

COLUMNS

August 2024 | VOL. 52 NO. 8



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Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

board@ppoaweb.com

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Deedee Urbano

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Doug Bacon
Randy Larson
Robert Taber, Jr.

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Ron Hamman
Pam Kuhlman

Officers
Robert Taber, Jr., *President*
Doug Bacon, *Vice President*
Randy Larson, *Secretary*
Pam Kuhlman, *Treasurer*

BOD Meeting:
Aug. 29, 2024, 6 p.m.

BOD Committee Workshop
Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. in the Ballroom



COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

| Committee | Frequency/Day | Time | Location |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| Airport | 2nd Thursday | 8 a.m. | Planeview Park (weather permitting) |
| Appeals | 2nd Tuesday | 10 a.m. | S&S Conference Room |
| ACC | Aug. 8, Aug. 22 | 2 p.m. | S&S Conference Room |
| Bylaws | 2nd Monday | 1 p.m. | CH Conference Room |
| Entertainment | 1st Wednesday | 2 p.m. | CH Conference Room |
| Finance | Wednesday prior to 4th Thursday | 3:30 p.m. | CH Conference Room |
| Golf | 1st Wednesday | 8:30 a.m. | CH Conference Room |
| Horse Owners | 4th Tuesday | 3:30 p.m. | CH Conference Room |
| Infrastructure | 1st Tuesday | 9 a.m. | CH Conference Room |
| LRP | 3rd Monday | 1:30 p.m. | CH Conference Room |
| Marina | 2nd Wednesday | 3 p.m. | CH Conference Room |
| Safety & Security | 3rd Tuesday | 9:30 a.m. | S&S Conference Room |
| Sports & Rec (Grounds) | Sept. 3 | 1 p.m. | PAC |
| Wildlife | 2nd Friday | 8:30 a.m. | CH Conference Room |

MEETINGS ARE OPEN. PLEASE CHECK WWW.PPOAWEB.COM OR CALL THE CLUBHOUSE FOR LATEST INFORMATION BEFORE ATTENDING A MEETING.

New Member Orientation

10 a.m. in the Terrace Room

To register for New Member Orientation, please contact Sarah Lord, Pecan Member Representative at sarahlord@ppoaweb.com or 817-573-2641 Ext. 335.

AUGUST

Tuesday, Aug. 20

SEPTEMBER

Saturday, Sept. 7

Tuesday, Aug. 17

PECAN PLANTATION CLUBHOUSE AND OFFICES

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STAFF DIRECTORY

| Title | Name | Email | Extension |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| General Manager | Rick Lantgen | gm@ppoaweb.com | 340 |
| Executive Assistant | Marilyn Amos | marilynamos@ppoaweb.com | 340 |
| Asst. Controller | DeeAnn Greene | deeann@ppoaweb.com | 343 |
| Business Office | Patty Trunk | pattyht@ppoaweb.com | 331 |
| Code Enforcement/ACC | Brent Hamilton | acc@ppoaweb.com | 349 |
| Communications Director | Jay Arrington | jay.arrington@ppoaweb.com | 347 |
| Controller | Kristi Nickel | kristi@ppoaweb.com | 333 |
| Event Coordinator | Brenda Palmer | bpalmer@ppoaweb.com | 325 |
| Executive Chef/Food & Beverage Director | Jordan Ray | jray@ppoaweb.com | 319 |
| Front Desk—Clubhouse | | reception@ppoaweb.com | 817-573-2641 |
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| Golf Pro | Duff Cunningham | golfpro@ppoaweb.com | 330 |
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| IT Specialist | Brian Stange | itadmin@ppoaweb.com | 324 |
| Marina and Procurement Manager | Blake Sanders | blakes@ppoaweb.com | 323 |
| Operations Manager | Daniel Van Patten | daniel@ppoaweb.com | 342 |
| Security Director | Harold Aydelott | harold@ppoaweb.com | 341 |
| Sports & Recreation Manager | Joi Keahey | joi@ppoaweb.com | 361 |
| Tennis Pro | John H. Ingram III | johni@ppoaweb.com | 817-579-9412 |

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

| | |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Clubhouse | 817-573-2641 |
| Fire/EMS | 817-573-1643 |
| Code Enforcement/ACC | 817-573-0594 |
| Front Gate | 682-498-6312 |
| Back Gate | 817-573-6561 |
| Security Office | 817-408-3511 |
| Golf Pro Shop | 817-573-2645 |
| Tennis Shoppe | 817-579-9412 |
| 19th Hole-2-Go | 682-498-6319 |
| PAC | 817-573-7952 |
| Marina | 817-573-3201 |

GATE ACCESS

Please call the gate or use the ABDI app to put guests on the list before arrival - Security 817-408-3511.

Member tags and contractor decals issued at Security office Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and first Sat. of each month, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Member tags require registration, title or bill of sale, driver license and proof of insurance. Contractor decals require registration, driver license, proof of insurance.



PECAN
PLANTATION
COUNTRY CLUB

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ABOUT US



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Columns is the official magazine of Pecan Plantation and is distributed to each household every month. We strive to provide residents with news and information about events, activities and people in the community. The views expressed by contributors may not necessarily be those of Columns Magazine or Hyde Media Group. All rights reserved and no part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means without the written permission of Hyde Media Group, LLC. © 2023.

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CONTRIBUTORS



Darren Clark

Darren Clark can be found on the golf course (no, that guy is Darren Clarke—with an “e”), on the stage at the Granbury Opera House, or in his cubicle manipulating pixels into many of the Hyde Media Group’s publications. Darren is a designer, photographer and occasional writer.

Eden met Granbury 36 years ago and is grateful to have moved here in 2000. She and husband “Hug” raise/raised their two natives here. Eden loves her semi-bohemian lifestyle of hanging out with artists, writers and photographers both young and not as young. Her passions include coffee dates, succulents and making new friends.



Eden Duncan Gilbreath

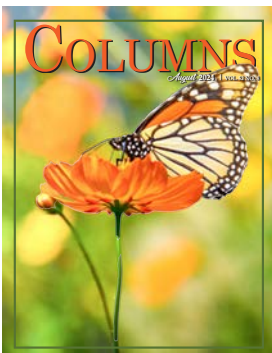


Karen Gomez

Karen picked up her first camera in 2011, then quickly discovered her love of both wildlife and aviation photography when she and her husband, Doug, moved to Pecan Plantation in 2016. Karen’s photographs have been on the covers of Columns magazine, and the wildlife Christmas and note cards they design and produce are big sellers during the holidays.



ON THE COVER



ON THE COVER

A butterfly perches upon the petals of a flower in this magnificent capture. The photograph was submitted by Karen Gomez, who has had her photography featured on the cover before. Karen’s photography of Pecan Plantation is quite magnificent.

Want to Contribute to Your Neighborhood Magazine?

See something that makes you think “that ought to be in the magazine”? Send us ideas for stories or photos of friends, family, nature, wildlife, sports action, special moments, and you might see it in print!

A few tips: Photos should be high quality JPGs—at least 4x6 inches at 300 dpi. If you are sending them from a smart device, choose “Actual Size” or “Original Size” to send. Low resolution, out of focus, inappropriate or otherwise poor-quality photos, or those that have been heavily edited or filtered, will not be published. Contact us at columns@hcnews.com

COLUMNS MAGAZINE DEADLINES

If you have editorial or photography for Columns, please write to Columns@hcnews.com. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the month prior to publication date. EX: Jan. 1 for the February issue.

Advertising closes on the first of the month prior to publication date. Contact Brittany, Heidi, or Madison at 817-573-7066.

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GENERAL MANAGER

From the desk

of Rick Lantgen

I am delighted to inform you that the new irrigation system for our golf course has been successfully completed, and the course is improving nicely after all the digging and trenching. It still has a way to go to recover, but the changes will really start to be noticeable in the coming weeks and months. This was such an extensive project, which was years in development. The final figures and bids approved by the Board totaled \$2,052,800 plus a 5-percent contingency, only to be used with the permission of our directors. The BOD approved \$29,000 of that \$102,640 contingency for additional piping and sprinkler heads. I am thrilled to announce once vendor credits, the sale of surplus materials, and a few other line items hit the books, the project came with a final price tag \$2,081,792. If you are a numbers person like our own comptrollers Kristi Nickel and DeeAnn Green, that's \$8 under the final budget. That's dang close to perfect!

The original figures and bid approved by the Board was \$2,052,800 with a 5-percent contingency (of which we used \$29,000 for additional sprinkler heads).

This new system was an investment in the quality and sustainability of our golf course. It will greatly enhance the playability and aesthetics of our beloved 18 holes, ensuring that our greens, fairways, and tees remain in optimal

condition throughout the year. This improvement aligns with our commitment to providing an exceptional amenities for all our members.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to several individuals and organizations whose efforts made this project possible. Firstly, I would like to thank J.D. Ashwood, our dedicated golf course superintendent, for his outstanding leadership and vision throughout the project. His expertise and commitment have been invaluable.

Additionally, I would like to express our appreciation to V.M. Golf Services, the contractor and construction crew, for their professionalism and hard work. Their skill and dedication have ensured the successful execution of this complex project.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dan Farrier of IPD, Inc. for his crucial role in the design and planning phases. His insights and guidance were instrumental in bringing this project to fruition.

We are excited about the positive impact this new system will have on our golf course, and we look forward to enjoying the enhanced playing conditions it will provide for decades to come, as well as the natural beauty our course provides.

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2024 PPCC Bingo Schedule

- Aug. 8 - Too-Hot-To-Care Bingo!
- Sept. 12 - Grandparent's Day Bingo!
- Oct. 10 - Columbus Day Bingo!
- Nov. 14 - Gobbler Day Bingo!
- Dec. 12 - Ho-Ho-Ho Day Bingo!



*Bingo Buffet opens at 5:30 p.m.
Games start at 6:30 p.m.
\$10 to play; \$25 to play and eat. (Cost ++)
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LADIES GOLF ASSOCIATION



July has come and gone. I hope everyone had a great Fourth of July celebration. Pecan Plantation outdid itself with a great parade and street dance. The heat has certainly put a damper on the number of players every day. I hope everyone is staying hydrated and cool. Our Member/Guest Tournament committee has used this time to plan a very special celebration of our Pecan Plantation Ladies Golf Association's 50th Anniversary. Terri Isbell and her team have come up with some unique ideas, special menus, cool tee prizes and fun games for this annual tournament. Kim Teague has sent out sponsor letters and I hope all of you will seriously consider supporting this special event. Dates for this tournament are Sept. 16-18, which will be here before we know it. Fifty years is a long time for our Ladies Golf Association. We plan to honor it with the celebration it deserves. I hope all of you will join us.

Marilyn Neely
President, PPLGA

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WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS CLUB

By Caryl Mahaffey

IT'S GAME NIGHT AT THE COUNTRY CLUB FOR W/W. PICK YOUR GAME!

It's HOT outside so lets all gather with our W/W friends for a COOL evening of games ... your choice. Don't forget we will meet Thursday night, Aug. 22. The chef will serve up one of his cool menus for our enjoyment. Menu will be sent closer to date.

Our June meeting had some fierce bingo players. The members all brought "White Elephant Brown Bags" to be used as prizes. Some of those White Elephant gifts from our June meeting just might find their way to this meeting. So much fun and there were some very useful gifts in some of those brown bags.

W/W is open to any widow or widower living in Pecan. To attend, all visitors and members are asked to make a reservation by Aug. 15 by email to: caryl.mahaffey@charter.net or by text to 817-964-5915.

See all of you Thursday night, Aug. 22. Come join the fun ...



