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OMEon



June 2011

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AVERY RANCH HOA

Volume 5, Issue 6

Enjoy a "Stay-Cation" in Williamson County by Commissioner Lisa Birkman 5. Go back in time-Visit the Gov. Dan Moody Museum a

As gas prices rise and budgets shrink, many folks are looking for less expensive ways to have fun or have a "stay-cation" at home. With the spring's arrival and summer on the way, let me share with you some fun things to do in Williamson County:

- 1. *Get outside* We have lots of great parks in Williamson County such as Berry Springs Park, just north of Georgetown. It is a beautiful setting and offers overnight camping. Along the river in Georgetown is San Gabriel Park featuring picnic areas, art in the park and more. Champion Park, just east of Cedar Park, has a dinosaur fossil discovery area. Round Rock's premiere park is Old Settlers, which has the large Rock'n'River water play area. The Leander's newest park is Benbook, which features a BMX track and a skate park. Cedar Park has Milburn Park and Brushy Creek Lake Parks. Williamson County Regional Park features trails, disc golf, pavilions, tennis and a miniature train.
- 2. *Eat like a German*-After exercising, you might be hungry, and a neat place to go is Walburg. Located north and east of Georgetown, Walburg is small community with a rich German heritage. Two restaurants located there both keep the German tradition alive and often feature live music. Prices vary but are reasonable.
- 3. *Take a day tri*p-The Hill Country Flyer steam train picks up passengers in Cedar Park and takes you to either Bertram or Burnet and back. Costs range from #17 to \$43 for adults, less for children.
- 4. *Watch a ballgame*-The Round Rock Express begins its season in April and runs through September. The Express are now an affiliate of the American League Champion Texas Rangers, the lawn seat tickets start at \$6 in advance.

- 5. *Go back in time*-Visit the Gov. Dan Moody Museum at 114 W. 9th St. in Taylor. This museum is the boyhood home of Texas' youngest governor. The restored house is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free but donations are accepted.
- 6. *Shop 'til you drop*-Round Rock Premium Outlets features 125 stores with something for everyone. Good deals can be found on everything from designer purses to cookware plus much more.
- 7. *Watch a show* The Cedar Park Center has a variety of shows throughout the year such as Disney on Ice, Cirque de Soliel, and others. Prices vary depending on the show.
- 8. *Visit the Square* The historic downtown square in Georgetown features unique shops, restaurants, and the Williamson Museum, dedicated to preserving the history of Williamson County. The museum also offers tours of the recently restored Williamson County Courthouse and walking tours of the square. These are by appointment, and free.
- 9. *Take in some local artwork-* ArtSpace at 231 E. Main St. in downtown Round Rock features the work of local artists and is open 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturdays plus 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays. Additionally, the Williamson County Jester Annex, 1801 E. Old Settlers, Round Rock, has artwork from local artists on display daily during regular county business hours. Admission to both venues is free.
- 10.*Get festive-* Williamson County features a number of spring/ summer festivals, including the Round Rock Fiesta Amistad, Juneteenth, Frontier Days, and more.

So, if you are looking for something fun to do, opportunities abound right here at home!

NEEDED: HOA BOARD CANDIDATES (See Article on Pg. 2)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	
Fire	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-943-1300

SCHOOLS

ROUND ROCK ISD

Patsy Sommer Elementary	
	16200 Avery Ranch Blvd.
Cedar Valley Middle School	
·	
McNeil High School	

LEANDER ISD

Rutledge Elementary	
	11501 Staked Plains Dr.
Henry Middle School	
	100 N. Vista Ridge Dr.
Vista Ridge High School	

UTILITIES

City of Austin Water	
Perdernales Electric	

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Repair	
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TIME WARNER CABLE	
Customer Service	
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Solid Waste Servies	

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D.R. HORTON Tom MoodyTEMoody@drhorton.com

AVERY RANCH HOA WEBSITE

Visit the Avery Ranch HOA website at www.AveryRanchHOA.com

FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Contact our Property Manager & HOA Board for any questions/concerns about your neighborhood at GetHelp@AveryRanchHOA.com

Needed: HOA Board Candidates

Become more involved with your neighborhood and run for a director position on the Avery Ranch Owners Association. Nominations can be received anytime before the annual meeting, as well as nominations taken from the floor at the meeting on Monday, August 22, 2011.

