

# THE VILLAGE

*Gazette*™ "It takes a Village..."

NEWS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE VILLAGES AT WESTERN OAKS AND LEGEND OAKS I

## Healthier Homes

*By Charles & Michelle Bubnis*

Have you ever walked around the neighborhood and looked at some lawns and thought "I wish my yard looked that good"? Well, here are some tips to get your yard looking great by creating a healthier turf.

Don't use Weed and Feed. 2,4-D the pesticide in most Weed and Feed product is neurotoxic and contains half of the ingredients found in Agent Orange. Studies have shown that lawn chemicals are tracked or drift inside where they remain on surfaces or in the carpet for up to a year when they are not exposed to direct sunlight (little children spend lots of time playing/crawling on carpet). Also, Weed and Feed can actually hurt the health of the lawn by killing beneficial microorganisms, insects and earth worms that maintain a healthy grass.

Instead, consider building up the health of the soil through yearly aeration and organic compost application (ex. Farm Style Compost from Natural Gardener). Corn Gluten can be applied for pre-emergent weed control. Biological controls for insects can be used if necessary such as nematodes to get rid of grubs. Apply annually a slow release nitrogen organic fertilizer as commercial fertilizers frequently contain toxic herbicides such as 2, 4-D mentioned earlier.

You are on your way to transitioning to a natural lawn care with these easy steps. If you are looking for or currently have a lawn care service, ask them to adopt these methods. If they wish to use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) be wary because these usually include the use of toxic pesticides.

Within a short time you too will have a robust looking lawn but more importantly, you will know that it truly is healthier and safer for your family too.

### **Resources:**

Natural Gardener 288-6113  
[www.beyondpesticides.org](http://www.beyondpesticides.org), and [www.grassrootsinfo.org](http://www.grassrootsinfo.org)

## Learn to Laugh in Another Language

*Submitted by Erin McCauley*

Open your heart and home to a high school foreign exchange student. INTO EdVentures High School Exchange Organization is a non-profit organization looking to place high school students from overseas with caring, responsible American families who will welcome them into their family. Our student will need a loving, caring home, food and a bedroom. They can share a room with a sibling close in age. You will be able to choose a student who has similar interests to your own. Our students are supervised by a local representative throughout their stay.

Our students come from over 57 countries in Europe, Asia and South America...and are between the ages of 15-18. Our students are carefully screened for maturity, academic ability, English comprehension, character, versatility, and a desire to study in the United States. They receive extensive preparation and orientations before they arrive. Our students have health and accident insurance as well as their own spending money.

If you have children at home, they can learn so much and make a lifelong friend. IF you do not have children at home, you will LOVE the new dimensions an exchange student can add to your life, and the new life they will give to your home. You can make a huge difference in a young person's life and bring understanding between nations... you can change the world, and LEARN TO LAUGH IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE!!

Contact Mikki Hunt Toll free (866) 616-4837 or email: [txintoteam@aol.com](mailto:txintoteam@aol.com)

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## 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
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.....	512-494-9000
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles.....	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged.....	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

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**Clint Small  
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Cougar Capers Carnival**

*4801 Monterey Oaks Blvd.*

**Friday, May 1st  
5:30 - 8:30pm**

**Come celebrate Clint Small's 10th  
anniversary!**

**24' inflatable slide, 61' inflatable obstacle  
course, slime booth, Pizza Nizza pizza,  
slushes, baked items, Silent Auction, lots of  
games, cascarones & fun for all!**

**\$10 wristband good for unlimited games!  
Cash sales: food, beverages & other cool  
items!**

**Community welcome!**

**30** years *1979-2009*



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*for our*

**30th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION!**

**April 18 & 19, 2009**

***Saturday, April 18-Party Like It's 1979-6-9 p.m.***

Music from the seventies and classic "Oak Hill" dancing,  
including the Chicken Dance & Hokey Pokey  
Potluck appetizers-*Informal-No reservations*

***Sunday April 19-A Day of Praise and Fellowship***

All of our former pastors have been invited,  
including John Flowers, Karen Vannoy, Barbara Ruth,  
John Wright, John Reynolds, and Val Sansing!

John Reynolds will preach at 8:45,

Val Sansing will preach at 10,

and John Flowers will preach at 11:15.

