

THE RIVER REVIEW

November 2017 Volume 11, Issue 11

Photo by Mia Sanchez



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8TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY DAY BRINGING RESPONDERS & PUBLIC TOGETHER

First responder agencies from across Central Texas united for the 8th Annual Public Safety Day from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. on October 28th.

The free event took place at the Lake Travis Elementary School, 15303 Kollmeyer Drive in Lakeway.

Public Safety Day was founded in 2009 to shine the spotlight on Central Texas first responders and their mission with a fun, educational event for the Lake Travis community.

This day gives the public a chance to interact with first responders on a level that does not involve an emergency situation and to learn about what they do and the tools and resources they use to keep you, your family, your pets and property safe.

In its eighth year, agencies from across Central Texas brought their helicopters, police cars, motorcycles, ambulances, fire trucks, rescue boats, ATVs, K-9s, horses, wildland fire mitigation equipment and more. There was music, food and drink, local businesses and non-profit groups, a live fire demonstration, youth Firefighter Combat Challenge, Kid's Fun Zone, Home Depot Kid's Workshop, face painting, balloons, free lemonade and popcorn and much more for the family to enjoy on a nice autumn day during the weekend before Halloween! The famous Smokey the Bear was in attendance also along with a free drawing giveaway for a two-night stay at the Sonesta Bee Cave Hotel.

Partnering to bring the citizens this event were Lake Travis Fire Rescue and Bee Cave and Lakeway police departments along with the Lakeway Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association and Lakeway AC & Heating.

Agencies tentatively scheduled to participate included Travis County Search and Rescue K-9 Unit, Austin-Travis County EMS, Austin-Travis County EMS Explorer's Post, Capital Area Trauma Regional Advisory Council (CATRAC), Texas Parks and Wildlife Operation Game Thief and K9 Game Warden.

Among other agencies participating were Travis County Parks, Travis County Parks Bicycle Patrol, STAR Flight, Travis County Water Control & Improvement District No. 17, Travis County SWAT Fugitive Apprehension Unit, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Travis County Parks Lake Patrol Unit, Texas Forest Service, Texas DPS Capitol Mounted and Motorcycle Patrol Units, Travis County Sheriff's Office-West Command, Travis County Precinct 2 Constable and more. As you can see, this has become quite the event and we hope it continues! (Courtesy of Peel Newsletter.)

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-0845
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	
Emergencies	512-266-1775
Information	512-266-2533

SCHOOLS

Leander ISD.....	512-570-0000
Cedar Park High School.....	512-570-1200
Vandegrift High School.....	512-570-2300
Four Points Middle School.....	512-570-3700
River Place Elementary.....	512-570-6900

UTILITIES

River Place MUD.....	512-246-0498
City of Austin Electric	512-494-9400
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig	512-472-2822

AT&T

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

OTHER NUMBERS

River Place Postal Office	512-345-9739
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NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.....	512-263-9181
Article Submissions	riverreview@peelinc.com
Advertising.....	advertising@peelinc.com

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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. 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. The deadline is the 15th of the month prior to the issue.

RIVER REVIEW

RIVER PLACE IS FRIGHTENING!

While Halloween has not yet happened as of this writing, we can definitely see that it's coming soon. Residents of River Place are in the spirit of the occasion as evidenced by the many spooky front yard scenes we see as we walk or drive around the neighborhood.

Some are scary, some are decorative and some are just funny (BOO!) But all are entertaining and it's enjoyable to see so many folks participating in this fun and creative American holiday. The accompanying photos are just a sampling of the many Halloween scenes that entertained us throughout the holiday period.





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In And Around River Place

River Place Short Cut to Vandegrift-Update: While we all agree that a secondary access to the Vandegrift HS area is certainly desirable, there are both practical and technical difficulties to iron out and these take a surprising amount of time. Building along a corridor that affects wildlife survival and contains electric transmission lines and buried water mains introduces complications and restrictions galore.

After the first meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), held on September 13, a second meeting to further discussions and agreements was held in October. As of now, the really big agenda item is the upcoming bond issue with the vote taking place November 7. This could provide the money needed, a little over \$3 million, to actually begin to make headway and start the project. A portion of land must be purchased before permits are feasible.

A secondary issue on the docket is a much needed additional building for Vandegrift H.S. since their population is projected to grow to 2900 students and they are already at 2400, approximately. Regardless, LISD still feels positive even while realizing the time and efforts involved are tremendous. Everyone involved realizes the potential benefits of the project.

Let's hope so. This road will significantly reduce dangerous

traffic for our Vandegrift students, and relieve some of the congestion along RR 2222.

Riverbend Church Staffer Shot in Las Vegas Shooting: Danae Gibbs, a Riverbend Church staffer, was shot twice by the shooter in Las Vegas at the Route 91 Harvest Festival. She was one of the hundreds wounded Gibbs, 23, made it through surgery at the University Medical Center in Las Vegas.

She is a graduate of Texas Tech University and lives in the San Marcos area. Gibbs' mother also works for the church. Let's all hope for a full and complete recovery.

