

# THE VILLAGE

## *Gazette*™

"It takes a Village..."

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NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES AT WESTERN OAKS AND LEGEND OAKS I

## Mills Elementary wins Beautification Grant

Mills Elementary School was recently awarded a grant from Keep Austin Beautiful to create an outdoor reading area at the front of the school just outside the library, and to begin restoration on an eroded hill on Davis Lane that has become an eyesore for the entire area. The projects will involve planting native trees, shrubs, plants, grasses, and wildflowers. The reading area will also include benches and a path to the library. The Austin Independent School District has helped tremendously in improving the grounds on campus over the last year, but this grant will enable the school to go that next step in beautifying the area for the entire neighborhood.

Want to help? The school is looking for community volunteers to assist with the projects. Work days will be held monthly beginning in October. If you are interested, please send an email to [rwaustin123@gmail.com](mailto:rwaustin123@gmail.com).



## New and Improved Irrigation Rebate Makes Debut

by Jacob Johnson, LI 17528

*Austin Water  
Conservation Program Specialist*

Austin Water recently revised the irrigation upgrade rebate program to make participation easier than ever. Residential Austin Water and eligible wholesale customers no longer need an irrigation evaluation by Austin Water prior to beginning any rebated work. So instead of just fixing your irrigation system, upgrade it!

The rebate program is for existing irrigation systems only; rebates will not be given for new systems and/or expansions. A licensed irrigator or the homeowner must complete the work that will be rebated. Once the work is complete, submit the completed application and itemized receipt within 30 days. Staff may perform a post-project inspection to verify the completed work. The application can be found online and will always contain up-to-date information about the program: [www.austintexas.gov/departments/water-conservation-residents](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/water-conservation-residents)

### Items eligible for rebate:

1. Rain sensor or soil moisture sensor (up to \$50): rain sensors and soil moisture sensors detect moisture and will shut off the irrigation system until the sensor dries out.
2. Pressure Regulating Valve—"PRV" (up to \$100): Misting or fogging in an irrigation system is often a sign of excessive operating pressure. A pressure regulator on the irrigation mainline helps decrease misting, makes spray patterns easier to control and extends the life of your irrigation components.
3. Pressure Regulating Components other than a PRV (up to \$100): A pressure regulating valve on the irrigation mainline is a way to control system-wide high pressure. However, not all stations are created equal. If only some stations are operating at

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency .....	512-974-0845

### SCHOOLS

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Austin .....	512-414-2505
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### UTILITIES

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City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing) .....	512-494-9400
Emergency .....	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service .....	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency .....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing .....	512-219-2602
Problems .....	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service .....	1-800-288-2020
Repair .....	1-800-246-8464
Billing .....	1-800-288-2020
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Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

### OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles .....	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged .....	512-974-2000
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# Austin Newcomers Club



Austin Newcomers is dedicated to introducing new residents to Austin while extending a hand to make new acquaintances and join fun Interest Groups. Our speaker this month is Master Gardener Velia Sanchez-Ruiz, a native Texan who specializes in daylilies, a perennial plant of the genus *Hemerocallis*, also known as “the perfect perennial.” She also does Ikebana –the intricate Japanese art of flower arranging, and creative design. Velia is a retired public school health and physical education teacher, achieving her Master Gardener

status in 2003. Her talk is sure to inspire Austin gardeners.

The monthly luncheon will be held on Wednesday, November 14 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 Live Oak St, Austin TX 78704. The luncheon is \$20 per person; reservations are required, and payment must be received by Thursday, October 11.

The club website is [www.AustinNewcomers.com](http://www.AustinNewcomers.com) and the telephone number is (512) 314-5100.



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## GET YOUR KIDS INTO THE GAME

The Southwest YMCA helps kids learn about developing healthy habits. The benefits are far greater than physical health. Whether it's gaining the confidence that comes from learning to swim or building the positive relationships that lead to good sportsmanship and teamwork, participating in programs at the Y is about **building the whole child from the inside out.**

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 6219 Oakclaire Dr. & Hwy 290  
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\* Basketball thru Nov. 11



**YOUTH SPORTS  
 REGISTRATION  
 OPEN THRU DECEMBER\***

# THE VILLAGE GAZETTE

## *Irrigation Rebate (Continued from Cover Page)*

excessive pressure, you may choose to install pressure regulation components at the individual station valve or even change out those heads to pressure compensating heads. If using pressure compensating heads, the entire station must be converted.

