

BUTLER'S BRIDGE

WEST BEND COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2019

December 2019

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Observed as:

- Universal Human Rights Month
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Birthstone: Turquoise & Blue Topaz

Astrological Signs: Sagittarius (till 21st) & Capricorn (22nd →)

Flower: Narcissus & Holly

Advent Begins	1
World AIDS Day	1
Cyber Monday	2
Int'l. Day for Abolition of Slavery	2
Giving Tuesday	3
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	7
Immaculate Conception	8
Green Monday	9
International Anti-Corruption Day	9
Human Rights Day	10
Arabic Language Day	18
International Migrants Day	18
Start of Winter (Winter Solstice)	21
Super Saturday	21
Hanukkah (Start)	22
Christmas	25
Boxing Day	26
Kwanzaa (Start)	26
St John	27

*Meeting date is subject to change, please check website for the latest updates.

Community Reminders

- Assessments are due every year on January 1st*
- Important Homeowner Registration www.ciaservices.com
- Holiday Decorating Contest, Sunday Dec. 15th, 6:00p – 8:00p
- Remove trash cans from public view on non-trash days

Assessments Due on Jan 1st

The Assessments are due on January 1st of each year and provide for services in the community. Every owner has an obligation to pay the annual assessment. If you have not received a statement by now, please submit an accounts receivable request to C.I.A. Services to confirm your balance and ensure it is paid on time. You may submit your payment by mail, in person, or on-line. www.ciaservices.com

Attention Homeowners:

There will not be a Board meeting in December. The January Board Meeting will be held at the CIA Services Conference Room located at 3000 Wilcrest, Suite 200, Houston, TX 77084. The agenda, date and time will be announced via email. Please be sure you have your correct contact and email information with the Management Company by visiting www.CIASERVICES.com

Trim Your Trees Please...

Trees are a valuable asset to properties and the environment. In West Bend, tree canopy provides shade and significantly reduces utility bills. Mature healthy trees can increase a property's value by as much as 25 percent.

Trees must be properly maintained and pruned for the health of the tree as well as for public safety. ***Please raise your tree canopy to 14 feet over the street, and 8 feet over the sidewalks.*** It is important to ensure that large vehicles such as fire trucks, school buses, ambulances and garbage trucks are able to navigate and operate safely.

Overhanging tree limbs can delay emergency vehicles when seconds make the difference between life and death. ***Clearance is also essential for the visibility of traffic signs and street lights.*** Untrimmed trees can cause irreversible damage to trucks.

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

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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 where you can access the West Bend Governing Documents, By Laws, Deed Restrictions, Important Contact Numbers, Maps and our Neighbor News and Events.

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

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 will continue to check 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.

December – February

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

The Quarterly Inspection Area of focus is an attempt to decrease the number of first letter violation notices. It gives homeowners the opportunity to rectify any problems in a focus area before the quarter approaches.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Protect the World's Children this Holiday Season

The holidays signal a time for family gatherings, traditions and the spirit of giving. Make this holiday season even more meaningful by giving gifts that help children in need around the globe.



According to UNICEF, around 15,000 children die every day from preventable diseases. In over 190 countries, the organization's staffers are in the field working through war zones, natural disasters and disease outbreaks, doing whatever it takes to save children's lives. This holiday season, you can join the charge by choosing gifts that give back.

With Inspired Gifts, you can provide supplies in the name of a loved one that get delivered directly to children who need it most. Just \$19 can provide polio vaccines to protect 100 children from the deadly disease. Additional life-saving and life-changing options including food packets, educational materials and menstrual hygiene kits can be found at unicefusa.org/HolidayInspired.

If you are looking for stocking stuffers and unique finds, UNICEF Market has a vast collection of handcrafted items made by artisans from around the world. From blankets woven in India to recycled glass pitchers crafted in Mexico and more, these gifts help support the artisans and their families, keep traditional skills alive and give back to essential programs for children. Start checking off your wish lists at unicefusa.org/HolidayMarket.

As part of Louis Vuitton's #MakeAPromise pledge, a specially designed product line of Silver Lockits is available, helping to protect children who have been exposed to diseases, natural disasters and other conflicts that threaten their safety and well-being. \$100-\$250 of each purchase go to programs that help children most in need. Find out more at louisvuitton.com/lvforunicef.

This year, Garnier USA will donate \$1 to UNICEF USA for every Whole Blends Holiday Kit sold through Dec. 31 with a minimum donation of \$300,000. Each kit purchased helps educate a child for up to one week, as it costs around 15 cents to help educate one child per day. Learn more at garnierusa.com/unicef.

Vitamin A is important for strengthening the immune system and preventing childhood blindness. Through Dec. 31, L'OCCITANE will donate \$3.95 for each Solidarity Soap purchased to support UNICEF's Vitamin A supplementation programs around the world. Available in stores or at loccitane.com/en-us/solidaritysoap.

