

# LAKEWOOD LEADER

July 2007

Volume 1, Issue 1

New for The Residents of Lakewood

## HOW THE DROUGHT WAS WON: Lots Of Rain (Though Not As Expected)

*Submitted by LCRA*



*The “sometimes islands” have disappeared as recent rains return Lake Travis to full elevation. This photo overlooks the boat ramp at Mansfield Dam Park. Photo courtesy of LCRA.*

AUSTIN – In mid-December 2006, LCRA Meteorologist Bob Rose stood at what would have been the swim area at Bob Wentz Park at Windy Point. He was looking out to Lake Travis, which was more than 37 feet below full elevation, following a two-year drought.

“The question people kept asking me was, ‘When is it going to rain?’” Rose recalled.

With good reason. The drought had left Lake Travis and its sister water-supply reservoir, Lake Buchanan, little more than half full. LCRA hydrologists contemplated that, barring the return of rain, drought conditions in the region could soon surpass those of the decade-long Drought of Record of the 1940s and '50s.

Fast forward to early June. The water is

now at least 16 feet deep where Rose stood six months earlier. Lakes Travis and Buchanan are virtually full, thanks to the return of rains earlier this year that, through late May, had generated nearly 286 billion gallons of runoff, roughly 44 percent of what the two lakes can hold. And the drought? It’s mentioned in the

past tense, if at all.

### **Rains fell, but not as forecasters had anticipated**

Rain – lots of it – vanquished the drought and refilled the lakes, but not in a way that weather forecasters had expected. Most of the beneficial storms occurred after an “El Niño” weather pattern, which typically results in above-average rainfall for the basin, had come and gone without offering much relief to drought conditions in the Hill Country.

In March three waves of storms finally targeted the Hill Country, boosting Lake Travis by more than 19 feet. Rains throughout April and early May raised the lake another 4 feet.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Welcome to the The Lakewood Leader

*A newsletter for Lakewood residents by Lakewood residents.*

The Lakewood Leader is a new monthly newsletter mailed to all Lakewood residents. Each newsletter will be filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com) or you can email it [lakewood@peelinc.com](mailto:lakewood@peelinc.com). Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome.

Our goal is to keep you informed!

### *Don't want to wait for the mail?*

View the current issue of  
The Lakewood Leader  
on the 1st day of each month at  
[www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

## Newsletter Information

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Peel, Inc. .... www.PEELinc.com, 512-989-8905  
Article Submission ..... lakewood@peelinc.com  
Advertising ..... advertising@PEELinc.com

### Classified Ads

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### Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Lakewood Leader. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Lakewood residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-989-8905 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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### Drought - (Continued from Cover Page)

Then came the storms of May 24-28, which generated more than 88 billion gallons of runoff, about 95 percent of what lakes Travis and Buchanan collected from the three March storms. The storms topped out Lake Travis and rose Lake Buchanan to less than 2 feet below its full elevation for this time of year.

By storing the runoff in Lake Travis until it could be safely released through Mansfield Dam, LCRA was able to help keep Lake Austin, Town Lake and the Colorado River downstream below flood stage.

### Drought could recur – but flooding a more immediate concern

LCRA officials caution that drought conditions, though vanquished, could recur within a year or two. Rose noted that heavy rains and floods in June 1997 topped out the lakes, but by 1999 the basin was locked in a drought that lasted through late 2000.

But even with a drier La Niña weather pattern settling in later this year, Rose said it's too early at this point to tell when the basin may be headed back into drought.

"June is typically one of our rainier months," Rose said. "And this year's tropical storm season, which began June 1, may be very active" – raising the possibility that heavy rains from an active tropical season could generate additional runoff into the already full lakes Travis and Buchanan.

The Lower Colorado River Authority protects people, property and the environment in Central Texas. Subscribe to Currents, the LCRA newsletter, at [www.lcra.org/subscribe/currents](http://www.lcra.org/subscribe/currents).

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## New Twist on Swimming Lessons Makes it Easy on Parents and Good for Kids

Submitted By Ryan Place



You want your kids to learn to swim, but it is so hard to fit those lessons between soccer practice, outings with friends, summer camps and vacations. Swim Right swim lessons makes it easy. Entrepreneur, Ryan Place has a solution he calls a flexible lesson schedule. He has a spreadsheet with over 600 individual private lesson spots across the summer. Parents can sign up children for as many or few as they want at various times throughout the day, week or summer. You can schedule

swimming lessons around all of your other commitments. Ryan also accommodates changes to schedules as a family's plans change.

Ryan says individual attention allows the child to make much more progress with fewer lessons. Ryan tailors each lesson to the individual child – skill level, water comfort, body type and goals. They don't spend time hanging on the wall, sitting on the side, or having "free time". At \$15 per lesson, it ends up being quite a value compared to individual attention received at a private swim school, health club or even a park district group lesson program.

Ryan started Swim Right in his backyard pool when he was 15 and too young to get a job or have transportation. His business has doubled in size each of the past three years. "The kids are so much fun and all so unique. I am never bored. It is great when the kids

come back the next summer; they seem so much bigger and mature."

Ryan's lesson schedule was full by early May this year, so he franchised some of his high school swim teammates to teach lessons in their back yard pools. Ryan thinks people on swim teams make the best teachers. They swim themselves almost everyday of the year and think about stroke technique constantly. They have good intuition about what a child needs to do to improve.

Ryan's business earned him a finalist spot in the TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Award for 2007. He spent the weekend at TCU's Neeley School of Business and learned a lot about starting, running and building a business.

