

VOLUME 4, NUMBER 7

JULY 2015

# MERIDIAN

## *Community Monitor*

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN



*Cover Photo by Miles of Smiles Photography by Sarah Jordan*



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CIRCLE C \$409,900 4 BR 3 BA

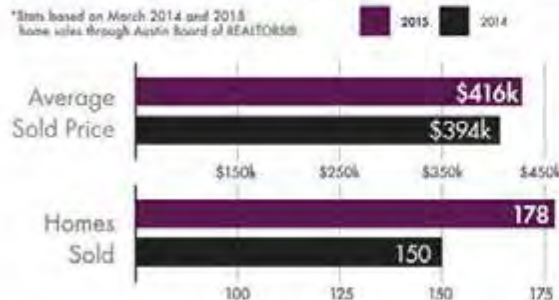


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## SOUTHWEST AUSTIN MARKET UPDATE

\*Stats based on March 2014 and 2015  
Home sales through Austin Board of REALTORS®



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*Total Monthly Five Star Agent 2013 - 2015*  
*Austin's Platinum Top 50 Award Winner 2015*

**6 Days**  
Average Days on Market  
Ashley

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Austin Average



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

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## MERIDIAN 5TH GRADE COMPLETION CEREMONY

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop*

Congratulations to Meridian's Bobcats completing 5th grade this spring. Your Meridian neighbors are so proud of your accomplishments.

These students spent their last day as Baldwin 5th graders starting with a special ceremony to commemorate their successes at Baldwin, followed by a reception in their honor, hosted by Baldwin 4th grade parents. Then, the 5th graders paraded around the school halls, lined with the rest of the Baldwin students, teachers and staff, giving high-fives along the way. Then, the students retreated to the Meridian Pool for a very special send-off celebration.



## INTRODUCING OUR NEW MERIDIAN MARQUEE

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop*



I'm sure by now, you've had the opportunity to see and admire the brand new Meridian marquee that was installed just beyond the front entrance in the neighborhood in late May. This is due to the hard work and dedication of our very

own Tiffany Johnson who lives on Purmina Cove. She spearheaded this project from a Meridian resident's perspective along with the help of Matt Moore at Goodwin Management to get this project completed.

"I am just thrilled that the social committee now has a very effective way to announce Meridian HOA neighborhood events," says Tiffany. This will help our community stay even more connected. Watch the marquee for upcoming neighborhood news and events. Thank you, Tiffany!

## MAY FOOD TRUCK NIGHT

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop*

Thanks to all that came out to the May Food Truck Night. The weather was great and the food and friends were even better!



# THE MONITOR

## WELCOME

### *A Newsletter for Meridian residents*

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian 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 activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com) or you can email it [meridian@peelinc.com](mailto:meridian@peelinc.com). Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome.

Our goal is to keep you informed!

## ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make The Monitor possible. 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 9th of the month prior to the issue.

## NEWSLETTER INFO

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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.



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## NEVER TOO LATE TO FEEL GREAT

The **Southwest Family YMCA** is here to help active older adults live better and enjoy life more. Whether you're looking to remain fit and active, recover from an injury, relieve arthritis pain or just want to connect and have fun with your peers, Y programs are a perfect place to start.

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FREE for  
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### SOUTHWEST FAMILY YMCA

6219 Oakclaire Dr & Hwy 290 | 512.891.9622 | [AustinYMCA.org](http://AustinYMCA.org)

## JULY 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Submitted by Melinda McKenna

### JULY 1

Go Native U: Botany X-Files – Unlocking the Mysteries of Food and Drug Plants - (Thru July 22) - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - Thursdays 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### JULY 3

Stars and Stripes Celebration - Greyrock Golf Club

### JULY 4

Independence Day

### JULY 4

8:30 a.m. - Children gather at the Pavilion to decorate their wheels for the Meridian Neighborhood Parade; 8:45 a.m. - Gorzycki School Band plays; 9:00 a.m. - The Meridian Neighborhood Parade begins.

