

THE VILLAGE

Gazette™

"It takes a Village..."

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

WELCOME TO THE VILLAGE GAZETTE

*A Newsletter
for the Residents
of Villages at
Western Oaks*

The Village Gazette is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Villages at Western Oaks residents. Each newsletter will be 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!

Letter from the Board of Directors

Village at Western Oaks Homeowners Association

The article appearing on the cover of the August 2015 Village Gazette was not from the Village at Western Oaks Homeowners Association or any agent of the association. The author of the article was Stephanie Simmons, a resident of the HOA, who recently lost a lawsuit against the association. It is unfortunate Stephanie Simmons continues to mischaracterize the events of the lawsuit.

TO BRIEFLY CORRECT SOME OF THE MISINFORMATION IN THE ARTICLE:

1) There is no Village at Western Oaks HOA event on September 1st.

2) The article stated that "the board was finally made legitimate..." This is absolutely FALSE and implies that a judge at one time found the board to be illegitimate, which is the opposite of what occurred. Stephanie Simmons sued the HOA asking the court to remove the board and appoint a 3rd-party outside person (receivership) to operate the HOA and to declare that the board was not legitimate. Stephanie Simmons also asked the court to hold that all prior actions of the board were not valid. **The court ruled against Stephanie Simmons on all of these points.** Stated another way, **Stephanie Simmons lost on every single cause of action she presented to the court.**

3) The email address in the article is NOT an address for the HOA and is presumably an address administered by Stephanie Simmons. The correct Village at Western Oaks board email address for general inquiries or comments is: **villageatwesternoaksboard@gmail.com**. This is the email address for HOA communications. The board welcomes and encourages any questions, feedback, ideas, and comments – any communication you would like to submit.

4) Please continue to use the vilweste@ciiramail.com address to contact Real Manage about community-related, account, deed restrictions, notices or property issues.

5) The article noted that elections are "coming soon." However elections don't take place until the end of the year. The board will announce those in a timely manner as it always does.

This article was submitted and approved by the Village at Western Oaks HOA. The board has spoken with the editors of the Village Gazette and they have apologized for any inconvenience or confusion the August article caused. They noted that it is unusual for their paper to receive HOA – related information from someone without a formal role in the association, and they have assured us that they are taking measures to ensure that a similar incident does not happen again.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-0845

SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
Mills	512-841-2400
Patton	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing)	512-494-9400
Emergency	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing	512-219-2602
Problems	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service	1-800-288-2020
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Article Submissions	villagegazette@peelinc.com
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MOVIES in the PARK

@ DICK NICHOLS PARK

Submitted by Lori Goto

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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

GriefShare

Submitted by Nancy Zaloga

GriefShare (www.griefshare.org) will meet at Manchaca United Methodist Church, located at 1011 FM 1626, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. each Sunday beginning September 13, 2015. There is a \$15 charge for workbooks (scholarships available). GriefShare is a 13-week faith-based seminar and support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You may begin the class at any point during the 13-week time frame. Call Deanna at 512-917-1909 for further information.

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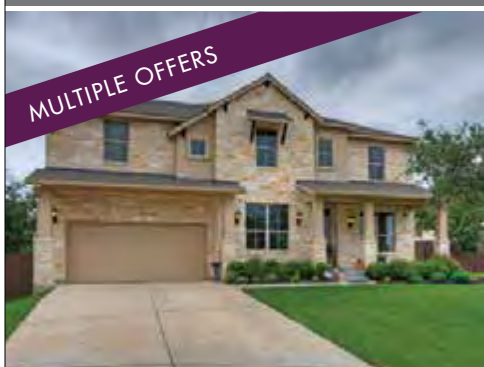
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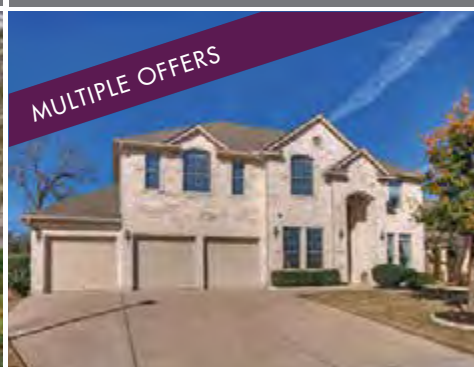
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THE VILLAGE GAZETTE

