Lost Creek Newsletter
April 2013
www.lostcrekmud.org

Important Note

Dear Lost Creek Resident,

Many of you may know that we are being annexed by the City of Austin on December 31, 2015, and a lot of work is underway in preparation for annexation. Included in this newsletter are some short articles intended to keep you informed of any changes and improvements in the services we provide to you. We send many notices and emergency information to our residents via email and eblasts to save time and money. It saves you tax dollars if we send notices via email and we request you send your email to office2@lostcrekmud.org to ensure you are on the list. All emails are kept strictly confidential.

Sincerely,
Lost Creek MUD Board of Directors

City of Austin Agrees to Allow Lost Creek to Hold a Limited District Election and Form a Limited District

The City of Austin has agreed to allow Lost Creek to hold a Limited District election and form a Limited District, if approved by voters at the May 11, 2013 election. A Limited District would retain ownership and provide maintenance of local parks, greenbelts, median entrance on Lost Creek Blvd., the Community Building on Quaker Ridge Drive and enforcement of deed restrictions.

If passed by voters, the City would assume operation of the water and wastewater utility December 15, 2014, which is a year earlier than the previous agreement, but we would not pay Austin city taxes until January 2016. Although the City would operate the utility system effective December 2014 and collect water and sewer payments, the District would continue to operate park-related facilities and the District Community Building until the full purpose annexation on December 15, 2015, at which time Lost Creek MUD would convert to the Lost Creek Limited District, if approved by voters.

If approved, the Limited District would continue several important programs including; operation of parks, greenbelts, and the entry median on Lost Creek Boulevard, and continue many existing programs such as removing brush from local trails to minimize risk of fire to our properties and deed restriction enforcement to maintain property values. If the election fails, Lost Creek MUD would dissolve December 15, 2015, and no longer exist. The City would also have the option to terminate the lease the District has for the use of Boulder Trail Park and would have the option to close the park for recreational purposes.

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

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars to help with the Barton Creek Cleanup Saturday, April 13. Come to the Lost Creek Office at 1305 Quaker Ridge Drive at 9 a.m. for snacks, safety gear and instructions. Community Service patches will be provided to Boy and Girl Scout participants.

A Burn Ban IS Still in Effect

Travis County reissued a ban on outdoor burning Nov. 13, 2012.

Vandals in the Parks

Please report vandals in the parks by calling 911. We are having an issue with vandals clogging the restroom facilities in our parks. If you witness anyone applying graffiti to any public property or vandalizing District facilities, please call 911.
Scouts Help Out With Trails and Parks

Our thanks go to Girl Scout Troop 1991 and Boy Scout Troops 30 and 990 for work in the parks and trail system. They recently donated a Saturday to spread mulch in the Boulevard Park and replace sand and dirt washed away on greenbelt trails. We appreciate the volunteer effort of the Scout Masters LuCinda Chiles, Shawn Kane and Tommy Kerbow for organizing and supervising the scouts. The scouts were recognized for their work and awarded community service badges by the Lost Creek MUD Board at its February meeting.

[Image of Girl Scout Troop 1991 (pictured above) and Boy Scout Troops 30 and 990 volunteering.]

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.

Vendor and 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. The District’s Deed Enforcement Officer will ask you to remove them and issue citations for non-compliance.

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

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

Stage Two Landscape Watering Schedule Still in Effect

This is the time of year when we are planting new sod and busy getting flower and plant beds ready for the spring showers. However, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) and National Weather Service are not so sure there’s going to be much rain this year. The latest weather predictions are for the drought conditions to continue into the summer. With that forecast and having received very little rain over the winter, gardeners should take a serious look at drought-tolerant plants and consider not planting sod until after this drought has come to an end.

