

MARCH 2009

The official news source of the
TRAVIS COUNTRY COMMUNITY
SERVICE ASSOCIATION

Hbqqz Su/ Pbusjdl t Dbz!

Do you have an idea for an article for the *TC Notes*?
Do you have a question or information for us?
Email: tcnotes@traviscountry.com



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MARCH 6 - 6:00 PM

Board of Directors
Applications Due - See Page 3

MARCH 8, 2009

Daylight Savings Time Begins

MARCH 12, 2009

Volunteer of the Year Award
Nominations Due to TC Office
by 9:00 am

MARCH 17

ST. PATRICK'S DAY

APRIL 2009 TC NOTES

Pool Calendar and Usage
Guidelines Will Be Published

APRIL 4

Community-Wide Garage Sale

TC Forum Garage Sale

Keep Austin Beautiful
"Clean Sweep Day"

TC Forum Conversation Cafe
Topic: Envision Blue Valley

APRIL 8

Annual Meeting - See Page 3
Passover Begins at Sundown

APRIL 11

TC Easter Egg Hunt - See Page 9

APRIL 12
Easter Sunday

APRIL 19

TC Appreciation Day at the AMOA
See Page 9

APRIL 25

New Home Tour Date See Page 8

See this edition in
"Living Color"
www.traviscountry.com

TCCSA Board Weighs In On Zoning Request for SW Parkway

By: Lynne Fahlquist

The landowner of the small mobile home park (#5811, Zoning Case C14-2008-0239), located adjacent to the east of St. Andrews Episcopal School on Southwest Parkway, plans to redevelop that property and has requested the zoning requirement be modified to allow for drive-through food service.

In 2006, the property received approval for development and was zoned as LO-CO (Limited Office with a Conditional Overlay), precluding commercial drive-through service. At that time, the owner planned to develop the property as either a daycare or a restaurant. However, after the Austin City Council's adoption of the Leffingwell Plan, which allows for more options than the SOS Ordinance for redevelopment in the Barton Springs Zone, the owner decided he would like to develop both types of business on the property.

In January, the landowner's representative, Mr. Tom McDill, briefed the TCCSA Board of Directors on the proposed revisions and requested the Association's support for the owner's zoning modification request. He is also requesting a variance from the Hill Country Scenic Roadway Corridor setback rules requiring a buffer zone along Southwest Parkway.

According to Mr. McDill, he has received support from OHAN (prior to TCCSA membership renewal), nearby apartments, and unspecified offices for the revisions. St. Andrews position on the matter is unknown.

The TCCSA Board members voted unanimously, with one recusal, not to support the requested changes and sent a letter to the Planning Commission indicating their concerns, including safe ingress and egress, sightline issues, scenic views of Southwest Parkway.

Independently of TCCSA concerns, the City Planning and Zoning Staff took a similar position; however, the Planning Commission recommended to accept the zoning modification in spite of City staff recommendations. Since the Planning Commission does not review or comment on the Hill Country Roadway Ordinance, they took no position on this request.

The City Council is scheduled to hear this case on February 26. At their February 19 meeting, the Board asked that the TCCSA letter opposing the modification be sent to all members of the City Council and encourages residents to write as well. A report on the Council's decision will be posted at the Travis Country Message Board (www.traviscountry.com) following their February 26 meeting. (See page 3 for OHAN update.)

Board Votes to Investigate Sites for Sports Field in TC

By: Pat Epstein

At their February 19 meeting, the TCCSA Board of Directors issued a directive to the TC Grounds Committee to investigate potential sites for a general use sports field for TC residents. The Grounds Committee was directed to present their report to the Board before their regularly scheduled April meeting.

Last summer, the Grounds Committee requested funding for two eight-foot picnic tables and a baseball backstop to be placed in the basin area behind Sendero (at Quick Water Cove). A motion at the June Board meeting to develop the site was tabled (and again at the July meeting). According to Grounds Committee chairwoman Melanie Miller, "We also received negative feedback from a post I put [about the field] on the website, leading us to feel that placement of a field should be decided by the neighborhood, not just one committee or board member. After that, other projects were prioritized by the Committee."

Interest in a general use sports field in TC has, nevertheless, continued, leading Board member Leonard Saenz to reintroduce the concept at the February meeting. After discussion about how best to proceed, Saenz modified his original motion (directing Goodwin to get bids to place the sports field in the Wildflower Preserve) to the following: "To instruct the Grounds Committee to determine sites for a general use sports field. Report to be submitted to the Board by the April Board meeting." The motion was approved by a 6/1/0 vote.

"I don't really care where the field is developed," said Saenz. "I would just like to see this become a reality for Travis Country families." According to Grounds Committee member Lynne Fahlquist, an existing draft of several potential locations for the field, based on the research begun last summer, gives the Committee a head start. Residents can provide ideas and input by emailing grounds@traviscountry.com.

TCCSA Board of Directors Meeting Report - February 19, 2009

By: Casie Wenmohs

Social: Considering a Family Fun Day event for May.
Tennis: Have submitted goals for year to BOD.



This report does not represent the official minutes of the meeting. Minutes are posted on the website and, once approved, are also in the Blue Valley office.

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Tom Curran, Candy Goodrich, Frank Krystopher, John McCulloch, Anthony Peterman, Leonard Saenz, Paul Salazar, and Janice Smith.

MOTIONS APPROVED (U=Unanimous; GC=Grounds Committee)

1. Approve Morgan Delk as a new member of the Communications Committee. (U)
2. Approve Ian Crooks as a new member of the Pool Committee. (U)
3. Approve April 4, 2009, as date for TC Forum Community Conversation. (U)
4. Authorize Treasurer Paul Salazar to work with Jim Bridges of Goodwin Management to find the most prudent location for CD maturing 2/28/09 at Wachovia Bank. (U)
5. Allow Randy Farrar of TPWD to place coyote traps in recommended areas along northern border of TC (Sendero area) and south of HT, with adequate notice in *TC Notes*, on the website, and by signs at entrances to these areas. (7/1/0)
6. Approve Centex Pump & Supply's bid to repair BV well pump once TC Manager confirms state licensing board record shows no complaints against contractor. (U)
6. Disallow BOD member's proxy vote. (4/2/1)
7. Change TC Home Tour date to April 25. (U)
8. Raise insurance deductible to \$5K and approve 2009 insurance policy with that change. (U)
9. Approve expenditure not to exceed \$1,840 for new plants, mulch, etc., for most visible community entry beds; annual spring landscape effort to replace plants. (5/0/2)
10. Approve expenditure up to \$1,070 for new plants, mulch, etc., for beds in and near the entry wall to Blue Valley amenity area; spring landscaping effort to add additional color. (5/1/1)
11. Authorize TC Manager to purchase software up to \$600 to make old documents searchable. (U)
12. Club sanctioning for Swim Team and Bunco. (U)
13. To set Spring Garage Sale to be held the first weekend in April of each year and set the Fall Garage Sale to be held the first weekend in October of each year. (U)
14. Approve spending for capital reserve item: TC Manager to purchase 12 HT pool lounges to replace remaining green lounges at a cost up to \$3,900. (U)
15. Authorize BOD President or Vice President and BOD Secretary, with assistance from the Manager, to hold an annual orientation session with newly-elected BOD members on the third Tuesday in April before new members' first BOD meeting. (U)
16. Seek legal counsel from David Frederick law firm to determine status of BV well. (U)
17. Ask legal counsel to determine under what circumstances the Architectural Rules may override, or effectively amend by approval of plans, any of the Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions governing various TC subdivisions. (4/1/2)
18. Instruct GC to determine sites for a general-use sports field and submit report by April BOD meeting. (6/1/0)
19. In order to facilitate Robert's Rules of Order, TC BOD meetings will be conducted with the following time limits: Each BOD member will have 3 minutes to express their viewpoints unless a fellow BOD member yields their remaining time to the member who has the floor. Upon expiration of the discussion period, any BOD member may make a motion and upon approval may extend the discussion period with the same time constraints. Committee reports are limited to 3 minutes. (5/2/0)

