

Blue Lake News

Summer, 2009

A joint publication of BLPOA and LCMUD #1

MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS

As this newsletter goes to print, we have been informed by our water supplier, LCRA (Lower Colorado River Authority) that due to the extreme drought conditions, we are to implement our mandatory water use restrictions under LCMUD # 1's Drought Contingency Plan.

Our Drought Contingency Plan calls for us to implement a Stage 2 Response. The measures include the following:

- Irrigation of landscaped areas with hose-end sprinklers or irrigation systems shall be **limited to Sundays and Thursdays** for customers with a **street address ending in even numbers** and **Saturdays and Wednesdays** for customers whose **address ends in odd numbers**.
- Outdoor watering hours will be limited to between the **hours of midnight and 10:00 A.M. and between 7:00 P.M. and midnight on designated watering days**. This prohibition does NOT apply to irrigation of landscaped areas if it is by means of:
 1. A hand-held hose
 2. A faucet-filled bucket or can of five gallons or less
 3. A drip irrigation system
- If a new landscape system has been installed within two (2) weeks of the implementation of these restrictions, then irrigation of that landscape may only occur during the outdoor watering schedule listed above and

in accordance with the following 30 schedule:

1. For the first 1-10 days, once a day.
2. For days 11-20, once every other day.
3. For days 21-30, once every third day.

The following is also mandatory:

- Use of water to wash any vehicles, golf carts, boats or trailers is prohibited except on designated days between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 10:00 A.M. and between 7:00 P.M. and midnight.
- Use of water to fill pools, hot tubs, jacuzzi's or wading pools is prohibited except on designated watering days during the above mentioned hours.
- Operation of ANY ornamental fountain or pond for aesthetic purposes is prohibited unless it is to support aquatic life or where such fountains are equipped with a re-circulation system.

While these rules are restrictive, it is far better to abide by them now, so, hopefully, we will not have to go to Stage Three (3) Restrictions..

To see more of the LCMUD # 1 Drought Contingency Plan, please go to our website at: www.bluelaketx.org

MUD BOARD ELECTIONS

The next election for the Llano County Municipal Utility District # 1 Board of Directors will be May 8, 2010; three (3) Directors are to be elected. Those scheduled to leave the Board are: **L.D. Stewart, Emory Garlick and Jarrett Bates**. Carryover members are **Jeff Pruett** and **William (Bill) Stevens**. The term of service is four (4) years.

Those interested in serving on the Board should file for a place on the ballot no earlier than February 5, 2010 and no later than March 9, 2010. To do so, please contact **Betty Brooker, General Manager** of the Llano County MUD # 1, at the MUD / POA office. Stop by or telephone (830)598-5460. Qualifications for membership to the Board are: (1) A minimum age of 18 and (2) a resident citizen of the State of Texas (3) either own land subject to taxation in the district or be a qualified voter within the District.

The directors are responsible for the oversight of the district, including the functions performed by the general manager, operator or another party. They also manage and control the financial management, employment and purchasing needs of the district, to include establishing policies to manage this process. Each board member has the civic responsibility to attend board meetings, be informed on the issues, vote in board meetings, always act in the best interest of the district and its residents, have an overall view of the system, make timely decisions at board meetings, provide friendly advice / counsel to residents and to review consultant performance annually.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC), a sub-committee of the Blue Lake Estates POA, has organized sub-committees to develop ideas to improve our / your community.

The four sub-committees and their chairs are:

- 1) Parks / Recreation- **Bruce Lomax**

- 2) Communications / Publicity- **Jay Harris**
- 3) Community Center / Golf Club- **Sally Lavine**
- 4) POA-owned Buildings and Properties, Legal Support- **Don Adams**

These sub-committees will start with the plan developed by the LRPC last summer and develop specific projects and ideas for consideration by the POA.

A key component of the effort is to further improve communications with all members of the community. This will include a new website that can be used to gather input for the sub-committees as they consider various alternatives for improvement.

The sub-committees are beginning to solicit volunteers for their work. If you are interested in serving, please contact the appropriate chair. If you have ideas, but are not able to be a sub-committee member, please let us know your dreams and concerns so that we can **all** be a part of improving Blue Lake.

