

A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks

February 2015

Volume 8, Issue 2

# EDITOR NOTES:

You may think I am "hogging" the writing space in this letter, but the fact is, no one else (except the committee) is contributing! If you have something to say, related to the neighborhood, please send it to me, drjet@austin. rr.com. I may need to edit it, but it will be included in the next letter. Come on, I know there are lots of ideas and opinions you want to share!!

What is new in our world? How about the tragedy in Paris! Can you imagine the mind-set (or lack of mind) that would do such things to other human beings! I have a problem killing an insect, never a human! Unfortunately, evil is on the rise, and gaining, and will win if good people in the world do nothing. And Obama's reaction? Nothing! At least he admitted that was a mistake!

Closer to home, we see problems with CPS. Again, good people do nothing. I may be getting old, but we used to care for each other. We used to trust each other! I was in real estate long ago, when house buying contracts were a few pages long. Now, with "advances" in litigation, they are too long for any ordinary person (meaning you and me) to fully comprehend. We have to hire, and pay for, attorneys to protect us! We still share useful information, and items, on the LOHA2 blog. One of the features of modern technology is the ability to share, for free, with our neighbors. This was not available even 10 years ago! I have an item later in this newsletter about the future of technology. It will "blow your mind"! It did mine.

I hope you enjoy the many items in this newsletter. We are still on the learning curve. Any of us on the newsletter committee would be happy to hear your comments and feedback. You may have some stories to tell. This is your letter. If you do not want to write a complete article, just send items to me to collect into a column, possibly called Legend Oaks2 Neighborhood News, like my friend Mike Jasper's "The Word From Oak Hill" in the Gazette.



## ABOUT TRAFFIC!!

## JIM TURNEY, EDITOR

Do you notice things about traffic, like I do? How discourteous many people are? They cut in line, like you would never do in a line at the bank, or the post office. I was driving down Escarpment this afternoon driving at 40mph, the limit, and someone passed me like I was obstructing traffic! Name any street, any limit, and you will find the same. I live on Convict Hill Rd., and the limit is 35mph from Escarpment to 290, but the average is 40mph!! On Escarpment it is at least 45mph!

And turning lanes. The right turn at Escarpment and William Cannon was welcome, and overdue! Too bad we do not have a left one at Escarpment and Convict Hill Rd., especially going east! You might notice others. Let me know, and we can advise our local police. Same old story, the squeaky wheel gets the greese!!

With the anonymity of driving, rude people will do anything to gain advantage! I often see people in such a hurry to pass me, and I am beside them at the next traffic light! How many millions of gallons of gas are wasted on rapid starts and passing! People like that must be tense all the time. I prefer to drive relaxed. I prefer to just get there, not get there a few minutes sooner. I rarely miss an appointment, unless there is a traffic problem. Then the "racers" are stuck, just like me.

You may have some traffic stories to tell. Send them to me and I will put together another article. This is your letter. If you do not want to write a complete article, just send them to me to collect into a column about neighborhood news.

## **NEWSLETTER INFO**

## NEWSLETTER

Articles .....legendoaks@peelinc.com

### PUBLISHER

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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*. 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*.



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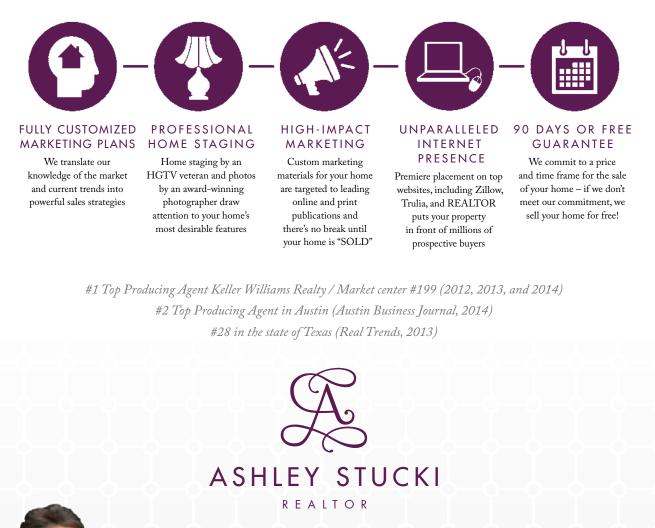
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## LEGEND OAKS

