



HOME *on the* RANCH



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Granite Shoals • Glenfield • Greens Highlands • Landing • Morningside
Overlook • Parkside • Reserve • Waters Edge • Westchester



April 2012

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AVERY RANCH HOA

Volume 6, Issue 4

BAZAAR! BAZAAR!

By Karen Nieft, Event Chair

SPRING - the birds are singing, the bluebonnets are blooming and everyone at Avery Ranch is ready to get outside and enjoy the weather. This event is your chance to stretch your legs and stroll the Main Amenities Center grounds shopping, enjoying the music and sampling some great food! Yes I'm referring to the BAZAAR! BAZAAR! at Avery Ranch.

This is shaping up to be our best BAZAAR ever! We have Scentsy, PM Designs, Pampered Chef and jewelry vendors. We have The Evil Wiener, Blue Dog Pizza and Dave's Sno Biz. There are so many great vendors we don't want to give it all away - there are more surprises in store. KASE 101 will broadcast live from the event and will have their CASH COW there. They're giving away cash and prizes including concert tickets and weekend getaways.

Write it down - Saturday, April 21st from 10AM to 2PM. Once done it won't be back for another year. This is one good reason living at Avery Ranch is so great.

Can't wait to see everyone there!

Calendar

HOA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Next meeting - Monday, April 9th

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. Agenda can be found on the Avery Ranch Website in the discussion forums section no later than Friday prior to the meeting. 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 Morningside Amenity Center.

UPCOMING AVERY RANCH EVENTS

BAZAAR! BAZAAR! at AVERY RANCH

Saturday, April 21st from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Shake off those Winter blues and mark your calendars for the biggest event of the Spring season! Food and merchandise, vendors and more. See article in this issue for details. For more information, send email to bazaar@AveryRanchHOA.com

Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday, April 28 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

- Start cleaning out your garage and closets and get your items ready! Sale will be advertised in the Austin American-Statesman and on Craig's List.

Summer Social: Adult Luau - New Avery Ranch Community Event!

Saturday June 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

- Save the date for an ADULT Summer Social event! The theme will be a Luau held at the Granite Shoals pool on Staked Plains Loop. The pool will be closed for all other residents at that time. BYOB! Food will be provided by the Avery Ranch Social Committee. There will also be a DJ for your listening pleasure. Come out and enjoy the evening!

Registration for Avery Ranch Summer Swim Lessons

- Registration at Twin Lakes Family YMCA, Located at 204 E. Little Elm Trail, Cedar Park, Texas 78613. On-going Open Registration for Avery Ranch residents
- Swim Lesson Class Descriptions can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/zmJq30>
- Swim Registration Form URL: <http://bit.ly/wKdINb>

HOME ON THE RANCH

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY 911
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
Perdarnales Electric..... 512-219-2602

TEXAS GAS SERVICE

Custom Service..... 1-800-700-2443
Emergencies..... 512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig..... 512-472-2822

AT&T

New Service..... 1-800-464-7928
Repair..... 1-800-246-8464
Billing..... 1-800-858-7928

TIME WARNER CABLE

Customer Service..... 512-485-5555
Repairs..... 512-485-5080
Solid Waste Services..... 512-494-9400

NEWSLETTER INFO

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D.R. HORTON

Tom Moody..... TEMoody@drhorton.com

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

BUSINESS CLASSIFIEDS

THE HOMEPRO - A professional for your home maintenance, repair, or other construction project need. Call us for - carpentry, tile, drywall, rotted wood, painting, fences, decks, doors, windows and so much more.we are punch list specialists. 512-297-6305.

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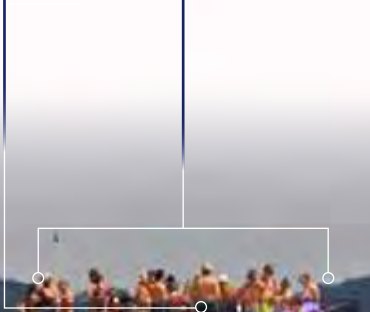


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NOTES FROM THE HOA PRESIDENT

Steve Roebuck, President – Avery Ranch Owners Association

Residents, now is the time to reserve the Pool Pavilion or Indoor space for that upcoming birthday party or graduation. The Reservation Log is filling up fast. The pool pavilion may be rented for 2 hr sessions, maximum of 4 hours, at \$60 per session. You can find the online forms at www.AveryRanchHOA.com under the Document Library, or by phoning Alliance.