Bill Stevens (830)596-7687
LRPC, Chairman
wstevens@nctv.com

Jay Harris:(830)598-6848
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Sally Lavine:(830)598-5351
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Don Adams:(830)598-5908
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Bruce Lomax:(830)598-7615
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POA ANNUAL MEETING-BLUE LAKE STYLE

The BLEPOA annual meeting was held on July 4, 2009 in the Community Center at the Blue Lake Golf Club. Approximately 60 members were in attendance. The

committee members each gave a report on the accomplishments of the last year. The Board would like to thank **Gary Simons** and the Air Evac Life Team for their presentation. Many of the families of BLE enjoyed the helicopter landing, viewing and take-off.

The annual BBQ dinner was also held with the food provided by Laird's BBQ of Llano. We sold 101 tickets to the BBQ dinner and the food was enjoyed by all attending.

The fireworks display was one of the best ever, we're told! KUDOS to **Brian Pickens** and **Don Webb** (and many others who contributed in one way or another) to make this years' fireworks spectacular!! Thanks to all!

TENNIS CLUB MEMBERSHIP

The Tennis Club in Blue Lake is continuing to increase membership and is a fun and economical way to enjoy our beautiful tennis courts.

An annual **family membership** is only \$50.00.

Individual memberships are only \$25.00 annually.

Non membership fee is \$5.00 for 90 minutes of play, per court.

Detailed rules for using the tennis courts are available at the Golf Club house. The Golf Club will collect the tennis court fees including annual memberships.

BLUE LAKE GOLF BOARD DINNER

The Blue Lake Golf Board will have its' third dinner of the year on **Tuesday, September 29, 2009 at 6:00 P.M.**

This is an outreach project and is intended to create new memberships.

The menu and cost have yet to be determined; but, please invite your friends and neighbors and put September 29th on your calendar!

BUILDING FUND

The opportunity form to donate to the **Blue Lake Building Fund** was included in the package for payment of annual

assessments sent to homeowner's in June. We are happy to report that through the generosity of our Blue Lake property owners, or building fund is growing!

The Blue Lake POA passed a resolution to allocate 10% of annual assessment fees to the Building Fund. Below is a summary of the Building Fund financial status:

Original Balance:	\$2,153.20
Contributions:	\$2,250.00
Assessment Allocation:	<u>\$5,380.34</u>

Current Balance: \$ 9,783.54

These funds will be used to make capital improvements to the Blue Lake Common facilities. The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) and the Blue Lake POA are working jointly to define, prioritize and find funding for possible projects. Blue Lake property owners input / suggestions are **always** welcome!

The Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC), the Blue Lake POA and the entire Blue Lake community would like to thank the following property owners for their contributions to the building fund:

Richard & Ann Marie Barr
Bruce (Randy) & Victoria Bateman
Linda Bonacci
Michael & Donna Braden
David (Jimmie) & Nancy Buckman
John & Cindy Buford
Robert (Bob) & Sue Burkhalter
Herbert, Jr & Anna Duke
John & Susan Dunham
Raymond & Jeannine Dupont
William (Bill) & Emilie Elliott
William (Bill) & Marion Enders
Charles & Claire Flynn
John & JoAnn Foster
James & Patti Fox
William (Bill) & Susan Galbreath
Roger & Susan Geery
W.H. (Bill) & Betty Gilmore
Sam & Bev Goyen
Art & Marilyn Greene
Jay & Illene Harris
Robert & Janice Henry
Don & Marge Hoff
Charles (Greg) & Tommy Kepner

**Keith & Joyce Knussmann
Jack & Helen Lewis
Ann Taft Lockwood
Allen & Mary Mashburn
Ray & Margie McGee
Joseph (Cash) & Gale Menicke
John & Barbara Meyer
Rocky & Janet Mountain
Don & Tinka Murray
Karen Neidner
Gary & Cinthia Shaw
Alberta Smith
Ross & Ilona Smith
William (Bill) & Donna Stevens
William (Bill) & Sandra Swenson
Jack & Mollye Taylor
Charles & Mary Tighe
Warner & Dora Tweed
John & Lucy Walters
Eula & JoAnn Zion**

The first donation drive brought in \$4,000.00! This a great start! Thank you to these folks for their interest and participation.

PLEASE NOTE: Donations to this fund may be made **anytime**, not just annually. See your LRPC representative or contact the LCMUD / POA Office.

BLUE LAKE BURGLARIES

In May /June, several homes in Blue Lake were burglarized or were tampered with in an attempt to be burglarized.

