



OCTOBER 2015 +

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 10

A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks II

Editorial – October

The annual neighborhood association meeting was held on Sept. 9. The meeting minutes are included in this newsletter.

Two new neighbors moved into Legend Oaks 2 last month. Welcome to the hood!

Neighbor Paige Green shares ideas about the holidays in Parent Perspective. Nikki Tate shares unusual uses for common household items. Jim Turney shares further impressions of Thailand.

Ever wonder about the history of Halloween? If so, check out the article on Halloween.

Agriculture Extension Agent Wizzie Brown shares information on Clothes Moths. Vicki Odom shares information on exchange students and Megan Ransom sends out a plea for adoptive parents in The Heart Gallery of Central Texas.

Minutes of the LOA2 Annual Members Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:08pm by President Nikki Tate.

- Roll Call and Certifying of Proxies

Directors in attendance were Nikki Tate, Duane Pietsch and Abigail Norman. Property manager Jim Smitherman was also in attendance. The sign in sheet served as roll call and the proxies were certified and counted as valid. Quorum was established by the 26 members in attendance and 52 proxies.

- Proof of Notice of Meeting

A copy of the meeting notice was sent by certified mail to Goodwin Management and served as proof of notice of the meeting.

- Approval of September 9, 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

The 2014 annual meeting minutes were provided for review. James Hinshaw motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Ferdinand Luna seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- Election of One Board Member

The election was for one board member position for a three-year term. There were three nominations: Duane Pietsch, Jeffrey Smith, and Maria Bergen. The vote was cast by written ballot.

Duane Pietsch was elected to serve a three-year term on the board.

- Report from Board of Directors

Nikki Tate provided the board report.

- The brick wall loan will be paid off in January 2016.

- There will be a 2016 dues decrease of 15%.

- The 2016 dues will be \$45.74/month; if paid up front for the year, members receive a 10% discount for a total amount due in 2016 of \$493.99 (\$100 less than this year)

- After paying off the brick wall in January 2016, there will be 120k remaining in reserves.

- The pool needs to be re-plastered in 2016. This expense is estimated to be around 20k.

- The board would like to focus on re-doing the General Maintenance Guidelines. It has been three years since they were revised.

- Suzanne Johnson is planning the Christmas party again this year. It is scheduled for December 12th from 4-6pm. Nikki asked everyone to consider volunteering.

- Manager's Report

Jim Smitherman presented the manager's report. Goodwin Management, Inc. is responsible for and acts as community liaison for three areas of the HOA:

- Overseeing the common areas elements and community

(Continued on Page 2)

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

Articleslegendoaks@peelinc.com

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ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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*If anyone would like to join a committee, they can contact
legendoaks2.nikkatate@gmail.com*

(Continued from Cover)

contractors which include the pool/amenity center, landscaping and irrigation, and the exterior community fencing.

- Accounting for the community.

- Deed restriction enforcement which includes driving the community twice a month, dealing with issues arising from these drives, and architectural applications and guidelines.

Smitherman gave an overview of the financials, delinquencies, and violations of the community and answered questions.

- Committee Reports

The pool committee report was provided by Abigail Norman.

- Lifeguards were on duty this summer; if members signed the waivers, they could swim when lifeguards weren't on duty.

- The waiver to swim without lifeguards must be completed by members each year.

- Lifeguards will be on duty every weekend until the pool closes.

- The association will be notified when the pool closes for the season.

- Members have expressed interest in bathroom improvements/enhancements; the committee will take this into consideration.

- Competitive bids from three pool companies were compared and Lifeguard4hire was chosen to provide the pool management and lifeguarding services for the upcoming year. Members are encouraged to submit feedback to the committee so that all issues and concerns can be addressed with Lifeguard4hire.

Nikki Tate provided a description of each committee and asked everyone to consider volunteering.

- New Business

- National Night Out – Tuesday, October 6th

- Christmas party – Saturday, December 12th from 4-6pm

- Communications from Members

- Heidi Peltier reported an issue with the pool gate closing; Jim will follow up and have it taken care of immediately. A member suggested the option of an alarm that sounds when the gate is left ajar over a specified amount of time.

- Erik Peterson reported an issue with yard violations he has received. The board explained the restrictions were being enforced too strictly and now they come before the board before being issued to the members.

- Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

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LEGEND OAKS

Welcome New Neighbors!

