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Official Newsletter of the Legend Oaks II Homeowners Association

## Tips for Enjoying Networking Events

*By Amy Wolfgang, M.Ed.*

Many of us know someone who is in the midst of a job search. They may be looking for their first job after graduating, a new job after being laid off, or a totally new career. Job seekers use many different avenues to find a job but one of the most effective is networking. It is one thing to speak with your neighbor about opportunities at his or her company but, eventually, many job seekers will need to utilize different networking events.

Great opportunities are found at networking events but, at the same time, they can be intimidating because we may not know anyone there. Networking events can strike fear in many people, even those with outgoing personalities, so here are a few tips on how to make networking events more pleasant, less overwhelming and more productive.

### Tip 1: Take a Deep Breath

Remember that many people are uncomfortable at networking events. It is much more prevalent than you probably know. With that said, go into the event with a relaxed and positive frame of mind. Identify how you relax – taking deep breaths, visualizing a positive experience, etc. Employ those methods before you enter the networking event.

### Tip 2: Appear Approachable

Smile! If you have a smile on your face, others will be encouraged to speak with you. Other open body language you should employ includes:

- keeping your arms uncrossed
- standing up straight (don't slouch)
- making eye contact with those around you

While you are at the event, take notice of others' body language. See if you can tell what aspect of their body language makes them look either approachable or closed off. That will help you with your own body language.

### Tip 3: Utilize the Event Activities

The toughest networking scenario is when you don't know anyone at the event and go by yourself. In this case, try to use the activities or functions at the event to your advantage. Does the event have a bar or buffet? Once you are in the food or beverage line, begin speaking to someone also in line. Are you at an art gallery? Approach a piece of art and chat about it with someone else who is also looking at it. It's much easier to speak to people when you already have some common ground.

Networking isn't easy and intimidates many people, however, it can lead to a powerful advantage over other job hunters! Hopefully the tips above give you the confidence to attend networking events. Who knows, you might really enjoy meeting new people and be surprised at the doors it opens for you!

## Convict Hill Quarry Park

Most of you know the history of our park. If not, you can get a flyer at the entrance, or contact me for a copy by e-mail. You also know that I have not been physically able to organize volunteers for regular work days to perform needed cleanup. The Parks Department has done some work on the curbside areas, but they have extremely limited resources for more effort. You may know that the Austin Parks Foundation, who have given us major financial support, sponsors an annual "It's My Park Day", which organizes groups of volunteers from all over the city for work in parks all over the city. This year, the date is Saturday, March 5. I plan to lead a group in Quarry Park, and invite you all to visit [www.austinparks.org](http://www.austinparks.org) for information, and sign up for the event. Show the Foundation and Austin Parks that we support this park that so many of our neighbors enjoy. Living across the street, I see an increasing number of visitors, some frequent. We all benefit from having this gem in Legend Oaks.

Please sign up, either by e-mail to me or on the APF web site. This will allow us to provide enough tools and other support items so that all can be productive.

*Jim Turney*  
[drjet@austin.rr.com](mailto:drjet@austin.rr.com)

# LEGENDARY TIMES

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### HOA DIRECTORS

Nikki Tate, Board President .....nikkiatate@gmail.com  
Scott Strance..... scott\_strance@yahoo.com  
Darryl Pruett ..... gdmpruett3@gmail.com

### NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Melanie Dragger..... info@melaniedragger.com

### POOL COMMITTEE

Carrie Leonard ..... bpcmleonard@yahoo.com  
Caryn Crull ..... c\_crull@hotmail.com  
Darryl Pruett ..... gdmpruett3@gmail.com  
Eric Clemons.....eric.clemons@sbcglobal.net  
Farhad Madani ..... fmadani@sbcglobal.net  
Jane Prince Maclean ..... janepm@gmail.com  
Jonathon Mayor ..... scatadelik@yahoo.com  
Leanne Green ..... leannezgreen@gmail.com  
Maura Thomas ..... maura@regainyourtime.com  
Scott Strance..... scott\_strance@yahoo.com  
Shawn Thomas..... shawnpthomas@gmail.com

### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Craig Powell ..... craig@powelllandscapedesign.com  
Darryl Pruett ..... gdmpruett3@gmail.com  
Doug Mitchell ..... happydawn1@yahoo.com  
Eric Thompson..... Eric\_Thompson@amat.com  
Leanne Green ..... leannezgreen@gmail.com  
Michael Schwartz ..... kazafox1@hotmail.com  
Robyn Czarnecki ..... robyncz@yahoo.com  
Scott Strance..... scott\_strance@yahoo.com  
Susan Farley..... susanfarley@hotmail.com  
Vanessa Gallagher ..... vmlynn@hotmail.com

### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Billy Mutschler.....billy@thedimestorepoets.com  
Cameron Van Noy..... cvannoy12@yahoo.com  
Darryl Pruett ..... gdmpruett3@gmail.com  
David Rockwell ..... davidrockwell@gmail.com  
Nathan Shilling ..... nathan\_shilling@yahoo.com  
Russ Fallon ..... russF53@gmail.com  
Scott Strance..... scott\_strance@yahoo.com

### MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE:

Jeff Treichel.....jefftreichel@gmail.com

### RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Amanda Hyde, Co-chair..... hyde.clan@gmail.com  
Lisa Clemons, Co-chair .....eric.clemons@sbcglobal.net  
Members: Amy Tillman, Nikki Tate, Shari Vars, Vanessa Gallagher

### LO YAHOO GROUP

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## APD REPRESENTATIVES

### OFFICER ZACH LAHOOD

(covers north of Convict Hill toward William Cannon)  
Desk 512.974.4415 / email: Zachary.lahood@ci.austin.tx.us

### OFFICER JOSH VISI

(covers south of Convict Hill toward Slaughter)  
Desk 512.974.4260 / email: Joshua.visi@ci.austin.tx.us

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### EDITOR

Melanie Dragger..... info@melaniedragger.com

### PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181  
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## Home Burglary Prevention Tips

By Melanie Dragger

With several recent burglaries, burglary attempts, and other suspicious activities being reported in Southwest Austin, including the Legend Oaks II neighborhood, it is important to review and take preventive measures to protect your home and family.

- **1. Lock Doors and Windows** - Keep doors and windows locked at all times, including garage doors. According to the Austin Police Department, "in over 1/3 of burglaries, there is no forcible entry — someone forgot to lock the doors." Further, "the most popular times for residential burglaries are weekday daylight hours."
- **2. Install Deadbolt Locks** - Install deadbolt locks on all exterior doors. Use double key locks on exterior doors that contain glass or have windows next to them, which will prevent burglars from gaining entry

by breaking the glass, reaching through, and opening the lock. The Austin Police Department recommends that exterior doors be made of metal or solid hardwood and be at least 1 ¾ inches thick. Exterior doors should also fit their frames well, and their frames should be reinforced on both the hinge and the lock sides.

- **3. Create Noise** - Noise is often a deterrent for burglars. If you do not have a dog that will create a disturbance when someone rings the doorbell, knocks on the door, or approaches your property, leave on a radio or television when you are away from home.
- **4. Avoid Opening the Door to Strangers** - Identify visitors before opening the door, and do not open to door for someone you do not know. Do not be apprehensive about telling a stranger through the door

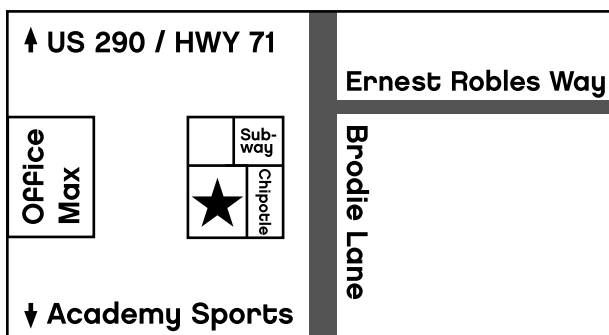
that you are not going to open the door, even if the person sounds in distress. Potential burglars often knock on the door or ring the doorbell to determine if a house is occupied before attempting entry. Make your presence known, and call the police if the person is insistent or refuses to leave.

- **5. Trim Shrubs and Trees** - Trim shrubs and trees to avoid blocking doors and windows, which create hiding spots for burglars.
- **6. Install a Burglar Alarm** - Have a burglar alarm installed and, as a deterrent, post notice signs or stickers on your property.
- **7. Leave Lights on** - Use a variable timer to activate lights in your home during your absence. Also, leave lights on outdoors, particularly above doors.

(Continued on Page 4)



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## Home Burglary Prevention Tips- (Continued from Page 3)

- **8. Reduce Signs of Your Absence** – When going out of town, ask a trusted neighbor to keep an eye on your property, including picking up flyers and brochures that may accumulate on your door to avoid alerting potential burglars of your absence. Posting a “no soliciting” sign on your door may also reduce the number of marketing materials left on your door. Also, have someone pick up your mail, or ask the post office to hold your mail, and suspend your newspaper subscriptions. If you will be out of town for an extended period, arrange to have your yard maintained.
- **9. Avoid Publicizing Your Absence** - Avoid posting on social media websites, such as Facebook, or telling strangers that you will be out of town. Also, when packing your vehicle for your trip, if possible, do so in your closed garage.
- **10. Report Suspicious Activity** – Do not hesitate to call the police if you notice suspicious persons or activities in your neighborhood.
- **11. Form a Neighborhood Watch Group** – Forming a neighborhood watch group on your street or block can help reduce crime in your area. For more information about forming a group, visit [http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/watch\\_03.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/watch_03.htm).

Source: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/crime.htm>.

## HOA WEBSITE

Did you know that Legend Oaks 2 has our very own website? This is an informational site designed and maintained by one of our residents, Larry Juergens.

