

THE RIVER REVIEW

May 2011

News For The Residents of River Place

Volume 5, Issue 5

Save
the
Date!

Coming Soon **THE RIVER PLACE GARDEN CLUB** **ANNUAL YARD AND PLANT SALE!**

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2011

(The date of the River Place Neighborhood Yard Sale!)

**8:00 AM IS THE OFFICIAL
OPENING TIME...**

but if you're in need of a cup of coffee or a
breakfast taco or two, or just want to peruse our
collection of plants and yard sale treasures,
you can stop by any time after 7:00 a.m.!

AT SUN TREE PARK PAVILION

Please support our Garden Club's annual fund-raising event. If you're unable to stop by Sun Tree Park on the day of the yard sale, we are also accepting donations of pre-priced garage sale items. So please keep us in mind when you're doing your spring cleaning! If you have items you'd like to donate, please email Pat Coppola at rgcoppola50@sbcglobal.net and we'll arrange for a pick-up or drop-off location.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

SCHOOLS

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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

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Repairs.....	512-485-5080

IESI (Trash).....	512-282-3508
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OTHER NUMBERS

River Place Postal Office	512-345-9739
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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.....	512-263-9181
Article Submissions	riverreview@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

Four Points Chamber Hosts Award-Winning Social Media Marketer, Ricardo Guerrero

For May's Luncheon at River Place Country Club



Four Points Chamber of Commerce hosts guest speaker Ricardo Guerrero at the Chamber's May Luncheon. Guerrero established the core strategy for Dell's Twitter presence, which generated \$6.5M in their first 2.5 years. He has presented at SXSW Interactive and offers social media strategy coaching to "Generate

Excitement and "Power your Brand." Guerrero (@ggroovin & @ESggroovin on Twitter) is the founder and CEO of Stwittergy™ (@STWITT3RGY) and the "Chief Buzz Generator" of Social Media Dynamo™ (@SoMeDynamo). 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, May 19, 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. While you are at the Chamber's Web site be sure to check out the other networking activities offered by the chamber, including the bi-monthly Connectors networking meetings at Concordia University and monthly Happy Hour. On Thursday, May 26th join us for fun by the lake at Carlos and Charlie's 5973 Hiline Road.

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, visit www.fourpointschamber.com or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to membership@FourPointsChamber.com.

Newsletter Article Submissions

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing 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.

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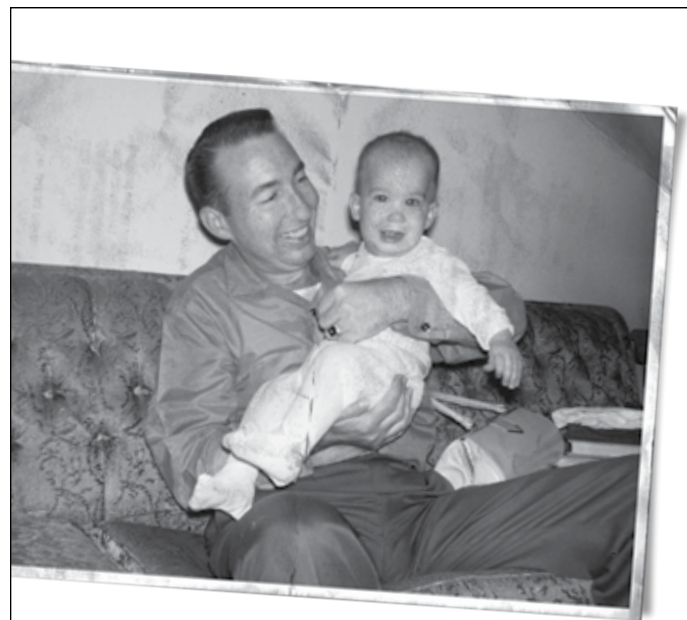
MAKE THIS SUMMER YOUR CHILD'S **BEST ONE YET!**

Upcoming Vandegrift High School Band Events

On Saturday, May 7, the Vandegrift High School Band will again be participating in the River Place Community Garage Sale. The sale will be held at River Place Elementary School from 8 AM till noon, and all proceeds will go to help support the VHS band program. Sale items will include furniture, clothing, toys, books, and other goods you'll need to check out. With more than 100 band families, you can expect a large variety of interesting items, so please make plans to stop by.