***Catfish dinner will be served starting at 11 a.m.***

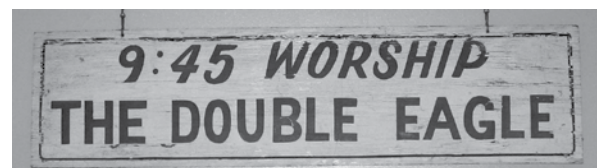
Tickets: \$12 Adults \$6 Children 10 and younger

Make checks out to OHUMC - Birthday

Pick up your tickets at the Will Call table  
in the Fellowship Hall on April 19th

*Please email us at [gybec@yahoo.com](mailto:gybec@yahoo.com) so we can get  
a head count and send news bulletins*

*Check our websites for updates at [www.oakhillunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://www.oakhillunitedmethodistchurch.org)*



*Sign from the Double Eagle Saloon,  
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## Spring Is In the Air - Time to Start Your Own Organic Garden

Submitted by LCRA

In a world of iPod's, computer games, and DVDs, gardens are our nearest gateway to nature. Planting an organic garden with your family or friends builds relationships as well as stronger connections to the land, weather, and plants of Texas.

When looking for a garden site in your yard, choose an area with a good six to eight hours of sunlight and access to water. If you have shallow or poor soil, consider creating raised beds. Decide the garden's design by drawing shapes on paper and thinking about how you might arrange flowers, herbs, and vegetables within those shapes.

You may want to read through regional gardening books and seed catalogs when choosing plants. Native plants will be much easier to grow and keep healthy, and native flowering plants attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Avoid toxic plants, and consider aromatic herbs and edible plants. If you choose to start some plants from seed, create garden markers using either names or drawings to help recognize the plants when they germinate.

Find sturdy gardening tools. Many nurseries and garden centers sell spades and rakes in various sizes - make sure you

*(Continued on Page 6)*



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# GREAT HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH

*Easter Activities*

## **Good Friday Service**

Friday, April 10 / 6:30 pm

*Family - Friendly*

## **Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 11 / 10 am

*Family - Friendly | Free Event*

*Toddlers through Fifth Grade*

## **One Had to Rise - Easter Musical**

Saturday, April 11 / 7:00 pm / Great Hall

*Presented by the Great Hills Celebration Choir*

*Free Event*

## **Easter Services**

Sunday, April 12

9:30 am - Choir & Orchestra

11:00 am - Praise Band

*Children's worship for birth through  
fifth grade during both services.*

10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, TX . 78759 | [www.ghbc.org](http://www.ghbc.org) | 512.343.7763

## Recipe of the Month:



### Fresh Broccoli Salad

#### Ingredients

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1 bunch fresh broccoli                        | 6 green onions          |
| ½ lb. fresh mushrooms                         | 1 (2 oz.) jar pimientos |
| 1 green pepper 1 tomatoe                      | Salt & Pepper           |
| 1 cucumber                                    |                         |
| 1 (8 oz.) can water chestnuts (drained)       |                         |
| 1 (8 oz.) bottle Zesty Italian salad dressing |                         |

#### Directions

Chop vegetables. Add salt, pepper, and salad dressing. Chill 8 hours or overnight.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*

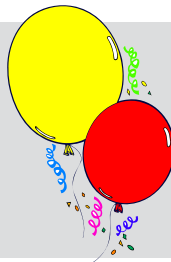
### Spring is in the Air - (Continued from Page 4)

find one that fits you best. Avoid digging with hand trowels unless the soil is very friable, or you are working in pots—small hands and wrists tire easily.

Use soaker hoses with timers to keep soil moist while your seeds are germinating. Keep a calendar to record when you plant seeds and when they germinate. Place a rain gauge in the garden to keep track of showers. Find a magnifying glass to peer at leaves, flowers, and insects in your garden.

Keep your garden safe for everyone by avoiding the use of toxic landscape chemicals. Visit [www.growgreen.org](http://www.growgreen.org) for information on less toxic landscaping.

Finally, celebrate your harvest of wildflower bouquets, herbs for cooking, and tasty vegetables. Organic gardening is a lot of fun and very rewarding.



### Do You Have Reason to Celebrate?

We want to hear from you! Email [VillageGazette@PEELinc.com](mailto:VillageGazette@PEELinc.com) to let the community know!

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## Spring is Upon Us, *Make Sure Your Irrigation System is Ready*

Article submitted by Jacob Johnson, Austin Water Utility, Water Conservation Division

Spring is quickly approaching and now is the time to make sure your irrigation system is ready to start working again after being off all winter. How? Follow the tips below:

### See For Yourself

The fastest way to check your irrigation system is to check it yourself. Here's how:

- First, set your controller to operate a two-minute test program. (If the controller does not have a pre-programmed test program, set each zone to come on for only two minutes using the C or D program that may not be normally used.)
- Start the program manually and then watch the system as it runs through each station.
- Look for heads that are broken or leaking, heads that are misaligned and not watering what they ought to, or heads that are clogged or obstructed by grass runners or shrubs.

