



CCSPOA News

Council Creek South Property Owners Association, Inc.
120 Council Park Road, Burnet, Texas 78611

March 2010

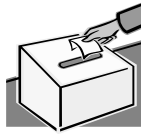
SAVE THE DATE!

ANNUAL PICNIC AND OPEN MEETING



Join us for the members Annual Picnic on April 24 in the park. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be available for a nominal charge at noon, and the meeting will begin at 1 p. m. So come on down, bring a side dish, get to know your neighbors and hear what the Board has been working on and what plans we have for the future. Hope to see everyone there!

Three Board Positions Open—Candy Smith Seeking Re-election



My home is on Copper Lane, and I have served as Secretary for the past 2 years. I have established an email list for newsletters and updates, which are more cost effective and environmentally friendly than paper mailings. I am working to develop a systematic filing system that will improve efficiency and benefit future Board members. If re-elected I will continue to work to assist the Board in developing a Policy & Procedure manual, recognition of CCS as a Firewise Community, improvement of County Road 137 and all neighborhood roads, and the building of a boat dock in our park. Thank you!

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UP

The annual neighborhood cleanup is scheduled for **Saturday, April 17**. Our lovely neighborhood collects a lot of trash on the roadside every year. We have found all sorts of "treasures"! Come help us clean up—you never know what you might find. Meet in the park at 9 a.m. and bring your gloves and nail sticks. Trash bags are provided. This is another great way to get to know some neighbors and help your community.

Firewise Community Development

CCS property owners, Suzi and A.C. Campagna, recently experienced a serious garage fire that resulted in total loss of the structure and most contents in spite of an outstanding response by a number of VFD units. That experience should be a reminder to all of us that CCS must do everything possible to plan and act such that we can minimize the damage in the event of a wildfire and/or large structural fire. Major considerations include the fact that we have only one way in and out of the community - that is CR 137. A second major consideration is that we have numerous undeveloped lots that are loaded with underbrush and dense cedar trees. A third factor is that many of our road easements are overgrown with brush and/or otherwise inaccessible for vehicles. To address these challenges, the CCSPOA Board has established the goal of becoming a recognized Firewise Community/USA. This will require us to establish a firewise community development committee and write a firewise community development plan. All of this activity will be done in coordination with the TX Forest Service. The committee members will have a variety of experience to ensure good planning and the resultant plan will be an appendix to the existing community development plan. We are currently obtaining and reviewing numerous documents provided by the TX Forest Service. We will keep you informed as we move forward.



What to do with injured wildlife?



Back around Christmas, there was an injured young vulture on County Road 137 in front of the Lodge. At first, we thought he was dead-nailed by a passing car. The next day, he had managed to make it up on the lawn of the lodge and was still there the day after. Now, I think vultures have their place as natural vacuum cleaners, but I am no bird handling expert. However, Jim Smith and son-in-law Josh Dupree took pity on the suffering creature and shooed him into a large cardboard box and brought him home to mom. What does one do with a large injured frightened bird? As it turns out, there are several choices-in Austin; you can take him to the Wildlife Rescue Center on E. MLK, 9a.m. to 4 p.m. 7 days per week. They rescue birds, raccoons, deer, opossums, and just about any kind of "critter" you can name. They are run almost entirely by volunteers and don't have the manpower to pick up animals, but provide vet care and rehab to the many animals that come through their doors. You can visit their website at <http://www.austinwildliferescue.org/> or call them at 512-472-9453.

