THE RIVER REVIEW

December 2016 Volume 10, Issue 12

Photo by Mia Sanchez



IVER

PLACE

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF RIVER PLACE



HAVE YOU MET YOUR DEDUCTIBLE OR HAVE \$\$\$ LEFT IN YOUR HSA?

DON'T FORGET A SKIN CHECK, MOLE REMOVAL, OR WART REMOVAL!

CALL TODAY FOR AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE THE YEAR ENDS! 512.266.0007





We are pleased to introduce you to Nish and Shital Modi and their older daughter, Anoushka (age 12), and their younger daughter Navya (age 7.) Both daughters were quick to say they love their schools. Anoushka is in the sixth grade at Four Points Middle School while Navya attends second grade

at River Place Elementary.

The Modis moved to River Place from Round Rock only five months ago. They were attracted by the schools, the friendly neighborhood and sense of community and the reasonable commute to the downtown area. They also enjoy their amazing neighbors and the available parks and trails. While they are new to the area, they seem very relaxed and comfortable with their decision to move to River Place. And they are very happy with their home located on Inshore Cove!

Nish currently works as an executive at a startup company called Welcome Commerce while Shital is a homemaker and part-time student. They enjoy hiking, biking, golf and most outdoor activities. Anoushka, the elder daughter loves dance. We wish the Modi family all the best that River Place has to offer! And of course, Happy Holidays!



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-0845
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	
Emergencies	512-266-1775
Information	

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD	
Cedar Park High School	
Vandegrift High School	
Four Points Middle School	
River Place Elementary	

UTILITIES

River Place MUD	
City of Austin Electric	
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service	
Emergencies	
Call Before You Dig	
AT&T	
New Service	
Repair	
Billing	
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	
Repairs	
IESI (Trash)	
OTHER NUMBERS	
\mathbf{D}^{*} \mathbf{D}^{1} \mathbf{D}^{*} \mathbf{A}^{1} \mathbf{O}	E10 24E 0720

River Place Postal Office	512-345-9739
---------------------------	--------------

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc	
Article Submissions	riverreview@peelinc.com
Advertising	advertising@peelinc.com

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make River Review possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or *advertising@peelinc.com*. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

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 <u>riverreview@peelinc.com</u>. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

Copyright © 2016 Peel, Inc.



WE'RE YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS...

Austin's trusted name in plastic surgery is now just down the street

SEASONED PLASTIC SURGEONS HELPING YOU RESTORE YOUR YOUTHFUL APPEARANCE



Dr. Jeffrey Cone, Dr. P. Craig Hobar, Dr. C-J Langevin

- * Facial fillers
- PRP microneedling
- + Dermaplaning
- · Chemical peels
- · Botox /Dysport
- Customized, medical-grade skin care

- * Facelift
- · Facial implants
- Breast augmentation
 - · Eyelid surgery
 - * Rhinoplasty
 - Liposuction

NOW SEEING PATIENTS

Contact us today for an appointment (512) 922-8673 or www.wellspringaesthetics.com

6611 River Place Blvd., #202 • Austin, TX 78730

The Origin and History of Santa Claus



For those of us too young to have yet learned and those of us who are older and might have forgotten, we wanted to explain how and why Santa Claus came to be. The love and

kindness he feels for children and parents alike are unparalleled and unique, even though, due to an ever growing population, he can only manage to express these feelings on Christmas. The origin of Santa Claus can be traced back hundreds of years to a monk named St. Nicholas. It is believed that Nicholas was born sometime around 280 A.D. in a land now known as Turkey. (Some historians say this is why turkey is a favorite dish served on Christmas day.)

Much admired for his giving and kindness, St. Nicholas became the subject of many stories. It is said that he gave away all of his inherited wealth and traveled the countryside helping the poor and sick. One of the best known of the St. Nicholas stories is that he saved three

poor sisters from being sold into slavery or worse by their father by providing them with a dowry so that they could be married. Over the course of many years, Nicholas's popularity spread and he became known as the protector of children.