Lost Creek is still under its Stage 2 watering schedule of once per week watering; however, if the drought continues, the 3rd Stage watering schedule (which would initiate if supplies fall to 600,000 acre feet in the Highland Lakes) would only allow hand watering with a water hose in your hand. Current water supplies are hovering at 831,000 acre feet and it won’t take much more of these dry conditions and increased summer demands to push the water supply to a critically low level. The current schedule was triggered when the LCRA reservoir system reached 900,000 acre feet of water or less. Here is the once per week schedule:

- **Single family residents** may only water outdoors once a week.  
  1. **Odd addresses**: Saturday  
  2. **Even addresses**: Sunday

- **Businesses and multifamily units** may only water outdoors once a week.  
  1. **Odd addresses**: Tuesday  
  2. **Even addresses**: Friday

- Watering by sprinkler or irrigation system is allowed on an assigned day only before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.
- Watering with a handheld hose is 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 is raining. Lastly, please remember to check your sprinkler timer after a power failure because sometimes the clock will reset during a power failure and cause the sprinkler to water at the incorrect times.

Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution!
Here are some easy ways to help prevent stormwater pollution in Lost Creek:

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. Conserve water by turning off the tap when running water is not necessary. This helps prevent water shortages and reduces the amount of contaminated water that needs treatment.

4. Be careful about what you flush down your sink or toilet. Don't throw paints, oils, prescription medications or other forms of waste down the drain.

5. Use environmentally safe household products, such as washing powder, household cleaning agents and toiletries.

6. By having more plants in your landscape you are preventing fertilizer, pesticides and contaminated water from running off into nearby water sources.

7. Don't throw litter into creeks, rivers, or lakes. Help clean up any litter you see on our trails and local parks. Make sure it is safe to collect the litter and then put it in a nearby trash receptacle.

Lost Creek Projects Still on Hold
In the January Newsletter we informed residents that Lost Creek had placed several projects on temporary hold pending bids to repaint the interior of the water ground storage tanks next to the District's offices. The tanks are inspected annually and a recent inspection showed the interior of the tanks need to be painted as well as some repairs to the roof of both tanks. As part of the amendments to the previously mentioned annexation agreement, we will pay the City $245,000 to repair and paint the inside of the tanks and the City will apply additional funds to repaint the exterior of the tanks. Doing a joint project with the City provides the best return on our investment by getting the inside and outside of the tanks completely renovated.

The two projects on hold are the sidewalks and the entry median improvements. They will remain on hold until after the Limited District election to allow the District to reassess its finances before proceeding with either project.

Trail Extension
Thanks to a project organized by Eagle Scout candidate Josh Willis, part of the Whittemarsh Valley Walk Trail was extended. The new extension includes a new turn around and park bench. They also removed brush to a staging location for chipping. Removing the brush and undergrowth was part of the Firewise program to reduce ladder fuel and the risk of fire. The chipped brush was used as trail cushioning.

Chipper Service a Success
The free chipper service offered on February 9 and 10 was a huge success. We chipped 90 cubic yards of brush compared to 50 cubic yards in November. This service is supervised by the District's Firewise Committee, Directors Sertich and Doege, and is provided to help homeowners minimize potential risk of fire around the home by removing ladder fuel. The next chipper event will occur in November after the risk of oak wilt infestation has subsided.

19.7 Tons Collected During Bulky Item Pickup
Progressive Waste Solutions sent out five rear load self-contained compaction trucks with 10 employees and we collected at curbside and disposed of 19.7 tons of bulky items, brush and solid waste.
End of an Era

Developers recently tore down the drive-through bank structure that was located on Lost Creek Boulevard. The site, which has been home to several banks since BancFirst Westlake opened its doors in 1984, was torn down to make room for condo units.

Oak Wilt Remediation

In every newsletter we remind Lost Creek residents about oak wilt remediation and tree replacement. Oak wilt season is here so please spray the wound of any oak tree immediately upon pruning.

Unfortunately, the MUD is prohibited by 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/Assistance/assistance.html and the Lost Creek Neighborhood Association has a representative to help with identifying possible oak wilt problems. The LCNA helps spread the word on oak wilt remediation, so please contact their representative Jennifer Lamm at jenniferplamm@yahoo.com.

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.