The band would like you to consider donating any items you no longer need for the sale. The VHS Band Booster Club is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are tax deductible. A receipt will be provided as acknowledgement of your donation. Arrangements can be made to pick up items at your convenience between now and May 7, or can be dropped off at Austin Christian Fellowship on Friday, May 6. Email vhs.band.garagesale@gmail.com for drop off times and further details.

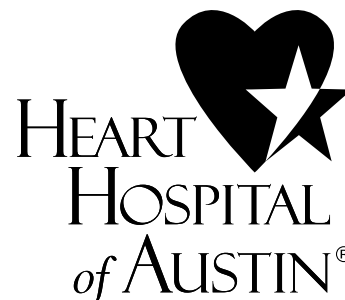
The band is also hosting a silent auction along with its Spring Concert on Thursday, May 12. Numerous good and services will be available for you to bid on. Come by, get a great deal, and listen to Vandegrift High School's talented young musicians. The auction starts at 6 and the concert begins at 7.



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Hill Country Education Foundation Plans Spring Gala at UT Golf Club

The Hill Country Education Foundation is saddling up for their inaugural spring fundraiser. Giddy Up Gala 2011 is set for May 13th at 6:30 p.m. at the University of Texas Golf Club and will feature dinner, a live band and silent auction.

Proceeds that evening will go towards HCEF's mission to achieve academic success for Four Points-area students in the areas of entrepreneurship, leadership, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Specifically, proceeds will help the Foundation reach their goal of providing:

- Grants to teachers, administrative and parent organizations that focus leadership, entrepreneurship and STEM education.
- Teacher development/training grants to support new or established curricula
- Enrichments programs, such as FIRST® LEGO® League Robotics and Garden Clubs
- Scholarships to Vandegrift High School students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics (starting in 2012)
- A community library in the Four Points community

– College Insider, a college-readiness program for parents and students

"Now, more than ever, our students need the help from the entire community to enhance their education," explained Michelle Lamb, board member. "Attending the event, even donating to the silent auction, will help make this event a success."

Business and individuals can become Gala sponsors and/or donate goods and services for the auction in addition to vacation homes, handmade items and gift certificates.

Tickets are \$60 per person for early-bird pricing (by April 16th) and \$75 thereafter. Table sponsorships run from \$2,500 for Trail Boss and \$1,000 for Rough Rider, to \$500 for Wrangler, \$250 for Ranch Hand and \$150 for Chuckwagon. Each level offers various benefits. For more information, go to www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org. For auction donations, please email mdlamb@hillcountryedfoundation.org



(Continued on Page 7)



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Hill Country Education Foundation - (Continued from Page 6)

About Hill Country Education Foundation

A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the Hill Country Education Foundation enhances the educational experience of students living in the Four Points community of Austin, Texas. This includes students attending the Vandegrift High School and its feeder schools: Laura Welch Bush Elementary, Grandview Hills Elementary, River Place Elementary, River Ridge Elementary, Steiner Ranch Elementary, Canyon Ridge Middle School and Four Points Middle School. HCEF achieves this enhancement through the development and financing of innovative, quality programs and projects for students attending or preparing to attend Vandegrift High School, specifically in the areas of leadership, entrepreneurship, science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

HCEF's vision is based on the belief that an exceptional education is essential both to the well being of individual students and to the civic health of a community. HCEF brings educators and citizens together to excel this educational experience by providing schools the additional tools needed to teach and engage children and by expanding the horizons of knowledge within the community through special programs and projects. HCEF endeavors to empower tomorrow's leaders while strengthening the community as a whole, now and into the future, in Austin and beyond.

LISD Board of Trustees' Candidate Forum Available Online

Five candidates running for LISD Board of Trustees Place 6 answered questions about pressing educational matters on Tuesday, April 26 at Vandegrift High School. The Forum is now available for viewing. To find the link, visit your Four Points school PTA web site. Sponsored by the Vandegrift PTA Ladder and the Four Points News, the Candidate Forum raised the difficult issues presented to school boards today with the looming and dramatic budget cuts ahead. Quita Culpepper, KVUE Anchor, moderated the event.

Candidates in the race, in official ballot order, for Place 6 include:

- Gene Frugé, Realtor – www.GeneFruge.com
- Kyle Ward, Nonprofit Management – www.kyle4kids.wordpress.com
- James Spires, Software Developer – <http://www.vote4spires.org>
- Aaron Johnson, Sales – www.aaron4lisd.com
- Nacole Thompson, Finance – www.ElectNacole.com

Place 7, currently held by Board President Will Streit, drew no opposition.

