



STONE FOREST

Flyer

April 2014

Volume 4, Issue 4

Hello Neighbors from your BOARD PRESIDENT

By the time this edition gets to you we should be seeing several changes to our neighborhood. The new playground equipment should either be going in or, at least, getting very close. This one will consist of a four panel climbing wall, four swings including two "toddler buckets," and a play structure with several slides and other fun things for the kids. The play structure will be under a 40' by 40' shade, and since we realize that an occasional tropical storm or hurricane comes through here, the shade will have a quick release method to reduce chances of damage. Also, such a large shade will make it possible for parents to have a shaded area closer to their kids than the gazebo. Additionally, if we ever choose to expand the play structure, we will be able to do so with relatively minor modifications.

The main two things we've learned during this process is that commercial grade play equipment is expensive and the amount of required safety zone around each part of the structure is what I would call huge! It always looked like we could just fit some additional stuff in there but with the required safety margins, there was no way.

We are now in the process of receiving three bids pertaining to placing a sidewalk on the northwest side of Edgewood Place

from Young Oak to Valiant Woods which is approximately 850 feet. This should be all be completed by summer, or so I believe.

The three street lamps along that same stretch of Edgewood Place should have been installed on April 4. That should make it a bit brighter in the evenings (once standard time comes back in the fall) for the residents going to the mailbox clusters in that area.

Later sunsets and, happily, comfortable evenings should encourage us to get out and enjoy walking, running or whatevering in the neighborhood. It is the best way to meet other neighbors---97% of them are pretty nice----okay, now everybody will want to know who the other 3% are. As for me, I haven't met them---they're all pretty good, except for

That's all for now. Oh yeah, if you do have any suggestions or questions, please feel free to call me at my cell phone number or e-mail me. Both are on our webpage at stoneforesttha.org. I still don't bite!

Thanks,
Dick Leonard
HOA Pres.

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Empty Nest Chance To Chase Forgotten Dreams

Middle age woes are hard enough to deal with, but throw in empty nest syndrome and it is a recipe for potential depression. Psychologists at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston say not to look at it as an ending, but as the beginning of a new stage in life with more time to travel, develop new hobbies, rediscover forgotten dreams and get to know your spouse all over again.

"Parents have channeled all of their energy into their children for so long they may not know what to do with their time once they leave," said Dr. James Bray, associate professor of family and community medicine at BCM.

Empty nest syndrome often leads to divorce, but parents should assume that leaving your spouse will make the unhappiness go away.

"Marriage takes time and energy, so make the effort to get reacquainted," Bray said.

Talk with friends to reevaluate goals and take note of some lifelong dreams you haven't had time to accomplish, said Bray. There may be more time to take dance classes, travel, exercise or go back to college to retool skills. The empty nest transition usually lasts six months to a year, depending on how well parents can adjust to their newly found freedom.



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BLOOD PRESSURE

TAKE CONTROL OF THE SILENT KILLER



High blood pressure, or hypertension, is sometimes called the silent killer because there are often no symptoms. That's why keeping track of blood pressure is one of the most important things a person can do to stay healthy, said doctors at Baylor College of Medicine.

Left untreated, hypertension, can cause organ damage over time, leading to heart attack, blindness, kidney failure or stroke, said Dr. Biykem Bozkurt, professor of medicine at BCM.

Some factors that are associated with hypertension are diabetes, family history of hypertension, being overweight, taking in too much sodium, drinking excessive alcohol and smoking. Generally a healthy

reading is 120/80, and hypertension diagnosis is made at 140/90. People considered prehypertensive generally have readings that fall between 120/80 and 140/90. Doctors always check blood pressure as part of appointments and there are also many locations where blood pressure machines are available for anyone to have their pressure checked. Bozkurt advises talking to a doctor to determine if your reading is at a healthy level rather than taking the machine's reading at face value.

"For a relatively healthy person not suffering from any other illnesses, only a few lifestyle changes like diet modifications and exercise may be needed," said Bozkurt.



