

VOLUME 3

ISSUE 7

THE ROCKY CREEK *Connection*

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER



ROCKY CREEK HOA

JULY 4TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY JULY 2 NOON - 3 PM
POOL PARTY

10 AM • BICYCLE PARADE

DJ WITH GREAT MUSIC • POOL GAMES • MICROBREW

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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
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Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue	
Administration Office.....	512-266-2533
Travis County Animal Control.....	512-972-6060

SCHOOLS

Lake Travis ISD.....	512-533-6000
Lake Travis High School.....	512-533-6100
Lake Travis Middle School.....	512-533-6200
Bee Cave Elementary.....	512-533-6250

UTILITIES

West Travis County PUA (Water).....	512-246-0498
Pedernales Electric.....	512-219-2602
Alliant Gas (Propane)	866-764-0283
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
IESI (Garbage & Recycling).....	512-282-3508
Travis County Hazardous Waste.....	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Bee Cave City Hall.....	512-767-6600
Bee Cave Library.....	512-767-6620
Municipal Court	512-767-6630
Lake Travis Postal Office.....	512-263-2458
City of Bee Cave	www.beecavetexas.com

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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ARTICLE INFO

The Rocky Creek Connection is mailed monthly to all Rocky Creek residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

If you have an article of interest to the community please submit to rockycreek@peelinc.com by the 15th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.PEELinc.com.

How to Prevent Lawn & Grass Diseases

As you drive or walk the neighborhood you will notice a lot of yards have yellow spots. Your initial thought might be to water more, however that may not be the cause. Your yard may have a fungus.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

Stop Them before They Start When it comes to dealing with lawn diseases, the old saying holds true: "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." It's easier to prevent lawn diseases than to cure them. Following these basic guidelines for a strong lawn will help you protect your lawn from fungal diseases.

Feed Your Lawn Regularly Nutrient deficiencies can weaken grass plants, so feed at least 2 times per year to keep your lawn strong and vigorous. If your lawn is used often for activities involving kids, pets and parties, feed 3-4 times per year with Scotts® Turf Builder® Lawn Foods. A nourished lawn is better able to fend off diseases.

If You Need To Water, Water Properly Many diseases infect lawns when the grass blades are wet. To keep grass blades dry, water only if needed and water deeply so you can go longer between watering. Watering in the morning, between 6AM and 10AM, is best since the grass blades have plenty of time to dry during the day. Especially avoid watering late in the day or at night, since the grass blades will stay wet all night long, encouraging leaf diseases.

Mow Regularly at the Right Height Mowing too short weakens the grass plant, making it more susceptible to infection. Most grass types should be mowed using a high (3-4 inch) mowing setting. Bermudagrass grass in the south should be mowed using a lower (1.5 to 2 inches) mower setting and zoysiagrass should be

mowed using a middle (2-3 inches) setting. Mow often enough so that no more than 1/3 the height of the grass blade is removed at one time.

Apply Fungicide if Needed To control lawn diseases such as brown patch and dollar spot - or help prevent them if you have had disease problems in previous years - apply a fungicide made for lawns. A good product is Scotts® Lawn Fungus Control.



PRUNING DILEMMA PART II

Currently, the State of Texas does not require any licensing for tree contractors. There are many contractors such as electricians, plumbers, irrigators and pest control contractors (to name just a few) that need to pass exams, maintain continuing education units plus keep other important commercial contractor requisites such as current liability insurance and sales tax payments. This begs the question: "Why not for tree contractors"? This needs to change!

Until there is change, it is a voluntary practice in the tree industry. Those tree contractors that maintain education are certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and we are known as arborists. The arborists who are current with their credentials can be found on the ISA consumer website: www.treesaregood.com.

Unfortunately, the present day reality in the tree care industry is slow in its caring and earning the education. The majority of tree care services have little, or none, of the professional requisites noted above. Consequently, the Texas Forest Service sets out recommendations on concerning issues such as oak wilt.

With the tree contractors not following education and a significant amount of ranchers and homeowners often unfamiliar

with the oak wilt, there are potential problems. Adding improper tools plus minimal manpower to prune oaks safely and correctly, those problems are compounded especially during the spring/summer months. The Texas Forest Service recommends a complete prohibition of pruning of oaks during spring for both the tree contractor and the arborist. Yet, spring is the best season for pruning trees, shrubs, etc.

