

# Whitewater Springs Newsletter

Volume two, Issue 3

July 2009

## **Whitewater Springs 2010 Budget Planning**

Your Whitewater Springs POA Team is now in the planning phase of the 2010 annual budget. All committee chair persons have been asked to submit in detail the first draft of the budget they will need in 2010 to provide those things vital to our community.

The first step in our planning will be to identify those expenses that must be incurred. This will determine the level of services that can be offered in the next fiscal year. All of this will be accomplished with the following schedule in mind:

JUL 6, 2009 Submit the first draft  
AUG 3, 2009 Review first draft  
SEP 1, 2009 Review revisions  
OCT 6, 2009 Final Review

In November all property owners will receive a copy of the budget after it has been reviewed and approved by the Official Board. At that time accompanying information will give the date, time and place of the Annual Property Owner's Meeting in December.

## **CAN EMS FIND YOUR HOME - WHY DO WE NEED 911 ADDRESS SIGNS?**

"At the beginning of a moonless night in a community without street lights because the community prides itself on minimizing light pollution, a 911 call is made by a husband gripped in fear and panic as his wife slumps in a chair with chest pains. While on the phone with the operator, asked the address of his new home, the horror of the moment has caused his mind to draw a blank. The husband is now getting no response from his

wife and she has stopped breathing. Throwing the phone down, he begins CPR. After what seems an eternity, EMS finally arrives and takes over resuscitation. As it turned out, the EMS personnel could not immediately find the address because of old wooden road signs that had not been repainted for years and a house number address sign that was ill placed and had also not been painted in years."

Is the above story true? It is a true story in a community that has had three occurrences in three years of 911 calls resulting in EMS being unable to immediately find homes because of poor displays of street and house signs. As a result, the above community now has all new standardized street signs and all homeowners were asked to participate by acquiring standardized address signs. Only four of 51 homes declined to participate. Street signs were acquired with the highest reflectivity and longevity available. House and road signs were placed after consultation with emergency personnel, while keeping in mind the direction of traffic and road maintenance requirements.

Every community generates reasons for 911 calls but when more elderly homeowners are the norm, these calls are more prevalent, thus the greater need to have in place signs that will help emergency personnel get to the site that much quicker. In most emergencies everyone agrees that every second counts.

Quick acquisition of street and house signs is vital for an emergency response but is also important for house deliveries, service calls, relatives and visitors. House number signs

that are all the same shape and color coding, as well as having a common location and height near driveways, makes it easier for all to find your location. Needless to say, this of course also benefits the homeowner.

Highly reflective address signs are also extremely vital in the smoke and confusion of a wildfire. Firefighters need to check each home and they need to be able to find them quickly. When the Texas Forest Service, Bertram Volunteer Fire Department, and US Fish & Wildlife did their initial assessments of Whitewater Springs before we became a Firewise Community, all of those experts recommended that we have reflective street signs and 911 address markers for each home.

Your WWS Firewise Committee is recommending that all residents obtain reflective 911 address markers. All members of the committee, as well as all of the WWS POA team members, have shown their commitment to this project by purchasing and installing standardized and highly reflective markers. You may have seen some of these signs at homes in Whitewater Springs. The Firewise Committee members will be contacting residents soon about purchasing these address signs.

You are not required to install the same signs as your neighbors. However, if we purchase them in bulk, we will receive a discount and save on shipping. The signs we are recommending are of very high quality.

"Did the delay of EMS because of a poor display of street and address signs in the above example contribute to a lesser outcome than if there were better signs? Obviously, no one will ever know, but the beautiful lady in the above example did not survive."

### **Burnet County Community Achieves National Wildlife Recognition**

That community is Whitewater Springs! A great article about our community becoming registered with the National Wildlife Federation as a Community Wildlife Habitat site was in the

Sunday River Cities Tribune on June 13th, the same day we held our first annual "WWS Fishing Rodeo and Wildlife Habitat Management Education Day". The article reveals to everyone what we already knew - that Whitewater Springs is a wonderful place to live! You can read the entire newspaper article at [www.wwspoa.com/owners/newsletter.htm](http://www.wwspoa.com/owners/newsletter.htm).

About 90 people attended the Fishing Rodeo at the Whitewater Springs big lake and, according to the comments received, it was a big success. Kids had lots of fun learning to fish from Master Naturalist instructors certified by Texas Parks and Wildlife. Everyone had an opportunity to experience the lake up close by boat, kayak, or canoe.

