



NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF TARRYTOWN
AND DEEP EDDY

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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

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.

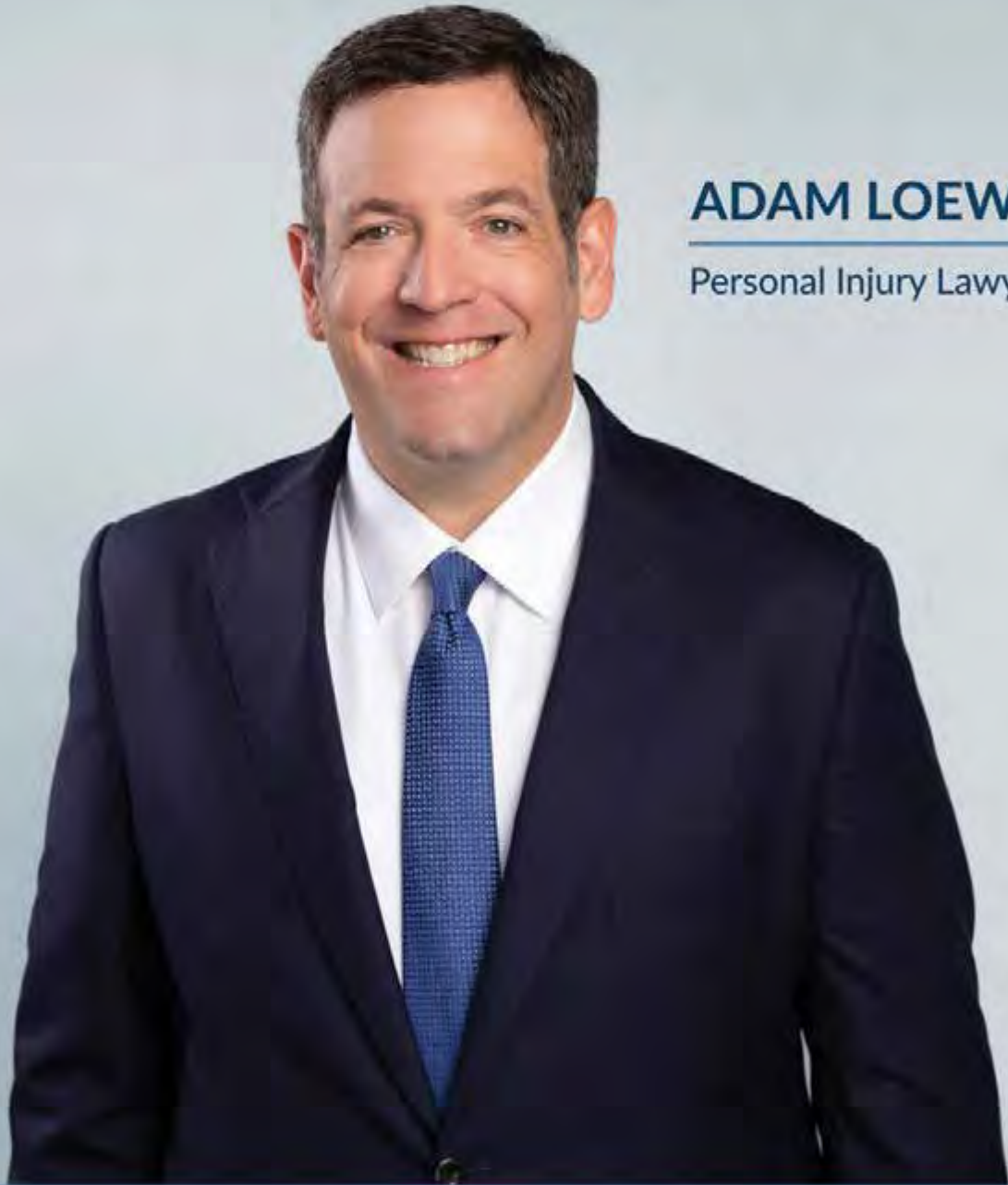
Most of the people in the village make their living as "trash pickers," earning five cents a pound for cardboard and ten cents a pound for plastic. In 2006, an environmental engineer named Favio Chavez went to Cateura to teach the trash pickers about recycling safety. He was also a musician and decided 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.

