



ALAMO HEIGHTS *City news*

Your Official Source from City Hall

December 2015

On-Going Tree Preservation Program

- Program will continue in 2016
- Maintenance and trimming to be done in "dormant" stage to allow for fuller canopy in Spring
- Trimming is needed to maintain the 13' 6" height access required for emergency apparatus
- Contact us at 822-3331 with any questions or concerns



Emergency Services Academy

The Emergency Services Academy is an eight-week program designed to give the public a working knowledge of the City of Alamo Heights emergency services. Join us weekly at the Alamo Heights Municipal Complex to learn about exciting topics and meet the first responders who keep the community safe.

Thursday evenings, January 14th to March 3rd from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Topics include:

- Police Patrol Procedures and Emergency Communications
- Criminal Investigations (Sex Offender Registry, Identity Theft, Crime Prevention, Social Media)
- Use of Force (Castle Doctrine, Open Carry Laws, Taser I Intermediate Weapons, Reality Based Training)
- Emergency Response (S.W.A.T., 10, Bomb Squad, Air Support, Hostage Negotiations)
- Citizen Response to Active Shooters
- City Administration (Budget Process, Permitting, Boards, Commissions, City Council)
- Fire Personal Protection Equipment, Search and Rescue Drills
- First Aid and CPR Training

Participants must be at least 18 years old. Visit www.alamoheights.gov for application. Class size is limited to 25 participants.

To learn more about this opportunity, contact Lt. Dennis Kelley at 210.832.2203 or dkelley@alamoheightstx.gov.

BRIEFS

2016 Solid Waste Schedule

The 2016 Solid Waste Service Schedule includes six holidays when no solid waste services are provided. Holidays for 2016 are:

- New Year's Day
- Independence Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- The day after Thanksgiving
- Christmas Eve (observed)
- Christmas Day (observed)
- More information visit www.alamoheightstx.gov/city-services.

Christmas Tree Safety

As you deck the halls this holiday season, be fire smart. A small fire that spreads to a Christmas tree can grow large very quickly.

- Each year, fire departments around the country respond to roughly 260 structure fires caused by Christmas trees.
- A heat source too close to the tree causes one in every five fires.
- Visit alamoheightsfire.com for more tips.

Winter Averaging

- A reminder this year your November, December, January **consumption** will be used for your winter averaging
- Residential sewer service fees are calculated based on the average water usage during these months.
- For more information or questions, please call utility billing staff at 882-1507.



Oak Wilt - Important information

Bexar County has been dealing with a fungal disease that kills oak trees called Oak wilt. It has recently hit the City of Castle Hills and many areas of the Northwest side of Bexar County such as Helotes and Hollywood Park. The symptoms vary depending on the oak species but generally consist of leaf discoloration, wilt, defoliation, and death. There is no cure for oak wilt - this fungus spreads between tree roots and/or sap beetles that live in the fungal mats that grow on certain oak species like the Red Oak. Control of this disease consists mainly of preventing infection by avoiding tree wounds, removing diseased trees, and digging trenches that disrupt root connections.

To help in the prevention and/or spreading of oak wilt, oak trees should not be pruned from February through June. During this time period precautions should be taken to prevent injury to susceptible trees, particularly from construction. If a tree is injured through a storm or accident, tree paint should be used to cover the wound. When an oak has died from oak wilt, trees should be debarked, split or chipped, then burned or covered with plastic sheeting. Heat from composting should destroy or severely weaken the fungus. Logs from trees infected with oak wilt should never be used for firewood due to the possibility of fungal mats.

Here in Alamo Heights we have several public areas with Oak trees and without preventive measures, devastating results can occur. The Public Works (PW) staff monitors these areas to ensure that all tree wounds are painted immediately, but we need resident assistance to help with this preventive measure. If you prune your oak tree or there is damage to it make sure you paint the wound immediately. If you see damage on a Oak tree in the public right away contact the City at 210-822-3331 so preventive measures can be taken.

Don't Be a Victim

Vehicle burglaries remain one of the most frequently reported crimes of opportunity but are the most preventable. Vehicle burglars are active year round, especially during the holiday season, prowling parking lots of malls, stores and restaurants. When shopping, always avoid dark areas in parking lots and at ATMs. Your most important defense – BE ALERT!!! Giving the appearance of not paying attention is what criminals look for in potential victims.

- Never leave packages, purses, cell phones, I-pads/I-pods, or other valuables in open view within passenger compartments of vehicles.
- If you drop off packages in your vehicle (even the trunk) with the intention of going back into the stores, move your vehicle so as to give the appearance of leaving.
- Unlocked vehicles can provide easy trunk access. Don't forget to lock doors and set alarms on vehicles.
- When returning home from a busy shopping day, always remove packages and valuables immediately. A vehicle burglar might follow you home.
- Don't be profiled by criminals. Avoid wearing expensive jewelry and flashing large amounts of cash. Using debit cards or credit cards are safer than carrying cash.

Remember it only takes seconds for a burglar to access your vehicle and steal your property. For your own safety, do not intervene in a vehicle burglary in progress. Notify store security or a store employee.

What Oak Wilt Looks Like

**Pictures from www.texasoakwilt.org*



Live Oak with Oak Wilt



Red Oak with Oak Wilt



Diseased Leaves - Live Oak



Diseased Leaves - Red Oak

CITY CALENDAR

DECEMBER

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|----------|
| Monday, December 28 | City Council Meeting | Canceled |
| December 24 & 25 | City Holiday - Christmas | Closed* |

JANUARY

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| Friday, Jan. 1 | City Holiday - New Year's Day | Closed* |
| Monday, Jan. 4 | Planning and Zoning | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Jan. 6 | Board of Adjustment | 5:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Jan. 11 | City Council Meeting | 5:30 p.m. |

*NO GARBAGE PICK-UP