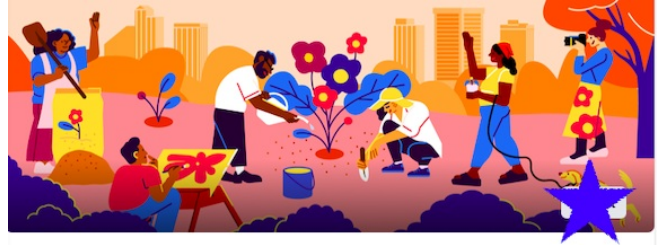


Neighborhood Email Group

Great News! After hearing suggestions from neighbors, we've started a new FB Group. It is a closed group for residents of the Balcones Village and Spicewood subdivisions.



Balcones Village Spicewood Neighbor Community

Members may lease or own their homes and do not have to be a member of the HOA. So, if you live in this area, then you are welcomed to join the group.

Guidance for posting is the same as that of the BVS Neighbors Email Group. Basically, avoid politics and so on. Click the link to go to the FB Group and join in today!

Facebook Link

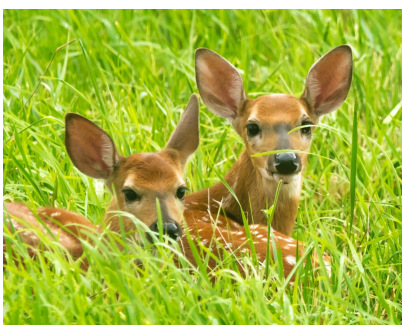


4th of July

Start planning decorations for your golf cart, bicycle, stroller, etc. because our annual parade is on again this year. The starting place is the Spicewood Club House on Spicewood Club Drive between Mandeville Circle and Spicewood Parkway.

More details are on the way, but right now we are looking for volunteers to take photos (we hear there is a photography club at Westwood), guide the parade route, hand out popsicles, and much more. If you want to help with the celebration, then we have a place for you. Please use the link to send an email letting us know how you want to volunteer.

Email



Living With Wildlife - Deer

Linda Strickland

Just 200 years ago, Lipan Apache, followed by the Comanche Indians occupied this part of Texas. In the late 1800s, the city noted everything west of what is now Mopac as Comanche land. About 100 years ago, ranching came to this area, and in the 1960s the first homes in our subdivision were constructed. If we stop for a moment and take the long view, we can see that we are the new ones here, and that is why we live *with* the wildlife.

White-tail deer are found from southern Canada to Central America, with highest populations in the US. The name comes from the bright white underside of their tails, which they flash as a danger warning. Their running speeds have been clocked at up to 30 MPH and jump heights at 6-8 feet. While they do not make audible calls, they do snort and grunt to convey potential trouble. In our area, fatalities come from coyotes and vehicles.

They are ruminants, which means they have four-chambered stomachs and dine on a variety of leaves, buds, twigs, and grasses. This diet is very compatible with residential areas at the edges of cities and towns.

Residents have expressed concerns with a range of issues about the deer, including driving, feeding, fawns, and health.

New residents, as well as new drivers need to be aware of deer crossing streets, especially in the fall and spring. Fall is mating season, which means bucks are chasing does and can dart across streets at any time, but they are more active (and harder to see) in the hours of dawn and dusk. In the spring, moms and fawns also are crossing streets, and the fawns often lag behind. We have to widen our vision to what may be at the side of the street. Also, when possible, use your high beams and look for the glint of eyes.

For many the deer are treasured friends, but feeding them so they become habituated to us has serious drawbacks. Deer corn is like junk food is for us - tasty but bad for our health. Food we leave out for the deer also attracts other animals, including coyote, which then also become habituated to an area. When deer eat their normal diet, the herd can maintain vitality, which means the strongest and healthiest survive. While this may seem harsh, it is better than herd sizes growing to unmanageable numbers that cannot be supported by the available food supply. The greater kindness is to look at the well-being of the whole herd. Also, within the City of Austin, this is a Class C Misdemeanor that includes a fine of \$75-125.

Spring is the time when fawns are born, and twins often are a result. One of the startling things the moms do is to park the fawns during the day while they go off to feed, and fawns may be found on porches, in yards, or even along a street curb. Our instincts are to help, but as the fawns have no scent, being parked in the open is a safer place from predators. The best thing is to leave them alone because the mom will return.

There may be cases where the fawn is in a street or covered in fire ants [Texas Parks and Wildlife](#), [Austin Wildlife Rescue](#), and [All Things Wild](#) (rehab center) say the mom will not reject a fawn with human scent. It is ok to briefly pick it up and relocate nearby. (Obviously, brush the ants off.)

Occasionally, something happens to a mom, and we may see a fawn wandering and bleating. The next step is look for dehydration (ears curled at tips, gently pinched skin between shoulder blades does not snap back quickly, and dry mouth). Also, if you lift the tail and find a dirty bottom, mom has been gone a long time.

After gathering your information, and you think the mom is not returning, then call 311, and an Animal Protection Officer may be available. Another option is to contact a licensed rehabilitator such as All Things Wild. [All Things Wild](#)

Texas Parks and Wildlife surveys deer populations for numbers and health. Also, the City of Lakeway has done the same for their local herd. In both cases, the data show healthy deer.

The best sources for information about our local wildlife are Texas based groups, such Texas Parks and Wildlife, Austin Wildlife Rescue, All Things Wild, City of Austin Wildlife, and Texas A&M.

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