



All About Bluebonnets

The bluebonnet became the State Flower of Texas in 1901. The story is interesting and illustrates the strength of a few committed women. [Read More Here](#)

Two origin stories of the bluebonnet flower come from the Comanche and Coahuiltecan Tribes of Texas.

In each story the tribe was facing great hardship as there was no water. The tribal leaders were told by guiding ancestors and spirits that a great sacrifice was needed to restore balance. In both of the stories, it is a young girl who travels away from the tribe and offers her only thing of value - a doll with a blue headdress. When she returns, the land is covered in blue flowers, and the rains come. The stories are about love of community and willingness to do whatever possible to help. Sounds like our neighborhood, right?

There is a FB group that follows the progress of bluebonnet and wildflower blooming. It also has some tips on getting a perfect photo. [Texas Wildflower Report](#)

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center has a great FAQ page about bluebonnets. No, it is not illegal to pick them. [Wildflower Center](#)

HOA Membership Is A Good Value

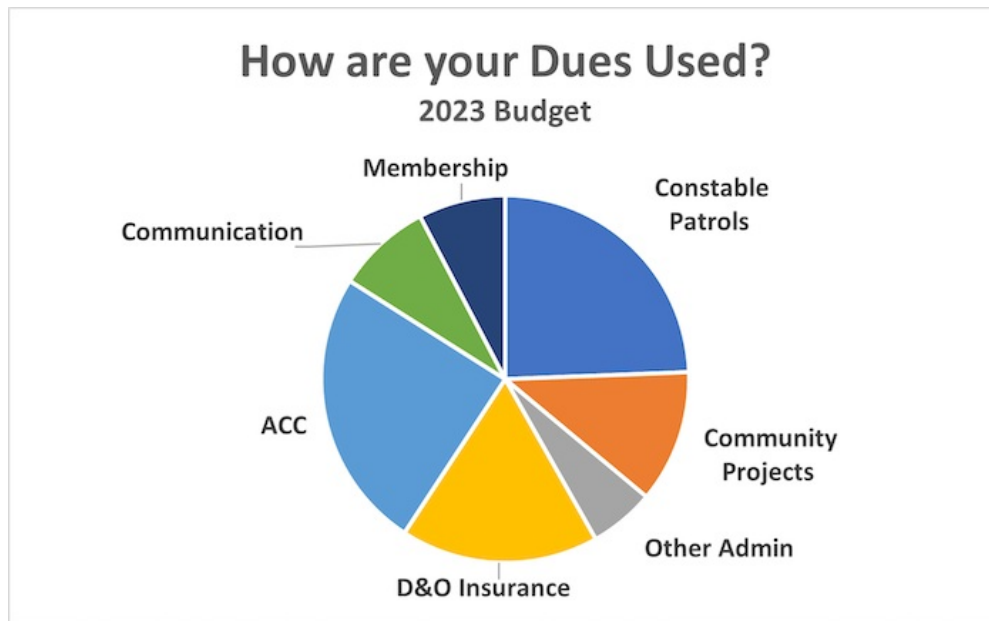
Recently a new resident posed a question about how the HOA dues are used. The pie chart at the end shows the bulk of the HOA Dues goes to the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) and Constable Patrol. The ACC oversees the maintenance of deed restrictions, which is one of the most important duties of the HOA. Without an active HOA Board of Directors that enforces deed restrictions, the restrictions could be declared abandoned and with that, the protections. We have followed the City of Austin zoning changes and discovered the City legal department stated the new zoning cannot override deed restrictions. So, this work is essential for our neighborhood.

When people plan an addition or renovation, they submit the plans to the ACC, which helps them understand how the deed restrictions affect their project. The costs associated with this committee are for our attorney, who works with the ACC to further explain the restrictions to some residents.

The funds for Constable Patrol (off-duty Travis County deputy) allow the officer to drive the neighborhood, focusing on issues that neighbors have brought to the attention of the HOA Board. With the shortage of Austin Police, this role is very important, but we do not have the funds to increase the hours.

The balance of the funds goes to community service, such as Constant Contact for newsletters, Wix for the website, reimbursement for block parties, annual meeting, and more. One of the areas the Board is focusing on this year is increasing the number of block groups and parties. These activities are a major way to get to know your neighbors.

This may be a long way 'round-the-barn answer, but we want to reach out to residents to explain the value of HOA membership (\$50/year). For the past few years, more than half of the residents here have not paid dues, and each year we scrimp and save everywhere we can. Without some kind of change in participation, the future looks dim. If you find value in getting current news, having safer streets, attending a block party, getting answers to questions, as well as maintaining our deed restrictions, then go over to the website right now, and click the *Pay Dues* button. [BVS HOA Website](#)



March 5 Elections

Primary elections are nearing. Early voting begins Tuesday, February 20th and ends on Friday, March 1st.

League of Women Voters has a good summary [here](#).

[Travis County voting sites](#)

[Williamson County voting sites](#)



Solar Eclipse

Monday, April 8th, is the big day for eclipse watchers. Do you have plans?

If you know someone farther along the route, it can be fun to call them and see how the path of the eclipse rolls by together.

Great American Eclipse

Need glasses or suggestions about filming on your phone? Check out this website for good ideas. It is basic info that you can use to shop there or elsewhere. No promotion intended.

Solar Eclipse Glasses

District 6 Artwork Contest

From Mackenzie Kelly's Newsletter

Celebrate this Valentine's Day by participating in our "I Love District Six" art contest! We are excited to invite all school children in grades 1-12 to showcase their creativity and express their love for our district through artwork.

By submitting your unique artwork, you can win an exclusive tour by Councilwoman Kelly of Austin City Hall!

To enter the contest, please make sure to submit your artwork by Sunday, March 10, 2024, 11:59 p.m.

[More info here.](#)

Spring Cleaning

A recent discussion on the BVS Neighbors email group included ideas about clearing out and decluttering a house. Nita Martinez shared some real winners.

REQUEST A SECOND RECYCLING BIN
Call Austin Resource Recovery and request another blue recycling cart. The City of Austin will drop off a second cart for free. [Call 512-494-9400](tel:512-494-9400).

BOOKS
Recycled Reads on Burnet Road accepts book donations and gives you a tax receipt. It is part of the Austin Public Library system, and proceeds benefit APL and literacy programs in Austin.
[Recycled Reads](#)

AUSTIN CREATIVE REUSE
The perfect place for extra or unused craft supplies.
[Austin Creative Reuse](#)

FACEBOOK BUY NOTHING
Everything posted on this page is free with no strings attached. Items get a second life on this site. Usually, items are set out for porch pickup with no contact. There is nearby group in Cedar Park and Avery Ranch.

[Facebook Buy Nothing](#)

WHEN IN DOUBT, PUT IT OUT
Set everything in the front yard on a first come, first served basis. Take pictures, post on BVS Neighbors email group (must be a member of the HOA to join), and many times things are gone before sunset! Quick and easy.



Save the Date

February 2024

5	Monday	Bulk Item Pick-up Begins - COA
12	Monday	BV/S HOA Meeting - 5PM Spicewood Library
14	Wednesday	Valentine's Day
19	Monday	Presidents Day - RRISD, State, Federal

March 2024

2	Saturday	Texas Independence Day -State
10	Sunday	Daylight Savings Time Begins
11	Monday	BV/S HOA Meeting - 5PM Spicewood Library
11-15	Mon-Fri	Spring Break - RRISD
29	Friday	Good Friday - RRISD, State
31	Sunday	Cesar Chavez Day - State

[Visit our Website](#)

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