Over time his name evolved to Santa Claus as his reputation and popularity spread throughout the world. Other names he has been known by include Saint Nick, Kris Kringle and Father Christmas. His reputation for bringing gifts to the homes of well-behaved children on Christmas Eve in the early morning hours has spread from country to country but is probably best known right here in the United States.

Santa Claus is generally regarded as a portly, joyous, white-bearded man—sometimes with spectacles—wearing a red coat with white fur collar and cuffs, white fur-cuffed red trousers, and black leather belt and boots and who carries a bag full of gifts for children. Most likely, the milk and cookies many families leave out for him on Christmas Eve have contributed to his robust figure. This image became popular in the United States and Canada in the 19th century from the descriptions provided by those lucky individuals who have actually spotted him performing his good deeds.

Santa Claus is said to make lists of children throughout the world,

(Continued on Page 6)



Copyright © 2016 Peel, Inc.

River Review - December 2016 5

(Continued from Page 5)

categorizing them according to their behavior ("good" and "bad" or "naughty" and "nice") and to deliver presents, including toys, and candy to all of the well-behaved children in the world and perhaps lesser gifts to those less well-behaved children. Others believe Santa brings gifts to all, regardless of behavior, just to spread good cheer.

He accomplishes this feat with the aid of his elves, which make the toys in his workshops at the North Pole, and his flying reindeer, which pull his sleigh. He is commonly believed to live at the North Pole and saying "ho ho ho" quite often.

The stories of Santa Claus entering dwellings through the chimney are shared by many European and American seasonal gift-givers. Santa's entrance into homes on Christmas Eve via the chimney first became part of American history through the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" where the author described him as an elf.

It is not known for sure whether today's Santa is the same individual as the St. Nicholas that existed hundreds of years ago. He just might be according to some experts but, then again, others say he is a descendent in a long line of Santas so that the tradition of giving out of love can live on forever. Regardless, this is certainly something to think about. And while all the Santa Claus stories cannot be verified as exactly true and correct, there is one thing we do know for certain: Santa Claus is coming to town!!

Elementary Winter Reading, Writing, and Math Club Sign Up!

Lindsay Gregg, River Place

During our book club sessions I will use a variety of fun handson teaching materials to teach your child phonics skills, phonemic awareness, and a variety of reading strategies. If they can already read, I will work on fluency, comprehension, enrichment activities, and more. During math club I will review concepts they are learning in class and math facts through fun hands-on games and activities.

Each club will have 3-4 students grouped by either grade level or ability. It is important to me to individualize instruction to meet your child where they are at whether they are below, on, or above grade level.

There will be 9 sessions (plus 1 make-up session) starting the first week of January. Only limited space is available so contact me if you're interested! Due to pre-registration some clubs are currently full.

Email: austinelementarytutor@gmail.com

Phone: 713-480-0403

Find out more info at: austinelementarytutor.com



6 River Review - December 2016

Copyright © 2016 Peel, Inc.



DR. MICHELLE FREEZE

LIZ CHUNG, DDS

RACHEL TRUEBLOOD, DDS

Dentistry for infants, children, teens and patients with special needs.

512.266.7200

- Friendly Pediatric Trained Staff
- Parents Allowed Back During Treatment
- Board Certified Specialists
- Insurances Accepted
- On Time Appointments
- Before and After School Appointments
- Advanced Soft-tissue Laser Procedures
- Wifi, Games and Movies

Two Convenient Locations

Steiner Ranch 4308 N. Quinlan Park #201 Austin, TX 78732 Lakeline 14005 N. HWY 183 #800 Austin, TX 78717

SmileLikeAStar.com

FREE Child's Sonicare

with New Patient Exam and Cleaning

\$56.00 Value

Coupon must be presented at time of exam. For patient's age 3 and olde Coupon cannot be combined with any other offer. Expires 1/31/17

Featured River Place Location:



Located right at the front of our community in the River Place Shopping Plaza along with Pizza Hut and right next to Esquire Cleaners, you will find one of the best little restaurants in the Four Points area. Specializing in Chinese and Korean cuisine, they offer dine-in, take-out, delivery and catering services. Take-out, from our experience,

is always ready in less than 15 minutes. They have a couple of outside tables as well where pets are welcomed.

