Brookside • Casitas • Champions • Creekside • Enclave Granite Shoals • Glenfield • Greens Highlands • Landing • Morningside Overlook • Parkside • Reserve • Waters Edge • Westchester



#### June 2012

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AVERY RANCH HOA

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Volume 6, Issue 6

## Board of Directors: Call For Candidates

Every year at our Annual Meeting, we hold elections to fill seats on the Board of Directors of the Avery Ranch Owners' Association (the HOA). All homeowners are members of the HOA. The Board consists of 11 members, which are elected by the resident and developer members of the association. Terms for each position are for three years, and each year different positions 'expire' and are put up for election. This, year we have four positions that are expiring, plus we have a fifth position that needs to be filled due to a resignation. That fifth position has one year remaining on it.

If you would like to run for the Board, please consider submitting a brief, one page campaign statement for the July newsletter. The deadline to submit your statements is June 12th, 2012. Email your statements or questions to gethelp@averyranchhoa.com.

You do not have to make a campaign statement in the newsletter to run for the Board, but it is easier to get residents to know who you are.

# AVERY RANCH HAWAIIAN LUAU

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### Save the date for an ADULT Summer Social event – a Hawaiian Luau!

Come dressed in your best Luau attire and join us on Saturday, June 16th. The Granite Pool area will exclusively be used just for this event, so the pool will BE CLOSED for other resident activities during this period.

Food will be provided by the Avery Ranch Social Committee (Pineapple Mango Chicken Kabobs, Lime Mint Rice, Pulled Pork, Fresh Fruit, etc.). This event will be BYOB, but free set-ups will be provided (soda, some mixers). Since glass containers are strictly prohibited in the pool area, we will have a bartender on hand to keep any glass bottles you bring and refresh/mix your drinks in plastic cups.

There will also be a DJ for your listening/dancing pleasure.

In addition, there will be karaoke contests. Prizes will be awarded for the best female, best male, best mixed group, best all male group, best all female group, best duet, etc. It's all in fun, so mark your calendars for June 16th, and enjoy a TROPICAL EVENING with your Avery Ranch neighbors!

Please RSVP to Luau@AveryRanchHOA.com.

## **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

#### **EMERGENCY NUMBERS**

EMERGENCY	
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	

#### SCHOOLS

#### ROUND ROCK ISD

Patsy Sommer Elementary	
	16200 Avery Ranch Blvd.
Cedar Valley Middle School	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	8139 Racine Trail
McNeil High School	

#### LEANDER ISD

Rutledge Elementary	
	11501 Staked Plains Dr.
Henry Middle School	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Vista Ridge High School	

#### UTILITIES

City of Austin Water	
Perdernales Electric	

#### TEXAS GAS SERVICE

Custom Service Emergencies Call Before You Dig	
AT&T	
New Service	
Repair	
Billing	
TIME WARNER CABLE	
Customer Service	
Repairs	
Solid Waste Servies	

## **NEWSLETTER INFO**

#### EDITOR

Rona Quejada.....ARNEWS@AveryRanchHOA.com

#### PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	
Advertising	. advertising@peelinc.com

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

#### PRESIDENT

Steve Roebuck.....steveroe@AveryRanchHOA.com

#### VICE PRESIDENT

Khris Mire ......khrismire@AveryRanchHOA.com

#### SECRETARY

April Aguren ...... april.aguren@averyranchhoa.com **TREASURER** 

#### Marc Boucher ....... marcboucher@AveryRanchHOA.com

#### **RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER**

Pat Wimberly.. PatWimberly@AveryRanchHOA.com.com

#### **RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER**

Lance Goldsmith .....b.lance.goldsmith@gmail.com

#### **RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER**

Mike Steinkoenig....msteinkoenig@AveryRanchHOA.com

#### **RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER**

David Dziadziola ...... zadz2@hotmail.com

#### **RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER**

Steven Pierce.....

#### **RESIDENT BOARD MEMBER**

Robert Cummings .....

#### D.R. HORTON

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

Note: Due to vacancies on the board, residents Steven Pierce and Robert Cummings have been appointed to serve until the Annual meeting, at which time, the board will have 5 positions up for election.

