



News From MY HOMETOWN

August 2013
Volume 2, Issue 8

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE HOMETOWN KYLE HOA

AUGUST EVENTS

at the
Wildflower Center

Submitted by Saralee Tiede

BEAT THE HEAT WITH COOL ART

Through August 18

Jan Heaton's "Quiet" exhibit features peaceful, soothing watercolors in the McDermott Learning Center. Jim La Paso's colorful kinetic sculptures float like flowers in the breeze in the gardens through September 2.

WILDFLOWER SEED ONE-DAY SALE!

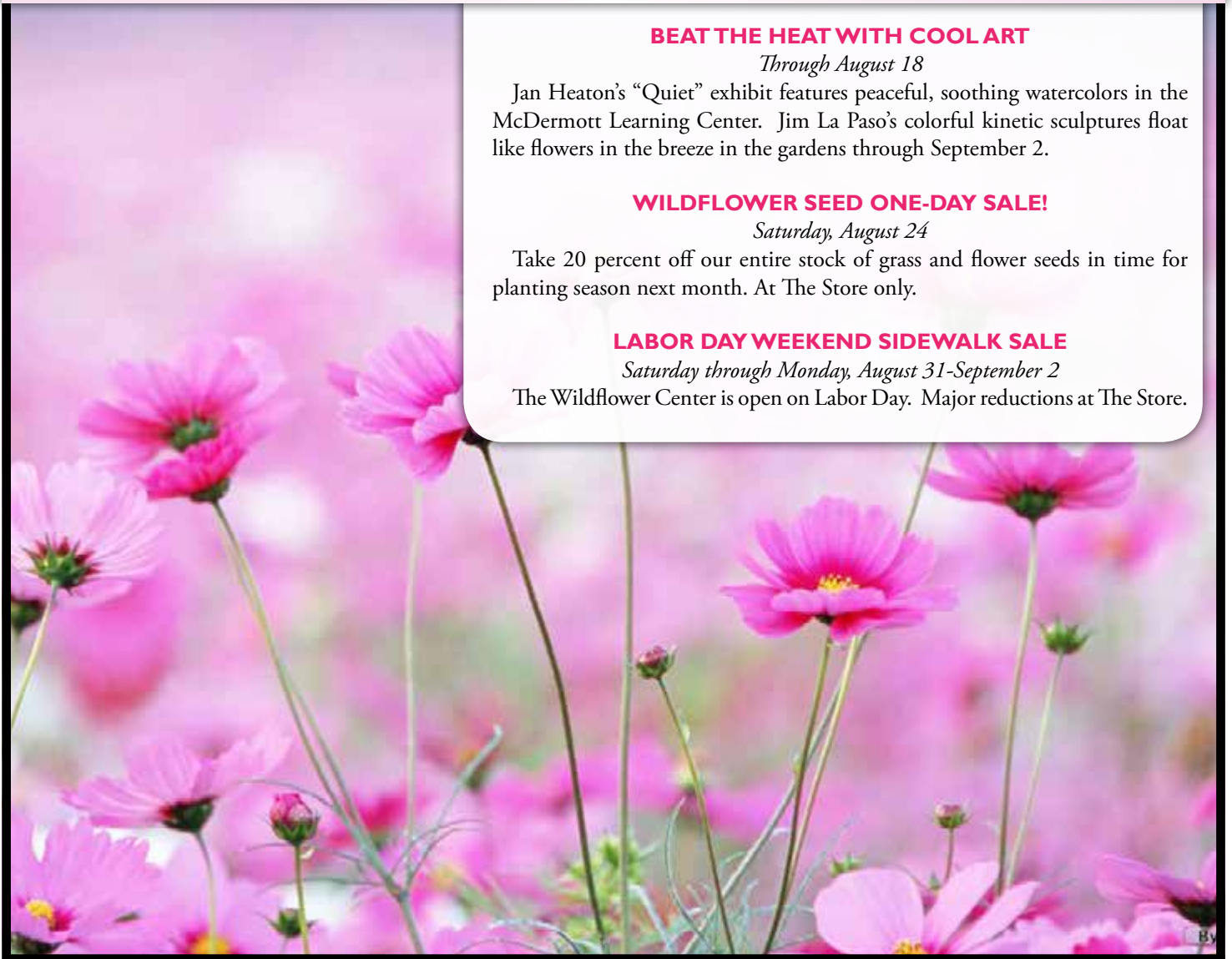
Saturday, August 24

Take 20 percent off our entire stock of grass and flower seeds in time for planting season next month. At The Store only.