YOUR HOA DUES AT WORK

- **Iron Fence Maintenance** - The HOA has begun a major renovation of iron fencing. If work is to be done around your property, you will most likely have a door hanger, a sign on your fence, or a knock on your door. In many locations, iron fencing is being replaced with new product, which will be painted the same Avery Ranch Brown. If you have articles against your fence, or feel you can assist in any way by making your fence more accessible, please do so.
- **Wooden Fence Maintenance** - To maintain consistency in appearance along the entryways as you turn into the various subdivisions, the HOA has agreed to assume the periodic maintenance of these specific wooden fences. Soon you may notice workers pressure washing and re-staining them. We have selected a product that will hopefully help maintain the appearance for 6 years. While the specific color is yet to be chosen, if you wish to use the same product for your own maintenance, you can purchase it from the Kelly-Moore Paint Co. at 400 W. Whitestone in Cedar Park. We will be using Cabot solid color acrylic siding stain, series #0800. If you specify that you are from Avery Ranch, the business has agreed to discount your purchase.
- **New Form from Architectural Design & Review Committee** - Spring is here and many projects are waiting. Remember that many modifications to the outside of your home require permission from the ADRC prior to implementation. For your convenience, a newer, simpler form has been created for your use when projects do not require supporting documentation such as plats, drawings and specifications. Specifically, these are satellite dishes, painting or staining, roofing and replacing trees in the front yard. The new form can be found on the www.AveryRanchHOA.com website on the right side of the main page and under the Document Library Section. It is named the "Architectural Request Short Form". It is designed to be downloaded to your home computer, and filled out using Microsoft Word, then it can be emailed or faxed to Alliance. Improvement Projects submitted this way save everyone by not requiring paper, and are usually processed in a few days.
- **Safety** - According to the police blotter, Avery Ranch has one of the best safety records in Austin. You can help by keeping items out of view and your vehicles locked when they are outside, preferably keeping them in your garage. Keeping your garage door down

(Continued on Page 5)

Notes from the HOA President - (Continued from Page 4)

deters impulsive thieving. Stop your newspaper and install timers on indoor lights for when you are out of town. Keep your gates to your back yard closed and locked. To report a crime online, you can access the following website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/ireport-austin-online-incident-reporting-system>

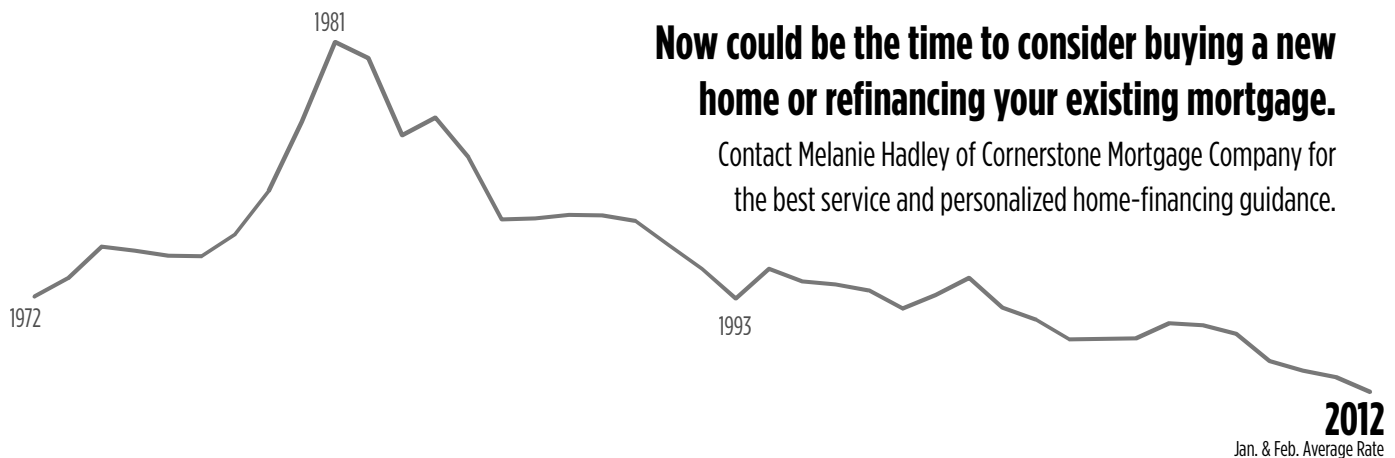
- **Swimming Lessons** - The YMCA is once again offering lessons in our Main Pool Complex. Check out the website under Document Library to obtain forms and information for signing up. Hurry, as classes fill quickly!
- **Social Committee** - Without them, the Mardi Gras, Egg Hunt, Spring Bazaar, Movie in the Park, Hay/Sleigh Rides and many other activities that you enjoy would not be possible. Please support them in the events that occur throughout the year. Keep track of them via the website calendar, Home on the Ranch, or their FaceBook page. Better yet, join the committee and see just how much fun it can be. Contact arsc@AveryRanchHOA.com.

REMEMBER...



**OVERNIGHT
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THE STREET IS
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MAY RESULT TO
A FINE FROM THE
HOME OWNERS'
ASSOCIATION**

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SOURCE: Freddie Mac Primary Mortgage Market Survey® of average yearly mortgage interest rates since 1972; 2012 average rate as of January and February. Interest rates subject to change. Not a commitment to lend. This content is for informational purposes only and may not be wholly or at all applicable to every situation or jurisdiction. We strongly urge you to consult your professional financial advisor prior to acting upon the information contained herein.



HOME ON THE RANCH

2012 AVERY RANCH GARDEN TOUR IS DRAWING NEAR

It's going to be a challenging year for Avery Ranchers as we recover from a garden and landscape devastating hot and dry summer of 2011 plus face the reality of water restrictions. But many residents have taken on this challenge and found solutions. We hope to share and display some of these on this year's Tour with a theme of "Getting Serious about Xeriscaping". The first 10 people to volunteer to be a Garden Host will constitute the Tour as this is not a competition but a social opportunity to share with neighbors in an informal way. Hosts will be available to talk with you about what they have done, what's worked, what hasn't and just enjoy meeting everyone.

