

HOME *on the* RANCH



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September 2011

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AVERY RANCH HOA

Volume 5, Issue 9

Calendar

HOA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Next meeting - Monday, September 12th

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

NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Saturday, September 10th from 7 a.m. - 1 p.m.

This will be advertised in the Austin American Statesman and on Craig's List. Banners will also be placed at two of the four corners at Avery Ranch Blvd & Parmer Lane. If you have unsold items, we will be having a drop off site at the Main Amenity Center (Morningside) parking area from 12-3 PM. The Eastside Community Connection, a local non-profit organization will only be accepting reusable items (Clothes, shoes, furniture etc. and NO mattresses) when it comes to furniture and not broken or damaged items. They will refuse to accept any items that are really damaged.

NEW RESIDENTS MEET & GREET

Saturday, September 17th | 10a.m. to noon at the Meeting Room of the Main Amenity Center

If you recently moved into Avery Ranch, join us!. There will be some HOA board members in attendance and they would be happy to answer your queries regarding HOA community matters. Refreshments will be served. Welcome to Avery Ranch!

HARVEST HAYRIDE AND CHILDREN'S COSTUME CONTEST

Saturday, October 22nd from 4-6 pm at the Main Amenity Center

Costume contest for kids 12 and under, Judging at 5 pm and prizes will be awarded. Come out for a hayride in horse drawn carriages. (back by popular demand!) We will have 2 carriages this year to accommodate residents. Cider & cookies will be served, along with Halloween candy!

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

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-TX/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

HOME ON THE RANCH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY911
Fire.....911
Ambulance.....911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency 512-943-1300

SCHOOLS

ROUND ROCK ISD

Patsy Sommer Elementary 704-0600
..... 16200 Avery Ranch Blvd.
Cedar Valley Middle School..... 428-2300
..... 8139 Racine Trail
McNeil High School..... 464-6300
..... 5720 McNeil Dr.

LEANDER ISD

Rutledge Elementary..... 570-6500
..... 11501 Staked Plains Dr.
Henry Middle School 570-3400
..... 100 N. Vista Ridge Dr.
Vista Ridge High School..... 570-1800
..... 200 S. Vista Ridge Dr.

UTILITIES

City of Austin Water 512-494-9400
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TIME WARNER CABLE

Customer Service..... 512-485-5555
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NEWSLETTER INFO

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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



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HOA Architectural Design & Review Committee News

When Do I Need To Get Approval For My Improvement?

By Khris Mire, ADRC committee member

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.

This question seems to be a frequent one and justifiably confusing to many. Basic things like landscaping, children's play equipment and replacing a roof are projects that most see as general maintenance and not an improvement. The ADRC receives many applications from homeowners that have been placed in violation for such improvements.

An improvement is considered to be a structure or accessory that is placed or replaced on the exterior of a lot. While replacing a roof would be considered general maintenance,

if the new shingle color is not weatherwood or similar an approval must be granted before the roof replacement happens. Playscapes, trampolines, storage sheds, arbors, xeriscaping and decks do require a submission of an ADRC application, which can be found on the Avery Ranch HOA website home page (www.averyranchhoa.com).

Several items will be required when submitting an ADRC application. In addition to the completed application form, the plat map (surveyor's map of the property) of the property is required. The map must

be clearly marked showing the location of the proposed improvement. A description of the improvement along with any pertinent information including materials to be used, measurements and paint/stain name and number need to be submitted with application.

Once the ADRC receives all information, they have forty-five (45) days to respond to the request. Typically, applications are approved/denied within one week unless additional information is requested. If further information is needed,

(Continued on Page 4)



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HOA Architectural Design & Review Committee News

When Do I Need to Get Approval for My Improvement (Continued from Page 3)

the homeowner will be notified either via email (if an address is provided) or snail mail. If an application is denied, the homeowner will be given the reasons and a new application may be submitted with necessary changes to bring improvement into compliance with the MDCCR's.