Featured presentations by Wade Hibler, our Burnet county Agrilife Extension agent and Stacy Pandey, Water Conservation Agent from LCRA, were the educational highlights for adults, along with informative brochures about wildlife and fishing and Wildscape DVD's.

We want to say a special thank you to Carol and Jack Merkel for donating a new picnic table for use at the lake. Thanks also go to all the others who generously donated money for the WWS habitat improvement efforts, as well as the Wildlife Habitat Management and Social Committees for all their hard work planning the event.





## Certify Your Yard as a Wildlife Habitat

As we told you in the last newsletter, we have been asked by NWF to certify at least 20 homes here in WWS to fulfill one of our requirements to be certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat. We already have 5 certified homes: Clay and Judy White, Mike and Sue Jackson, Bob and Terri Whaley, Allen and Nancy Palmer, and Charles and Jennifer Mickel.

Would you like to join this group? It's easy! All you need is food, water, cover, places to raise young, and to use conservation techniques. If you live in WWS, you're almost there without doing anything because of all our native plants! And then you can order this cool sign to display.



Access the application here:

[www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/pdfs/bwhaapplication.pdf](http://www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat/pdfs/bwhaapplication.pdf)

Let's take the requirements step-by-step:

Food sources (3): even if you don't put out feeders, you must have Ashe Juniper, persimmon, flameleaf sumac, Virginia creeper vine or agarita (berries), oaks or pecans (nuts), mesquite, twistleaf yucca and wildflowers (nectar), native grasses (seeds), etc.

Water sources (1): if you aren't near a creek or pond, you will need to add a birdbath

Places for cover (2): unless you have absolutely no plants, you've got this one nailed!

Places to raise young (2): this one's a snap, too

Sustainable gardening practices (2): if you live here, you already limit water use and probably use either drip or a soaker hose, use mulch and have at least some native plants.

So, there you are - you're certified! It's that simple!

Undeveloped lot owners, we aren't forgetting about you. NWF says we can only have homes certified here in WWS, but you can always certify your yard where you currently live.

Paper applications to mail are available from Allen Palmer or Terri Whaley. For a quick and easy on-line application, go to [www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/certify.cfm?campaignid=](http://www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife/certify.cfm?campaignid=)

## Frequently Asked Questions about Gate Codes

Whitewater Springs has been designated a "gated community" with controlled access. Whitewater Springs Security takes this designation seriously and strives to ensure that all residents feel secure within our borders by controlling/monitoring gate accesses and maintaining the front entrance lighting. Many questions arise from property owners and new residents to the community about the community's security. Most of these questions are presented below with answers. If you have a question that is not addressed below, please send that question in an email to Whitewater Springs Security at [wwssecure@hughes.net](mailto:wwssecure@hughes.net) or by calling the Whitewater Springs Answering Service at 512-756-5206.

### As a resident or property owner, how do I open the front entry gates?

The front gates may be opened by a handheld remote control device or by entering your personal entry code. To open with your personal code, drive up to the "gate box" on the left side of the front entry. Without

hesitation, enter the # key followed immediately by your personal code. The gate box will beep and the gates will open if a correct code was entered. If not, repeat this process.

**Why must I enter the # key before I enter the personal entry code?**

The purpose of the # key is to clear out (erase) any previously entered keys and to instruct the gate box that a personal entry code is to follow. The # key and the entry code must be entered quickly and without hesitation. If the box does not beep and the gates do not open, repeat the process.

**Can I give my personal entry code to others so that they can enter whenever they want?**

The personal entry code is YOUR code to enter the community. Whitewater Springs Security recommends that you DO NOT give this code to other persons. WWS Security does realize that you may want to give the code to other close family members. This is OK; however you should instruct these family members to not broadcast this code to others. But, under no circumstances should you give your code to outside contractors and vendors. There are other procedures in place to control these types of visitors.

**How does my visiting family, friends or service person call me from the gate for entry?**

Visitors can call your home phone by pulling up to the "gate box" on the left side of the front entry. They must use the "A" and "Z" keys on the box to scroll through a list of current residents ("A" scrolls to the top of the list and "Z" scrolls to the bottom of the list) until they find your family name. Once they have found your name, they must press the "Call" button. This action will dial your home phone number and they may talk with you through the gate box's speaker. Once you have verified the visitor, press the "9" key on your telephone to open the gate and terminate the phone call. If you hang up without pressing "9", the call is terminated and the gate remains closed.