MOTIONS DISAPPROVED

1. Obtain legal advice regarding further collection efforts of unpaid homeowner fees. (6/1/0)
2. Engage Michael Stern of the Hubert Bell Law Firm to advise BOD concerning the bankruptcy proceedings of the former Travis Country Utility District. (U)
3. Stipulate that terms for BOD liaisons to committees cannot exceed 12 consecutive months, with a 12-month waiting period before becoming eligible to serve as liaison to the same committee. Terms start first BOD meeting after the annual homeowner meeting. (3/4/0)

MOTIONS WITHDRAWN

1. To request that the Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District audit TCCSA for compliance with the District's rules.
2. Have Goodwin Mgmt obtain three bids to ensure an adequate amount of soil to fill in the road at the Wildlife Preserve, in addition, to separate the back half of the road by a fence and designate it as a sports field. The bids for the soil and fence need to be completed by March 9, 2009.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications: Recommended new committee member to the board.

Grounds: Asked the BOD to attend a committee meeting to see how it functions. Wants to initiate a two-way discussion to clarify expectations of the committee. Supports neighborhood ball field idea and proposed looking at Sendero location last summer. There are many locations to explore. Issue could go to TC Forum for input. Preliminary research has been done. Committee members surprised by motion to get bids for ball field near Wildflower Preserve.

Pool: Working on 2009 season pool calendar. Supports qualified volunteers doing patch work at BV pool. Has requested competitive bids for the pool contract and will have them by the March board meeting. TC Sharks have proposed moving team practice to BV pool between Memorial Day and the end of school to free up HT pool. They will use in-water starts since the pool is not deep enough for diving starts.

Planned with work on courts 5 & 6. Thanks to the Grounds Cmte for upcoming joint project to beautify area near BV courts. Did not have the Valentine's Day tournament and will instead focus on planning biweekly Sunday afternoon socials to attract people to the program.

City of Austin Planning: Request for zoning change for parcel at 5811 SW Pkwy has been approved by Planning Commission and sent to the City Council. Board should send letter in opposition and attend February 26 Council meeting. (Board voted unanimously in January to oppose the zoning change.)

Oak Hill Neighborhood Planning: Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods wants neighborhood reps to vote. Need clarification about role and how to handle voting.

AISD: Superintendent candidate has been named.

Firewise: Asking BOD to review proposed Firewise management permit process. Would allow homeowners to take Firewise actions up to 15 feet into the greenbelt behind their homes. TC Manager would approve the permits.

TC Forum: Three Community Conversations are proposed: before annual homeowner meeting in April, in mid-June, and in September. The topics will be Envision Blue Valley for April and public safety for June. Will have garage sale fundraisers on official TC garage sale days. Planning a 5K community event that will also gather input for EVB.

Envision Blue Valley: Have had two meetings. Would like homeowner input on "envisioning." Think big. How would you use it? What are limitations? Working on grants submission process. Some homeowners are participating who might be able to provide "expert" help. Board commissioned EBV to look at pool. Would like to add community center to that directive. Will have general plans and mockups prepared for annual homeowner meeting.

VISITING HOMEOWNERS' COMMENTS

1) Please come to the GC with potential amenity projects. Committee is looking for grant funding. There are better locations for a ball field. People need to stop building teepees in the greenbelt. **2)** Ball field is great idea, but Wildflower Preserve should remain a passive space. Use community input for info regarding such an active space. **3)** Garbage can in front of home still not addressed. Will volunteer for History Committee. **4)** Opposes ball field because Wildflower Preserve area is too small for that type of activity, as well as too close to SW Pkwy. Opposes restriction on BOD liaisons to various committees; it would lead to too much turnover. **5)** We are all volunteers, including BOD and committee members. Free flow of information makes the process work. Board sets the goals and directives; committees do the work. **6)** Encourages BOD to allow two-way dialogue. Attend next GC meeting. Against motion with time limits for BOD discussion. A community this large needs dialogue. Against restricting BOD liaison assignments. **7)** Rotating liaisons is a good idea. **8)** Thank you to all the volunteers who improve our neighborhood: BOD, committee members, and others.

BOARD COMMENTS

1) Ball field motion was not a shot at the GC. Trying to see what was feasible. Will look at other locations, wherever you propose. Most neighboring homes will oppose locations "in their backyard." All input is welcome. We have been talking a long time. Trying to spur action. The goal of the motion to create time limits for BOD discussion is to fine-tune our communication so we don't go in circles. **2)** Would like to see motion for a multi-use ball field. Will lose momentum if we don't do something soon. Likes area near HT tennis courts, which already has parking and restrooms. Next month we should authorize a group to develop a matrix of potential locations with pros and cons. **3)** Shocked to be caught by surprise by the ball field motion. Ask our opinions first. Disappointed that GC not approached first. Regarding the time limit motion, we should not waste time keeping track of time. President should preside and we all should help him. **4)** Motion is only to obtain bids on ball field, not start work. We've asked GC for a long time for a plan for the front 10 acres. **5)** Ball field needs a jump start. It would fit in the Wildflower Preserve area. Committee reports should be submitted in writing to the BOD ahead of time. **6)** Ball field motion would have benefited from more research. GC could do a better job communicating their plans. Rotating BOD liaisons would be good so it is not the same people year after year.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Revenue is approximately \$10,000 ahead of projections for January because many homeowners pay their full year's worth of dues in January. Everything is under budget except legal fees. Board member Candy Goodrich suggested the BOD take action when a homeowner is significantly behind on dues (several years). The lien does not do anything until a homeowner tries to sell. Treasurer Paul Salazar did not support taking more drastic action, such as threatening to foreclose through an attorney. The very small number of homeowners in arrears does not justify the legal expense. The association will eventually collect whenever the home is sold.

MANAGER'S REPORT AND ACTION LIST

Greenbelt inspections ongoing; violation letters sent. One new part-time office staff member hired. Advised by county HHS inspector that BV pool decking would pass inspection as is. Obtained bids to repair BV pump. Researched 2009 umbrella and D&O insurance policy. Completed recommended tree trimming and brush cleanup. Joint Tennis Committee and GC effort to beautify area near BV courts will require additional irrigation infrastructure. Board member Janice Smith reminded Manager and the BOD that annual homeowner meeting

(See Board Report, page 4)

EBV? Why Not Envision TC!

By: Pam Losefsky

The wheels are turning, folks! Don't miss the bus!

After several community conversations and work sessions, the Envision Blue Valley (EBV) Committee continues to seek new input and expertise. Regular EBV meetings are now being held at 7:00 pm, the last Thursday of every month at the Blue Valley Pavilion. Please attend a meeting and have your voice heard. EBV will also present and solicit feedback on different conceptual renderings at the Annual Homeowners' Meeting on April 8.

What's Happened So Far

EBV has discovered TCCSA might be able to secure grant funding for a large portion of the project. A Committee member visited the Regional Foundation Library (RFL), which is affiliated with the Hogg Foundation and the University of Texas through its Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. The library connects worthy community-building projects and programs in Austin with nation-wide resources, including grants from corporate and private foundations and state and federal entities.

