

GET TO KNOW YOUR IRRIGATION CONTROLLER

Jacob Johnson | LI#17528 | Austin Water

Many residents put a lot of effort into maintaining their irrigation system, which is a necessary step towards efficient watering. However, people then often overlook an equally important aspect of irrigation—scheduling. An essential element of proper scheduling is knowing how to operate the controller. Not knowing that can cost you.

A normal flow rate for a residential irrigation system is around 14 gallons per minute. Compare that with your shower of 2 to 3 gallons per minute or a dishwasher that uses less than 10 gallons per load and you can see just how quickly minutes on the irrigation controller can add up. So if you see your usage dramatically rise in the summer months, check your irrigation settings before chastising your teenagers for their long showers. Well, I guess doing both would work.

Common features on an irrigation controller

- **1) Multiple Program Capability:** Controllers give you the option of setting multiple programs, usually labeled A, B, C, etc. These programs let you fine tune your watering. For example, you could set up your turf stations to water twice per week in the summer while keeping shrubs on a once per week schedule. The important thing to remember is that no matter what program you leave the controller on, it will run all programs that are present! Even if two programs coincide with each other, the controller finishes the first program and stacks the next program to run directly afterwards.
- **2) Multiple Start Times:** You can also set multiple start times for your program(s). Start times represent what time the program will begin and most controllers offer the option between 3 and 16 start times. There are very few controllers that require start times for each individual zone. The benefit of using multiple start times is to allow for absorption in the landscape because many sprinkler heads can apply water faster than our

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Thank You PACK 82!

Thanks to the boys and Parents of Pack 82, who braved the hot conditions and carried out a needed mulching conservation project in Shady Hollow West Park & Nature Preserve. The boys cleaned and mulched trails to protect them



from water erosion and mulched 28 planted trees to protect them from heat and drought conditions. In all, well over 100 hours were put into this project. After completing their task, they were treated to a well earned pizza and swimming party at the Capistrano pool. The boys had a great time. and are looking forward to doing it again, particularly the pizza party and swim. The boys who participated in this event were Trey Gipson, Adian Leal, Toby Dailey, Jackson Hadwin, Michael Kennedy, Adian Svoboda, Will Gamblin, Keith Kreitner, Hunter Harrell, Paul Blome, Noah Geurkink, Chris Aiken, Logan Schiess, Peyton Ludemann, Tyler Day, Winston Yager, and Star Boy Scouts Clay Gamblin & Stephen Kennedy who served as team leaders. A special thanks go out to the Shady Hollow MUD and Shady Hollow HOA for sponsoring this project.

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NEWSLETTER INFO

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ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Interested in submitting an article? You can do so by emailing shadyhollow@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 Shady Side. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations and military service are also welcome.

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Shady Side. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Shady Hollow residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 9th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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Your Irrigation Controller-

(Continued from Cover Page)

soils can absorb it. Find the station times you are happy with and then cut them in half. Instead of the program coming on at only 4:00 a.m., you could have the program (now with reduced station times) come on at 3:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Remember, if using multiple start times, every minute you add or delete really equals 2 or 3 minutes depending on the number of start times present.

- **3) Seasonal Percentage Adjustment:** Another handy feature, the seasonal adjust, allows you to increase or decrease all of your station times in 5 to 10 percent increments. This is useful if your entire landscape needs more water, but often stress will only occur in certain areas. It's a good idea at that point to only add time to the stations that need more water and an even better idea to inspect those stations to make sure the stressed

area isn't getting water due to a clogged nozzle or misaligned head. When setting station times, it's recommended to have the seasonal adjust at 100% because the seasonal adjust button uses 100% as the reference point and makes changes relative to what that number is. Some controllers will show the increased or decreased times while others will continue to show the original times, but are actually running something different.

- **4) Memory Back Up:** Most controllers now come with a non-volatile memory built into the control panel. This helps retain your settings during brief power outages, but will usually clear itself out after long periods with no power. Other controllers will revert to a default program to run everyday for ten minutes per station after a loss of power. If you have a controller that does this, remember to change out the 9 volt battery every spring when you turn your controller back on and just to be safe, check

the settings after thunderstorms.

Plant material, watering components, sun exposure, soil health, and how important each area of your landscape is to you all goes into the decision of how long you should run each station. An irrigation program with the same time on every station is usually a signal that there is room for improvement. This may involve taking time from some stations that are doing well and adding them to others that are showing signs of stress. Monitor your landscape and make changes as needed. Remember, automatic irrigation systems are great for carrying landscapes from one rain event to another, but a lack of rain will highlight deficiencies in the irrigation system.

If you need help with programming your controller and use over 25,000 gallons of water in the summer months, you may schedule a free irrigation evaluation from Austin Water either by calling 974-2199 or visiting our website: www.waterwiseaustin.org.

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Thank You Pack 82- (Continued from Cover Page)



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Starting Soon: Men's Anger Management, Boundaries, Women's Wounded Heart (survivors of sexual abuse)

WATCH LIVE services Sunday mornings or view any time at www.ghbc.org

Sunday Morning Schedule | 10:00 Worship | 8:30 & 11:30 - Bible Life Groups (all ages) | Great Hills Baptist Church | the radiant church



DIAGNOSING AUTISM?

By Connie Ripley

Autism is growing at epidemic proportions costing school districts and state and federal governments millions of dollars a year. One in 110 children was diagnosed with autism in 2005 affecting 4 times as many boys as girls. Today the figure is said to be more like one in 91. (The United States Military states 1 in 80.) If the current rate continues, one half the children born in the United States could be diagnosed with autism by 2046. This is an epidemic!

