THE RIVER REVIEW

October 2014 Volume 8, Issue 10

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF RIVER PLACE



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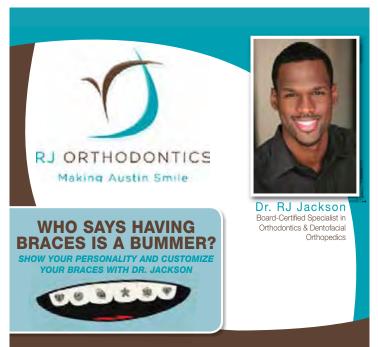
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ARTICLE INFO

The River Review is mailed monthly to all River Place residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for the River Review please email it to *riverreview@peelinc.com*. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.



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Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	
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Vandegrift High School	512-570-2300
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SEPTEMBER 2014 YARD OF THE MONTH



Aina and Ron Hill, who reside at 5012 Spartanburg Cove, won the Yard of the Month for September 2014, given by the River Place Garden Club. Throughout the seasons, the Hill's yard is full of color, and during September, it boasted brilliant reds, purples and oranges from many plants in the numerous beds surrounding their home. Throughout the beds, Aina has planted Pride of Barbados, hardy perennial shrubs that grow to 6' or more tall and sport brilliant orange-red blossoms with tinges of gold on the edges. In addition, she has used garden phlox with masses of small, purple star-shaped, flowers along with pink roses in the beds that lead to the front entrance, and in other beds, Aina has planted orange cosmos, yellow columbine, and iris. All of these colors are accentuated by the lush St. Augustine lawn.

On most days, Aina is in her garden pruning and planting. She also spends a great deal of time propagating plants and placing them throughout the yard, so one can see those efforts with Pride of Barbados, garden phlox, cosmos, and columbine. The repeating of these plants throughout the yard gives it balance, symmetry and color.

Aina said that their goal has been to have an array of different colors throughout the year. "As one species drops its seeds, plants for the next year emerge," she said. "We hope the color gives pleasure to our neighborhood as it does us. Gardening is a precious and vital therapy. We have an abundant, happy family including butterflies, birds and bees," she added. The River Place Garden Club congratulates the Hills and encourages neighbors to view their lovely yard.

The club meets on the second Thursday of the month at members' homes, and we invite River Place residents who are interested to contact our president, Patricia Thomas, at RiverPlaceGarden@gmail.com for information.

River Place Author Stephen G. Yanoff

River Place residents rejoice! Stephen G. Yanoff, America's most popular mystery author (and a River Place resident) will be featured at a gala event benefiting the Dr. Eugene Clark Library of Lockhart, Texas.

The city of Lockhart, "The Barbecue Capital of Texas," is proud to sponsor this event, hosted by Judge Rebecca Hawener, Pleasant Hill Winery, and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. All net proceeds to benefit the library.

Join Stephen G. Yanoff, Sarah Bird, Elizabeth Crook, James Magnuson, and other best-selling authors for a wonderful evening of literary magic. October 4, 2014. From 6-9 p.m. For reservations, contact: (512) 398-9707.

The Pump Run 5K and Kids K: A race within a race

Almost a billion people around the world lack access to clean, safe water. Diseases from unsafe water and lack of basic sanitation kill more people every year than all forms of violence, including war.

These statistics are disturbing and chances are – if you're already aware of the global water crisis – you've heard them before.

What you probably haven't heard is that thanks to local organizations like Water to Thrive, the race to eradicate this global scourge is being won. Recent data released by the World Health Organization shows that in spite of population growth, the number of people around the world without access to clean water is shrinking.

To help accelerate this process, you can play a role by doing something as simple as entering your own race. On Saturday, November 15, The Pump Run 5K and Kids K will take place at the DELL Diamond in Round Rock with proceeds going to benefit Water to Thrive.

Presented by HEB, The Pump Run is a family-friendly event that has something for everyone including: generous cash prizes; free food (Blue Bell Ice Cream and Rudy's are sponsors); music; spot prizes; face painting and a host of other kids activities; plenty of swag in the race bags; and, a rebate program for schools.

Brand new for this year, the rebate program will award the top five schools in terms of attendance with \$5 for every student that registers. So, if your child's school gets 100 kids out to the race, their school will receive a \$500 HEB gift card.

Details about how to register a school for the program are available on The Pump Run's website at www.thepumprun.org. You can also create your own team and register you and your family.

Water to Thrive is a faith-based nonprofit that has funded more than 500 water projects since its launch six years ago. Those projects have improved the lives of more than 300,000 people in rural Africa.



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HCEF Celebrates 5th Anniversary with Fall Fundraising Campaign

The Hill Country Education Foundation (HCEF) celebrates its 5th anniversary this year. What started as an idea among a few parents has grown into an established partner with Four Points-area schools, donating more than \$300,000 dollars to date and more than \$120,000 just last year. Our mission is to support programs that focus on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum, as well as to promote leadership, entrepreneurship and college readiness.

