

The Gazette

JULY 2019
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 7

SWING Networking Group

Promote your business with local independent business owners. SWING (South west Austin Inclusive Networking Group) has been meeting every Thursday morning from 8AM to 9:30AM at the Waterloo Ice House on Escarpment for 14 years.

We have no dues, no initiation fees, we don't take attendance. Just pay for your own breakfast. The more often you show up the better we get to know you. We are an inclusive group, we will enjoy competition. So, bring your business cards and a good attitude and let's get to know you.

If you want more information, contact Liz Jensen at 512-301-6966 or lizleej@gmail.com or Peter Berardino (The King of SWING) at 512-695-2334 or peterberardino@gmail.com.

National Survey Reveals Roof Damage is One of the Top Issues that Stress Out American Homeowners

Only 3% of Austin Homeowners are Proactive at Checking their Roofs

Roof damage is among the top 3 stressful issues for homeowners next to burst pipes and flood damage according to a new national survey by Owens Corning Roofing. While a roof is one of the most important items protecting most American's single largest financial investment, 69% of homeowners admitted to rarely, if ever, looking at their roof or hiring a professional to do so in advance of unpredictable weather seasons. Nationwide, the survey also found that 70% say the

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Help Make the World a Better Place



Did you know that by opening your home to a foreign exchange student you are taking on the role as a diplomat of the United States? Its true! Hosting a teenager from another country is form of public diplomacy – it gives both the host family and the student an opportunity to learn from each other, exchange cultural experiences and most of all, form life-long relationships.

All that is required of a host family is to provide three meals a day, a place for the student to sleep and a little bit of TLC thrown in. Students can share a room with a same sex sibling that is within three years of their age. The students all come with their own spending money, health insurance and an eagerness to be part of your family.

STS Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization, is looking for volunteer host families for the 2019/2020 school year. We accept all different types of families, from single parents, to newly marrieds, to empty nesters to same sex couples. The application process is simple, once you are completely vetted, you will have access to our student database where you can select the student that best fits in with your family.

If you would like to find out more about hosting one of our wonderful students, please contact Vicki Odom at (832) 455-7881 or email at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com. I can get you started in helping to make the world a better place to live.

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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("National Survey..." Continued from Cover Page)

cost of repairs would be taxing, but only 29% of homeowners have money set aside to address unexpected roof damage.

Specific to Austin, the survey found that 40% of Austin homeowners admit they don't currently have money set aside to repair or replace unexpected roof damage and yet in the last three years only 3% say they always check or have their roofs checked before the start of a season that typically brings bad weather.



"Understanding the importance of checking their roofs and knowing the basics of roof maintenance and damage can help ensure homeowners are better prepared for upcoming weather," says Tracy Sanders and Luke Evans of Sanders Roofing and Exteriors. "It can literally make a huge financial impact for you and your family."

Checking the Condition of a Roof

According to Tracy Sanders and Luke Evans, there are a few simple steps Austin homeowners can take to identify issues and make sure their roof is ready for upcoming weather: WIN (Walk the Attic, Inspect Your Ceilings, Note Outside Changes).

Walk the attic:

Often, early warning signs of current or future roof problems are visible in your attic long before they become apparent from the inside or the outside. Look for daylight coming from around any of the roof penetrations (e.g. chimney, soil pipe, vents, etc.) and check for any signs of moisture or staining on the underside wood of your roof including mold.

Inspect ceilings:

The first and simplest check that you likely do without even noticing it, is to occasionally inspect the ceilings in the rooms on the highest level of your home. Check for staining or discoloration on the ceilings of these rooms and hallways, especially during or after heavy precipitation.

Note outside changes:

At the start of each new season you should conduct an external visual inspection of your roof from the ground. Things to look for include: curling, blistering, damaged or missing shingles; missing granules including circular shapes; sagging shingle rows; moss or discoloration; and shiny shingles. IMPORTANT: A close-up inspection of your roof is recommended at least once a year, but if you are uncomfortable, inexperienced or have any doubts about your

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or your spouse's ability to do this safely, you should not try this and should call a professional roofing contractor instead.