With all the extra roofers and construction crews in the area, it is recommended that we remain diligent and alert to **anything** suspicious. Now might be a good time to meet your neighbors, renew friendships and, as always, keep an eye on your neighbors' property as you would want from them.

Anything suspicious should be reported to the **Llano County Sheriff's Dept. at: (325) 247-5767** or call 911, in an emergency situation.

"Neighborhood Watch" is a term created in the late 1960's which involves community citizens and law enforcement working together to create a citizen-based watch

group for an individual community to reduce crime and create safer communities.

As the sign says in front of the MUD / POA Office, Blue Lake Estates is a "Neighborhood Watch Area". In order for our area to be safer and for crime to be reduced, **all** property owners must stay alert and get to know your neighbors. Our first line of defense is each other. That's what the Neighborhood Watch Program is all about- looking out for your neighbors, as they will look out for you and yours.

If you are a victim of a burglary or even an attempted burglary, please report it to the Sheriff's Dept. and then notify the MUD / POA Office, as well.

WILL 9-1-1 WORK FOR YOU? (A series of information on 911)

One of the great phone tools invented for each one of us is 9-1-1 calling for an emergency. Everyone knows what 9-1-1 will do for them. Get help in a hurry for an emergency. Even children are taught to use 9-1-1 by parents. And, new technology has made 9-1-1 identification from a cell phone a more practical reality, if your phone has GPS capability. But, when should you use 9-1-1?

Some people aren't sure when to call 9-1-1. They will call 9-1-1 for reasons other than emergencies. They complain about barking dogs, to ask for phone directory service, ask directions, report power outages, or want to know road conditions. But, is this what 9-1-1 is all about? The simple answer is **NO!**

Remember that **9-1-1 is for real emergencies**. Those situations when you need **LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTERS, or AMBULANCE** service in a HURRY. So when people don't use 9-1-1 properly, phone lines are tied up, and make it more difficult for others who really need help.

In 2008, Llano dispatchers received 74,000 calls, of which 11,940 were 9-1-1 calls. Of this total, about 10% were **NOT** for an emergency event. Our dispatchers,

firefighters, EMS responders, and law enforcement are trained professionals who are there to assist you during an emergency. They take 9-1-1 calls very seriously- so should all of us.

COULD WE FIND YOU IN AN EMERGENCY?

The above article on 911 referenced using a 911 call for a real emergency. But, once that call has been made, can an emergency responder locate you or the location where the emergency is occurring?

The question is extremely important to insure that the police, firemen, or ambulance can respond as quickly as possible and locate that address. So what can we do to better insure that happens?

Here are some simple tips:

- 1) Post the House or Business Number of your physical address (Not P O Box Number)
- 2) Be sure the number is visible from your Street or Road
- 3) Reflective numbers or lighted numbers are very helpful after dark, and are recommended
- 4) Turn on porch lights (if available) to assist the responder in visually finding the location.
- 5) The recommended size on the numbers are 3 – inch for city locations, and 6 – inch for rural locations

But what if you are using a cell phone, in a remote location, and are not at your physical address? Here are some tips that may be helpful when using a cell phone for a 911 call.

Program in your cell phone a speed dial number for 911. Have it include the Sheriff's Office number following 911, i.e. for your County. Llano County would be "911-247-5767". This will then ring the Llano Sheriff's Dispatcher regardless of your location.

Also remember these 5 steps when using a cell phone:

- 1) Say you're calling from a cell phone
- 2) Give your name and cell number
- 3) Give nature of the emergency: fire, auto accident, road hazard, etc.
- 4) Describe the location, your vehicle, (license number, make, model, color) or description of the other vehicle / driver or suspect etc.
- 5) If in a vehicle, pull over, then, call 911 if it is safe for you to do so.

Finally, when calling 911 be ready to stay on the line to assist the dispatcher in getting emergency response as soon as possible.

FINDING A RURAL ADDRESS ON A 911 EMERGENCY

Our County covers over 900 square miles, and is criss-crossed by several State Highways that carry significant traffic. To locate a caller in our rural areas as efficiently and as quickly as possible, can, at times, be very challenging. State Highways may have long stretches of open areas before a gate may be located, and our County Roads (usually identified by a CR prefix) may be paved and/or made of base material. Both of these conditions can cause delays, so having good, well-defined addressing is even more important. **(SEE THE FOLLOWING)**

Also, it was pointed out that not all calls are 911 emergency calls, so "what number should you call for a non-emergency that may require an emergency responder?" The answer is our **Llano County Sheriffs Dispatcher's number for non-emergency at 325-247-5767**. Please call this number whenever there is a need to get law enforcement or other assistance.

