

JULY EDITORIAL

Janet Rourke

This month's newsletter includes the highlights of the LOA2 meeting on June 6th, a report on the cleanup at Convict Hill Park, how decluttering your home will bring more prosperity, information on the Emerald Ash borer beetle and how to get rid of it, an announcement about the new Neighborhood Compassion Watch!, a call for volunteers to host students from other countries, and a request to adopt foster children.

Do you have a concern or helpful advice that would be of interest to neighbors? If so, please consider writing an article for the newsletter. The newsletter is submitted to Peel a month in advance, so if you are sending information about an upcoming event, it needs to occur at least two months in the future. Send any articles to Janet Rourke (janetrourke@sbcglobal.net) by the 10th of the month. Thanks for your help!

LOA2 Neighborhood Association Meeting Highlights

June 6, 2016 By Abigail Norman

- 1) Pool Hours The pool now opens at 5am (was previously 6am) for all residents who have access during non-guarded hours. This change was made at the request of residents who would like to swim before work. Be safe and enjoy!
- 2) Sidewalk Safety At the recent HOA meeting, two issues of sidewalk safety were raised by residents. One was areas of slippery sidewalks, particularly noticeable with the recent rains. An area on

(Continued on Page 2)



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

Jaci Nicolpoulos & Anthoy Peterson 6207 Jumano Lane

> Ryan & Lauren Loveless 8309 Siringo Pass

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.

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NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

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(Continued from Cover)

Debcoe was noted, as well as one on Convict Hill near Quarry Park. Sidewalks are maintained by City of Austin, so please call 3-1-1 to report these issues! Secondly, there are many areas where trees and plants are beginning to grow over the sidewalk. Now that we are reaching the end of Oak Wilt season, please take the time to trim your trees and plants to ensure the sidewalks are clear. It is city code, and makes a nicer (and safer) walk for your neighbors. The neighborhood inspector will begin to keep an eye out for obstructed sidewalks and issue notices to clear them. Thank you for your cooperation!

3) Mark Your Calendars! Annual Meeting will be Monday, September 12 - Location is still being finalized, but please mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting. You will receive a mailing in advance with additional detail and a proxy voting form in case you are unable to attend. Please plan to come in person or provide a proxy form. We will be voting on a new board member to represent YOU. If you are interested in getting more involved, please consider running. This is a great way to have a positive impact on the neighborhood. If you are curious about what is involved, please reach out to any current board member for detail.



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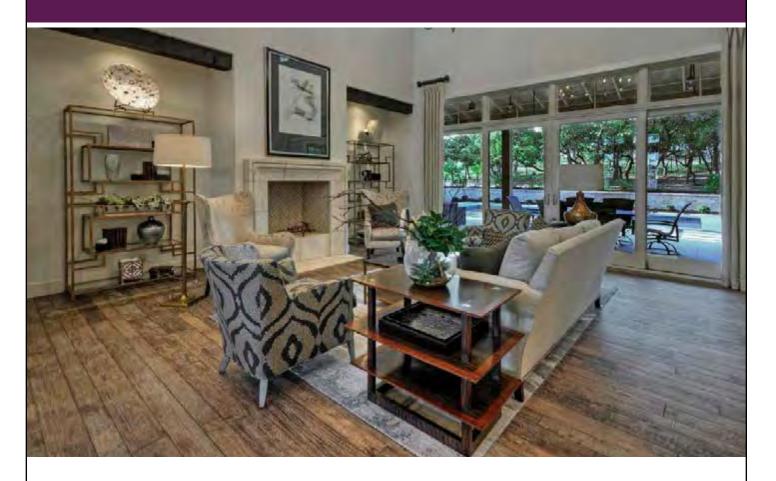
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John Yarber led the charge on Saturday morning to clean up Convict Hill Park



Photo byline: Frances Haby, Hoai Pham's children, and another neighborhood child help with park cleanup.

