

LONG CANYON *Gazette*

JULY 2015

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE LONG CANYON

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

THE LONG CANYON GAZETTE

*A Newsletter
for the residents of
Long Canyon*

The Long Canyon Gazette is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Long Canyon residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information, and more.

If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports team, social group, etc., and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com. Personal news (announcements, accolades/honors/celebrations, etc.) are also welcome as long as they are from area residents.

GO GREEN! Subscribe via Peelinc.com to have an email sent to you with a link to a PDF of the newsletter, or have an email sent to you instead of having a newsletter mailed to you!

NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE COMPETITION

RIVER PLACE, HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION is holding a public Community Information Meeting on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at 6:00pm at

The River Place Country Club. Find out about the HUD Federal Grant that is being applied for To Widen The Intersection at FM 2222 & River Place Boulevard, and to develop and Emergency Wildfire Evacuation Plan, and to implement other Wildfire Protection Measures.

The Disaster Relief Appropriations act of 2013, Public Law 113-2 allocated funds through a HUD Community Development Block Grant to provide funding for resilient recovery projects, among the goals listed, relating to Hurricane Sandy and other eligible events, including Presidential Declared Disasters in 2011, 2012, and 2103.

The Steiner Ranch wildfire was a qualifying event that allowed any community in Travis County to have their program entered into the competition with a possibility of having it funded with a no-match grant. HUD in conjunction with the Rockefeller Foundation is conducting the Competition. The Texas General Land Office is the primary applicant for the State of Texas and is the lead coordinator.

RP HOA is pursuing the grant as it might make funds for widening the problem intersection at FM2222 & River Place Boulevard available sooner than the City of Austin and TxDOT could provide, and providing for other wildfire mitigation measures that are recommended by the RP Firewise Committee that might otherwise take years to fund.

The RP HOA applied for the grant during the first of three phases of the competition and their letter of intent was accepted.

They are conducting the community meeting as a requirement of the grant

to encourage citizen participation in the plan development.

The RP HOA is especially requesting participation from low and moderate income citizens, minorities and non-

English speaking citizens, Citizens with disabilities, local and regional

institutions, businesses, developers, faith based organizations, and any applicable public assistance housing agency in the community.

Citizen comments and complaints will be responded to on each phase of the application, regarding the plan, all amendments, and progress reports. Special accommodations will be provided upon a citizen's request.



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Vandegrift Senior First from His School to Win Lake Travis Community Library Scholarship

A Vandegrift senior has become the first Viper to win a scholarship from the Friends of the Lake Travis Community Library.

Keith Tran, who lives with his parents and sister in Steiner Ranch, is one of four library teen volunteers who will be sharing \$8,000 in scholarships awarded by the Friends this year. The other three are from Lake Travis High School. The four seniors have volunteered a total of more than 1,000 hours at the library in Lakeway, the closest public library to Steiner Ranch. Tran is the first Vandegrift student ever to win one of the Friends service awards.

Tran will be attending Texas Tech in the fall, then hopes to attend Tech's Health Science Center School of Medicine and become a pediatric surgeon. He'll receive his scholarship award at the Vandegrift Senior Awards Ceremony on May 27th.

Anna Dolliver, Brody Volpe and Sydney Yorke all graduate from LTHS this June. Dolliver and Yorke are headed to the University of Texas at Austin. Dolliver wants to become a lawyer; Yorke, a computer programmer. Volpe is headed for Baylor where he'll study theater arts. He is hoping for a career on Broadway. Dolliver and Volpe live in Lakeway; Yorke lives in Bee Cave.

"We had such an impressive group of applicants this year, making our final decision was difficult," Jean Hennagin, chair of the Friends scholarship committee, noted. "We found the final four exemplary at all levels, including their service to the community."

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Long Canyon residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail longcanyon@peelinc.com

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

CICADAS



Cicadas are fairly large insects but can vary in size with some growing over 1 ½ inches. Color may also vary depending upon species, but many are brown or green. All cicadas have bulging eyes and, on adults, wings that are held roof-like over the body. The wings are semi-transparent with thick wing veins. The majority of their life cycle is spent underground.

Cicadas have 2-5 year life cycles and appear in Texas in mid to late summer. Females insert egg clusters into branches of trees using their saw-like ovipositor (egg laying structure). Eggs hatch after about 6 weeks and small nymphs drop to the ground where they burrow into the soil. Nymphs feed on sap of tree roots with their piercing-sucking mouthparts. After becoming fully developed, nymphs emerge from the ground at night and climb onto nearby objects such as tree trunk, plants, fences, etc. Adult cicadas emerge from the last nymphal stage leaving behind the exuviae (cast skin). Adults can live 5-6 weeks.

