

BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2 | ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2016

December 2016

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

1st	World AIDS Day
6th	St. Nicholas' Day
7th	Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
8th	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
10th	Human Rights Day
11th	West Bend Holiday Decorating Contest 6-9 PM
12th	The Prophet's Birthday
12th	Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe
13th	National Guard Birthday
17th	Pan American Aviation Day
17th	Wright Brothers Day
21st	December Solstice
23rd	Christmas Eve observed
24th	Christmas Eve
25th	Chanukah/Hanukkah (first day)
25th	Christmas Day
26th	Kwanzaa (until Jan 1)
26th	Christmas Day observed
30th	New Year's Eve observed
31st	New Year's Eve

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST

The contest will be held on **Sunday the 11th of December** in the evening between 6 – 9.

Winners will be notified the same evening as the Judges will knock on your door to deliver your winnings, and to place a sign in your yard.

The contest is for exterior decorations only, including decorations in windows visible from the exterior.

Judging will be based on "curb appeal" as viewed from the street. Judges will not enter the property to view back or side yards. Participants should ensure that all lights, animations and decorations are in place and activated for the judging period.

The top three winners will receive Gift Cards; 1st place \$100, 2nd place \$75 and 3rd place \$50.

Photos will be taken of the decorated residence, which will be posted on the West Bend website and in the monthly Newsletter.

This year the judges will be traveling through the neighborhood on a "PEDAL PARTY", a mobile pub is a better description. It was invented in Amsterdam; each one is hand-made and shipped over. It holds up to 16 adults and the minimum recommended height to pedal is 5' 3". There is limited seating for those that aren't tall enough.



Interested "PEDAL PARTY" riders please contact wbcianewsletter@yahoo.com to sign-up.

Board Members and Judges are not eligible for contest prizes.
Must be at least 21 years old.

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 (<i>County Commissioner</i>).....	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

The Architectural Control Committee

The (ACC) Architectural Control Committee must be informed if you are planning to change the exterior style, color, or have plans for additions or any removal to your property. A mandatory Architectural Review Form will need to be completed and signed. You may obtain this form on-line at www.ciaservices.com

QUARTERLY INSPECTION AREA OF FOCUS

West Bend Community Improvement Association
December – February

- Sidewalk & Driveway repairs
- Power washing of sidewalk & driveway

The following areas will receive a more comprehensive evaluation during the specified quarter. However, bi-weekly deed restriction inspections done by the auditor will continue to check all other areas throughout the year.

Homeowners are legally obligated to maintain their property in accordance with the West Bend Community Improvement Association governing documents.

Visit www.ciaservices.com for more information.

Please check the website for updates. www.ciaservices.com

Board Meeting and Management

C.I.A. SERVICES INC.
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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

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

The 2017 Assessments are \$457.00

The West Bend C.I.A. Annual Assessments are due every year on January 1st.

As a courtesy, a statement will be mailed to you by the end of November. It is your duty and obligation to make sure your correct mailing address is on file. If you have not received your statement by then, please contact www.ciaservices.com.

WBCIA BOARD MEETINGS

West Bend C.I.A. Board Meetings are held on the **2nd Tuesday of each month** excluding December.

The next Board meeting is scheduled on **Tuesday, January 10, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.** to be held at the West Bend Pool, 3915 Summit Valley Drive, Houston, TX 77082.

The Executive Session is held at 7:00 p.m.

The governing documents require the association to notify you in advance of all meetings, and you're welcome—in fact, encouraged—to attend and listen. **The only time you can't listen is when the board goes into executive session. Topics that the board can discuss in executive session are limited by law to a narrow range of sensitive topics.** Executive sessions keep only the discussion private; no votes can be taken. The board must adjourn the executive session and resume the open session before voting on the issue. In this way, members may hear the outcome, but not the private details.

Board Meeting is held at 7:30 p.m.

Most of the business of the association is conducted at regular board meetings. Board members set policy, oversee the manager's work, review operations, resolve disputes, talk to residents and plan for the future. Often the health and harmony of an entire community is directly linked to how constructive these meetings are.

Board Meetings are open to owners. If there is a specific topic you would like placed on the agenda, please contact your community manager, Sherridda.Williams@ciaservices.com at least ten days in advance.

