

# THE VILLAGE

## *Gazette*™

*"It takes a Village..."*

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NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES AT WESTERN OAKS AND LEGEND OAKS I

### *"Month of May: National Tennis Month"*

The United States Professional Tennis Association has designated the month of May as the "USPTA's Tennis Across America & Tennis – for the health of it!" month. The emphasis is to teach children and adults the value of playing tennis and also help fight child obesity. The Circle C Tennis Club will be offering a complimentary clinic for residents of this community. The free clinics will be conducted by the Professional Staff of Circle C, which includes Master Professional, Fernando Velasco; USPTA Pros Darin Pleasant and Danny Rodriguez; PTR Pros, Mandon Maloney, Mari Toro and Gus Manzur; and Associate Tennis Pro, Mike Ralston. Special guest for the clinics will be Pro-Emeritus, Dennis Ralston who is a former United States Open Champion, Wimbledon Champion, coach for Chris Evert, Yannick Noah and many others. The clinic will be followed by a tennis exhibition by the Professional Staff. Soft drinks and snacks will be provided.

The Junior clinic will be conducted on Friday, May 20 beginning at 4:30 pm. The Adult Co-Ed Clinic on Saturday, May 21 beginning at 11:30 am. Residents wishing to participate can call Circle C Tennis Club at 512-301-8685 to reserve a spot. Come and try it!! You might like it!! -

### *"General Manager Receives Award"*



Fernando Velasco, General Manager and Director of Tennis at the Circle C Tennis Club, received an award at the USPTA Texas Division Convention in Dallas, Texas. Velasco was recognized as a leader in teaching tennis as the "sport of a lifetime" in Texas, the United States and overseas. The

award bestowed upon him was the "2010 USPTA Texas Lessons for Life Award." In addition, Velasco received the "2010 Men's 65 and Over Player of the Year" in recognition for being a top ranked tennis player in the 65 and Over age Division both here in Texas and at the National level. Shown here is Velasco receiving the award from USPTA Texas Division President, Charlotte Wylie.

### **NatureWatch**

*by Jim and Lynne Weber*



Small to medium-sized songbirds with long, pointed wings, forked or squared tails, and inconspicuous legs and feet, swallows are characterized by their adaptation to aerial feeding. Unlike other groups of birds, swallows have a streamlined body shape that has evolved to efficiently hunt insects on the wing, allowing for great maneuverability, endurance, and frequent periods of gliding. When not performing their avian acrobatics, swallows are often seen perching in long rows on branches and wires.

Spending most of their waking hours hunting for flying insects, swallows have short bills, strong jaws, and a wide gape. They feed at speeds up to 25 miles per hour and are selective about their prey, tending to choose the larger insects rather than scooping up every insect around them. Swallows also use aerial flights to attract a mate, and are monogamous breeders. While they can be territorial, most form at least loosely aggregated colonies with both the male and female jointly constructing their nests, made primarily with mud and sometimes added bits of dried vegetation.

Swallows migrate to Central and South America for the winter and three species of swallows return to the Austin area in late March and April, with breeding occurring soon after. The most common is the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), with a dark slate blue back, reddish brown throat, cinnamon or buffy chest, and deeply forked tail. They prefer to nest in suburban areas, often building their mud structures under the eaves of porches and overhangs. Males have 18% longer tails than females, and females generally choose a mate by the length of its tail. Barn swallows begin hawking for insects an hour or so before dawn, accompanied by their liquid, energetic chattering.

Found mostly flying around overpasses and bridges where they prefer to build large mud nest colonies, Cliff Swallows (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) have a squarish tail, buffy rump, dark chestnut throat, and a pale forehead. Normal flights follow a rollercoaster path, with rapid ascents on quick wingbeats, followed by downward glides. Courtship flights in the spring are followed by copulation on the ground.

Cave Swallows (*Petrochelidon fulva*) look quite similar to Cliff Swallows, and are distinguished by their buffy throat and cinnamon forehead. Locally common and increasing their range to the

*(Continued on Page 3)*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY ..... 911  
Fire..... 911  
Ambulance ..... 911  
Sheriff – Non-Emergency ..... 512-974-0845

### SCHOOLS

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Bailey..... 512-414-4990  
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### UTILITIES

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City of Austin..... 512-972-0101  
City of Austin (billing) ..... 512-494-9400  
Emergency ..... 512-972-1000  
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ATT/SBC Telephone  
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Repair ..... 1-800-246-8464  
Billing ..... 1-800-288-2020  
Allied Waste ..... 512-247-5647  
Time Warner Cable..... 512-485-5555

### OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station..... 1-800-275-8777  
City of Austin  
Dead Animal Collection..... 512-494-9000  
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles ..... 512-974-8119  
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged ..... 512-974-2000  
Street Light Outage (report pole#)..... 512-505-7617

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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## Nature Watch- (Continued from Cover Page)

north and east, Cave Swallows historically occurred only in dimly lit interiors of caves or sinkholes, but over the past few decades have begun utilizing man-made structures such as low bridges and culverts. When returning to the location of their mud nests, they fold their wings and plunge in at a high speed, then circle around inside the cave/structure to lose momentum before landing.