The ADRC's responsibility is to make sure all improvements meet both the Master Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (MDCCR) and community standards. Certain city codes or ordinances will apply to some improvements and it is the resident's responsibility to obtain required permits. The ADRC may require a permit to be on file with the application for an improvement. Some improvements may be granted a variance if a special circumstance arises but this does not guarantee that it will be approved for another lot.

Further information concerning improvements can be found in the MDCCR's Article III (General Restrictions).

Complete Quiz to Win a Prize

PROVIDED BY RBFCU

*Courtesy of your Architectural Design & Review Committee (ADRC)
All answers can be found in this issue of "Home on the Ranch" and the official Avery Ranch HOA website (www.averyranchhoa.com)*

1. When is the Harvest Hayride & Children's Costume Contest?
2. What association does the Barktoberfest benefit?
3. What is the maximum amount of days the ADRC has to respond to an application?
4. In what subdivisions are the community pools located?
5. Where is the code to the tennis courts located?

The first three residents with accounts in good standing who submit correct answers via email to ContestAvery@gmail.com will win a gift certificate chosen by the ADRC and funded by a local business. 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 the July newsletter quiz winners: Karla Starkweather, Corinne Marvin & Cary Heroy.**

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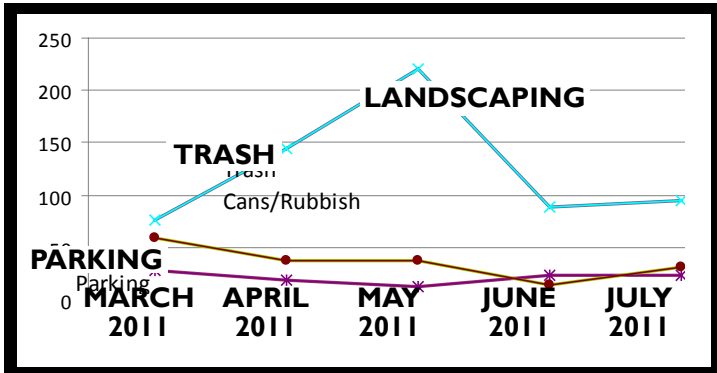
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HOA Architectural Design & Review Committee News



	MAR 2011	APR 2011	MAY 2011	JUN 2011	JUL 2011
LANDSCAPING	76	145	221	88	94
VEHICLE PARKING	28	19	12	24	23
RUBBISH & DEBRIS	59	37	38	14	31
UNSIGHTLY	10	14	17	39	55
ARCHITECTURAL	45	32	36	26	25

VIOLATION REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER

LANDSCAPING

We've relaxed guidelines due to drought. This category covers weeds, overgrown sidewalks, dead grass.

PARKING

Overnight on-street parking continues to be a problem. This practice is unsafe and not permitted.

RUBBISH & DEBRIS

Trash and recycle bins need to be stored out of street view.

UNSIGHTLY

Broad category, such as trash in yard, cars on blocks, ripped netting on trampolines.

ARCHITECTURAL

Any change to the outside appearance of the home or yard that has not been submitted for approval.



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HOME ON THE RANCH

Is Your Baby Sleeping Safely?

by Robin Dwyer RN

I have lived in the Canyon Creek subdivision in Austin since 1994. When I moved in the neighborhood, I had a five year old daughter and had another daughter soon after. The neighborhood at that time was fairly new with a lot of young families with small children. I was seemingly unaware of the dangers of sleeping with my children in an adult bed or the dangers of my child sleeping in a crib with beautiful bedding, stuffed animals, plush blankets and toys that we all purchase when our children are born. I wanted to write this article for the residents to help and educate in hopes of preventing tragedies that I have investigated over the last seven years as my job as an Investigator for the Travis County Medical Examiner's Office. I want mothers and fathers as well as siblings, grandparents and babysitters to be aware of the dangers of unsafe sleep environments with babies and young children. One of the most pleasurable experiences is cuddling and bonding with an infant. This article is in no way discouraging breast feeding, bonding or cuddling with your child. Babies should be placed alone on their back in a safety approved crib or bassinet for sleeping. This is the safest way for a baby to sleep to prevent accidental deaths by suffocation. Many times babies are placed in adult beds with thick comforters, pillow top bedding and many pillows. It is also not advisable to prop an infant on a couch with pillows. The infants can fall into crevices of the couch and also spaces between a headboard/sideboard.

