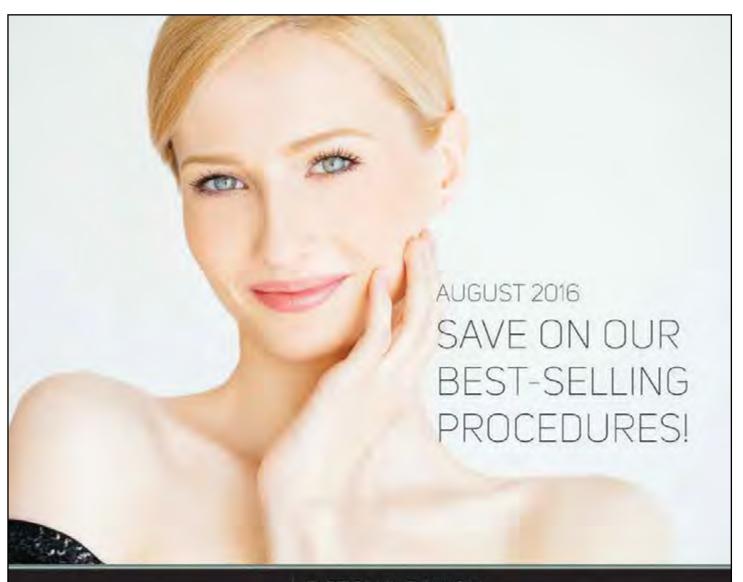
THE KIVER KEVIEW August 2016 Volume 10, Issue 8 Photo by Mia Sanchez

RIVER PLACE





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Leander ISD	512-570-0000
Cedar Park High School	
Vandegrift High School	
Four Points Middle School	
River Place Elementary	512-570-6900
UTILITIES	
River Place MUD	512 246 0498
City of Austin Electric	
Texas Gas Service	512-494-9400
Custom Service	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies	
Call Before You Dig	
AT&T	
New Service	1-800-464-7928
Repair	
Billing	
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	512-485-5555
Repairs	512-485-5080
IESI (Trash)	512-282-3508
OTHER NUMBERS River Place Postal Office	512 245 0720
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ARTICLE INFO

The River Review is mailed monthly to all River Place residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to include information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

To submit an article for the River Review please email it to *riverreview@peelinc.com*. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

Editor's Comment

As previously noted, one of the established goals of The River Review is to provide River Place residents with interesting articles that help them to be better informed. Accordingly, in future editions of the Review, we plan to feature a monthly River Place family so we might get to know some of our neighbors a bit better. This feature will likely be on the cover or just inside and will provide a family photo with some general information without disclosing personal information, of course. Feel free to contact me if you wish to volunteer or make recommendations.

Additionally, we are looking to feature a River Place location or scenic view or highlight one of our excellent dining or shopping establishments in the River Place/Four Points area. With so many folks moving into the area, there are often questions about places to eat, shop or go for entertainment. This feature should help all of us learn a lot more about our community.

And we always welcome articles from residents. If you need help with an article or have questions, feel free to contact (email or phone) me. Please send articles to either me at mrobertallen@aol.com or riverreview@peelinc.com.

Hope you enjoy your future editions! Robert Martin, Editor (512-517-3619)

Avoid Unexpected High Water Bills This Summer

By Jill Mayfield, City of Austin Agency

Austin Water encourages customers to be extra waterwise now that we are in the hottest months of the year. Following an extremely wet spring season, the soaring summer heat increases the potential for higher than normal water usage which can result in unexpected water bill increases.

Planning is the best way to keep a lid on water usage. We advise our customers to follow the current watering schedule (visit WaterWiseAustin.org) while looking for ways to reduce indoor water usage.

Our Waste Management Company Changes Name

Our waste management company, for trash pickup, etc., has changed its name to Waste Connections. Ignore any old names on your trash container. Their phone number is 512-271-6527. Did you know they will pick up one large item per week, including old hot water heaters? Just make sure it is drained.





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Cities Connecting Children to Nature Grant

From Austin Parks: How Are We Doing? Austin Parks, City of Austin AGENCY

As the City of Austin, how are we doing connecting children to nature? There are several ways that you can give input and let us know how we are doing. Austin Parks and Recreation will use your feedback to come up with a plan to better connect children to nature.

Take the survey:

ENGLISH: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCCNENGLI... SPANISH: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CCCNESPAN... Join the discussion:

https://austintexas.granicusideas.com/.../...

