

BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 3 | ISSUE 4

APRIL 2017

April 2017

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Observed as:

- National Poetry Month
- Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention
- National Autism Awareness
- Stress Awareness Month
- National Donate Life Month

Birthstone:

Diamond and Crystal

Flower:

Daisy and Sweet Pea

Astrological Signs:

Aries (till 19th) & Taurus (20th -)

Board Meeting to be Announced by E-Blast

1st.....	April Fool's Day
7th-9th.....	Pool Tag Distribution
9th	Palm Sunday
11th.....	Passover (starts)
13th	Holy Thursday
14th.....	Good Friday
16th.....	Easter and Orthodox Easter
18th	Passover (ends)
18th	Tax Day (taxes due)
22nd.....	Earth Day
23rd	Divine Mercy Sunday
23rd	Holocaust Remem. Day
23rd	World Immunization Week
24th	Lailat al Miraj
25th	World Malaria Day
26th	Administrative Professionals
28th	Arbor Day

How to Collect your Pool Tags . . .

1) Pick-up BEFORE Swim Season at the POOL on the following dates:

April 7nd	FRIDAY	6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
April 8th	SATURDAY	11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
April 9th	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
(Monday – Friday, between the hours of 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
excluding holidays.)

Pool Tags are available to property owners in good standing with the West Bend Community Improvement Association. Residents who have obtained the use of property rights from the owner(s) must present proper documentation**

Reminders

- Pick-up your pool tag on April 7, 8, or 9.
- Assessments are due every year on January 1st.
- Remove trash cans from public view on non-trash days.
- Remove all Christmas decorations by January 20th.
- Yard of the Month is in Effect.
- Please pick up after your pet.



CrimeReports™

Register on www.crimereports.com

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

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10 Reasons to Serve on an HOA Board

As a homeowner, you have a big stake in the safety and cleanliness of your neighborhood. West Bend community shares common amenities, such as a pool, tennis courts, pavilion & park, utilities and more. How can you ensure that your community will be properly maintained and cared for? The best way, is to volunteer with your homeowner's association. Our HOA committee positions are unpaid, however, the satisfaction of knowing your community is being well taken care of often outweighs any monetary compensation. Here are 10 Reasons to Serve on an HOA Board. Perhaps this list will compel you to get involved.

Serving on an HOA will put you in a better position to make and implement rules in your community.

1. Protect Your Property

One of the top priorities of every homeowner is to protect the value of his or her home. Being involved with an HOA will put you in a better position to make and implement rules in your community. Some of these regulations will directly affect property value, especially if they require decisions about the association's budget or routine maintenance.

2. Correct Problems

Are you noticing problems in your community, such as lack of parking, trash cans being left out, and maintenance? Maybe there's a problem with unruly neighbors? You can take charge now and help to correct them by being a part of the board.

3. Meet More of your Expectations

Did you have certain expectations when you bought your home in the community? Are your expectations being met? It is unlikely unless you are among the lucky few. By serving on an HOA board, you can achieve your expectations of a more perfect community much sooner by working with your neighbors.

4. Gain Better Understanding of the Laws

Volunteering as a board member will make you well-versed in laws and regulations related to community associations and maintenance. It will also give you a good grasp of finances and budgeting.

5. Have Fun Experiences

Taking on some of your association's tasks does not have to be a boring. It can be fun, especially when you get to socialize, work with your neighbors and come up with creative ideas on how to make your community run better.

Serving on an HOA board allows you to plan parties for your community and socialize and make friends with others living in your neighborhood.

6. Learn Life Lessons

As an HOA board member, you learn valuable life lessons about working as a team. You learn to share your interests and responsibilities with others, and at the same time, you understand

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the importance of valuing others' opinions before making decisions.

7. Help Build a Resume

Did you know volunteering with a homeowner's association can help build your resume and perhaps help advance your career? Any kind of community volunteer service is favorable in the eyes of future employers.

8. Learn Leadership Skills

Serving on an HOA can teach you more than what you imagine. It gives you a chance to hone, leadership skills, take charge of issues and work with others to fix them. Your organizational skills are sure to take a leap too when you organize pool parties and get-togethers in your community.

9. Give Back to the Community

One way to give back to your neighbors and community is to serve on your association's board, which allows the opportunity to make good decisions that will have a positive impact on everyone.

10. Meet Neighbors

An HOA meeting is the best place to meet your neighbors and to know more about them. It gives you a chance to socialize and make friends with others living in your neighborhood.

How to Choose a Landscaper



If you've got a lawnmower and a pickup truck, you can call yourself a landscaper.

It's simple. It's sad. Yet, it's TRUE! And it's something I've said very sarcastically for years on the GardenLine radio program. I was driving home from the grocery store the other day and counted no less than six different "landscape" companies working

in about a five-mile stretch. Yep, they all had a lawnmower and a pickup truck. Some had trailers, and some had a phone number and company name on the side of the truck. And some did not.