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With the help of volunteers, here is what was accomplished:

- · Pulled a bunch of nasty weeds, including "tickweed" or "velcroweed."
 - · Put down 6 yards of mulch.
- · Temporarily placed the wooden bench Robert Terfuchte donated to the park (more secure and elevated placement to follow).



John Yarber and Robert Terluchte live in The Laurels at Legend Oaks condominium community which is adjacent to the park. (Note: This community is not part of LOA2). John has graciously assumed the torch as Jim Turney's successor as the champion for Convict Hill Quarry Park. He "led the charge" on Saturday morning's clean-up and has been actively involved in several previous beautification and TLC efforts at the park.

Robert provided breakfast for the volunteers for the last three or so clean-ups, (donuts, breakfast tacos, coffee, juice, and water), as his contribution to the effort. He also donated the bench in memory of his parents.

We are thankful for both men, plus all the volunteers, for their love of the park and for participating in the periodic clean-up efforts!



Declutter Your Home and Be More Prosperous!

By Janet Rourke

The Herb Bar on W. St. Mary Street in South Austin has a free lecture on interesting (and sometimes unusual) topics just about every Saturday morning at 10:30. I recently attended a session on Feng Shui entitled Turning Clutter into Cash, the Feng Shui Way by Belinda Mendoza.

Did you know that all that clutter in your house and garage may be blocking your money flow? Well neither did I!

Here are a few things I learned:

When you enter your space, it should be inviting. This applies not only to your front porch, but also to your garage. Is your garage inviting and uncluttered? Mine certainly isn't, despite ongoing efforts. My workbench tends to accumulate all things going somewhere else - from recyclables to tools to projects waiting to be finished (and started). The clutter or lack thereof in your home (and your garage) may represent how you move through life.

Belinda says you should love everything in your home. If you don't, get rid of it. Share it with someone who will love it. This applies to inherited items, too. Are you keeping a picture or a piece of furniture that you really hate because it belonged to your mother or another loved one? Maybe you inherited a lot of stuff that you don't really love, but feel guilty about getting rid of? Go through all of it and only keep the items that mean something to you. If you really want to remember the item, take a picture of it before selling or giving it away. A picture is much easier to store. (You might be amazed at how quickly you get rid of the picture, too, once the item is gone.)

Do you love to buy books, but your bookshelves are overflowing? She suggests only keeping current ones that you love and that are leading you where you want to go.

Does everything work at your house? Nonworking items cost you money, from broken windows to leaky faucets.

What about your email inbox? Is it overflowing? Belinda suggests cleaning out files and emails and keeping everything current. She also suggests reviewing savings accounts and investments on a periodic basis to make sure you are getting the best rates.

To attract money into your life, she suggests putting a bowl in the southeast or southwest corner of your home. Each day, put any spare change you have in the bowl. At the end of 27 days, take the money and spend it. Then start over. This activity brings money in and keeps it flowing!

Belinda recommends these books to help you get started decluttering:

Clear Your Clutter with Feng Shui by Karen Kingston The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up by Marie Kondo

For more information on the free Saturday classes at the Herb Bar, go to theherbbar.com. For more information on Belinda Mendoza and to sign up for her free newsletter, go to (www.designforenergy.com).

Emerald ash borer found in Texas

Emerald ash borer, often referred to as EAB, is an exotic pest from Asia. This beetle is a serious threat to ash trees. Emerald ash borer was accidentally introduced into the United States and was found in Michigan in 2002.

Four beetles were found in a trap located in NE Texas (Harrison County) in late April 2016. There are currently no confirmed cases of ash trees that are infested. The beetles will continue to be monitored throughout the state.

Larvae bore into trees under the bark and cut off the water and nutrient conducting vessels. Larvae are creamy white, legless with a flattened body. Larvae are 1- 1 ½ inches in length when fully developed.

