

The Gazette

JUNE 2018
VOLUME 11 ISSUE 6

INTRODUCING GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORS

We are all very fortunate to call Villages of Western Oaks home. But, Westlake Hills 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 Westlake Hills a better place to live, please let us know. We would like to introduce them to your neighbors.



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845

SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
Mills	512-841-2400
Patton	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing)	512-494-9400
Emergency	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing.....	512-219-2602
Problems	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service	1-800-288-2020
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

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Attention Parents of Graduating Seniors!

We would like to recognize our graduating seniors by including a small picture and a few lines about where your child will be attending college. Please send your information to articles@peelinc.com (include the newsletter you would like to recognize them in, photo, name, etc).



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



MAKE A SPLASH THIS SUMMER

The water is waiting for you this summer at the Y – along with all of your favorite group exercise classes, personal training programs and summer enrichment activities for kids. Kick off your day with a splash, cool down post-workout, spend quality time with the family or relieve some stress with a few laps after work. No matter your reason, jump on in!

Join today at AustinYMCA.org



SWIM LESSONS AVAILABLE
for all ages and skill levels
special rates for Y members

Wildland Fire Precautions

With warmer temperatures and drying vegetation, residents need to be reminded of the need for wildfire/brush fire safety awareness and preparedness.

Do not park vehicles on the dry grass. The heat from the vehicle's exhaust system can cause the grass to catch fire.

Remove combustible materials from around your home. Keep grass mowed short.

Pack critical medicines, important documents, and family heirlooms to be ready to leave at a moment's notice.

Agree on an evacuation plan that includes what to do if you get separated and where you'll go in case of evacuation.

TEN SIMPLE STEPS TO PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM WILDLAND FIRE

Wildfire can strike home if you have not taken some steps to protect your house and property. The actions and precautions listed below are designed to help you prepare your home and lessen the threat of wildland fire damage to you and your property.

1. LPG/propane tanks should be far enough away from buildings for valves to be shut off in case of fire. Keep area around the tank clear of flammable vegetation.

2. Store gasoline in an approved safety can away from occupied buildings.

3. All combustibles such as firewood, wooden picnic tables, boats and stacked lumber should be kept away from structures.

4. Clear roof surfaces and gutters regularly to avoid build-up of flammable materials such as leaves and other debris.

5. Remove branches from trees to a height of 15 feet or more.

6. In rural areas, clear a fuel break of at least three times the fuel length around all structures.

7. Have fire tools handy such as: ladder long enough to reach your roof, shovel, rake and a bucket or two for water.

8. Place connected garden hoses at all sides of your home for emergency use.

9. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your home.

10. Assure that you and your family know all emergency exits from your neighborhood.

Each family should be proactive to prepare for emergencies: Prepare a Basic Emergency Supply Kit; Make a Plan for Safety and Communicating with Family; Be Informed; and Get Involved in Preparing the Community.

A wealth of information to help you is available at:

<http://www.ready.gov/wildfires>

<http://txforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=8512>



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community newsletters



Heart Gallery Texas



Meet Exzavoyor (12)! He is a fun kiddo, who works hard in school and always strives to do his best. If you enjoy a quick pickup game or throwing the football around or kicking a soccer ball, Exzavoyor

just might be the perfect fit for your family. He would be waiting for a family to call his own!

Interested in adoption or foster care? There are no fees to adopt from the foster care system regardless of which agency you work with. The first step is to choose a child placing agency to begin your journey. Learn more about starting the adoption process and the children waiting for forever families at www.heartgallerytexas.com.

Austin Center For Grief & Loss Offers Summer Camps For Children Experiencing Loss

Camp Red Bird provides a safe place for children to face grief and have fun with peers

The Austin Center for Grief & Loss is hosting Camp Red Bird, a summer day camp for kids ages 6 through 12 who that have experienced a loss. Campers participate in a week of therapeutic games and activities, arts and crafts, while also sharing with peers who have similar experiences.

What: Camp Red Bird, an Austin Center for Grief & Loss day camp for children going through loss. Crafts, activities and time to share.

Visuals and spokespeople:

- Children/parents from last year's camp
- Children interacting, participating in activities, crafts
- Counselors
- Center for Grief and Loss Executive Director

When: Monday-Friday, June 11-15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Monday-Friday, Aug. 6-10, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Where: The Austin Center for Grief & Loss, 2413 Greenlawn Pkwy., Austin, TX 78757

Who: Children who are experiencing loss are attending Camp Red Bird, led by licensed therapists as well as camp counselors.

Why: The goal of the camp is to have these children address their grief and loss while also experiencing a sense of normalcy.