Below are facts and figures depicting the harsh reality of what is happening in Texas and in Travis County and recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics to eliminate the risk factors and create a safe place for your baby to sleep.

Every year babies die from suffocation while they sleep. In Texas, on average, a baby dies every other day while bed-sharing with an adult or another child. These figures, researched by the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, are alarming and the trend is increasing. According to the Texas State Child Fatality Review Team's 2009 Annual Report, 86% of accidental infant suffocation deaths were sleep-related, with 81% of these deaths occurring in an adult bed. Right here in Travis County, between 2008 and 2010, 43 babies suffocated in an unsafe sleep environment -- 74% died in an adult bed with 63% dying while bed-sharing. Last year 17 babies, the size of a kindergarten classroom, died of suffocation in an unsafe sleep environment.

Bed-sharing is a controversial topic and some groups promote the practice for the purposes of bonding, and more frequent and extended breast feeding. Research completed by the American Academy of Pediatrics Sudden Infant Death Task Force leads to their position that "there is growing evidence that bed-sharing, as practiced in the United States and other Western countries, is more hazardous than the infant sleeping on a separate sleep surface and, therefore,

recommends that infants not bed-share during sleep. Infants may be brought into bed for nursing or comforting but should be returned to their own crib or bassinet when the parent is ready to return to sleep. The infant should not be brought into bed when the parent is excessively tired or using medications or substances that could impair his or her alertness."

A FEW AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Babies should sleep in a separate safety approved crib or bassinet in the same room as the parent or caregiver. Bed-sharing is not recommended.
- Infants be placed on their back for every sleep (for naps and at night)
- Use a firm crib mattress made for the crib (there should not be greater than 2 fingers width or 1 inch between the mattress and the crib railing). If the baby leaves an indentation, then the mattress is not firm enough.
- The mattress should be covered by a fitted sheet leaving no wrinkles.
- Soft objects and loose bedding, such as pillows, quilts, stuffed toys, pillow-like bumper pads, sheep skins and blankets be kept out of the crib.
- Continue the "Back to Sleep" campaign. Parents should tell others who care for their baby of these risk factors and how they want their baby to be placed to sleep.

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Kids 'R' Kids Café' Keeps Kids Healthy

Kids 'R' Kids Learning Academy has made groundbreaking decisions since its conception in 2004. Now another important first will impact students' health for the rest of their lives. Kids 'R' Kids has begun serving fresh foods in meals and snacks.

Kids 'R' Kids cafeteria has become a vehicle of change in the Austin community. The state-of-the-art cafe offers breakfast, lunch, morning, and afternoon snacks. We also use fresh (and, whenever possible, local) foods, which are nutritionally superior to frozen or canned foods. Lunch is served as family-style dining, with teachers joining in the conversations, over a bowl of cooked white beans, polenta, steamed carrots and strawberries; another day it's red beans, brown rice drizzled with olive oil, roasted cauliflower and apples.

Research (based on US Department of Agriculture) shows that when children have increased access to high quality fresh fruits and vegetables, as in the Kids 'R' Kids cafeteria, they will eat more servings of these healthy foods, thereby improving both their eating habits and nutritional health. USDA Research proves that an increased consumption of fruits and vegetables will lessen the risk of obesity; reduce consumption of less healthy foods; and lead to children's increased attention spans in the classroom.