Importance of a Certified Contractor

According to the survey, more than 54% of American homeowners say that finding a contractor they could trust would be stressful – in fact, it is so crucial that most homeowners (75%) said they would be willing to pay more money to find a contractor they could trust. The survey also found that for three quarters of Americans (75%), the single most important sign to know if a contractor can be trusted was a certification by a national roofing manufacturer.

To find a trustworthy local roofing contractor, Owens Corning recommends the following:

- If someone says your entire roof needs to be replaced, but you are unsure, get a second opinion, especially on newer roofs
- Check to make sure that the contractor is fully insured and make sure you get proof
- Confirm that a contractor carries valid state & local licenses and fully understands local knowledge of codes
- Check that the contractor is affiliated/certified by a trusted national roofing manufacturer
- Make sure the contractor has good standing with the Better Business Bureau; you can find out by visiting <https://www.bbb.org/en/us/search/>
- Looking for a trustworthy and reliable contractor in your area, but don't know where to start? Visit <https://www.sandersroofs.com/> or, for a list of additional reliable, vetted independent contractors in your area, visit www.owenscorning.com/roofing/contractors.

About Owens Corning

Owens Corning (NYSE: OC) develops, manufactures, and markets insulation, roofing, and fiberglass composites. Global in scope and human in scale, the company's market-leading businesses use their deep expertise in materials, manufacturing, and building science to develop products and systems that save energy and improve comfort in commercial and residential buildings. Through its glass reinforcements business, the company makes thousands of products lighter, stronger, and more durable. Ultimately, Owens Corning people and products make the world a better place. Based in Toledo, Ohio, Owens Corning posted 2017 sales of \$6.4 billion and employs 19,000 people in 37 countries. It has been a Fortune 500® company for 63 consecutive years. For more information, please visit www.owenscorning.com/.

About Sanders Roofing and Exteriors

Sanders Roofing & Exteriors has been pushing the limits for the past 10 years to become the most reliable roofing company in all of Central Texas. Tracy and Kim Sanders and Luke and Michele Evans are the operators of Sanders Roofing & Exteriors, overseeing its day-to-day success. As a family owned and operated company, much of our business comes from referrals. If we don't do our job to your satisfaction then you won't recommend us to your family, friends, and neighbors – and everyone loses! We promise quality workmanship and products for every job, and our customers can testify to the high standards we maintain. Sanders Roofing & Exteriors is a proud Owens Corning "Platinum Preferred Contractor". For more information, visit <https://www.sandersroofs.com/>.

Easy Root Beer Float Pie



Ingredients:

¾ cup of root beer

½ cup milk

2 T root beer concentrate

1 box (3oz) instant vanilla pudding mix

1 tub (8oz) Cool Whip, thawed

1 ready-to-use graham cracker crust

Additional whipped cream and maraschino cherries for garnish (optional)

Instructions:

In a large mixing bowl, combine the root beer, milk, and root beer concentrate.

Sprinkle the vanilla pudding mix over it and whisk together for 2 minutes.

Fold in the thawed cool whip and mix together until well combined.

Pour into the prepared crumb crust and spread evenly.

Cover and freeze for at least 8 hours.

Garnish if desired.

Can be enjoyed straight from the freezer or thawed slightly.

NATURE WATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

MARIPOSA DE LA MUERTE



Photo: Black Witch

Commonly known as owlet moths, cutworms, or armyworms, moths in the Noctuidae family make up one of the largest families of Lepidoptera. The word Noctuidae is derived from the Latin word noctua meaning ‘little owl’ and the largest moth in this family in the continental United States is the Black Witch (*Ascalapha odorata*).

The Black Witch moth has been known as mariposa de la muerte or ‘butterfly of death’ since the time of the Aztecs, when it was believed that they were harbingers of death. With a wingspan of up to 6 inches, its upperside is mottled dark brown to grayish-brown with hints of iridescent purple and pink, and females, which are slightly larger and lighter in color than males, have a pale almost lavender-pink median band through both fore and hind wings.

