

Meridian Artist Launches Authenticaa

**Distinctive Home Décor and Customized Gifts Inspired By Nature,
Driving Awareness to the Preservation of Mother Earth**

Distinctive, personalize and environmentally conscious gifts and home décor is now available for sale with the grand opening of Authenticaa. This Austin-based business began as both a journey and a passion for two sisters Alexia Maher and Ariane Bihan focused on increasing awareness to the plight of endangered animals and preservation of earth's resources while sharing their love of art design. Every item is hand-crafted using steel, wood and high tech plasma cutting making each piece distinctive and a one-of-a-kind artwork.

"All of our designs bring together our artistic talents and visions to life. In keeping with the idea of using material from Mother Nature, we had to master technologies such as computer design and CNC plasma cutting. The only frame that would be the best material to bring life to the art is solid aged wood that requires pallets and reclaiming the pieces", said Co-Founder Alexia Maher.

Authenticaa's portfolio of products range from

nature inspired designs from graceful African animal collections to seaside designs to unique child nursery gifts. Personalized family yard signs and illuminated mirrors are also uniquely hand-crafted one order at a time. Most of all, these products are each a labor of love utilizing reclaimed woods, delicately cut steel and innovative designs all energized by nature.

"Authenticaa's products are the fruit of a long process, from research, design to trial, production, quality control and fun! Our goal is to use natural material only: wood and metal, natural stains, eco-friendly paints, and energy saving lights. We try hard to stay as authentic as possible and design artwork inspired by nature. Most of our designs revolve around flowers, leaves, animals, and organic shapes", said Co-Founder Ariane Bihan.

You can view all of Authenticaa's products at their website, www.authenticaa.com or call 512-739-0115

THE MONITOR

WELCOME

A Newsletter for Meridian residents

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com or you can email it meridian@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome.

Our goal is to keep you informed!

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Monitor possible. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 9th of the month prior to the issue.

NEWSLETTER INFO

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NOW OFFERING: Yoga, Spanish and a Mini-Tech class for preschoolers, ages 2+. Classes held weekly at the Sacred Arts Studio at 6001 West William Cannon #305. Fun, interactive, hands-on classes taught by professional teachers. Contact us for more information at s.kelly@wholechild.com or 512.514.0091

YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR VOICE

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KAPS Music Fest Fundraiser

November 10 at Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center

Don't miss the 14th annual Katherine Anne Porter School Music Fest and Fundraiser Sunday, November 10 from 4 pm to 9 pm. Gates open at 3:30 pm at the new Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center, located at 1042 DS Ranch Road in Dripping Springs.

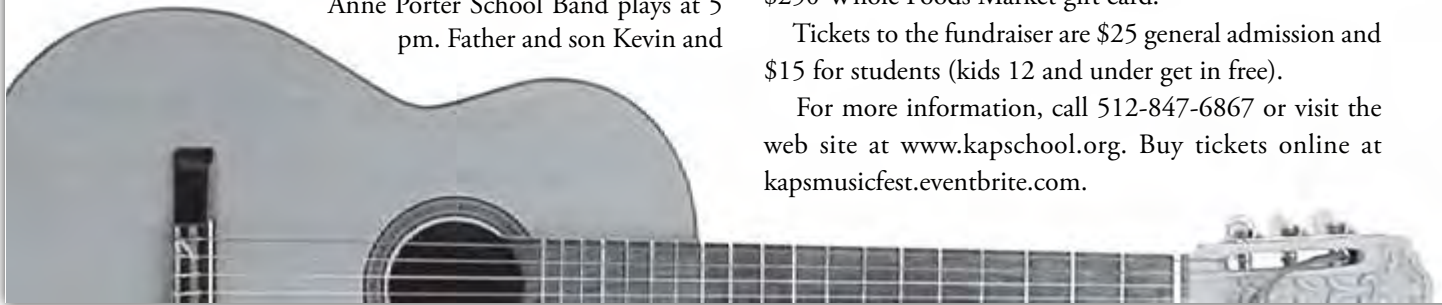
Enjoy a full evening of great live Texas music as the legendary Jimmie Dale Gilmore and Butch Hancock (with son, Rory Hancock) perform at 4 pm. The Katherine Anne Porter School Band plays at 5 pm. Father and son Kevin and

Dustin Welch take the stage at 6 pm, followed by Sahara Smith at 7 pm and Eliza Gilkyson at 8 pm.

