JUNE 2015 VOLUME VIII ISSUE VI

THE VILLAGE..." "It takes a Village..."

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES AT WESTERN OAKS AND LEGEND OAKS I



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
EMERGENCY	011
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	
0,	
SCHOOLS	
Elementary Clayton	512 9/1 0200
Kiker	
Mills	
Patton	
Middle)12-414-1/00
Bailey	512 /1/ /000
Small	
Gorzycki	
High School	
Austin	512-414-2505
Bowie	
UTILITIES	
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Water/Wastewater City of Austin	512 072 0101
•	
City of Austin (billing)	
Emergency Texas State Gas)12-9/2-1000
Customer Service	1 800 700 2//3
Gas related emergency	
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	1-000-7777-7327
New service, billing	512-219-2602
Problems	
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service	1-800-288-2020
Repair	
Billing	
Allied Waste	
Time Warner Cable	
OTHER NUMBERS	
Oak Hill Postal Station	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	1 000 27 7 07 7 7
Dead Animal Collection	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	
Street Light Outage (report pole#)	
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	
Peel, Inc.	512-263-9181
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CONSUMER ALERT

Avoid the storm chaser roofing scam. Don't let hail damage hurt your wallet and property value. Red flags homeowners should watch out for when selecting a contractor to fix storm damage

- The disappearing deductible
- Mysterious door to door salesman
- Fluctuating bid
- High pressure tactics

First steps after the storm

- Call your insurance agent
- Ask agent about process
- Wait to get estimates until after your adjuster has examined your roof

Selecting contractors

- Stay calm
- Be proactive selecting a company
- Avoid door to door solicitors
- Do your research check with BBB , Angie's List or similar
- Don't sign any document until you're sure you've selected the contractor you want
- Find a local reputable company
- Make sure it is in writing
- Verify bonding and insurance
- Check the companies referrals from neighbors and others you trust
- Avoid quick fixes and low prices
- Avoid contractors willing to "Save your deductible" which is unlawful
- Written manufacture warranties

Protect your home and investment. Hire a local, well rated contractor

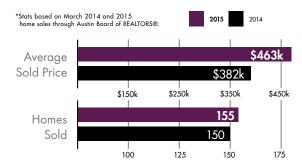
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SOUTHWEST AUSTIN MARKET UPDATE



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*Based on 2014 residential home sales through Austin Board of REALTORS®

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The Village Gazette - June 2015 3



FOUR-LINED PLANT BUGS



Four-lined plant bugs are brightly colored. Nymphs (immatures) are red while older nymphs start to have wing pads with yellow and black stripes. Adults have fully developed wings that are yellow and black striped. Adults look similar to, and may be mistaken for, striped cucumber beetles.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which they use to suck out plant juices. The plant bugs suck out chlorophyll and leave a "window" between the upper and lower epidermis of the leaf. Damage appears as white, dark or translucent spots of foliage and is sometimes mistaken for fungal damage. Feeding may also cause curling and browning. Fortunately, damage is mostly cosmetic, but if you are trying to eat the foliage of the damaged plant it may become a problem.

The insects feed on a wide variety of hosts, including fruits and

vegetables, annuals and perennials and woody plants. When disturbed, the insects are fairly good at hiding. They either crawl to the underside of the leaves or drop to the ground to hide among foliage.

If you feel the need to manage these insects, try insecticidal soap. If that doesn't work, you can try azadirachtin (neem- concentrate, not oil; it's getting too hot to use oil formulations) or pyrethrins. If that doesn't work then try a residual contact product.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.

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SUMMER FUN:

The New Hill Country Science Mill in Johnson City

The Hill Country Science Mill opened in February to rave reviews! Only one hour from Austin, it's the perfect day trip for families looking to find indoor fun this summer. The museum's mission is to help kids discover the fun of science by exploring and interacting with the exhibits and games. The museum's founder, Bonnie Baskin, believes "kids learn to love science by doing it, not by reading about it."

She has spent the last two years readying a historic Johnson City gristmill and cotton gin, which operated in the 1880s, for its new purpose: a place where kids can have fun with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The 17,000-square-foot space features more than 25 interactive exhibits, hands-on maker stations and art installations, all designed to spark kids' interest in the STEM subjects.

The Mill's exhibits were sourced both locally and globally, and many were created specifically for the space. The installations blend art, kinetic technology, augmented reality, and computer gaming. All are available in both English and Spanish.

