

April 2011 Volume 4, Issue 4

Official Newsletter of the Legend Oaks II Homeowners Association

# 7 HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE BUSINESS E-MAIL COMMUNICATIONS

By Melanie Dragger, M. Com.

Much of today's business communication takes place by e-mail. Every communication sent by a member of an organization conveys an image of that organization, so it is important to remain professional, courteous, and effective in your e-mail communications.

- 1. Use standard capitalization. Avoid writing in all capital letters. Writing in all capital letters is equivalent to screaming.
- 2. Use standard spelling. Avoid using shorthand text, such as "b4" (before), "thx" (thanks), and "lol" (laughing out loud). Proofread and run the spell checker before sending your e-mail.
- 3. Use standard punctuation. Limit use of the exclamation mark to those statements that truly warrant its use. Avoid using multiple punctuation marks for emphasis.
- 4. Avoid including emotion icons. In addition to being unprofessional, using emotion icons (often called emoticons) in business writing, such as smiling or winking faces, can cause miscommunication.
- 5. Limit use of the high-priority flag. Reserve marking your e-mails as high priority for those that are truly urgent or need a quick response.
- 6. Use meaningful subject lines. Craft subject lines that convey a message to the recipient regarding the contents of your e-mail. This will assist the recipient in prioritizing, organizing, and locating their e-mails.
- 7. Avoid forwarding chain e-mails. In addition to being potentially unsafe, chain e-mails can be annoying to the recipient.

Overall, remaining professional and courteous, regardless of the means of your communication, will be the most effective and give the best impression of your company.

### CONSIDERING HOME IMPROVEMENTS?

Spring often brings thoughts of home cleaning, repairs, and renovations. If you are considering changing paint colors or making other alterations to the exterior of your home, please review and complete an Architectural Control Committee Approval Application prior to commencing work on your property. This form can be found on the Legend Oaks II community website at http://www.legendoaks2.org and on Goodwin Management's website at http://loh.goodwintx.com, along with other HOA information and forms.

# LEGEND OAKS II HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION'S



WHEN: Saturday, April 23, 2011 WHERE: Park at the Pool TIME: 3:00 p.m.

Over 2,000 Easter Eggs for the kids! Hop...Hop...Hop...on out for a fun time!

For more information, contact the Recreation Committee at 512.301.0515. (In the event of rain, this event will be held on April 24th at 3 p.m.)



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

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#### **ADVERTISING INFORMATION**

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Legendary Times. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Legend Oaks II 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.

### Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the current issue of the Legendary Times on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com



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### **Austin Newcomers Club April 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: April 20, 2011
(Reservations required by Thursday, April 14th)
For Luncheon Reservations email: LuncheonDirector@

AustinNewcomers.com or Diane Israelson 512-467-4979

For other Newcomers information

visit www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100

### JIM COMER: WHEN ROLES REVERSE

Jim Comer's parents were independent, capable people, people who met life's challenges head-on with diligence and good humor. Then one day, literally overnight, they couldn't do it anymore. Jim's bestselling book When Roles Reverse is the story of how he returned home to Texas to pay back his parents for the love and support they showed him.

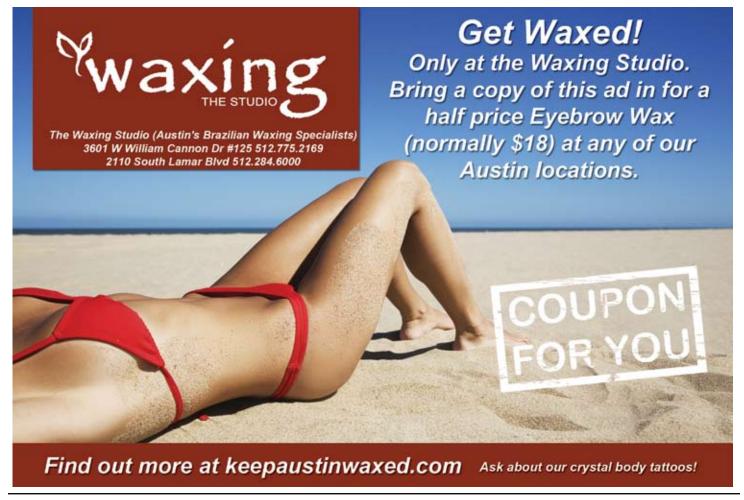
"I was an adult with my own life, and I hadn't lived in Texas for years. I knew nothing about nursing the elderly. As I got off the plane to become a caregiver to my parents for the first time, I realized 'I

don't know how to do this!' ... I'd heard that children don't come with an owner's manual – neither do parents!"

Parenting his parents was a life-changing choice that has led to a successful speaking career, a rediscovery of real family values and much else. His goal is to encourage families to plan ahead, talk about the difficult decisions and help adult children realize that they can handle the challenges of care-giving and find great joy in showing up for their parents.

Jim has spoken to corporations, associations, conventions and churches from Los Angeles to Cancun to Halifax, Nova Scotia. His keynote talks include Parenting Your Parents, You are the Message, How Not to Speak Lie a Geek, and the story of his years as a struggling actor in New York.

