



“Please allow me to introduce myself...”

Many of you will recognize the lyrics from one of The Rolling Stones’ biggest hits (some may actually have sung the rest of that line), while others may have no clue what I’m referring to. Whichever camp you may find yourself in, I’m grateful to have an opportunity to introduce myself to you and to highlight some changes that are in store for our community newsletter.

I am the new Editor of the Rocky Creek Newsletter, and my charter is to incorporate more community and more neighbor interaction into this monthly paper. I have some writing background, but nothing special. I have some management background, but nothing special. I’m a spouse, a parent, a working professional, and a homeowner like all of you. I am resolved to bring fresh, relevant, and engaging articles to these pages so that we all get a little bit more out of each month’s edition.

Beginning with our April edition, we’ve assembled a few neighbors to put together some monthly articles on things like Barbecuing, House Maintenance, and Entertainment. We’re also going to feature some “get to know your neighbor” sections with an RC Family of the Month, an RC Photo of the Month, and an RC Sports update for all of the team and individual

sports that our youth and adults participate in.

This is OUR neighborhood magazine, so I want all of you to feel encouraged to contribute your stories as well. Did your child get excited about some baby chicks that hatched in one of your trees? Write a small story, snap a picture or two, and send it my way. Have you built out your dream backyard, and just want to brag a little? Put together a description of what you did, some before/after pictures, and send it in. We may even include a Backyard Retreat section if we get enough stories and pictures.

I’m excited about the opportunity to create some tailor made content that speaks to all of us a little better. I hope you are, too. If there’s anything that you feel would be a good addition to this newsletter, someone that you feel would offer a unique perspective on our staff, or just a question you’d like answered, please email me at the address below.

I’m looking forward to doing some neat things in these pages over the coming months, and I think many of you will be pleased by the results.

See you around the ‘Creek!

Jon Stine
rockycreek@peelinc.com



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.....

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Survey Results: Golf Cart Usage & Adoption of Golf Cart Policy

Dear Neighbors,

At the 2014 annual meeting, the board announced that a Motor Vehicle Policy was being considered and that a new survey of the community would be conducted regarding the usage and adoption of the proposed policy. Between December 12th and January 5th, households were asked to respond to the online survey. Of the 225 households in the community, only 37% responded to the survey. Due to the lack of response from more than half of the community, the existing policy prohibiting golf cart usage on paved streets will remain.

Section 1.11 (b) Motorized Vehicle Prohibitions from the Amended and Restated Rules and Regulations for Rocky Creek Master Community Association, Inc., states in part, "Large commercial vehicles, motorcycles, motorized scooters, golf carts, motorized bicycles, trailers, recreational vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, buses, boats, water craft, aircraft (excluding those permitted for construction activity, delivery or pic up of materials and other reasonable services) and unauthorized machinery or equipment are prohibited on any portion of the Lots, Common Areas, sidewalks, streets or any other portion of the Property."

Compliance of this and all other covenants is required as stated in Section 1.2 Compliance, "Each Owner, Occupant and all guests and visitors and other Persons using or occupying a Lot belonging to an Owner or any other portion of property within the Property, shall comply with the provisions of the Governing Documents and all Legal Requirements of the Property, any of which may be revised from time to time. Each Owner shall be liable for damages to any Person or property for violations of the Governing Documents, whether the Owner commits the violation or guests, Occupants or other visitors of such Owner commit the violation."

There are 2 ways that violations are reported and addressed:

1. Upon inspection by the manager
2. Reported by a homeowner in writing with specific details

Section 2.2 Fining Rules and Procedure, defines the Association's use of fines to discourage violations of the Governing Documents and to encourage present and future compliance when a violation occurs. This section can also be found in the Amended and Restated Rules and Regulations for Rocky Creek Master Community Association, Inc. To view this document in its entirety, please visit this link: - http://rockycreekhoa.com/rockycreek/document_view.asp?id=38.

