



Twin Creeks TRIBUNE

December 2016

Volume 10, Issue 12

Official Publication of the Twin Creeks Homeowner's Association

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN AND AROUND OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Wondering what's going on in and around our neighborhood? Well here are a few things to catch-up on...



HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE HOA BOARD

*Ross Burns, Brandon Lind, Chuck Andersen,
Debby Hackbarth, Bruce Roach*

Wishing you, your family and friends a wonderful holiday season and a very Happy New Year! Hope it's your best year ever

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE NEWS

The Landscape Committee will be improving crosswalk safety in our community! Have you ever tried to cross Twin Creeks Club Dr. at either of the crosswalks near the TC entrance roundabout (one east of the roundabout near Bindon Dr. and the other west of the roundabout near Ebbsfleet Dr. & Dervingham Dr.)? Or, maybe you didn't realize the crosswalks were there!

Over the next few months the landscaping within the medians by the two crosswalks will be modified to improve the line of sight for both walkers and drivers. Work is scheduled to start now, with the removal of the plants that are limiting the line of sight. Some new, shorter-growth foliage will be planted this year with the majority of the new plantings taking place in the spring.

Thank you HOA Board and Landscape Committee for improving the safety in our neighborhood!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWS...

Brian and Shannon Tweedt, Neighborhood Watch Co-Chairpersons

SPOTLIGHT ON CEDAR PARK CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Cedar Park Citizens Police Academy is a 12-week program where people can learn about the Department's work and grow their understanding about law enforcement operations, tactics and governing laws and principles during weekly two hour sessions.

The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) offers an overview of Animal Control, Patrol and Patrol Procedures, Traffic Enforcement, Criminal Investigations, Regional Response Team (SWAT) and Negotiations, Crisis Intervention, Communications, Officer Involved Shootings, K-9, Narcotics and Weaponry among other topics.

Requirements for participation:

- Must be a Cedar Park resident
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must pass a simple background check

Contact Us

Facebook: facebook.com/cedarparkpolice

Twitter: @CedarParkPD

Email: police2@cedarparktexas.gov

Phone: 512-260-4600

In Person: 911 Quest Parkway | Cedar Park, TX 78613

BLOCK CAPTAIN POSITIONS STILL NEEDED

We are still in need of Block Captains for a handful of streets. Please contact Twin Creeks Neighborhood Watch Chairpersons, Brian & Shannon Tweedt, at tweedts@gmail.com to discuss volunteering.

Block Captains for the Following Streets Are Needed:

SECTION	STREET #'s	STREET NAME
The Gardens	2500's	Farleigh Lane
The Park	2401 2412	Falmer Court
The Reserve	2911-2931	Crاند Oaks Loop
The Reserve	3100-3310	Hidden Hills Ln.
The Reserve	3103-3205	Shadow Canyon Dr.
The Reserve	2800-2807	Sugar Maple Ct.
The Reserve	3101-3133	Millstream Dr.
The Reserve	All	The Condos

*Thank you for helping keep Twin Creeks Safe.
Every Neighbor Should Report Every Crime Every Time!*

(Continued on Page 3)

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Twin Creek residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail twincreeks@peelinc.com.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Microwave Peanut Brittle

<http://www.food.com>

INGREDIENTS

1 cup sugar 1/2 cup white Karo 1 dash salt
1 cup shelled raw peanuts (or pecans, walnuts, sunflower seed, etc.)
1 tablespoon butter or more. With peanut brittle, more is better.
1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda 1 teaspoon vanilla

DIRECTIONS

- Line baking sheet with wax paper.
- Spray wax paper, spoon, and anything else the brittle touches with Pam.
- Combine sugar, salt and Karo in a 3 quart microwave safe glass bowl.
- Stir in peanuts.
- Microwave on high until light brown (8 to 10 minutes) stirring at least 2 times during cooking.
- Remove from microwave and stir in remaining ingredient adding baking soda last (mix will be foamy).
- Stir quickly and pour onto wax paper.
- Spread thin for brittle candy.

*Note: You can use any type nuts you prefer or even sunflower seeds
Be careful! This is a hot and sticky recipe.*

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(Continued from Cover)

CEDAR PARK NEWS

Karen Calvert, Communications Committee Chairperson

Back by popular demand, here's some information on how to lower your water bill... The City of Cedar Park creates your water usage rate by averaging the usage from December through February billing cycles. By cutting back on the amount of watering November through February you can reduce your water bill!

