



BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 5

MAY 2019

May 2019

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Observed as:

- National Bike Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports
- National Mental Health Awareness
- Lupus Awareness month
- Lyme Disease Awareness Month

Birthstone: Emerald **Flower:** Lily of the Valley & Hawthorn

Astrological Signs: Taurus (till 20th) & Gemini (21st →)

1st.....	May Day
1st.....	World Lyme Day
2nd.....	Holocaust Remembrance Day
2nd.....	Nat'l Day of Prayer
3rd.....	St James TL / St Philip
3rd.....	World Press Freedom Day
4th.....	Kentucky Derby
5th.....	Cinco de Mayo
6th.....	Ramadan (start)
7th.....	Nat'l Teacher Day
8th.....	Yom Hazikaron (Isreal)
9th.....	Yom Haatzma'ul (Isreal)
12th.....	Mother's Day
15th.....	Board Meeting
18th.....	Armed Forces Day
22nd.....	Int'l Day for Biological Diversity
23rd.....	Lag B'Omer
24th.....	Nat'l Brother Day
27th.....	Memorial Day
28th.....	Nat'l Burger Day
30th.....	Ascension
31st.....	Lailatul Qadr
31st.....	World No Tobacco Day

The 7th
Annual
Plant Swap
Sunday, May 19th
9:00 AM - Noon
George Bush Park
www.GMBAC.com

Sponsored by Greater Mission Bend Area Council



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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BOARD MEMBERS

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Secretary & Treasurer	Linda Hermon
Director	Gail Kreinsen
Director	Jacqueline Parks
Director	Letty Solis
Director	VACANT

COMMUNITY MANAGER

Catina Hunter	Catina.Hunter@ciaservices.com
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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

Board Volunteers Needed

There are vacant positions up for election for the West Bend Community Improvement Association Board of Directors at the 2019 Annual Meeting to be held in June.

Fiduciary Relationship and Responsibility - The members of the board of directors and each officer of the association have a fiduciary relationship with the members of the association. This fiduciary relationship imposes obligations of trust and confidence in favor of the corporation and its members. It requires the members of the board to act in good faith and in the best interests of the members of the association. It means that board members must exercise due care and diligence when acting for the community, and it requires them to act within the scope of their authority.

The fact that the association is a not-for-profit corporation, or that the members of the board are volunteers and unpaid, does not relieve them from the high standards of trust and responsibility that the fiduciary relationship requires. When a member accepts a position on the board of directors, he or she is presumed to have knowledge of the duties and responsibilities of a board member. Board members cannot

be excused from improper action on the grounds of ignorance or inexperience and liability of board members for negligence and mismanagement exists in favor of the association and the property owners.

Each board member must recognize the fiduciary relationship and the responsibilities that the board has to the association and each of its members. The board's duties must be performed with the care and responsibility that an ordinary prudent person would exercise under similar circumstances, and the ultimate responsibilities of these unique positions cannot be delegated to a manager, a management company or other third party.

The deadline for nominations will be announced in a separate mail-out. Please email a ½ page Biography to the community manager, Catina Hunter, at catina.hunter@ciaservices.com stating your interest and qualifications to serve in the (2) year term position.

Eligibility - To qualify for election as an officer or director of West Bend C.I.A., one must be a Property Owner and has not been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude.

Cy-Tom Democrats Host Mike Siegal

Cy-Tom Democrats Host Mike Siegel, Candidate for US Congress, TX District 10

The Cypress-Tomball Democrats will hold its next monthly meeting Tuesday, May 21, at Rudy's Grill and Cantina, 11760 Grant Road, Houston. There is a meet and greet at 6:30 p.m., and the general meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

Mike Siegel will be the guest speaker at the Cy-Tom Democrats' May meeting. Mike is running for US Congress in the Texas 10th Congressional District. His career has been in public service: as a school teacher, civil rights lawyer, and advocate for communities left out of the political process.

Join us to learn how Mike will fight for Texans who need health care; a living wage; for immigrant families that want to stay together; for seniors who rely on Social Security; for students who can't afford college; for residents of Harris County who face another hurricane season without adequate flood control.

Mike has a history of fighting—for working people, students, families, disadvantaged populations—and he will bring that same spirit to the position of Representative for the 10th Congressional District of Texas.

All are welcome to attend and to join this growing club, which meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

For more information, contact Undrai Fizer at cytomdems@yahoo.com, or visit the club's Facebook page.

