

# LONG CANYON

## Gazette

DECEMBER 2013

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE LONG CANYON

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 12



## TRAVELING WITH YOUR PET OVER THE HOLIDAYS?

Here are some tips that will help  
make your drive smooth sailing

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!

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. .... www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181  
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**Personal classifieds** (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Long Canyon residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail longcanyon@peelinc.com

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

## BIRDIES FOR BIKES at River Place Country Club

The third annual Birdies for Bikes tournament was held at River Place Country Club on Saturday, November 9th. The event was open to all junior golfers including elementary, middle school and high school ages. Prizes were awarded to the junior golfers that raised the most money for the charity.

The event this year raised \$10,000 for Birdies for Bikes. Each participating junior golfer collected donations and pledges for the number of pars and birdies they score in the golf tournament. In 2011, the tournament raised more than \$3,000. The second annual tournament in 2012 raised \$8,042.50, facilitating the purchase of 60 bikes, 60 helmets and 60 bike locks for under-privileged Austin area children. Now in its third year, Austin area junior golfers, many local residents and Austin area businesses support this tournament.

In October 2011, Hailey Derrickson, age 13, started the Birdies for Bikes Charity Golf Tournament. Its purpose is to enable junior golfers to help Austin area children without bicycles receive one during the holiday season through the Bikes for Kids Charity. Bikes for Kids began in 1996 in Austin, Texas and was created by Mix 94.7 Morning Show co-hosts J.B. Hager and Sandy McIlree.

After the event, prizes were awarded and the participants enjoyed a pizza party at the River Place Country Club pool. Tim Lopez of "The Plain White T's" had all members of his band autograph a guitar that which was awarded to the junior that raises the most money. In addition, PGA Tour Winner and former PGA Champion Rich Beem played with a group of the top money raisers.

"The first year of the event was fun, but last year the kids raised about \$3,000. Last year they took it up a level and got more players. I recruited some of my college kids I teach and some friends that are Tour Pros to play with a group and make it a Shamle Format. We added a 9 hole event for the younger players and they raised over \$8,000 last year!" said Chris de Keratry, Head Golf Professional at River Place Country Club.



# ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

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## WHAT DO ALL THESE PEOPLE HAVE IN COMMON?

BRANDY FINNESSEY HELPED THEM WITH THEIR HOME AND THEY ALL SAID  
THEY WOULD HIGHLY RECOMMEND HER TO THEIR FRIENDS & FAMILY.

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IF YOU'VE EVER CONSIDERED SELLING, NOW MAY BE THE IDEAL TIME.

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## Four Points Chamber of Commerce

*Hosts Authorized Constant Contact Local Expert Jeff Stec at the December 2013 Chamber Luncheon*

Four Points Chamber of Commerce are proud to be hosting Jeff Stec on Thursday, December 19th, 2013 at River Place Country Club from 11:30am-1:00pm for the December luncheon. Jeff Stec, authorized constant contact local expert, will present "Making the Case for Mobile." Learn why you should be mobile friendly and how to get there.

We will have four spotlight members: RJ Jackson of RJ Orthodontics, Clay Barnett of Steiner Eye Care, Travis Beck of Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union, and Ryan Helms of Wild Basin Fitness. They will be sharing with you information about them and their business.

Some additional events for meeting people in the community this month are :

December 2nd 12:00-1:00pm – Ambassador/ Membership Committee Meeting at Four Points Chamber Visitor Center.

December 5th 5:30-8:00pm – 2013 Holiday Party Sponsored

by Randolph Brooks Federal Credit Union at Steiner Ranch Steakhouse. Please visit [www.fourpointschamber.com](http://www.fourpointschamber.com) for more details and to reserve your spot today!



December 9th 9:00-10:00am – Events Committee Meeting at Four Points Chamber Visitor Center.

December 16th 7:00pm-9:00pm – Sixth Class in Building and Administering Your WordPress Site for Beginners Series, meeting at Austin Baptist Church, 2nd Floor.

You can find all the details and register on the Four Points Chamber of Commerce Web site [www.fourpointschamber.com](http://www.fourpointschamber.com). While you are at the Chamber's Web site be sure to check out the other networking activities offered by the chamber, including the bi-monthly Connectors networking meetings, happy hours and luncheons.