According to the Legend Oaks 2 Homeowners Association, the following new neighbors joined the neighborhood in July:

Knowlton & Levgenia Morozova

6117 Jumano Lane

Kelly Jackson & Robert Davis

8005 Siringo Pass

***Be sure to welcome these new neighbors
to our neighborhood!***

Everything you need to know about the Homeowners Association can be found at <http://hoasites.goodwintx.com/loh/Home.aspx> - bylaws, how to get a pool pass, meeting minutes, payment instructions for HOA dues, architectural change forms, ...

Want to know what is going on right now in the neighborhood? Subscribe to:

Legend Oaks 2 Digest – Email legendoaksneighbors-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. In order for your request to be approved, you need to include your street address.

Nextdoor Legend Oaks 2 – Go to www.nextdoor.com and enter your address. You will automatically be subscribed to Legend Oaks 2.

Parent Perspective

By Paige Green

As I write this, school has just started, but I know by October we'll have most of the routines down and fall will be here in earnest! It's a busy time of year with pumpkin patches (insert date of Gentry patch in the park here if you know it) and Fall Festivals. Last year my son's class took a field trip to the tree farm in Elgin that has a nice pumpkin patch, they had a hay bale maze, some crafting opportunities, and a petting zoo. Bannockburn Christian Academy is having its Fall Festival on Friday, Oct. 30th from 5:30 to 8:30.

Right after Halloween we launch into Thanksgiving and then don't slow down until after the New Year. I don't know about you, but my family has been known to let all of that time blur together. Then we look back later and we didn't do some of the things we really would have liked to do. My suggestion to eliminate blur? Have everyone sit down together and write some things that make each of the holidays special on popsicle sticks. The older kids can help the younger kids get their ideas written down.

Then you can all vote on what the "bucket list" items are and put them on the calendar now. This way as things pop-up they won't get shoved out of the schedule. Then the other great ideas can be kept in a jar to pull ideas from on slow Saturdays or school early release days (or maybe even ice days!)

You may be just as tired at the end of the holiday season, but you'll have gone ice skating and driven around to see the lights while sipping hot cocoa, or whatever makes your "bucket list". Then we can all breathe a sigh of relief and decorate for Valentine's Day!

Legend Oaks resident Paige Green

UNCOMMON HOUSEHOLD TIPS & TRICKS

By Nikki Tate

It's true, you can actually use plain, white toothpaste to fill in small holes in your walls such as nail holes. Anything smaller than a 1/4" can usually be repaired. Use a little extra or fill twice and then scrape off the excess with a plastic debit or credit card.



Did you know that a pumice stone, like the kind used to smooth your skin, can also be used to remove hard water stains in your porcelain toilette? It's true. Sticking clove spikes into

an apple and leaving it on the counter can add a wonderful, natural scent to your kitchen and help get rid of cooking odors faster.

Seeing those little swarms of tiny gnats buzzing around your beautiful bowl of fruit? Pour about a half a cup of apple cider vinegar into a bowl, cover with plastic wrap, poke a number of small holes in the plastic wrap and in they'll fly. And stay.

A lot of these really have to be seen to be believed. Click Here for a list of a few random helpful tips like how not to break a fingernail putting a new house key on your key chain, and a crazy, simple way to keep kids from rolling off the bed at night while they're sleeping. Once you see some of them you'll wonder why you never thought of them first!



Ever wonder how to get dirt off suede without sending it to the dry cleaners? Can you believe you can do it with a piece of stale bread? That and 29 other ways to use common, every day household items to clean

everything from leather bags to diamond rings can be found by Clicking Here.

There are so many of these that if you've got a Kindle® reader there's even an entire e-book that's been written on the subject! You can read more about it by Clicking Here.

Hope the rest of your summer goes well and let me know if you know of any other great tips and tricks like these!



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Further Impressions of Thailand

By Jim Turney



I now live in an apartment less than a block from the beach! I jog 3 miles on the beach every morning at 6am. At 82, I have to keep healthy! Here is the view from my balcony!

I'm next door to 7-story shopping mart, the biggest in the city. The basement has a

Food Court and the food market. There are dozens of tables, with open seating. You get your food at any of the dozens of vendors, sit and eat. Appetizer at one, dinner at another, dessert at another. Soft drink faucets all over. Buy one ticket, so you don't have to pay many times. Very convenient!



Now to mention the food! Top choice is Tom Yum Goong (Spicy Shrimp Soup). It has the quintessential Thai aroma! Succulent fresh prawns and straw mushrooms lend it body. It's invigorating sour-spicy-hot taste just screams Thailand! I'm still getting used to spicy!