We will have a Travis County Master Gardener Clinic on site to provide expert advice, brochures and reference materials, and to answer general gardening questions. We also will have a drawing for door prizes (Avery Ranch A-logo signs), bottled water for everyone taking the Tour, and a Guide Map at the starting point which will be the MAC picnic grounds. The Tour is fun for both garden hosts and those taking the Tour. It is open to all Avery Ranch residents and their guests. Hosting or volunteering to help with the Tour has its perks, so give Bob Beyer, Social Committee Garden Tour Coordinator a call at 238-6732 or email: txbeyer@austin.rr.com for more information and to sign up to be on or help with the Tour.

For all residents, don't miss this event! Save May 26th on your calendar from 10 AM until 3 PM for a relaxed and joyful stroll through some really nice Avery Ranch gardens. Over 150 people did last year and we hope to top that this year. You can visit the Avery Ranch Garden Tour Page online at www.centraltexasgardening.info/artour.html to see previews of gardens committed for the 2012 Tour plus gardens that were on the Tour last year. Please consider being a Garden Host and opening your garden and yard for the Tour. It helps to have commitments as early as possible. If not able to do so, we'll hopefully see you on the Tour! Contact me if you have any questions or need additional information about the Tour.

Bob Beyer, AR Garden Tour Coordinator
PH: 238-6732, E-mail: txbeyer@austin.rr.com



Dino Day at Champion Park

SATURDAY, MAY 12TH

By Williamson County Commissioner Lisa Birkman

The Williamson County Parks Department and I would like to invite you to attend the 4th Annual Dinosaur Day at Champion Park. The event will be held on Saturday, May 12, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The day's events will include free hot dogs and chips, as well as live music, a moonwalk/bouncy house shaped like a dinosaur and other activities for the children. All the activities will be free and open to the public. Commemorative t-shirts will be sold for a reasonable price. Champion Park is a unique playground for children of all ages to have fun and make new discoveries. The park, which opened in the fall of 2007, features a covered children's sand play area with stone casts of dinosaur bones, a large blue whale that spurts water, and specially designed boulders for climbing. Last year, we added a large play area with life size replicas of dinosaur bones. It has a large picnic pavilion with built-in grills, a fishing area, and a scenic bridge across Brushy Creek.

Funds for the parks came from bonds approved by Williamson County voters in 2000. Champion Park is named after the Champion family, whose cemetery is located near the park. John Champion, a former Williamson County sheriff, is buried on the site along with several relatives. The 33-acre park sits along the award winning Brushy Creek Regional Trail, approximately half way between the trailhead at Brushy Creek Road and Great Oaks Drive and the City of Cedar Park's Brushy Creek Lake Park. Champion Park is open from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.

For more information on this and other county parks and activities, go to www.wilco.org or call (512)244-8610



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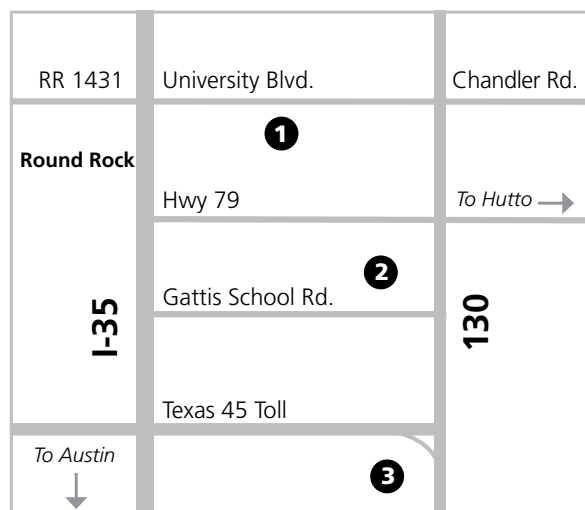
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HOME ON THE RANCH

NEW HOA Website is Fully Operational

*Our NEW WEBSITE is off to a good start,
with many residents already members.*

It is intended to be a one-stop shop for anything a resident may need. Subscribing to the site will help the financial state of Avery Ranch, as we will begin to phase out paper documentation and home delivery of statements and violation notices. Residents who sign on to the site have access to forums, ability to obtain copies of CCR's, forms for renting facilities, checking the status of your account, pay your HOA dues and communicate with both Property Management or Board Members.

You can find pool rules, schedules, tennis court rules, and have the calendar of events pop up on your home page. Never miss a hayride, bazaar or Easter Egg hunt again! Access to the community budget as well as minutes to all official meetings held is available. Point your browser to www.AveryRanchHOA.com, have your Alliance account number or if you are a renter, your pool card id will allow you access.

Steve Roebuck

President – Avery Ranch Owners Association

GRANITE STREET SIGN SALES TO END SOON

For well over a year, the Social Committee has collected and offered the granite street signs that have been replaced, for sale to Avery Ranch residents. Although we have quite a few left (<http://www.centraltexasgardening.info/arsigns.pdf>), this program has begun to cost more than it is taking in for Social Committee activities. Accordingly, we will be suspending sales by June 30th, so if your street is still available, don't hesitate to purchase this piece of Avery Ranch memorabilia soon. This may be your last chance!