NEXTDOOR.com

Nextdoor is the free and private social network just for West Bend neighbors. On Nextdoor, neighbors share crime and safety concerns, local events, recommendations, items for sale/free, ideas about how to make our neighborhood better, messages from the Harris County Sheriff's Dept., and the Houston Chronicle.

Our neighborhood is using a private online network called Nextdoor.

Please join us to build a better neighborhood!

www.nextdoor.com/join Code: MZXJX

SUDOKU

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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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.

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GardenLine

Randy Lemmon

If you've ever listened to my radio program, you know that there are some plants that just have problem after problem, year after year. But you can eliminate many of those problems if you'll start incorporating plants/shrubs that don't have all those insect and disease pressures. It is in my humble opinion that if everyone planted the majority of their landscapes in the shrubs I'm about to recommend I might just put my call-in radio show out of business. That's because this upcoming list of "underutilized plants" won't have near the problems that the "over-utilized" plants have in our climate. You may not entirely agree with my list.

Nevertheless, this is MY list and one that I've put together after years of hearing complaints about the "most over-utilized" shrubs. (Examples of the overused shrubs are Red Tip Photinias and Ligustrums.) What I hope to accomplish with this list, is to make you well armed when re-doing a landscape or putting in a brand new one this year. Thus, you may be looking for something different this year that isn't disease-prone, insect-prone nor will it be high-maintenance. Without further ado... I give you the...

TEN MOST UNDER-UTILIZED LANDSCAPE SHRUBS-

ELAEAGNUS– If you're looking for a screen plant, look no further. The Elaeagnus (I find it spelled Eleagnus too) makes a perfect hedge row that doubles as a screen plant rather quickly. It is also drought tolerant, and can seemingly put up with water and temperature extremes that no mere mortal shrub can handle. This also means that for the most part, this is a sun-loving plant. But the most important aspect of the Elaeagnus is the silvery (sometimes brown) dots that cover the leaves, reflecting sunlight to give the plants a special sparkle. I mentioned earlier that it is drought tolerant; so much so that once established after 2 years, it can actually survive with no additional irrigation.

TEXASWAX MYRTLE– If you've ever been around the Woodlands or around Conroe you know the Texas Wax Myrtle, and you may have even smelled one. I can't make up my mind what I like best about the Wax Myrtle. Is it the expedient growth, the wonderful scent, or its imperviousness to disease? There are lots of things to love about this plant. The scent varies, but in most cases has sort of a spicy orange aroma. The Wax Myrtle always seems to have lustrous evergreen leaves, and can seemingly grow a couple of feet every year. It can be shaped, but when left alone the Wax Myrtle provides a random hedge like no other. And this plant can be grown in total sun or filtered light.

LORAPETALUM– The Lorapetalum that we have come to love for landscape shrubs in the Southern reaches of Texas is commonly referred to as the Chinese Fringe Flower. Besides the stunningly bright pink blooms that have become so synonymous with the Lorapetalum, I personally love the fact that it seems to have contradictory maintenance attributes. That means, if you want to

keep it trimmed like a hedge, then do so. If you want to train the Lorapetalum like a vine, then do it. If you want to leave it be and let the lorapetalum form arching or drooping tiers of branches, then do it. For my Aggie Brethren out there, the next best thing about the Chinese Fringe Flower would have to be the unique purple to filtered light situations.

COPPERTONELOQUAT– This is one of those plants that gets a little too confused with Red Tips, but doesn't have the same disease problems. The Coppertone Loquat was derived from the Bronze Loquat, which provided for a rather coppery- bronze-looking leaf at the top of the plant ala a red tip photinia. Coppertone Loquats also have a creamy white burst of flowers in early spring. And while they can be trained on espaliers, and while they thrive in sunny, warm environments, they should not be on a hot, west-facing wall. Nevertheless, Coppertone Loquats must be in total sunshine.

VIBURNUM– Viburnums are versatile, dependable and interesting in all seasons of the year. If you select the right species you can have a wealth of fragrant white flowers in the spring, glossy green leaves during the summer, attractive autumn foliage and bright-colored fruits in late summer and fall. Viburnums are sturdy shrubs and easy to grow. Viburnums are virtually pest free, except for attacks by aphids. Viburnums can be used as specimen shrubs or small trees or in border plantings as they range from small to very large. If properly located, the shrub should need only moderate pruning to retain a desirable form.