Common to abundant in the New World topics as far south as Brazil, the Black Witch flies year-round in south Florida and the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. In June and July, summer monsoons in Mexico trigger this fabulous creature to migrate north through Texas, where it is often found roosting in garages, under eaves, or under bridges. It has the ability to migrate great distances over bodies of open water, such as the Gulf of Mexico, and one specimen was recorded in 1903 in Leadville, Colorado, caught in a snowstorm on the Fourth of July!

Primarily nocturnal, the adult Black Witch is attracted to light and fermenting fruit. Its larvae feed at night on a variety of cassias, acacias, ebony, mesquite, and other woody legumes, and rest during the day hidden under bark and branches. Up to 3 inches long, its caterpillar is dark gray tinged with brown, with a pale stripe down the back and dark stripes down the sides, and it relies on this natural camouflage to make it difficult to spot. Pupation occurs on the ground in scattered leaf litter within a fragile cocoon. Black Witches breed year round in overlapping generations, and their adult stage is thought to last only three or four weeks.

At first glance, this very large moth is often mistaken for a small bat hovering around a porch light, but it will eventually land and linger for several hours if undisturbed. If this happens to you, you can only hope that the South Texas legend of the Black Witch is true, as it states, “If a Black Witch lands above your door and stays there for a while, you could win the lottery!”

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.

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The Gazette

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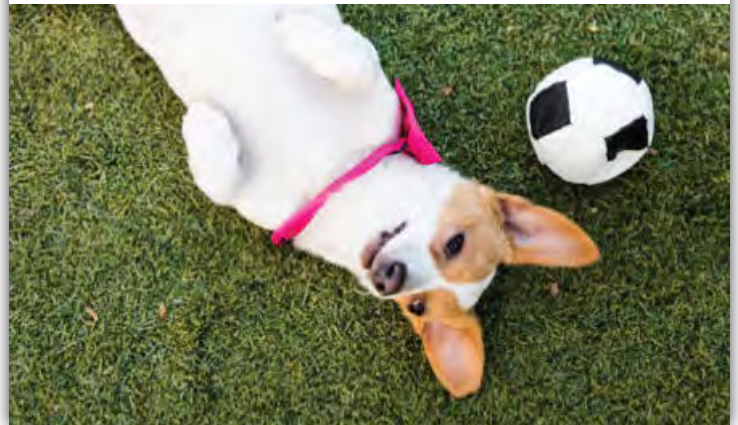
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PLEASE REMEMBER TO PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS Keep Our Neighborhood Beautiful!



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The YMCA of Austin is here to help active older adults live better and enjoy life more. Whether you're looking to remain fit, recover from an injury, relieve arthritis pain, or you just want to connect and have fun with your peers, the Y is the perfect place to start.

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Fall Webworms

Webworms can be found on a variety of trees and are most well-known for the webbing they create on the tips of branches. Webworms are caterpillars, or larvae, of a moth. Caterpillars cause damage by feeding on foliage that is inside the protective webbing.

There are 2-4 generations of webworms that occur each year. The first generation appears April- May and the last generation occurs in the late fall. The last generation is the most damaging generation, which provides these creatures with the name fall webworm.



Webworm larvae are about an inch long when fully grown. They are pale green to yellow with tufts of long hairs projecting from their body. Most people notice webbing that webworms create on the tips of branches. Webworms feed within the webbing and use it as protection from predators. When the caterpillars run out of foliage to feed on, they expand the web to encompass new leaves.

To manage webworms, the size and accessibility of the tree needs to be considered. Egg masses can be pruned from trees before they hatch in early spring. Egg masses are on the underside of leaves and are covered with hairs. Small webs can also be pruned from the tree when they begin to form in the spring. Larger webs can be knocked out of the tree or opened with a stick or jet of water which will allow predators inside the web to feed on caterpillars. Do NOT use fire to burn the web from trees! This causes more damage to the tree than if the caterpillars continued to feed.