Get the word out early about your candidacy, and submit a brief about yourself in the next Avery Ranch "Home on the Ranch Newsletter". Please submit a 100-250 word brief to arnewsletter@hotmail.com before July 1st in order to be included in the August newsletter.

CALENDAR

HOA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Next meeting - Monday, June 13th

Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7pm, except for holidays. Board members will meet on these dates to discuss issues related to Avery Ranch. If you have an item you would like discussed during one of these meetings, please contact Alliance Association Management, Inc. at 347-2888. The location for meetings is at the Glenfield Amenity Center.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Avery Ranch Swim & Water Aerobics Lessons

- June 6, Monday: Start of 1st Swim Lesson Session at MAC Pool
- June 7, Tuesday: Start of 1st Water Aerobics Swim Session at MAC Pool

Swim Lessons: Early Evening Sessions Added!!!

- Swim Lesson Schedule & Registration Form URL: http://bit.ly/eAyqTM
- Water Aerobics Schedule & Registration Form URL: http://bit.ly/f1m4MO

FAMILY SOCIAL - SATURDAY, JUNE 11TH FROM 4 P.M. TO 6 P.M.

Are you ready for the Dog Days of Summer? Please join us for a family afternoon of neighborhood gathering, food and live music. This event will be held at Waterloo Icehouse on Avery Ranch Blvd. Food will be served. Adult beverages can be purchased. Come on out & join us!

4th Annual Independence Day Golf Tournament / Fireworks Display - Sunday, July 3rd

The Avery Ranch Social Committee (ARSC) invites you to our 4th Annual Four-Person Scramble Independence Day Golf Tournament / Fireworks Display. For more information including registration rules for the Golf Tournament, please visit our Avery RanchHOA.com website or refer to the flyer included in this newsletter.

New Residents Meet & Greet - Saturday, July 16th from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the Main Amenity Center Clubhouse (Morgan Creek Drive at Morningside)

If you are new to Avery Ranch, this is an opportunity to meet some fine folks on the Social Committee and talk with a few Board Members. Get to know how the HOA works, what events are planned for the year, and grab some refreshments. Welcome to Avery Ranch!

We want to hear from you....what events would you like to have in Avery Ranch? Let us know. Contact our Avery Ranch Social Committee Chairperson Jean Mayo at jmayo002@austin.rr.com

WHY CHOOSE *The Hyatt Agency* FOR ALL YOUR INSURANCE?

Helpful Tips:

- Many of the clients we come across are currently paying premiums on the value of their home, including the land. This is a waste of money. No homeowners insurance covers the land. Homeowners insurance should be based upon the replacement cost of your home, not the market value....
- Many of our clients were previously paying for "personal injury protection" on their auto insurance while at the same time paying for / having a good health insurance policy in place. This is usually duplicate / unnecessary coverage that is wasting your money....
- In today's litigious world it never hurts to have increased personal liability limits on your household. Homeowner, Personal Liability Insurance, pays for most things for which you could be found liable, short of work and auto related incidents. We have helped many our clients protect their hard earned assets by increasing their liability coverage. For example, on an average home, the cost of increasing your liability coverage from \$300,000 to \$1,000,000 can be as low as \$1.25 a month....
- We can save a typical household at least \$500 a year just by combining their home and auto policies. We can save even more by combining home, auto, and Life insurance.