Adept aerialists, swallows do many things on the wing, including drinking and bathing. The next time you witness their swooping flight and distinctive chattering, take a moment to appreciate these avian acrobats!

*Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in 2011.*



*Cliff Swallow*



*Barn Swallow*



*Cave Swallow*



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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 5)*

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**Imagine A Way-** (Continued from Page 4)

## *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](http://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](http://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

*(Continued on Page 7)*



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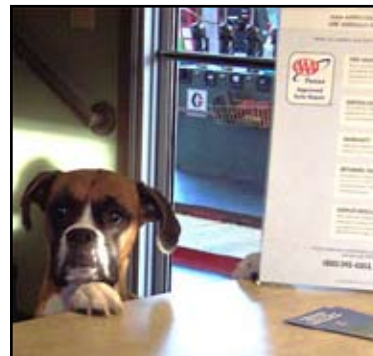
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## What Causes Autism? - (Continued from Page 6)

physician's findings and is not a published study.) Could this also 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](mailto:traci.whitney@autismspeaks.org) or go to [www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/austin](http://www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/austin)

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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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What's on your  
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month?



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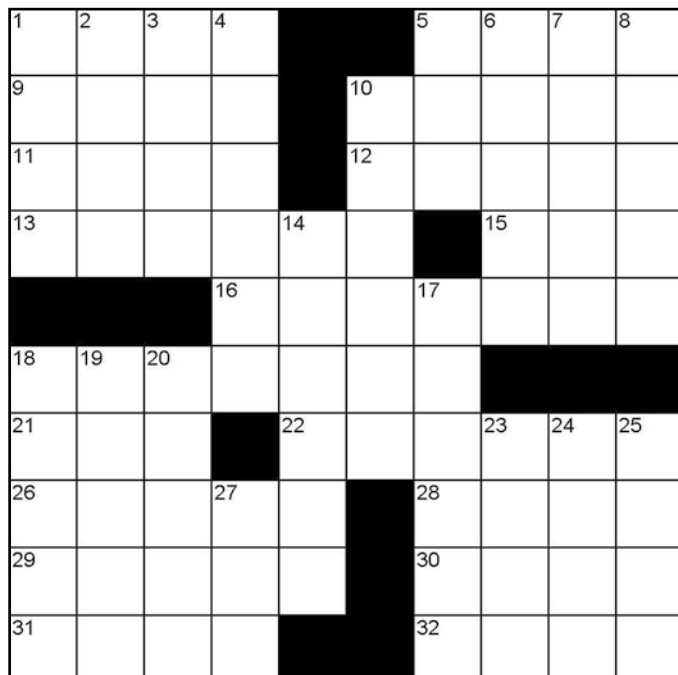
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5. Tussle
9. Soda
10. Author of "The Inferno"
11. Drug doer
12. Colder
13. Mr.s
15. Thai
16. Herself opposite
18. Kitten (2 wds.)
21. Government agency
22. Laughing dogs
26. Revoke
28. Guile
29. Beefy
30. Economics abrv.
31. Sold at a discount
32. Official document

### DOWN

1. Water film
2. Sit for a picture
3. Beers
4. Quaggy
5. McDonald's "Big \_"
6. Join
7. Snitch
8. Stems of letters
10. Make gloomy
14. Opulently
17. Boiled
18. Supports
19. Sleep disorder
20. Trite
23. Naughty or \_  
(what Santa checks)
24. Lotion ingredient
25. Deliver by post
27. Southwestern Indian

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**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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## MAY EVENTS at the Wildflower Center

### National Public Gardens Day

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 6  
Special wildflower and ecology tours

### Gardens on Tour

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, May 7

A special self-guided tour to secret garden treasures featuring unique ways to design with native plants. Five gardens plus the Wildflower Center for \$25 or pay \$6 for individual gardens.

Origami artist Joan Son in the store noon to 4 p.m.

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### Texas Highways Photo Exhibit

Monday, May 2, through Sunday, May 8

Honoring National Wildflower Week

### Nature Nights—Butterflies

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 20

\$1 admission

### Silk Paintings

Opens Saturday, May 28

Uniquely layered silk with colorful additions by Catherine Flowers in the McDermott Learning Center.

### Memorial Day

Monday, May 30

The Wildflower Center is open.

## Oak Hill United Methodist Church Upcoming Events for Children



### Vacation Bible School 2011

June 13-17 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.

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