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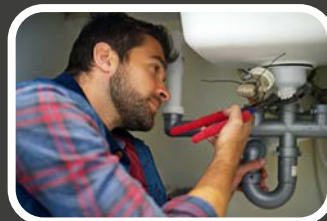
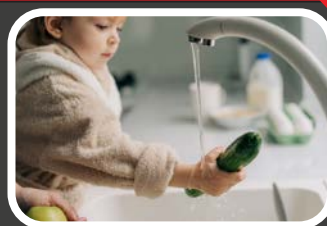
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BREAKFAST CLUB

By Ron Liddell

We had two great speakers in July. Michael Barrett, Pecan's new fire chief, gave us a much-needed update on the status of our VFD/EMS. Chief Barrett addressed several important changes that have recently taken place within the organization. It is so great to have these professionals in our community.

In keeping with our Member Health and Safety theme for July, we were pleased to hear from Alicia Saldana and her team from Solaris Healthcare. Solaris Healthcare is new to Granbury providing hospice care, home health care and palliative care. Several weeks ago, I was asked to provide their team with a tour of Pecan with emphasis on our fire and EMS operations along with our in-house medical facilities. We had a fascinating discussion during the tour and fortunately, that continued with their presentation to Breakfast Club about their critical services. I have been asked several times by members of Breakfast Club to have a presentation on just these services and am very pleased that Solaris Healthcare came through for us.

On Aug. 14 we will again be fortunate to have as our guest Tammy Dooley, director of The Granbury Convention and Visitors Bureau. She will be updating Breakfast Club on the many new things going on in and around Granbury. Granbury has been named the Celebration Capital of Texas and Tammy will be telling us more about this exciting designation.

We tentatively have U.S. Rep. Roger Williams scheduled to meet with us Aug. 28. It is always difficult scheduling congressmen and senators because of their very busy and ever-

changing schedules. Keep your fingers crossed that Williams will be able to join us. He is a dynamic and interesting speaker. Do not fear, if Williams can't make it, as always we have a great backup plan!

Recently I announced this will be my last year as host of Breakfast Club. I have been hosting for about four years and have thoroughly enjoyed it. I especially enjoyed having breakfast and conversations with our guests. Many of them I can now claim as friends. What a bonus! We are currently booked through the end of this year with more interesting speakers. Please step up soon if you are interested in becoming our next host. I'll give you all the help and support you need to be successful.

Breakfast Club meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of most months for food, fun and fellowship. Breakfast is available at 9 a.m. while our program begins at 9:45 a.m. If you don't want breakfast, then drop in at 9 a.m. for coffee and fellowship!

We strive to bring you the best in presenters of interest to our audience. There are no dues for Breakfast Club, and everybody is welcome. We request you call the clubhouse front desk at 817-573-2641 and make reservations no later than noon the Tuesday prior to our meeting. Send your email address to pecanbreakfast@gmail.com to be included on our mailing list. Watch for eBlasts and Columns articles about our activities. You are invited to join our Facebook page at Pecan Breakfast Club.



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Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Sunday noon to 6 p.m.

Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Enchanted Summer Dance Camp (Ages 3 - 7)

August 8, 9, & 10, 1:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$75 each

Instructor: Dance Dreams Academy Staff

The kids will get to experience all of the fun of being different Disney Princesses throughout each day all while focusing on ballet and tap technique. Crafts and singing songs too! Please bring princess stuff and tap shoes if possible.

Tiny Tribe Soft Play (Ages 4 & under) Free!

Monday, August 5 (1 p.m. - 2 p.m.)

Soft play boosts cognitive skills and improves development all while having fun. Ashley 682-500-8874 for info.

Adult Guitar Lessons

Next 6 week session starts Aug 1

Lessons every Thursday 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Carolyn Troland will teach you how to play the guitar in six weeks without reading music! \$25 a lesson.

Please bring a guitar with newer strings on it.

Call 580-369-8485 for more information.

Adult Oil Painting Classes w/ Anita Lloyd, Ph.D.

Tuesdays, Aug 6, 13, 20, & 27 (4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

Bring oil paints, terpenoid, medium canvas, glass jar, palette, and brushes to class.

Cost: \$75 (4 classes) or \$20 per class

Paint Along w/ Kathy Yoders

Sunday, August 11 (1 p.m. - 4 p.m.)

Cost: \$75 - includes all supplies

Bring a beverage of your choice and get step-by-step Acrylic instruction on canvas.

Space is limited. *New Workshop 2nd Sun of every month*

NOTE SPECIAL CLUBHOUSE POOL HOURS

Club pool closes during the week starting Aug 12.

August 16 - September 2 the Club pool will be open:

Fridays from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sundays from 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Mon, September 2: Labor Day Pool Party 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Pool will be open Labor Day from 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Pool Closes for the Season on Tues, Sept 3.

Normal Club Pool Hours: 9:30 a.m. - 8 p.m. Closed: Monday

PAC Pool Hours for AUGUST

Open daily except Wednesday

6:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Closed: Every Wednesday

Guest fees of \$4 apply to all non-members at both pools

EXERCISE CLASSES

Yoga with DeDe

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri (9 a.m. - 10 a.m.)

Cost: \$10/class or \$35/month (4 classes) or \$65/month (8 classes) or \$95/month unlimited classes

Certified Instructor: DeDe Lamont

Chair Yoga with DeDe

Monday (10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)

Thursday (10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)

Cost: \$10/class or \$35/month (4 classes) or \$65/month (8 classes)

Certified Instructor: DeDe Lamont

Pilates

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri (8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.)

Cost: \$3/class

Instructor: Shawn Farris (Please bring your own mat)

Low Impact Aerobics

Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, & Fri (8 a.m. - 9 a.m.)

Saturday (9 a.m. - 10 a.m.)

Cost: \$3/class

Bring hand weights & a mat if possible

Deep Water Aerobics at Club pool

Tues - Fri 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Cost: \$45/month (16 classes) or \$5/class

Certified Instructor: Leslie Stain (sign up at PAC)

Line Dancing - Free

Fridays (10:30 a.m. - noon)

Intermediate dancers meeting for practice, exercise, fun.

No Instruction.

PICKLEBALL

Indoor Pickleball Schedule (starts Aug 13)

Weekdays (9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Wednesday (9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

Family Friendly Open Play (Two Courts)

Tues & Fri Evenings (6 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)

Sundays (12 p.m. - 2 p.m.)

Ladies Only Open Play - Tuesdays (1 p.m. - 3 p.m.)

Starts back up August 13!

Three outdoor courts are available with a reservation from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. through PPOA app or website.

Save the Date

Sept 3: Sports & Rec Committee meeting (no Aug)

Sept 17: Adult Tap lessons Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Sept 28: EMS Auxiliary Craft Bazaar

Oct 3: Adult Guitar Lessons begin

Oct 26: Kids' Halloween Party and Trunk or Treat

Nov 5: Election Day 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.



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PECAN PLANTATION VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

When is Texas' fire season?

Fire season in Texas runs all year, but the risk of fire is more pronounced from February through April and August through October. A lot of Texans might not think wildfires increase in the winter months. Several of the largest wildfires happened in the winter months. The largest wildfire in Texas history occurred Feb. 26, 2024. The Smokehouse Creek Fire burned an estimated 1,078,086 acres — about the area of Rhode Island. This fire likely was fueled by cold dry air passing over dormant grasses. Most Texans are familiar with the summer wildfire season due to the high heat present and the lack of adequate rainfall.

RISK FACTORS FOR WILDFIRES IN TEXAS

Drought. Drought or surface dryness along with low humidity wind, the dryness of the ground due to drought (also called surface dryness), and low humidity, all create wildfire risk conditions in Texas. High winds cause wildfire to spread faster and further and can contribute to drought conditions as they dry out air and fuels in an area. Texas is at risk of wildfires any time there are three to four consecutive weeks of high winds and drought.

Weather. Weather patterns are a major factor in wildfire activities. The National Weather Service has forecasted that the 2024 summer months in Texas will have a 66% chance of being the hottest on record and a 99% chance summer will be the second warmest. The NWS is expecting a hot La Nina summer for us!

Fuel. North Central Texas and Hood County have experienced a historically wet spring, and grasses are growing fast with the available moisture. If predictions of a hot dry summer develop, then there may be an abundant fuel supply of dry grasses during fire season. A combination of grass and brush, where the brush component is predominantly juniper, is the fuel type that has consistently produced high impact wildfires over recent years. The ashe juniper and red berry juniper are the evergreen species most found in North Texas. The canopies of this juniper brush will readily burn after extended dry periods. The juniper canopies extend almost to the ground and are easily ignited by a surface fire burning in grass fuels.

Human Factors. An estimated 90% of all wildfires are started by humans. The largest causes of wildfires/grassfires in Hood County are people burning debris, tossing out burning material, welding and arson. The Hood County Fire Marshal will post burn bans within the county when conditions are unsuitable for outdoor fires. If you are going to burn, check to make sure there is no burn ban, keep a supply of water nearby, and do not burn during expected high wind conditions or at night.

Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department, PPVFD, is equipped to control and extinguish wildfire/grassfires

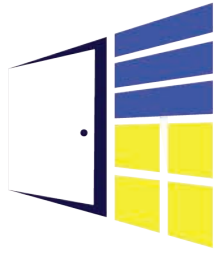
within 13 square miles in our service area, including Pecan Plantation. When the need arises, we provide support to other areas of Hood and surrounding counties when they need help. If the need arises Station 80, PPVFD, will receive help from eight other Hood County fire departments. All Hood County fire departments operate dedicated brush trucks and tankers in case of wildfires.

Station 80 Pecan Fire. To fight wildfires, Station 80 has three vehicles dedicated to fighting grass/wildfires. Its brush trucks have self-contained water supply that is easily refilled by hydrant or tanker. Brush Truck B84 carries 400 gallons of water and foam induction if needed. Brush Truck B86 carries 300 gallons and foam capabilities. Station 80 also has the "Beast," B87, a converted military vehicle carrying 600 gallons. The Beast is also able to carry out high water operations because of its size and unique snorkel system. All PPVFD brush trucks are capable of pumping and driving at the same time. Grass fires are not stationary, and neither are our vehicles. This moving ability allows firefighters to suppress fast moving ground fires while covering large areas in a shorter amount of time.

The need is great: volunteerism is waning. We need your help! You do not have to be on the front line fighting a fire. We need people who just want to support Pecan Fire. Pecan Plantation has an older population and volunteers are hard to find. Retired firefighters can teach classes, business leaders can help with management, volunteers can help hand out supplies needed from our rehab unit. There is a place for you. Station volunteers range in age from 18 to 84. I'm 73 and completed firefighting school at 71, EMT certification at 72. There is a place for you no matter your age. It's kind of fun, challenging and you will make a difference!

Call or visit our station at 9518 Monticello Drive or call 817-573-1643.





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Birds

UNLIGHTING THEIR PATHS

BY BOB LUSK

PHOTOS BY KAREN GOMEZ

Have you ever noticed, traveling the rural highways and byways of our country, those farm fence lines with straight rows of trees along them?

Better yet, have you wondered why the farmer would plant those trees?

The farmer didn't. Birds did. Birds are prolific seed droppers. Not only do they drop seeds, they add nutrients to the soils where those seeds are deposited.

That singular factoid makes them significant to our ecosystems.

Look at birds through a different set of eyes for a few minutes. Each species has a different lifestyle. Some migrate, some don't. Some eat seeds, others eat meat. Those meat eaters, such as Great Blue Herons we see around the ponds here at Pecan Plantation and along the river, eat fish. They'll wade in the water, stalk and patiently await the arrival of a bluegill, or a bass, or a shad ... or whatever resides in that body of water.

