

The Ranch Report

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2017

5 Ways You Can Enjoy Black History Month This Year

Not only is February the month of love it is also Black History Month. Did you know there are numerous activities going on around Texas as well as Austin, to celebrate the contributions of African-American people in our history? There are events at the Austin Public Library, The George Washington Carver Museum, and at The University of Texas at Austin. A quick search of their websites will give you more in-depth information on each program and what they are highlighting this year.

Here is a quick list of five things that you and your family can do to celebrate Black History Month this year.

- 1) Visit the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park in Smithville Texas. It's about 45 mins from Austin.
 - 2) Visit the George Washington Carver Museum, here in Austin.
 - 3) Visit the Texas State Cemetery and view the final resting place for Barbara Jordan. Barbara Jordan was a lawyer, a politician, an educator at The University of Texas at Austin, a leader in the civil rights movement, and the first African-American to serve in the Texas Senate after reconstruction. She was also the first woman elected to Congress to represent Texas.
 - 4) Visit the Austin Arts and Cultural Resource Museum here in Austin.
 - 5) Visit Houston-Tillson University which is the Oldest University in Austin, it is also a Historically Black University.
- This February there is so much to do and learn, don't miss out.

February is the Month of Love

Ardella

By: Langston Hughes

I would liken you
To a night without stars
Were it not for your eyes.
I would liken you
To a sleep without dreams
Were it not for your songs.
By: Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes born February 1, 1902 died May 22, 1967. He was an African-American poet, social activist, novelist, playwright and columnist. He was one of the earliest innovators of the new literary form called jazz poetry created during the Harlem Renaissance.

Clouds of Rain

Clouds of rain, song of pain.
Some lovers find their love hidden behind the clouds and rain.
Some lovers find their love running down paths of pain.
Some lovers find their love growing by their side.
Some lovers find their love floating deep inside.

By: Sharonna Banks

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NOT AVAILABLE ONLINE

Are You Ready for Valentine's Day?

So, it's almost Valentine's Day and you have no clue what to do. Well, let me help you find something amazing to eat. Here is a quick list of some amazing restaurants here in Austin that would be perfect for Valentine's Day with romance and ambiance.

Steiner Ranch-\$\$\$\$-Steiner Ranch is beautiful. it's a little pricey but oh so worth it! The restaurant sits on a hill with windows overlooking the perfect views. They were voted the best steakhouse in Austin by the Austin Chronicle. They are located at 5424 Steiner Ranch Blvd Austin, TX 78732. They can be reached at (512)-381-0800. Their hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 4 PM to 10 PM. Friday and Saturday 4 PM to 11 PM. They have a Valentine's Day special it is a four-course couple's meal with live entertainment. They also have rose bouquet packages that start at \$75. Although they can accommodate families and groups the ambiance is amazing for a one on one romantic Valentine's Day treat may I suggest the lobster mac & cheese it's to die for.

The Melting Pot-\$\$\$-The Melting Pot offers a new type of dining experience they are located at 13343 Research Blvd., #350, Austin, TX 78750. They can be reached at 512-401-2424. They offer heated pots of broth, cheese, and chocolate for dipping. For Valentine's Day, they are running a "heart will melt Valentines weekend." Friday, February 10 -Tuesday the 14th you get a special Valentines menu. Please note the regular menu will not be available, during those dates. \$150 per couple for four-course meal February 10 -the 13th. On the 14th it's \$160 per couple for a five-course meal. You can add onto your dinner package, a seat in lovers Lane, champagne and six roses.

Z'Tejas Mexican Restaurant and Grill-\$\$\$- why I travel far out if you don't have to. We have a great restaurant right here in our own backyard. They are located at 10525 W. Palmer Ln., Austin, TX 78717. They can be reached at (512)-388-7772. Their dining hours are Monday -Thursday 11 AM to 10 PM. Friday and Saturday 11 AM to 11 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 10 PM. Happy hour is Monday - Friday 3 pm to 7 PM. Also, Saturday and Sunday 3 PM to 5 PM. They also have brunch Saturday 11 AM to 3 PM and Sunday 10 AM to 3 PM. They focus on Good Tex-mex food, and delicious cocktails

all in a cozy, atmosphere. While now they don't have special plans for Valentine's Day you can enjoy your meal outdoors on the patio where you're able to view the fire pits.

