



January 2015

Volume 8, Issue 1

A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks

## EDITOR NOTES:

As of this writing, we still do not know who the mayor is, although likely Steve Adler. We do know that Mary Landrieu lost, making a Republican sweep in the South! Politics is an interesting "game"! With cycles, just like the weather.

By the time you get this, it will be 2015. I hope you had a merry and blessed Christmas, and were able to enjoy the LOHA2 Christmas in The Park event. And all the neighborhood outside decorations! Spectacular, as usual! I spent my second holidays as a widower, and did not travel to see family. But had some friendly invitations from people in the area!

Some very interesting exchanges on the blog! Neighbors helping neighbors! What a great way for our association to communicate. The internet has evolved into a wonderful way to keep in touch, although there are hazards! And Google Fiber promises to make it even faster!

I have been a computer professional for 50 years, and have seen remarkable developments! And I just retired from



ACC after 12 years as an adjunct professor. But I still am working, developing an online business. Another career!

I have lived in the area for 18 years and LOHA2 more than 15 years. 290 extension was just being built, MoPac ended at 71, Convict Hill Rd. ended before 290. Wm. Cannon largely undeveloped from 71 to Brodie, few shops at the north end of Brodie. Austin has developed all over! I grew up in a small town in western Pennsylvania where you could walk from one end to the other in less than an hour. I like Austin and Oak Hill much better!

## NEWS FROM QUARRY PARK

Rather disappointing month! First, on November 21st a driver from the Parks Department delivered 8 yards of mulch for the trails and dumped it at the park entrance, completely blocking entry to the park! 8 yards is a lot of mulch! We had scheduled a work day for Saturday the 22nd, but had a torrential rain that day! We rescheduled for the 29th, but that was the weekend after Thanksgiving and only 2 people showed up. We did clear a path beside the mulch pile for entry.

Then we rescheduled for December 6th, but that was December 7th weekend and again only 2 people showed up. We widened the path beside the mulch pile and spread mulch on the trails. The Parks Foundation kindly let us keep the tools (mulch sleds, forks, and rakes) for two weeks+, but I returned them the next week.

There is still some mulch in the entry. It will remain until we can have another work day, which will probably be the Parks Foundation IMPD (It's My Park Day) in March. Watch for it, and join us!

The Parks Department mows along the sidewalk, empties the trash barrel, and refills the doggy mitt dispenser. All the rest of the maintenance is done by volunteers. There is a crew occasionally working to remove dead trees, which are a fire hazard. If you have any questions or suggestions (constructive please) contact me. I live across the street from the park.

## NEWSLETTER INFO

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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 [legendoaks@peelinc.com](mailto:legendoaks@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](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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## HOLIDAY IN THE PARK!



Dear neighbors,

A huge thank you to everyone who donated time and goodies to our holiday party this year.

I would like to especially thank the Leonard family for hauling down that big comfy chair for Santa ... and for the music. It was super fun and festive!

Thank you to the Larkin family for helping to string up all of those lights.

Thank you to Kim Z. for staying late and helping to haul everything into the pool house.

Thank you to my face painting crew from the middle school. The reindeer faces were adorable.

Thank you to Jim and Nikki for all their quick responses and helping me with boxes, bathrooms, access to locked closets and so much more!

Thank you to the Gentrys for bringing their friends with the mini horses! They are always a hit!

Thank you to Whole Foods for donating the hot cocoa mix. Next year I'll have to double that ... it was so tasty that we went thru 5 gallons in the first hour!

And a huge thank you to my kids and my mom who spent their entire weekend at the park setting up and taking down lights ... and doing every other little thing I asked them to.

If you would like to see something more or different at this party next year please let me know. We start planning and booking Santa and anything else for this party in early September. (December is a busy month!!)



Thanks again!  
Suzanne Johnson  
stoprope@gmail.com

## Welcome New Neighbors!

According to the Legend Oaks 2 Homeowners Association, we had no new neighbors join the neighborhood in November.

Everything you need to know about the Homeowners Association can be found at <http://hoasites.goodwintx.com/loh/Home.aspx> - bylaws, how to get a pool pass, meeting minutes, payment instructions for HOA dues, architectural change forms, ...

Want to know what is going on in the neighborhood? Subscribe to:

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*In order for your request to be approved, you need to include your street address.*

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## About Teaching Experience

*By Dr. Jim Turney, [drjet@austin.rr.com](mailto:drjet@austin.rr.com), 512-375-7265*

I have been a college professor for 25 years, part time for 15 and full time for 10. I would like to pass on some observations from this experience.

First of all, public school teachers must have teaching degrees, and are trained to teach. College professors do not have that requirement. It has been that way for many years, so I guess it works, but I wish I had the benefit of at least some training. Trial and error is not the best way to learn, if there is a way to eliminate the error! I am sure my first few years of teaching could have been better.

Second, in my colleges the students evaluate the instructors. This is a case of “inmates run the asylum”! If a student gives a negative rating, this often leads to a censure, often undeserved, of the instructor and goes on his/her record, and could damage the progression. I even had a case in an online course where a student complained that I criticized him for lack of cooperation with other students, in a project management course where cooperation was essential! And I was not given any more assignments!

In my current college, a junior college partially funded by the state, there is a term called “student retention”. When I first heard the term I thought it meant, did the student remember/retain what was taught. What it actually meant was, did the student finish the course. Did the college “retain” the student. And funding depends on retention. Not on enrollment, but on completion. So the instructor is encouraged to get all students to passing.