GET INVOLVED *IN YOUR COMMUNITY*

WE HAVE COMMUNITY EVENTS BECAUSE AR RESIDENTS MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Are you an organizer? Maybe a person who has an eye for detail? Do you like creating checklists? Are you an arts & crafts person? Your community needs you. Join the Avery Ranch Social Committee! Contact our Avery Ranch Social Committee Chairperson Jean Mayo at jmayo002@austin.rr.com

The Social Committee meets every 1st Thursday at 7p.m. at the Meeting Room located by the pool of the Main Activity Center (Morningside).

The Event Calendar is posted on the HOA website under the Social Committee Forum and at the Avery Ranch Neighborhood Events Page on FaceBook



http://www.facebook.com/pages/Austin-T X / Avery - Ranch - Neighborhood -Events/132212366794767

Playtime for kids... Adult time for parents! Become a part of the Avery Ranch Playgroup! To know more about it, contact April Aguren at april.aguren@averyranchhoa. com





4TH ANNUAL Four-Person Scramble Independence Day Golf Tournament/Fireworks

Sponsored by the Avery Ranch Social Committee Hosted by Avery Ranch Golf Club

SUNDAY, JULY 3RD, 2011 AT (CHECK IN 2:00 PM) 3:00 P.M. (SHOT GUN START)

The Avery Ranch Social Committee (ARSC) would like to invite you to our 4th Annual Independence Day Golf Tournament and Fireworks display. Please log on to www.HOAgolf.com and click on the **"July 3rd Avery Ranch & HOA Player Sign up"** and complete the player registration. While you are on-line, register family & friends to join you at our dinner buffet, or just invite family & friends to meet you for our free fireworks display following the tournament. Registration is limited to the first 72 players. Last year's event was completely sold out....so sign up soon and good luck!

TEAM REGISTRATION:

Registration Cost: \$80.00 + tax per person.
Registration Includes: green fee, golf cart, bucket of balls at driving range, & dinner buffet (Additional guests can join you for the all you can eat dinner buffet for \$10 + tax per person).
Door prizes & trophies for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place.

• All proceeds benefit the Avery Ranch Homeowners Association social committee

Mulligan's are available for purchase, and may be used anywhere, tee through green. You may include the Mulligan fee with your on line registration or purchase the day of the event. Please check-in by 2:00 pm. Don't forget to bring a blanket/chair to view the fireworks.

BUSINESS OWNERS – SPONSOR A HOLE FOR \$100.00

Spend a fun filled afternoon at the tee box and meet & greet every golfer. Click "July 3rd Avery Ranch & HOA Sponsorship Sign up". Additional \$10.00 plus tax per person for dinner buffet. Click ... Family buffet dinner...

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Marc Boucher Mbouchertx@sbcglobal.net Tel. 699-7126 All entries must be received by June 30th, 2011 www.HOAgolf.com

HOA ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS

Pearson Place & Challenger School By Steve Roebuck

ADRC Definition

The Architectural Design and Review Committee (ADRC; aka Architectural Control Committee - ACC) is your neighborhood committee responsible for approving all exterior property modifications. The committee is comprised of three volunteer members who work to conserve the natural beauty of our neighborhood while helping to maintain property values.

Finally, construction on Pearson Place at Avery Ranch is going strong. In case you haven't heard, this development is located just across from Creekside and near Patsy Sommer

Elementary. When complete, it will house around 400 homes. Future plans exist there for 3 more RRISD Schools. Not to worry, the borders along Avery Ranch Blvd as well as the entrance will be constructed to match what we have now. It will look like part of Avery Ranch, but will have it's own HOA and amenity centers. The huge hole being dug is part of the retention pond system. If you'd like to see the plot, or a mock up of the area, you can find them in the forums at www.AveryRanchHOA. com. Just search on Pearson Place.

It looks like the Challenger School, located between CVS and Kids r' Kids will be completed soon.

This will be a great asset to our community that will present another alternative to educating our children.

I'm sure everyone is becoming concerned about the extra traffic the Pearson and Challenger will produce, and rightly so. Unfortunately, traffic seems to be a sign of progress. Perhaps we'll see some added turn lanes at Parmer to help in the future. Until then, let's be neighborly when navigating the streets.