Voting Schedule

- Early voting – Monday, May 2 through Tuesday, May 10.
- Election Day – Saturday, May 14

Seaside Dining. Lakeside Viewing.

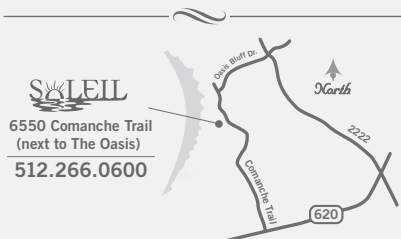


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Recipe of the Month

CHOCOLATE CRINKLES

- ½ cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups sugar
- 4 squares unsweetened chocolate (melted)
- 4 eggs 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 cups plus 2 level Tbsp. flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt

Mix oil, chocolate, & sugar. Blend in one egg at a time until well mixed. Add vanilla. Stir flour, baking powder, and salt into oil mixture. Chill several hours. Drop teaspoon of dough rolled into small balls into powdered sugar. Place 2" apart on greased cookie sheet. Bake 10-12 minutes at 350 °. Do not overbake!



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LOCAL AUSTIN CHARITY -IMAGINE A WAY- *Offers Hope for Central Texas Area Children Affected by Autism*

Imagine A Way announces the launch of their non-profit organization, established to offer Central Texas Area children diagnosed with Autism greater accessibility to services and therapies. This grass-roots charity was born less than a year ago in the hearts of Joel and Carolyn Price after their son, Joshua, was diagnosed as being on the Autism spectrum. Imagine A Way is now honored to observe Autism Awareness Month (April 2011) as an official non-profit organization whose mission is to support and provide hope and services to local families whose child has received this challenging diagnosis.

"After Joshua's diagnosis we recognized consistent, targeted therapies were critical for his development. We felt so grateful for our ability to provide these for him. The early intervention and therapies gave us the hope that we would get our son back," said Joel Price, founder and President of Imagine A Way.

And then they realized there are families who cannot afford these same essential therapies.

Statistically, the window for making the biggest difference in a child dealing with autism is between the ages of 2 and 6. While help and support slowly improve through legislation, children everyday

are entering and leaving this window of time without having had the opportunity to get the help and resources they need at the most critical time they need it.

Early, consistent therapy is proven as one of the most influential factors for the successful socialization and development of Autistic children. Yet it is costly and not always covered by insurance or social services. Limited resources can mean the difference in reaching the child or losing them.

Imagine A Way was founded to help families provide their child with these essential therapies, enabling them to reach their full potential. The impact this local organization will have upon these families will be truly life changing.

Joshua was diagnosed with autism in March of 2007. At age 2 ½ Joshua was slowly drifting away and the Prices found themselves in unfamiliar territory, trying to bring him back to them. Last November, the therapies and commitment paid off. "While picking up my son from therapy," Joel remembers, "the therapist told me that when they asked him what he wants to be when he grows up, Joshua's answer was... "I want to be like my Daddy!" Wow! What a gift. A gift we are intent on sharing." *(Continued on Page 11)*



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Imagine A Way- (Continued from Page 10)

Imagine A Way is just that. A gift for families affected by Autism.

Imagine A Way is planning their first annual Founder's Event for next month, and would like to invite anyone interested in joining with them as a Founding Partner to please visit their website (www.ImagineAWayFoundation.org) or call for more information. With intentions to touch local families in this very practical and personal way, this organization will make a huge impact.

"We are dedicated to making a difference one child, one family at a time," Joel explains. But with a heart as big as this, it won't be long before Imagine A Way touches the whole community.

About Imagine A Way:

Founded in 2010, Imagine A Way is an Austin based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization bringing support, therapies and hope to Central Texas Area families affected by Autism.

For more information about Imagine A Way visit their website at: www.ImagineAWayFoundation.org

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WHAT CAUSES AUTISM?

By Connie Ripley

Autism is diagnosed in one out of 110 children (1 in 70 boys). In 1975, autism effected 1 in 5,000. It is the fastest growing serious developmental disorder in the U.S., but is it a disorder or a disease?

The reasons for this huge increase, especially the 57% increase between 2002 and 2005, are being explored by parents, physicians and scientists. The means of diagnosing being essentially the same, what in our current world is causing the escalation of autism at alarming rates?