RED 911 SIGNS IN BLUE LAKE

Have you noticed the new RED and WHITE REFLECTIVE address numbers on many of the mail boxes in Blue Lake?

At the Annual POA meeting on the 4th of July, sign-up sheets for the Reflective address numbers were made available to interested residents.

These Reflective address numbers will help LAW ENFORCEMENT, FIREFIGHTERS, or AMBULANCE vehicles locate your property in an emergency. The Reflective address numbers are FREE. If you are interested in receiving a sign with your address on it, just stop by the MUD / POA Office and fill out a form and **Betty or Sally** will turn them over to **Gary Simons**, our ESD # 1 Representative.

Also, at the Annual POA meeting on the 4th of July, Elaine Graninger, Membership Coordinator for the AIR EVAC LIFETEAM, had a medical helicopter land on the Blue Lake Golf Course for “show and tell”. Well over 100 persons (many children) viewed the helicopter and asked the 3 person crew a myriad of questions. Elaine made a presentation regarding helicopter transport in emergency situations where time is of the essence – as determined by the ground ambulance crew (i.e. heart attack, stroke, head trauma, automobile crashes, etc.). Some Blue Lake residents signed up for membership at the presentation. For those who took home the applications, it is not too late to apply for membership. For more information call Elaine Graninger at 512-793-2657. The cost of a one year membership for a two member household is just \$55.00.

GARBAGE DUMPSTERS

The Llano County MUD # 1, once again, wishes to remind our residents that we **ALL** need to help keep the dumpster area clean so it does not become an eyesore to our lovely community.

In recent weeks, we have, again, experienced overloading of the dumpsters with everything from large furniture boxes (that are not torn down), paint, carpet, old lawn furniture, contractor trash and an abundance of bags of leaves. **ALL these items are prohibited!**

Large boxes need to be torn down so as not to take up extra space in the dumpsters thereby reducing the amount of household garbage that is permitted.

Paint, carpet and unwanted lawn furniture should all be saved for the “Special Garbage Pick-up” to be scheduled for the Fall.

Contractor trash from customer work (ie; remodeling, repairs, etc), is NOT allowed in the dumpsters. If you hire a contractor to complete work around your home, THEY are responsible for providing a means of disposal. If your contractor is caught disposing of contractor trash at the dumpsters, YOU will be billed for that expense! Please remind your contractors to provide their OWN means of disposal for the trash they produce.

Bags of leaves are **NOT** to be left in or around the dumpsters for the trash company to pick up. Anything **outside** of the dumpsters will **NOT** be picked up- which means more work for our volunteers who clean up the dumpster area for everyone else.

NEW PROPERTY OWNERS

We have a couple of new property owners in Blue Lake Estates. The Llano County MUD # 1 and the Blue Lake Estates POA wishes them a warm welcome!!! Please help our new neighbors feel welcome:

James & Sarina Goodman- 204 Blue Waters Drive

Ken & Jan Greer- 311 So. Blue Ridge Trail

Richard & Rebecca Nicholson- 2813 RR 2831

David & Judy Knape- 3413 Blue Lake Drive

WELCOME to Blue Lake Estates!

GOLF CLUB BOARD NEWS

The Blue Lake Estates Golf Club Board has been very active this year. They have just completed a large project, with assistance from the Blue Lake Estates POA, to re-build

the golf cart storage building that is rented to members. This project included replacing rotten structure, new Hardi-board siding, new metal roll-up doors and paving the road in front of the storage barn.

This fine group of volunteers also built a permanent maintenance shed near the club house that is used to service the golf carts.

Upcoming projects are to refurbish the ball washers and to improve the stability of the rain water drainage near the number 6 green.

Brian Pickens and the **numerous volunteers** have done an outstanding job keeping the course in excellent condition during the exceptional drought.

Thank you to **all our volunteers** that continue to help in our course maintenance.

PETS ON LEASHES

Llano County's Animal Control Ordinance **requires** pets be leashed in public areas. Therefore, you are requested to keep your pet on a leash (controlled restraint) while they are with you in public areas like the roads or the POA parks.