HOA ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS cont.

Complete Quiz to Win a Prize

COURTESY OF YOUR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & REVIEW COMMITTEE (ADRC) ALL ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND IN THIS ISSUE OF "HOME ON THE RANCH"

1. How many Easter Eggs were provided by the Social Committee?

- 2. What website talks about kids that dawdle?
- 3. What nearby town has TWO German Restaurants?
- 4. Where is the upcoming June 11th family social being held?
 - 5. How many kids are enrolled in summer swim lessons?

The first three residents with accounts in good standing who submit correct answers via email to ContestAvery@gmail.com will win a gift chosen by the ADRC and funded by Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union. Answers must include your Name, Address, and Phone Number in the email. Board Members or Committee Officers are not eligible. Winners are limited to once every twelve months.

> Congratulations to our May quiz winners: Denisa Haden/Michael McDermott, Heather Seiser and Chetan Nabar. Each receive a \$25 Master Card from RBFCU.





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*Annual Percentage Rate. All rates are expressed "as low as". Actual rate may vary depending on credit qualifications. **Rate applies to 1st lien commercial real estate loans with a loan to value of 80% or less; construction/development loan rates/terms may be vary. ***Annual Percentage Vield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. Jumbo- A minimum deposit of \$95,000 is required. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. Austin Telco Federal Credit Union is federally insured to at least \$250,000 per member by the National Credit Union Administration.

HOA ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS cont.

Avery Ranch Swimming

What a great amenity to our neighborhood. Avery Ranch offered the first YMCA taught swimming lessons in the summer of 2009. A total of around 60 students were enrolled. Two years later, our lessons have expanded to include late afternoon sessions to accommodate those who work during the day, or just can't get up early enough to make the 10AM classes. This year, prior to May1, we already had 155 students enrolled. It's not too late, we have plenty of sessions still available. Please check with the Twin Lakes Y, or download the flyers from the www.AveryRanchHOA.com forum.

And don't forget we also offer Water Aerobics for the adults who want a little exercise. Steve Roebuck

Avery Ranch Water Aerobics

Aqua Fitness: Medium- to high-intensity workouts. Each class completes cardiovascular work, along with toning, flexibility and abdominal work. Deep water participants will use aqua joggers to stay afloat. All levels welcome you can work at your own pace. You must register to participate.

	Shallow Wat	er Aerobics:	
+	Tuesday/Thursday (\$	20/\$ession=8 dasses)	
		C faulan a	Session 4
Sersion 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
June 7 th - June 30 th Tuesda y/Thursda y	July 5 ^m - July 28 ^m Tuesday/Thursday	Aug 2 nd – Aug 25 th Tuesday/Thursday	Aug 30 th – Sept 22 th Tuesday/Thursday

Deep Water Aerobics Wednesday/Friday (\$20/Session=8 classes)

Sersion 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4
June s th – July 1 st Wednesday/Friday 8:45am-9:45am	July 6 th – July 29 th Wednesday/Friday 8:45am-9:45am	Aug 3 rd – Aug 26 th Wednesday/Friday 8:45am-9:45am	Aug 31" – Sept 23" Wednesda y/Frid ay 8:4 5am -9:4 5am
	Register Now		
	sit the Twin Lakes Family YM		
	Little Elm Trail Cedar Park, T for more info call 512-250-962:		



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Community Players

HOA ARC	HITE	CTUR	RAL C	DESIG	N & R	EVIE	w co	MMIT	TEE	NEW	S cont
VIOLATION SUMMARY	May 2010	Jun 2010	Jul 2010	Aug 2010	Sep 2010	Oct 2010	Nov 2010	Dec 2010	Jan 2011	Feb 2011	Mar 2011
Landscaping	80	64	62	62	31	33	35	18	23	5	76
Vehicle Parking	10	9	17	17	13	19	11	19	18	15	28
Rubbish & Debris	34	26	32	32	34	46	47	13	43	13	59
Noise	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Animal & Pets	4	1	1	2	0	1	2	7	2	2	8
Decorations	1	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	16	17
Fencing	0	2	4	0	5	5	5	6	3	3	12
Improper Use	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Maintenance	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Signs	14	6	9	9	4	7	6	6	4	1	3
Sports Equipment	1	2	3	3	4	1	7	3	11	4	7
Unsightly	13	2	5	5	6	7	13	7	13	8	10
Architectural	6	2	2	2	1	7	13	12	26	12	45
	163	116	137	139	99	127	140	92	144	79	267



