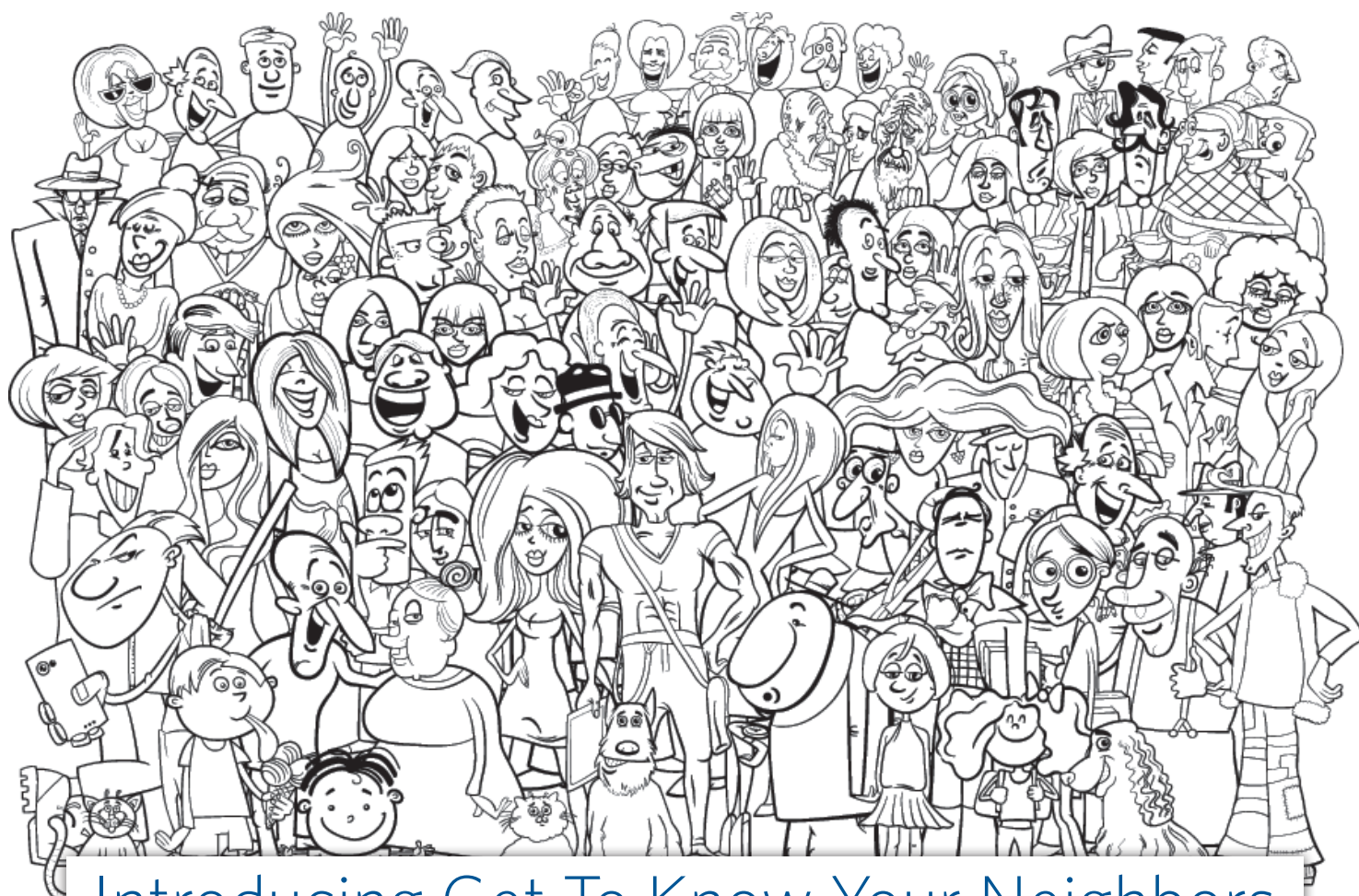


LONG CANYON *Gazette*

SEPTEMBER 2017

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE LONG CANYON

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 9



Introducing Get To Know Your Neighbors

We are all very fortunate to call Long Canyon home. But, Long Canyon is more than just a place to live; it is a vibrant community brimming with family-friendly neighborhoods, chock-full of fascinating, talented people. Our variety is what makes us so both unique and extraordinary. However, sometimes, we get so busy, we lose sight of how interesting and diverse we've become.