NANDINA– Also known as Heavenly Bamboo. I love Nandina, mainly because it does well in both sun and semi- shady situations. This makes it versatile, plus it's virtually pest free. The one draw back is that it does have to be cut back quite often. However, if you give the Nandina enough room it can grow 6 feet tall. I like it kept at a 3 to 4 ft. range. It belongs to the barberry family but is reminiscent of bamboo in its lightly branched, cane-like stems and delicate, fine- textured leaves. During the winter, it gets reddish, maroon and golden colors to add to its attractiveness. Warning: I don't like the miniature Nandinias and that's because their leaves always looked gnarled. Stay with Nandina Domestica to be safe. Or if you like the gnarled leaves go with the compactas.

SAGO PALMS– This is where I'm also sure to get some disagreement. There are probably a few of you mumbling under your breath that the Sago Palm is "over-utilized" right now. I think not! And here's why. The Sago is one of the most versatile accent shrubs we can plant. The Sago can succeed in total sunshine and total shade, and everything in between. If you will keep the pups trimmed and the soil well fed, the Sago will reward you with what I call a rather majestic flourish year after year. But keep the pups/sports trimmed constantly, or it looks awful as the pups push the fronds around from their natural arching position.

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

NEEDLEPOINT HOLLY AND NELLIE STEVENS HOLLY-

This is another one of those all-purpose plants that can survive shade or sun. But, for sure, the best thing about needlepoint hollies is that they don't hurt you the way old fashioned holly bushes do. Needlepoint Hollies only have one point on the very end and are infinitely more supple than their more painful cousin. It also has another close cousin it gets mistaken for quite often in the Burford Holly. But the Needlepoint has a more supple leaf than the Burford too. The way to truly tell the difference is the Burford leaf is cupped down. Some people often call the Needlepoint (I think mistakenly) a Chinese Holly. Nevertheless, it makes a great hedge shrub in both sun and shady environments. The Nellie Stevens Holly is a great "accent" tree that won't get too big. It also produces berries that attract birds. But the big difference obviously is size. The Nellie Stevens Holly is almost always a small tree, whereas the Needlepoint Holly is a medium sized shrub.

NATAL PLUM- While this may sound new to some folks, the Natal Plum has been around for a while, but forgotten. The Natal Plum is a fast-growing, upright, rounding shrub with beautiful leathery, rich, green leaves and small spines. The Natal Plum also has fragrant, white flowers that look hauntingly like jasmine flowers. But the Natal Plums also have a unique red, plum-shaped edible fruit. These wonderful babies tolerate poor soil, heat and drought (Sounds

perfect for West Bend, don't they?) And if you want to see them in all their glory, head to Galveston Island where they are all over the place, especially in front the restaurants Gaidos and Tortugas. Problem is - yep, you knew there had to be a problem - is that they just aren't that readily available.

JAPANESE BLUEBERRY (SHOGUN SERIES)- The Japanese is one of those newer plants that is gaining in popularity. And watch for it this year locally at most of the full service nurseries, mainly because some growers like Houston Plants & Garden World, locally, and Monrovia Nurseries have put it on a fast track. Despite its name the Japanese Blueberry Tree, Shogun Series is not a fruit producing blueberry tree, so just wipe that out of your head now. From a distance it looks similar to a Coppertone Loquat, but it grows more upright. It's very popular in the western states as a street, lawn or park tree-bronzy new growth then glossy green foliage. There's an ornamental effect from older leaves turning bright red before dropping. It has numerous tiny scented white flowers and blue-black, olive-like fruit in winter. Yes, this is an evergreen that requires full sun. It can reach 35 feet tall and 20 feet wide, but with some consistent pruning you can keep it shorter and thinner.

Until next month, here's to Great Gardening from the GardenLine, heard exclusively weekend mornings from 8 to noon on **Talkradio 950 KPRC**.



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Down the Drain



Washing your car may seem like a great way to beat the heat this summer while accomplishing something constructive on your to-do list. But you might want to think twice about the environmental impact before you park your car in the driveway and pull out your bucket, hose and old towels.

