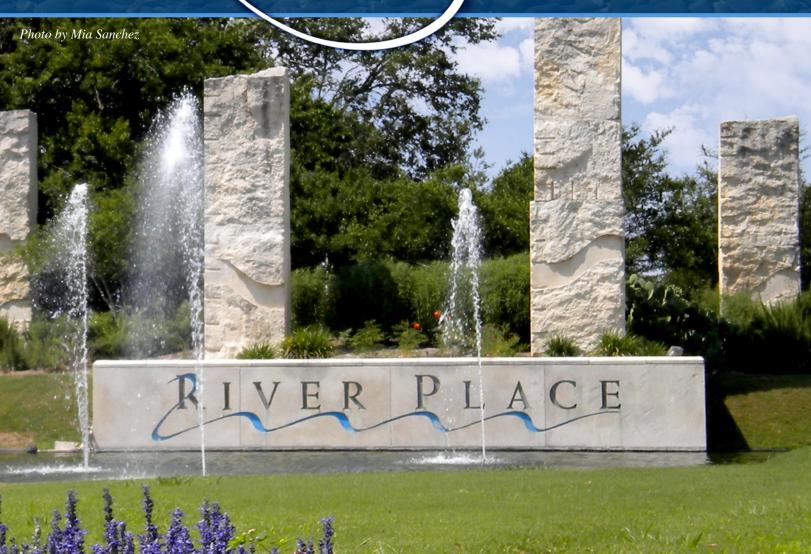
# THE RIVER REVIEW

March 2018

Volume 12, Issue 3



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF RIVER PLACE



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FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

# Introducing the Jones Family



Please join us in saying hello to Caleum (CJ) Jones and his son and two daughters. CJ is a Realtor with Property Crossing and also a Technician with Venue Valet. He is quick to point out that he chose his current profession to afford him the flexibility and adequate time to devote to his children's needs and activities.

CJ's son Quinlan (Quin) is 8 years old and attends River Place Elementary.

His older daughter, Isabella (Bella) is 15 and attends Vandegrift High School. And then there is Victoria (Tori) who is 13 and attends Four Points Middle School. Finally, the family has two dogs, Martie and Natalie who are 10 year old litter mates.

The Joneses have lived in River Place for 15 years now, having moved from Littleton, Colorado. They reside on Planters Woods. Born in El Paso, CJ explains that he first came to Austin in 1988 to attend UT. After college and getting married, they were living in Colorado, when his wife received a job offer in Austin.

While meeting up with a friend who lived here in River Place, he and his wife became attracted to the neighborhood. They then coincidentally made an offer on a home here that wasn't even on the market. Surprisingly, the offer was accepted so, in 2003, they made the move to River Place.

CJ feels that River Place has provided all the things that make it a great place to raise kids. And like most of us feel, the neighbors in River Place are outstanding! And who doesn't love the parks and trails.

The family is quite active and participates in a variety of activities. CJ is a volunteer fireman with the Lake Travis Fire Department. In addition, he volunteers with TEXSAR (Texas Search and Rescue) and has11 years building sets for the River Place Student Theater productions; and he drives the Vandegrift Marching Band semi-truck.

Bella is a proud member of the VHS Marching band while Tori is very involved with the FPMS band and Robotics. Quin loves soccer and building projects of all kinds, especially when it involves taking apart old electronics and motors.

Though it seems impossible that he would have any, CJ adds that when he has some free time, he enjoys fishing, hunting, motorsports and hosting brick-oven pizza parties at home. Keep an eye out for the Jones family and say hello when you see them around the neighborhood! They seem like a fun bunch!

#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

EMERGENCY NUMBERS	
EMERGENCY	911
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	
Hudson Bend Fire and EMS	312-974-0643
Emergencies	510 066 1775
$\mathcal{E}$	
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	
River Place Elementary	512-5/0-6900
UTILITIES	
River Place MUD	512-246-0498
City of Austin Electric	
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service	1 200 700 2442
Emergencies	512 472 2922
Call Before You Dig	512-472-2822
AT&T	
New Service	
Repair	
Billing	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service	
Repairs	
IESI (Trash)	512-282-3508
OTHER NUMBERS	
River Place Postal Office	512-345-9739
NEWCLETTED DUDL 101150	
NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER	512 262 0191
Peel, Inc	512-263-9181
Article Submissions	riverreview@peelinc.com
Advertising	advertizing@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 <u>advertising@peelinc.com</u>. 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.