If you want to schedule swim lessons or just want to talk swimming or business with Ryan, you can reach him at [theplace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:theplace@sbcglobal.net)



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## Homeowner's Guide to Dealing with Service Companies

*Submitted by Kat Brogden*

Oftentimes homeowners are forced to request service for problems which they have little understanding, i.e. Air Conditioning, Plumbing, Electricity or Appliances. Due to this lack of understanding, the homeowner attempts to obtain assurance by establishing a maximum price for service over the telephone. This approach could actually lead to more expense for the homeowner over the long run. Here are some points to consider.

1. If you don't understand how something should work it is highly unlikely that you will adequately describe the scope of the problem to the service company to cover all possible issues.
2. Most reputable service companies have the homeowner's best interest at heart and would not risk their business' reputation to secure a repair job.
3. Not all repair components are of the same quality. Seeking definitive pricing prior to a qualified assessment may lead to a "patch job" instead of a repair to satisfy price quotes.
4. Generally, the individual overseeing the phone is not a qualified repair technician. Attempting to confirm definitive pricing from the scheduling employees may be no more productive then asking your neighbor.
5. Be involved with your service technician. Reputable technicians want you to understand and appreciate their expertise. Ask questions, explore options and make an informed decision.
6. Make sure there is an employment contract between the technician and the company. Many companies use sub-contractors, which potentially compromise your rights and their obligations for liability.
7. Remember, it is not the technician's fault that you have to repair or replace a product. Don't shoot the messenger!
8. Make sure you understand warranties and representation. Reputable companies are upfront, thorough, and willing to provide written support of warranties. Ask about "hidden" preventative maintenance required to preserve warranties
9. Remember, most reputable companies will work to satisfy customers. Stuff happens! Work with companies to resolve issues.
10. It is generally a safe bet that you get what you pay for. There is a reason for discounted services as all companies intend to make a profit for their services.

## Business Classifieds

**PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS** - In backyard neighborhood pools, flexible hours, \$15 for 30 minutes. We are competitive swimmers who have placed in state championships, swim for the Westwood varsity team and a local club team year round. Booking now for summer lessons. References available. Call Ryan, 257-1659 or [theplace@sbcglobal.net](mailto:theplace@sbcglobal.net)

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## The live wire

- July 11th**..... Storyville  
Blues on the Green
- July 13th**..... Roky Erickson's 60th BD Celebration  
Paramount Theatre
- July 19th**..... Texas Renegade  
Nuttu Brown Café
- July 21st** ..... Kelly Willis  
Stubb's BBQ
- July 21st** ..... Randy Rogers Band  
Nuttu Brown Cafe
- July 25th**..... Jimmy Reed Highway  
Blues on the Green
- July 27th**..... Grupo Fantasma  
Threadgill's South

*The "Live Wire" is not a paid advertisement or endorsed by the performers or venues. The list of suggested events is provided as a convenience in support of Austin's status as the "Live Music Capital of the World"; it is compiled from information available at the time of submittal, and may change. Readers are encouraged to validate accuracy with the performer or the venue.*

## Send Us Your Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in the Lakewood Leader? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to [lakewood@peelinc.com](mailto:lakewood@peelinc.com).

Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).



POLICE-COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

## National Night Out reminder

The 24th Annual National Night Out (NNO) has been scheduled for **Tuesday, August 7, 2007**.

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT is designed to:**

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

If you would like to have a block party or other event, you can register for a free packet of information by going to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/nno.htm>.

## Newsletter Article Submissions

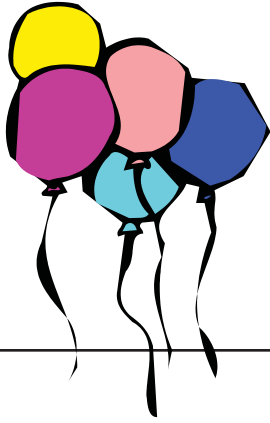
Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing [lakewood@peelinc.com](mailto:lakewood@peelinc.com) or by going to <http://www.peelinc.com/articleSubmit.php>. All news must be received by the 9th of the month prior to the issue. So if you are involved with a school group, scouts, sports etc – please submit your articles for the Lakewood Leader. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.



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## Do You Have Reason to Celebrate?

We want to hear from you! Email [lakewood@peelinc.com](mailto:lakewood@peelinc.com) to let the community know!

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## Teenage Job Seekers

Name	Age	Baby Sit	Pet Sit	House Sit	Yard Work	Phone
Doe, John	15	•	•	•	•	111-1111

**SAMPLE**

\*-CPR Training

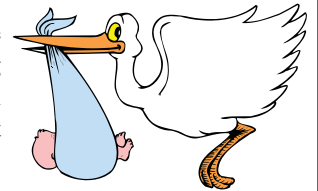
+First Aid Training

### Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all Lakewood teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to [lakewood@peelinc.com](mailto:lakewood@peelinc.com) by the 9<sup>th</sup> of the month!

## Stork Report

If you have a new addition to the family please let us know by emailing [lakewood@peelinc.com](mailto:lakewood@peelinc.com) and we will include an announcement to let everyone know!



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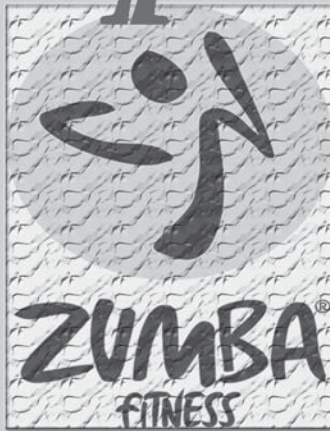
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