As an adult, the beetle is elongated and cylindrical with the pronotum (a part of the thorax) extended back as a lobe towards the abdomen. Most notably, these beetles are bright, metallic green with reddish hues. Adults are about 1/2 inch in size. If the wings are removed or lifted, the upper side of the abdomen is bright coppery-red which can help differentiate this beetle from closely related species in Texas.

In infested trees, canopy die back is often seen in the top one third of the canopy and then moves down until the tree is bare. Epicormic shoots (leafy shoots coming off the trunk of the tree) may also be seen. Vertical fissures may appear on the bark and galleries may be able to be seen through openings. If bark is peeled off, serpentine galleries packed with frass (excrement) may be seen. Adult beetles produce a d-shaped exit hole (1/8 inch diameter). Woodpeckers may cause damage to tees infested with EAB. Look for flaking bark and uneven holes caused by the woodpeckers feeding on larvae and pupae.

If EAB activity is confirmed for ash trees within an area, it is recommended that a systemic insecticide treatment is given to ash trees of high value. If more than 50% of an infested ash tree crown remains, then treatment with a systemic insecticide may slow the attack. If less than 50% of an infested ash tree crown remains, the tree should be removed.

For great information on emerald ash borer within Texas see the following site: https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/eab/

This information is to have you watch for this beetle on ash trees in your area. Only 4 beetles have been found currently and only in NE Texas. No trees have yet been confirmed to be infested.

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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Neighborhood Compassion Watch!





On April 14, 2016, the Austin City Council passed a resolution designating Austin as a Compassionate City. There are now over 350 compassionate communities globally and the number is growing. Compassionate Austin is recognized as a leader!

Let's start the "Neighborhood Compassion Watch"! Compassion exists in 3 key dimensions: caring for others, self, and the Earth. Discover and share your stories of "3D" compassion. Catch people in the act! Engage youth in a treasure hunt for compassion and help them tell about what they find. Send your stories to Compassionate Austin at compassionateaustin@gmail.com. Be sure to identify your neighborhood when you submit your story! We may be able to publish them in this newsletter or on the Compassionate Austin website or Facebook page. Also, we are looking for stories that we can highlight in Citizen Communications at Austin City Council meetings.

Breaking News! The Global Compassion Summit is coming up July 13-14th. It is part of the 5th annual Summer of Peace — the largest online peace event on the planet! Dr. Lesa Walker, Founder of the Compassionate Austin Movement, is one of the speakers on July 14. She will provide information about the Compassionate Austin movement and the importance of the daily practice of "3D" compassion! The Global Compassion Summit is a FREE online event. Google it to learn more and register. Sign up TODAY!! Here is the link: https://shiftnetwork.isrefer.com/go/sop16LW/lwalker/.

This year's theme for the Summit is Mindfulness and Compassion in Daily Life. Speakers are global leaders and experts in the field, sharing stories of how compassion and mindfulness are contributing to a more conscious, peaceful and sustainable world. You'll hear from teachers bringing mindfulness to at-risk youth, attorneys using mindfulness and compassion to shift our legal system, physicians putting "care" back into health care, and activists who are using compassion to anchor their communities together.

Research shows the personal and community benefits of strengthening our compassion skills. We grow stronger in what we practice! Let's join together to bring 3D compassion to life! We ALL are Compassionate Austin! Find out more at: www.compassionateaustin.org.

NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Bidding Farewell and Saying Hello

School's out for the summer and with that we say goodbye to our latest group of foreign exchange students. As they pack their bags and head back to their parents and their home countries, their host families are left with the memories of a great year, and a new son or daughter that that lives in another country. Plans are already underway for travel abroad so they can once again be with their students and see the sites of their home countries.

The Houston and Austin based students had a great time this past year - visiting a number of our local attractions in both cities as well as San Antonio. We are hoping to be able to do the same for our incoming students for the 2016/2017 school year.