I love this place! I cannot speak the language yet, but the people so friendly!

I'm working to get a retirement visa. Stay tuned!



HALLOWEEN

Ever wonder where the tradition of Halloween came from? According to Wikipedia, Halloween customs are thought to have been influenced by customs and beliefs of Celtic-speaking countries. It is often linked to the Celtic festival of Samhain which occurred at summer's end.

It was seen as a time when spirits or fairies could more easily come into our world. People called on God to protect them in their dwellings. People thought the fairies needed to be appeased to ensure they and their livestock survived the winter, so they offered food and drink or portions of crops to the fairies. Souls of the dead were also said to revisit their homes, so places were set at the table or by the fire to welcome them.

Belief that souls returned home one night or day of the year seems to have many ancient origins. In 19th century Ireland, candles were lit and prayers were offered for the souls of the dead, then eating, drinking, and games would begin. Rituals to divine one's future, especially death and marriage, were included. Nuts and apples were often used in these divination rituals. Bonfires were set because the flames, smoke, and ashes were thought to have protective and cleansing powers and were used for divination. This mimicked the powers of the sun and was thought to help the powers of growth, holding back the decay and darkness of winter.

Early Halloween festivals included mumming and guising. This involved people going house-to-house in costume or disguise, usually reciting verses or songs in exchange for food. The guising sometimes included a hobby horse – a man dressed as a white mare. If a household donated food, they could expect good fortune, not doing so brought about bad luck. In Scotland, costumed youth threatened to do mischief if they were not welcomed, where imitating malignant spirits led to playing pranks. Hollowed out turnips were used as lanterns. In the 20th century, these customs spread to other parts of England.

The Christian influence is seen as Halloween falls on the evening before the Christian holy days of All Hallows' Day (Nov. 1 - also known as All Saints' or Hallowmas) and All Souls' Day (Nov. 2), resulting in the name All Hallows' Eve. Major feasts in the Christian church had vigils, beginning the night before. Oct. 31-Nov. 2 is known as Allhallowtide and is a time for honoring saints and praying for recently departed souls who have yet to reach heaven. By the 12th century, they had become holy days of obligation across Europe and involved ringing church bells for the souls in purgatory. Criers dressed in black to parade in the streets, ringing a bell and calling on all good Christians to remember the poor souls.

Souling, the custom of baking and sharing soul cakes for all christened souls, has been suggested as the origin of trick-or-treating. It dates back to the 15th century and was practiced in England, Belgium, Germany, Austria, and Italy. Groups, often children, would go door-to-door during Allhallowtide collecting soul cakes in exchange for praying for the dead, especially souls of the givers' friends and relatives. It was originally believed that souls wandered the earth until All Saints' Day. All Hallows' Eve provided the last chance for the dead to gain vengeance on their enemies before moving to next world. To

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avoid being recognized by these souls, people would put on masks and dress in costumes.

Carved jack-o-lanterns were thought to originally represent souls of the dead. Households in Austria, England, and Ireland burned candles in every room to guide souls back to their earthly homes – known as soul lights. In Continental Europe, especially France, many believed that the dead in churchyards rose for one wild, hideous carnival, known as danse macabre. It has been depicted in church decoration on the walls of cathedrals, monasteries, and cemeteries. Christian village children reenacted the danse macabre, and this has been suggested as the predecessor of modern day costume parties.

During the English Reformation, some Protestants redefined theology of All Hallows' Eve without the doctrine of purgatory. Ghosts came to be thought of as evil spirits. Others continued original customs, especially souling, candlelit processions, and ringing of church bells in memory of the dead. To remove evil spirits, barns and homes were blessed to protect people and livestock from the effect of witches, who were thought to accompany evil spirits as they traveled the earth.

Halloween traditions waned in Britain as Guy Fawkes Night (Nov. 5) appropriated many of the Halloween traditions. In France, some Christian families prayed beside the graves of their loved ones, leaving dishes of milk for them. In Italy, some families left out a large meal for ghosts of family members before they left for church services. In

Spain, special pastries, bones of the holy, were baked and put on the graves in the churchyard.

U.S. Customs

Colonists in the South and in Maryland recognized All Hallows' Eve on church calendars. Puritans maintained strong opposition to the holiday, along with other traditional celebrations of the established church, including Christmas. Mass Irish and Scottish immigration during the 19th century increased the holiday's celebration in the U.S. It was gradually assimilated into mainstream society by the first decade of the 20th century.