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HOA ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN & REVIEW COMMITTEE NEWS cont.



Caring for children is her specialty.

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For more information on Dr. Keegan or any of the Cedar Park Regional Medical Center physicians, visit us online at CedarParkDoctors.com.



Lee Keegan, M.D. Pediatrician

920 North Vista Ridge Blvd., Suite 500 Cedar Park

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Independent Member of the Medical Staff at CEDAR PARK REGIONAL

Spring Bazaar & Egg Hunt



What an amazing day when the Avery Ranch Social Committee (ARSC) hosted the Avery Ranch Spring Bazaar and Egg Hunt on Saturday April 23rd at the Main Amenity Center & Amphitheatre in Avery Ranch from 10 am -4 pm.

Participation from the Avery Ranch Homeowner's was phenomenal! Thank you to all of the families who came out to enjoy the festivities and especially to all of the volunteers and hired help that made the day possible. Goodie Two Shoes Production Company helped to organize the booth vendors, the kid-zone activities and the food vendors. Boy Scout Troop #161 from the Leander United Methodist Church showed up in a big way with several scouts & dads to help.

(Continued on Page 13)



Spring Bazaar & Egg Hunt (Continued from, Page 12)



The Egg Hunt was held at 11:00 a.m. and at 1:00 p.m. Two age groups hunted simultaneously, Ages 1-3 and Ages 4-7 years old. Hundreds of kids and parents turned out for this annual event. The Easter Bunny dropped by and was even available for photos! This event is always a family favorite.

The ARSC provided 5000 eggs, filled with non-chocolate and individually wrapped candies that were donated by the Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union (RBFCU) conveniently located at Lake Creek & 183.

Proceeds from the Spring Bazaar went directly to off-set expenses incurred to host the event. Additional monies collected will roll into the Avery Ranch Social Committee budget to sponsor upcoming events for the community.

(Continued on Page 14)



Spring Bazaar & Egg Hunt By Joyce Shalkowski (Spring Bazaar Chairperson) and Jean Mayo (Egg Hunt Chairperson)

The Avery Ranch Social Committee is comprised of homeowners in the community who volunteer their time to serve our local community. We are an open group, always welcoming new members to come along side and serve with us. We meet at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of every month at the Main Amenity Center in Morningside.

Come join us to plan events for the community where we can meet and get to know our neighbors!

For more information, you can contact Jean Mayo, Avery Ranch Social Committee Chairperson at jmayo002@austin.rr.com







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- Watch your child over a Secure Internet Connection
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We are proud to announce our new Private Kindergarten Program that will begin on August 22, 2011.

We would love for you to stop by for a tour of our beautiful campus. www.krkaustin.com

AVERY RANCH GRANITE STREET SIGN SALES

With all of our beautiful granite street signs being removed during the year and replaced by City approved signs, you can purchase them as a decor item for your home or yard. As they are being removed, the contractor notifies the Social Committee when a load is to be delivered to our storage location and we receive and inventory each delivery to keep track of what is available to sell. Due to the uncertainty of what and when these signs will be turned over, we CAN'T take advance reservations so a webpage has been set up for you to check periodically and real-time, a list of our inventory. That web address is www.centraltexasgardening. info/arsigns.pdf . If you see a sign listed as available that you want to purchase, contact Bob Beyer, Avery Ranch Social Committee Treasurer at 238-6732 or email: txbeyer@austin.rr.com to arrange for pick up on a first-come, first-served basis, cash/check and carry.