About The Austin Center for Grief & Loss (formerly My Healing Place)

Celebrating its 11th year in Austin, The Austin Center for Grief & Loss is a non-profit organization focused on grief and trauma, assisting children and adults. The Center offers therapy, support, education, training and consultation. The Center serves those who have experienced a loss due to the death of a loved one from illness, miscarriage, accident, suicide, or violence. There are also programs to assist those who have experienced loss due to divorce or separation. The Center specializes in trauma as well, and its therapists are trained in EMDR as well as other cognitive interventions. Note: Holders of Hope Annual Gala, Thursday, October 18 at The Umlauf Sculpture Garden. www.austingrief.org



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NATURE WATCH

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Few plant species that grow naturally today have been around for over 100 million years, but one of the best known are plants in the genus *Equisetum*, which is the only living genus of the entire family of Equisetopsida, most commonly known as horsetails. They are recognized as close relatives of ferns, typically growing in wetter areas with whorls of needle-like branches radiating at regular intervals from each single vertical stem.

The common name of horsetail is used for the entire group of plants, since the branched species resemble a horse's tail. In fact, the genus *Equisetum* comes from the Latin *equus* or 'horse' and *seta* or 'bristle.' Another common name is scouring rush, referring to the upright rush-like appearance of the plants, and the fact that the longitudinal ridges of the stems are coated with abrasive silicates, making them useful for scouring or cleaning metal items. It is still used today as a traditional polishing material in Japan.

The primary species of horsetail that occurs natively in wet or moist areas of Texas, most commonly on the Edwards Plateau and in Blackland Prairie, as well as most of the non-tropical northern hemisphere, is *Equisetum hyemale*. A spreading, reed-like perennial growing to 3 feet tall, each stem is evergreen, cylindrical, jointed, hollow, and about 1/4 of an inch in diameter. In this species, the needle-like branches appear non-existent, but are actually small and fused around the stem at each joint or node, forming a blackish-green band or sheath. Interestingly, the



Horsetail or Scouring Rush

pattern of spacing of the nodes in these plants, which grow increasingly close together toward the apex, is precisely what inspired Scottish mathematician John Napier to discover logarithms in the late 16th century.

Horsetail prefers open or wooded areas along streams, moist flats, and wet ledges. Like ferns and other related species, horsetails reproduce by spores rather than through seed-producing flowers. These spores are borne in cone-like structures at the tips of



Dragonflies, like this Neon Skimmer, love to perch on the cones of the horsetail's upright stems

some stems, and are mostly homosporous, meaning of the same size and type. The tiny spores have four elaters or structures that alter shape in response to changes in moisture, effectively acting as moisture-sensitive springs that assist spore dispersal through crawling and hopping motions once released from the cone.

The upright, evergreen, segmented foliage of horsetail is an appropriate plant for a rain garden, pond edge, water feature, or area with moist soil, and is an excellent perching plant for dragonflies. While it can spread quickly by underground or underwater runners, it is easily kept in check by periodic pulling or by planting it in a container. Few plants add as much interest or vertical structure to a wildscape as this living fossil, which is clearly a 'horse of a different color'!

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* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



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Girls Empowerment Network's campGEN Summer Camps Inspire Central Texas Girls in Grades 3 - 8 to Own and Use Their Power

This summer the Girls Empowerment Network will host a two-part campGEN Summer Camp Series with weeklong summer camp sessions for girls entering grades 3-8.

campGEN girls participate in interactive workshops that are designed to help girls feel more confident as they navigate girlhood. The program engages Girls Empowerment Network's girl experts and female role models as camp counselors. The two-part Summer Camp Series for girls entering grades 3-8 includes:

- campGEN – Part 1, held June 18-22, kicks off with "Own My Power." This camp focuses on building confidence and self-love. Girls will explore stress management, identity, self-compassion and body positivity. Activities include yoga, art and craft projects, writing, talent shows and games.

- campGEN – Part 2, held July 16-20, continues the conversation with "Use My Power." Girls will focus on using their confidence to advocate for themselves and others. Girls will explore and practice confident communication, advocacy, healthy friendships and values. Activities include role playing, skits, a fun community advocacy project, and games.

"Our entire team is excited to invest our time and energy into programming that makes campGEN summer camp fun and an experience to remember," says Caroline Crawford, program director. "This year our summer camps build on one another, and we see girls signing up for both sessions soon once they learn to OWN their power, then they can put it into practice and USE their power. We know they'll walk away with a strong sense of self and be ready for another school year."

Network (GEN) helps girls discover they are powerful people. Through school-based programs and community events for girls, parents and schools, GEN ignites power in girls ages 8 – 18 by teaching them skills to thrive and believe in their ability to be unstoppable. campGEN was created to expand Girls Empowerment Network's services that empower girls to navigate the challenges of girlhood.

Both campGEN summer camp sessions will be held in Downtown Austin at First Baptist Church, located at 901 Trinity Street, Austin, TX 78701, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Drop off begins at 8:00 a.m. and aftercare is available until 5 p.m. for \$50. Each five-day session costs \$330.



