

# THE RIVER REVIEW

April 2011

News For The Residents of River Place

Volume 5, Issue 4

## **River Place Neighborhood GARAGE SALE**

**Mark your  
Calendars!**

**SATURDAY,  
MAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, 2011  
8 AM - 2 PM**

**SOLD**

**SATURDAY,  
MAY 7TH,  
8:00AM – 2:00 PM**

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN  
TO CLEAN OUT YOUR  
ATTICS AND SELL YOUR  
UNWANTED ITEMS!



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Fire .....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency .....	512-974-0845
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	
Emergencies .....	512-266-1775
Information .....	512-266-2533

### SCHOOLS

Leander ISD .....	512-570-0000
Cedar Park High School .....	512-570-1200
Vandegrift High School .....	512-570-2300
Four Points Middle School .....	512-570-3700
River Place Elementary .....	512-570-6900

### UTILITIES

River Place MUD .....	512-246-0498
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
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### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. ....	512-263-9181
Article Submissions .....	<a href="mailto:riverreview@peelinc.com">riverreview@peelinc.com</a>
Advertising .....	<a href="mailto:advertising@peelinc.com">advertising@peelinc.com</a>

## Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing [riverreview@PEELinc.com](mailto: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.

## Dads in the Hood Update

*Save the date: April 25-26, for a lot of fun. Registration is coming soon.*

Do you have a business that could help with a small part of our event? We'd love to have local businesses sponsor the events (s'mores, crafts, etc.) by providing supplies and staffing the booths. This isn't intended to be a "marketing event" (although we will provide modest signage & visibility for your business), but rather a great way for you and your employees to interact with the kids and parents of River Place, and give back to your local community.

If you'd like to sign up or for more details, please contact me by replying to this email.

*See you around the 'hood,*

**Brian Scaff**  
DITH Chairman

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## **Leander ISD Superintendent, Dr. Bret A. Champion is Guest Speaker** *At Four Points Chamber of Commerce April Luncheon*

Four Points Chamber of Commerce is delighted to have Leander Independent School District Superintendent, Dr. Bret Champion as the guest speaker for the Four Points Chamber's April Luncheon. Dr. Champion will share the latest information on how Texas Public Schools are facing an unprecedented financial crisis, and how LISD is navigating through this crisis to remain one of the premier school districts in the state. Four Points Chamber luncheons provide stimulating discussions for local individuals, businesses and organizations to gain new insights and foster business growth. Membership is not a requirement to come to the luncheon but you'll want to register online to ensure your seat and receive early-bird discount pricing!

- Thursday, April 21, 2011
- Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1p.m.
- At River Place Country Club, 4207 River Place Boulevard.

You can find all the details and register on the Four Points Chamber of Commerce Web site [www.fourpointschamber.com](http://www.fourpointschamber.com). While you are at the Chamber's Web site be sure to check out the other networking activities offered by the chamber, including the monthly Happy Hour and bi-monthly Connectors networking meetings at Concordia University.

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking opportunities through social gatherings, luncheons and business network meetings. Now well over 100 members strong and growing, the Four Points Chamber of Commerce brings businesses together along Highway 620 from Hudson Bend and Mansfield Dam to Anderson Mill, and along Ranch Road 2222 from Jester to Volente, to support business growth in the community. For more information about upcoming events contact us at [FourPointsChamber@gmail.com](mailto:FourPointsChamber@gmail.com), visit [www.fourpointschamber.com](http://www.fourpointschamber.com) or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to [membership@FourPointsChamber.com](mailto:membership@FourPointsChamber.com).



## April Fools Packages

too good to be a joke.