A holiday favorite since 1950, UNICEF Greeting Cards can be purchased at IKEA, select Hallmark Gold Crown® stores and online at hallmark.com and unicefusa.org/HolidayCards2019. One hundred percent of the purchase price of each pack from IKEA will go to support the world's most vulnerable children.

UNICEF does not endorse any brand, company, product, or service.

*No part of the purchase price is tax deductible. Content downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com.

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Whether you're huddled around the fireplace, gathered at the table or strolling through a winter wonderland, the holidays are all about enjoying pure and memorable moments with family and friends. With all of the seasonal gatherings, you can certainly expect that almost any host or guest will attempt to provide a classic holiday treat for everyone to enjoy.

This year, you can give your traditional holiday bake a refreshing twist sure to spread all kinds of holiday cheer with this Enjoyment Peppermint Pie topped with Homemade Whipped Cream, which can be easily whipped up with less than 10 ingredients total.

From pumpkin pies to gingerbread cookies and everything in-between, an option like DairyPure Heavy Whipping Cream can be a must-have kitchen staple this season, one you can feel good about knowing it's sourced from trusted dairies.

For more recipes for the holidays and every day, visit DairyPure.com, and find DairyPure on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest. Downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com.

Prep time: 15 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

- 1 envelope unflavored gelatin
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 2 1/2 cups DairyPure Heavy Whipping Cream, divided
- 8 ounces soft peppermint candy
- 1 chocolate cookie crust
- crushed peppermint candies, for garnish

Soften gelatin in water; set aside.

In small saucepan over low heat, cook 1/2 cup whipping cream with candy until candy melts.

Add gelatin; mix well.

Whip remaining whipping cream. Let gelatin mixture cool and fold in whipped cream, reserving 1/2 cup for garnish.

Pour into crust. Chill.

Before serving, top with reserved whipped cream and crushed peppermint candies.

Homemade Whipped Cream



2 tablespoons granulated or confectioners' sugar

2 cups DairyPure Heavy Whipping Cream

1 teaspoon vanilla extract or liqueur

In chilled glass bowl, add sugar to whipping cream. Using whisk or hand mixer, incorporate sugar into heavy whipping cream until it begins to thicken, leaving visible trails. Continue to whip until soft peaks start to form.

Fold in vanilla extract or liqueur. Serve immediately or refrigerate and remix 1-2 minutes before serving.

5 Tips to Ward Off Cold Weather

Colder weather brings plenty of changes, especially in the ways you take care of your home and self. Especially when the temperature drops, extreme winter conditions can play havoc not only with your skin and health, but also your family's comfort.

Take steps to protect your family and household as the weather starts to cool this season with these practical tips:

Take steps to help prevent the flu. As temperatures drop, the chances of getting sick rise. That's partly because certain germs and viruses thrive in colder temperatures, and because the cold puts extra strain on your immune system. When it is cold outside, people are also more likely to spend time indoors (and in closer quarters) where germs are more easily spread. Do your part to help prevent the flu by washing your hands often and covering your mouth or nose when you cough or sneeze. Also be sure to stay home if you're sick and avoid exposing others to your illness.

Prepare your wardrobe. Colder weather outside means more skin sensitivities and dryness. Long pants and sleeves don't just add warmth; they also protect your skin from harsh outdoor elements. When you haul your winter wardrobe out of storage, start the season on a comfy note by washing everything with an option like 'all Free Clear Liquid Detergent or Mighty Pacs. It's the No. 1 laundry detergent brand recommended by dermatologists, allergists and pediatricians for sensitive skin due to its hypoallergenic formula.

Dress in layers from head to toe. Bundle up with winter accessories to

match the daily weather forecast. For chillier mornings and nights, cover exposed areas such as your head with a hat, neck with a scarf and hands with gloves. To accommodate warmer weather during the day, layer flexible clothing options to accommodate temperature shifts.

Stay active. Physical activity naturally warms your body in the short term. In fact, shivering is your body's natural physical response to generate body heat when you're cold. Aside from the immediate benefits, keeping active during the colder months can help in other ways, too. A healthy cardiovascular system keeps your blood flow steady and strong, and a good circulatory system plays an important role in keeping your body, and especially your extremities, warm when temperatures take a dip.

Nourish your body and skin. Preventing painful dry cracks and itchy, scaly skin is a job that requires attention inside and out. Externally, moisturize shortly after showering to trap in the water lingering on your skin, use extra lotion throughout the day on areas prone to drying and reapply lotion after washing hands. Remember to protect sensitive spots like your lips that can easily chap and crack. You can also prevent dry skin by ensuring you're drinking plenty of water and eating a healthy diet with plenty of essential vitamins and healthy fats.

For more ideas to prepare for changing weather, visit all-laundry.com. Content courtesy of 'all. Photos courtesy of Getty Images. Downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com

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- ✓ Kids' Illness

Manage Grief

with grace

this Holiday Season



Holidays are filled with traditions, but when someone you used to share those moments with has died, managing grief during the holiday season can be particularly challenging.

