



THE EAGLE LAKE HEADLIGHT

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To The Editor & You

Tree update

were met by Asplundh, along FM 102 nor in the City. Mature old trees with large limbs bearing gaping, unpainted wounds line many city streets where these crews have worked. (For disgusting evidence, drive westward on Burns Avenue toward FM 102 in Eagle Lake and view the Joe C. Fling giant oak, or the Rose's old oaks in their side yard, or Mrs. Lora Thomas' oak row in front of her home.)

It is disgraceful what these unprofessional "hackers" have done to our beautiful old trees without regard to property rights, property values, or the beauty of our neighborhoods.

Some of the other directives from the National Arborists Association, Inc.'s standards, (approved nationally for The Industry by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)) and embraced by Texas and most state transportation departments, include:

"When pruning, strive to preserve the natural character of the tree and remove the minimum number of branches necessary to provide adequate clearance. Maintain adequate clearance—not excessive clearance."

Mind you, readers, these are TxDOT's Pruning and Brush Management Guidelines requested in Chapter 5 of its manual for its highway right of way, adjacent to private properties, such as the Loessin-Whorton case in the County. TxDOT rules do not apply to city streets.

The City of Eagle Lake can only prevent more damages most certainly ahead for its trees by enacting just what Columbus did in May 2002, with its stringent, tough "Tree Preservation Ordinance".

Let us, in Eagle Lake, and other county towns without restrictions, pass an ordinance before cutting work begins again... Columbus' ordinance is all encompassing and should protect that city's public and private property and roadway trees in the future. Eagle Lake must have protection, as well—or our treed neighborhoods will be lost.

What can we do quickly? Call

your city and county officials, and if your trees are in the county, call TxDOT's Steve Matula in Columbus, and even the TxDOT District Office in Yoakum.

Most importantly, if you have had an unhappy pruning experience with these Asplundh tree people, call the AEP-CP&L's Utility Forester, Doug Foster, at 361-574-2238 in Victoria, and leave him a detailed message about this awful contract cutting.

Most importantly, share your anxiety

for potential excessive pruning of your trees or your grievance with trees already mutilated on your property with an administrator at CP&L in Corpus Christi, or their counsel, G. Don Schauer of Schauer and Simank, 361-884-2800.

Talk with your Senator, your local Representative and your County Commissioner. A former Chairman of the Texas Highways Commission, David Bernsen, now Senator from Beaumont, has been very involved

with Scenic By-Ways and highway beautification, and needs to hear your concern or complaint. Call him: 512-481-9797 or 409-839-4540.

Let's work together to resolve this ornerly issue that's already caused extensive damaging eyesores to Eagle Lake and this county as long as these trees survive.

Sincerely,
Evangeline Loessin Whorton
979-234-2096

Garden Club voices concern

This is a letter sent to each member of the Eagle Lake City Council and the Mayor by the Civic Garden Club Executive Board.

Honorable Mayor and Councilmen:

The Civic Garden Club executive board would like to use this means to express publicly our concern about the care and protection of the trees in our community. As the only civic organization devoted exclusively to the beautification and maintenance of local public properties as well as the education and encouragement of our citizens in all aspects of horticulture, we feel this is an appropriate time to request our city council to draft a tree preservation ordinance.

We are fully cognizant that right-of-ways and utility easements must be maintained but we feel very strongly that guidelines and supervision provisions should be enacted that will protect and preserve the trees that our citizens have planted, enjoyed and nurtured over the past 150 years.

Texas Forestry Service, Texas A & M University, Texas Agricultural Extension Service as well as Texas Department of Transportation (Tx-Dot) agree in their publications and manuals that there are recognized arborists procedures. All agree that oak wilt disease is present in Colorado County. All have published excellent guidelines for pruning to avoid the spread of this incurable disease. All of the above entities stress pruning should be done in the winter months.

Throughout the realm of horticulture it is generally agreed that pruning is done in times of dormancy not in times of extreme heat and drought. The above entities stress that old mature trees be pruned very conservatively; that slow growing trees such as live oak need even less pruning.

Our neighbors in Columbus, out of concern for their old and valuable trees, have recently adopted a prudent ordinance that protects while providing for services. As a board we recommend that our council use the Columbus document as a guide.

Texas A & M University Forestry experts, on recent visits to our area, estimated some of the oaks in the ancient grove along Lakeside Drive are

approximately 600 years old. Many of the oaks and other species of trees along our streets are well over a century in age, as early photos remind us of how barren this prairie was when first settled, therefore we have an obligation as citizens to be just as concerned about the preservation and protection of our trees.

Respectfully submitted,
The Executive Board of the Civic Garden Club

Cherry Corman, Becky Anderson, Betty Lewis, Janet Schorlemmer, Sandy Bendy, Helyn Farris, Joan Matthews, and Jean Wiese

All goes well with Stacy...

