

City Directory

Main Number 210-653-9140 | Business Hours 8:00am - 5:00pm



City Council

Mayor Mary M. Dennis

210.792.7168 | YourMayorMary@Yahoo.com

Councilman Mendell Morgan, Place 1 210.355.8562 | MendellM2@yahoo.com

Councilman Bob Tullgren, Place 2 BTullgrenPlace2@LiveOakTx.net

Councilwoman Dr. Erin Perez, Place 3 210.343.2175 | erin@erinperez.com

Councilman, Ed Cimics, Place 4 210.844.2773 | EdCimics@sbcglobal.net

Councilman Aaron Dahl, Place 5 LiveOakPlace5@gmail.com



Administrative Staff



City Manager

Vacant | 210.653.9140 x 2261

Intrim City Manager

Anas Garfaoui | 210.653.9140 x 2286

City Secretary

Isa Gaytan | 210.653.9140 x 2213

Economic & Community Development

Donna Lowder | 210.653.9140 x 2219

Finance Director

Leroy Kowalik | 210.653.9140 x 2216

Fire Chief

Linc Surber | 210.653.9140 x 2241

Police Chief

Gary Hopper | 210.945.1702

Public Works Director

Mark Wagster | 210.653.9140 x 2221

Services

Animal Control

Stephanie Kinney | 210.653.9140 x 2

Building Permits/Inspections

Gil Durant | 210.653.9140 x 2250

Code Enforcement

Chad Mercer | 210.653.9140 x 2245 Ben Stakes | 210.653.9140 x 2245

Human Resources

Trudy Whitfield | 210.653.9140 x 2201

Recreation

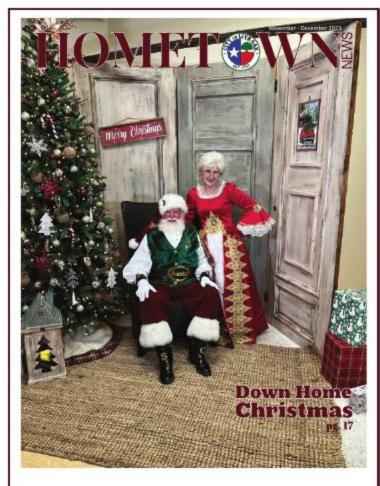
Courtney Weese | 210.653.9140 x 2235

Water Department

Billing Office | 210.653.9140 x 2110

DISPATCH 24 Hours | 210.653.0033

EMERGENCY 24 Hours | 911 SUICIDE HOTLINE | 988



A City of Live Oak

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Publication

Publisher | Marketing | Advertising

MadWomen Marketing

Managing Editor

Donna Lowder

Proof Readers

Sandy Vogel

Contributing Photography

Donna Lowder Johnny Campbell Rafael Luna

Contributing Writers

Mayor Mary M. Dennis Donna Lowder Chief Linc Surber **Detren Scales** Stephanie Kinney Rafael Luna Courtney Weese Miranda Benavidez Marie Atkinson

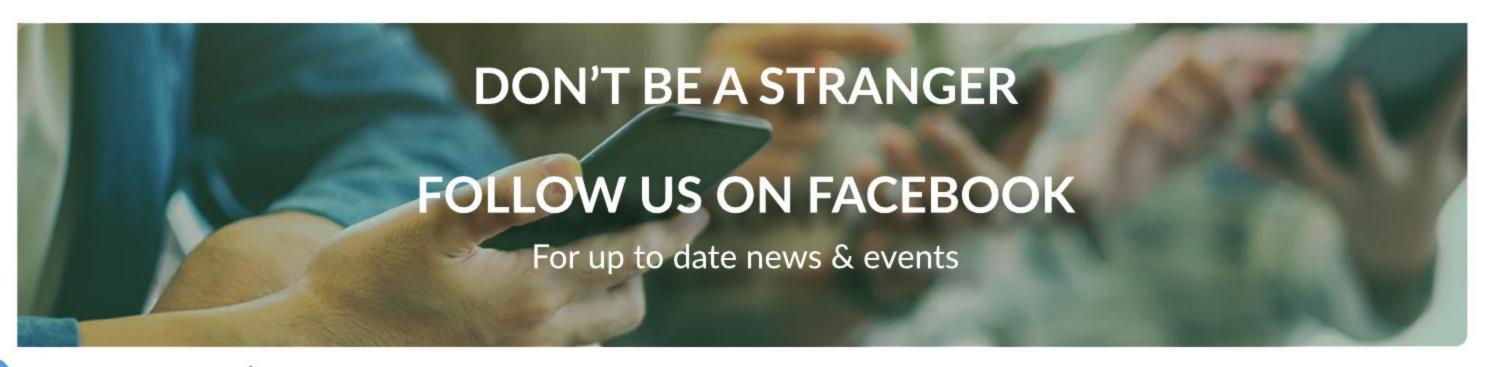
Questions about the **Hometown News?**

Please contact Donna Lowder 210.653.9140 x 2219

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HELPFUL WEBSITES

EDUCATION

Judson ISD - JudsonISD.org Northeast ISD - NEISD.org Northeast Lakeview Collage - Alamo.edu/NLC/ Wayland Baptist University - wbu/edu/campus/san-antonio/

GOVERNMENT

Bexar Appraisal District - BCAD.org Bexar County - Bexar.org **Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center -** *Home.Bexar.org/drc/* **Emergency Preparedness -** dhs.gov/topic/plan-and-prepare-disasters

MISCELLANEOUS

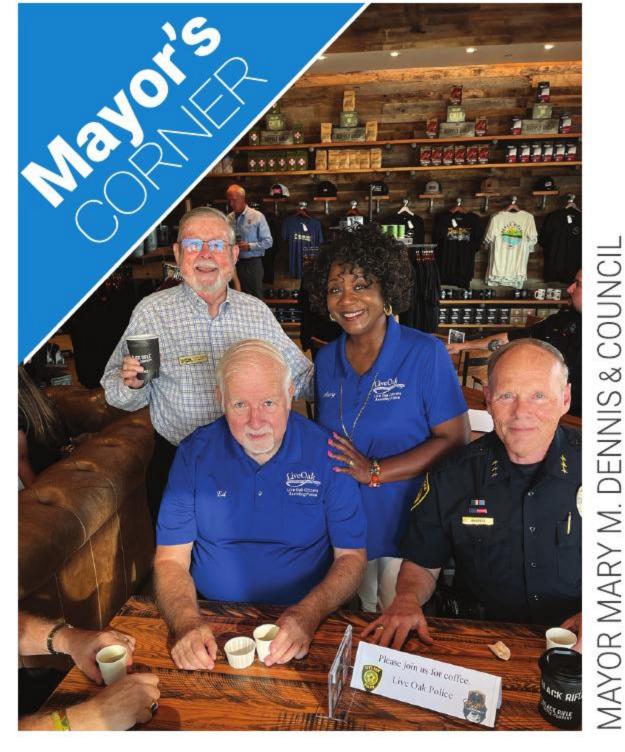
Waste Management - WM.com or 800.800.5804 Randolph Metrocom Rotary Club - Randolph Metrocom Rotary.org Tri-County Chamber of Commerce - TxTriCountyChamber.org

PERSONAL SERVICES

Alamo Area Council of Governments - AACOG.com Greater Randolph Area Services Program - GRASP211.org Meals on Wheels - ChristianSeniorServices.org Randolph Area Christian Assistance Program - RACAP.org









Concept to Reality, Live Oak is Moving Forward

Dear Residents,

Live Oak's Park system is known for its nature and culture connecting the community to its simplicity and beauty. The green spaces keep the public healthy, the wildlife preserved, supply a place for physical activity, and offer safe spaces for children and adults to play together. Its aesthetic value is a source of civic pride and vital to our community. There is still more work to be done by the implementation of innovative park projects designed to offer added amenities for residents and visitors to enjoy.

While there are certain common starting points for everyone, the route to get from an "idea" to a "park project" is unique and a process Live Oak will begin by developing a new Park Master Plan. Parks and recreation master planning is a comprehensive process that supplies guidance and policy direction. Typically, a Park Master Plan begins with engaging stakeholders, gathers public input, and provides a foundation to responding to the parks and recreation needs for the community. This planning process will allow Live Oak to examine its vision, existing services, facilities, and resources, and assess future park needs.

