

Westlake Hills

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2009



Photos courtesy of the Westlake Planning



Join the Fourth Annual 4th of July Parade!

Our fourth annual Fourth of July Parade is just around the corner, so you'd better get started on your outfit and decorations! We'll be meeting in the parking lot of Treaty Oak Bank at the corner of Westlake Drive and Bee Cave Road at 8:45 on July 4. Starting at 9am, we'll begin our march down Westlake Drive to Rocky River Road, then right onto Reveille Road and back to the bank where the festivities will continue.

Show off your classic car or build

your own parade float. Decorate the bicycles and strollers. Or just throw on your most patriotic outfit and join us for a leisurely stroll. Everyone is welcome, including pets on leashes, horses, camels, elephants – whatever you care to bring! (No lions or tigers or bears, please.)

There will be free breakfast tacos



after the parade from Texas Honey Ham Company and ice cream from Amy's Ice Cream. Special thanks to

both companies and to our other great sponsors, Treaty Oak Bank and Randall's, for their continued support of this great community event. So

load up the family and join us for the best 4th of July parade in central Texas!

Meet Your New City Council Members

On May 27, 2009, we thanked outgoing Council Members Jane Noble, Earl Broussard and Amy Simmons for their service to their community and welcomed in three new Council Members: Davin Fillpot, Spencer Stevens and Stan Graham.

my respect for our Code of Ordinances and the Master Plan for the city. I am firmly committed to preserving the rural quality and nature of our city.”

Spencer Stevens has worked as a CPA with a Big Four accounting firm and is now a Corporate & Securities

and continuing the city’s fiscally-conservative policies.

Stan Graham is a retired airline pilot who holds a degree in architecture and has served on the City’s Transportation Commission for the past year. He has lived in West Lake Hills for fourteen years and built his current home in 2000. He earned degrees in International Relations and Architecture from the University of Kansas. He spent twenty-six years as a pilot with American Airlines and twenty years (active and reserve) with the U.S. Navy as a Naval Officer/Aviator.

Stan says that the City’s Master Plan describes the ideals and directions he would like to use in enhancing our city’s sense of community and environment. One area of interest for Stan is residential construction, especially with respect to finding ways to keep individual homes from dominating the landscape and detracting from the natural setting in which they are located.



New Council Members Stan Graham, Spencer Stevens and Davin Fillpot.

Davin Fillpot is a registered architect at PageSoutherlandPage and has served on the City’s Zoning and Planning Commission (ZAPCO) for three years and Building Design Committee (BDC) for 2 years. He graduated with a B.Arch. from Texas Tech University in 1997. He and his wife, Camie, lived in Boston for two years and then returned to Austin in 1999. They purchased a lot on Redbud Trail in 2003 and oversaw the construction of their home. Their daughter, Mia, is almost four years old.

Davin says, “My experiences on ZAPCO and BDC provided me with the opportunity to work with the extremely knowledgeable, wonderful and committed people on those committees, and really helped shape

Attorney at Strasburger & Price, LLP. He received an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas and a law degree from the University of Houston. He was born in Houston and has lived in California and Connecticut. His wife of thirteen years, Kathryn, is an alumnus of Westlake High School. They have two children: Allyson, four, and Colton, eight months.

Spencer’s hobbies include golf, softball, and camping. When asked about community issues that are important to him, he mentioned maintaining the rural and peaceful experience within West Lake Hills, ensuring responsible growth along Bee Cave Road, managing traffic flow through the city that is consistent with and not at odds with residents,

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle

The City’s curbside recycling service accepts plastics marked #1 through #5 and #7 including any drink bottles, milk jugs and laundry detergent containers. You can recycle aluminum, tin and steel cans, and both clear and colored, unbroken glass. All dry paper products except cardboard can be recycled, including office papers, magazines, newspapers – even junk mail!

Hippies Among Us!

You've probably heard of the Cedar Choppers – the legendary “early” inhabitants of West Lake Hills that made a living in the first half of the last century by cutting down cedar trees for fuel and building materials for the rapidly growing city of Austin just over the river.

But you may not have heard about the Hippies of West Lake Hills who lived amongst the cedars and oaks along Eanes Creek where St. John Neumann Catholic Church now sits. In the early 1970's, a visionary group of architects began work on an unusual building concept: a polyurethane foam and rebar-reinforced concrete building known as the Earth House that served as a workshop to explore the creative potential of new building materials and techniques.

Local architect Tom Hatch and Charles Harker, designer of the famous Bloomhouse just north of West Lake Hills, were two of the founders of the project that was built on land owned by local resident, Betty Gaddis. “She was the heart and soul behind the project,”

said Harker. “And one of the greatest people I have ever known.”