Bluebirds, on the other hand, eat insects. They love grasshoppers, beetles, crickets and a variety of other bugs.

What about those beautiful cardinals? They are full time residents here. That species is a bit more opportunistic, like a teenager. They'll open the fridge door and hope for some meat, but if it's grapes, grapes it is. They'll eat seeds, bugs ... and small animals when the opportunity arises.

As residents here, it's important to know what our birds eat, but it's also important to know how human behavior can affect what happens with birds.

I'll never forget, for the 20 years we lived in our place near Lake Texoma before moving here, how many birds flew into the big picture windows we had facing south. Redbirds were especially prone to seeing their reflection and, thinking it was a competitor, starting a fight that ended up with a bird that knocked itself cuckoo, or whacked itself hard enough to become easy cat food.

We also had uplighting in more than 20 trees around our house and across the pond. It was stunning. Beautiful.

That was about the time we started learning about the "Lights Out Campaign" across our



Baby bluebird fledgling, learning to eat bugs the old-fashioned way.



Cardinals are a mainstay here in Pecan, living here year-round.

United States. We learned that many birds are active at night, and much migration occurs overnight. We had no idea, until we dug even deeper. Bird researchers learned that getting rid of night time artificial lighting could increase bird survival rates by as much as 60%. Major cities began to adopt the idea.

Between changing our lighting habits, and managing our outdoor cats better, we saw a significant increase in songbirds around our house, just by putting our outdoor lighting on a timer ... and feeding the outside mousers, 'er bird catchers, a little better.

That's just one small example of learning a couple of simple stewardship techniques toward better wildlife management. We can all learn from that.

Let's put our outdoor lights on timers, off at 10 p.m. each night.

Who'd have thunk it?

Speaking with Master Naturalist and Pecan Plantation resident Tim Eschbach, also a member of the wildlife committee, he had this to say about birds and lighting: "We are encoded for days and nights. There's a rhythm there." Think circadian rhythm. "Nocturnal ecology is impacted, and not in a positive way, with artificial lighting."

Along the river, we'll hear tree frogs at night, but they are triggered to start chirping by darkness. Wildlife has its own rhythms, too. Eschbach said, "Most birds navigate by the stars. If they see our lighting, often they'll circle, use too much energy and disrupt their habits."

"Birds are certainly an indicator of ecological health." He added, "Bird numbers have declined by close to 25% over the last 50 years. Estimates are that almost a billion birds die annually over the entire United States from colliding with buildings that reflect light ... and other unnatural causes from human activity."

Or, human inactivity?

Want to monitor bird migrations? Weather radar is used for a website where we can track bird movement. Look up birdcast.info and dial into our area ... and be fascinated.

Digging deeper into that site, Eschbach found intriguing information. During peak migration this spring, 470,300 birds passed through Hood County ... and that was just May 10.

Hear this ... they started migrating around 30-45 minutes after sunset, peaking around 2-3 hours later.

Who knew ... other than bird fans?

Now, we all know.

Set your outside light timers to go off by 10 p.m. each night.

After all, we want happy birds, don't we? They have seeds to spread and bugs to eat and babies to raise.



Great blue herons are typically solitary anglers — the ultimate spearfisherperson.



Our former home near Lake Texoma. Lights were beautiful, but out by 10 p.m.



Scissortail flycatchers migrate in, feast on insects, catching most of them with acrobatics, on the fly.

MARINA HAPPENINGS

READY TO ENJOY:

- Boat launch
- Fuel
- Great views of the lake
- Fishing pier
- The Pecan Pit Bar and Grill, serving lunch and dinner seven days a week and breakfast on weekends, plus daily specials such as Taco Tuesday and Friday Fish Fry
 - Outdoor dining
 - Live music on select weekends
 - Air conditioned indoor dining
 - Pay at the pump fuel, non-ethanol — the good stuff!

UPDATES IN PROGRESS, STAY TUNED FOR MORE IMPROVEMENTS TO COME

- New decking for the docks, A Dock has had critical repairs completed, B Dock completed, some additional repairs will continue through the fall
- Ongoing remodeling and cleanup of boat yard continues
- Work continues on the décor

LAKE GRANBURY FISHING

- Black bass are good on main lake points on crankbaits and soft plastics. Sand bass are good early as well near Indian Harbor and the Shores. Look for schooling sandies on shallow flats. Slabs and spinners are effective. Crappies are good on submerged trees and bridge pilings using small jigs and minnows worked about 15 feet down.

- Some good sand bass and striped action has been reported in the river below the dam.

LAKE GRANBURY — DID YOU KNOW?

- Is part of the Prairies & Lakes Region as identified by Texas Park and Wildlife
- Lake Granbury is located in both Parker and Hood Counties
- Bald Eagles! There are many that nest on the Brazos River here in Pecan and on Lake Granbury! This month's photo was taken in the early morning from the Marina Fishing Dock. Eagles and ravens are not friends. Ravens and crows will harass eagles and owls every chance they get as seen in this month's photo by Craig Rodgers.

MON AUG 5TH

Excellent day for fishing



BEST FISHING TIMES

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SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE

My name is Tammy Pearson Reno, and I am the new chair of the Safety and Security Committee. Recently, I went on a ride-along with security and spent some time observing the front gate operations. If anyone thinks the gate job is an easy job, please think again. I was there for about an hour-and-a-half, and boy were they busy!

During this time, multiple contractors were instructed to pull around and park. They did not have driver's licenses. This makes me wonder, if they don't have a license to legally operate a motor vehicle in Texas, do they have liability insurance? If an uninsured, unlicensed driver caused an accident in Pecan, it could cost the members or the association a lot of time and resources to rectify the situation. This is the reason our gate guards turn so many cars and trucks around. It is an attempt to mitigate potential risks to the membership – both physically and financially. Unfortunately, this sometimes causes backups.

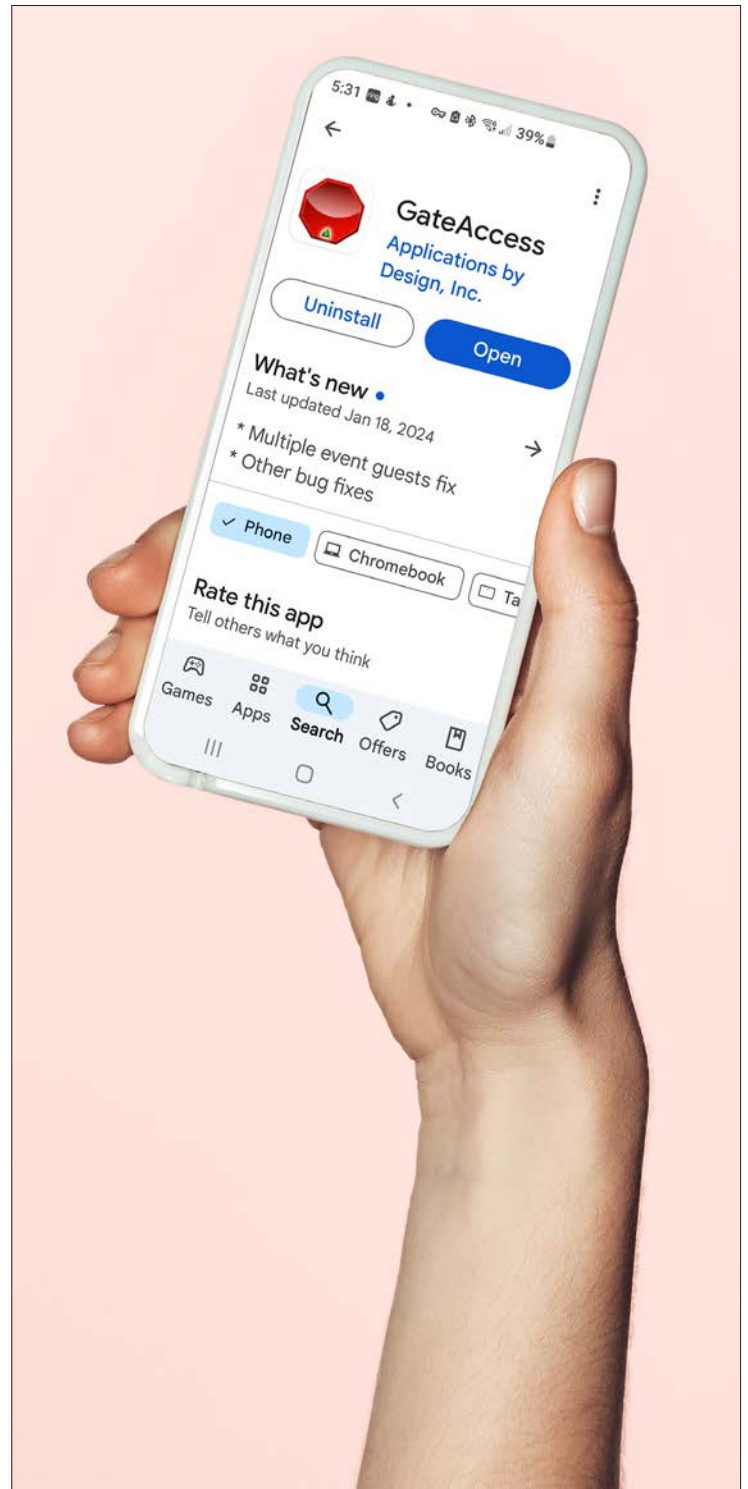
Another issue that causes quite a bit of gate delay is contractors who are not on to the visitors' list. When this occurs, the gate attendant tries to call the homeowner. Of course, this causes even more of a backup and creates frustrated contractors and residents.

The gate guards are also the first line of defense to prevent people, especially big trucks, from trying to take a shortcut through Pecan in order to get around Lake Granbury. They were denied due to our policy. Security is working hard to prevent cut-throughs, but sometimes they sneak in. I have seen them turn away a Dollar General 18-wheeler and a large car carrier recently. Security also turned away 55 contractors who appeared wanting to solicit in our neighborhood after the last hailstorm. This is why the line was all the way to Fall Creek Highway on that day.

I also observed several people being rude to the attendant, stating they were allowed in or had some arrangement. This may be true, but unless you are on the list, you will be turned around. It is the responsibility of the resident to ensure the visitor or contractor is allowed to enter. Arrangements between visitors, workers, and residents are moot unless the gate is notified. Also, residents are financially responsible for their guests when they commit PPOA violations like speeding. Inappropriate and rude behavior directed at the staff could result in guests being banned or fines being levied against the member on their guest's behalf.

The staff is working hard to provide the best service and maintain our security, but they also need our help. To ensure your guests get in without fuss, please use the ABDi Gate Access program.. This helps greatly with keeping the line moving and keeps the telephone line from being tied up by calling the guests in. I further tell my guests and contractors they will need to present a valid driver license at the gate along with the quick access pass, so they are not surprised at the gate. If you have a long-term project needing contractor visits, please re-enter your guest every two weeks, as the list expires. The contractor can also purchase a vehicle pass for a limited time, bypassing the line. The ABDi system is easy

to use, and the Security Office can show you how to use it if you need help. It can be downloaded for free from the app store for your cell phone and home computer. All you have to do is search for the ABDi Gate Access in the app store and download it. Once on your phone, tablet, or home computer, you will select "PP" as the code for our community. Your username is the phone number registered to your membership, and the password is your member number.