Trick or treating does not seem to have become a widespread practice until the 1930s, when the term "trick or treat" appeared in print in 1934. It spread from the western U.S. eastward. It was stalled by sugar rationing during World War II. The October 1947 issues of the children's magazines Jack and Jill and Children's Activities had articles on trick or treating. The Baby Snooks Show in 1946 and The Jack Benny Show and The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet in 1948 had Halloween episodes. In 1952, Walt Disney portrayed it in the cartoon Trick or Treat, Ozzie and Harriet were besieged by trick-or-treaters in their Halloween episode, and UNICEF conducted their first national campaign for children to raise funds for the charity while trick-or-treating.

Halloween History

www.halloweenhistory.org



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LEGEND OAKS

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CLOTHES MOTHS

Clothes moths can cause considerable damage to materials containing wool, fur or other animal-derived products. There are two common clothes moths, case making clothes moths and webbing clothes moths. The names describe the larval (caterpillar) stage of the moth. Case-making clothes moths spin silken cases that they drag along with them while they feed. Webbing clothes moths feed within silken burrows that they spin over the surface of fabric.

Adults are small, tan moths about 3/8 an inch long. They are weak fliers and avoid light. Larvae like to feed in protected areas, such as folded clothing, and rarely leave their food source.

To reduce or avoid clothes moth problems, the following tips may be helpful:

- Locate & remove any infested items.
- Look in drawers & closets; on the floor; on or under furniture; on or in walls, ceilings & attics.
- Launder or dry clean clothing.
- Periodically shake & air out items such as rugs & clothing.
- Use heat and/ or cold to kill insects in infested items.

Thoroughly clean storage areas.

Store clothing in tightly sealed containers.

Cedar is not that effective in repelling clothes moths.

Cedar must be freshly cut or chipped for vapors to be effective & vapors lose potency quickly.

Mothballs (naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene) can be used to repel insects.

Read & follow all label instructions.

Use only in sealed areas or closed containers.

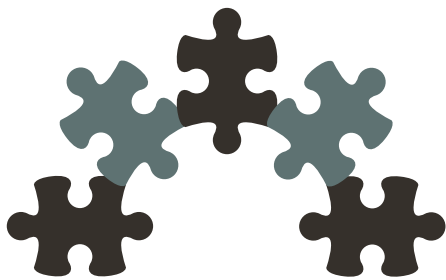
Note that the fumes from these products may soften or melt some plastics.

Insecticide sprays can be used to supplement sanitation techniques.

Remove all items from the area before treating with an insecticide.

Allow area to completely dry before returning items.

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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Hosting an International Exchange Student

Submitted by Vicki Odom

Hosting an International Exchange Student is such a great experience for all of those involved. It leads to a better understanding between individuals of other cultures, hopefully branching its way out to a more peaceful global society. But don't just take my word about it, read about Nelva's experience and understanding of the exchange program.

I'm so lucky to have been placed with a great host family in Texas! The best part is when we share each other's cultures and have a lot of quality time together. I'm blessed to have chance to study in American High School.

Being an exchange student is hard. For the first couple days it was hard because I didn't know anybody, the moving class system is new for me and sometimes it's hard to understand what they say. But America is really friendly and handy so I got a lot of help from them. From the exchange program, people can really get to know each other, people start to respect each other and we can start a new chapter to have a better world.

So if you want to enrich your life, host an exchange student!

Nelva is from Indonesia and is spending the academic year here in Texas as part of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program. This program is funded by the US Department of State which provides scholarships for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations. As part of her program year, Nelva is required to perform at least 60 hours of community service (however most YES students hours amount to hundreds of hours) and continue working with the program in her home country.

Our application process for the 2016 Spring Semester and 2016/2017 academic year will soon be opening. School spots in our area tend to fill up rather quickly, so get your application in early to host one of these amazing students!

Ayusa is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to promote global learning and leadership through foreign exchange, study abroad, and leadership programs for high school students from the U.S. and 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.

