



# The Hot Corner Springtime Cooking in the Creek

*Submitted by Troy Yarborough*

One of the most appealing aspects of our community is the diversity of backgrounds represented. Where folks are from, how they grew up, and what they like to do unites us as we learn more about each other. At the epicenter of emerging friendships is food. Often times, it is food that has been prepared on a grill that is savored and shared through gatherings of families and friends. There is a litany of talented back-yard culinary creators in Rocky Creek...and drawing on their knowledge, experience and tactics, I hope to use this corner to share with interested readers new ideas, recipes, and different equipment and techniques to turn your patio experience up a notch.

So let's warm things up. People tend to throw around the term cookout, barbecue, and grilling as synonyms. Truthfully, while the intent is the same...the path to magical meat is very different. By definition, there are three distinct "types" of backyard cooking:

**-Smoking:** very low heat, 52-190 degrees, for long periods of time (1-48 hours)

**-Barbecuing:** low(er) heat, 190-350 degrees, for a few hours of time

**-Grilling:** high heat, 350-600 degrees, faster cook, usually done in minutes

Grilling, primarily conducted over a direct heat source (gas flame, charcoal, lump wood), intends to "char" a surface, seal within juices, and create a thoroughly cooked (to desired/safe temperature), tasty piece of meat. In accomplishing this,

properly grilled meat creates a caramelized crust that may inhibit the induction of smoke or smoky flavor.

Conversely, Smoking is usually done over an indirect or shielded heat source, permeating your meat of choice with a palatable "smoke" flavor (we will cover different smoking woods/techniques in a future discussion). The last technique,

Barbecuing, marries elements of both grilling and smoking...in essence, a smoke/cook approach. Lower cooking temperature and longer cooking time (direct or indirect) creates a nice marriage of flavors. Often, barbecued meat will

be brined, marinated, injected, or basted while cooking...also great topics to look forward to in subsequent discussions.

It is important to note, there is no "right" or "wrong" when selecting your cooking technique...more important is aligning the proper technique of meat and desired taste that one

to the cut hopes to achieve.

Regardless of where you stand today in your knowledge and experience of outdoor cooking, I encourage you to fire something up and see what you can do. The weather is nice (really, when is it not nice)...the grass is greening up, and I love nothing more than smelling an evening of smoky aromatics as I drive through the neighborhood. Outdoor cooking inspires social connection, which in a neighborhood like ours only solidifies friendships, creates stronger bonds, and grows our community. So light up, and let's start cooking.





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## Letter from the Editor

# First World Problem

Ever heard the term “First World Problem”? It generally means that the things we struggle with are inconsequential compared to the issues the rest of the world faces. The term accurately describes many of the issues that are discussed and debated in Rocky Creek, but it doesn’t mean that those issues are any less important to some of us. Let’s discuss a First World Problem that deserve some print: multiple Rocky Creek Facebook sites.

Most neighborhoods only have one Facebook page for information dissemination, gossip, advice, community events, etc. We in Rocky Creek are blessed with two! Both are named, operated, and intended to be the landing page for all things Rocky Creek. Both are moderated by good people, with good intent, and both have a blend of unique and duplicate information and posts. It can be a challenge at times to follow everything if you are a member of both groups, let alone a member of only one (there are currently about 100 fewer members on one of the pages). There seems to be recurring objections to having two separate pages.

Do we really need two pages? Probably not. Can we tear down the wall and unite the two Facebook pages so that we can all have a single page for all things Rocky Creek? Perhaps, but unless one of the page owners closes up shop and shuts down their respective page (which would be a bad thing in my opinion) things will probably remain as they have been for the foreseeable future. Each page has a significant number of followers, regular posters, and plenty of information to remain relevant and current. More importantly, both pages offer a distinct outlook on posting and comment criteria.