Male cicadas are well known for their “song”. They rest on a tree and produce a whining sound to attract females. The sound is produced by two vibrating membranes on the side of the abdomen. Females do not “sing”. Adults feed on juices from tender twigs, but usually do not cause lasting harm to the plant from feeding.

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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Viper Swim Camp

(Boys & Girls)

Register at www.leanderisd.org

Contact – Kimberly Davies

Kimberly.davies@leanderisd.org

The Vandegrift Swim Team has numerous traditions and success, so come get to know the Vandegrift Swim coaches while gaining more swimming experience. All swimmers must already know all 4 strokes to attend. This camp will take swimmers through all strokes and finesse their technique. At the same time, the swimmer will get to experience why swimming for Vandegrift is fun, motivating and filled with pride. Spots are limited, so act fast to be a part of a great VIPER experience!

Where - Bella Mar in Steiner Ranch

Requirements - Bring water, a towel, swimsuit, goggles and a cap.

Swim equipment will be provided

\$60

July 20th – 23rd from 8am – 10am

Grades: 6th – 9th Grade

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IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

For many of us, the outdoor magic and mystery of summer nights was best embodied by the blink of fireflies or 'lightning bugs', which are neither flies nor bugs, but beetles. With over 170 species of fireflies in North America, and about 36 of those species in Texas, fireflies fall into three main genera: the Photuris, Photinus, and the Pyractomena. The most common species in Texas is the Pennsylvania Firefly (*Photuris pennsylvanicus*), which ranges from the eastern U.S. to Kansas and into Texas.

Most likely to be spotted at night in fields and near wooded areas, the adult Pennsylvania Firefly's elytra (hardened forewings that form a protective covering over flight wings) are dark brown with yellowish margins and slanted stripes. The head is yellow around the sides and red in the middle, and their overall length is about half an inch. After mating, the female lays tiny, spherical eggs singly or in small groups in damp soil, around grass or moss, and they hatch in about 4 weeks. The larvae feed in the grass on slugs, snails, earthworms, and cutworms, and in this immature phase their light isn't visible unless they are turned over. They overwinter as larvae in small chambers within the ground, waiting for the spring months when they pupate and emerge in early summer as adult fireflies, giving them an average lifespan of approximately two years.

Firefly mating is dependent on the female seeing the distinct flashes of a mate-seeking male, and each must find the exact right blinking pattern in order to mate successfully. Males begin flying after dark, emitting yellow or yellow-green flashes, some flying above the tree canopy. Interestingly, ambient light

around a firefly's natural habitat decreases the chance it will find a mate. In order to rise to the challenge of producing offspring with artificial light around, fireflies must increase the intensity of the flashes they produce in order to be seen. This increased light emission decreases the stored energy supply in the firefly that would normally be used directly for reproduction. Artificial light also exposes the fireflies to nighttime predators, even when they are not blinking. This combination of effects from artificial light directly decreases the chance that fireflies will survive and mate.

Flashes of light can be emitted by both male and female fireflies, and can also be used for purposes other than mating. One additional use is to lure prey to them; in fact, females from the *Photuris* genus will often mimic the flashes of a female *Photinus* firefly, and a male *Photinus* that falls for it will quickly be devoured! Not all female fireflies are capable of flight, however, as some species are wingless and bear a strong resemblance to larvae rather than to adult males of the same species. Often, these types of fireflies are



referred to as 'glowworms'.

The abundance of fireflies has been decreasing over the years, greatly challenged by both the increasing presence of artificial light and the rapid development of our open fields and forests. As human light pollution and development continues to spread, fireflies just might disappear altogether, in a blink of an eye!

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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by Dr. Lance Loveless



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

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- Lance Loveless, DDS, FAGD, LVIF

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Hosting An Exchange Student

Did you ever wonder what hosting a foreign exchange student is about? Well here it is in a nutshell....

Hosting an exchange student is a great way to learn about another country and culture without leaving your home town. It provides a cultural exchange experience for the entire family while providing a student from another country with a slice of American life.

Hosting an exchange student is like adding an international branch to your family tree. Many host families develop lifelong friendships with their exchange students and keep in regular touch with them. Some even visit them in their home countries, or invite them back for weddings and graduations

Hosting an exchange student provides your family, your high school and your community with a direct window into another country and culture, providing an opportunity for life-long learning.

Families of all shapes and sizes can host an international exchange student. We've had host families with young children, no children, high school aged children – as well as empty nesters and single parent households.

Ayusa is a non-profit based in San Francisco that promotes global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad programs for high school students from around the world.

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 or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.



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