#### **AVERY RANCH HOA WEBSITE**

Visit the Avery Ranch HOA website at AveryRanchHOA.com

#### FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

For questions or concerns in your neighborhood contact our Property Manager and HOA Board at GetHelp@ AveryRanchHOA.com.





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# CALENDAR

#### HOA MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

#### Next meeting - Monday, June 11th

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:

#### Kids' Summer Cooking Program

June 11 to 14, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the MAC Space is limited to 16 participants. See article for more information

#### Summer Social: Adult Luau

New Avery Ranch Community Event!

Saturday June 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Granite Shoals community pool on Staked Plains Loop. See article on front page for more information. Please RSVP to Luau@AveryRanchHOA.com.

#### Avery Ranch Landscape and Garden Clinic

Thursday, June 21st from 7-8:30 p.m. (Monthly activity) Main Amenity Center (MAC)

Master Gardener Bob Beyer and landscape professional Lisa LaPaso offer free landscape advice.

#### Independence Day Fireworks

Pre-Fireworks Entertainment from 5 p.m. until Fireworks Show. Saturday, July 3rd at the Main Amenity Center. We're cooking some All-American Hotdogs. Chips, drinks and ice cream will be on sale too! Cash purchases only.

#### **Avery Ranch Water Aerobics**

Lessons will be held Monday and Wednesday beginning June 4 from 8 to 8:45 a.m. at the MAC pool, 10121 Morgan Creek

Drive (Morningside) There will be 4 sessions, 8 classes per session at the cost of \$20/session.Aqua Fitness: Medium to high intensity workouts. Each class completes cardiovascular work, along with toning, flexibility and abdominal work. All levels welcome, you can work at your own pace. You must be an Avery Ranch resident to register and participate. Call Twin Lakes Family YMCA at 512-250-9622 for details.

#### **Registration for Avery Ranch Summer Swim Lessons**

Lessons will be held at the MAC pool, 10121 Morgan Creek Drive (Morningside) Registration at Twin Lakes Family YMCA, located at 204 E. Little Elm Trail, Cedar Park, Texas 78613. Ongoing 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.

.....



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 <u>ARNEWS@AveryRanchHOA.</u> <u>com</u>. 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.





We specialize in medical care for the entire family.



Elizabeth S. Neal, MD Board Certified Family Medicine Both physicians are currently accepting patients at our newest clinic located at North Vista Ridge Blvd. & 1431, by HEB & Home Depot

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Lee Keegan, MD Board Certified Pediatric Medicine

## Visit Estância Churrascaria Brazilian Steakhouse at The Arboretum:

#### Austin's first Authentic Brazilian Steakhouse



desired temperature and sliced tableside by gaucho chefs.

Austin's first authentic Brazilian steakhouse welcomes North Austin diners to their new location at The Arboretum, bringing the rich culture and flavorful cuisine of Southern Brazil to the North side. **Estância Churrascaria**, the fine-dining steakhouse known for its skewer-grilled meats, extensive salad bar and a genuine Brazilian experience is now located on the corner of Great Hills and 183 Hwy in the Arboretum, an expansive, 300 seating fine-dining restaurant set in a casual, inviting atmosphere.

An authentic Brazilian dining extravaganza, Estância is known for having the largest selection of tableside-sliced meats in Austin, more than 14 cuts of savory meats, skewer-grilled to guests'

Featured meats include Picanha (a popular sirloin cut seasoned with sea salt and also with garlic), Costela (slow-cooked, juicy beef ribs), Cordeiro (leg of lamb sliced from the bone and lamb chops), Linguica (traditional slow-roasted pork sausage), and Frango (slow-roasted chicken legs seasoned to perfection and tender chicken breast wrapped in bacon).

The restaurant's salad bar offers dozens of fresh produce items, as well as imported cheeses, aged salami and prosciutto, and other chilled meat varieties, all served alongside traditional Brazilian side dishes like polenta, garlic mashed potatoes, rice and beans, golden-fried bananas and heavenly homemade cheese bread rolls. A menu for everyone, Estância is guaranteed to win the praises of steak lovers and vegetarians alike. Estância Churrascaria also features an impressive wine list comprised of hand-selected wines from the best growing regions throughout the world. From Napa Valley and Sonoma County, to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, France, Italy and Australia, Estância's extensive selection of wines were chosen to perfectly complement the restaurant's authentic cuisine.

