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This year's Holiday in the Park 2015 is being held on December 12th in the pool park at Convict Hill and Escarpment. It will feature face painting, a snow machine, a visit with Santa, a giant inflatable slide, hot cocoa, treats, and more. Volunteers are needed to help set up the park on the 12th.

Two new neighbors moved into our neighborhood. Welcome! Our teenage babysitters are getting older and are updating their information in Teenage Job Seekers.

Jim Turney describes how Quarry Park's spruce up days got cancelled in October because of the rain and when he will need volunteers for the next work day in Quarry Park Update.

Need more events to go to in December? Check out Things to do in Austin in December.

Argghhhh! The street light is out, the drainage ditch is clogged, and the mutt next door is barking his head off! Who you gonna call? Find out in Who to Call.

Why are poinsettias the traditional holiday season plant? The history and legends about this plant are covered in Poinsettias.

When did we start celebrating the new year and why is it January 1st? It's all in History of New Year's Celebrations.

Are you looking for something interesting to do on New Year's Eve? Llano Parks Project is sponsoring The Antler Drop Ball at Horseshoe Bay Resort on December 31st. For more information, see Ring in the New Year for a Great Community Cause.

Are you willing to open your home to a foreign exchange student? It is time to apply. Vicki Odom describes the many benefits of exchange students and how they can enrich your life in Make a Difference in Your Family.

As always, we are looking for people to submit information about upcoming items/events of interest to our neighborhood. If you are not a writer, just submit the information and we will write it up. The newsletter is submitted to Peel a month in advance of coming out, so if you are sending information about an event, it needs to occur at least two months in the future. You can send information to Janet Rourke (janetrourke@sbcglobal.net) or Jim Turney (drjet33@gmail.com).



NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

Articleslegendoaks@peelinc.com

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Peel, Inc.....www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181 Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Legend Oaks newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Legend Oaks II residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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

Welcome New Neighbors!

According to the Legend Oaks 2 Homeowners Association, the following new neighbors moved into the neighborhood:

James & Charlotte Bippert 6305 Rotan Drive

Please 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.



Description: The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

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Skills: Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

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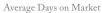
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Quarry Park Update

Jim Turney

We had bad luck the last two tries to spread mulch. Rains cancelled both. While Saturday October 31 was a nice day, rains and tornados made it impossible to deliver mulch on Friday. I was driving to San Marcos that Friday morning, and was stuck on 35 for two hours at Kyle because of a flooded underpass.

Our next event will be It's My Park Day with the Austin Parks Foundation on the first Saturday in March. We have done this for 10 years! Of course there will be reminders closer to the event. The biggest work will be spreading mulch, and maybe installing a wood park bench in a newly prepared rest area near the center of the park. We are always improving the park.

There is a problem with the Parks Department supplying mulch. We should buy mulch from Natural Gardener, as we did in the past. But we need to raise a few hundred dollars. Let me know if you can give us some, even \$25 (drjet33@gmail.com). You can send it to our account at Austin Parks Foundation. I will give you details.

You may be surprised to see my name again. John Yarber asked to be replaced as project leader, and I was doing it anyway. I just moved to San Marcos, and can get to Oak Hill in 35 minutes. Besides, it is MY park. LOL





Things to do in Austin in December

Janet Rourke

Through Dec. 24

Blue Genie Art Bazaar

Marchesa Hall & Theater - bluegenieartbazaar.com

Through Dec. 23

Ballet Austin's The Nutcracker

The Long Center for the Performing Arts – balletaustin.org

Through Dec. 22

Trail of Light

Zilker Park – austintrailoflights.org

Dec. 11

Singing Christmas Tree

7-8 pm, Bannockburn Baptist Church

Dec. 12

Holiday in the Park

Legend Oaks 2 Pool Park

Dec. 12

Holiday Family Days at the Blanton

11 am - 4 pm, Blanton Museum of Art

Dec. 12

Capitol Christmas Concert & Community Sing-A-Long

Noon, Texas State Capitol

Dec. 12-13

Luminations at the Wildflower Center

Wildflower Center Grounds - wildflower.org/laminations

Dec. 13

Austin Jingle Bell 5K

8 am – Kid's Fun Run, 8:30 am Adults 5K Run, Camp Mabry

Dec. 20

HITS Running Festivals

A distance for everyone

Circuit of the Americas – hitsrunning.com/Austin-tx

Dec. 15 - 24

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar

Palmer Events Center – armadillobazaar.com

Dec. 31

Austin's New Year

Auditorium Shores – austintexas.gov

Jan. 1

Kyle-O-Meter Resolution Run

9 am 5K run/walk, 10 am Kids Dash Wallace Middle School, Kyle, Texas

Who to Call

Ianet Rourke

Is your streetlight out? Call 311. Is the dog next door driving you crazy with his barking? Call 311. Do you need to know where you can plug in your new electric car? Call 311.

