



JULY 2015 + VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

A Newsletter for the Residents of Legend Oaks II

Message

FROM THE LEGEND OAKS 2 HOA PRESIDENT

As many of you know, Jim Turney moved to Thailand recently. Jim has been a valued Legend Oaks 2 resident since 1997. Jim spent his time in our community with server hands. He created the Legend Oaks Times Newsletter for our community and even volunteered on two more occasions to lead the newsletter committee so we could continue to bring great information to our neighborhood. As many of you know, Jim was responsible for bringing Convict Hill Quarry Park to life in 2005. Jim has dedicated the last 10 years to making this park a bright spot for the community and all of Austin to enjoy.

On May 27th, the HOA Board along with Anita Garner and Janet Rourke surprised Jim with a Service Award Plaque "In recognition of your many years of generous and dedicated volunteer work to the betterment of the Legend Oaks 2 neighborhood. With sincere thanks from the Board of Directors and your neighbors."

In addition to the neighborhood recognition, on June 4th, the City of Austin also presented Jim with a Distinguished Service Award for all of his efforts over the years with the Convict Hill Quarry Park. The City Council and members of our community were there to support and honor this wonderful achievement.

I have asked the City Council and the Austin Parks Department



to formally change the name of the Quarry Park to "Jim Turney Convict Hill Quarry Park". Jim's legacy will live on within our community for years to come and he has provided some wonderful history for our next generation to maintain.

Nikki Tate
Legend Oaks 2 HOA President

NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

Articleslegendoaks@peelinc.com

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

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

APD REPRESENTATIVES

OFFICER JEFFREY BINDER

(covers north of Convict Hill toward William Cannon)
Desk 512.974.4415 / email: Jeffrey.Binder@austintexas.gov

OFFICER JOSH VISI

(covers south of Convict Hill toward Slaughter)
Desk 512.974.4260 / email: Joshua.visi@ci.austin.tx.us

ASSOCIATION CONTACTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Nikki Tate512-799-1795
.....legendoaks2.nikkiate@gmail.com
Duane Pietsch.....512-431-7467
.....legendoaks2hoa.duane@gmail.com
Abigail Norman.....404.403.0550
.....anorman.legendoaks2@gmail.com

POOL COMMITTEE:

Abigail Norman.....anorman.legendoaks2@gmail.com

RECREATION COMMITTEE:

Suzanne Johnson.....stoprope@gmail.com

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Jeffrey Stukuls
Cameron Von Noy

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE:

Craig Powell.....craig@powelllandscapedesign.com

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

Jim Turney.....drjet@austin.rr.com
Janet Rourke.....janetrourke@sbcglobal.net
Anita Garner.....agarner222@gmail.com

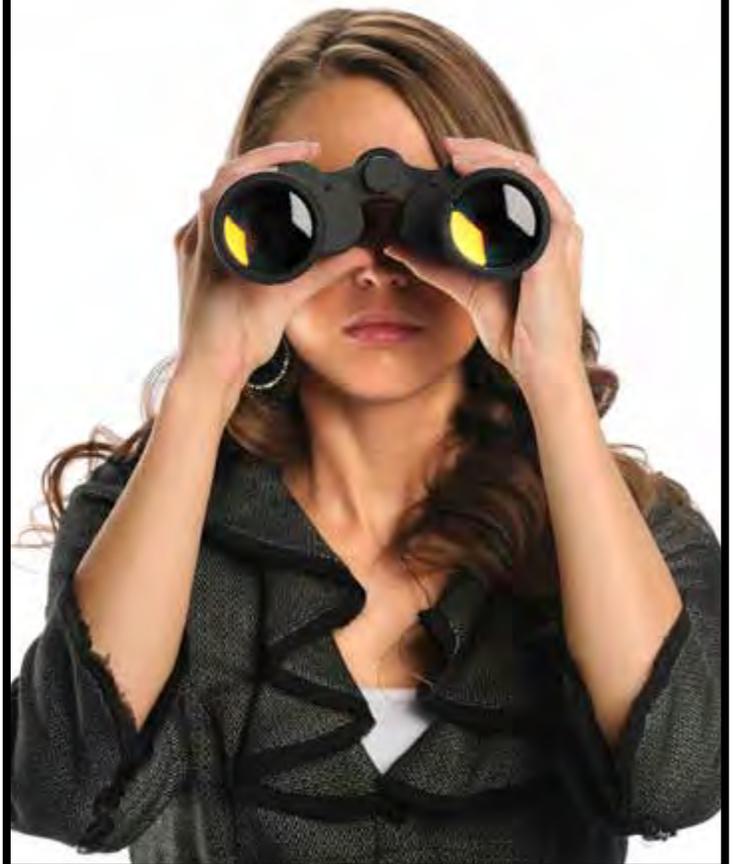
*If anyone would like to join a committee, they can contact
legendoaks2.nikkiate@gmail.com*

CITY COUNCIL WATCH

JULY

Our district 8 city council member, Ellen Troxclair, had a resolution passed addressing city positions that have been vacant over one year. This was costing the city millions of dollars a year and dated back to 2005. The resolution will enact a system to regularly examine city positions that have remained vacant and will bring more accountability to city spending.

