



Published monthly for the Comal Trace Homeowners Association by Neighborhood News Inc.

PREPARING FOR SPRING STORMS

From thunderstorms to hail, and flash flooding, spring in Texas can be unpredictable, making it essential for us to prepare. By taking a few precautionary steps, we can keep our homes, families, and neighbors safe when the skies darken and the winds pick up during the rainy season.

Here are some ways you can be prepared:

Stay Informed: Monitor weather apps, local news, and NOAA Weather Radio regularly for up-to-date storm information. It's crucial to stay alert to watches and warnings in your area. Additionally, signing up for local emergency alerts ensures you'll receive timely notifications if severe weather is approaching.

Prepare an Emergency Kit: Stock your emergency kit with essentials like flashlights, batteries, first-aid supplies, non-perishable food, and bottled water. Don't forget any necessary medications and a power bank for charging your phone in case of power outages. Check the kit periodically to ensure everything is in good condition and ready to go.

Be Ready for Flooding: Check if your home is in a flood zone by referring to FEMA flood maps. If you live in an area prone to flooding, elevate important electronics and valuables above ground level to prevent water damage. Have sandbags or other flood barriers on hand to help protect your property from rising water.

Prepare for Your Pets: Make sure your pets have identification tags and are microchipped in case they get lost during a storm. Keep pet carriers, extra food, and water in your emergency kit, and provide a designated safe space for your pets to go during the storm.

Have Emergency Contacts: Keep a list of emergency contacts, family members, local authorities, and neighbors, in a place where everyone can access it. This will help you act quickly in case you need assistance or need to report damage after the storm.

By staying informed, planning ahead, and securing your home, you can help protect your family and property during spring storms. Stay safe, neighbors!

Comal Trace Board of Directors

Board President: **Raymond Norris**, JRaymondNorris@gmail.com

Vice President: **Vacant**

Treasurer: **Gregory Martin**, gregmartinusahoa@gmail.com

Secretary: **Mac Russell**, macr@gvtc.com

Member at Large: **James Seabolt**, comaltraceboard@gmail.com

Management Company

Spectrum Association Management

210-494-0659

www.Spectrumam.com

Community Manager:

Contact@Spectrumam.com

Need to get in touch?

We are here to help! Whether you have questions about a bill, ACC submissions, or reservations, SpectrumAM is here to assist.



Spectrum Association Management

17319 San Pedro Ave, Suite 318

San Antonio, Texas 78232

Email: Contact@Spectrumam.com

Phone: 210-494-0659

Monday-Friday 8am-5pm

MONARCH MIGRATION: HOW YOU CAN HELP



Monarch butterflies are one of the most iconic and beautiful species to call Texas home. Known for their remarkable long-distance journey, monarchs travel thousands of miles between North America and Mexico each year. These butterflies are famous for their striking orange-and-black wings, but their incredible migration from Canada to central Mexico—covering up to 3,000 miles—makes them a marvel of the natural world. Unfortunately, monarch populations have been declining in recent years due to habitat loss, climate change, and other environmental factors. However, Texas plays a crucial role in their migration path, and residents can take steps to help protect these magnificent creatures.

Here are a few simple yet effective things residents can do to help support monarch butterflies during their migration through Texas:

Plant Milkweed- Milkweed is essential for monarch survival, as it provides both food for larvae and a place for monarchs to lay their eggs. By planting milkweed in your garden, you can create a sanctuary for monarchs as they pass through the area.

Create Butterfly-Friendly Habitats- Consider planting nectar-rich flowers like asters, zinnias, and lantanas to provide food sources for adult butterflies. Creating a butterfly-friendly garden with a variety of plants will help attract monarchs and other pollinators, such as bees and hummingbirds, which are vital to the ecosystem.

Provide Water- Monarchs need water to stay hydrated during their migration. You can help by offering a shallow water source, such as a birdbath or a small bowl, in your yard. Be sure to add rocks or sticks so butterflies can land and safely drink without risk of drowning.