Ideally, the test program should be run monthly to keep track of how the system is functioning. This may also prevent increases in your water bill caused by leaks or multiple broken heads. To keep your irrigation system running as efficiently as possible, call a licensed irrigator to fix the problems for you.

### Don't Overdo It

Your spring watering schedule should be half of what you'd water during the summer. Yet, in their eagerness to see new green grass, spring is when people are most likely to overwater plants and turf.



With cool temperatures in the evenings and mornings, it is not necessary to water as frequently as you would during the summer.

- Beginning in March or April, we recommend watering once every 7 to 10 days with one start time.
- Remember, the mandatory watering schedule begins on May 1st each year. Any irrigation with an automatic system or hose-end sprinkler must be used on an assigned watering day.
- Set controllers to run before 10 a.m.

- or after 7 p.m. It's a more effective use of water, and it's the law.
- Hand-held hoses can be used any time on any day. If an area of your landscape needs extra attention, it's best to spot-water as needed.

### Get Some Help

How can you tell if you may be overwatering? If your water bills exceed 25,000 gallons per month, you might benefit from professional help. The Water Conservation Division offers free irrigation system evaluations to check out your system and provide you with a recommend watering schedule based on your plants, the amount of light the yard receives, and the type of sprinkler heads installed. The service is available to all City of Austin water customers or eligible MUD customers, and is ideal for new owners of irrigation systems as well as those who just aren't sure about their lawn's water needs. Call Water Conservation at 974-2199 to schedule your free irrigation system audit, or to talk with a licensed irrigator about your system. You can also schedule audits online at [www.waterwiseaustin.org](http://www.waterwiseaustin.org).

### REMEMBER, PLEASE:

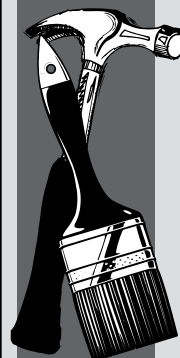
Austin leash laws require all dogs to be on a leash when off the owner's premises.

Housing Market Reports  
Circle C & Village at Western Oaks  
[www.CCRinAustin.com](http://www.CCRinAustin.com)



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## Are you ready for the Mills Elementary School Spring Festival?

Saturday, April 18 from 3-7pm

This year's theme is "Heroes Among Us"

We invite the all Firefighters, EMT's, Police Officers, Soldiers, Veterans and Sherriff Deputies to join our celebration in your honor. Please call the number below for more details.

The public is invited to share in the fun. We will feature a Silent Auction, Food Court, Kid's Maze, Obstacle Course, and Rock Wall as well and the famous Dunk Tank filled with all your favorite teachers from Mills. Come and see what a great community we have at the Mills Spring Festival. Call Mechele Dorsey for advance tickets sales, sponsorship opportunities and more information at 512-288-1072.

# HEROES AMONG US

Martin Luther King, Jr

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## April Events at the *Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*

### WILDFLOWER DAYS™ MARCH 16 TO MAY 31.

The Center is open every day 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

### JEAN ANDREWS LECTURE SERIES --

“Growing Forests and Feeding Families in the Amazon and Andes of Peru.”

*Wednesday, April 1. Speaker: Toby Pennington of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. Admission free. 7 p.m.*

### A CHILD'S GARDEN

Saturday, April 4

*Molly Dannenmeier signs A Child's Garden in the store. Noon to 3 p.m.*

### SPRING PLANT SALE & GARDENING FESTIVAL

Members Preview, 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 11 and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, April 12

*Thousands of favorite and hard-to-find native plants as well as advice from experts. Check out the plant list at [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org). At the store, Mary Catherine Gardner signs her Wildflower Days™ poster and Lawrence Parent signs Portrait of Austin, 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday. Celebrate Easter Sunday with your children at a special Wildflower Center egg hunt starting at noon Sunday. Book signings at the store, 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.*

### NATURE NIGHTS: WILD ABOUT WILDFLOWERS

Thursday, April 16

*Explore wildflower legends and lore. Take guided hikes with plant identification. \$1 admission. 6 to 9 p.m.*

### SCULPTURE DEMONSTRATION

Saturday, April 18

*The artists of the Texas Society of Sculptors show how to work in many media. The exhibit of 38 sculptures in our gardens continues through May 31. 1 to 4 p.m.*

## Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in The Village Gazette. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive the monthly newsletter at no charge. 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 10th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