Thank you,

Rocky Creek HOA Board of Directors

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Police Department	512-314-7590
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue	
Administration Office.....	512-266-2533
Travis County Animal Control.....	512-972-6060

SCHOOLS

Lake Travis ISD.....	512-533-6000
Lake Travis High School.....	512-533-6100
Lake Travis Middle School.....	512-533-6200
Bee Cave Elementary.....	512-533-6250

UTILITIES

West Travis County PUA (Water).....	512-246-0498
Pedernales Electric.....	512-219-2602
Alliant Gas (Propane)	866-764-0283
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
IESI (Garbage & Recycling)	512-282-3508
Travis County Hazardous Waste.....	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Bee Cave City Hall.....	512-767-6600
Bee Cave Library	512-767-6620
Municipal Court	512-767-6630
Lake Travis Postal Office.....	512-263-2458
City of Bee Cave	www.beecavetexas.com

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Southwest Management Services	512-266-6771
Christy Gross	christy@southwestmanagement.net

ARTICLE INFO

The Rocky Creek Connection is mailed monthly to all Rocky Creek residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit 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.

If you have an article of interest to the community please submit to rockycreek@peelinc.com by the 15th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.PEELinc.com.



**JOIN US FOR GOLF
AND A GREAT CAUSE!**

DATE: Wednesday, April 29th
TIME: 11:00 am Registration, 1:00 pm Start
LOCATION: Flintrock Falls Golf Course
FORMAT: 4-person scramble
COST: \$165 per golfer*
**Includes lunch, dinner, hat & swag.*

REGISTER: WWW.TINYCH.ORG/GOLF

Join us for the 7th annual Colin's Hope Classic charity golf tournament. Enjoy a beautiful course, lunch, dinner, a chance to win a Lexus or RV, and great prizes.

Gather your friends, grab your clubs, and help us reach our pledge raising goals and spread awareness about drowning prevention.

**We envision a WORLD
where CHILDREN
DO NOT DROWN**

Questions? Contact:
 Kim Flasch: kim.flasch@colinshope.org
 Sue Hart: sue.hart@colinshope.org

WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG

DON'T BLOCK THE GATES

The HOA wants to remind you that blocking a gate open at the pools is a MAJOR safety concern. It only takes a second for a child to wonder off and make their way into an unattended pool area.

If you see a gate propped open, help us avoid the unthinkable risk of a child drowning. PLEASE close the gate!

For information on childhood drowning, read the story of Colin Holst, who, only a few years ago, tragically drowned at an Austin pool at the age of 4. <https://www.colinshope.org/>

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MEN'S POKER LEAGUE

Now forming in Rocky Creek
If interested please contact Tom
Shock at tomwshock@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE!



Rocky Creek Community
Wide Garage Sale Day

Saturday, April 11th, 7AM-1PM

Get your stuff ready! Have your own sale or make it a block event!

Be sure to place your directional signs out within the community the day of the sale.

The HOA will place a banner at the entrance the week of.

TIMELY TIPS FOR APRIL GARDENERS

April means "to open" or "opening", in allusion to it being the season when trees and flowers begin to "open". This is the month of rebirth and hope for the future. If April means spring to you, get out your gardening tools and get moving. Consider adding Native Plants to your landscape. Native plants tolerate our Texas Summer heat better than most, require less water, require less mowing, provide habitats for birds, butterflies and other wildlife, protect the soil and save on fertilizers and insecticides.

A successful garden begins with good soil. Organic material is important to the soil composition. It helps with drainage and increases the microbe population. Expanded shale is used to break-up hard compacted clay soils. Top dress your flowerbeds and containers with organic mulches.

Hopefully you have your tomatoes, peppers, squash, and other warm season vegetables already planted; if not, get them in the ground right away. To get the highest yields, make additions of fertilizer (called sidedressing) every couple of weeks, starting about a month after transplanting or seeding.

If your yard is too small for traditional garden plot, try gardening in containers. The bigger the container, the better! Container gardens need more attention since they dry out faster and need regular additions of fertilizer to compensate for the more frequent irrigation.

If you want to create a truly dynamic garden, inviting colorful guests like butterflies and hummingbirds is definitely the way to go. Butterflies like sunshine and plenty of space to fly around, so opt for a sunny, open spot. Both enjoy having some type of cover as a resting spot. Your garden should include some type of water feature as butterflies and hummingbirds often congregate around water.

St. Augustine and Bermuda lawns should be actively growing now; it is a great time to apply fertilizer. A correctly fertilized lawn now will better help your lawn to handle the Texas Summer Heat!



