Congratulations

River Place Garden Club
June 2009 Yard of the Month

- 10017 Planters Woods -

Congratulations to Gayelynn and Richard Butler, 10017 Planters Woods for being chosen as the winners of the River Place Garden Club’s YARD OF THE MONTH. Now that you can see where it is and how it looks, everyone in the community can appreciate the eye-catching use of colorful plants designed so beautifully in the front yard garden. Her neighbors stopped by when the sign went up to congratulate the Gayelynn on her creative and beautifully maintained yard. They were thrilled with the Butler’s well-deserved recognition. A $50.00 gift certificate will be awarded to them by Mary Rachkind, a member of the Garden Club.

Garden Club News

The Last meeting of the season in May featured the changing of officers. The new officers are Becky Douglas, Secretary, Ivar Rachkind, Treasurer, Pat Coppola, Vice President and Ann Kennedy, President. The Summer Vacation is used for planning next season’s host homes and the programs that will be featured from September through May.

The garden club meets the second Thursday of each month starting in September. Please consider joining us. Contact information can be received by emailing AnnKennedy@austin.rr.com.

Some Of The Criteria Used To Choose Winners For Yard of the Month Are The Following:
• use of colorful plants
• design and creativity
• plant selection and placement, including use of native plants
• grass/turf appearance & mulching
• yard maintenance including weeding
• appropriate use of hardscape elements (stone, edging paths, and walkways)
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- Fire: 911
- Ambulance: 911
- Sheriff – Non-Emergency: 512-974-0845
  - Emergencies: 512-266-1775
  - Information: 512-266-2533

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- Cedar Park High School: 512-435-8300
- River Place Elementary: 512-434-7026

**UTILITIES**
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- City of Austin Electric: 512-494-9400
- Texas Gas Service
  - Custom Service: 1-800-700-2443
  - Emergencies: 512-370-8609
  - Call Before You Dig: 512-472-2822
- AT&T
  - New Service: 1-800-464-7928
  - Repair: 1-800-246-8464
  - Billing: 1-800-858-7928
- Time Warner Cable
  - Customer Service: 512-485-5555
  - Repairs: 512-485-5080
- IESI (Trash): 512-282-3508

**OTHER NUMBERS**
- River Place Postal Office: 512-345-9739

**NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER**
- Peel, Inc.: 512-263-9181
- Article Submissions: riverreview@peelinc.com
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- **Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are $50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-989-8905 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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### Do You Have Reason to Celebrate?

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Email riverreview@PEELinc.com to let the community know!

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### CONTRIBUTORS NEEDED

Volunteer to be the Editor of your newsletter

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### Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing riverreview@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 River Review. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.

Call 1-888-687-6444 for more information.
Vandegrift Cross Country Teams Kick Off Inaugural Season

Vandegrift High School does not officially open its doors until August 24th, but the Viper girls’ and boy’s cross country teams have already started their summer workouts. The teams have three scheduled workouts each week through the end of June and four practices each week in July before starting daily workouts in early August. Practice locations will rotate in the Four Points area between Steiner Ranch, Riverplace and Vandegrift High School.

If you will be either a Sophomore or Freshman at Vandegrift High School next fall and are interested in building a lasting tradition of cross country success please contact Coach Keith Pierce at (940) 395-3369 or Kpierce@alumni.rice.edu.

Attention River Place Elementary Parents

If your child will be playing Pop Warner Football in the fall, please keep track of your child’s final report card. You will be asked to provide a copy of it when joining a team. If you misplace it and need to request a copy from the school, this process can take up to 10 days to fulfill.

Have a great summer!
River Place Elementary Staff
As you zip along RM 2222 you have seen the sign for Emma Long Metropolitan Park. It’s one of the larges parks in Austin but have you ever been there? And who was Emma Long anyway? Emma Long was a writer for the Austin American-Statesman, and was the first woman to be a full-time member of the Texas Statehouse Press Corps. In 1948 a woman in Austin could vote, but she could not serve on a jury; she could not enter into a contract; she could not bring a suit in her own name. Despite this situation, Ms. Long was elected in 1948 as the first woman to serve on the Austin City Council, or for that matter of any large city in Texas. She served from 1948 to 1959 and again from 1963 to 1969 for a total of sixteen years. She also served as the first woman Mayor Pro Tem from 1967-1969.

Long became known as the dean of council members. Called “quarrelsome” by her opponents and “unselfish and unrelenting” by her supporters, she fought utility rate increases, paved roads throughout the city, and blasted the male establishment for governing behind closed doors.