Where one page may lean toward an unblinking, unswerving commitment to letting the posts and discussions be public record, the other may lean towards a more family focused, safer social media experience. Neither site appears to have an issue with honest posts, or family safety while online, but they do both have distinct views on what that means to their specific page and for their members. And I respect that.

To put it in terms that all of us Austinites can understand, one page is Taco Deli, and the other is Torchy’s Tacos. While both serve up delicious breakfast tacos, they are uniquely and wonderfully different. I certainly prefer one over the other, but not everyone agrees with me. I’m thankful that the diversity and options available allow all of us to enjoy whichever breakfast tacos we prefer.

Two Facebook pages isn’t a bad thing, especially since they both have a different style. That is something that I can be tolerant of, even if it means that I need to stay current with two different

*(Continued on Page 4)*

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### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Ambulance .....	911
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Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
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Administration Office.....	512-266-2533
Travis County Animal Control.....	512-972-6060

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

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Alliant Gas (Propane) .....	866-764-0283
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
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IESI (Garbage & Recycling) .....	512-282-3508
Travis County Hazardous Waste.....	512-974-4343

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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

Peel, Inc. ....	512-263-9181
Editor - Jon Stein .....	rockycreek@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

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## HOA MANAGEMENT

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

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## ARTICLE INFO

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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](mailto:rockycreek@peelinc.com) by the 15th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com).

# Rocky Creek Connection

(Continued from Page 2)

pages, unlike those other neighborhoods with only one page. That's what you call "First World Winning"...

Spring has sprung, the sun is out, lawns are getting lush and green again, and the community pool is almost warm enough for the kids. We've got some great articles this month, contributed by members in our neighborhood. You already saw Troy's breakdown on all things barbecue related on the cover – tell me you're not looking forward to doing some outdoor cooking this weekend!

Check out the rest of this edition for some more stories, including our first Neighbor of the Month, and an Op-Ed piece I wrote about another First World Problem we have in Rocky Creek.

See you around the 'Creek.

*Jon Stine*

*Editor/Contributor*

*rockycreeknews@gmail.com*

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## AED at Pool

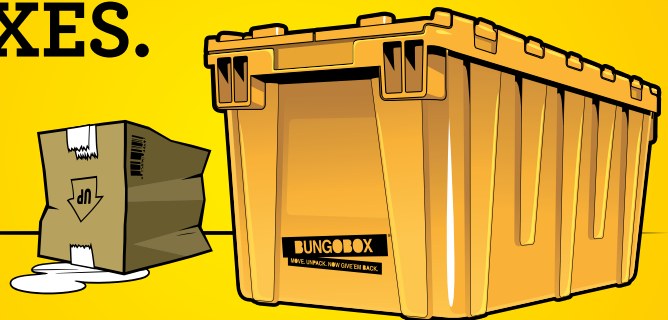
Just in time for summer! Our neighborhood Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is ready to be installed at the community pool! An AED is a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and ventricular tachycardia in a patient, and more importantly, is able to treat them through defibrillation, the application of electrical therapy which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.

With intuitive and straightforward audio and visual commands, AEDs are designed to be simple to use for the layperson, and the use of AEDs is taught in many first aid, certified first responder, and basic CPR classes. Our resident neighborhood nurse, Beth Purkey, will be putting together a very short, but incredibly important instructional conference for the neighborhood in the coming weeks.

With summer and busy pool hours around the corner, EVERYONE should attend the instructional conference if possible. After all, the life you could potentially save is most likely someone you know & care about. Stay tuned for more details!

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## Hope4Minds Expands its Mission to Support More Texas Children With Severe Brain Injuries

Less than four years after it was founded, a Southwest Austin nonprofit organization has decided that it's got more than enough hope to go around.

That's the thinking behind a new mission and a name change for the Southwest Austin nonprofit organization known as HOPE4JD, which was founded in 2011 to support families whose children suffered brain injuries due to nonfatal drownings. As of April, the organization will be known as Hope4Minds whose mission is to foster hope and enrich the lives of children with an acquired brain injury by providing support and education.

