

Official Publication of the Forest Creek Homeowners Association

Celebrate Earth April 22nd 2011

AWESOME AND STARTLING RAINFOREST FACTS

- 1 out of 4 ingredients in medicine is from rainforest plants.
- The forests of Central Africa contain more than 8,000 different species of plants.
- Bats are essential for the pollination of many tropical foods such as bananas and mangoes.
- 80% of the flowers in the Australian rainforests are not found anywhere else in the world.
- The trees of a tropical rainforest are so densely packed that rain falling on the canopy can take as long as 10 minutes to reach the ground.
- More than 2,000 different species of butterflies live in the rainforests of South America.
- An area of rainforest the size of a football field is being destroyed every second. That is cutting down 2000 trees per minute!

The GO GREEN CLUB at Ridgeview Middle School in support of Earth Day will be collecting "usable, working" CPUs, monitors, keyboards, mice, printers and laptops for the Round Rock Area Serving Center. The refurbished equipment will be distributed to children in the RRISD community who do not have access to a home computer.

The RRASC is a Microsoft authorized refurbisher. They will wipe clean the data off the hard drive or the donors may remove the data beforehand.

Computers with memory, hard drives, etc. removed are unusable. They cannot be refurbished and will be put in the trash.

Please take your donations to Ridgeview Middle School Tuesday April 19th before school 7:15am – 8:30am or after school 2:30 – 4:00pm

Your generous tax deductible donation is invaluable to these students. Thank you.

Remember the 5 Rs!

Reduce Reuse Recycle Restore Replenish



EARTH DAY April 22, 2011

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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Caddie. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Forest Creek residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Forest Creek residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail myenergyangel@aol.com

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Wanted:

Landscape Committee Volunteers

The HOA Board is seeking additional volunteers to work as a landscape advisory committee. The goal is for this group of residents to work with the Property Manager and Board to keep an eye on the landscape in the public areas of Forest Creek, to note any problems with plantings, trees, watering or landscape maintenance and report them to the Property Manager for resolution. Additionally, they would provide the HOA Board with suggestions for any improvements that might be made within the budget of the HOA. Please contact Keith@ President@forestcreekhoa.org if you are interested

Community articles for the Caddie

Articles based on The Forest Creek Community experience are being sought for the next edition of the Caddie. This is a golden opportunity for residents to express their opinions of our community, share information about clubs they may have formed that are open to other residents or reveal some little known history! All articles and inquiries should be sent to Angel @ MyEnergyAngel@aol.com.

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DID YOU KNOW...

On April 22, 1970, Earth Day marked the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Approximately 20 million Americans participated. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, Freeway and expressway revolts, the loss of wilderness, and air pollution suddenly realized they shared common values.

Media coverage of the first Earth Day included a One-Hour Primetime CBS News Special Report called "Earth Day: A Question of Survival," with correspondents reporting from a dozen major cities across the country, and narrated by Walter Cronkite (whose backdrop was the Earth Week Committee of Philadelphia's logo).

Pete Seeger was a keynote speaker and performer at the event held in Washington DC. Paul Newman and Ali McGraw attended the event held in New York City.

Forest Creek Residents

the Band Boosters for Cedar Ridge High School are having the first annual Cedar Ridge High School Golf tournament!

They really need all the support they can get! You can register online through our brand new website at www.crhsraiderband.org under events (top right hand column) and also pay online as well.

Don't play golf? You can still come out and join us - you can register and pay online as well for the dinner buffet, and purchase raffle tickets! We have lots of terrific prizes!

Any questions - please call Bryan Powell, Golf Committee Chairperson, at (512) 294-2034.

Thank you - we are hoping for a great turnout! Go Cedar Ridge Raiders...

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Rally in Austin Rebuts HOA Naysayers:

Just Play by the Rules!

Sounding an upbeat chord for the 'Silent Majority' of HOA owners, Texas Community Association Advocates (TCAA) mobilized concerned homeowners from around the state on February 15 to tell Austin they love their HOAs. As news cameras rolled, some 100 Texans who value their HOA rights and lifestyle thronged the south steps of the State Capitol to carry their message to lawmakers. After the rally the energized crowd fanned out to legislative suites personally making their case to elected representatives of their districts.

The SILENT MAJORITY wants to preserve, protect and enhance their property values. Nearly five million Texans live in HOAs and contribute about \$3.2 billion in assessments each year to the Texas economy. The Forest Creek HOA Board of Directors supports the TCAA as it speaks for the majority of those who favor reasonable legislation for community associations.