Over the past year, Live Oak's Economic Development Corporation (EDC) has bought 5.5 acres of green space, making Woodcrest Park a total of 45 acres which currently includes a playground and nature trails. The EDC also contributed and partnered with Parks & Recreation to add more trails connecting residents from Vista Ridge Subdivision with the Montanio Trail to Avery Road, Avery Road to Woodcrest Park, and a continuation of trails into the City's Main Park from the Clubhouse from Village Oak Drive to Shin Oak Drive. These added trails began construction during the Spring of 2023 and are slated to be completed in 2024 providing an unrivaled connectivity. Also, during 2022-2023, two playground upgrades were conducted in the Main City Park with the Acorn Playground and most recently added playland at the hilltop.

With the funding in place, the real work will begin. The first

step is to hire a professional consultant to begin developing the surveys for future public hearings to receive public input. Getting the public involved has always worked in our favor, so please watch for a series of upcoming public hearing dates on the City's website, local newspaper, and social media platforms. Over the estimated six-month process, the consultant will look at the more complex projects, review current facility conditions; spend an extended time looking at the parkland usage, topography, and vegetation; addressing accessibility; and mapping to decide both the existing and probable future locations of passive and active recreation sites.

During this time, the consultant will develop the conceptual design for the City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission to review, adopt, and finally implement the new plan. Once the process is complete, the results for park improvement projects will be listed for public view on the City's website.



In closing, we invite you to join us for the Down Home Christmas event on December 6th for pictures with Santa and fun family activities! If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, you may contact me at 210-792-7168. Remember, the BEST is yet to come for the premier community to live, learn, work, and play.

Mayor Mary M. Dennis & Council



The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 delivered billions to small local governments across the State of Texas to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The U.S. Treasury managed the distribution to these funds to eligible small counties and cities across Texas. The City of Live Oak was the recipient of \$4.1 million dollars for qualifying projects.

When the final results came out, smaller cities were given the ability to use their ARPA awards up to \$10 million under the category of "revenue loss" without going through any calculation. The City of Live Oak chose to use its \$4.1 million ARPA award through the category of "revenue loss" and use the money to offset payroll expenses for general services. By infusing the ARPA money into the General Fund to cover payroll expenses, it allowed the City to distribute other funds toward projects and equipment that may not have otherwise been funded.

These projects included: (1) a complete upgrade to all City generators used as backup power sources at Live Oak's water well sites and public facilities; (2) a sewer line televising and rehabilitation project(s); (3) an upgrade to the main park pavilion structure: (4) a new main park walking trail; and (4) a new playground equipment at one of the main park playgrounds. The ARPA funds enabled the City to quickly recover from revenue losses during the pandemic, mainly in sales taxes.

Receiving the ARPA funding placed the City of Live Oak in a position to begin work on the above-mentioned projects much sooner than expected. The projects will directly help the residents of Live Oak and allow the city to continue to be the premier community to live, learn, work, and play.





COMMUNITY ONLINE CALENDAR

Fun has no age limit!

No matter how old you are, or how old you get, you should always plan a handful of fun activities



Fun in the Sun! If the sun is out and shining then why not enjoy a little bit of nature? Luckily, there's so much to do in the great outdoors.

Getting a little vitamin D from the sun and fresh air for the lungs can go a long way.

Live Oak Civic Club Meetings & Events

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION

Local civic clubs are a great way to get involved and meet your neighbors

Greater Randolph Area Kiwanis Club

Mendell Morgan, President P.O. Box 2305 - Universal City, Texas 78148 210-355-8562 | www.graks.org Chartered April 25, 1975

HSOLO - Humane Society of Live Oak

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month from 6:30pm-7:30pm at the Live Oak Clubhouse. For more information contact: Stephanie Cottrell at 210-862-7786 | humanesocietyofliveoak@gmail.com

LOCAP - Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police

Volunteers must attend/graduate from Citizens Police Academy. Meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Justice Center Training Room. For more information: locap@liveoaktx.net

LOLA - Live Oak League of Arts

Promoting interest in all art mediums through education and to develop our league's artistic skills while exploring new concepts and utilizing that knowledge to promote the arts within our community. For more information visit us on Facebook - search Live Oak League of Arts.

LOVGC - Live Oak Village Garden Club

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month from 1pm-3pm at the Live Oak Clubhouse. For more information contact: June Adair at 210-843-7150 or Jo Anna Wheeler at 210-655-1036

SOLO - Seniors of Live Oak

For all Live Oak residents age 50 or older.

Join us for fun and fellowship at any of our events listed including our Seniors of Live Oak WALK & TALK.

- Tuesdays we walk in Live Oak Park at 9am
- Thursdays we walk in Woodcrest Park at 9am
 Pets on leash are welcome

For more information about "SOLO" Please contact Pat Knisley at 210-655-4566



DON'T FORGET

To Visit & Use our "Little Free Library" located in the Acorn Room at City Hall

NOVEMBER 2023

- O2 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 SOUP NIGHT @ 5:30pm Live Oak Clubhouse
- 13 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 GAMES DAY @ 1:00pm Live Oak Clubhouse

HSOLO - Humane Society of Live Oak MEETING @ 6:30pm - Live Oak Clubhouse

15 SOLO - Seniors of Live Oak
OUTING @ 8:30am - Meet at the Live Oak Clubhouse
Botanical Gardens & Good Time Charlie's

LOCAP - Live Oak Citizen Assisting Police MEETING @ 7:00pm - Police Dept Training Room

- 20 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 THANKSGIVING POTLUCK @ 11:30a Live Oak Clubhouse
- 21 LOVGC Live Oak Village Garden Club MEETING @ 6:30pm - Live Oak Clubhouse
- 27 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 BOOK CLUB @ 1:00pm- Live Oak Clubhouse
- 30 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 GAMES DAY @ 1:00pm Live Oak Clubhouse



DECEMBER 2023

- O4 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 GAMES DAY @ 1:00pm Live Oak Clubhouse
- O7 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 SOUP NIGHT @ 5:30pm Live Oak Clubhouse
- 11 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 CHRISTMAS POTLUCK @ 11:30a Live Oak Clubhouse
 HSOLO Humane Society of Live Oak

MEETING @ 6:30pm - Live Oak Clubhouse

- 18 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 BOOK CLUB @ 1:00pm Live Oak Clubhouse
- 19 LOVGC Live Oak Village Garden Club MEETING @ 6:30pm Live Oak Clubhouse
- 20 LOCAP Live Oak Citizen Assisting Police MEETING @ 7:00pm Police Dept Training Room
- SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 OUTING @ 11:30am Meet a Pompeii Grill
 16109 Nacogdoches Road
- 28 SOLO Seniors of Live Oak
 GAMES DAY @ 1:00pm Live Oak Clubhouse

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City of Live Oak

Meetings, Events & Holidays

NOVEMBER 2023

03 Congressman Cuellar's Constituent Services

11:30am-12:30pm at City Hall
Arbor Day Celebration

Crestview Elementary School

04 Community Shred Day

See Page 13

05 Daylight Savings Ends
Turn your clocks BACK 1 hour

07 Election Day

10 City Offices Closed in Observation of Veterans Day

11 Veterans Day Thank a Vet Today!

14 Economic Development Special Meeting

6pm in Council Chambers

City Council Meeting

7pm in Council Chambers

23-24 Thanksgiving Holiday Observed

City Offices Closed

28 City Council Meeting

Canceled

DECEMBER 2023

01 Congressman Cuellar's Constituent Services

11:30am-12:30pm at City Hall

06 Down Home Christmas

5:30pm-8:30pm at the Municipal Complex

07 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

12 Economic Development Meeting

6pm in Council Chambers

City Council Meeting

7pm in Council Chamber

25-26 Christmas Holiday

City Offices Closed

26 City Council Meeting

Canceled

31 News Years Eve

JANUARY 2024 - HAPPY NEW YEAR

01 New Years Day

02 Best of Live Oak Competition Begins

15 Martin Luther King Day

City Offices Closed

31 Best of Live Oak Competition Ends

ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION



COMMUNITY ONLINE CALENDAR



Trash, Recycling and Brush/Bulk Collection Calendar located on page 13

> Questions? 800.800.5804

livestream

You can *Livestream all regular
City Council, EDC, Planning & Zoning,
Board of Adjustments & Parks and
Recreation meetings from our website.
The Board of Adjustment/Planning &
Zoning meetings are held as necessary.
Please call Isa Gaytan at
210.653.9140 ext. 2213
with any questions.