Minimize Pesticide Use- Pesticides can harm monarchs and other beneficial insects. By reducing or eliminating the use of chemical pesticides in your garden, you help protect monarchs from harmful toxins. Opt for natural pest control methods, such as encouraging beneficial insects like ladybugs, to keep your garden healthy without posing a threat to monarchs.

With your help, these beautiful butterflies will continue to grace our state each year, reminding us of the importance of protecting the natural world for future generations. Let's work together to make Texas a welcoming place for monarch butterflies, and ensure they have a safe passage during their migration.

DID YOU KNOW?

Marigolds aren't just beautiful, they're also natural pest repellents! These vibrant flowers produce a scent that helps keep aphids, mosquitoes, and even certain nematodes (microscopic worms that damage plant roots) away from your garden. Marigolds contain pyrethrum, a compound used in many natural insect repellents. Planting them near vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, and beans can help protect your crops from harmful pests. Plus, marigolds attract pollinators like bees and butterflies, making them a great addition to any eco-friendly garden!



MAKE A DIFFERENCE, YOUR WAY

Volunteering is one of the most impactful ways to connect with your neighbors and make a difference in your community. When you lend your time and skills, you're not just helping those in need, you're strengthening the heart of the community itself. Volunteering helps you stay involved, and supports local causes that matter most, from preserving our parks to supporting local youth programs. Whether you're giving a few hours or a regular commitment, every effort helps make our city an even better place to call home.



CELEBRATING ARBOR DAY

Arbor Day is a special occasion dedicated to celebrating trees and the many benefits they provide to our environment, communities, and well-being. Observed annually on the last Friday of April, this day serves as a reminder of the importance of trees in our daily lives and encourages people of all ages to take action to preserve and plant more trees.

Trees are not only beautiful and provide shade, but they also play a crucial role in improving air quality, conserving water, reducing energy costs, and supporting wildlife. Whether it's the towering oaks in your backyard or the smaller decorative trees in the park, every tree is an essential part of our ecosystem. Arbor Day gives us the opportunity to reflect on the trees that enhance our surroundings and to take steps toward ensuring that future generations can enjoy the same benefits.

Here's how we can make the most of Arbor Day:

Plant a Tree:

One of the most impactful ways to celebrate Arbor Day is by planting a tree. Whether you're adding a new tree to your yard or contributing to a community planting event, each new tree helps the environment by providing oxygen, improving air quality, and adding beauty to your neighborhood. You can also consider planting a tree in memory of someone special, creating a living tribute that will grow for generations to come.

Learn About Trees:

Arbor Day is a great opportunity to learn more about the types of trees that grow in your area. Understanding which trees are native to the region and how they contribute to the local ecosystem can deepen your appreciation for them. Consider visiting a local arboretum or nature center to discover the diversity of trees in your community.

Tree Care and Maintenance:

If you already have trees in your yard or community, Arbor Day is a good time to check on their health. Proper tree care, including pruning, mulching, and watering, can extend the life of your trees and prevent problems like disease or pest infestations. By caring for the trees around us, we ensure they continue to thrive and provide their valuable benefits.

Arbor Day is a reminder that small actions can have a big impact on the environment. Take this Arbor Day as an opportunity to celebrate the trees that make our neighborhoods better places to live and ensure that future generations can enjoy the same benefits.

Recipe Corner

5-MINUTE FRUIT MOUSSE



Source: <https://www.seriousseats.com/light-and-easy-five-minute-fruit-mousse-dessert-recipe>

Ingredients:

- 8 1/2 ounces (about 2 1/4 cups) frozen berries or other fruit
- 2 tablespoons sugar (or use sugar, honey, maple syrup, or stevia extract to taste)
- 1 large egg white
- Fresh berries and whipped cream for serving (optional)

Directions:

1. Add fruit to the bowl of a food processor. Process to a rough puree, about 1 minute. Add the sugar or another sweetener and pulse briefly to combine. If you're using a different sweetener, add a small amount at a time to taste.
2. Add the egg white and process until smooth and fluffy and the mixture has lightened in color and doubled or tripled in volume, 2 to 3 minutes.
3. If the mixture clings to the sides of the food processor's bowl too much (this may happen if the blade doesn't extend all the way to the sides of the bowl), transfer the mixture to a normal medium-sized bowl and beat with a mixer fitted with the whisk attachment until fluffy.
4. Spoon the mousse into glasses and top or layer with fresh berries and/or whipped cream (optional). Serve immediately or store in the refrigerator for up to 2 hours (because this mousse has very little sugar in it, it's not very stable and it won't hold for longer than that).

