



NOVEMBER 2016

VOLUME 9, ISSUE II

A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks II

NOVEMBER EDITORIAL

Janet Rourke

This month's newsletter includes articles on fun things to do during the holidays, recycling plastics, and selling designer items on eBay.

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!

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS!

According to the Legend Oaks 2 Homeowners Association, three new neighbors moved into the neighborhood in September:

Kenneth Priester	7901 Cheno Cortina Trail
Ernest Hatton	6704 Debcoe Drive
Jerry & Doris Cobb	7121 Ridge Oak Road

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@yahoo.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.



Welcome
Glad you're here!

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

Articleslegendoaks@peelinc.com

PUBLISHER

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Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

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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.nikkate@gmail.com*

HOLIDAY FAMILY FUN

11/23/16-12/31/16

"A Christmas Carol" and "The Santaland Diaries"

ZACH Theatre (zachtheatre.org)

"A Christmas Carol" - rockin' show provides a modern twist on the classic tale.

"The Santaland Diaries" - holiday comedy for adults.

11/27/16

Annual Tree Lighting ceremony (austintrailoflights.org)

Zilker Park

Come watch the lighting ceremony Zilker tree of lights – the kickoff of the holiday season.

Daily in December

Holidays at the Domain (simon.com)

Fun events for the whole family throughout the holiday season.

Take pictures with Santa, ride horse-drawn carriages, watch holiday lights shows, listen to strolling carolers, and have breakfast with Santa.

Daily in December

Ice Skating - Plaza - Whole Foods on Lamar

(wholefoodsmarket.com)

10 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Spend an afternoon on the rink at the Whole Foods flagship store on North Lamar. Then head inside for a cup of cocoa or cider and live, local music on the weekends!

12/3/16

Holiday Sing-Along & Downtown Stroll

(downtownaustin.com)

Texas State Capitol - 6 pm sing-along; south steps of Capitol; tree lighting 7 pm

Sing carols on the steps of the Capitol, watch the tree lighting, then head down Congress Avenue for live music, shopping, art and more.

12/3/16-12/23/16

Ballet Austin's "The Nutcracker" (balletaustin.org)

Long Center for the Performing Arts

Ballet Austin kicks off the season with the 54th annual production of "The Nutcracker."

12/6/16

Austin Symphony Orchestra presents Handel's "Messiah"

(austinsymphony.org)

Hyde Park Baptist Church

Begin your winter celebrations with a performance full of rejoicing.

12/10/16-12/23/16

50th Annual Trail of Lights (austintrailoflights.org)

(Continued on Page 4)

Austin Business Journal
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*Based on 2015 ABOR data

LEGEND OAKS

(Continued from Page 2)

Zilker Park

Grand opening of the 52nd Trail of Lights on Dec. 10. Trail of Lights is open each evening through Dec. 23.

12/31/16

Austin's New Year (austintexas.gov)

Auditorium Shores

Alcohol-free, family-friendly event with visual art installations, jugglers, storytellers, fire dancers, and other festive performances.

**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**

**NOW
HIRING**

**Advertising Sales
Representative**

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.

Roles: Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

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.

Benefits: Commission Based
Apply by sending resume to jobs@peelinc.com



PEEL, INC.

HOLIDAY MARKETS AND BAZAARS

11/19-20/16

A Sami Show (samishow.com)

10 am – 5 pm (Nov. 19) 11 am – 4:30 pm (Nov. 20); Dell Diamond, Round Rock; Adults \$5; kids 12 and under are free.

Holiday arts & crafts market.

11/25/16 – 12/24/16

Blue Genie Art Bazaar

(bluegenieartbazaar.com)

10 am – 10 pm (closes at 6 pm on Christmas Eve); 6100 Airport Blvd., Austin; free admission and parking
A unique holiday art show, featuring handmade artwork and gifts from more than 200 local and regional artists. A portion of the proceeds go to Make-A-Wish® Foundation. Full bar with snacks.

11/26 & 27/16

Renegade Craft Fair's Austin Holiday Market

(renegadecraft.com)

11 am – 6 pm; Fair Market, 1100 East 5th St., Austin, free admission

A selection of the finest indie-craft goods, DIY workshops, and festive holiday vibes.

12/5/16

German-Texan Heritage Society Christmas Market

(germantexans.org)

10 am – 4 pm; German Free School of Austin, 507 E. 10th St.

Handmade, imported crafts, decorations, ornaments and more. Visit Sankt Nikolas, listen to traditional German Christmas music, and enjoy a cup of Glühwein (hot spiced wine), gingerbread cookies and other sweet baked treats.

12/10 & 11/16

Cherrywood Art Fair (cherrywoodartfair.org)

10 am – 5 pm; Maplewood Elementary, E. 38 ½ St.
Neighborhood fundraiser benefits eastside arts scene. Local food artisans, live music, 80+ artists, kids' crafts and a silent auction.