- Photofacial package 3 for just \$333
- Lux 1540 resurfacing 3 for only \$667
- Exilis Purchase 3 areas of contouring, get the 4th FREE

**Wildflower Facial**  
45 minutes \$50

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All anti-oxidant products and kits 15% off, includes Skin+Metrics and Obagi

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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-forth 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

*(Continued on Page 5)*



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## Autism Tobs You of Your Child! - (Continued from Page 4)

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 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](mailto:traci.whitney@autismspeaks.org)

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



## Way Off Broadway

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MATINEE, MAY 1, 2011 AT 3PM**

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# RIVER REVIEW

## Camp Canyon Creek:

### *Big Apple Adventure*

*July 25th-29th (9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.)*

### *Church at Canyon Creek*

*9001 North FM 620, Austin, Texas*



Mark your calendars for Camp Canyon Creek: Big Apple Adventure VBS, July 25th-29th from 9:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. In this one-week adventure, we will drive home answers about some of life's biggest questions through Bible stories, crafts, music, & games. Camp Canyon Creek is available for free to kids who are going into 1st-6th grade. Registration will be available soon at [www.churchatcanyoncreek.com/VBS.htm](http://www.churchatcanyoncreek.com/VBS.htm)

## 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](mailto:k.leigh.robinson@gmail.com).

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#### Great Hills Baptist Church

10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759 | 512.343.7763

## Viperpalooza Sponsor/Vendor Tables

### WHAT IS VIPERPALOOZA?

Viperpalooza is a fun-filled day of community involvement, games, food, and events culminating in the VHS Spring Football game that began in 2010. This year we are thrilled to announce our 2nd annual Viperpalooza. The purpose of this event is to raise money for the VHS PTSA, booster clubs, and student organizations. This is a great opportunity for our community to come out to support, meet, and celebrate the coaches, directors, students and student athletes of Vandegrift High School. We hope you can join us for this fun filled day!

Viperpalooza will be held at Vandegrift High School and Monroe Stadium Complex on Saturday, May 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### WHAT IS A SPONSOR/VENDOR TABLE?

This year we are offering local businesses and vendors the opportunity to have a table at Viperpalooza. Your table can serve as a place to advertise your business, pass out coupons, flyers, freebies, etc. or your table can be used to sell items from your business. All donations are tax deductible and sponsors will receive a receipt for their generosity.

### WE ARE OFFERING 3 TYPES OF SPONSOR/VENDOR TABLES:

- Silver Sponsor \$50 donation – To park a boat or car for advertising
- Gold Sponsor \$75 donation – Reserve a location at Viperpalooza to set up a table
- Platinum Sponsor \$200+ - You may display your business banner on the rock wall the PSTA has reserved for the event, your businesses will be recognized on the Vandegrift High School Parent Teacher Student Association website in addition to a special email to our constant contact group after the event thanking our sponsors and in the maps that will be handed out at Viperpalooza.

Last year we had a great turnout from the entire Four Points community and this year we anticipate an even bigger crowd!!!!



### PLEASE CONTACT FRAN ZAROFF OR KRISTA GONZALES WITH QUESTIONS OR TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION.

Fran Zaroff  
512-944-6660 (M)  
fzaroff@austin.rr.com

Krista Gonzales  
512-771-7031 (M)  
texaskrista@yahoo.com

*Deadline to reserve sponsor/vendor tables is May 1.*

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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 sugges-  
tions:*

- **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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# DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE A LEGAL PLAN?



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ATTORNEY AT LAW

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## SCHEDULE YOUR FAMILY LEGAL PLANNING SESSION TODAY (a \$550 value for only \$50!)

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planning  
session*

It's a true working meeting where we discuss your specific family situation and goals. You'll complete some information prior to our meeting, and in about a half hour, you'll know what it takes to properly protect your family and what the flat fee would be for us to develop your legal plan.

If you are ready to proceed, in about two hours, you can have your family's legal plan designed with your family's goals and values. And while timing will vary depending on your specific needs, you could have a smart legal family plan for your estate within a couple weeks.

Family Legal Planning Sessions are offered limited times each month and they do fill up, so don't procrastinate!

