



# PRESS

The Official Newsletter of the  
Plum Creek Homeowner Association

January 2012  
Volume 3, Issue 1

## Please Trim Those Trees! WINTER IS THE PERFECT TIME!

*Trees are one of the many things that make Plum Creek such a wonderful place to live.*

The street trees and yard trees planted throughout Plum Creek reduce home cooling costs by providing shade. They cool the ambient air temperature by providing shade to the sidewalks and streets, which absorb sunlight and continue to radiate heat during the night. Trees reduce storm water runoff, store carbon, and improve air quality by releasing oxygen and filtering the air. Additionally, the trees make walking in Plum Creek cooler and safer by creating a physical barrier between pedestrians and cars and improve our quality of life.

However, these wonderful trees with all of their benefits need our regular attention and care. Many of the trees need to be trimmed to prevent damage to persons or vehicles that traverse the sidewalks and streets.

Please prune any and all of the trees in the planting strip or yard that are encroaching on these areas and please remove any dead trees immediately. Due to safety concerns, the HOA will be evaluating street and yard trees that encroach on the sidewalks, but since these trees belong to the homeowner, the HOA wants to provide residents with the opportunity to prune their own trees. The HOA requests that you prune your trees up 7 feet and/or away from the sidewalk to prevent injury.

We have a short window to prune in winter, but this time of year is best for pruning! When raising your tree's canopy, follow proper pruning techniques, including cleaning tools between trees and wound spraying any cuts on all OAK trees to prevent Oak Wilt. For information and diagrams about pruning, visit [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com), [www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/pruning.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/growgreen/pruning.htm), or [www.plumcreektxhoa.com](http://www.plumcreektxhoa.com).

For information about contacting local certified arborists or for questions or concerns about pruning, feel free to contact the Landscape Committee at [landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com).

***So, get out there with your  
clippers this winter & let's  
clear those sidewalks!***

## CHANGES COMING TO THE PC PRESS & ENEWS: A NOTE FROM CHRISTINA BAESE

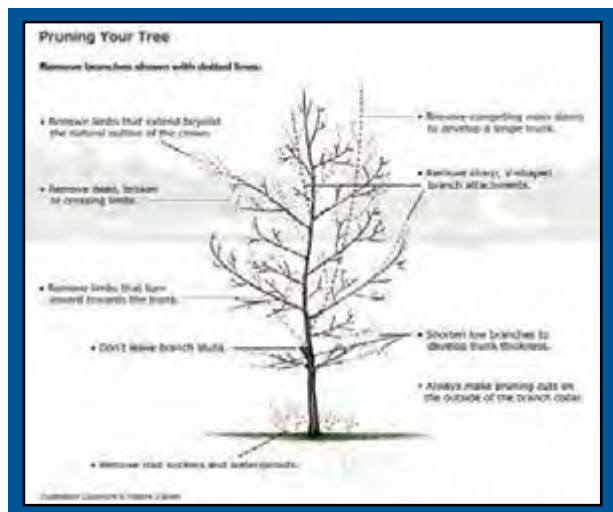
Back in 2007, I started the eNews as a way to get information out to neighbors quickly. The eNews started with less than 100 emails has grown to over 550 Plum Creekers. It has gone from the occasional announcement to a weekly email full of announcements and events. It has truly been my pleasure to create the eNews every week for the last five years, as both a volunteer and a neighbor.

In the summer of 2010, I added the PC Press to my duties, and over the last 18 months, I have learned so much. It has been a fun addition to my life. I have taken great pride in the eNews and PC Press and even greater joy in getting to know so many of you!

But, starting in 2012, Mickey Harris, PC's Assistant Manager, will take over both the eNews and the PC Press. In addition, Mickey will be answering the [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) and [socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com) email addresses. Earlier in 2011, Suzanne Parr took over as Landscape Chair and now, answers the [landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com) email.

I'll still be here and there supporting various committees and activities, especially Toddler Time, but my role will be much less in the HOA starting in 2012.

