



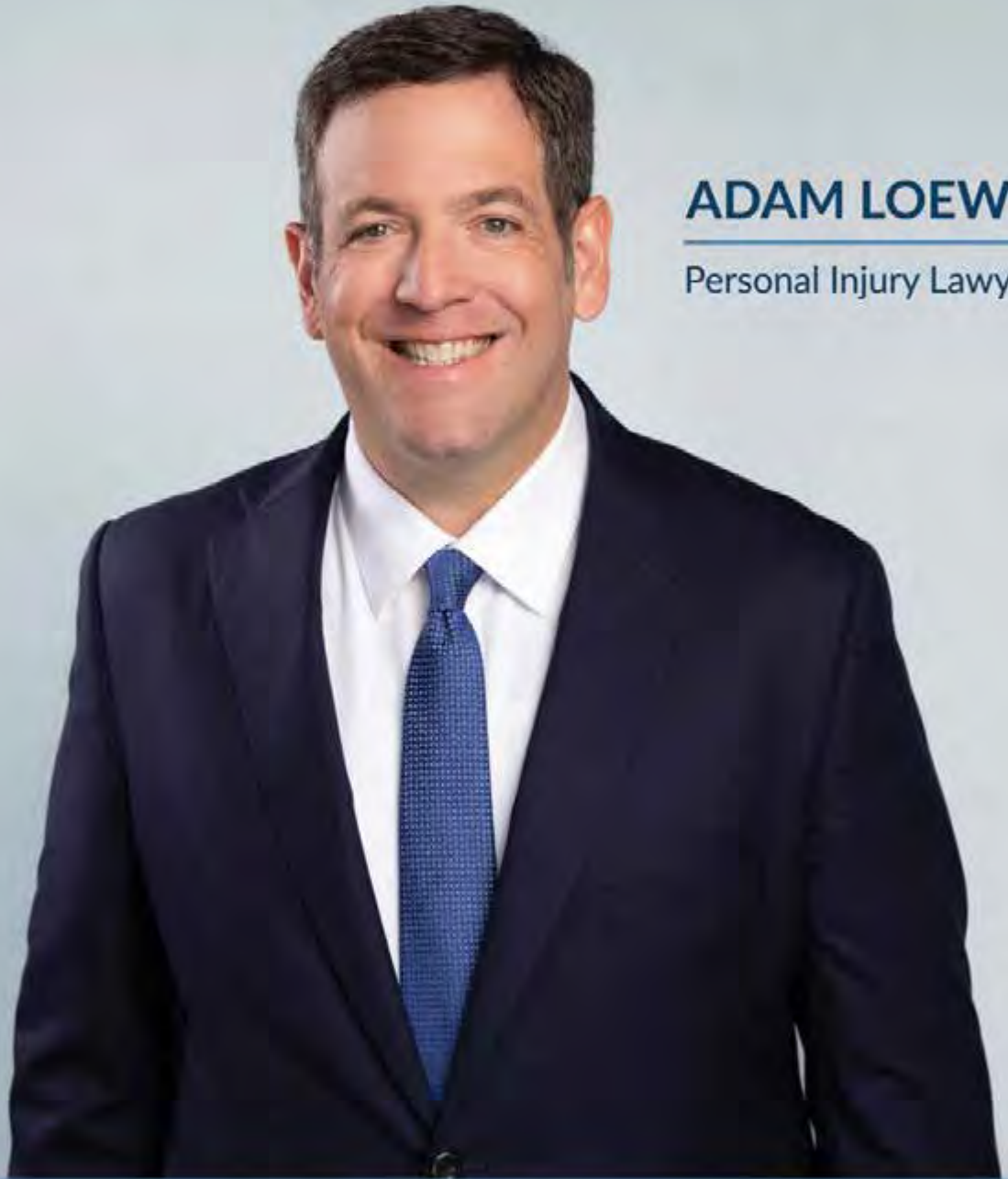
SEPTEMBER 2020 VOLUME 13, ISSUE 9

A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks II





Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents  
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



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Articles .....legendoaks@peelinc.com

### PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc.....www.PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

Advertising.....advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

### ADVERTISING INFORMATION

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Legend Oaks newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all Legend Oaks II residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 8th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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# LEGEND OAKS

## RIVER OTTERS

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

Most people assume that the animal they are seeing in area lakes and streams is a beaver but it could be a river otter. Most people don't realize that we have otters in our area.

River otters are fascinating little creatures. They are semi-aquatic spending about two-thirds of their time on land and the other third in the water. They live in dens called holts, near water, that have several tunnel openings with at least one leading them directly to a lake, stream, inland wetland or marsh. Their webbed feet and powerful tails make them strong swimmers. When they're in the water, their nostrils and ears close to keep water out. They have a third eyelid, or nictitating membrane, that acts like the goggles we wear when we swim. It protects the eyes and helps them to see underwater. They can dive up to 60 feet and can hold their breath for up to eight minutes.

The diet of the river otter is mainly made up of aquatic organisms including fish, turtles, frogs, crayfish, etc. but since they're semi-aquatic, they've also been known to eat small mammals like squirrels and mice.

River otters are good communicators and have a variety of vocalizations. They yelp, whistle, growl and chirp and when threatened, they emit a scream that can be heard up to a mile and a half away!