**I am a resident and someone is calling my home phone from the front gate. How do I open the gate for them?**

If you receive a call from the front gate, verify who is calling and whether you want to admit them to the community or not. If you want them to enter, press the "9" key on your telephone to open the gate and terminate the call. If you do not want them to enter, simply hang up your phone and the caller will not be admitted.

**Why do I need a gate code to enter the community?**

Since Whitewater Springs has been set up as a "gated community", entry through the front gates is controlled. In order to ensure that only legitimate residents, property owners, visitors and contractors/vendors have unimpeded access, codes and passwords are used. Personal entry codes are assigned to residents, property owners and certain regular contractors/vendors (e.g. PEC, LCRA, Austin American Statesman, etc.). Other contractors and vendors are issued a password and set up on the Whitewater Springs Answering Services' contractor access list.

**One of my contractors has been set up on the contractor access list. How does he get through the gates?**

When a contractor has properly requested and set up with access to the community, the Whitewater Springs Answering Service is notified. When the contractor wishes to be admitted, he must drive up to the "gate box" located on the left side of the front entry. He will use the "A" and "Z" keys on the box to scroll through a list of residents ("A" scrolls to the top of the list and "Z" scrolls to the bottom of the list). When the name "CONTRACTOR" appears, he will press the "Call" button to call the Whitewater Springs Answering Service. He must provide his name and the name of the company that he represents. When asked, he then supplies the assigned password for his company. If that information is correct, the Answering Service will open the gate and terminate the call.

**How does a property owner/resident get a gate entry code?**

All current residents and property owners have been assigned a personal entry code. If a new resident or property owner does not have or otherwise forgets an entry code, please contact Whitewater Springs Security as shown above.

**Some people have remote controls to open the gates and I don't. Can I get one?**

The front entry gate can be opened by handheld remote control device or by entering a personal entry code at the "gate box". Whitewater Springs Security has a limited supply of these remote control devices for purchase. Contact Whitewater Springs Security to obtain one.

**If I want to change my gate entry code, what do I do?**

To request a change, contact Whitewater Springs Security. Suggest a code that you would prefer or WWS Security will assign one to you. If your preferred code is currently in use, WWS Security will assign one of the available codes for you.

**I've already given my gate entry code to a contractor/vendor. What do I do now?**

Residents and property owners should never give their personal entry codes to contractors or vendors. Infrequent contractors and vendors should call the resident from the front gate and request admittance. Procedures exist for assigning entry passwords for longer-term contractors/vendors. However, if you have given your personal entry code to a contractor/vendor, WWS Security recommends that you change your gate code immediately to prevent these persons from entering the community without your knowledge.

**I'm going to build a house and the builder and other contractors will need to get through the entry gate. What do I need to do to get them access?**

To set up longer-term contractors for entry into the community, instruct the contractor to contact Whitewater Springs Security to request a password for proper entry. The contractor will need to provide 1) the name of his

company, 2) a contact person and phone number, 3) the reason for access (e.g. building Joe Smith's house on lot #999), 4) the length of time that this access is required and 5) suggest a password to be used (otherwise WWS Security will assign a password).

**I have contracted a service person to do work at my house regularly (maid, lawn care, etc.). Should I give them my gate code?**

No. If these services are to be performed infrequently or if you must be home for them to service your premises, they should call you from the front entry gate box to request admittance. If these services are to be performed longer-term or if they can service your premises without your presence, the service person may request a gate entry password as noted in the previous question above.

**Is gate access monitored?**

Yes. All entries (residents and contractors) made through the "gate box" are monitored daily by Whitewater Springs Security. Entries made by handheld remote control devices are not monitored. However, video of all entry and exit activity is recorded on a digital recorder and reviewed.

**If I notice that the gate is malfunctioning, to whom do I report this?**

Report all problems with malfunctioning gates by sending an email to Whitewater Springs Security. Don't assume that WWS Security is aware of the issue or that someone else is reporting it. Report all incidents. Malfunctioning gates not only allow uncontrolled access to the community, but can present danger to individuals and damage to vehicles.

**RANCLAND IN RECOVERY**

The Austin American Statesman had an excellent article a few weeks ago about how the 5,500 acre Selah Bamberger Ranch Preserve near Blanco has been dramatically improved by utilization of proper land management and stewardship. The land, formerly recognized as the worst property in

the county (overgrazed, eroded, rocky, and covered with Ashe juniper and cactus), is now thriving with flowing springs and streams and serves as a highly regarded example of conservation and how to rejuvenate damaged rangeland here in the Texas hill country.