An eclectic group of tradesmen and artists formed a vibrant community cooperative adjacent to the Earth House, living in unusual homes fashioned after the Mongolian yurt – a circular edifice that looks like a cross between a flying saucer and a geodesic dome. Over the next decade, they would come and go, some living onsite to work on the Earth House, others just looking for a place to

live alongside nature in what became known as “Yurt City,” a collection of three bedroom yurts, a bathroom yurt and a kitchen/common space yurt.

The inhabitants of Yurt City formed a loose cooperative, sharing the costs and duties of running a small community. Architect and West Lake Hills Wastewater Commissioner, Paul Gaddis and his wife Elizabeth Yndo lived in one of the three bedroom yurts for several years while Gaddis and his brother worked on various construction

projects around central Texas. “It was more of a redneck Texan collective and less of a California commune. It definitely had a unique, local culture.”

Eddie Wilson, founder of the Armadillo World Headquarters, would occasionally drop by with famous musicians and performers including

Frank Zappa, Van Morrison and Bonnie Raitt.

The main yurt burned down in the late 1970's but the collective lived on.

A few years later, the Gaddis family sold

the land to a developer who bulldozed the Earth house, but not before moving several of the iconic yurts to other locations. They donated three of the yurts to the Creative Rapid Learning Center and relocated the other one to a lot Gaddis owns along the Pedernales River. Today, the yurt offers shelter for his family and friends during campouts by the river.

For more information about Yurt City and Earth House, visit Charles Harker's website at: http://web.mac.com/charker/TAO_Design_Group



The interior of a bedroom yurt.

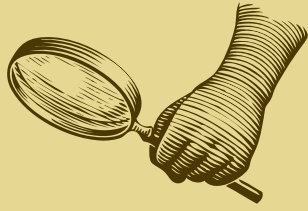


A worker stands on the roof of the Earth House (above). The view from inside of the Earth House (left).



The central yurt that contained the kitchen and living areas for the community.

Photos courtesy of Charles Harker



Welcome Our New City Inspector

Jim Stearman, our City Inspector retired from service on June 5, 2009 after serving in that role for almost twelve years. We're excited to introduce his replacement, Bob Rogers who began his service earlier this month. Bob has worked in municipal code enforcement for more than fourteen years in the cities of West University Place, Lago Vista, Bastrop and San Marcos. He holds certifications from the State of Texas in code enforcement, plumbing, electric, accessibility and flood plain management and from the International Code Council in the areas of plan review, building, energy and mechanical inspection. Please join us in welcoming Bob to the team!

West Lake Hills Welcome Packet

City management is soliciting ideas for an upcoming "Welcome to West Lake Hills" packet that will be distributed to all residents in the coming months and future residents as they move in to our city. It will include a wide range of information, including an overview of important City ordinances that are sometimes innocently overlooked by new residents including the restrictions on cutting down trees and installing fences. If you have suggestions on what should be included in this packet, please let us know. If you're a copywriter or a graphic designer looking for a volunteer opportunity to serve your community, then we would *really* like to hear from you. Give us a call!



Free Garbage Service?!

West Lake Hills is one of the few cities in central Texas that offers free garbage and recycling collection for its residents. The City pays Texas Disposal Systems for this service out of our general tax revenues. The residential twice-weekly collection service costs approximately \$260 per year, which is less than what many residents pay in City property tax. What a bargain!



WWW.WESTLAKEHILLS.ORG
THE CITY OF WEST LAKE HILLS
911 WESTLAKE DRIVE
WEST LAKE HILLS, TX 78746

P: (512) 327-3628
F: (512) 327-1863

City Administrator:

Robert Wood, x 325
 cityadmin@westlakehills.org

Mayor:

Dave Claunch, x 323
 mayor@westlakehills.org

Mayor Pro Tem, Place 2:

Andrew Schwartz, x 361
 wlhcc2@westlakehills.org

Place 1:

Spencer Stevens, x 353
 wlhcc1@westlakehills.org

Place 3:

Stan Graham, x 367
 wlhcc3@westlakehills.org

Place 4:

Cindy Probst, x 352
 wlhcc4@westlakehills.org

Place 5:

Davin Fillpot, x 363
 wlhcc5@westlakehills.org

Wastewater Project Coordinator:

Robbie Davis, x 330
 rjdavis@westlakehills.org

Police Chief:

Cliff Spratlan
 (512) 327-1195
 chief@westlakehills.org