For those who have purchased signs and desire to have the rounded fastening bracket removed, we have found a welding shop that will cut them off for \$5. Ernie's Welding Shop, 6511 Burnet Lane, PH: 459-6346.

All remaining street name signs have been reduced to \$25. Avery A-logo signs remain \$15. Please contact Bob Beyer, AR Social Committee Treasurer at 238-6732 or txbeyer@austin.rr.com to arrange for purchasing these signs.



3000 Joe Dimaggio # 86 Round Rock, TX, 78665
www.roundrockdayspa.com
512.238.0072



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Mention this ad for a \$59 Kids Exam.
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When you receive an email notification that your HOA quarterly statement is ready, you'll need to log-in to the site to confirm your request for electronic billing and this will prevent the mailing of your paper statement.

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To register, contact Alliance for a form by mailing sperez@allianceonline.net or reach them at telephone number 512-347-3001. Ask for a Direct Debit form.

PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS

WANTED: NEED MOM'S HELPER/ NANNY:

We live in the Parkside neighborhood. We are urgently looking for a Nanny/Mom's helper to work for us every weekday between 3pm - 6pm. Job duties will involve: 1. Caring for 10 year old girl at our home; 2. Driving the child to after school activities (using our car); 3. Shopping for the family while the child is at the activity; 4. Monitoring homework; 5. Helping with minor household chores. Must have experience in baby sitting & be proficient in Middle school math & reading. \$9 - \$11 per hour based on Experience. Up to \$700 per month. Thorough background check will be conducted. Interested candidates immediately contact: Chaya Rao - rao_chaya@yahoo.com. Home 512-301-2814. Cell 512-417-3562 .

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HOURS OF
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Mon. - Fri. 9:00 - 5:00
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HOME ON THE RANCH

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

*We have community events because
AR Residents make it happen!*

Join the Avery Ranch Social Committee! Help out your community by getting involved in just one event. If you have a passion for a certain activity, come out to our monthly social committee meeting and let us know. You don't have to attend every meeting all year long. 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 pril.aguren@averyranchhoa.com

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888-687-6444**

Community News

Round Rock New Neighbors is a local organization of women for neighbors new or "old" (been here awhile) from Round Rock and surrounding areas. We hold monthly luncheons with a program and a speaker. We have many "interest groups" and activities and we also do community outreach. Come join us and meet new friends and enjoy our activities. Check out our website at www.rrnewneighbors.org or call Candy Massaglia at 721-5439.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OFFERING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

10625 RR 620, announces Special Worship Service times for Easter Sunday only, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:00 AM. www.peaceaustin.org 512-258-2293

CALL FOR ARTISTS: SPICEWOOD ARTS SOCIETY'S ARTS ROUND-UP

The Spicewood Arts Society is sponsoring its ninth Arts Round-Up Festival of Fine Arts on October 20 & 21, 2012. We encourage applications from central Texas artists who wish to join us in this wonderful fall art festival in the fast growing Spicewood area. The art show will be held on the beautiful grounds surrounding the La Cabana Grill in a grove of live oak trees at 21103 Hwy 71 West in Spicewood. Guest admission is free. Spicewood is an affluent and rapidly growing community with sophisticated art buyers. In addition, Spicewood is just a short drive from Austin, Marble Falls, Horseshoe Bay, Johnson City, Lakeway, Bee Caves, and Oak Hill, providing participating artists the opportunity to exhibit their work to a variety of art patrons. We encourage all artists living or working in Texas to apply.

Artists in all 2-D and 3-D media will display their works in their own tents. All artwork must be original work by the artist. A jury of artists and members of the SAS Board of Directors will select applicants for invitation to participate. The goals for this show are to provide a cost effective venue for artists to display and sell their art and to provide fun for the whole family. Further information about the show and application forms are available at www.SpicewoodArts.org. All applications will be processed through Zapplication.org After logging on to Zapp, search for "Arts Round-Up".

Application Deadline: Tuesday, June 26, 2012.

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Glenfield Avery Ranch



CEDAR PARK CENTER



GLENFIELD MODEL



SWIMMING POOL

A Message from your friend at D.R. Horton

Spring is here, enjoy Life!

.....
We have the wonderful opportunity of having Cedar Park Center just up the road from us that is just one place to enjoy events this April like:

Movies in Park	April 6th
Heritage Festival	April 14th
Cave Day	April 14th
Earth Day	April 22nd

.....
The Avery Ranch Social Committee in conjunction with KASE 101 (FM 100.7) invite you to join this years' BAZAAR, BAZAAR! with "LIVE" broadcast, Saturday, April 21st from 10 am to-2 pm at Avery Main Amenities Center, 10121 Morgan Creek Dr. Attendance is expected to be grand. For more info please send email to: bazaar@averyranchhoa.com

.....
The Brushy Creek Park will start renting canoes and you can laze around the river. For information about the rentals, call (512) 401-5500 or bring your own canoe for a day of fun at the lake.



You are welcome to visit D.R. Horton Model Home located at 14205 Marathon Rd., across from the Glenfield Pool and Basket Ball courts and fly a kite. I have several on hand that you can sign out and use. Call me at 218-4881 and I can reserve them for you.

I have been busy again this month with new neighbors moving in to Avery Ranch. We continue to sell homes at steady pace and values continue to go up with the amazing reputation Avery Ranch has established over the last 11 years.