A vocal minority is threatening the property rights of thousands of HOA residents in Texas. A small group of dissidents are pushing for legislation which will have many unintended negative consequences for HOAs, such as increasing their operating costs and decreasing their property values.

The HOA advocates' group, comprised of homeowners from Houston, Austin, San Antonio and Dallas metro areas, represented a diverse cross-section of the more than 25,000 community associations in Texas. Unified by their desire to protect their property values, they assert that everyone who chooses to live in an HOA should be required to play by the rules.

"We are here to speak out because we want to protect our property values," said one homeowner from McKinney. The vast majority of people pay their mortgages on time and pay their HOA assessments. They move into an HOA community because they want the amenities that come with association living, and because they want to protect their home investment."

The Forest Creek Board and the TCAA support enhanced consumer protections like judicial review foreclosure. We already provide support payment plans for owners behind in their dues, open access to meetings and records and all of the other things that TCAA is advocating. However, we must ensure that community associations can function for the benefit of all residents, and not place an unfair burden on those who play by the rules by making them pay for those who don't.

(Continued on Page 5)

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Rally in Austin - (Continued from Page 4)



TCAA's positions are endorsed by the Forest Creek HOA Board and a majority of HOA owners across our state, who spoke as one at the rally.

- * Homeowners make a decision to move into an HOA, and the vast majority pays their dues on time and play by the rules. Don't make me pay for those who don't.
- * We love our water parks, swimming pools and other amenities that come with owning a home in a community association.
- * We don't want a bus parked in a neighbor's back yard or a car up on blocks or an un mowed lawn with tall grass.
- * Foreclosures are extremely rare. They are only 1/12 of one percent of delinquent owners. Forest Creek HOA has always been able to come to some accommodation without actually foreclosing, but, we need foreclosure rights to convince some homeowners to pay their share.
- * If you don't want to live in an HOA community, don't buy a house in the HOA community. It's not for everyone. It's for people who want to protect their property values.
- * We support solar panels and the right to install energy saving devices that meet the community standards.
- * TCAA speaks for the millions of people in Texas who love their HOA communities.

Business Classifieds

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Web Sites Worth Visiting!

http://www.lovemytexas.blogspot.com/ Don't miss this one if you would like the inside scoop on all the best places to go in central Texas (along with some intriguing history lessons) from a Native Texan and Forest Creek Resident...our own Wendy Baird!

http://www.fastweb.com. Fastweb is the premier online resource for paying and preparing for college.

For fifteen years, they have excelled in providing students with the resources to realize their educational pursuits, from the time they begin their college search in high school to the day they land their first job after graduation.

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http://www.dolans.com. For more than 20 years, Ken and Daria Dolan have been the trusted source for real money solutions for people just like you.

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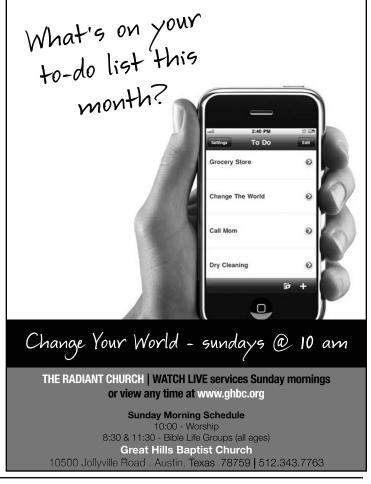
www.earthday.org Growing out of the first Earth Day, Earth Day Network (EDN) works with over 22,000 partners in 192 countries to broaden, diversify and mobilize the environmental movement. More than 1 billion people now participate in Earth Day activities each year, making it the largest civic observance in the world.

earthday.envirolink.org The complete guide to Earth Day 2011 events throughout the world.

Send an E-Mail with your Favorite Website and a brief description to MyEnergyAngel@aol.com.







Important City Of Round Rock Contact Info:

Want to report a non working streetlight?

http://www.oncorgroup.com/community/streetlights/default.aspx

Need City of Round Rock Non-Emergency Services?

Here are some phone numbers to report road repairs, water/ wastewater issues, Parks and Recreation issues, etc.