# AISD TECHNOLOGY FAIR

The AISD Technology Department will be hosting the First Annual AISD Technology Fair on Saturday, February 28 from 9am-1pm at Bowie High School. This will be an exciting and informative showcase event that will bring students and teachers together to share how they are using technology in their classrooms and provide a place for dialogue so that we may all benefit from the successes happening across the district.

This will be a community style event to provide an opportunity for all teachers, students, parents and other community members to come and visit with the teachers and teacher-sponsored student groups that will be presenting during the fair. There will be several concurrent presentation formats during this event. In the Technology Hall of Sharing, poster sessions will be set up for teachers and student groups to showcase how they are integrating technology in their classes. This will be a "come and browse" type setting. In addition, teachers and student groups will also be able to apply to present during one of the Highlight Sessions (and to be videotaped) in the Educational Showcase Theater in front of an audience. These will be scheduled presentations that will take place during the day. In a third area of the Technology Fair, teachers will be able to attend short seminars covering a wide range of the academic technologies being used in AISD.

For more information: Contact Howard Martin Bowie High School 512-414-5247 www.jbhs.org



LOA2 School Events Calendar Feb 15th – March 15th Please contact the school for more information!

### Gorzycki Middle School

( www.gmstigers.com/apps/events/calendar) 3.6.15 Friday "High School Musical" performance 7 -9 pm 3.7.15 Saturday " High School Musical" performance 3-5 pm and 7-9 pm

**Bowie High School** (www.jbhs.org/apps/events/calendar) 2.28.15 Saturday First Annual AISD Technology Fest 9-1 pm

### **Oak Hill Elementary School**

(www. oakhillelementary.org/calendar) 2.27.15 Friday PTA Carnival and Silent Auction 5:30 – 8:30 pm

For additional events please check the school websites: Small Middle School (www.smallmiddleschool.org/apps/events) Austin High School (www.austinhighmaroons.org/ahs-weekly-calendar) Patton Elementary School (www.pattonelementary.com)



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# LEGEND OAKS CITY COUNCIL WATCH

BY JANET ROURKE

In a runoff election in December, Ellen Troxclair won the vote and became the district 8 city council representative. City council members were sworn in on January 6, 2015. The council drew lots to determine their length of term on the council. Rep. Troxclair drew a four-year term. The council then elected Kathy Tovo as Mayor Pro Tem and the meeting was adjourned.

At their first meeting, the new city council proposed a new structure that would allow more public input, shorten meeting times, and provide more thoughtful policy making. All ordinances and resolutions will go through at least one committee before presentation to the full council. There will be four council members on each committee and a few new committees will be formed. The council will meet more often and hold executive session and zoning items on separate days from the general agenda items. The council is accepting input on this new proposed structure.

In case you've forgotten, Ellen Troxclair ran on the following issues:

- Property taxes she wants to implement a 20% homestead exemption to give homeowners property tax relief.
- Mobility she wants to improve road capacity, bus service, and innovative transportation options (like Lyft and Uber) for Southwest Austin.
- Taking care of business she wants to reform city codes affecting large and small businesses. The lengthy and expensive permitting requirements need particular attention and must be streamlined to be clear, concise, and fair.
- Balancing quality and cost of living she wants to insure that money is first spent on priorities (public safety and transportation infrastructure) before allocating resources to other areas in a fiscally responsible and transparent way. Austin needs to live within the budget and support community services without constantly raising taxes.
- Affordable power she wants to make sure Austin Energy is providing the best service at the best price. Electricity revenue should go towards providing affording and reliable services and not be diverted into the city's general revenue.
- Protecting our citizens she wants to ensure adequate resources to police, fire, and emergency services to continue to keep our families safe.