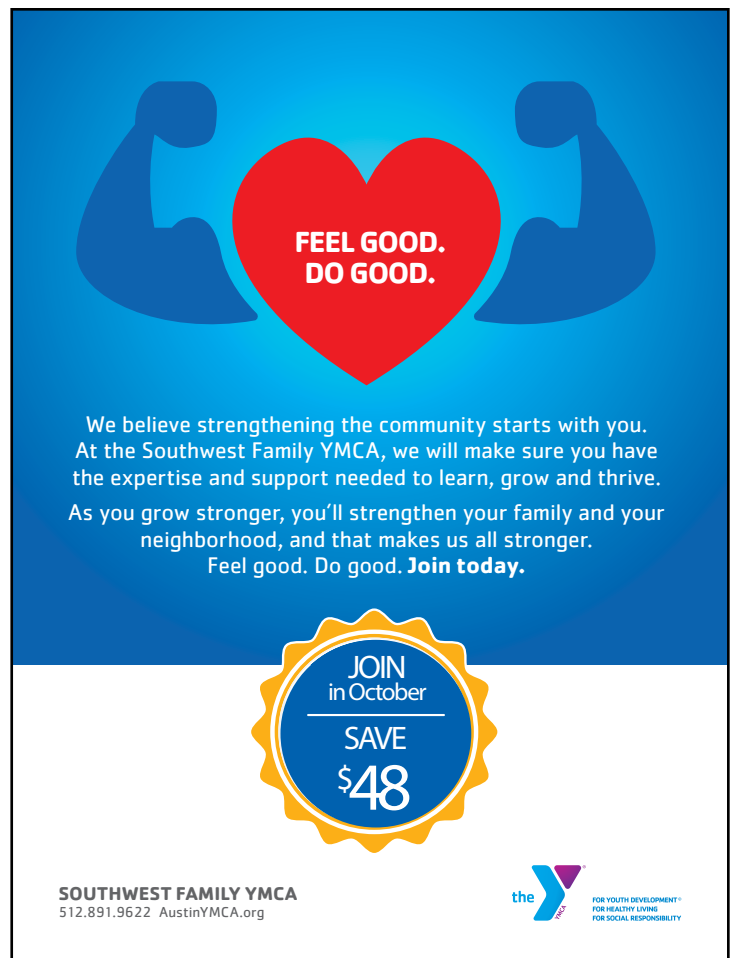
The Heart Gallery of Central Texas

By Megan Ransom

Marques is a charming and quiet young man. He loves basketball and enjoys most all sports. He also enjoys riding his bike, playing video games, and listening to music. He would enjoy being in a family that would provide activities for him to be active, especially sports. He would like to have a Mom that is caring and loving. He would also like to have a father that will do "guy things" like playing basketball and camping.

Adopting a child from the foster care system requires little or no cost to the adoptive family and funding may be available to help the adoptive family support the child or sibling group.

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a program of Partnerships for Children. To learn more about the adoption or fostering process, please call the Heart Gallery of Central Texas at (512) 834-4756, email heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org or visit our website at www.partnershipsforchildren.org



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Speaker: Janette Moré, Mental Fitness Trainer

It has been reported that 1 in 10 Americans are taking antidepressants. For women in their 40s and 50s, the number is closer to 1 in 4. Many patients seek help from medication to help them feel better without obtaining a thorough evaluation as to whether they may truly be classified as being clinically depressed. Their assumption is that the benefits of the drugs outweigh the risks. Studies have shown that for mild cases of depression, there is little difference in the reduction of symptoms in medicated patients than in those taking an active placebo. If the patient also seeks counseling, the results are even more encouraging.

Join Janette, Mental Fitness Trainer, for an informative talk to learn how to make deliberate responses to the problems that life sends your way.

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Where: Towne Square Community Center

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LEGEND OAKS



Attention South Austin... there is no need to cross the river. We repeat, NO NEED to cross the river. We'll hold for cheers. The Blood Center of Central Texas is back in South Austin starting early October. Stay tuned for more details on our grand opening celebration (i.e. the party we're throwing for YOU, our new neighbors). But in the meantime, start marking your calendars because in early October our new center will be open:

**Sunday 10:00am – 3:00pm and
Wednesday through Friday 8:00am – 6:00pm**

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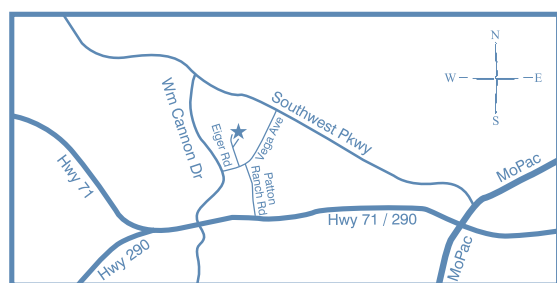
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WRITE INTO COLLEGE

How to Write College Admissions Essays

If you are a high school senior applying to college for the fall of 2016, it is very likely you and thousands of other students across the country have given at least some thought as to what you will write for the infamous college admissions essay. Some schools may require what they call a “personal statement,” while others may ask for answers to a series of short questions, an essay written on a specific topic chosen by that particular college or university’s office of admissions, or even just a general sample of your writing. Regardless of the actual criteria, the reason many colleges and universities ask for a sample of your writing remains the same: to get to know a bit more about you as an applicant and as a person, and to understand better the quality of your writing. However, the writing portion of the application can be rather beneficial to you as an applicant as well. Rather than dreading the writing portion of the application, think of this as an opportunity to write your own letter of recommendation. What do you want an admissions officer to know about you?

