

# The RANCHO REVIEW

April 2009 Volume III, Issue IV

News for the Residents of Avery Ranch

## Help An Orphaned Child Find A Family

Every summer Kidsave brings older orphaned children to Austin, and other U.S. cities, to participate in our 5-week Summer Miracles program. Summer Miracles “shines a light” on children the world has forgotten. The children stay with volunteer host families, experience family life, attend day camp, and meet families who may want to adopt them. Over 90% of the children now have families, hope and love because of Summer Miracles.

Approximately ten orphaned children will be coming to the Austin area to participate in Summer Miracles 2009. For more information about how you can help or host one of these children, please call Stephanie Karasick at 512-415-7082, or email [stephanie@austinkidsave.org](mailto:stephanie@austinkidsave.org).

Be a voice for change for children who need families. Volunteer to help a child this summer!

Kidsave is a 501(c)(3) public charity; our tax ID number 91-1887623.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.kidsave.org](http://www.kidsave.org).



### Celebrate Healthy Children at 10th Annual Toast to the Rock

Round Rock Circle of Friends Wine Festival to Benefit Dell Children's Medical Center

Submitted by Jennefer Allen

Round Rock Circle of Friends invites the community to celebrate good health for its children at the 10th Annual Toast to the Rock Wine Festival, benefiting Dell Children's Medical Center. The event will be held on Sunday, April 26 from 3 pm-6 pm at the Fern Bluff Community Center in Round Rock, 7320 Wyoming Springs Drive.

Round Rock Circle of Friends celebrates ten years of success since it held its first Toast to the Rock event in 1999. The group has raised almost \$500,000 for children's healthcare, first supporting Children's Hospital of Austin and now supporting Dell Children's Medical Center since opening in 2007.

Dell Children's is an extraordinary medical center and is the first hospital in the world to receive the prestigious LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) Platinum designation, given by the U.S. Green Building Council. This state-of-the-art pediatric medical center conserves energy, reduces water consumption, uses renewable resources and recycles waste. As a not-for-profit medical center, every child throughout a 46-county Central Texas region – including Round Rock

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# THE RANCH REVIEW

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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Ambulance..... 911  
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Grisham Middle School ..... 512-428-2650  
McNeil High School ..... 512-464-6300

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Texas Gas Service  
    Custom Service ..... 1-800-700-2443  
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    Call Before You Dig ..... 512-472-2822  
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### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Article Submissions ..... [averyranch@peelinc.com](mailto:averyranch@peelinc.com)  
Advertising..... [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com)

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Not Available Online

### Stork Report

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



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# THE RANCH REVIEW

## Celebrate Healthy - (Continued from Cover Page)

– receives outstanding pediatric healthcare, regardless of his or her family's ability to pay for services.

Toast to the Rock is a fabulous afternoon of wine-tasting, food sampling, silent auction and musical entertainment by the Giovedi Saxophone Ensemble. Tickets are \$40 per person and \$75 per couple and can be purchased online at [www.toasttotherock.com](http://www.toasttotherock.com) or through the Children's Medical Center Foundation website at [www.childrensaustin.org](http://www.childrensaustin.org). For more information about the event, visit either website or contact Jeneffer Allen, event chair, at (512) 246-8151 or by e-mail at [allenjeneffer@yahoo.com](mailto:allenjeneffer@yahoo.com).

The Round Rock Chapter of Circle of Friends is a community based organization that raises funds and awareness for Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. Round Rock Circle of Friends is comprised of area residents and businesses.



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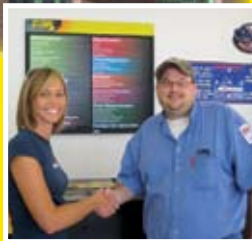
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Avery Ranch HOA Expires 9/30/09

## Spring is Upon Us, *Make Sure Your Irrigation System is Ready*

Article submitted by Jacob Johnson, Austin Water Utility, Water Conservation Division

Spring is quickly approaching and now is the time to make sure your irrigation system is ready to start working again after being off all winter. How? Follow the tips below:

### See For Yourself

**The fastest way to check your irrigation system is to check it yourself. Here's how:**

- First, set your controller to operate a two-minute test program. (If the controller does not have a pre-programmed test program, set each zone to come on for only two minutes using the C or D program that may not be normally used.)
- Start the program manually and then watch the system as it runs through each station.
- Look for heads that are broken or leaking, heads that are misaligned and not watering what they ought to, or heads that are clogged or obstructed by grass runners or shrubs.

Ideally, the test program should be run monthly to keep track of how the system is functioning. This may also prevent increases in your water bill caused by leaks or multiple broken heads. To keep

your irrigation system running as efficiently as possible, call a licensed irrigator to fix the problems for you.

