, please request a replacement by sending an e-mail to www.ciaservices.com. Position of the sign should be prominent in the yard located midway between the street and the front of the house. The Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A. Yard of the Month group congratulates all "Yard of the Month" award selections and encourages all neighbors to join the efforts of these homeowner's in keeping their yards and homes beautiful.

CONTEST GUIDELINES:

All current Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A. properties are automatically eligible by default.

- Award winners are selected based on the recommended judging criteria listed below.

- Recipients must reside in Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A.

- Key criteria include manicured yard, beautification, originality and creativity.

- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.

- An award duration term lasts a single calendar month and runs from the first day of the month to the last day of that same month.

- The same property cannot receive more than one award in the same rolling 12 month calendar period. At least 12 months must elapse between awards for the same yard.

- Recipients receiving awards in the middle of the month shall surrender their award at the end of that same month.

- More than one Yard of the Month recipient may be selected in a single month. In other words, multiple yards may be concurrently recognized.

- While an individual's home is being recognized as a Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A. "Yard of the Month" they are expected to maintain their yard in the same manner that allowed them to win the title.

RECOMMENDED JUDGING CRITERIA

Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A. Yard of the Month candidates are judged solely on the total exterior appearance of their property and front yard as viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard and property is paramount. Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness and neatness of the front of the property as evidenced by

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West Bend CIA

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pruned, trimmed and shaped foliage, edged and defined lawns, borders & flower beds, and a visually appealing facade.

LAWN: Healthy grass with no bare spots or excessive weeds. Grass shall be mowed and edged, and grass around foundations and fences shall be trimmed. Debris (garbage, pet feces, etc.) shall be picked up and removed. A unified, simple, and balanced landscape design. Neat and natural.

LANDSCAPE & FLOWER BEDS: Beds weeded and edged. Flowers deadheaded and dead plants removed. Trees and shrubs pruned. Natural areas cleaned. Beautification efforts including new flowers, new trees, new shrubs, etc. Plantings in scale with the surroundings and limited to a few different types of plants rather than too many which may confuse the eye.

WALKWAYS & DRIVEWAYS: Walkways and driveways shall be clean (including trash containers or yard products removed from view). Area in front of curb free from debris and dirt. Evening appearance after dusk including accent lighting, safety lighting, visible interior lighting, etc.

AESTHETICS: Overall look of landscaping (formal versus informal, use of color and textures, garden art). Inviting look of front entryway (hanging baskets, pots, cleanliness etc.) Originality/creativity (any special touches of the owner i.e., yard art, bird feeders, etc.)

Summary note: While lack of strict adherence to the criteria above does not necessarily result in a disqualification, these principles offer general guidelines that should be recognized by the Butler's Bridge / West Bend C.I.A. Yard of the Month program. WBCIA Yard of the Month is dedicated to improving the quality of living and appearance of our community. We encourage residents to take pride in their homes and neighborhood. In turn, we look to celebrate those who do a superior job in maintaining their yards in such a way that they enhance the overall curb appeal of the entire community. Yards of the Month are awarded at the beginning of each calendar month. Yards are judged on neatness, landscaping and color. All yards are eligible. If you feel you're yard is being overlooked, please send a voting e-mail with your name, address & phone number to www.ciaservices.com.



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for details
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What's Happening?

The recent Road, Curb, and Sidewalk Repair on Summit Valley, Knoll Glen, West Bend Drive and Club Valley were brought to us by Precinct 3. I was told by Eric Vanalstine, of Precinct 3, that someone had requested ADA Ramps in our community. There are currently barrels placed in those areas awaiting brick that is on order to complete the job.

2/10/16 Linda Hermon



Happy Easter

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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

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The advertisement for Quality Printing Company features a large, stylized graphic on the left side. It consists of a black silhouette of a hand holding a pen, with various white icons scattered throughout. These icons include a lightbulb, gears, a computer monitor, a printer, a magnifying glass, a thumbs up, a hand, a keyboard, a mouse, a folder, a document, a barcode, a mail envelope, and several CMYK color swatches. The word "Quality" is written in a large, white, cursive font across the top right of the graphic, with "PRINTING COMPANY" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font below it. To the right of the graphic, the text "Call today for more info" is followed by the phone number "512.263.9181" in a large, bold, black font. Below this, a horizontal line separates the text "From design to print to mail, Quality Printing can help you with all of your printing needs!" from the website address "QualityPrintingOfAustin.com" at the bottom.