The restaurant's distinctive bar is perfect for happy hour, or a cocktail before dinner. Estancia's expert bartenders serve a **variety of cocktails and after-dinner drinks**, including the best *Caipirinha*, and the national cocktail of Brazil – in all of Austin. Prepared **with lime**, **sugar-cane rum called** *cachaça*, **sugar and ice cubes the result is a refreshing**, **slightly tart cocktail unlike any other**, perfect for the summer days ahead. Diners of all ages are welcomed at Estância Churrascaria. Children five years and under are complimentary and children six years to ten years are half price, (beverages, desserts, tax, and gratuity are additional). Senior diners will appreciate the senior discount rate of available on Mondays and Tuesdays every week, beginning at 5pm and available all night long.

Estância Churrascaria is also the ideal choice for hosting your special event. Whether a business luncheon, a charity social, or any other occasion, your guests will appreciate the dedicated space in the restaurant and the premier service that the Estância staff extends to special parties. With multiple dining rooms that can accommodate intimate dinner parties as well as gatherings of up to 80 people, available, the restaurant provides the perfect place to host your event.



Estância Churrascaria is located at 10000 Research Blvd. in The Arboretum and is open daily for lunch and dinner service. For more information about Estância Churrascaria or to make a reservation or book a private party, please call (512) 345.5600, or visit www.EstanciaChurrascaria.com.

### Have you received a violation notice?

If you cannot remedy the problem within 15 days, please give Alliance a call. In most cases they are happy to give you an extension depending upon your circumstances. Doing this will save you the frustration of receiving a second violation notice.

### Do you enjoy Neighborhood Events?

You can help support the Social Committee by donating via PayPal under the Payments tab at www.AveryRanchHOA.com.





### **Kids Summer Cooking Program** at the MAC

By Steve Roebuck, ARHOA President

In our continuing effort to provide quality activities for our residents, we have contracted Lori's Culinary Co. to put on a Summer Cooking Camp for children ages 5 to 10 years old. The summer program will run from June 11 to 14th, from 2 to 5 p.m. It will be held at the Main Amenity Center, 10121 Morgan Creek Drive.



Register early, class size is limited to 16. Secure your spot by contacting the cooking school through this link: http://txcookingschool.com/ pages/summer-kids-camps.php

To learn more about Lori's Culinary Co. check their website at www.txcookingschool.com.



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## Message From The President

#### PAY PAL PARTNERSHIP:

It is now possible to pay for your pool pavilion rentals using PayPal. After you verify with Alliance that the date and time are available, you should submit the contract, then proceed to www.AveryRanch HOA.com and select Payments. You will also find the opportunity to contribute to the Social Activities of the community.

#### FACEBOOK PAGE:

We now have an Official Facebook Presence. Here you can find HOA Announcements, and get questions answered from board members. Facebook is a public forum. If you'd like to maintain privacy, you can always contact board members via email at their addresses listed in this newsletter.

#### **POOL PAVILION RENTALS:**

We have added that ability to rent half of the Main Pavilion at the MAC. Now people have a place to have smaller parties and still have access to a charcoal pit, shade and 4 picnic tables. No deposits required if using Pay Pal.

#### LORI'S COOKING SCHOOL:

is taking applications for children grades K-5, being held at the

Main Amenity Center during June. More info at 512-592-0636, or check out www.txcookingschool.com

#### SWIMMING LESSONS:

There's still time to register for swimming lessons at the MAC. Call the Twin Lakes YMCA (512-250-9622), or check out our website for info.

#### WEB SITE:

Use your Alliance Account Number to register at www. AveryRanchHOA. This will allow you into the private side of our web where you can find your account history and much more. This is where you can download the forms required for pavilion rental and construction projects.

#### **ANNUAL MEETING:**

Will be in August. There are several Board Positions up for election. If you are considering a volunteer position to serve your community, now is the time to publish your desire and qualifications for inclusion in the July newsletter. Contact arnews@AveryRanchHOA to publish an article. Check with a board member and attend the second Monday meetings at the MAC for more information.

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# Glenfield Avery Ranch





**GLENFIELD MODEL** 

#### SUMMER TIME!

A Message from your friend at D.R. Horton

Spring has Sprung and we are rushing into the Summer of 2012!