4. Conversion from spray to multi-stream multi trajectory nozzles (\$4 per nozzle, up to \$100; entire station must be converted): Multi-stream, multi- trajectory nozzles have a spray pattern that looks like rotating spider legs. This spray pattern results in higher distribution uniformity and is less susceptible to wind drift. This rebate is perfect for mid to large turf stations.

5. Conversion of station to drip (up to \$50; must include filtration and pressure regulation): Well designed and installed drip systems are extremely efficient. Drip applies water directly to the soil at a very low rate. However, to operate correctly, drip stations need filtration to prevent clogs and a form of pressure regulation to bring operating pressure into range for the drip emitters. The current code exempts drip from watering restrictions which will allow drip users to create their own schedule.

6. Capping a station (\$50; station valve must be removed): You may have an area of your yard that you don't need to water or where you may be making some big landscape changes. If

you decide you don't need a certain station anymore, remove the station valve and you'll be eligible for a \$50 rebate. Keep the cap visible and hang on to the valve for the possible post-work inspection.

But remember, even high quality irrigation systems can use a lot of water so pay careful attention to scheduling. Austin Water and eligible wholesale customers who use more than 15,000 gallons per month may benefit from a free irrigation evaluation performed by a licensed irrigator. Call 974-2199 or email [watercon@austintexas.gov](mailto:watercon@austintexas.gov) for more information or to schedule an evaluation.



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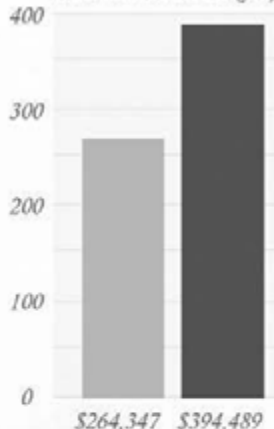
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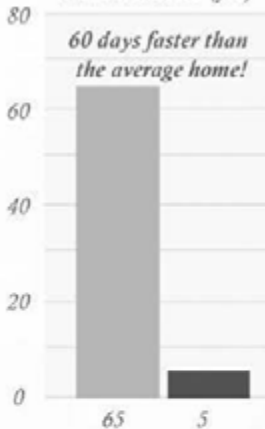
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**NatureWatch** by Jim and Lynne Weber

## a Plethora of Parakeets

Established in Austin in the early 1970s from escaped caged birds, Monk Parakeets (*Myiopsitta monachus*) also known as the Quaker Parrot, are native to the temperate and subtropical regions of Argentina and surrounding countries in South America. Monks are often heard before they are seen, as their call is a loud and throaty chap(-yee) or quak quaki quak-wi quarr, and their sometimes startling screeches sound like skveet! They have grown in numbers by being able to survive our mild winters, and as such have now been included on the official list of accepted Texas species.

A colorful bird with bright green upperparts, pale grey forehead and breast with darker scalloped edges, and very light green to yellow underparts, Monks also have an orange bill, stiff dark blue flight feathers, and a long tapered tail. Technically a parrot, it is this tail that makes them a parakeet, which is a term for small to medium sized species of parrots that generally have long tail feathers.

Monks are the only parrot that builds a stick nest, either in a tall tree or man-made structure, rather than using a hole in a tree. They often breed in colonies, building a single large nest that has separate entrance holes for each pair. In the wild these colonies can become quite large, with communal nests reaching the size of a small automobile! Also unusual for a parrot, these birds occasionally have 'helper individuals', typically grown offspring, which assist in feeding the young. Highly intelligent and social birds, Monks can live anywhere from 15 to 30 years, and like other species of parrots kept as pets routinely develop quite a large vocabulary.

Monk Parakeets readily adapt to urban neighborhoods, as they are an open woodland species. A recent informal survey found over 65 nests in Austin, mostly in cell phone towers, tall telephone poles, and sports facility light poles. Even if the nests are cleared out, many colonies return to the same place to rebuild their nest. While mainly constructed out of willow branches, these nests may include man-made items such as rope, carpet, newspaper, and scraps of cloth. The Monks' diet consists of berries, tree buds, and seeds, which can be plentiful in both the native and non-native tree species common in the Austin area.

The exact number of wild Monks in our area is unknown, and evidence of harm by feral colonies of Monks is disputed. While they can be agricultural pests by eating fruits, grains, and other crops, they can also benefit local economies through birdwatching-based ecotourism. It is also important to remember that tens of millions of parrots have been removed from the wild worldwide, and have been traded in greater numbers and for far longer than any other group of wild animals. Many parrot species are still threatened by this trade, as well as by habitat loss, predation by introduced species, and hunting for food or feathers. As such, let's respect their existence enjoy our plethora of parakeets!

*Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, look for our book, *Nature Watch Austin*, published by Texas A&M University Press.*

## PET CORNER

### CAN I GIVE MY DOG THANKSGIVING SCRAPS?

*Submitted by Kristen West*

We know it's tempting, but most Thanksgiving scraps are not safest treat for your pets. Cooked turkey bones are a big no-no as they can splinter and result in a trip to pet ER. Additionally, overindulging your pet in other fatty foods can lead to stomach upset, diarrhea or even life-threatening pancreatitis. Other items to avoid are onion, sage, garlic ... and please, don't ever give your pet alcohol.

If you can't turn away from those puppy-dog eyes, a bite or two of pet-safe veggies like plain broccoli, sweet potato or carrots, or a small taste of plain turkey is usually OK. Put the treats in a Kong or other puzzle toy while you sit down to eat with your family so that your furry begger is happily preoccupied!



## SUDOKU

View answers online at [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

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5								6
7					1			
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		5		1		3		
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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

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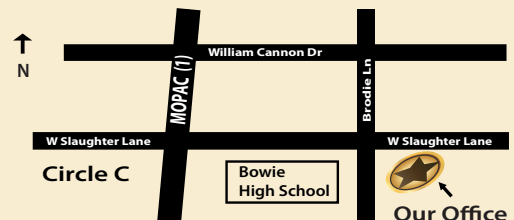
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# STAY *Sun* SMART

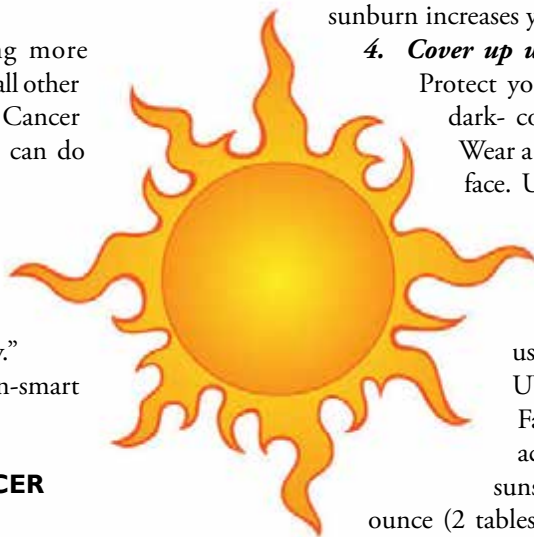
## *Skin Cancer Screenings, Prevention Tips*

By Adam J. Mamelak MD, FRCPC, FAAD

Skin cancer is on the rise, affecting more Americans over the past three decades than all other cancers combined, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation. The good news is that you can do much to prevent it.

"The danger in skin cancer is gravest when it goes undetected," says Dr. Adam Mamelak of Sanova Dermatology in Austin. "It is extremely treatable, and in a large sense preventable when caught early."

To help reduce your risk, follow these sun-smart practices.



### 7 WAYS TO REDUCE SKIN CANCER

#### RISK:

**1. See your physician every year for a professional skin exam.** Regular total-body checkups are the best way to make sure your skin is healthy and stays that way. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends annual skin exams. You can receive a FREE skin cancer screening through 2012 at Sanova Dermatology, 12319 N. Mopac in Austin. To schedule your free screening, call (512) 837-3376; no purchase or insurance coverage is necessary.

**2. Avoid tanning and UV tanning booths.** Even occasional sunbed use almost triples your chances of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Young people – including teenagers – are especially sensitive to the ultraviolet radiation from tanning booths.

**3. Seek the shade and do not burn.** Stay in the shade especially between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's

rays are often strongest. Avoid getting burned; even a single sunburn increases your risk of developing melanoma.

#### **4. Cover up with clothing and UV-blocking sunglasses.**

Protect your skin with densely woven and bright- or dark-colored fabrics, which offer the best defense. Wear a hat with a brim of 3" or greater to protect the face. Use wraparound sunglasses that block 99-100% of the sun's UV rays, which helps prevent cataracts and melanomas of the eye.

#### **5. Use a broad spectrum (UVA/UVB) sunscreen.**

Every day, year-round, use a broad spectrum sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and an SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15 or higher. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or more. Apply 1 ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every 40-80 minutes or immediately after swimming or excessive sweating.