Debris in the Bayou?

Contact the Harris County Flood

Control District at

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

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



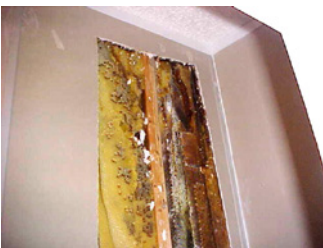
West Bend CIA

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.

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.

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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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

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

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.

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West Bend CIA

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Why it's in Homeowners' Interest to Attend the Annual Meetings

Annual HOA meetings usually address topics that may sound dry as dust to you, as a homeowner. These might include the association's budget, election of directors, and voting on amendments to the HOAs governing documents. The meetings can also address other issues the board believes need the attention of the entire membership.

Attending the annual meeting is nevertheless important (and may be more interesting than you expect.) The decisions being made may, after all, directly impact your quality of life and the value of your property.

For instance, the new budget may require higher assessments in order to make a major repair or upgrade. Homeowners who don't want their dues to go up or don't believe the changes are necessary will want to attend the annual meeting and make their voices heard before a decision is made. (Or if you're in favor of the special assessment and its use, you'll want to make sure the homeowners in opposition don't drown out your position.)

Likewise, a homeowner may want to make sure directors are elected to the board who will make good decisions for the community as a whole, as opposed to decisions that benefit his or her friends.

Although major issues are often reserved for the annual meeting, important topics and issues may still be discussed at regular board meetings. These topics and issues often include reports from the HOA treasurer and property manager, and discussion of any remodel or new construction proposed by other community members. The board may also discuss homeowner complaints and suggestions that lead to rule amendments related to what you can and can't do with your home.

Board meetings are typically open to all members of the HOA. They're often concluded, though, with the board going into an "executive session," which is closed to the general membership. Topics discussed in executive sessions may include legal matters, employment issues, and contract negotiations. Some states, such as Oregon, limit the topics that can be discussed in executive sessions.

Remember, whether a decision is made at a board meeting or annual meeting, these rules must be followed, even if you weren't present. When a community is heavily involved in meetings and the decisions that are made, those decisions tend to better reflect what the community as a whole desires, not what a few board members want.

The Killdeer A Skilled Actor

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



A concerned citizen who came across a nest on the ground with eggs in it and an injured mama nearby contacted us via Facebook. The lady wanted to know what she could do to help. She posted pictures to help us identify the bird. Not being familiar with the hundreds of bird species we have here, I reached out to our former

Executive Director who not only identified the bird but also shared some interesting information about the species.

The bird was a Killdeer. They find small depressions in the ground and build their nests with sticks, grass, weeds, shells or rocks. Their nests can be found in parking lots, golf courses, lawns, athletic fields, etc. Their nests are often overlooked because they are almost level with the ground around it. What makes this bird so fascinating is that females will fake injuries to lure predators away from their nests. As a predator approaches, she will drag herself farther and farther away from her nest continuing to fake her injuries. It's also been observed that she may roll completely over, pant and gasp for air—all an act. Another tactic they use to protect the nest is by pretending to build a nest. When a predator approaches the real nest, the Killdeer will move away, find a depression in the ground and pretend to be covering her non-existent eggs. As the predator approaches the fake nest, the Killdeer will leave only to repeat this fake-out until the enemy tires of her games and flies away.

Sometimes groups of Killdeer get in on the action of chasing away real or perceived predators. The first one to spot the enemy will fly very close to the face of the animal while making a loud, shrill cry as if to be yelling at it. Soon others join in with the same loud cries. In most cases, this is enough to scare anything away.

Because Killdeer build their nests on the ground, it can take up to six attempts in a season to successfully hatch their eggs. Pesticides, other lawn chemicals and cats are the biggest threats.

The Killdeer is a member of the plover family. Plover, as defined by the Free Dictionary, is, "Any of various widely distributed shorebirds of the family Charadriidae, having rounded bodies, short tails, and short bills". Although defined as a shorebird, it's equally happy in dry or wet locations. It is classified, as migratory but is a year-round resident in most areas of Texas.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, the Killdeer is one of the noisiest birds in America. Their name was derived from their call—a loud "KILL-DEER".

Nature is amazing, isn't it?

TWRC Wildlife Center invites you to like our Facebook page. You'll find useful information, cute photos and a community of great people who love nature and wildlife: <https://www.facebook.com/TWRCWildlifeCenter>



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