It's so nice to see neighbors enjoying the community pools! Summer brings a busy Home Buying season. Real Estate is a cyclical business. We can count on more homes on the market this time of year! Year after year we see more people moving to Austin. The summer business is driven by the kids school schedule.

Parents everywhere plan their move around their kids school year and hope to make a buying decision during the summer time. I can tell you that nothing is more true than what I have been experiencing in New Home Sales for the Month of April and already now in the month of May.

I've run out of homes in the Glenfield 3-2 section. I have just a few homes left in my inventory. Fortunately D.R. Horton has kept developing in Glenfield due to the success of Avery. We now have section 3-3 ready for building! I will start with about 42 lots and build inventory homes for an August - September completion date.

I am meeting with several of you that have either been been renting or have a need for a different home. I've have seen new residents moving to Texas from all over the country!



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

Our homes in Glenfield 3-3 will be ranging from the the low \$220,000 to the \$280's we have made some changes to our plans, we have been listening to what is important in today's market to homebuyers of all ages!

If you are not going to sell your home, you will be glad to hear that our home prices have continued to go up in the last few months by an average of \$5,000 to 8,000 and they are appraising favorably. If you are selling then you will also be glad to see your investment has gone up in time for you to sell this summer. People continue to see the convenience, accessibility and the quality of lifestyle herein in the #1 community, Avery Ranch!

Here are the most recent closings in Glenfield

The Cortez	2177 sq. ft.	\$229,500
The Balboa	2204 sq. ft.	\$254,350
The Lily	2204 sq. ft.	\$254,000

Be sure to check our Newsletter next month to see even more closings that will reflect the increase in home values. Please do not hesitate to call me if you have questions about the market in Avery Ranch.

Please call me if you are renting in Avery Ranch and would like to find out how to own! We can make it easy to become a Homeowner in the neighborhood you already love!



### 2012 Avery Ranch Swim & Water Aerobics Lessons

Pool Location: Avery Ranch MAC Pool (Morningside), 10121 Morgan Creek Drive, Austin TX 78717

#### Dear Avery Ranch Residents,

Welcome to the 2012 Twin Lakes Aquatics Season located at the MAC Avery ranch resident p[pool. We are pleased to announce that over 230 Avery Ranch kids went through our swim lesson program in 2011. Some kids learned how to swim for the first time and others expanded on their current skills.

In partnership with the Avery Ranch HOA, Twin Lakes YMCA offers the following lessons for this summer:

#### \*Beginner to Advanced Swimming Lessons (Age 3 - 12)

2 Week Sessions Mon-Thurs. AM session (8 classes per session/ each class is 45 minutes long) 4 Week Sessions Tues. & Thurs. PM session (8 classes per session/ each class is 45 minutes long) Swim Lesson Class Descriptions can be viewed at http://bit.ly/zmJq30

\**Shallow Water Aerobics* – Aqua Fitness, medium to high intensity workouts. Each class completes cardiovascular work, along with toning, flexibility and abdominal work. You may work at your own pace, all levels welcome.

\**Private Lessons (Ages 3 - 12)* (Please see Twin Lakes YMCA website for details and prices) You must be an Avery Ranch resident to register and must show proof at the time of registration to sign up for any of the swim and water aerobics lesson sessions. However, you do not have to be a member of the YMCA to register. Registration will take place at the Twin Lakes Family YMCA, space is limited. You do not have to be a member of the YMCA to register. Lessons begin June 4th.

Please refer to the registration sheet for date, time, and price that can be found at http:// bit.ly/wKdINb (Swim Lesson Registration Form). Information on the Avery Ranch Swim and Water Aerobics lessons can also be found at www.ymcagwc.org located under the Twin Lakes location tab under Aquatics.

YMCA swim program has been teaching people to swim for more than a century. In YMCA aquatics programs, children learn to be safe around water and they feel the sense of accomplishment that comes with learning something new. It uses a problem-solving, guideddiscovery teaching approach in a positive, caring environment. Kids can develop lifelong skills that can help them stay healthy. All instructors are YMCA swim lesson certified as well as CPR & AED trained.

We look forward to seeing you this summer for another great aquatic season! Sincerely,

Abby Stowers, Aquatics Director of Twin Lakes Family YMCA

### Avery Ranch Landscape and Garden Clinic

Every third Thursday of each month, the HOA is sponsoring a Landscaping and Garden Clinic at the MAC meeting room. These informative gatherings are led by Bob Beyer, Travis County Master Gardener, and Lisa LaPaso, a landscape designer who volunteer their time to help others learn about how to landscape within HOA guidelines, care for, and create gardens that help beautify our community.