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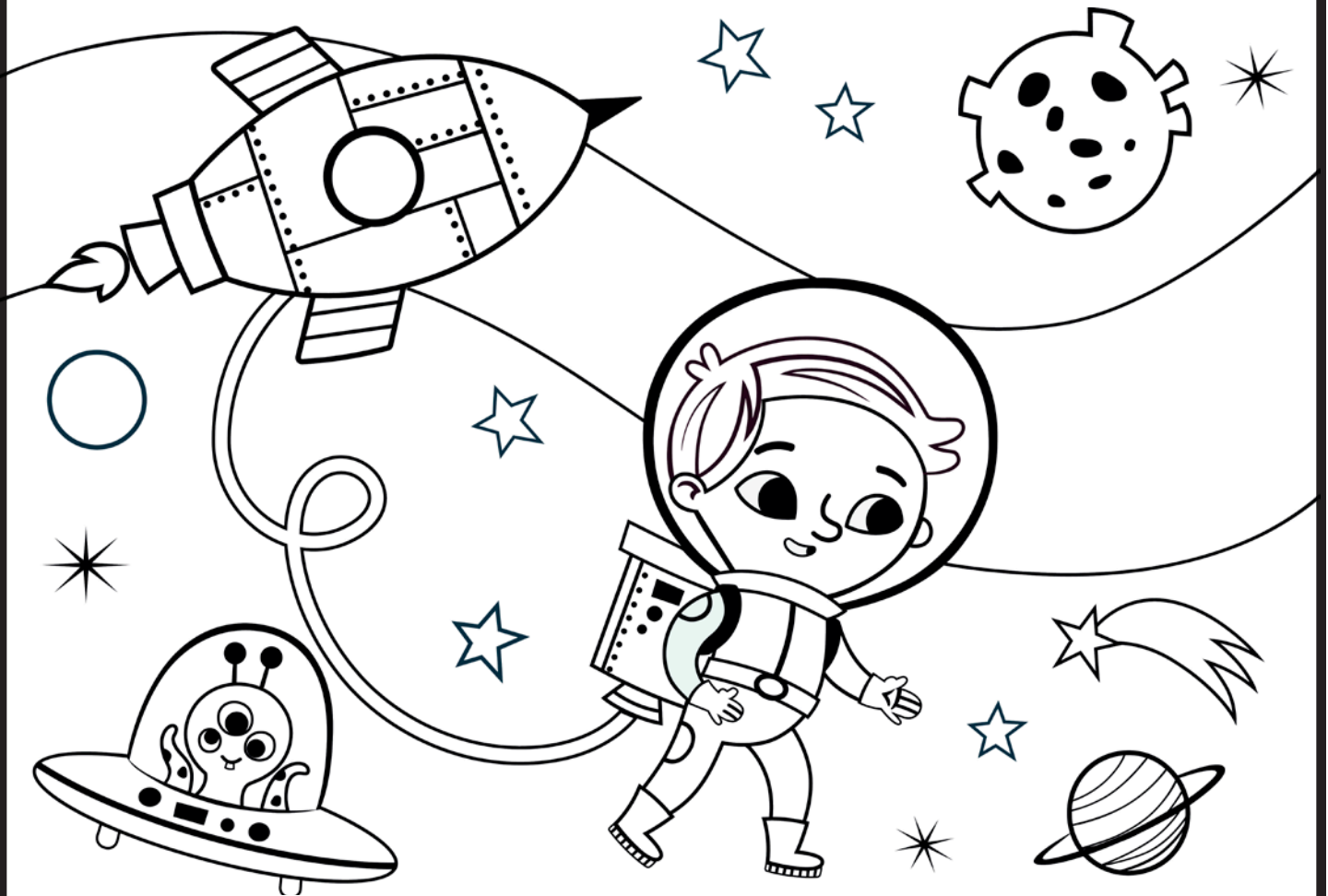
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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our website at www.peelinc.com/index.php/kids-club

DUE: June 30th, 2018

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

Name (first name, last initial): _____ Age: _____



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John Squires and the Squires' Team with **Keller Williams Realty**, your neighbors and realtors for life.



6209 Salcon Cliff in Oakland Village at Villages at Western Oaks— John's listing is **“CONTRACT PENDING with multiple offers!”** Stunning Newmark white stone home loaded with exotic Italian Travertine tile, new wood floors and brand new quartz countertops! Master down with HUGE game room up. Relax on your covered deck looking over greenbelt! Offered at **\$474,500.**



10900 Palgrave Court—John's listing is **“CONTRACT PENDING” with multiple offers!** Newmark's sought-after Cornerstone 2 floorplan. Great plan with 4 beds, 2 baths and a HUGE family room with fireplace. New wood floors and is move-in ready! **\$409,000.**



10001 Austral Cove John's listing is “On The Park” and **“CONTRACT PENDING” with multiple offers!** Beautiful 1-story almost 3000 sq. ft. on quiet cul-de-sac and just a short walk to Kiker Elementary at **\$465,000.**



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5901 Back Bay Lane— John's Listing is—"CONTRACT PENDING with multiple offers!" stunningly remodeled Newmark Highland plan, 2-story, 4 bed 3 full baths, PLUS game room. Wood floors, vaulted ceilings—just a showplace at **\$469,000**.

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6729 Hansa Loop— John's Listing is—"CONTRACT PENDING! with multiple offers!" Beautiful Wilshire home on gorgeous greenbelt on a secluded loop street. Wood floors, soaring ceilings, light and bright and close to school. **\$539,000**.