

# The Gazette

DECEMBER 2016  
VOLUME 9 ISSUE 12

VILLAGE AT WESTERN OAKS

# HOA ANNUAL MEETING



The Village at Western Oaks HOA 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7 pm at the Mills Elementary School cafeteria. Sign-in will begin at 6:30 pm.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY .....	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance .....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency .....	512-974-0845

### SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
Mills .....	512-841-2400
Patton .....	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki .....	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin .....	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

### UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing) .....	512-494-9400
Emergency .....	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service .....	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing .....	512-219-2602
Problems .....	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service .....	1-800-288-2020
Repair .....	1-800-246-8464
Billing .....	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste .....	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

### OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles .....	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged .....	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

### NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. ....	512-263-9181
Article Submissions .....	villagegazette@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com

## Neighborhood Compassion Watch!

### COMPASSION IS ACTION.

Let's each of us make it our mission to bring positive change and solutions to our own lives, our communities, and our world. Let's sustain our hope for a better world through personal action.

Try this in December. Start a compassion jar or box in your home. Challenge yourself and your family members to seek out and discover compassion in your home, neighborhood, school, and workplace (acts of kindness, service, respect, love, acceptance, generosity, hope, peace, gratitude, forgiveness, and caretaking of the Earth). Pay close attention and discover these acts in yourself and others. Recognize these acts by dropping a note or a marble or pebble into the jar or box. See how full it gets. Find a time to share with each other what you discover.

Share your stories here and we'll publish them [www.peelinc.com/residentsArticleSubmit.php](http://www.peelinc.com/residentsArticleSubmit.php). Also, share via social media with the hashtag #compassionup.

## Instead of Toys This Holiday Season, Some Kids Just Want Their Basic Needs Met

*by Dr. Beverly Hamilton*

One in four children in the Austin area live in poverty. The tiniest members of our community don't care yet about toys but they might know what it's like to not have enough diapers. Diapers are not covered under assistance programs and cost \$800-\$1,000 per year. This price tag means some families have to decide between paying their rent or paying for diapers. A national study showed that 1 in 12 mothers reported leaving their baby in a soiled diaper longer than necessary due to limited resources.

The founder of Austin Diaper Bank, Beverly Hamilton, started the diaper bank out of her spare bedroom after learning this sad fact. Now the organization has grown exponentially and occupies a modest warehouse on Burnet Road in north Austin. Austin Diaper Bank helps make sure that Central Texas families have the diapers they need to keep babies healthy. By working with a network of over 40 partner agencies, the diaper bank serves thousands of people from Georgetown to San Marcos.

The diaper bank is a grassroots community effort, largely donation driven and volunteer run. To directly help babies in Central Texas this holiday season, you can host a diaper drive, donate much needed funds, provide diapers (larger sizes are especially in demand) or volunteer. Individuals and groups can spend time in the warehouse sorting, counting and bundling diapers for distribution to the community. The littlest Central Texans thank you.

## State Education Issues Affecting AISD Funding

For many Austin residents who are new to Texas, and for many of us who have lived here a long time, the school funding laws set by the state legislature can be hard to understand. Yet they impact two things that most of us in Southwest Austin care greatly about – property taxes and public education.

The current state funding system forces “property-rich” school districts such as AISD (Austin Independent School District) to pay a percentage of their property tax revenue back to the state. This is known as “recapture”. There is a common misconception that these funds go directly to fund other school districts in poorer areas of the state, but in actuality the funds go to the state’s General Even though over 60% of AISD’s students are considered economically disadvantaged, we pay more in recapture than any other district in the state. This year AISD is projected to pay over \$400 million to the state out of its \$1.3 billion dollar budget. That’s a huge percentage of our district’s total budget, and an enormous amount of taxpayer money that could make a difference to our students, teachers, and schools if it stayed right here in Austin.

