Dear Lost Creek Resident,

Lots of things are going on in Lost Creek as we prepare for annexation by the City of Austin on December 31, 2015. In this issue, we have some short articles intended to keep you informed of any changes and improvements in the services we provide to you. The MUD sends many important notices and emergency information to our residents via email and eblasts to save time and money. Mailing letters costs about $1,000 for material and postage, so we request you send your email to office2@lostcreekmud.org to ensure you are on the list. All resident email addresses are kept strictly confidential.

Sincerely,
Lost Creek MUD Board of Directors

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Stage 2 Watering Schedule in Place

Lost Creek has implemented its Stage 2, once-per-week watering schedule, triggered when the LCRA reservoir system reached 900,000 acre feet of water or less. Here is the once-per-week schedule:

- Odd addresses: Saturday
- Even addresses: Sunday

Single family residents may only water outdoors once a week:

Businesses and multifamily units may only water outdoors once a week:

- Odd addresses: Tuesday
- Even addresses: Friday

Watering by sprinkler or irrigation system is allowed on your assigned day only before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m. Hand watering is still allowed anytime.

Please adjust your watering to no more than the maximum allowed once-per-week schedule as indicated above to avoid penalties and potential loss of service for noncompliance. We also ask that you keep this new schedule in mind when planting new landscaping or lawns and that you install a rain sensor on your sprinkler that turns off your sprinkler when it’s raining. It’s also a good idea to check your controller’s backup battery to make sure it’s charged in case of a power outage. More information is available on our website at www.lostcreekmud.org. More water conservation and schedule information can be found online at http://austin.waterquickknowyourwater.org and www.lera.org/water/save/index.html.

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Oak Wilt

In every newsletter, we remind Lost Creek residents about oak wilt remediation and tree replacement. Unfortunately, the MUD is prohibited by state statute to spend funds to remediate oak wilt on private property; however, the Texas Forest Service has an Oak Wilt Assistance Program that provides training, assistance, and advice on identifying, treating, and stopping the spread of oak wilt. This information is available on their website at www.texasoakwilt.org/getting-help and the LCNA has a representative to help with identifying possible oak wilt problems. Please contact Jennifer Lamm at jenniferlamm@yahoo.com.

Free Chipper Service Oct. 6 & 7

Don’t forget that the free chipper/shredder service will be on Saturday, October 6 and Sunday, October 7. Bring your brush to the Whitemarsh Valley Walk trail head entrance from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

Also, sign up to help Girl Scout Troop 1991 remove brush from the trails for the chipper. See their sign-up information on our website at www.lostcreekmud.org.
2012-2013 Budget Approved

The Lost Creek Municipal Utility District approved its 2012-2013 Budget on September 18, 2012. The Lost Creek MUD tax rate will change from $0.17 to $0.125, a 26.5% decrease.

The City of Austin is significantly increasing Lost Creek’s wholesale water base fee from sixteen cents ($0.16) per home per month to fourteen dollars and seven cents ($14.07) per home per month and reducing the volumetric charge by $0.07. To balance this increase, the Lost Creek MUD will increase the monthly base water fee from $8.50 to $11.50 per month and leave all other water rates unchanged. The changes to the tax and water rates will result in a total annual savings of $145,25 for the average Lost Creek homeowner whose average appraised property value rose from $428,322 in 2011 to $437,521 in 2012.

In 2013, a Lost Creek home that uses 15,000 of water will pay $95.46 for water and sewer. A City of Austin resident who uses 15,000 gallons of water will pay $257.33. Lost Creek will be annexed by the City of Austin effective December 31, 2015.

Lost Creek Limited District

The City of Austin has verbally agreed that Lost Creek may form a Limited District. A Limited District would retain ownership and maintenance of our local parks, greenbelts, and the MUD community building instead of relinquishing them to the City of Austin.

Lost Creek residents will vote on the measure in May 2013. If passed, the City would assume operation of the utility on Dec. 15, 2014, a year earlier than the current annexation agreement, and the District’s utility customers would start paying City of Austin utility rates in December 2014. City of Austin taxes would not apply until January 2016. In 2015, the District would continue to maintain parks and facilities until the full purpose annexation occurs on Dec. 15, 2015. At that time, the Lost Creek MUD would convert to the Lost Creek Limited District.

