



ROCKY CREEK CONNECTION

*A Newsletter
for the Residents of
Rocky Creek*

The Rocky Creek Connection is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Rocky Creek residents. Each newsletter will be filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information, and more.

You can contribute! If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports team, social group, etc., and would like to submit an article for the newsletter, you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com. Personal news (announcements, accolades/honors/celebrations, etc.) are also welcome as long as they are from area residents.

GO GREEN! Subscribe via Peelinc.com to have an email sent to you with a link to a PDF of the newsletter, or have an email sent to you instead of having a newsletter mailed to you!

INTRODUCING SAM MORROW TO THE HOA BOARD

I wanted to introduce myself as the first elected resident board member to the Rocky Creek HOA.

For those I have not met, I wanted to give a brief background of myself. I have lived in RC for almost two years with my wife Angela and two daughters currently attending Rocky Creek Elementary and Lake Travis Middle schools.

My background has been in sales and leadership roles for 30 years which has given me a lot of experience in dealing with challenges and finding acceptable solutions.

I am proud to represent the residents of Rocky Creek to the board and want to ensure that the neighborhood we chose to live in will remain a great place to raise our families, retire, or whatever brought you here. My goal is to keep RC as one of the best neighborhoods around and a place we are all excited to call "home".

Thanks for your vote of confidence in me and I look forward to the task.

-Sam



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

| | |
|--|--------------|
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| Fire..... | 911 |
| Ambulance..... | 911 |
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| Sheriff – Non-Emergency..... | 512-974-0845 |
| Travis County ESD No.6/Lake Travis Fire Rescue | |
| Administration Office..... | 512-266-2533 |
| Travis County Animal Control..... | 512-972-6060 |

SCHOOLS

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
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| Lake Travis High School..... | 512-533-6100 |
| Lake Travis Middle School..... | 512-533-6200 |
| Bee Cave Elementary..... | 512-533-6250 |

UTILITIES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
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| Pedernales Electric..... | 512-219-2602 |
| Alliant Gas (Propane)..... | 866-764-0283 |
| AT&T | |
| New Service..... | 1-800-464-7928 |
| Repair..... | 1-800-246-8464 |
| Billing..... | 1-800-858-7928 |
| IESI (Garbage & Recycling)..... | 512-282-3508 |
| Travis County Hazardous Waste..... | 512-974-4343 |

OTHER NUMBERS

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Bee Cave City Hall..... | 512-767-6600 |
| Bee Cave Library..... | 512-767-6620 |
| Municipal Court | 512-767-6630 |
| Lake Travis Postal Office..... | 512-263-2458 |
| City of Bee Cave | www.beecavetexas.com |

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

| | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Peel, Inc. | 512-263-9181 |
| Editor..... | rockycreek@peelinc.com |
| Advertising..... | advertising@peelinc.com |

HOA MANAGEMENT

| | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| FirstService Residential..... | 512-266-6771 |
| Christy Gross | christy.gross@fsresidential.com |

ARTICLE INFO

The Rocky Creek Connection is mailed monthly to all Rocky Creek residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit 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.

If you have an article of interest to the community please submit to rockycreek@peelinc.com by the 15th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.PEELinc.com.

Bee Cave Police Benevolent Foundation



The Bee Cave Police Benevolent Foundation is holding it's annual fundraising gala at the Sonesta Hotel on the evening of Saturday, February 25th. The Foundation supports the Bee Cave Police Department with unexpected losses as well as promoting public safety for the community. More

information including ticket purchases and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Teresa Campbell at 512-925-9139; teresa@bcpbf.org

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School Board Approves 2017-2018 Instructional Calendar

Dear Lake Travis ISD Parents and Guardians,

Our school board approved the 2017-2018 instructional calendar at its regular meeting Tuesday night, January 17th. The calendar was developed in coordination with the District's Advisory Committee on Education (ACE), the District of Innovation (DOI) committee, and input from district and campus staff. The development of our instructional calendar is a critical task that affects our students, staff and community. It is important to applaud these committees and staff for their hard work and commitment.

Please note, the school board approved two (2) versions of the 2017-2018 instructional calendar, one with Expedited Waivers and one without. Expedited Waivers are available through the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and allow districts to incorporate additional days for Professional Development and Early Release. Should TEA rescind its waiver policy—or should any changes be made by the state legislature, the district will use the Optional version of the calendar with fewer Professional Development days and changes in Early Release days.

During Tuesday night's school board meeting, a revision pertaining

to Professional Development days in December 2017 and January 2018 was made to the calendar posted in BoardBook. Therefore, please disregard the calendar contained in the January 17, 2017 BoardBook.

According to both versions of the new calendar, the first day of instruction will be Wednesday, August 16, 2017 and the last day of instruction will be Friday, May 25, 2018. Ending the year in May allows more time for planning for summer school and college enrollment for the summer sessions. Additionally, grading periods and semesters are more equally distributed with professional development occurring at the beginning, middle, and end of the year.