Topics cover a wide variety of subjects – anything horticultural in nature and the floor is always open to receive and try to answer questions.

We have begun having half hour presentations on a topic of gardening interest at each Clinic. We may even invite guest speakers.

Please come join us every third Thursday, meet your neighbors who share gardening interests, and learn about how to save money yet be able to maintain an environmentally friendly landscape.

Questions about the Clinic? Contact Bob Beyer at centraltexasgardening@ austin.rr.com or Lisa LaPaso at lisalapaso@yahoo.com for more information.



## OK to Trim Oak Trees as of June 1<sup>st</sup>

by Patty Hoenigman, Oak Wilt Specialist

Have you heard of Oak Wilt Disease? It's a fungus that is known for killing trees in the Red Oak family within 4 weeks of contamination. Imagine Avery Ranch without its oak trees!

Oak Wilt disease is spread by the nitidulid beetle that is most active in the cool spring months. That's why we are advised not to make any cuts in oak trees from February 1st - June 1st. So, as of June 1st it's okay to begin pruning your oaks again.

The same caution always applies, that whenever you make a cut or have an open wound on an oak tree, you should always paint it over within 10 minutes. Any kind of paint will do, including spray paint. Most people use black latex paint which is easy to clean up. Since these beetles can smell the sap from a mile away and are drawn to it as a food source, the faster you paint your wound, the more you are protecting your tree.

Remember to spray your pruning tools with Lysol disinfectant spray when you begin your job and before using it on a second tree

to prevent cross-contamination. Alcohol is a good disinfectant too, but since it is known to corrode metal, the Lysol disinfectant is a better choice. You can buy it at HEB.

Symptoms for Oak Wilt Disease begin at the tops of trees and outer most edges of the canopy, so get in the habit of looking way up at your trees to see what is going on. If you see a brown or yellowing patch of leaves at an outer edge, this may be Oak Wilt disease and you should act quickly to be in touch with someone who can diagnose the disease. Many tree diseases don't have a treatment, but fortunately there is a treatment which is recommended, though not 100% effective at treating Oak Wilt.

We don't have any Oak Wilt disease in Avery Ranch yet, and by keeping a close watch on our trees we are all helping to keep it this way.

If you have a concern about your trees, you can call the Agri-Life Extension Office at 943-3300.



### **Bazaar! Bazaar!**

by Jean Mayo, ARSC chairperson

On Saturday April 21st, the Avery Ranch Social Committee held Bazaar! Bazaar! on the Main Amenity Center grounds from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. There were over 40 vendors to satisfy one's shopping needs. Along with that were many food vendors. The weather was pleasant and many residents came out to browse and shop.

KASE radio station was present with the Cash Cow for give-a-ways.

This year we separated the Egg Hunt with child events from the Bazaar to cater to the vendors exclusively. All in all, the event was well received.



# **Prescreened Offers**

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#### "You've been preapproved for a new credit card from XYZ Company!"

More than likely, you've received prescreened offers like this in your mailbox several times a week. Much of the "junk mail" we get comes from companies sending these offers, which are based on qualifying criteria (such as your credit score) that they have obtained from the major credit bureaus.

While these prescreened credit inquiries don't harm credit scores, they can add up to a cluttered mailbox. There's also an increased likelihood of identity theft if someone were to pick up your discarded prescreened solicitations. There are options to reduce or permanently opt out of receiving prescreened offers.

- Opt out for five years: Call 1-888-5-OPT-OUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit www.OptOutPrescreen.com
- **Opt out permanently:** You must confirm your request in writing by signing and mailing in the Permanent Opt-Out Election Form, available at www.OptOutPrescreen.com

When you call the toll free number or visit the optout website, you'll be prompted to provide personal information such as your name, home phone, Social Security number and date of birth. This information will only be used to complete your opt-out request.





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Vice President/Senior Loan Officer NMLS 208645

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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.



## AVERY RANCH GRANITE STREET SIGN SALES

LAST CHANCE!