Another condition, especially in online courses where most interaction occurs through exchange of text messages, is poor spelling and grammar. Even computer courses, which I teach, have

assignments requiring some writing. In these days of using iPhones and similar text messaging, spelling and grammar have been replaced with all sorts of abbreviations and shorthand, so that communicating in sentences with correct spelling and grammar is becoming a lost art. In computer software, including word processors and email programs, spell checking is included to check words as they are entered. Grammar checking is included in most word processors, but the user must specifically request it. I have not found it to be very useful, because there are so many variations and suggestions to be considered.

There are several programs to check for plagiarism, another issue in teaching. Of course they all depend on internet searching, and like search engines some are better than others, depending on their rules. And some term papers require internet research, so that the papers will probably include some materials from online works. So the instructor needs to use judgment in analyzing plagiarism reports.

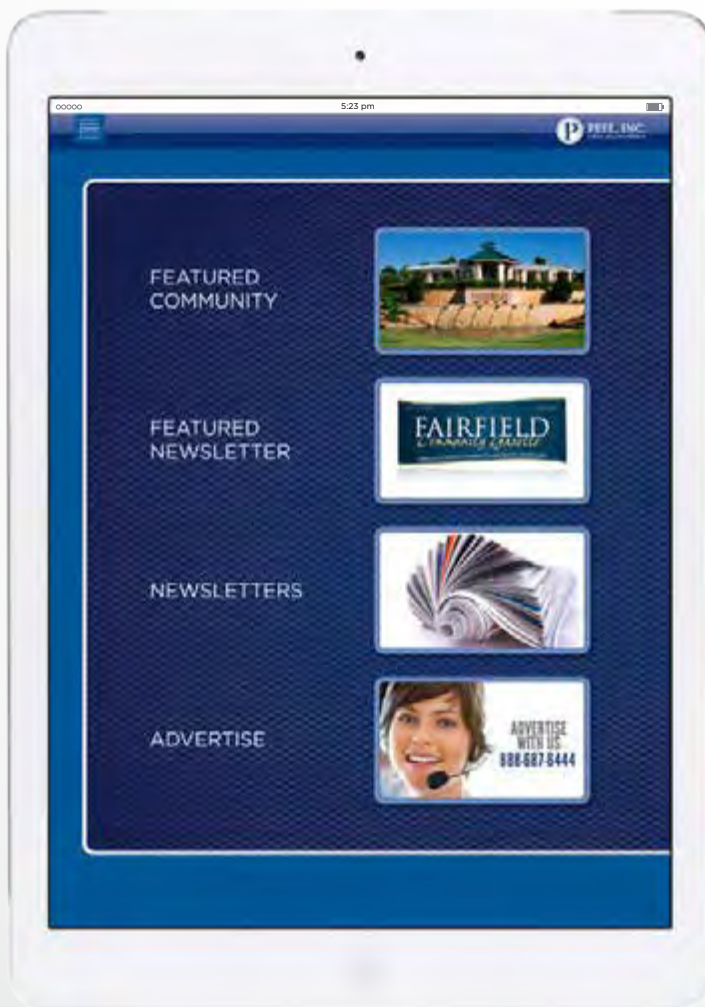
Finally, there is the issue of homework. I do not require, or accept, any paper submissions. Our college assigns each student a space on the server that is uniquely theirs, and I have read-only access. Assignments are either from the text or online, so no paper is required. Since I have access to student files, I can copy all their materials to a flash drive for later evaluation. Available technology gives us capabilities not available even 10 years ago! The days of bulging briefcases are over.

Technology frees us from much of the details of previous years, and gives us freedom to perform our primary task, to educate students!

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Theft	367	54

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# TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional  
**Fernando Velasco**



STEP 1

STEP 2

STEP 3

## THE MODERN GAME: “THE FOREHAND RETURN SERVE DROP SHOT”

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or in tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Return Serve Drop Shot.” This shot is used when an opponent is expecting a deep service return and the player “surprises” the opponent with a short angle drop shot. It can be used in both singles and doubles play.

In the illustrations, Fernando Velasco, Director of Tennis and teacher at of the Grey Rock Tennis Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Velasco is presently ranked #1 in Singles and Doubles in the USTA Men’s 70 Division in Texas, and #13 in Singles

and #8 and #10 in Doubles in the US.

**Step 1: The Back Swing:** When Fernando 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, and his eyes are focused on the incoming ball.

**Step 2: The Point of Contact:** The success of the drop shot is to “cup” under the ball with the strings. The grip is relaxed and ready to push the ball forward and under the ball as he makes contact with it. His left shoulder is almost opening and his weight is moving through the shot.

**Step 3: The Follow Through:** In order to get maximum underspin, Fernando is keeping the right hand extended as long as possible. His weight is going forward. The left hand is left leaning forward for better balance.

As the shot goes over the net, and it was successful, Fernando will run towards the net, expecting his opponent to either lift the ball short, or try to drop shot his drop shot.

*Look in the next Newsletter for: “The Backhand Return Drop Shot”*

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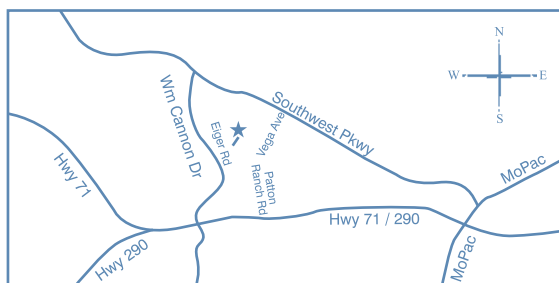
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