IMPROVING SAFETY IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

As we all know, the safety and well-being of our community are top priorities. Whether it's for our families, friends, or neighbors, a secure and peaceful environment makes a world of difference. While local authorities and law enforcement play a vital role, it's often the collective efforts of residents that make a lasting impact on neighborhood safety. Here are a few proactive steps we can take as a community to enhance safety for everyone:

First and foremost, communication is key. A well-informed neighborhood can better respond to potential threats and emergencies. One way to build this communication is through neighborhood watch groups or social media platforms where neighbors can share updates, observations, or concerns. By keeping each other informed, we help build a network of vigilance without encroaching on one another's privacy.

Lighting plays an essential role in deterring criminal activity. Properly lit streets and public areas can prevent incidents from occurring. Homeowners can also make sure their own properties are well-lit, especially entry points like porches, driveways, and backyards. It's a simple yet effective way to make your home less appealing to intruders.

In addition to taking personal precautions, maintaining an eye on the physical environment is equally important. Regularly reporting broken streetlights, damaged sidewalks, or overgrown foliage can go a long way in preventing accidents and reducing hidden spots where criminals may take advantage of poor visibility.

Creating a safe neighborhood is not the responsibility of one person alone; it's something we all must actively work towards. By strengthening communication and improving our environment, we can build a safer, stronger community for all.

SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

If you notice someone in your area that may look suspicious, or you witness something out of the ordinary,

First call your appropriate law enforcement agency to get a faster response in getting these persons identified or the situation looked into and then Second, use your social media, if you use it, to get the word out of your observations or concerns.



TIPS TO STAY SAFE WHILE WALKING, JOGGING, AND OR RUNNING

Source: <https://www.sacrimestoppers.com>

- Plan your route in advance and walk/jog/run in familiar areas.
- Go with a known companion if possible.
- Carry identification.
- Don't wear jewelry or carry cash.
- Avoid secluded or dimly lighted areas.
- Avoid going after dark.
- Always face the traffic.
- If you're being followed, cross the street or change directions; keep looking back and get a good description of the person.
- If you're still being followed, go to the nearest house or business and call the Police.
- Wear bright colors to improve your visibility.
- Change your route and schedule.
- Avoid bushes where a person could hide.
- Take a key with you; do not leave your house or room unlocked; someone could be watching to see when you are not home.
- Carry your cell phone, a whistle or shrill alarm to summon help.
- Do not wear headphones/earphones
- Don't hitchhike or accept rides from strangers.
- If a car pulls along beside you and the driver calls you over to ask a question, avoid getting near the car.



SIGN UP FOR INFORMED DELIVERY

We recommend signing up for this free service: USPS Informed Delivery at <https://www.usps.com/manage/informed-delivery.htm>. Informed Delivery allows you to see photos of your mail before it arrives so you can stay on top of picking up important mail.

LOOKING FOR A NEIGHBORHOOD GET TOGETHER?

Are you looking to join a club or start a club? Maybe a Book Club, Bunco, Dominos, Knitting Club, or Night-Out / Meet Your Neighbors Group?

Email Mahali@NeighborhoodNews.com with your information and we can post it in the next newsletter.



Reserving Amenities

We have made it convenient to reserve your community amenities by logging in to your online account and selecting 'Book Amenities' under the 'Amenities' dropdown menu.



GETTING STARTED. SET UP YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT.



Did you know Board and Committee Members are wonderful volunteers? Our community is professionally managed by Spectrum Association Management with direction from the Board of Directors. Getting your online account set up is easy and will ensure that you have all the information right at your fingertips.