With childhood obesity rates making headlines, child nutrition has become a hot topic; experts say that 10 percent of 2- to 5-year-olds and more than 15 percent of children between the ages of six and 19 are overweight. However, improving children's health is challenging for busy families who have few free moments to prepare nutritious meals. Nutrition is important, and just because it's a cafeteria, doesn't mean food can't taste good and be healthy for you. What's more, Austin is ripe and ready for healthy decisions when it comes to children.

Chef Marvin "Moe" Owens at Kids 'R' Kids has over 15 years of experience. His passion for cooking began in the kitchen with his grandmother at a young age. He prides himself on freshness, seasonal produce, and originality as well. Chef Moe is a graduate of Le Cordon Bleu Culinary Academy in Austin, Texas. He is also Owner and Executive Chef for Done Deal Catering that presents a unique blend of American, Italian, Mediterranean and French cooking.

"We are a NAEYC accredited, certified eco-friendly child center, and our food reflects our commitment to that" Owner and Director of Kids 'R' Kids, Ms. Elwin West says, "At Kids 'R' Kids, building healthful eating habits is as important as learning to make friends, share toys and count to 10. Fresh fruit and fresh vegetables are good for everybody. And I think we are giving more people the chance to be healthy eaters and to have the luxury that we take for granted."



HOME ON THE RANCH

PLANT DROUGHT SURVIVAL

by Bob Beyer, Travis County Master Gardener

While we are hibernating in our air conditioned, climate controlled home environment when daily temperatures exceed 100 and one of our worst droughts is in progress, can we have a little sympathy for our outdoor plants who don't have such a luxury? A gardener's biggest stress is worrying about them when the forces of nature are being so cruel. I mean, we love our plants and do all we can to care for them, especially in their times of trial. So, what can we really do other than worry? First identify what their stresses are so we can act accordingly. A plant's greatest stresses during drought and heat is light intensity and excessive transpiration. Especially between June 1 and July 31, near the summer equinox, the longer daylight periods provide more intense light than most plants are accustomed to during the year causing some foliage to wither, die, or pale in color. Plants affected in this way may need some temporary protection – container plants moved to a shadier area or perhaps a sun screening net placed over them to reduce the direct sunlight hitting them. Remember that full sun in central Texas is much more intense than full sun in more northern regions of the country. The light limestone soils in Hill Country also reflect light adding to the intensity.

Transpiration of moisture from ground through the plant into the

air is accelerated by low humidity, high temperatures (heat rises), and wind. Plants may show foliar wilting during the heat of the day but recover during the cooler periods of dusk through dawn, but once soil moisture runs out, they may have a real problem. Transpiration also provides cooling for the plant as water is drawn through their system, in addition to being a vital element in growth, photosynthesis, and turgidity. So a little help for many of your plants is needed unless the plant has built in adaptations to prolonged heat and drought such as cacti, succulents, and many desert shrubs which minimize foliage size, have pubescent foliage, waxy outer layers or specialized cells for water retention to reduce transpiration. Many desert plants put themselves into dormancy during summer as well as winter. These plants need to be kept dry and excessive watering can be damaging to them in that state.

Knowing your individual plants, where they are native and the conditions they are adaptable to is essential to caring for them during tough times. Placement of plants with similar care needs together makes it easier to maintain them well. At the same time, we as gardeners must minimize our use of water during restriction periods.

(Continued on Page 9)

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HOME ON THE RANCH

Plant Drought Survival-*(Cont. from Pg. 8)*

SO SOME TIPS ON WATERING TO ACHIEVE THIS FOLLOW:

1. Water less frequently but deeply and thoroughly. Hand water around the leaf line of the plant to concentrate watering where the roots are. Water once, then again after the first watering has had a chance to soften the soil and penetrate. The deeper the watering, the deeper the roots will grow to places where water retention is the greatest – at depth. Sometimes it helps to use a stick to poke a holes around the plant before watering which will allow water to penetrate deeper.