J. David Bamberger began 40 years ago by removing much of the Ashe juniper and all invasive species from his property and planting native trees and grasses. He also managed livestock more carefully. Gradually, he began to see changes as springs and creeks started to flow, the habitat rebounded, and birds and other wildlife returned. Today his property is well known as a model for proper land management and in 2009 received the state's top land stewardship award from Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Thousands of people come to the ranch each year for tours and workshops to learn how they can better manage their own properties. A group from Whitewater Springs is planning to tour the ranch soon to bring back ideas that can be applied here.

What can we do on our individual lots to improve the land? According to Bamberger, in addition to removing invasive species, removing some of the Ashe juniper, and planting native trees and grasses for water retention, we can slow rainwater down so that it can get into the ground. One way he is doing this is with the use of low stacked rock berms built on top of hills.

For more info on the ranch, go to [www.bamberranch.org](http://www.bamberranch.org) or read the entire article at

[www.statesman.com/search/content/gen/ap/TX\\_Ranch\\_Conservation.html](http://www.statesman.com/search/content/gen/ap/TX_Ranch_Conservation.html)

### **FIREWISE LOT OF THE QUARTER**

Our Firewise lot for this issue is 615 Chaney's Crossing, the lovely home of Kath Long. Hers is the first of the four defensible space demonstration homes that we will feature in upcoming newsletters. This project was initiated by the Whitewater Springs Firewise Committee in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Balcones Canyonlands

National Wildlife Refuge to serve as a demonstration for fuels reduction around structures in our wildland urban interface. Each home required different treatment to achieve reduction of fuel load in order for the home to withstand an approaching wildfire without the intervention of fire fighting resources.

Kath's home is well constructed of stone with a metal roof, and is surrounded by a concrete driveway, stone patios, and low-growing grasses that are irrigated when possible and well-maintained. Her home lies just north off the head of a large draw and is near the top of the ridge. Emphasis was placed on the east and south sides below the home. The intent was to limit fire spread through the canopies of the trees should fire become established below the home. Fire will spread rapidly through the grass and surface litter below the home due to slope, but once it reaches the lawn and driveway should be easier to suppress.

Within the 30 feet closest to the home (Zone 1), highly flammable Ashe junipers and brush were removed to create a shaded fuel break with the remaining deciduous trees, which were trimmed up. Some taller grasses in this area were cut back to below 6 inches. In Zone 2 (between 30 and 100 from the structure), the mixed hardwood trees and Ashe junipers were thinned and limbs trimmed 6 feet from the ground to extend the shaded fuel break. Beyond 100 feet in Zone 3, the thinning and limbing was continued, but with consideration for privacy, and to the property line on the west side.

Please see before and after pictures below that illustrate the dramatic results of the work done by the Refuge staff with the help of crews from the Texas Forest Service.



Before - A



After - B



After - A



Crew working



Before - B

### **WHO LET THE DOGS OUT?**

No, this is not about the song, but many of us may not be aware that Burnet County has regulations governing animal control and they do apply here within Whitewater Springs. Most of the 15 page document refers to dogs, although cats and other animals are mentioned as well. We have summarized portions of the regulations below, but you may view the entire document at:

[www.burnetcountytexas.org/docs/5-Animal%20Control.pdf](http://www.burnetcountytexas.org/docs/5-Animal%20Control.pdf)

There is no actual leash law in our county. However, under Section 52.005 CONTROL, owners are required to keep their dogs securely on their property, and when walking off of their property, the owner must maintain reasonable control at all times (for example, by

using a voice command or a leash if the dog is prone to jump on people or is aggressive). Any stray or "uncontrolled" dog may be declared a public nuisance, which means it is subject to being seized and impounded. This section also describes humane types of control that are not a danger to the dog. Any person may report an uncontrolled dog to the Burnet County Sheriff's office.

An animal is also deemed to be a public nuisance if it commits any of the following acts either singularly or in company with other animals:

- a. Repeatedly running-at-large
- b. Damages the property of anyone other than its owner
- c. Molests or intimidates pedestrians or passers-by
- d. Chases vehicles or bicycles
- e. Attacks other domestic animals
- f. Excessively and repeatedly makes disturbing noises including, but not limited to; continuous and repeated howling, barking, whining or other utterances causing unreasonable annoyance, disturbance or discomfort to neighbors or others in close proximity to the premises where the animal is kept or housed.

If a dog attacks a person or other animal and causes injury, it is considered to be a Dangerous Dog and the authorities must be notified according to Texas law. That dog is then taken into custody and quarantined for two weeks for observation, after which time it can be released back to the owner (assuming it doesn't have rabies). However, because the dog is now registered as a Dangerous Dog, the owner has to get a \$100,000 insurance policy, and the dog must always be confined thereafter. If it ever bites again, then it will likely be destroyed.