Ellen Troxclair's mailing address is P.O. Box 91812, Austin, TX 78709. Her phone number is 512-978-2108. You can email her at www.austintexas.gov/email/ellentroxclair

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

## Gardening Tips

## BY JANET ROURKE

It's February and I'm so ready for spring! According to Central Texas Gardener, here are some things you can do this month to get your yard ready for spring.

- Fertilize winter bloomers.
- Water everything well before any freezes.
- Transplant roses, shrubs, trees, groundcovers, and vines.
- Move hardy seedlings outdoors.
- Divide and transplant perennial herbs and summer/fall blooming perennials, donate extras.
- Prepare soil add compost and/or fertilizer, send soil samples to the County Extension office for analysis.
- Replenish mulch. Stockpile leaves for mulch and composting.
- If your lawn has a history of brown patch treat with a labeled fungicide in late February. Repeat treatment in 3-4 weeks if needed.

For a listing of items to plant this month, go to http://www. klru.org/ctg/tips/february/. The AgriLife Extension Service offers a variety of services to residents of Travis County. From gardening, canning, and dinner ideas to pest management, urban ranching, and drought management, you can find all sorts of interesting information and classes on their website: travis-tx.tamu.edu/

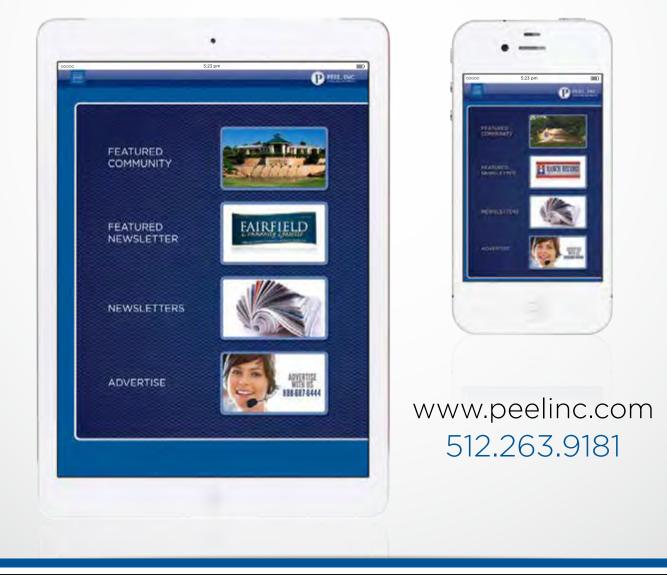
Happy Gardening!

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## <u>LEGEND OAKS</u>

## Crime Stats for Zip Code 78749 in 2014

OFFENSE	NUMBER	ARRESTS
Auto Theft	49	0
Burglary of Residence	46	0
Burglary of Vehicle	225	0
Credit Card Abuse	48	0
Criminal Mischief	107	1
DWI	80	74
Family Disturbance	150	4
Leaving Scene of Crash	215	1
Shoplifting	99	28
Theft	367	54

Information retrieved from Krimelabb.com – Austin Citywide Crime Data. You can look up offenses by Zip Code or Address, Month or Year, have it reported in a list, chart, or map, by day of week and time of day. And you can get a heat map of where most of the offenses are occurring. Other crime stat websites for Austin include Spotcrime and City of Austin CrimeViewer – all pull data from the same database.

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## LOHA2 RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

## BY JANET ROURKE

The Recreation Committee has not yet planned any events for this year, but has some ideas brewing.

