

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).

Copyright © 2018 Peel, Inc.

The Gazette - April 2019 1



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	
Fire	
Ambulance	
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	

SCHOOLS

Elementary

UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin	
City of Austin (billing)	512-494-9400
Emergency	
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing	
Problems	
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	

OTHER NUMBERS

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

NEWSLETTER PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.	
Article Submissions	.villagegazette@peelinc.com
Advertising	advertising@PEELinc.com



Federally Insured by NCUA



- Participants should wear athletic dance wear with tennis and/or dance shoes (such as T-shirts and shorts or leotards and tights).
- Participants will be given a snack at no extra charge.
- Students who attend both sessions should bring a sack lunch or money to purchase lunch items. Snack, lunch, and drink
 items (priced \$0.50 \$2.00) will be available for purchase during the lunch break. Class pictures (included in the price of
 registration) will be taken and hand-delivered on Friday.

Dance Intensive Information (7th - 9th) *Afternoon Only*

- Participants will choose between a beginner, intermediate, or advanced level class. All sessions will include a work-out infused warm-up, dance progressions across the floor, and at least one dance combination.
 - Beginner: This session will introduce the basics of dance. Little to no prior dance experience required.
 - Intermediate: This session will build on the basic fundamentals of dance. Participants should have a single turn, right
 and left regular split-leap, fan kick, and x-jump. Dance experience recommended.
 - <u>Advanced</u>: This session will build on the intermediate fundamentals of dance with emphasis on technique and skills. Participants should have a clean double turn, calypso, russian, right and left regular split-leap, and firebird leap (stationary leap w/ back leg in attitude). Dance experience required.
 - Participants will be given a snack at no extra charge, but they will not do arts & crafts.
- Participants should wear athletic dance wear with tennis and/or jazz shoes.

For more information, contact the Silver Stars camp coordinator: jbhssummerdancecamp@gmail.com

NATURE WATCH

PLANT NATIVES!

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Spring is the ideal time to think about planting, and how you manage your garden or landscape can have an effect on the overall health of the soil, air, water and habitat for native wildlife as well as our human community. Help conserve and improve the quality of these resources by using sustainable gardening practices such as mulching and composting, reducing or eliminating lawn areas, xeriscaping (planting native, drought-tolerant plants), installing rain barrels, and removing non-native invasive plants and restoring native ones.

The U.S. government defines an invasive plant species as one "that is not native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health." These species grow outside desired boundaries, out-competing native species, and spread by seeds, berries, spores, runners, rhizomes, and stems. Some can be easily transported long distances, and every year millions of our tax dollars and thousands of volunteer hours are spent trying to eradicate them.

Many of these plants have already invaded our preserves and greenbelts in Austin, originating in our landscapes, escaping cultivation and spreading into the wild. Invasive species may grow faster, taller, or wider and shade out native species. Many stay green later into the season or leaf out earlier, giving them an advantage over natives. They can change the vertical and horizontal structure of ecosystems, alter hydrology, and disrupt nutrient cycles, all of which can have devastating effects on native plants and animals.

Although invasive exotics may offer birds fruit, squirrels nuts, and hummingbirds and butterflies nectar, they do not provide the entire range of seasonal habitat benefits that an appropriate locally native species will provide. If we want not only to satisfy our desires to attract wildlife, but also to restore the critical, often unseen, small pieces in our ecosystems, we need to bring back our locally native plants. These plants are not only attractive to humans, they also meet the food and cover needs of all wildlife species: bees, wasps, butterflies, grasshoppers, bugs, beetles, spiders, and thousands of others that sustain and support food webs which songbirds, salamanders, bats, toads, and box turtles more visibly demonstrate.

Aside from attracting a diversity of wildlife, the use of native plants minimizes the impact our landscapes have on the natural environment around us. They reduce water consumption, eliminate the need for chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and limit the competition from invasive exotics. This results in a much healthier habitat—water, soil, and air—for humans and animals alike, and is less costly, too. Invite wildlife to put on a show in your backyard by replacing the invasives in your landscape, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

