Dear Lost Creek Resident,

As you know, we are being annexed by the City of Austin on December 15, 2015 at which time we will convert to a Limited District. 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 and to help prepare for the City’s annexation and transition to the Limited District.

We make every attempt to contact you during emergencies and we send many announcements, notices and surveys via email to save time and tax dollars. We request that you provide your email contact information to gm@lostcreekmud.org to ensure that you are on the District’s email distribution list. All contact information is kept strictly confidential.

Sincerely,

Lost Creek MUD Board of Directors

SIDEWALKS

(The following information was sent in a recent e-blast to residents; we are providing the information again as all residents have not yet provided their email addresses and we are, thus, unable to send them information via email.)

The Lost Creek Municipal Utility District Board of Directors has recently considered and voted on two sidewalk projects along Lost Creek Boulevard in response to an April 2015 fatal accident involving a cyclist at the intersection of Lost Creek Boulevard and Whitemarsh Valley Walk. Immediately after the accident, there was public discussion of the safety of that intersection given the sharp curve of the Boulevard. After investigation, Travis County sent the District a list of action items to be implemented by the County for the Boulevard, including:

- additional signage (which has been installed very recently);
- tree trimming on the northeast corner lot of the intersection (completed in coordination with the property owner);
- selective enforcement by the Travis County Sheriff’s Office of speed limits and recklessness by skateboarders;
- possible installation by the District of a radar speed reminder sign under a licensing agreement with the County (which the District has been advised it cannot legally do under its statutory powers); and
- installation of a crosswalk across the Boulevard.

With input from the District on common pedestrian routes through Lost Creek and along the Boulevard, Travis County Safety Engineer Joe Hall formally selected a crosswalk location at Cypress Point North in his June written report.

PROPOSED PROJECTS

To encourage pedestrians to use the new crosswalk and avoid crossing at the Whitemarsh Valley intersection, the Board voted at its July 21 public meeting to proceed with sidewalk improvements along the north side of the Boulevard from the new crosswalk at Cypress Point North to Whitemarsh Valley Walk (“Part A”), with total estimated construction costs of $58,600.30. Sidewalks would be constructed in the Travis County right of way only.

Following public input about the need to encourage pedestrians traveling up the Boulevard to cross at a location with better sight lines, the Board voted at its July 29 public meeting to proceed with sidewalk improvements along the north side of the Boulevard from Whitemarsh Valley Walk to Augusta National (“Part B”). Part B would also accommodate school bus stops on the Boulevard. This vote was conditioned on the District’s financial obligation for Part B not exceeding $50,000 based on budget considerations, although estimated construction costs for all of Part B are $106,662.71.

Travis County matching funds, discussed more below, may be available for part or all of the costs of Part A and/or Part B, but this is not yet clear and may depend, in part, on timing of the construction relative to annexation of the District by the City of Austin.

The first step for the sidewalk projects is preparation of plans for the projects. The Board has authorized engineering for Parts A and B, at a cost of approximately $19,202. The plans are complete, and at its September 22, 2015 meeting, the Board authorized bidding the project (parts ‘A’ and ‘B’). Once the bids are received, the Board will vote again whether to accept a bid and award a contract. We anticipate the presentation of bids and final vote to take place at the Board’s October meeting and after receipt of information from Travis County regarding the availability of matching funds.
PREVIOUS SIDEWALK PROJECTS

In 2012, the passage of a Travis County bond election provided a source of 50-50 matching funding for Lost Creek sidewalk installations. The District and Travis County entered into an interlocal agreement providing for the County to reimburse 50% of sidewalk project costs incurred by the District. Given this opportunity, the District considered undertaking a large-scale sidewalk project. The proposal included sidewalks on the north side of the Boulevard from the four-way stop to the low water bridge and along Whitemarsh Valley, a portion of Quaker Ridge, and certain other locations throughout the District at a total estimated cost to the District of approximately $453,631.

After taking public input in several ways, the Board conducted a non-binding referendum in September 2013, where each Lost Creek household voted on whether the District should (1) construct the entire project; (2) not construct the project; or (3) install sidewalks along the proposed stretch of the Boulevard. Of 1,250 Lost Creek households, 452 voted against the project, 100 voted for the project, 59 voted for sidewalks along the Boulevard, and the remainder of Lost Creek residents (approximately 639 households) did not cast a vote.

After consideration of the referendum results and other feedback, the Board decided not to proceed with the large scale project improvements. Instead, the Board authorized installation of the following limited sidewalk improvements:

- a stretch along a blind curve on Whitemarsh Valley Walk near a District greenbelt entrance; and
- at and around the four-way stop on the Boulevard and Quaker Ridge to allow for additional crosswalks and accommodate a school bus stop.

The District’s share for these improvements was approximately $42,500. Consideration of additional improvements was triggered by the April 2015 fatality.

Additional information regarding the sidewalk project is available on the MUD website under “Hot Topics.” If you have questions about this project or any other project or topic, please contact any Director or contact General Manager(s) Jim Emmons or Tanya Emmons at 512-327-6243 or email gm@lostcreekmud.org. You are also welcome to attend future meetings of the Board of Directors.

