

# LONG CANYON Gazette

December 2012

Volume 5, Issue 12

A Newsletter for the Residents of the Long Canyon

## Signed, Sealed, and Delivered: Travis County Tax Bills for 2012 Should Be In Your Hands!

*Submitted by Tina Morton, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar*

If you own property in Travis County, chances are you already received a 2012 property tax bill. Over the past several weeks, 269,550 bills hit mailboxes. And if you are among the 122,569 homeowners who escrow through a mortgage company or lending institution, don't worry, the mortgage company probably requested the bill and will pay your property taxes. But you might want to check with them to be sure. Anyone who needs a tax bill can download a copy at [www.traviscountytax.org](http://www.traviscountytax.org) or call (512) 854-9473 to request a mailed copy.

"All taxpayers or their mortgage companies should have received their bills," said Travis County Tax Collector Tina Morton. "Especially for owners of multiple properties, this is the time of year to make sure you have received the bills for all of your properties."

The deadline to pay 2012 property taxes is January 31, 2013. Morton said many taxpayers want the advantage of federal tax deductions that require taxes be paid by the end of the year. Any payment postmarked by December 31 will be recorded as a December payment regardless of when the payment arrives by mail. Payments can be made in person at any of the five tax office locations during normal business hours. Taxpayers can deposit checks or money orders in the tax office drop box after hours or pay online by credit card at [www.traviscountytax.org](http://www.traviscountytax.org) by midnight, December 31.

"Some taxpayers believe that if they do not receive a bill, they are not liable for tax payment," Morton said. "Taxpayers are responsible for requesting a tax bill if they do not receive one."

Seniors and disabled taxpayers may take advantage of a special provision in the law that allows for four installment payments with no penalty and interest provided payments are made before February 1, April 1, June 1 and August 1. Last year 3,943 eligible property owners participated in the program. Senior and disabled taxpayers interested in the installment payment plan should call (512) 854-9473 for details.

One of the most common questions this time of year concerns the ability to pay taxes. "If you can't pay any or all of your tax bill, please call or come in to our main office on Airport Boulevard and make payment arrangements," Morton recommended. "You don't need to



wait until the deadline. We can assist taxpayers even before the bill becomes delinquent."

The Travis County Tax Office main location is 5501 Airport Boulevard, between Koenig Lane and 531 1/2 Street. The office opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drive-through service is available.

Satellite offices open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. and include the following locations

- East Austin – 4705 Heflin Lane at Springdale and MLK Blvd (drive-through service)
- Oak Hill Office – 8656 Highway 71W Building B, second floor
- Pflugerville Office – 15822 Foothill Farms Loop (drive-through service)
- Southeast Office – 4011 McKinney Falls Parkway (drive-through service)

Call (512) 854-9473 for assistance.

## NEWSLETTER INFO

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# Giddy Up Gala

**HILL COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION'S SPRING FUNDRAISER**

## **Save the Date for the Largest Fundraising Gala for All Eight Four Points Area Public Schools**

***Hill Country Education Foundation Gala Set for February 23, 2013***

The Hill Country Education Foundation, the Four Points area Academic Booster Club, will host its Third Annual Giddy Up Gala on Saturday, February 23, 2013, at the Oasis Restaurant. Along with a sit-down dinner and open bar, guests will enjoy participating in a raffle for a high-end lady's and man's gift, sponsored by the Arant Real Estate Team, along with the popular and entertaining Heads or Tails Game, emceed by VHS Football Coach Drew Sanders. Evening activities will also include live and silent auctions, an important Fund-A-Need for our high school and a live band. Table purchases and sponsorship options will be available. Learn more at [www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org](http://www.HillCountryEdFoundation.org).





## Traveling with your pet over the holidays?

**HERE ARE SOME TIPS THAT WILL HELP MAKE YOUR DRIVE SMOOTH SAILING.**

*Submitted by Kristen West*

1. Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.
2. Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.
3. Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris.
4. Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.
5. Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.
6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.
7. Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!
8. Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself!



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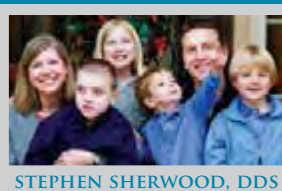
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## Home Athletics Schedule December 2012

Date	Sport	Opponent	Time
12/1	WBB	Ozarks*	1 p.m.
	MBB	Ozarks*	3 p.m.
12/17	MBB	Northwood	3 p.m.
12/20	WBB	Texas-Dallas*	1 p.m.
	MBB	Texas-Dallas*	3 p.m.
12/29	WBB	Wisconsin-Stout^	4 p.m.
12/30	WBB	Rust^	4 p.m.
12/31	MBB	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	11 a.m.