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# In And Around River Place

## NEW RIVER PLACE DRAINAGE CHARGE ON UTILITY BILLS:

Residents are now being billed for this service via their City of Austin utility bill. While it basically pertains to the handling of water draining from your property because of your property's amount of "impervious" cover (roof, driveway, patio, etc.), questions are being raised as to the amount of the fee. Is \$20 or more a fair charge or does that seem extreme?

In some cases at least, this charge will exceed the amount charged for actual water usage. Of course, annexation is what brings us this charge and you can find out more in the 'Heads Up' article in this issue where the City provides a more thorough explanation of the charge.

#### FREE SAT/ACT PRACTICE \$AT TESTS:

Krysta Aguilar of River Place once again reminds us of free ACT/SAT practice tests: 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. Reserve your spot now: Online: http://goo.gl/forms/3e2cmzOkAF Call: 512-372-8385 Email: austintx@collegetutors.com

**Next session:** Tuesday, March 13, 12 and 3 pm and Saturday, March 24, 9 am and 12 pm.

Address: 3908 Far West Blvd. Austin, TX

#### **SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE:**

On Wednesday, March 7, from 5 pm to 7:30 pm, the River Place Country Club will be hosting an Open House so that visitors might find out about all the wonderful summer camps the club will be having. We hope you receive this notice in time – you can let them know you're coming by emailing here: lbottoms@riverplaceclub.com.

#### **BOBCAT SEEN IN RIVER PLACE:**

Multiple reports have been received regarding the bobcat that appears to occasionally visit the trail area near River Place Blvd. just below the River Place Country Club. Please keep your eyes open and your pets on leashes when you walk the trails. While no attacks have been reported, we're quite sure that loose pets might become easy victims. Let's be safe rather than sorry.

## ROBBERIES REPORTED AT RAVINA APARTMENT HOMES:

Perhaps Ravina Apartment Homes became a target of a particular thief or group of thieves but several reports have been received. At the complex located at 10301 Ranch to Market 2222, numerous cars have been broken into and thieves have been seen running from garages or cars. Items have been stolen from cars and there is a general

sense of alarm at the boldness of these robbers.

Perhaps the police reports will result in more police visibility so this circumstance will be brought under adequate control. Be sure to keep your cars locked and be sure to remove all items from them, especially overnight. Diligence in this regard can discourage wouldbe criminals.

#### CHAMPIONS TRACT – APARTMENTS AT 2222 AND CITY PARK ROAD:

Developers seem to still be getting their way and the environment and traffic will be what suffers if it continues. Brenda Langford of River Place and others ask that you "PLEASE continue to write letters/emails to the council, but especially Mayor Adler and our Council rep, Jimmy Flannigan. They are both choosing to vote FOR granting the waivers allowing possible environmental disturbance of our water supply and huge cut/fill variances.

We need to make our voices heard. If they won't support their constituents, then they need to know we are listening and will not support their candidacy at the next election." We can't say it any clearer than that. As a traffic flow consideration however, wouldn't it be nice if the apartment complex exit onto City Park Road was "right turn only" so that traffic flowed out onto 2222 rather than up City Park or over Shepherds Mountain? Just a thought.

#### SUDOKU 5 7 Tiew answers online at www.peelinc.com 7 4 6 3 8 7 2006. Feature Exchange 9 2 3 9 2 6 3 8 2 1 9

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.