12/14-24/16

Armadillo Christmas Bazaar (armadillobazaar.com)

10 am – 10 pm; Palmer Events Center
Shopping bazaar with national and local art, gifts, decor and more, local food vendors, and live music.

Beware the Plastic Monster

Janet Rourke

Did you know that by 2050 plastics in the ocean will outweigh fish pound for pound if we keep producing plastics and fail to recycle properly? Plastic garbage is accumulating in the world's oceans in huge (island size) garbage patches. It is currently found in the stomachs of more than half the sea turtles and most of the marine birds. One-third of all plastics produced are not recycled, resulting in 8 million metric tons/year going to landfills and the ocean.

How can we reduce plastic pollution? Think reusable!

- Use a stainless steel or glass water bottle instead of buying water in single-use plastic bottles. Take a reusable coffee cup to your favorite coffee shop. Store leftovers in glass containers with lids instead of using plastic wrap or ziplock bags. (Empty glass bottles make great storage containers!)
- Boycott microbeads – the little plastic scrubbers found in facial scrubs, toothpaste, and body washes. (Who knew???) Use natural exfoliants, like oatmeal or salt, instead.
- Take your own food-storage containers for leftovers if you eat out and know the servings are too large. If you get take-out, ask the restaurant to leave out the plastic cutlery.

- Purchase items secondhand - no plastic packaging and the item may cost less.
- Recycle. Know what can be recycled and where it can be recycled. (Goodwill will take a lot of items that need to be recycled.)
- Buy in bulk. Select larger containers over several smaller ones. Buy items in glass containers rather than plastic when available. If you must buy bottled water, buy the gallon size.
- Ever thought about bringing your garment bag to the dry cleaner instead of getting all those plastic cleaner bags?
- Put pressure on manufacturers to be smarter about packaging and shop at more sustainable businesses.

There is good news on the horizon. Japanese scientists have discovered a new species of bacteria that break-down plastic. In theory, these bacteria could be added to landfills to speed plastic decomposition. Normally, it can take several hundred years for plastic to break down, These bacteria can break common plastics down in six weeks!

Thanks to neighbor Manjula Lannan for sending information that provided the content for this article!



SKILLS, CHARACTER, TEAMWORK

At the Southwest Family YMCA, kids develop all of their skills, from catching and dribbling to teamwork and sportsmanship. Just as important, they learn firsthand the benefits of being healthy & active and that virtual games just can't compare to the real thing.

WINTER YOUTH SPORTS REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!

COED BASKETBALL AND VOLLEYBALL



SOUTHWEST FAMILY YMCA
6219 Oakclaire Dr & Hwy 290



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6 Steps to Resell Your Designer Items, DIY

Have you wondered what it takes to resell your upscale, designer goods online? It's an interesting question to ask ourselves at minimum once a year. Either way, you know its time, when you start to feel the itch to visit the fabulous Container Store in search for new space-saving hangers, a handbag organizer, or even a new shoe stand.

Worse yet, your husband asks you to give him back his hangers. You know...the ones you have been slowly sneaking out of his microscopic section of the closet. Or he desperately begins to search all over the house, again, for his favorite Chucks. You just don't have the heart to tell him you threw them out three years ago. You want to make it up to him with a designer brand, but you don't have the space or discretionary funds. It's time to make some extra money from cleaning out your closet.

Ok, so you've decided to give this project a try. How will you actually make it happen, DIY-style? Here are 6 easy steps to get motivated and more importantly: Execute!

Step 1: Scope Your Closet for "Resting" Designer Items

You and I know how much those cute Prada pumps cost you and how much you loved them the two or three times you had an occasion to wear them. They're so gently used, they look new. It's breaking your heart to consider it (I know), but it's been 5 years and they're "resting" quietly in their posh shoebox, in that remote corner of your shoe stand, desperate for fresh air. Give them a lifeline; a new home.

And that's not your only item. You know where they are...those designer handbags, shoes, sunglasses, scarves; items that sell amazingly well on eBay or other online resellers. Millions of buyers search eBay for items like yours, looking for designer bargains, every hour, on the hour. And when I say "bargain," I don't mean cheap, I mean a fairly reasonable resale value. Some nice change for those organizers, your husband's new shoes, or to donate to charity (maybe all three).

Ok, so you have selected the items you want to sell, now what?

Step 2: Create a Personal eBay Seller Account

This step is fairly intuitive. eBay has a friendly user-interface and tons of educational content, but I'll provide you a brief overview to clarify some frequently asked questions (Ones that I also had). Whatever you do, don't fumble around with the numerous links on eBay. Go straight to work:

Select the "Register" tab on eBay's Home Page

Start with a personal account. Once you gain experience you may consider opening a business account.