Insecticides are also available for webworm management. Look for active ingredients such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki* (this product specifically targets caterpillars), spinosad, azadirachtin, or pyrethrins. Webs need to be opened before treatment with a pesticide so that pesticide gets inside the web where caterpillars are located.

Please note that webbing will remain in trees even after

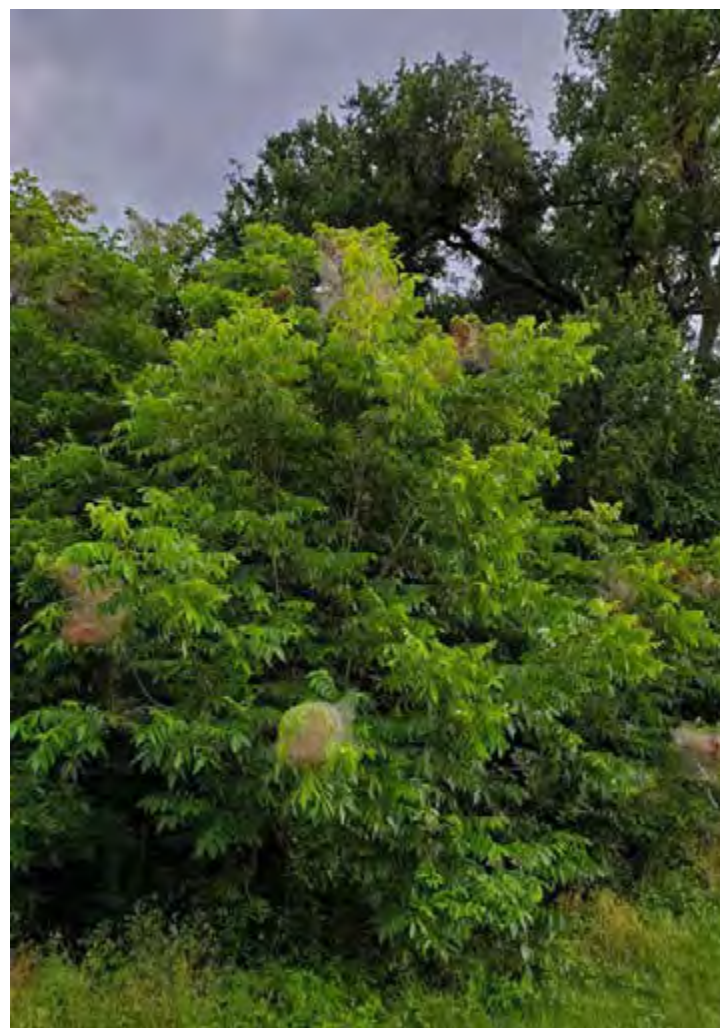
caterpillars are dead. Webbing needs to be removed by you or a strong weather event.

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

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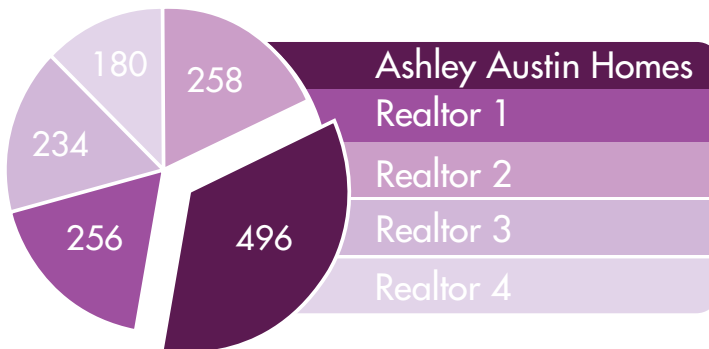
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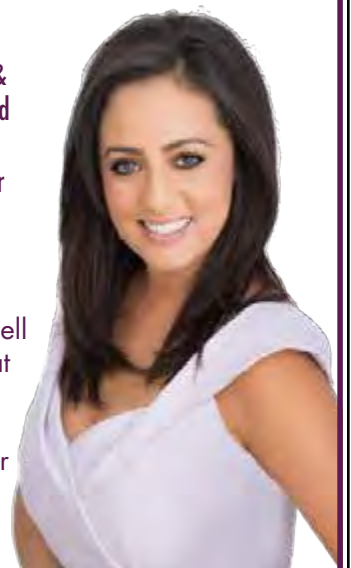
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*Based on 2010-2017 ASOR data



