

BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

April 2019

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 →)

1st.....	April Fool's Day
2nd.....	World Autism Day
3rd.....	Lailat al Mira
6th.....	Int'l. Day of Sport for Devel. & Peace
6th.....	National Tartan Day
7th.....	World Health Day
10th.....	National Siblings Day
14th.....	Palm Sunday
15th.....	Tax Day (Taxes Due)
17th.....	Board Meeting
18th.....	Holy Thursday
19th.....	Good Friday
20th.....	Lailatul Barat
20th.....	Passover (Start)
20th.....	Record Store Day
21st.....	Easter
22nd.....	Earth Day
23rd.....	English Language Day
24th.....	Admin. Professionals
25th.....	World Malaria Day
26th.....	Arbor Day
27th.....	Passover (End)
28th.....	Divine Mercy Sunday
28th.....	Orthodox Easter
29th.....	Remembrance Victims of Chem. Warfare
29th.....	Duke Ellington Day
30th.....	Int'l Jazz Day

HONEY BEE SWARMS



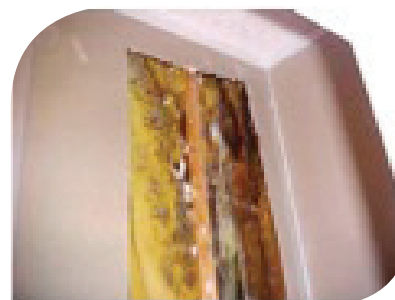
Honey bees are beneficial by producing honey, wax and pollinating crops. With warmer temperatures, honey bees are becoming more active and may soon begin to swarm.

Honey bee swarms look like a large clump of bees clustered together.

The swarm may stay in a location from a few hours to a week. Swarms are produced as a part of the colony's reproductive process. An established colony produces a new queen, causing the old queen and half the worker bees to leave the colony to search for a new nesting location. Swarming honey bees are usually gentle and unlikely to sting. They are not protecting their home, food or offspring. Scout bees are sent out from the swarm to search for a nesting site. Colonies

produce comb and honey and are defensive. They are guarding their home, food and offspring.

Sometimes, honey bee colonies can be found in wall voids, chimneys, attics or sheds. If bees are in a wall void, DO NOT block their entrance; this makes



them search for another way to exit and could lead bees into the structure. To keep bees from entering a home, seal any holes found in walls where pipes enter the home, cracks in window framing, knotholes, weep holes, or cracks between wood and brick junctures.

(Continued on Page 3)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

CIA Services, Inc.

3000 Wilcrest, Houston, TX

713 981-9000

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

UTILITIES

AT&T (Repairs)	800 246-8464
Center Point Energy (Electric)	713-207-2222
Center Point Energy (Gas)	713 659-2111
Mud #120 (Water)	713 405-1750
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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Register on www.crimereports.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

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

(Continued from Cover)

While many enjoy having honey bees around, some people are severely allergic to their venom. This, along with other situations, such as bees located near sensitive areas (such as playgrounds) may require removal or even extermination of the bees.

People should NOT try remove or exterminate bees on their own. Beekeepers and pest control companies have equipment to carry out these jobs in a safe manner. The city or county does not provide bee removal services.

**TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION**

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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The 7th Annual Plant Swap

Sponsored by Greater Mission Bend Area Council

Sunday, May 19th | 9:00 AM - Noon

George Bush Park

www.GMBAC.com



Debris in the Bayou?

Contact the Harris County Flood

Control District at

<https://www.hcfdc.org/>

The grocery carts and other debris in subdivision bayous will be removed, perhaps within 10 days.



West Bend CIA

Reminders...

- ✓ Architectural Review is required on any Exterior Modifications (www.ciaservices.com)
- ✓ Garage Doors are to be the same color as the body of the house and not the trim
- ✓ Remove trash cans from public view on non-trash days
- ✓ Please drive safely, obey stop signs, and observe speed limits
- ✓ Yard of the Month begins in April

GO **GREEN**
GO **PAPERLESS**



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Report Streetlight Outages



CenterPoint Energy maintains streetlights throughout West Bend. If a light is out or blinking, please call CenterPoint at 713-207-2222 or report it online <https://slo.centerpointenergy.com/>. You will be asked to provide:

- a pole number for the non-functioning lights you want to report
- contact information (in case more information is needed to locate a streetlight)
- an e-mail address (if you want feedback regarding your repair request)
- the number of streetlights you would like to report

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On the Corner of Dairy Ashford and Memorial Drive

Quarterly Inspection Area of Focus

West Bend Community Improvement Association



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 inspect the items below, in addition to 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.