A BIG SHOUT OUT to the employees & families from:

Black Rifle Coffee, Dawn Dear Farmers Insurance Agency, IKEA, Marco's Pizza, Olympia Hills Family Dental, Raising Cane's, The Podiatry Group of South Texas, Twin Peaks, Methodist Hospital Northeast and The Alamo Community Disc Club for volunteering and providing "swag" during the Shindig on Shin Oak event held in September.

A big thank you to Longhorn Steakhouse, Milt's BBQ, Texas Roadhouse, Tasty Balls & More, and the Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police (LOCAP), for serving up great tasting food for event goers. We appreciate our community partners for helping to make this event a success!



Restaurant Month Winners

Congratulations to Robert and Deborah Rush for being selected in a random drawing as this year's winners of the Restaurant Month Diner's Bingo game. City Manager Glen Martel and Economic Development Corporation Manager Donna Lowder were on hand to present Mr. & Mrs. Rush with a \$500 gift card to their favorite restaurant Texas Roadhouse Live Oak. We would like to thank everyone who played along and a huge shoutout to the participating restaurants during the Restaurant Month celebration. You are what makes Live Oak PREMIER!



Dollar General Gives Back

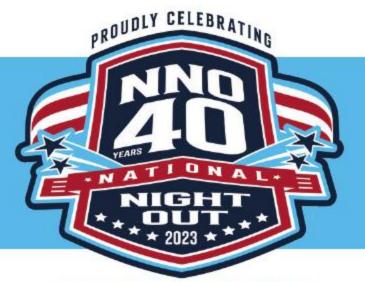
Michelle Crane from Live Oak's Dollar General on Toepperwein stopped by City Hall to donate over 100 magnified easy readers, Easy reader sunglasses, eyeglass cleaner sets and eyeglass repair sets to the Seniors of Live Oak (SOLO) Group. She also donated 200 seed packets to the Live Oak Village Garden Club's Monarch Butterfly Festival held in October at the Xeriscape Garden. Thank you, Dollar General, for your generosity and to Michelle's giving heart. Keep up the great work of serving the community of Live Oak.





THANKS FOR COMING OUT!

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.



POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

9/11 Remembrance Ceremony

Our gracious host at Northeast Lakeview College (NLC) provided a beautiful and moving ceremony honoring the nearly 3000 fallen firefighters, police officers, and civilians of the 9/11 tragedy. We would like to extend our gratitude for NLC's coordination in making the ceremony memorable for everyone in attendance. The college continues to be a wonderful community partner and premier educational system for many students across the northeast region.



Waste Management's Annual Donation to City Events

Chris Cox, Public Sector Manager for Waste Management (WM), presented the company's annual donation to Courtney Weese, Recreation & Special Events Manager, to kick off the fall events. Also present during the presentation were Mayor Mary Dennis, members of the City Council, City Manager Glen Martel, and Director of Public Works Mark Wagster. The donated monies will go toward making the community events top-notch for the residents and the hundreds of guests in attendance. Thank you, WM, for your continued support throughout the years.



Energy Drink Drop

A big thanks to our business neighbors in Universal City's, 7 Brew Coffee. Staff from 7 Brew Coffee stopped by the Live Oak Police Department with some much-needed energy drinks and tea for the staff and the duty officers. We appreciate your generosity and the tasty drinks for an afternoon pick-me-up.







Protect Yourself with Flood Insurance

A few inches of rain can cause flooding conditions, and water inside a residential structure can easily cause tens of thousands of dollars in damage. Even though Live Oak has had only a few claims, if you experience any damage caused by water, flood insurance is the only way to protect yourself from devastating losses.

Flood insurance is available to homeowners, condo owners, commercial owners, and renters. The costs vary depending on how much insurance is purchased, what it covers, and the flood risk to the property.

All policies provide coverage for buildings and their contents. However, you might want to discuss insuring personal property with your agent, since contents coverage is optional. There is typically a 30-day waiting period from date of purchase before your policy goes into effect.

So the sooner you act, the better.

If you have any floodplain-related questions or questions about the location of the floodplain in relation to your property, don't hesitate to contact Administration at 210-653-9140, ext. 2261.

FEMA Region 6 Floodplain Management & Insurance Branch

CONGRATULATIONS TO LIVE OAK RESIDENT

Mario Perez Ponciano

Mario was the lucky winner of a \$100 Gift Card to WHATABURGER!!

MARIO ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS & WON!

Q1. How often do you use the Live Oak LOCAL section of the magazine?

Our family references the LOCAL section of the magazine on a weekly basis. Specifically, it is referenced every Friday in a celebratory manner as we select a restaurant to visit to help cap the end of the work week. We are a family of two educators and two students.

Q2. What Category in the LOCAL section do you reference the most?

The Eat & Drink section is our favorite with the Shopping section a close second.

Q3. Where do you keep your copy of the Hometown News?

We keep a copy near the entrance of our home in a Mailbox/Key hanging bin for easy access.

Q4. What do you like best about the magazine?

The magazine offers the best insight into our community compared to any other media currently available. In all honesty, we are an old school magazine/book reading family.

Q5. What is your favorite Live Oak business?

It is extremely difficult to pick just one. Our favorite local restaurant is Whataburger and or favorite shopping store is IKEA.







If you do not have a carbon monoxide detector in your home

and you cannot afford to purchase one, please call the

Live Oak Fire Dept. at (210) 653-9140 x2379.



AND MARKED BY LETTERS A - B - C

ROUTE "A" IS WED/SAT TRASH ROUTES ROUTE "B" IS MON/THU TRASH ROUTES

ROUTE "C" IS TUES/FRI TRASH ROUTES

Live Oak,

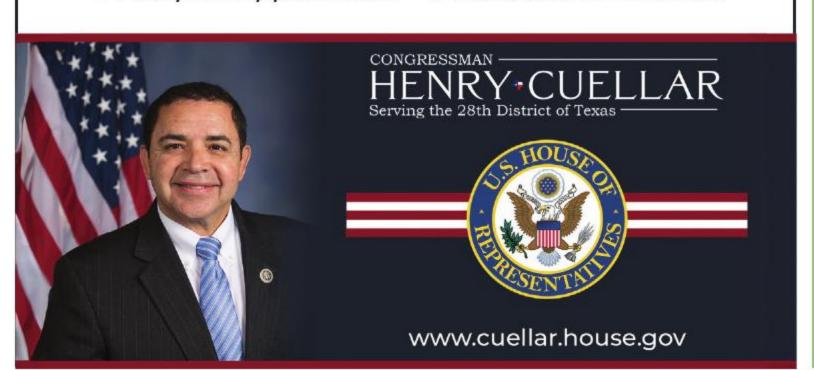
My Office is Coming to Your Neighborhood!

Every First Friday of the Month

11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

Live Oak City Hall 8001 Shin Oak Drive Live Oak, TX 78233

- √ Federal Agency Assistance
- √ Veterans' Benefits
- √ Social Security
- √ Passport Applications
 √ Medicare & Medicaid
- √ Citizenship Services & **Immigration**
 - √ Federal grants
 - **√** Internships





TIME INFO



- Set your clocks back one hour.
 - Check and replace smoke detector batteries.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

SINGLE USE DISPOSAL SYSTEM

Thank you for using the Single Use Disposal System!

The Single Use Disposal Systems (SUDS) are a convenient and environmentally friendly way to dispose of your unused or expired prescription medications. The pre-paid TakeAway Envelope allows you to mail your unused and expired prescriptions from the privacy of your own home. They are incinerated unopened keeping themout of our drinking water.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ENVELOPE AFTER IT IS MAILED?

The envelopes containing the medications are sent directly to a treatment facility to be incinerated.

ARE TAKEAWAY ENVELOPES SAFE?

Yes, the TakeAway Envelopes are safe. Using the TAE is safer then flushing or throwing the medications in the trash. Incinerating the medications limit the environmental damage that medications can have by preventing them from polluting our drinking water.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends incineration as the method of drug destruction, which meets the Department of Enforcement Agency's (DEA) standard.

CAN NEEDLES OR INHALERS GO IN THE ENVELOPE?

Unfortunately, no. Please reach out to your local health department.

WILL ANYONE SEE MY PERSONAL INFORMATION?

No, once you seal the TakeAway Envelope it is incinerated unopened.

This project is funded by Texas Health & Human Services Texas Targeted Opioid Response.