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

Non-Native/Invasive Plant(s)	Some Native & Adapted Alternative(s)
Bamboo	Wax Myrtle (Morella cerifera)
	Yaupon Holly (Ilex vomitoria)
	Bamboo Muhly (Muhlenbergia dumosa)
Chingham	Chinquapin Oak (Quercus muehlenbergii)
Chinaberry	Texas Red Oak (Quercus buckleyi)
Chinana T-11 T	Bigtooth Maple (Acer grandidentatum)
Chinese Tallow Tree	Lacey Oak (Quercus laceyi)
	Arrowhead (Sagittaria latifolia)
	Crinum Lily (Crinum americanum)
Elephant Ear	Pigeonberry (Rivina humilis)
	Frogfuit (Phyla nodiflora)
	Horseherb (Calyptocarpus vialis)
~ ~ ~	Roughleaf Dogwood (Cornus drummondii)
Giant Cane	Yaupon Holly (Ilex vomitoria)
	Coral Honeysuckle (Lonicera sempervirens)
Japanese Honeysuckle	Passion Vine (<i>Passiflora foetida or incarnate or lutea or tenuiloba</i>)
	Rock Rose (<i>Pavonia lasiopetala</i>)
Holly Fern	River Fern (<i>Thelypteris kunthii</i>)
nony i em	Virginia Creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia)
Kudzu, English Ivy, Vinca	Trumpet Vine (<i>Campsis radicans</i>)
Rudzu, English ivy, vined	Coral Vine (Antigonon leptopus)
	Evergreen Sumac (<i>Rhus virens</i>)
	Barbados Cherry (Malpighia glabra)
Ligustrum (all species) or	Yaupon Holly (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>)
Common Privet	Possumhaw Holly (<i>Ilex decidua</i>)
Common Fliver	Texas Sage (Leucophyllum frutescens)
	Cherry Laurel (Prunus caroliniana)
M ^C and a second s	Desert Willow (<i>Chilopsis linearis</i>) Texas Redbud (<i>Cercis canadensis</i> var. <i>texensis</i>)
Mimosa	
	Elbowbush (Forestiera pubescens)
Naudias as Bassanh, Damhas	Texas Lantana (<i>Lantana urticoides</i>)
Nandina or Heavenly Bamboo	Bush Germander (<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>)
	Texas Sage (Leucophyllum frutescens)
	Red Mulberry (Morus rubra)
Paper or White Mulberry	Texas Persimmon (<i>Diospyros texana</i>)
ruper of white multerry	Possumhaw Holly (<i>Ilex decidua</i>)
	Cherry Laurel (Prunus caroliniana)
	Yaupon Holly (Ilex vomitoria)
Pyracantha	Possumhaw Holly (Ilex decidua)
	Evergreen Sumac (Rhus virens)
Red-tipped or Chinese Photinia	Evergreen Sumac (<i>Rhus virens</i>)
	Carolina Buckthorn (Frangula caroliniana)
× 1 011	Yaupon Holly (<i>Ilex vomitoria</i>)
Russian Olive	Texas Persimmon (Diospyros texana)
St. Augustine Grass	Buffalo Grass (Bouteloua dactyloides)
Tamarisk or Salt Cedar	Bald Cypress (Taxodium distichum)
	Arizona Cypress (Cupressus arizonica)
Trap of Hanyan	Chinquapin Oak (Quercus muehlenbergii)
Tree of Heaven	Lacey Oak (Quercus laceyi)
Vitex or Chastetree	Texas Pistachio (Pistacia mexicana)
	Mexican Buckeye (Ungnadia speciosa)

The Gazette

Acrobat Ants

Acrobat ants usually nest outdoors under stones or in dead wood such as firewood, tree stumps, dead tree branches, or hollow tree cavities. Because they are found in similar habitats, acrobat ants are sometimes confused with carpenter ants. Indoors they can nest in foam insulating board or water damaged wood. Acrobat ants get their name from the act of raising their abdomen over their thorax when in defensive posture which makes the ants look similar to circus acrobats.

Acrobat ants have a reddish-brown head and thorax with a dark blue-black abdomen. The abdomen is a distinctive heart-shape. Acrobat ants primarily feed on honeydew produced by aphids and can often be seen tending honeydew producers on plants. They will sometimes use overhanging tree branches or power lines to enter homes in search of food.

Outdoors, acrobat ants are usually not a problem directly. They can be seen as a problem in that they protect honeydew producers from predators and parasites. You can use this to your advantage by using acrobat ants as a monitoring tool to watch if you have honeydew producers on your plants.