The City of Cedar Park will be offering Holiday Tree Recycling again this year. Here's what you will want to know:

- Place: Cedar Park Recreation Center, 1435 Main Street
- Date: Saturday, January 7, 2017
- Fee: FREE
- Time: 9 a.m. – Noon
- Please remove all decorations, ornaments and stands from your tree
- Free tree seedlings will be offered when you recycle your tree (as supplies last).
- You can also let Boy Scout Troop 233 pick up your tree and bring it to the recycling center. Go to www.troop233leander.org for details and to schedule your pick up.

THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Karen Calvert, Communications Committee Chairperson

The Communications Committee needs your help! I will be spending a few months in the first half of next year (February - May timeframe) out of state with my son and his family as they are expecting twin boys (Yes – twins!). I don't want communications to lapse while I am away so, if you are interested in helping with the newsletter articles during this time, please contact me at karen.calvert723@gmail.com or send me a note via Nextdoor. I appreciate your help.

If you are interested in viewing the TC HOA Newsletter online, visit www.peelinc.com/TN. If you would like to have the newsletter delivered via email, you can sign-up for it here:

<http://www.peelinc.com/newsletterSubscriptions.php>

Okay, that's all for now!

See you around the neighborhood!

REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS *and many others...*

- Avery Ranch
- Bee Cave
- Bella Vista
- Belterra
- Canyon Creek
- Cat Mountain Villas
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- Forest Creek
- Highland Park West Balcones
- Jester Estates
- Ladera
- Lakeway
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Meridian
- Northwest Austin Civic Association
- Paloma Lake
- Parkside at Mayfield Ranch
- Plum Creek
- River Place
- Rocky Creek
- Sendera
- Steiner Ranch
- Sweetwater
- Tarrytown
- Teravista
- Twin Creeks
- Villages of Westen Oaks
- West Lake Hills

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THE LAWN & GARDEN SPOT...

Are you wondering what to plant in December and what you can do now to prepare your lawn and garden for the winter? Here are some gardening tips from the experts at www.centraltexasgardening.net and www.naturalgardeneraustin.com :

- Plant spring flowering bulbs early this month.
- Flower/ornamental seeds such as Delphinium, Larkspur and Poppy can be planted.
- Plan garden expansion projects now.
- Plant trees and bare root roses now.
- Vegetable plants such as arugula, cabbage, chard, lettuce, spinach.
- Plant strawberries.
- Plant hardy perennial herbs such as lavender, oregano, rosemary, sage.
- Plant ground covers and borders.
- Spray fruit trees (pear, apple, peach, plum)
- Add mulch to your garden/landscaping.
- Protect tender plants during freezes
- If the weather is nice, get out and work on expanding your garden while it is cool.
- December is a good time to do a soil test. You can contact your county extension office to find out what you need to do or talk to your favorite landscape/garden place.
- Clean and oil your garden tools and equipment
- Recycle your holiday trees.

Karen Calvert, Communications Committee Chairperson



Let The Holiday Spirit Begin

Looking for something to do during the holiday season? Here are several events and activities in and around our neighborhood to check out ...

- Check-out the Blue Genie Art Bazaar, 6100 Airport Blvd., Austin, TX, November 25 – December 24, 2016, www.bluegenieartbazaar.com
- Take a ride on the North Pole Flyer train ride running every Saturday and Sunday from November 26 – December 18, 2016, Austin Steam Train, 401 E. Whitestone Blvd., Cedar Park, TX, www.austinsteamtrain.org
- The Austin Symphony is once again presenting Handel's "Messiah". This event is being held at Hyde Park Baptist Church, 3901 Speedway, Austin, TX, on December 6, 2016 at 7:59 p.m., www.austinsymphony.org
- How about going to see Ballet Austin's production of The Nutcracker! The performance runs from December 3 – 23, 2016 at the Long Center, www.thelongcenter.org
- Don't miss Cedar Park's Holiday Tree Lighting and the Unveiling of Cedar Park's first City Flag on Friday, December 9, 2016, from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Heritage Oak Park, 875 Quest Parkway, www.cedarparktexas.gov
- Austin's spectacular Trail of Lights at Zilker Park will be open December 10 – 23, 2016. For more information go to www.austrinailights.org
- Looking for some unique gifts? The Armadillo Christmas Bazaar offers a variety of art, handmade gifts, heirloom pieces, and more. The bazaar is being held December 14-24, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m., Palmer Events Center, www.armadillobazaar.com
- The Omni at Barton Creek will be holding their annual Holiday Lights & Ice event December 16, 2016 – January 1, 2017, <https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/austin-barton-creek/things-to-do/resort-activities/holiday-lights-ice>

Karen Calvert, Communications Committee Chairperson

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TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Polo Tennis and Fitness Club

How to execute The One-Handed High Backhand Volley Approach Shot



In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand, one-handed backhand, forehand volley, the two-handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead “smash”, the forehand service return, the backhand service return, the forehand high volley approach shot, and the two-handed high volley approach shot.