MBB (M. Basketball)

WBB (W. Basketball)

! CTX Tip-Off Tournament

\* American Southwest Conference Opponent

^ CTX Christmas Classic

## CTX Athletics Is Now Accepting Tornado Club Applications!!!

For up-to-date information about CTX Athletics and to register online for the ticket pass, please check out our website at:

[athletics.concordia.edu](http://athletics.concordia.edu)

## Poised or Poisoned?

TEEN GIRLS IN TRANSITION | by Sugandha Jain

### WHAT ARE ALPHA GIRLS?

The term comes from a 2006 book of the same name by Dr. Dan Kindlon, a child psychologist at Harvard University. Dr. Kindlon interviewed nearly 1,000 girls, in 6th - 12th grades, before writing the book. In it, he describes Alpha Girls on the cusp of incredible achievement. Statistics released by the National Assessment of Educational Progress, from studies conducted by the U.S. Department of Education, seem to bear this out in terms of academics. Girls consistently outperform boys in reading and writing: the 2004 NAEP reading scale results show that girls' outscore boys by five points at age nine, 10 points at age 13, and 13 points by age 17. Young women also head to college in larger numbers: they currently encompass 58% of students enrolled in two- and four-year colleges.

"Young women are achieving more than young men," says Dr. Linn Goldberg, a professor of medicine at Oregon Health and Science University. Dr. Goldberg has conducted extensive studies on drug and alcohol use among adolescents. He says girls simply aren't falling prey to the same pitfalls as boys. "They are less likely to be deviant and be engaged in many harmful behaviors, such as substance use and abuse," he says. What's more, says Dr. Kindlon, is that girls aren't just succeeding, they're doing so in a psychologically healthy manner. "Today, we have a generation of girls who have more psychological skills to play both the feminine roles and the roles that men played in the past," says Dr. Kindlon. "They are poised to do great things."

### HOW CAN PARENTS RESPOND?

Parents of Alpha Girls likely are proud when their daughters exhibit high achieving traits; some may think their girls aren't prone to any particular problems. Either way, it's important for parents to convey the message that girls don't have to be "perfect" to be successful and happy in life. Teaching girls media literacy—how to evaluate the information they receive through television, magazines and other media—is one way to help them combat potentially harmful messages. Several organizations offer parents tools to do this, including the Center for Media Literacy and Commercial Alert.

Parents also have to be vigilant about being models of appropriate body image. This means mothers, in particular, have to mean what they say when they talk with their daughters about their bodies. A mother shouldn't in one breath tell her daughter she is perfect and beautiful, then in the next make disparaging comments about her own body, says Ms. Martin. Most important: parents should focus on their daughter's well being as well as her achievements—and consistently convey the message that there are myriad ways to be successful in life.

"Help your daughter develop her potential," says Dr. Diane Halpern, a psychology professor at Claremont McKenna College in California and the author of *Sex Differences in Cognitive Abilities*. "The only way parents can do that is to make sure that their daughters have a wide range of opportunities and know what their choices are."

# OMMM SWEET OMMM.

THERE'S A PLACE CLOSE TO HOME WHERE YOU CAN LOSE YOURSELF  
AND REDISCOVER YOUR SPIRIT ALL IN ONE AFTERNOON.



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## *Junior Lady Vipers Basketball Club*



We would like to invite you to join the JUNIOR LADY VIPER BASKETBALL CLUB!

The goal of the JLVBC is to promote a greater awareness of and provide support to the Girls' Basketball program at Vandegrift High School. The club provides a fun way to encourage young female athletes to work hard and to compete in Lady Viper basketball programs in the future. As a JLVBC member you may wear your t-shirt to the games, sit together as a group and yell for the Lady Vipers!!