### JULY 9

Nature Nights - Springs, Streams and Ponds Ecology - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### JULY 13

City of Austin Recycle Day - Every two Weeks

### JULY 14

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Baldwin Incoming Kindergarteners play date at Baldwin Kindergarten Playground in the back of the school

### JULY 16

Nature Nights - Fire Prevention - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### JULY 17

5:30 p.m. - Food Trailer Family Fun Night

### JULY 23

Nature Nights - Birds of Prey - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### JULY 26

Lady Bird Johnson Tribute Day - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

### JULY 27

City of Austin Recycle Day - Every two Weeks

*Looking for more information about the organizations listed above?*

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center – [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)

Grey Rock Golf Club – [www.greyrockgolfclub.com](http://www.greyrockgolfclub.com)

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## SAVE UP THIS SUMMER!

*Submitted by Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA*

Please continue to collect your Box Tops and Labels for Education this summer. Go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com) and [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) for collection sheets. Or, simply snip and keep in an envelope and bring them back to school with you in August to help raise money for our school. Look for labels on many of your grocery products: Betty Crocker, Campbell's soups, General Mills, Green Giant, Hefty, Pepperidge Farm, Pillsbury, Prego, Yoplait, Ziplock and many, many more.



## BALDWIN INCOMING KINDERGARTEN Summer Playdates

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin Kinder Kick-off Chair*

Meet and mingle with future Bobcat cubs and parents at our July summer playdate.

**Tuesday, July 14th**

**9:30-11:30am**

**Baldwin Kinder Playground (behind the school)**

Then, join us for a very special Kindergarten Kick-Off Celebration

**Saturday, August 22**

**9:30-11am**

**Large Baldwin Playground**

This is a special playdate where your Bobcat cub will have the opportunity to meet children in his/her class. Snacks will be provided. Don't miss the celebration and the opportunity to meet new friends and classmates!

Need more info? Contact me:

Jacquelyn Waldrop [jwaldrop@austinreps.com](mailto:jwaldrop@austinreps.com) / 512-923-3099

Find us on Facebook: Baby Baldwin Bobcats-Incoming Kinder 2015



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# 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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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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 Pyralomena. 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](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com) if you enjoy reading these articles!*



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**24 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015**

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# THE MONITOR

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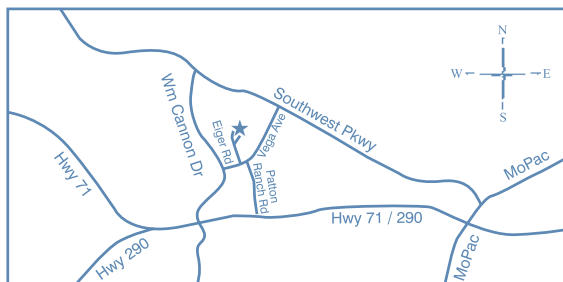
- Meridian neighborhood activities
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**Bob & Melinda McKenna**



Meridian by Square Ft Range	6 Months Sold History (12/2014-05/2015)						Current Market	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
<2500	7	2,222	\$ 159	\$ 354	2008	10	0	2
2500-2999	5	2,761	\$ 153	\$ 422	2008	27	3	1
3000-3499	8	3,168	\$ 137	\$ 435	2008	34	5	1
3500-3999	6	3,669	\$ 134	\$ 490	2007	72	3	1
4000-4500	5	4,385	\$ 154	\$ 675	2011	56	2	2
>4500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	2	0
Meridian Total	31	3,182	\$ 147	\$ 467	2008	38	15	7
% Change Mo/Mo	0%	2%	-2%	0%	0%	-13%	50%	75%
% Change Yr / Yr	63%	-5%	-1%	-5%	0%	-27%	200%	-22%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 06/05/2015. Texas License # 515585.

In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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