

The Caddie

March 2012

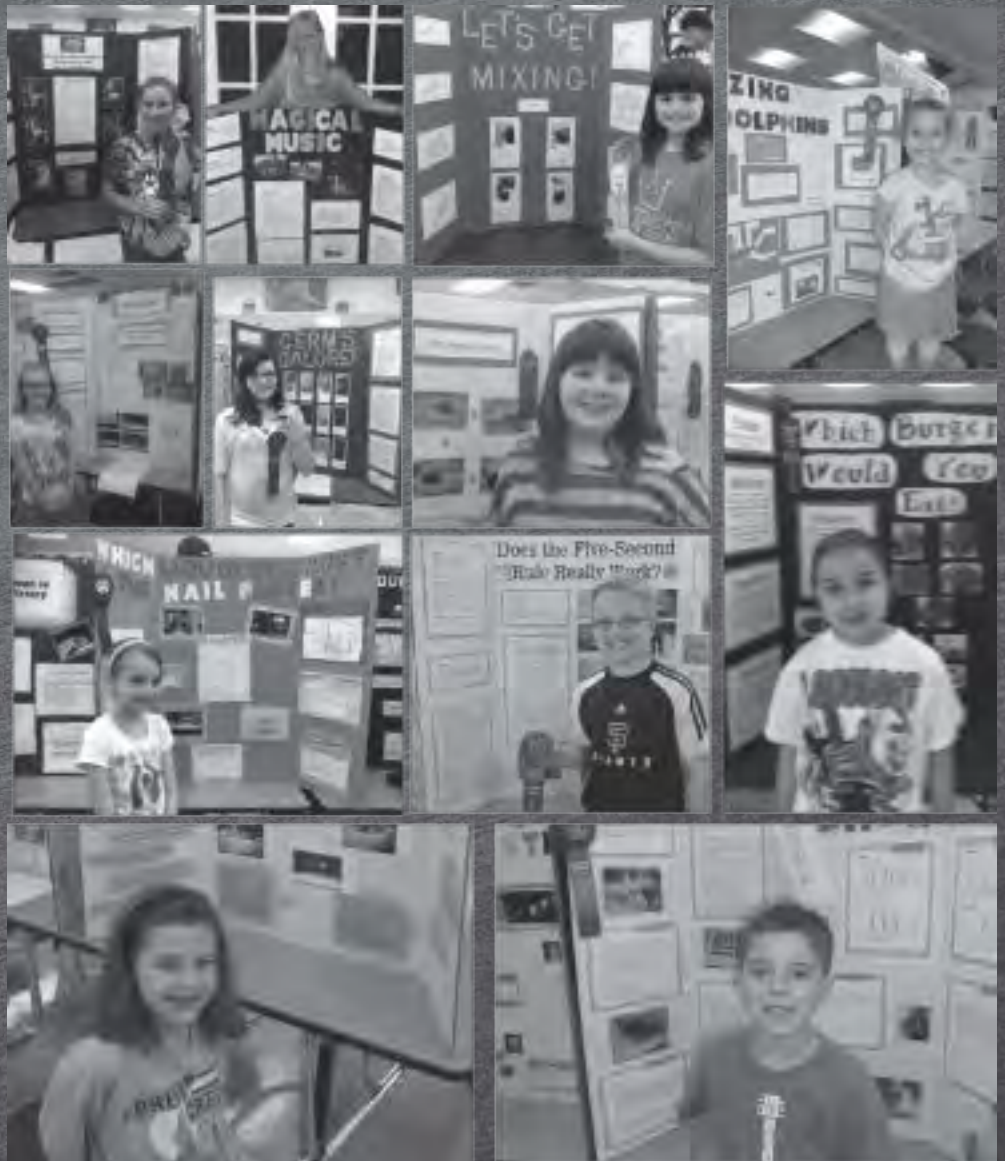
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Official Publication of the Forest Creek Homeowners Association

Forest Creek Science Fair

Kudos to all the Children in the Forest Creek who entered the Science Fair this year!

