

MERIDIAN *Community Monitor*

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MERIDIAN

Meridian HOA Chili Cookoff and Small Business Vendor Fair

Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA Board



A new Meridian neighborhood tradition was born this November with our 1st Chili Cook-off, presented by the Meridian HOA and Social Committee. 12 home chefs tried their skills at creating a winning bowl of chili, all with their own unique twist: traditional, spicy, vegetarian, green chili pork with sweet corn. It was hard to pick a stand-out! Neighbors sampled each variety and voted on the winners in several categories: Favorite Traditional, Favorite

Non-Traditional and Neighbors' Overall Favorite. There was truly something for everyone on this perfectly damp, chilly day. Chili was cooked in a variety of vegetarian chili, which won the non-traditional category, but also the Neighborhood Overall Favorite.

In addition to the chili, neighbors came out and checked out the small business fair, featuring the small business owners in the neighborhood, including some of our tiniest entrepreneurs-the kids of Meridian. Thanks to all of our chili cook-off chefs, small business owners and vendors and social committee leads for organizing such a fun and successful event.



COOKIES, COCOA AND CAROLING

Meridian HOA Annual Cookies, Cocoa & Caroling
the evening of Tues, Dec 18th @ the Pavilion

Don't forget the Holiday Lights contest.
Judging will be done on the night of Dec 18th.

See NextDoor & Facebook/Meridian Social Buzz for additional details.

THE MONITOR

WELCOME

A Newsletter for Meridian residents

The Monitor is a monthly newsletter mailed to all Meridian residents. Each newsletter is filled with valuable information about the community, local area activities, school information and more. If you are involved with a school group, play group, scouts, sports activity, social group, etc. and would like to submit an article for the newsletter you can do so online at www.PEELinc.com or you can email it meridian@peelinc.com. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, special celebrations, birthday announcements and military service are also welcome. Our goal is to keep you informed!

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Bobcats Salute Our Nation's Veterans

Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Realtor-AustinRealEstate.com



Bobcats gathered on Monday, November 12th to honor our nation's active duty and veteran heroes, as part of a school-wide assembly. Several Bobcat family honorees attended. The special assembly opened with Scout Pack 12 serving as color guards and presented the US and Texas flags and Baldwin's Choir sang the National Anthem. The special assembly was led by the Baldwin 5th grade Student Council Officers. A reading and poems were presented by Morgan Flickinger, Clara Mirkin. Emery Lieneck, who wrote her own speech and shared her gratitude to all our nation's veterans, but called out her favorite veteran, Captain Lieneck, her Dad, who was in the audience. At the close of the

assembly, the veterans and their families in attendance were invited to a special reception in the library.

Thank you to our active and veteran military service members and their families for your unwavering service to protect our nation. Bobcats salute you!



Baldwin PTA hosts 1st Bobcat Bingo Night

Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA Board

The Baldwin PTA hosted its first ever community-wide Bingo Night on Friday, November 5th as part of its monthly Family Fun Night series. Students and their families came out to enjoy dinner and several rounds Bingo with the opportunity to win some fun, kid-friendly prizes donated by Baldwin Business Boosters. Beloved 2nd grade teacher, Mrs. Dorsey, was the Bingo caller for the evening and did a fantastic job making the games both memorable and fun! Families also enjoyed a Build-Your-Own Burger Bar. Thank you to the Baldwin PTA and Programs volunteers for putting on a fantastic event! The first Bingo Night was so successful, there's talk of this becoming a new Baldwin tradition!

Don't miss upcoming Family Fun Nights brought to you by the Baldwin PTA:

- December: Winter Wonderland Night, with special guest: Santa & Mrs. Claus
- January: STEM Night
- February: Valentine Family Dance Night
- Early Spring: Summer Camp Fair



THE MONITOR

Residential Real Estate Sales Statistics for 78739

Submitted by Jacquelyn Waldrop, Realtor ~ AustinRealEstate.com

Zip Code 78739



Residential Statistics

Listings	This Month			Year-to-Date		
	Oct 2018	Oct 2017	Change	2018	2017	Change
Single Family Sales	20	27	-25.9%	339	333	+1.8%
Condo/TH Sales	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Sales	20	27	-25.9%	339	333	+1.8%
New Homes Only	2	3	-33.3%	32	30	+6.7%
Resale Only	18	24	-25.0%	307	303	+1.3%
Sales Volume	\$10,365,920	\$15,748,905	-34.2%	\$179,719,868	\$172,288,166	+4.3%
New Listings	39	29	+34.5%	419	449	-6.7%
Pending	29	27	+7.4%	349	347	+0.6%
Withdrawn	4	3	+33.3%	32	39	-17.9%
Expired	--	3	--	6	8	-25.0%
Months of Inventory	3.2	2.1	+46.6%	N/A	N/A	--