- Street Repairs: 218-5555 or 218-6641
- Street Repairs (after hours): 218-5555
- Parks and Recreation 218-5540 and press '0' for operator
- Police Department 218-5500 (non emergency) For Emergencies Dial 911

Public Sex Offender Links:

• The Association periodically receives information that registered sex offenders are living in or near our neighborhood. Because the Association has no monitoring or policing authority when it comes to people moving in and out of the neighborhood, we encourage those who are interested to check the State of Texas registered sex offender index at www.txdps.state.tx.us or the City of Round Rock link at www.roundrocktexas.gov/docs/publicsxof.pdf.

SAVETHE DATES!

Wednesday, April 6th

Events Planning Committee Meeting - 7pm -Call Angel at 508-922-1306 for more info

Easter Egg Hunt -Saturday, April 16th, 3:00 p.m. We have a surprise event in store for all of this year's attendees

so be sure to mark your calendar and don't be late!

Spring Garage Sale -Saturday, May 7th

Start cleaning out those closets for the first sale of the year!

Community BBQ -Saturday, May 14th

Preferred Relocation Expert

My 2009 Forest Creek listings have sold for an average of 97% of asking price, some in as little as 5 to 27 days! I sold two of my 2010 listings before they went into the MLS!

When you are ready to sell your home, call the Broker who lives in and knows how to sell Forest Creek!



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Autism Robs You Of Your Child!

By Connie Ripley

Light It Up Blue in April. April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism Speaks is asking buildings around the world to turn their lights blue and people to wear blue on April 1 & 2.

One out of 110 children is diagnosed with autism (1 out of 70 boys). More children will be diagnosed with autism this year than with AIDS, diabetes and cancer combined.

Autism is a complex neurobiological disorder that impacts communication, behavior and social relationships. Currently no effective means to prevent autism, no fully effective treatments and no cure exists for this disorder that robs families and children of smiles, eye contact, communication, hugs and even the ability to eat in a restaurant.

Know the Signs. These "absolute indicators" or "red flags" indicate your child should be evaluated.

- No big smiles or other warm, joyful expressions by 6 months.
- No back-and-fourth sharing of sounds, smiles, or other facial expressions by 9 months.
- No babbling by 12 months.
- No back-and-forth gestures, such as pointing, showing, reaching or waving by 12 months.

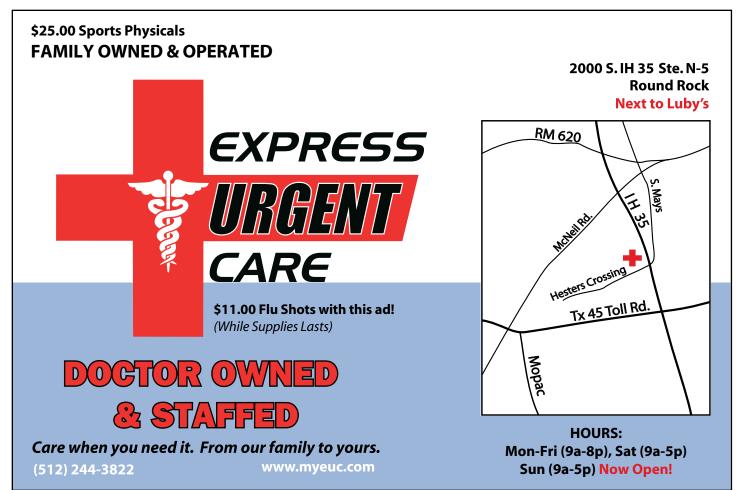
- No words by 16 months.
- No two-word meaningful phrases (without imitating or repeating) by 24 months.
- Any loss of speech or babbling or social skills at any age.

Does your child make eye contact with you? Does he/she enter into meaningful exchanges? Does he/she "tantrum" in the grocery store or when transitioning from one thing to another? Instead of "racing" toy cars, does your child flip them over and roll the wheels or stack them in a line? If any of these things exist, insist on an immediate evaluation. Early intervention may be your child's best hope. Since this disease has accelerated so much recently, many pediatricians just do not recognize the signs.

The prevalence of the disorder rose 57% between 2002 and 2005. In 1975, autism effected 1 in 5,000. Today it affects 1 in 110 children. Autism is the fastest-growing serious development disability in the U.S. It costs the nation \$35 billion a year, and that figure is sure to rise.