New Homes Available:

11312 Wyola Bend	1607 sq. ft.	\$225,000
13909 Wyola Bend	2177 sq. ft.	\$229,900
11238 Wyola Bend	2204 sq. ft.	\$250,000
11300 Wyola Bend	2528 sq. ft.	\$263,535

NEW SECTION COMING SOON!

For those who are currently renting in Avery Ranch and want to purchase a NEW HOME, come and see me to find out about the additional incentives for the first TEN BUYERS! Offer expires 4/30/12 and subject to change.



Sales Consultant:
Raquel Atwell • 218-4881
drhorton.com/austin

HOME ON THE RANCH

Are You Protected from Financial Fraud?

Submitted by: Jee Kim, Finance Expert of a local credit union

Did you know Texas is ranked 3rd in the U.S. for states with the highest incidence of financial fraud? We live in a fast-paced society, and it can be easy to get lax about taking proper precautions to protect yourself from




financial fraud. And with scams becoming more and more sophisticated, the chances of falling victim to fraud are higher than ever. Although there are a lot of scams circulating, there are ways to recognize them and avoid the traps. ***Amplify Credit Union offers these tips to help protect your financial and account information:***

- Don't send any financial information by email. Email isn't a secure form of transmission.
- Don't throw away receipts from credit or debit card purchases until you've checked your next statement. This can make it easier to identify where a breach occurred should something suspicious show up.

- If you make purchases online, type in the website URL and be sure it starts with "https" rather than just "http." This indicates the site is secure and encrypts financial information.
- Credit card skimming devices store credit card, debit card and ATM card information when these are used for a legitimate transaction. Thieves then use this information to make fraudulent charges or withdraw cash from the bank account associated with the card. When paying by credit card, don't let the credit card leave your sight. Carefully inspect ATM machines and card readers at gas pumps for skimming devices.
- When shopping, only give information needed to make the purchase.
- It may sound obvious, but keep your wallet or purse secure and in sight at all times.
- Check your account statements and credit report closely.
- If you do fall victim to fraud, report it immediately. It's a good idea to keep a list of your account numbers and contact information for your creditors in a safe place so you can act quickly.

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Legacy We Leave For Our Children

By Sugandha Jain, Master Registered Texas Trainer and Director of Accreditation at a local preschool

Undoubtedly, as parents, we have thought about the money we will leave behind for our children. Have we ever thought about the part of our spirits that we want our children to inherit? Granted, our children are unique individuals. But, we can still leave footprints in the sands of time that will continue to connect us with our children, long after we die.

Our children will learn their own life lessons. But, that should not stop us from modeling survival skills to our children that have helped us handle the struggles of life. We can nurture resilient children by talking to them about our core values through sharing photographs, conversations and dining table games. Our children will learn from us, both consciously and sub-consciously, the skills

that can help them weather the physical and mental storms of life. The time spent in reflecting on what really matters to us and communicating the same to our children can make our bonds with our children richer and more meaningful.

My parents actively reinforced the value of gratitude in me. Being mindful and expressing thankfulness for every experience has attracted many positive forces in my life. Gratitude is the legacy that my parents have left for me. Legacy is a priceless gift that we can pass down to the generations that come after us. Legacy unites us with our ancestors, children and grand-children. Legacy is thinking about what qualities our ancestors have blessed us with, that we will continually strive to transmit in our kin.

It is important to ask ourselves some questions. Which qualities do we value: Humor and Power of laughter; Faith and Spirituality; Forgiveness; Pride; Compassion or something else? Do our children know of our values? What effort am I making in leaving a physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually strong legacy for my children? What difference can I make in the lives of my children in April 2012 through daily affirmations and encouragement?

We leave a legacy when we make a positive impact on our children's souls. This legacy is pure, powerful and long-lasting. Just like wood becomes stronger and harder when immersed in water, our legacy can preserve the resilience of our children.

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— Jude & Ethan's Mom, Primrose Parent

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HOME ON THE RANCH

It's Bambi!

He's tiny, he's cuddly, he's cute, and he seems so alone. He's probably an orphan, like Bambi! You just have to pick him up and take care of him – or at least get a closer look

But he's not alone. Bambi's mother is not far away, and a deer that would otherwise run from a human or a dog will defend her baby if she senses danger. Now is the time to remind your children and neighbors to be deer-smart for the deer's safety and your own.

If you find a fawn, leave it alone. Most white-tail deer fawns are born in May and June in central Texas, but they start to appear as soon as late April. For the first three to four weeks of their lives, the fawns are too small to follow their mothers, and it is normal for

a doe to leave a fawn alone for several hours at a time.

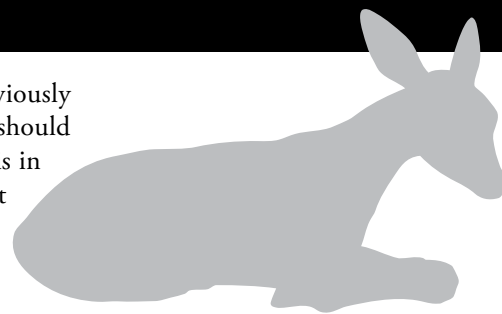
If you find a fawn, do move it or try to rescue it. Most fawns are not orphaned or

abandoned. Unless the fawn is obviously cold, sick or in an unsafe area, it should be left alone. If you think the fawn is in danger, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 472-9453 (472-WILD).