Questions: Please contact Danielle Campbell at 713.743.7016 or email dscampbe@central.uh.edu

Website: bit.ly/ThePREMIERCenter



Please take a picture of the QR code and answer a few questions so we can continue to provide these to you at no cost.

As many as 92% of people have leftover medications

and don't know how to

dispose of them. You can lead

the effort to remove unused

medications by cleaning out

your medicine cabinet using Single Use Disposal Systems.

Using the environmentally safe TakeAway Envelopes

reduces the risk of unused

prescription medications

getting into the wrong hands

and helps prevent accidental

poisonings.



HEALTH BUS IS A FREE TRANSPORTATION **Program to Methodist Hospital Northeast,** any of its facilities and to doctors on staff at **Methodist Hospital Northeast.**



SCAN 4 MORE INFORMATION CALL 210.647.7433 TO SCHEDULE A RIDE

The Health Bus serves these zip codes 78148 • 78217 • 78233 • 78239 • 78247 PLEASE CALL TO CONFIRM YOUR ADDRESS IS WITHIN THE FULL-SERVICE AREA.





SUPPORT & EDUCATION FOR THE LOVE OF ALL ANIMALS

PLEASE HELP US REMEMBER, HONOR & TEACH.

By sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or inviting friends to help on On December 16, 2023 at 11:00 am







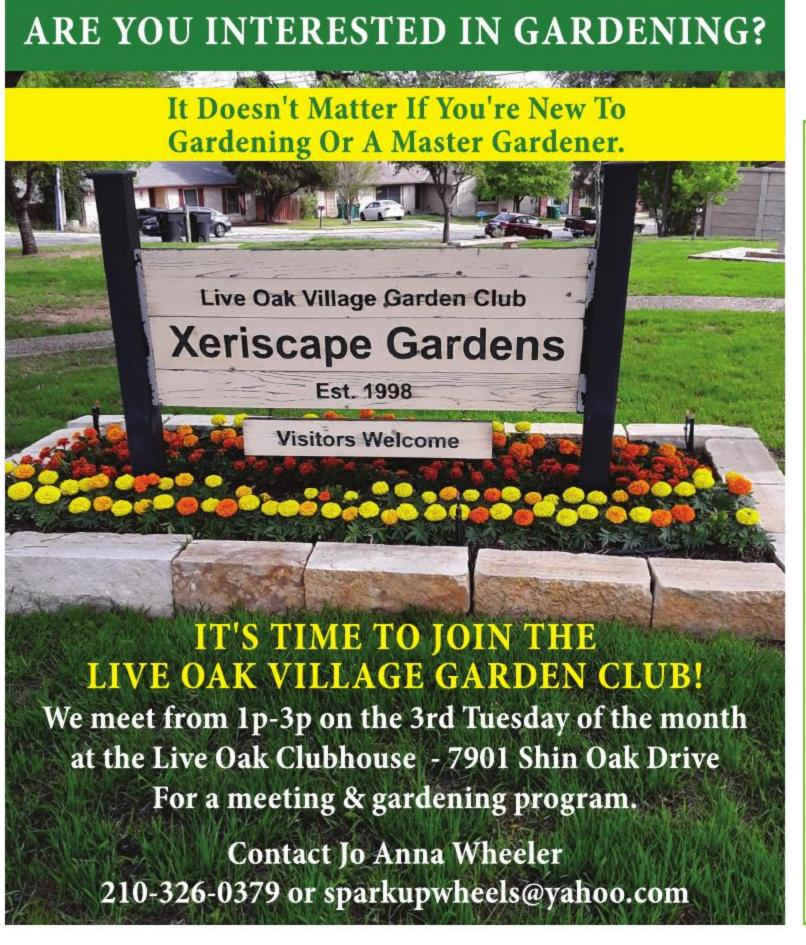


REMEMBER the fallen **HONOR** those who serve

TEACH our children the value of freedom

LIVE OAK CITIZENS ASSISTING POLICE-

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING YOUR LIVE OAK CIVIC CLUBS





The City of Live Oak and The Live Oak Village Garden Club will celebrate Arbor Day at Crestview Elementary School on November 3, 2023.

FUN FACTS ABOUT ARBOR DAY!

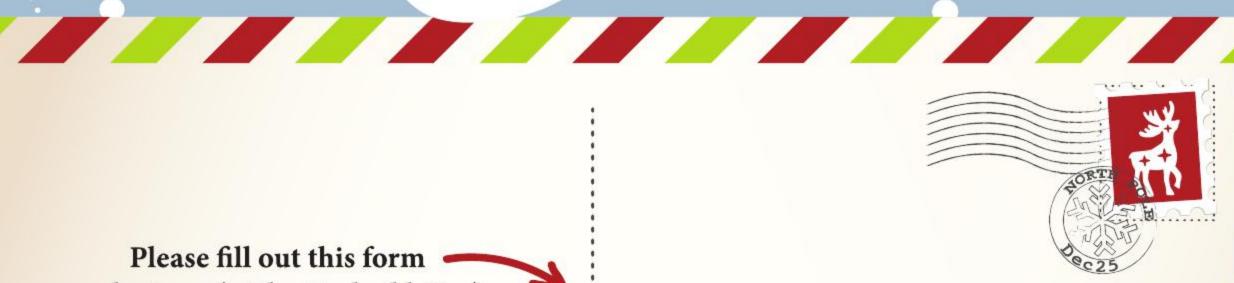
- National Arbor Day is about investing in the future.
- It focuses on the care and preservation of existing trees, as well as on the planting of new ones.
 - The first ever Arbor Day was held on April 10, in Nebraska.
- On April 15, 1907, President Theodore Roosevelt, a supporter of the Conservation Movement, issued an "Arbor Day Proclamation to the School Children of the United States," telling them: "It is well that you should celebrate your Arbor Day thoughtfully, for within your lifetimes the Nation's need of trees will become serious. We of an older generation can get along with what we have, though with growing hardship; but in your full manhood and womanhood you will want what nature once so bountifully supplied and man so thoughtlessly destroyed."



He's making his list and checking it twice!! Don't miss the opportunity to send your wish list straight to the Jolly Ol' Fella! The good boys and girls of Live Oak can drop off their letters in the North Pole Mailbox located in the City Hall lobby. Rest assured the Jolly Ol' Fella will respond to all letters received between November 6th and December 4th.

Please fill out this form and return (with attached letter) to the North Pole Mailbox.

PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL LETTERS ARE IN ONE ENVELOPE AND THAT THE ADDRESS INFORMATION IS LEGIBLE.



Child's Name:	

Child's Age: -		

C:4-1C4-4-17:-	200		
City/State/Zip	:		