Closer to home, if you find an injured bird, you can contact Arlene Pearce who lives here in the Lake Buchanan area. Mrs. Pearce, a retired Burnet ISD Special Education teacher, has been rehabilitating birds since 1999. She has a federal permit to do this, since many species are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Act. She sees many kinds of birds, including all types of songbirds, owls, hawks, vultures, starling and sparrows. She works with Jon Karger of Last Chance Forever in San Antonio, and most birds of prey are transported to his facility, <http://www.lastchanceforever.org/> Mrs. Pearce explained that birds of prey require a large flight cage for rehabilitation and she is not set up for that. If you find an injured bird, she recommends getting it into a box with just a few holes and moving it to a quiet location, then contacting rehab as quickly as possible. Handle it as little as possible. You should not use a wire cage, as this could cause further injury, and do not give food or water. She emphasized that if you find a baby bird on the ground that has fallen out of a nearby nest and it is not injured, replace it in the nest if you can. It is absolutely untrue that parent birds will reject a baby that has been touched by humans. Returning it to mom and dad offer it the best chance of survival. She says that on average she sees about 50-75 birds per year, and about 3 out of 5 of these survive. Mrs. Pearce welcomes volunteers to help with transport or other chores, and welcomes donations, as she pays for everything out of her own pocket. Contact her at 512-756-4350.

Oh, and last we heard, Bucky the "wonder buzzard" did not seem to be seriously injured and Austin Wildlife Rescue was hopeful that he would be released once he got his strength back.

Save Some Money!

Who doesn't need to save a few dollars in these economic times?

Help ensure that your POA fees are spent for park improvement, road maintenance, sign projects, and other improvements for our community, rather than on paper and postage. Postage for mailing the newsletter ONE TIME costs over \$50, and printing and paper costs run around \$60. It costs over \$100 to send out one mailing of the newsletter!

That could add up to over \$300 a year that could be well spent on other projects- remember these are **your** POA dues! Help us save by signing up for email notice-its fast, it's free, and it's easy. Just drop a line to Candy at jsmith532@austin.rr.com, and we'll add you to the email list. Your information is never sold or shared with anyone.

Buchanan Water Quality

The CCSPOA Board is increasing its focus on two areas that are not always mutually exclusive. These are fire-wise community development and water quality of Lake Buchanan.

With respect to water quality, protecting our lake from stormwater runoff is an important activity that involves all property owners. The following summary taken from the LCRA website is good orientation to why the lake water quality is an important issue for CCS as well as other lakeside communities. This summary addresses the impact of stormwater runoff and the benefits of managing runoff. Future communications with CCS property owners will also address how the runoff may be managed.

Stormwater runoff is considered the largest source of pollution in the Highland Lakes. This is not surprising, since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that pollution in stormwater runoff accounts for more than 98 percent of the fecal and total coliform bacteria, 90 percent of the sediment, 80 percent of the nitrogen, and more than half of the phosphorus entering the nation's rivers and streams.

The **impacts** of stormwater runoff can be widespread and severe, including:

- Siltation of creeks and reservoirs.
- Reduced fish and wildlife habitat.
- Increased growth of aquatic weeds.
- Algal blooms and fish kills.
- Reduced recreational opportunities because of bacterial contamination and increased turbidity.
- Contamination of food and water sources.



Benefits of managing pollution—Management of pollution caused in stormwater runoff is far less expensive than correcting it after it has occurred. The benefits of managing stormwater runoff pollution include:

- Expanded recreational and tourism opportunities — and economic growth.
- Increased property values and tax base along the river, lakes and tributaries.
- Increased productivity of range and farmland, as well as aquatic ecosystems.
- Reduced water treatment costs.
- Preservation of diverse wildlife habitat.
- Prolonged viability of water storage reservoirs.

Property Owners' Name Sign Replaced

The new "Council Creek South" sign has been installed. While CCSPOA funded installation of the vertical posts and the CCS logo section on top, replacement of the horizontal aluminum channels and names will have to be funded by those property owners who want their names displayed. There are two-foot sections on the horizontal cross channels allotted for each name. The estimated cost per displayed name will be \$8.00 (includes both \$5.00 for the lettering and \$3.00 for the pro rata share of replacing the channel).

Dates to Remember



- **Saturday, April 17**
Neighborhood Cleanup
9:00 a.m. at the park
- **Saturday, April 24**
Noon—Annual Picnic and
1:00—General Meeting



HELP US GO GREEN! If you would like to receive the newsletter by email and help us save a tree, please email Candy Smith at jsmith532@austin.rr.com