WHY AN EDUCATION FOUNDATION?

We are blessed to live in a vibrant, active, and affluent community, where parents are engaged with their children's education. I witnessed this at the Viper's season-opening football game. Amidst all of the pageantry and excitement – from the camouflage-themed uniforms, to the gleaming 18-wheeler carrying band instruments – it's clear that football isn't just a game but an experience. Whether your child is on the team or involved in any other groups, you know that these enhancements are only made possible through booster club funding.

HCEF – Your Four Points Academic Booster Club

HCEF is committed to bringing the same kind of excitement and inspiring, experiential learning to core curricular activities. It's easy to assume that such a financially strong region has everything needed to provide a great education. However, because our public schools rely primarily on state funding, the reality is that financial resources are tight and not able to keep pace with growing demands. Advanced technology and tools for hands-on use in the classroom, outside speakers who inspire our kids about potential careers, and supplemental programs for preparing for college are all examples that can transform the learning process into a memorable, stimulating experience.

Not only do these programs heighten learning, they allow administrators to recruit and retain the best teachers. It's similar to college football – many schools can boast great coaches and shiny new facilities, but a strong and supportive fan base can be the tipping point to push the program over the top; just visit Aggieland in College Station for a good example.

PREPARE, INSPIRE, AND ENGAGE OUR STUDENTS

On October 1, we kick off our 2nd Annual Fall Fundraising campaign:"Prepare, Inspire, Engage!" Our goal is to raise \$20,000 that will finance programs, equipment, and activities that will

take learning to the next level. Many may connect HCEF through robotics. Our strong backing of robotics teams and competitions, from elementary through high school is well known. However, HCEF promotes much more than robotics.

Prepare! – HCEF assists in funding the Naviance college readiness platform for the entire school district. With Naviance, students explore careers and majors that match their interests, discover college programs, and understand what it takes to gain acceptance. Funding for VHS' PSAT boot camp is bringing concrete results with a prestigious TEA rating and a whopping 32% increase in AP scholars this year. We also fund ReadiStep, which allows 8th graders to take practice PSAT tests so they understand whether they are on track for college success and, hopefully, minimize any game-day jitters.

Inspire! – HCEF funded the FCCLA leadership event at Vandegrift, as well as leadership programs for middle school band and high school athletics. We've helped the Entrepreneurs Club at Vandegrift, and we're exploring ways to provide internships or "career days" with local employers to give students an inside look at potential career paths for their future.

Engage! – HCEF has provided digital microscopes, iPads, laboratory sensors, measurement equipment, and interactive tools – all for students to gain hands-on experiences with real-world tools that literally "flip the classroom" into a more engaging and active environment. Each year passionate teachers ask for more tools like these. To date, we've funded \$120,000 in Impact Grants.

The next time you are writing that booster club check or driving junior to his weekly private lesson, take a moment to stop and remind yourself about why your children attend school. Your support can help make the rest of their week just as exciting as the Friday night game experience.



John Pasquarette is vice president of e-Business at National Instruments. He received his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering at Texas A&M. He and his wife Kathleen have two children. Ellie is a sophomore at VHS and Will is an 8th grader at CRMS. They have lived in the Four Points community since 2009.

Be Part of the PIE Challenge and Help Raise \$20k for Four Points Area Students!

2nd Annual Fall Fundraising Campaign

"Prepare, Inspire, Engage!" Starts October 1 Go to www.HillCountryEdFoundation LEANDER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT



2014-2015 DISTRICT CALENDAR

	JULY 2014	AUGUST 2014	SEPTEMBER 2014	OCTOBER 2014
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	IMPORTANT DATES	1000		ROPOSED TESTING DATES
	First Day of School Labor Day	Aug. 25 New Teacher		-23
2	Rosh HashanahSe	pt. 24-26 Student/Teac	por Holiday	5STAAR Testing 2-5TAKS Exit
	Yom Kippur Columbus Day	. Oct. 3-4 Staff Develop		30-31STAAR Testing
	Veteran's Day	Nov. 11 Bad Weather		1-22STAAR Testing
	Thanksgiving	Nov. 27 Decreased Test	ing Dates May 4-	8 STAAR Testing
	HanukkahDe Christmas		May 12	2-13STAAR Testing
1	MLK Day	Jan 19	-Weeks Period	
	Spring BreakMar Good Friday	A sult 2		
	Bad Weather	April 27		Leander ISD Educational
	Bag woothor	May 18 Italic First/Last Dav	Semester - Elementary 🗾 🖳 🗍	
4	Bad Weather Memorial Day	May 25	Semester - Secondary	E E E E Excellence Foundation

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NATUREWATCH FIELDS OF GOLD by Jim and Lynne Weber

autumn, and the golden colors of the season begin to surround

us. Among the amber and scarlet hues making an appearance in the landscape, one cannot help but notice two of our most common fall-blooming native plants: Goldeneye (Viguiera dentata) and Prairie Goldenrod (Solidago nemoralis).