Named street sign sales will be suspended June 30th indefinitely so if you have thought about purchasing them (if available), please contact Bob Beyer at txbeyer@austin.rr.com or 512-238-6732.

The price has been reduced to \$25 with some streets reduced to \$20 where surpluses exist. The list of available signs is posted at www. centraltexasgardening.info/arsigns.pdf.

The classic "A" logo signs will remain available for purchase at \$15 each.





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South Austin 2500 William Cannon Suite 409 Austin, TX 78745 (512) 852-8434

Round Rock 7200 Wyoming Springs Suite 400 Round Rock, TX 78681 (512) 255-6334

North Central 9185 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78758 (512) 339-2800

## NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU...

What events would you like to have in Avery Ranch? Let us know. Contact our Avery Ranch Social Committee Chairperson Jean Mayo at jmayo002@ austin.rr.com

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### **Animal Shelter Seeking Pet Owners**

By Williamson County Commissioner Lisa Birkman

Typically the Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter (WCRAS) admits 200 to 400 cats and kittens monthly from spring through early fall. That could be why June was officially named Adopt-A-Shelter Cat Month! It is obvious to see why cats need a good home, but did you ever stop to think why you might need a cat?

There are many documented benefits of having a household pet. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pets can decrease your blood pressure, cholesterol levels, triglyceride levels and feelings of loneliness. They also can increase opportunities for exercise and socialization. According to the online medical resource WebMD, research has shown the long-term benefits specifically of owning a cat include protection for your heart. One study conducted over a 20 year period found that people who never owned a cat were 40% more likely to die of a heart attack than those who had. In fact, the study found that, overall, pet owners have a lower risk of dying from any cardiac disease.

Due to the large number of cats and kittens available during this time, the shelter has made cat adoptions very affordable. Currently, the shelter offers the adoption of cats over 1 year old for \$25.00, single cats or kittens under 1 year of age for \$50.00 or two for just \$75.00. This adoption special will extend though September. The adoption fee includes spayed/ neutered surgery, a microchip, a license if you live in Williamson County,

vaccinations and testing for feline leukemia. In addition, on Whisker Wednesdays, from noon to 6 p.m., all cats 1 year and older will be available for adoption at NO COST to approved applicants!

If you might be traveling over the summer and are not ready to take on the full-time responsibility of a pet, then fostering a pet might be the best option for you. Being a foster home greatly assists the shelter in saving lives. Many of the kittens that are brought to the shelter are too young to be adopted and need a couple of weeks in a loving, safe environment to mature and gain social skills. Still others are too young to even eat on their own and need around the clock care and feeding. Fostering animals from a shelter can be a very rewarding experience. Many of our foster families tell us it is a wonderful learning experience for their children to receive valuable lessons in responsibility rewarded by the benefit the animals gain from all the attention. Once animals are old enough to be adopted, they are returned to the shelter to find their forever families.

Another simple way to help reduce the number of unwanted cats and kittens is to spay and neuter your own cat and encourage others to do the same. Even if your cat only goes outside occasionally, there is a chance of an unwanted litter. For stray cats that hang out in your neighborhood, look into the Trap, Neuter, and Return (TNR) programs. WCRAS offers *(Continued on Page 15)* 

## CONSIDERING SELLING YOUR HOME?

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#### Animal Shelter Seeking Pet Owners

(Continued from Page 14)

clinics for free spay/neutering of free-roaming cats.

The WCRAS attempts to place all the adoptable animals in good homes and provide medical care and some rehabilitation to those animals who need some minimal assistance before being placed for adoption. The overall save rate for both dogs and cats during the month of April was 94%. For more information about fostering or adopting from WCRAS or TNR, please visit their website, www.wilcopets.org, to fill out an application or contact the shelter at 512-943-3322. The shelter is located at 1855 S.E. Inner Loop in Georgetown.



### 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, even 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 april.aguren@averyranchhoa.com.

# Why choose Primrose<sup>®</sup>? Just ask a mom.

<sup>44</sup> My children are learning things I never imagined they could learn at this point in their lives. My preschooler can write his name and recite his alphabet and numbers. I also have a 15-month old who is learning his shapes and colors. It's just amazing how much Primrose is teaching my children.<sup>11</sup> — Jude & Ethan's Mom. Primrose Parent

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### Summer Car Maintenance Tips

Submitted by Jim & Ashley Withers

Summertime is travel time. Before hitting the road this summer, do some checks on your vehicle. Here we have listed several simple precautions to keep your family safe and save money at the pump.