With a new name and more families to serve, Hope4Minds also will expand its community outreach services to include parent support groups and concussion baseline screenings, in addition to the services it already offers such as CPR/First Aid training and family care packages.

"Our board of directors and supporters see the opportunity to do more and help more Texas families," says Ronda Johnson, executive director, Hope4Minds. "Our community rose to the challenge over the last few years, helping us make a difference in the lives of families in Austin, San Antonio and Dallas. Our work has showed us the needs of more children who are living with an acquired brain injury and whose families need our support."

According to the Texas Brain Injury Alliance, fewer than 1 in 20 children with acquired brain injury will get the rehabilitation they need for recovery. Injury may occur during events such as non-fatal drownings, choking, car accidents, sports and recreational activities, falls, lightning strikes and even abuse.

Since 2012, the organization has provided more than \$211,248 in services to families, 841 hours of recovery therapy services, nearly 100 family care packages to Texas hospitals and rehab centers, and free CPR training for 216 adults.



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# Rocky Creek Connection

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Stacey Morgan and her family moved to Rocky Creek 1.5 years ago. Stacey and her husband Randy are from Texas, but lived in Northwest Arkansas for seven years prior to moving to Rocky Creek. They have two boys who keep them very busy with football and baseball. Stacey is an Interior Decorator who owns Morgan Custom Design. Whether you are looking for help decorating the rooms in your home, adding a punch of seasonal flair, or dreaming of a gorgeous home for the holidays, she is the person for you! You can find samples of her beautiful work on Facebook, under Morgan Custom Design. If you would like to contact Stacey, you can reach her at [themorganz@att.net](mailto:themorganz@att.net).



## Rocky Creek Ladies Bible Study Summer Session

The Rocky Creek Ladies Bible Study summer session is starting in June and goes through August.

Please join us this summer as we read in the Old Testament the books of Ruth through Job and in the New Testament the Gospels of Luke and John. Our goal is to complete the Bible in one year and anyone who is interested in learning more about the Bible and reading with us is welcome to join at any time. We meet every Thursday morning at 9:00am for an hour to discuss the weeks reading and our insights along with supplemental material that may include historical background, geography, and commentary.

Please email Andrea Vrentas at [avrentas@yahoo.com](mailto:avrentas@yahoo.com) for more information

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- CARS, TRUCKS, PLANES AND TRAINS: THINGS THAT GO!
- SWEET SUMMERTIME
- HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES
- COOKING UP A STORY
- ....AND MANY MORE!

### THE LILLIPUTS (AGES 3-5) M-F 9AM-2PM

- WONDERFUL WATER WORKS
- HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES
- SWEET SUMMERTIME
- THE PINE BOX DERBY
- COLOR MY WORLD
- IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE! FLIGHT DISCOVERY
- THREE, TWO, ONE, BLAST OFF!
- READY, SET, RECYCLE!
- ...LOTS MORE!

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- PASSPORT TO THE WORLD
- FOLLOW THAT MAP! A CARTOGRAPHY CAMP
- STAMP, SPLAT, SCREENS AND PRINTS
- SENSATIONAL EXPLORATIONS
- BUBBLE, BUBBLE, POP! DO THE SCIENCE BOP!
- RING, DING, TING! THE WORLD OF SOUND
- WONDERFUL WATER WORKS
- ...AND MORE!

### GENRE CAMPS (AGES 8-11) M-F 9AM-2PM

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For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact your local representative Vicki Odom at 832.455.7881 or [vodom@ayusa.org](mailto:vodom@ayusa.org) or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at

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# Rocky Creek Connection



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Please support the businesses that advertise in The Rocky Creek Connection. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Rocky 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](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

## Fight Back Against Property Taxes in 2015

*By John Paul Krueger, Senior Property Tax Consultant, Five Stone Tax Advisers*

It's no secret that people are moving to Central Texas every single day. Austin is known nationwide as one of the most desirable places to live, and we're all paying for it. Skyrocketing property taxes are arguably one of the largest expenses that moved to town with this influx of new Travis and Williamson County residents.