After hearing an overview of the Travis Country community center concept, the RFL director indicated that, based on her knowledge and experience, the project is very fundable. Believing it might be the right project at the right time for TC, she encouraged residents to continue developing the concept and return with the final plan for help identifying and targeting potential grantors.

Make no mistake, grant funding is by no means guaranteed and a lot of work remains before funds can even be sought. Nevertheless, the EBV is encouraged by this development and has begun thinking in terms of an overall neighborhood improvement plan rather than just a plan for Blue Valley.

Ideas that have emerged from EBV brainstorming sessions include: a green community center; solar arrays on buildings and in common areas; public transit stops; a community garden; a workout room and a game room; better and more trails; programs for seniors during the day, kids after school, and teens in the evenings; multi-generational activities; a small store and/or concession stand; and much more.

Envisioning participants are focusing on facilities and programs tying into public health and education, green design, and community-building as well as activities with the potential to create revenue streams, thereby defraying the costs of on-going maintenance. Aside from being good for the community, such considerations also increase the likelihood of securing grant funding. The committee is researching allowable activities and restrictions governing non-profit organizations under the Texas Business Organizations Code and by which HOAs abide.

Blue Valley...or Hilltop?

Concerns have been expressed about difficulties building in the Blue Valley area, e.g., narrow access, proximity to the flood plain, lack of parking, and a general desire to not disrupt the tranquility of the area. Using a CAD tool, EBV participants have been able to visualize a community center in various locations around the neighborhood. The Hilltop amenity area is now under consideration for the community center, with Blue Valley undergoing more modest renovations that do not add to the overall size of the facility but increase its functionality and appeal.

Many questions need to be answered before a community center is seriously considered for any location. EBV is inquiring with the city and getting input from neighborhood architects who are familiar with permitting processes and building limitations in Travis Country.

Next Steps

Envision Blue Valley seeks neighbors who have expertise in all areas of construction and architecture, city permitting, grantwriting, landscaping, and more to serve on the Committee. Securing funding will depend on our ability to write an outstanding plan that is thoroughly researched and clearly presented. The Committee is well aware that the scale of the improvements being considered can only occur if TCCSA can secure outside funds.

Every decade, people have come forth to suggest renovations to Blue Valley and other amenity improvements. EBV believes the time is right and the opportunity is here.

Next
EBV Meeting:
Thursday, 2/26
BV Pavilion
7 PM

Annual Homeowners Meeting & Board of Directors Election April 8

Applications for TC Board Elections

Due by March 6 - 6:00 pm

By: Pat Epstein

Are you interested in serving on the TCCSA Board of Directors? This year, five seats are open for election:

- Three 3-year terms (the result of regularly expiring terms);
- Two 1-year terms (the result of resignations in terms set to expire in 2010).

Applications to run for the Board must be received in the TCCSA Office at Blue Valley by March 6, 6:00 pm. Applications can be accessed at the TC website, www.traviscountry.com/Forms, or at the TC Office.

To find out more about the responsibilities of Board members, contact current Board members individually or by emailing board@traviscountry.com.

The Annual Homeowners Meeting will take place on April 8. Registration and dinner will begin at 6:00 pm, and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm. On the agenda for the Annual Meeting is a presentation by the Envision Blue Valley Committee, which will include their recommendations for the Travis Country amenities.

There are five open Board seats at this year's election.

If you have any questions about the Board elections or Annual Meeting, please contact the TC Office at 892-2256.

Fire Hazards in Greenbelts

By: George Stokes

Travis Country residents are fortunate to have large greenbelt areas for all home owners to enjoy. Occasionally the greenbelts are abused by persons creating a variety of objects, such as campfires, tepees, forts, and other dangerous items. Should any of these *toys* catch fire, it would be very difficult for the City of Austin Fire Department to gain access and extinguish the fire.

Residents have also reported what sounds like fireworks coming from the Sycamore Creek greenbelt. At the January Board of Directors meeting, it was noted that with the drought the APD/AFD now consider reports of fireworks to be a 911 call. A recent discussion at the TC Message Board revealed residue found in the Sycamore Creek greenbelt indicates some kids are playing with air-soft guns in the area. While these toys do not present a fire hazard, parents might want to remind their children about fireworks and other such hazards and warn them against using such items in the greenbelts and other areas. We would also encourage the kids to clean up the residue so everyone can enjoy TC's natural spaces.

We encourage everyone to be cautious when enjoying our facilities.

Residents Meet with City Officials About TC Street Repaving

By: John Maltabes

Last January 28, about 25 Travis Country residents attended a meeting held in response to complaints registered with the City Manager's office about the repaving project in Travis Country. Representing the City were Division Manager David Magana and engineers Ron Koehn and Ed Poppitt.

Attendees heard a 40-minute presentation by the Austin Department of Public Works Street and Bridge Division on how the city assesses street quality and determines what preventive maintenance is necessary. This background was intended to explain the use of the sealcoat (chip and seal process) on our TC streets.

The city described the life cycle of a street and gave an illustration of how they do preventive maintenance which includes crack sealing when a street is five- to seven-years old. Chip sealing is done in the seven- to nine-year range to prevent cracks from propagating.

The chip seal process could then be repeated in another five- to seven-years. In effect it could be 25 to 30 years before a street is completely repaved with fresh asphalt.

Residents from several streets, including Eagle Feather Drive, Dawn Song Drive, Twisted Tree Drive, Split Cedar Cove, and Travis Country Circle, asked the engineers to explain why certain streets in Travis Country were smoother and had less shedding of particles than others. Residents were told that two different sizes of stones were used on the project, accounting for the variations.

When asked about analytical methods used to assess potential material problems such as adhesion failure of the underlying asphalt coating, the City admitted there is just random sampling of batches as they leave the factory, and there really is no other testing done to ensure the process is in specification. Most of the evaluation is done after the fact by *walking the street*. In a normal sealcoat process, the shedding of particles is expected to last six to eight weeks, but in the case of some of the streets in Travis Country, it has gone on for seven months.

The City will send out sweepers to eliminate the loose rock problem when residents call 311 or the street department to complain. This is their primary method for assessing problems after paving.

Residents shared stories of flat tires, stained carpets and floors, and a general degradation in the quality of life due to this issue. The City representatives left with a good impression of the level of dissatisfaction along with signed statements by residents of Eagle Feather Drive and Dawn Song Drive requesting the problem to be remedied by repaving with a hot mix asphalt overlay. City officials promised to study the streets in question and get back to residents with their plans to remediate the situation. No time frame was quoted.

Residents who have problems with the sealcoat surface on their street, including loose stones, are urged to call 311 and/or the Street and Bridge department, 974-8777.

OHAN Update By: Lynne Fahlquist

TCCSA rejoined the Oak Hill Association of Neighborhoods (OHAN) last Fall after a few years' hiatus. Lynne Fahlquist volunteered to attend meetings on behalf of TCCSA.

January Meeting

1. Heard presentation about the Barton Springs/Edwards Aquifer Conservation District proposed plan to annex western Travis County into their ground-water conservation district. This area would include land immediately adjacent to TCCSA, but does not include TCCSA. Land affected includes Regents Hills and Covenant Estates, and land farther to the west.
2. Discussion about a possible zoning change request by Promise Land Church related to their proposed development along Highway 71. Adjacent landowners object to the request and would like OHAN support.
3. Sandy Baldrige, current OHAN president, announced her candidacy for City Council.