The message delivered by the Texas Forest Service's spring "pruning ban" recommendation

is seriously flawed with this total prohibition in my professional opinion. The impression is that "no tree contractor or arborist" is capable of safely pruning oak trees during the best season for pruning.

Ironically, the Texas Forest Service maintains a website (www.texasoakwilt.org) where you, the consumer, can locate Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborists (the designation will change in a few years to Texas Oak Wilt Qualified). You can also find a listing of the most highly-qualified vendors, their locations and contact information.

(Continued on Page 4)



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Gains

(NOUN)

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IT CAN ALSO REFER TO SOMETHING THAT BRINGS ONE GREAT PLEASURE AND BE USED TO DESCRIBE THINGS OR PEOPLE.

"THOSE EGGS ARE STRAIGHT UP GAINS."

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(Continued from Page 3)

It is my firm conviction that these highly-qualified individuals as well as many other arborists are fully capable of pruning oaks safely during the spring and summer months. Including this caveat to the pruning ban practices recommended by the TFS serves the tree, consumer, and the credentialed commercial arborist(s) best.

The following questions can be helpful to you, the consumer, as a means to further verify a particular arborist's oak wilt pruning practices. (1) How much paint is stocked on your trucks?

(2) Do you replenish your stock of paint to ensure more than one day's worth? (3) Does every climber carry paint when in an oak tree pruning? (4) Do you have a paint pole taller than your tallest pole saw? (5) Does sawdust from chainsaw cuts get wiped off the cut oak branch before paint application? (6) Do you paint all cuts before moving on to the next tree? (7) Does the ground man understand that his most important job function regarding oak tree pruning is painting the cuts made?

Questions or comments that this article or previous articles have generated, may be directed to me at:

kevin@arborcareandconsulting.com



Partners in Hope is a Lake Travis community ministry that connects people who desire physical, emotional, and spiritual help with people who will help.

If you fall into either of these categories, we want to meet you!



Visit us at www.partnersinhopelaketravis.org

Rocky Creek Connection



LEGEND



Phase I

Orange Route - 2.8 Miles

Blue Route - 0.7 Miles

Phase II

Green Route - 0.43 Miles

Teal Route - 0.72 Miles

Purple Route - 0.24 Miles

Yellow Route - 0.35 Miles

Phase III

Red Route - 0.95 Miles



Patrick Court
State Farm Agent
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Neighbor and
Insurance Agent*

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Rocky Creek Connection

Neighborhood Compassion Watch!

On April 14, 2016, the Austin City Council passed a resolution designating Austin as a Compassionate City. There are now over 350 compassionate communities globally and the number is growing. Compassionate Austin is recognized as a leader!

Let's start the "Neighborhood Compassion Watch"! Compassion exists in 3 key dimensions: caring for others, self, and the Earth. Discover and share your stories of "3D" compassion. Catch people in the act! Engage youth in a treasure hunt for compassion and help them tell about what they find. Send your stories to Compassionate Austin at compassionateaustin@gmail.com. Be sure to identify your neighborhood when you submit your story! We may be able to publish them in this newsletter or on the Compassionate Austin website or Facebook page. Also, we are looking for stories that we can highlight in Citizen Communications at Austin City Council meetings.


Breaking News! The Global Compassion Summit is coming up July 13-14th. It is part of the 5th annual Summer of Peace — the largest online peace event on the planet! Dr. Lesa Walker, Founder of the Compassionate Austin Movement, is one of the speakers on

July 14. She will provide information about the Compassionate Austin movement and the importance of the daily practice of "3D" compassion! The Global Compassion Summit is a FREE online event. Google it to learn more and register. Sign up TODAY!! Here is the link: <https://shiftnetwork.isrefer.com/go/sop16LW/lwalker/>.

This year's theme for the Summit is Mindfulness and Compassion in Daily Life. Speakers are global leaders and experts in the field, sharing stories of how compassion and mindfulness are contributing to a more conscious, peaceful and sustainable world. You'll hear from teachers bringing mindfulness to at-risk youth, attorneys using mindfulness and compassion to shift our legal system, physicians putting "care" back into health care, and activists who are using compassion to anchor their communities together.