Remind your children to stay away from the deer. Baby animals naturally draw the attention of curious children.

Fawning season in central Texas provides a unique opportunity to teach your children about cycles of life and kindness to animals. Educate your children about the fawning season. Explain to them that the fawns are not abandoned. Teach them that they should stay away from the fawns because the mother is nearby, she will take care of the baby, and the fawn's best chance of survival depends on its being left alone.

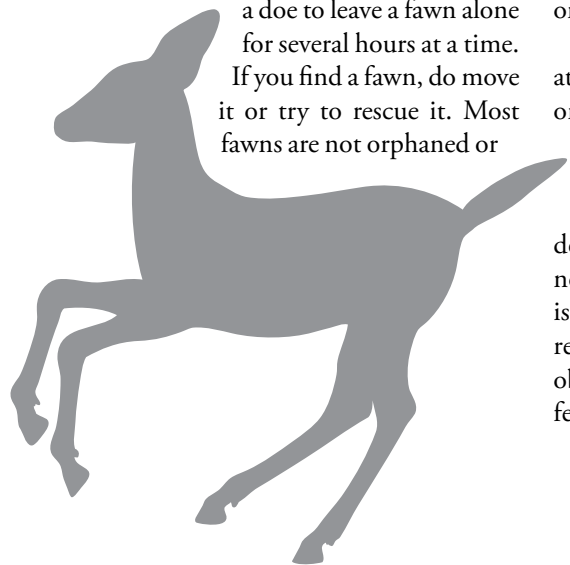
Restrain your dogs. Fawns also draw the attention of curious dogs. Walk your dogs on leash. Standard leashes are better than retractable leashes at this time of year in deer country. Off-leash and unrestrained dogs are a primary cause of conflicts with deer. Use your deer deterrents. If you do not want fawns around your property, now is the time to refresh or activate your deer repellents. Does will not leave fawns in an obviously hostile environment. Mend your fences if you do not like deer.



The fawning season provides an opportunity to experience first-hand the miracle of the cycles of wildlife and appreciate the wildlife we have living among us. DeerAustin is a group of Austin neighbors and animal lovers who are committed to living compatibly with urban wildlife and especially to protecting and preserving Austin's urban deer herds. Visit us at www.deeraustin.org.

Austin Wildlife Rescue, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) charitable organization that rehabilitates and releases orphaned, sick or injured animals and educates the public how to co-exist with wildlife. Learn more or volunteer at www.austinwildliferescue.org.

Austin is a city that values its urban wildlife. The opportunity to interact with deer is a part of what makes Austin a special place to live. Please be deer-smart this spring, enjoy the wildlife, and Keep Austin Deered!



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What is the real purpose of kindergarten?

- Developing self-esteem
- Emphasis on cooperation
- Fostering children's natural love of learning by building on curiosity.



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2012-2013 School Year

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- Afterschool care provided with kinder program.

Call and schedule your visit to learn more.



Are all five year-olds "ready" for kindergarten, and what do I do if my child is not quite ready?

- No two children develop in the same way or at the same time.
- Educators describe the child's development as having four dimensions:
Intellectual
Social
Emotional
Physical
All four do not progress or develop at the same time.

The best schools and teachers understand this and adapt their classroom plans to accommodate the differences among children. If your child's fifth birthday falls near the cutoff date for the school admission, and he or she seems unusually immature compared with others his age, or doesn't seem quite ready to learn in the classroom setting, you might consider postponing kindergarten. Experts recommend waiting a year if you have serious doubts-older children generally do better in school than younger ones.



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Early Packing List: When to Get Travel Vaccinations

**PLANNING AHEAD IS THE KEY TO
SAFE, HEALTHY GLOBE-TROTTING**

*Submitted by Laura Guerrero, M.D., medical director
for The Austin Diagnostic Clinic's Travel Clinic*

There are just a few days to go before your big trip overseas. You've triple checked your itinerary, memorized important maps, and maybe even practiced speaking a bit of the local language. But unless you have taken the proper vaccination measures well in advance, your health may be at risk.

One of the most overlooked to-dos on a busy pre-travel itinerary checklist is the need to get vaccines and other medical preparations taken care of weeks, sometimes even months, before a trip, says Laura Guerrero, M.D., an internal medicine physician and medical director of the Travel Clinic at The Austin Diagnostic Clinic (ADC).

"Depending on where in the world you are going, you may be exposed to diseases and other pathogens that your body just hasn't had to cope with here in the United States. Often, vaccines are the best preventative measure to protect your health," says Dr. Guerrero. "But what people sometimes forget is that many vaccines have to be taken over an extended period of time before they can effectively prevent an illness."

ROUTINE, RECOMMENDED, & REQUIRED VACCINATIONS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) divides travel vaccines into three categories: routine, recommended, and required. Dr. Guerrero says the number and type of vaccines you should receive will vary depending on what part of the world you are traveling to.

"Your particular vaccination and health needs can be as different as the Amazon jungle is to the Sahara desert," says Dr. Guerrero. "The only way to know what vaccinations are recommended for you is by consulting with your doctor at least one month before you plan on traveling abroad."