Here are some events they are considering:

- Spring neighborhood garage sale/exchange –Organize your home and clean out your junk. A neighborhood share (either sale or exchange) will turn your junk into someone else's treasure.
- Easter Egg hunt What a treat for kids to participate in a giant Easter egg hunt!
- Easter Bonnet stroll down the boulevard (Escarpment) Dress up yourself, your pets, and your kids in your Easter bonnets and take a group stroll down Escarpment – great way to exercise and have some fun!
- Memorial Day Walk Honor our Veterans with a walk around the neighborhood.
- July 4th Parade Show your patriotism and get some exercise.
- Summer/back to school party at the pool Celebrate summer with a pool party, complete with food trailers
- Neighbors Night Out party Meet your neighbors and have fun!
- Halloween Trick or Treat Fun activities and safe treats.
- Turkey Trot Why go downtown when you can walk the neighborhood?
- Christmas at the Park Fun, fun, fun
- New Year's Day Polar Bear Plunge in the Pool Take the plunge and be rewarded with a hot drink.

If you like any of these ideas, let the committee know. To have a fun, active neighborhood, the Recreation Committee needs your help. Any help you can give will be appreciated – whether it is submitting an idea for an event, suggesting what needs to be done to make an event happen, being on the planning committee and helping to set up an event, and/or volunteering your time at the event!

contact: Suzanne Johnson – stoprope@gmail.com



BY JANET ROURKE

Are you like me and babysit your grandchildren? Did you know that when you care for grandchildren (or any other children), you need permission from the parents to consent for medical treatment if the parents can't be reached in an emergency? Did you know that non-life-threatening treatments cannot be provided without a parent's consent?

The consent can be a simple letter, giving the grandparents permission to seek medical treatment for their grandchildren in the parents' absence. The letter should include your name, the parents' names and contact information, the date for which the consent is given, the child's doctor's name and phone number, the hospital approved by the insurance company, any medical restrictions/allergies to medications/other medical issues staff may need to know. You can also include the type of treatments covered by the consent. The letter needs to be signed by the parents and dated. Attached to the consent letter, you need to have a legible copy of the parents' insurance card (front and back).

Even if the parents can be reached, grandparents need to have this information, so they can act quickly in the event of an emergency! You will want to keep this information readily available. If you go out with your grandkids, put it in your purse or wallet. It's not helpful if you are away from and need the information, and it is in a file at your house.

You never know when your grandchild may have an accident and need treatment. Having this information ready will avoid any delay in treatment that may be needed. Hopefully, this will never happen, but it is good to be prepared.



## LEGEND OAKS

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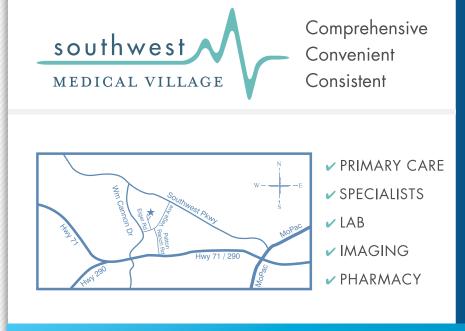
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## WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF COMPUTERS?

### JIM TURNEY, EDITOR

In 1958, a Texas Instruments engineer named Jack Kilby cast a pattern onto the surface of an 11-millimeter-long "chip" of semiconducting germanium, creating the first ever integrated circuit. Because the circuit contained a single transistor — a sort of miniature switch — the chip could hold one "bit" of data: either a 1 or a 0, depending on the transistor's configuration.

Since then, engineers have managed to double the number of transistors they can fit on computer chips every two years. They do it by regularly halving the size of transistors. Today, after dozens of iterations of this doubling and halving rule, transistors measure just a few atoms across, and a typical computer chip holds 9 million of them per square millimeter. Computers with more transistors can perform more computations per second, and are therefore more powerful. The doubling of computing power every two years is known as "Moore's law," after Gordon Moore, the Intel engineer who first noticed the trend in 1965.