2. Water before 9 AM or after 6 PM to minimize evaporation. Surface sprinklers are not effective due to evaporation. Soaker hoses work well, but hand watering allows you an opportunity to observe the general health of your plants regularly to make sure your watering plan is effective. It is possible to kill a plant by overwatering in summer as too much water will choke out soil air space needed for good root growth and oxygen uptake.

3. Don't prune or fertilize, during stressful periods. The last thing you want to do is encourage the plant to produce new growth when it is struggling just to survive. Wilting and cessation of growth are survival mechanisms and natural ways for plants to reduce stress during drought and heat. Take a break from the summer heat just like the plants do.

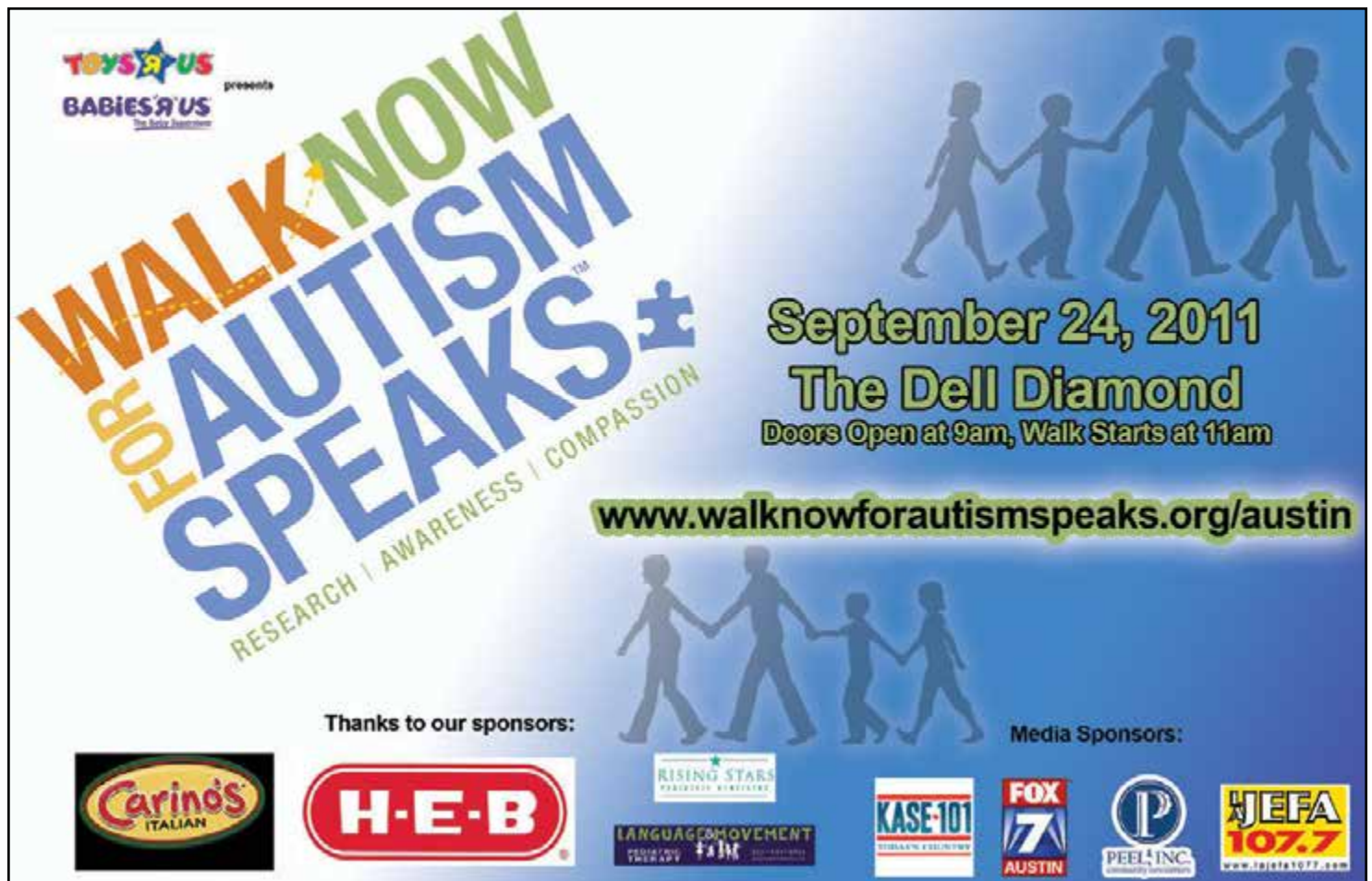
4. Don't plant or transplant during stressful periods. Plants take a period of up to a year to establish themselves and adapt to a new environment, but once established, will hold their own. Spring and Fall are the best times to plant and transplant depending on the plant. Drought tolerant plants will not survive until good root systems are established so extra watering and care during the first year of a plant's life is necessary.