At Your Service

By John Ingram III

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See the Pecan Activity Center pages for information on Tennis related camps

Fall Junior Tennis starts Sept. 4

Wednesdays

**4:30-5:30 p.m.
for ages 6-9**

**5:30-6:30 p.m.
for ages 10-12**



Summer reminders

Use sunscreen and stay hydrated

- Wear light-colored tennis clothes, hat or visor
 - Please remember to check in and have guests pay their fees
 - Please remember to cancel your court reservation if necessary
 - No clawing or hair-pulling
- Have fun playing tennis this summer!



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PECAN PLANTATION TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Memorial Day was a big success! The Pecan Plantation Tennis Association would like to thank Pecan members, family and friends for helping us raise funds for the association.

We would love to see new faces join our tennis association. John Ingram, our tennis pro, will help you find a group to play with. We have fun play dates with great food, drinks and an annual dinner.

Our condolences go out to Linda West Johnson's family. She passed away June 10. She played tennis with us for more than 30 years and will be dearly missed.

Thank you goes to Ron Croft for his gardening skills at our tennis pavilion and Randy Leach for painting the poles and the shed.

Lastly, thanks to our new board members and volunteers. We are going to have a great year!

Madam President
Dee Wilcox



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Call or text Lana or Eric Robinson today to schedule your private showing or for a free market analysis of your property and to learn more about our client services. Pecan residents since 2006. We are quick to point out our wonderful amenities here and market Pecan as a lifestyle. We also list for less!

"We recently purchased our retirement dream home in Pecan Plantation, thanks to Lana Robinson. During the entire home buying process, Lana was by our side showing us a variety of homes and answering the many questions we had. She was always available, and she was honest with feedback and suggestions. Lana's love and knowledge of Pecan Plantation shined through each time we toured a home. She made each home visit experience fulfilling and purposeful. Lana ultimately found the "just right" home for us. Lana was always positive, honest, and helped us every single step of the way. She is a wonderful realtor, business woman, and now our friend."
~ Dawn & Chuck Haberthur



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AUXILIARY NEWS

By Lana Robinson

A fantastic slate of talented artisans, crafters and vendors is preparing to dazzle you at the 2024 Pecan Arts & Crafts Fair, set from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Pecan Activity Center (PAC) and grounds, located at 9145 Plantation Drive. Gates will be open that day for the public to attend. We anticipate a perfect fall day for an outing with friends or your own private shopping spree!

Come explore the treasure trove of unique, handcrafted home décor and gifts — artwork, jewelry, apparel, woodcrafts, yard art, handbags, ceramics, stained glass, holiday decorations and ornaments, macrame, ironworks, knitted and crocheted baby items and other accessories, quilts, specialty foods, candles, scents, smells and more.

More specifics will be released in the September Columns. If you are a vendor wishing to rent a space or get more details about the cost, contact Joy Rice at 254-289-2224 or email jdrauxiliary@gmail.com.

UPDATES ON RECENT FUNDRAISERS

The Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS was in the spotlight at the Cleburne Railroaders baseball game in Cleburne Thursday, June 20. Chief Barrett threw out the first pitch of the game. Approximately 63 people attended to show their support for the Pecan VFD/EMS, along with the regular crowd.

The auxiliary wishes to thank Cowtown Gold & Silver for coming out Saturday, June 22, and helping us with this popular fundraiser. It generated \$1,325 for the Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS. We appreciate everyone who brought their gold and silver up to the EMS building to have it evaluated and sold it, bought auxiliary T-shirts, and showed their support. Many thanks to our dedicated volunteers, Patty Eatmon, Joy Rice, Tommy and Jill Hosek, Terry Vaux, Juana Brookshire and Emily Kinney who were hosts for the recent event.

CALLING ALL PECAN COOKS!

Did you know that each month, the PPVFD/EMS Auxiliary provides dinner to our volunteer firefighters at their monthly training session? Meals for approximately 15 adults are needed for the months of August, September, October or November. Training is the third Thursday of each month. You can prepare something yourself or get the meal from a local restaurant. There is no set menu. We have had people bring tacos, nacho bar, baked potato bar, spaghetti, lasagna, hot dogs, chili dogs, chicken spaghetti and more. You decide! If you can help with this effort, please contact Patty Eatmon to sign up for a month in 2024. Call or text her at 951-970-5490.

MEMORIAL BRICK PATIO HONORS HEROES

If you haven't already done so, you have an opportunity to honor a loved one or a VFD or EMS volunteer, past or present, by purchasing an engraved memorial brick from the PPVFD/EMS Auxiliary. This program was initiated to help raise funds for our VFD/EMS departments while creating a memorial patio on the EMS grounds where people from Pecan Plantation and surrounding areas can pay tribute to their heroes.

These 4-inch x 8-inch bricks, which can honor a person or an achievement, will be laid at the Pecan Plantation VFD/EMS Memorial Brick Patio at the entrance of the Charlie Lee Memorial EMS building at 9518 Monticello Drive. Bricks will be custom engraved by a local business in Granbury and then set in the patio to be viewed by the residents of Pecan for years to come. The current price for each brick is \$50. A logo may be added for an additional charge. Now is a great time to honor your loved ones. Order forms are available at the auxiliary meetings and the EMS building during regular business hours. You can also download and print out the form provided here on our PPVFD/EMS Auxiliary Facebook page. For more details, contact Donna Bullis, 817-454-0422.

OFFICERS TO LEAD AUXILIARY IN 2025 SOUGHT

The auxiliary is seeking a new team or slate of officers to lead the organization in 2025. Officers currently sought include president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. Please consider stepping up to help with the fundraising mission of this important body for the benefit of your local volunteer fire department and EMS. The importance of those willing to serve cannot be understated in order to keep the auxiliary moving forward into the future. Everyone's involvement is appreciated.

The next regular meeting of the PPVFD/EMS Auxiliary is set for 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 9, at the Charlie Lee Memorial EMS building at 9518 Monticello Drive. All Pecan residents are invited to attend. Come at 6 p.m. for a social time and potluck meal prior to the meeting. The auxiliary will have new auxiliary T-shirts for sale at the meeting. The shirts are available for \$20 each in sizes small to 3XL. There are limited quantities, so don't miss out! If you need a particular size, contact Julie Logan at 727-252-3702 and she can put it aside for you.



FROM LEFT: Auxiliary Co-Presidents Jeanie Curry and Donna Bullis are shown here with Pecan Plantation Fire Chief Mike Barrett and his wife, Sherry Barrett, at the recent Cleburne Railroaders' game in Cleburne. That evening, the PPVFD/EMS Auxiliary was in the Spotlight and a portion of proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the Pecan VFD/EMS. Chief Barrett threw out the first pitch of the game.

RV CLUB NEWS

By Glenna Haskell, VP

Hello, fellow RVers and welcome to the hot summer. As you may know, our club does not meet again until September. Send me photos of your summer vacation for the September issue of Columns. If you want, send me photos of your grands' back-to-school pictures, too.

RV member Vickie Kroon sent this picture from our May Glen Rose Retreat. This picture features Nancy Coleman, Sharon Greene and Helen Price standing in what remains of the Outlaw Gas Station in Glen Rose. The Outlaw Gas Station began its journey in the 1920s during prohibition. Built by Ed Young, it was first a service station but soon became a distribution center of illegal alcohol. The station is made of petrified wood, a popular building material of the 1920s. To learn more about the structure go to abandonedin360.com or on Wikipedia and be sure to visit the site. I do not know the physical address, just put Outlaw Station Glen Rose into your GPS to find the structure.

Looks like some of our fellow RVers vacationed together in June. David and Vickie Kroon, Jay and Angela Brown, Tom and Jackie Schmersahl and Bill and Judy Winkler went on a trip to New Mexico. According to Vickie, the couples spent two weeks together having a good time, eating some good New Mexican food, and even celebrating the Schmersahl's 57th anniversary. HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! The couples went to Taos, New Mexico, where they visited the Taos Pueblo Indian Village and the Taos ski lift where they rode to the top for some breathtaking views of the valley and even saw snow in some places. There were waterfalls and streams flowing from the melting snow. They went to a small hot air balloon rally in Angel Fire. The balloon pictures are beautiful. The couples also went to the Rio Grande Gorge and shopped the vendors near the bridge. If you have never visited the Rio Grande Gorge, it is truly a site to see. Thanks for the pictures and narrative.

Upcoming event:

September Mini Rally at Pecan Shady Campground – Sept. 15-18. More information to come!

Remember, send me any and all pictures with a brief description of where you went and what you did for the columns. Stay safe and try to stay cool.





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EMS

By Brandt Stephenson BA, LP, FP-C, EMS Chief

Good day, everyone. It's been a busy summer for your local EMS and we're not even halfway through it. Our call volume continues to increase, we're expanding our repertoire of interventions and equipment, and we've increased our training schedule.

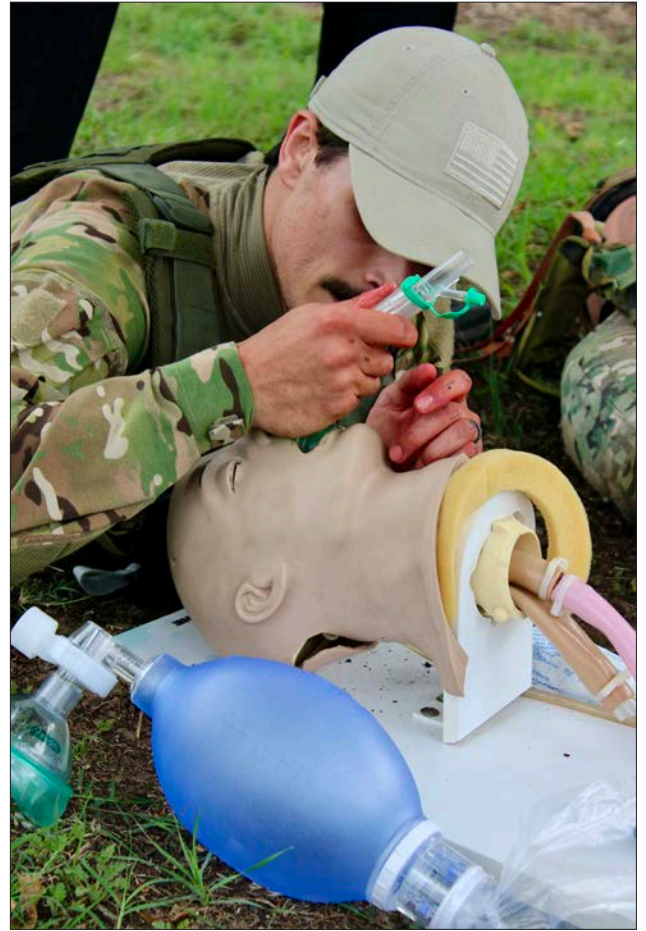
I'd like to welcome our new Pecan VFD/EMS board of directors: Stan Willey, president; Kim Wilson, vice president; Richard Swarb and Philip Mayeux, directors. The combined experience of these members will lay a secure foundation for the expected growth this department will see over the coming years.

Thanks to an extremely generous donation from Pecan VFD/EMS Auxiliary members David and Janie Narducci and another anonymous donation, we've added a new emergency ventilator to each truck. The oxylator is an emergency ventilator that we are eager to train on and, hopefully, never have to use, but, if called upon, will improve patient outcomes.

Pecan EMS recently completed a Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) course, courtesy of Xtreme Education. It was an eventful two-day course culminating in a mock live-fire exercise and Care Under Fire drill.

We've also brought onboard a new medical director, Dr. Adam Corley. I've personally flown air medical under Corley's protocol in the past and am happy to see him join us and offer his guidance and expertise in prehospital medicine.