)WN HOME





5:30 - 8:30pm

Live Oak Municipal Complex | 8001 Shin Oak Drive

SANTA PICTURES

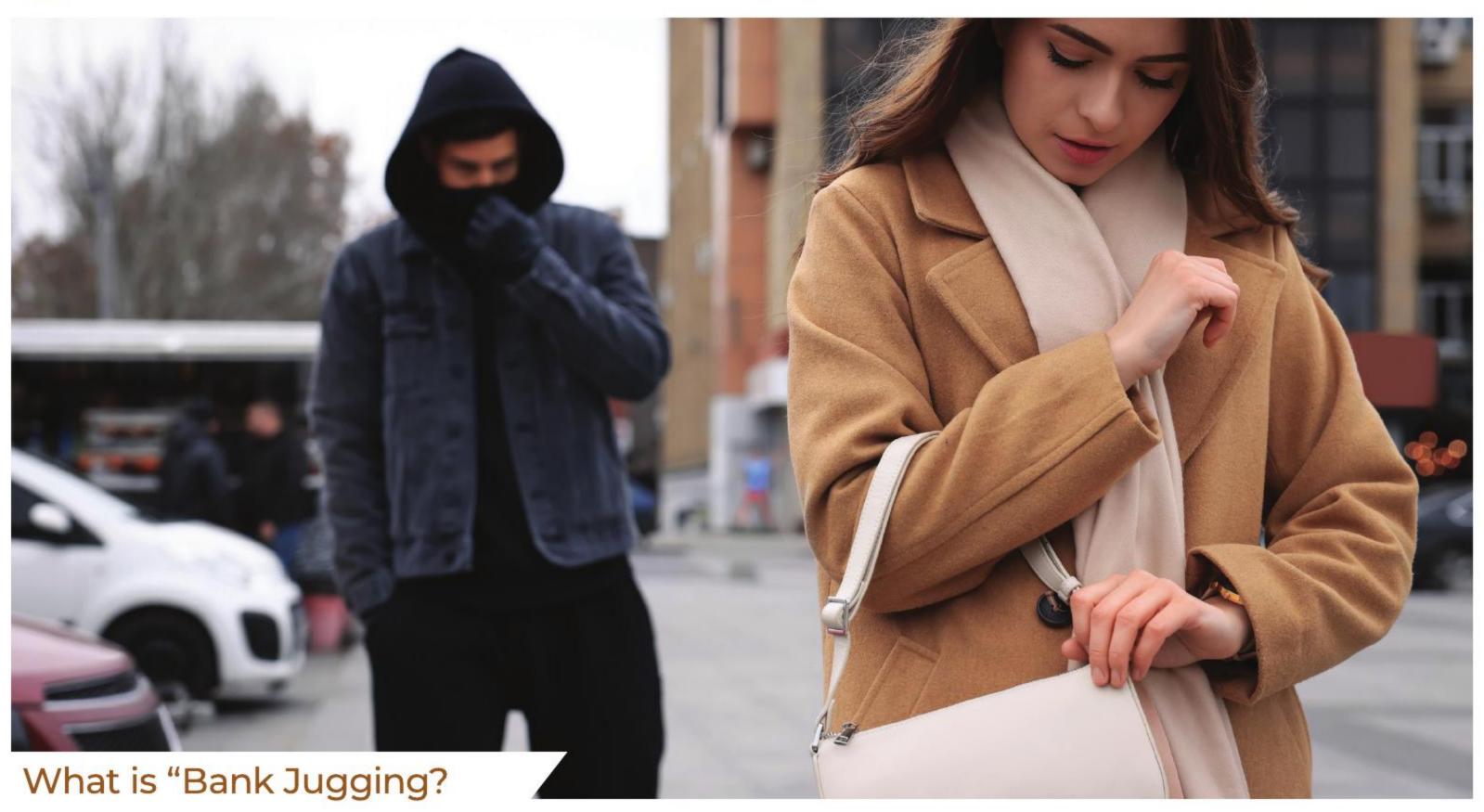
HOT COCOA & TASTY TREATS

REINDEER FOOD MAKING

MARSHMALLOW ROASTING AND FESTIVE, FAMILY FUN!

FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CALL COURTNEY AT 653-9140 EXT. 2235





Bank Jugging occurs when a thief parks outside of a bank and watches patiently as customers go in and out. The thief targets anyone who comes out with a bank bag, coin box, or bank envelope that looks like they may have a large amount of cash. The thief then follows the customer and burglarizes the victim's car or the victim directly. Most often the crime occurs when the victim stops after leaving a bank, restaurant, grocery store, or even a residence. When the victims attempt to leave their vehicle, they are robbed.

Bank Juggers often park where they have clear visibility of the front door, a commercial drive thru lane, or an ATM. If the line of visibility is obscured, they will change parking spots. Be aware of vehicles who are parked but no occupants enter the bank.

How to prevent bank jugging:

- 1. Be aware of your surroundings, especially if something seems strange as you enter the bank.
- 2. Conceal your bank deposit bags, coin boxes, or envelopes as you enter and leave the bank.
- 3. If you feel like you are being followed, call 911 and drive to a police station.
- 4. Take your bank bag or envelope with you into your next destination. Don't hide it in your vehicle.

Bank jugging is becoming increasingly prevalent in Texas. It is easy to get in a rush and be distracted, but if you stay aware of your surroundings and report anything suspicious, you can avoid getting "Jugged."

HOW TO AVOID A SCAM

Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists you pay with cryptocurrency, a wire transfer service like Western Union or MoneyGram or a gift card. And NEVER deposit a check and send money back to someone.



IF YOU BELIEVE YOU ARE THE VICTIM OF A SCAM

CONTACT US AT 210.653.0033

Follow us on F SCAN ME











A True Servant

Officer Jeremy Ruiz is a husband, father, Live Oak Police Department patrol officer, and Air Force Reservist. If you were to meet him as a police officer on a call for service, you would be impressed by his professional appearance, outgoing personality, and customer service attitude.

Jeremy started his law enforcement career with the Bexar County Sheriff's Office in 2010 as a Sheriff's deputy. In 2015, he became a member of the Live Oak Police Department. If you were to speak with any of Jeremy's supervisors, they would tell you he sets the standard on how a patrol officer should conduct himself. Jeremy's patrol sergeant recommended him as a Field Training Officer (FTO) for newly hired, probationary officers.



Recently, Jeremy was awarded the Law Enforcement Life Saving Award for actions taken during a critical incident. A suicidal individual had self-inflicted deep lacerations to both forearms. Upon arrival at the scene with less experienced police officers, Jeremy was decisive and took charge. Jeremy directed the lifesaving actions of officers to prevent further blood loss and monitored the patient until the arrival of emergency medical services personnel. An emergency room

attending physician said, "But for the actions of officers on scene, the patient would have succumbed to his injuries."

Serving the residents is not the only part of Jeremy's service. He serves his country as a senior non-commissioned Officer in the United States Air Force Reserve.



Master Sergeant (MSgt) Ruiz entered the Air Force Reserve in 2005. After successfully completing basic military training, he was selected for and completed the Security Forces Apprentice Course in 2006. He is currently assigned to the 149th Fighter Wing, 149th Security Forces Squadron, Lackland AFB, Texas.

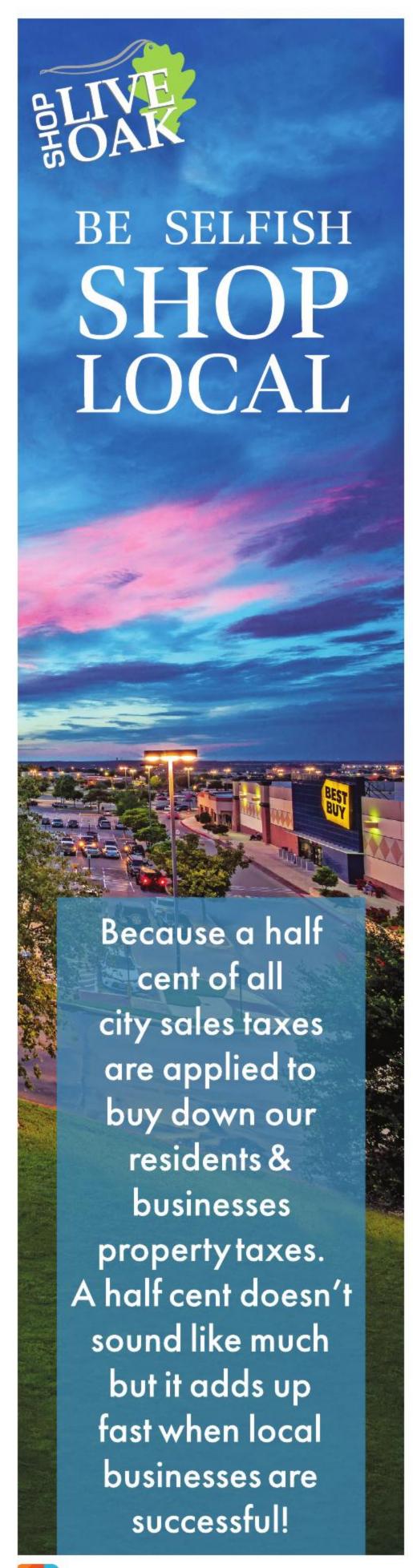
As Delta Squad Leader, Jeremy is responsible for the supervision, training, and readiness of all personnel under his command. He is a certified traffic management and collision investigator, and is certified as a tactical automated sensor operator, responsible for all thermal imaging cameras. Prior to being deployed to the Afghanistan area of combat, MSgt Ruiz was selected and trained as a protective services detail member. The Protective Service Detail supplies personal protection for senior combat commanders deployed to combat areas. This elite group of armed forces personnel is responsible for the planning, protection, and safe movement of senior commanders both on and off military installations.

Jeremy's most recent assignment was in support of Operation Lone Star on the Texas-Mexico border. He was assigned to the Texas Department of Public Safety in conjunction with The Department of Homeland Security's Border Patrol. His primary duty was to aid members of the Border Patrol in the deterrence of illegal entry into the United States and provide humanitarian relief when needed.