Mental and physical preparation are your best tools for managing the feelings that may accompany holidays. While family members, particularly children, may want things to be as they've always been, the reality is things have changed. It can also be a

time to create new traditions and memories that honor your absent loved one.

Consider this advice from the National Funeral Directors Association to help navigate grief this holiday season.

1. Get plenty of rest. The holiday season pulls people in many directions, and that can mean getting less sleep than you need. However, being tired not only has a physical impact on how you feel, it can affect your ability to process emotions.

2. Give yourself permission to take a break. No two people process grief and loss the same way; only you know your limits. Even in a season filled with obligations and commitments, know that it's OK to set boundaries and remove yourself from holiday reminders and triggers. That may mean flipping the channel on the TV or bypassing the holiday display at the store. Taking care of yourself when you're grieving isn't just about finding comfort, it's also about avoiding discomfort.

3. Be realistic with your commitments. You may be the one who hosts your family's holiday celebration every year, but if others offer to take responsibility, let them. Allow loved ones to help, and if they don't volunteer, don't be afraid to ask.

4. Look for tangible ways to express feelings. So much of grief is internal as you manage numerous thoughts and emotions, but physical expressions of your memories and feelings can

help process it all. A package like the Remembering A Life Self-Care Box contains several resources to help you take care of yourself. It includes a journal, a rose quartz stone that promotes relaxation, a water bottle to remind you to stay hydrated, a jar to hold written memories of your loved one, a soothing candle, a dragonfly keychain symbolizing hope and comfort, and a soothing essential oil roller.

5. Verbalize how you're feeling. Manage expectations by telling family and friends how you're feeling about the holiday and what they can expect from you. Also let them know what you need from them. If talking about your loved one brings comfort, let those around you know you appreciate the stories and reminiscing. If it hurts, ask that they refrain.

6. Honor your feelings and needs. As most who have experienced loss know, grief comes in waves. The only way to process grief is to ride one wave to the next. That may mean putting off your holiday shopping for a day when you're feeling less emotional or bowing out of an event you planned to attend.

7. Include your loved one in the holidays. There's no right or wrong way to incorporate your loved one's memory; that all depends on what feels right to you. It may mean serving his or her favorite dish, placing a photo on the mantel or simply slipping a memento in your pocket so you can touch it when you're feeling overwhelmed.

Find more advice to help navigate your way through a loss at rememberingalife.com. Photo courtesy of Getty Images. Article downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com

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Photo courtesy of Getty Images

No matter who you're buying for this year, putting some extra thought into the personality and hobbies of your recipient can help brighten the holiday season. Whether your list is on the shorter side or long and complex, these gift ideas – ranging from a thoughtful card to a flavorful meal or a pretty piece of jewelry to tools for the outdoors or classroom – have you covered.

Check those names off your shopping list with even more gift ideas at eLivingtoday.com. Content downloaded from FamilyFeatures.com

Holiday Gifting Made Easy

Gift ideas for **everyone** on your list



A Gift Full of Flavor

If you're looking for a gift for your food-loving family and friends this holiday season, this is the perfect package. With a sampling of Omaha Steaks favorites – including top sirloins, pork chops, gourmet burgers and filet mignons – the Tasteful Gift combo is guaranteed to please nearly any foodie on your list. Add in potatoes au gratin, caramel apple tartlets and an exclusive seasoning packet and you have a gourmet gift for the holiday season. Find more gift ideas at omahasteaks.com.



A Sharp Gift Idea

Any knife is only as good as the sharpness of its blade. This holiday season, get the outdoorsman or chef in your life a helpful tool like the Wicked Edge Go knife sharpener. Made from high-quality, aircraft-grade aluminum and stainless steel and easy to use for both new and veteran knife sharpeners, it offers guided angle control while sharpening a variety of knives, giving the user choice and control over angle and edge geometry. Find more at wickededgeusa.com.



Share Holiday Joy

Show friends and family how much they mean to you this holiday season with a Hallmark holiday card. Whether you want to share excitement with



Get Her a Gift that Wows

This holiday season, give her a gift that wows with these sparkling 3-Carat Total

Weight Diamond Tennis Bracelets from Helzberg Diamonds. Available in Rose Gold, White Gold and Yellow Gold, these stylish bracelets feature round brilliant-cut diamonds to help make your special someone feel like an MVP. Plus, for a limited time, you can save \$1,000 through Dec. 29. Find more holiday gift ideas at Helzberg.com/Holiday-Gift-Guide.



A Splash of Scholarly Style

Make math and science a bit more stylish for your student when he or she heads back to school from the holidays. Available in 10 bold colors,

the TI-84 Plus CE graphing calculator is super-slim, durable and can last up to one month on one charge. With a multitude of functions, students can use it from middle school math and science all the way through high school and into college – plus, it's accepted on college entrance exams. Find more at education.ti.com/84CE.



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