Thank you for your continued support of your EMS service. Our board meetings are public and are held every third Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the EMS building at 9518 Monticello Drive. Please stop by and learn more about us.



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SENIOR-FRIENDLY INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

Home is where the heart is. That sentiment may be especially true for seniors who have spent decades living in their homes. A lot of hard work goes into home ownership, and seniors who have lived in the same space for a while undoubtedly have countless memories within the walls of their homes.

A lifetime of experiences in a home can make it hard to leave, but many seniors experience diminished mobility as they age. Mobility issues can make it hard for seniors to traverse their homes, but aging homeowners can make various renovations to make a home more accessible.

REVAMP ENTRYWAYS AND STAIRCASES

A 2020 study of 1,000 adults in the United Kingdom found that 28 percent of individuals age 65 and older who don't exercise regularly struggle with activities like walking up stairs. The study, commissioned by Total Fitness, also found that 14 percent of men and women over 65 who regularly engage in moderate exercise still find it challenging to climb up and down a flight of stairs. Seniors facing similar challenges can install a ramp at their home's entryway so they can comfortably go in and out. Inside, a chair lift can ensure seniors are not struggling to move from one floor to another.

RAISE THE OUTLETS THROUGHOUT THE HOME

They're easily overlooked, but outlets, particularly those outside the kitchen, tend to be close to the floor. AARP notes that's no accident, as outlets are generally placed at a height equal to the length of a hammer to save time with measuring when buildings are being constructed. Outlets close to the floor can be difficult for seniors with mobility issues to reach. Relocating the outlets a little higher off the floor is not an

expensive renovation, but it can make a home more accessible for seniors who have difficulty bending down or getting down on one knee.

INSTALL DOOR KNOB EXTENSIONS

Verywell Health notes that nearly half of all people age 65 and older have arthritis or another rheumatic condition. Arthritis can make it difficult for seniors to grip and turn door knobs. Door knob extensions can make it easier for seniors with arthritis to open the doors in their homes. Such extensions are roughly five-inch levers that can be installed over an existing door knob, making it easier to grab and pull down. Extensions save seniors the hassle of turning the knob, which some may find painful and almost impossible.

RENOVATE THE BATHROOM

Bathroom renovation projects can be costly, but seniors with mobility issues should know that bathrooms can pose a particularly dangerous threat. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that roughly three million older adults are treated for fall injuries in emergency departments each year. A 2019 analysis published in *The Journals of Gerontology* noted that 22 percent of in-home falls resulted in a change in the person's walking ability. Replacing a step-over shower with a zero-step alternative can make it easier for seniors with mobility issues to get in and out of the shower, thus reducing their risk for falls. Grab bars along shower walls and a chair inside the shower can make it easier to bathe and towel off safely.

Seniors with mobility issues can make their homes more accommodating through an assortment of simple, yet effective renovations.



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PECAN PLANTATION WOMAN'S CLUB

By Gerta Howell, president

The generosity of the members of Pecan Plantation always makes me so proud to live here. On May 18th, a drive through pantry for Rancho Brazos Community Center was held at the PAC. It was organized by Kathie Schoepf and staffed by PPWC members. We collected over \$1000.00 in monetary donations and lots, and lots, and lots of needed items. Thank you to all the wonderful people who donated.

The PPWC Program Committee has met and has planned a diverse and entertaining number of programs for next club year, as well as delicious lunches. Our club year begins in September and goes through May. If you have not renewed your membership, please do so soon so that your information will be able to be published in our new directory. You are able to pay your dues on line by going to myppwc.com or by checking out our Facebook page and looking for links to membership forms.

Our first Chit-Chat luncheon in June was a great success. Besides enjoying each other's company, having a scrumptious, tri-salad lunch, we were entertained by Melinda Fortner with the history of Granbury. One of the many historical buildings to visit in Granbury is the Rylee-Aiken house on 1500 Crawford Avenue. It was built two years after the emigrants crossed the Brazos River in 1854 to settle land that would become Granbury. It is the oldest house in Granbury that is still standing.

Our quarterly Evening Social was held on July 10th with a lively group learning to line dance taught by our own

member, Kim Wallin. It is not too early to get prepared for Boot Scootin'.

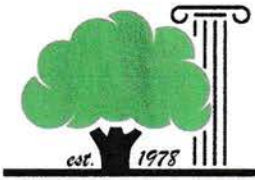
If you have not attended a Chit-Chat luncheon, there is still time to join us in August.

Our August meeting is August 15th. We meet at 10 a.m. in the clubhouse ballroom to visit, and then lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. Our lovely Chit-Chat co-chairs, Cherry Redwine, Shelly Brandenberger and Vicki Winder always have a special surprise planned for each Chit-Chat. In July we had a Bus Field Trip to the Granbury Square for an afternoon of shopping! For reservations, please email Susan Martin at ppwcres@gmail.com.

Again, I can't say enough about everything PPWC does for Pecan Plantation, the Clubhouse, Granbury and Hood County. I have never been associated with a more giving, creative and special group of ladies.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at gertabear@gmail.com or call 210-379-3053. We would love to have you join us!





PECAN PLANTATION WOMAN'S CLUB

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Annual Membership is \$25 (June-May 2023-24)
\$ 18.75 AFTER JANUARY 31, 2024

- Check # _____
- Cash ..
- CC

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____

PHONE: _____ SPOUSE: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

NEW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (MM/DD)

I Wish to be on the September to May Program and Luncheon Permanent Reservation List Yes No
INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

Check the boxes that interest you. A member of that Committee will contact you regarding participation.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boot Scootin' Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Fall Fashion Show Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Summer Chit Chat Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Décor Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Bake Sale Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Santa's Workshop Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Programs Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas Tour Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Reservations Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spring Fashion Show Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Door Prize Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> NOT SURE |

HOW TO JOIN PPWC OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

- ~ **IN PERSON** by completing this form and visiting the cashier at the meeting to pay by check or cash.
- ~ **ONLINE** at www.myppecw.com (credit / debit cards accepted; CC processing fees apply to online memberships)
- ~ **VIA MAIL** by sending a check payable to PPWC, Attn: PPWC, 8650 Westover Ct., Granbury TX 76049



Pecan Plantation Woman's Club

Summer Fun Chit-Chat Luncheon

Thursday, August 15, 2024 ~ Clubhouse Ballroom

Menu: Croissant with Chicken Salad, Fruit,
& House Chips

Dessert: Key Lime Tart

Luncheon \$19

Gathering 10:00 a.m. - Lunch 11:30 a.m.

~ Reservations ~

ppwcres@gmail.com or phone Susan Martin
361-215-4599

Reserve by noon Thursday, August 8th
Standing Reservations not in effect during
summer months.

Current members, new members or new in Pecan, come join us for an easy, laid back, fun, girl talk luncheon. Bring your friend or neighbor. Come see what we're all about!

COMMUNITY GARDENS

By Steph Phalen

Bountiful Blessings

Members enjoyed organic cucumbers, okra, tomatoes, squash, radishes, peppers and basil in June and July. Two large beds of melons began ripening in July. And the bounty extended well beyond the delicious vegetables. We grew our membership and friendship connections, also.

At our June Happy Hour in the Garden, members came together to enjoy homemade appetizers made with fresh organic garden ingredients. Shared dishes included pesto pasta, cucumber sandwiches, tomato basil focaccia bread and artichoke spinach dip.

Custom made kitchen towels donated by Rachel Cross were door prizes.

MEET SUSIE FISHER

New member Susie was born in Midland and spent 40 years in Durango, Colorado. She moved back to Texas to find her forever home. Raised with nine brothers, Susie is a tax accountant who loves working in the garden and meeting new people. She is enthusiastic about sharing recipes for any vegetable you can name. Her secret ingredient: garam masala, found in the spice aisle.

Susie's 15-month-old grandson is already enjoying the garden. She says you can never be too young — or too old — to begin gardening.

REFRESHING RECIPE:

Sour Cream Cucumber Salad — serves 8

1/2 cup sour cream

3 T white, red or rice vinegar

1 T sugar (optional)

Salt and pepper to taste

Fresh dill, paprika to taste

4 medium cucumbers, peeled if desired and thinly sliced

1 small, sweet onion, thinly sliced and separated into rings

In a large bowl, whisk together sour cream, vinegar, sugar (if using) and spices until blended. Add cucumbers and onion.

Refrigerate, covered, at least 4 hours. Serve with a slotted spoon.

GARDEN TIP:

Basil: A super herb for health

Basil is a fragrant herb that adds flavor and nutrition to many dishes from pasta and pizza to soups and salads. Basil contains antioxidants, anti-inflammatory and antibacterial compounds that can protect your body from infections, oxidative stress and chronic diseases.

We invite you to experience organic gardening at its finest. Learn new skills, share your recipes and decide if you are ready to play in the dirt with us. Applications to join the community gardens are available at the PAC.



Susie Fisher and Patrick Jones



FUTURE EVENTS:

Labor Day Fundraiser & Street Dance: Sept. 2
Workday: Sept. 14



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BRAZOS RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

By Cecil Caldwell

I hope you are having a great summer and maybe finding yourself in a cooler place than here in Pecan. Our members are spending time scattered across the country with several of our members who are also RV Club members travelling as far as Mackinac Island and will be on the road for six weeks. As of this issue I will hopefully be somewhere in Colorado in a cooler place.

Our shotgun shooters are not getting out to the range quite as often since even the mornings have been very hot and humid this summer. Here are some scores from a recent outing. Fifty rounds were shot by each person. Outings will continue as the weather permits.

| Shooter | Score |
|---------------|-------|
| Mac Gilbreath | 47 |
| Jim Berzina | 42 |
| Greg Pearson | 40 |
| Milt Schrepel | 37 |
| Sean Mininger | 34 |
| Ken Wiggs | 32 |



We have a couple of pictures this month featuring Bob Price with a nice striper and what he described as the largest crappie he has ever seen. They were from a recent trip to Lake Texoma. The second picture is Jerry Sprayberry holding what he described as a 50-caliber pocket pistol that was taken at the Fort Worth Vintage Aircraft Museum on a recent visit.

Plans are still underway for dove hunting this September. We have members signing up to hunt in Archer City and Italy. We are also looking at possibilities southwest of Granbury. One ranch we had originally wanted to try did not get the sunflowers planted this spring as planned so it had to cancel hunts this year. We will have to see how it goes. Those doves can be elusive at times.

If you have any questions about the club you can contact me a ccald67@gmail.com. Have a great summer.



BUFFET BINGO

August 13

In the ballroom

Buffet 5:30 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Bingo 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Make reservations at the front desk!



KARAOKE

August 10

In the 19th Hole!

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GREEN THUMB GARDEN CLUB

BY LINDA KUNZMAN, PRESIDENT | LINDA@GREENTHUMBINPECAN.COM



Hello Pecan,

Attention all residents: Here is a snapshot of our history.

Do you love what we do? We are the volunteers who work very hard to keep our traffic circle gardens beautiful. We have been maintaining and improving since 2006. Many residents think their monthly dues help cover the cost but, it has taken 18 years of fundraising to make it all happen.

As gardeners, we love the caretaking and have a lot of pride in its appearance year around. At one point, we had up to five fundraisers a year and maintained the gardens as well. That amount of volunteer time was impossible to keep up. Our dream of developing the back circle seemed unreachable so a membership drive was developed for residents to show appreciation and donate to our efforts without having to work in the gardens. This has helped make additional improvements and allowed us to hire help to do things we can no longer handle. Then in 2016 we got PPOA

financial help to complete the back circle. Another beautiful, welcoming addition.