Live Oak's Police
Officer Jeremy
Ruiz is committed
to serving his
country, serving
his community,
and doing his part
to ensure the City
of Live Oak is the
premier city to live,
learn, work, and
play in.









Bermuda Daiquiris To-Go Celebrates Anniversary

Grabbing a drink on-the-go is much easier now. Veteran owned and operated by Gabriel Ortiz and James Crooks, Bermuda Daiquiris To-Go celebrated the two-year anniversary in September. Bermudas opened during COVID but was not able to celebrate with City Officials liked they hoped until recently. The to-go drink spot celebrated in style by inviting locals, city officials, and neighboring businesses to gather for their boozy anniversary.

For those who have yet to take advantage of the convenient bar, you can choose from a plethora of flavors of frozen daiquiris, including traditional flavors and combinations of your favorite flavors. Bermudas also serves up boozy Jello shots and more. You can find Bermudas Daiquiris To-Go at 7913 Pat Booker Road, inside the Live Oak Crossing Shopping Center and are open from noon to 12 a.m. They offer dine-in, curbside pickup and no-contact delivery. You can order online at bermudasdaiquiris.com or walk-in to see what specials are available throughout the week. Congratulations Gabriel and James and Happy Anniversary from Team Live Oak!











Wayland Baptist University Opens New Satellite Office For Bexar County Military & Veterans Services

Pat Booker Rd, Live Oak, TX 78233. Bexar County Precinct 4
Commissioner Tommy Calvert, who charged county staff last
year with opening a Military & Veterans Services Center satellite
office at WBU-SA, provided remarks along with WBU-SA Executive
Director/Campus Dean Dr. Glenn Simmons and Live Oak's
executive staff during the ceremony.

At the new satellite office, Military veterans, active duty service members, and their families can receive tips on submitting VA benefits claims, starting a small business, navigating home buying and mortgages, healthcare solutions, and disability rights. Visitors can tour the Bexar County satellite office, which opened earlier this year for claims assistance and workforce integration. Through this satellite office, eligible residents can send claims to the VA for injuries or illnesses while on active duty and receive employment transition advice on weekdays by appointment. Veterans will be provided with veteran-related claim help and workforce integration and career help to transitioning service members and veterans or connect them to resources that benefit recipients and the community. For more information or to make an appointment, visit bexar.org/vets or call 210-335-6775.

Wayland Baptist University Ben and Bertha Mieth School of Nursing

The grand opening and dedication of the new location of Wayland Baptist University's Ben and Bertha Mieth School of Nursing marked an important chapter in the institution's 115-year history. The ceremony took place at the Wayland campus in Live Oak in August, including a reception and tours of the ultramodern simulation classroom.

The School of Nursing's namesakes, Ben and Bertha Mieth, and family members were present during the ceremony. The Mieths have been a part of the Wayland family since their daughter attended the university. Before Ben served on the Board of Trustees, they supported Wayland's Mission Center. They have provided scholarships and established the Ben and Bertha Mieth Professorship in Global Missions.

Dr. Bobby Hall expressed Wayland's deepest gratitude to their great friends and benefactors, Ben and Bertha Mieth, for their generous gift of 2.5 million dollars to Wayland Baptist University. "Because of your benevolence, we have the unparalleled privilege today of unveiling a new name for one of our schools, now known as the Ben and Bertha Mieth School of Nursing. Your philanthropy ensures not only the legacy of the school but it also ensures its future growth and affirms your faith in our mission to provide a superior nursing education to all who enter here."

"It is a significant gesture and a way of transferring not just your names but your ideals, your values, and your hopes onto our institution," Hall said. "This school will now forever be a symbol of your enduring generosity, compassion, and dedication to quality healthcare." He also noted their gift will "undoubtedly positively affect the lives of countless individuals for many, many years to come."

Hall described Ben and Bertha Mieth as "two humble people who love God and have lived their lives seeking a daily understanding of what God wanted them to do, and then doing it to the best of their ability.

Dr. Rebekah Grigsby, Dean of the Ben & Bertha Mieth School of Nursing, noted the LVN-BSN Bridge program and the pre-licensure BSN program already offered. "We are ready to launch a third program leading to a BSN degree in January 2024 with the RN-BSN degree program scheduled to begin."

Noting the move to Live Oak as well as other changes, Grigsby said, "There is so much newness here, new location, new dean, faculty and staff, innovative programs, and new name, but unchanged is our faith and our Christ-centered focus on nursing education. We are excited about the opportunities before us and the future of the Mieth School of Nursing. We have work to do, and my team and I are passionate about leading the way as we are committed to do the work."

During the ceremony, a Congressional Certificate of Recognition was presented by Jesus "Toro" Martinez from U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, representing the 28th Congressional District of Texas. The certificate thanked the Ben and Bertha School of Nursing for "educating our future healthcare workers."

Dr. Glenn Simmons, executive director and campus dean of Wayland's San Antonio campus, welcomed guests, noting the growth of the campus "since a seed was planted here in San Antonio" more than 40 years ago. "That seed has blossomed into a vibrant university setting that is leaving a lasting legacy in the landscape of higher education."





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WAYLAND BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



GREATER SAN ANTONIO PODIATRY





WHOA....Stop! Before you light up the fireplace, make sure to have it cleaned and inspected by a professional. It is also important to keep at least a 3-foot clearance around open fires and space heaters.

FACT- Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February.

We all love this time of year when we can get together with family and friends and eat amazing food. But it's always important to keep safety in mind.

Follow these tips for a safe Thanksgiving

Stay in the kitchen while you are frying or boiling food.

Keep anything that can catch fire - oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels, or curtains – away from your stove-top.

Keep a fire extinguisher close by.

Click the QR code on the right to learn more about holiday safety.

If you are looking for that last holiday gift, a smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector are the gifts that keeps on giving.

Always remember to change your smoke alarm batteries every 6 months. Also, alarm sensors can wear out, it is recommended that you replace the smoke alarm at least every 10 years. If you know or have a family member who tends to forget that food is cooking on the stove, then the AUTO-OUT stove-top fire suppression canister would make the perfect gift. Scan the QR code to learn more.



SCAN for more holiday safety tips





Have you started thinking about your New Year's Resolution Yet?

Make an emergency plan, by choosing a safe place to meet, learning evacuation routes & establishing an out-of-town contact.

Take a current photo of you and your children together in case you get separated during a disaster.

Take a current photo of you and your pet together in case you get separated during a disaster.

Get to know your neighbors and invite them to be a part of your emergency plan.

Snap photos of important documents and save them in a secure place or online.

Set up group text lists so you can communicate with friends and family during emergencies.

Take classes in CPR and first aid.

Keep and update emergency supplies. Remember to include cash.

Have back-up power sources available to charge devices in case of a power outage.

Snap pictures of your property for insurance purposes.

Check your insurance for coverage on disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes.

Sign up for alerts and warnings. Download the FEMA app to get real-time alerts, safety tips, and the location of open shelters.

Save for a rainy day! Start and grow your emergency fund.

Financially prepare for the New Year.

Spend within your means. Use a personal budgeting worksheet to help plan for holiday expenses and beyond.

Build up your savings. Put a small amount in your account the first of every month beginning January 1st.

CTY Emergency Alert System

As a reminder, please sign up for Connect CTY-Telephone Alerting System. The Connect CTY system will send out important emergency information from the City of Live Oak. To register yourself or a loved one to receive these important alerts, simply scan this QR code with your camera phone. When the "YELLOW" link appears, click on the yellow link. This will take you to the website. Follow the directions provided.



Meet Vour Neighbor

Gary Woppert

Gary is a U. S. Air Force retiree and a 30-year retiree from the City of Live Oak. He served the city as the Emergency Management Coordinator. Since his retirement from the city, he volunteers in the Retiree Activity Office on JBSA Randolph and serves as a commissioner for the Live Oak Planning and Zoning Commission.

Gary attended the Citizens Police Academy to learn more about the Police Department. He completed the Citizens Police Academy in November of 2016 and immediately joined the Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police (LOCAP) in December of the same year. Wanting to give back to the community, he decided that volunteering with LOCAP would be a wonderful way to give back to the city he loves. Assisting the Police Department with the many activities, such as Blue Santa and others, Gary has a knack for stuffing Christmas stockings with goodies in record time!