His articles have appeared in The Reader's Digest, and on the op-ed pages of the New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and Austin-American-Statesman. Jim has written jokes for Joan Rivers and Phyllis Diller and a monologue for Bob Hope. He has also had many acting roles and been on many TV shows. Jim is a member of the National Speakers Association and was named Member of the Year in 2004 for the Heart of Texas Chapter. He is also active in non-profit work in the area of ending hunger and preventable childhood diseases



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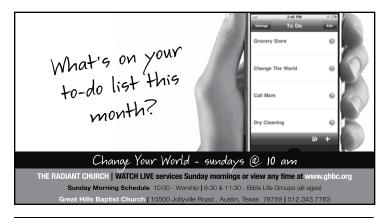
### LEGENDARY TIMES

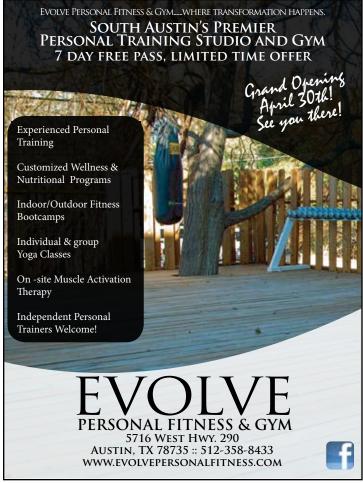
### **HOA WEBSITE**

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, 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.

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





## Free Household Document SHREDDING

With the increased awareness of identity theft, it is more important than ever to carefully dispose of personal records such as credit card statements and checking account records. ARMA and the City of Austin Solid Waste Services are sponsoring a free "Shred Day." Mark you calendar for Saturday, April 16, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the

Austin High School parking lot. Households can bring up five boxes of paper records for shredding. Mobile shredding trucks will be on site to shred all materials. Please make sure your records are paper only (no hard plastics, no plastic bags, electronic media or three-ring binders) and are not wet. In lieu of a fee – monetary donations will be accepted for the Capital Area Food Bank.

For more details regarding the free household shredding, e-mail Jannette.goodall@ci.austin.tx.us





### Tips to Turn Your Walk Into a Workout

By Sarah S. Jordan, MS

Walking is a great mode of exercise because it requires no equipment, it is low-impact, and something that many people can do regardless of their fitness level or experience.

### **Benefits of Walking**

Any movement is good movement and the same is true for walking. Like other forms of exercise, walking can help you improve cholesterol levels, lower blood pressure, control weight, improve mood, decrease stress, and it also provides numerous other health benefits. Here are some tips to turning your walk into a workout.

### **Get the Goods**

Proper footwear is essential for any kind of exercise. It is important to select shoes with good arch support and soles that absorb shock and provide cushioning. If you are unsure about fit, Austin has several local shoe stores that will personally fit you to a new pair of sneakers.

Choose clothing that is comfortable to move in and that you feel good wearing. Dress in layers if the weather is cool so that you can adjust as needed during your workout. And take a bottle of water along so that you can hydrate along the way. You may find that taking an IPod along will help keep you motivated.

### Walking for Fitness: **Proper Speed and Technique**

Although the act of walking is simple, walking for fitness takes more effort, attention to speed, and technique. In order to get the most out of your walking workout, the speed should be brisk and above your "stroll in the park" comfort level. Also, your heart rate should be elevated. A good estimate: 10 - 15 heartbeats in a 6-second pulse count. (Multiply that number by 10 to get heartbeats per minute.) Strike the ground with the heel and drive off from heel-totoe in order to effectively engage the muscles of your lower-body.

A few minutes after starting your walking workout, take a moment to stretch the calves, quadriceps, and hamstrings. Hold stretches for several seconds (with no bouncing) on each side. After your workout, reward your muscles and improve flexibility by taking a few minutes to stretch. Hold stretches longer here because muscles are warm and can make gains in flexibility at this point.

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Tips to Turn Your Walk Into A Workout -

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### **Just Getting Started?**

If you are new to exercise, it is important to check with your doctor before starting an exercise program. Start slowly and gain confidence before adding distance. For example, you might try walking 10 minutes in one direction and 10 minutes back. Slowly build up to 15 minutes in one direction and 15 minutes back. Over time, build up to 2-3 miles or 40-60 minutes of walking at a brisk pace most days of the week.

A Seasoned Walker?

If you have been walking for quite some time, you may be looking for something new to add to your walking workout. With a few quick additions, you can further challenge and tone muscles and increase the intensity of your workouts.

- Add speed. Turn your walk into a speed walk. Engage the arms and the core muscles.
- **Incorporate intervals.** Walk for five minutes. Do an interval for two minutes. Repeat. Intervals can include things like walking lunges, moving side squats, push-ups, and jogging.
- Hit the hills. Adding an incline will increase intensity in a hurry!
- Add resistance. Use a weighted backpack or vest. Or push your child in the stroller. I did not realize just how much weight I was

pushing when I exercise with my son until I did the math recently. He is 25 pounds, and the stroller is 15. That extra 40 pounds adds great intensity (and a whole lot of cuteness) to my workouts!

If this is the year that you have devoted to improving health, walking is a great way to start! Remember... "The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."





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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FOR HEALTHY LIVING FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### **ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

Join the NEW Southwest Family Y and receive a FREE specialty class\* and FREE personal training session.

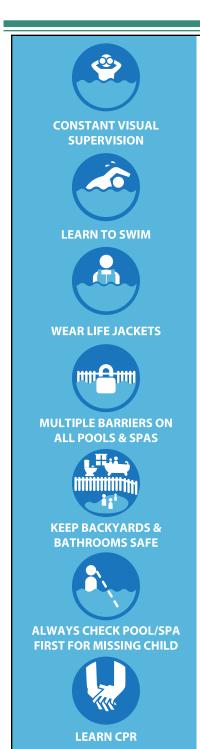
\*incl. Swim Lessons, Youth Sports & more, up to \$60 in value

FREE Event **Healthy Kids Day** Sat, April 16 1Óam-1pm

Southwest Family YMCA

6219 Oakclaire Dr. & Hwy. 290 891-YMCA • www.AustinYMCA.org







# Be Safe in the water & have the Best Summer Ever!



### 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

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