February Meeting

1. With the political season approaching, the OHAN meeting was populated with various candidates running for office: Lee Leffingwell, Bill Spelman, Chris Riley, Perla Cavazos' Representative, and Constable Richard McCain. Sandy Baldrige withdrew from the race.
2. Some attendees voiced support for single-member district representation on City Council, feeling the Oak Hill area is not well represented.
3. Presentations: a) Police Chief Art Acevedo discussed his philosophy of law enforcement, including the no refusal weekend (forced blood testing for DWI). Community activists who oppose this approach were present. b) Tim Mahoney (ACC Trustee) and David Richardson (former OHAN officer) presented a proposal with suggestion about how the City should approach collecting information for the upcoming revisions and updates for the Austin Tomorrow Plan. c) Ron Potts, City Code Enforcement reported that Austin has been terribly underserved in this area. He has a goal of responding to inquiries within 48 hours. Largest issue in Oak Hill is transient camps; they are actively removing them; report them to 311.
4. March presentations include ACC Anniversary celebration and Mark Ott, City Manager.
5. Westcreek Neighborhood Association would like OHAN to support a resolution opposing a proposed high-density development in their neighborhood.

Board Report Continued from Page 2

preparations need to be made soon and there is only one more BOD meeting between now and then.

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

Old Business

1) BV Well: Should have been permitted when Barton Springs-Edwards Aquifer Conservation District was created in 1987. If we approach them, it will be seen as making a good-faith effort to comply. It is a complicated issue with potential legal and usage ramifications.

New Business

1) Board Proxy Vote: Can absent BOD member vote by proxy? A past BOD directive would allow proxy votes. Recent BODs have not used proxy voting. Further research needed.

OAK WILT REMINDER

PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TRIMMING
OAK TREES UNTIL JULY-AUGUST.

For an excellent source on Oak Wilt
and Oak tree care, see

<http://plantpathology.tamu.edu/Textlab/oakwilt.html>

Coyote Trapping to Resume on TC Property

By: Pat Epstein, with information provided by Lisa Geiger

On Sunday morning, February 1, 2009, Travis Country resident Lisa Geiger was enjoying a leisurely walk with her two dogs in the greenbelt area behind Magdalena Drive. "On my way back, about half way between the powerline trail and the houses on Magdalena, I heard sirens," reports Lisa. "I casually gave thought to the coyotes, wondering if they were bothered," and then continued walking toward the path parallel to the homes.

About ten yards behind the home next to her own, Lisa's younger dog suddenly began barking in an unusual way, followed by her older dog emerging from the brush with a coyote right on his heels.

"I was screaming," says Lisa, and yet the coyote continued chasing and even seemed to leap at the dog. "It all happened so quickly. I didn't know if the coyote was trying to take my dog down or trying to jump past him." Lisa collected her dogs and quickly put them in her yard.

As reported in the *TC Notes*, Texas Parks and Wildlife representative Randy Farrar trapped last October in Gaines Creek Park and (as authorized by the TCCSA Board) on TC property from the Republic of Texas area toward the Wildflower Preserve. According to TC Manager Bill Sigler, "Mr. Farrar reports that calls are down in the southern half of Travis Country after two coyotes were caught in Gaines Creek Park in January."

At their February 19 meeting, the TC Board of Directors authorized Mr. Farrar to renew trapping, this time in a creekbed south of the Hilltop tennis courts. According to Mr. Sigler, Mr. Farrar believes the coyotes are being drawn to a small water source in that area.

Trapping will also occur to the north, most likely the greenbelt areas behind Magdalena, Sendero, and/or Eagle's Landing. "These areas are harder to define at this time," reports Mr. Sigler, "and since the **traps won't be in place until March 9 at the earliest**, their placement will most likely depend on the most recent tracks. Historically, they have been less willing to allow trapping in these areas because of the number of people who hike and free their dogs there. The traps will be set away from major paths; however, it is possible that an unleashed pet would end up in the trap."

Coyote trapping to take place on TC property:

1. South of the Hilltop tennis courts near a low-lying water source.
2. Areas TBD by 3/9/09, closer to the time trapping is to begin. Most likely sites are north of Magdalena, Sendero, and/or Eagle's Landing.

Caution tape will mark the area, but please leash pets to prevent injuries. Look for notices at the TC Message Board.



The traps resemble small bear traps with rubber teeth that hold the leg and are powerful enough to break an animal's or small child's leg. "Randy said that people would have to keep their dogs on leashes. There's just no telling what kind of trouble they might find on their own," says Mr. Sigler. "To notify homeowners, we will post signs at trailheads, use the email alert, and, of course, work with the folks at the *Notes*." Caution tape will also be used to warn trail trekkers.

Following the attack on her dogs, Lisa followed the recommended protocol: she immediately called 3-1-1 and reported the incident, qualifying the coyote sighting as *aggressive*. The official asked if the dogs were injured, and Lisa reported they were not.

An hour later, the City of Austin/Travis County Animal Control arrived. "Finally," thought Lisa, "we will get some action on the overpopulation of the coyotes in Travis Country." Instead, after forty-five minutes of discussion, Lisa was given two citations for the dogs not being current on their rabies vaccinations, her dogs were placed under house-arrest, and she was provided information on rabies. Lisa then tried contacting Mr. Farrar who was out-of-town at the time, and also emailed Kelly Bender at Texas Parks and Wildlife.

Lisa was provided the standard advice: call 3-1-1 immediately following sightings, keep trash, pets, and pet food indoors, to which she responded she already does these things, and is now seeking information about "...what the county or city is doing about the overpopulation of the coyotes before a child or elderly person is the next victim." She has not yet received a response to her question.

TC Notes will continue to update residents on local coyote activity. Please check other other Travis Country communication conduits as well, e.g., the Back Fence (www.traviscountry.com) and email alerts. Be safe, and continue to follow the guidelines provided by the City and County to reduce coyote encroachment in our area.

For more information about Lisa's efforts, see her post at the TC Message Board, www.traviscountry.com.



Manager's Message for March

By: Bill Sigler

1. All violation reports must be made in writing. Policy 3 has been in effect since 2/1/96; however, in recent years the office has accepted phone complaints from homeowners. At the November 2008 Board meeting, Directors reminded the office of the policy. As a result, we will no longer accept complaints unless they are made in writing or sent via email. Residents' cooperation in this policy will be most appreciated by the office staff.
2. We would like to remind pet owners that while the TCCSA Covenants do not require dogs be leashed, they do require animals be under the "control" of their owners. **More importantly, the City of Austin does require dogs be leashed except in areas marked as leash free.** A TC resident recently reported his dog was attacked twice within a short period of time by unleashed dogs in greenbelt areas. The individual is not asking that dogs be leashed in the greenbelt/common/trail areas unless they are known by their owners to be aggressive. If you are aware that your pet has a proclivity to be aggressive, please leash him/her, for the safety of all involved.



Nbz!zpv!cf!jo

I fbwfo!b!i bmg!i pvs!cfgpsf!ui f

E fwjml!opx!t!zpv!sf!efbe"



TC FORUM CONVERSATION CAFE

TOPIC: ENVISION BLUE VALLEY

APRIL 4, 2009

BLUE VALLEY PAVILION

Please see the April edition of the *TC Notes* for time.