Sales will be final. The street name signs are \$30 and the beautiful "A" Avery Ranch logo signs are \$15, Proceeds directly support the Avery Ranch Social Committee activities. Please be advised that you should not attempt to separate the granite from the steel framing as the granite will break and if you want the end post connector part removed, it should be done by a machine shop professional with a cutting torch. The street signs weigh 40 lbs and logo signs 20 lbs., so with that in mind, enjoy them safely.

Round Rock New Neighbors

Round Rock New Neighbors invites you to get acquainted with our woman's group by attending a summer coffee. It will be held of the home of Kay Sullivan, 2602 Whitehurst Drive, Round Rock (Wood Glen). 10 a.m. on June 8th. Call if you plan to attend (310-0959). We welcome you to join us for fun, food and friendship.

Personal Classified

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Know Your Investment Risks — and How to Respond

Submitted by Matt Smith

When you invest, you take some risks. While you can't totally avoid these risks, you can take steps to help reduce their impact and increase your comfort level. And the more comfortable you are with your investments, the easier it will be to follow a long-term strategy that can help you meet your goals.

Let's look at the most common types of risk related to investing, along with some suggestions on helping to reduce these risks:

Losing principal — This type of risk is most closely associated with investing. For example, when you purchase a stock, you know that its value could go up or down. If it drops below your purchase price, and you then sell your shares, you will lose some of your principal. Your response — You can't eliminate the risk of losing principal, but by owning a mix of stocks, bonds, government securities and other types of investments, you can help reduce the impact of volatility on your portfolio. Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or protect against loss.

Losing value when interest rates change — This type of risk primarily affects fixed-income investments, such as bonds. If you purchase a bond that pays, say, a 4% interest rate, and the market rate goes up to 5%, then the value of your bond will drop because no one will be willing to pay you the full price for it when newer, higher-yielding bonds are available.

Your response — You can combat, or even ignore, interest rate risk by holding your bonds until they mature. By doing so, you'll get your full principal back, provided the issuer doesn't default, and you'll continue to receive regular interest payments unless the bonds are "called," or repurchased by the issuer. (You can help protect against this by purchasing bonds that have some degree of "call protection" and by owning bonds with different maturities.)

Losing purchasing power — This risk largely applies to fixed-rate investments such as certificates of deposit (CDs). To illustrate: If you purchase a CD that pays 2%, and the inflation rate is 3%, you are actually losing purchasing power.

Your response — Despite their vulnerability to inflation, CDs can offer you some valuable benefits, such as preservation of principal. Yet if you are concerned about fighting inflation, you may want to look for investments than have the potential to offer rising income, such as dividend-paying stocks. In fact, you can find stocks that have increased their dividends for many consecutive years. (Be aware, though, that companies can reduce or eliminate dividends at any time. Also, an investment in stocks fluctuates, and you could lose your principal.)

(Continued on Page 19)



Know Your Investment Risks-(Continued from Page 18)

Apart from these individual techniques to reduce investmentrelated risk, you should also save early and save often — because the more money you accumulate, the greater your ability to follow a long-term strategy that reflects your personal risk tolerance. That's why it's a good idea to contribute as much as possible over the years to your IRA and 401(k) or other employersponsored retirement plan.

By understanding the different types of investment risk, and by acting to help lessen them, you can reduce much of the stress sometimes associated with investing — while you increase your prospects for achieving your objectives.

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Dawdle No More

"We have to go, now!," you yell up the stairs to your four-year-old for the fifth time. "I told you we were leaving 10 minutes ago!" You don't hear anything, so finally you climb the stairs and find him still sitting in front of the TV, a glazed look on his face and only one shoe on.

Sounds familiar? Do you have a child who is a champion dawdler? These kids seem to have no sense of urgency, are unbelievably slow at everyday tasks like eating and dressing, and keep the whole family waiting whenever it's time to go somewhere.