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Turkey Trotting with 10-Year Olds

Submitted by Kimberly Paulson, Unbound Life Coaching

Today I had the opportunity to encourage about 150 ten-year old students. The annual 'turkey trot' was underway at the school and I signed up to be a lap counter. As each child ran, walked or yes, one even crawled by me with some charismatic drama, I would mark their sweaty little hands with a dot, so they could keep track of the laps they were running. Some children were fast, running in groups with friends. Some were fast and alone. Some were slow and with friends, but the ones that got to me the most were the ones that were not only slow, but alone.

I was encouraging and cheerful to all of them but this mamma with a coach's heart couldn't help but be even more encouraging and cheerful to the ones that were alone. "I am so proud of you." "You are doing a great job." I wanted to be their cheerleader and hold them tight and tell them that they weren't truly alone. I wanted to tell them how much they mattered and how important they were. For just a moment as they each passed by one by one, lap by lap, I grasped their hands tightly as I marked them and I hope I made an impact on them by the words I said. If only we knew just how special we are. Wouldn't you just run up and join whatever group you wanted? Run as fast as you could with endurance and pride? Hold your head up a little bit higher? What I didn't witness until the end was something beautiful that I want to leave you with today. Those kids that were fast and surrounded by friends. do you know what I saw at least ten do today? As they stopped for me to mark their hands they waited, right next to me and said, as the slow, alone ones approached. "I am waiting on my friend." Suddenly those that seemed so alone and forgotten were being waited on by someone who noticed. And that is what it's all about!

Love, Kim



Back to School with Boxtops!

*Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, AustinRealEstate.com,
Baldwin PTA member*

Please continue to collect your Box Tops and Labels for Education for free funds for our school! Go to www.boxtops4education.com and www.labelsforeducation.com for collection sheets. Or, simply snip them, save them and drop them in the blue barrel in the Baldwin lobby any time school is in session. Look for labels on many of your grocery products: Betty Crocker, Campbell's soups, General Mills, Green Giant. Hefty, Pepperidge Farm, Pillsbury, Prego, Yoplait, Ziplock and many, many more.

Baldwin PTA Family Benefactor & Business Booster Sponsorships

Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA Board

We are pleased to announce our new fundraising program for our Baldwin families: Bobcat Benefactors and a new program designed with business partners in mind, the Bobcat Business Boosters. Both programs are a no-hassle, tiered program designed to fit every budget, offering loads of benefits and marketing opportunities. As a Baldwin Family Benefactor or Business Sponsor, you'll be taking part in supporting our PTA's vision and mission and building a foundation for our future leaders. Funds raised will be used to support the following efforts:

- Technology: hardware devices & tech support
- Learning-based software subscriptions for reading, math & science
- Great Leaps reading acceleration program & Blast Off to Reading dyslexia support curriculum
- Math manipulatives & other educational classroom games and supplies
- Physical Education equipment
- Watch D.O.G.S. program: "Dad" volunteers in school daily, enhancing security & reducing bullying
- Family Fun Community Nights: Bingo Night, Santa Night, Valentine's Family Dance, Art Open House
- Teacher Appreciation and Support
- Much, much more!

*Learn more: <https://www.baldwinpta.org/sponsorship-programs>
Fundraising@BaldwinPTA.org*

Jacquelyn Waldrop & Katie Sisk, Baldwin PTA VP Fundraising Team

Join Baldwin PTA Today!

Submitted by: Jacquelyn Waldrop, Baldwin PTA Board

The Baldwin Elementary Parent Teacher Association (PTA) needs YOU! Join our mission of making every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for our children. Together, we create a forum where educators and families unify to raise socially and academically strong students. You don't have to have a child at Baldwin to be a part of the PTA to share your voice and show your support.