Debbly Clarke, parent of two students at Mills Elementary, is working with the ACPTA (Austin Council of Parent Teacher Associations) to seek parents and community members who are interested in volunteering to help change state funding legislation. “There are several ways parents can help ranging from meeting with lawmakers and legislative aides to calling legislators as bills come to a vote,” says Clarke.

There are several specific changes suggested by many school superintendents and their finance chiefs such as Austin’s own Paul Cruz and Nicole Conley-Abram:

1. Update the CEI, or Cost of Education Index, which the state uses to attempt to adjust for varying economic conditions such as size of district, teacher’s salaries of neighboring districts, and number of economically disadvantaged students. CEI has not been updated since 1991.

2. Update the transportation allotment so Chapter 41 districts like AISD can apply funding as a credit against their total recapture amount. This would give AISD a credit of approximately \$5.4M in 2017 and 2018.

3. Recognize 100% of CEI in WADA (Weighted Average Daily Attendance) calculation compared to the 50% allowed under current law.

4. Improve funding for students who are identified as at-risk and English language learners.

5. Enact legislation to exclude federal social security contributions from the amount subject to recapture by Chapter 41 districts.

To get learn more about how you can get involved, email [villagegazette@peelinc.com](mailto:villagegazette@peelinc.com) and we will connect you with Debbly Clarke.



**512-297-3442**  
**SOUTHWEST AUSTIN SPECIALISTS**



*The Pursuit of Happiness*  
**LET US HELP YOU FIND YOURS**



**FEEL GOOD. DO GOOD.**

At the Southwest Family YMCA, you, your friends and family will find more than a gym. You will find a community with a cause. We are open to all and embrace individuality. We believe in our members and support them wherever they are in their journey. We are on a relentless quest to make our community stronger, beginning with you!

Learn more and join today at [AustinYMCA.org](http://AustinYMCA.org)



**SOUTHWEST FAMILY YMCA**  
6219 Daklaire Dr & Hwy 290  
512.891.9622 • [AustinYMCA.org](http://AustinYMCA.org)

## HITTING THE SLOPES THIS SKI SEASON?

Keep in mind these tips to prevent injuries on the slopes.

*Written by Kelly Cunningham, MD Sports Medicine specialist Founder. Austin OrthoBiologics.*

As a former US Olympic Men's Ski Team physician and orthopedist, every year during the winter months I treat many ski & snowboard injuries. As traveling doctor for the team, I accompanied the athletes throughout the US, Canada and Europe on the World Cup tour and was responsible for the triage, stabilization, and treatment of these world-class skiers.

One of the most frequent questions I get this time of year from my patients who ski is "How can I avoid hurting myself on the ski slopes?" So what do I tell recreational skiers about staying healthy while on the slopes?

First and foremost, adjust to the altitude in your first few days. While there are medications that will improve your blood oxygen, they require a prescription and can have side effects. Perhaps the easiest to take along are low-dose aspirin or ginkgo biloba, as both are safe (unless allergic) and easy to take. Low-level exercise and lots of water (especially during the first night) are also key, as is abstinence from alcohol during the first 24 hours at altitude.

Modern skis, boots, and bindings are universally safe now, unlike in

decades past. Multi-release bindings help you come out of your skis safely in a fall and with less stress on your knees, the most commonly injured joint in a skier. Make sure they are set correctly.

Speaking of knees, in most solid, intermediate skiers, unlike beginners (learning to stop) and racers (ACL injury from shear forces), serious knee injuries are actually quite rare.

The best way to protect yourself from ski injury is:

- get in good "ski-shape"
- ski within your limits
- stay relaxed but focused
- watch out for that last, fatigued run of the afternoon
- if you fall, fall forward and throw your hands in front of you

***And always, always, wear a helmet!***

Austin resident Kelly Cunningham, MD is board certified by the American College of Orthopedic Surgeons, and an active member of the Arthroscopy Association of North America and the International Cartilage Repair Society.