The League Kitchen and Tavern-\$\$- Let me just say I love this restaurant! intimate seating but not too small it's perfect for any dining experience. They are located right here in our own backyard as well at 10526 W. Palmer Ln., Austin, TX 78717. They can be reached at (512)-366-5627. Their hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 11 AM- 10 PM Friday 11 AM -11 PM Saturday 10:30 AM -11 PM Sunday 10:30 AM -10 PM. My sources tell me that if you call about a week before Valentine's Day they may have a special in place.

now what if you're reading this saying that's all great but I don't have a babysitter for Valentine's Day well guess what I'm in the same boat. So, here's a list for us love birds who will be at least a party of +3 for Valentine's Day.

Estancia Churrascaria-\$\$\$- I must be honest, I am hooked on this place. Estancia is the best version of all you can eat. it's a Brazilian steakhouse that specializes in traditional meat. They are located at 10000 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759. They can be reached at (512)-345-5600. Their dining hours are Monday -Thursday 11 AM to 2 PM and then they close and re-open at 5 PM. They stay open from 5PM-10 PM. Friday they open at 11 AM-2 PM. Then they close and reopen at 5 PM-10:30 PM. On Saturday, they open at 11:30 AM - 10:30 PM. On Sunday, they open at 11:30 AM - 9 PM. Not only do they have a large salad bar and amazing Brazilian drinks but your kids if they're under six eat for free. that's right all you can eat for your children, six and under free. If your children are between the ages of 7-12 then their meal is half price. Children also get free ice cream. Just an FYI this amazing deal about your children eating free or for half price is not just for Valentine's Day it's every single day! The preparation and presentation of the main course of the different meats are phenomenal. You definitely want to make this somewhere you visit. Come with an empty belly and leave with a full heart.

(Continued on Page 7)



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, Everyone!

My name is Sharonna Banks and I am pleased to be the new contributing editor for the Avery Ranch Report. I am so excited to help be a part of a great experience bringing informative news about our neighborhood to the great people who live here. My family and I moved to Austin from Washington State in 2015. We fell in love with Avery Ranch quickly and we are proud to say that we have found our forever home here in Austin. From the great local shops to the friendly smiling faces. Everything about Avery Ranch says welcome home. We love that our son will be able to grow up in a community that is so family focused. I was so happy to see that we have a community paper that highlights the neighborhood and the residents. I look forward to it each month, and it has really helped me get better acquainted with the area.

So, I know you're wondering just who is she? Well, let me answer that for you.

I like to think of myself as a Texas transplant. I was born and raised in San Francisco Ca, and stayed there until I attended college in Nashville, Tennessee where I met the love of my life. He was tall, handsome and charming. With a heart to honor and serve. After

graduating college, he enlisted in the United States Army. We got married and the rest is history. Currently, I am a Freelance Writer and Social Media Manager. I write content for companies, small businesses and manage my own parenting blog focused on the hilarious ups and sometimes downs of being a parent. You can check it out at www.crieshighfivesandlittlewhitelies.com

Writing is my passion. I love that I get to write and share it with people every day. You can contact me at averyranch@peelinc.com If you have any questions, stories or submissions. I am ecstatic about being a part of the team and working with all of you to showcase our wonderful community. We have moved all around this great country of ours from, Tennessee, to Oklahoma, Then Washington State. We have never fallen in love with a city the way we have with Austin. Texas was a perfect choice for us, and we are so happy to be here. We are excited about exploring and learning all we can about Texas and Austin. I look forward to reading all of your submissions and getting to know you all better. While sharing, and learning more about our little slice of heaven right here in Avery Ranch.

Talk to you Soon
Sharonna Banks



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RANCH REPORT

Giving A Little Love

Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to reflect on the love in our lives. Be it from your spouse, significant other, children or friends. It's also a time to remember that there are people who aren't with their loved ones this time of year. For many of our elderly, this can also be a hard time. In my past life, I worked as an Activity Director at a Skilled Nursing Facility. I loved being able to provide Activities of leisure for the residents to enrich their lives. Now I love that I can still give something back.