If you want to get in touch with Ellen Troxclair, her mailing address is P.O. Box 91812, Austin, TX, 78709. Her phone number is 512-978-2108. You can email her at www.austintexas.gov/email/ellentroxclair. She is holding district office hours at various restaurants in the district on the last Friday of the month from 4 to 6 pm. For up-to-date information on what she is doing, follow her on her Facebook page – www.facebook.com/EllenTroxclair



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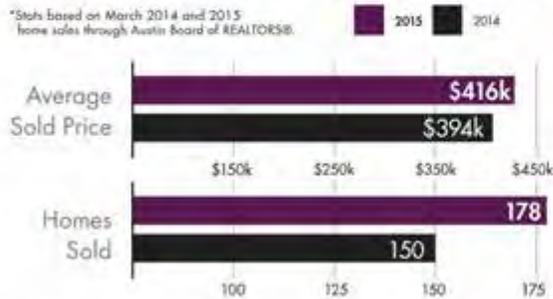


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Fred Hsueh	6604 Convict Hill Road
Robert & Bethena Griesmer	6418 Ira Ingram Drive
Clinton & Stephanie Edgar	6616 Oasis Drive
Aimee & Patrick Lantzy	6707 Oasis Drive
Aimee & Patrick Lantzy	6711 Oasis Drive
Mary Paul	6737 Poncha Pass
Jennifer Lairsen	7112 Ridge Oak Road
David & Peggy Faloon	7400 Robert Kleburg Lane

Be sure to welcome these new neighbors to our neighborhood! Everything you need to know about the Homeowners Association can be found at <http://hoasites.goodwintx.com/loh/Home.aspx> - bylaws, how to get a pool pass, meeting minutes, payment instructions for HOA dues, architectural change forms.

Want to know what is going on in the neighborhood? Subscribe to: **Legend Oaks 2 Digest** – Email legendoaksneighbors-subscribe@yahoo.com. In order for your request to be approved, you need to include your street address.

Nextdoor Legend Oaks 2 – Go to www.nextdoor.com and enter your address. You will automatically be subscribed to Legend Oaks 2.



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A Quarry Park Story

by Jim Turney

An Informal Look at Oak Hill History

December 6, 2011



Ten flatcar loads of limestone a day were quarried by convicts and shipped to the Capitol in 1885 from (what is now called) Convict Hill in Oak Hill, then known as Oatmanville. – photo courtesy of Austin History Center.

Since I live across the street, I often see people go into the park. Several years ago I saw an elderly gentleman park his car and enter. Being curious, I went to meet him. He identified himself as Thomas Beckett, a retired veterinarian in Bee Caves, and his grandfather was W. K. Beckett, who owned large parts of Oak Hill, then called Oatmanville. Included in the land were (what is now) Dick Nichols Park and Convict Hill Quarry Park. W. K. leased a part of his land to the city for use as a quarry to provide stone for the construction of the state house. You can see the entire history at <http://oakhillgazette.com/history/2011/12/an-informal-look-at-oak-hill-history/>

Thomas said his grandmother was “mad as hell” when she learned that prison labor was being used in the quarry. Of course, so were the union laborers, who eventually forced the prisoners out.

Thomas said he liked Quarry Park because we kept it all natural, unlike Dick Nichols Park, which is developed with pool and tracks and other “accessories” like many public parks.

Thomas shared other historical anecdotes, as a life-long resident with interesting ancestors. Some of that information is on display on panels on the kiosk/bird tower in the center of the park.

I am proud to have been a part of the development of this park. There have been hundreds of volunteers and dozens of projects, including some completed by Eagle Scout candidates and other Scouts, Kiker Elementary, Rotary, American Youth Works, Trail Tamers, and others, and support has been provided by Austin Parks Department, Austin Parks Foundation, and Keep Austin Beautiful.

To have the support (indirectly) of the original owner is an added bonus!

Grandparents CORNER

Games with Grandkids

BY JANET ROURKE

What do you do with your grandkids on days when it is too hot to go outside or it is raining? Grandparents.com has a section on their website with kid's games. This section has a variety of games, from arcade to puzzles to sports to action. You can browse categories or search by name. This should keep the kids occupied for a while. Or you can go to Youtube and find short Sesame Street vignettes, videos teaching numbers, colors, and letters, nursery rhymes, and kids songs... This is great for toddlers and younger children. There are a number of apps you can download for kids. My just-turned-two granddaughter knows the all the letters in the alphabet from playing the apps on her dad's iPad. Of course, you can always play hide and seek, ring around the rosie, dodge ball, hopscotch ...