ENVISION BLUE VALLEY MEETINGS

Last Thursday of Each Month - 7:00 pm



The TC Connection with Oak Hill Elementary

Lots of Fun - Lots of Learning! By: Ileana Abounader

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 5: Buffalo Soldiers To Visit OHE In Celebration Of Black History Month

As part of OHE's celebration of Black History Month, the Texas Buffalo Soldiers will be setting up on the backside of the school, transforming the area into a circa-1866 camp, including horses and artifacts. All grade levels will visit the camp and learn about these historic all-black cavalry and infantry units that were part of the U.S. Army during the post Civil War era. The Buffalo Soldiers conducted campaigns against American Indian tribes on the western frontier and escorted settlers, cattle herders, and railroad crews safely across the plains during our country's westward movement. They were given the name "Buffalo Soldiers" by the American Indians because of their bravery and tenacity on the battlefield. Stop by if you have time.

March 6, 5:00-8:00 pm: Annual OHE PTA Carnival

Everyone's invited for some good food, great games, and fun for all ages!

March 12, 8:30 am and 9:00 am: Kindergarteners Perform in *Dinostars*

Rapping Raptors, Tyrannosaurus Tex and His Gang of Dancing Dinosaurs, stand-up comedians! There's something for all ages at this OHE kindergarten musical variety show. Come cheer us on!



TC resident and OHE Kindergartener, Lauren Latimer and her dad, Lee, celebrate at the Marathon Kids Final Mile.

May 5: Save the Date - OHE Kindergarten Roundup

Oak Hill Elementary's Kindergarten Roundup for little ones entering school in Fall 2009 will be held on May 5th and has been redesigned to provide orientation activities for both parents and kids. An informal question and answer meeting for interested parents will also be held before the Roundup. More information will be provided in next month's *TC Notes*. Questions: Contact Casie Wenmohs at 891-6962.

OHE STUDENTS COMPLETE MARATHON KIDS PROGRAM

On Saturday, February 21, over 900 K-5 students from OHE joined thousands of students from throughout AISD at Burger Stadium in glorious celebration as they ran the final mile of the Marathon Kids program. For six months the kids have been running and walking 26.2 miles in one-quarter, one-half, or one mile increments. Congratulations to these spirited young athletes!



Inspired by President Obama's call to service and articles about a dip in contributions to area food banks, OHE first grade teacher Mrs. Calabrese led first graders in a "100th Day of School" Food Drive. The seven first grade classes collected 716 cans of food for the Capital Area Food Bank. "I thought bringing 100 cans of food per class was a great way to learn to count to 100, do some adding and sorting in a meaningful way, and learn about community service." Pictured from left (with cans attached!) are TC/OHE first graders Kael Suggs, Sam Mauldin, Lucas Abounader, Slade Oakes, and Dhruv Hosali.

TC/O. Henry Kids Move on to State in History Competition

By: Dee Dee Eastwood and Wendy Primeaux

The Mighty Mustang National History Day Team cleaned up at Central Texas Regional History Day held at UT Austin on Saturday, February 14. Seventeen seventh-grade students took home a record number of medals for first, second, and third place finishes in every category. Out of ten area schools competing, O. Henry earned more than half the total medals. Loud shouts of, "Go Mustangs!" resonated throughout the Awards Ceremony as one student after another ascended the stage to receive his or her medal and be greeted by TEA Director of Social Studies, Rosemary Morrow. O. Henry's twelve first and second place winners, representing nine unique entries at regionals, will advance to state competition at the Bob Bullock Museum and the University of Texas on May 8-9, 2009. Congratulations to TC seventh graders Rachel Escobedo, first place medalist for her Individual Exhibit, "The Ultimate Activist: Harriet Taubman," and Aaron Primeaux, second place for his website, "Les Paul Legacy."



News from Austin High

By: Wendy Primeaux

Austin High School's award-winning drama troupe, a.k.a., The Red Dragon Players, is currently in rehearsals for two upcoming productions:

- ① The Tony Award winning musical "Into the Woods," opened February 26 and runs through March 8. This production features young Travis Country residents Mitchell Stevens and Brian Schwartz.
- ② "Over the River and Through the Woods," the department's UIL competition piece, features six cast members, three of whom - Brian Schwartz, Mitchell Stevens and Lily Primeaux - are Travis Country's own. For performance or ticket information, contact 414-7311.

Editor's Note: This new focus on Travis Country's neighborhood schools seeks to shine a much deserved light on the many exciting things our TC kids and families are doing to ensure thriving public schools - and therefore stable home values - for all of us.

AISD SPRING BREAK
MARCH 16-20 WATCH OUT FOR KIDS!

TCCSA COMMITTEE REPORTS

All TCCSA Committee meetings are open to residents. Please see the Community Calendar on Page 12 for meeting dates, times, and locations.

ARCHITECTURAL COMMITTEE (ACC).

Submitted by Frank Krystopher

14 projects reviewed: One roof repair, seven fence replacements, one patio and cover, one new fence, one home addition, one landscaping design, one trellis design, one solar installation. Fourteen applications approved. **ACC February Tip.** Please submit all information requested on the permit form; missing information can delay approval of designs. Log all applications with the TC office prior to the ACC meeting night.

ACC Position: There is still an open position on the ACC committee. For information contact architectural@traviscountry.com.

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE.

Submitted by Pat Epstein

New Committee Member: The CC will recommend Morgan Delk be added as a member of the Committee. Morgan will help with website redesign. **TC Notes:** Deadlines will remain the third Friday of each month; however, the delivery date will change to the final weekend of each month to allow more production time. Distribution tree being updated to include all distributors, number of editions distributed by each, and routes. **Website User IDs/Passwords:** The TCCSA management office now assigns User IDs and passwords for access to the website's "resident only" pages. **Website:** Work continues on the TC website redesign. The new navigation tree will be no more than three tiers deep on any page with two major subsets, i.e., pages for general viewing and resident-only pages. Discussed adding a *TC Notes Extended* "blog" to update news between editions of the *Notes*. The CC hopes to move from the NORD system to one designed by TC residents. The goal is to launch the new website to coincide with the Annual Meeting. **CC Membership:** New members, particularly those who would like to write for the *TC Notes* or work on the website development, are always welcome.

GROUNDS COMMITTEE.

Submitted by Melanie Miller

Eagle Scout Project Presentation: Project was approved to include making signs for WFP trails and cutting trails (75 man-hours total). **Spring Trails Cleanup:** Possibly participate in Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep on April 4. David will investigate with KAB about SW Pkwy (assistance with road safety) and how TC clean-up might fit in. **Blue Valley:** BV sign installed. Bill to get address numbers installed on pillar. Removed one mountain laurel, and trees uphill were trimmed up. Chris to remove old BV sign when done

with Tennis Court project. **Trees:** Removed deformed and shaded-out redbuds at entrance (George objected, but GC motion passed at January meeting). Crepe myrtles competing with yaupon at Stonehenge. Dying acacia on TCC near Eagle Feather. **Greenbelt Replacement of Trees:** Rachel will visit owners and get dimensions of site; will then get with Lynne about plants needed. **Drought/Pond:** Two bids on well repair, one more expected. Board wants to wait and see where the pond level is this month; may keep pond at lower level to save money. **Tennis Court Beds Project:** Work day set for Feb. 28. **Firewise:** Piles of firewise debris on WFP were mulched this week, will use on trails. Reviewed Firewise Draft Paperwork. **Tepees in Greenbelt:** George to write something about fire hazard for GC, then for *TC Notes*. **Grants:** KAB, CoA to coordinate efforts with EBV.

POOL COMMITTEE.