With a focus on older elementary, middle school and high school students (but with something for ALL ages to enjoy) the Science Mill allows visitors to imagine themselves as a future scientist or engineer. Whether creating an "explosion" in the hydrogen ball launcher, experimenting with air pressure to move sailboats, or making a 3D topographic map in a sandbox, it's inevitable that visitors of all ages will have great fun while learning.

In addition to the many exhibits and hands-on activities, the Science Mill has a 3D movie theater, outdoor exhibits, a toddler play area and magnetic gear wall, a Biology Lab, a café, and much more!

Visit sciencemill.org for more information on hours, special events, birthday parties, field trips and summer camps.

Mention "PEEL" when you visit the museum for a kid's admission discount!

Hours

- Wed-Sat: 10am 4pm
- Sun: Noon-4pm

General Admission

[Includes all exhibits and 3D movie]

- Under 2 years old free
- Ages 2-18 (or with student ID) \$6.50
- Adult \$8.00
- Seniors (65+) and Military \$6.00

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SERIOUS ABOUT SALAMANDERS

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Humans often wonder why efforts are made to protect biodiversity and save endangered species. Biodiversity is defined as the variety of life in the world or in a particular habitat or ecosystem, and preserving it provides us with tremendous and vital benefits. Among others, these

The on another

Blind Salamander

benefits include air purification, medicines for better health, fresh water, pollination of crops, carbon sequestration (or storage), and preserving the fertility of the soil.

Forests purify our air by filtering

particulates and regulating the composition of the atmosphere. They act as massive carbon reservoirs, essential to the Earth's global carbon cycle, and significantly contribute to regulating the global climate. Natural forest soils, with their active microbial and animal populations, have a higher content of total nutrients and biomass, supplying the right nutrients to plants in the right proportions. Soils and wetlands also act as a filter for water, helping to reduce nitrogen loading, which is a significant form of pollution that occurs as a side effect of development in many parts of the world.

Roughly 50% of the medicines currently available are derived from natural products. Of these, at least 120 chemical compounds derived from 90 different plant species are critically important drugs in use around the world today. Many flowering plants rely on a great variety of animals to pollinate them, including one third of the world's

(Continued on Page 7)



(Continued from Page 6) _____ Nature Watch

food crops. In the U.S., it has been estimated that honeybees alone pollinate approximately \$10 billion worth of crops.

Recently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protected the Austin Blind Salamander (Eurycea waterlooensis), and the Jollyville Plateau Salamander (Eurycea tonkawae) in addition to a total of 4,451 acres of critical habitat. These salamanders live no where else in the world, and saving them is also an important step for our region's long-term water quality and health. They cannot survive in waterways polluted

with pesticides, in dustrial chemicals, and other toxins, so they are excellent indicators of the health of the environment.

The Austin Blind Salamander has external feathery gills, a pronounced extension of the



Jollyville Salamander

snout, no external eyes, and weakly developed tail fins. It occurs in and around Barton Springs, which is fed by the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer. The conditions that threaten this species include degradation of its aquatic habitat from pesticides and fertilizers, as well as low flow conditions in the aquifer and the springs. The Jollyville Plateau Salamander is physically similar to the Austin Blind Salamander, but has generally well-developed eyes, except for some cave-dwelling forms that exhibit eye reduction, head flattening, and loss of color. Typically, their habitat is spring-fed, and they occur in depths of less than one foot of cool, well-oxygenated water. While this salamander lives in the Jollyville Plateau and Brushy Creek areas, significant population declines have been observed, likely as a result of degrading water quality from rapid urban development.

Perhaps one of the most fundamental benefits of saving endangered species is an aesthetic one, as the loss of biodiversity impoverishes our world of natural beauty, both for ourselves and for future generations. It is yet another good reason for us to be serious about salamanders!

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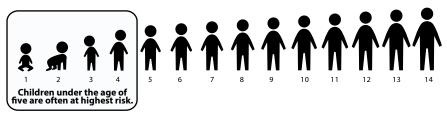




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DROWNING IS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE, AND A LEADING CAUSE FOR CHILDREN AGES 1 - 14.



13 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015

DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

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The Value of Sleep for Children and Teens Shelley Coleman M.A., L.P.C.-S.