#### **HOMEOWNER'S CORNER**

#### 5 Signs It's Time to Sell Your Home

Have you outgrown your home? Or has your home outgrown you and your household? Fewer and fewer families expect to stay in their first or second home for the long haul. Here are some factors to determine if you're financially and emotionally ready to sell your house:

- 1. Growing or shrinking household -- Are you about to welcome a new baby or take in aging parents? Maybe you're sending your youngest off to college. In any event, if your living space has become too cramped or grown beyond your needs, it may be time to make a move.
- 2. Plenty of home equity -- Subtract the value of your home from the amount you have left on your loan. What's left over is the equity -- or the amount you'll have post-sale. After you sell your home, you'll be a buyer again, so having some funds to put down is key.
- 3. Interest from potential buyers -- You'll want to list when you know buyers are looking. Some experts say late spring

- is the ideal time to sell, but peak seasons vary by region. Milder weather can increase buyer interest, but that also means more competition from other sellers.
- 4. Changing circumstances -- Location matters. Whether your neighborhood dynamics are changing, you're unhappy with the schools in your area or a new job significantly increases your commute, your community needs to fit your lifestyle.
- 5. Home improvements -- Renovations may be a wise investment, but it's best to avoid listing your home in the middle of a project. If you plan to sell your home as is, completing some minor home updates such as new paint and fixtures can be a huge selling point.

Moving is a big decision, one that requires careful consideration. If your needs have changed since you bought your home, don't hesitate to get in touch.

Article prepared by Diane Bennett, RE/MAX, Capital City



# Make it your *lucky day* to find a new home!



I would love to take the time to understand your unique needs and help you through the process of buying or selling your home. I can analyze your property value and answer any questions you have along the way!

Lila Hardegree, REALTOR® 512.409.0903 | lila@reillyrealtors.com LilaSellsAustin.com

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# RIVER REVIEW

# Heads Up from Around the City

#### Communications and Information Office, City of Austin AGENCY

#### Information about Drainage Charges on Utility Bills

Staff from the City of Austin's Watershed Protection Department met with representatives of the River Place Homeowners Association on Tuesday, February 13. Based on our conversation, we understand there are a lot of questions in your neighborhood about the drainage charge on City of Austin utility bills. The drainage charge funds Austin's efforts to protect lives, property and the environment from flooding, erosion and water pollution.

Flooding is Austin's most common natural disaster. Among other things, the drainage charge funds programs to monitor and close flooded roads, remove debris from bridges and culverts, monitor water quality in our creeks, investigate pollution spills, maintain our storm drain system, clean trash and debris from Lady Bird Lake and projects to reduce the risk of flooding, erosion and water pollution.

The drainage charge is calculated the same way for all properties. The charge is based on both the amount and percent of impervious cover on each property. Impervious cover on a property reflects its impact on problems relating to flooding, erosion, and water pollution within the watershed. Impervious cover includes rooftops, patios, driveways, parking lots and other surfaces that do not absorb rainfall. Properties with lower amounts and percentages of impervious cover will have lower drainage charges than properties with greater amounts of impervious cover.

We get our impervious cover information through aerial photography supplemented with building permit data. You can see the impervious cover on your property that is used to calculate your charge on our website at www.austintexas.gov/drainagecharge. Look for the "Find My Drainage Charge" graphic on the left-hand side of the page.

If you have questions or believe the impervious cover recorded at your property is incorrect, please call us at 512-494-9400. Our creeks and lakes are an important resource for us all to enjoy. Thank you for paying this charge to help us protect these resources and to help make our community more resilient to damaging floods.

# Information Office, City of Austin AGENCY <u>City of Austin Welcomes New City Manager Spencer Cronk</u>

Spencer Cronk joined the City of Austin as City Manager on February 12, 2018, following a unanimous vote by City Council formalizing his appointment. The City Manager is one of four employees directly appointed by the City Council, and oversees the City's \$3.9 billion budget and more than 14,000 employees. The City of Austin operates under a Council-Manager form of government whereby the elected City Council sets policy objectives and the City Manager ensures they are carried out and administered effectively.

This form of government can be likened to the private sector relationship between a board of a corporation and its Chief Executive or Chief Administrative Officer. Cronk comes to the City of Austin from Minneapolis, where he has worked as City Coordinator since 2014. He previously served as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Administration, chair of the Minnesota Public Data Governance Advisory Committee, and member of the Environmental Quality Board and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council.