HIGH WATER USAGE

We have received many calls from residents concerning high water usage bills. The district provided historical water usage data to the city and has available water use data from 2013 to December 2014. If you need a copy of your use information, please contact the District at 512-327-6243 or email us at gm@lostcreekmud.org.

HIGH WATER PRESSURE

We have received complaints of increased water pressure in certain areas of the District. The city has made changes to the water system operation and below is a brief summary.

Austin Water has significantly changed how the Lost Creek water system is operated. The system is made up of three different pressure zones:

- The primary zone with an overflow hydraulic gradeline (HGL) of ~ 998' HGL (serves approximately 813 customers),
- The boosted zone with an HGL of ~ 1,110' (serves approximately 365 customers), and
- The reduced zone set at ~ 815' HGL (serves approximately 70 customers).

These zones are necessary due to the wide range of elevations in the area; additional information is provided below.

The Primary Zone

- This zone’s operation has not changed. This pressure zone should not go above a 998' HGL as this is when the water reservoir tank begins to overflow.

The Reduced Zone

- This zone is operating the same as well. The exception would be a City pressure reducing valve (PRV) failure or malfunction. The PRV is a mechanical piece of equipment that requires periodic maintenance to ensure proper operation.

The Boosted Zone

- In 1997, the Preliminary Engineering Report by Espey, Houston & Associates, Inc. for the “Loop 360 Area Water Improvements Project” cites that the hydropneumatic system for the MUD was designed to be operated at a HGL range of ~1,060’ to ~1,112’.
• In 2008, chart recorder data from when the MUD was operating the water system indicates that the
HGL ranged between ~1,065’ and ~1,171’.

• Prior to the City assuming operation and maintenance responsibilities on December 1, 2014, new variable frequency drive pumps were installed at the hydropneumatic pump station and as a result, the HGL was lowered to a maximum of ~1,100’ resulting in a lower HGL in this zone.

• On August 26, 2015 the hydropneumatic pump station’s control was adjusted to ensure proper operation of the pump station and to provide an HGL range of approximately 1,095’ to 1,112’, which is more in line with how the system was originally designed to operate.

Anyone needing additional information should contact the City of Austin at 512-494-9400.

BUDGET APPROVED

At the September 22, 2015 meeting, the Board approved the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget. The budget is posted on the District’s website, www.lostcreekmud.org. The tax rate for next year was reduced from $0.08 to $0.076 per $100 valuation. Your individual tax payment may change based on changes to the value of your home.

MEET THE NEW MANAGEMENT

With the retirement of General Manager Tom Clark on September 30, 2015, the District has hired Pinnacle Texas Management Services, Tanya and Jim Emmons, to serve as General Manager. Tom worked for the District for five years and ended his 39 years in public utilities at Lost Creek. He is moving out of state and plans to travel, fish and play golf. We wish him well.

Tom is a tough act to follow, but Tanya and Jim will do their best to make it a smooth transition. The office will continue to be staffed on weekday mornings (8:30-12:30 normally), and the phone number remains 512-327-6243. After hours, leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Office staff can assist you with amenity reservations or ACC requests; notary services will be available soon. There is a drop box in front of the office that you can use for park or meeting room deposit or applications, ACC applications, or LCNA dues.

FIREWISE

Lost Creek maintains its greenbelts and works with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the City of Austin environmental and the Austin Fire Department to reduce fire risk in our greenbelts. The program consists of raising the canopy, removing dead trees and removing underbrush.

For the past three years, Lost Creek has received designation as a Firewise Community because of ongoing work in the greenbelts and providing the twice annual free chipper service. Minimum requirements are to spend at least $2.00 per capita per year for fire prevention activities, and last year Lost Creek spent $10.90 per capita in the greenbelts on fire prevention measures.

Although the District is proactively reducing the potential of fire, each resident needs to protect property by trimming trees away from buildings and keeping their own properties cleared of fuel according to Firewise principles. Brochures are available at the District offices that provide information to aid residents in this effort.

The below map shows the areas in Lost Creek that are subject to District remediation efforts. The areas in green are District-owned property, and the red areas are owned by the City but available to us under the SPA for remediation. All other areas are privately owned by residents. The District is negotiating with the City to extend its Firewise operations into the City-owned greenbelt behind Bay Hill Drive, Thaddeus Cove and Arronimink. Continuing consultation with fire professionals will help assess areas that will have the greatest impact for remediation.
DARK SKIES INITIATIVE

Lost Creek has received designation as a Dark Skies Community from the International Dark Skies Association. The Dark Skies program is voluntary and we request residents to consider installing shielded lights when undertaking a renovation or construction project. Program information can be found at the Dark Skies Association website http://www.darksky.org.

SAVE THE DATES

Free chipper service on Saturday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 8 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the trailhead of White Marsh Valley Walk.

BULKY ITEM PICK-UP: Saturday, November 14th

Be sure to have your bulky items out by 7:00 a.m., because the Progressive Waste Solutions crews like to get an early start. The guidelines and restrictions for the service are as follows:

- The items to be collected include, but are not limited to:
  - Furniture, mattresses, stoves, white goods (i.e. hot water heaters, washer and dryer machines, bath tubs, sinks).
  - Refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, or any item containing Freon, CFCs, or other regulated refrigerants must have the refrigerant removed by a licensed technician to certify Freon removal, and the item must be tagged.
  