THE RIGHT VACCINE AT THE RIGHT TIME

Routine vaccinations are designed to protect you from diseases that rarely occur in the United States, but are still common in many parts of the world. According to the CDC, routine vaccinations should be administered for things such as influenza, tetanus, hepatitis A and B, measles, chickenpox, and zoster (shingles).

Exactly what routine vaccinations travelers should get will also depend mainly on your age and gender. And if you are traveling with children, they will likely require different vaccinations than an adult. Infants may need to have their vaccines administered over a period of several days or weeks, explains Dr. Guerrero.

Recommended vaccinations will also depend on where you are traveling. The CDC lists vaccine information about specific

(Continued on Page 17)

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Early Packing List - (Continued from Page 16)

destinations around the world on its website, <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list.htm>. The site includes detailed health information about specific countries.

"We will update your shot record so we know what vaccines you should be receiving," says Dr. Guerrero. "And we will also counsel you about what diseases may be present in your destination, and how you can avoid exposure." As far as required vaccinations go, international health regulations currently only require a vaccination for yellow fever for travelers visiting certain countries in sub-Saharan Africa and tropical South America. Meningococcal vaccination is also required by the government of Saudi Arabia for annual travel during the Hajj—the term for the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, which occurs sometime between November and January.

"Even if you do not get your travel vaccines in time, it's always a good idea to see your doctor before you travel abroad because you can still benefit from medications and other information about how to protect yourself from illness and injury while on vacation in another country," adds Dr. Guerrero.

HEALTHY TIPS WHILE ABROAD

Once you have followed the vaccination schedule exactly, there are many other health considerations to take into account, Dr. Guerrero says. If you are taking prescription medications, for example, make sure you bring enough to last your entire trip and that you keep them stowed in their original containers. It's also a good idea to bring medicine for diarrhea, and to be cautious about drinking from local water supplies or eating things like raw seafood or other uncooked items.

"Part of ensuring a memorable travel experience abroad is making sure you are prepared for any potential health situations," explains Dr. Guerrero. "For example, if you have a preexisting health condition, it's always a good idea to know what your emergency care options are if something were to happen abroad. By taking the proper health planning measures, your trip of a lifetime can be filled with good memories instead of bad ones."

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Austin Newcomers Club APRIL LUNCHEON

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE ZACH?

Founded in 1933 as Austin Civic Theater, ZACH has been a major player in the Austin Theatre and Theatre Education life of this region for almost 80 years. Our speakers this month are Joy Selak, the Board President at ZACH, and Nat Miller, ZACH's Education Director. They will be telling us about the work they do in theatre education and theatre for youth at ZACH as well as working with arts education in the Austin school system. They will also share with us the progress on their new state of the art Topfer Theatre under construction on the expanding campus. Joy has served on ZACH's board for 8 years. Nat recently joined the organization from the Paramount, where he was education director. Nat is also a former high school teacher and received his MFA in Theatre Education from the University of Texas.

WHEN & WHERE

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at Green Pastures Restaurant,
811 West Live Oak Street, pre-payment \$20.00.**

Reservations are required.

TIME

11:30 a.m. socializing, Luncheon begins at noon.

For Luncheon Reservations Email:

LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com

Austin Newcomers Club is a non-profit social and recreational organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. 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. You are invited to attend a morning or evening Welcome Coffee and Orientation. For more information visit the website at: www.AustinNewcomers.com.



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HOME ON THE RANCH

34Th Annual Pecan Street Festival Celebrates Austin This Spring

ENJOY LOCAL ARTISTRY AND MUSIC SATURDAY, MAY 5 AND SUNDAY, MAY 6

The celebrated bi-annual Pecan Street Festival is pleased to announce the Spring 2012 festival will take place on May 5 and 6, 2012 in downtown Austin. The FREE festival features artisans and musicians from all over the U.S. and introduces observers to cultures from around the globe. Festival goers can find paintings, woodwork, candles, jewelry, clothing, home décor other useful and whimsical household items.

This year, the festival aims to encourage green living with the use of recycling programs and organic vendors. It will also promote healthy living by providing fresh food options and a “calorie counting” challenge. Proceeds benefit local city and non-profit organizations, such as The City of Austin and Austin Boxer Rescue in years past. Speaking of pets, the Pecan Street Festival invites Austin residents to bring their four-legged friends for some canine fun, courtesy Austin Pets Alive.



In its 34th year, The Pecan Street Festival is a local tradition that celebrates the city's artistic and diverse culture and commemorates everything “Austin.” From magic shows for the kids to three live music stages for the adults, there is something for everyone to enjoy. This Spring, the Festival is also placing an emphasis welcoming the Hispanic community in conjunction with Cinco de Mayo. Without a

doubt, attending The Pecan Street Festival is the best FREE weekend Austinites can have!

The Pecan Street Festival is the oldest and largest art festival in Central Texas. What started in 1978 as an opportunity for Austin merchants to sell their products has become an Austin tradition that attracts more than 300,000 people every year and generates \$43 million in economic impact. Visit www.oldpecanstreetfestival.com to learn more about the festival.

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APRIL EVENTS *at the Wildflower Center*



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Members Sale, 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 13. Public Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 14 & 15. Choose from nearly 300 hardy and drought-tolerant species. Walks and talks with experts, authors and artists in the store.