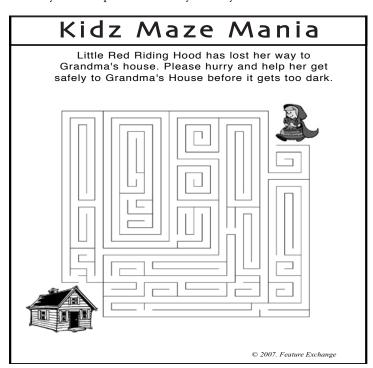
Before joining the State of Minnesota, Cronk served as executive director of organizational development and senior advisor for the Department of Small Business Services for the City of New York, under former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Cronk received his bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He is a graduate of Harvard University's Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program and was a Public Affairs Fellow with the Coro New York Leadership Center.

#### Communications Unit Austin Parks, City of Austin AGENCY

#### City Looking for Sports Leagues Feedback

The City of Austin Parks and Recreation Athletics Department is looking for feedback on the adult rec sports leagues. We are seeking feedback from both participants and non-participants. We greatly appreciate your feedback and hope to see you out on the fields soon. Please check out our website if you are interested or have any questions (http://www.austintexas.gov/department/at...). Thank you.

Survey link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PARDAthle...



# **RIVER REVIEW**

#### RIVER PLACE (MAYBE NOT SO) CLEVER QUIPS OF THE MONTH

What do mermaids wash their fins with? Tide.

The Winter Olympics are really just several different types of sliding.

They say if you eat cake fast enough, your Fitbit will think you're walking.

Did you hear that Steve Harvey and his wife had an argument? It was a "Family Feud."

Whenever I hear my wife say, "You weren't even listening," I think, 'What a strange way to start a conversation."

People need to learn the difference between a want and a need. I want a nice body. But I need banana pudding.

Whenever you can't think of a word you want just say, "I forget the English word for it." That way, people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

Don't tell me you've missed me. Tell me you brought tacos. Actions speak louder than words.

I wondered why the strange object kept getting bigger and bigger. And then it hit me.

A fun thing about getting old is how you can severely injure yourself just by sleeping.

If we evolved from the apes, why are there still apes?

I finally figured out why I look so bad in pictures. It's my face.

"When choosing between two evils, I always like to try the one I've never tried before." -- Mae West

"A pretty face gets old. A nice body will change. But a good person will always be a good person." –Unknown

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." --MLKJr.

#### **FIVE ETHICS OF LIFE**

LISTEN-Before you Speak.

EARN-Before you Spend.

THINK-Before you Act.

Try-Before you Quit.

LIVE-Before you Die.



# TENNIS TIP OF THE MONTH HITTING THE OVERHEAD SMASH

One shot that recreational tennis players rarely practice is the overhead smash. While we don't hit nearly as many overheads compared to groundstrokes. the overhead is an important shot because we often use overheads to finish points. particularly in doubles play. Below are some tips for improving your overhead smash.

#### Tennis Tips:

- 1. To prepare for an overhead smash; as you see your opponent's lob coming in, start moving your feet in cross-over steps (avoid back-pedaling) to get under the lob while simultaneously turning your upper body sideways with both arms in the air, similar to how a quarterback in football does when setting up to throw a football.
- 2. To keep a good eye on the ball, point at it with your index finger (non-racquet hand) until you decide to swing. Your contact point should be in front of your body at 12 o'clock and make sure you pronate your wrist to ensure hitting the upper back side of the ball, pounding it down into the court.

- 3. When it comes to a really good placement for an overhead smash, imagine the court is broken into quarters. It's a powerful shot so you're going to want to aim to hit the ball within the 3/4 court area. There is no need to hit a riskier shot and aim for the lines.
- 4. Practice smoothing out your swing while keeping both arms up, staying sideways. Focus on a fluid swing rather than gripping the racquet tightly and swinging too hard. You will get easy power this way and in turn have more control.