Emma Long was a champion of civil rights in Austin. In the late 40s and early 50s, blacks were beginning to demand fair rights, and Emma Long found herself supporting their causes on several occasions. From allowing blacks to use the Public Library to integrating the schools, Emma Long was an outspoken advocate of civil rights. In the 1950’s in Austin there were no golf courses -- public or private -- on which blacks were allowed to play. Instead, blacks were permitted to caddie at Lions Municipal, after they paid a fee. “If these people are going to pay taxes,” Long said at a council meeting, “then they are entitled to play golf.” Personal adversities did not thwart her desire to serve in public office: the first time she ran for council, her youngest son was 6 weeks old; when she filed for her race in 1963, she was confined to a wheelchair with a broken hip.

In the 1960’s she was appointed by President Johnson to the United Nations Population Commission. And Emma Long Street is named in her honor at the new Mueller Project. But how did the park get named after her? After her election to the Austin City Council she reactivated the then empty Parks and Recreation Board. An ordinance passed by Council naming what was known as “City Park” as Emma Long Metropolitan Park. “Lots of my friends got together and wanted to name something after me. Ben White was a member of the City Council with me and had a street named after him down south. Ed Bluestein was a colleague and had a street named after him.” At first, her friends considered having Research Boulevard renamed for her. “There was understandable opposition. People had settled in there; Research Boulevard was the address on their letterheads and business correspondence,” said Long. Then, on June 18, 1984, Carol Keeton Rylander, Mayor of Austin from 1977-1983, proposed to the Austin City Council that the park be named for Emma Long. The Council passed the ordinance naming the park after this influential, extraordinary leader of Austin. Emma Long resides in Austin and is 97 years old.

Sources: City of Austin Parks and Recreation Dept. website; Austin History Center website; TX State Cemetery web site. For more information contact Rich Keith at (512) 266-8498.
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Statistics based on data from the Austin Multiple Listing Service for the period 1/1/09–5/7/09.

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Healthier Homes - Easy Ways to Improve Household Air Quality

By: Michelle & Charlie Bubnis

Home cleaning products contain an array of harmful chemicals that are not required by law to be listed on the products’ label. These chemicals have a toxic effect on indoor air quality. The best way to avoid this unknown risk to your family is to create your own cleaning products which is much easier than one may think. Here are some suggestions:

- Almond Oil: Furniture polish
- Baking Soda: Cleans, deodorizes, removes stains and softens fabrics
- BonAmi: Functions as an abrasive cleaner
- Borax: Natural mineral that can be used to bleach, deodorize, remove stains, and boost soap. It also kills bacteria and mold. It can also be used in your dishwasher as 1 part borax and 1 part washing soda. Add ¼ cup to dishwasher load
- Castile Soaps: All purpose cleaner
- Citrus peels: Deodorize garbage disposal
- Cornstarch: Absorb oil and grease, starches clothes
- Club Soda: Pre-wash and stain remover
- Hydrogen Peroxide: Germicidal. Hydrogen Peroxide and cream of tartar paste make a good cleaner for sinks and bathtubs
- Lemon Juice: Bleach alternative, grease cutter, stain and perspiration remover for clothing. Lemon juice and salad oil as a furniture polish. Lemon juice on a cloth cleans aluminum
- Table Salt: Abrasive cleaner
- Vinegar : Water softener, cuts grease, removes stains; strips lime deposits from showers, removes white haze on glassware
- Washing Soda :Cleans clothes, boosts soap's cleaning power, softens water, cuts grease and disinfects

Consider always avoiding fragranced cleaning or fragranced laundry products as 95% of chemicals used in fragrances are synthetic and derived from petroleum. These chemicals are combined in untested combinations. They are capable of causing cancer, birth defects, central nervous system disorders and allergic reactions. So pick up a few of the suggested items listed above at the grocery store and the air quality in the home will improve along with the health of your family.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
1. Less Toxic Alternatives by Carolyn Gorman, 2004
Greetings! It’s time again to gather your neighbors and team up with your Law Enforcement Agency to give crime a going-away party.

National Night Out is an annual event held on the first Tuesday of October. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Night Out Association of Town Watch. This past year’s National Night Out campaigns involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, business, neighborhood organizations and local public officials from more than 9,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 29.5 million participated in National Night Out last year.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement – community partnership. But its primary goal is to send a strong message to criminals to let them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of porch lights and front-yard vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, visits from local law enforcement officers, parades, flashlights walks, contests and youth programs. NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for safer communities. The benefits that your community will derive from NNO will most certainly extend well beyond the one night.

The Travis County Sheriff’s Office has promoted National Night Out for the past 25 years. Our participation has grown from helping with a handful of neighborhood get-togethers to more than 4,000 participants enjoying block parties, carnivals, parades and an assortment of other activities. Our involvement has grown from a couple of crime prevention officers, to dozens of patrol officers, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, majors, county commissioners and the Sheriff.

