

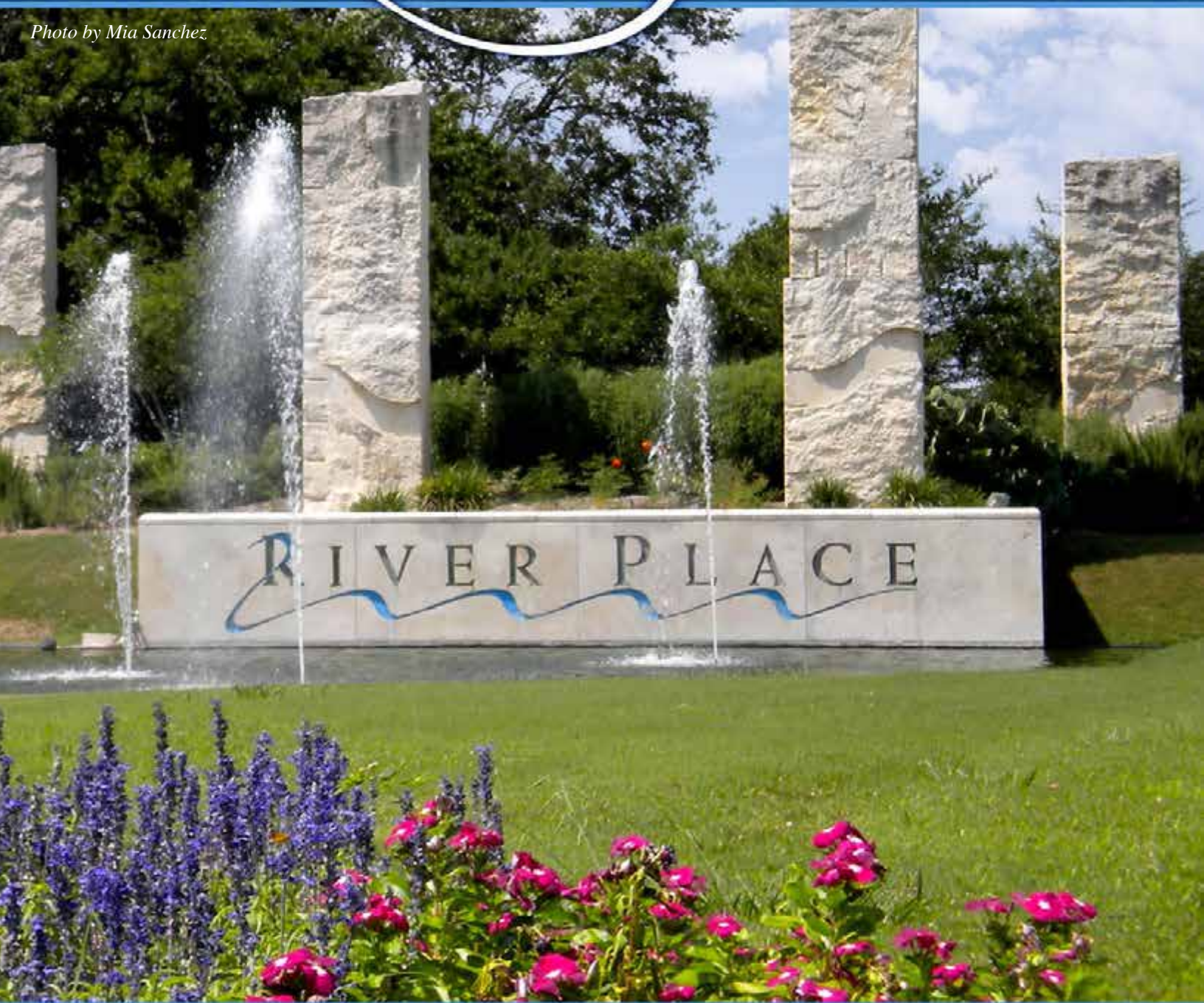
# THE RIVER REVIEW



March 2017

Volume 11, Issue 3

*Photo by Mia Sanchez*



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF RIVER PLACE



March 2017



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# Let's Meet the *Kunkle Family*

Please join us in saying hello to Julie and Kurt Kunkle and their one year old son Rees. Julie works as an Associate Publisher for Austin Monthly, the area's definitive city and regional magazine. Kurt is employed as an Energy Auditor. Rees enjoys the care of his nanny while Julie and Kurt are at work. There is also a large, very friendly Chocolate Lab named Maple in the family. Maple is well-behaved and seems to like everyone.