## Meet Treyvon

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](mailto: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>



## Seaside Dining. Lakeside Viewing.

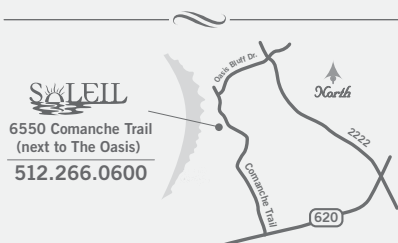


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# RIVER REVIEW

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## 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 your 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](mailto:Jannette.goodall@ci.austin.tx.us) or call 974-9045.*



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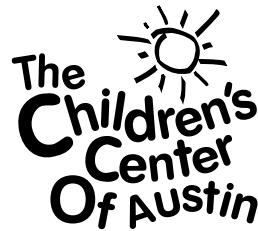
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## Austin Newcomers Club April Luncheon

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](mailto:LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com) or Diane Israelson 512-467-4979**

**For other Newcomers information**

**visit [www.austinnewcomers.com](http://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 Like 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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## NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

### Arboreal Ardor



From late winter into late spring, many of the night sounds you hear are not insects at all, but members of the wide-ranging Hylidae family, a group of cricket, tree, and chorus frogs. This group of true treefrogs and their allies have adaptations that reveal their mostly arboreal lifestyle, such as forward-facing eyes for binocular-like vision, adhesive pads on their fingers and toes, and a fondness for eating insects. Often not seen due to their diminutive size, these frogs are commonly mistaken for insects, due to their ability to produce loud and varied mating calls. Known as 'advertisement calls', these calls are produced by the males to attract females and warn other rival males during the breeding season.

The Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*) is a common, 1-2 inch frog with a slender, bright green body, cream-colored belly, and white lips that extend into lateral stripes along the sides of its body. Found in the eastern third of our state, this frog walks rather than jumps when on the ground. It is nocturnal, and prefers wet areas such as swamps, edges of lakes,

and streamsides. During its breeding season from March to October, the males start calling just before dark, and sound like groups of tiny ducks quacking. Females, which are slightly larger than the males and lack the wrinkled vocal pouch, lay their fertilized eggs enclosed in a jelly envelope attached to floating vegetation. Influenced by the weather, breeding often takes place during or after a rain.

At ½ to 1 ½ inches, the Northern Cricket Frog (*Acris crepitans*) is found throughout most of the state, except for the Panhandle and West Texas. Gray to green-brown, this frog has a long rounded snout, dark bands behind its limbs, and a distinguishing triangular patch behind the eyes that points down its back. Diurnal and active all year, these frogs prefer shallow but permanent ponds with vegetation and full sun. Often seen basking during the daytime, they will jump quickly into the water or away when disturbed, and are capable of covering 6 feet in one leap! Although they are part of the treefrog family, they are much more terrestrial

and are excellent swimmers. When chorusing, especially at night, the male's call sounds like clicking small rocks or pebbles together. Mating occurs in late spring, with the female laying one egg at a time on submerged vegetation.

Strecker's Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*) is a less common 1 – 1 ½ inch nocturnal frog that inhabits moist, wooded canyons and rocky ravines in the eastern half of the state. Its color can vary from gray to brown to olive, with a thick, dark stripe through and a dark spot under each eye, with longitudinal spots on its back. Often, this frog can show a deep orange or yellow coloration around the groin. While it prefers loose soil where it can burrow to protect itself from predators, drought, and daytime heat, it is also a strong climber. Unlike many other frog species, this frog breeds from November to April or May, when you may hear a single male's call of one bell-like note, repeated rapidly, or a chorus of asynchronous calls that sound like a squeaky wheel.

When you're out on a quiet

*Northern Cricket Frog*



*Strecker's Chorus Frog*



*Green Treefrog*



night from winter to late spring or early summer and near one of our natural areas, see if you can hear and identify the sounds of arboreal ardor!

*Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rv.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rv.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *NatureWatch Austin*, to be published soon by Texas A&M University Press.*

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## **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](mailto: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](mailto:alissa.magrum@colinshope.org) for more information.

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