Continued on Page 3

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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(Continued from Cover Page)



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@hpbwana.org.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
Fire.....	911
Ambulance.....	911
Police Department	512-975-5000
Sheriff – Non-Emergency.....	512-974-0845
Animal Services Office.....	311

SCHOOLS

Austin ISD	512-533-6000
Casis Elementary School	512-414-2062
O. Henry Middle School.....	512-414-3229
Austin High School.....	512-414-2505

UTILITIES

City of Austin.....	512-494-9400
Texas Gas Service	
Custom Service.....	1-800-700-2443
Emergencies.....	512-370-8609
Call Before You Dig.....	512-472-2822
Grande Communications	512-220-4600
AT&T	
New Service.....	1-800-464-7928
Repair.....	1-800-246-8464
Billing.....	1-800-858-7928
Time Warner Cable	
Customer Service.....	512-485-5555
Repairs.....	512-485-5080
Austin/Travis County Hazardous Waste	512-974-4343

OTHER NUMBERS

Austin City Hall.....	512-974-7849
Austin City Manager	512-974-2200
Austin Police Dept (Non Emergency).....	512-974-5000
Austin Fire Dept (Non Emergency).....	512-974-0130
Austin Parks and Recreation Dept	512-974-6700
Austin Resources Recovery	512-494-9400
Austin Transportation Dept.....	512-974-1150
Municipal Court	512-974-4800
Post Office.....	512-2478-7043
City of Austin.....	www.AustinTexas.gov

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TARRYTOWN REAL ESTATE market report update

September 2020

by **Trey McWhorter**

At the time of writing in mid-August, activity in terms of transactions is still behind previous years with transactions in the neighborhood down 30% year-to-date compared to the same time in 2019. Price appreciation continues to be very strong. Median list and sold prices and \$ / sq ft are all still up double-digit percentages from the same period last year. And days on market are a little higher than last year, but still indicate a very strong seller's market.

Single Family Homes	Year to Date - Tarrytown	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
SOLD	Single Family Homes Sold	61	87	100	74	79
List Price	Avg List Price	\$ 1,629,526	\$ 1,373,290	\$ 1,320,193	\$ 1,302,376	\$ 1,189,968
	Median List Price	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,099,000	\$ 1,189,500	\$ 1,160,000	\$ 925,000
Sold Price	Average Net Sold Price	\$ 1,578,581	\$ 1,312,576	\$ 1,277,487	\$ 1,253,395	\$ 1,152,297
	Median Net Sold Price	\$ 1,334,044	\$ 996,000	\$ 1,175,000	\$ 1,107,500	\$ 900,000
List Price \$ / Sq Ft	Average List Price / Sq Ft	\$ 521	\$ 495	\$ 441	\$ 423	\$ 431
	Median List Price / Sq Ft	\$ 514	\$ 468	\$ 425	\$ 435	\$ 407
Sold Price \$ / Sq Ft	Average Net Sold Price / Sq Ft	\$ 507	\$ 471	\$ 429	\$ 410	\$ 418
	Median Net Sold Price / Sq Ft	\$ 500	\$ 445	\$ 417	\$ 421	\$ 396
Days on Market	Average Days on Market	43	46	61	67	56
	Median Days on Market	33	26	20	50	30

As you can see in the graph on the left below, transactions in the spring fell behind the previous couple of years' pace and in the late summer have started to improve. With 5 transactions in August at the time of print and 10-12 under contract that should close in August, the summer appears to be closing strong.



Looking at the Austin luxury market (homes priced \$750K+) for Austin overall, the graph on the right above compares transactions by week for 2020 vs. 2019. Week 20 (May 10-16) was a low-point and activity has been climbing ever since. You can see that the luxury market had a very strong summer which is continuing even into the weeks at the end of the summer that typically slow down.

You can also find additional analysis and updates to this article on treymcwhorter.com.

Note: All data comes from the Austin Board of Realtors' MLS report, reflecting activity through August 19, 2020.



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