As you approach your writing, keep in mind the following in hopes of crafting the essay that best represents you:

What does your application already say about you? Do not restate that which you may have conveyed elsewhere in your application or re-list all of your accomplishments. Rather, the essay should be a forum for sharing new information or to express reflections on your experiences.

Do NOT write what you think the admissions committee wants to hear. Rather, use your own voice and write in your own style so that your work represents you as a person. Your topic does not need to be as unique as your approach and your ideas. Be honest and sincere.

Focus on that which is important to you, thinking about that which you love and that for which you have a passion. In writing about that which you know best and in which you have a personal interest, you will avoid the lofty, detached writing that is of little interest to anyone. Aim to capture the interest of your reader because of your obvious familiarity with and interest in the topic about which you are writing.

Keep your reader wanting more; convince the admission officer you are someone who will compliment and enhance the college/university community.

Think small and do not ramble. All too often students try to cram too much into their essay. It is better to focus on one specific issue, event, or moment in time, clearly illustrating the nuances of your story.

If a school asks if you have any additional information to share in your application, accept this as an opportunity to do just that. Ask yourself, does your application provide the admission staff of all that you would like them to know about you before evaluating your application, or are there factors that have not yet been shared? This can be an effective way of communicating with the reader if you have not had an opportunity to do so elsewhere. Most often, this space can be used to explain a seemingly questionable period in your academic record or to boast a bit about an accomplishment or award of which you are most proud. Although you need to remain consistent with the voice you have used throughout the rest of your application, think of this as an opportunity to speak personally with the individual or group of individuals who will be making the final decision regarding your admission. If this is your first choice school, convey that here. If you had a rocky sophomore year due to a death in your family, your parents’ divorce or simply put, a lack of interest in your academics at that particular point in your education, share that information if you believe it is important in defining who you are and why you should gain admission to a particular school. Remember your goal and purpose in writing: you want an admissions officer to have a clear understanding of who you are not only as an applicant, but also as a student and as a person. This is your opportunity to do just that!

Bridget Larrabee is a certified secondary school AP English and writing teacher, former admissions officer and college counselor.

She currently works from home, assisting students on ways to improve their writing.

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Pruning Guidelines for Prevention of Oak Wilt in Texas

NOW IS THE TIME TO PRUNE YOUR OAK TREES

Oak wilt, caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. Most of the tree mortality results from tree-to-tree spread of the pathogen through interconnected or grafted root systems, once an oak wilt center becomes established. New infection centers begin when beetles carry oak wilt fungal spores from infected red oaks to fresh, open wounds on healthy oaks. Wounds include any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction, squirrels, birds or pruning. Research has shown that both oak wilt fungal mats on infected red oaks and insects that carry oak wilt spores are most prevalent in the spring. Below is a brief description of how you can reduce the risk of fungal spread when pruning.

- Always paint fresh wounds on oaks, including pruning cuts and stumps, with wound dressing or latex paint immediately after pruning or live tree removal at all times of the year.
- Clean all pruning tools with 10% bleach solution or Lysol™ between sites and/or trees.
- If possible avoid pruning or wounding of oaks during the spring (currently defined as February 1 through June 30). Reasons to prune in the spring include:
- To accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
- To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
- To remove limbs rubbing on a building or rubbing on other branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.
- On sites where construction schedules take precedence, pruning any live tissue should only be done to accommodate required clearance.
- Dead branch removal where live tissue is not exposed.

Pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted before February 1 or after June 30.

Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried. Regardless of the reasons or time of year, proper pruning techniques should be used. These techniques include making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as topping or excessive crown thinning. If you are uncertain about any of this information, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas Forest Service or Texas AgriLife Extension Service.

References available at <http://www.TexasOakWilt.org>.



**When “That
will never
happen
to me”
happens.**

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	Webb Real Estate	All Other SW Austin
Sale Price	101% of List Price	98.5%
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- **Don't sign** with another Realtor until you meet the Webb team
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