LABOR DAY WEEKEND SIDEWALK SALE

Saturday through Monday, August 31-September 2

The Wildflower Center is open on Labor Day. Major reductions at The Store.



MY HOMETOWN

Does My Vote Count?

Do you get a vote? Does it count?

We would like to clarify the confusion and misinformation regarding the process of voting that arose from the last annual meeting.

1. The meeting notice requested homeowners to sign and submit their proxies even if they planned to attend the meeting. This ensures there are enough homes represented by personal attendance or by proxy to conduct and complete the election of a board member. The notice was never intended to take your vote away from you in the event you attended.

The wording on the proxy form to assign your voting power to a named individual "or the presiding officer" is to give you the option of either specifying someone or assigning your proxy to the presiding board member. If you specified a person in the blank space, only that person could cast a vote in your name. If you selected "presiding officer", then the board member presiding over the meeting would have your authorization to cast your vote.

Your vote is cast either by you in person, or by the person to whom you assign your proxy. Each homeowner gets 1 vote.

2. Another area of confusion was regarding the vote for dues increase. In an e-blast notice, homeowners were advised there would be a vote regarding an increase of the HOA dues. If you are not intimately familiar with the CC&R's (and let's face it...how many of us are), you could easily think the homeowners would be voting on that issue. However, as is stated in the CC&R's changes to the amount of the dues assessments is the province and responsibility of the board, and is not voted on by homeowners. This is standard practice in many HOA's.

The board has published articles in recent newsletters advising the HOA is facing a deficit, identifying what steps are being undertaken, and soliciting additional ideas to keep homeowners informed about financial issues.



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Back To School

School starts in August, so now is the time for drivers to pay closer attention to the school zones in the neighborhood. We want to remind you that the speed limit in a school zone is 20mph and traffic fines double!

Other changes to be aware of include;

- Children behaving unpredictably
- School Bus Stops
- Crossing Guards – please obey the guards! Remember, they are there for the safety of you and your children
- New areas of traffic congestion
- Be prepared for delays
- Use of cell phones in schools zones is prohibited!

Please give yourself extra time in the mornings and mid-afternoons and remember if you are traveling in a school zone to slow down.

Time To Slow Down!

Come grow well with us!



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Eric Arhelger, MD
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MY HOMETOWN

What's Up With Accrual Accounting?!

You may recall a recent newsletter article, discussing the difference between our previous management company's accounting process (Real Manage) and our current one (Goodwin). Real Manage used an accrual method, which shows anticipated income and expenditures. Goodwin uses the cash method, which shows actual figures in real time. With the advent of the new management company in August of 2012, the HOA Board became aware of that difference.

Keep in mind that HTK budgets are stand-alone tools that compare income and expenses for only 1 year at a time. So regardless of what accounting practice was used in previous years, we would still be faced with a deficit in 2013, because our expenses for this year are expected to exceed what we're collecting in dues. The disadvantage with the accrual method used in previous years is the lack of visibility to fact that our neighborhood was already heading toward deficit.

While Real Manage's approach to accounting presented a major disadvantage to the HOA Board in terms of knowing how much money was actually being collected versus how much was being spent, the accrual method is not an illegal or immoral practice in the professional field of accounting. With that said, we're grateful for the cash method utilized by Goodwin Management, as we are now able to make financial decisions based on more precise information.

YARD MAINTENANCE

Yard appearance remains the most prevalent source of violations issued to homeowners. Beyond just mowing, yards must be maintained frequently to achieve an overall, continual, well kept appearance. In an effort to help prevent future violation notices, here are some guidelines to follow:

- Mowing: includes front yard and side yard of corner lots, and backyards must be mowed as well
- Edging: along the sidewalk, driveway and curb, weed eating at fences and foundation, etc.
- Weed control: weed abatement in grass, flowerbeds, and cracks; etc., This means keeping your flowerbeds, cracks and lawns free of weeds, as well as keeping your planter beds clear of grass.
- Watering (in compliance with existing restrictions, if any), disease control or grass replacement: (adding sod or re-seeding where grass has died)
- Blowing or sweeping up: grass and clippings must be removed from driveway, sidewalk and street after maintenance
- Removing dead plants, shrubs, trees in a timely manner
- All trash, garbage or other waste must be kept out of sight in sanitary containers and promptly disposed of.