As important as food and water, sleep is vital to your well-being. And, if you are a parent, research shows that your children are not getting the sleep they need. According to the National Sleep Foundation, children (ages 6-13) require 9-11 hours of sleep per night and adolescents (ages 13-18) require 9-10 hours per night. A recent study from the Centers for Disease Control found that 31% of teens get 8 hours or less of sleep per night and most school age children are getting 8.5 hours.

For growing brains and bodies, not getting enough sleep can have consequences on school and relationships. Teens and children can have difficulty concentrating when sleep deprived. And, according to the Sleep Disorder's Center, approximately 1,550 people are killed annually in crashes related to drowsy driving. Often, these crashes are caused by young people under the age of 25.

On the contrary, quality sleep has been linked to improved attention, better mental health, and lower risk of obesity. In recognizing the importance of quality sleep, parents can help children establish healthy sleep habits at an early age. If healthy sleep hygiene is established in adolescents, those habits can carry into adulthood.

Healthy sleep habits for teens and children include:

a set bedtime and wake time that does not vary by more than 2 hours

on the weekend

- a relaxing bedtime routine such as reading for teens or story time for
- no "exciting" activities at bedtime such as jumping or wrestling for children or computer games for teens
- daily exercise
- · healthy diet
- no caffeine after 4 PM

If you think your teen or child may have a sleep issue, there are common symptoms you may notice. For adolescents, parents may have difficulty waking them in the morning or observe that their teen is irritable in the early afternoon. Children may require excessive "help" falling asleep, wake many times during the night, or cause their parents to lose sleep. While these symptoms are usually easily addressed by improving sleep habits, more severe symptoms should be addressed with the help of a pediatrician or behavior specialist.

As parents, the value that we place on sleep is a big influence on our children's attitude toward sleep. Fortunately, there are a lot of practical steps we can take to help our children get the sleep they need. There are too many benefits of good sleep for our teens and children to miss out on them.





JUNE 2015

"THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT THE MOVIE AT DICK NICHOLS PARK!" APPRECIATE ALL YOUR DONATIONS AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE NEXT ONE!

SOUTHWEST MARKET UPDATE

*Stats based on APRIL 2014 and APRIL 2015 home sales through Austin Board of REALTORS®.









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in Dick Nichols Park!

Friday, Sept. 25th

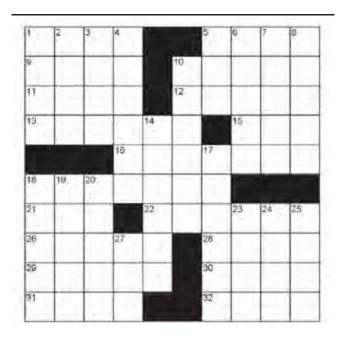
GoToAustinHomes.com



Stats based on MLS from Austin Board of REALTORS® (ABOR)

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. Among
- 5. Cubby
- 9. Santa call (2 wds.)
- 10. British princess
- 11. Absent
- 12. Praise
- 13. Her former last name
- 15. Ball holder
- 16. Surpasses
- 18. Bar enforcer
- 21. Trail
- 22. Humorous
- 26. Bets
- 28. Information
- 29. Vista
- 30. Paradise
- 31. Animal group
- 32. Lady

DOWN

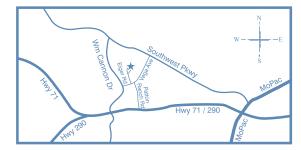
- 1. Hit
- 2. State
- 3. Tai
- 4. Saucy Girl
- 5. Tyrannosaurus
- 6. Speak
- 7. Eyed
- 8. Tiny insects
- 10. Wears mesh mask to fight
- 14. Tax
- 17. Worn
- 18. Cheeky
- 19. Small measurement 1/16 of a pound
- 20. Whoop
- 23. Cipher
- 24. Object
- 25. Walking stick
- 27. The __ (final word)

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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Austin Baptist Church's 2015 Vacation Bible School

FREE EVENTS

You're invited to Austin Baptist Church for a FREE Vacation Bible School: June 29 – July 2 from 9 a.m. to noon.

'Journey off the Map' Vacation Bible School is for kids entering kindergarten through completed 5th grade.

Our little explorers will experience Bible Study and worship, crafts, missions, music, snack time – and of course, recreation. Exciting adventures include an exotic petting zoo, train rides, inflatables and a foam pit!

Online registration is required – visit www.austinbaptistchurch. com to complete the online form and reserve your t-shirt.

We look forward to embarking on this journey with you!

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