More information:

http://www.austintexas.gov/CCCN



Tennis Tip of the Month: Hitting The Backhand Slice

If you watched Wimbledon last month, you probably noticed the backhand slice shot being used quite a bit on the grass. Hit properly, the ball sails a little deeper, and then skips, staying low, forcing the opponent to hit up on the ball. While this shot is most effective on the grass, it can also be quite effective on any surface when used properly. In addition to adding variety to your groundstrokes, it can be an excellent approach shot, giving you time to position yourself at net. And since the ball stays low, it makes opponents' passing shots more difficult.

Tennis tip: The slice shot is best hit with a closed or sideways stance starting with the racquet head back and up high. You then slice downward but through the ball, like you are cutting into the back of an orange. If you slice below or under the ball as if to peel the orange, there will be a tendency for the ball to float, possibly sailing long. So concentrate on hitting through the ball with a long, fluid forward stroke as opposed to chopping downward on the ball. Lean into the shot for balance and control. The follow-through is generally forward and upward, finishing high.

So, slice the approach shot into the corner and move forward to put away the volley!! If you have a question about this stroke, feel free to call or text me.

Walter: 512-497-9971

Resident Homeowner Tips

Tip 1, Lowering Energy Costs: Did you know that increasing your air conditioning temperature by one degree can lower your energy bill by 3 to 4 percent? Also, it might help you avoid a higher tier where you would be charged a higher rate for electricity. There are currently five tiers that determine your rate each month. Keeping the temperature at the right level for your situation can also help. Raising it a few degrees when you leave the house can be significant. Austin Energy recommends 78 degrees or higher while you are at home. They offer an \$85 rebate, called the Power Partner Thermostat program, for certain thermostats that allow you to adjust them via the internet. There is also a free Austin Energy app that can notify you if you are approaching a higher tier. For information call 512-482-5346 or visit www.austinenergy.com. (From Austin Energy Customer News, July 2016)

Tip 2, Tree and Shrub Trimming: Many residents are unaware that it is their responsibility to maintain a clear right of way (for passers-by and City workers) on sidewalks and streets in front of or adjacent to their property. So, what are the requirements? Vegetation must be trimmed so that there is an 8 foot clearance above the sidewalk. The clear area above the curb line or street must be at least 14 feet. (This applies mainly to trees that might hang over the curb line.) Never prune within 10 feet of power lines. See www.austintexas.gov/ cleartherow for more information. (From Austin Energy Customer News, July 2016)



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Snakes: What To Do And How To Stay Safe

By Rodney Reid, River Place



In case you haven't noticed, the snakes are upon us here in the River Place/Steiner Ranch area. With more and more construction and the extreme weather conditions we face here, snakes are out in full force. We wanted to bring to your attention information about the most recent sightings and how to handle these snakes.

There are many different

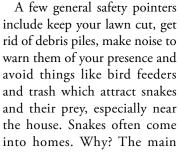


There are many different types of snakes that are good for homeowners in keeping rodents, lizards and insects out of the house but let's focus our attention on the ones that cause the most harm. In our area we have rattlesnakes, copperheads, coral snakes and cotton-mouths (water moccasins.) We have recently caught/removed large numbers of these type snakes in both River Place and Steiner Ranch. In fact, the area between River Place and Steiner Ranch, known as Panther Hollow, is where some of the largest snakes have been seen. I have removed snakes in the upper 30lb range right here in the neighborhood at some of your homes. So, please do not take this lightly. As they say, knowledge is power.



Being able to differentiate the dangerous snakes from the nonvenomous types is an important skill needed to help keep you and your family safe. Remember the saying, "Red on yellow, kill a fellow; red on black is friend of Jack." Coral snakes are, in order, red, yellow and black in color. The harmless milk snake has red touching black. Copperheads have bands of gray or brown and a copper colored head. Cottonmouths are gray and can be aggressive but generally stay near water. The inside of their

mouths are white, giving them their nickname. Rattlesnakes are generally brown or gray with white patterns or stripes. Generally, they rattle before striking but not always. There are about 7 different kinds in Texas.





reason is food. Human habitations attract mice and rats that feed on human food and garbage. The snakes follow their prey into homes like a natural rodent trap. They are more efficient than traps and cats because they are thin enough to follow the rodents right into the places they hide such as walls, drop ceilings, crawl places, attics, basements, etc. Snakes love to eat everything from earthworms to eggs to rodents and even rabbits.

If your children have a sand box or play-scape, check around it before they play. Take a rake and shuffle the sand. When you wear flip flops or sandals, be extra careful. You can help educate yourself and your family by visiting the Texas Parks and Recreation site at www. tpwd.texas.gov. Being able to identify a dangerous snake is critical.

Snakes are not looking to harm us but if they are caught off guard or startled, they can be dangerous, even deadly. Your reaction needs to be immediate and thoughtful. Snakes do not have external ears so they react to the vibrations around them and their tongue's movement provides taste and smell regarding the environment around them, allowing them to target your vicinity.