Enjoy delicious food from local vendors, bid on a wide variety of locally-donated goods and services in the huge silent auction and get your tickets for a raffle with prizes including Wimberley Zipline Adventure passes, a Port Aransas weekend getaway, a Google Nexus 7 Tablet and a \$250 Whole Foods Market gift card.

Tickets to the fundraiser are \$25 general admission and \$15 for students (kids 12 and under get in free).

For more information, call 512-847-6867 or visit the web site at www.kapschool.org. Buy tickets online at kapsmusicfest.eventbrite.com.



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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 meridian@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.



Austin Newcomers Club

Whether you have just moved to Austin or have lived here for years and suddenly had a change in lifestyle, Austin Newcomers Club offers you an opportunity to connect with others and learn more about the Austin area.

Austin Newcomers Club is a nonprofit social and recreational organization committed to welcome newcomers to Austin.

Choose from more than 40 interest groups including Hiking, Photography, Walking Tours, Day Trippers, Book Groups, Music Lovers, Cinema, Bridge, Canasta, Bunco, Mah Jongg, and many more.

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* Texas Monthly | † KW #199 | ‡ based on avg. home sales in 2013



DIABETES PREVENTION: FOUR STEPS ON THE ROAD TO HEALTH

November is Diabetes Awareness Month

The old adage is true that every journey begins with a single step. On the road to improving your health, small lifestyle changes can lead to dramatic results, especially for people at risk of developing Type 2 diabetes.

"It's never too late to make lifestyle changes and reduce your risk of developing Type 2 diabetes," says Dr. Valerie Espinosa, an endocrinologist with Texas Diabetes and Endocrinology.

Diabetes comes in two forms: Type 1, which mainly affects children and is not currently preventable, and Type 2, which is usually diagnosed later in life and is often preventable. Most people who develop Type 2 diabetes go through a phase called pre-diabetes in which their blood sugar is slightly elevated. But some simple steps can help people with pre-diabetes avoid the progression to Type 2 diabetes.

Step 1: Get More Physical Activity

Exercise can help people to lose weight, lower blood sugar, and boost the body's sensitivity to insulin, which helps the body regulate sugar.

"While aerobic exercise is important for overall good health," says Dr. Espinosa, "resistance training to build up muscle mass is especially important for someone with

pre-diabetes."

Step 2: Eat More Vegetables, Beans, Nuts, Whole Grains

Adding more fiber and whole grains to your diet can reduce your risk of progressing from pre-diabetes to Type 2 diabetes.

When shopping for breads, pasta products, and cereals, look for the words "whole grain" on the label. Aim for making at least half of the grains you eat whole grains.

Step 3: Lose a Few Pounds

Small weight loss goals can have remarkable results in lowering blood glucose levels in people with pre-diabetes.

A weight loss of five to seven percent in someone who is overweight can significantly improve their health.

"Someone who is 200-pounds and overweight can set a goal to lose 10 pounds," says Dr. Espinosa.