5. Perhaps the best solution of all is to plant native, drought resistant and adaptive plants to the greatest extent possible in your ornamental gardens. Good plant choices – the ounce of prevention beats a pound of cure approach – reduces stress on the gardener

as well as the plants having to endure. Do your homework and research the best plant selections for the environment where they will live. Remember your yard has micro-environments which affect plant choice. The trick is to find the right plant for the right spot. By careful selection of plants, you will not only reduce your stress and that of the plant, but save money by not having to replace plants that don't make it. Help abounds in Austin through many organizations, publications, and individuals such as Master Gardeners, the City of Austin's Grow Green program, the LBJ Wildflower Center, just to name a few. It always helps to get second opinions to see if the sources you consult are in agreement.

Even the most drought tolerant plants may need a little hands-on help during our prolonged drought and severe heat, while we need to conserve valuable water resources at the same time. Some effective ways for gardeners to recycle and save water is

(Continued on Page 10)



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HOME ON THE RANCH

Plant Drought Survival - (Continued from Page 9)

to keep a bucket near the sink or any water source and fill it while waiting for the hot water to emerge and use it to water some plants, and/or draw water from your rain barrels (you do have one or more I hope) for use on potted plants. Try to minimize water that will go down the drain or down a storm sewer and redirect it to help your landscape. Only water in accordance with your local water restrictions. Hand water as much as possible. I even wash my car on the lawn so run off water benefits the lawn!

Often the best approach is to do just enough to keep our plants alive, even though they may not aesthetically look good, knowing that during better times, they will recover and once again thrive

AND OH YES...

**KEEP
PRAYING
FOR RAIN!**

Is Your Baby Sleeping Safely? - (Continued from Page 6)

This information is extremely important and everyone who takes care of a baby should know the difference between a safe and unsafe sleep environment and what to do to make it safe for a baby to sleep. *Keeping babies safe during sleep is as easy as your ABC's.* Your baby should sleep..... **A** - Alone, on his or her **B** - Back, in a safety approved **C** - Crib (or bassinette), with the **D** - Dangers (soft bedding materials, stuffed toys, pillow, blankets, comforters, sheepskins, bumper pads, cords) **E** - Eliminated.

A good night's sleep is a safe night's sleep!

USEFUL WEBSITES:

<http://www.aap.org> (American Academy of Pediatrics)

<http://www.cdc.gov/SIDS> (Centers of Disease Control)

<http://www.nichd.nih.gov/SIDS>

(National Institute of Child Health and Human Development)

<http://www.cpsc.gov> (Consumer Product Safety Commission)

<http://cribsafety.jpma.org>

(Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association)

Please check out the Safe Sleep section in the Safe Living section on the Travis County Medical Examiner's Website at www.co.travis.tx.us/medical_examiner for additional information and posters.