For those of you who donated money for Stacy Cardenas' surgery, we would like to say thank you; especially to those who prayed, sent flowers and cards and called to check on her.

Friday, June 28, the surgery got underway about 11 a.m. and, after almost five hours, she was placed in a room in the Columbus Community Hospital.

She was released from the hospital Sunday and is now at her mom and dad's place in Alleyton, at least until

she can get around a little better and be able to chase James, her three-year-old son.

The doctors said the surgery went well and she should be back to her "new" self in about six weeks.

If you would like to send a get well card, feel free to do so by mailing it to: Stacy Cardenas, P.O. Box 741, Columbus, TX 78934.

Thank you again for your prayers and concern.

Carol Cardenas Nelson

Mayor responds to Soto

Mr. Soto:

I felt a sense of obligation to respond to your letter "Standards of Equality."

I served on the City Council for nine years prior to being elected mayor this past May.

During those nine years, the Council's approach was equal justice and service for everyone. I have seen, and been part of, rejected request by what you called the "elite". I can appreciate your concern regarding cost for compliance with some of our ordinances. But, we're in a situation where lack of enforcement of these ordinances have caused a lot of cosmetic appearance problems which are eye sores to our great City.

We have to start enforcing these ordinances to clean up our City. Those

seniors or disabled citizens who don't have family members to assist may call City Hall and let us know. We will try and help. We cannot go on to private property without consent.

It's not our intent to degrade, humiliate or harass anyone. But, we all must have some pride in our community.

I can't account for the sins of the past. I can only respond to the here and now.

This administration continues to be in the problem solving business.

We intend to submit a Council report every 90 days to keep the public informed on what your local government and officials are doing and planning.

For anyone who'd like to talk with me personally, I do maintain office hours at City Hall.

Feel free to call for my schedule as well as my home telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
René Cooper-Scott, Mayor

(Additional Letters, Page 4)

THE COLLEY HOUSE
TEA ROOM

Now also
OPEN for DINNER
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, 5:30-7:30
Lunch Tuesday-Friday, 11:30-2:30



500 W. Prairie
Eagle Lake
234-5936

ACHIEVEMENT

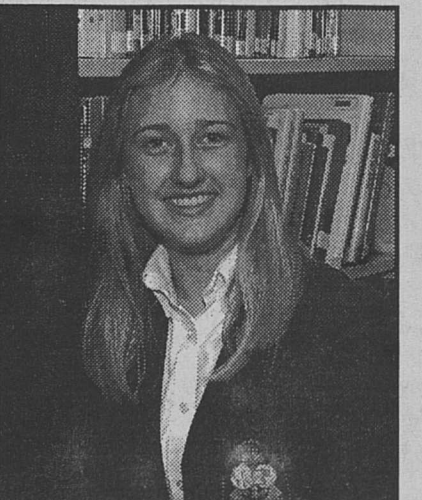
DISCIPLINE

RESPONSIBILITY

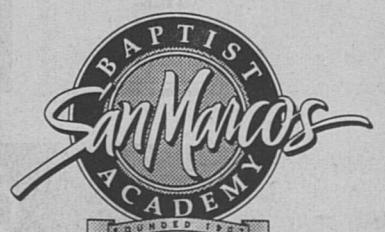
LEADERSHIP

SELF-ESTEEM

MOTIVATION



San Marcos Baptist Academy is a private boarding school for boys in grades 6-12 and girls in grades 8-12. Day school is available for boys and girls in grades 6-12.



There will be an information session at the J.W. Marriott (5150 Westheimer, Houston) Tuesday, July 9th at 7:30 PM. Come and learn about curriculum, campus life and admissions for the upcoming Fall 2002-2003 enrollment. **PUBLIC INVITED**

2801 Ranch Road 12 • San Marcos, TX 78666 • 1-800-428-5120 • e-mail: admissions@smba.org • www.smba.org
San Marcos Baptist Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origins.

One 'way to go' City Council

I would like to say "way to go" (Eagle Lake) City Council!

At the Council's meeting last Tuesday, Mayor René Cooper-Scott heard the replies to her question, "What are your goals for this City Council?"

Our newly elected City Councilmen and Larry Contreras related goals that showed the visionary aspect of this Council. This was one of the most energetic Council meetings I have attended in some time.

The only sad part was there were only about seven people there to watch them shine!

Realize we all work and have very little free time, but drop by on the second and/or fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30. You'll be impressed with your new Council.

Evangeline Whorton came and told Council what she thought of the tree trimming that was being conducted by (CP&L's) subcontract, Asplundh Company out of Houston. Have you noticed our trees lately? No one seems to be paying any attention to the TxDOT guideline standards of tree trimming.