National Night Out is a great way to get together with your neighbors, find out what’s going on in your community and visit with local law enforcement officers about what you can do to help reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur. Participation can be as simple as a small block party, or as big as a parade or carnival. To get involved, or to find out how to register your event for National Night Out, call the Travis County Sheriff’s Office at 854-8413 or 854-9770.

Deputy James Kitchens
Travis County Sheriff’s Office
Community Services & Outreach Unit
(512) 854-8413, Fax: (512) 854-4719
The more I find myself referencing the book I am currently reading (or have read) to friends, family and co-workers, the more I realize how much I’ve enjoyed it. Well, I’ve been talking about The Story of Edgar Sawtelle by David Wroblewski quite a bit and not because the author and I share long Polish last names.

I’m a sucker for human-dog stories and this is a unique and unforgettable journey between a young boy and his dogs. The main character, Edgar, is born unable to talk. He creates his own form of sign language, allowing him to communicate with his parents and their dogs (his family breeds a custom specialty of dog) until something happens that really rocks Edgar’s secure world.

The book captures the love and devotion between dogs and humans and communicates the personality in every creature. I enjoyed reading about dog training and its related terminology and how much companionship and loyalty define our outlook on life. The family unit, prior to Claude, was truly special and the drama that ensued post-Claude entering the scene left you waiting for disaster.

This book is truly an adventure with the best breed of companionship. There’s little dialog since a majority of the book is spent on Edgar’s journey (both literally and figuratively), which is engaging every step of the way. It’s heartbreaking to witness his relationship with Almondine, his best friend.

I have two points of contention with the book, parts of which were told in the voices from the main characters in the book (one of them being Edgar’s dog, which I thought was really great). Edgar’s mom, Trudy, shared her frame of reference, but it was so poorly portrayed. The author did a good job of developing her character, but either hadn’t fully developed Trudy’s voice or severely lacked experience in the mind of a woman. It was shallow and weak and didn’t correlate to the character he built for her.

My second point of contention was how the book ended. I have never truly complained about the way a book ends, but I feel strongly enough to say that I hoped the author would have found a more creative end. In the end, was it all for naught?!

Feel free to comment on this review, your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog: http://brittsbuzz.blogspot.com.
It's a fact of our global economy that consumers are drawn to the internet because of convenience. Why it is important to “Think Local Business First?”

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5. Strong local businesses help maintain property values and contribute to the character of our community by offering a diverse selection of goods and services.
6. Local businesses are most often the first job for our children and also the first introduction into the “real world” of economics.
7. Small businesses often innovate quicker and thus grow faster and can have a greater impact on our community.

Support the businesses in your community and “Think Local Business First.”

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Attorney and Counselor at Law
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Nature Watch
By Jim and Lynne Weber

Signature Plants

The hill country of central Texas is defined as an environmental ecoregion, which means it contains a certain set of plants and animals whose presence indicates specific conditions such as temperature range, rainfall, food supply, and physical characteristics of the land. This set of species, called indicator or signature species, can be among the most sensitive in a region, acting as an early warning of changing conditions to monitoring biologists. There are several signature plant species found on the Edwards Plateau, many of which are common, and several that are quite rare.

Found only in 5 Texas counties (Blanco, Comal, Hayes, Kendall, and Travis), canyon mock orange is a rare low shrub with small glossy green leaves and fragrant white blossoms. It grows near springs, among boulders and on bluffs in shady, moist canyons. Endemic to the hill country, this plant is almost identical to a more common but still uncommon species called Texas mock orange, which occurs in Bandera, Edwards, Real, and Uvalde counties. Aside from slight geographic differences in location, the key to properly identifying each species lies in the hairs that cover the lower leaf surface – canyon mock orange has only short straight hairs and Texas mock orange has a mix of short straight hairs and long tangled hairs. Listed as a state “species of concern” due to its declining numbers, canyon mock orange is in need of environmental protection.

One of the most beautiful and uncommon shrubs found only on the Edwards Plateau is the sycamore leaf snowbell. A sprawling, irregular, deciduous shrub, it grows on or

(Continued on Page 13)
Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 12)

under steep bluffs near creeks, offering showy white bell-shaped flowers in the spring and large green leaves with angular projections in the summer, turning to bright yellow in the fall. As a larval host plant, its leaves offer food for the caterpillars of tiger swallowtail butterflies. Several protection efforts by concerned citizens and botanists to propagate this plant are occurring on private lands.

Once scattered throughout central Texas, the bracted twist-flower is now a rare plant, likely due to the combined effect of picking and over-grazing. Found on rocky, wooded slopes it grows 2-4 feet tall, with a base of long, lobed green leaves that become shorter and more rounded as they travel up the stem. Striking violet-purple multi-flower spikes 4-10 inches tall grace the plant in late spring, with each individual flower having a small bract or leaf at its base.