Research shows the personal and community benefits of strengthening our compassion skills. We grow stronger in what we practice! Let's join together to bring 3D compassion to life! We ALL are Compassionate Austin! Find out more at:

WWW.COMPASSIONATEAUSTIN.ORG




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SMART MONEY SERIES



This Fall, Platinum Wealth Advisory is partnering with the Lake Travis Education Foundation to host a series of Lunch & Learn events teaching individual investors how to build portfolios similar to institutions and college endowments. Learn how to increase portfolio performance while lowering portfolio volatility. Each 90 minute session will include lunch during the presentation.

SESSION 1

“A TALE OF TWO PORTFOLIOS”

caféblue

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

12-1:30PM

SESSION 2

“THE FAMILY ENDOWMENT
MODEL”

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6TH

12-1:30P

SESSION 3

“THEY DO IT AND SO CAN YOU”

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH

12-1:30P

TO REGISTER CALL LAUREN AT 512.369.3817 OR GO TO THE EVENT PAGE AT:

WWW.PLATINUMWEALTHADVISORY.COM/EVENTS.PHP

SINGLE SESSION REGISTRATION FEE: \$100*

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Rocky Creek Connection

Emerald Ash Borer found in Texas

Emerald ash borer, often referred to as EAB, is an exotic pest from Asia. This beetle is a serious threat to ash trees. Emerald ash borer was accidentally introduced into the United States and was found in Michigan in 2002.

Four beetles were found in a trap located in NE Texas (Harrison County) in late April 2016. There are currently no confirmed cases of ash trees that are infested. The beetles will continue to be monitored throughout the state.

Larvae bore into trees under the bark and cut off the water and nutrient conducting vessels. Larvae are creamy white, legless with a flattened body. Larvae are 1- 1 ½ inches in length when fully developed.

As an adult, the beetle is elongated and cylindrical with the pronotum (a part of the thorax) extended back as a lobe towards the abdomen. Most notably, these beetles are bright, metallic green with reddish hues. Adults are about 1/2 inch in size. If the wings are removed or lifted, the upper side of the abdomen is bright coppery-red which can help differentiate this beetle from closely related species in Texas.

In infested trees, canopy die back is often seen in the top one third of the canopy and then moves down until the tree is bare. Epicormic shoots (leafy shoots coming off the trunk of the tree) may also be seen. Vertical fissures may appear on the bark and galleries may be able to be seen through openings. If bark is peeled off, serpentine galleries packed with frass (excrement) may be seen. Adult beetles produce a d-shaped exit hole (1/8 inch diameter). Woodpeckers may cause damage to trees infested with EAB. Look for flaking bark and uneven holes caused by the woodpeckers feeding on larvae and pupae.

If EAB activity is confirmed for ash trees within an area, it is recommended that a systemic insecticide treatment is given to ash trees of high value. If more than 50% of an infested ash tree crown remains, then treatment with a systemic insecticide may slow the attack. If less than 50% of an infested ash tree crown remains, the tree should be removed.

For great information on emerald ash borer within Texas see the following site: <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/eab/>

This information is to have you watch for this beetle on ash trees in your area. Only 4 beetles have been found currently and only in NE Texas. No trees have yet been confirmed to be infested.

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

Partnership for Children

Fabian, 5 and Julio, 7 are two happy little boys who are always laughing and interacting with one another, they are searching for a forever family. They enjoy playing games and watching videos, and are quick to show others how much fun they're having. Fabian and Julio are healthy children and will do well with a patient family who offers structure and a routine. They respond well to encouragement and motivation and will enjoy having positive role models in their lives.

A program of Partnerships for Children, The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is both a traveling portrait exhibit and outreach opportunity for individuals to learn more about children in the foster care system and the adoption process. The children are in foster care because they have been removed from their biological homes because of abuse and neglect, and are awaiting adoption. Learn more at www.partnershipsforchildren.org



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Rocky Creek Connection

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DUE: July 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can
let you know!

Name: _____
(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



**Happy 4th
of July!**

RCC



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