The name of the game is supply and demand. This is great news if you are looking to sell your home in the near future. However, if you are in the vast majority of people that would like to continue to be able to afford to live here, rising property values pose a very real financial threat.

Property owners in Travis County will soon receive a letter in the mail titled "Notice of Appraised Value". State law requires that the Travis Central Appraisal District provide you with this letter communicating what the district felt your property's market value was as of January 1, 2015. You are likely about to experience some sticker shock based on the "hot" nature of our real estate market.

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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.

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by the 15th of the month





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# Rocky Creek Connection

(Continued from Page 10)

Whether your property's value has jumped 1% or 50%, every landowner should strongly consider the option of appealing their valuation. Why?

- The Travis Central Appraisal District's mass appraisal techniques are anything but perfect. They do not incorporate important information specific to your property.
- Texas allows landowners the ability to lower their taxes if they are being taxed unfairly compared to other properties in the area.
- Last year, market values in Travis County jumped an average of 12.6%, per the appraisal district. Our real estate market has not slowed since that time. We will likely see significant increases again this year.

In short, there are many potential ways to argue for lower property taxes in 2015.

If you are not the type of person that has real estate expertise or enjoys rigorous negotiation, it is in your best interest to enlist a property tax representation firm to handle every aspect of lowering the property tax on your Central Texas property. This can save you significant money with as little as five minutes of your time, and the good news is most property tax consultants operate on a contingency fee structure—no savings, no fees.

## 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 are visiting the playgrounds or pools, and 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. [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org).





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## DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

## GOLF CARTS IN ROCKY CREEK

*By: Jon Stine, Editor / Contributor  
rockycreek@peelinc.com*

The word “polarizing” could be used to describe this First World Problem - the good ol’ Golf Carts in Rocky Creek discussion. There has been a volley of bickering, finger pointing, violation letters, HOA decisions, and multiple surveys going on for over a year now. If this is news to you, consider yourself one of the lucky few. For some of us though, it’s been a punch line at social gatherings, the topic of countless posts and text messages, and the subject of never ending debate.

Before we get too far into this, I need to let you know that I am a golf cart owner. While I have a personal interest in this debate, I will try to present the issue in a rationale manner, free from bias.

I won’t bore anyone with a historical narrative on this, you can find most of it on either of the Rocky Creek Facebook pages. I will quickly say there are two groups in this discussion: pro-golf carts and pro-bylaws. One group says we can amend the existing HOA bylaws to allow golf carts, the other says the rules are the rules, golf carts are banned. I don’t mean that either respective group is anti-bylaw or anti-golf cart, simply that the two most active groups primarily align with either golf carts or existing bylaws.

Before you dismiss this discussion because you don’t have a golf cart, or don’t ever see yourself owning one, consider this. If a significant number of neighbors wanted to have some park benches placed on the trails by the creek, or perhaps some picnic tables for destination lunch hikes with the family, would it be worth conducting a survey to see what people thought? Pretty innocuous, huh? Seems like a good idea.

What if after multiple surveys the HOA could not get more than a third of the Rocky Creek residents to reply to whether or not they wanted those benches and picnic tables, and so they decided not to move forward with those plans? It would be incredibly frustrating for those in favor of the park benches and picnic tables, but the HOA wouldn’t have received any sort of majority opinion on what to do. That’s a mostly theoretical situation, as I glossed over a LOT of the finer points of this discussion, but you probably get the drift.

The HOA has tried to get meaningful results from two previous surveys, but have not been able to get more than 40-50% participation. I don’t believe that has anything to do with the HOA not trying, and in reality, the fact that they are attempting to get surveys completed is highly commendable. Prior to the neighborhood taking over HOA control from the developer, there is no requirement that they implement anything that we ask them to. I believe that is because they genuinely want to be receptive to our ideas and opinions on issues. Again, commendable.