Having two circles to maintain makes it even more important for residents to contribute, and we continue to promote auto billing of \$25 a year through your PPOA account. You can also send a donation to GTGC Treasurer, 6304 Keller Court, Granbury, TX 76049. Forms are at the front desk in the clubhouse or call our membership coordinator, Carol Walker, at 817-658-8299. We hope to eventually make it easier for y'all to make your donations on our website, which is in development.

We look forward to the additional lighting for the front circle that PPOA approved. This should be completed before the fall decorations. You are going to love it!

All donations are appreciated. We thank everyone for your continued support.



WILDLIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

Wildlife Committee Report for August

By Bob Lusk

The big number of roofing companies inside the gates of Pecan Plantation may be an indirect indicator of our 2024 fawn crop.

“Uh, what?” You may be asking.

Our fawns are growing at normal rates, even though this year’s numbers now appear to be considerably lower than past years. What began as a strong crop isn’t showing the expected numbers.

When white-tail fawns hit the ground, they weigh between 6-8 pounds and are highly vulnerable.

About those roofs?

Baseball-sized hail and those back-to-back weeks of heavy rainfall appear to have taken a toll on roofs, as well as this year’s fawns. Newborn fawns are susceptible to adverse weather conditions, like hailstones. Add natural predation to the mix and Wildlife Committee members are hearing reports of lower-than-normal numbers of babies. Fawn numbers around the Air Park are quite lower than normal, but those mommas and babies in more secluded areas appear to have higher survival rates, probably due to better habitat and cover.

New construction is affecting migratory patterns of those clusters of deer that move around the community, causing them to change habits. Overall, the numbers of deer have apparently declined.

Add in higher-than-normal river flow rates this spring where animals couldn’t come across at will, and all these things add up to an adjustment in the deer population inside the community.

The deer count numbers should be interesting.

The Wildlife Committee is in the midst of its annual deer count. Three days of counts where committee volunteers collect data and submit it to Texas Parks & Wildlife Department biologists who come back with harvest recommendations are under way. Those numbers from TPWD are presented to the PPOA Board of Directors. An action plan follows.

The community is divided into sectors and each pair of volunteers is designated a certain route, where there is no overlap. For one hour, bucks, does and fawns are counted, with three different replications. Numbers are compiled and submitted.

In other news, PPOA Director of Operations Daniel Van Patten and his hard-working crew got the newly renovated dock installed on the pond on No. 10. Remember to respect the golf course, and fish on the tennis court side of the pond.

No need to be plunked by a golf ball... and get a citation for fishing in the wrong place.

The wildlife committee held its annual fundraiser raffle drawing June 14. Winners have been notified and once again the committee has a healthy budget for the Dr. Barna Kid’s Trout Tournament next winter. The committee acknowledged

appreciation for donations from several different Pecan entities and individuals to help with the cause.

The wildlife committee is exploring the concept of a river ecology project. While the proposal is raw at this time, the concept is to study water quality and temperature, collect information about the fishery, identify the different aquatic-type and riparian plants and begin to teach the community about how the river works from a biological and ecological perspective.

The most exciting part of this project is getting our kids involved in studying the river. Interested parties and volunteers are asked to email boblusk@outlook.com for details as the project comes together.

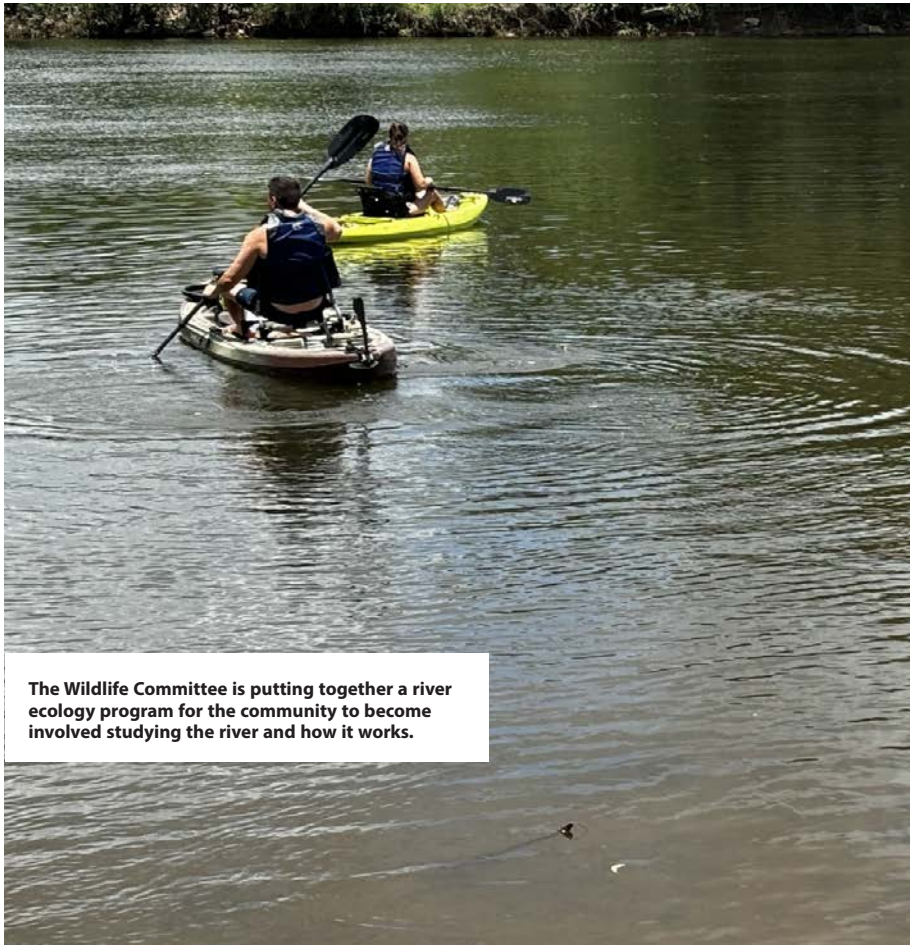
At this point, the idea is to have some ongoing data collection of water temperature along our stretch of the river, with two big field days yearly to collect lots of data about the river and its inhabitants and use it for educational purposes.

What that means to us is “have a lot of fun and learn about the river, based on solid science principles.” The committee is doing its due diligence to figure out what data to collect and the proper usage of it. It’s an exciting proposal for community members to become involved for the betterment of the river.

Stay tuned for more information from the Wildlife Committee.

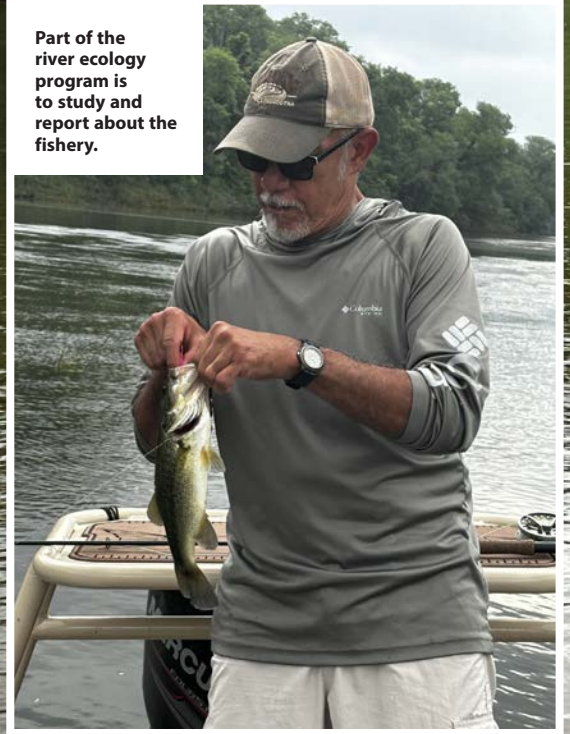


The dock is open for fishing at the No. 10 pond.



The Wildlife Committee is putting together a river ecology program for the community to become involved studying the river and how it works.

Part of the river ecology program is to study and report about the fishery.



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EQUESTRIAN UPDATE

BY CYNDI PERRY

Hello, my name is Cyndi Perry. For the past 22 years Pecan Plantation has been my home. I am a local real estate agent with Brazos River Realty and have had the privilege of sharing the charm of Pecan Plantation with many clients I now call friends. One of the unique distinctions of Pecan Plantation is our horse stable, where Roc, my 16-year-old Haflinger calls home.

He is a beautiful chestnut with a striking flaxen mane and tail. Roc's journey has been an interesting one that began on an Amish farm in Ohio. He worked on the farm pulling wagons and farm equipment until an injury occurred and he was sold. He was purchased by a family for a special needs child, where they enjoyed his gentle spirit and affectionate personality. Finally, I was blessed to find Roc in the Granbury area, and doubly blessed when I brought him home.

The Haflinger breed originated in Northern Italy and Austria. The foundation sire 249 Folie was born in 1874 by the first breeders. The current conformation and appearance are the result of infusions of the bloodlines from Arabian and Tyrolean ponies. Haflingers have many uses, including light draft harness work, and can be ridden western, English and dressage. They are also known for their sure-footed trail riding and used in therapeutic riding.



Now at Pecan Stables, Roc enjoys being spoiled by our family and friends. He loves leisurely trails rides and on occasion a carriage ride. If you drive by the stables, be sure and look for Roc. You can't miss his beautiful mane and tail. He's sure to be found enjoying grass with his neighbors in his favorite Pecan Stables pasture.

While we continue to remain at full capacity at the stables, be sure to call to get on the wait list. Eventually you will make it in and you will be so glad you did. To get on the waitlist, call the PPOA business office at 817-573-2641, ext. 337. To request a tour or if you have a general question about the stables, call Tammy Dressman at 817-614-9744.



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here



We continue to remain at full capacity at the Stables. If you're interested in getting on the waitlist, call the PPOA Business Office at 817-573-2641, ext. 337. For all other stables-related questions, call Tammy Dressman at 817-614-9744. Be sure to check out our Pecan Plantation Stables Facebook page — just click on the conveniently included QR code for quick access.





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TIPS FOR A SAFE ROUND OF GOLF

A round of golf on a warm, sunny day can be the perfect way to spend a few hours with friends, and more and more people are recognizing that. The National Golf Foundation says more than one-third of the United States population over the age of five played golf; followed golf on television or online; read about the game; or listened to a golf-related podcast in 2023. That marked a 30 percent jump since 2016.

Golf is a relatively safe sport, but accidents and injuries can happen on the course. Golfers can follow these guidelines to ensure their next round of golf is as safe as possible.

BE AWARE OF YOUR SURROUNDINGS

It is important when you are preparing to swing to keep track of those around you. Never swing a golf club if a fellow golfer is close to you, and exercise caution when practicing your swing away from the area of play. Conversely, stay clear of golfers when they are practicing their swings.

WARM UP YOUR BODY

Any exercise requires warming up to get muscles and joints ready for action. Spend between five and 10 minutes warming up before tee time. Walk briskly and rotate your arms and torso to prepare for movements involved in golf.

APPLY SUN PROTECTION

According to a study commissioned by the United States Golf Association, an 18-hole round of golf averages four hours on weekdays and 4.5 hours on weekends. Players spend roughly four hours exposed to the sun. Always wear sunscreen before heading outdoors, and consider wearing a visor or hat to further protect the skin on your face and your eyes from UV exposure.

WEAR THE RIGHT GEAR

Nemours Teen Health suggests using a golf glove or two to keep the golf club from slipping out of your hands. Gloves also can help prevent blisters. In addition, get a pair of golf shoes with plastic spikes for good traction.