The site address is [www.legendoaks2.org](http://www.legendoaks2.org), and currently contains association information, including contacts with phone numbers and email addresses, links to the PDF versions of the newsletters, and an events calendar and classified section where members can post happenings and items for sale, rent, or trade. Submissions can be made through Larry at [larry.juergens@gmail.com](mailto:larry.juergens@gmail.com).

Please check out the site and send any submissions or suggestions to Larry at the address above.



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## The Austin Garden: February

By Melanie Dragger

While February tends to one of the coldest months of the year in Austin, there is still plenty that can be done in the garden.

Continue to plant hardy perennial and cool-season herbs, such as chives, dill, oregano, parsley, and thyme; cool-season vegetables, including broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, chard, greens, lettuce, seed potatoes, and spinach; and cool-season flowering plants, such as pansies and snapdragons. As weather permits, begin preparing your soil for spring planting, and repair or replace fencing, as necessary.

February is also one of the best months for pruning dormant shrubs and trees. However, spring flowering trees and shrubs should not be pruned prior to flowering in order to avoid removing flower buds. Roses can be pruned beginning mid-month.

If you have not done so yet, implement an eco-friendly rain collection system and composting center, and continue to protect tender plants from cold weather and water during dry periods, especially before freezes.

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## Austin Newcomers Club February Luncheon

Austin Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Join us at our monthly luncheon as well as take the opportunity to learn about and become involved in many varied fun Interest groups.

**Time:** 11:00 AM (Social) - 12 Noon (Luncheon)

**Date:** February 16, 2011

**(Reservations required by Thursday, February 10th)**

**For luncheon reservations, e-mail**

**LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com or call**

**Diane Israelson at 512.467.4979.**

**For other Newcomers information, visit**

**www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512.314.5100.**

### February Program: Recounting Memories of World War II

Isabelle Cedar Cook was born and raised in Amityville, New York. On September 1, 1939, when WW II was declared, Isabelle was a young woman living in New York City having just graduated from the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing. The Army asked Mount Sinai Hospital for assistance, and the hospital issued a call for volunteers. Being unattached at the time, Isabelle felt it was her

duty to serve. She immediately signed up without telling her family or receiving permission from her mother, who was a widow with five children. Then, she waited impatiently to be called for service. In September 1942, she got that call asking her report to Camp Rucker, Alabama. Thus, Isabelle entered one of the deadliest conflicts in human history, marked by horrific events, including the Holocaust and the first and only use of nuclear weapons.

On May 5, 1943, Isabelle boarded the HMS Pasteur, a former French luxury ship being used to transport troops. When out to sea, she learned her destination: Casablanca, Morocco. She had never before been abroad or even outside New York and New Jersey. As a member of the Army Nurse Corps, Isabelle served overseas for three years. After the war ended, Isabelle was discharged from the Army as a First Lieutenant, and she returned to civilian life. She got married and moved to Brownsville, Texas.

Isabelle Cook wrote a book about nurses' experiences in a fictionalized memoir, *In Times of War: Memoirs of a World War II Nurse*. She also participated in the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. She also wrote *Depression's Child*, a story told from a young girl's point of view about growing up during the Depression. She will share her experiences as a WW II nurse serving in North Africa, Italy and France.



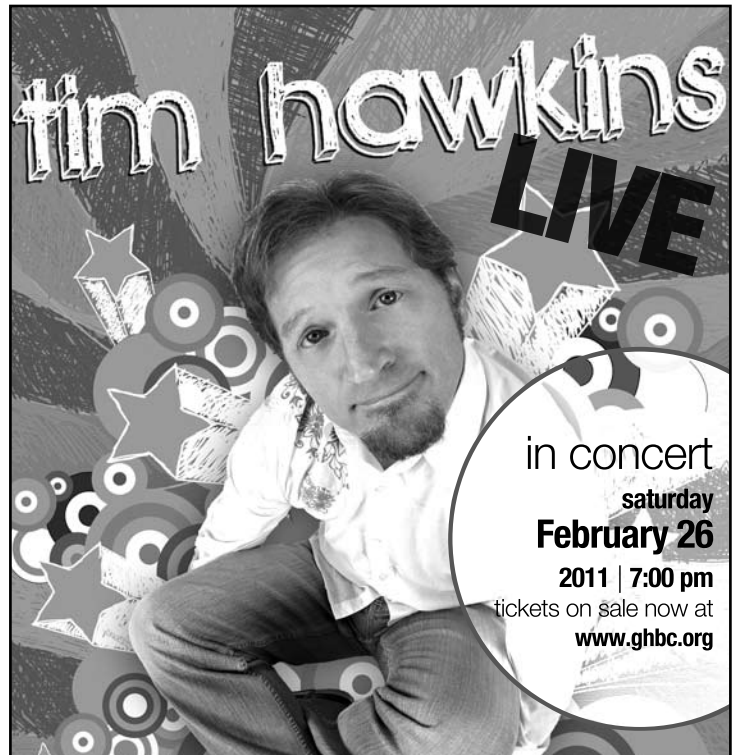
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