Think of a catchy nickname. This is especially important if you might sell with certain frequency; I chose, Fashion Reloved, a suitable name for the types of items I sell online. It's worked out wonders for me. Begin by listing a few fast-selling items maybe on the lower priced end and just try to sell them. You'll go through the experience, develop your proof of concept, and also secure customers, gain positive feedback and attain ratings to show you are a responsible seller.

Make sure you highlight your product's best features with familiar search terms in order to draw the most traffic: "NWT - New with tags", Prada, Worn once / 2 times, mention retail price. Sometimes including the shipping in the price as in listing the item with free shipping will attract more traffic to the item.

Now you are ready to post images and descriptions. You may be asking yourself, "Ok, but from where, how, what do I say? Don't worry.

Read on, I've got it covered!

Step 3: Channel Your Inner Photographer

In the Resale World, Photography is King! Great images will sell your product quickly, for top-dollar. Take very detailed photographs of your item. Depending on your commitment to reselling, I recommend either investing in small photography studio items for your home or renting space at a local photography studio (it can be quite inexpensive). This will ensure controlled lighting, closeup details, and overall quality. You'll also need a professional camera. If you're going to sell only intermittently, an iPhone camera, may do. Make sure you take images from different angles and be transparent in showing any nicks or imperfections; honesty is always the best sellers policy.

For example: if you are selling a handbag, you will need to take a picture from each angle including its corners, the inside, the handles, the closure, pockets and don't forget the bottom (it usually shows the most wear). For clothing, it helps to have a mannequin or a friend, willing to model the clothes. For a fun, outdoor photoshoot, the best lighting is either after sunrise and right before sunset. Be creative and resourceful. Look at your favorite Instagram images or Pinterest pins as a way to spark ideas.

You don't have to be professional photographer, but the key is in the details. That is why the next step is very important.

Step 4: Paint a "Literal" Picture

Photography is must, but don't skimp on the product description. It's very important to be as thorough as possible. You may want to include information such as, when the item was purchased and where; what comes with the item, such as an authenticity card, dust bag, original packaging, accessories; and don't forget the measurements. Take a little time to research websites that sell a similar designer item, it will help you tremendously to write your descriptions. Generate trust by being transparent; point out the good, the bad, and the ugly. Buyers prefer brutal honesty.

Step 5: Ship with Love

Once the item sells and the payment is made, find a nice quality box and package the item carefully, with appropriate cushioning or bubble wrap to avoid damage during shipping. For items weighing less than 16 ounces, the post office is the most efficient option to ship and they have nice boxes, insurance, and tracking. On more valuable items, Fedex or UPS will be the way to go. Make sure you pay for adequate insurance. Depending on the item's price tag, you may offer free or discounted standard shipping for multiple items purchased.

Step 6: Skip Steps 2 - 5 and Go Directly to Boardwalk

You may be too busy to try reselling DIY-style, but there is a shortcut that would save time, significantly: Contact a reseller. They are professionally set up to take care of steps 2-5 for you. The strongest pro is the time savings; the strongest con (maybe) is that you'll share the proceeds with your reseller.

For this step, you'll want to do some research on online resellers: check their reviews, credentials, and ask for references. Ask if they have an independent website (it shows the sellers commitment and inspires trust). Review their terms and conditions as well as their contracts and how much they will pay you. Compare your top candidates and make a selection.

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Best Advice for Step 6: I recommend finding someone local to personally meet and interview, especially for very high-end, high price-tag products (LV, Hermes, Prada). If you are still doubtful or undecided, try each reseller out with one of your lower-scale designer items. There are trustworthy online resellers, especially ones with some longevity, testimonials, and serious traction on eBay, so don't be scared to try.

There are other options, like big-box online resellers, but they standardize their terms and may try to undercut your gains significantly. And of course, brick-and-mortar secondhand or consignment stores are great, but with their overhead costs, they're likely be bound to offering you a lower cash payout and may not even be willing to take your item. This most often occurs with very high-ticket items that may not sell fast enough, attract theft risks, or constrain their cash flow.

Independent eBay resellers have more flexibility, lower theft risk, and typically only work on consignment. They can sometimes offer as high as 70% of the consignment selling price; granted, they may take a bit longer to sell your item, but they will personally work to sell it for top dollar. You'll additionally benefit from having face-to-face contact, have someone reliable to confidently refer to your friends and someone to count on in the future...For the next time you clean out your closet (or your husband's ;-)!)

Magdalena Silva, Author. Owner of Fashion Reloved, LLC / Aspiring Photographer / Former Engineer / Grateful Austinite / Happy Mom. For help in making the best decision for your upscale items, determine pricing, and vetting a reseller, email me at service@fashionreloved.com

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