It has truly been my pleasure to get to know so many of you, and I hope that my involvement has provided a positive impact in our little community. (Cont. on Page 2)



## Committee Contacts

### PLUM CREEK HOA MANAGER

Kristi Morrison ..... [plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com](mailto:plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com)

### PLUM CREEK PRESS AND WEEKLY ENEWS

Mickey Harris ..... [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### COMMUNITY CENTER RESERVATION QUESTIONS

Brandee Otto ..... [reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### DOG PARK COMMITTEE

Inez Scott ..... [dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### LAKE COMMITTEE

Robert Russell/Sam Guerrero .... [lake@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:lake@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE

Suzanne Parr ..... [landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:landscape@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### POOL COMMITTEE

Scott Brown ..... [pool@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:pool@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Brandee Otto ..... [recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:recreation@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### SAFETY & MONITORING COMMITTEE

Wyana Eddleman ..... [safety@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:safety@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### SOCIAL GROUPS

Mickey Harris ..... [socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:socialgroups@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### WELCOME COMMITTEE

Dennis & Mariel Perkins ... [welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:welcome@plumcreektxhoa.com)

HOA OFFICE PHONE ..... 512.262.1140

## Newsletter Info

### PUBLISHER

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Advertising..... [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com)

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## DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?

View the current issue of the Plum Creek Press on the 1st day of each month at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

### Changes Coming...- (Continued from Cover Page)

Thank you for allowing me to serve in so many different ways and for always being so supportive and understanding. Please give Mickey all of the support, patience, and understanding that you have shown me over the years, especially as we transition.

*So, I bid y'all farewell for now. Lots of love to all, Christina Baese P.S. If you ever need to reach me, come on over to a Toddler Time or shoot me an email at [cb28655@earthlink.net](mailto:cb28655@earthlink.net).*

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(for those with loved ones struggling with addiction)

#### Sexual Addiction Group (men's group)

#### Anger Open Share Group (men's group)

#### Chemical Addiction Groups (men's & woman's groups)

#### Women's Support Groups (eating disorders, sexual addiction)

### HOPE, HEALTH, HEALING | Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

#### Divorce Care

#### Safe People

#### Boundaries

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Own Heart  
Sunday Morning  
Series

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 11 AM  
BIBLE LIFE (all ages) @ 9:30 AM

WATCH LIVE SUNDAY MORNINGS  
OR VIEW ANYTIME ONLINE

Great Hills Baptist Church  
10500 Jollyville Road . Austin 78759 // 512.343.7763

[www.ghbc.org](http://www.ghbc.org)

## AT THE FENCE

### **GARY & CINDY KENNEDY STEP DOWN AS DOG PARK CO-CHAIRS**

After some great successes (including helping with the Dog Park creation and fencing and managing a very successful Pet Fair (\$1500 profit!), Gary and Cindy have decided to step down from their positions as Dog Park Chairs. Inez Scott will remain as a Chair and will answer the [dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:dogpark@plumcreektxhoa.com) email. Gary and Cindy, you have done a great job and will be missed! But, I hear they plan to stay involved in the community. Best wishes to you both and THANK YOU!

### **CALLING ALL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

Wyana Eddleman, our Safety Chair, would love some help from any resident law enforcement officers or anyone associated with emergency services. Your help would be so appreciated! Please contact Wyana at [safety@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:safety@plumcreektxhoa.com)

### **CHRISTMASTREE RECYCLING (& BRUSH & TREE LIMB COLLECTION) AT GREGG-CLARKE, STEEPLECHASE, AND WATERLEAF PARKS**

The Kyle Parks and Recreation Department is setting up brush and Christmas Tree drop off sites in the City's three main parks. These sites will be fenced and marked with a sign for residents to drop off their trees and brush. The parks are Gregg-Clarke, Steeplechase, and Waterleaf. There will be NO drop-off sites in Plum Creek this year. The City will begin accepting brush on October 1, 2011 and will continue the program until February 29, 2012. All decorations and lights, including tinsel, must be removed. No artificial trees. No nails or screws. No tree bases. The trees will be mulched and used around town for the City Park's landscaping. More information at <http://www.cityofkyle.com/recreation/tree-drop-recycling>

### **NEW PUPPY MOM LOOKING FOR PUPPY PLAYDATES**

From Resident Cindy: I have a new puppy, almost 4 months old, and need to find one

or 2 other people with puppies that mine can play with twice a week (or more if we have time) for an hour or so. The other dogs need to be puppies, under 6 months, so that mine can learn what play is appropriate and what is too much. Right now, she's heading off in the "too much" direction and is not going to be a well-socialized dog when she gets older if she doesn't learn when to back off.