Moore's law renders last year's laptop models defunct, and it will undoubtedly make next year's tech devices breathtakingly small and fast compared to today's. But consumerism aside, where is the exponential growth in computing power ultimately headed? Will computers eventually outsmart humans? And will they ever stop becoming more powerful?

Many scientists believe the exponential growth in computing power leads inevitably to a future moment when computers will attain human-level intelligence: an event known as the "singularity." And according to some, the time is nigh.

Physicist, author and self-described "futurist" Ray Kurzweil has predicted that computers will come to par with humans within two decades. He told Time Magazine last year that engineers will successfully reverse-engineer the human brain by the mid-2020s, and by the end of that decade, computers will be capable of human-level intelligence.

The conclusion follows from projecting Moore's law into the future. If the doubling of computing power every two years continues to hold, "then by 2030 whatever technology we're using will be sufficiently small that we can fit all the computing power that's in a human brain into a physical volume the size of a brain," explained Peter Denning, distinguished professor of computer science at the Naval Postgraduate School and an expert on innovation in computing. "Futurists believe that's what you

need for artificial intelligence. At that point, the computer starts thinking for itself."

What happens next is uncertain — and has been the subject of speculation since the dawn of computing.

I have lived and worked with computers for over 50 years, and I was already 25 when Kilby made the first integrated circuit, and was 32 when Moore's law was presented. I have seen remarkable advances, from mainframes to mini's, PCs, laptops, handheld, wearables, cell, and more. While I agree that it is impossible to predict the future, I also believe that "what man can conceive, man can achieve"! If there is a need for it, it will come! Stay tuned!

Welcome New Neighbors!

According to the Legend Oaks 2 Homeowners Association, the following new neighbors joined the neighborhood in December:

Raynor Choate – 8105 Cheno Cortina Trail Nicholas Young & Tracy Gubelin – 6430 Ira Ingram Dr. Arthur & Christine Leyva – 6609 Oasis Dr. Jason & Hayle Howland – 7604 Orrick Dr. James Peppers – 6902 Poncha Pass Jesse & Veronica Midkiff – 7113 Quimper Lane Manish Dubey – 6719 Telluride Trail

Be sure to welcome these new neighbors to our neighborhood! 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, ...

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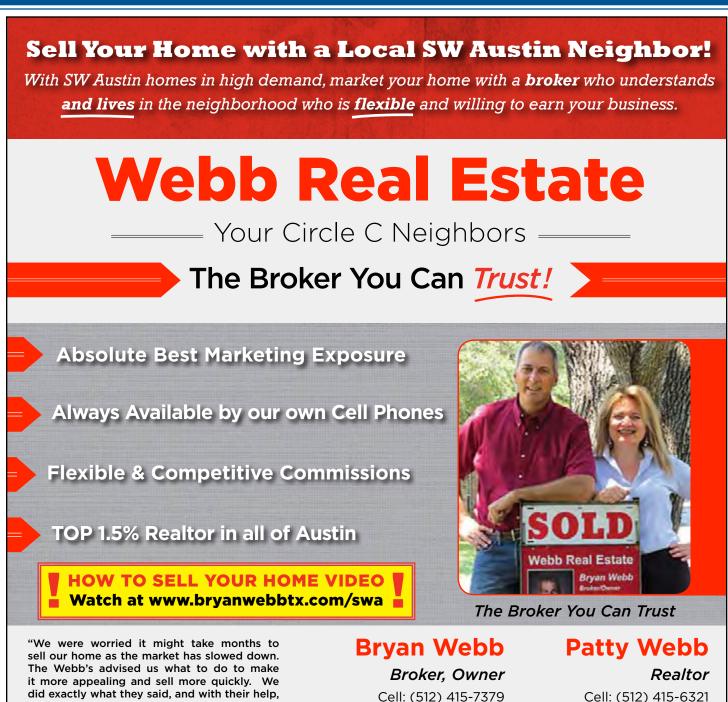
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