**6. Help protect children from sun damage.** Keep newborns out of the sun, since their skin possesses little melanin, the pigment that provides some sun protection. Sunscreen should be used on babies over the age of six months. Make sure your children are well-protected with clothing, hats, sunscreen and sunglasses. Ask the pediatrician to examine your child's skin thoroughly as part of a yearly check-up – especially important for those with fair skin, light eyes and hair, and those with a family history of skin cancer.

**7. Examine your skin head-to-toe each month.** Look for skin changes and let your doctor know about any sore that does not heal or spot that changes in size, texture or color.

*Adapted from the Skin Cancer Foundation*

# Make an impact.

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## Secret Santa Gift Program

Would you like to help us make the holidays brighter for hundreds of Central Texas foster children! Secret Santa is a special holiday gift program of the Adoption Coalition of Texas (ACT) helping Child Protective Services and foster families provide gifts and spread holiday cheer to Central Texas foster children through the generosity of community donors.

If you would like to be a Secret Santa this year and purchase holiday gifts for a Central Texas foster child, please email your name, email address and contact phone number to [ACTSecretSanta@gmail.com](mailto:ACTSecretSanta@gmail.com). The gift drop-off days will be at several Austin-area locations on Wednesday through Saturday, December 5 – 8, and caseworkers will be picking up the gifts the following week. Once you sign up to be a donor, we'll send you all the details. Last year, thanks to the kindness of people like you, we brought smiles to the faces of more than 350 foster children!

The Adoption Coalition is a partnership of nonprofit adoption agencies and Child Protective Services working together to find forever families for abused and neglected children waiting for adoption. These are usually older children, sibling groups and children with special needs. For information about ACT and adoption, visit [www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org](http://www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org).



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# Tennis Tips

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional  
**Fernando Velasco**

## HOW TO HIT A ONE-HANDED BACKHAND

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a Forehand and a Two-Handed Backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a one-handed backhand for a right hander. This stroke is still used by many league and tournament players since it gives players a wider range of reach and flexibility to hit slices and drop shots.

**Step 1: Ready position:** The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is on the throat of the racket. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are shoulder width apart and the body is in good balance.

**Step 2: Back swing:** When the opponent's ball is headed to the backhand side, the left hand takes the racket back and the right hand changes the grip with one quarter turn placing the index knuckle at the upper ridge of the handle. The body should start taking the racket back before the ball bounces. Notice the turn of the upper body and the right foot leading the left foot. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

**Step 3: Point of Contact:** The eyes now shift toward the point of contact which should be about 12-18 inches in front of the right foot.



The right hand is holding the racket tight. The racket has made contact with the ball and weight of the player has shifted toward the point of contact. It is important to keep the right shoulder closed and not open the left hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility and power on the ball.

**Step 4: Follow Through:** Once the racket has made contact with the ball, both of the arms need to be extended for better balance. The right arm should be straight and the follow through upwards above the head.

*Look for next Issue: The Forehand Volley*



# Why Knowing About Kilowatt-Hours Can Help You Save Money

By Chris Lee

Let's all admit it - we've all taken electricity for granted. As soon as we were young enough to reach the light switch to turn on the lights, we've never thought about electricity since it's been integrated into our lives as a basic necessity. By understanding a little bit about a Kilowatt-Hour (kWh) of electricity use, you'll more easily measure and compare the costs to operate your appliances in order to figure out how you can save some money.

The concept of kWh is difficult to visualize since most of us have forgotten the details of our high-school physics class (for those of us that actually took high school physics). Power, energy, time?...how can we define kWh? If you turned on twenty 100-watt lightbulbs in your house and left them on for 1 hour, you would have used 2 kWh (20 lightbulbs x 100w x 1 hour = 2000 watt-hours). And if you used your clothes dryer for an hour and your dryer is rated at 5000 watts, then you used 5 kWh (5000w x 1 hour). While each family uses electricity differently based on their living habits, here's a website that will give you an idea on energy use of common household appliances. Caution: the dollar figures used in this chart are based on \$0.07 per kWh instead of the typical \$0.10 per kWh in Texas:

[www.glendalewaterandpower.com/rates/appliance\\_operating\\_costs.aspx](http://www.glendalewaterandpower.com/rates/appliance_operating_costs.aspx) (Shortened: <http://goo.gl/kCelA>)

So if you looked at your energy bill, you'll see that you're paying for the amount of Kwh's that you and your family use. By knowing the concept of kWh you'll be able to more easily correlate your energy use to your energy bill and therefore be able to do more to save money. To help you save energy and therefore more money, here are some resources with helpful energy saving tips:

[www.takealoadofftexas.com/index.aspx?id=energy-efficiency-tips](http://www.takealoadofftexas.com/index.aspx?id=energy-efficiency-tips)  
(<http://goo.gl/meydE>)

[http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/energy\\_savers.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/energy_savers.pdf) (<http://goo.gl/u3fuE>)

I hope you've understood the basics of a Kilowatt-Hour and how it's measured to help you see your energy usage. If you have any questions about this, please ping me at [leec89@gmail.com](mailto:leec89@gmail.com).