A member of the sunflower family, Goldeneye is a bushy, drought-tolerant, multibranched plant that tends to grow in colonies, providing rich swaths of golden color along our roadsides and in open areas. It has narrow leaves and numerous

1.5 inch daisy-like flowers at the tips of long, slender stalks. Growing to 3 feet tall in full sun or up to 6 feet tall in partial shade, this plant is native not only to Texas but to Arizona and New Mexico as well. It prefers relatively dry, partially shaded areas such as woodland edges and open prairies, and in Mexico is also known by the common name Chimalacate.

The mid to late fall blooms of Goldeneye not only provide seasonal color, but provide for native wildlife as well. Goldeneye is the larval food plant for both the Bordered Patch and Cassius Blue butterflies, and if spent flower stalks are left to stand through most of the winter, they will provide good seed forage for Lesser Goldfinches and other birds. Infusions of this plant are still used today as an antibacterial treatment for baby rash.

Prairie Goldenrod, also called Gray Goldenrod, is a slender-stemmed plant



Goldeneye (Photo by Joseph A. Marcus)



Prairie Goldenrod (Photo by R. W. Smith)

Cooler temperatures and shorter days mark the onset of 1.5 to 2 feet tall, that blooms from June through October. A member of the aster family, it has thin, coarsely-toothed

leaves and yellow flowers that are borne on the upper side of hairy stalks, arching out and downward to create a vaseshaped flower cluster. Individual plants bloom at various times, extending the flowering season, but they are most noticeable in fall, especially when paired with purple Gayfeather and red Autumn Sage. An excellent addition to a wildflower meadow or a sunny garden, Prairie Goldenrod is naturally found in dry, open woods and upland prairies, and does well in full

sun to part shade. A carefree plant, it can become invasive if left alone, but is also easily controlled.

Of special value to bees and butterflies for its pollen and nectar, and to several species of finches for its seeds, Prairie Goldenrod was also used by Native Americans to treat jaundice and kidney disorders, and as a wash for burns and skin ulcers. The Navajo burned the leaves as incense, and used the seeds for food.

As you wander along roadways and pathways this fall, admire these fields of gold that delight not only our senses, but provide a bountiful harvest for our wild neighbors as well!

Send your nature-related questions to 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.

Pruning Guidelines for Prevention of Oak Wilt in Texas **NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE YOUR OAKS 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 treeto-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 February1 through June 30). Reasons to prune in the spring include:

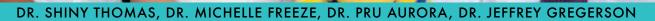
- To accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
- To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
- To remove limbs rubbing on a building or rubbing on other branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.
- On sites where 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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- Utilize timers for lights, radios, and televisions to give the appearance that someone is home when you are out of town.
- Secure patio doors with a rod.
- Keep the perimeter of your home well lit.
- Take pictures of valuables and keep them stored in a secure location.
- Keep an inventory of all serial numbers for valuable items that can be given to Law Enforcement to track your items if stolen.
- Never leave a vacation message on your answering machine.
- Have a friend or family member pick up newspaper and mail, or stop delivery until you return.
- Keep shrubbery trimmed, to prevent hiding places.
- Park in well-lit areas at night.
- Do not leave valuables in plain sight. Lock them in the trunk or take them inside.
- Organize a community watch program in your neighborhood.
- Secure all windows and doors at all times.

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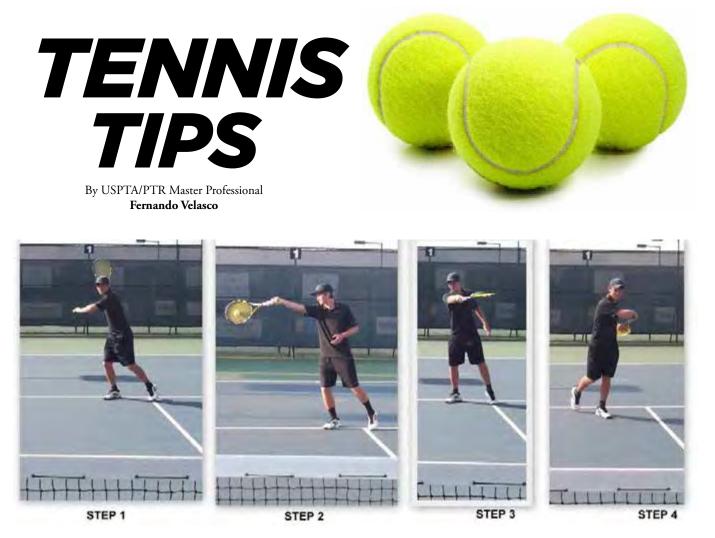


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The Modern Game: The Swinging Forehand Approach Shot or Volley

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute "The Swinging Forehand Approach Shot or Volley." This shot is used when an opponent hits a soft shot that is floating high on the service line area. The player will take advantage and will hit the ball on the fly with a huge swing, thus hitting with top spin high over the net and hit with power. This shot can be used as a "winner" or as an "approach shot."