Ayusa is currently looking for volunteer host families to open their hearts and their homes to these wonderful students. All that is needed to host is to be able to provide a room for the student to sleep and three meals a day. The students come with their own spending money and medical insurance. Help us to welcome these great kids into Texas – you'll be happy you did!

How to Host an International Student

Interested families can learn more about the program and available exchange students and request additional information by visiting

http://www.ayusa.org or calling 1-888-552-9872.

The process to apply is simple. Families complete the online application, which includes questions about themselves and local high school, references, and a background check. The local Ayusa Community Representative conducts an in-home interview. They can also help each family with any questions they may have about the application or process.

After families are fully approved, they can select the Ayusa student they would like to host.

About Ayusa

Ayusa International (http://www.ayusa.org) is a 501(c)3 non-profit student exchange organization founded in 1981 and an official U.S. Department of State designated Exchange Visitor Program Sponsor. In addition, Ayusa administers high profile grant programs funded by the U.S. Department of State and other organizations. Ayusa is a sister company of Intrax, a family of organizations that provides a lifetime of high-quality educational, work and volunteer programs that connect people and cultures. Intrax is headquartered in San Francisco with offices on four continents.



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Partnerships for Children

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A program of Partnerships for Children, The Heart Gallery of Central Texas, is both a traveling portrait exhibit and outreach opportunity for individuals to learn more about children in the foster care system and the adoption process. The children are in foster care because they have been removed from their biological homes because of abuse and neglect, and are awaiting adoption. Learn more at www.partnershipsforchildren.org



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Texting and Cell Phone Use during Driving

By the National Highway Safety Administration (edited for space)

In 2014, 3,179 people were killed in crashes involving a distracted driver. One of the most alarming and widespread forms of distracted driving is cell phone usage. According to a study by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), sending or receiving a text takes a driver's eyes off the road for an average of 5 seconds, the equivalent of driving blind at 55-mph for the length of an entire football field. And a 2014 special article in the New England Journal of Medicine found that the risk of a crash or near-crash among novice drivers increased with the performance of many secondary tasks, including texting and dialing cell phones.

Text messaging is of heightened concern because it combines three types of distraction – visual, manual and cognitive. In other words, texting involves taking your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel, and your mind off the task of driving.

NHTSA's message is simple – "One Text or Call Could Wreck it All." Legislation is being passed across the nation to discourage distracted driving. We hope drivers get the message loud and clear.

So the next time you are pressed for time, and it seems like multitasking in the car is the best decision, remember those 3,179 lives that were taken because someone decided they could do two things at once. A text or call is not worth your life, or anyone else's.

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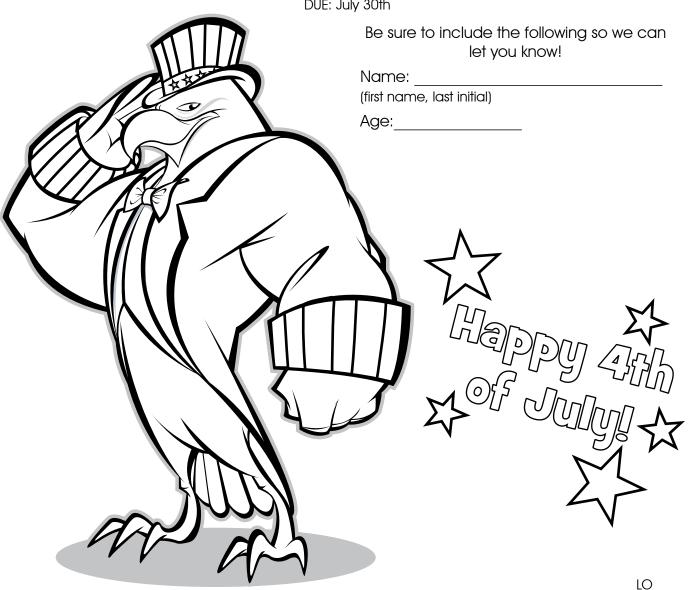
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