Are you seeing a trend here? For just about every non-emergency situation, you can get help by calling 311. Call them for help with animal bites, basic needs like where to go to get free food or shelter, guardrail repairs, illegal dumping, loose dogs, noise complaints, overgrown lots, park maintenance, proper care of animals, road markings/striping, school zone signs, special events, speed bumps, street maintenance and repairs, traffic signals, water main break, water theft, wasting water, wild animals... They will either take your information and get it to the correct department or tell you who to call to take care of whatever situation you have.

Of course, if you have an emergency – fire, burglary, need an ambulance, ... call 911.

Other important numbers:

City Council:

Mayor Steve Adler: 512-978-2100

District 8 Council Member Ellen Troxclair: 512-978-2108

Legend Oaks 2 Neighborhood Association: Goodwin Management Inc.: 512-502-7540 HOA Rep. Celeste Schultz: 512-825-7922

Local Schools:

Mills Elementary School: 512-841-2400 Small Middle School: 512-841-6700 Austin High School: 512-414-25-5 Bowie High School: 512-414-5247 Post Office Oak Hill Branch: 800-275-8777

Poinsettias

Janet Rourke

Poinsettias are everywhere during the holiday season. It is the best selling potted plant in the U.S. and Canada, with most being sold in the six-week period before Christmas. Did you ever wonder where these plants came from and why they are associated with the holidays?

Poinsettias were named after Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first American Ambassador to Mexico in 1825. While in Mexico he became very interested in the beautiful plants with big red flowers he saw growing everywhere. He sent some back to his green houses in South Carolina and began growing the plants and giving them to friends. People started calling them Poinsettias after Ambassador Poinsett.

The association with Christmas comes from an old Mexican legend about a poor Mexican girl who had no gift for baby Jesus at Christmas Eve Services. As she was walking to the chapel, an angel suggested she pick a handful of weeds to give as a gift to baby Jesus. When she placed the bouquet of weeds at the bottom of the nativity scene, they burst into bright red flowers and everyone declared it a miracle. From that day forward, the bright red flowers were called Flowers of the Holy Night – Flores de Noche Buena.

Poinsettias have bright red flowers and have become associated with the Christmas holiday. The shape of the flower and leaves resemble the Star of Bethlehem, which led the Wise Men to baby Jesus.

Are Poinsettias poisonous?

Contrary to popular belief, Poinsettias are not poisonous. A 50-pound child would have to eat 500 leaves to have any harmful effects. Since the leaves are not very tasty, it is unlikely a child or pet would eat this many.

The plant may ooze a milky sap. People with latex allergies may have a skin reaction to the sap after touching the leaves. The sap may cause mild irritation and nausea in pets.



History of New Year's Celebrations

Ianet Rourke

New Year's Day is one of the oldest holidays still celebrated. It originated in ancient Babylon and was celebrated on the first new moon following the vernal equinox – the day in late March with an equal amount of sunlight and darkness. The Babylonians had an 11-day festival to celebrate. Other civilizations marked the new year with events, usually coinciding with the sun and moon cycle.

In 46 BC, Julius Caesar introduced the Julian calendar, which declared January 1 as the first day of the year. During medieval times, Christian leaders temporarily replaced January 1 as the first of the year with religious days – December 25th (Jesus' birthday) and March 25 (Feast of Annunciation). Pope Gregory XIII reestablished January 1 as New Year's Day in 1582 with the Gregorian calendar. This calendar was adopted almost immediately in Catholic countries, but only gradually in Protestant countries. The British and the American colonies did not adopt the Gregorian calendar until 1752. Up until then, they still celebrated the new year in March.

Traditions

Celebrations begin on the evening of Dec. 31 in most countries. Common worldwide customs include feasts, fireworks, parades, and songs (Auld Lang Syne) to welcome the new year. In Spain and several other Spanish-speaking countries, people quickly eat a dozen grapes right before midnight to symbolize their hopes for the new year.

Traditional New Year's dishes feature legumes. Legumes resemble coins and it is thought that by eating them you will have financial success in the coming year. In Cuba, Austria, Hungary, Portugal and other countries, pigs represent progress and prosperity, so pork is eaten as part of the New Year's tradition. Ring-shaped cakes and pastries are thought to be a sign that the year has come full circle and are included in New Year's feasts in the Netherlands, Mexico, Greece and elsewhere. In Sweden and Norway, rice pudding with an almond hidden inside is served on New Year's Eve. Whoever finds the nut will have 12 months of good fortune.

The practice of making New Year's resolution was thought to have started with the Babylonians, who made promises to earn the favor of the gods and to start the new year off on the right foot.

Dropping the giant ball in New York City's Times Square at the stroke of midnight is the most well known New Year's tradition. Millions of people around the world watch the event. It was started in 1907 as a solution to light up the New York sky without the hazards of fireworks.

Time balls were invented so sailors could adjust their timepieces while at sea. They would watch the harbor for a time ball to drop at a specific time, usually noon or 1 pm. Using a time ball to welcome the new year was the inspiration of Walter Palmer, New York Times' chief electrician, who came up with the idea of using the timekeeping ritual as a unique finale to the city's end-of-year party.