For parents, a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) can be devastating. Every 15 minutes a parent hears this diagnosis. The hopes and dreams they might have had for their baby will be severely altered. The money and time involved in treating autism is staggering. A formal diagnosis of ASD from a neurologist can help open doors for a child in necessary early therapies and training. Six of twelve diagnostic criteria are required for the diagnosis. The criteria are divided into 3 parts: Atypical Social Interactions, Atypical Communication and Atypical Responses to Social and Perceptual Stimuli in the Environment.

For an ASD diagnosis, the child must have 2 of the following: (a) Impaired non-verbal behaviors such as eye contact, facial expressions, body posture and gestures used in social interaction. (b) Lacks peer relationships. (c) Does not try to share enjoyment, interests, or achievements with others, such as by leading others to, pointing to or showing off things of interest. (d) Fails to demonstrate social-emotional reciprocity. Atypical Communication involves at least one of these: (a) Delay in spoken language without compensating through other means of communication. (b) Noticeable inability to start or sustain conversation (c) Stereotyped repetitive or idiosyncratic use of language, as echolalia. (d) Does not engage in varied, spontaneous, make-believe play or social imitation.

At least one of the following must be observed: (a) Preoccupied by abnormally intense or focused stereotyped or restrictive patterns of interest. (b) Adheres compulsively to nonfunctional rituals and routines. (c) Stereotyped and repetitive movements. (d) Persistent preoccupation with parts of objects, such as their sensory aspects. Many doctors and scientists believe that the criteria for the diagnosis are not as complete as they should be, omitting things like melt-downs, etc. For this reason, the criteria used for years will be changing in 2 to 3 years.

**What can stop the progression of this disorder/disease?
What is the cause? What is the treatment?**

Some of the world's top medical doctors and scientists are fast working in numerous directions. Is the cause genetic? Is it fungal, bacterial, viral? Is it caused by toxins? Just what causes one child's brain to be affected while his brother is spared? Why are all the children in some families affected? All these answers will take time and cost billions of dollars. 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 teams are being formed for the 2011 Walk at Dell Diamond and Old Settlers Park on September 24. Please contact Walk Manager Traci Whitney at traci.whitney@autismspeaks.org or go to www.walknowforautismspeaks.org/austin to register your team. Our children do not have the time!

We need to do all we can now! Please help!

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Memorial Day Service

SCOUT TROOP 256

Several Scouts from Boy Scout troop 256, along with members of the VFW took part in a Memorial Day service at the Oak Hill Cemetery. They placed flags on 26 Veterans graves including veterans of the Civil War, Spanish American war, WWI, WWII, Korea, and Viet Nam. The VFW members and the Boy Scouts joined together placing flags on the graves they walked to those who in some cases fought in two and even three wars for our country. The respect and reverence shown by our young Boy Scouts was so inspiring. All walked away with a feeling of pride in our Great Country and in those brave men and women who fought and in many cases died for our country.



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Summer Nature Nights are Free!
Thursdays in July*

Snakes, fossils, birds of prey and more-- our family evenings offer fun and eco-education with talks, crafts, hikes and lots of action. Nature Nights are on Thursday evenings starting June 30 and continuing through August 4, from 6 to 9 p.m. Free gift at the store for each child under 12. H-E-B sponsorship also means that admission to the Wildflower Center is free all day on Nature Nights days.

Thursday, July 7..... Wildlife Tracking
Thursday, July 14..... Snakes
Thursday, July 21..... Fossils
Thursday, July 28..... Birds of Prey

JULY EVENTS
at the Wildflower Center

Lady Bird Johnson Tribute Day

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday, July 24

Our founder, Lady Bird Johnson, would have been 99 this year. Once again, we honor her with a free admission day and a special exhibit of her memorabilia. We are celebrating her contributions to the environment and to more than 50 laws related to conservation, landscape preservation and beautification. Children's music in the courtyard by Lucas Miller noon to 2 p.m. Meet artist Catherine Flowers from 1 to 4 p.m. in the McDermott Learning Center and from noon to 3 p.m., author Jeannette Larson in the store.

-Art Exhibits-

Vibrant Blooms & Aqueous Matters

Through August 21 - Catherine Flowers' embellished painted silks in the McDermott Learning center and T.J. Mabrey's evocative sculptures in the gardens are a summer treat.



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DROWNING ALERT!!!

July						
mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**In recent years, more Central
Texas children have drowned in
JULY than in any other month!**



JOIN US IN GETTING READY FOR A SAFE SUMMER IN THE WATER!

July – August 2011 The Hospital at Westlake Medical Center Flamingo Sale to Benefit Colin's Hope!

When the beloved garden center, Pots & Plants closed its doors- several flamingos were injured in the move. You can help them return for the best care in town at The Hospital at Westlake by donating \$15. ALL profit in June, July and August benefits Colin's Hope. You can add to The Hospital at Westlake's flock, or start your own flock at home. Visit www.westlakemedical.com for more details or stop in The Hospital's Waterfall Café, 5656 Bee Caves Road, Building L, level 3 to sponsor your flamingo. Spread the word on Facebook and raise even more funds for Colin's Hope.



August 28th 3rd Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon

Athletes ages 5-15, mark your calendars for August 28th. Our Kids Triathlon will once again take place in the Lake Pointe neighborhood. NEW this year are athlete training clinics sponsored by Austin Cycle Camp, Jack & Adams and Nitro Swimming. Go online to register at www.colinshope.org.

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**Children who drown often do not
scream, splash, or struggle.
They can silently slip beneath the water,
even with adults & lifeguards present.**