I make recommendations on the air from time to time, depending on what part of town a listener is calling from. And I make recommendations in several magazines and newsletters. But I have to admit, I don't know all the landscapers out there, and I certainly don't know all the bad ones or all the good ones.

How do you know which ones to trust? Well, here are some helpful hints:

- First, if they're going to be doing irrigation or sprinkler work with a landscaping job, make double-dang sure they are licensed by the state. Ask for proof of a "TLI license number." And it's an added benefit if they have a TPCL number, too. That means they are licensed as an "applicator" of restricted-use pesticides as well.

- Second, see if they've been certified by the "The Texas Nursery and Landscape Association" (TNLA). There is a test that a landscaper takes to get this certification. I've taken it, and I can tell you it ain't easy. So, if someone has this certification, they know their stuff. You can use the TNLA Web site <https://www.tnlaonline.org> to find a landscape architect that meets your requirements.

- Finally, ask for at least three references. Just looking at pictures of jobs they're proud of is not the best way to judge a landscaper's work, in my opinion ... talking to former customers is. While it probably isn't a good sign for a company to have multiple complaints against them at the Better Business Bureau, don't dismiss a company because of one or two filings. Check to see if all complaints were resolved. And sometimes you'll find a customer just had an axe to grind, and no amount of resolution would have sufficed.

Remember, you get what you pay for in landscape jobs! If you're looking for a cut-rate deal, something's going suffer to pay the price. The soil is going to suck, the mulch is going to stink, the

(Continued on Page 4)

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community newsletters

West Bend CIA

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plants won't be right for your environment, etc. Don't be afraid to pay for a good landscaping job ... one that won't have to be redone in a couple of years. Good landscaping should last the life of the home ... or at least until you get bored and want to change it again.

And one last note ... when you're building a new home, you don't have to automatically take what the home builder offers. Home builders have to make money here and there, and one way they make money is by hiring the cheapest landscape installer. And that landscaper -- using the term loosely -- has to make money too. So he uses the cheapest plants, soils, mulch, etc. Most of the time, they build beds by scraping up the sand, popping in the plants and cover it up with mulch. Then, I get calls from the homeowner who wants to know what's wrong with his or her plants. Unless you're a cactus in Arizona, no plant deserves that kind of treatment. So, my advice has always been ... and will always be ... **GET THE LANDSCAPE ALLOWANCE FROM THE BUILDER.** Then add a few more dollars of your own and hire a landscape company that knows what they're doing.

Randy Lemmon, the GardenLine radio program on Newsradio 740 KTRH.

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

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

April
Yard
of the
Month

14702
West Bend
Drive



ASSASSIN & AMBUSH BUGS



Assassin and ambush bugs are predators and are considered beneficial insects. They are generalists that attack a variety of caterpillars, flies, and other bugs. These predators either stalk their prey or wait to ambush prey when they come to a plant. Prey is stabbed with tube-like mouthparts, paralyzed with a toxin, and body fluids sucked up.

Assassin and ambush bugs have 3 segmented piercing-sucking mouthparts. These bugs come in a variety of colors with assassin bugs usually being darker in color than ambush bugs. Assassin bugs also have a more elongated head compared to ambush bugs. Ambush bugs have thickened front legs used to capture and hold prey. Immatures, or nymphs, look similar to the adults but do not have fully developed wings. Eggs are usually deposited in masses

and are cylindrical in shape.

While most assassin bugs are beneficial, the kissing bug or cone-nose bug is considered a pest. Kissing bugs feed on blood of mammals, including humans.

For assassin bugs that are feeding on insects, control is not required. For more information on kissing bugs see this site <https://kissingbug.tamu.edu/>

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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Justin Hyatt
Hyatt Insurance

“We just got our copy of the Meyerlander Monthly with our flyer insert. It looks amazing. Yall did a wonderful job. I love the paper yall used as it really makes it look classy. Thanks!”

Claire Bland
Austin Landscaping

“Thank you so much for guiding me through the ad process! This was the first time that I've advertised my tutoring in a publication and you made it so easy! Your team did a great job of creating the ad - it looks very professional and it was extremely effective! I only ran my ad twice and the students who found me through your publication have already more than compensated me for the cost of the ad. Thank you!”