He enjoys visiting with the police department staff and members of the community. He brings invaluable knowledge and experience to LOCAP and has been called upon to prepare and present information on emergency preparedness on more than one occasion.

Marie Atkinson

Marie moved to Live Oak in 2009 as a brand-new bride. This was just the first of the many changes she would encounter.

Finding herself in a new family, a new community, and a new environment, she quickly realized she needed to do something

to fill up all the new free time she had on her hands. Recently retired, Marie's children were grown and getting established in their respective careers. Grandchildren "nearby," but not close enough to see every day, so Marie looked no further than her husband's place of work, the Live Oak Police Department. Being a prior military wife, Marie was used to being "part of a family" and being involved with planning and attending events. She wanted to understand a bit about her new husband's "passion" for serving his community and being a contributing member of society. She thought the Citizens Police Academy was an excellent place to begin.

Marie got a peek behind the scenes of a day in the life of a Live Oak police officer. It was her first experience with this type of close-knit family. It was amazing all they encountered, all they had to deal with, all the decisions that must be made on the spot, and above all, the camaraderie and brotherhood they shared. She was hooked!

Next, the opportunity to join the Live Oak Citizens Assisting Police (LOCAP) was made available. She jumped at the chance and joined in 2011. Since then, she has served as an officer with LOCAP nine out of the 12 years she has been a member, and she currently serves as President. Marie believes strongly in LOCAP and is proud of how it has grown as an organization. She is also proud of how it has earned the respect of the police chiefs and the entire police department, as well as of the city and the community. She believes LOCAP members are ambassadors of the Police Department within the city and community. She encourages all LOCAP members to volunteer their time and expertise to events within the wonderful community of Live Oak, Texas. To learn more about LOCAP or the Citizen's Police Academy, email locapnews@gmail.com.







If Trees Could Talk

Did You Know...

The very first Arbor Day in the United States was celebrated April 1872 in Nebraska, when the idea of an official day promoting and planting trees was born. However, the problem for Texas is that we can still see temperatures well into the 80s with heat indexes into the 90s in April. Texas now celebrates Arbor Day in November.

Why November?

Because in Texas it's the best time to plant trees due to the cooler temperatures of the Fall season. Trees planted in the spring can establish themselves, but fall is the better time to plant new trees. Cooler temperatures create more favorable conditions for a successful transition into the tree's permanent home. This is why in 2013, Texas established Texas State Arbor Day, which falls on the first Friday of November.



Each year the official celebration is celebrated differently depending on which city you visit. This year's festivities hosted by the Live Oak Village Garden Club and the City of Live Oak Tree Care Board will take place at Crestview Elementary School on Friday, November 3rd. In keeping with tradition, the annual poster contest winners will receive awards for the best designs highlighting this year's theme "If Trees Could Talk." Texas A&M Forest Service's Regional Community Forester Mark Kroeze will be on hand to teach students about the importance of trees and how healthy trees benefit them and the community.

How Can You Prevent Stormwater Pollution?

Team Live Oak asks for your help in keeping all debris including grass clippings and residential trash clear from City drains. To make a difference when walking around the community, keep an eye out for any clogged areas and report them to our office at mypw@liveoaktx.net. A crew will be sent to clear the drains to ensure an adequate flow. City crews routinely clear drains but if a large rain happens and the drains are clogged flooding can occur.

All types of debris end up discharging into waterways as sediment, sludge, detergents, and solids. These can be caught in expensive stormwater treatment filters. However, the most effective way to reduce this problem is preventing pollution from entering the stormwater system in the first place. During the fall, a bad habit of communities is to sweep leaves and other organic debris into the streets which then finds its way to storm grates. People may think, "This will decompose, so it won't hurt the water supply like other trash." While they are right about organic debris being able to decompose, they are wrong about the harm it can do because it doesn't break down as fast as they think. Leaves and other organic debris can clog storm drains as easily as trash and should not be swept toward the street and eventually to the drains.

We hope if you see plastic, bottles, or cardboard on sidewalks or in the neighborhood streets, you will pick them up and dispose of them properly. This simple act will make a difference in keeping our premier community clean and the drains working properly.







Did you know?

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 667 has proudly partnered with Live Oak Animal Control to support the placement of the rescued animals into the homes of our amazing heroes our country has to offer. The Pets for Veterans program sponsors and pays the adoption fees for the first three participating veterans each month. The program was created to improve the lives of both Veterans and animals by bringing them together in a thoughtful, caring way. By matching the right pet with the right veteran, everyone is a winner!

The program coordinator is Live Oak's very own resident Bonnie Tullgren. Bonnie is a well-known resident who puts her best foot forward in helping our community, City, and staff members at any chance she gets. One of her passions is working with the American Legion and supporting local veterans. The goal of the program is simply to provide a second chance to the sheltered animals by also providing veterans and their families with a second chance at health and happiness. The staff will help in finding the perfect pet whose personality and temperament best compliments the veteran's.

The staff of Animal Control would like to give a huge shout to the local Veterans who have taken advantage of this great program offered by the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 667 and to Ms. Bonnie for giving the opportunity to Team Live Oak to take part of such a beautiful program! Because of you all, these pets had a second chance and families got a new best friend for life. Our premier City has the best residents around, and we could not be more blessed! For more information on the Pets for Veterans program, contact the Animal Control staff at 210-653-9140, ext. 2.





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 - The photo will appear in the Jan/Feb 2024 issue of the Hometown News.
- The winner will be notified by email and will have 48 hours to claim their prize otherwise a new winner will be chosen.
 - The winner will be chosen and notified by December 1st or sooner.



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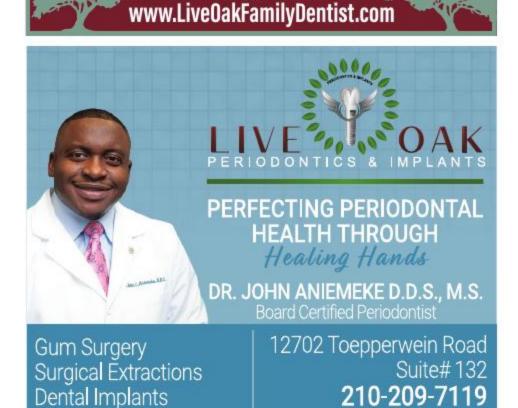
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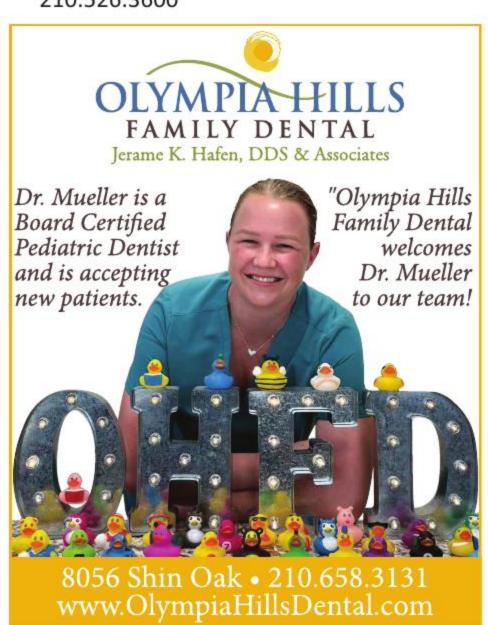




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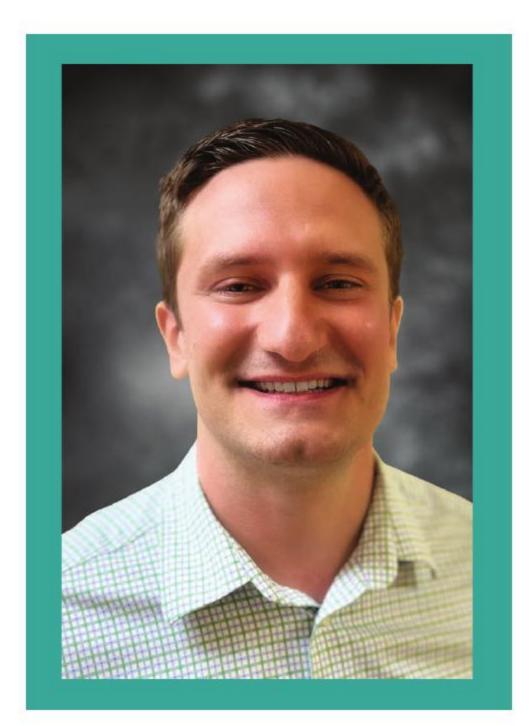
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Northeast Internal Medical Associates (NIMA) — a pillar of our Live Oak community — is pleased to welcome Certified Physician Assistant James Varner to our family.