Finally, we have added 'LT Family Night' as a district event to be observed Wednesday, October 11. 'LT Family Night' was proposed by the Hudson Bend Middle School student council to the district's ACE committee last year. The intent of this designation is to spotlight the importance of family time for our students, parents and staff. As a result, the district has made a commitment that there will be no homework on 'LT Family Night.'

The school board-approved 2017-2018 instructional calendar and

(Continued on Page 5)



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Optional calendar have been posted on each school website (under 'About Us' and 'QuickFind').

Through the work of our committees and input to principals from campus staff, we are confident the 2017-2018 calendar provides the framework for us to best meet the instructional requirements for our students as well as the professional development needs of our teachers and staff. We appreciate your patience through the calendar development and adoption process.

Sincerely,

Brad Lancaster, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools



Lake Travis High School PTO February Speaker

Lake Travis High School PTO is honored to announce our February 13th, 2017 PTO General Meeting Speaker as Dr. Jan Ford Mustin from Peak Performance Institute. Dr. Mustin is a well known local author, speaker, and psychologist. Dr. Mustin will share insightful strategies to help you and your child identify any roadblocks and help you get your student back on track and stay there.

Mark your calendar for Monday, February 13th at 9:15 a.m. Join us in the Black Box Theatre at the Performing Art Center for an eventful morning. Dr. Jan Mustin will speak on the topic of "Removing the Roadblocks to Academic Success." You can even purchase her book or CD titled "Removing the Roadblocks."

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Prevent Oak Wilt - Stop Pruning Oaks on Feb 1



Oak wilt has claimed the lives of thousands of trees in Central Texas and beyond. Majestic oaks play a large role in this region's beauty and identity; it would be hard to imagine the Hill Country without

them. They are an iconic part of many local businesses and neighborhoods, providing shade, beauty, and higher property values. Following simple preventive measures can go a long way towards stopping the spread of this destructive disease.

From February through June, avoid all pruning or cutting of oaks – this is the high season for oak wilt transmission. Any wounds that occur from construction, vehicles, wind, etc., should be painted as soon as they're discovered – ideally within ½ hour of being cut – with commercial tree wound dressing or latex paint. That includes freshly

cut stumps and surface roots.

Pruning is least risky during the coldest winter days and extended hot periods in mid to late summer. Any time you prune though, the Texas Forest Service recommends painting all wounds and sanitizing pruning equipment between trees using denatured methyl alcohol (shellac thinner), isopropyl alcohol, or a general purpose household disinfectant such as Lysol, Listerine or Pine-Sol. Household bleach is not recommended.

Red oaks, including Spanish (now Buckley) oak, Shumard oak and blackjack oak, are very susceptible to oak wilt and play a key role in the disease's transmission. Oak wilt is caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which spreads its spores from "fungal mats" that form under the tree's bark. These mats have a sweet, fruity smell that attracts insects, especially the sap-sucking nitidulid beetle. After feeding and breeding on the fungal mats, these beetles fly away covered in fungal spores. As they visit other oaks, they spread the fungus through open wounds in the bark. The nitidulid beetle is only about the size of a pinhead, but is capable of flying as far as a mile away. While red oaks are the most susceptible to oak wilt, all oaks can become infected.

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Fungal mats usually form on standing trees, but can also develop on logs, stumps and fresh firewood cut from infected oaks. Make sure to remove and either burn or bury infected oaks to prevent mats from forming, and never store unseasoned wood from infected trees near healthy oaks.

The second way oak wilt can be transmitted is through the roots. Live oaks tend to grow together in dense mottes with interconnected roots, so the fungus can be transmitted easily among them. Oak wilt is occasionally transmitted through red oak roots as well, but the movement is slower and occurs over shorter distances than with live oaks. Root transmission can be prevented by cutting trenches four feet deep between infected and healthy trees, but by far the best option is to prevent infection in the first place.

So make sure NOT to prune oaks between February 1 and July 1, and ALWAYS paint wounds on oaks no matter what time of year it is. For more information on preventing and treating oak wilt, please visit texasoakwilt.org, the website of The Oak Wilt Information Partnership, a project of the Texas A&M Forest Service, the Forest Health Protection branch of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center in Austin.



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LTlov's Grants Funding Program provides financial support to other non-profit organizations aligned with our mission statement to support neighbors helping neighbors to overcome limiting circumstances. The money used to grant funds is collected from a diverse list of individuals, corporations, and foundations who believe in the mission of LTlov and trust our organizational efficiency and knowledge of local needs to be good stewards of their donations. In 2016, we funded 12 organizations with a total of \$37,994 dollars through our Annual Grants Funding program. If you're a non-profit and align with our mission, we invite you to fill out an application and submit it to grants@ltlov.org for review and further instructions. The deadline for applications for 2017 Annual Grants is Tuesday, March 21, 2017. Applications are available at www.ltlov.org. Pictured, local students received scholarships to attend the Austin School for the Performing & Visual Arts' World Drumming Camp week. Austin School for the Performing & Visual Arts is a four-time LTlov Annual Grant recipient.



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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.

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.





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