**Check all fluids** including engine oil, power steering, brake and transmission, as well as windshield washer solvent and antifreeze/coolant. Most importantly, oil is the lifeblood of your car. It keeps hardworking engine parts running clean, smooth and cool.

**Check the hoses and belts** that can become cracked, brittle, frayed, loose or show signs of excessive wear. These are critical to the proper functioning of the electrical system, air conditioning, power steering and the cooling system.

**Check the tires** including tire pressure and tread. Uneven wear indicates a need for wheel alignment. Tires should also be checked for bulges and bald spots. When tires aren't inflated properly its like driving with the parking brake on. Keep your tires inflated to the level recommended in your owner's manual.

**Maintain Your Air Conditioning** to survive the hot Texas summers. The most common cause of a malfunctioning air conditioning unit is a low level of refrigerant. This could be caused buy a leak somewhere in the system. Since modern air conditioning systems are complicated creatures, it's best to have a professional check out the problem.



**Change the Air Filter** to help with fuel efficiency. The recommended interval is every 12,000 miles, but that can be affected by the particular road and air conditions in which you drive. A clogged air filter can really lower your fuel efficiency. Replacing a dirty or clogged air filter can improve gas mileage by as much as 10 percent.





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### **Fuel your Child's Creativity** Quotient

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

The impact of a high creativity quotient (CQ) is evident even among the top management in business. Results from 2010 IBM Global CEO study reveal that highly effective CEO's place the greatest emphasis on creative leadership. In order to achieve top results, CEO's are not fearful of experimenting. These CEO's lead the new generation by continually thinking of new ways and fresh approaches.

However, the sad reality is that creativity scores have been decreasing in children since 1990. In their book, The Creativity Crisis: New Thinking about children, authors Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, cite evidence on how creative quotient in children has plummeted.

As parents, we have to ask ourselves some tough questions. Is our education system so hyper-focused on testing that we are squeezing out the innate creativity of our children? Are we pushing our children so hard that we are leaving no room for creativity? What can we do to turn things around?

The good news is that creativity can be nurtured and learned. Exposing children to a creative environment can assist in enhancing their CQ. Creativity training actually changes brain function. It creates new neurons in key parts of the brain and builds new connections between these neurons.

So, what is the recipe for sparking creativity in children? The right amount of sleep, nutrition and avoiding pessimism can work wonders. Positive thinking is so powerful that it can attract unimaginable successful results in a person's life. Teaching children to trust themselves is a vital ingredient as creativity comes from trusting your instincts.

Asking "What if" questions to your children can increase their CQ. Leo Burnett says that curiosity about life in all of its aspects is the secret of great creative people. Solving open-ended problems also nurtures creativity. Parents and children who work together to solve challenging problems gain understanding on mastering uncomfortable feelings that these problems present.

Families that create together stay together!

## Travel the World without Leaving Your Hometown By Heather Wells

Who hasn't dreamed about walking among the Egyptian pyramids, or soaking in the sun on a beach in Spain, or wandering along the Great Wall of China? Every parent wants to give their children a taste of the world, but the economic reality of international air travel for a family, not to mention hotels, passports and food, makes it tough for most of us to consider except in our daydreams.

There is a way to give your children the world - without leaving your living room. How? Host a foreign exchange student from a country you've always admired! Fascinated by France? Curious about China? Intrigued by India? By welcoming an international student from one of these countries into your home, you instantly open a portal to a far off land.

"My husband and I have been hosting for the past three years and have enjoyed every minute of it!" said Vicki Odom, an Ayusa host mom from Pearland, Texas. "The various students we've had in our home have taught us a great deal about their home countries."

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English - and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

"We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes - families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families," says Connie Coutu, Regional Manager of Ayusa, a non-profit that promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. "The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture."

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

"Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience – for the student, the host family, and the host community," says Coutu. "There is no better way to teach your children about the world around them than through welcoming an international high school student into your home."

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2012 - 2013 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

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- June 16: Colin's Hope Got2Swim the Pure Austin Quarry

July 21: UltiFit Challenge #2 at Reveille Peak Ranch

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September 16: Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon - registration opens June 1st

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