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Recipe of the Month

by Rona Quejada

I've been caught more than a few times hurrying through the grocery aisles thinking of what to prepare for dinner. The advent of portable technology in the form of Smartphones and being able to search for recipes on-line has made it a easier in getting all the ingredients I need for the meal I'm preparing. A blogsite I've often visited for this purpose is Everyday Meals for the Everyday Family (URL: <http://everydaymealsfortheeverydayfamily.blogspot.com/>) I enjoy the way the blogger Mandie Barron features a variety of recipes that are easy to prepare and easy on your budget. Here's a seemingly sophisticated recipe worthy to serve our mom in-laws using bavettine, a narrow linguini. Don't get daunted by the sophisticated recipe name, it's a dish that's delish!

BAVETTINE WITH SMOKED SALMON & ARUGULA

Ingredients

- 12 ounces dried bavettine
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, chopped finely
- 4 ounces smoked salmon, cut into thin strips
- 2 ounces arugula
- salt and pepper

1. Bring a large heavy-bottom pan of slightly salted water to a boil.
2. Add the pasta, return to a boil, and cook for 8 to 10 minutes, or until Al-Dente.*
3. Just before the end of the cooking time, heat the olive oil in a large skillet.
4. Add the garlic and cook over low heat, stirring constantly for 1 minute. Do not allow the garlic to brown or it will taste bitter.
5. Add the salmon and arugula. Season to taste with salt and pepper and cook, stirring constantly, for 1 minute.
6. Remove the skillet from the heat.
7. Drain the pasta and transfer to a warmed serving dish.
8. Add the smoked salmon and arugula mixture, toss lightly. Serve!

AVERY RANCH YARD & GARDEN CLINIC

by Lisa LaPaso & Bob Beyer

Starting in August, Master Gardener Bob Beyer and landscape professional Lisa LaPaso, will be offering free landscape advice on the third Thursday of every month at the Main Amenity Center (MAC) from 7 P.M until 8:30 P.M . or until the conversations end. The September clinic is scheduled for Thursday, September 15th. If you have received an HOA landscape violation letter, have a tree concern, stressed lawn, questions about plant selection, soil conditioning, watering, or organic gardening, then the third Thursday meetings at the MAC is the place to be. We know that many of you are struggling with your landscapes especially in this heat and drought and this is your chance to get some great free info from those who know!

We hope to see you at the MAC Meeting Room by the pool - third Thursday of each month at 7 PM!



YOUTH SOCCER & BASEBALL

Sportball will hold their 4th annual Fall Soccer and Baseball lessons at Pepper Rock Park. Classes are open to children ages 2 to 5. Enroll online at Sportball.us or call 608-2634 for more information.

These soccer and baseball classes will give kids a chance to learn valuable sports skills without the pressure of little league. Kids will receive a jersey and practice with their team each Saturday, but will not have an official game schedule. Classes focus on skills, drills, and scrimmages. Classes are taught by certified coaches.

Classes for Fall 2011

Age 2-3 (Parent/Tot)

Age 4-5

Register at Sportball.us

Saturday mornings

Sept 17 to Nov 5

\$125 – all fees and jersey included



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AUSTIN AREA SMALL GROUPS

KICK OFF IN SEPT

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HOME ON THE RANCH

Healthy Gatherings: Eat Smarter & Move More

By Sarah S. Jordan, MS

School has resumed and with the excessive heat we experienced, we're looking forward to the cool weather that autumn ushers in (hopefully!). Cool weather promotes outdoor gatherings and with it comes good food, parties, and great times with family and friends. Don't fall off the "health wagon" because of these cook outs and outdoor parties. Eating right and getting enough activity can certainly be a challenge. The keys are: being consistent, making good choices, eating in moderation, and purposely finding ways to move more. Here are some tips to remember:

Small Changes = Big Results

Making small changes for your summer cookouts and potlucks can equal big nutritional improvements.

