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Call us about our next luncheon to be held May 14th from 10:15am – 1:00pm  
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***Whether you are new or lived here for years, WE WELCOME YOU!***

Visit our website [www.RRNewNeighbors.org](http://www.RRNewNeighbors.org).

For more information & a Newsletter, call Pam at 512-487-8249.

## DROWNING IS FAST AND SILENT.

### KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH.

It's May. And in Texas, May means backyard barbeques, pool parties and summer just around the corner. May also means National Water Safety Month and an opportunity to tell parents that drowning is the number 1 cause of accidental death for children under 5, yet it is PREVENTABLE! Last year, more than 82 Texas children lost their lives to a fatal drowning while many more survived a non-fatal drowning incident.

I am the Executive Director of Colin's Hope, a Texas water safety and drowning prevention nonprofit organization. 6 years ago, when my daughter Ella was 3, I didn't worry about drowning. She took swim lessons. We loved the pool, the lake and the beach. We spent long hot summer days keeping cool in the water. I worried about bike accidents and car accidents

and falls from the monkey bars. Then, 4 year old Colin Holst drowned in a busy public pool with lifeguards on duty and family and friends close by. My daughter went to preschool with Colin. This was a wake up call that drowning could happen to my family too but I knew nothing about water safety. Thankfully, Colin's family turned their tragedy into triumph and formed Colin's Hope to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning. Colin's Hope has accomplished so much already but the work is far from being done because children are still drowning quickly and silently in bath tubs, pools, open water, toilets and even buckets..

*(Continued on Page 3)*

# The Forum

## NEWSLETTER INFO

### NEWSLETTER

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### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Please support the businesses that advertise in The Forum. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Forest Creek residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. 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 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.



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## ***Drowning (Continued on Page 3)***

Water is NOT safe. Water will never be completely safe BUT there are simple things you can do and small behavior changes you can make that can help your family to be safeR around water. Read on and invest a few minutes of your time. Think about it--we take 20 seconds every time we get in the car to buckle our babies into car seats to keep them safeR. We spend countless minutes reminding our kid to put a helmet on before they pedal off to keep them safeR on bikes and scooters. We do these small behaviors over and over because we know they can help prevent tragedies. Why wouldn't you also add layers of protection to prevent a water related accident?

Below are 10 simple things you can do NOW that will add water safety tools to your parenting toolbox (and to your pool bag) and help prevent your children from drowning.

1. Take and share the Colin's Hope water safety quiz (<http://www.colinshope.org/quiz>), it could save a life!
2. Talk to your kids about water safety and tell them to NEVER get in water without an adult Water Guardian (that's YOU or another adult).
3. Understand that DROWNING is FAST and SILENT.

4. Be a Water Guardian. Keep Kids in Arm's Reach when near, in and around water.

5. Enroll in formal swim lessons and learn to swim.

6. Ensure that your pool and your neighbors pools are fenced and have self latching/ locking gates.

7. Weak and non-swimmers should wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved and properly fitted life jacket NOT water wings or floaties.

8. Teach kids to stay away from pool drains to avoid entrapment.

9. Learn CPR

10. Visit [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org) and learn more water safety tips, volunteer or donate.

Please share this life saving water safety information with your friends and family as we prepare for another long, hot Texas summer. Together, we can achieve the vision of a world where children do not drown!

In the words of Colin Holst--Have the Best Day Ever!

Alissa Magrum

*Mom, Colin's Hope Executive Director, Lover of Water, Water Safety Advocate*



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## Go Mitch Go Announces New Keep Fighting Run Festival 10k

Benefitting **Blood Cancer Research**, presented by **Storm Guard**

Join the Go Mitch Go Foundation in the fight against childhood blood cancer by participating in the first annual Keep Fighting Run Festival

10k presented by Storm Guard of Austin, Saturday, May 3. All proceeds from the festival will go to the Go Mitch Go Foundation to support lifesaving cancer research.

Formally known as the Fighting Blood Cancers 5k, the Keep Fighting Run Festival is one of four annual events in Austin to offer a 10k distance race. The race will take place at John Gupton Stadium in Cedar Park, Texas, at 7 a.m. on Saturday, May 3, and will also feature a 5k and Kids K, and offer registration for both teams and individual runners.

Unlike the Fighting Blood Cancers 5k, which took place along the trail at Decker Lake, the Keep Fighting Run Festival will take place on a predominantly paved route making races accessible to runners of all ages and experience levels. The flat course also promises athletes the opportunity to set new personal records.

Once registered, all runners have the opportunity to fundraise for Go Mitch Go through a personal fundraising page provided by the foundation. All funds raised via these fundraising portals will support cancer research at the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the MIT David H. Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research and other partner organizations.

