

Holiday Lights - Oak Wilt - Old Lampasas Road Dam Project  
Order Trees and Pay Dues - COA Wastewater Averaging

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## Be a Judge for the Holiday Lights Contest



Around 40 years ago, HOA members started our much loved Holiday Lights event. Last year we saw neighbors and entire streets get together to create gorgeous displays.

The HOA continues to support this tradition by arranging for the delivery of Christmas Trees from a family farm in Pennsylvania, as well as gifting winners of the best light displays \$50 each (3 from Balcones Village and 3 from Spicewood). Only paid members are eligible to win, and winners from the previous three years are not eligible to win.

## BVS HOA Holiday Lights Contest

Be a Best Lights Judge  
December 13-15  
Great Family Activity

[Click Here for email to volunteer or ask questions](#)

Two years ago, we started a new tradition of asking families to drive the neighborhood (Balcones Village and/or Spicewood) to find the best of the best lights. We've heard from several families, who said it was a wonderful family experience. Apparently, a few dogs have participated, too.

Three nights, December 13-15 (Saturday through Sunday) are set aside for driving the neighborhood in search of the best lights.

Click the email linked under the photo and let us know you want to judge. We have score sheets, maps, and suggestions for judging. The only qualification is a love of pretty lights.

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## Tree Delivery

If you and those strong teens want to help unload trees from the big truck on Friday night (Dec. 6th) or ride in a trailer delivering the trees on Saturday morning (Dec. 7th), let us know via email listed under the photo. The HOA provides food and drink to the volunteers.

We also offer assistance in setting up your outside tree, if needed. Click the email link under the photo, and let us know.

## Helpful Hints

Deer - As you plan your decorations remember that we have a few bucks with big antlers running around. Every year there is at least one dragging a string of lights from his antlers.

Placing Trees - Most homes have short PVC pipes buried in front yards near the curb to hold the tree trunks. It is very helpful to sink a 4' green metal fence stake next to the pipe and attach the tree with zip ties around the trunk and fence stake. Also, it foils any Grinches from taking your tree.

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## Oak Wilt

Oak Wilt has popped up in the Brookwood area. Do you know how to recognize it, treat it, or prevent it? Most of us have little actual experience, but the HOA website is great place to start, because we have knowledgeable people who understand the situation.

What it is - vascular fungal disease affecting oak trees.

How to spot it - generally consists of leaf discoloration, wilt, defoliation, and death.

What to do - contact a certified arborist and Texas A&M Forestry Service.

How do I treat my trees - situations vary so listen to a specialist.

How do I prevent it - read the info on the website about when to trim trees and most importantly, use a certified arborist.

If you think it is a problem for you or you hear about a neighbor with this problem, contact the HOA via the "Contact Us" tab on the website. We are keeping tabs on the situation.

Some of these trees have been around 100 years or more. Let's do our best to keep them healthy.

[Click here to read more on the HOA Website](#)

More information at these sites.

[texasoakwilt.org/](http://texasoakwilt.org/)

<https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/OakWiltFAQS/>

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## Dues and Christmas Trees

'Tis the Season to renew your dues and order a Christmas Tree. Dues are \$50 per year and cover operating expenses. If these newsletters have been helpful, know the platform costs several hundred dollars annually. Will you help cover this expense?

Fewer people are paying dues, so take a moment to be among those who provide much needed financial support for the BV/S HOA.

We ordered fewer trees this year, and they are selling fast. Click the link below right now to reserve yours. It goes to the website

## Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 7th, was the day of our Annual Meeting. Several organizations were present with good info and nice swag.

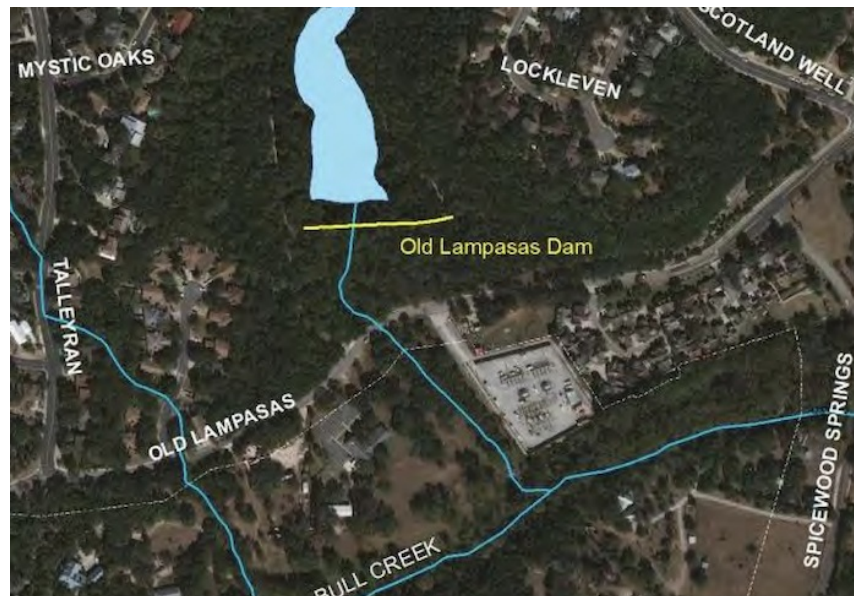
Caleb McLain, HOA President, made a presentation about the work of the HOA, as well as highway projects that are ongoing or soon to start.