No totally supported cure exists. Early detection and intervention are the best treatments.

Many concerned parents are blaming childhood immunizations—due in part to a well-publicized study by Dr. Andrew Wakefield (founder the Austin-based Thoughtful House) linking the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine to autism. Medical organizations and drug companies have spent millions combating what they call his “fraudulent research findings”, yet Wakefield still holds his findings as factual. Who do you believe? The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is finally citing studies showing that early exposure

to mercury-based thimerosal is associated with motor and phonic tics in boys. Others are claiming the measles vaccine is a live virus that may continue to live in some children.

The age of parents, either mother or father, has been shown to possibly have an impact on the diagnosis. According to the federal government’s leading autism body, the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee (IACC), “Recent studies suggest...that parental age...may confer environmental risk.” The Dr. Oz television show had a large portion of one show on the causes. This was a well-accepted cause, but why?

In-Vitro fertilization appears to also be in question. A recognized physician and autism specialist states that 29% of her autism patients were conceived in-vitro. (It is important to note that this is only one physician’s findings and is not a published study.) Could this also

(Continued on Page 13)

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What Causes Autism? - (Continued from Page 12)

be linked to age of parents? The federal government is also studying Toxins as a possible cause. The unusually high incidence of autism in children around Texas power plants is cited in some studies.

Mitochondrial DNA damage is finally getting a lot of attention from both physicians and the federal government.

Current scientific findings support the concept of a medical disease causing a dysregulated immune system to constrict the blood flow in some children's brains, primarily the temporal lobes affecting motor skills, social integration and speech. Some physicians claim that when "the villain" that causes the damage can be identified and removed from the child, autism symptoms diminish. Is this a vitamin deficiency, a virus, a fungus, sensitivities to toxins or certain food allergies?

The CDC now wants to do a 5 year study on the potential risk for post vaccine "neurological deterioration" and a study of mitochondrial dysfunction. This comes after the IACC announced a shift in research priorities toward environmental triggers, which could include toxins, biological agents and "adverse events following immunization." Does a genetic predisposition to the disorder exist

in some children? While each gene appears to affect only a small percentage of cases, groups of genes appear to account for a greater percentage of autism risk. When children are exposed to certain toxins, viruses, fungi or conditions, autism could be the result, but not in all siblings and not in all twins.

Why are four times as many boys as girls affected with autism?

Something causes this early disruption in the development of the brain of one in 110 children (Some even say the number is more like one in 91. The U.S. military is stating 1 in 80 in ads on TV!), but what?

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 and teams are being formed for the 2011 Walk at Dell Diamond on September 24. Your help is needed! Please contact Walk Manager Traci Whitney at traci.whitney@autismspeaks.org or go to www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/austin

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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 info visit our website at www.colinshope.org

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May 21st, 2011

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ME1678

Hearings Rescheduled for Controversial Left Turn on RM 2222

The owners of the tract at the southeast corner of RM 2222 and Loop 360 have filed a request with the City to allow left turns from westbound RM 2222 into their planned shopping center. That left turn would be located halfway between the new signal at Lakewood Drive and the intersection of the two highways, aligned with the driveway at Bull Creek Market.

When the zoning for the tract was approved in 1992, the owners signed a restrictive covenant with the City of Austin which required access from RM 2222 to be a right-in/right-out only driveway, with a solid median installed to prohibit left turns into or out of the property. The covenant was a condition of the approved zoning, and was recommended by the Planning Commission and City staff and supported by the surrounding neighborhoods. It was considered a matter of public safety at the time.

Fast-forward twenty years: traffic on RM 2222 is worse than had been anticipated and plans to widen RM 2222 east of Loop 360 have been jettisoned. Left turns into the property would be at least as dangerous today as envisioned in 1992.

TxDOT will be installing a median on RM 2222 east of Loop 360 as part of the Bull Creek bridge project. They will install a solid median unless the City agrees to amend the restrictive covenant to

allow left turns. If the covenant is amended, TxDOT will install a left-turn cut in the median to accommodate the owners.

According to the most recent traffic counts available from TxDOT, approximately 27,000 vehicles travel eastbound on RM 2222 daily past the tract. The safety of those vehicles will be put at risk by vehicles crossing eastbound RM 2222 to turn into the shopping center, which is planned to be constructed and in operation by 2015. The left turns would also conflict with vehicles exiting from northbound Loop 360 onto eastbound RM 2222.