In order to raise awareness of this escalating disorder, landmarks, iconic buildings, schools, universities, hospitals, airports, businesses

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Autism Robs You of Your Child! - (Continued from Page 8)

and people in Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cypress, Denmark, France, Hungary, Ireland, Kenya, Netherlands, New Zealand, Romania, Sri Lanka and the United States from Los Angeles to Savannah and from Minneapolis to Houston will be changing their light bulbs, clothing themselves, and eating and drinking blue for the month of April.

Texas State Senator Florence Shapiro will read a proclamation of Autism Awareness Month on the Texas State Senate floor on April 4th.

To commemorate the fourth annual United Nations World Autism Awareness Day and

Autism Awareness Month, change your light bulbs to blue and wear blue on April 1 and 2.

It's easy! Just change your light bulbs from white to blue! To make things even easier, Home Depot will carry a complete supply of blue blubs for the event.

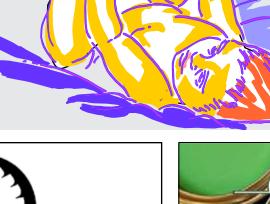
Toys R Us has a month long Autism Speaks campaign. Pump It Up has scheduled The Great Jump for April 7.

Even as autism escalates at alarming rates, it receives only 0.5% of the National Institutes of Health funding. Autism Speaks is North America's largest autism science and advocacy organization.

Autism Speaks is funded primarily by local walks. The Greater Austin Walk Now for Autism Speaks committees are being formed for the fall walk. Your help is needed! Please contact Walk Manager

Traci Whitney at traci.whitney@autismspeaks.org

Watch for the 12 diagnostic markers and the possible causes of autism in the following issues of your neighborhood newsletter.





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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Sandwich Generation Needs "Stress Busters"

You may be too busy to realize it, but April is Stress Awareness Month. Sponsored by the Health Resource Network, a non-profit health education group, Stress Awareness Month is designed to promote awareness about ways to reduce stress in our lives. And if you're a member of the so-called "Sandwich Generation," you may well have plenty of stress to deal with — especially financial stress. And that's why you may want to look at this month as an opportunity to explore ways of "de-stressing" yourself.

To understand the scope of the problem facing people in your situation, consider this: One out of every eight Americans aged 40 to 60 is both raising a child and caring for an aging parent, according to the Pew Research Center. The definition of "caring" for an elderly parent can range from actually having the parent living in one's home to helping pay for the parent's stay in an assisted living or nursing home facility. When you consider the costs involved in this type of care, added to the expenses of raising your children, and possibly even providing some financial support to them as young adults, it's easy to see that you could potentially face enormous strains, both emotionally and financially.

To help ease this burden, consider these suggestions:

• Save. As a Sandwich Generation member,

you're probably within shouting distance of your own retirement - so you need to be saving for it. This may not be easy. You don't know how much financial support you may someday have to provide your elderly parents - and even after your children are grown, they may need some help from you. Unfortunately, in helping these "boomerang" children, many people have to disrupt their day-to-day cash flow and raid their savings. That's why it's important to try to "pay yourself first" by deferring part of each paycheck into your 401(k) and by automatically moving money, each month, from your checking or savings account into your IRA.

• Talk. Many people in the "Greatest Generation" (over age 80) have not even



prepared a will, so, if your parents are in that group, you may want to talk to them about taking action. Also, find out whom, if anyone, is handling their investments. And ask if your parents understand how Medicare works and if they need to add supplemental health insurance, such as Medigap. Plus, you need to find out if your parents have created a power of attorney or health care directive. It's best to have these conversations sooner, rather than later.

• **Delegate.** You eventually may have to take some responsibility for your parents' care — but you don't have to do it alone. You could, for example, work with a financial services provider that offers trust services, which can be invaluable if your parents are incapacitated, but which are useful even if they aren't. A professional trust officer can, among other duties, help manage your parents' investments, pay their bills, keep their records and supervise distribution of their assets to beneficiaries. In short, a qualified trust officer can make life a lot easier for you.

Stress Awareness Month only lasts 30 days, but by taking the right steps, you can de-stress yourself for many years to come. After all, just because you're in the Sandwich Generation, it doesn't mean you have to be "squished."



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Mark Crowley

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The Caddie - April 2011



There is a Yahoo Group hosted by one of our own Residents that is available to discuss Forest Creek topics, issues or concerns. It's also used some time for Lost/Found items & pers. Check it out and register at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/forestcreekroundrock/ and read current and past posts. We hope you find it a convenient way to stay updated as to any ongoing issues or concerns.