Congratulations to those who won 1st and 2nd place! The First Place winners in Grades 3-5 qualified to compete in Regional's, which was held on Sat 2/25 at the Parmer Events Center in Austin.



The Caddie

CONTACT INFO

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Idalyn Banks treasurer@forestcreekhoa.org

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Caddie Contact

Angel Donato myenergyangel@aol.com

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CONTACT

Kerri Hebert

CenTex Association Management

Office: 512-759-3734 • Fax: 512-759-3713

kh@centexmanagement.com

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Angel Donato myenergyangel@aol.com

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

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Please support the businesses that advertise in The Caddie. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Forest Creek residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. 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 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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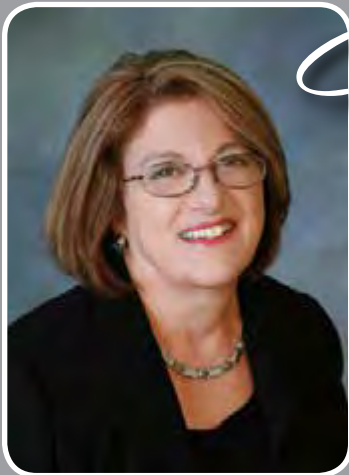
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Treasure Hunter

I love dogs as much as anyone. My last dog, Scooby, was a sweetheart, a loving, gentle Corgie - who loved her family without condition. So I understand why we have dogs. I appreciate how a dog can make it worth coming home at night. They become part of the family. Part of who you are. They don't call a dog "man's best friend" for nothing. Dog ownership also comes with hard work and responsibility. The last couple of Caddie's have documented the treasure dog owners are leaving behind. Take a stroll through our lovely neighborhood and you'll have ample opportunity to take some treasure home with you. I understand leaving it behind. Cleanup is such a crappy job. From a positive perspective, it does offer the side benefit of agility training during my runs...a quick step to the left then the right followed by a needed long stride. RunTex should start a similar regiment. A quick report - there

are still abundant opportunities for local treasure hunters should you feel so inclined. Of course the benefits of owning Fido extend beyond agility training, particularly if you're lucky enough to live next door to Fido. Those benefits may include but not be limited to: - a daily wakeup call and a snooze button with additional wake up capability every 2-3 minutes - alerting that another golf cart is approaching the tee box and that an errant shot may come my way - notification of wild animals in case I decide to take up wildlife photography - pedestrian advisory to look out for my buddies - request that I call Fido's owner as Fido is dying to get inside and be attentive to his owner - Fido telling me he's simply bored and doing what dogs do Our HOA does have a set of Master Declarations to address barking. Specifically 3.18 states "no animal shall be allowed to make an unreasonable amount of noise, or become

a nuisance". I'll assume that Fido's owner simply doesn't know that a 6AM wakeup call is a nuisance or that having a golf cart arrive on the tee box, is reason for a 2 minute outburst, followed 5 minutes later by another 2 minute outburst, repeated from daybreak to nightfall. It's what untrained dogs do. It's the game they learn to play, particularly as puppies, to overcome boredom. And it's a nuisance. But here again, there is a silver lining in our lovely neighborhood. For as little as \$35, a barking collar is available which teaches Fido not to bark repeatedly. Dogs bark, it is how they communicate. Barking collars simply teach Fido to bark once then refrain. I'm asking my neighbors to consider it. Neighbors throughout Forest Creek..... now that would be a real treasure in our community. By, Doug Oliver, Neighbor and friend within Forest Creek doug_oliver@ymail.com



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The Caddie

Announcements, Accomplishments, and Accolades!

Congratulations: To Pamela Bartholomew! In early February it was announced that Forest Creek resident Pamela Bartholomew was named the Teacher of the Year for Forest Creek Elementary. Pam and her family have been living here for around eight years. She has been a teacher for nineteen years, twelve of those with RRISD, and the past four as a FCE fourth grade teacher. But what does all this say to us?

