



# BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2017

## February 2017

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### Observed as:

- Black History Month
- American Heart Month

### Birthstone: Flower:

Amethyst Violet

### Astrological Signs:

Aquarius (till 18th) & Pisces (19th)

### Fruit & Veggies for the Month of February

- Oranges
- Star Fruit
- Calabaza Squash
- Chayote Squash
- Bitter Melon

2nd .....	Groundhog Day
3rd .....	Super Bowl
3rd .....	National Wear Red Day
11th .....	Tu Bishvat
14th .....	Board Meeting
14th .....	Valentine's Day
20th .....	President's Day
28th .....	Mardi Gras

## Garden Party 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.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## 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

(Continued from Cover)

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.



*Please check the website for updates. [www.ciaservices.com](http://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](http://www.ciaservices.com)**  
**[customercare@ciaservices.com](mailto:customercare@ciaservices.com)**

### MONTHLY BOARD MEETING EVERY 2nd TUESDAY

**7:00p - Executive Session**

**7:30p - Board Meeting**

**West Bend Pool**

**3915 Summit Valley Dr.**

**Houston, TX 77082**

## Choosing a Color for Garage Doors

By, Kate Smith

Having a garage is great but having one that dominates the front of your home can be a design challenge. I have found that the biggest mistake homeowners make is to use color to draw too much attention to the garage doors rather than downplaying them. This is even more pronounced on a home with a protruding garage that already dominates the view of the home.

In some custom homes the garage doors add to the architectural detail and it makes sense to have them stand out. However, the vast majority of homes have standard or unattractive garage doors and it is best to have them blend rather than contrast with the main color of the home.

Here are my general DO's and DON'Ts for painting garage doors:

- DO paint the garage doors in the same color as the house itself and not the trim color or white (unless white is your house color) if you want to keep them from standing out. Painting the garage doors the same colors as the body of the house may also make your home appear larger.
- DO paint the trim around the doors either to match the door

or to match the trim on the rest of your home. Usually it looks best if it is the same as on the rest of your home but there are times when it may look better to not call attention to the trim with a contrasting color.

- DON'T paint the garage doors in the same accent color as the front door or shutters. This usually draws too much attention to the garage doors and chops up the facade of the home.

- DON'T highlight the details of a standard garage door by painting the door in more than one color. There are historic or special doors where this may be appropriate but for the majority of garage doors this would not be the way to go.

If the home is brick find a color that blends with the color of the brick. This guarantees that the garage door colors will harmonize with the rest of the home and give you nice curb appeal.

To continue to draw the focus away from the garage and toward the entrance of your home, select a beautiful color for the front door. You can also draw attention to your entry with lighting, colorful plants and flowers, or an interesting bench or other tasteful element near the door.

# WIRED

## ELECTRICAL SERVICES

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## BLOCKING SIDEWALKS

As a reminder, vehicles should be parked either in the garage or in the driveway and not on the street whenever possible. Many residents comply with this request and then find that their vehicles often block sidewalk access causing pedestrians to have to take other measures to get around them. While this is not a constant problem, it is annoying and it can become a safety issue when neighbors are walking, jogging, biking or taking small children out for fresh air. It causes them to leave the safety of the sidewalk and go into the street because there is no other way to get by the vehicles. Please take a moment to see where your vehicle is located on the driveway. See if you can assist your neighbors navigate along the sidewalk without going into the street to avoid placing pedestrians in the street, when they should be on the sidewalks. Your neighbors would greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

### Welcome New Neighbor

#### ALBERT'S TIRE SHOP

We are pleased to Welcome our new Neighbor, Manuel A. Rubio, with ALBERT'S TIRE SHOP, 4004 Hwy. 6 South, Phone 832 250-0220.

## 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](http://www.ciaservices.com)

## 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](http://www.nextdoor.com/join) Code: MZXJX



## CrimeReports™

Register on [www.crimereports.com](http://www.crimereports.com)

## Bring the World to your Child By Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

If you've read the newspaper lately, you know that the world can be a scary place: wars, economic crisis, revolutions, climate change, border disputes, refugees, and protests. So, how do we teach our children about the world, and the variety of people in it, when most of the examples we read about in the press are so negative?

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same – to educate people about different cultures through person-to-person exchange. What better message to pass on to your children?

There are quite a few misconceptions about foreign exchange programs – especially around who can host. The biggest misconception is that you must have high school aged children when you host a high school exchange student. Nothing could be further from the truth.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families," says Connie Coutu, Regional Manager for Ayusa, a non-profit promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture."

Families with young children find that hosting an exchange student provides their children with an especially unique educational experience in the form of an international big brother or sister. Without even realizing it, children learn about different types of people and different cultural traditions.

"My daughter Kelsie feels as if Isabelle, our exchange student from Germany, is an older sister to her," said Melissa Hughes, an Ayusa host mom from Ashville, North Carolina. "They have confided in each other, have had movie nights together, and have gone to the mall together - much like natural sisters would do. Kelsie will never forget Isabelle and they have already planned future get-togethers when they are older."

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

"In Tunisia, we always hear about Americans and American life style, in movies, media, songs, everything, and I know it is different, and I wanted to figure out this difference myself," said Asma, a bubbly high school student from Tunisia who spent a school year living with the O'Donnell family in Anchorage, Alaska.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

# Common Structural Termites

There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites.

Native subterranean termites have nests in the soil and must maintain contact with soil or an above-ground moisture source to survive. If native subterranean termites move to areas above ground they make shelter (mud) tubes of fecal material, saliva and soil to protect themselves.



*Native subterranean termite workers and soldiers.*

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.



*Formosan subterranean termite workers and soldiers.*

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants (and can be found living and feeding on trees), consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

Drywood termites do not need contact with soil and reside in sound, dry wood. These termites obtain moisture from the wood they digest. Drywood termites create a dry fecal pellet that can be used as an identifying characteristic. They have smaller colonies- around 1,000 termites- than subterranean termites; they also do not build shelter tubes.



*Drywood termite fecal pellets.*

If you are concerned that you may have termites, call a pest management professional to inspect your home for termites.

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

“Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience – for the student, the host family, and the host community,” says Coutu. “There is no better way to teach your children about the world around them than through welcoming an international high school student into your home.”

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at [www.ayusa.org](http://www.ayusa.org).

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View answers online at [www.peelinc.com](http://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.

## BUSINESS Classifieds

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 888-687-6444 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).



## Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club

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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: Feb 28th

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

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