Having only lived in River Place for two months now, the Kunkles are still adapting to the area but seem to be happy with their decision to move here from Southeast Austin. They live on China Garden Drive and chose River place for the schools and quietness of the neighborhood. They like the vistas, hiking trails, parks and their great neighbors.

Activities they enjoy include hiking, biking and running although, it must be said, much of their attention right now centers on Rees, their adorable one year old.

While Kurt is from Colorado, Julie is a local Austinite. Let's wish them all the best and hope they enjoy a lengthy stay here in River Place!



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Information .....	512-266-2533

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IESI (Trash).....	512-282-3508

### OTHER NUMBERS

River Place Postal Office .....	512-345-9739
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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](mailto: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 [riverreview@peelinc.com](mailto:riverreview@peelinc.com). The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

## Heads Up...From the City

### Scam Alert: Phone Calls Demanding Money or Power Shut Off

*Austin Energy, From City of Austin*

Several Austin residents have reported receiving phone calls from someone claiming to be from Austin Energy, demanding payment of their utility bill within a half-hour, or power will be shut off. If the resident fell for the scam, the scammers presumably would ask for credit card, gift card or bank account information to complete the payment.

Austin Energy, the City's electric utility, was alerted to the scam callers by the Austin Police Department.

Austin Energy—which manages City of Austin utility billing for water, electricity and other services—does not phone customers with cut-off deadlines, and does not ask for credit card or wire transfer information over the phone.

Austin Energy accepts walk-in payments ONLY at the city's two walk-in service centers or the following authorized locations: the customer service counters of most Austin H-E-B stores, ACE Cash Express, Money Box, Fiesta Mart and Randall's.

Staff at authorized locations will ask to see the customer's utility bill statement before accepting payment.

If an Austin Energy customer receives a phone call threatening to interrupt service, demand immediate payment, or request credit card or bank account information, hang up and dial 3-1-1 or 512-974-2000 and report the incident immediately.

In addition, anyone who has received such a call and is uncertain of his or her account status can call the City of Austin Utilities Customer Contact Center at 512-494-9400.

Customers also can call the Customer Contact Center to ask about the locations and hours of the City's two walk-in customer service centers.

Utility Service Center (east branch) Rosewood-Zaragosa Center  
2800 Webberville Road, Austin, Texas 78702

Utility Customer Service Center (north branch)  
8716 Research Blvd, Suite 115, Austin, Texas 78758  
(near Ohlen Road and Highway 183)

City of Austin utility customers who wish to make a utility bill payment by credit card can do so online at [www.coautilities](http://www.coautilities).

*(Continued on Page 6)*



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# RIVER REVIEW

(Continued from Page 4)

com or by calling 800-959-7063, which connects the customer to the City of Austin's automated utilities payment service (Bill Matrix) to make a payment via credit or debit card or electronic check. City of Austin customer service representatives may give customers this web address or phone number but will NOT ask for a customer's credit card number to accept payment.

## Walk & Bike Talks

*Communications and Public Information Office, From City of Austin*

Interested in the future of walking and biking in Austin? If so, get out your calendar!

The City of Austin's Transportation Department is launching Walk + Bike Talks, a series of community conversations where you can learn about and provide feedback on efforts to improve pedestrian safety and how the City should prioritize bicycle network projects.

The first meeting was to be held on Saturday, Feb. 25 at the South Austin Recreational Center (1100 Cumberland Drive) from 10 – 11:30 a.m. and Pleasant Hill Library Branch (211 E. William Cannon Drive) from 2 – 3:30 p.m.

Didn't make it? Don't worry – there are plenty of other opportunities all over the city to provide input. For more information, email [ActiveTransportation@AustinTexas.gov](mailto:ActiveTransportation@AustinTexas.gov) or call

512-974-7853. Be sure to also check out our social media pages: [Facebook.com/AustinBikePed](https://www.facebook.com/AustinBikePed) or [@AustinMobility](https://twitter.com/AustinMobility) on Twitter.