Visit baldwinpta.org/pta-sign-up to join now! Single memberships are \$8.50 and Family memberships are \$15. Thanks to you, we have just reached our goal of 400 members strong in supporting our kids and school! Membership@BaldwinPTA.org / Emily Mirkin/ Baldwin PTA - VP Membership

THE MONITOR

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Gardening To Do List December in the Garden

Many of us do more shopping and planning for our gardens during the winter months than actual gardening but that doesn't mean there's nothing to do. In the warmer zones, December is the start of pleasant weather and a chance to enjoy planting cool season vegetables and flowers that don't tolerate your summers. Northern gardeners should use this period without leaves to scout for egg masses and other signs of trouble on trees and shrubs. Here are some more regional gardening tips for the beginning of winter.

In General

- Keep watering your holiday plants and give them plenty of light.
- Check houseplants and any plants you brought indoors for the winter, for insects that may have hitched a ride. With the heat on, they can multiply quickly.
- Also check any bulbs, corms, tubers and bare root plants for desiccation or rot.
- Start eating those stored vegetables and think about planting more winter squash next year.
- Feed the birds.

In Southwest

- Be prepared for sudden swings in temperature and protect tender plants with row covers, newspaper or blankets.
- Start seeds of cool season vegetables and flowers.
- Cut back asparagus, as soon as it dies back or the ground freezes.



attention

Welcome back to a new school year, students! Your neighbors want to hear about all the neat things going on at your campus. Submit your good news to Jacquelyn Waldrop @ J.Waldrop@AustinRealEstate.com and see it printed in this publication.

NATURE WATCH

SILENT FLIGHT

by Jim and Lynne Weber



Eastern Screech Owl

Owls have fascinated man from time immemorial – to some cultures they are symbols of wisdom, while to others they are harbingers of doom and death. Adding to the mystique of these creatures is that they are mainly active at night, using their exceptional vision, acute hearing, and silent flight to stealthily hunt down their prey.

Common in Central Texas, the Eastern Screech-Owl is found in wooded suburban and rural areas and readily nests in tree cavities as well as man-made nest boxes. A small owl 6-10” long with a wingspan of 19-24”, it has feathered ear tufts and is normally gray, brownish-gray, or less commonly reddish-brown. The Eastern Screech-Owl eats a variety of small animals, and each night consumes from one-quarter to one-third of its own body weight. It uses a soft trilling call to keep in contact with a mate or family members, and the male’s trill can advertise a nest site when courting a female or signal an arrival at the nest with food. This owl also has a descending whinny, which is used to defend its territory. Eastern Screech-Owl pairs are usually monogamous and remain together for life, although they will take a new mate when one dies. In mid-April, the female lays 3-4 eggs on average, and the downy white owlets emerge from the nest by mid-May.

Also common but much larger at 18-25” long with a wingspan of 40-57”, the Great Horned Owl prefers habitats of secondary-growth woodlands mixed with open meadows. Often found perching next to an open area and nests in tree hollows, broken off snags, or nests made by other large birds. It has prominent ear tufts spaced widely on its head, a brownish-gray body with dark barring, and a rusty facial disk edged in black surrounding each of its orange-yellow eyes.

The Great Horned Owl has a broad diet of small mammals, birds, amphibians, and reptiles, and is the only animal that regularly eats skunks. They have a large repertoire of sounds, but the most common is that of the male’s resonant territorial call ‘hoo-hoo hooooo hoo-hoo’ that can be heard over several miles through the canyons on a still night. These owls are solitary in nature, only staying with their mate during the nesting season of January and February. Typically 2-4 eggs are laid and incubated solely by the female, until the young start roaming from the nest six to seven weeks later.

The structure of an owl’s feather is the main reason they can fly so silently. The leading edge of their primary wing feathers are serrated like a comb, which breaks down the turbulence into smaller, micro-turbulences. The soft, tattered edges of their secondary feathers allow those small currents of air to pass through them and further reduce the turbulence behind their wings. In addition, the velvety down feathers found in the wing linings and on their legs further dampen and absorb sound frequencies. Together, these features allow the owl to greatly reduce the overall noise caused by the turbulence of air flowing over them as they fly.

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*, *Nature Watch Big Bend*, and *Native Host Plants for Texas Butterflies* (all published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.



Great Horned Owl



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