YELL "FORE!"

Calling out "Fore!" is a warning to everyone on the course that a ball has been hit and is heading in their direction rather than the intended area, says Yatta Golf. It's a "heads up" for a poor shot that has the potential to hit someone, and it is proper etiquette to yell "Fore!" when this occurs.

USE A GOLF CART

Carrying a heavy golf club bag for hours on end can lead to achy shoulders and lower back strain. Rather than risking injury, take advantage of a golf cart, if available. Also, caddies may help lessen the load of a golf bag.

BEWARE OF LIGHTNING

Lightning strikes can be quite dangerous in any location, but particularly so on an open course when you're holding a metal club. Always end the game promptly and take cover when thunder is heard, as it means that lightning is occurring.

STAY HYDRATED

Bring along plenty of fresh water or an electrolyte sports drink to replenish fluids on hot days.

BE CAUTIOUS OF HAZARDS

Hazards on a golf course provide difficult obstacles to make play more challenging. Hazards include bunkers (sand traps) and water. Keep in mind that wildlife linger in golf hazards and caution should be used when trying to play balls that fall in a hazard.

Golf has inspired millions to hit the links and play a round. While golf is typically a safe sport, there are ways to make it even safer.

A photograph of a golf ball on a green, with a sunset in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow over the trees and the grass. The golf ball is in the foreground, slightly to the right of the center, and is in sharp focus. The background is softly blurred, showing the silhouettes of trees against the bright sky.

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ART MATTERS

By Cheryl Moore

Membership in the Pecan Plantation Art Guild is open to all Pecan Plantation residents who are interested in art. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m. at the Pecan Activity Center. Dues are \$35 per calendar year. For more information, visit our website at pecanplantationartguild.com



MEMBER PROFILE

Leslie Annen

Leslie Annen is proud to be known as a “Hooker,” even though technically she is a fiber artist. She will demonstrate her work as a hooker at the August 13 meeting of the PPAG. The process is fascinating and results in beautiful, colorful fiber projects. Her mother inspired her and got her started in 2000 when she showed her how to process second hand thrift store 100% wool clothing and create colorful artistic pieces. She cherishes that time with her mother learning that paint is only one of many mediums for the creation of art. In 2008 she found a hooking guild in Arlington where she had retired from the school district. She took every available workshop and class and diligently studied every publication she could find. When her husband retired in 2022, they moved to Pecan Plantation, where she found her “happy place” in her studio. She’s known for the bright, saturated colors and many values she loves. She says of her work, “Many of my fellow guild members used to say, ‘Put on your sunglasses, Leslie has a new rug to show’.” Join us to find out how Leslie creates this magic with fiber!



SAVE THE DATES!

Tuesday, September 24

Sue Jackson slab plate pottery workshop, 10-12 at EMS, \$50, all materials included.

Friday, September 27

Gallery Night in Pecan, 4-8 p.m., tour galleries and meet artists in homes, enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages, suggested \$5 per person donation. Watch for details.

November 19

Date change for Pop-up Art Show and Sale at the Clubhouse, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., just in time for the Holidays!

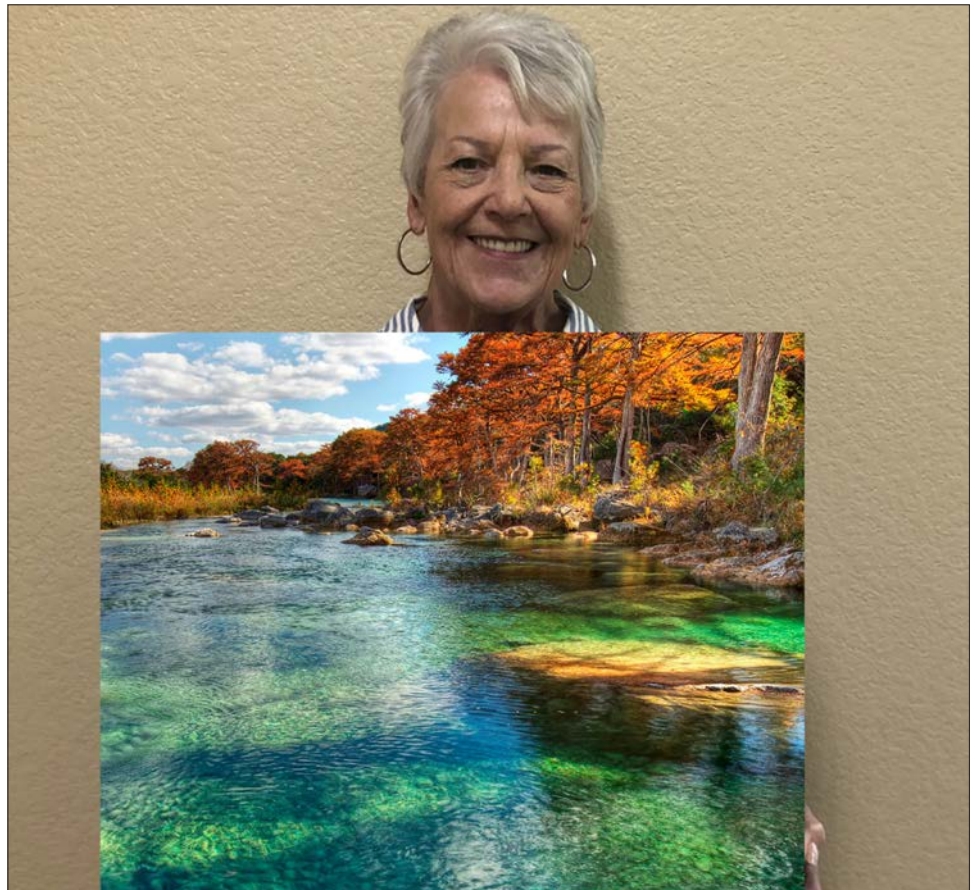
ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Jimmie Borum with her painting selected for Artist of the Month in June. See July's winner's work at the PAC until August 13. In August, enjoy the art of Connie Gilmore on the wall leading to the ballroom. Through September 30 peruse the art of Beth Eschbach, Betsy Ferguson, Margaret Gulinson, Deanna Thibault and Kathy Yoders in dining areas, hallways and meeting rooms at the Clubhouse. All art displayed is for sale by contacting each artist directly.



This beautiful Texas scene represents PPAG's "9 Square Project." Can you guess where it is? Each of nine PPAG members paints a 12x12 square canvas segment of the photo, and we put them together to create a magnificent painting (36" x 36") that looks great in any home.

These nine artists are Kathy Yoders (group leader), Jimmie Borum, Barbara Brown, Connie Gilmore, Gwen Hutson, Gloria Hood, Cheryl Moore, Judy Taubinger, and Pamala Vannoy. Watch for this compilation painting at the Clubhouse in September. To make it yours, buy your raffle tickets from PPAG members until the drawing on November 19th at the Pop-Up Art Show at the Clubhouse at 4 pm. Winner need not be in attendance. This beautiful art piece donated by our artists would enhance your decor, and proceeds will go to a local charity. Watch for further details about ticket sales and charity selection on social media.



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Summer is a time of year when people can enjoy their pick of fresh fruit at farm stands, supermarkets and other retailers. Many fruit trees, plants and bushes are ready for harvest in the spring and summer, meaning there's no limit to the number of delicious recipes one can whip up with these sweet offerings.

Peaches are a favorite ingredient in many different types of desserts, from cobblers to pies. But in this recipe for "Fresh Peach Crumble Bar," peaches are presented as a cross between a cake and cookie. Enjoy this recipe, courtesy of Saving Room for Dessert, as adapted from AllRecipes.com.

INGREDIENTS

CRUST/CRUMB TOPPING

1 cup granulated sugar
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup unsalted butter cold, cut into cubes
1 large egg, lightly beaten

PEACH LAYER

1/2 cup granulated sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
5 large peaches, peeled and diced
1 teaspoon fresh lemon juice

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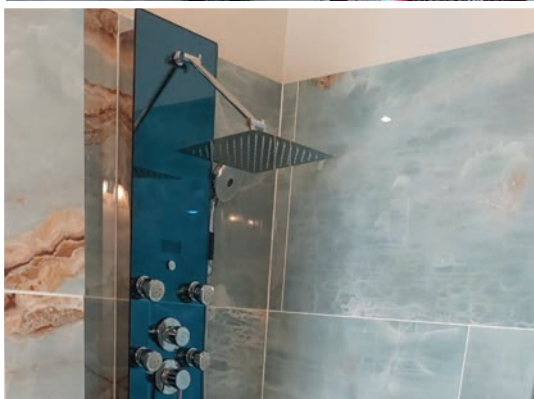
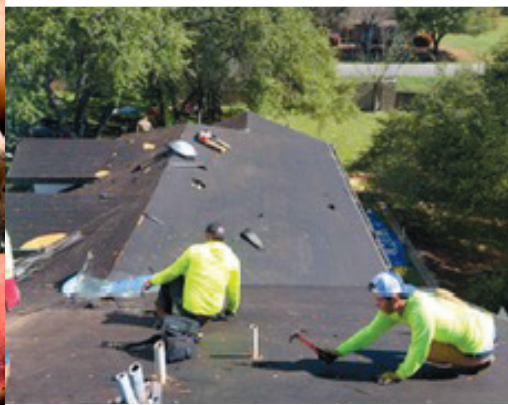
1 cup powdered sugar
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1 tablespoon milk (more or less for desired consistency)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 F if using a glass pan or dark metal pan, or 375 F for a light metal pan. Lightly grease or spray a 13 x 9-inch baking pan and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together 1 cup of sugar, 3 cups of flour, baking powder, salt and cinnamon. Using a pastry cutter, blend in the butter until the mixture resembles coarse sand. Add the lightly beaten egg and mix until the dough starts to hold together, but is still crumbly. Gently press a little more than half the dough into the prepared pan. (Optional: Use a food processor to process these ingredients.)
3. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the sugar, cornstarch and cinnamon. Add the diced peaches and toss to combine. Drizzle the lemon juice over the peaches and toss to coat. Pour the peach mixture over the crust and spread evenly.
4. Using your hands, press together handfuls of the remaining crumb topping to create clumps. Scatter the clumps and remaining crumbled topping over the fruit layer, leaving some peaches showing through.
5. If using a glass pan, bake at 350 F for 50 to 55 minutes or until lightly browned. If using a metal pan, bake at 375 F for 40 to 45 minutes. Cool completely, then chill before cutting and icing.
6. Whisk together the powdered sugar, almond extract and milk. Drizzle on the bars just before serving.