The Limited District would collect a small tax to help pay for maintenance of local parks at the level Lost Creek is accustomed. This estimated tax rate would be about $0.06, which would cost the average Lost Creek property owner about $22 a month.

The Lost Creek Neighborhood Association will be sharing information within the community about this important decision and upcoming vote in May.

Simple Steps to Help Prevent Storm Water Pollution

1. Make sure to follow the directions and application rates when applying fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals to your lawn or around the house. If you apply too much, water runoff will wash the chemicals into local waterways.
2. Don’t blow leaves into the street when mowing or trimming. Lawn clippings will clog local storm drains and also pollute local waterways.
3. More plants in your garden prevent fertilizer, pesticides and contaminated water from running off into nearby water sources.
4. Don’t throw litter onto our streets, parks, greenbelts or creeks. Help clean up any litter you see on our trails and local parks. Make sure it is safe to collect the litter and put it in a nearby trash receptacle.
5. Be sure to use a “doggie” bag when walking your dog!

No Change in MUD Board of Directors

The Board recently took action to cancel the November MUD Board election. Directors Nancy Naeve and Gary Sertich were up for re-election and no other citizens came forward to run.

Nancy Naeve is a longtime resident of Lost Creek who has served on the Lost Creek Board since June 2004. Gary Sertich has lived in Lost Creek for almost 10 years and will begin his second term as Director.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you,

Lost Creek MUD Board of Directors
Steve Veregge, President
Nancy Naeve, Vice President
Gary Sertich, Secretary
Preston Doerge, Treasurer
Eric Castro, Assistant Secretary Treasurer

www.lostcreekmud.org
October 2012
Sidewalks Program

The final sidewalk scope, which the Lost Creek MUD Board has been working on for some time, was recently approved by the Board. The sidewalks are needed within the District to fill in the gaps of missing sidewalks and to provide out-of-the-street pedestrian access to local parks, greenbelts, and school bus stops. The final scope was narrowed down after holding two public hearings and listening to residents’ comments, suggestions, and concerns.

Locations include the north side of Lost Creek Blvd. from Quaker Ridge to the Barton Creek low-water bridge and missing connections on Quaker Ridge, Whitemarsh Valley Walk, Cape Coral loop (Quaker Ridge continuation only) and Torrey Pines.

The engineer’s cost estimate for the above sections is currently approximately $881,470, of which one half, $440,735, will be reimbursed by Travis County.

Our surveyors have been in the area locating property pins along the right of way and plans will soon be finalized. We anticipate opening bids in the November – December timeframe, with construction following soon thereafter.

To see the final approved map, go to www.lostcreekmud.org.

Entry Median Relandscaping Project

In previous newsletters we have mentioned that a committee comprised of two Board members and two Garden Club members have been working on a project to install xeriscape landscaping in the entryway median on Lost Creek Blvd. After many months of planning, the project will begin in October. A xeriscape proposal from TexasScapes was chosen after reviewing three designs over several months.

The median landscaping committee consisted of Gary Serrich and Steve Veregg from the LCMUD Board, and Marsie Stauch and LaJoyee Kraus from the Lost Creek Garden Club. Marsie was instrumental in research, design and keeping the Garden Club informed. The landscape design is attractive, sustainable, suitable for Central Texas weather conditions, and will be a model for Lost Creek residents to use for their own home landscaping projects to help conserve water. In addition to the landscape installation, the electrical and irrigation systems will be replaced. The irrigation system will be a more efficient drip system to conserve water.

During construction, many of the existing shrubs and plants will be removed to accommodate the construction and there will be occasional lane closures on Lost Creek Blvd. to allow for the delivery of boulders, plants and other materials. These closures will be coordinated with Travis County Road and Bridge for safety and access for Lost Creek residents and the contractor will attempt to minimize closing lanes during rush hour time periods.