Like any shot in tennis, practice makes perfect. The more we practice a particular shot, the more confidence we have during a match. As you practice the overhead your confidence will grow and, before you know it, you'll be hitting overheads like Roger Federer. Email me if you have any questions. Ed, River Place Tennis, edny20@ yahoo.com

"It doesn't matter if you win or lose....until you lose." ~Snoopy, "Peanuts"



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308 Meadowlark St. Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

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

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name (first name, last initial): Age:

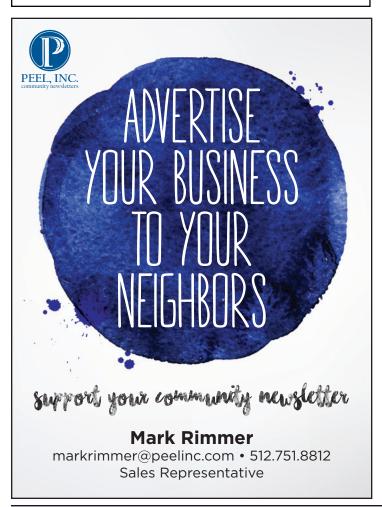
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# RIVER REVIEW

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#### VANDEGRIFT HIGH SCHOOL HIGH SCHOOL 8TH ANNUAL RELAY FOR LIFE

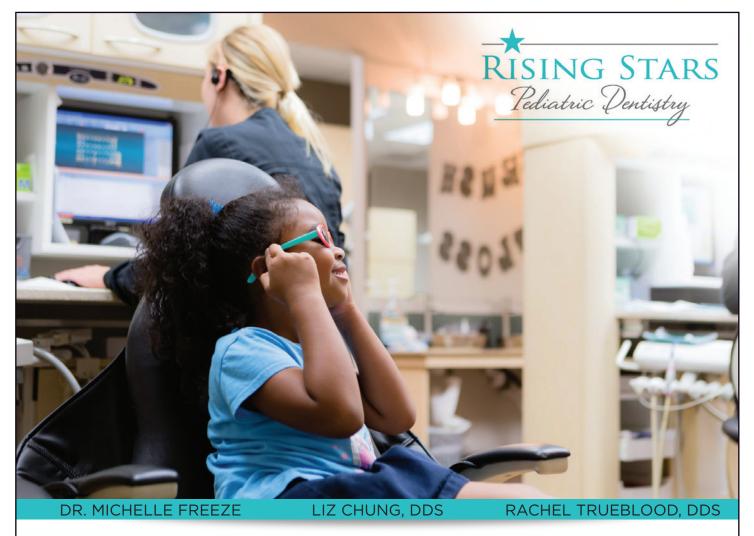
The Four Points community is invited to the Vandegrift High School HS 8th Annual Relay for Life benefitting The American Cancer Society is on Friday, April 13th at 6:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m. at Monroe Stadium!

So, what is Relay? Relay is a VHS community event including 1000+ Vipers, family, friends, and community members joining others in their fight against cancer, celebrating those who have survived cancer, and remembering those we have lost to cancer. It is a powerful evening including a Survivor Lap & Ceremony, a Luminaria Ceremony, tons of live music, guest speakers, food, and games...all organized by VHS students from clubs and organizations across campus. To date, Vipers have raised over \$200,000 in the fight against cancer!

How can community members get involved?

- 1. Volunteer! Contact Kirsten.Mulligan@leanderisd.org for information.
- 2. Sponsor a part of the event (the DJ, food, law enforcement, moonwalk, etc.) Contact Kirsten.Mulligan@leanderisd.org to sponsor at Relay.
- 3. Donate to VHS Relay for Life or contact Kirsten.Mulligan@leanderisd.org to make an in-kind donation.
- 4. Purchase a luminaria here! For a suggested \$5 donation, you can remember, honor, or celebrate a loved one who has been affected by cancer. We will light a luminaria in their name at a special ceremony at dusk.





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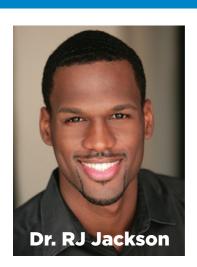


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