Please Keep Trash Containers Out of Site: River Place residents are naturally concerned about curb appeal and the HOA is asking that everyone be aware that exposed trash containers are an unnecessary eyesore. By promptly putting trash and recycle containers back in the garage, no one will have to come home to streets littered with containers or debris scattered around.

Remember, trash and recycle containers may not be visible from the front of your home. Kept in the garage, their location greatly reduces attracting wild animals and snakes to our yards and doorways.

(Continued on Page 7)

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(Continued from Page 6)

Girl Scout Cadette Troops 1164/2185 Host Food Drive: Hello Canyon Creek Neighbors! Please watch your doorstep for HEB plastic bags w/a letter listing items for donation. The bags will be placed on your doorstep between 10/11-10/15 with specific collections times between 10/19-10/22. Hope Austin participates in the RRISD Backpack Program providing weekend meals for underprivileged students. They are currently serving around 400 students in need every single weekend right here in our very own area of Austin so our GS would most appreciate your help with these much needed donations!

The drive was a great success last year and we look forward to another successful drive this year but we need your help – our wonderful CC neighbors – and we know we can count on you for this very meaningful endeavor! Thank you in advance for your assistance! Please contact barbcowman@yahoo.com with any questions. (Peel Newsletter)

About Our River Place Parks and Trails: Jennifer Mushtaler posted this abbreviated update on Nextdoor:

Background - we are still part of the county and the county owns the roads and easements along the roads. The county did site surveys and installed a crosswalk and signage at the Woodlands trail head. The county does not want to limit parking to one side of the street at any of the trail heads at this time.

The parks and trails in the community are under the jurisdiction of the MUD but subject to certain state laws regarding "reasonable access" to the public. The MUD has authority to set hours of usage, entry fees, etc. so long as reasonable access is maintained. There are legal reasons for all that.

The committee felt that the greatest problems are around weekend usage. The committee proposed hidden fencing at the trail heads with a controlled pedestrian entrance/exit. Each trail head would have a small attended hut (similar to what is at state parks) and there would be an access fee to non-residents that would apply during peak weekend hours. Residents would be able to obtain a pass through CMA since we already pay to maintain the parks and trails. Fees collected from non-residents would feed back into the MUD for maintenance and upkeep support.

The committee felt that it would not likely require an attendant during the week, but by creating definitive points of entry with an attendant we could further study utilization, costs/revenue and adjust as necessary. The committee felt that this was a reasonable starting point requiring minimal start-up and if data supported, we could then go back to county or in the future COA with detailed utilization numbers to support requests for road signage/parking options, etc.

Free SAT/ACT Practice Tests: Krysta Aguilar of River Place once again reminds us of free ACT/SAT practice tests: For High school

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FACT:
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TENNIS TIP OF THE MONTH: KEEP THE VOLLEY STROKE SHORT

There are many nuances to hitting successful volleys but the best doubles players keep their volley strokes quick and short. This helps them hit the ball correctly and keep their shots directed into the right spots on the court. Let's review three important components of hitting the successful volley and see if they make sense. If so, you can easily practice them yourself by standing at the net and tossing up balls to hit.

Tennis Tip: Since the beginning of any stroke is important, let's start our tip with the ready stance.

1) With the weight slightly forward, feet should be shoulder width apart. You should be on your toes, ready to skip step or step forward. With a continental grip preferably, the tip/head of the racquet should be facing upward directly in front of you, approximately even with your chin. The hands, both on the racquet, should be approximately waist level. This position enables you to step forward in any direction to hit the volley. It is the ready position.

2) Keep the strokes short, moving the racquet forward and into the ball, tapping it as if driving a small nail with a hammer. On lower volleys, chip or slice under the ball, again using a short forward stroke. Think of the stroke as being about a foot or so long with little to no backswing. This minimizes your required response time and also keeps the racquet head moving directly into the ball,

improving the accuracy of your shots and keeping you ready for the next shot. Sure, if you get a slow, higher volley you can take a swing to put the ball away.

3) Finally, we want to add a measure of aggression to this stroke so your opponents know you mean business. Power is added to the volley by stepping forward to hit the shot. This takes time away from the opponents as well. If you are in the above ready position, it can make sense to step forward with either foot, depending on the direction from which the ball is coming and the direction you want to hit the ball. Here, I think it's best to say, 'do what comes naturally.' Practicing will help you with this.

So in summary, by being in the ready position, using quick short strokes and stepping forward into your volleys, you will soon become an intimidating net partner! At the same time, you will enjoy the game more because you've simplified a troublesome shot for many players. Have fun with it! If you have a question on this tip, feel free to call or text me.

Walter: 512-497-9971

"The ones with the talent are good but the ones who practice are great." ~ Unknown



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HOMEOWNERS' CORNER

7 Tips for Energy Awareness

While October was Energy Awareness Month and we included energy conservation tips in that issue of The River Review, why not remain in the 'energy awareness spirit' throughout the year? Find out how you can reduce your household's energy consumption this fall while preparing for the seasons ahead.