March – May

- Gutter cleaning including house & street (Mildew/discoloration)
- Removal of pine needles & leaves

April Yard of the Month

*Congratulations 14835 West Bend Drive for
April's Yard of the Month!*



Panhandlers



Recently there has been a rash of panhandlers and human trafficking, staging themselves not only on esplanade curbs, but also navigating in and out of roadways at busy intersections both in wheel chairs and on foot, poking fish nets at car windows soliciting donations, peddling water from ice chests to drivers while at traffic lights.

All of this is to say, it is a potential life safety issue for both panhandlers and drivers.

Harris and Fort Bend counties have designated resource centers to help those, in need. Please do not encourage this practice by donating to individuals or groups.

Opening Soon!

Timewise Food Store (Exxon)
2747 Highway 6 South @ Richmond Avenue



West Bend CIA

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Raptors

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Have you ever heard of a hawk vest, raptor shield or coyote vest? I had no idea they even existed until I started researching this article. Although they may go by different names, they are all very similar and serve the same purpose. They claim to protect small animals from birds of prey, coyotes and even aggressive dogs. Now you may think this is silly and even a little ridiculous but if you're someone who has suffered the loss of a pet snatched by a raptor or coyote, it makes perfect sense. As recently as January 18th in Pennsylvania, an 8-pound bichon frise was playing in the backyard when an eagle swooped down, grabbed it with its talons and flew off with it. Not to worry. For some unknown reason, the eagle dropped it 4 miles away and the dog recovered.

A bird of prey is a meat-eater but not all birds of prey are raptors. Eagles, owls, ospreys, kites, hawks, buzzards, harriers, vultures, and falcons are all raptors. Three traits help distinguish a raptor from other birds of prey and these three traits make raptors excellent hunters. A raptor has a curved beak with sharp edges, sharp claws or talons and excellent eyesight.

Of all the animals in the animal kingdom, raptors have the best eyesight. Their eyesight is 6 to 8 times better than ours. As far as which raptor has the best eyesight it is most definitely the eagle. It is believed that an eagle can spot an ant crawling on the ground from atop a 10-story building, or a rabbit up to a mile away. Breaking that down even a little further, this means an eagle flying at an altitude of 1000 feet over open country could spot prey over an area of almost 3 square miles from a fixed position.

The talons, or claws, of raptors are curved downward and are razor sharp. If you were to see a raptor's foot up close you would also notice rough bumps on the pads of the feet which aid in hanging onto their prey like slippery fish. The raptor swoops down and with a vise-like grip either kills the prey or inflicts serious wounds.

The beaks of raptors are all the same. They are curved with very sharp edges. They use their beaks to tear off fur, pull out feathers and tear meat into bite-sized pieces that they swallow whole. Raptors also have what we would call a "tooth" on the inside of the upper part of their beak. It's shaped like a triangle and is called a tomia. This is used to cut the spinal cord of its prey.

If you come across an injured raptor, there are very important steps to take to insure your safety and the safety of the bird. First, call TWRC Wildlife Center. If the bird doesn't fly away when approached, this doesn't always mean it's injured. It could be protecting food or babies. If it is determined that the bird actually needs rescuing, we will direct you on how to safely capture and restrain the hawk. If you do not feel comfortable handling the hawk, we can recommend other options for transport. If it is injured, you'll need heavy gloves, safety glasses and a thick towel or blanket. Throw the towel or blanket over

the bird and take hold of the bird by keeping its wings close to its body and your hands out of reach of the talons. Darkness helps calm birds and the towel provides that. Place the bird in a sturdy box or pet carrier that is only slightly larger than the bird. If it's too large, the bird will be able to flop around and could inflict even more injuries. Be sure to remove the towel or blanket from the container. Now place that towel or blanket over the carrier. Bring the bird to us as quickly as possible for care. Please do not attempt to feed the bird or provide water. As with most wild animals, it is illegal to have raptors in your possession. They are federally protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918.

If you have any wildlife questions, give us a call at 713-468-8972 or check our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.

Spring is our busiest season and babies have started coming in. We need compassionate people to help feed and care for baby squirrels, baby opossums and baby birds. The age requirement is 14 and up. This is an experience you'll never forget! The link is <https://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org/volunteer/>





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