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Pecan Plantation Country Club
For the Seven Months Ending May 2024**

CONSOLIDATED OPERATING STATEMENT

| | Actual YTD | Budget | Variance |
|--|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Operating Revenues | \$ 6,377,712 | \$ 6,212,807 | \$ 164,905 |
| Cost of Goods Sold | <u>\$ (950,471)</u> | <u>\$ (868,542)</u> | <u>\$ (81,929)</u> |
| Gross Operating Profit | \$ 5,427,241 | \$ 5,344,265 | \$ 82,976 |
| Labor, Taxes & Benefits | \$ (3,293,772) | \$ (3,470,897) | \$ 177,125 |
| Other Operating Expenses | \$ (1,842,137) | \$ (1,956,734) | \$ 114,597 |
| Net Operating Income/(Loss) Before Depreciation | <u>\$ 291,332</u> | <u>\$ (83,366)</u> | <u>\$ 374,698</u> |

RESERVE & REPLACEMENT FUND

| | Actual YTD | Year End Forecast |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 3,431,261 | \$ 3,431,261 |
| Fund Deposits | \$ 953,773 | \$ 1,205,571 |
| Fund Expenditures | <u>\$ (1,899,829)</u> | <u>\$ (3,339,831)</u> |
| Ending Balance | <u>\$ 2,485,205</u> | <u>\$ 1,297,001</u> |

NEW CAPITAL FUND

| | Actual YTD | Year End Forecast |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 1,050,920 | \$ 1,050,920 |
| Fund Deposits | \$ 349,656 | \$ 645,372 |
| Fund Expenditures | <u>\$ (47,839)</u> | <u>\$ (93,534)</u> |
| Ending Balance | <u>\$ 1,352,737</u> | <u>\$ 1,602,758</u> |

ROAD & DRAINAGE FUND

| | Actual YTD | Year End Forecast |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$ 1,364,734 | \$ 1,364,734 |
| Fund Deposits | \$ 1,072,476 | \$ 1,860,104 |
| Fund Expenditures | <u>\$ (256,112)</u> | <u>\$ (2,591,805)</u> |
| Ending Balance | <u>\$ 2,181,098</u> | <u>\$ 633,033</u> |



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RECYCLING

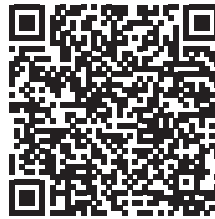
Residents of Pecan Plantation have three collection points for recycling.

Visit the Collection station at 6907 Cottage Court, off Ravenswood near the Stables.

- LAST SATURDAY of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. Bring recyclable items, branches and bulk trash.
 - WEDNESDAYS from 4 to 6 p.m. Only branches and recyclables are accepted.
 - Never accepted at this location: refrigerators, TVs, tires, paints or other hazardous materials.
- Call the Operations office 817-408-3511 for more info.

Pecan Plantation's Tennis Shoppe recycles aluminum cans, with proceeds benefiting Pecan tennis. All cans should be rinsed and free from residue.

Hood County Citizens Collection Station is located at 244 Bray St. Call 817-579-3288 for hours and information. This location does accept glass, aluminum and metal cans, cardboard, paper and most plastics. Follow the QR code for a detailed list and instructions on what and how to recycle.



| Acceptable Recycling Items | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| ITEMS TO BE RECYCLED | YES | NO | HOW |
| METAL | Aluminum, tin food & beverage cans, up to 1 gallon in size; 3 gallon #10 cans such as coffee containers | Any other metal containers including aerosol cans containing hazardous chemicals, paints, cleaning fluids, poisons, no scrap metal | Rinse empty containers & place in cart; can lids ok, in can labels ok. |
| Newspaper, catalogs, magazine, junk mail, shredded paper | Clean, dry newspaper & inserts, magazines & catalogs, junk mail, computer paper, stationary, bills, shredded paper, envelopes with windows, NOTE: must be less than 2 months old or goes in the trash | All other paper including soiled paper, telephone books, non-paper bags such as plastic or Tyvek, overnight delivery envelopes, bubble wrap, books of any kind, greeting cards, gift wrap & product samples. | Place in brown paper grocery bags or cardboard & place on top of other materials. NO PLASTIC BAGS. |
| Plastic | Small & wide mouth containers up to 1 gallon marked on the bottom with a "1" or "2". | Containers with other numbers or no numbers; containers larger than three gallon; plastic bags, motor oil & anti-freeze containers...even if marked with a "1" or "2". | Make sure containers have a "1" or "2" on the bottom; remove cap or lid; labels okay; rinse & place in cart. |
| Boxboard | Cereal, cracker, shoe boxes, shirt boxes, beverage cartons & six-pack cartons | Boxboard containing wax, plastic or foil; or contaminated with food | Remove plastic cereal bag, flatten boxes, place in polly cart |
| Corrugated Cardboard | Clean cardboard with wavy middle layer of brown paper | Pizza boxes, wax-coated cardboard | Remove packing materials, flatten boxes |

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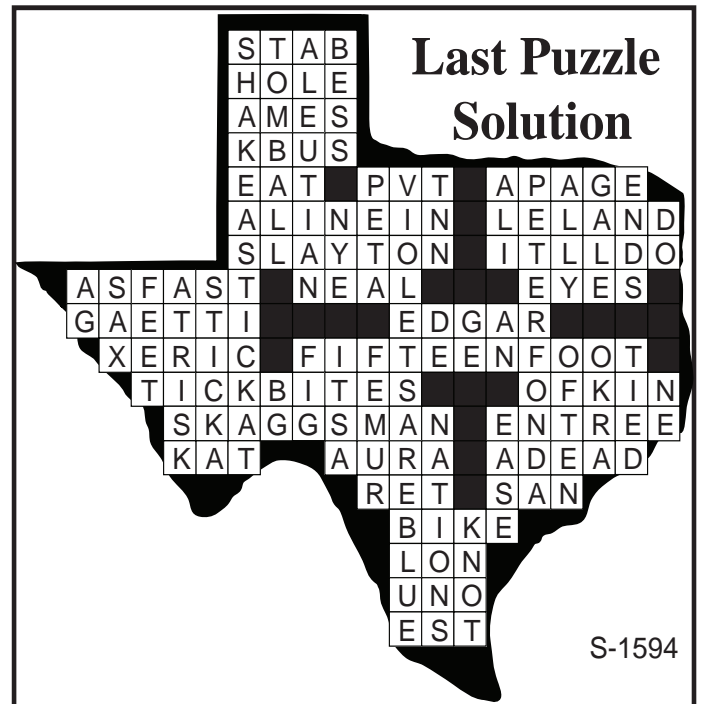
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Puzzle solution for Crossword
Puzzle on page 57.

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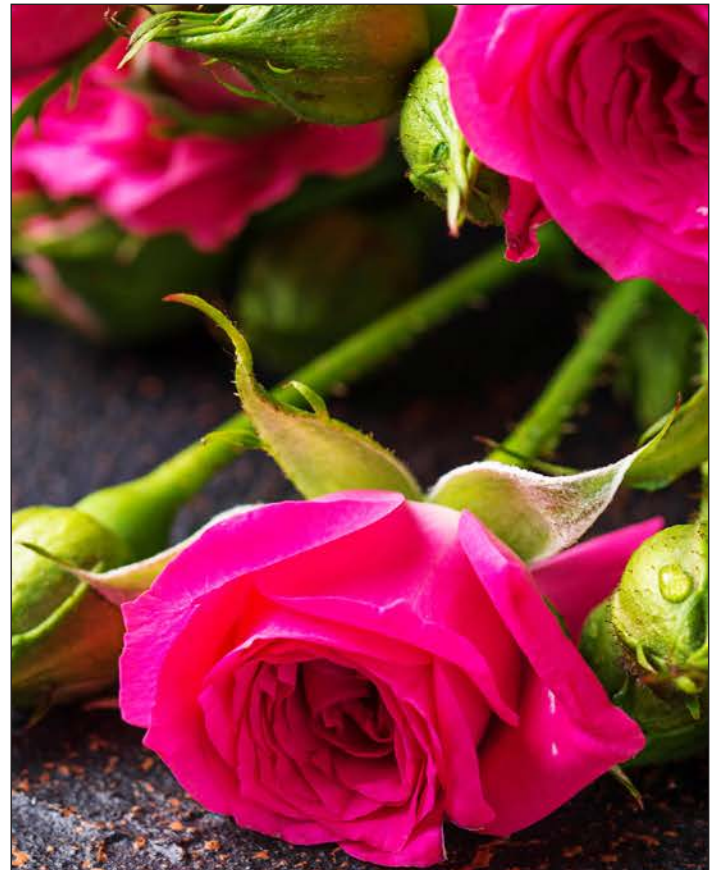
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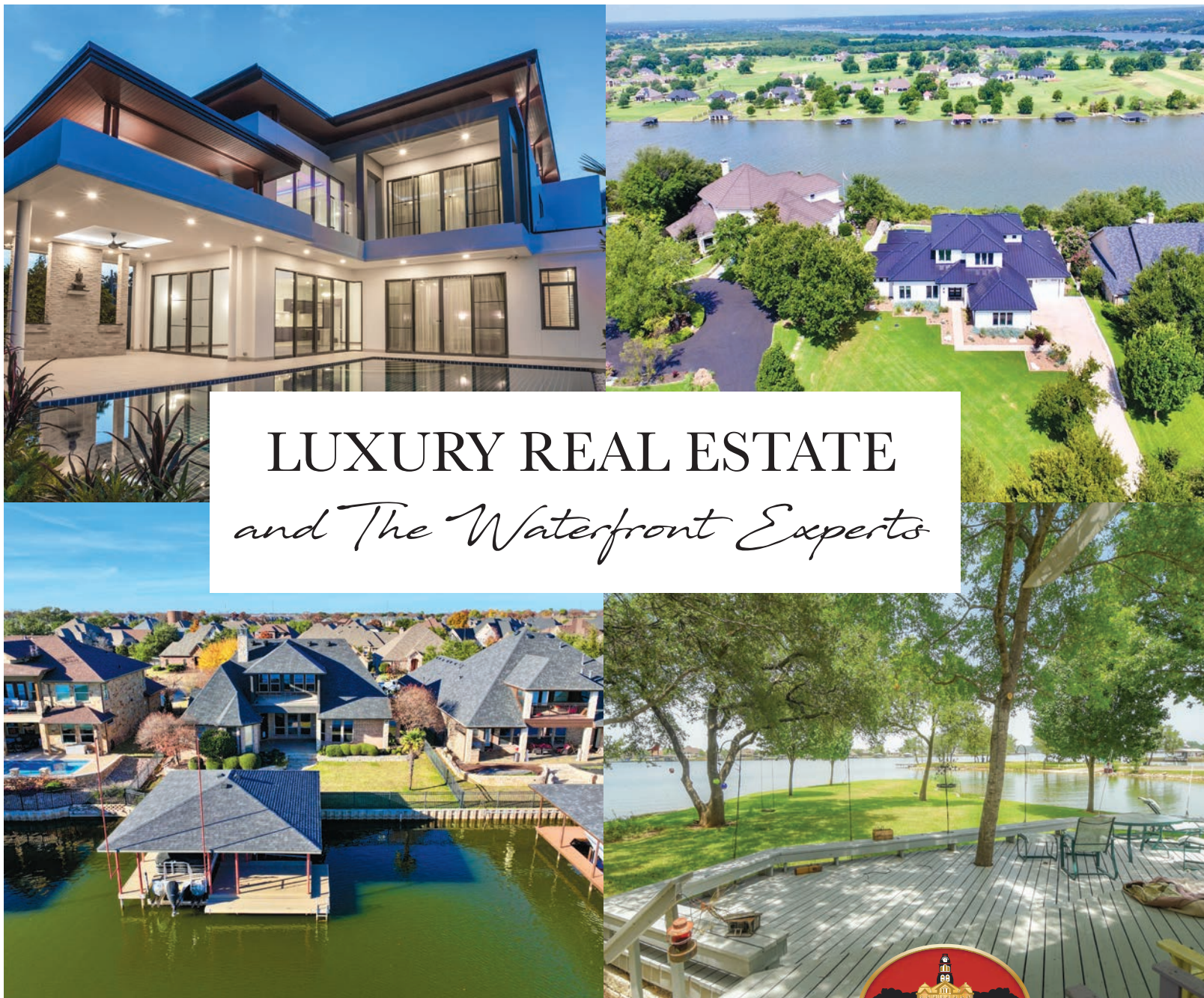
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