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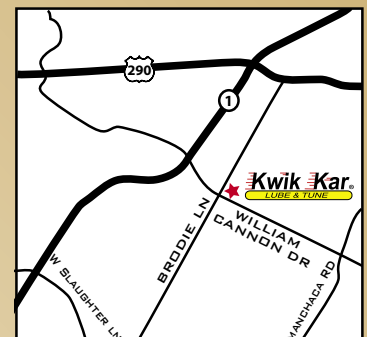
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## How to Start Playing Tennis

Submitted by Fernando M. Velasco

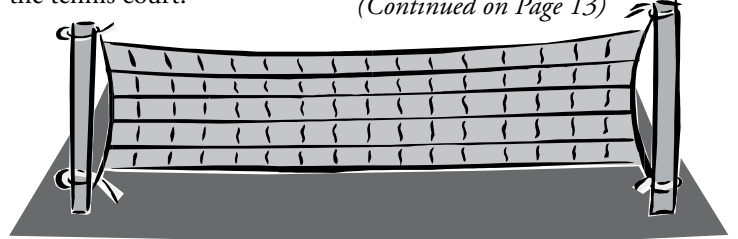
Spring time is a good time to start playing the “game of a lifetime”: TENNIS!! As I play in many tournaments all over the country, it is nice to see people actively playing not only competitive, but also socially. The USTA even offers National and International Tournaments in both singles and doubles in the ages 30 through 90 in increments of 5 years.

The first thing to do is to contact a tennis center or club and find out the beginner classes they offer. Even if someone has played a few years ago, this is a good way to get back into the game again. A good program may last from six to 10 weeks, meeting once a week for about one hour each. The pro, would start with the basic grips on forehand and backhand, and also work with the proper footwork.

Once the player feels comfortable with moving and hitting the ball at the same time, the next step would be to teach the volleys, overhead and serve. At this point, advise would be given to the players to practice with each other and simply rally back and forth as many times as possible.

All players need is a good pair of tennis shoes and comfortable clothing. Walking/running shoes have a tendency to turn ankles, develop “plantar fasciitis”, or hurt the “tennis calf” muscle. They also leave black marks on the tennis court.

(Continued on Page 13)



<b>14 METRO LOCATIONS</b>		<b>AUSTIN TELCO</b>	
		<b>FEDERAL CREDIT UNION</b>	
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10 YEARS	<b>5.25%</b> APR*	5 YEARS	<b>5.89%</b> ***
15 YEARS	<b>5.45%</b> APR*	10 YEARS	<b>6.19%</b> ***
20 YEARS	<b>5.75%</b> APR*	15 YEARS	<b>6.39%</b> ***
<b>AUTO LOANS</b>		<b>MONEY MARKET</b>	
UP TO 66 MONTHS	<b>4.65%</b> APR*	\$25,000 TO \$74,999	<b>1.92%</b> APY****
72 MONTHS	<b>5.15%</b> APR*	\$75,000 TO \$124,999	<b>2.12%</b> APY****
		\$125,000 & ABOVE	<b>2.27%</b> APY****
<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT<sup>2</sup></b>	
6 MONTHS REGULAR <sup>1</sup>	<b>2.17%</b> APY****	6 MONTHS JUMBO <sup>2</sup>	<b>2.27%</b> APY****
12 MONTHS REGULAR <sup>1</sup>	<b>2.32%</b> APY****	12 MONTHS JUMBO <sup>2</sup>	<b>2.42%</b> APY****
24 MONTHS REGULAR <sup>1</sup>	<b>2.42%</b> APY****	24 MONTHS JUMBO <sup>2</sup>	<b>2.52%</b> APY****
<b>FREE CHECKING 200+ FREE ATMs</b>			
<small>*Annual Percentage Rate. All rates are expressed “as low as”. Actual rate may vary depending on credit qualifications. **Austin Telco will pay all standard closing costs on Home Equity loans below \$100k. Additional non-standard fees will be the responsibility of the member. ***Rate applies to 1st lien commercial real estate loans with a loan to value of 80% or less; construction/development loan rates/terms may be different. No Pre-payment penalty. ****Annual Percentage Yield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. <sup>1</sup>Regular - A minimum deposit of \$1000 is required. <sup>2</sup>Jumbo - A minimum deposit of \$95000 is required. All APRs, APYs and terms are subject to change without notice. Please call for details. This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.</small>			

## Family Values... and family value!

### Free YMCA Program

up to \$60 value on future registration  
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- Expires April 30, 2009



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- Games, sports and prizes
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### Free 1-Hour Personal Training Session

with YMCA of Austin  
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- Good at any YMCA of Austin location
- Limit one coupon per customer
- Not valid for current YMCA of Austin members or with any other offer
- Expires April 30, 2009



### \$5 Off any YMCA Program

for sessions beginning  
in April or May, 2009

- Good at any YMCA of Austin location
- Limit one coupon per customer
- Not valid for current YMCA of Austin members or with any other offer
- Expires April 30, 2009



## Southwest Family YMCA

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We build strong kids, strong families, strong communities.