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Reporting Issues

To report issues or concerns, please contact: Marilyn Childress, Goodwin Management: 512-502-7509 marilyn.childress@goodwintx.com To pose questions and issues directly to the Hometown Kyle HOA Board of Directors, please visit the website at: www.hometownkyle.com

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE

Do you have an article or story that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email your document to marilyn.childress@goodwintx.com



TRASH CANS

During our March 12th board meeting, a discussion was held regarding trash can violations and interpretation of language in our CC&Rs.

After speaking to the HOA attorney, “properly screened from view” is interpreted to mean out of sight using materials and designs approved by the Architectural Committee. More precisely, “properly” refers to the materials and methods used for screening, and “screened from view” indicates that the trashcans cannot be seen.

Make sure to request approval of any additions to your front yard from the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) before installing. As advised in the prior newsletter, all trashcans must be stored out of sight by July 1, 2013. At that point, violations will again be distributed for trashcans that are visible.



LIC# TACLB020409E

Gas and electricity aren't getting any cheaper. But good advice and second opinions are still free!

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- Ongoing:** Volunteers needed to distribute water safety packets, info@colinshope.org
- August 19:** Got2Skate for Colin's Hope Fundraiser, 6:30-8:30pm at Playland Skate Center
- August 29:** Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin 10K/10 miler, <http://www.tinych.org/got2swim>
- September 8:** 5th Annual Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon, <http://www.tinych.org/KidsTri>
- October 19:** Sharkfest Austin Swim benefitting Colin's Hope, www.sharkfestswim.com



ALERT: 36 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year. Many more have survived non-fatal drowning incidents. Be a Water Guardian and Watch Kids around Water. Drownings are preventable!

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- Kids Stuff -



You're very excited — your mom and dad promised to take you on a fun camping trip this year. Or maybe your scout group is gearing up for an awesome canoe trip. Enjoying the beauty and nature of the woods is fun — if you are careful. Here are some tips to keep you safe.

PACKING BASICS

Before you leave, pack these few important things to make your trip more comfortable and safe:

- map of the area
- compass or GPS (learn how to use it beforehand)
- cell phone (though you can't be sure it will work in remote areas)
- whistle
- bottled water and food
- sleeping bag
- flashlight with extra batteries
- sunscreen and sunglasses
- waterproof matches (for an adult to bring)
- first-aid kit with gauze pads, adhesive bandages, tape, tweezers, and antiseptic
- waterproof tent (set it up beforehand to practice)
- warm clothing, clean socks, and rain gear

INTO THE WOODS

Staying safe in the woods means using common sense. That means being aware of your surroundings and always camping with an adult. Never go into the woods by yourself. Some things you need to be careful of while you're camping are insects, poison ivy, extreme hot or cold temperatures, rain or snow, and areas where you could trip or fall.

BUGS

If insects bug you, ask an adult to set up camp away from the water and build a small fire. The water attracts bugs, and the smoke from the fire will keep most of the bugs away. Another thing you can do is to remember to keep the tent door zipped at all times, even if you're just going in or out for a minute. Also, turn off your flashlight

before you enter your tent because insects such as moths are attracted to the light and will follow you.

Always check for ticks at the end of the day when you've been in the woods. Ticks can carry disease and germs. Some ticks are tiny, like the size of the head of a pin! You'll want an adult to help you inspect your body for ticks. Check behind your knees and ears, under your arms, and in your groin — that's where your legs meet your abdomen, or belly area. If you're camping with a pet, have an adult check your pet for ticks, too — dogs and cats can pick up ticks in their fur even more easily than humans. If you do find a tick, it needs to be removed. Get an adult to help you.

POISON IVY

Poison ivy is a plant that can cause an itchy skin rash in some people. Its leaves grow in groups of three, but the plant can still be hard to spot. If you accidentally touch poison ivy, wash the area with soap and water as soon as possible. The oil from the poison ivy plant can spread on clothes or even your dog. To try to prevent a poison ivy rash, there are products you can apply to your skin before going into the woods. Stores that sell outdoor equipment and sporting goods may carry them.