The full schedule is available at [austintexas.gov/activetransportation](http://austintexas.gov/activetransportation)

## 15th Annual It's My Park Day

*Communications Unit, Austin Parks, From City of Austin*

Austin Parks Foundation invites you to volunteer for their 15th Annual It's My Park Day on Saturday, March 4th. Show your parks, trails and green spaces some love with projects like clean-ups, trail maintenance, tree care and more! Volunteer registration is now open.

Details and registration available at [austinparks.org/IMPD](http://austinparks.org/IMPD).



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## Announcing: Practice ACT/SAT Tests for Juniors

By Krista Aguilar on Nextdoor, River Place

### Details

- Sat, Mar 25, 8:30 AM
  - 3908 Far West Blvd C, Austin, TX 78731
  - For high school juniors: Free practice ACT/SAT tests will be given all year long at the Northwest Hills College Tutors Learning Center! The exam mimics the setting and timing of the actual tests, and families will have a chance to meet with one of our experts to go over the scores in detail
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## HOME CARE: UPDATING, EFFICIENCY & SAFETY

### Four Ways to Increase Your Home's Value

From Karen Ollier's *HOMETOWN*, Irongate Inc., Realtors

Not all home improvements are created equal. The following are affordable modifications that will reward you the most when it comes time to sell:

Replacing your old front door with a new steel door is a project that kicks up curb appeal and yields the best payback.

Old, worn siding, along with generally poor curb appeal, can contribute to a loss of up to 10% of your home's value, according to appraisers. New siding or paint, on the other hand, practically screams, "My owner takes care of me."

The "2016 Remodeling Impact Report" says you can expect a return of 67% on the cost of a kitchen upgrade – and you'll get lasting satisfaction.

A new garage door provides a big boost at a relatively modest cost. That's especially good news if you're thinking about selling or even just want to improve your home's appearance and appeal!

There are certainly other appearance upgrades such as landscaping to improve curb appeal but the above four are tried and true and provide a financial return worthy of the investment.

(Continued on Page 9)



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(Continued from Page 8)

## HOME COLOR TRENDS: ROMANCE AND ATTENTION

Sophisticated hues are poised to take center stage according to Behr paints, who have just released their predictions for 2017 colors. The paint company suggested three palettes – Confident, Composed and Comfortable – having their inspiration from personality traits.

The “Confident” palette, defined by dusky blues, spicy reds and lime greens is designed to grab attention. The most interesting new palette, “Composed,” is about earthy greens and taupes. It suggests a new romanticism marked by medieval patterns, revived traditions and bittersweet beauty. The Dutch masters knew the secret: Dark hues set a dramatic stage for sensuous luster. This palette is rich with vine-ripe fruit colors, Nordic blues, moody neutrals and rich golds.

“Comfortable” is characterized by light or pastel pinks, blues and yellows that can make the smallest of spaces go “wow!” In short, the state of color has never been more vibrant. New spiritualities, cultural flux, feisty self-expression and soulful nostalgia are combining to say “East Hampton Summer House” colors will dominate 2017.

## NATURAL GAS & CARBON MONOXIDE EXPOSURE

*From Texas Gas Service*

While natural gas is an inexpensive and efficient way to heat your home here in Texas, it does pose a potential threat we should be aware of. To guard against carbon monoxide exposure we must make sure appliances are properly installed and that any fuel-burning heaters are properly adjusted. Here are some precautions/reminders:

- Install and maintain a carbon monoxide detector in accordance with instructions.
- Check and maintain proper ventilation of appliances and chimney flues.
- Clean or replace furnace filters regularly.
- Do not block air intake areas near appliances.
- Do not use gas space heaters or appliances to heat your home.
- Do not start your car, lawn mower, generator or any combustion engine in a closed garage.
- Do not operate a natural gas or propane grill in an enclosed area.
- Notice the color of the flame on a natural gas appliance. A yellow flame instead of a blue one is a warning sign that the appliance is not operating properly.
- Have a qualified contractor inspect your heating and cooling equipment annually.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is produced by improperly vented or malfunctioning appliances, auto exhaust and blocked chimney flues. It is colorless, odorless and tasteless. It can make you sick and may even be deadly. Symptoms include headache, dizziness, ringing in the ears, fatigue, increased perspiration, nausea, weakness and vomiting.

