

THE BULLETIN

Belterra Community News

January 2012 Volume 6, Issue 1

News for the Residents of Belterra

Start the New Year!

by the Attending Austin Newcomers Club January Luncheon

Austin Newcomers Club is a non-profit social and recreational organization of 500 member- households celebrating its 60th year. It is dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Attend the January luncheon to learn about the forty-five Interest Groups, including book clubs, card and board games playing, dining, gardening, kayaking, golfing, hiking, dancing and special events for both couples and singles. The Austin Chronicle has named the club as the “Best Way to Get Acquainted with the Best of Austin.”

The January luncheon speaker will be **Mike O’Krent**, founder of *LifeStories Alive, LLC*, specializes in making personal history videos for families that value their heritage. They create family heirlooms in video – digitally mastered records of life stories with personal accounts, photos and mementos of family history.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 West Live Oak Street, pre-payment \$20.00. Reservations are required by: January 11th.

TIME:

11 a.m. Social Hour, Luncheon begins at noon.

For Luncheon Reservations: Email: LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com

WELCOME COFFEES:

You are invited to attend a morning or evening Welcome Coffee and Orientation. For more information visit the website at: www.AustinNewcomers.com.

To Join Austin Newcomers Club: Any person who has a zip code beginning with 787 is eligible for a new membership with the annual dues payment of \$40.00. Membership includes The Welcome Mat, the monthly newsletter, and the annual Members’ Directory. Contact Dotti Thoms, New Member Services, at (512) 314-5100. For more information visit the website at: www.AustinNewcomers.com.



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OTHER

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January Events at the Wildflower Center

ADMISSION IS FREE IN JANUARY

Living Witness: Outstanding Trees of Texas
January 7 through March 11

Ralph Yznaga's photographic odyssey is on display in the McDermott Learning Center.

Urban Folk
January 7 through March 11

Judy Paul's mixed media exhibit on display in the store.

Tree Talk, Winter Walk
Saturday, January 28, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

If the worst drought in decades damaged your trees, this is your chance to replace them with hardy Texas natives and plant a few more for the future. Guided walks for all and a Tree Climb for kids from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Go Native U

This is the year you should learn about native plant gardening. Take a class or a course at Go Native U. Registration information at www.wildflower.org

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TOP TEN TIPS

FOR PROTECTING YOUR ENAMEL FROM EROSION

The outer coating of enamel on your teeth may be the hardest substance in your body, but if it erodes, there's no way to get it back. Follow these top ten tips for keeping your enamel — which will help you keep your teeth! Enamel, the outer coating on your teeth, is the hardest substance in your body. But while it's tougher than bones, enamel has a key weakness: it lacks the ability to regenerate itself as bones do. If you break a bone, it can grow back together. If your enamel wears away, it's gone and you can't get it back. Since enamel defends your teeth against cavities, it's extremely important to take care of this protective layer.

Enamel erosion can occur for a variety of reasons, and the three major categories are diet, health issues and physical wear and tear. Many people are unaware of the effect diet has on enamel. Acid sources like carbonated drinks and citrus drinks, when consumed with regularity, can have a serious effect on your enamel. Health issues including dry mouth, acid reflux disease, gastrointestinal problems and bulimia can also lead to enamel erosion. Wear and tear includes friction from your teeth rubbing against each other, fractures due to stress on the teeth, and damage from outside sources, such as brushing your teeth too vigorously or chewing on hard objects.

Following are our top ten tips for holding on to your enamel.

WATCH YOUR DIET:

- **1** - Drink fewer carbonated drinks like soda pop and citrus drinks like grapefruit juice, or eliminate them altogether.
- **2** - If you do occasionally indulge in these types of beverages, drink them through a straw, so the liquid goes straight to the back of your mouth instead of surrounding your teeth.
- **3** - Rinse your mouth with water after eating or drinking.
- **4** - Chew sugar-free gum to increase saliva, which helps clean your teeth.

ADDRESS HEALTH ISSUES:

- **5** - If you experience dry mouth, let us know; your dentist can help you with this condition.
- **6** - If you suffer from acid reflux, gastrointestinal problems, or bulimia, talk to your family doctor to address the issue; each of these conditions affects more than just your teeth.

BE GENTLE WITH YOUR TEETH:

- **7** - Always avoid biting pens and other hard objects, and use your teeth for chewing food only – not as tools to open containers.
- **8** - If you are a habitual tooth-grinder, your dentist can help you address the habit.

STAY ON TOP OF ORAL HYGIENE:

- **9** - Brush with fluoride toothpaste to strengthen your teeth.
- **10** - Keep up with your regular oral care, including brushing and flossing daily and getting professional cleanings every six months.