Dr. Sam Hackworth, licensed psychologist and CEO of AskAChildpsychologist.com suggests that dawdling is a normal phase in young children. He says, "Toddlers and preschoolers do things slower than parents hope they would". Dr. Rebecca Huston, Co-chair of the Parenting Committee at Texas Pediatric Society and Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, UTHSCA, adds, "In this fast paced society, parents are stressed with work and become irritated with the child's slow pace. We put blame on the child rather than the situation. What is perceived as dawdling is actually the child's inability to shift gears to the next activity".

Reasons Children Dawdle

Dr. Sarah Sirbasku, licensed clinical child psychologist, says, "Some children dawdle because they are anxious. For example, your child may not hurry to get ready for school because she is worried about separating from you for the day. Other children dawdle because of inattentiveness, like, when your child may be so engrossed in an activity that he blocks out all disturbances (including you). Lack of skills or By Sugandha Jain being unsure of what is being requested of him is another possibility why children are slow".

Ways To Help Your Child Dawdle Less

(1) Realistic expectations: Dr. Sirbasku advices "Make sure that your expectations match your child's age, ability level, skills, and limitations. Expecting from your child what she is not capable of giving will only frustrate both of you. Realize that changing your expectations may be much easier than getting your child to hurry".

(2) Plan ahead: Dr. Sirbasku recommends giving your child plenty of time and avoiding power struggles. When planning your day, says Sirbasku, build in some extra time so that your child's slower pace does not end up being an issue. Dr. Huston agrees, "My younger son lingers in the shower and takes the longest time in the household to get dressed. He does not like to be rushed. But we consider it a part of his charm. We factor his temperamental characteristic in our daily schedule by planning ahead. We enjoy this part of his personality".

(3) Add some running chatter: Hugh Barlow, a stay-at-home-dad in Harlingen, Texas has an ingenious plan, "I have 2 boys, one 7 years old and one 3 years old. Both dawdle. My solution is to pick my battles. If I do not need to hurry I let them set the pace. If I need to move quickly I go into drill Sergeant mode. Just like in the movies when you see the new recruits being trained in the military and the grizzled old instructor is running behind them shouting, *'Let's go monkey boys! Move it! Scoot! Skedaddle! Scram! Scatter! Sianona! Chow! Adios! Vamanos! Let's GO!*' I keep up the chatter until they find it unbearable and actually pick up the pace". (4) Be a detective: Ms. Mary Jane Burson, certified family life educator and Lecturer at University of Texas at Austin, says, "As a parent, you have to be a little bit of a detective. You have to figure out what's going on, why is my child dawdling? Observe your child. Does she get more stressed when you tell her to hurry up?" She adds that if a child is dawdling because she is anxious, reassure her about what will happen at the new event. "It is important to equip children with skills to feel competent".

(5) Other people are counting on you: "When my daughter dawdled, " says Burson, "I constantly told her, 'Other people are counting on you, You have to take care of their feelings, It's not fair to other children, You are holding them up'. It helped my daughter kick her habit eventually...3 and 4 year olds do not have the concept of time. Kids do not understand that others are waiting for them. Parents have to help them be aware of this".

When Dawdling Might Be A Sign Of A Bigger Problem. Dr. Hackworth warns, "If a child is slow beyond the first grade, an evaluation should be done to assess whether she has an attention, learning or behavioral problem". Dr. Sirbasku adds, "Consult with a child mental health professional for recommendations if your child is consistently off task and is unable to remember even brief instructions for a short period of time. This may be a sign of a more significant attention problem".

Sugandha Jain is an award-winning journalist, Master Registered Texas Trainer and part of the management team at a local preschool.



Jardening with Bambi

By: Bob Beyer, Travis County Master Gardener

Gardening with deer is a love/hate relationship. We love living among and seeing wildlife, BUT, "stay out of my garden". Why are deer such a problem to gardeners? Destruction of their natural habitat has led to their adaptation to our suburban environment. Vehicles do more to control deer population than natural predators. Overpopulation results. Deer will eat anything when hungry enough. Male deer's antler rubbing damages and can kill young trees.

