

Canyon Creek CHRONICLE

FEBRUARY 2017

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 2

VHS Band and Vision Dance Company Mulch Sales

It's time for the 6th Annual Mulch Fundraiser!! We are taking orders for mulch as a fundraiser. The funds raised will go to needed items for the VHS Band and Vision Dance Company: travel, maintenance of the 53' trailer, costumes, uniform repair and cleaning, show design, music arrangement, drill preparation & props expenses.

The mulch is a quality product from a Local Texas company. We are offering two of the most popular kinds of mulch. All mulch comes in 2 cubic feet bags.

BLACK VELVET MULCH

- 100% Organic
- Used in flowerbeds and walkways
- Composted using natural process producing a rich black color result
- Recommended for tilling into soil

HARDWOOD BARK MULCH

- 100% Organic
- Used in flowerbeds
- Ideal for windy or water erosion areas (heavy mulch)
- Not recommended for tilling into soil

Pricing

5-26 bags: \$4.90/bag online – \$4.75/bag cash/check

27-51 bags: \$4.65/bag online – \$4.50/bag cash/check

52 bags/pallet: \$240/pallet online – \$230/Pallet cash/check

- All prices include sales tax
- We accept cash and checks – Prices listed here are discounted for cash/check
- Credit cards accepted with online orders at vhsband.com
- Pallet Orders are sizes of 52, 104, 156, 208, 260, 312...
- The minimum order is 5 bags

Deadline to order is March 4, 2017!

Includes FREE DELIVERY to zip codes: 78726, 78730, 78732, parts of 78641 & 78750. Unfortunately, we cannot deliver outside of these Zip Codes.

Delivery date is Friday, 31 March and Saturday 1 April, 2017.

- You do NOT need to be home for delivery.
- You can specify where to stack the mulch in one location in front of the house.

If you have any questions, please contact mulch@vhsband.com. Thank you for your support of the Vandegrift Band and Vision Dance Company program. Please tell your friends about our fundraiser!

Viper Mulch Drive is here!

CREDIT CARD ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS:

To order using a credit card, go to our website at: www.vhsband.com/fundraising/mulch or scan the QR code below to be directed to our online ordering page.

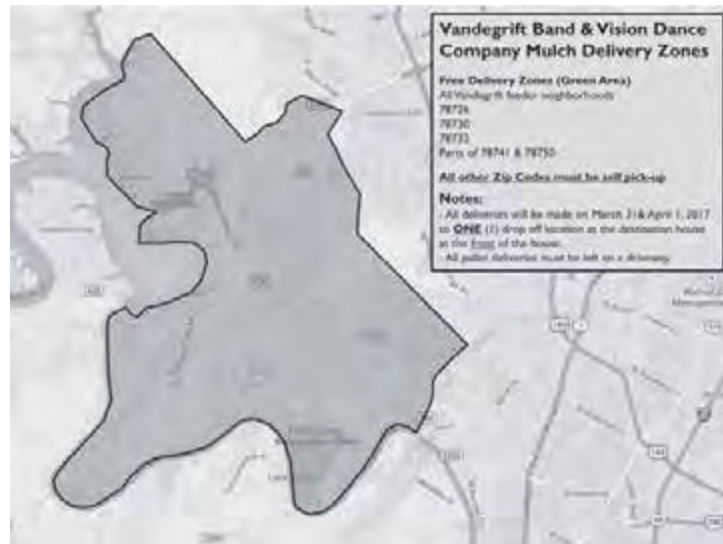
DEADLINE TO ORDER: March 4, 2017

Mulch Delivery Date: March 3 I & April I, 2017



Please enter the student name above in the comments section of the PayPal form. Thank you for supporting the State Champion Vandegrift Band & Vision Dance Company!

Please contact the Mulch Sales Team at mulch@VHSBand.com if you have any questions!



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-5556
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	

SCHOOLS

Canyon Creek Elementary.....	512-428-2800
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Westwood High School	512-464-4000

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Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service.....	1-800-700-2443
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Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
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New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080

OTHER NUMBERS

Balcones Postal Office	512-331-9802
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View the current issue of *The Canyon Chronicle* on the 1st day of each month at www.peelinc.com

Bring the World to Your Child By Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

By Vicki Odom

If you've read the newspaper lately, you know that the world can be a scary place: wars, economic crisis, revolutions, climate change, border disputes, refugees, and protests. So, how do we teach our children about the world, and the variety of people in it, when most of the examples we read about in the press are so negative?

One life changing way to broaden your child's world view is to volunteer to host a high school foreign exchange student. Foreign exchange programs have been around for almost 100 years, and their mission has always been the same – to educate people about different cultures through person-to-person exchange. What better message to pass on to your children?

There are quite a few misconceptions about foreign exchange programs – especially around who can host. The biggest misconception is that you must have high school aged children when you host a high school exchange student. Nothing could be further from the truth.