Our own WWS covenants also address animal problems: "Should any animal, including but not limited to cats and dogs, become offensive to the neighborhood, that animal situation constitutes a violation of these covenants".

## **POOL RULES**

Now that summer is officially here, please remember to follow our WWS pool rules:

Make sure that anyone under the age of 16 is properly supervised. No glass items may be brought inside the pool fence. Place your pool trash inside the receptacles provided. Please do not leave the bath house door propped open at any time. Be sure the the bath house door is locked after use. Make sure the umbrellas are lowered and secured when you leave. Make sure the gates to the pool areas are closed at all times. Pets are not allowed inside the fence around the pool.

## **LCRA WATER USE REMINDERS**

Whitewater Springs had been under voluntary (Stage One) water restrictions for the past several months. As of June 30th, we were placed under Stage Two (moderate) restrictions, which are almost the same as Stage One, but they are mandatory instead of voluntary and fines of \$200 or more can be imposed for violations. Highlights of the current water restrictions are listed here:

- Water only from midnight to 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. to midnight on your designated day (see the LCRA website for exceptions for new landscapes)
- Odd-numbered addresses water only on Wednesday and/or Saturday
- Even-numbered addresses water only on Thursday and/or Sunday
- No washing of vehicles except on your day and during your watering hours, and only using a bucket or hose with a shut-off nozzle
- Limit filling or refilling of pools of any kind
- Do not operate ornamental ponds or fountains unless they support aquatic life or have a recirculating pump
- Do not wash down walkways, driveways or buildings
- Repair all leaks as soon as possible

LCRA has told us that if current conditions continue, we may soon be under Stage Three

water restrictions which include all of the Stage Two requirements, plus the following:

- Watering is permitted only with hand-held hoses, buckets or drip irrigation
- Use of hose-end sprinklers or sprinkler systems is prohibited at all times
- No installation of new landscapes is permitted
- No washing of vehicles
- No filling or refilling of pools of any kind
- No applications for new water service connections will be approved

LCRA has even more restrictions if Stage Four (emergency) restrictions are imposed. Let's all do our part by limiting our water use.

**WOW! WHAT A BOAR!**



"Over 1,800 pound wild boar shot and killed in Conroe, Texas near the County Airport, east of I-45 and near the community of Cut and Shoot. Killed by a medical radiology worker.....What

would you do if this beast was coming at you? Run for dear life? Climb a tree? Or simply get run over?"

This story was widely circulated by email a few months ago. However, it has been proven to be a hoax. There are no feral hogs that large here in Texas, or anywhere else. But we are still having problems with hogs here in Whitewater Springs. So, please, do not attract them to your property in any way. We need everyone to continue not to put out feed or even salt licks for deer. Also remember that feeding the deer or getting them accustomed to being around people is not healthy for them. If you received the Wildscape DVD at the Fishing Rodeo, please note that the section on feeding deer refers to wildlife management on ranches with large acreage, and does not apply for subdivisions like WWS.

**UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR**

<p>July 17 - July 18 : Marble Falls  <b>Marble Falls Annual Rodeo</b>                  Type : Fair/Festivals                  Rodeo, entertainment, fun for the whole family!                  512-755-5773</p>
<p>August 7 - August 9 : Marble Falls  <b>LakeFest Drag Boat Race</b>                  Type: Arts/Crafts                  Over 100 boats on a liquid quarter mile. Lakeside Park                  830-693-2815</p>
<p>August 22, 29 : Lake Buchanan  <b>Grape Stomp and Harvest Festival</b>                  Type: Wineries/Vineyards                  Fall Creek Vineyards                  325-379-5361</p>
<p>September 5 : Bertram  <b>Bertram Oatmeal Festival</b>                  Type: Fair/Festivals                  512-756-4297</p>
<p>September 5 : Mason  <b>Mason County Apple Festival</b>                  Type: Fair/Festivals                  Apple Dessert Baking Contest, Little Miss Apple Blossom contest, Bobbing~for~Apples, Apple Carving, Farmer's Market, and Much More.                  Courthouse Lawn                  325-347-5758</p>

September 12 : Marble Falls

**Market Day**

Type : Markets/Shopping

Over 100 vendors with a variety of items. Main Street

830-693-2815

September 13 : Burnet

**Tri Hard Triathlon**

Type : Sports

512-756-4297