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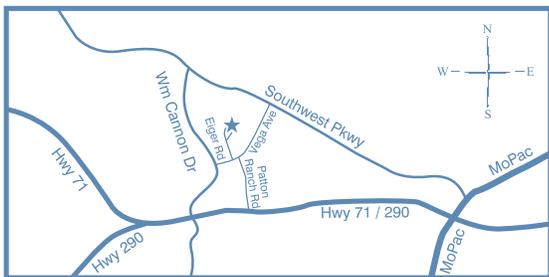
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NATUREWATCH

by Jim and Lynne Weber

In a Blink of an Eye

For many of us, the outdoor magic and mystery of summer nights was best embodied by the blink of fireflies or 'lightning bugs', which are neither flies nor bugs, but beetles. With over 170 species of fireflies in North America, and about 36 of those species in Texas, fireflies fall into three main genera: the Photuris, Photinus, and the Pyractomena. The most common species in Texas is the Pennsylvania Firefly (*Photuris pennsylvanicus*), which ranges from the eastern U.S. to Kansas and into Texas.

Most likely to be spotted at night in fields and near wooded areas, the adult Pennsylvania Firefly's elytra (hardened forewings that form a protective covering over flight wings) are dark brown with yellowish margins and slanted stripes. The head is yellow around the sides and red in the middle, and their overall length is about half an inch. After mating, the female lays tiny, spherical eggs singly or in small groups in damp soil, around grass or moss, and they hatch in about 4 weeks. The larvae feed in the grass on slugs, snails, earthworms, and cutworms, and in this immature phase their light isn't visible unless they are turned over. They overwinter as larvae in small chambers within the ground, waiting for the spring months when they pupate and emerge in early summer as adult fireflies, giving them an average lifespan of approximately two years.

Firefly mating is dependent on the female seeing the distinct flashes of a mate-seeking male, and each must find the exact right blinking pattern in order to mate successfully. Males begin flying after dark, emitting yellow or yellow-green flashes, some flying above the tree canopy. Interestingly, ambient light around a firefly's natural habitat decreases



Pennsylvania Firefly

the chance it will find a mate. In order to rise to the challenge of producing offspring with artificial light around, fireflies must increase the intensity of the flashes they produce in order to be seen. This increased light emission decreases the stored energy supply in the firefly that would normally be used directly for reproduction. Artificial light also exposes the fireflies to nighttime predators, even when they are not blinking. This combination of effects from artificial light directly decreases

the chance that fireflies will survive and mate.

Flashes of light can be emitted by both male and female fireflies, and can also be used for purposes other than mating. One additional use is to lure prey to them; in fact, females from the *Photuris* genus will often mimic the flashes of a female *Photinus* firefly, and a male *Photinus* that falls for it will quickly be devoured! Not all female fireflies are capable of flight, however, as some species are wingless and bear a strong resemblance to larvae rather than to adult males of the same species. Often, these types of fireflies are referred to as 'glowworms'.

The abundance of fireflies has been decreasing over the years, greatly challenged by both the increasing presence of artificial light and the rapid development of our open fields and forests. As human light pollution and development continues to spread, fireflies just might disappear altogether, in a blink of an eye!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy reading these articles, check out our book, *Nature Watch Austin* (published by Texas A&M University Press), and our blog at naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com.

Send Us Your

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Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to legendoaks@peelinc.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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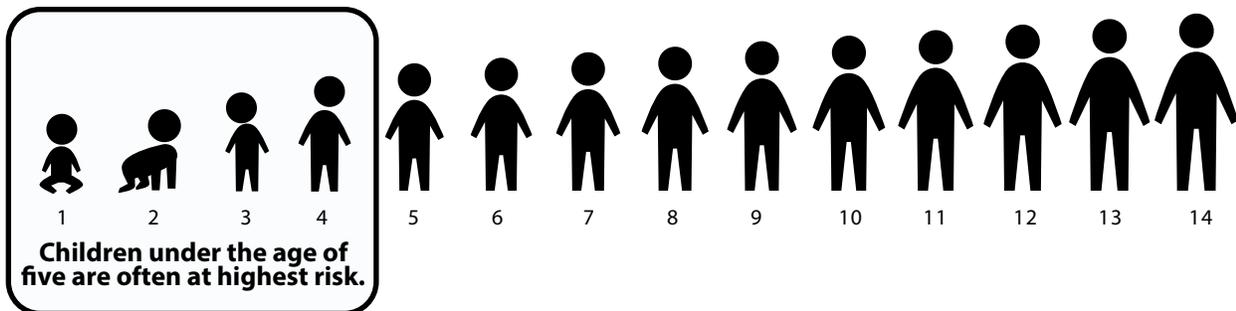
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