“We welcome host families of all shapes and sizes – families with young children, families with no children, empty nesters whose children have left home, single parents and non-traditional families,” says Connie Coutu, Regional Manager for Ayusa, a non-profit promoting global learning and leadership through foreign exchange and study abroad opportunities for high school students. “The key requirements for a host family are to provide a safe and nurturing home environment, genuinely love children, and have a desire to learn more about a different culture.”

Families with young children find that hosting an exchange student provides their children with an especially unique educational experience in the form of an international big brother or sister. Without even realizing it, children learn about different types of people and different cultural traditions.

“My daughter Kelsie feels as if Isabelle, our exchange student from Germany, is an older sister to her,” said Melissa Hughes, an Ayusa host mom from Ashville, North Carolina. “They have confided in each other, have had movie nights together, and have gone to the mall together - much like natural sisters would do. Kelsie will never forget Isabelle and they have already planned future get-togethers when they are older.”

Volunteer host families provide foreign exchange students a nurturing environment, three meals a day and a bedroom (either private or shared with a host sibling of the same gender). Each host family and student is supported by a professionally trained community representative who works with the family and student for the entire program. All interested host families must pass a criminal background check and a home visit by an exchange organization.

“In Tunisia, we always hear about Americans and American life style, in movies, media, songs, everything, and I know it is different, and I wanted to figure out this difference myself,” said Asma, a bubbly high school student from Tunisia who spent a school year living with the O'Donnell family in Anchorage, Alaska.

(Continued on Page 3)

(Continued from Page 2)

Foreign exchange students come from all over the world. Ayusa matches host families with students from more than 60 different countries including Argentina, China, Ecuador, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, Lebanon, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia and Turkey. All high school foreign exchange students are fully insured, bring their own spending money, and are proficient in English – and all high school exchange programs are regulated by the U.S. Department of State.

Interested host families are required to fill out an application, pass a background check and interview with a local exchange program representative in their homes. Once accepted to a program, host families can view profiles of students to find the right match for their family.

“Hosting an exchange student is a life-changing experience – for the student, the host family, and the host community,” says Coutu. “There is no better way to teach your children about the world around them than through welcoming an international high school student into your home.”

Ayusa is currently accepting applications for families to host an exchange student for the 2017-2018 school year. For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at www.ayusa.org.

NATURE WATCH

THE PRESERVES AROUND US

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the main reasons Austin is such a wonderful place to live is because it is interlaced with a patchwork of preserves, which together comprise the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) System. In 1992, voters in the City of Austin passed Proposition 10, approving \$22M in bonds for the sole purpose of acquiring and improving lands to protect air and water quality, conserve endangered species, and provide open space for passive public use. Jointly owned and managed by the City of Austin, Travis County, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Nature Conservancy, the Travis Audubon Society, and private landowners, the BCP’s ultimate goal is to set aside 30,428 acres that contribute to the quality of all life here in Austin.

A multi-agency conservation effort that operates under a regional permit issued under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the BCP consists of several tracts of land in western Travis County. It is important to note that a ‘preserve’ is different than a ‘park’, and is set aside for the purpose of maintaining a natural state rather than developed for recreational use. The BCP protects prime habitat for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler, a bird species that is found only to breed within Central Texas’ specialized mix of native, mature Ashe Juniper (often incorrectly called ‘cedar’) and stands of Live, Spanish, and Shin oak trees. This type of mixed oak-juniper woodland grows mainly on our moist steep-sided canyons and slopes, providing the warbler with the food, water, and nest-building material it needs to breed.

In addition to the Golden-cheeked Warbler, 7 other endangered species make the preserve system their home, including the Black-capped Vireo, Tooth Cave Ground Beetle, Tooth Cave Pseudoscorpion, Tooth Cave Spider, Kretschmarr Cave Mold Beetle, Bone Cave Harvestman, and Bee Creek Cave Harvestman. These last 6 species are called karst invertebrates, arthropods that spend their entire existence underground in karst formations. These karst features, such as caves, sinkholes, cracks, and crevices, were formed by the dissolution of calcium carbonate in limestone bedrock by mildly acidic groundwater. Over 70 other rare plant and animal species also exist on the preserves, making this region one of the most biologically diverse areas in the country. As such, Central Texas is happily home to more habitat conservation plans than any other region in the United States.

These wild and beautiful areas require management plans in order for them to remain pristine habitats. This includes establishment of secure boundaries and rules for access control, maintenance of appropriate trails, species monitoring, habitat enhancement, and – last but not least – public education and outreach to promote good neighbor relations. As Austin residents, we can do our part to become stewards of these unique habitats. While in the preserve

(Continued on Page 4)

As a member of the Canyon Creek HOA, you and your family are eligible for membership.



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CANYON CHRONICLE

(Continued from Page 3)

system, we can stay on marked trails, travel only on foot, and “take only photographs, leave only footprints.” In our neighborhoods, especially those that border preserve tracts, we can landscape with native plants, remove invasive plants, eliminate pesticide use, be responsible pet owners, practice water conservation, and always respect preserve boundaries.