Rocky Creek Connection

LOVELY LUPINES

by Jim and Lynne Weber

NATUREWATCH

Bluebonnets are often thought of as the ‘floral trademark of Texas’, akin to the shamrocks of Ireland, the cherry blossoms of Japan, the roses of England, and the tulips of Holland. Loved for centuries, bluebonnets were described by early explorers as they roamed the vast prairies of Texas, planting them around the Spanish missions by early-day priests, and making them the subject of several Native American folk tales. Technically known as ‘lupines’ or ‘lupins’, bluebonnets received their present-day common name due to the shape of the flower petals, which resembled the bonnets worn by pioneer women to shield their faces from the sun.

Bluebonnets are part of the legume or bean family, and like other members of this family they offer nitrogen-fixation through their root system’s symbiotic relationship with *Rhizobia* bacteria. This gives them the useful ability to grow in poor, disturbed soils, and bring much-needed nitrogen back to these soils as they decompose. Ironically, bluebonnets are all in the genus *Lupinus*, which is Latin for ‘wolf-like’, from the original but erroneous belief that these plants ravenously exhausted the soil.

In our area, bluebonnets normally bloom between March and April, but the timing and extent of the blooms depends on the amount of rain received the previous fall and winter. The flower is purple to blue in color, about half an inch long, with a white spot on the upper petal or banner. This banner spot acts as a target to attract the bumblebees and honeybees that pollinate the flower. When the pollen is fresh and sticky, the banner spot is white, and is seen by the bees as reflected ultraviolet light and appears to them as a good landing spot. But as the flower and its pollen age, the banner spot turns yellow and then reddish-magenta, and is ignored by the bees, whose vision cannot see red. The decline in bee populations has a direct effect on how many seeds a bluebonnet can produce, because bluebonnets cannot self-fertilize. Each plant has the potential to produce hundreds of seeds, but often only a small number result, due to the recent decline in the number of bee pollinators.

Infrequently, both white, and more rarely, pink bluebonnets can occur naturally. In fact, there is a legend associated with how the pink bluebonnet came to be. Many years ago, in a spring wildflower field near San Antonio, children came across a pink bluebonnet on their way to Lenten devotion at the mission church. Their grandmother told them the story of Texas, when it was a remote province of

Mexico. After their Constitution was overthrown by a terrible Mexican dictator, a war broke out between the brave new Texans and the Mexican troops. The troops eventually overwhelmed the Texans, and much blood was shed and lives lost. Several years later, the grandmother saw her mother place a pink bluebonnet in a vase by the statue of the Virgin Mary. She said she found it by the river, where “it had once been white, but so much blood had been shed, it had taken a tint of it.” Interestingly, the only place in the state where the original native pink bluebonnets were found was along the side of a San Antonio road not far from the original mission.

Texas has 6 state flowers, more or less, and they are all bluebonnets. In the spring of 1901, the Texas Legislature selected a state floral

emblem after much debate and consternation. Both the cotton boll and prickly pear cactus were hardy contenders, but the National Society of Colonial Dames of America won the day, and the Sandyland Bluebonnet (*Lupinus subcarnosus*) was selected and passed into law on March 7th. And that’s when the bluebonnet war started. The Sandyland Bluebonnet is a dainty little plant growing in the sandy hills of coastal and southern Texas, and many thought it was the least attractive of all the bluebonnets. They wanted the

Texas Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*), which was a showier, bolder bloomer. For the next 70 years, the Legislature was encouraged to correct its oversight, not wanting to get caught in another botanical trap or offend any supporters. As politicians often do, they solved the problem with clever maneuvering by creating an umbrella clause, and in 1971 added the two species together, plus “any other variety of bluebonnet not heretofore recorded” (including potential species not yet discovered), and lumped them all into one state flower.

Long before the bluebonnet became the Texas state flower, many stories existed about its origins. Some believed it was a gift from the Great Spirit, and that it arrived with rain after a young, orphaned girl sacrificed her precious doll in the hopes of bringing a terrible drought to an end. Whatever you believe, look for these lovely lupines during our central Texas spring!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we’ll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com if you enjoy reading these articles!