Not really understanding the process of how an educator receives this high honor, I asked a few questions. To my surprise the principal does not choose a nominee for this award, rather it's the fellow teachers and staff who cast a vote for an outstanding teacher at their school. Once that teacher is named and awarded this high honor, they go through a step by step process with the possibility of being named teacher of the year for the state of Texas. First a dinner will be held on May 14th where all of the most outstanding teachers will be recognized. From there, one teacher will be named as the district teacher of the year. Those teachers from all of the districts within our region then go on to compete, if you will, for the regional title and onward for the state title.

Wanting to know more about Pam and what would have her fellow teachers singing her praise brought me to her classroom. Standing there in the hall I was amazed at all of the projects and ideas that the children of her class are currently working on. One in particular caught my eye. There was an article hung on the wall about her students and a service project with a local retirement facility. These children are given a pen pal and write back and forth all year long. To learn more about these new people in their lives, the students meet up with their pen pals once a month and play games, talk, and most of all listen. This particular service project has been going on for years and other teachers are involved as well, but it really warmed my heart. Upon entering her classroom it was bright and the walls were filled with more thoughts, ideas, and work. These children are busy and so is Mrs. Bartholomew!

When I asked Pamela about what it felt like to be awarded this title she said, "It's an honor! I think it's really incredible that people notice the work that I'm doing". From the outside looking in, it's hard not to notice. Pam's bright smile and welcoming spirit scream wonderful person! And I think it's safe to say that all great teachers are warm, welcoming, and caring people who truly love what they do and teach from the heart! Leslie Sterzinger PTA Volunteer Coordinator

Congratulations: To the Cedar Ridge High School swim team! The girls and the boys took the district title. This is the 2nd and 3rd district title (including all team sports) for the very young Cedar



Ridge High School. The first district title was won last year by the girls! Congratulations are also in order for the following swimmers who went on to compete in regional competition: Jacquelyn Wright, Lauren Tidwell, Joshua Winn, Blair Bartholomew, Miguel Perez, Marisa Werner, Ethan Vinate, Greg Tully, Fischer Bratton, Brooke Schnucker, & Henrique Valim

Most of these swimmers started with the Forest Creek Fast Frogs. Many of them swam with the Frogs since the very beginning and are continuing on thru High School.



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Monday March 5th

6:30 - 9:00 PM

Rib Eating Contest 7:30 - 7:45 PM

- ★ Round Rock I-35: Round Rock High School
- ★ 620 Four Points: Vandegrift High School
- ★ 360 South: Westlake High School
- ★ 183 North: *Defending Champions* Anderson High School
- ★ Former Longhorns & current NFL players will serve as honorary "Rib Eating Coaches"
- ★ Help local high school teams as they compete for the "Rudy's Golden Rib Trophy" for most ribs eaten!
- ★ High school contest 7:30- 7:45 PM.

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Rudy's
locations

The Caddie

News from Forest Creek Elementary

Congratulations to Mark Hollingsworth on being awarded Volunteer of the Month for January 2012. Mark is a part of the FCE School Yard Habitat, helps to take care of the school marquee, and is a dedicated volunteer. Thank you so much for your time! We appreciate you!

Spring Break

Monday, March 12- Friday, March 16
Save the Date!

Kinder Round Up

Tuesday, March 6th 9:00am-2:00pm

Hoe Down

Friday, March 9th

Spring Carnival

Friday, March 23 5:00-9:00pm

Forest Creek Elementary will have their Spring Carnival on Friday, March 23 beginning at 5:00pm. Make plans to come out and enjoy this fun family event! Tickets for games and activities may be purchased at the school throughout the week prior to the event or at the event itself. This is one of the largest fundraisers for our campus,



so please come and support our children! We will have activities for all ages. There will be pony rides, a petting zoo, inflatable jump houses, rock wall, bungee run, obstacle course and more. We'll have Bingo and Crafts going on inside the school. And in the cafeteria you'll find a variety of food to enjoy including Chick-Fil-A chicken nuggets, pizza, barbecue sandwiches, and lots of sweets. We'll have a variety of entertainment throughout the night performing on our stage. If you know of a group that would like to perform (musical, dance, karate, etc) then please let us know! And if you'd like to make a donation to the silent auction or reserve one of the tables for craft vendors, then please email FCEPTA.President@gmail.com. And since traffic and parking is always a concern for large events like this, please plan to walk to the school if you are able. If you plan to drive, remember to allow extra time to find a legitimate parking space and do not park on the grass medians where the "Do Not Park" signs are located.

