

Look Out – Your Trees May Be Hazardous! **Through No Fault of Their Own, Your Friendly, Beautiful Trees** **May Damage Property and Injure (or Even Kill) People or Pets!**

What Can You Do To Prevent or Reduce Tree Hazards?

Obviously, you have no control over Mother Nature. Although it is possible to install lightning rods atop tall trees to help protect them, it’s not a common practice. And lightning rods offer no protection against windstorms, ice storms, heavy snows, tornadoes and other typical causes of tree damage.

.....
...it’s the unhealthy trees that are more likely to pose a hazard even when the weather is good.

Instead, have us conduct a visual Tree Hazard Inspection to spot actual or potential hazards and recommend hazard-control measures.

Then, for example, we can prune any heavy

branches that are directly over your house, driveway, garage fences, play area, walkways, picnic tables, street, alley and any other potential “targets.” This is especially important if the branches or trunks show any signs of disease, insect infestation, decay, or other physical damage (perhaps from vehicles, lawnmowers or storms).

Also, you might move portable or semi-portable targets (picnic table, a greenhouse, etc.) to safer locations.

If a tree has been hit by lightning and pieces of bark have been split or lifted from the sapwood, we may be able to tack it back on –if it’s still moist—and then cover it with burlap, to allow the bark to reattach itself.

Trees Can Be Hazardous Even in Good Weather

Any tree—whether it’s healthy or not—can



quickly become hazardous during storms, tornadoes, etc. But it’s the unhealthy trees that are more likely to pose a hazard even when the weather is good.

Some of the most common symptoms that our Arborists look for during a Tree Hazard Inspection are listed on the next page under **Tree Hazard Checklist**. There are others, too.

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♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥ **What Is Love?** ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

A group of professional people posed this question to a group of 4 to 8 year-olds, “What does love mean?” The answers they got were broader and deeper than anyone could have imagined. See what you think:

“When my grandmother got arthritis, she couldn’t bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandfather does it for her all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That’s love.” - *Rebecca, age 8*

“When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouth.” - *Billy, age 4*

“Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other.” - *Karl, age 5*

“Love is when you go out to eat and give somebody most of your French fries without making them give you any of theirs.” - *Chrissy, age 6*

“Love is what makes you smile when you’re tired.” - *Terri, age 4*

“Love is when my mommy makes coffee for my daddy and she takes a sip before giving it to him, to make sure the taste is OK.” - *Danny, age 7*

“Love is what’s in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and listen.” - *Bobby, age 7*

“My mommy loves me more than anybody. You don’t see anyone else kissing me to sleep at night.” - *Clare, age 6*

<i>Winter</i>	
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As pointed out in Pirone's *Tree Maintenance*, one of the hundreds of books on trees and tree care we keep in our library for use by our Arborists:

"Most hazard trees that could fall during normal weather can be identified and removed before they cause serious injury, provided there is a will and there are resources to act... Much of the job of identifying tree hazards can be done visually. Many of the visual indicators and procedures are the same as those used in diagnosing tree diseases."

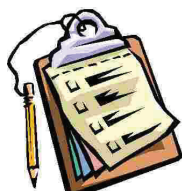
Winter is a perfect time for conducting Tree Hazard Inspections. The absence of foliage makes it easier to spot and evaluate potential hazards.



"There will be no bonuses this year, but I will be texting 'Happy New Year' to each and every employee."

Tree Hazard Checklist

- ✓ Are there large, dead branches on any of your trees?
- ✓ Are there any detached branches hanging in trees or lying on the ground?
- ✓ Do any trees have cavities or rotten wood along the trunk or in major branches?
- ✓ Are there mushrooms at the base of any trees? (They're associated with root rot.)
- ✓ Are there any cracks or splints in the trunks or where branches are attached?
- ✓ Have nearby trees fallen over or died?
- ✓ Have any tree trunks developed a strong lean?
- ✓ Do many of the major branches arise from one point on a trunk?
- ✓ Have any roots been broken off, injured, or damaged—perhaps when the soil level was lowered, pavement was installed, sidewalks were repaired, or trenches were dug?
- ✓ Has the site recently been changed by construction, raising the soil level, or installing a new lawn?
- ✓ Have any leaves prematurely developed an unusual color or size?
- ✓ Have trees in adjacent wooded areas been removed?
- ✓ Have any trees been topped or otherwise heavily pruned?



If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, your trees should be examined as soon as possible by an Arborist.

An Arborist is an individual who is trained in the art and science of planting, caring for, and maintaining individual trees.

After at least three years of study and experience, Arborists may gain certifications by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), by passing a comprehensive examination. Then they must continue their education in order to maintain their certification.

All the Arborists employed by J Davis Tree Care Solutions are in ISA-Certified programs.

So don't settle for less.

Recipe Corner: Chicken and Sausage Jambalaya

1 pound smoked sausage, cut into 1/4-inch slices
1 pound chicken, cut into bite-size pieces
2 tablespoons flour
2 tablespoons butter
1 large yellow onion, chopped
2 cloves garlic, finely minced
3 ribs celery, chopped
1 medium bell pepper, chopped
1 teaspoon dried basil
1/4 teaspoon Creole seasoning
1 can Rotel tomatoes
1/2 teaspoon sugar
1 1/2 cups chicken broth
2 cups hot, steamed rice

In a 4-6 quart pot, cook sausage and poultry over medium heat. Drain the grease, scrape the meat onto a plate and set aside.

Melt the butter in the same pot. Stir in the flour and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, for one minute. Add the vegetables, basil and Creole seasoning, and the Rotel tomatoes and sugar. Stir well.