Submitted by Dr. Flury

Pick up the Pile

Happy New Year to all! As we embark on 2012's journey, some will think of ways to improve upon themselves. I'd like to offer an idea to those that still think dog poop is fertilizer, let's try picking up after our dogs. In case you were not aware, scientists have established the fact that the dog's gut harbors a particular type of bacteria known as the coli form bacteria. This bacterium includes the dreaded E. coli bacteria and also contains strains of salmonella and giardia. Now, since the rains have finally come, all the piles that have been left behind will be washed into our storm drains and contaminate our water supply. Not only is our water supply affected but perhaps even the air we breathe...I came across this article:

SCIENCEDAILY (AUG. 18, 2011)

“Bacteria from fecal material -- in particular, dog fecal material -- may constitute the dominant source of airborne bacteria in Cleveland's and Detroit's wintertime air, says a new University of Colorado Boulder study.”

This was the first test conducted, for air borne disease so far, however, scientist presume other cities, with an abundance of the canine kind, will show similar results. Please be kind, don't leave it behind. To those that pick up....THANK YOU

www.pickupthepile.com

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IT'S OKAY TO SKIP YOUR WORKOUT, IN SOME CASES

Although exercise should be a part of your daily routine, it's important to know when your body needs a break, according to an expert at Baylor College of Medicine. It's not ideal to work out when you're sick because you're stressing your system out, said Dr. David Green, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at BCM.

The same thing is true after a recent surgery; your body is trying to recover from the surgery. If you still want to stay active, consider using simple things such as arm bands for gentle exercises, but stay away from heavy aerobic exercises, he said. If you're experiencing some joint or muscle pain, it's your body's way of telling you that you're overdoing it, so you should back off. Try using a heating pad or taking anti-inflammatory medication to help with the pain, said Green.

In general, be sure to have some type of snack about an hour before a workout; do not try to exercise on an empty stomach. If you're over the age of 40 and just starting heavy exercise for the first time, be sure to consult with your physician first. Also consult with a physician if you've had any respiratory, cardiac or joint issues in the past. Look out for hidden calories in holiday drinks.

While many people think twice before taking a second serving of a delicious holiday dessert, they may not do the same when it comes to that holiday beverage. But liquid calories can quickly add up, said a nutrition expert at Baylor College of Medicine.

SOME TIPS TO REMEMBER INCLUDE:

- Combine alcohol with a diet mixer or low-calorie tonic
- Remember to pace yourself and alternate alcoholic beverages with a glass of water or club soda with lime
- When it comes to popular cocoa and coffee drinks, choose non-fat milk, skip the whipped cream
- Pay attention to portions; different beverages are served in different size glasses and cups so be aware of what you are drinking and how many servings you consume at one time. Remember that after drinking alcohol, the desire for salty foods is also enhanced, said Reeves.

HECTIC HOLIDAYS CAN RAISE SPIRITS OF A CHRONICALLY ILL CHILD

The typical craziness of the holiday season can offer an emotional boost for a chronically ill child. The holidays usually are very hectic, but the benefit of seeing family and friends outweighs the hassles of travel and preparation, said Dr. Ernest Frugé, associate professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine and director of psychosocial programs at Texas Children's Cancer Center.

It's no different for a child in a chronic illness. Planning ahead is the key to travel success, whether it is allowing for extra breaks on a long road trip or reminding older relatives about childproofing needs. Parents should always consult with their child's physician before the trip, pack all medications in their original prescription containers and bring along a copy of appropriate medical information.

Involving the child in the planning and preparations for trips and gatherings reinforces the importance of reconnecting with family and friends, said Frugé. Keeping children away from the usual holiday traditions because they have been ill would separate them from what is a normal experience for the family, he said.

GET THROUGH MENOPAUSE BY REEVALUATING YOUR HEALTH CARE NEEDS

Menopause is called "the change" for a reason. As hormone levels begin to change, so do health concerns, such as osteoporosis, said experts at Baylor College of Medicine. Decreasing estrogen levels can affect bone mass, making a woman more susceptible to osteoporosis, said Dr. Elizabeth Nelson, associate professor of medicine and director of the Women's Center for Comprehensive Care at BCM. Osteoporosis is a condition that can develop if bone is not replaced as quickly as it is worn away, leaving behind porous or weak bones.

Many factors can affect this condition such as heredity, age and nutritional intake. Modify your risk factors by limiting alcohol intake and not smoking, which can increase bone loss by 10 percent. Exercising three times a week and increasing calcium and vitamin D intake can also improve bone health. However, since each woman's health care needs differ as they enter menopause, it is important to talk to a doctor to be sure what course of action will be the most beneficial. Screening for osteoporosis should begin at age 65, but many times women will have a screening done at age 50 to use a baseline for future tests.



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