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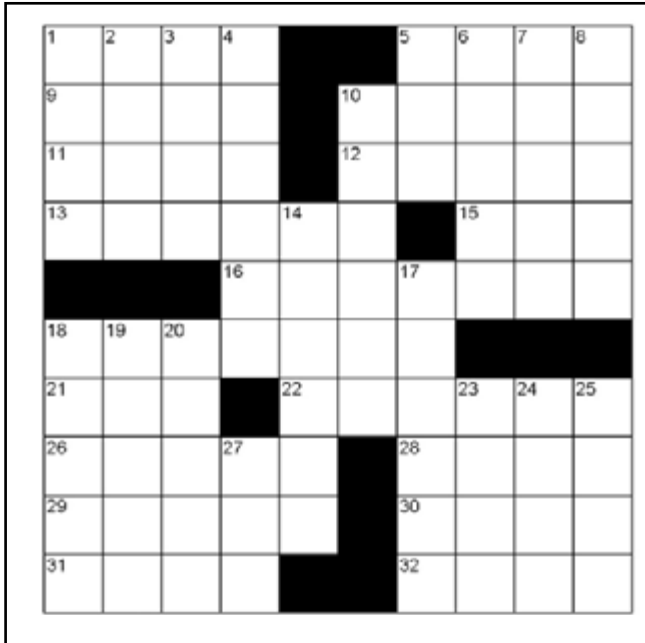




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Choosing a Summer Camp

By David Ettenberg, co-owner of Camp Shane

Summer camps come in a wide variety of interests and themes -- from music and sports camps to weight-loss and peace corps camps -- there is a camp for every child who has ever said, "I'm bored." How do parents sort through them all to find the right one for their child? Dave Ettenberg, co-owner of Camp Shane (a weight-loss camp for kids), recommends that parents consider these six guidelines before registering your child.

1. The Staff What are the camp's hiring procedures? Do they check references and run complete background checks? Also - many camps hire teens as junior counselors, which can be a wonderful experience for all, but it can cause problems if the camp relies too heavily on this cheaper workforce. It is important that a number of experienced adult staff members are on hand to deal with any problems that may arise. Also, ask to speak to the camp's director, he or she sets the tone for absolutely everything and will be able to give you an immediate sense of the camp's culture.

2. Referrals Get them, but get meaningful ones. Don't make the common mistake of relying solely on the names offered to you by the camp--these are typically hand-selected and will undoubtedly be positive. Instead, try to get five names of families that live within 20 minutes from you to ensure a more random sampling. It's ideal if you can ask someone you know whose child has attended the camp. If you don't know anyone personally, ask around in your community, chances are you'll find people.

3. Healthy Atmosphere If possible, try to visit the camp during the summer while in session to ensure there is an active, "happy" atmosphere, with a non-cliquey and non-threatening environment. It should be a place where your child can find strong support and make lifelong friends. Also, ask about the kind of food that is served at the camp--make sure they provide healthy, balanced meal options. You would be shocked to see what's on the menus at some "reputable" camps.

4. Marketing Materials Read all marketing materials carefully. If they are sloppy and unimpressive it may reflect how they run the camp. On the flipside, beware of materials that appear super-slick; a surprising

number of camps are now owned by corporations or investors who produce the marketing materials but have zero contact with your child. Look for realistic reflections of the camp and specific information that will give you insight to determine if the camp's philosophy, people and procedures will create the best experience for your child. Also, make sure to read the fine print; some weight-loss camps in particular advertise insurance reimbursements -- but check with your particular carrier, as this is often times not the case.

5. The Facilities Are the buildings in good repair? Has everything been freshly painted? Has the grass been cut? Chances are if they don't take care the facility, they won't do such a good job with your child.

6. Kid's Choice Make sure to keep your child involved with the decision-making process. He or she needs to be comfortable with the camp, or the experience won't be optimal. Also, does your child want to focus in on a special skill or sport? Be sure to consider his or her specific interests and needs. State-of-the-art athletic fields are great but they won't do anything for a kid who loves music.

Taking time to research summer camps is key to ensuring a fun, safe, and enriching environment for your children - but it doesn't have to be overwhelming," said David. "By focusing your search based on a few key factors and by asking the right questions, you can easily find a great match that suits your child's particular needs."

ABOUT CAMP SHANE.

For more than 45 years, David Ettenberg's family has owned and operated Camp Shane, successfully helping children shed pounds and establish a healthy, confident lifestyle at Camp Shane (www.campshane.com). Currently Camp Shane operates in Georgia, New York, California and Arizona; Camp Shane Texas will open this summer in San Antonio. Kids shed unwanted pounds, gain self-esteem and learn how to live a healthy lifestyle while having a blast. An average weight loss for campers is 10-15 pounds in three weeks; 20-25 pounds in six weeks; and 30-35 pounds in nine weeks. For more overweight campers, it is not unusual to lose more than 50 pounds over the summer. Camp Shane has been featured in all national media, including NBC Nightly News with Brian Williams, 20/20, Oprah, Dr. Phil, MTV and Family Circle.



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