The cost for these improvements is as follows:

- Removal of existing plants and shrubs ...................... $ 25,309.00
- New limestone boulders (50 tons) .................. $ 24,414.00
- New plants and drip irrigation system ...................... $ 35,811.00
- Electrical .............................................................. $ 27,090.00
- LC Blvd. Traffic Plan Engineering ....................... $ 1,055.00

Total Cost of Project ............................................. $113,679.00

We are excited about this project because it is the front door to Lost Creek. To view the landscape plan for the median, please go to the MUD’s website at www.lostcreekmud.org.

TreeFolks Offering Free Trees to Residents

The NeighborWoods street tree program will be offering free trees to homeowners in Lost Creek. NeighborWoods was created by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department as an effective and inexpensive way to combat urban heat islands by strategically placing shade trees along residential streets. TreeFolks is a non-profit organization that has implemented this program since 2002. Each year, the program delivers 3,800 free trees to shade streets, reduce home energy costs and make neighborhoods an overall better place to live and play.

TreeFolks will be placing signs in the Lost Creek area to increase awareness about this program. If a blue or yellow flag is placed in your yard, you are eligible to receive a free tree to plant near that spot. To receive your free tree, mail back the postcard left on your door, or place your order through the program’s website, www.treefolks.org.
LOST CREEK MUD
UPDATET
1305 Quaker Ridge Drive
Austin, TX 78746
512-327-6243
www.lostcreekmud.org

Board of Directors
President            Steve Veregee
Vice President       Nancy Naeve
Secretary            Gary Serfich
Treasurer            Preston Doege
Asst. Sec.-Treasurer Eric Castro

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Other News of Interest

Online Bill Pay is here! You can now pay your water bill online with a credit card on our website, located at www.lostcreekmud.org.

Contractor Advertisement Signs If you are remodeling or constructing a home improvement please note that it is a violation of the deed covenants to display a vendor or contractor advertisement sign in your yard.

Bank Drive-Thru Rezoning A potential buyer is proposing to rezone the bank drive-thru on Lost Creek Blvd. in order to build (12) 3-story urban modern condos on the 1.44 acre lot. The LCNA has information about this on their website, www.lena.com.

ACC Approval and MUD Plumbing Permits Make sure to submit any home improvement or remodeling projects to the LCNA Architectural Control Committee (www.lena.com) and secure the appropriate plumbing permits from the MUD.

Non-Emergency Sheriff Department Contact Need to report or need non-emergency assistance from the Sheriff's department? Call 974-0845 Extension 3 for the direct line to dispatchers.

New MUD Website The name is the same but our website is completely redone. You can access current drought conditions, weather, watering restrictions, pay your water bill, and a lot more. In fact, we now have an official Lost Creek neighborhood rain gauge which you can access on our website. Take a look at the new website, www.lostcreekmud.org.

GM Gets Lost Creek Entrance Repaved
Through the diligent efforts of General Manager Tom Clark, TxDOT paved the Lost Creek Blvd. entrance “apron” off of Loop 360. Sections of the pavement had been missing for years, most of the striping had worn off and there were potholes when turning south onto Loop 360.

Tom had been in touch with TxDOT several times since January, asking that these needed repairs be done. When he heard last month that TxDOT was going to resurface all of Loop 360, he contacted TxDOT again. This time he was successful in his quest and our entrance was resurfaced on Sept. 18. Now we have a smooth, pothole free transition to Loop 360!
Thank you, Tom!

ABOUT LOST CREEK MUNICIPAL
UTILITY DISTRICT
Lost Creek Municipal Utility District is the local government serving more than 1,250 families in the Lost Creek neighborhood by providing drinking water, wastewater, solid waste collection, deed restriction enforcement, beautification and recreational services.

Have a question about your deed restrictions? Are you concerned that a neighbor may not have applied for and/or received the required ACC (Architectural Control Committee) approval prior to beginning the new construction or remodeling project that is currently underway (or about to commence)? Has that fence been approved?
For these and any other questions or concerns that you may have regarding deed restriction enforcement in Lost Creek, please contact Tanya Emmons via email at lostcreek@pinnacletexas.com, by phone at 512-795-8461, by fax at 512-795-8463, or online at www.pinnacletexas.com (Residents link).