Below are more exciting things to look forward to as a JLVBC member:

- \*A Junior Lady Viper Basketball T-Shirt
- \*Recognition at half time of varsity games
- \*Free admission to Lady Viper Basketball games  
( You must be wearing your "Junior Lady Vipers Basketball" t-shirt)
- \*Special treats at home district games
- \*Open to any female LISD student enrolled in 1<sup>st</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade

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Send the portion below and payment to the address given  
\*\*Membership fee is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and admission  
to Lady Viper home games (for JLVBC members only)

Make checks payable to Lady Viper Basketball Booster Club  
Send to: 10200 James Ryan Way, Austin, TX, 78730

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**T-Shirt Size (circle one) ADULT or YOUTH:**  
(Circle One) SMALL MEDIUM LARGE X LARGE

**ALL PARENTS MUST SIGN A WAIVER IN ORDER FOR YOUR DAUGHTER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CLUB ACTIVITIES**

WAIVER OF CLAIMS: "I hereby release any claim I might have against Leander Independent School District, or any of its agents, which might arise from any injury or other damage my child might incur while on the property of LISD or while participating in any activity sponsored by LISD."

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to [longcanyon@peelinc.com](mailto:longcanyon@peelinc.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](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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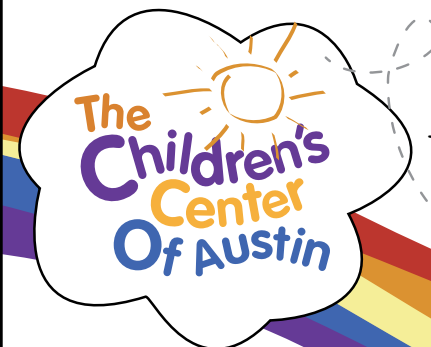
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## AUSTIN NEWCOMERS CLUB

Austin Newcomers is dedicated to introducing new residents to Austin while extending a hand to make new acquaintances and join fun Interest Groups.

Our program this month is Malcolm Nelson directing the choir First Edition. Mr. Nelson is currently in his seventh year as choir director at McCallum Fine Arts Academy.

First Edition is the premier mixed choir at the McCallum Fine Arts Academy. Its members are auditioned each year and chosen because of their singing ability and commitment to excellence. The group performs all types of music but is best known for its seasonal offerings and pop Broadway style. Members of First Edition have performed at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center in New York City. Each year First Edition sings at numerous private parties, celebrations and luncheon meetings. This promises to be a lively and popular program.

The monthly luncheon will be held on Wednesday, December 5 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, November 29.

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



*We Invite You to Celebrate  
With Us This Christmas!*



### FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

This lovely musical by Joseph Martin follows the order of the traditional Lessons and Carols service. The lessons are written in a more contemporary form, and the carols are beautifully arranged for orchestra and choir. You'll have the opportunity to join in singing some of the beloved carols!

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Come and worship with us as we sing carols and read the beautiful Christmas story from God's Word. We will worship together as a family, concluding with "Silent Night" by candlelight.

*Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
Service*

Monday, December 24  
6:00 p.m.



**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
Traditional Service @ 9 am  
Bible Fellowship Groups @ 10:10 am  
Celebration Service @ 11:11 am

**Austin Baptist Church**  
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## Russian Tea Cakes

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 C butter, softened
- 1/2 C powdered sugar
- 1 t vanilla
- 2 1/4 C all-purpose flour
- 3/4 C finely chopped pecans
- 1/4 t salt
- Powdered Sugar to roll in

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Cream butter with 1/2 C powdered sugar and vanilla in a large bowl. Stir in flour, nuts and salt until the dough holds together. With clean hands, roll dough into 1 inch balls and place about 1 inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10 - 12 minutes or until set but not brown. Remove from cookie sheet, cool slightly, then roll the warm cookies in powdered sugar. This makes about 40 cookies.



*Whether you call them Mexican Wedding Cookies or Russian Tea Cakes, these treasures will melt in your mouth! Always on our Christmas Cookie making list, there are so many variations of the recipe. What I am sharing with you today is the best of my best - tweaked here and there - but with amazing results.*

By the Four Point Foodie | [www.fourpointsfoodie.com](http://www.fourpointsfoodie.com)



## HOLIDAY WISHES 2012

Each year, neglected and abused children in the Austin area must be removed from their homes by Child Protective Services caseworkers.

Separations occur all year, but it is especially difficult during the holidays. Partnerships for Children is making a difference in the lives of these children and we invite you to join us by participating in our Holiday Wishes program.

With your help, how many children can we impact this year?

Please contact us at:

# 512.834.4756

[holidaywishes@partnershipsforchildren.org](mailto:holidaywishes@partnershipsforchildren.org)

## GET INVOLVED:

- ✓ **SPONSOR** a child by purchasing items from their wish list
- ✓ **MAKE** a donation and we will shop for you
- ✓ **DONATE** general gifts for children that are not matched with community donors
- ✓ **ORGANIZE** a drive to collect gifts commonly requested on children's wish lists

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