We can only speculate why the surveys didn’t have more participation. I do believe that despite it being official email from the HOA, and despite the reminders from the HOA, that many people simply didn’t see it or recognize there was a survey to be completed. I was watching for it, and still missed the official email. I had to go

looking for it once I heard it was out. If you weren’t a participant in this whole golf cart debate you may not have even know surveys had been sent out. Several conversations with neighbors and comments on social media over the last few weeks seem to confirm that.

With such low survey participation, none of us honestly know if the majority of Rocky Creek residents are for or against golf cart usage, and neither does the HOA. The only survey opinions we have are anecdotal, via social media, and through conversations with our neighbors. In my experiences, most appear to be in support of golf carts, but without having a larger, more complete survey we just don’t know. And neither does the HOA. So let’s help them fix that.

My time in the military taught me that if you are only pointing out a problem without also providing a solution, you are part of the problem. So my solution is very simply this: gather an accurate survey from a majority of the neighborhood, and amend or affirm the existing bylaws accordingly.

So, I am happily volunteering my time to hit every single front doorstep in Rocky Creek with a manual, old fashioned, census-style survey. If you want to join me, I would welcome your participation, but I’ll get it done by myself if needed. It’ll be a great opportunity to meet many of the new residents, and to put a human side to this debate. I’ll endeavor to get opinions, addresses, and signatures from every home in Rocky Creek. That way YOU will be able to have a voice, and WE will be able to capture the true intent for something that could potentially require an amendment to OUR bylaws. That should not be taken lightly.

Let’s officially put the issue to rest with an accurate survey that the HOA will hopefully consider. If the results are for, then let’s amend the bylaws and move on. If the results are against, then let’s affirm the bylaws and move on. I would wager that the only clamoring that the HOA hears about this topic is from those with golf carts, or from those that want to enforce the existing ban. Until we conduct an accurate survey, we won’t know how Rocky Creek residents feels about this issue, and the HOA won’t know how to accurately represent the opinions of the majority.

I believe the HOA has really tried to be responsible with this golf cart issue. I believe they have been generous in listening to our debates, and have tried to understand what the majority would want to happen. I don’t believe that they’ve yet received responses from enough people to make changes, despite both previous survey results indicating the majority of responders want to approve golf carts.

Let’s get some resolution on this golf cart thing so that we can put this other First World Problem to rest, and get on with enjoying all the wonderful things that make Rocky Creek life so enviable.

Let me know what you think of my comments and opinions, and if you think I presented both issues in a fair light. I always welcome your feedback.

See you around the ‘Creek!

# Rocky Creek Connection

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**NOT AVAILABLE  
ONLINE**

*Reach out to your neighbors*  
**Now there's a bright idea.**



Start today!

512.263.9181

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## 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.