STAYING SAFE OUTDOORS

Your Campsite

Roasting marshmallows and singing songs by an open fire are favorite camping activities. Adults, not kids, should start campfires. Adults also need to watch the fires and make sure they are out when you're done. Never leave a fire without anyone to watch it. Don't forget to put out your fire by dumping water or shoveling dirt on it when you sleep or leave your campsite. Feel the ground around the area where the fire was to make sure it isn't warm.

Your Food and Water

When you're exploring outdoors, eat or drink something only if an adult says it is

safe. Even if streams or lakes look crystal clear, they could contain germs and the water may not be safe to drink. Bring bottled water to drink. Likewise, never eat wild berries. Some are poisonous and it may be tough to know which are safe. Good snacks for the outdoors include fruit, trail mix, crackers, granola bars, bread, and peanut butter.

Your Clothing

Wearing layers is a good idea when you're outdoors. That way, you can take off a layer or two if you get too warm. Wear comfortable boots when hiking so your ankles are supported and you don't get blisters. Keep your arms and legs covered while hiking to avoid ticks and insect bites and wear knee-high boots and long pants when you are in an area with snakes. Make sure to take rain gear, such as ponchos and waterproof jackets, to keep you dry if an unexpected shower occurs.

Watch Out for Wildlife

Although animals are cute to look at, wild animals are best enjoyed from far away. Don't go near or try to feed a strange animal. It's better to enjoy these animals at the zoo, in books, or on the Internet. To keep animals such as bears or wolves away from your campsite, keep it clean. Food and anything else an animal might smell must be packed away. In fact some campers put all their food, even candy bars, in a bag (called a "Bear Bag") and hang it from a tree branch away from the campsite. If they can smell it, the animals will be led away from where the campers are.

What if You Get Lost?

Stick with your group when you're in the woods. Carry a whistle and blow it if you get separated from the group. If you have a cell phone and it's working, use it to make contact with your group. If you do get lost, wait in a safe, sheltered place for an adult to find you. The sooner you're found, the sooner you can go back to having fun in the great outdoors!

Reviewed by: Steven Doushen, MD Date reviewed: June 2011

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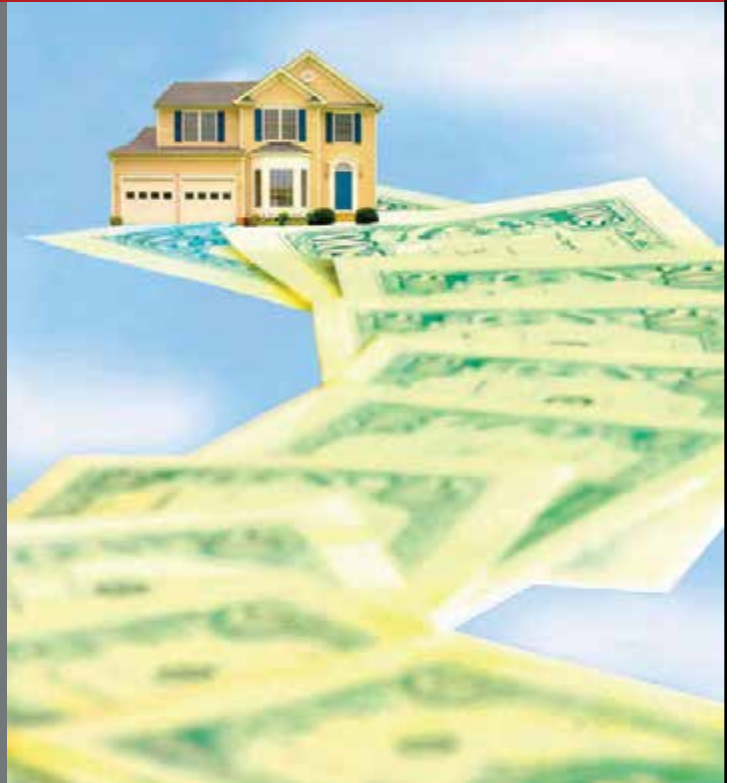
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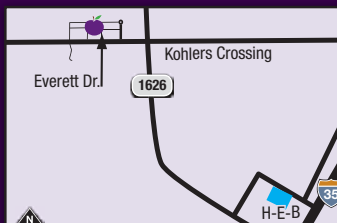
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