The Four Points Chamber of Commerce provides networking

*(Continued on Page 5)*

# REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

*and many others...*

- Avery Ranch
- Barton Creek
- Bee Cave
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- Canyon Creek
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- Courtyard
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- Lakewood
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- Long Canyon
- Lost Creek
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- Meridian
- Pemberton Heights
- Plum Creek
- Prairie on the Creek
- Ranch at Brushy Creek
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(Continued from Page 4)

opportunities through social gatherings, luncheons and business network meetings. Now well over 100 members strong and growing, the Four Points Chamber of Commerce brings businesses together along Highway 620 from Hudson Bend and Mansfield Dam to Anderson Mill, and along Ranch Road 2222 from Jester to Volente, to support business growth in the community. For more information about upcoming events contact us at [FourPointsChamber@gmail.com](mailto:FourPointsChamber@gmail.com), visit [www.fourpointschamber.com](http://www.fourpointschamber.com) or call (512) 551-0390. Membership inquiries may also be sent directly to [membership@FourPointsChamber.com](mailto:membership@FourPointsChamber.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.

Our welcome events provide information and opportunities to meet current members and other newcomers. Visit us at [www.austinnewcomers.com](http://www.austinnewcomers.com) for more information. Hope to see you soon!

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## FOUR POINTS HOMEWORK HELP IS BACK

VHS PALS (Peer Assistance and Leadership) directed by Amy Gallagher and NHS (National Honor Society Students) directed by Ashley Koble, volunteer their time each week to help Leander ISD students in our Four Points Area with their homework. This is for elementary students - high school.

It was a great success last year with students: increasing their grade point averages, forming friendships and creating a closer community bond. Four Points Homework Help is based on Peer Assisted Learning which follows LISD's 10 Ethical Principals and Learning Model. This is 100% volunteer with the gratuity being the satisfaction of making a difference and working together as a community. Many high school volunteers more than doubled their required hours because they really enjoyed helping others.

This is a privately organized volunteer program that was started last school year by Vandegrift High School Senior -NHS and PALS member - Addison Stahl. He created this volunteer organization with the support of his family based on a program in NY organized by the public library. Addison and his friends were looking for ways to volunteer and really make a difference and Homework Help became a reality.

Mrs. Gallagher and Ms. Koble believed in the idea and offered the opportunity to earn volunteer hours through this program to their students.

Cathy Richardson - CathyBDesign - donated professional graphics and posters to give Homework Help an identity.

Kristi and Rick Nordin, owners of Cups and Cones supported the cause and donated meeting space at Cups and Cones. They also offer weekly specials during Homework Help hours.

Four Points Homework Help will be held at Cups and Cones again this year starting October 22, 2014. The days will be Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30pm -7:30pm. Sessions will have an LISD approved adult volunteer supervising them. Appointments must be set up to participate.

New addition to the group is Lucas Martis. Homework Help will have a website and online scheduler to make scheduling easier. Lucas Martis - VHS Junior - is webmaster for this volunteer program and is getting the site ready to go.

For more information please email [4ptshmwkhelp@gmail.com](mailto:4ptshmwkhelp@gmail.com). Please look for flyers and posters at Cups and Cones soon for the website and further information.

## ROBOTICS TEAMS COMPETE AT FIRST LEGO LEAGUE AND FIRST TECH CHALLENGE SCRIMMAGE SPONSORED BY VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL, CENTRAL TEXAS FIRST AND HILL COUNTRY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Dozens of teams from around Austin will compete at the 2nd Annual Four Points Community FIRST® LEGO® League and FIRST Tech Challenge Scrimmage, sponsored by the Vandegrift HS ViperBots, Central Texas FIRST, and Hill Country Education Foundation. Leander ISD's Vandegrift High School will host the event on Saturday, November 16, 2013, from 9am until noon, in various areas of Building 2 of their campus in northwest Austin.



The FIRST Tech Challenge's 2013-14 competition is called "BLOCK PARTY!sm." Between 22 and 24 middle school and high school teams will compete, using this scrimmage as a forerunner to the Central Texas Qualifying Tournament held at Vandegrift on Saturday, December 7, 2013. You can learn more about this season's FTC game here: <http://www.usfirst.org/roboticsprograms/ftc/game>.

The FIRST LEGO League's 2013 competition is called "NATURE'S FURY Challenge." Competing elementary and middle school-based FLL teams will use this scrimmage as a forerunner to the Central Texas Qualifying Tournament held later this season. To learn more about this challenge, go to: <http://www.firstlegoleague.org/challenge/2013naturesfury>.



"We strongly support science, technology, engineering and math programs, and are thrilled to see this level of participation," said Kai A. Lamb, President of the Hill Country Education Foundation. "These robotics clubs are a remarkable vehicles to ignite the interest of our students in these fields of study. Clubs have recently launched in other area schools, and we are positioning the program at Vandegrift and the surrounding feeder schools as the pinnacle of robotics in Central Texas."

In addition to supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), robotics clubs offer invaluable skills in communication, research, project management, writing, and strategic and analytical thinking.

Students and families interested in robotics or in starting robotic clubs at their schools are encouraged to attend.



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