We have experienced many violations of the Animal Control Ordinance recently especially in the POA Parks while large numbers of residents and their guests are enjoying the park. Signs at the POA Parks are posted to help remind you of the need to keep your pets leashed and also to clean up after your pets. Please obey the law and keep your neighbors safe.

Pets roaming the community without a leash are considered as "stray" under Section 1.10 of the Animal Control Ordinance. **If you see a pet roaming off leash in Blue Lake, please call the Llano County Animal Control officer at 325-247-5767 and report the situation.** They will gladly handle the pet and deal with its owners appropriately.

WATER CONSERVATION

(We're not in Rome, are we?)

Any of you familiar with Rome are, of course, familiar with the world famous Trevi Fountain there. This fountain sprays water into the air 24/7 for all the tourists to marvel at and toss coins into. Meander through the Blue Lake Estates neighborhood at varying times, day or night, any day of the week, and you will likely see our version of Trevi. You'll find sprinkler systems in action at mid-afternoon, with the temperature at 100 + degrees, when much of any water sprayed into the air is lost to evaporation. Or, take a late night stroll, and observe sprinkler systems laboring away spewing water out onto the street where very little, if any, vegetation is known to grow.

With emergency water conservation being set in motion in locales all around us, and throughout Central and South Texas, should we, too, not be doing a better job of conserving this precious resource? Let's leave Trevi Fountain in Rome and save our water here.

SOME WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

- If you haven't done so in a while, check your water sprinkler heads to ensure they are actually watering your lawn, and not your neighbors' driveway or the street.
- Consider installing a timer on your irrigation system to help control water usage.
- Water **ONLY** during the early or late part of the day.
- Allow your grass to dry out a bit. Less water promotes deeper root growth and makes the lawn more drought tolerant. Many residents have already opted to let their yards "go brown" to save water. Bermuda grass will recover quickly with watering even if it looks completely dead.
- Do not use fertilizer, nitrogen, in particular, on your lawn during periods of drought. Nitrogen encourages rapid growth, thus, more water usage.

- BE INFORMED! Stop by the MUD / POA office and review the LCMUD # 1 “Water Conservation Plan”.
- Preclude us from resorting to water rationing by using our water sparingly.

Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

FALL SPECIAL GARBAGE PICK- UP

Our Fall “Special Garbage Pick-up” has been scheduled for **Tuesday, October 6th, 2009**.

As always, in order for us to be able to schedule this for our Blue Lake residents, there are certain rules that must be followed:

Items that MAY be left out for pick-up include: appliances, (without Freon), and lumber or tree trimmings that are bundled in lengths of not more than four (4) feet and weighing less than 40 pounds.

Items that WILL NOT (cannot) be picked up include: batteries, tires, paint cans (unless they are empty or dried out), motor oil, oil filters, or appliances that contain Freon. Refrigerators and air conditioners, for example, CANNOT be picked up unless the Freon has been removed and a certified refrigeration technician has tagged them. Allied Waste is prevented from picking up these items due to environmental and/or safety regulations. Also, these items **CANNOT** be placed in the dumpsters for the same reason.

To make the collection as simple as possible, please bag, bundle or box as much as possible and place all items beside the road next to your garbage cans. Please call the MUD/POA office (598-5460) if you have any questions about what can or cannot be picked up.

GRINDER PUMP CARE

As we move toward transitioning to a new contractor for our water / sewer in September, one topic of concern which

arose during the negotiation process was grinder pump service call-outs. On average, the BL community has twelve (12) of these call-outs per month. Four (4) of them will prove to be minor problems (electrical connection, circuit breakers, etc.) that can be handled on the spot. The remaining eight (8) will require the grinder pumps to be pulled and taken into the shop for repair, with a replacement pump being installed. All this takes time and costs money- your money. Feedback to us is that a majority of grinder pump failures can be prevented simply by being careful of what we “feed” them. Any abrasive or non bio-degradable material can cause damage to or failure of a grinder pump.

Examples are: egg shells (bad, bad); coffee grounds, any sand or grit, dental floss, handi-wipes, cloth items, anything metal or wood, and so on... Why...? Because the grinder pump rotor (that which moves “stuff” through the system) spins at a high RPM and the stators (blades) on the rotor are made of hard rubber. If the “muck and yuck” we feed into the grinder pump contains hard or abrasive materials, the “yuk” wins; the stator blades lose. RESULT: an expensive service call. It pays, then, to be grinder pump smart.