**AUSTIN TELCO** 512-302-5555  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION www.atfcu.org

### Home Equity Loans

No Closing Costs<sup>2</sup>

as low as **3.25%** APR<sup>1</sup> 5 Years Fixed



Visit our Oak Hill Location:  
6233 W. William Cannon Drive

<sup>1</sup>Annual Percentage Rate. Actual rate may vary depending on credit qualifications. Rates and terms are subject to change without notice. <sup>2</sup>Austin Telco pays all standard closing costs for Home Equity/HELOC loans below \$100,000. These costs include: title search, flood determination, credit report, and county filing fees. If necessary, additional fees for appraisal, survey, and/or title company closing costs will be the responsibility of the borrower. Estimated costs will be disclosed upon receipt of application. Federally insured by NCUA. NMLS#: 422857.



When "That will never happen to me" happens.

**Lee Ann LaBorde, Agent**  
8400 Brodie Ln Ste 105  
Austin, TX 78745  
Bus: 512-282-3100  
leeann@leeannlaborde.net

**I'm ready to help.**  
There's never a good time for an accident to happen. But when it does, you can count on me to be there quickly so you can get your life back to normal. **GET TO A BETTER STATE<sup>SM</sup>.** CALL ME TODAY.



1101204.1 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

## NATURE WATCH

Christmas Cactus  
by Jim and Lynne Weber

While most people are familiar with the tropical, non-native species of Christmas Cactus (*Schlumbergera* sp.) often sold as houseplants, not all are aware that we have a native Christmas Cactus (*Cylindropuntia leptocaulis*) here in Texas. Our Christmas Cactus, also called Tasajillo, Pencil Cactus, Christmas Cholla, and Desert Christmas Cactus, is a true cactus much more adapted to our types of soils and climate. Common in the central and western parts of Texas, this plant's species name, *leptocaulis*, means 'slender-stemmed', and it is a very good descriptor of its form.

Upright, shrub-like, with many branches made up of slender, cylindrical jointed segments, this 2 to 5 foot tall plant is most often found growing in sandy or bottomland soils, having a trunk or main stem up to 4 inches in diameter with thicket-forming stems that exhibit various shades of green and feature a solid, woody internal core. While occasionally spineless, it typically has very slender, 1 to 2 inch grayish-white spines grouped with much tinier spines, along each stem. Botanists now think that two forms grow in Texas, a 'long-spine' form and a 'short-spine' form. Its leaves are very small, often not even noticed before they fall early in the growing season. Small, pale, yellow-green flowers appear at irregular intervals in April/May and July/August, opening in late afternoon or evening. But the true color display occurs in December, when its fruits turn conspicuously bright red and seemingly cover the plant like it has been festooned for the holiday season.

Christmas Cactus can grow from seed, but it is much more likely to spread by cloning. The jointed stems can easily detach without harming the rest of the plant, and they are dotted with areoles, a structural feature of cacti that contain buds. All a stem needs to do is come in contact with the right soil, and it can take root and grow a whole new plant.

While the Christmas Cactus can be a nuisance if it develops in the wrong areas, it can also provide desirable value to wildlife and to humans. Growing best under the protection of other vegetation, it offers dense cover for a variety of nesting birds and provides a good food source for white-tailed deer, bobwhite, wild turkey, most bird species, and many small mammals. From a human perspective, Christmas Cactus has a good ornamental value in a mostly xeric landscape, as it stands out in the bleak winter landscape, adorned with red fruit when most other vegetation is bare.

Several sources describe the fruits of the Christmas Cactus as edible, even intoxicating. But they are so small, and the spines so troublesome, that the plant usually yields only a sporadic nibble to the curious human. Nevertheless, native tribes made it part of their traditional diet, noting that the fruits, also called tunas, are vaguely sweet with a taste similar to the fruit of a prickly pear cactus.

Take the time to get to know our native Christmas Cactus and consider adding it to your wildscape. You will easily learn to fall in love with its prickly nature, especially at Christmas time!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).