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## William Shakespeare's Coriolanus - Opens November 3rd at Downtown Black Box Theatre!

War is hell, but politics may be worse. And when one becomes the other, no one walks away unscathed.

In this season of political warfare and warring politics, experience Trinity Street Players' production of William Shakespeare's *Coriolanus* starting November 3rd at Blackbox Theatre at Ninth and Trinity in downtown Austin.

Believed to be written by Shakespeare between 1605 and 1610, the play's themes of class privileges and general unhappiness with government remains relevant today in our own sound-bite society as they were in the riotous streets of the Roman Republic.

The play begins with Coriolanus, a respected and feared general who is at odds with his City and his people. Pushed by his highly determined and calculating mother to seek the prestigious position of Consul, Coriolanus gives into his mother's wishes but ultimately finds himself banished and raging with vengeance.

*Coriolanus* is directed by Bridget Farias, an award-winning actress and director, who is currently the full-time Artistic Director at the EmilyAnn Theatre in Wimberley, Texas. Farias holds Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in both Acting and Directing and has recently played Catherine in *Proof* with Trinity Street Players and Lady Macbeth in *Macbeth* at the EmilyAnn Theatre.

The brilliant cast features Kevin Gates as "Coriolanus." Gates is a Master of Fine Arts theatre student at Texas State University. He recently played Giovanni in *Tis Pity She's a Whore* and is directing *Dr. Faustus* for Last Act Theatre. Sam Mercer will play "Aufidius." Mercer was recently nominated for two B.Iden Payne Awards, having played in *Austin Shakespeare* and *Two Towers*. Austin favorite Charles Stites will play "Menenius." Stites is a past B.Iden Payne Award Nominee and a well-known and respected local actor and director.

A show with important societal themes, *Coriolanus* will leave you asking, "Who is worthy to lead? What role do we all have in the success or failure of our government? What is the price of power? And how far, really, are we willing to go to get what we want?"

Opening night is Saturday, November 3rd at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are free to the public, but reservations may be made at <http://trinitystreetplayers.com/reservations> or by calling 512-402-3086. Donations are appreciated.

**November 3 – 18**  
*Friday and Saturday, 7:30 pm*  
*Sunday, 2:30 pm*

About us: Trinity Street Players is an all-volunteer, nonprofit community theater committed to providing high quality, thought-provoking, and entertaining stage productions in the heart of downtown Austin.



"Trinity Street Players is the most accomplished community ensemble in the greater Austin area."

-- Michael Meigs,  
*Austin Live Theatre*



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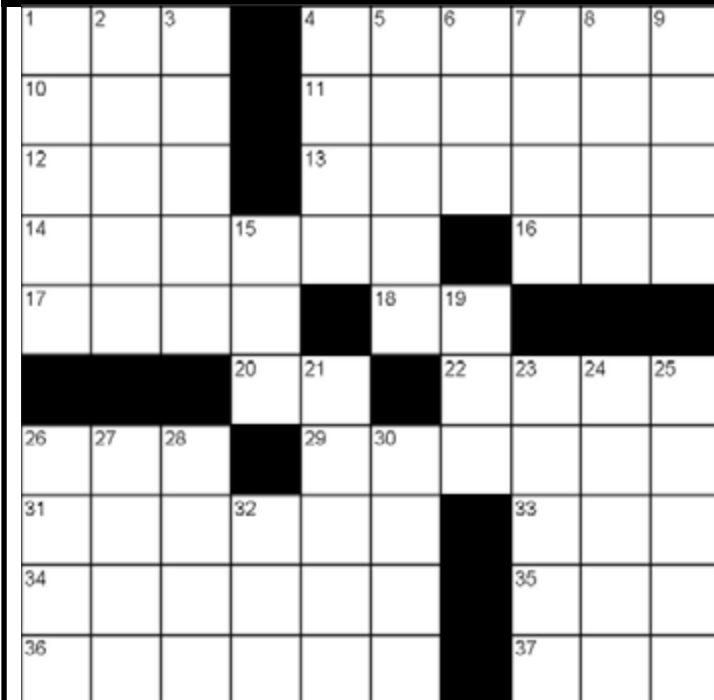
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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Legume
4. Rolled up paper
10. Carry
11. Irrational fear
12. Wing
13. Animal disease
14. Gentle breeze
16. Eastern Time
17. Region
18. Military policeman (abbr.)
20. Deutschmark (abbr.)
22. Meat alternative
26. Slumber
29. Bayer's competitor
31. Pilot
33. Pull
34. Seed remover
35. East northeast
36. Gully
37. Little bit