Simmer the mixture over low or medium-low heat for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are mostly tender. Add the sausage and chicken back to the pot, and cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the chicken broth and simmer 5 minutes longer. Stir in the hot, steamed rice until you achieve your desired consistency.

from melskitchencafe.com



Laughter: The Best Medicine

I Have Contacts

A policeman pulled a female driver over and asked to see her license.

After looking it over, he said to her, “Lady, it stipulates here on your license that you should be wearing glasses.”

“Well, I have contacts,” the woman replied.

“Look lady, I don’t care who you know,” snapped the officer. “You’re getting a ticket.”

I Can’t Hear You

An elderly gentleman with serious hearing problems goes to the doctor who fits him with hearing aids that allow him to hear at 100% for the first time in many years.

The elderly man goes back in a month for a checkup. The doctor says, “Your hearing is perfect. Your family must be really pleased that you can hear again.”

To which the gentleman replies, “Oh, I haven’t told my family yet. I sit around and listen to the conversations. I’ve changed my will three times!”

Thanks For
All The
Kind Words!

Thanks to YOU the word is spreading!

Thanks to all of our wonderful clients and friends who graciously referred us to their friends and neighbors last month!

Our business runs on the positive comments and referrals from people just like you! We couldn’t do it without you!

A special thanks to these fine folks...

Everything was good as always. It’s so nice to have service as good as yours and to deal with people who care about the quality of work they do. The guys were GREAT!

~ Al Grab, Colleyville

Oh my gosh- fabulous work as always! The guys are so nice- just keep working and get it done. I love how they clean up. Some areas look cleaner than when they arrived! Do they clean the inside too?

~ Terri McIlraith, Fort Worth

This was a great crew! They were all polite and introduced themselves individually to me. Besides being friendly, they worked hard and asked me several times if I was pleased. I’m very pleased. The clean up was great too!

~ Alan Harders, Fort Worth

MISTLETOE Can Be The Kiss of Death For Your Trees!

According to tradition, a person caught standing under the mistletoe during the Christmas season must forfeit a kiss to anyone who asks for one. In most cases, there’s no harm done. However, at any time throughout the year, mistletoe can prove deadly if it’s growing on your trees!

Despite its romantic image, mistletoe is actually a vicious, tenacious plant that grows—sometimes into a mass the weighs as much as 100 pounds—on the trunks and branches of various trees. Especially pecan trees, elms, hackberries, mesquites, blackjack oaks and, to a less extent, post oaks and dozens of other species.



Unlike most other plants, mistletoe cannot live by itself in the soil. It must live as a parasite, and trees are its favorite victims. It sends its roots directly into the living tissues of its host tree, to absorb water, minerals, and other nutrients. At the point of entry, the tree trunk or branch swells up—sometimes to two or three times the normal size—and the bark becomes scaly. If it’s a branch that’s affected, it wastes away and, all too often, dies.

Here are two types of mistletoe. The true or leafy mistletoes are frequently found on hardwoods growing in Texas and other southern states. Small and leafy, they make much of their own food, using the water and minerals they take from their host. Their seeds—spread by the beaks, feet, or feathers of birds—germinate on the tree branches and penetrate the host, with the parasite traveling through the tissues. True mistletoes are especially harmful to trees during times of stress.

Dwarf mistletoes lack true leaves for manufacturing food and, therefore, are even more damaging to their hosts—which include pine trees, fir trees, and other cone-bearing trees. The affected twigs, branches, and trunks become swollen or produce witches’ brooms—short, bare limbs terminating in a knobby swelling. The trees experience a reduction in vigor and growth, and older trees may even die.

Pruning (cutting) and/or scraping are effective ways to control both types of mistletoe. But complete eradication of mistletoe is difficult or impossible. That’s because new shoots may sprout up several feet from the original infection, requiring additional pruning periodically.

It’s another reason why tree monitoring is so important. The more you know about the condition of your trees, all year long, the better.

In three words I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.

– Robert Frost

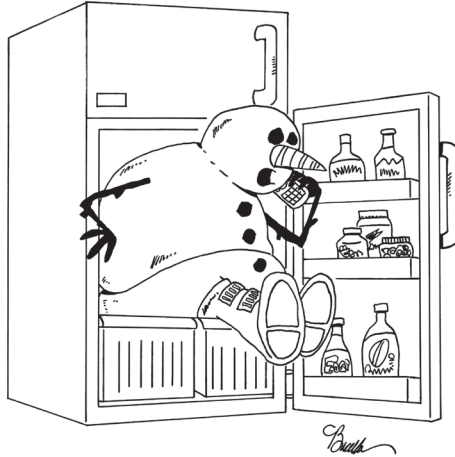
I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life and that is why I succeed.

– Michael Jordan



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Alimony is like buying hay for a dead horse.

– Groucho Marx

MEGA TRIVIA!

Who Wants to Win a \$40
Restaurant Certificate?

Take our Trivia Challenge and you could win, too!

This is one of our favorite parts of the newsletter! Each issue we'll give you a new trivia question. We will draw from the people who submit the correct answer. Three names will win a \$40 restaurant certificate. Enjoy a night out on us with someone special in your life! Remember, your chances of winning are better than you think!

This issue's MegaTrivia Question is...

What did the crocodile swallow in Peter Pan?

Email answers to cindyvorhees12@gmail.com
or call us at 817-831-TREE (8733)

Last Newsletter's Trivia Answer was: Southern
Maid Doughnuts, 1954.

Last Issue's Trivia Winners enjoyed a
night out on us! You could be next!

Johanna Hardesty, NRH
Candace Andre, Grapevine
Helen Traylor, Hurst

My computer beat me at checkers, but I sure beat it at kickboxing.
– Emo Philips