Hope4Minds' Second "Battle of the Youth Bands" Lets Kids Sling Their Six-Strings and Raise Money for Hope4Minds, Offering Hope and Support to Kids with an Acquired Brain Injury

Rock on and play hard for a good cause this fall at the second Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest on Sat., Oct. 17, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at The Rusty Mule, 9201 Hwy 290 in Austin. Produced by Hope4Minds with Strait Music and Austin School of Music, the Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest is a high octane day of live music, a silent auction and activities including gyroscope, rock wall, food trucks, face painting, redneck games knockdown, carnival games and much more. Proceeds benefit Hope4Minds, a 501 3(c) public charity that's fostering hope and enriching the lives of Texas children with an acquired brain injury.

Bands are competing both on and off stage by raising money for Hope4Minds, with two winners earning a gig at Stubb's Bar-B-Q on Dec. 6, 2015. In addition to their Stubb's show, the first place winner will receive six hours of recording time at Austin School of Music. As of August 15, eight bands plan to take the stage for this good cause including Beautiful Minds from Curious Chords; Dillon Havins Band; Empire from Don't Stop Rockin'; Hannah & Isabelle from Musicians Woodshed; Issy & Ellie; Jordyn & Zach from Musicians Woodshed; Pacific Ninjas from Rock Lab School of Music; and The Wayfarer's Way. Author and singer/songwriter Brooklyn James will emcee the event. All band members must be younger than 21. View their band videos and support your favorite at www.hope4minds.org.

Brianna, the 8 year old singer in Beautiful Minds, suffered a traumatic brain injury when she was 12 months old and has physical disabilities as a result of her injury. Brianna said, "I want to help other kids get help like I did so they can get better."

Ronda Johnson, executive director for Hope4Minds, is especially impressed by the bands' enthusiasm to support other kids. "These young musicians from all over Austin are coming together to support our kids and families, and there's something really special about that."

Admission is \$5 a person with free admission for children under 3. Tickets are available online at Hope4Minds.org and at the event. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs due to limited seating.

2015 Battle of the Youth Bands sponsors represent community-minded businesses from across Austin including On Call Emergency Center; Premier Family Physicians; Community Impact; Covert Buick; Peel Inc. ; Big Sky Pediatric Therapy; AR Signs; Kim Burke of Sotheby's International Realty; Peter King Design; Massage Envy; European Wax Center; Moreland Properties; Sonrisas Therapies; Christopher Commercial-Escarpment Village; Stubbs Bar B Q; Maggie Ruiz of Realty Austin; V & V Liquors; Therapy Center of Buda; Neuro Performance Austin; Anytime Fitness; Momentum Public Relations; and Texas Music Water. Sponsorships are still available at www.hope4minds.org.



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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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FIRE ANT TREATMENTS

There are numerous ways to manage fire ants, but they are often broken into two categories- broadcast treatments and individual mound treatments. Individual mound treatments are used to treat one mound at a time and can be labor intensive and may result in more pesticide being spread into the environment. Broadcast treatments will spread product (granular or bait) over a large area.

Individual mound treatments include pouring boiling water onto the mound, using insecticide mound drenches, spreading insecticide granules onto the mound and watering them in, sprinkling insecticidal dusts on top of the mound or using bait-formulated insecticides around the perimeter of the mound. There are also many "home remedies", but be advised that many of these do not kill fire ants. Many home remedies make the fire ants move to a new location (often 1-2 feet away), but do not kill the ants.

Bait-formulated insecticides most often consist of a defatted corn cob grit coated with soybean oil; the soybean oil is where the active ingredient (what kills the pest) is dissolved. Worker ants collect bait as a food source and take it back to the colony to share with other ants, including the queen. Depending on the active ingredient, the bait may cause the queen to die or be unable to produce viable eggs, which gradually kills off the colony. When using baits, results are often slower to observe when compared to individual mound treatments, but can provide 80-90% suppression for 12-18 months. A bonus to broadcasting baits is that the amount of active ingredient is generally very small, which places less chemical into the environment.