Their food is reasonably priced; most dishes are less than \$10 and appetizers are all less than \$5. They offer several flavors in soups and different levels of sweet and spicy chicken wings. According to general manager Tyler Pulido, they are a family owned business and have been located in River Place for more than five years.

Tyler pointed out that the General T'ao (chicken recommended) is the most popular of the Chinese dishes. Sautéed in the General's special spicy sauce, it is batter fried and comes garnished with steamed broccoli. Getting hungry yet? On the Korean side of the menu, the favorite seems to be the Bi-Bim-Bop rice bowl with seasoned spinach, zucchini, bean sprouts, lettuce and mushrooms with a fried egg, Korean spicy red sauce and your choice among 3 sides. Now I know you're hungry!

Hunan delivers to River Place, Steiner Ranch and the four Points areas. They serve lunch daily from 11 am to 3 pm. After 3, dinner prices prevail and they are open till 9 pm. Check out their web site at www.HunanRiverplace.com. Their phone number is 512-241-0330. So, next time you don't feel like cooking a meal or going too far to eat, give Hunan a call or drop by. Their friendly staff is ready to take your order and serve you!





8 River Review - December 2016



Copyright © 2016 Peel, Inc.

In and Around River Place

Four Points Area Home Sales Are Steady, Not Dramatic: According to information compiled by Bartlett Real Estate, home sales are up slightly over prior year (by September) while the average selling price is down slightly, by about 1%. The number of listings (inventory) and days on the market have both decreased. The prior growth of the area no longer allows for as much building as there are fewer tracts of land available. While you might think that these aspects of the market would also increase the average selling price of homes, their influence on inventory and days on the market is certainly understandable.

Area Presidential Election Votes Evenly Split: According to Cassie McGhee of Four Points News, Steiner Ranch and River Place voters voted slightly in favor of Donald Trump, by 52 and 50%, respectively. In the other Steiner Ranch precinct and in Grandview Hills however, Hillary Clinton was the winner by the same margins. In Travis County overall, Clinton garnered the most votes by far at 66.25%.

Champion's Tract Update: The proposed 325 unit apartment complex located to the southeast of the intersection of RR 2222 and City Park Road, known as Champion's Tract, is now experiencing serious opposition. Members of at least seven homeowner and neighborhood associations in City Council Member Sheri Gallo's District 10 are expressing outrage and organizing to pursue action against the City of Austin after the Council disregarded a valid petition Thursday and voted to grossly amend area ordinances and grant rezoning rights.

If You Are Seeking a Ride: Gabriel Nathanael, a local resident, is offering local residents rides for evening and weekend needs only. He has experience in working for other ride services, is insured to transport others and is back-ground checked. His rates are competitive; less than a taxi. His vehicle is a 2013 Ford Escape which can transport up to 4 passengers. Give Gabriel a call at 512-808-6038 if you need his services.

New Area Restaurant: Verona Ristorante Italiano: Located at 900 RR 620 South in the Lakeway Commons Shopping Center, this old world styled eatery offers authentic Italian cuisine in a friendly family environment. They open for business at 11:00 am most days; 12 noon on Sundays and close at 9 pm most evenings;

10 pm on Friday and Saturday. Visitors have described the atmosphere polite, casual and nice and the food as very good. If you're looking for a new area restaurant to try, why not pay a visit?

Tennis Tip of the Month: THE SERVICE TOSS

When it comes to quickly improving the serve, it's all in the toss! While we have heard that saying quite often, it's very true that this one aspect can make such a difference that, if improved, it can easily raise your serve a level or two.

Tennis Tip: You must first realize that the ball toss needs to be an extension of the tossing arm.

