



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

Laurel Oaks

Neighborhood Association

NOVEMBER 2009 • VOLUME II, ISSUE XI

National Night Out – Oak View Park

Tuesday, October 6th

National Night out in Oak View Park was a big success again and there were many that helped. I'd like to personally thank those that lent their time, effort and resources helping with the event. This neighborhood is great because it has great people living here.

Ellie Brady
Sean Brady
Tammy Busfield
Ange Eaton
Lesley Guthrie
Rob Guthrie
Melissa Hathcock
Elle Logrip
Cat Obermeier
Shari Ryan
Richard Thomas
Ethan Thomas

Kelly Stilwell – COA Code Enforcement Division
Officer Tanya Normand – APD
Firefighters from AFD Station #33 (Bluegrass)
Lori Bertenthal – LONA Crime watch lead
Theresa Boisseau – Keller Williams Realty – Relogroup
Blake Roberts - The Quarries "Upward" Sports League

HEB – Braker & 183 – Gift card
Caraway Elementary PTA – Loan of bullhorn
Thanks also to everyone that attended the event. LONA hopes you had a great time!

Becky Thomas
National Night Out – Oak View Park
Event Coordinator & LONA Volunteer

Carnival Success!

Caraway Carnival was held on Saturday, October 24. The Carnival Team would like to thank all of this year's sponsors! Your help and monetary donations helped to make the carnival a great success!

Sponsors:

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Saxon Insurance, Chuck Saxon
Silpada Designs, Kristen Indriago
Susan Combs Russell, Edward Jones

And a special thanks goes to all of our Caraway families who have donated significant time and resources to this year's Carnival.

Laurel Oaks

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There has been new domain e-mail addresses created for the webmaster and selected LONA officers. The officers' appear as mailto links on the Officers page, and the new ones for the webmaster and the LONA Board are mailto links at the bottom of every page, as well as at other relevant spots on the LONA Yahoo! Website.

NEWSLETTER INFO

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NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Stay Informed – Join The Group!

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/laurel_oaks_na

Visit the LONA Web Site!

<http://www.laurel-oaks.org>

Laurel Oaks NA Classifieds

Have any items that you need to get rid of but think someone else could use? Have a useful service to offer your neighbors? Why not place an ad in The Laurel Oaks Newsletter? Just send the info and a phone to the newsletter editor, and your ad will be run in the newsletter for two issues.

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Laurel Oaks residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail mdayhath@austin.rr.com.

For Sale: Dog supplies, like new: medium size Igloo with pad \$70; adjustable metal vehicle barrier \$25; pedipaws \$5; misc. toys. Call 250-0131.

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Nature Watch

A River of Raptors

One of the most dramatic natural events occurs every fall when changing weather patterns mark the migration of hawks (also called raptors, or birds of prey) from their summer nesting and breeding grounds to their wintering grounds in South America. While northward migration in the spring months is more sporadic and allows for hawks to spread out over a larger geographic area, fall migration is the more spectacular of the two, with millions of hawks observed overhead in concentrated groups within a period of only a few months.

Scientists believe that hawks use a myriad of tools to find their way along migratory routes. First and foremost, they orient themselves by using a sun compass, or knowing where the sun should be at any given time of day. Some also use a polarization pattern of light for orientation, and are able to find the portion of the sky where light is uni-directional and utilize it to estimate the sun's position. Lastly, most hawks bring into play a magnetic compass, which allows them to orient themselves to the Earth's magnetic field.

In order to get airborne and use these internal orientation systems, hawks find thermals, or large columns of warm air, and ride these rising air currents in a spiral, high into the sky. From this vantage point, they



Kettle of Hawks

glide slowly down in the intended direction, and search for the next thermal to help move them along their way. From these elevated perspectives, hawks generally navigate by large geographic features or landmarks, such as coastlines, waterways, and mountain ranges.