*Tasajillo bloom*



*Tasajillo fruit*

## IPM - INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

– Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is the blending of effective, economical, and environmentally-sound pest control methods into a single flexible approach to manage pests. When utilizing IPM, we hope that you can avoid or reduce pest problems.

Here are some things to reduce the number of pests in your home:

- Reduce food or water resources for insects:
  - o Encourage family to eat in one location. This makes it easier to clean since spills and crumbs are not spread around the house.
  - o Clean up any spilled food or drink as soon as possible.
  - o Sweep and vacuum regularly. This helps to remove food crumbs, pet hair and other things that insects may feed upon.,
  - o Do not leave dirty dishes in the sink overnight. Even small bits of food can be a meal for insects.
  - o Do not leave pet food out overnight. Again, it can be a free meal for insects.
  - o Remove old newspapers, magazines, and books that are unused. Silverfish love to feed on these.
  - o Repair plumbing leaks to get rid of water sources required by insects.
  - o Use a plastic bag to line garbage cans to make garbage easier to remove.
  - o Remove garbage on a weekly basis, possibly more during warmer times of the year.
- Reduce areas where insects may live:
  - o Clean the drains with a stiff brush and then flush with boiling water. There are small flies that can grow in the slime layer of drain pipes. The stiff brush will loosen the slime and the boiling water will flush it away.
  - o Remove tree stumps and any dead branches in the yard to avoid carpenter or acrobat ant populations living in these areas.
  - o Move debris (firewood, bricks, stones, etc.) away from the

home. These areas can be inhabited by a variety of arthropods including spiders, scorpions, and cockroaches.

o Clean closets on a quarterly basis to reduce the chance of spiders moving in.

- Reduce moving insects into the house:
  - o Inspect all items for pests before bringing them into the house. Insect pests can be brought into the home with items such as potted plants, boxes full of things inherited from a family member, used clothing or furniture, among other things.
  - o Prune tree limbs that touch or overhang the home and prune back any shrubs that touch the home. When shrubs or trees touch or overhang the home, they can be used as bridges for insects to get onto the home and then move inside.
  - o Seal entry points on the outside of the home with sealant, expanding foam, or copper mesh screening. Pipe penetrations, weep holes, or cracks can allow insects, spiders, or other animals move into the home.

o Store food in sealed plastic or glass containers to keep pantry pests out.

o Keep screens, weather stripping, and door thresholds in good repair. Many insect pests are very small, so even a small tear in a screen or crack under a door can allow them to come inside.

o Use yellow bulbs in outside lights to reduce the number of insects coming near doorways.

*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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)*



**ADVERTISE**  
Your Business Here  
Call 512.263.9181  
for details.  
[www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

**GO GREEN  
GO PAPERLESS**

Sign up to get this newsletter in your inbox! Visit [peelinc.com](http://peelinc.com) for details.

## Twelve Top Travel Tips When Traveling with Your Pet

Traveling with your pet can be fun and rewarding – especially when you're prepared. In addition to the pet travel "basics" (safely restraining your pet, allowing adequate time for potty breaks, bringing comforting items from home, and so on), several additional simple practices can help make every trip easier and more pleasant for both you and your pet.

1. Schedule a veterinarian visit to insure overall health and current vaccinations. Ask for a health certificate and vaccination records, especially if you're traveling out of state.
2. Make sure your pet's identification tags are up-to-date and legible. Also, be sure his rabies tag and vaccinations are current.
3. Include your destination address and/or phone number on your pet's tags and cage/crate (if applicable).
4. Remember to pack water to prevent dehydration. To help insure convenient feedings bring along a collapsible food bowl.
5. Pack all medications and supplements to avoid missed doses.
6. Pack a first aid kit to insure readiness in the event of an injury or medical emergency.
7. Exercise your pet prior to departure. A tired pet is typically much more amenable to travel. Also, bring a lead or harness to allow exercise during pit stops.
8. Feed your pet at least four hours prior to departure to prevent car sickness. If the trip is long, feed a smaller amount that normal at least two hours before you leave.
9. Use a travel remedy, if necessary. If your pet is extremely anxious about travel, try a soothing non-prescription calming product.
10. Trim toenails to prevent snags and injury, especially if your pet will travel in a cage or crate.
11. Cover your car seats to keep them clean and free of hair shed on your trip.
12. Know your travel rules and restrictions, especially if you will travel on an airplane.