### DOWN

1. Shopping mall
2. Swiss mathematician
3. Open
4. Energetic
5. Amulet
6. Fleece
7. Off-Broadway award
8. Fish stories
9. Endure
15. Held
19. School group
21. Nautical "friend"
23. Eight
24. Female singer \_\_\_ Apple
25. Single
26. Space ship builders
27. Declare positively
28. Landing
30. Roman emperor
32. Hoopla

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# Fire Roasted Hatch Green Chile & Jalapeno Pulled Pork Sliders



*Spicy!*

## FIRE ROASTED CHILE AND JALAPENO INGREDIENTS:

- 5 Hatch Chiles
- 5 Jalapenos
- 1 paper sack

*Directions:* Over a high flame on the grill, char and blister the skin of the chiles and jalapenos. Place in the sack to steam. Once cool, peel the charred skin. Split open, remove seeds and chop.

## PULLED PORK INGREDIENTS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • 2 lb boneless pork shoulder<br>roast, trimmed | • 1 T olive oil   |
| • 1 t paprika                                   | • 1 C apple juice                                       |
| • 1 t ground cumin                              | • 1 C Woody's Sweet BBQ<br>Sauce                        |
| • 1/2 t ground cinnamon                         | • 1 T finely chopped chipotle<br>peppers in adobo sauce |
| • 2 T salt                                      |   |
| • 1 T cracked black pepper                      |   |

*Directions:* Combine dry ingredients and rub over trimmed pork should roast until ready to cook, a day in advance. In a large crock pot insert or regular pan, heat olive oil and sear roast on all sides. Add apple juice and simmer, again in either the crock pot or on the stove top, until the pork is very tender. Drain as much fat off the top as possible, then remove and shred or "pull". Return to the crock and finish with the Woody's Sweet BBQ Sauce, chipotle in adobo sauce and keep warm until ready to serve.

*To assemble:* Toast slider buns on a hot griddle with a bit of butter. Add the pulled pork and top with a mixture of the fire roasted chiles and jalapenos. Slap the top on it and devour! Perhaps you could add a slice of jalapeno jack cheese, but it's not necessary!



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## SOUTHWEST AUSTIN REAL ESTATE UPDATE

November 2012

[www.gotoaustinhomes.com](http://www.gotoaustinhomes.com)

### SOUTHWEST AUSTIN NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET UPDATE

#### Western Oaks Market Stats (as of Sept 30, 2012)

	2011	2012
Total Home Sales:	148	125
Median Sold Price:	\$252,500	\$268,000
Median Sold Price per Sq. Ft:	\$115.58	\$124.19
Median Days on Market for sales:	25	6
Active Listings		16
Median Asking Price:		\$284,250
Median Price Per Sq. Ft.:		\$126.58
Median Days on Market:		42

### WHAT MY CLIENTS ARE SAYING

"We just purchased our home in Austin with Lori Goto and Realty Austin. Lori was great from start-to-finish, meeting with us on very short notice multiple times, and looking at a large number of houses until we found the one we loved. She was even more valuable during the negotiating and closing process. Lori and her assistant Nicole made our home buying process a pleasure. Thanks Lori!"

– Steven Finkelstein

### QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A REALTOR

How many homes Sold?

Lori: Over 250 homes

What was your success rate in Western Oaks / SW Austin in 2011-2012?

Lori: 100%

Do you live in my area and know the market?

Lori: Has lived in SW Austin for 14 Years.

Do you have updated technology?

Lori: Yes, mobile access for your home, QR codes, syndicate web exposure, salesforce, s, color flyers, etc.

Do you have a support team at no extra charges?

Lori: Yes, licensed assistants to help ensure great service!

Do you have vendors to help me get my house ready for sale?

Lori: Yes, from staging to window cleaning, we can get you help!

### FEATURED LISTING

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