Even if you use a biodegradable cleaner, the soapy water that runs off your car when you hose it down not only contains detergent, but residue from automobile fluids like oil, gasoline and antifreeze. Each time you rinse your car, the contaminated water flows untreated directly into the stormwater system and eventually makes its way into streams and rivers. And, as the water runs out of your driveway and down the street toward the storm sewer, it also picks up other toxic

substances, like fertilizers, petroleum deposits and surface paint from the pavement. Parking your car on a grassy area while you wash it may help some, but the toxins will end up in the groundwater eventually.

As an alternative, consider using a commercial carwash facility. Whether a conveyor type, self-service, in-bay automatic or custom hand-wash business, these establishments are required by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to capture and route their wastewater to a treatment facility before the water can be discharged into the sanitary sewer.

Toxic residues aren't the only reason to take your car to a commercial car wash. Rinsing your car at home with a garden hose can use as much as 10 to 15 gallons of water per minute, while professional car wash facilities can limit the water flow to as little as three to five gallons per minute. If you spend an hour in your driveway washing your car, you may have sent as much as 150 gallons of contaminated water directly down the drain. This is especially important in long summer dry spells.

So help the environment and save time this summer: leave car washing to the professionals.

REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

and many others...

- Atascocita CIA
- Blackhorse Ranch
- Briar Hills
- Bridgeland
- Canyon Gate at Northpointe
- Cardiff Ranch
- Cypress Creek Lakes
- Cypress Mill
- Cypress Park
- Eagle Springs
- Fairfield
- Grand Lake Estates
- Lakeshore
- Lakes of Fairhaven
- Lakes of Rosehill
- Lakes on Eldridge
- Lakes on Eldridge North
- Laurel Creek
- Legends Ranch
- Meyerland
- Normandy Forest
- North Lake Forest
- Park Creek
- Park Lakes
- Riata Ranch
- Ricewood Village
- Shadow Creek Ranch
- Silverlake
- Steeplechase
- Sterling Lakes
- Stone Forest
- Summerwood
- Towne Lakes
- Village Creek
- Villages of Decker Oaks
- Villages of NorthPointe
- Walden on Lake Houston
- Willowbridge
- Willow Pointe
- Winchester Country
- Windermere Lakes
- Woodwind Lakes
- Wortham Villages

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Inspecting for bed bugs

Before the holiday travel season begins, it is wise to know what to look for when traveling so you do not bring home unwanted guests. Bed bugs are small, dark brown to reddish colored insects with no wings. Their bodies are oval and the color and size often depends on if the insect is engorged with blood. Immatures, or nymphs, resemble the adults but are smaller and lighter in color. Usually adults are about the size of a watermelon seed.

Most feeding occurs at night when bed bugs pierce skin while people sleep. The bugs inject a fluid while feeding that can cause some people (about 50%) to have an allergic response. The allergic response causes the skin to become irritated and itchy at the bite location.

After feeding (it takes about 12-15 minutes for a bed bug to become fully engorged), bed bugs crawl away into hidden areas- mattress seams, headboards, nightstands, behind baseboards as well as other locations. They prefer to hide in locations that are close to where they feed, but they will crawl several feet to get to a meal. Bed bugs hide in their chosen location for about 3 days while they digest the blood meal. Over time, congregation areas become marked with blood, fecal material, hatched eggs and cast skins of molted bugs.

When travelling, always inspect rooms thoroughly for bed bugs before moving luggage into the room. Luggage should be placed until the bathtub until the room has been inspected. Make sure to carry a small flashlight with for to help with inspection. When you return home, place clothing in the dryer (before washing) on high heat for about an hour.

Tips on inspection:

- Look in sleeping areas (bed, pull-out couches)
 - Inspect linens as they are removed from the bed
 - Check mattress and box spring seams, bottom of the box spring and near the mattress tag
 - Inspect the dust ruffle
- If possible, lift the boxspring and inspect the bed frame
- If possible, pull out or remove the headboard to inspect behind it
- Check bedside tables and everything on them, including opening all drawers

If you find bed bugs, go to the front desk to inform them of what you found and request a different room. Do not get a room that is adjacent, above, below or across from the infested room (bed bugs can travel through wall voids to adjacent areas).

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.urbanipm.blogspot.com

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