Sometimes it's the little things that matter so much. Time spent holding a hand, playing a game, or just dropping off some supplies. So, I encourage you to see what you can do to brighten someone's Valentine's Day. My family and I will be donating handmade Valentine's Day cards to a local nursing home in our area. There are more than 50+ Nursing Homes and Assisted Living facilities here in Austin alone. So many Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities only received gifts during the Christmas holiday season. They still must provide parties and themed events for the residents all year-round. Most often the Activity Department has the smallest budget to spend on all these monthly events. I encourage you to give one a call.(ask for the Activity Director) See how many residents they have and if you're able to provide a little Valentine's Day cheer.

Hey, Moms and Dads, It's Craft Time!

Here is a cute, quick, Valentine's pop out card craft. You can do this with your kids in less than 30 mins.

what you will need craft paper, scissors, pencil, washi tape
(this is optional) letter stickers (also optional)

- 1) First, you want to fold a 4 x 5 piece of paper in half. (vertically)
- 2) Trace a half of a heart onto the folded paper. In the center of the lines that make the heart. make the trace lines dash marks.
- 3) This is where you won't cut. (don't cut the dashes)
- 4) Cut only the pencil lines (that do not dash) leaving the center half of the heart attached.
- 5) Fold the cut section back and forth to make a crease.
- 6) Pop the heart shape back through the center of the card making it pop out while it's still attached to the paper.
- 7) Put glue on a larger sheet of paper and glue down your heart pop out paper to that second(larger) sheet.
- 8) Add your card decorations (washi tape and some stickers).

Now Valentine's Day pop out card craft is done. Ready to be sent to your valentine.

I found this neat craft idea at www.makeandtake.com. You can visit there or creativechild.com and search Marie Lebanon. This will give you step by step pictures and instructions.

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(Continued from Page 3)

The Cheesecake Factory--\$- The Cheesecake Factory is a great choice for amazing food and a kid-friendly environment. They are located at 10000 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759, in the Arboretum Mall. They can be reached at (512)-241-0777. Their hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 11 AM-11 PM. Friday and Saturday 11 AM-12:30 AM. Sunday 10 AM-11 PM. Brunch is served from 10 to 2 on Sundays. They do not have a special menu for Valentine's Day but patio seating is available. If it's a nice night sit outside and enjoy.

The Longhorn--\$- Nothing beats a good steak, well maybe lobster. The Longhorn normally has a special around Valentine's Day for \$9.99 lobster tails. They have a great kid's menu and good cocktails. The Longhorn is located at 1469 E. Whitestone Blvd., Cedar Park TX 78613, near the 1890 Ranch Shopping Center. They can be reached at (512)-260-1681. Their dining hours are Sunday-Thursday 11 AM -10 PM and Friday-Saturday 11 AM- 11 PM. They also have a great promotion right now if you sign up on their website to the E-Club then you get an email with a free appetizer, With the purchase of an adult entrée.

So, that's just a few restaurants where you can enjoy your Valentine's Day with a one on one date or with the ones you love bon appétit!

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Real Estate Update

MLS stats taken from ABOR on 1-7-17



Market Details

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Pending Listings - 5
Recently Sold - 6
Avg. Days on Market - 31
Avg. LP vs. SP - 98%

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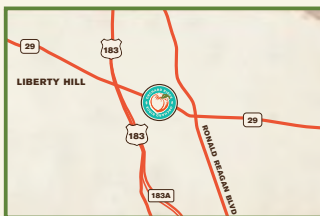


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The Full Picture

- Orchard Park Activity Center will feature a resort-style pool with splash pad and a state-of-the-art fitness center
- Community garden planter boxes available for resident gardening
- Orchards with fruit and nut trees throughout
- Expansive sports field
- Picnic areas
- Harvest Park and Creek Park located within the community
- Clubhouse with community room and covered outdoor gathering areas
- Social programming available



Location

Orchard Ridge is located just 20 minutes away from Austin and east of Liberty Hill on the south side of Texas Highway 29.

By The Numbers

- 248 acres
- 742 new single-family homes with lot widths ranging from 40'-70'
- 2,465 square foot activity center complex
- 2 miles of hiking, walking and biking trails

Timeline

- Grand Opening Event (Phase 1) in February 2017
- Orchard Park Activity Center opening anticipated Summer 2017



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