To avoid a home invasion by acrobats follow these tips:

- Remove tree stumps & dead limbs from trees
- Trim back branches overhanging or touching the roof
- Fill tree cavities with sand
- Do not store firewood in or near the home
- Keep weather stripping around doors & windows in good repair
- Seal around pipe penetrations with caulk or expanding foam
- Fix any water leaks
- Replace water damaged wood on the structure

• Spray around the foundation of the home- select a product labeled for ants

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

This work is supported by Crops Protection and Pest Management Competitive Grants Program [grant no. 2017-70006-27188 /project accession no. 1013905] from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas A&M AgriLife Research is implied.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service provides equal access in its programs, activities, education and employment, without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity.





Lee Ann LaBorde, Agent 8400 Brodie Ln Ste 105 Austin, TX 78745 Bus: 512-282-3100 leeann@leeannlaborde.net

When "That will never happen to me" happens.

I'm ready to help.

There's never a good time for an accident to happen. But when it does, you can count on me to be there quickly so you can get your life back to normal. **GET TO A BETTER STATE**". CALL ME TODAY.



1101204.1

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

The Gazette is a private publication published by Peel, Inc. It is not sanctioned by any homeowners association or organization, nor is it subject to the approval of any homeowners association or organization, nor is it intended, nor implied to replace any publication that may be published by or on behalf of any homeowners association or organization. At no time will any source be allowed to use the Gazette's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc.

DISCLAIMER: Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.







6 The Gazette - April 2019

Copyright © 2018 Peel, Inc.

Top Questions to Ask when Assessing Assisted Living

By Jason Brenizer, Silverleaf Eldercare

1) How many residents is one caregiver responsible for?

This is arguably the most important question you can ask when searching for a community for your mom, dad, aunt, or grandparent who needs assistance with daily living. Their rooms could be huge or they could watch old shows on the "biggest movie screen in Austin senior living", but without a person who can take the time to attend to your loved one's needs WHEN he or she needs it, those amenities begin to lose their shine.

First and foremost, you are looking for an assisted living site because your older family member needs help. Maybe mom can't drive anymore, so how does she shop for food? Chances are, someone in the family has taken on that responsibility. Possibly she's had a fall, had hip surgery, and isn't as mobile as before. In that scenario, it is next to impossible for her to take care of her house. And she deserves to live in a clean, bright home and get the best nutrition possible.

But how is a community where one caregiver is responsible for fifteen or more residents any better than having your mom at home all alone at her house? It might even be worse, because the level of attentiveness at one of these care facilities ends up being less than what you and your family were doing for her by shopping, cleaning, doing her bills, and generally checking in.

A minimum starting point would be reducing that caregiver's responsibility to ten residents. But if you can get closer to a six-resident to one-caregiver ratio (6 to 1), then not only will your elder's basic needs be met, there will be more time for true connection. Assisted Living can and should be like a home away from home, with a new circle of close friends, both residents and caregivers. Your mom craves social connection, even if she won't admit it. At a community where the caregivers aren't stretched too thin, they will have time to really listen to your mom about her needs AND her wishes. Something as small as learning she prefers sourdough bread for her morning toast can make a huge difference in her quality of life.

2) What kinds of activities are offered and at what frequency?

This question naturally follows the first. Once basic needs of daily living are met, do the staff have time to lead or help with activities? Is the community creative, or is one of the most regular daily "activities" TV time? Parking our elders in front of a screen for hours a day isn't the most enriching experience.

Are there more communal activities that help everyone who can participate get involved? An example would be listening to live or recorded music from their heyday, where the residents get to pick their favorites. Depending on mobility (and the weather), does the community offer gardening or time outside? Even for those who can't physically participate, is there a way for them to watch and engage with others so they feel included rather than excluded? Look for a place where the outdoors has been integrated into the living experience.

3) What types of ingredients are used for your meal plans and how often are recipes repeated?

If nutrition is important to you, make sure to dive deeper into this topic. You are the advocate for your family. Are the meals prepared using pre-packaged food or from scratch? Pancakes made from Bisquick are different from home-made. Are the vegetables fresh or factory-canned? How were they grown? Are the meats free of hormones and antibiotics? For some people, these details are less important. It comes down to personal preference.

At some small communities, the staff cover multiple duties. This might include preparing meals. This is not a bad thing. Chances are there are a few staff members who really know their way around a kitchen. Other places will employ a dedicated cook or chef. Either way, it is good to know what to expect.

