



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE

Laurel Oaks

Neighborhood Association

JANUARY 2012 • VOLUME V, ISSUE I

2011 LONA Board Meeting

Minutes for September 13

Attendees: Ellie Brady, Hal Hall, Sue January, Ellen Kelsey, Shari Ryan, Diane Willis

Location: Spicewood Springs branch of the Austin Public Library

REVIEW OF OLD BUSINESS ITEMS:

Fall schedule of dates:

1. National Night Out, Tuesday, October 4. No neighborhood wide event planned. Residents can plan events with their nearby neighbors.
2. LONA neighborhood meeting Tuesday, October 18, 6:30 PM, Spicewood Springs library.
3. Halloween parade, Saturday, October 29, 4-5:30 PM, parade starts near flagpole at Kathy Caraway Elementary and ends at Oak View Park pavilion with snacks and activities.

Tentative agenda for the LONA Neighborhood meeting:

1. Speaker: APD District Representative Officer Joe Hebbe
2. Calendar of events: Halloween parade, Saturday, October 29, 4-5:30 PM
3. Election of LONA officers: Presentation of current slate of officers, volunteers for positions welcome. Discuss interest in Neighborhood Watch committee, committee volunteers from the neighborhood needed.
4. Reminder of voluntary monetary donations to LONA.
5. Treasurer's report.
6. Reminder of donations of pet items for the Town Lake Animal Center.

The items listed in the September 2011 newsletter are:

- Dog and cat treats
- Canned and dry food
- Washable, durable pet toys
- Bedding, but no sheets, comforters or electric blankets
- Newspaper
- New and gently used dog houses. For further information, see http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/pets/help_pet.htm#fence
- New and gently used fencing materials. For further information, see http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/pets/help_pet.htm#fence
- New and gently used collars, harnesses and leashes
- New or gently used carriers and crates
- Cages or habitats for small or exotic pets
- Shampoos
- Non-prescription medications and medical supplies

The information is also available at www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/pets/donations.htm

NEW BUSINESS:

- Halloween parade details.
- Information from the City of Austin on receiving information from the Public Information Officer will be shared with the LONA Board, and actions needed to be determined.
- Request from neighborhood resident to consider a neighborhood Facebook page.

---Submitted by Diane Willis, LONA Secretary, September 15, 2011.

This Is *Our Last* **Peel, Inc.** **Newsletter**

Thank you to Peel, Inc. for producing and mailing the LONA newsletter from July 2008 through this January 2012 edition. Unfortunately advertising in the LONA newsletter no longer supports Peel's cost in providing the LONA newsletter. This is the last newsletter you will receive in this format.

The LONA Board will consider options for future newsletters. If you have suggestions, please contact the newsletter editor at editor@laurel-oaks.org

TO KEEP INFORMED OF LONA NEWS:

Check the website at www.laurel-oaks.org

Join the Yahoo email group. Information on joining the group is provided at www.laurel-oaks.org/Membership.php

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Ellen Kelsey - president@laurel-oaks.org
1st VP Julie Holden - vp1@laurel-oaks.org
2nd VP Ellie Brady - vp2@laurel-oaks.org
Secretary Diane Willis - secretary@laurel-oaks.org
Treasurer Sue January - treasurer@laurel-oaks.org
Emails sent to LONA_Board@laurel-oaks.org will go to all listed above. Please address your email appropriately. Visit LONA's website for more information, www.laurel-oaks.org

NEWSLETTER INFO

EDITOR

Diane Willis editor@laurel-oaks.org

PUBLISHER

Peel, Inc. 512-263-9181
Advertising advertising@PEELinc.com

**NOT AVAILABLE
ONLINE**



PEEL, INC.
community newsletters

RYAN LUNDBERG
Sales Manager

ryan@peelinc.com
512-263-9181 ext. 23
512-263-9183 fax

308 Meadowlark St
Lakeway TX, 78734
www.peelinc.com

Fire and Drought Strategy

In September, I had several wake-up calls regarding the fire hazard conditions due to the drought. Many of us have friends who lost homes in the fire. I spent Labor Day evacuating animals from the zoo I volunteer at in Cedar Creek/Bastrop (*Capital of Texas Zoo*) while the fires shot up on both sides of the zoo. We were lucky. The fire did not hit the zoo and the animals are all safe. Some of my friends did lose their homes. Soon after I finished restoring the animals to their homes at the zoo, I came home (Bayridge) to find that a transformer in the woods that backs up to my home and my neighbors' homes was sparking. Luckily a neighbor heard/saw it and called the fire department. A fire was averted and a warning was relayed that if a fire started in the woods our homes would need to be evacuated. This got us thinking what can we do for prevention? We decided to be proactive, rather than reactive, as much as possible. To this end we came up with some strategies.

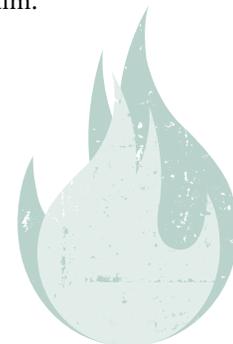
Those that know me also know I love the trees and hold precious the nature our neighborhood holds. So my efforts are to balance fire prevention, the drought effect on our trees, the privacy we enjoy, and creature habitats. Some of my neighbors and I have been sharing the cost of a chipper every few weeks and helping each other carry branches & load the chipper (A nice neighborly-oriented task).

Walking through my property I made note of those cedar trees whose crowns are close to the crowns of the live oaks butting against my house and my neighbor's house. At my house, I started cutting back those cedars first, especially that were near the live oaks so I can have a little bit of a fire break. Then working my way back, I am removing the dead limbs and trees, thinning out the cedar trees to allow the other oaks to have more water access and to allow more beneficial vegetation to grow so the woods become healthier. Again doing my best to maintain the balance mentioned above. This is still on-going.