Call Cindy at 512.268.3093 or email [cindytruly@gmail.com](mailto:cindytruly@gmail.com). I work from home so I'm available for these puppy playdates most any time. Thanks!

### **DOG PARK USE REMINDERS**

Please remember that any resident using the Dog Park should have their dog registered with the City of Kyle and carry their Rec Tag with them at the Dog Park. Thanks!

### **TODDLER TIME RETURNS IN FEBRUARY**

Toddler Time will take a break in January but will return in February for some fun!

### **LIGHTS CONTEST RESULTS IN FEBRUARY PC PRESS**

Due to PC Press deadlines and judging timeframes, the Lights contest results will appear in the February PC Press.

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING ON FIRST TUESDAY**

The Executive Committee meets on the first Tuesday of January at 6:30PM at the Community Center. Meetings are always open to residents. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Kristi at [plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com](mailto:plumcreekmanager@goodwintx.com), if you can.

### **PARK DRINKING FOUNTAINS & SPRINKLER SYSTEMS SHUT DOWN FOR WINTER**

Every year, the sprinkler systems are shut down for winter to prevent busted pipes and unnecessary watering. This year, the drinking fountains will be shut down, as well. In 2011, we had some drinking fountains damaged due to freezing temperatures. So, during the winter, please bring water or another beverage with you to the parks, including the dog park.

## NEGLEY NEWS FOR JANUARY

*Karen Lucita, Negley Assistant Principal*

Welcome back Navigators. We hope everyone had a wonderful break! Here is what is happening at Negley in January:

- **January 4th** - Students return back to school for the Spring Semester. The office will be open on January 3rd from 7:30am to 3:30pm
- **January 10th** - Look in backpacks for report cards Kinder to 5th grade. Support our PTA at Chick-Fil-A night from 5:00-9:00 PM. Let the cashier know you are with Negley. After dinner, come to Negley at 6:30 for a PTA meeting.
- **January 13th** - Perfect Attendance and Semester Awards in the gym and cafeteria. More details will come home in with report Cards.
- **January 16th** - Student and Staff Holiday
- **January 27th** - Kindergarten Chinese New Year Parade at 2:00pm
- **January 31st** - Progress Reports go home for 2nd to 5th grade students

We encourage all families to join our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Anyone can join...mom, dad, grandparents, aunts, uncles, community members, or anyone who wishes to support Negley Elementary! We welcome everyone. For more details visit the PTA website [www.negleypta.org](http://www.negleypta.org) or on Facebook.

*Dates are subject to change. Please visit our website for updated information <http://www.hayscisd.net/negley.cfm>. Have a SUPER January!*

# PLUM CREEK PRESS

## Need to Reserve the Community Center?

To make a reservation, please login at [www.plumcreektxhoa.com](http://www.plumcreektxhoa.com) via Resident Login OR request a username and password via Request Login. Depending on holidays and weekends, it will take 24 to 72 hours for you to receive your login information. Once you obtain your username and password, please enter a valid email address into your profile. You must have a valid email in the Address Book to receive email notifications from the Reservations Calendar.

Once you have your username and password, please login and select Reservations from the top of the menu on the left. At the Reservations Calendar, you can view the available dates and times. To reserve a time slot, simply click on the time requested. When selecting your time, please be sure to allow enough time before and after your party for setting up and cleaning up. Fill out the online request form and all required information. Then, the request will be submitted to Brandee Otto, the Reservations Coordinator.

Before being approved, you must complete and submit the required Community Center Use Agreement, which can be found under Documents - Reservations Information, to Brandee Otto, Reservations Coordinator, with your \$75 deposit to cover any mishaps or damages and your \$15 check for an inflatable, if used. If you use an inflatable, an additional \$15 is charged to cover extra water and electricity used. Please make checks out to Plum Creek HOA and use separate checks for the security deposit and inflatable fee.

Once your paperwork and checks have been submitted and reviewed, Brandee will approve your reservation, and you will receive a verification email with any additional information and your access code. If no damages occur and the facility is left clean, your deposit check will be destroyed. If you arrive at the center and it is not clean, please call Brandee at 512-557-2728 to let her know. If you have any questions about the process or the facility, please email [reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:reservations@plumcreektxhoa.com).

## BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

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**MOVING?** Move Help available by resident My Hired Helper. We load and Unload any Uhaul or moving truck for offices or home moves. We provide the labor, guys, blankets & dollies. You Move We Help..call Kate to schedule 512-663-8389..to take the stress out of your move..big or small...

**LANDSCAPING** Plum Creek Landscapers ready to winterize your yard. Services include Planting, Mulching, Leaf & Acorn Removal, as well as Winter Seed. All regular services include Mow, low and edge. Newly available is Lawn Aerating. Call Kate today to schedule 512-663-8389 My Hired Helper

## Have You Registered for the Plum Creek Weekly eNews Yet?

The Plum Creek eNews is a weekly email for Plum Creekers containing neighborhood watch information, lost and found pets, weekly and upcoming event information, and just about anything else one might need to know! Typically, the email is sent once per week on Thursday or Friday.

The eNews has been designed as an 'Opt-In' email, as to not bother anyone just wishing to visit the HOA website on occasion. If you're interested, please add your email to the list by following these instructions:

- Visit [www.plumcreektxhoa.com](http://www.plumcreektxhoa.com).
- Enter your username and password at Resident Login or request one via Request Login on the side menu. If you have to request a login, it takes 24 to 72 hours to be approved, depending on time of request, holidays, and weekends.
- Once you sign onto the site, click on My Profile in the menu at the top left of the page. You should arrive at your address book profile.
- Click on the Subscriptions tab.
- Check the box next to "Plum Creek eNews: Neighborhood Opt-In Email List"
- Click Save Changes.
- Start receiving the Weekly email as early as next week! :)
- If you happen to be the "Resident 2" on your family's profile, you may need to email [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) to be added.
- If you add your email and do not receive the e-News the following Thursday or Friday, please email [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) to get added.

## Classifieds Questions Answered

Personal classifieds are one time sell items or lost, found, or wanted items, etc. This type runs free of charge to Plum Creek residents with a limit of 30 words. Such classifieds should be submitted to [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) by the 8th of the prior month.

Also, classifieds are free for Teenage Job Seekers. This listing service is offered free of charge to all Plum Creek teenagers, aged 19 and under, offering services or seeking work. Classified information should include the teen's name (entire name or first name with last name initial), age, and phone. Teens can choose to submit their skills under the titles of Baby Sitter, Pet Sitter, House Sitter, Yard Work, or another similar title. In addition, one should identify if they are CPR Trained, First Aid Trained, and/or Red Cross Babysitting Certified. Again, send your information to [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) by the 8th of the prior month. Business Classifieds include offering a service or product line for profit, and these types of ads cost \$50, including those submitted by Plum Creek residents. Such ads are limited to 40 words, and residents should contact Peel, Inc. at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) to submit.



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WEAR LIFE JACKETS



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KEEP BACKYARDS & BATHROOMS SAFE



ALWAYS CHECK POOL/HOTTUB FIRST FOR MISSING CHILD



LEARN CPR



# COLIN'S HOPE

*Increasing water safety awareness and standards*



In 2011, more than 50 Central Texas children have drowned or nearly drowned. This number is higher than in recent years. Please continue to keep kids safe in and around the water.

**Drowning is Preventable**



For more information, check out our website at

[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)

SAT., JAN. 21 @ EMPIRE AUTOMOTIVE WAREHOUSE (604 E. 7th) 8-11 PM

TIX: \$20 ONLINE, \$30 AT THE DOOR

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## BEST ★ WATER INSPIRED ★ ART AUCTION EVER



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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.

# REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

*and many others...*

- Avery Ranch
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- Bella Vista
- Belterra
- Canyon Creek
- Cedar Park Town Center
- Chandler Creek
- Cherry Creek on Brodie Lane
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- Crystal Falls
- Davenport Ranch
- Forest Creek
- Hidden Glen
- Highland Park West Balcones
- Highpointe
- Hunter's Chase
- Jester Estates
- Lakeline Ranch
- Lakeway
- Lakewood
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Lost Creek
- Mayfield Ranch
- Meadows of Bushy Creek
- Pemberton Heights
- Plum Creek
- Ranch at Brushy Creek
- River Place
- Round Rock Ranch
- Sendera
- Shady Hollow
- Sonoma
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- Vista Ridge
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## Have a Dirt Circle Under Your Tree?