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EARTH DAY/ARBOR DAY

1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 21. Ralph Yznaga signs Living Witness: Historic Trees of Texas and more

JEAN ANDREWS LECTURE

Wednesday, April 25. Reception, 7 p.m. Visitors Gallery, Lecture 8 p.m. Auditorium. Mark Blumenthal, executive director of the American Botanical Council speaks on Health Benefits of Popular Herbal Supplements in the U.S. Market: The Safety and Efficacy of Leading Botanical-based Products.
Free admission.

CENTENNIAL GALA

Friday, April 27. Wildflower Center closes at 3 p.m.



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Tips for a Diet that Promotes Healthy Teeth

Of course we all know that a healthy diet is good for our bodies, but did you know that what you eat affects your teeth as well? Here is a list of simple ways you can improve your oral health by paying close attention to your diet. Brushing and flossing are vital to keeping your teeth healthy, but what you eat and drink in between your daily cleaning rituals also plays an important role in your oral health.

Plaque – an invisible, sticky layer of bacteria – regularly coats your teeth. When the starches and sugars present in many foods come into contact with this bacteria, acid is produced. This acid breaks down the enamel that protects the outside of your teeth, and over time can cause tooth decay. If you choose your foods wisely, you can decrease the amount of acid that attacks your teeth. Here are some diet tips for keeping your teeth healthy:

Limit foods and drinks that are high in sugar, like cookies, candies and sodas – remember even unsweetened fruit juices are high in sugar. **Read packaging labels** to find out how much sugar is included, and make educated choices in the products you purchase. **Limit dried fruits**, which are sticky and cling to the teeth – instead, eat fresh fruit, especially apples, which serve as natural tooth cleaners.

Avoid snacks between meals – but if you must snack, replace sugary treats with crackers, cheese, yogurt, nuts, and celery or carrot sticks, which produce less acid. If you do drink sugary liquids (soda, sports drinks, juices), **avoid sipping slowly** over a long period of time as this extends the period that acid attacks your teeth.

If you're a regular coffee or tea drinker, **reduce or eliminate added sugar**. If your

children snack at school, be sure they have **access to healthy snacks** (veggies, fresh fruits, cheese) instead of packaged foods that are high in sugar. If you occasionally treat yourself to a sugary snack, **brush your teeth afterwards** to reduce the acid effect – if you aren't near a toothbrush, **rinse with water or chew a piece of sugarless gum** to stimulate saliva, which helps clean your teeth.

Your diet also affects your overall health, which helps determine how well your body can fight off infection. If you aren't getting certain nutrients, the tissues in your mouth may not be as resistant, leaving you more prone to periodontal (gum) disease.

If you have any questions about your diet and its effect on your oral health, let us know. We'll be happy to guide you toward healthier eating habits.

Submitted by Dr. Flury

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Auto Talk – Ask a Medic

Recently my mechanic said my catalytic converter is defective and has to be replaced. What is a catalytic converter and how does it become defective? A catalytic converter is a device that converts three harmful compounds (hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides) in car exhaust into harmless compounds. Carbon monoxide is a poison for any air-breathing animal. Nitrogen oxides lead to smog and acid rain, and hydrocarbons produce smog. A catalytic converter becomes defective when too much raw fuel enters the exhaust system—causing the metals inside to start imploding. When this happens, severe black exhaust fumes (smells like raw fuel) and/or “bogging down” can happen and causes back pressure on the engine. Your check engine light will illuminate on your vehicle’s dashboard when this occurs.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT CATALYTIC CONVERTER FAILURE? TWO SIMPLE THINGS:

- Make sure your vehicle is tuned up on time; every time. Why? Once the spark plugs become worn, they will not burn fuel optimally—this causes raw fuel to enter and/or collect in the vehicle’s exhaust system.
- Service your cooling system every two years or 30,000 miles (contrary to the manufacturer’s suggestion of five years or 100,000 miles. With wear and tear, your vehicle’s cooling system thermostat may be sticking “open,” causing continuous flow of coolant—never allowing the engine to reach its full operating temperature the majority of the time. The driver will never see this issue on the gauge. It’s a minute problem that will cause severe issues to the catalytic converter later down the road. If the vehicle continuously stays cool, the computer wants to dump more fuel in the engine than what is really needed. This again allows raw fuel to enter the exhaust thereby causing catalytic converter failure.

Tommy Bludworth is an ASE certified technician with more than 15 years experience. Advice and recommendations given are for your convenience. You should see a qualified, professional when having any automotive repairs made on your vehicle.

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Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in Home on the Ranch? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to arnewsletter@hotmail.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



REGISTER FOR SUMMER & FALL

OPENINGS STILL AVAILABLE - CALL FOR DETAILS

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Get Recent Sale & Current Home Inventory

Market Update

Active Listings 40

Pending Sales 33

Avg Days on Market 57

Avg List \$ vs. Sold \$ 98%

Recently Sold

- 11609 Mcdows Hole Ln
- 11725 Springs Head Loop
- 10924 Quarry Oaks Trl
- 16621 Fowler Mill Cv
- 9608 Castle Pines Dr
- 15317 Fernhill Dr
- 15605 Bandon Dr

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- **Cancel Anytime Agreement**
- **FREE Move Up Program**
- **Lease Buy Out Program**
- **Creative Financing Expert**
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