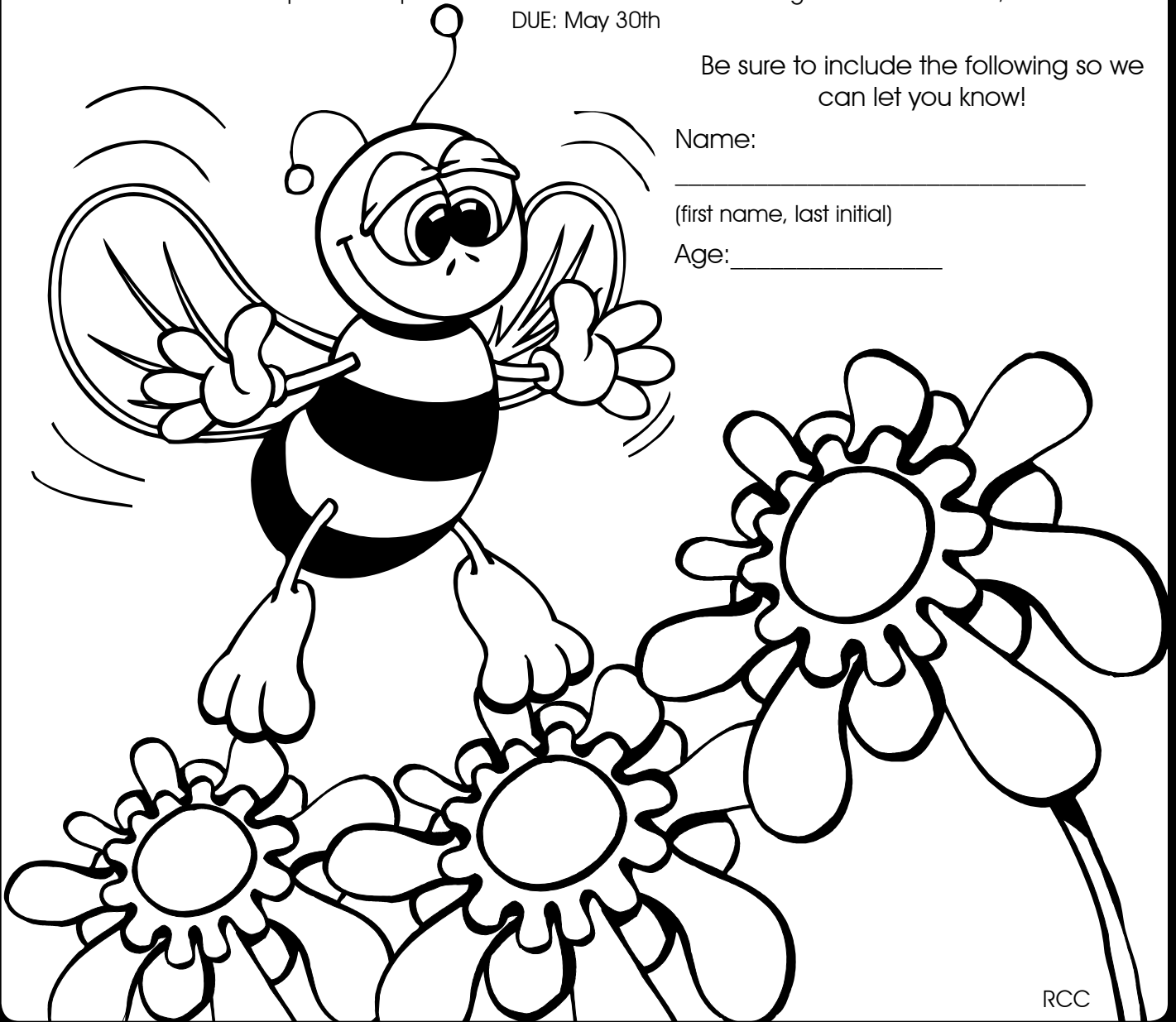
DUE: May 30th

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

(first name, last initial)

Age: \_\_\_\_\_



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**PEEL, INC.**

308 Meadowlark St. South  
Lakeway, TX 78734

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U.S. POSTAGE  
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## INCREDIBLE *View Estate in Rocky Creek!*

**\$550,000** MLS# 3987779



**17521 Wildrye**



Barely lived in, spectacular panoramic hill country views, 14 ft. study built-ins, custom designed kitchen with 12 ft. cabinets, composite granite sink, massive walk-in pantry, water softener, multiple oversized patios, plantation shutters & wood blinds through out, built-in wet bar w/fridge and microwave, surround sound up & down, full gutters, views from secondary bedrooms!! Community pool, miles of hike and bike trails, just 8 minutes to the Galleria. LTISD!

*Serving Austin Since 2004!*



**Nicole Peel** Broker/Realtor®



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**512.740.2300**

*nicole@nicolepeel.com*

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