In the illustrations, Ryker Heller, one of the top players of the Grey Rock Tennis Academy, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Ryker is coached by the Director of the Tennis Academy, Darin Pleasant.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Ryker sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, the right hand gripping the racket and arm in front. His weight is on the front foot as his momentum carries his forward to attack the ball. His right wrist is "laid back" to allow maximum point of contact.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: Ryker started the swing high and "looped" it to allow the head of the racket to drop down. He will be brushing around the outside of the ball as he makes contact with it. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight has is moving through the shot.

Step 3: The Follow Through: In order to get maximum control and power, Ryker is keeping his right arm extended through the shot. He has "snapped" his right wrist and has the head of the racket facing down. His weight is going forward.

Step 4: The Finish: Ryker's upper body acceleration forced the head of the racket to "wrap around" his left shoulder, thus creating the most power and topspin on the ball. His legs are already in position to move forward the net for a volley. His right foot should naturally move forward due to his momentum and racket speed. From his looks, he apparently hit a very deep volley for a winner.

Look in the next Newsletter for: "The Modern Game: The Swinging Backhand Volley"



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A GRILIFE EXTENSION

Late summer into fall, people may notice tiny insects that are mottled grayish-brown collecting near windows, especially if hackberry trees are nearby. Hackberry psyllids (pronounced sill-ids) look like tiny cicadas and are actually closely related to them. Adults are about 1/8 an inch long.

Another name for hackberry psyllids is hackberry nipple gall maker. Adults lay their eggs on hackberry leaves in the spring. When eggs hatch, the psyllid feeds on the leaf and the leaf responds by developing a small pocket around the insect. The pocket is called a gall. Hackberry trees do not show long term damage from the galls or feeding of the psyllids, but the galls can make the tree unsightly.

These insects are not harmful to humans or companion animals. In the fall, the insects are searching for overwintering sites. They

Hackberry Psyllids

These insects are not harmful to humans or companion animals. In the fall, the insects are searching for overwintering sites. They normally overwinter under the bark of trees, but sometimes they will utilize whatever crack or crevice they can find. This, along with the psyllids being attract to lights at night, can lead them near doors and windows and sometimes they end up inside the home.

To manage fall invasion of hackberry psyllids:

- Use fine mesh (18) screening
- Reduce outdoor lighting or use bulbs that are less attractive to insects
- Use sealant to seal cracks and crevices
- Insects that find their way indoors can be vacuumed up

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, genetic information or veteran status.

The biggest change to ever hit Austin City Government is happening now. For the first time, geographic districts have been drawn and 10 new council members will be elected from all over Austin.

District 6, in Northwest Austin, will finally get the chance to elect someone to represent our area on the Austin City Council. No council member has ever served who lived in the neighborhoods in District 6 while serving.

The municipal election date has also moved from May to November 4th, meaning the non-partisan City Council elections are being held down-ballot from the partisan Governor's race for the first time.





Matt Stillwell knows District 6 well, spending most of his life in and around the area. He's called Austin home for over 24 years.

His understanding of the region and appreciation of the character of Austin make him the best candidate for our area on the Austin City Council.

Connect with the campaign: www.mattstillwell.com | matt@mattstillwell.com



Matt's service to our community includes:

- Chairperson, RRISD School Health Advisory Council
- Member, Hunter's Chase Architectural Control Committee
- Graduate, 2014 Leadership Austin Essential program
- Member, RRISD Bond Oversight Committee
- Member, Superintendent's District Grading Committee
 Member, Anderson Mill Elem. Site Based Advisory Committee
- Secretary, Anderson Mill Elementary PTA
- Secretary, Anderson Mill Elementary PIA
- Volunteer Coach, 6 seasons, Neighborhood Sports youth flag football
 10 unan success and executes and a sector of 2 Austin small husinesses
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Cty Council. Jade Chang Sheppard, Treasurer. Austin Fair Campaign Chapter and has agreed to abide by the Code of Fair Campaign Practices.

16 River Review - October 2014

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Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their year round support! A special thank you to Peel, Inc. From donated ads to pledges raised in our golf tournament, their support helps us to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning.

*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water



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