Although they live alone or in pairs, river otters are very social and



playful—guess you could call them party animals. The playful furballs roll down hills, juggle pebbles, wrestle, frolic in the water and even build themselves slides along the banks of rivers.

If you need assistance with an injured, orphaned or displaced animal, give us a call. In most cases, the animal doesn't need rescuing but we will help you make that determination. If the animal does need help, we will walk you through the process to keep both you and the animal safe. Our phone number is 713.468.TWRC. Our website has helpful information as well.

[www.twrcwildlifecenter.org](http://www.twrcwildlifecenter.org)

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## LETTUCE RECYCLE!

*by Dena Houston*

### THE RECYCLED ORCHESTRA



Cateura is one of the poorest “slum” villages in Paraguay. It is located at the edge of Paraguay’s largest landfill into which three million pounds of trash are dumped daily.

This village suffers from severe poverty, lack of education among the young, high drug use, and a dangerously polluted water supply. When it rains in Cateura, the streets become a sea of trash.

Most of the people in the village make their living as “trash pickers,” earning five cents a pound for cardboard and ten cents a pound for plastic. In 2006, an environmental engineer named Favio Chavez went to Cateura to teach the trash pickers about recycling safety. He was also a musician and decided to teach music lessons to the children. He taught them outside, next to the landfill, in the heat and in the pouring rain. At first, he had two violins and three guitars for the 10 children who signed up. The kids had to share the instruments. They could not take them home to practice because the instruments were so valuable—more valuable than the houses the kids lived in—that they would surely be stolen.

Chavez asked one of the “pickers,” Cola Gomez, to help build some more instruments. Cola picked through the trash and found an old drum with a hole in it. He found X-ray film to cover the hole so the kids could play it. He made a violin for Ada Rios using a bent fork, metal sheets from a flattened paint can, and other recycled items. The story of Ada Rios is captured in a wonderful children’s book called *Ada’s Violin*.

Cola started experimenting with other materials to build instruments—water pipes became flutes, packing crates became guitars. He made a cello from an oil drum, a spoon, and the heel of a shoe.

Tito Romero put together trumpets, flutes, and trombones. He made a saxophone from a drainpipe, melted copper, spoon handles, cans, and bottle caps.

Soon, the orchestra performed concerts in Cateura and then in the capital of Asuncion. The audiences loved the orchestra and The Recycled Orchestra started to get invited to different countries. You can hear them perform at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MkTQQ0m8Ys8>.

Playing in the orchestra has changed the lives of many of the children in the village. Money from the concerts has helped the families build new and safer homes.

What started as a music class for 10 students has grown into a traveling orchestra and music school with 200 students and 25 instructors. Quoting Favio, “The world sends us garbage. We send back music.”

You can see a short documentary about the Recycled Orchestra (also called Landfill Harmonics at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYbORpgSmjg>).

References for this article:

- September 14, 2016, NPR’s All Things Considered – “From Trash to Triumph: The Recycled Orchestra”
- September 2019 Issue of Muse Magazine – “From Trash to Tunes”

## PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>.

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to:

[recycling@hpwbana.org](mailto:recycling@hpwbana.org).





## Reimagining Public Safety

### Key Changes in the FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget



#### **\$11.3 million reduction to the Austin Police Department's Forecast Budget**

- Eliminated 100 vacant police officer positions from the forecast budget for a total reduction of \$9.2 million
- Delayed the July 2020 cadet class resulting in an estimated \$1.5 million reduction
- Delayed scheduled replacement of duty weapons resulting in a \$400,000 reduction
- Transferred Austin Center for Events staff to the Development Services Department for a reduction of \$200,000

#### **Reallocation of \$11.3 million to fund alternative public safety strategies and public health services**

- \$3.0 million to enhance the work of the Office of Police Oversight and the Equity Office, rewrite the Austin Police Department's General Orders, and conduct and implement audits
- \$2.7 million to improve mental health first response by expanding the Integral Care-EMCOT contract for clinical staff and telehealth services, increasing community outreach to underserved communities, and adding 7 new positions to the Community Health Paramedic program
- \$2.3 million reallocation within the Austin Police Department budget to replace the department's 15-year old records management system, which will allow for more-efficient records keeping
- \$1.1 million to increase the capacity of mental health services, family violence programs, and immigrant legal services provided by Austin Public Health
- \$1.0 million transfer to the Housing Trust Fund to support key affordable housing goals, including preserving and creating reasonably priced housing within the city of Austin
- \$900,000 reallocated within the Austin Police Department's budget to fund targeted training related to trauma-informed response, unconscious bias, and racial and cultural sensitivity, as well as training to safely administer Naloxone to someone experiencing a drug overdose
- \$300,000 to support the newly formed Civil Rights Office, which is tasked with enforcement of City ordinances and federal statutes prohibiting discrimination

#### **Next steps: Reimagining public safety programs & services**

- Emergency call center & police dispatch
- Forensics lab
- Vehicle licensing
- Nuisance abatement
- Park Patrol, Lake Patrol, & Airport Police
- Administrative & management services
- Crisis intervention & mental health response
- Officer wellness
- Internal affairs
- Protective services
- Victim services
- Officer training
- Governance



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