The number of homes I've represented for my sellers & buyers since 2010, compared to the other known agents you'll see advertising in our neighborhood.



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SOLD



KW KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY



6433 Aden Lane— John's listing is **"JUST LISTED!"** Gorgeous 2-story executive series home with wood floors, upgraded kitchen, deck and greenbelt! Too many upgrades to list. Stunning at **\$549,000.**

John Squires' 'sell' phone is **(512) 970-1970**. Call or text for a no-obligation appointment with John to find out your home's value in today's marketplace. John can also represent you in the purchase of any property. You may call John personally at any time, as he is always available for you. He takes all his own calls, so give him a shout at **(512) 970-1970** or email him at **John@SquiresTeam.com**



6526 Tasajillo Trail— John's listing is **"JUST LISTED!"** Bring on the retirees or PERFECT party pad for young couple! Stunning 3/2 cottage with pool, hi-end Bull grill, gas fire-pit and upgraded kitchen. Call John for more info! **\$489,000.**

11321 Aden Ct.-John's buyer is **"UNDER CONTRACT"** pre-market with the Squires Team "Silent Market". Gorgeous home on corner lot. Almost 3700 square feet with in-ground pool and hot tub! (John's buyer was placed with home before market)



5601 Van Winkle—"On The Park" John's listing is **"COMING SOON!"** Stunning David Weekly on one of Circle C's most sought-after streets in the entire subdivision. 3700-sq. ft. with in-ground pool, 3-car garage and on a deep culdesac street. Price upon request. Call John. :)





Hey Southwest Austin, here are some new homes on the market and some sold *before* market through the Squires' Team Silent Market program. Some sellers do not wish to have a sign in the yard or scores of folks coming through their house. Call John for more info if that is of interest to you. John fully markets all of these homes he lists to their fullest potential. *Properly* listed, *properly* priced, *properly* marketed, professionally **"Sold!"** Call John Squires to sell your home for the absolute top of the market price!



Absolutely beaming proud to have helped two of Austin's finest sell and purchase their new homes. It has been an absolute honor to have worked with them. Thank you Lieutenant Jason Disher and Lieutenant Gizette Gaslin for allowing me to help.



7709 Haggans Lane- Kevin Scragg from the Squires Team helped this buyer purchase this gorgeous home in the Enclave Estates before the home came to market. Stunning flagstone home with amazing wood floors and décor.

8332 La Plata Loop- John's new listing is now on the market. 2 sprawling acres with a 4/2.5 home with multiple decks and living areas. Backs to greenbelt. Low taxes @ 2.00! \$669,500.



6432 Old Harbor- John's listing is **"JUST SOLD!!"** before hitting MLS! 2-story model home plan! Listed @ \$450,000.



11405 LaFitte- John's listing is **"JUST SOLD!"** before hitting the MLS! 2-story Newmark with a POOL at \$589,000.

"Buy or sell with me and use the truck and trailer for free!"



Call John's direct 'sell' phone at **(512) 970-1970**. **#1** realtor in Circle C real estate with approximately **575~** homes sold to date. Over **1085~** homes sold in the Austin area. **#1 agent in Southwest Austin according to Austin Board of Realtors statistics with 760 sold!** **"Top 50"** agent in central Texas **8** times according to Austin Business Journal. Only **1** number to call and John Squires answers his phone! **Move-up and move-down plans with flexible commissions.**

You'll never be handed off to an assistant, as John speaks directly with all his clients.