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Host an Exchange Student



Get the thrill of cultural exchange without the cost of travel!

iE International Student Exchange is seeking host homes for high school exchange students from Germany and other nations. We are seeking couples, singles, or families who are willing to open their home to one special exchange student for one semester or for the entire 2010-2011 school year. You will be amazed to find what you gain from the experience, as well as what you give: the chance for one international student to have a lifechanging encounter! This is a great opportunity to connect with someone from another culture. All you need to host is a spare bed and an open heart!

Contact Katie Robinson, Local Coordinator for Austin 512-538-8080 or k.leigh.robinson@gmail.com.



NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Meet Tregvon

Every day across Texas, thousands of children like 11 year old Treyvon wonder where today will lead them. Having been removed from their families due to abuse and or neglect, these children are looking for stable, loving family relationships that will allow them to feel safe and secure. Often these children are moved from one foster home to another as they experience difficulty adjusting to new rules, roles and expectations they



have never experienced before and are ill prepared to meet. They face a never ending stream of changes in care givers, schools, caseworkers and foster siblings that often results in a sense of hopelessness and a lack of investment in relationships because they have found that caring leads to loss.

Despite these challenges, these children can be resilient. They bring strengths to their situation that can help to overcome the obvious challenges they face. Take Treyvon, for example. He is anything but an average child! In fact, he is an extremely bright child, who excels in all subjects at school. His future is hopeful as he desires to become an architect, engineer or author. Treyvon is a well rounded child who enjoys outdoor activities like football, swimming and riding horses. Like most boys his age, he loves to eat, with his favorite foods being pepperoni pizza and spaghetti with meatballs.

Treyvon needs a structured family that will provide him the love, encouragement and discipline that he needs while understanding the challenges he faces in adapting to a world much different from his early life experiences. He has a great mind that needs stimulation and direction to help him accomplish his goals. Adopting a child like Treyvon from the foster care system is not difficult or expensive. Perhaps you and your family would be a good place for Treyvon to learn and grow.

For more information, please contact Stephanie Berka, Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-450-8750 or email at stephanieberka@adopttexas.org

To learn more about the Adoption Coalition of Texas, please call Bruce Thompson at 512-301-2825 or visit our website at http://www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org

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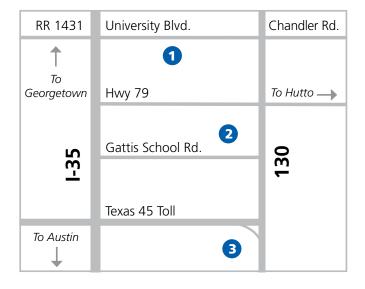


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3. Seton Family of Doctors at Stone Hill

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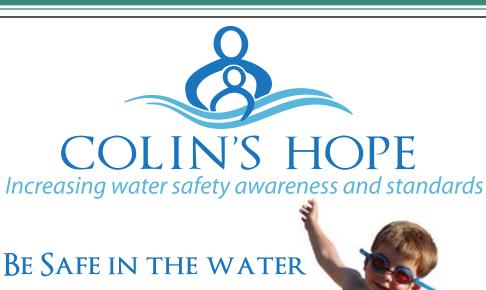


For appointments, please call (512) 324-4812.

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Join us in getting ready for a safe summer in the water!

Colin's Hope Community Water Safety Splash and Walk Saturday, April 30th 10AM-3PM

& HAVE THE

BEST SUMMER EVER!

The whole family can splash into our Water Safety Challenge and Life jacket Swim or try out a Stand Up Paddle Board at The Expedition School Lagoon (On Lady Bird Lake in East Austin next to Fiesta Gardens.) Volunteers are also needed to pick up and distribute water safety packets to homes in zip codes that have high incidences of drowning. This is a great family or group volunteer activity. Email alissa.magrum@colinshope.org to volunteer. Together, we can prevent drowning and save lives.

Colin's Hope Night at Eastside Movies in the Park Tuesday, May 3rd, Doors open at 6PM, Movie at sundown

Join us at The Expedition School Lagoon (On Lady Bird Lake in East Austin next to Fiesta Gardens) for a screening of Whale Rider. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the movie under the stars.

Colin's Hope Day at Schlitterbahn-New Braunfels Saturday, May 21st

Join us for a day to promote Water Safety and Drowning Prevention at Schlitterbahn-New Braunfels! Special tickets are available from Colin's Hope. Email alissa.magrum@colinshope.org for more information.

For more information, visit our website at www.colinshope.org