Submitted by Kim Kiplin

Pool Committee Vacancy: Pool Committee recommends the Board appoint Ian Crooks to the Pool Committee. **2009 Pool Calendar:** Additional dates for the pool calendar were discussed. The PC will request the TC Office staff draft a pool calendar incorporating these changes, using the 2008 Pool Calendar as the guide. **Status of Pool Repairs:** Candy Goodrich briefed the PC on the January Board discussion regarding safety repairs to the BV pool. PC supports the approach offered by the Swim Team to have Swim Team volunteers patch the cracks creating safety issues provided the work will be completed prior to swim season. **Report on EBV:** Candy Goodrich reported EBV Committee work is still in the conceptual stages. **Lifeguard Contract:** The services provided under the current contract are twofold, i.e., lifeguards and pool maintenance. PC recommended these services be split and both services under the existing lifeguard contract be competitively bid. Board liaison Candy Goodrich will inform Bill Sigler of the Pool Committee request.

TENNIS COMMITTEE.

Submitted by David Garrison

2009 Goals: The committee is working on a number of goals for 2009, including resurfacing HillTop, adding better shading to courts, refurbishing the BV bathrooms, building the adult lesson programs, and improving landscaping. Please contact tennis@traviscountry.com to join the committee and help out. **Yahoo Group:** Connect with other neighbors who play tennis in Travis Country. Join by logging on at: http://sports.groups.yahoo.com/group/tc_tennis/. **Clinics:** Individual and group lessons are offered for TC residents.. Contact Brian Smithart@hotmail.com or 444-7040. All tennis lessons are now posted on the Yahoo calendar and the TC website. **Renovated BV Courts:** Renovations at BV Courts 5 and 6 are complete. **Landscaping:** The Grounds and Tennis Committees will have a joint landscape improvement work morning on Feb. 28 at the BV tennis area. Everyone is welcome to come down and help out. **Socials:** Sunday afternoon socials will resume soon; watch for dates/times at the Yahoo website, the TC website, and in the *TC Notes*. **Questions/Comments:** Contact David Garrison at tennis@traviscountry.com.

New School Opening in Southwest Austin for Students with Dyslexia

By: Miles Fain

Even though students with dyslexia typically have average to above-average intelligence, they often struggle with reading and writing. Their educational needs are often misunderstood and therefore not met in the traditional classroom, leaving them frustrated, embarrassed, and all too often unsuccessful in school. However, with the appropriate training and support, these students can learn to read, write, and excel academically. A group of parents in Southwest Austin is planning a new Christian private school for students with dyslexia called the Worthy School. The plan is to start small - with one class - adding identified students whose parents are interested in this type of education.

For more information about the Worthy School, please visit the school website at www.worthyschool.com.

Editor's Note: While it is the policy of the TC Notes not to advertise for private entities (schools or otherwise), the Editor felt the unique nature of this new school warranted providing this information to our readership.



Keep Austin Beautiful Clean Sweep 2009: Saturday, April 4

By: David Welch

Each year thousands of volunteers come together during Clean Sweep to remove tons of trash from our beautiful city. Last year 30 tons were

removed in just two hours.

The Travis Country Grounds Committee is organizing an event in TC that day to coincide with KAB Clean Sweep 2009. Last Fall, Sycamore Trail was the beneficiary of trash clean up and fence removal. Because of the efforts of TC volunteers, folks can now hike and bike the trail without fear of getting tangled up in barbed wire and truly enjoy a beautiful nature trail.

Volunteers made it approximately halfway from Hill Top to Blue Valley last fall... now it's time to finish the job. After clean up efforts, volunteers are invited to Waterloo Park for a thank-you party with free lunch, free t-shirts, great door prizes, music, a rock climbing wall, environmental exhibits, and other family and environmentally-friendly activities.

Contact David Welch (welches@gmail.com) or the TC Grounds Committee (grounds@traviscountry.com) if you are interested and available on April 4.

TC Volunteers Meet at 8:30 am
Blue Valley Parking Lot (near the tennis courts)

For more information on Clean Sweep 2009, go to
<http://www.keepaustinbeautiful.org/cleansweep>.

TC Easter Egg Hunt

April 11

10:00-Noon

Blue Valley Park



Easter Egg Hunts - Adopt-a-Pet Game (donations still welcome) - Tattoo Table - Cookies and Juice
And of course, a visit from the *Easter Bunny*.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Volunteers Needed for the Easter Egg Hunt and Other Upcoming Events!

March 8 - 3:00pm - 4706 Travis Country Circle



COMING MAY 2

TC FAMILY FUN DAY! TIME TBD (2 PM -)

Activities and games for kids. Other possibilities include a car show, book swap, tennis & basketball games, a bake-off, blood mobile, and maybe even a triathlon again.

Suggestions are welcomed. Evening activities might include free food, DJ/music for a street dance.

MORE INFORMATION IN UPCOMING TC NOTES.

Are you running in the Boston Marathon?
If so, please contact us at
tcnotes@traviscountry.com or 906-1737
The TC Notes would like to be a feature on our neighbors who make this trek to the North Lands.

Travis County Master Gardeners Association Events



The **Travis County Master Gardeners Association** is a volunteer arm of the Texas A&M and Travis County AgriLife Extension Service. Their events are free to the public and do NOT require a reservation. For more information: 512-854-9600 or <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org>

HOW TO GROW A GREAT LAWN

March 14 - 10 am-Noon Zilker Botanical Garden
Master Gardener Susan Decker teams up with Denise Delaney from the City of Austin's GrowGreen program to provide the latest information on the care and feeding of your lawn. Topics include choosing the right turf for your site, irrigation, fertilization, proper mowing technique, and disease diagnosis and treatment.

GROWING A SPRING VEGETABLE GARDEN

March 18 - 7:00-9:00 pm Zilker Botanical Garden
Learn how to plant and maintain a spring vegetable garden from Master Gardener Patty Leander, who will share her expertise on vegetable varieties that perform well in Central Texas, recommended planting times, and composting. This seminar is loaded with basic facts and helpful ideas, useful to both new and experienced vegetable gardeners. Arrive early; this is one of our most popular seminars.



Travis Country Appreciation Day at the Austin Museum of Art

Sunday, April 19 - 1:00-5:00 pm
823 Congress Avenue

Hosted by Your Travis Country Neighbors
Mike Chesser, Shanny Lott, & Ann Daughety

FREE ADMISSION for Travis Country Residents
Sign in with your TC address and receive free admission
Tours at 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm, or tour on your own.
Docents Available

Family Lab & Museum Store Open

Come and see what's happening at the AMOA.
The Family Lab is a great way to spend creative time with your kids & grandkids.

Learn more at www.amoa.org
Questions: 626-0160

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling....

By: Pat Epstein

This March 17, American's everywhere will suddenly become Irish! We'll cook up some corned beef and cabbage, pour a few mugs of ale, dance a little jig, don our green apparel, and take delight in pinching those who don't. But how did it all begin?

A *feast day* is designated for all saints, even when their exact date of death is not known. While well defined dates for St. Patrick's life are clouded by history and lore, the feast of St. Patrick has been observed in Ireland on March 17 for hundreds of years.

Historians seem to agree that St. Patrick was active as a missionary in Ireland during the second half of the fifth century. Believed to have been born in Britain to a Christian family of Roman citizenship, he was captured and enslaved by Irish marauders when barely sixteen-years-old. According to lore, during his enslavement, changes came to him. He is said to have dreamed of seeing God who dictated he escape in a getaway ship.

After working six years as a herder on the slopes of Slemish, he did escape and returned to Britain; he then went to France where he joined a monastery and studied under St. Germain, the bishop of Auxerre. He spent about 12 years in training. After becoming a bishop, it is said he dreamed the Irish were calling him back to Ireland to tell them about God. *The Confessio*, Patrick's spiritual autobiography, tells of a dream after his return to Britain in which one Victorinus delivered him a letter titled *The Voice of the Irish*.