Spirit Fridays

Show some Coyote Pride! Every Friday is Spirit Day at FCE. Please encourage your child to wear their FCE shirt, or a purple or green shirt. The class who is showing the most spirit will be awarded the School Spirit Stick by the Principal.



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News from the Ridge

Friday - March 2	Lady Raider Soccer	CRHS Stadium.....	JV 6 PM and Varsity 8 PM
	Choir After Dark Spring Show	CRHS Cafeteria.....	7 PM
Saturday - March 3	Choir After Dark Spring Show	CRHS Cafeteria	7 PM
Monday - March 5	Lady Raider Softball	CRHS Baseball field.....	JV 5 PM and Varsity 7 PM
Thursday - March 8	Lacrosse	CRHS	6 PM and 7:30 PM
Friday - March 9	Raider Soccer.....	CRHS Stadium	JV 6 PM and Varsity 8 PM
Tuesday- March 20	Lady Raider Softball	CRHS Baseball field.....	JV 5 PM and Varsity 7 PM
	Lady Raider Soccer	CRHS Stadium.....	JV 6 PM and Varsity 8 PM
Thursday- March 22	Lacrosse	CRHS	6 PM and 8 PM
Friday – March 23	Raider Soccer.....	CRHS Stadium.....	JV 6 PM and Varsity 8 PM
	Lady Raider Softball	CRHS Baseball field.....	JV 5 PM and Varsity 7 PM
Wed.– March 28	Lacrosse	CRHS	7 PM
Thursday – March 29	Raider Band fundraiser	Joe's Crab Shack	5 PM until close
Friday – March 30	Raider Renaissance Faire.....	CRHS athletic fields.....	6PM – 9PM
	Masked Dance.....		8PM – 11PM

Karen Halsema

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The Caddie

THE GRAPE EXPERIENCE

The evening of Saturday, January 28 was spent enjoying 11 different bottles of PETITE SIRAH wines at the home of Frank and Kathy Harkins. We also enjoy several bottles of shiraz wines as a pre-flight to next month's tasting (actually, the shiraz were "accidents" ---the wrong variety was picked out by mistake – but, needless to say, we did not leave a bottle unloved!). Appetizers were excellent and paired very well with the wines – who would have thought thin mints would be such a match???

Petite Sirah is a descendant of Syrah, which tend to be the acidic, lighter-bodied French Rhone Valley style of wine. Petite Sirah was first highly cultivated in California, and its origin was unknown prior to 2003. Believe it or not, it is said that of the 3,200 acres of grapes labeled Petite Sirah in California, most are actually NOT Petite Sirah, but the Durif grape which is a cross between the Syrah and

(Continued on Page 11)



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SAVE THE DATES

- **Wednesday, March 7th Events Planning Committee (EPC)**
Meeting 7:00 p.m. EVERYONE welcome Information: Niamh - niamh@austin.rr.com
- **Spring Break Fun in the Park Wednesday, March 14th**
10am- 12pm. Join us for a jumpy, snacks and juice boxes in the park. Rainout date is Friday, 16th. Information: Stephanie - thedohertys4@austin.rr.com
- **Easter Egg Stuffing Party Wednesday, April 4th 7pm.** Come help us stuff eggs for the annual Egg Hunt. We will also hold our monthly Events Planning Committee (EPC) meeting at this time, a great way to have some fun and see what EPC is all about! If your child middle/high school child needs community service hours, please feel free to bring them as well. Information: Leslie - lsterzinger@gmail.com
- **Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7th 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**
Bring your Easter baskets and camera for pictures with Peter Cottontail!
Information: Kate - walbee@sbcglobal.net
- **Neighborhood Garage Sale Saturday, May 5th 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Information: Michelle - mickieannmack@yahoo.com

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The Caddie

New Gala in Round Rock to be held March 31!