Laura Ringwood
Math Tutoring

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West Bend CIA

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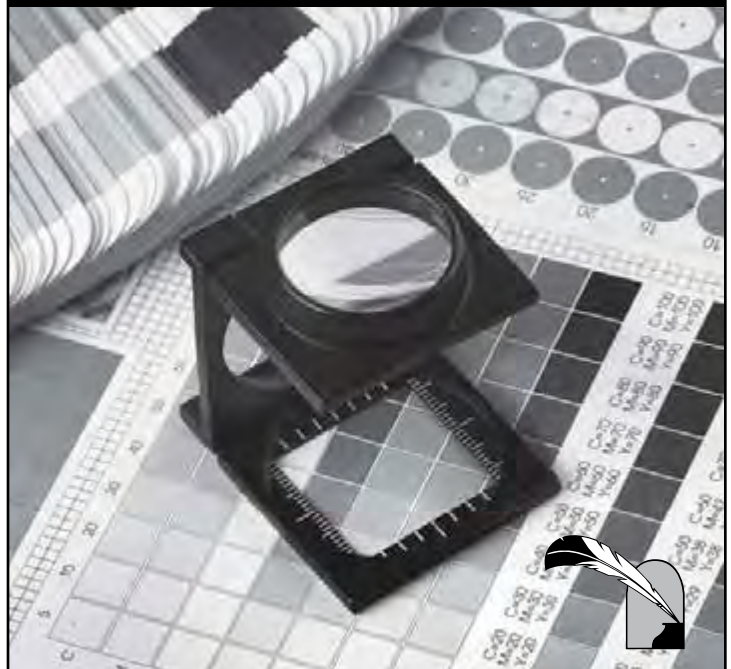


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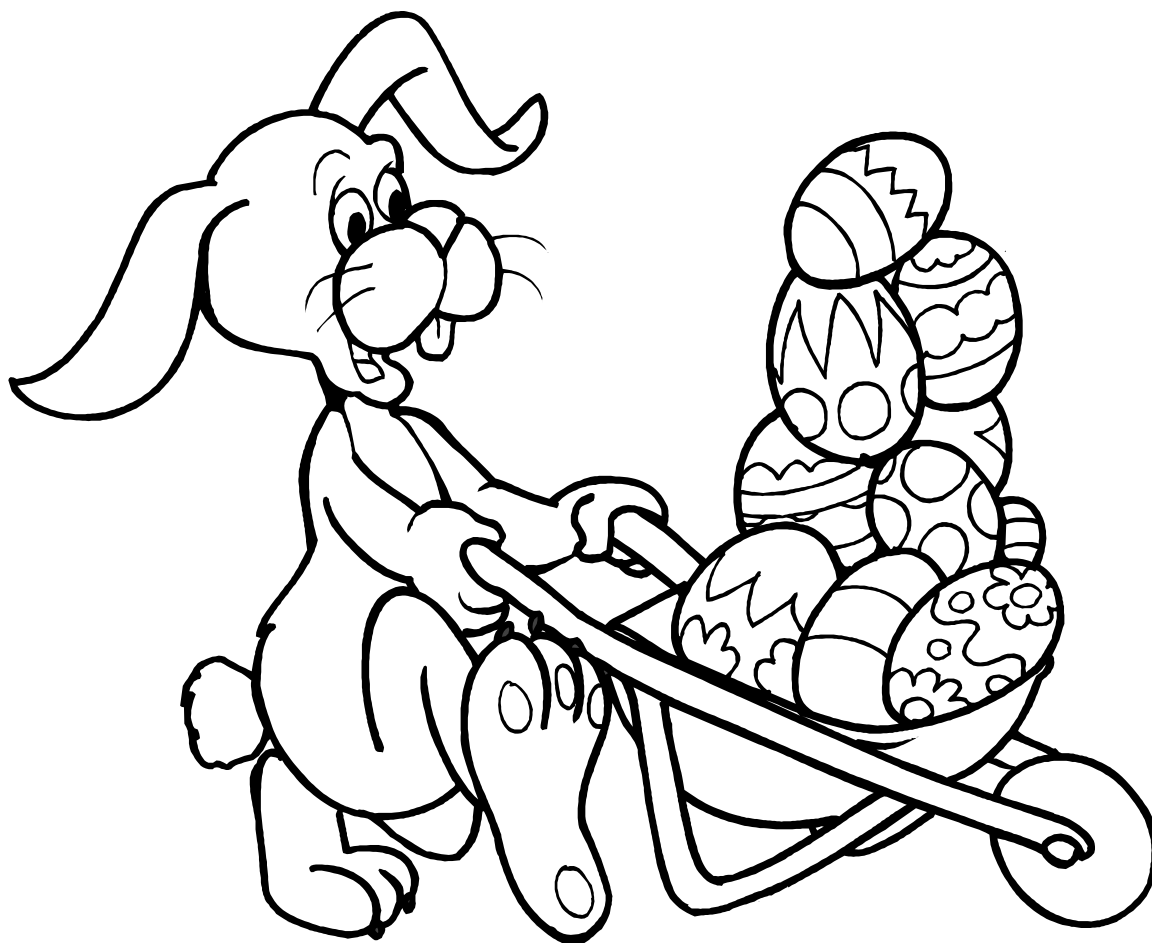
We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: April 30th

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

Name: _____ (first name, last
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