

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF CANYON CREEK

# Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

MARCH 2014

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

## Young Mens Service League

The Young Men's Service League Four Points Chapter hit the ground running this year with its quest to bring young men and their mothers closer together while assisting, serving, and supporting the community. Capital Area Food Bank, Armadillo RV Park, CTSPCA, Keep Austin Beautiful and Partnership for Children are a few of the philanthropies that benefit from this great organization.



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Ambulance ..... 911  
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Hudson Bend Fire and EMS

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Grisham Middle School.....512-428-2650  
Westwood High School .....512-464-4000

### UTILITIES

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Texas Gas Service  
Custom Service.....1-800-700-2443  
Emergencies.....512-370-8609  
Call Before You Dig..... 512-472-2822  
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New Service.....1-800-464-7928  
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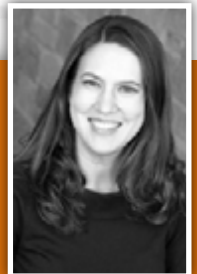
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# VHS Band and Vision Dance Company

# Mulch Sale

## It's time for our 3rd Annual Mulch Fundraiser!

We are taking orders for mulch as a fundraiser. The mulch is a quality product from a company here in Texas. We are offering two of the most popular kinds of mulch. Bags are 2 cubic feet.

**Black Velvet Mulch**  
**Hardwood Bark Mulch**

Prices are \$3.75 per bag (5-19 bags) and \$3.50 per bag (20 bags or more). Prices include sales tax. We accept cash and checks. Credit cards accepted with online orders at vhsband.com. The prices listed here are discounted for cash / check. The minimum order is 5 bags.

We offer FREE DELIVERY to Zip Codes: 78726, 78730, 78732, and 78750.

We charge a nominal fee of \$15 for Zip Codes: 78613, 78641, 78738, and 78759.

Delivery date is Friday and Saturday 28-29 March 2014. You do NOT need to be home for delivery. You can specify where to stack the mulch in one location.

Deadline to order is March 7, 2014. If you have any questions, please contact mulch@vhsband.com. Thank you for your support of our band and vision program. Please tell your friends about our fundraiser as well.

Everybody wants to support their school band; the only question is...

## How MULCH do you need?

Order by March 7, 2014



### Mulch Calculator

Select the Quantity and read the price to the right.

Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Qty	Price	Pallet	Qty	Price
5	\$ 18.75	21	\$ 73.50	37	\$ 129.50	1	52	\$ 180.00
6	\$ 22.50	22	\$ 77.00	38	\$ 133.00	2	104	\$ 360.00
7	\$ 26.25	23	\$ 80.50	39	\$ 136.50	3	156	\$ 540.00
8	\$ 30.00	24	\$ 84.00	40	\$ 140.00	4	208	\$ 720.00
9	\$ 33.75	25	\$ 87.50	41	\$ 143.50	5	260	\$ 900.00
10	\$ 37.50	26	\$ 91.00	42	\$ 147.00	6	312	\$ 1,080.00
11	\$ 41.25	27	\$ 94.50	43	\$ 150.50	7	364	\$ 1,260.00
12	\$ 45.00	28	\$ 98.00	44	\$ 154.00	8	416	\$ 1,440.00
13	\$ 48.75	29	\$ 101.50	45	\$ 157.50	9	468	\$ 1,620.00
14	\$ 52.50	30	\$ 105.00	46	\$ 161.00	10	520	\$ 1,800.00
15	\$ 56.25	31	\$ 108.50	47	\$ 164.50	11	572	\$ 1,980.00
16	\$ 60.00	32	\$ 112.00	48	\$ 168.00	12	624	\$ 2,160.00
17	\$ 63.75	33	\$ 115.50	49	\$ 171.50	13	676	\$ 2,340.00
18	\$ 67.50	34	\$ 119.00	50	\$ 175.00	14	728	\$ 2,520.00
19	\$ 71.25	35	\$ 122.50	51	\$ 178.50	15	780	\$ 2,700.00
20	\$ 70.00	36	\$ 126.00	52	<b>Pallet!</b>	16	832	\$ 2,880.00

Nature  
Watch

## FLYING CIGARS

by Jim and  
Lynne Weber

While many birds are identified by their patterns, colors, and/or vocalizations, the Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) is best identified by its silhouette – a smudge gray, streamlined bird, flying deftly overhead and looking a bit like a ‘cigar with wings.’ Its tiny body, curving wings, and stiff, shallow wing beats are as distinct as its high-pitched, chattering call.

Arriving back in central Texas in March after wintering in the upper Amazon Basin of South America, chimney swifts have round heads, short necks, tapered tails, and a wide bill so small it is often difficult to see. Slightly paler on the throat, they are dark gray-brown overall and when backlit against the sky, they can appear to be all black. Chimney swifts fly rapidly with nearly constant wing beats, often banking erratically and twisting from side to side. They frequent lakes, rivers, streams, and fields, where they forage for insects on the wing, often along with swallows.

Spending almost all of its life airborne, chimney swifts have short legs and very small feet and can’t perch when they land, so they use their long claws to cling to vertical walls inside chimneys or in hollow trees or caves. Chimney swifts even bathe in flight, gliding down to the water, smacking the surface with their bodies, and bouncing up to shake water from their feathers as they fly away. As European settlers came and built chimneys in America, their numbers surged, but the recent shift to covered, narrow flues has contributed to a decline in their numbers, and they are now classified as a ‘near threatened’ species. As such, many conservation-minded groups are building free-standing towers to provide nesting and roosting locations.