Climbing on shrubs and small trees and found in a variety of environments, the uncommon bracted passion flower vine is yet another native jewel of the hill country. While its pale yellow-green flowers are small at only one inch across, they exhibit the typical intricacy of passion flower structure. Smooth, deeply lobed green leaves provide food to zebra longwing and gulf fritillary caterpillars, but also frequently sport tiny yellow spots, presumably to mimic butterfly eggs and discourage excessive egg laying.

While the signature plant species described above are rare and unique on their own, together they help define the true nature of the Texas hill country. Monitoring and preserving them is not only good for the sake of maintaining biological diversity and understanding changing environmental conditions, but for the future beauty of our ecoregion as well.

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How to Google Smarter
Submitted by Rich Keith

In my work as a financial service professional I often help my clients find information which will guide their understanding. But with my background in computer science I’m just geeky enough to enjoy the finer points of searching online. Here then, are ways to improve your Google experience.

- **Check your stocks.** Take a deep breath, and then enter a ticker symbol to see a real-time quote. Try ORCL or LUV.
- **Include the word you need.** Google ignores common words and characters such as where, the, how, and other digits and letters which slow down your search without improving the results. (Google will indicate if a word has been excluded by displaying details on the results page below the search box.)
- **If a common word is essential** to getting the results you want, you can include it by putting a “+” sign in front of it. (Be sure to include a space before the “+” sign.) For example, here’s how to ensure that Google includes the “IV” in a search for Star Wars, Episode IV: Star Wars Episode +IV
- **Convert currency and units.** Easy examples: “12 euros in dollars” or “12 tsp in tbsp” or “12 % of 93,755” for example.
- **Get the synonyms too with synonym search.** If you want to search not only for your search term but also for its synonyms, place the tilde sign (~) immediately in front of your search term. For example, suppose you want to search for food facts. Here’s how to search for food facts and also get similar information on nutrition and cooking information: ~food~facts.
- **Narrow by file type.** To find PowerPoints, Excel spreadsheets, or books scanned into PDFs, add “filetype:ppt” (or any other extension) to your query.
- **Search ranges.** Use two periods between two numbers, like “Wii $200..$300.” Even dates work. Try “Earl Campbell 1970..1990”

- **Be prepared for flight delays.** Type in the airline, then your flight number, like “AA 1237.”
- **Easy definitions.** To get the definition for a word, just type the word define: followed by the word. Include the colon and space, such as “define: annuity”
- **Find the right sources:** Add “site:edu” or “site:gov” to limit your search to school, org, or government domains. For example, ““529 plan site:org.” To target a specific website, type, say, “annuity site: primerica.com.”
- **Little known search operators.** This is neat: the asterisk (*) can be used if you don’t know exactly how to spell a word. For instance, “contagiou*” will match all articles containing words that start in “contagiou.” Give it a try, it’s contagious. Other operators include the pipe code (|) which acts as the word “OR.” For example, a search for “large cap|mid cap” will return search results for “large cap” OR “mid cap.” You can also use the uppercase word OR. For example, here’s how to search for a vacation in either Sedona or Flagstaff: “vacation Sedona OR Flagstaff”
- **Want a picture or a map?** Google can search for different media such as websites, images, videos, maps etc. Select the option above the input box. An easy way to refine your search is to select the “advanced search” option next to the input box.
- **Exact Phrases.** By default, Google searches for any of the terms you enter. To find a specific phrase, use double quotes (“). You will get different results for invest dollar cost average than you will for invest “dollar cost average”.

Combine and see what happens. Now you have what you need to mix it up! I combined the stock search with the date range and it worked. To see information on Intel from 1968 (founding year) to 1978, type in “INTC 1968..1978”. Now go and play with Google and see what you can find! Sources: Google, Wired.
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Are you looking to grow your business in 2009? If so, you might be interested in a few of the business networking groups in the area. There are a few to choose from:

**Steiner Ranch Referrals BNI Group**
Meetings are on Thursday mornings from 8:00 to 9:30 at Thai Harmony in Steiner Ranch. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Mark Taylor at marktaylor@actioncoach.com for more information or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

**Four Points BNI**
Meetings are on Wednesday at lunch from 11:30 to 1:00 at the River Place Country Club. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested in visiting a meeting please contact Amy Oehler at Amy@Lending360.net or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

A **Business Referral Group Made Fun**
Networking Northwest Austin is expanding its member base of businesses in our area. NWNWA members build close business and personal relationships. We believe in business by referrals and having a limited member base (not duplicating professions), so you will not see your competitors here. We have a caring, positive, involved group of people who not only wish to build their business, but also want to build the strength of our networking group. NWNWA meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Waterloo Ice House, 360 & FM 2222 from 7:00 am – 8:30am. And a fun happy hour once per month at a beautiful location. Come to a breakfast or call Dorothy Scarborough – President dscarborough5@austin.rr.com, 512-589-3678.

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