We are very excited to announce that a new Gala will take place this spring which benefits the new Sacred Heart Community Clinic in Round Rock. This Community Clinic is a free clinic for Round Rock area residents who earn less than 200% of poverty level (\$44,500/year for a family of four) and who do not have medical insurance or qualify for Medicare, Medicaid or CHIP. It is an all-volunteer organization that serves as a medical mission right here in our own 'backyard.'

The Heart to Heart Gala promises to be an exciting new community event which will include dinner, dancing and a silent auction, to be held March 31, 2012 at the Round Rock Marriott from 6:30 to midnight. Our 2012 theme is "Uptown Motown" and live music will be provided by the band Caboosie!

Tickets are available at www.HeartToHeartGala.com. At press time there were less than 100 seats available, so we expect the Gala to sell out. If you are not able to obtain tickets, you may still provide a donation to the gala. Any donation over \$250 will earn a business card-sized ad in the gala program, if desired. We are also accepting all types of donations for the silent auction so if you would like to contribute to the silent auction, please contact amber_schmitt@hotmail.com.

About 40 area residents are serving on the various committees

to bring this new Gala to life, and Amber Schmitt and Karen Halsema are the co-chairs of the event. We would like to thank all of our sponsors: Dell is a platinum sponsor, and Bank of America Merrill Lynch, The Benefit Group, One Source Manufacturing, and Excellence Body and Paint are Silver Sponsors. In addition we have received Friend Sponsorships from Master's Auto Craft, Gracy Title, Saint David's North Austin Medical Center, Seton Medical Center Williamson, R Bank, The Round Rock Express, Reid's Cleaners, Audio Visual Consultations, Sean and Shanna Walsh, Charles Garcia & Liz Burton-Garcia, and Karen Halsema, Real Estate Broker.

If you have tickets to this great new event, we look forward to seeing you there! And if you have any questions you can email Amber, or Karen at KHalsema@kw.com.





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The Grape Experience - (Continued from Page 8)

Peloursin grapes. Who knew??? As a single varietal wine, which is what we tasted, Petite Sirah can be a bit black-peppery. And that is what we discovered. Most of the wines were on the peppery side; the other few were more mild and smooth.

So, who won??? The winning wine was brought by Linda and Preston Ellington and was a 2010 McManis Petite Sirah. Second place was a 2009 Petite Sirah from Grape Creek Vineyards outside of Fredericksburg, brought by Marianne Berensen and Kevin Sage. Third place was a 2008 Four Vines Petite Sirah brought by Jan McKenzie. Last place was a 2005 Mettler Petite Sirah, and we had two bottles of it, brought by Kate Walter and Gary Beetley and Jay and Lora Weber. The first, second and last place winners each received a small gift.

Here is a snapshot of the winning wine, as well as a few pictures of the people in attendance. I think you will agree, everyone was having a good time.

Next month's tasting will be SHIRAZ wines – 100%, no blends, please. Just a little information — when a wine is either labeled a Syrah or a Shiraz (many are confused by the similarity in names), it really implies the style (and originally the location) of the wine. Those wines labeled SHIRAZ tend to be the gobs-of-fruit, full-bodied style of the Australians. Shiraz grapes in Australia mostly reside in the Barossa Valley, and this warmer location produces riper, fuller, and somewhat chocolaty wines -- which sounds absolutely wonderful! So, mark your calendars for Saturday, February 25, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Niamh and John Fogarty, 3501 Ogrin Cove, Phone: 512-215-9858, or e-mail niamh@austin.rr.com for reservations.

Oh, "Truffles" says Hi!



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