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SHOW OFF YOUR SUPERHERO

Parents this is your chance to brag on your kiddos. We want pictures of your kids doing everyday things, school events, plays, sports, etc. Send in your pictures to be featured in the Rocky Creek Connection.

E-mail your pictures to rockycreek@peelinc.com by the 15th of the month.



Portable Fire Extinguishers

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- **PULL** the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **AIM** low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **SQUEEZE** the lever slowly and evenly.
- **SWEEP** the nozzle from side-to-side.

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.



Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.



Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club

308 Meadowlark St

Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

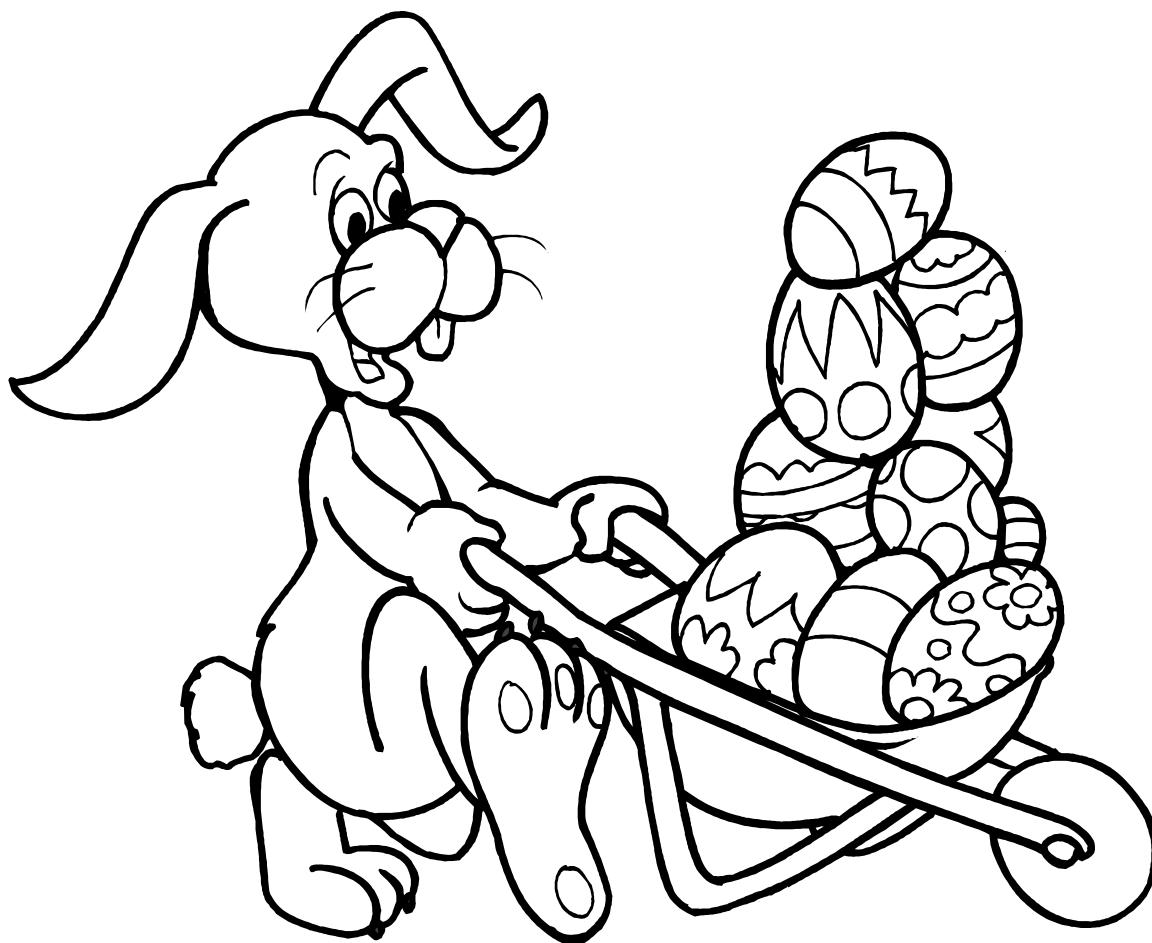
We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: April 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____ (first name, last
initial)

Age: _____



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