The Gazette 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 Gazette's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, 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.

## 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](mailto:jobs@peelinc.com)





**PEEL, INC.**

308 Meadowlark St. South  
Lakeway, TX 78734

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

VW



**ASHLEY AUSTIN**  
H O M E S

**BEST IN SOUTHWEST AUSTIN FOR  
THE PAST FOUR YEARS \***



12317 ALCANZA - 7049 AUCKLAND  
8209 CHENO CORTINA TRL - 7416  
MITRA DR - 19804 WEARYALL HILL LN  
8230 EVELINA - 9127 SPINNING LEAF  
CV6608 MITRA - 6604 MITRA DR - 7504  
WISTERIA VALLEY DR - 9128 SPINNING  
LEAF COVE - 4019 IRIONA BEND - 16017  
SNOWDONIA CV - 9001 RIDGEWELL  
9909 RAMBLE THREE - 15101 GENERAL  
WILLIAMSON DR - 1904 HELIOTROPE CT  
7309 ONDANTRA END - 6820 VITRUVIUS  
11024 PAIRNOY LANE - 7214 GENEVA  
DR - 5305 SPIREA COVE - 8901 CHALK  
KNOLL DR - 10617 REDMOND RD  
7717 MITRA DR - 8120 SIRINGO - 1000  
E 13TH STREET - 8411 BLAZYK DR - 314  
LEDGE STONE - 1032 COTTON PATCH TRL  
2915 SHOTGUN LN - 6809 HANSA LOOP  
11705 HOBBITONTRL - 7424 JABORANDI  
DR - 6710 DEBEOE DR - 9812 NANDINA  
COVE - 8109 VIA VERDE DR - 2417 ARION  
CIR - 8004 LENAPE TRL - 9301 COLBERG  
DR - 5332 AUSTRAL LOOP - 161 SAINT  
RICHIE LN - 8701 ESCARPMENT BLVD  
#83 - 11004 SIERRA RIDGE - 506  
BALDOVINO SKWY - 11520 VIRIDIAN  
WAY - 366 MIRAFIELD LN - 6613 MITRA  
DR - 7504 MITRA DR - 10713 MAELIN DR  
1309 SIR THOPAS TRL - 116 PHALAROPE  
DR - 1101 OTTAWA DRIVE - 6424  
MAGENTA LN - 6210 TASAJILLO TRL  
6113 ABILENE TRAIL - 4912 HIBISCUS  
VALLEY DR - 3201 DESERT WILLOW  
CV - 2809 KENTISH DR - 2412 VINTAGE  
STAVE RD - 105 COSTA BELLA - 4825  
NORMAN TRL - 420 MIDDLE CREEK  
2303LEARLANE - 2303LEARLANE - 10813  
GALSWORTHY LN - 10806 REDMOND RD



**ASHLEY STUCKI EDGAR** BROKER, REALTOR, CHLMS, CIPS, CRS  
ashley@ashleyaustinhomes.com | www.ashleyaustinhomes.com |   
C 512.217.6103 | O 512.856.4663

*Austin Business Journal Top 3 Producing Agent 2014 – 2015 | Texas Monthly Five Star Agent 2013 – 2015  
Austin's Platinum Top 50 Award Winner 2015 – 2016 | AIOREP Top 10 Agent for Client Satisfaction in Texas 2015*

*\*Based on 2012–2016 ABOR data*