The link below goes to the HOA website with more info and a PDF of Caleb's PowerPoint.

where you can place your order.

Dues and Trees

Annual Meeting



## Old Lampasas Road Dam Project

The City of Austin has begun reconstruction of the small dam located off Old Lampasas Road and across from the PEC substation. It is not visible from the street, but does prevent flooding to several homes, the substation, as well as roads and downstream improvements

- 1984 - Dam built of left-over materials from subdivision development.
- 2010 - Aware of problems after hurricane and began looking at options.
- 2014 - Began coordination of dam design and construction with many stakeholders.
- 2018 - Reached 60% design completion.
- 2022 - Received Federal permits, 90% design, started COA permitting.
- 2023 - Received bids.
- 2024 - Started construction - 18 months to finish.

**Strongly recommend** you read the info at both links because there will be lane closures and staging areas on Spicewood Springs Road. Work hours are 7 AM to 7 PM.

City of Austin  
Website

City of Austin  
PowerPoint

## City of Austin and Wildlife

Emery Sadkin, the COA Animal Protection Officer for Wildlife, reached out to the HOA to offer his services. If people have questions about wildlife, he can perform yard audits or set out game cameras.

His contact for this type of work is [Emery.Sadkin@austintexas.gov](mailto:Emery.Sadkin@austintexas.gov).

For concerns or conflicts with wildlife, please call 311 or (974-2000). Calls must be made



to these numbers so COA can document activity and behavior.

The main COA Wildlife website is

<https://www.austintexas.gov/page/wildlife>

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### Lower Wastewater Fees

COA does not have a method to determine how much of your water goes into the sewer versus yards and pools. So, they developed a system of measuring water usage during fall and winter months when less water goes to these other uses.

Using the COA link listed below, go to the second button (Wastewater Averaging Calculator), enter your address, and see when your 3-month period begins and ends. The FAQ section should answer most questions.

Plan major laundry, pool refills, and yard watering accordingly.

[COA Wastewater Averaging](#)



### Radio - Music Time Machine

Imagine listening to pop music from other countries and in other times.

What was playing in Hawaii in the 1940s or in England in 1960s? There are links to countries on every continent except Antarctica. Iceland - Australia - India - Taiwan - Egypt - Philippines to name a few.

The link below goes to the main website, and you can continue in Basic Mode without joining.

Pro Tip - A nice Bossa Nova from Brazil pairs well with writing newsletters. :)

[Radioooo - Music Time Machine](#)

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# SAVE THE DATE

## November 2024

17	Sunday	National Take a Hike Day	
18	Monday	BVS Board Meeting	<i>See note below</i>
23	Saturday	Dr. Who Day	
25-29		Fall Break	RRISD
28	Thursday	Thanksgiving	Federal, State
29	Friday	Day After Thanksgiving	State

## December 2024

6	Friday	Christmas Trees Arrive - HOA	<i>Need volunteers</i>
7	Saturday	Christmas Trees Delivered - HOA	<i>Need volunteers</i>
9	Monday	BVS Board Meeting	5 PM Spicewood Library
13-15	Friday - Sunday	Holiday Lights Judging - HOA	<i>Need volunteers</i>
18	Wednesday	National Twin Day	
20-31		Winter Break	RRISD
24	Tuesday	Christmas Eve	State
25	Wednesday	Christmas Day	Federal, State
26	Thursday	Day After Christmas	State

\*\*\* HOA Board Meeting - 5 PM - email for location. [communications.bvshoa@gmail.com](mailto:communications.bvshoa@gmail.com)

Want to volunteer? Send an email. [communications.bvshoa@gmail.com](mailto:communications.bvshoa@gmail.com)



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