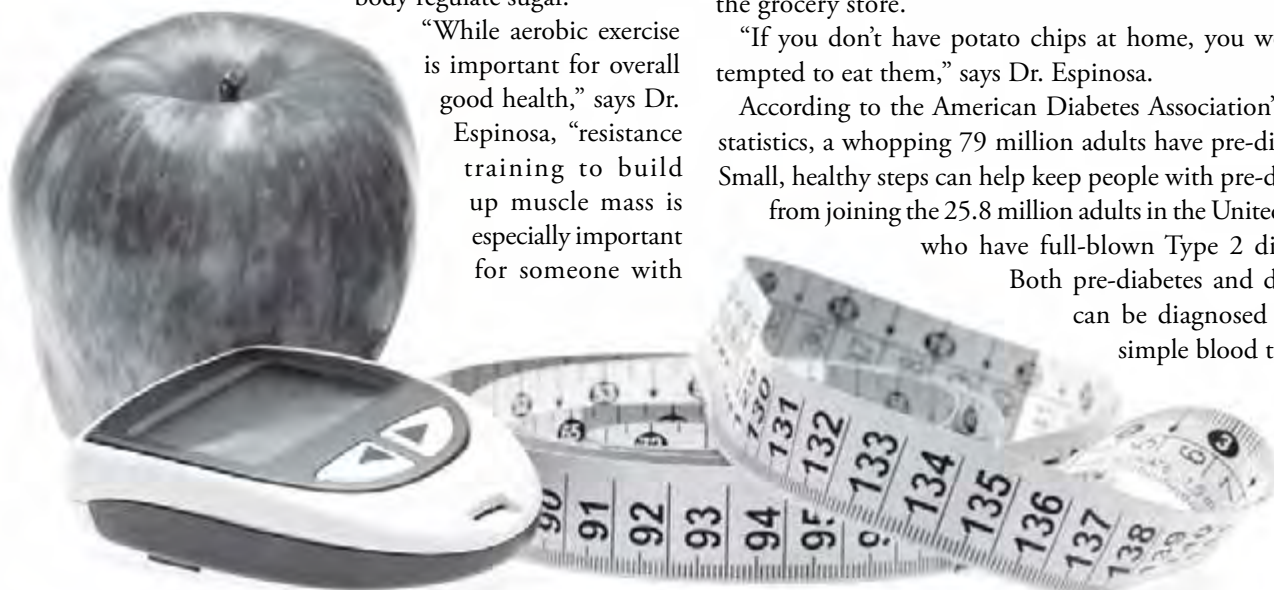
Step 4: Make Healthier Choices

Eliminate the temptation to eat foods that you know will raise your blood sugar level, like cookies, potato chips, and sugary drinks, by making healthier choices in the grocery store.

"If you don't have potato chips at home, you won't be tempted to eat them," says Dr. Espinosa.

According to the American Diabetes Association's 2011 statistics, a whopping 79 million adults have pre-diabetes. Small, healthy steps can help keep people with pre-diabetes from joining the 25.8 million adults in the United States who have full-blown Type 2 diabetes.

Both pre-diabetes and diabetes can be diagnosed with a simple blood test.



Pruning Guidelines for Prevention of Oak Wilt in Texas

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE YOUR OAK TREES

Oak wilt, caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. Most of the tree mortality results from tree-to-tree spread of the pathogen through interconnected or grafted root systems, once an oak wilt center becomes established. New infection centers begin when beetles carry oak wilt fungal spores from infected red oaks to fresh, open wounds on healthy oaks. Wounds include any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction, squirrels, birds or pruning. Research has shown that both oak wilt fungal mats on infected red oaks and insects that carry oak wilt spores are most prevalent in the spring. Below is a brief description of how you can reduce the risk of fungal spread when pruning.

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ between sites and/or trees.
- If possible avoid pruning or wounding of oaks during the spring (currently defined as February 1 through June 30). Reasons to prune in the spring include:
 - To accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
 - To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
 - To remove limbs rubbing on a building or rubbing on other branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.
- On sites where construction schedules take precedence, pruning any live tissue should only be done to accommodate required clearance.
- Dead branch removal where live tissue is not exposed.

Pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted before February 1 or after June 30. Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried. Regardless of the reasons or time of year, proper pruning techniques should be used. These techniques include making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as topping or excessive crown thinning. If you are uncertain about any of this information, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

References available at <http://www.TexasOakWilt.org>.

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By George L. Round Rock, TX on 05/25/13

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Meridian by Square Ft Range	6 Months Sold History (04/2013-09/2013)							Current Market	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE						TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale	
<2500	5	2,248	\$ 140	\$ 314	2008	47	0	0	
2500-2999	12	2,797	\$ 136	\$ 380	2008	36	0	1	
3000-3499	11	3,287	\$ 124	\$ 406	2008	21	4	2	
3500-3999	6	3,787	\$ 137	\$ 520	2011	39	4	2	
4000-4500	4	4,275	\$ 139	\$ 593	2010	82	2	2	
>4500	2	4,739	\$ 147	\$ 697	2012	3	2	0	
Meridian Total	40	3,256	\$ 134	\$ 437	2009	37	12	7	
% Change Mo/Mo	-2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	-8%	-8%	17%	
% Change Yr/Yr	18%	-7%	3%	-4%	0%	-43%	-25%	75%	

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 10/1/2013. Texas License # 515586.

In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.