If we toss from the elbow or break the wrist, not only is the toss inconsistent but also the ball will spin, possibly changing the way it comes off your racquet each time. However, if you "lift" the ball with a straight arm and release it from two fingers and the thumb, leaving the pinkie and the ring finger out, things quickly improve. Your fingers should be like a three pronged pedestal around the ball that open up as you release it at the top of the "lift." Because you are "placing" the ball up there rather than throwing or flipping it, there is less chance of spraying the toss.

Another hint is to look at and lift the toss to the spot you want it to be in when you hit it, much like bowlers do in "spot bowling." This can also help you keep your eyes on the ball, which is important. The height of the toss needs to be as high as you can extend the racquet on you tip toes, or possibly just a little higher so that you have time to bend your knees and go up after it.

Lastly, keep in mind the ball toss position as you line up to serve. With shoulders perpendicular to the net, imagine a clock face in front of you where your shoulders point to 12. Toss the ball to the 1 o'clock if right-handed or to the 11 o'clock position if left-handed. If you were to let the toss drop, it should land about a foot or so inside the court. If tossed too far forward, the serve tends to go into the net; too far back over the head, it will tend to go long.

So in summary, with a straight arm, lift the ball to the right spot on the clock and imagine yourself hitting the ace! Your chances are

now much better so it might just happen! If you have a question on the service toss, feel free to call or text me.

Walter: 512-497-9971



Electric Base Rates to Drop January 1, 2017



While Austin Energy rates are thankfully being reduced at the beginning of the year, there are a couple of important aspects to understand. You can see the new base rates and other rate information on the Austin Energy web site here: http://austinenergy. com/wps/wcm/connect/c4f3dd41c714-43bc-9279-e92940094731/ FY2017aeElectricRateSchedule. pdf?MOD=AJPERES

First, the charges per kWh are based on a tiered system so usage at higher levels cost more per unit that usage at lower levels. There are five tiers. For example, the cost per kWh at the bottom tier (up to 500 kWh) is only 2.8 cents while the cost per kWh at

the top tier (usage greater than 2,500 kWh) is 10.8 cents. So, the same usage at the top tier cost nearly four times that of the bottom tier. Obviously, using less energy will cost you less overall but it is also more efficient in terms of cost per kWh.

Secondly, while we currently have winter and summer rates that differ (higher in the summer,) the rates will be the same year round beginning in 2017. So, if you historically used more electricity in the summer than in the winter, you might benefit more overall by year end than if it were the other way around. And, since the winter rates are going up slightly, you might not see those benefits until summer. In summary, it depends on how you use energy as to when you see your savings and how much you will actually save.

There are energy programs and rebates available to assist in reducing costs. The Austin City Council has set aside \$2 million for free high bill audits and energy efficiency benefits. Visit the web site or call 512-494-9400 to find out more and how Austin Energy can help you save on energy costs. It can't hurt!



The River Review is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use the River Review contents, or loan said contents, to others in any way, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.



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



SENDERO H O M E S



Lance Haley. Cosmo Palmieri, and Scott Walther

Sendero Homes is not only one of the top custom builders in Austin for the last 22 years but we also are one of the top remodel and addition contractors in the Austin Market.

We do anything from full kitchen remodel, bathroom remodels, new outdoor living areas and bbq areas to whole house remodels. Nothing is too small or too big. Call Scott Walther at 512-637-3110 or scott@senderohomes.com.

Your River Place neighbors for over 10 years







Copyright © 2016 Peel, Inc.



PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PEEL, INC.

RV

Making a Great First Impression!

WE ARE A DIGITAL IMPRESSION PRACTICE

No Goop. No Gag. No Worries!

Dr. RJ is the ONLY board-certified Invisalign® provider serving River Place

 Figure 1
 RJ ORTHODONTICS

 Making Austin Smile

 512-363-5792
 www.rjorthodontics.com

 Located Behind the Walgreens at the Intersection of 620/2222

Dr. RJ Jackson 🔆 invisalign invisalign feen