### Don't Overdo It

Your spring watering schedule should be half of what you'd water during the summer. Yet, in their eagerness to see new green grass, spring is when people are most likely to overwater plants and turf. With cool temperatures in the evenings and mornings, it is not necessary to water as frequently as you would during the summer.

- Beginning in March or April, we recommend watering once every 7 to 10 days with one start time.
- Remember, the mandatory watering schedule begins on May 1st each year. Any irrigation with an automatic system or hose-end sprinkler must be used on an assigned watering day.
- Set controllers to run before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m. It's a more effective use of water, and it's the law.
- Hand-held hoses can be used any time on any day. If an area of your landscape needs extra attention, it's best to spot-water as needed.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## Affordable Healthcare Made Easy

### Is this you?

- Can't afford large surprise medical bills
- Unable to find time to take care of yourself
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Check out our special offer for new members:

[www.housecallhealth.com/offer](http://www.housecallhealth.com/offer)

# WHITEGLOVE HOUSE CALL HEALTH

Spring is Upon Us - (Continued from Page 4)

## Get Some Help

How can you tell if you may be overwatering? If your water bills exceed 25,000 gallons per month, you might benefit from professional help. The Water Conservation Division offers free irrigation system evaluations to check out your system and provide you with a recommend watering schedule based on your plants, the amount of light the yard receives, and the type of sprinkler heads installed. The service is available to all City of Austin water customers or eligible MUD customers, and is ideal for new owners of irrigation systems as well as those who just aren't sure about their lawn's water needs. Call Water Conservation at 974-2199 to schedule your free irrigation system audit, or to talk with a licensed irrigator about your system. You can also schedule audits online at [www.waterwiseaustin.org](http://www.waterwiseaustin.org).

## Classified Ads

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# THE RANCH REVIEW

## Nature Watch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

### Surprises After a Rain

Magical things happen when it rains in the Texas hill country! Historically, spring and fall generally bring the most amount of precipitation to our area, and the flora and fauna respond accordingly. Exotic-looking rain lilies pop up and bloom a few days after a good rain, but what you might not know is that there are two species of this delicate plant that are native to central Texas.

*Cooperia pedunculata*, or hill country rain lily, tends to have a main spring bloom season after significant rains occurring March through early August, although it can bloom sporadically over the rest of the growing season. These lilies begin to open slowly at dusk and are fully opened the next morning. An all white bloom with three petals and three sepals, the flower is trumpet-shaped, roughly two inches across, and is at the top of a single unbranched blue-green stem about five to nine inches high. The leaves are thin, long, and branch away from the stem at the base. The slightly fragrant bloom lasts only a day or two, turning from white to light pink as it fades.

Often found in groups in meadows, open woodlands, and even roadsides, these lilies can be grown easily from seeds or bulbs and combine well with groundcovers or plants that have naturally short foliage. They are native to east and southwest Texas as well as adjacent Mexico, and have since spread east to Louisiana.

*Cooperia drummondii*, or evening rain lily, tends to have a slightly later bloom season, occurring from late May through September, with the most frequent flowering in late

(Continued on Page 7)



Hill country rain lily  
(Photo: Michael Dana)



Evening rain lily  
(Photo: Joseph A. Marcus)

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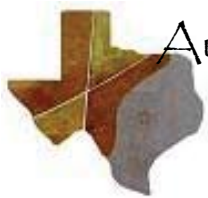
**Nature Watch** - (Continued from Page 6)

summer and fall after a substantial rain. The solitary, fragrant, and ephemeral white flower is made up of six petals and tops a leafless, twelve inch stem. It too opens in the evening, and after two to four days the flower turns pink and withers. After it fades, the smooth, gray-green, grass-like leaves elongate. The bloom is quite similar to the hill country rain lily, but slightly smaller in terms of size.

Originally native to northern Mexico, the western two-thirds of Texas to New Mexico, and southeast Kansas and Louisiana, the evening rain lily has expanded its range to Oklahoma, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Alabama. It gets its species name from Thomas Drummond, a naturalist born in Scotland that arrived in Weslaco, Texas in 1833. He spent twenty-one months working the area between Galveston Island and the Edwards Plateau, focusing on plants and birds along the Brazos, Guadalupe, and Colorado rivers, and contributing extensively to natural history collections for museums and scientific institutions around the world.

The next time you see some of these elegant beauties gracing an open field or a grassy area on the side of a road, think of them as a treasured gift given to you by a recent rain and a reminder that rain brings more than just rainbows!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them.