The most common species of hawk that migrate over our area start with the Mississippi kite, continue with the Broad-winged hawk, and end with Swainson's hawk. Dark gray above and pale gray below with a red eye, long pointed wings, and a dark flared tail, the Mississippi kite hunts primarily insects, eats on the wing, and nests in loose colonies in woodlands and swamps in the southeast and south central United States. Brown-gray above with white underwings bordered in black, and a broad tail with black and white bands, the Broad-winged hawk breeds in the eastern woodlands of the United States and

southern Canada. The largest of the three, the Swainson's hawk light morph is the color form that is most likely seen in our area. In flight, their long, narrow pointed wings exhibit a dark trailing edge and light leading edge, a dark chest bib, and light face and lower belly. These hawks hunt chiefly small mammals and insects in the grassland areas of the western United States and Canada.

Large groups of hawks flying overhead are called kettles. During fall migration, single kettles of 10,000 hawks are routine, and single flights of over 100,000 hawks or more have been recorded. Occasionally, a strong cold front will ground several thousand hawks for the day and result in an overnight roost. Weather in the northern and eastern United States is one of the biggest factors in determining the timing of these migratory flights.

With the large number of hawks taking part in this annual event and the vast geographic areas that they cover, it was late into the 19th century before migration was beginning to be understood. With large populations of hawks shifting from breeding to wintering habitat, migration is a seasonal and predicable event that can be enjoyed year after year!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. *-Jim & Lynne Weber*



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Free Stuff for Your Computer (And Cell Phone)

Submitted by Laurie Scott

As holiday spending approaches, here are some free programs to make your computing easier and more fun with zero impact on your budget.

Everybody hates dealing with usernames and passwords at login screens, and as a result I see a LOT of people who have very easy passwords (like the name of their dog) not only for their computer but even for their online banking! Well, here's LastPass to the rescue (download from <https://lastpass.com>) with a password manager that works with Windows, Mac OSX and even Linux. With LastPass you can have strong passwords that are hard to impossible to remember, but don't have to remember because LastPass will remember for you. Your passwords are encrypted using a master password that only you will know, so your private information is always safe. LastPass will work across all your browsers and computers. You can even retrieve your passwords online from another computer on their web site (where no one but you can access them.)

How about free music, legally! Amazon has over 1,000 songs in all styles from Blues to Folk to Rock to Opera. Many of these are new groups getting their music out, but I've seen everything from Alice Cooper to Andres Segovia to Jeff Beck to the Boston Pops. If you use iTunes, Amazon's download manager will seamlessly add

your songs to iTunes for you. So load up your iPod and Zune with all this free music. This abbreviated link will take you to Amazon's free music page: <http://tinyurl.com/TekChicFreeMusic>

How does a free secretary sound? TimeCave.com will any message you create back to you or anyone you want at ANYTIME you want within 3 years. Do you keep a perfect calendar but your best friend is, shall we say "challenged" when keeping her calendar organized? Have a lunch date next week? Go to Time Cave and enter your message "don't forget about our lunch tomorrow", enter her email address and the day and time you would like it delivered. Now, even if YOU forget to remind her, Time Cave will.

Cell phone users, you're not left out. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to call 411 from your cell phone without having to pay a dollar or more for each call? Thanks to Google you can now get information for any city in the country by simply dialing 800-466-4411 (that's 800-GOOG-411). They have a voice recognition system that lets you tell it what you're looking for and it's amazingly accurate. So program that number into your phone and say goodbye to excessive 411 charges from your carrier.

Next month look for my annual "Geeky Gifts for the Techie in Your Life" Christmas article.

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Wildflower Events

Submitted by Saralee Tiede

LAST CHANCE—A LARRY J. SCHWEIGER READING

6:30 p.m. Sunday, November 8

The president of the National Wildlife Federation reads from his fascinating book about climate change and solutions we need to avert the consequences.

Free admission. In the auditorium.

NATURE NIGHTS—ASTRONOMY

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, November 13

Tour the evening skies and wonder at the stars. Admission \$1.

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Sundays . 11:00 am (parents)

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Mondays . 7:00 pm

Esther Beth Moore

Wednesdays . 9:15 am or 6:30 pm (women)

Ephesians Kay Arthur

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Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 . Blended Worship | 11:00 . Contemporary Worship

9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)

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Laurel Oaks

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