Vehicles waiting to turn left from westbound RM 2222 will stack up as they wait for a break in the eastbound traffic flow. If more than 3 or 4 vehicles are waiting to turn, the queue will block the left lane of westbound RM 2222 and possibly block the intersection at Lakewood Drive, especially during rush hour traffic.

Concerned that this left turn would create unnecessary traffic conflicts and decrease traffic safety, many area residents have sent emails to the Zoning and Platting Commission and the City Council, voicing their opposition. 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations, Northwest Austin Civic Association, Courtyard

(Continued on Page 17)



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Hearings Rescheduled - (Continued from Page 16)

Homeowners Association, and other area homeowner and neighborhood associations are also in opposition.

The case was scheduled to be heard by the Zoning and Platting Commission and City Council in March, but has been postponed. The Zoning and Platting Commission hearing is now set for April 19 and the City Council hearing is scheduled for May 12.

Area residents and anyone who travels on RM 2222 can still voice their opposition to this change. The easiest way to do so is to send an email expressing your opposition to the requested amendment to the City Council before their hearing. Below are the email addresses and case information which should be referenced:

Case # C14-91-0015(RCA), Champion Commercial Development - restrictive covenant amendment

City Council members and link to group email form: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/groupemail.htm>

The following public hearings are currently scheduled but are subject to change or postponement:

1. Zoning and Platting Commission, Tuesday, April 19, 2011
2. City Council, Thursday, May 12, 2011

For up-to-date information on hearing dates, visit www.2222cona.org or call Carol Torgimson at 338-4722.

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to Celebrate?

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RIVER REVIEW

Seven Business Networking Groups in the Area

Are you looking to grow your business in 2011? If so, you might be interested in a few of the business networking groups in the area. These are a few to choose from:

STEINER RANCH REFERRALS BNI GROUP

Meetings are on Tuesday mornings from 8:00am to 9:30am at Hill Country Pasta House. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested please contact Elicia Rudberg at eliciarudberg@gmail.com for more information or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

FOUR POINTS BNI

Meetings are on Wednesday at lunch from 11:30am to 1:00pm at the River Place Country Club. Visitors are welcome! If you are interested please contact Amy Oehler at amy.oehler@unitedlendingusa.com or visit www.BNIAustin.com.

FOUR POINTS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking opportunities at social gatherings, luncheons with guest speakers and activities. The Chamber brings businesses together along highway 620 from Hudson Bend to Anderson Mill and Ranch Road 2222 from Jester to Volente. Four Points Chamber supports business growth in the community where we live, work and play. In less than 6 months

Four Points Chamber of Commerce exceeded its first year membership goals and continues to grow! For information about participating in upcoming events or membership benefits visit www.fourpointschamber.com or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to membership@FourPointsChamber.com.

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YOUR LOCAL CITY

Steiner Ranch has a new business networking group. Your Local City is a positive, membership based, business networking

(Continued on Page 19)

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COME SEE US IN OUR NEW HOME!!!!

Seven Business Networking Groups - (Continued from Page 18)

organization with 17 groups meeting all over the Austin area. The Steiner Ranch group meets every Friday at 8:00 am at Lakeside Pizza and Grill located in the Shops at Steiner Ranch at Steiner Ranch Blvd. and Quinlan. Come join us to grow your business.

LAKEWAY NETWORKING, INC.

We are a diverse group of business professionals in the Lake Travis area, helping our members to grow their businesses through qualified referrals. We meet every Wednesday at 8AM at Johnny Fins, located at 16405 Clara Van Street, in Lakeway. Come visit us and see how your business can benefit by being a member of Lakeway Networking. For more information, please contact Kelly Connor at kellyconnor@austin.rr.com or 512-736-2495.

TOASTMASTERS INTERNATIONAL -

Ready to take your public speaking and leadership skills to the next level in a fun and friendly environment? Get up 'n Go Toastmasters can help you achieve your goals! We meet Monday's from 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM at the Waterloo Ice House located at the corner of 2222 and 360. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit www.atxtoastmasters.org or contact Rob Carruthers at 512-422-1688.

SUDOKU

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View answers online

				9	5			
			4	3		7		
						1		6
	5		6					
4				1	9	3		2
					7		8	
		3		5	1		9	
	2							1
		4				6	3	

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