We believe that getting to know the people who live nearby will help

us create a sense of belonging and shared identity. We have created a column entitled, "Get to Know Your Neighbors" which we hope will strengthen connections, build trust in our wider community, and contribute to a happier neighborhood for everyone.

If you know of a person or a family that you believe is making Long Canyon a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.

Special Needs Forum presents

GUARDIANSHIP AND ALTERNATIVES AT AGE 18

The Special Needs Forum continues its free workshop series designed to educate families who have a loved one with special needs.

The next Special Needs Forum workshop will be held on Thursday September 14, 2017 on the topic; Guardianship and Alternatives at Age 18. What happens legally when your child turns age 18 and becomes a legal adult? What options are available to allow you to continue to help your adult child make the best medical, educational and care decisions? Learn about legal guardianship's, who a guardianship is right for and the various less-restrictive alternatives.

Location:

6200 Bridgepoint Parkway Austin, TX 78730

(take right off the elevator and main room will be immediately on the left)

Building IV, 2nd floor

Date:

Thursday September 14, 2017

Time:

11:30 am - 1:00 pm

Fees:

Complimentary



The Special Needs Forum is an educational resource for families who have a loved one with special needs. During the workshops you will socialize with other families, get to know businesses who specialize in helping the special needs community and learn valuable information.

This year's lineup includes a Panel of special education experts, admissions directors from various residential communities and a specialist from the Social Security Administration.

Parents and guardians of children with special needs as well as those who teach and work in the special needs care industry are invited to attend. Each Special Needs Forum workshop includes an informative presentation by a keynote speaker and a question and answer segment.

To register and to view upcoming sessions, visit specialneedsforum.org.

DROWNING IS FAST & SILENT KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH



WATER SAFETY TIPS AT
WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG



Volunteer - Donate
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At least 63 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year.*

Take our Water Safety Quiz. www.colinshope.org/quiz

September 10: Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon

Colin's Hope will host the annual Kids Tri on Sunday, September 10. The event is limited to 400 athletes, and will close quickly! For more information visit www.colinshope.org

September 24: Colin's Hope Got2Swim

Looking for our annual Got2Swim? Join Colin's Hope and Open Water Planet on Sunday, September 24 for a 10K solo, 2, or 3 person relay on Lake Travis!



Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their year round support!

A special thank you to Peel, Inc. Their support helps us to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning.

*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water

LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



**CONSTANT
VISUAL
SUPERVISION**



**LEARN
TO
SWIM**



**WEAR
LIFE
JACKETS**



**MULTIPLE
BARRIERS
TO WATER**



**KEEP BACKYARDS
& BATHROOMS
SAFER**



**CHECK POOL
& HOT TUB
FIRST**



**STAY AWAY
FROM
DRAINS**



**BE SAFER
AT THE
BEACH**



**LEARN CPR
& REFRESH
SKILLS YEARLY**



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2015-2017

Lake Travis Novel Writers

Lake Travis Novel Writers hosts a book sales and signing event on Sat., Sept. 16, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Half Price Books, 5555 North Lamar. Authors on hand will be:

- Christy Esmahan, award-winning author of *The Laptev Virus*, winner of the 2015 National Indie Excellence Award, plus her latest in the series, *The Cobra Effect*;
- Pat Dunlap Evans, author of *To Leave a Memory*, a tender story of family forgiveness, and *Out and In*, a romantic mystery set in Dallas;
- Kate Baray, author of the *Lost Library*, *Spirelli Paranormal Investigations*, and *Vegan Vamp* series;
- Marcia Feldt, award-winning author of *The Oys & Joys*, a baby boomer, secrets never die quietly story;
- Joe Giordano, author of *Birds of Passage*, a coming-of-age Italian immigrant tale, and *Appointment with ISIL*, an Anthony Provati literary thriller;
- Kathleen Hall, author of *If the Moon Had Willow Trees*, a historical novel set in Detroit during the turbulent '60s;

- Nancy Smith, author of *The Slow Kill*, a near-future, sci-fi, father-son tale, and *Tainted Harvest*, a historical novel set in 1692 Salem.

Novels will be available for purchase and signing.
No charge to attend.

A black and white photograph of a group of approximately 15 diverse children of various ages, smiling and holding a large white sign. The sign has the text "NOW ENROLLING" in large, bold, hand-painted letters, and "childrenscenterofaustin.com" in a smaller, sans-serif font below it.

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NEWSLETTER INFO

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ONLINE**

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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

ALZHEIMER'S TEXAS™

WALK



What's raised here, stays here! 100% local!

26th Annual Travis Co. Walk

Saturday, October 7

Camp Mabry, Austin TX

Registration 8:30 AM/Ceremony 9:30 AM/Walk 10 AM

ID Required to enter. No pets allowed.



Register at www.txalz.org/walk or (512) 241-0420

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NATURE WATCH

THE VALUE OF VIPERS

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Throughout human history, fear of snakes has been one of our most common phobias, arising from our learned ability to detect threats to our survival in the wild. While most snake species are relatively harmless to humans, those in the Viper Family can pose a serious danger. Vipers are defined as venomous snakes with large hinged fangs, a broad head, and a stout body with a darker pattern on a lighter background. While vipers are venomous and must be treated with proper respect and caution, it is important to understand that they also exhibit many useful characteristics and are vital to keeping a healthy ecosystem in balance.

Vipers that can be found in Central Texas include the Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake (*Crotalus atrox*), Broad-banded Copperhead (*Agkistrodon contortrix laticinctus*), and Western Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*). By far the most abundant and widespread viper, the Western Diamond-back



Western Diamond-backed Rattlesnake

On average, this snake grows between 3 and 4 feet long, and can be found in the wooded hills and plateaus north and west of Austin.

The Broad-banded Copperhead found in our area is an uncommon subspecies in Central Texas, occurring near woodland streams in live oak-juniper forests in the west to Blackland Prairie and Bastrop in the east. Growing 2 to 3 feet long, this snake is



Broad-banded Copperhead

stout-bodied and marked with wide, reddish-brown crossbands that alternate with narrower tan to pale brown crossbands. A heavy-bodied snake with a stubby tail, the Western Cottonmouth is named for the bright-white skin lining its open mouth, but it is also known as 'water moccasin.' It is generally restricted to the woodland borders of rivers such as the Colorado, but can be found in cool, shallow springs a short distance away from main waterways. This snake averages 2 to 3 feet in length, and typically appears almost all black with a bit of brown, but ill-defined grayish-brown crossbands can sometimes be seen, especially on the sides.



Western Cottonmouth

All of these vipers eat rodents, so they are beneficial in keeping rat and mice populations down, which is often the reason they can be found around homes and yards. They will also eat birds found on the ground, as none are very good climbers. As snakes that live in or near water, the copperhead and cottonmouth will also consume amphibians and fish. Vipers can also be prey for other animals such as owls, hawks, and even other snakes. Finally, chemicals found only in viper venoms have a distinct value to humans, as they are used to treat many serious health ailments such as cancer, heart disease, stroke, Parkinsons, and many more. Now that's the value of vipers!

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 books, *Nature Watch Austin* and *Nature Watch Big Bend* (both published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



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