At the very least, request a copy of the most recent meal plan. There might be a week's worth of meals listed for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. This is a good place to start. One simple way to get a sense of the food behind the food is to look at the shelves in the cabinets or pantry and open the refrigerator. The worst they can do is say, "No", but it might leave you wondering what they might be hiding.

4) BONUS Questions:

- a) Do you have a range of room sizes and price options?
- b) Can residents control their own room temperature?
- c) Are bathrooms designed for inspiration as well as safety?
- d) What kind of turnover do you experience with staffing?

 WILLITH DEVELOPMENT*

 DI HOLITH DEVELOPMENT*

 DI HOLITHY LIVING

 DI HOLITHY LIVING
 </tr

At the Y, campers gain a sense of accomplishment, build relationships, and find their sense of belonging.

Summer Camp Registration Now Open

- For ages 4-14 Sites in Travis, Hays and Bastrop Counties
- 5 days a week Financial assistance is available

SPACES ARE LIMITED! Learn more and register at AustinYMCA.org/camp or call Program Services at 512.236.9622



PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID PEEL, INC.



WWW.ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM 512.217.6103

ASHLEY'S AWARD WINNING SYSTEM IS SHOWN IN HER RECORD BREAKING RESULTS Austins Platinum Top 50 Nominee and Award Winner 2015 – 2018 | AIOREP Top 10 Agent for Client Satisfaction in Texas 2015 – 2018 Austin Business Journal Top Producing Agent 2013 – 2018 | Texas Monthly Five Star Agent 2013 – 2019

SquiresTeam.com

<u>"JUST LISTED!"</u> 9441 El Rey in Granada Oaks Estates, right behind Circle C. John will be bringing this gorgeous new listing on 1~ manicured, private acre with in-ground pool to market on approximately 3/15/19 with an open house that weekend. This custom sandstone home has 3646~ sq. ft. in the main home and an additional 1200~ sq ft. in the guest house/media room with full bath, central air and an outdoor fireplace. The guest house also features an air conditioned, professional workshop, storage room and small garage for lawn tractors and tool shop. The main home lives like a large 1-story, with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths and large game room upstairs. The rest of the living space is downstairs including a large study and open kitchen/family room combination. Low tax rate at 1.95% with no City of Austin taxes! The pool is also ready for a party. Call John or I know, great text at 512 970-1970. Listed for a proper sale at \$899,000.! \leftarrow price!



11012 Savannah Court





John Squires' sell phone is (512) 970-1970. Call for a no-obligation appointment with John to find out your home's value in today's marketplace.

"JUST SOLD!" John's new listing at 11012 Savannah Court was an extremely rare opportunity to own a 1-story home with a big 3-car garage on a culde-sac, with a large, almost 4/10's of an ACRE, private back vard. This home was "Sold!" through John's holding open house and went with 6 offers, all over list price for an extremely high sale. It was 2464 square feet and offered at \$539,000. Offers on the home neared \$20,000. over list price. Call John for more information!



11400 Hollister Lane is <u>"CONTRACT</u> <u>PENDING!"</u>. This is a gorgeous Fedrick Harris 2-story with 4-5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths a game room, media room and soaring ceilings. The back yard was professionally designed and landscaped for ultimate privacy with an outdoor fireplace and grill. In the gated golf course subdivision of Sommerset Estates. Offered at \$564,500. Call John Squires for more info.



5204 Corrientes Cove John's new listing is <u>"CONTRACT PENDING!"</u> Do I really live here? You'll pinch yourself as you gaze out the cathedral Pella windows to view probably the largest residential resort pool in Circle C on your 4/10's acre, cul-de-sac lot backing to greenbelt, "On The Park". Stunning, brand new kitchen w/silestone, granite, stainless, Italian glass. Gorgeous Travertine master bath spa w/frameless. 12 man hot tub attached to your lap pool with grotto and deep end. \$679,000. Call John for more information on this incredible property at 512 970-1970





#1 realtor in Circle C Ranch history with approximately 560~ homes sold to date.. Over **1075**~ homes sold in the Austin area. #1 agent in Southwest Austin according to Austin Board of **Realtors statistics.** "Top 50" agent in central Texas 8 times according to Austin Business Journal. Only 1 number to call and John Squires answers his phone. You will never be handed off to an assistant and will speak only with John during your entire home-selling or buying experience. Call John's direct 'sell' phone at (512) 970-**1970.** Thanks!