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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.



Cy-Fair Republican Women

Meet March 8th, 10:30 AM - Noon.

(Second Tuesday each month)

Meeting is \$3 -- Meeting w/Lunch at Noon is \$20.

Hearthstone Country Club, 7615 Ameswood, Houston, TX 77095.

Invite your friends and join us for fellowship and getting to know our candidates. Candidates, we want to get to know you. Reps and Campaign materials welcome.

Please RSVP to www.cfrw.net by 3/1/16.

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A Do - What? Your guide to professional labor support

By Ashley Klemm

A profession of labor support has emerged over the last two decades. This role is called “doula” from the Greek word “doule”, meaning “maidservant”. The majority of labor doulas are women, though there are male labor doulas. Doulas provide non-clinical services. Doulas do not take the place of obstetricians or midwives, but round out the birth team by providing informational, emotional, and physical support to the pregnant woman and her family during pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period. Doulas support births in homes, birth centers, and hospitals.

Doulas are not licensed or regulated by the state. There are many certifying bodies that train and guide doula practice. By hiring a certified doula, you know that you are hiring a trained professional with scope of practice guidelines and continuing education requirements.

Most labor doulas will meet with you twice prenatally to get to know you and to help you sort through birth options and your preferences. If you have a partner who will be involved with your birth, it is helpful if they are able to attend at least one of these meetings. Your doula does not replace your birth partner if he/she wants to be actively involved. She can guide your partner in ways to support you in labor, and your doula will also be able to support your partner. Prenatal support is not limited to these meetings. Your doula will remain in contact with you via phone, text, or email throughout your pregnancy to provide information, support, and to develop a relationship with you. By the time you give birth, she won't feel like “another stranger in the room”. Many women say that by the time they gave birth, the presence of their doula is much like that of their best friend, but with the knowledge and skills to improve the birthing experience.

When you think you are in labor, your doula will meet you in your home or at your place of birth, depending on your contract agreement. A doula will not monitor your baby or check your cervix. She is educated in the emotional signposts of labor and is familiar with the sounds of active labor, and is able to provide support until you are ready to travel to your place of birth. During active labor she offers hands on comfort measures. She can suggest position changes to encourage better fetal positioning and descent. She will remind you of your birth preferences and encourage you towards that goal. She is not there to talk to the doctor for you. She is not there as a gatekeeper to fend off medical staff. She is not there as a birth advocate. Only you or your partner can make decisions. She can help you gather information on which to make those decisions. She will be there as a constant support no matter how those decisions might deviate from your original birth plan. She cannot guarantee the outcome of your birth, but studies have shown that the presence of a doula reduces interventions, can shorten labor, and improves satisfaction with the birth experience.

Doula support does not end with birth. She will remain with you until you are comfortable and have fed your baby. This is typically two hours. She will follow up frequently over the next two weeks to make sure you are adjusting well. In the event of concerns regarding you or baby, she will provide appropriate referrals. Between 4-6 weeks postpartum, she will visit you again to assess your current needs. She will help you process your birth experience and encourage you on your journey of parenthood. For more extensive postpartum support, postpartum doulas are available.

There are doulas to fit every personality and budget. Most doulas offer complimentary consultations so that you can interview several doulas before hiring one. Doulas combine their passion for birth and their compassion for women to help you have a satisfying birth experience. Hire a doula – when everyone else is focused on the monitors, she will be focused on you!

Ashley Klemm is a certified labor doula and owner of Ashley Klemm Birth Services. Ashley can be reached at AshleyKlemmDoula@gmail.com. Her website is www.AshleyKlemmBirthServices.com.

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storytime

TOGETHER



FREE

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SATURDAY, MARCH 19th

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

KID PLAY AREA COMMONS



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