Most importantly, we can all minimize further negative impacts on the fragile habitat that surrounds our neighborhoods by caring for the preserves through volunteering. Some of the activities you can become involved with in the preserve system include long-term habitat restoration, gathering and planting native seeds, removing non-native invasive plants, leading guided hikes, and learning about and sharing your knowledge of the native plants and animals that make this such a special place to live. For more information, visit the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/bcp>.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our two books, Nature Watch Austin & Nature Watch Big Bend, both published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



The endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler.



The endangered Black-capped Vireo.



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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE EXTENSION

Common Structural Termites

There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites.

Native subterranean termites have nests in the soil and must maintain contact with soil or an above-ground moisture source to survive. If native subterranean termites move to areas above ground they make shelter (mud) tubes of fecal material, saliva and soil to protect themselves.



Native subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.



Formosan subterranean termite workers and soldiers. Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants (and can be found living and feeding on trees), consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil.

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants (and can be found living and feeding on trees), consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native

subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

Drywood termites do not need contact with soil and reside in sound, dry wood. These termites obtain moisture from the wood they digest. Drywood termites create a dry fecal pellet that can be used as an identifying characteristic. They have smaller colonies-around 1,000 termites- than subterranean termites; they also do not build shelter tubes.



Drywood termite fecal pellets.

If you are concerned that you may have termites, call a pest management professional to inspect your home for termites.

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

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Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Canyon Creek residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail advertising@peelinc.com

LAS CUATRO ESTACIONES: A STORY OF HUMAN TREES

Directed and choreographed by Sharon Marroquí

Las Cuatro Estaciones: A Story of Human Trees is a contemporary dance work premiering March 24-26, 2017 at the Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River St, Austin, TX 78701.

Part of the Mexican American Cultural Center's Latino Arts Residency Project, these performances are a collaboration between award-winning choreographer Sharon Marroquí and international video artist Ana Baer. Inspired by uncertainty, mortality, and nature, this work explores transformation and our attempts to surrender gracefully to inevitable change. The cast features 8 dancers and several children.

Marroquí says, "A life-altering cancer diagnosis six years ago changed me as an artist. My work is now focused on ideas of impermanence and transition. Las Cuatro Estaciones is about the cycles in nature, and the beginnings and endings in our lives."

For Calendar Listing

Who: Sharon Marroquí, director and choreographer

What: Las Cuatro Estaciones: A Story of Human Trees

When: March 24 at 8:00pm; March 25 at 2:00pm and 8:00pm; and March 26 at 2:00pm

Where: Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
600 River St. Austin, TX 78701

Tickets: \$15 at the door or at: <http://sharonmarroquin.wixsite.com/dance>

Contact: 512.740.9130

About Sharon Marroquí: Born in Mexico City, Sharon Marroquí has been listed numerous times as one of the top ten dance events of the year by the Austin Chronicle, and is a three-time winner of the Austin Critics Table Award for Outstanding Choreographer. To learn more visit <http://sharonmarroquin.wixsite.com/dance>

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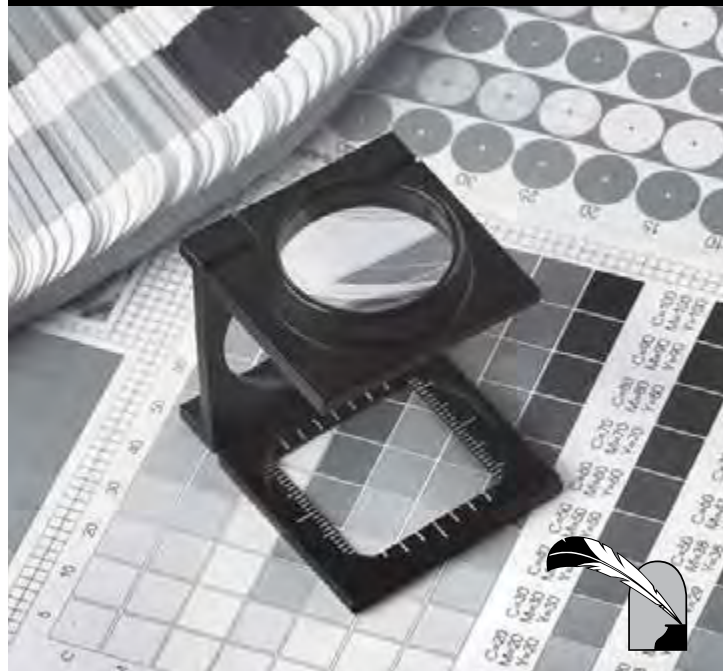
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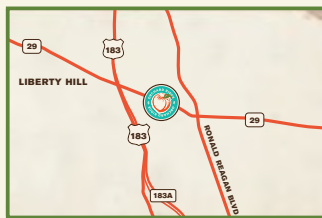
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Model Home Now Open!

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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LiveOrchardRidge.com