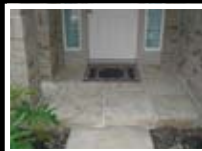
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*Easter Activities*

## Good Friday Service

Friday, April 10 / 6:30 pm

*Family - Friendly*

## Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 11 / 10 am

*Family - Friendly | Free Event*

*Toddlers through Fifth Grade*

## One Had to Rise - Easter Musical

Saturday, April 11 / 7:00 pm / Great Hall

*Presented by the Great Hills Celebration Choir*

*Free Event*

## Easter Services

Sunday, April 12

9:30 am - Choir & Orchestra / 11:00 am - Praise Band

*Children's worship for birth through*

*fifth grade during both services.*



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## Healthier Homes

By Charles & Michelle Bubnis

Have you ever walked around the neighborhood and looked at some lawns and thought "I wish my yard looked that good"? Well, here are some tips to get your yard looking great by creating a healthier turf.

Don't use Weed and Feed. 2,4-D the pesticide in most Weed and Feed product is neurotoxic and contains half of the ingredients found in Agent Orange. Studies have shown that lawn chemicals are tracked or drift inside where they remain on surfaces or in the carpet for up to a year when they are not exposed to direct sunlight (little children spend lots of time playing/crawling on carpet). Also, Weed and Feed can actually hurt the health of the lawn by killing beneficial microorganisms, insects and earth worms that maintain a healthy grass.

Instead, consider building up the health of the soil through yearly aeration and organic compost application (ex. Farm Style Compost from Natural Gardener). Corn Gluten can be applied

for pre-emergent weed control. Biological controls for insects can be used if necessary such as nematodes to get rid of grubs. Apply annually a slow release nitrogen organic fertilizer as commercial fertilizers frequently contain toxic herbicides such as 2, 4-D mentioned earlier.

You are on your way to transitioning to a natural lawn care with these easy steps. If you are looking for or currently have a lawn care service, ask them to adopt these methods. If they wish to use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) be wary because these usually include the use of toxic pesticides.

Within a short time you too will have a robust looking lawn but more importantly, you will know that it truly is healthier and safer for your family too.


### Resources:

Natural Gardener 288-6113

[www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org), and [www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org)



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12 MONTHS REGULAR <sup>1</sup>	<b>2.32%</b> APY****	12 MONTHS JUMBO <sup>2</sup>	<b>2.42%</b> APY****
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From our family to yours...howdy neighbor!  
My name is Josh Sowers and my wife Kristin and I want to take a minute to introduce ourselves and our business, Sowers Lawn Care.

Kristin and I met back in 2003 as penpals while I was serving with the Army in Iraq. To make a long story short, we fell in love, I finished my service, and we got married and moved to Round Rock to start what is now Sowers Lawn Care in 2005. This past year we welcomed our first son in early March. We feel incredibly blessed with the growth we have had in our family, our business, and the community in the past few years and are excited to watch it continue.

We are residents of north Round Rock, and we hope that if you see us around town, you'll say hello...and that if you are ever in need of lawn services...you'll give us a call! Thanks!

## **Spring Is In the Air - *Time to Start Your Own Organic Garden***

*Submitted by LCRA*

In a world of iPod's, computer games, and DVDs, gardens are our nearest gateway to nature. Planting an organic garden with your family or friends builds relationships as well as stronger connections to the land, weather, and plants of Texas.

When looking for a garden site in your yard, choose an area with a good six to eight hours of sunlight and access to water. If you have shallow or poor soil, consider creating raised beds. Decide the garden's design by drawing shapes on paper and thinking about how you might arrange flowers, herbs, and vegetables within those shapes.

You may want to read through regional gardening books and seed catalogs when choosing plants. Native plants will be much easier to grow and keep healthy, and native flowering plants attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Avoid toxic plants, and consider aromatic herbs and edible plants. If you choose to start some plants from seed, create garden markers using either names or drawings to help recognize the plants when they germinate.

Find sturdy gardening tools. Many nurseries and garden centers sell spades and rakes in various sizes - make sure you

*(Continued on Page 11)*



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AR

## Spring is in the Air - (Continued from Page 10)

find one that fits you best. Avoid digging with hand trowels unless the soil is very friable, or you are working in pots—small hands and wrists tire easily.

Use soaker hoses with timers to keep soil moist while your seeds are germinating. Keep a calendar to record when you plant seeds and when they germinate. Place a rain gauge in the garden to keep track of showers. Find a magnifying glass to peer at leaves, flowers, and insects in your garden.

Keep your garden safe for everyone by avoiding the use of toxic landscape chemicals. Visit [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org) for information on less toxic landscaping.

Finally, celebrate your harvest of wildflower bouquets, herbs for cooking, and tasty vegetables. Organic gardening is a lot of fun and very rewarding.

### REMEMBER, PLEASE:

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