Whorton informed Council that these trees could actually be dead in a few months!

You don't see old live oak trees in Columbus butchered like the ones in (and around) Eagle Lake. That's because their citizens stood together and passed a Tree Preservation Ordinance which requires someone from the city

to be there during the cutting.

Drive around town and look at the beginning of their trimming. They just whacked the top of the trees off or just made a V in the trees.

If you are concerned, you can call Doug Foster in Victoria at the Forestry Division for AEP/CPL or call their corporate headquarters in Corpus Christi. If we don't complain, AEP/CPL will think we don't care if they destroy our beautiful old trees.

Eric Nethery brought up the important fact that we need to develop a comprehensive, modernized Disaster Management Plan for our City in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

Len Matula said he would like to see the airport made a top priority as he feels it is essential to have an airport for growth; especially since Wal-Mart is building their warehouse facilities near Sealy.

John Young and Tim Kelley both had beautification of Eagle Lake high on their list. Not only did the entire City Council think beautification was important to Eagle Lake, they all had suggestions on how to proceed in that direction.

They can't do it alone! Call them and tell them you support them. Ask if there is something you can do or just go do it. Together, I feel we can make a difference!

Candy McCreary
Eagle Lake

Let's Look Back...

24 & 48 YEARS AGO

May 28, 1978

Mrs. R.T. Westmoreland, one of the communities most beloved citizens, closed her eyes to a peaceful rest in the Heritage House nursing home on May 19 bringing a close to a life during which she spent 39 years molding the characters and in guiding young men and women as a public school teacher...

Recently at the annual meeting of the Texas Chapter of the Wildlife Society held in College Station, **David Wintermann** of Eagle Lake was recognized by professionals in the wildlife field for his long-time devotion to the preservation and management of wildlife...

James Matthys was among the candidates for degrees at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. He is the son of **Laura Matthys** of this city...

Named as outstanding Raider band members were **Robert Abell, Becky Gertson, Peggy Leopold, Rich Farris and Carol Crabb...**

Rice High School's Band's top marchers were **Brenda Rucka, Robert Moss, Jane Dostal, Judy Bunge and Theresa Becak...**

Mr. & Mrs. Vic Masheck were honored with a surprise 39th wedding anniversary party on May 13. Their actual anniversary date was May 18...

Winners in the Eagle Lake Middle School Read-a-thon were **Melissa Wilcox, Tracey Davis, Julian Flores and Jennifer Chisholm...**

Winning the coveted honor of Band Sweetheart was **Jane Dostal** and Band Beau was **Ricky Kristynik**. Band Director **Floyd Spennath** made the announcement at the end of year concert on May 18...

The price on mailing a letter will go up to 15¢ on May 29...

Colorado County Sheriff **George (Doc) Mueller** announced this week the promotion of Deputy **Bryan Toucheck** to the position of Sgt...

Navy Hull Maintenance Technician Fireman Apprentice **Gregory B. Popp**, son of **Mr. & Mrs. Herbert J. Popp** of Garwood, graduated from Basic Hull Maintenance Technician School...

More than 750 students of East Texas State University graduated on May 13 including **Donald Gregory Sciba** of Eagle Lake...

Melody Farris Grigar was one of 190 graduates receiving diplomas at Houston Baptist University on May 19...

Rice High School graduating senior **Lisa Mahalite** was honored with a salad luncheon on May 20 at the home of **Mrs. Pat Cook...**

Leading the Eagle Lake Middle School Raider team in spirit next year will be these young ladies, **Renae Dierschke, Karen Rucka, Becky Benge, Jacklyn Parker, Stacey Holden and Lisa Parker...**

Brenda Argo, Rice High School senior, has been awarded a theatrical arts scholarship to Wharton County Junior College.

May 27, 1954

Funeral services were held in Rock Island for **M.I. Nicewander...**

County Judge **Joe A. Hancher** withdraws from the race for re-election and announces as candidate for District Attorney...

Assessed valuations on Colorado County tax rolls this year are expected to reach \$43 million about \$2 million over 1953...

Lion President **R.P. Wilcox** announced that plans are underway for a zone-wide installation of Lions Club officers...

Mrs. R.T. (Lizzie) Westmoreland, who retired last year, will bring the principal address at ELHS graduation exercises for 31 seniors...

Commencement exercises for the 12 members of the Senior Class of E.H. Henry High will be held tonight...

Bandmaster and band boosters are asking bids for a number of improvements planned for the band hall at ELHS...

Showers of varying intensity have predominated in this area during this week...

Mrs. V.T. Matthews was selected outstanding citizen of the community by ELHS.

CALL CRIME STOPPERS • 979-732-6991 • IT PAYS REWARDS