With any pesticide treatment, read and follow all label instructions. Make sure to water in the pesticide if the label instructs to do so. Failure to water in chemicals when recommended by the label does an inadequate job of killing the ants. Baits should not be watered in or used before a rainfall event; baits will not be picked up by ants if they get wet.

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

TEXAS SPINY LIZARD

NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the most common lizards in the Austin area is the Texas Spiny Lizard (*Sceloporus olivaceus*). It is also one of the largest, averaging 7.5 to 11 inches in length, with the females being larger than the males.

A Texas spiny lizard is often hard to spot, as its dorsal pattern can vary by locality, serving as adequate camouflage in its chosen habitat. Typically grey in color with black, white, or reddish-brown blotches or crossbands down its back, it blends in perfectly against the bark of resident trees. Its underside is usually uniformly light grey, and males commonly have bright blue patches on either side of the belly. The scales appear particularly pointed and spiny, and it has long toes and sharp claws suitable for climbing.

All of these features serve this lizard well, as it is diurnal and arboreal, spending much of its time in trees. While it prefers larger tree species with a significant amount of leaf litter below, such as live oaks, post oaks, red oaks, pecans, hackberries, and elms, it may also be found in brushy trees such as mesquites and junipers. This lizard can also be seen climbing on man-made structures such as fence posts, walls, and telephone poles, especially when the base of these objects is covered in brush.

Typically shy and wary, this lizard quickly retreats to the opposite side of a tree trunk in the presence of a predator or human observer. If startled when approached closely, it will suddenly jump from a tree trunk and flee noisily into the leaf litter below, making it almost impossible to locate. Trees not only provide protection for this lizard, but they also provide for its food. Being insectivorous, it can find cicadas, crickets, grasshoppers, beetles, ants, butterflies, and caterpillars in the leafy canopy.

Male Texas spiny lizards are territorial, often defending a single tree from encroachment by other males. When challenged, the two males will have what appears to be a push up contest, until one is

intimidated enough to give up and scurry away. Active on the surface from March to November, these lizards are reproductively active throughout the warmer months of the year. Females lay up to four clutches of eggs in a shallow depression in leaf litter, with hatchlings emerging 45-60 days later. In the cooler months of the year, they take cover for weeks at a time under rocks, logs, and in deep leaf litter, and are occasionally seen basking in the sun on warmer, sunnier days.

So when you're out and about in your yard or at a park, and you hear something skittering in the leaf litter or retreating up a tree, it most likely is a Texas Spiny Lizard!

Send your nature-related questions to [HYPERLINK "mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com"](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



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SEPTEMBER 2015

MOVIE NIGHTS

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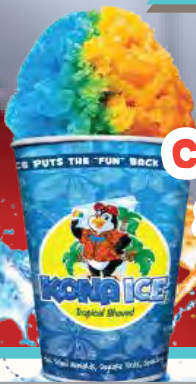


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Back To School

School starts in August, so now is the time for drivers to pay closer attention to the school zones in the neighborhood. We want to remind you that the speed limit in a school zone is 20mph and traffic fines double!

Other changes to be aware of include;

- Children behaving unpredictably
- School Bus Stops
- Crossing Guards – please obey the guards! Remember, they are there for the safety of you and your children
- New areas of traffic congestion
- Be prepared for delays
- Use of cell phones in schools zones is prohibited!

Please give yourself extra time in the mornings and mid-afternoons and remember if you are traveling in a school zone to slow down.

Time To Slow Down!



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Teenage Job Seekers

Name	Age	Baby Sitt	Pet Sitt	House Sitt	Yard Work	Phone
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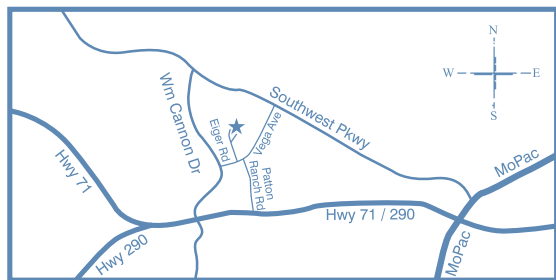
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ATTENTION TEENAGERS

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all Village at Western Oak and Legend Oak teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to VillageGazette@PEELinc.com by the 9th of the month!



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