Varner made his way to San Antonio from Pennsylvania as a military spouse. Prior to joining NIMA, Varner worked at a clinic at JBSA Lackland, serving the healthcare needs of Air Force, Army and Navy trainees. He also saw patients at a weekend clinic and at a private family practice.

NIMA's team focuses on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of adult illnesses. The practice is located next to Methodist Hospital | Northeast.

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MEDICAL - Dental (Cont'd)





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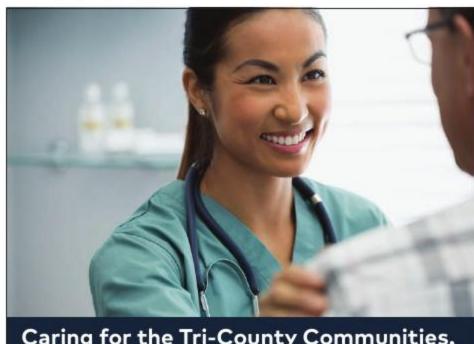
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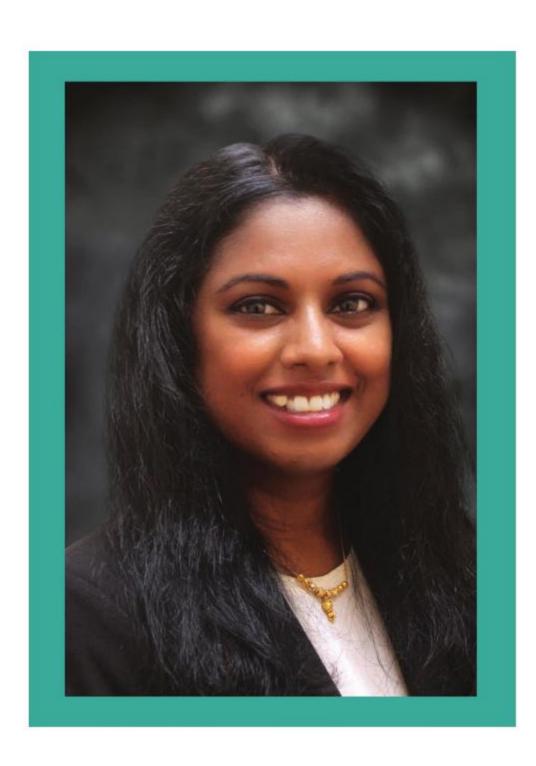
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Northeast Internal Medical Associates (NIMA) — a pillar of our Live Oak community — is pleased to welcome **Dr. Jayapriya Raj** to our family.

Dr. Jayapriya Raj is passionate about preventive medicine, with a special interest in preventive cardiology, weight management and lipidology, or the treatment of cholesterol.

NIMA's five internists and two nurse practitioners focus on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of adult illnesses. The practice is located next to Methodist Hospital | Northeast.

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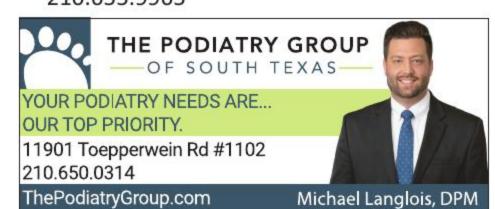
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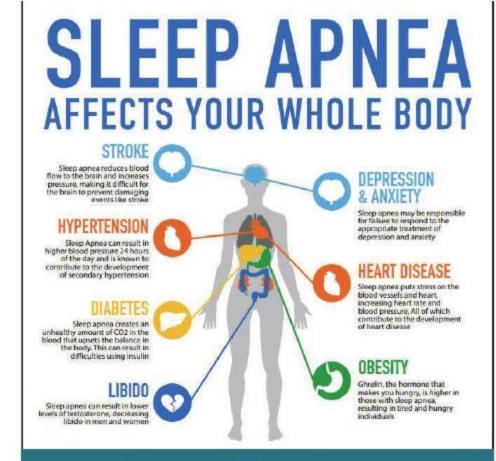


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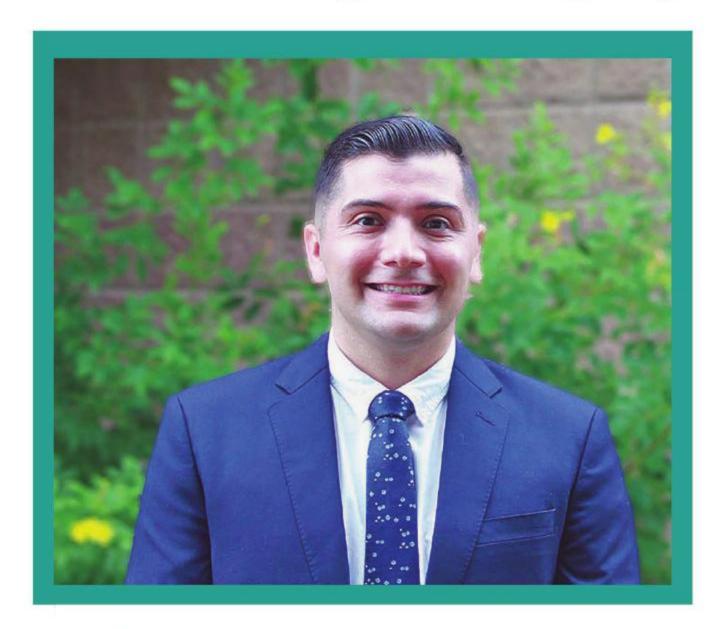
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Northeast Internal Medical Associates (NIMA) — a pillar of our Live Oak community — is pleased to welcome Internist **Dr. Jose Plata** to the family.

Dr. Plata recently left the US Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Originally from Eagle Pass, Texas, he is fluent in English and Spanish.

NIMA's four internists and two nurse practitioners focus on prevention, diagnosis and treatment of adult illnesses. The practice is located next to Methodist Hospital | Northeast.

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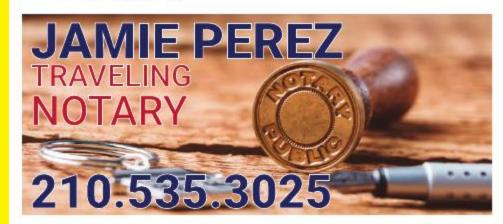
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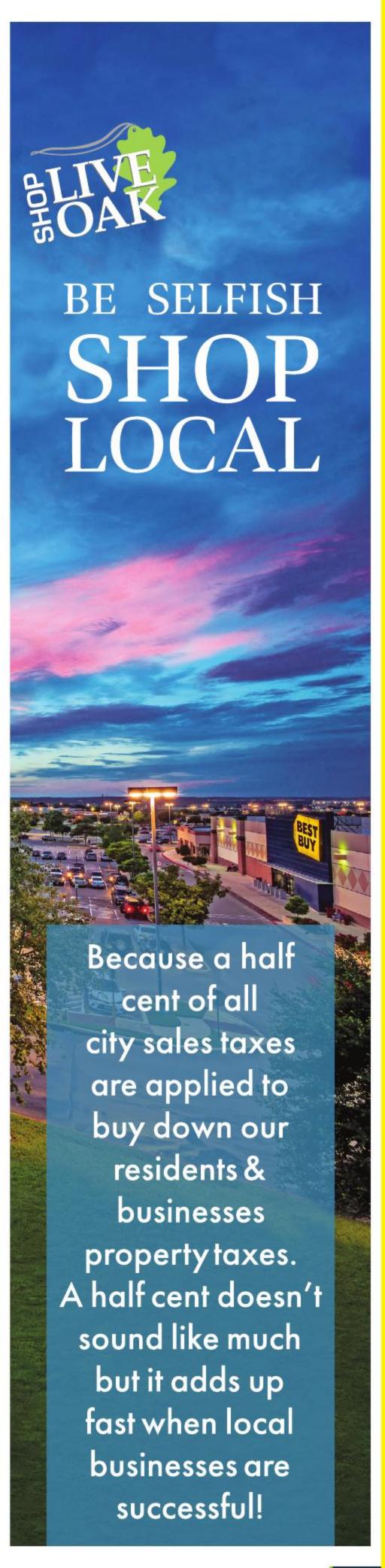
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