The best way to deal with an unwanted snake is to stay away from it entirely. Keep your eye on it or have someone keep watch while you call someone who is prepared to come and remove or terminate the snake if necessary. Keep curious pets and children away, of course.

I am Rodney Reid, your River Place neighbor. I will happily stop by if you have an issue that you need help with. I'm grateful to have recently received local recognition by a number of neighbors/friends. I enjoy helping the community in a way that makes people safer and that could save lives. Please feel free to give me a call at 512-554-6407. Just in case you need it, put my number in your phone.

Always call 9-1-1 if someone has been bitten and for a list of the nearest facilities with anti-venom, contact the Texas Poison Center at 1-800-222-1222. Feel free to text or call me if you have any questions about this information. Take care.



NOBODY IS DROWNPROOF WATCH KIDS AROUND WATER



61 Texas children have already fatally drowned in 2016

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SOURCES FIRST



PRACTICE DRAIN SAFETY



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LEARN

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LEARN more at www.colinshope.org

Dine Well, Do Good WITH WATER TO THRIVE AT CHEF'S TABLE AUSTIN 2016



Chef's Table is Water to Thrive's signature fundraiser that provides our supporters with a unique opportunity to spend an evening with some of Austin's top culinary experts. Guests may bid on creative menus and outstanding CHEF'S TABLE meals prepared by the participating chefs, and bid winners will schedule a private dinner party with their Chef.

> Our fifth annual celebration will be held on September 14, 2016, at the Brodie Homestead from 7:00pm-

9:30pm. All proceeds will benefit Water to Thrive operations. Along with our spirited live auction, we will have a silent auction, open bar, delicious appetizers provided by Slake Cafe, and opportunities to get to know other community members, as well as Austin's top chefs. This year, we will also offer a VIP reception before the event officially begins. Here, you will have exclusive access to silent auction

items, as well as specialty appetizers, delicious champagne, and more one-on-one time with our chefs.

For more information about Chef's Table Austin, go to www. chefstableaustin.org. Here you will also find photos, chef bios, and sponsors from past years of this event. Check back for updates and more information on how to purchase your tickets.

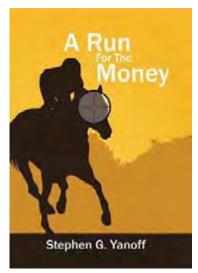
We hope you'll join us for Chef's Table Austin 2016, and help us continue to bring safe, life-changing water to the beautiful people of East Africa!

- Jazzy Schwolert, Outreach and Communications Coordinator





RUN FOR THE MONEY



River Place resident and author Stephen Yanoff has new new mystery novel, titled, A RUN FOR THE MONEY, published by Murder Ink Press. Yanoff also won the "Honorable Mention Award" (the bronze medal) at the 2016 New York Book Festival. This award marks the 15th literary award that Yanoff has won in national and international writing competitions.

Congratulations Stephen!

Local Authors Meet Up

About 20 area novelists have formed a new support group, Lake Travis Novel Writers, which meets the second Monday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at FORE Restaurant in Lakeway. Novelist Pat Dunlap Evans launched the group in July on MeetUp.com to share ideas and support with other published authors in the Lake Travis area.

"Another Lake Travis-area writer Lara Reznik and I have met fairly regularly to talk publishing and writing, but we thought, 'There's got to be more of us out here,'" Evans says.

Membership is open to area writers who have at least one novel published by traditional or Indie publishers. Authors who want to receive notices of upcoming meetings should join http://www.meetup.com/Lake-Travis-Novel-Writers/. Or contact Evans at AustinWriterGirl@Yahoo.com.

West Austin Chamber of Commerce August Luncheon

Our Guest Speaker for August 18th Luncheon:
Brandon Cates
"Helping Veterans Find Jobs"
Location: River Place Country Club
4207 River Place Blvd.
Austin, TX 78730
Date/Time Information: 11:30am-1pm
Fees/Admission:

Member - \$25 per person Member Early Bird - \$20 per person (By August 15th at 5pm) Future Member \$35 per person



Four Points Chamber Name Changed to West Austin Chamber of Commerce

The West Austin Chamber of Commerce will be the new name of the Four Points Chamber of Commerce in order to more accurately represent our geographical area. Our greater regional voice for businesses and community has grown, rebranding will allow us to expand our area, better positioning us to take the lead on regional issues such as transportation, employer challenges, and education. Two of the largest issues are traffic throughput on the 620 and 2222 corridors and the lack of workers to assist with running our area businesses.