In this issue, I will offer you instructions on how to execute the one-handed backhand high approach shot. This shot is used when a player is caught in “no-person’s land” (around the service line area) and receives a high ball to volley. The important part of this shot is to be able to hit a deep volley at the feet of the opponents and/or to hit a deep volley close to the baseline, so the opponent is put into a defensive mode. This will cause the player to hit a softer ball so the player can now move closer to the net for the “killer or placement volley”. In the illustrations, Sondra Thornton, a player at the Polo Tennis and Fitness Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

Step 1: The Ready Position and Split Step: When Sondra realizes that she is caught in “no-person’s land”, she takes the split step by bending of the knees and staying on her toes. Her racket is in the volley position and her feet are angled toward the path of the incoming ball. Notice that the left hand is on the throat of the racket.

Step 2: The Back Swing: Once Sondra realizes that the ball has been directed to her backhand, she will turn her upper body and will

take the racket slightly back. Notice that the left hand is still on the throat of the racket. She has loaded her weight onto her left foot and will be ready to step forward to meet the ball. She will make a slight change toward the continental grip on the right hand.

Step 3: The Point of Contact: Sondra is now ready to step into the ball. She has kept her eye on the ball and her center of gravity now is shifted toward the point of contact. Notice the right toe pointing to the ball meeting the racket. The face of the racket is open to allow her to hit behind the ball and allow maximum net height and allow her to hit the ball deep. The control of the ball will be made with the right hand, which is holding the racket tighter. The right hand will keep the face of the racket at a 45-degree angle at the point of contact.

Step 4: The Follow Through: Once Sondra has contacted the ball, she finishes the follow through with her right wrist laid back and leading the stroke with her right knuckles. Her left arm is pulling back for better body balance and her eyes are still watching the racket where she contacted the ball.

Step 5: The Move for the Kill Volley: As the ball is headed toward the opponent and Sondra realizes that her shot is deep, she now moves closer to the net for the put away volley. If her shot was not deep, Sondra will decide to stay close to the service line to protect the lob over her head. By the look in her eyes and her smile, she just did a “kill volley”.

Look in the next Newsletter for: How to execute “The Lob”

TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

IPM is short for Integrated Pest Management and is the blending of effective, economical and environmentally sound pest

control methods into a single flexible approach to manage pests. When utilizing IPM, we hope that you can avoid or reduce pest problems.

Here are some things to reduce the number of pests in your home:

- Reduce food or water resources for insects:
- Encourage family to eat in one location. This makes it easier to clean since spills and crumbs are not spread around the house.
- Clean up any spilled food or drink as soon as possible.
- Sweep & vacuum regularly. This helps to remove food crumbs, pet hair and other things that insects may feed upon.
- Do not leave dirty dishes in the sink overnight. Even small bits of food can be a meal for insects.
- Do not leave pet food out overnight. Again, can be a free meal for insects.
- Remove old newspapers, magazines and books that are unused Silverfish love to feed on these types of items.
- Repair plumbing leaks to get rid of water sources required by insects.
- Use a plastic bag to line garbage cans to make garbage easier to remove.

- Remove garbage on a weekly basis, possibly more during warmer times of the year.

- Reduce areas where insects may live:

- Clean drains with a stiff brush & then flush with boiling water. There are small flies that can grow in the slime layer of drain pipes. The stiff brush will loosen the slime and the boiling water will flush it away.

- Remove tree stumps and any dead branches in the yard to avoid carpenter or acrobat ant populations living in these areas.

- Remove debris (firewood, bricks, stones, etc.) away from the home. These areas can be inhabited by a variety of arthropods including spiders, scorpions and cockroaches.

- Clean closets on a quarterly basis to reduce the chance of spiders moving in.

- Reduce moving insects into the house:

- Inspect all items for pests before bringing them into the house.

Insect pests can be brought into the home with such items as potted plants, boxes full of things inherited from a family member, on used clothing of furniture, among other things.

- Prune tree limbs that touch or overhang the home & prune back and shrubs that touch the home. When shrubs or trees touch or overhang the home, they can be used as bridges for insects to get onto the home and then move inside.

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- Seal entry points on the outside of the home with sealant, expanding foam or copper mesh screening. Pipe penetrations, weep hole or cracks can allow insects, spider or other animals move into the home.

- Store food in sealed plastic or glass containers to keep pantry pests out.

- Keep screens, weather stripping and door thresh holds in good repair. Many insect pests are very small, so even a small tear in a screen or crack under a door can allow them to come inside.

- Use yellow bulbs in outside lights to reduce the number of insects coming near doorways.

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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