Understanding deer is part of the resolution to this problem. Their primary food is tender broadleaf plant leaves, twigs, and branches, but not grasses. They are territorial and have habitual traffic patterns that they follow within their area. The hungrier a deer gets, the more difficult they are to control. Summer, and early fall tend to be a period of food shortages. Deer are naturally curious to sample new plantings.

Some other things for the gardener to consider is that ornamental plants may lose their deer resistance characteristics thru plant breeding. For example the Lantana you buy at a nursery may be hybridized and not as resistant to deer as the native Lantana. New growth may be nipped but the rest of the plant untouched since they favor tender new growth. Deer population pressure creates a source of/demand for food which makes deer more eager to eat almost anything. Their exposure to human presence and their comfort level with being around humans makes it

more difficult to ward them off. Never feed deer. That is a City regulation punishable by a fine. Unestablished plants with tender growth pull up easily if nipped so may need temporary protection until the roots "dig in". And did you know that deer are State of TX property (TPWD)? As such, it is illegal to kill, trap and relocate or injure these animals without express permit from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

ALL THIS BEGS THE QUESTION, "HOW DO WE MANAGE DEER"? THERE ARE FOUR METHODS.

- 1. Use of non-preferred landscape plants - the least expensive, most effective way.
- 2. 8 ft tall physical barriers & fencing the most expensive but an effective method.
- 3. Scare devices motion generated. These are good investments and fairly effective.
- 4. Scent-based repellants the most expensive and least effective way since they require continuous reapplication.

Let's focus on nonpreferred plants. They have five characteristics, strong, unpleasant odors; bitter, disagreeable taste; prickly &/ or stiff textured foliage, fuzzy foliage (pubescent), or contain a milky sap which is caustic &/or sticky. Some examples follow but remember that this is just a very small sampling of deer resistant plants.

Plants with unpleasant scented resistance include: Rosemary, Mexican Oregano, Copper Canyon Daisy, Mexican Mint Marigold, Sanolina, Lantana,



Wax Myrtle, Sumac, or any strong scented herbs.

Plants with unpleasant taste include: TX Mountain Laurel, Flame Acanthus, Thryallis, Blackfoot Daisy, Esperanza, Plumbago, Shrimp Plant, Texas Betony, Desert Willow, Rock Rose, Skullcap, Columbine, Coreopsis, Eleagnus, Mock Orange, Sages, Flowering and Senna

Plants with prickly or tough foliage include: Agarita, Basket Grass, Fragrant Mimosa, Fan Palms, Cacti, Yucca, Pomegranite, Hollies, Agaves, and Sago palms (really a cycad).

Plants with fuzzy foliage include: Artemesia, Black-eyed Susan, Lamb's Ear, Coneflower, Wooly Butterfly Bush, Wooly Stemodia, Texas Sage, and Germander

Plants with sticky, caustic sap include: Oleander, Confederate Jasmine, Euphorbia family, and Arizona Cypress

When looking at deer resistant plant lists, there are no guarantees that they are deer proof - remember deer will eat anything if hungry enough. You should place wire fencing up to 8' to protect young trees until at least 6" diameter or barriers around new plantings until established. Consider cost vs benefit in choice of method you use. It all depends on your individual circumstances. Learn to live with and enjoy wildlife. The goal is to minimize damage, not eliminate it. Become familiar with deer population habits. Assess needs for plant protection - have a plan.

SOME GOOD RESOURCES TO HELP YOU GARDEN WITH DEER INCLUDE:

- 1. City of Austin "Grow Green" book, 52 pgs, free at garden centers within Austin.
- Grow Green Program: Deer Resistant Design Phamplet
 free at garden centers in Austin.
- 3. Website: City of Austin Grow Green Program - www. ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen
- 4. Texas Cooperative Extension Article "Gardening in Deer Country http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu/travis/ docs/gardening_in_deer_ country.pdf

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