Traditional Summer Food

Hot dogs Turkey dogs
Hamburger..... Turkey burger
Potato saladFruit salad
Chips and high fat dip.....Assorted vegetables and hummus
Fried chicken.....Grilled chicken kabobs with veggies
Pie.....Fresh pineapple
Soda and sweet tea..... Iced tea with lemon
Using high-fatmayonnaise in dishes
..... Use low-fat mayo or the kind that has olive oil in it

A More Healthy Alternative

Healthy Recipe Swap

You can even request that guests bring a healthy dish and include the recipe along with the dish. After the event, the party host types up all of the recipes and emails them to party guests. Just like that - everyone is equipped with healthy things to try on their own!

Get Movin'!

Instead of a party revolving solely around the food involved, why not create a "buffet of games" and activity to center the event around

instead? Here are some ideas for fun backyard games to try this summer with your family and friends. Just be sure to let your guests know the "active" theme ahead of time so they can dress accordingly and be prepared to move.

Host a miniature version of the Olympics.

This can consist of things like wheelbarrow races, three legged races, running, water balloon tosses, and team relays. Have prizes for the teams.

Create an art contest using chalk.

Have three judges and give out prizes for the most creative pieces of art. And maybe even to the adult with the most "artfully challenged" piece of "art."

Play a classic game of "Kick the Can."

Make sure you have at least 3-4 people playing this game. One person is "it" and guards the "can." (Can needs to be in an open space.) Other players hide while the "it" person counts to 20 and then goes to find the other players. Captured (tagged) players go to "jail." Anyone not captured can kick the can, which sets all jailed players free. If the "it" person finds all players before the can is kicked, the "it" person wins the game.

Have a Hula-Hoop contest.

Crank up the fun music, and see who can twirl the longest!

Create a canvas.

Hang an old white sheet on your fence or clothesline and let the creativity flow while your guests create a beautiful work of art!

Send your guests on a scavenger hunt.

There are many ways to get creative with this, including giving the hunt a theme to match your party, having guests find things in nature and draw pictures of what they find, or having your guests do something (ex: 10 jumping jacks) every time they find something on the list.

Test out other games like horseshoes, washers, Bocce ball, four-square, hopscotch, whiffle-ball, or kick ball.

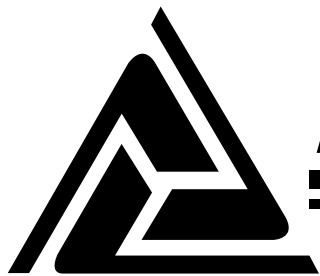


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HOME ON THE RANCH

AVERY RANCH GRANITE STREET SIGN SALE

The Avery Ranch Social Committee will be continually selling the granite street signs that are being removed and replaced by City of Austin approved signage. As signs are delivered to us by the removal contractor, they will be posted at the following web address: www.centraltexasgardening.info/arsigns.pdf. We have received most of the street signs from neighborhoods west of Parmer Lane and the current availability is posted real-time daily at this website. As signs are removed, they will be replaced temporarily with cardboard white and black signs until the permanent signs are received and installed. This means that the granite signs will be delivered to the Social Committee for sale shortly thereafter. Please bookmark the webpage www.centraltexasgardening.info/arsigns.pdf and check it regularly if you are interested in acquiring your street's sign. It's a piece of Avery Ranch history! Sales are made on a first come, first served basis, cash or check made out to Avery Ranch Social Committee. Once you see your street listed as available, call Bob Beyer, Avery Ranch Social Committee Treasurer, 238-6732 to arrange for pickup. The cost is \$30 for street name signs, and \$15 for the "A" logo sign. Receipts benefit the Social Committee activities on behalf of all residents. This is a service being provided by your Avery Ranch Social Committee. Don't wait, once your street becomes available or it may be too late to acquire this piece of Avery Ranch memorabilia.

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