You will need your account number which can be found on your billing statement or by emailing:

Contact@Spectrumam.com.

Register your account today at:

<https://spectrumam.com/>

Fast Fiber internet is within reach!

With GVTC Fiber, you can work, game and stream all at the same time.

GVTC Fiber Features

- ProtectIQ® network protection protects all devices connected to your network from malware and viruses.
- Customize your network usage and accessibility for all users with the GVTC WiFi App.
- Access additional parental controls with ExperienceIQ™.



Get connected today!

866-471-8398 gvtc.com/fiber2025

*Terms and conditions apply. Visit gvtc.com/fiber2025 for more info. *Visit gvtc.com/mdp for more info.

Starting at

\$47⁹⁶*
/month

^With Member Dividend Program



EASTER WORD SEARCH



S	B	M	A	L	R	E	T	S	A	E	C
G	N	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C	A
H	O	T	C	R	O	S	S	B	U	N	S
X	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	S	I	R	I
G	S	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	Z	T
N	T	S	S	T	E	K	S	A	B	H	S
I	N	G	G	E	R	E	T	S	A	E	U
R	U	E	Y	V	R	A	B	B	I	T	N
P	H	D	U	C	K	L	I	N	G	S	D
S	J	E	L	L	Y	B	E	A	N	S	A
V	H	Y	A	C	I	N	T	H	F	V	Y
C	A	N	D	Y	T	E	N	N	O	B	Q

BASKET
BONNET
EASTER EGG
HOT CROSS BUNS
CANDY
HYACINTH

IRIS
CHICKEN
CHOCOLATE
JELLYBEANS
DAFFODILS
LAMBS

RABBIT
DYE
DUCKLINGS
SPRING
EASTER
SUNDAY

THE COLORFUL ORIGINS OF SAN ANTONIO'S FIESTA: A CELEBRATION BORN IN BLOOM



If you've ever been in San Antonio during Fiesta, you know it's more than just a party—it's a city-wide explosion of color and culture. But where did this beloved tradition come from? The roots of Fiesta stretch back to a time of horses and carriages, when a group of San Antonians decided to honor one of the most famous battles in Texas history—by throwing flowers at each other.

The First "Battle" of Flowers

In 1891, local residents wanted to commemorate the heroes of the Battle of the Alamo and the Battle of San Jacinto. Instead of a somber event, they opted for something uniquely festive: a flower parade. Carriages and bicycles were decorated with fresh blooms, and parade-goers engaged in friendly flower fights, tossing petals at one another in what would become the first "Battle of Flowers."

This floral skirmish was such a hit that it became an annual tradition, eventually evolving into what we now know as Fiesta San Antonio.

Royalty, Medals, and Cascarones—Oh My!

As Fiesta blossomed, it introduced one of its most famous traditions: Fiesta Royalty. In 1909, the Order of the Alamo crowned its first "Queen," and soon after, other organizations introduced kings, queens, and even a court of Fiesta royalty. Today, there are multiple kings and queens, including King Antonio and El Rey Feo ("The Ugly King"), whose titles are as prestigious as they are playful.

Fiesta also gave rise to another beloved tradition—collectible medals. Originally created as a way for local organizations to raise funds, Fiesta medals have become a must-have for attendees, with new designs released every year.

And, of course, no Fiesta is complete without **cascarones**, the confetti-filled eggshells that San Antonians gleefully crack over each other's heads. Legend has it that the tradition was inspired by hollowed-out eggs filled with perfume, a European custom that made its way to Mexico before evolving into today's colorful (and much messier) version.

A Celebration of San Antonio's Spirit

Over 130 years after the first Battle of Flowers, Fiesta has grown into an 11-day extravaganza that attracts millions of visitors. With over 100 events, from the Texas Cavaliers River Parade to NIOSA (A Night in Old San Antonio), it remains a vibrant reflection of the city's history, culture, and love for a good time.



WATERING REMINDERS – STAGE 3 DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS

Stage 3 restrictions begin when the 10-day rolling average of the Edwards Aquifer level drops to 640 feet mean sea level at the monitored well. Coming out of drought stages can be considered 15 days after the aquifer is above the trigger.