Legend has it that he once stood on a hilltop (which is now called Croagh Patrick) and with only a wooden staff by his side, banished all the snakes from Ireland. In truth, there were never snakes in Ireland; rather, this *banishment* is said to be a metaphor for his work eradicating paganism from Ireland, tribe by tribe. Within two-hundred years of St. Patrick's arrival, Ireland was completely Christianized. He is buried at Downpatrick, which was a great European shrine until it was destroyed by the English in 1539.

One of the most widespread St. Patrick's Day celebrations, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, originated not in Ireland but in America. The first parade took place on March 17, 1762, in New York City and consisted of Irish soldiers serving in the English army. Irish immigration to America led to the creation of a plethora of Irish celebrations which, in 1848, were consolidated into a single St. Patrick's Day Parade.

St. Patrick's Day Symbols

The shamrock, called the "seamroy" by the Celts, was thought to be a sacred plant symbolizing the rebirth of Spring. By the seventeenth-century, it had become a symbol of Irish nationalism. As the English seized Irish land and instituted laws against the Irish language and Catholicism, many Irish began wearing the shamrock as a symbol of their pride in their heritage.

Known in Irish folklore as "lobaircin," meaning "small-bodied fellow," belief in leprechauns probably stems from Celtic belief in fairies, tiny men and women who could use their magical powers to serve good or evil. Leprechauns were cranky souls, responsible for mending the shoes of the other fairies. They were also known for their trickery, which they often used to protect their much-fabled treasure. Leprechauns actually had nothing to do with St. Patrick or the celebration of St. Patrick's Day until 1959 when Walt Disney released a film called *Darby O'Gill & the Little People*. This movie introduced America to a cheerful, friendly leprechaun, a creature quite different from the cantankerous little people of Irish folklore.

Sources: http://www.religionfacts.com/christianity/holidays/st_patricks_day.htm; http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Patrick; <http://www.history.com/minisites/stpatricksday/>; http://plus.aol.com/aol/reference/Patrick/Saint_Patrick?flv=1; <http://www.theholidayspot.com/patrick/brigit.htm>



Ingredients

- | | |
|--|--|
| 5 pounds corned brisket of beef | 3 onions, peeled and quartered |
| 6 peppercorns, or packaged pickling spices | Melted butter (about 4 TBSP) |
| 3 carrots, peeled and quartered | 1 medium-sized green cabbage, quartered or cut in wedges |

Place the corned beef in water to cover with the peppercorns or mixed pickling spices (in supermarkets, these often come packaged with the corned beef). Cover the pot or kettle, bring to a boil, reduce heat and simmer 5 hours or until tender, skimming occasionally. During the last hour, add the carrots and onions and cover again. During the last 15 minutes, add the cabbage. Transfer meat and vegetables to a platter and brush the vegetables with the melted butter. Serve with boiled parsley potatoes, cooked separately. (The stock can be saved to add to a pot roast or stew instead of other liquid.)

A Wish for a Friend

Wishing you a rainbow, for sunlight after showers.
Miles and miles of Irish smiles, for golden happy hours.
Shamrocks at your doorway, for luck and laughter, too;
And a host of friends that never ends,
Each day your whole life through!

Ingredients



- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Nonstick vegetable oil spray | 1 cup buttermilk |
| 2 cups all purpose flour | 2/3 cup raisins |
| 5 tablespoons sugar, divided | 1 teaspoon salt |
| 1-1/2 teaspoons baking powder | 3 tablespoons butter, chilled, cut into cubes |
| 3/4 teaspoon baking soda | |

Preheat oven to 375°F. Spray 8-inch-diameter cake pan with non-stick spray. Whisk flour, 4 tablespoons sugar, baking powder, salt, and baking soda in large bowl to blend. Add butter. Using fingertips, rub in until coarse meal forms. Make well in center of flour mixture. Add buttermilk. Gradually stir dry ingredients into milk to blend. Mix in raisins. Using floured hands, shape dough into ball. Transfer to prepared pan and flatten slightly (dough will not come to edges of pan). Sprinkle dough with remaining 1 tablespoon sugar.

Bake bread until brown and tester inserted into center comes out clean, about 40 minutes. Cool bread in pan 10 minutes. Transfer to rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Happy St. Paddy's Day!

Calling All Sharks! *It's Time to Defend Our Summer League Trophy*

By: Pam Losefsky



REGISTRATION

The 2008 Capitol City Summer League Champion Travis Country Sharks Swim Team will hold its annual registration day at the Blue Valley Pavilion on Sunday, April 5 from 2:00-4:00 pm. However, the team will also have its new online registration function up and running by March 23, allowing families to register early and avoid the crush. Visit the TC Sharks' website at www.swimsharks.org to register online. No registrations will be accepted after April 5.

TEAM SWIM SUITS

Team members will be ordering swim suits online through the Sharks' website, and we will have all sizes of the new two-year team suit available for fitting on April 5-if you don't know your children's sizes, you'll need to come to registration to determine the fit. We will conduct a follow-up fitting on April 19 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. also at the Blue Vally Pavilion for those who can't make the April 5 fitting.

E Time for TC Shout Outs! E

To Karen Marsales and Tim Skelly ... for giving their time in service to the Travis Country Pool Committee. Karen served on Committee approximately three years and Tim was most recently on for 1½ years. Tim also served on the Committee from 2000-2003, which he followed with service on the TCCSA Board of Directors for one year. All your neighbors would like to say thank you to Karen and Tim for giving your time to TC!

To Jeb Mershon and Lynne Fahquist... for their ongoing work developing a new trail map for Travis Country residents. Jeb has been GPS'ing our most utilized trails, and Lynne has been transferring them to maps, drafts of which have been posted at The Back Fence. Once the final map is drawn, it will be posted at the TC Website, included in our newcomers' Welcome Packet... and maybe we'll even be able to include them in an upcoming issue of the *TC Notes*. So many of us enjoy traipsing around in the woods... these outstanding volunteers are making it easier and more accessible for us all. Thanks, Jeb and Lynne, for sharing your time and making TC such a great place to call home!

Another Call for Volunteers

WANTED: Architectural Design Review Committee Volunteer. Requires approximately two-three hours of volunteer time each month. You will review permit applications to the ACC and make determinations on these applications based on Association covenants. No prior experience necessary; you will receive training as it relates to the covenants. If you are interested in serving on this committee, email acc@traviscountry.com.

WANTED: Communications Committee Website Volunteers. The Communications Committee is in the process of remapping and revamping the TC website to improve functionality and speed of use. Volunteers with website design/structure/etc. experience would be most welcomed. The time commitment would be up to you. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please email communications@traviscountry.com.

WANTED: TC History Committee Volunteers. Do you enjoy history? Maybe interviewing people? Have old pictures of TC? The newly forming TC History Committee hopes to chronicle Travis Country's history from its beginnings, both in pictures and words. If you're interested in helping with this project, please email to PatE3@aol.com or call 906-1737.