"This rebranding effort will allow also us to be identified more closely with the city of Austin, enabling a more collaborate alignment with our political and other public service representatives. It will provide a platform to facilitate a stronger, unified voice for economic growth and the community interests of our area." -Ray Freer, Chairman

With over 135 members and growing, The West Austin Chamber of Commerce represents the West Austin businesses and our community. For more information about upcoming events and membership, visit www.westaustinchamber.org or call (512) 551-0390.



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I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE

Book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro; Music by Jimmy Roberts CONTACT: Barbara Calderaro, Director barbcal@austin. rr.com or 512- 560-1837

SHOW DATES:

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, November 3RD, 4th, and 5th, 2016

AUDITION DATES:

Tuesday, August 23RD , 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.
Thursday, August 25th, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Saturday, August 27th, 10:00 A.M.to Noon
AUDITION LOCATION: The Lakeway Activity Center
105 Cross Creek
Lakeway, TX 78734

AUDITION TIMES: Please contact Barbara Calderaro to set up a specific audition time.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Actors should be prepared to sing 32 bars of a song (preferably from a musical). Accompanist will be available
- Also be prepared to do a short dance combination and cold read from the script.
- Please bring 1 copy each of your headshot and resume' if you have them.

CASTING:

All singing and non-singing roles are available. Looking for men and women 18 and older who can move well.

SYNOPSIS:

This celebration of the mating game takes on the truths and myths behind that contemporary conundrum known as 'the relationship'. Act 1 explores the journey from dating and waiting to love and marriage, while Act 2 reveals the agonies and triumphs of in-laws and newborns, trips in the family car and pick-up techniques of the geriatric set. This hilarious revue pays tribute to those who have loved and lost, to those who have fallen on their face at the portal of romance, to those who have dared to ask, "Say, what are you doing Saturday night?"

Rehearsals will begin in September and continue thru tech and dress, the first week in November.

The quality of the auditions will determine the best casting for the show. This will be assessed after all auditions are completed.

FINANCIAL FOCUS Best Response to Volatile Markets? Stay Calm

In recent months, stocks have fallen sharply from their record highs, with one-day drops that can rightfully be called "dizzying." As an investor, what are you to make of this volatility?

For one thing, you'll find it useful to know the probable causes of the market gyrations. Most experts cite global fears about China's economic slowdown, falling oil prices and anticipation of a move by the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates as the key factors behind the stock market's decline.

On the other hand, the U.S. economy is still doing fairly well. Employers are adding jobs at a pretty good clip, wages are rising, home prices are up and overall economic growth has been reasonably solid. In other words, we are in a vastly better place than in the period before the Great Recession of 2008 and early 2009, when the financial markets bottomed out.

Nonetheless, it's only natural that you might feel some trepidation over what's been happening in the financial markets over the past few weeks. So, what should you do? Here are a few suggestions:

- Expect more of the same. Be prepared for more volatility, potentially including big drops one day followed by big gains the next. Until the factors considered responsible for the current volatility that is, China's slowing economy, low oil prices and the Federal Reserve's decision on rates have been fully absorbed into the market's pricing mechanisms, big price swings, one way or another, are to be expected.
- Don't panic. The headlines may look grim, but today's newspapers are tomorrow's recycling pile. Volatility is nothing new, and the financial markets are more resilient than you may think.
- Look for opportunities. By definition, a downturn occurs when investors sell massive amounts of stocks, but it actually may be a good time to buy them, while their price is down. Look at the most successful businesses and their products and services. If you can envision these companies still being around and thriving in ten years, why wouldn't you want to buy their stocks at potentially lower prices?
- Diversify. During the downturn, just about everyone's portfolio was affected. But if yours took a particularly large hit, it might be because your holdings are over-concentrated in stocks, especially the types of stocks that fared the worst. You may need to further diversify your portfolio through a mixture of domestic and international stocks, bonds, government securities, real estate, certificates of deposit (CDs) and other vehicles. Diversification, by itself, can't guarantee a profit or prevent against all losses, but it can help blunt the harshest effects of volatility.
- Review your investment strategy. Unless your goals have changed, there's no reason to revise your long-term investment strategy, even in the face of wild fluctuations in the financial markets. Still, it's always a good idea to review your strategy at least once a year, possibly in consultation with a financial professional. You may need to make smaller-scale adjustments in response to changes in the economy,

interest rates, and so on, but don't abandon your core principles, such as maintaining a portfolio that reflects your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon.

Investing will never be either risk-free or predictable. But by taking the steps described above, you can relieve some of the stress associated with volatility and help yourself stay on track toward your financial objectives.

Past performance does not guarantee future results. Investors should understand the risks involved of owning investments, including interest rate risk, credit risk and market risk. The value of investments fluctuates and investors can lose some or all of their principal. Special risks are inherent to international investing, including those related to currency fluctuations and foreign political and economic events.

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SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to *riverview@peelinc.com*. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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