(Continued on Page 8)



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LEGEND OAKS

(Continued from Page 6)

Prior to 1904, crowds in New York City gathered at Trinity Church in downtown Manhattan to hear the bells ring at midnight. The New York Times Company held a midnight fireworks display to lure New Yorkers north. It was disastrous when hot ashes rained down onto the streets, resulting in the New York police department banning fireworks. Walter Palmer was approached to find a new light display. He combined the time ball tradition with electricity to create an unforgettable welcome to the New Year. The 700-pound ball was made of iron and wood, and had 125 25-watt light bulbs attached to its surface. The ball was lowered from the main mast of the battleship USS New Mexico with a system of pulleys. As new technology and materials have become available, the ball has been updated. The current ball weighs 11,875 pounds, is 12 feet in diameter, and has 2,688 Waterford Crystals that refracts the light of 32,256 Philips LEDs. Each year, the crystals are replaced with a new Waterford design that has special meaning for the coming year.

At 11:59 on Dec. 31, the Times Square ball starts its 70-foot descent. When it is halfway down, the ball goes dark and the numbers of the new year light up. It is a magical moment.

Other cities in America have developed their own version of dropping the ball. In Dillsburg, PA, they drop pickles. In Tallapoosa, GA, they drop possums!





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Ring in the New Year for a Breat Community Cause



Get your dancing shoes on, brush up on your black jack skills, and get your tickets to join Llano Parks Project at their first formal fundraising event, The Antler Drop Ball, at Horseshoe Bay Resort on

December 31, 2015, from 7 pm - 12:30 am.

This first-class event will include dinner, dancing, casino tables, silent and live auctions, as well as a champagne toast to ring in 2016. Auction items include adventures such as an Alaskan fishing trip, a Hill Country white-tail deer hunt, and a beach vacation to Isla Mujeres, Mexico. Other goods in the auction will include a personal training workout at Nomad Strength, Kendra Scott jewelry, Tiffany & Company jewelry, tickets to a Texas Aggie football game, and many more.

Llano Parks Project will use 100% of The Antler Drop Ball net proceeds to benefit the Badu Park (Llano, Texas) developments of a zero-depth children's splash pad and a dock for fishing, kayaking, and canoeing in the Llano River.

For more information about The Antler Drop Ball, please visit www.llanoparksproject.org. Tickets, table sponsorships, and group rate hotel rooms are limited and are going fast. They can be purchased on the Llano Parks Project's website.

Join Llano Parks Project to help build parks for the community and future generations.

WHO IS LLANO PARKS PROJECT?

Llano Parks Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2013. Our mission is to restore and develop park and recreation facilities within Llano County. Long-term plans include many projects that will benefit both individuals and businesses in our community. In two years, we have improved two parks with new play equipment and the retaining wall/sandy beach area on the Llano River in town.

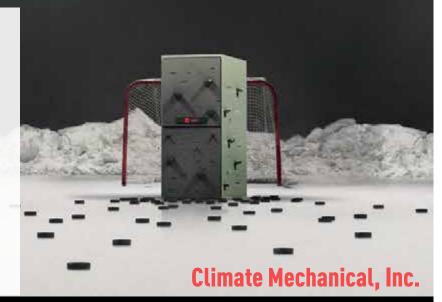
The future success of our organization, this event, and the many projects that we have planned depends on the generosity and support of our community leaders and those who believe in our organization.

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Make a Difference in Your Family

Vicki Odom

The holiday season is generally a time of family get-togethers, increased community service and an overall joyful experience as we share this wonderful time with family and friends.

But did you know that you can make the spirit of the holiday season last all year? How you ask? By opening your heart and your home to an International Exchange Student!

Host families reap the benefits of opening their home by sharing their America. When they share with their exchange student, they are also able to see

America with fresh eyes through the student. Families often learn new things about the U.S. and have different perspectives after hosting. The experiences and memories that are shared during the program last a lifetime and span international borders.

Make a difference in the life of a student and in your family! If



your family enjoys exploring new cultures and nurturing youth, please contact us to request more information about this amazing opportunity to share your life with a special young person and to learn how you can make a difference. The application process for the 2016/2017 school year has begun; it is recommended to start now as available schools spots fill up early.

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

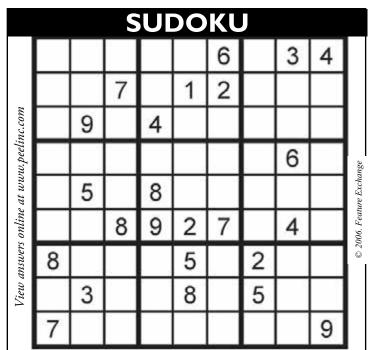
the U.S. and around the world.

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.



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LEGEND OAKS



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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Webb Real Estate All Other SW Austin

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