If you suspect a carbon monoxide presence, leave immediately and, from a distance, call 911. Normally of course, natural gas is safe and efficient but it certainly doesn't hurt to be aware of precautions. Stay safe.

## The Lakeway Players present *Moon Over Buffalo* by Ken Ludwig

Moon Over Buffalo is the story of an acting couple (David Cummings and Lauren Linn as George and Charlotte Hay) who are on tour in Buffalo, New York, in 1953 with a repertory consisting of *Cyrano de Bergerac* and Noël Coward's *Private Lives*. Directed by Linda Dobbs (*Ghost of a Chance*), this backstage farce by the author of *Lend Me a Tenor* (Ken Ludwig) brought Carol Burnett back to Broadway and also starred Philip Bosco as her megalomaniac, often drunk husband and leading man. Fate has given these thespians one more shot at starring roles in *The Scarlet Pimpernel* epic and director Frank Capra himself is en route to Buffalo to catch their matinee performance.

Moon Over Buffalo is one of those plays that shows the scenes behind the onstage scenes. There are really three plays intertwined with each other. And, being a farce, you have all the craziness that includes doors opening and closing, people hiding in closets, half-dressed actors, near misses in running into people who are hiding, mistaken identities and mass confusion. Timing is everything...and as the show goes on the timing gets better and better. The Player's spring show also stars returning favorites Alle Bird (Rosalind Hay), Annette Brown (Ethel), and Clarence Goins (as Richard). Lakeway new comers Hope Carew (Eileen), and Mike Magor (Paul) also grace our stage, while we're especially pleased to have Rhett O'Hara (as Howard) join us fresh off the same production and role in *Round Rock* at the Sam Bass Theater!

Tickets go on sale Tuesday 2/21, and show dates are Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, March 23rd, 24th and 25th. Call the Lakeway Activity Center at 512-261-1010 for tickets, and as usual, seating will be at tables of 10 to allow you to bring lots of friends, food and adult beverages to complete your special evening out. Tickets are \$20.00 each, which includes soft drinks and snacks. The doors open at 6:30, with the show starting at 7:30. See you at the show for a rollicking good time!



# RIVER REVIEW

## RUN HARD, BUILD WELLS, CHANGE LIVES.



Join us for the Pump Run on April 8th, 2017! Whether you prefer running to beat a personal best, or walking to take in the beautiful scenery of the Concordia campus, come out and support

Water to Thrive's mission to build wells and change lives.

There will be multiple events, including 5K, Virtual 5K, and Kids' 1K races. The fun starts at 8:00am on April 8th at Concordia University Texas. The kids will kick off the morning with their 1K, followed by the 5K shortly after. We'll have fun post-race activities at the finish line, like face-painting, balloon animals, music, and even a "walk for water" activity. Plus, you are welcome to bring your pups to run or walk alongside you, too (as long as they stay on a leash!).

Head to [thepumprun.org](http://thepumprun.org) for more information and to register. Registration for the 5K/Virtual 5K is \$30, and the Kids' 1K is \$15. And don't forget to check out our Facebook page for updates and to RSVP. Invite your friends and family, and come support the mission to change lives by providing clean, safe water to rural Africa.

## Nature Lovers, Join us at NatureFest!

NatureFest is a free celebration of nature and the environment on Friday, March 31st, starting at 9:00AM. This year's expanded event includes guided tours of the Balcones Canyonlands preserve behind the campus, geocaching, a photo booth, mini tour talks by area specialists, a silent auction, and more. In addition, kids of all ages are welcome on campus hikes. Children 10 and up may hike short loop trails with a parent, and children 12 and up may hike the long loop trail with a parent. Tour talk topics include native wildflowers, useful plants in our area, and the importance of green spaces.

NatureFest is hosted by the Texas Master Naturalist Balcones Canyonlands chapter <http://txmn.org/balcones/> at Concordia University TX.



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Clear and bell-like, consisting of a single, quickly repeated note, the call of the male Strecker's Chorus Frog (*Pseudacris streckeri*) is unmistakable. In the midst of winter, especially in the peak calling season from January to early March, multiple males call at the same time, their alternating notes resulting in an unexpectedly delightful winter chorus rising up from the canyons!