Also, at the advice of one of my neighbors, my wife and I decided to get a small storage unit to put the family mementos/valuables that we would not be able to replace. Not jewelry, things like paintings or a rocking chair that were in the family for 3 generations, photos that we do not have the time to digitize, and periodic backups of our hard drives. A little more expense than we wanted, but peace of mind if we did lose our home and its contents.

I know that nothing is fool-proof, but being pro-active feels a lot better to me than the thought of being a victim.

*Regards,
Vic & Duana on Bayridge
www.capitaloftexaszoo.org*



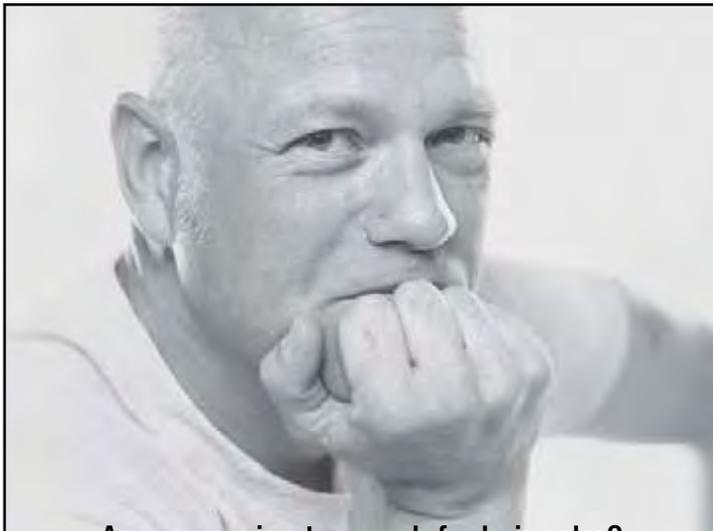
A Great Big THANK YOU! from Caraway Elementary Harvest Festival 2011

The 2011 Caraway Harvest Festival was a tremendous success! We had beautiful weather and lots of happy kiddos who enjoyed activities such as the Hogwart's Castle, petting zoo, trackless train, Games2U, Bungee Quad jump, Reptiles & More and the cake walk. Special thanks to all of the Caraway families who volunteered as well as student volunteers from Westwood High School and Canyon Vista Middle School.

WE WANT TO RECOGNIZE OUR WONDERFUL BUSINESS SPONSORS WHO HELPED MAKE THE EVENT POSSIBLE:

- Austin Blinds & Drapery
- Mary "B" Battaglia-Coldwell Banker Realtor
- Pinup Salon
- Children's Courtyard-Anderson Mill
- King's Hobby Shop
- Kerbey Lane Café-Anderson Mill
- Dunkin Donuts-Research Boulevard
- Starbucks-Arboretum
- Mimi's Cafe

Kathy Caraway Elementary Harvest Festival is a PTA sponsored event



**Are you paying too much for hair color?
Are you coloring your own hair at home?**

Why?

With the purchase of my customized Paul Mitchell Color Package your color service is only \$44.00! Save Time, Mess & Money!

Call Lance @ Mario's Salon for details.

Lance McCollum

Coloring & Cutting for Men & Women

Exclusively at Mario's Hair Salon
7119 Chimney Corners
Austin, TX 78731

Appointments by phone, text or email
Lmccollum2@austin.rr.com
512-217-6270

**\$10 OFF CUT
\$15 OFF COLOR**

*with this ad; 1st time customers

Use QR Codes to Promote Yourself and Your Business



Do you recognize this image or does it just seem odd to you?

The image is called a QR Code. It contains an embedded code which is read by a QR reader. A QR reader is an app for a mobile phone camera. A person with a camera phone and the reader app scans the image and then something wonderful happens. Depending on what is in

the code, that simple action could open a website, display text, make a phone call, send a text message, or create a vCard.

Think of how much easier it would be to just scan an image and open a website or get someone's contact information instead of typing it by hand.

QR codes are fairly new to the U.S. but they have been used in other parts of the world for many years. You will see their use increase as people find new ways to use them to sell their services or a product, to promote an event, or to share their contact information quickly and accurately.

Ideas for promoting your business with QR codes

Since this code is able to get someone to open your website, it follows that a business would use the QR code to promote their products and services. You can put a QR code on your business card and resume; in your social media site; on direct-mail flyers and newsletter inserts to promote specials and discounts; or on your product packaging to provide helpful information.

The QR code doesn't have to open a website; it could just send a text message or create a vCard. Choose the method that works for you and which you think will bring the best results. Keep in mind that the person who scanned your image will view the website (or whatever you have chosen to display) on a small screen.

How to get a QR code

Search the internet for "QR code generator" and choose a company from the search results. Follow their instructions and it will create the QR code image for you. You decide what you want the code to link to and the image is created automatically. Save the image to your computer so you can insert it into your marketing materials.

Now that you know what a QR code is and how to get one, I hope this article has given you some ideas on how to use a QR code to promote yourself and your business.

Article written by Dianne Mullen.

NOTE TO EDITOR:

The QR code displayed with this article is one that I made on a website called "GOQR.ME" (<http://goqr.me>). The code is linked to the Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Association website, <http://laurel-oaks.org/> When scanned with a mobile phone camera that has a QR reader, the LONA website opens automatically.



PEEL, INC.

308 Meadowlark St.
Lakeway, TX 78734-4717

PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PEEL, INC.

LU

ADVERTISE
*Right on mark
for your
target audience*
Call Today 512-263-9181.

PEEL, INC.
community newsletters

www.PEELinc.com
512-263-9181