The Keep Fighting Run Festival is a USA Track and Field sanctioned event and will count toward all national runner rankings. Awards will be given for male and female overall winners, as well as male and female winners of first, second and third place in each age bracket. Corporate teams competing against each other will also be recognized for most money raised and most runners on a team.

To learn more about the Go Mitch Go Foundation, visit [www.gomitchgo.com](http://www.gomitchgo.com).

Find more information about the Keep Fighting Run Festival and register at [www.gomitchgo.com/keep-fighting-run-festival](http://www.gomitchgo.com/keep-fighting-run-festival).

### About Go Mitch Go

The Go Mitch Go Foundation was founded in 2009 to honor the legacy of Mitchell Graham Whitaker, who lost his two-year battle with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia at the age of 10 in 2007. Mitchell's last words, "Keep fighting," have become ingrained in the foundation which funds lifesaving cancer research by supporting endurance athletes as they train. Committed to finding a cure for childhood blood cancers, raising awareness and assisting families battling cancer, Go Mitch Go has raised almost \$900,000 since 2007 to fund cancer research through the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and other partner organizations.



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# DROWNING IS FAST & SILENT KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH



## COLIN'S HOPE

WATER SAFETY TIPS AT  
[WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG)



### May is National Water Safety Month

**Ongoing:** Volunteers needed to stuff & distribute water safety packets. [info@colinshope.org](mailto:info@colinshope.org)

**Ongoing:** Colin's Hope Athlete Ambassadors needed. [www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador](http://www.tinych.org/AthleteAmbassador)

**Now-June 21:** Donate \$30, get a free Schlitterbahn ticket. [www.tinych.org/tickets](http://www.tinych.org/tickets)

**May 5th:** Otter Spotter Day Storytime at Backwoods Austin from 10:30am-11:30am

Volunteer - Donate  
[COLINSHOPE.ORG](http://COLINSHOPE.ORG)



**Take our Water Safety Quiz.** [www.colinshope.org/quiz/](http://www.colinshope.org/quiz/)

Keep your children and families safe in, near and around all bodies of water.

## LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



**CONSTANT  
VISUAL  
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**LEARN  
TO  
SWIM**



**WEAR  
LIFE  
JACKETS**



**KEEP BACKYARDS  
& BATHROOMS  
SAFER**



**MULTIPLE  
BARRIERS  
AROUND WATER**



**CHECK POOL  
& HOT TUB  
FIRST**



**STAY AWAY  
FROM  
DRAINS**



**BE SAFER  
AT THE  
BEACH**



**LEARN CPR  
& REFRESH  
SKILLS YEARLY**



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US  
ONLINE**

## Property Tax Season is Here

The history of property taxes dates back at least as far as ancient Egypt. Thousands of years later, property taxes were enacted in Texas in order to support the new republic. The property tax system that Texans know today is vastly different from what it was even a few decades ago. The modern Texas Property Tax Code is full of complex details, most of which have little bearing on the average homeowner. However, there are a few key details that every property owner should know.

The Travis Central Appraisal District will be sending out Notices of Appraised Value in mid to late April. This notice contains important information worthy of review. Perhaps most significant is the appraised property's value for 2014. This figure is the appraisal district's opinion of property value as of January 1, 2014.

The appraisal district arrives at the appraised value using mass appraisal techniques, which is why it is unlikely that you have ever seen an employee of the district physically inspecting your house. These mass appraisal techniques, while widely accepted, often result in values that do not represent true market value, or values that are higher than those of similar properties. Homeowners

can successfully protest and lower their appraised values in either of the aforementioned scenarios.

Property owners should be keenly aware of the protest deadline. This deadline is generally May 31, but can vary based on the timing of weekends and the date that the appraisal district sends out notices. The protest deadline should be clearly stated within the Noticed of Appraised Value. If this deadline is missed, the opportunity to lower your 2014 tax burden is greatly reduced.

One of your most important rights as a taxpayer and landowner is the right to protest your property's appraised value every year. The early Texans that founded our great state would be astonished to learn that today, less than 20% of property owners protest their appraised values. If you fall in the 80% of individuals that do not protest, you owe it to yourself and the fighting spirit of Texas' founding fathers to reevaluate that decision this year when you receive your 2014 Notice of Appraised Value in the mail.

Want to lower your property taxes? Visit [FiveStoneTax.com](http://FiveStoneTax.com) or call 512.833.5829. Five Stone Tax Advisers is Travis County's most successful property tax representation firm.



### Forest Creek Animal Hospital

*Clifford H. Peck, D.V.M.  
Amber Breclaw, D.V.M.  
Lisa LaBry, D.V.M.  
Amy Kunze, D.V.M.*

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