Reaching an adult length of 1 to 1.5 inches, this largest chorus frog is identified by a stout gray, brown, olive, or green body, a dark brown mask-like stripe through the eye and a dark spot under the eye, dark longitudinal stripes along the back, and a deep golden or orange color in the groin. Males are slightly smaller than females and have greenish-yellow vocal sacs. The genus *Pseudacris* comes from the Greek *pseudes* meaning 'false' and *akris* meaning 'locust', and is likely a reference to the repeated rasping calls of most chorus frogs, which are similar to and can be mistaken for those of an insect.

Although Strecker's Chorus Frog is mainly a nocturnal frog, its call can be heard day or night. Males call as they hang on to or sit on vegetation, or from the bank above the water's surface. Typically feeding on insects, this chorus frog is seen most often in moist woodlands, rocky ravines, near streams or in swamps. While its range includes portions of Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, the individuals in Texas are of the subspecies *P.s. streckeri*, and occur in most counties in the eastern half of our state.

Aside from its distinctive winter chorus, Strecker's Chorus Frog is also distinguished by its ability to use its forelimbs to burrow headfirst, unlike other amphibians that typically use their hind legs to back into a burrow. It burrows deeply in sand or mud and hides under rocks and woody debris to protect itself from heat and predators, emerging mainly after heavy rains. Following these rains, it migrates a short distance to a preferred breeding site.

Strecker's Chorus Frog is a cold-tolerant, winter breeding frog, breeding anytime between November and March when rains are adequate. While most frogs prefer to breed in flowing water, Strecker's Chorus Frog prefers still, clear, temporary water bodies such as ditches, ponds, and pools in wet weather creeks. Females attach their small, jelly-covered clusters of eggs to vegetation below the water's surface, and the time to hatch, while water temperature dependent, is usually just a few days. Tadpoles take around two months to transform into adult chorus frogs. In spring, at a time when most other frogs are just beginning to seek their breeding ponds, Strecker's Chorus Frogs terminate their breeding activities.

Named after John Kern Strecker, Jr (1875 – 1933), a Texas naturalist and Curator of the Baylor University Museum (renamed the Strecker Museum in 1940 in his honor), this chorus frog with its peculiar and unusual habits and haunting winter chorus might have been a perfect candidate for "Strecker's Cabinets of Curiosities"! If you'd like to see and hear the chorus for yourself, check out the video

at <https://texaswild.me/2014/03/31/streckers-chorus-frogs-calling/>

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 two , Nature Watch Austin & Nature Watch Big Bend, both published by Texas A&M University Press, and our blog at: [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com).



*Strecker's Chorus Frog*



*Strecker's Chorus Frog relative size.*





## Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.

DUE: March 31st

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Age: \_\_\_\_\_



RV

# RIVER REVIEW

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## MARCH MARKS NATIONAL NUTRITION MONTH

### **Five Key Nutrition Tips for a Health Lifestyle**

March is National Nutrition Month, and it marks the perfect time to assess the foods you eat and commit to a healthy lifestyle. It's never too late to make healthy eating a part of your everyday life and DyRel DiLorenzo, Hospitality Site Manager at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center – Lakeway, is ready to help get you started with these five key tips:

- **Highlight fruits, vegetables, and whole grains** - This category should be 45-60 percent of your daily calorie intake.
- **Fiber, fiber, fiber** - Fiber is important for our bodies during the digestion process, as it slows down how we process these foods.
- **Embrace lean proteins** - This includes poultry, fish, beans, egg whites, nuts, and other lean meats. 15-25 percent of our diet should come from proteins, according to the USDA.
- **Don't fear fats** - Although fats sound like something we should stay away from, it is essential to get between 20-30 percent of your daily calories from fats. Good fats include, olive oil, nuts, seeds, avocado and fatty fish.
- **Moderation is key** - Just because you are eating healthy doesn't mean you can't indulge on occasion. Just be wary of your sugar and calorie intake, read the ingredients, and decide "is this really worth it?"

Healthy eating is not about strict dietary limitations, staying unrealistically thin, or depriving yourself of the foods you love. Rather, it's about feeling great, having more energy, improving your health and stabilizing your mood.



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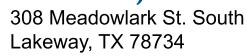
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