- All restrictions from Stage 1 and Stage 2 remain in effect unless added to or replaced by Stage 3 rules.
- Landscape watering with an irrigation system, sprinkler or soaker hose is allowed only once a week from 5 – 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. – midnight on your designated watering day, as determined by your address.
- Watering with drip irrigation is allowed every Monday and Friday, but only from 5 a.m. – 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. – midnight.
- Watering with a hand-held hose is allowed any time on any day.
- All residential fountains and indoor commercial fountains can operate at any stage of drought. Outdoor commercial fountains must have a SAWS variance in order to operate during drought stages 1 through 4.
- Washing impervious cover such as parking lots, driveways, streets or sidewalks is prohibited. Health and safety exceptions may be requested from SAWS here.
- Residential car washing allowed during drought once per week on Saturday or Sunday as long as there is no water waste.

Find out more at:

<https://www.saws.org/conservation/drought-restrictions/stage-3/>

**KNOW THE NEW STAGE 3
WATERING HOURS**

**5-10 AM &
9 PM-MIDNIGHT**

KNOW YOUR DAY

M	T	W	TH	F
0	2	4	6	8
1	3	5	7	9

LAST DIGIT OF ADDRESS

WateringRules.com

San Antonio Water System

GOOD REASONS TO LEASH YOUR DOG



The City of San Antonio and Bexar County leash laws state, "an animal owner or keeper shall not walk an animal without a leash restraint, and shall not guide or take animals onto the yards or driveways of property not owned, leased or occupied by the animal owner..." There are many good reasons to keep your dog on a leash, including those on the following list:

Improved Companionship: A well trained and leash-obedient dog is a pleasure to walk with.

Pet Safety: A leash is commonly referred to as "Your Pet's Lifeline," protecting your pet from traffic and unrestrained animals.

Reward: It's a great way to reward your dog. Your dog will immediately respond with a wagging tail the moment he or she sees you holding the leash.

Identification Tool: It's a great identification tool, symbolizing that the dog has an owner, and enabling someone who sees the leash can identify the dog's owner, should you become separated.

It's the law! The law is in place to protect your pet, your neighbors and all members of our community from injury.

Reference:

311.sanantonio.gov/kb/docs/articles/animals/pet-restraintleash-law

LAWN MAINTENANCE

Please be a responsible neighbor and keep up with the maintenance of your lawn. Help keep the neighborhood looking great by maintaining your yard with weekly mowing and trimming.



Comal Trace Homeowners Association
c/o Spectrum Association Management
17319 San Pedro Ave, Suite 318
San Antonio, TX 78232

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 1568

Time Dated



Pet Galaxy



Full Service Pet Resort & Spa

(830) 885-5335 | Email: Info@petgalaxyusa.com

13060 US-281 N, Spring Branch, TX 78070

**Lodging
Daycare
Grooming
Training
Transport**



**LOCATED ON
6 ACRES FOR
YOUR PET TO
ENJOY!**

Pet Care Services
Association
MEMBER
Lifetime Member

 **ACCREDITED
BUSINESS**
Click for Profile

 **APDT**
ASSOCIATION OF PET DOG TRAINERS
BUILDING BETTER TRAINERS THROUGH EDUCATION
MEMBER

Stop by and take a free tour during business hours!
Website: petgalaxyusa.com | Facebook: www.facebook.com/PetGalaxyUSA

Articles that appear in the Comal Trace Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official position of Neighborhood News, Inc. and their publication does not constitute an endorsement therein. The appearance of any advertisement in the Comal Trace Newsletter does not constitute an endorsement by Neighborhood News, Inc. of the goods or services advertised. Neighborhood News, Inc. is not responsible for errors beyond the cost of the actual ad space. Stock art provided by adobe.stock.com. Any publication of Neighborhood News, Inc., whether draft or final is the sole property of Neighborhood News, Inc. and cannot be reproduced or distributed in any way, whether in print or electronically, without the express written consent of Neighborhood News, Inc. ©Neighborhood News, Inc.