Reducing Home Energy Use

The average U.S. household consumes tens of thousands of kilowatt hours of electricity each year, and much of it is completely unnecessary. Making changes as simple as adding a few energy-efficient appliances and turning off gadgets when you're not using them can save you a significant amount of money while also reducing your carbon footprint.

Don't fret if new Energy Star-labeled appliances aren't in the budget. Instead, try working in a few small changes to help you save throughout the year. Here are a few more ideas:

- Unplug electronics, gaming consoles and chargers when not in use.
- Insulate your water heater with a blanket and turn the temperature down to at least 120 degrees.
- Replace bulbs with LED or CFL bulbs and turn them off anytime you leave a room.
- Schedule an energy audit and replace your thermostat with a programmable unit. Make sure your thermostat is set in the ECO (economy) mode if it has that feature. At the very least in the cooler months, turn down the temperature at night, using blankets to keep you warm in bed. Wear warmer clothing around the house to stay warm.

Prepping Your Home for the Cold

During cooler months you can save additional money and energy with simple, inexpensive fixes like:

- Using insulating drapes to help diffuse winter chill. Just make sure to open any south-facing drapes to take advantage of the sun's natural heating capabilities.
- Finding and sealing air leaks. Check your windows, doors and pipes, and use weather-stripping and/or caulk to stop cool air from seeping in.
- Closing fireplace dampers when not in use. You can also have the entire flume completely sealed off if you use your home's heating system exclusively.

Reducing your energy consumption not only makes a positive contribution to our planet, it also leaves money on the table for fun fall pastimes. With just a few of these small changes, you can get more from your energy budget.

HOA Approval Required Before Beginning Property Improvements & the Architectural Compliance Committee (ACC)

The River Place Homeowner's Association (HOA) wishes to once again remind our residents that exterior projects require ACC approval before any construction or digging begins. The ACC is an HOA committee responsible for reviewing and approving River Place homeowners' exterior projects and improvements. There are Development Guidelines with emphasis on quality of material, design, and construction in order to promote well crafted diversity

in design while assuring the architectural integrity of the River Place community as a whole. Projects needing approval include swimming pools, exterior decks, roofs and additions, deck covers, fences, storage buildings, playgrounds, basketball goals, solar panels, exterior painting and staining, walkways and landscaping.

The goal is to keep River Place home modifications and improvements compatible with the residential development, in accordance with HOA Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&Rs) and, in the process, hopefully avoid neighbors' complaints and conflicts brought about by perceived infringements. In fact, on occasion, a given project may require signed approval forms from nearby neighbors. There is no cost. The submittal form is available from Certified Management of Austin (CMA) at 512-339-6962 or can be found online at:

<http://www.riverplacehoa.org/wp-content/...>

Processing and review normally occurs quickly, within a week or two but can take up to 30 days if there are issues with incomplete submissions or hard-to-get requested information. It is important to provide all requested information in legible format. When needed, the committee may request additional information for clarification purposes. Projects that are initially declined may be resubmitted with corrected documentation. While it may sound a bit complicated here, the procedure is usually smooth and timely if the proper information is submitted. Delays are rare.

The ACC is dedicated to facilitating the approval process within HOA guidelines while assisting the homeowners in preserving artistic vision. Through working together we can certainly make this happen.

Water Restrictions

Austin Water is currently in Conservation Stage with the following restrictions:

Residential

Hose-end Sprinklers: Two days per week, midnight to 10 am and/ or 7pm till midnight.

Automatic irrigation: One day per week, midnight to 10 am and/ or 7 pm to midnight (residential customers may also water a second day with a hose-end sprinkler.)

Automatic: Even address: Thursday; Odd address: Wednesday.

Hose-End Sprinklers: Even address: Thursday, Sunday; Odd address: Wednesday, Saturday. Hours: Midnight to 7 am; 7 pm to midnight.

Wasting water is prohibited.

Washing vehicles at home is permitted with an auto shut-off hose or bucket.

The following are allowed at any time on any day of the week

Watering with drip irrigation, a hand held hose or a refillable container.

Watering trees with a Treegator, soaker hose or automatic tree bubbler.

Watering vegetable gardens with a soaker hose.

Pressure washing sidewalk/driveway/deck/patio/paved areas/ home siding/fence.

RIVER REVIEW

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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. Reserve your spot now: Online: <http://goo.gl/forms/3e2cmzOkAF> Call: 512-372-8385 Email: austintx@collegetutors.com

Next session:

Saturday, November 11, 2017, 9:00am - 12:00 pm

Address:

3908 Far West Blvd. Austin, TX

Tai Chi Sessions Details

(Other River Place residents will be attending.)

Wed, Nov 08, 10:00 AM - Wed, Nov 08, 11:30 AM.

Hope Presbyterian Church

Olson Drive, Austin, TX, United States

Tai Chi is a meditative movement that focuses on health benefits. There is a NEW Introduction to Tai Chi Class starting on Wed, Nov 8th from 10:00am - 11:30am at Hope Presbyterian Church. The intro class teaches the first 17 moves over the course of 6 weeks. There are 108 moves in the entire set. Come join us! It's fantastic!



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