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## How to Start Playing Tennis - (Continued from Page 12)

A good club will provide with demo rackets for the players to try out. A player should find the proper grip size and the proper weight and thickness of frame to fit their game.

In order to get used to the different bounce of the ball, one needs to spend a great deal of time just hitting balls. I recommend practicing against a wall, or use a ball machine that feeds balls. Players will learn to adjust to the depth, height and power of the ball by spending as much "court" time as possible.

In future articles, I will give you advice on how to select the proper racket, strings and shoes, and will provide you with information on how to get involved in leagues and tournaments. Get a "spring" start on your game and contact your local tennis club or park district to get started as soon as possible.

### Did You Know?



"The Star-Spangled Banner" was designated the national anthem by act of Congress in 1931, 117 years after it was written.

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## Women and Finance

*Submitted by Rich Keith*

If you've not stopped to consider what your life could be like in retirement, consider these facts:

Women live longer. The average life expectancy for baby girls in the U.S. is now 80 years old, compared to 75 for boys. Some estimates show more than one-third of America women will live to at least age 90, meaning today's women will spend more time in retirement and need more resources.

Women earn less. It's a sad reality that women still earn 76 cents for every dollar a man makes. The average Social Security check for men and women reflects the disparity in income and working years: Women received \$867 in December 2006, while men received \$1,148. 30% of unmarried women 65 and older currently live on Social Security alone.


Women take time off to care for others. Not only are women more likely to take time off to have and raise children, they are also more likely to interrupt their working years to care for ailing parents or other relatives. Seven out of ten unpaid caregivers are women, and more than 50% of caregivers modify their work status because of it. This includes working fewer hours or taking unpaid leaves of absence – all of which affect their career paths, contributions to retirement

accounts and accumulated Social Security benefits.

Women aren't saving enough – if at all. Even though women will spend more years in retirement than men, women still lag behind in their retirement savings. According to new studies from the Employee benefit Research Institute, just 53% of women are currently saving for retirement, compared to 62% of men. And 37% of women are currently participating in a company 401(k) or other workplace plan, compared to 41% of men; and just 37% of women are likely to hold an IRA or other non-workplace retirement account, compared to 46% of men.

Women are more likely to retire in poverty. For all of the reasons listed above, is it really a surprise that women are 71% more likely than men to live below the poverty line in retirement?

It's critical for women to have a plan. Women need to save more money than men because they cycle in and out of the workplace more often. Over 75% of women are widowed at an average age of 56, and 1 in 4 of these women are broke within two months of being widowed. What do you want your retirement years to look like? Do start now. The earlier you start, the easier it will be to reach your retirement goals. Time is a powerful key to achieving financial security.



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Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report								
SW Austin by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (Sep '08 - Feb '09)						CURRENT MARKET	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Belterra	32	3,125	\$ 99	\$ 308	2007	144	48	8
Circle C Ranch	70	2,754	\$ 117	\$ 322	1999	68	95	25
Heights at Loma Vista	3	3,174	\$ 128	\$ 405	2005	50	2	0
Highpointe	17	3,465	\$ 93	\$ 323	2008	109	12	5
Legend Oaks	21	2,443	\$ 106	\$ 258	1995	51	8	1
Maple Run	29	1,627	\$ 111	\$ 181	1987	41	10	7
Meridian	20	3,023	\$ 113	\$ 342	2008	75	22	8
Oak Creek Parke	8	3,015	\$ 94	\$ 283	1993	50	3	0
Sendera	20	1,989	\$ 110	\$ 220	1999	59	14	1
Shady Hollow	6	2,835	\$ 112	\$ 316	1988	110	12	4
Villages at Western Oaks	48	2,099	\$ 112	\$ 234	1992	68	23	15
Western Oaks	3	2,733	\$ 113	\$ 253	1986	87	1	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>2,558</b>	<b>\$ 110</b>	<b>\$ 280</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>250</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>% Change Mo/Mo</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-7%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>9%</b>

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 03/01/2009. In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

\*"5%-15% more money for your home" is a trademark of MaxAvenue and is used with permission.

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