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March Events Calendar

Compiled By: Ruth Schwab

| EVENT | DATE | TIME | LOCATION |
|--|---------------|---------|--|
| Architecture Committee | 3/11 (Wed.) | 7 pm | TCCSA Office |
| Board of Directors Meeting | 3/19 (Thurs.) | 6 pm | TCCSA Office |
| Book Club | 3/26 (Thurs.) | 7 pm | 4930 Trail West Drive |
| Bunco Club | 3/2 (Mon.) | 7:30 pm | TCCSA Office |
| Communications Committee | 3/5 (Thurs.) | 7 pm | TCCSA Office |
| Envision Blue Valley Visioning Meeting | 3/26 (Thurs.) | 7 pm | Blue Valley Pavilion |
| EBV Work Session | 3/9 (Mon.) | 7:30 pm | 4824 Trail Crest Circle |
| Grounds Committee | 3/4 (Wed.) | 7 pm | TCCSA Office |
| Pool Committee | 3/9 (Mon.) | 7 pm | TCCSA Office |
| Social Committee | 3/8 (Sun.) | 3 pm | 4706 Travis Country Circle |
| Tennis Committee | 3/10 (Tue.) | 6 pm | TCCSA Office |
| TC Forum | 3/3 (Tue.) | 7 pm | 4824 Trail Crest Circle |
| TC Notes Deadline | 3/20 (Fri.) | 5 pm | tcnotes@traviscountry.com |
| TC Notes Delivered | 3/28 (Sat.) | N/A | N/A |

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TCCSA CLUB UPDATES

BE EK CLUB The Travis Country Book Club will hold its next meeting on Thursday, March 26, 7:00 pm, at the home of Jess and Gail Totten, 4930 Trail West Drive. This month's book is *Maisie Dobbs*, by Jacqueline Winspear.

Maisie is 14 when her mother dies, and she must go into service to help her father make ends meet. Her prodigious intellect, and the fact that she is sneaking into the manor library at night to read, alert Lady Rowan to her unusual maid. She arranges for Maisie to be tutored, and the girl ultimately qualifies for Cambridge which she attends for a year before being drawn by the need for nurses during WWI. In 1929, after serving a few grueling years in France, Maisie hangs a shingle as a private investigator. Winspear vividly conveys the impact of the war on the country; the details lead to understanding about the futility and horror of war as well as a desire to hear more of Maisie. This is the beginning of a series.

New participants are always welcome. Questions: call Kate Burgess at 891-0707.



BUNCE CLUB The Bunco Club continues to meet on the first Monday of each month in the TC Office at 7:30 pm. We would love to see more faces to laugh and enjoy the games with us! Questions? Call Lindy at 892-3116.

CLASSIFIEDS

Just say, "I sold it in the *TC Notes!*"

CLASSIFIED AD POLICY

The Classifieds are open to TC residents only. To list services, you must be 18 or under, and the service cannot be conducted on TC Common Property or use TC facilities.

ADS MUST BE RENEWED MONTHLY.

Non-service ads can be run for a maximum of 3 months. We reserve the right to edit ads. Services provided by adults can be placed on the website under **Classifieds**, or you may ask the TC Office (892-2256) to add your name to the list they maintain. Questions or to advertise: tcnotes@traviscountry.com

WANTED

New to gently-used, clean stuffed animals for TC Easter event. Drop off at the TC office anytime.

I am a resident of TC. My sister is moving to Austin this summer and is looking for a small home in TC (furnished or unfurnished) to lease or house-sit. My family will take wonderful care of your home. You can email her at jensmith630@hotmail.com.

FOR SALE

Don't rent at \$40 a month; buy your own Yamaha YAS-23 alto saxophone, only \$450.00. 560-5312.

Blue sofa, multi-colored accent pillows, 7' long, eight y/o, \$100. Two-level maple Pottery Barn coffee table, \$60. 899-9615.

Replaced our cedar balcony with treated pine. Have several replaced cedar deck boards, 16' 1/2" x 6" planks; good condition. Best offer. 560-3677 or creekrigestudio@earthlink.net.

Singer sewing machine in medium oak cabinet, \$139. Juliette Aubusson Collection, Nourison hand-carved area rug 7'3" x 9'3", \$79. Dell computer, flat screen, keyboard, mouse & speakers, \$99. Call 797-4311.

Large plate glass mirror, 64" X 44", 1/4" thick. Very good condition, \$40. Requires two adults to carry - no assistance available. wlehman1@austin.rr.com.

Charming natural, aqua and light pink wicker frame for twin bed, creates sleigh bed effect. Gently used. \$35. 899-0053.

HOMES

Single story, 4BR/2BA, high ceilings, huge open kitchen that opens to large living. Clean, flat back yard with nice patio area to relax. 5113 Crystal Water Dr. \$315K. 512-658-8797 or hthomas3@austin.rr.com.

BABYSITTING

Kaylyn Remsing (17) available to baby sit your child(ren) ages three and above. CPR, first-aid certified and have taken the Seton Baby Sitting Course. References available. 892-2246.

Would you like your kids to learn Spanish while being cared for? My name is Julieth (16) from Bogotá, Colombia. Very responsible; love playing with and taking care of children. Available weeknights, weekends, and holidays. 263-5146.

Babysitting Sisters @ Your Service. One call is all you need to find a responsible, experienced sitter. Lauritzen sisters: Blake (17), 785-1440, Lindsey (15), 527-4288, and Tessa (12), 284-2120. All of us have experience & would love to entertain your children. Available weekends only during the school year. Home 891-0527 or klauritzen@austin.rr.com.

Eric Espinoza (18) would love to entertain your child/children, ages 3 and up. Red Cross Life Guarding and First Aid certified. 892-1817.

Six years of babysitting experience (18). Seeking college money. Love kids. 694-6307 or jellybean535@aol.com.

Summer Salazar (15); child care experience with ages 18 months to 11 y/o. Available weekends, day, or evening. Saving money for a school, summer international trip. 358-8607 (hm) or 919-9449 (cell).

Samantha Curran (15) would love to care for your children while you spend some time together or just take an hour or two for yourself. Great with kids. Earning money for Olympic Development Soccer Camp. Soccer training, no extra charge ☺. Call Sam at 925-8694.

Need a babysitter? Call Sarah Escobedo (15). Experienced sitter (including with three younger siblings and two cousins). Raising money for school fieldtrip. Available most weekends, Spring Break, some week nights. 892-2935.

LAWN/PET/PLANT CARE

Take years off your appearance and improve curb appeal. Let me power wash your driveway or patio. Fast, courteous, dependable, reasonably priced, free estimates. RyanCole Weldon-Carroll (10). 892-1624.

Karyn and Jaclyn (12) would love to watch your pets and plants while you are away. Four years neighborhood experience. Parental supervision. 892-2246 or jremsing@austin.rr.com.

Pet service available. 12-years old, love animals, and have experience caring for cats, dogs, and other small animals. Alicia Hill at 892-3878.

3R's Critter Care. Responsible, Reasonable & Reliable sisters to care for your special pets and home while you're away. Experienced with all kinds of animals. We'll walk, play, feed and most of all love your special pets while you're away. No worries! We'll water your plants & check your mail, also. Tessa Lauritzen (11) and Lindsey Lauritzen (14). Parental supervision. Contact: 891-0527; 577-0527; or email: klauritzen@austin.rr.com.

Let us "doo" your dirty work! "Pick up Poo." Prices: One time, \$8/one dog, \$2 each additional dog. Weekly, \$5, one dog, \$2 additional dogs. We pet sit also. John (15) and David (16) Walter. 892-5531.

Experienced and affordable lawn care you can count on. I have mowed lawns in Travis Country for the past year and look forward to maintaining your lawn. William Larkam (16). 923-5759 (cell) or 358-8877 (home).

FOUND

Blue Giro bicycle helmet on Bandera Creek Trail. Size: 2XS. Call 892-2170.



TC NOTES



Produced by and solely for communication within the
Travis Country Community Service Association

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Pat Epstein

Many thanks to this month's contributors to the *TC Notes*.

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