*By: Christina Baese, PC Landscape Committee*

In some of our gardens, our trees have grown so big and full that our grass has thinned or just disappeared completely. If that's the case in your garden, here are a few ideas:

- **Just mulch it.** Mulch introduces organic material into the soil, providing valuable nutrients to your tree's roots. It helps stabilize soil temperature during summer and winter, too. Spread it about two to four inches deep and don't let it touch the actual trunk.
- **Let there be light!** Thin the canopy of your tree and let the sun shine! Grass and many plants need plenty of sun to survive and thrive, so some selective pruning of your tree limbs may be a simple solution to thicken your grass.
- **Get planting.** One can always create a flowerbed or plant groundcover. Several groundcovers can be planted in shade, such as pigeonberry, purple heart, or monkey grass. Cedar Sage, heartleaf skullcap, or columbine (reseeds when happy) are some great shady perennials, and American beautyberry is a lovely, shade tolerant shrub. When planting anything under a tree, be very careful with the roots, as not to stress the tree or expose it to disease. If possible, consider using seeds.
- **Rocks rock.** River rocks and other natural stones can create a lovely, non-traditional garden.
- **When all else fails, Google it!** There are many creative solutions on the web about how to deal with bare spots under trees. So, hit that keyboard.

## Be Featured in Meet the Neighbor

If you'd like to be featured, just email the answers to the following questions to [announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com](mailto:announcements@plumcreektxhoa.com) by the 8th along with a picture. Feel free to elaborate on any one of the questions! If we get lots of submissions, we'll submit one each month until we run out, and then, we'll ask for more!

- **Name and General Job Description**
- **Names and Ages (optional) of Kids/Other Family Members Living in Plum Creek, if any**
- **Names and Types of Pets, if any**
- **City/State Before You Lived in Kyle and/or Hometown**
- **Hobbies/Interests**
- **Why did you move to Plum Creek?**
- **What is your favorite feature or event in Plum Creek? What do you love about it?**
- **What is favorite restaurant, store, event, or activity in Kyle?**
- **What is one thing about you that most people would be surprised to know?**

## Barking Dogs & City Action:

AN FYI

As many have read, barking dogs have been a major complaint by some homeowners. Such situations fall under city action, not HOA, and recently, a concerned resident met with a city prosecutor. The resident was informed that animal ordinance violations will be prosecuted, including, but not limited to, barking dogs. If you are concerned about barking dogs or other animal issues near you, call Animal Control or complete and submit a 'Kyle P.D. Citizen Complaint' form from the Kyle Police Department. After the complaint and an investigation, warning citations given first, but if the problem continues, fines could be given to pet owners, as long as the complainant provides proof of an incident (cell phone videos, snap shots, recordings and/or witnesses). Some fines are \$179.00 or more. You can find the city ordinances here: [http://library.municode.com/HTML/14183/level2/PTIICOOR\\_CH5AN.html#TOPTITLE](http://library.municode.com/HTML/14183/level2/PTIICOOR_CH5AN.html#TOPTITLE)

So, once again, if your pooch is barking up a storm, please be mindful. No one wants a warning or a fine. After sending out this information via the eNews, a few other residents added some comments:

- **Secure Gates and Fences:** One resident asked that residents secure their fences, as well. Seems we have several repeat escapees. Consider installing lattice to keep small pups confined. A simple "s" hook can prevent gates from popping open. Don't let your pooches run off-leash, except in the dog park, or allow them to go for a nightly run without you. Keeping them in their yards and on a leash is the best thing for their safety.
- **No Teasing Please:** Another resident asked that folks not tease any dogs behind fences. Kids were reportedly seen teasing dogs on their way to and from school in the alleyways. Please remind kiddos that such activity could get them hurt or hurt the pup.
- All in all, please be mindful of your neighbors, the people ones and the furry ones. Then, we can all enjoy Plum Creek and all it has to offer.

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## Start the New Year by 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 & 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](mailto:LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com)
- **Welcome Coffees:** You are invited to attend a morning or evening Welcome Coffee & Orientation. For more information visit the website at: [www.AustinNewcomers.com](http://www.AustinNewcomers.com)
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