  Individual bulky waste items shall not weigh more than 75 pounds, must be capable of being lifted by two qualified and capable personnel and shall not exceed two (2) cubic yards (@ 6’x3’x3’).

  Progressive Waste Solutions reserves the right to charge for excessive volumes (greater than two (2) cubic yards - @ 6’x3’x3’) collected from a single residence or for a return trip to collect limbs or bulk waste items that were not set out as detailed above. Tree limbs must be bundled together, and must not exceed 4 ft in length or 4 inches in diameter.

  The following bulky items *will not* be collected:
  - Construction and demolition debris or any waste resulting from remodeling, general property clean-up or clearing of the property for the preparation of construction (i.e. cartons, rocks, dirt, concrete, excelsior, gypsum board, metal, paper, plastic, rubber and wood products), or
  - hazardous waste.

DEED RESTRICTION ENFORCEMENT

One of the responsibilities of the Lost Creek MUD and the Lost Creek Limited District starting in December 2015 is to enforce deed restrictions. They were written to keep our neighborhood attractive and to maintain property values.

If you did not receive the deed restrictions for your property at closing when you purchased your home, they are available to you online at www.lostcreekmud.org. Type your address into the ‘Customize’ bar located on the Water Awareness Dashboard and it will show your watering day under the City of Austin watering restrictions and the deed covenants for your section.
WASTE OIL
Since the City of Austin assumed the utilities in December, Lost Creek no longer accepts waste oil. Please do not drop waste oil at the water pump station, as Lost Creek does not own the facility. Please dispose of any waste oil at an approved facility.

WINTER WASTEWATER AVERAGING
Wastewater averaging is a way for you to save money. Averaging takes place during the late fall/winter months in the City of Austin, when most of the water goes directly into the sanitary sewer system, versus being used for outdoor watering. Averaging determines a cap on the volume of wastewater you will be billed for each month for the next year.

For information on the City’s wastewater averaging and to find the exact dates your property will be averaged, visit www.austintexas.gov/wastewateraveraging.

HOME ADDITIONS, REMODELING & FENCES
All exterior additions and changes to homes and fences require prior approval from the LCNA’s Architectural Control Committee. This three-person committee will review your proposed plans for conformity to the deed restrictions, identify any easement issues, and answer any other questions you may have about your project before it is built.

You may get the LCNA’s ACC Building/Remodeling Request form at the lcna.com website or from the MUD office at 1305 Quaker Ridge during office hours. Bring the application to the MUD office for processing. If you drop the application off after office hours, there is a drop box located in front of the office.

The MUD keeps a record of all ACC applications, so please do not send the application directly to the Committee.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you,
Lost Creek MUD Board of Directors
Eric Castro President
Leah Stewart Vice President
Chuck McCormick Secretary
Nancy Naevé Treasurer
Gary Sertich Asst. Sec-Treasurer

NON-EMERGENCY SHERIFF CONTACT
If you have an emergency please call 911. If you need to file a report or need other non-emergency assistance from the Sheriff’s Department, call 512-974-0845 extension 3 for direct contact with dispatchers. The Travis County Sheriff’s Department will be providing law enforcement services to Lost Creek until December 15, 2015.
LOST CREEK TRAIL OF LIGHTS – LET’S MAKE 2015 EVEN BRIGHTER!

Participate in the 2015 Lost Creek Trail of Lights to show neighborhood pride and holiday spirit while making the holidays special for a child in need.

For over 20 years, Lost Creek has been a destination for families touring homes decorated for the holidays. What started in 1983 on a single street by residents June and Harlan Cooper, the Lost Creek Trail of Lights has grown to hundreds of trees spread around the entire neighborhood. The trees are especially enchanting due to the uniformity of tree size, placement in yards and lighting. Traditionally, the trees have been placed in the front yard less than 10 feet from the curb and wrapped with multi-colored C-9 lights.

For the past five years, the Lost Creek Dads Club has donated 100% of net proceeds to various Central Texas charities. To date over $25,000 has been donated to organizations like Make-A-Wish. These donations have sent numerous children to Disney World (by far the most popular wish). This year, 100% of net proceeds will again be donated to Make-A-Wish.

Only $55 pays for a tree delivered, picked up and recycled, all while supporting the Lost Creek goal of funding the wish of two children with life threatening diseases.

While the Dads Club loves how the neighborhood has looked in the past and how much good has been done for kids in need, this year they think The Creek can do more. Wouldn’t it be great to see 500 trees sold that not only show Austin the awesomeness of Lost Creek, but would allow the fulfillment of the wish of THREE very deserving children?

ORDER BY: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28th
PLANNED DELIVERY DATE: SAT., DEC. 5th
PLANNED PICK-UP DATE: JANUARY 9th

Show your community pride and participate in a wonderful tradition, the Lost Creek Trail of Lights. Order your tree for delivery today at www.lostcreektrees.com.