During the non-breeding season, chimney swifts roost together in a single chimney. When breeding, each mating pair occupies any one given chimney, although they may tolerate other non-breeders in their chimney. Using a glue-like saliva from a gland under their tongues, they cement their nests, made of short, dry sticks, to a chimney wall or rock face. Occasionally, an unmated swift may help the breeding pair raise the young, which outgrow the nest after only a few weeks and cling to a nearby wall, often before their eyes are open.

The genus name or *Chaetura*, is a combination of two Greek words: *chaite*, which means ‘bristle’ or ‘spine’, and *oura*, which means ‘tail.’ This aptly describes its tail feathers as the shafts of all ten end in sharp, protruding points. The species name *pelagica* means ‘of the sea’, and is thought to refer to its nomadic lifestyle and migration over the water to and from its wintering grounds.

Like all swifts, these flying cigars consume large numbers of insects each day, including highly maneuverable dragonflies and airborne spiders drifting on silken threads, and they even predate on red imported fire ants. Researchers have estimated that a pair of adults with three nestlings can consume the equivalent of 5000 to 6000 housefly-sized insects per day!



*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.*

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## Ronald McDonald House Charities Appoint New Board President & Elect Six New Board Members

Ronald McDonald House Charities® of Austin and Central Texas (RMHC Austin) is pleased to announce the appointment of Royce Poinsett as board president and the election of six new members to the RMHC Austin Board of Directors. Rick Bluntzer, Jennifer Bowden, Deb Brown, Jordan Mullins, Kim Rose and Jeanne Trogan join 13 returning board members.

**Royce Poinsett** is a government relations attorney at the Austin office of Baker Botts L.L.P., representing businesses and industry associations at the Texas Capitol. Previously, Mr. Poinsett served as an advisor to the Texas Governor and the Texas House Speaker. Mr. Poinsett and his wife became acquainted with the Ronald McDonald House in 2006 when their first child was born prematurely with a rare syndrome of multiple birth defects. He has served on the RMHC Austin Board since 2010 and in 2012, he and his wife were co-chairs of the 2012 Bandana Ball, RMHC Austin's signature fundraiser.

**Rick Bluntzer** is the senior vice president of communications and public affairs at EZCORP. Prior to joining EZCORP, Rick was the senior vice president of regulatory and government affairs for NRG Energy and served as the assistant general manager and chief administrative officer for LCRA.

**Jennifer Bowden** is a native Texan and an avid volunteer. She has volunteered for a variety of school and community organizations and served as the teaching director of Community Bible Study of Central Austin. Ms. Bowden has been a member of Impact Austin, Hospice Austin and the Dell Children's Women's Trust.

**Deb Brown** is the interim vice president and chief operating officer for Dell Children's Medical Center. Prior to accepting this assignment, Ms. Brown was director of business development and strategy and previously director of trauma services for Dell Children's Medical Center. She concurrently served as director to the Surgeon in Chief and Austin Pediatric Surgery at Dell Children's.

**Jordan Mullins** is an oil and gas associate at McGinnis Lochridge, a multi-practice law firm located in Austin. Mr. Mullins also serves as president of Friends of the House, an organization of young professionals dedicated to supporting RMHC Austin, and serves as a committee chair for RMHC Austin's Bandana Ball. He is an active board member with the Austin Symphony Orchestra BATS and is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Austin.

**Kim Rose** is a private banker with J.P. Morgan in Austin. Prior to joining J.P. Morgan, Kim served as the chief financial officer of a prominent Austin family's financial and philanthropic affairs for over seven years. She also served as a senior finance manager for Dell Inc. from 1998 to 2006. Kim began her career with the Dallas and then Austin offices of KPMG in the audit group.

**Jeanne Trogan** is the executive director of social, digital and internal communications for Dell Inc. Prior to joining Dell in 2009, Ms. Trogan was the corporate communications director at

*(Continued on Page 6)*

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**DATE:** Wednesday, April 30th  
11:00 am Registration - 1:00 pm Start  
**LOCATION:** Flintrock Falls Country Club  
**FORMAT:** 4-person scramble  
**COST:** \$165 per golfer\*  
\*Includes lunch, dinner and lots of swag

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or Tracie Garvens**  
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(Continued from Page 5)

the McDonald's Corporation located in Illinois and was an account supervisor at the public relations agency, Edelman.

"I am pleased to welcome Rick, Jennifer, Deb, Jordan, Kim and Jeanne as new Board members and Royce as our new president. Their experience, leadership and guidance will be tremendous assets to Ronald McDonald House Charities as we continue to advance our mission and ensure families stay together while their children receive treatment in Austin-area hospitals," commented Carolyn Schwarz, executive director of RMHC Austin.

### ABOUT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES OF AUSTIN & CENTRAL TEXAS

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas, a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization, creates, finds and supports programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Through its Ronald McDonald House® and Ronald McDonald Family Room® programs, RMHC Austin provides stability and resources to families to keep them together as their critically ill or injured children receive treatment in Austin-area hospitals. The Ronald McDonald House is a 30 guest room, nurturing home-like environment and the Ronald McDonald Family Rooms are located within three Austin hospitals. For more information, visit [www.rmhc-austin.org](http://www.rmhc-austin.org).

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