



DECEMBER 2018

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Holiday Lights Contest

December 8 - 18
From dusk to 10 p.m.

Get in the holiday spirit and help us pick the winners this year. It's easy and fun! Just send in your favorite house address and a picture (if possible but not necessary). Send holiday lights votes to Elizabeth at or text. Submissions need to be received by December 18.

Winners will receive gift card prizes and a congratulatory yard sign. There will be 10 "best" top categories winners as well as 10 additional honorable mention awards given. Holiday Lights Contest winners will be featured in the February *TC Notes*.

Carols & Cookies

Thursday, December 20
6:30-7:30 p.m.
Blue Valley Pavilion

Happy Holidays

The Travis Country HOA and TC Notes take the month of December off for the holidays. There will not be a board meeting this month, and there will not be a January edition of *TC Notes*. See you in 2019!

TC RESIDENT AUTHORS CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS TALE

TC NOTES STAFF

Years ago, when Ramon Fouse and his young family lived in Minnesota, they would trek out to the woods come Christmas season, often in below-zero weather, to cut down a tree for their seasonal celebration.

Searching for just the right one to become their prized Christmas tree, Fouse's three kids would hike among all sizes and shapes of them—some grand and tall, some tiny or misshapen—until they selected their special tree.

One year, in 1975, the idea for a story to tell his children struck Fouse as they searched. "We were looking for a tree that we could cut down and take to our home. Most of the trees were so tall, they were a bit beyond our budget—and some were much taller than our living room," Fouse recalled. "But we found a small tree in the middle of the forest, cut it down and took it home, and decorated it beautifully."

Thinking about the trees they had passed over, Fouse put a story outline together—about a special, tiny tree. The tale Fouse created became the children's book entitled *The Crooked Little Christmas Tree*. "For some reason, that stuck with me, and shortly thereafter I wrote the first manuscript," Fouse said. "Over the years, I've told this story hundreds of times to my three children, my nine grandchildren, and their friends."

Getting his story in print was a long, roundabout process, however. In fact, after a number of initial rejections from publishers, Fouse put his manuscript away and forgot about it—for 38 years.

"I put the manuscript in the mail to 12 publishers, and within weeks I had 12 rejections," he said. "So I then put the manuscript in a manila envelope and put it in a file drawer, which I did not rediscover until 2013—when we were happy to move to Travis Country. In the course of the move and sorting things out, lo and behold there was the manuscript. So I sat down, and I decided to improve it, and, thanks to my wife, I located a publisher in Pennsylvania. So I sent them the manuscript, thinking, 'Well, 13 rejections aren't worse than 12.' The phone rang about a week later, and a lady said, 'Congratulations, Mr. Fouse, our editors have read your book and would like to publish it.'"

Fouse describes his book as a tale that both children and adults can enjoy.

"The book is about a Christmas tree that grew up in the

Christmas tree forest, surrounded by larger trees so that he couldn't really stretch his branches or reach to the sky for sunlight. So when it came time for the woodcutters to harvest the trees for churches and children's families and homes, they didn't take the crooked little Christmas tree. He'd always wanted to be a Christmas tree, and he was so sad. Fortunately, a family with three children saw the crooked little tree. The children were a girl and two boys—which happen to be my children. The tree was harvested and taken home and decorated by the family. And the little tree was so proud that on Christmas Eve when the father put the star on top and took his children and went to bed, there were creaks and groans—and the crooked little Christmas tree

grew tall and the branches spread out. And it was the most beautiful little Christmas tree you've ever seen. The children loved it, and the little tree was so proud."

Fouse's heartwarming book is available on Amazon and through Christian Faith Publishing. For more information, key in "The

Crooked Little Christmas Tree" on the Amazon website or call 555-555-5555. The book is also available in hard and soft cover and for digital download at Amazon, Apple, Barnes and Noble website and retail outlet at Sunset Valley, Book People in Austin, and the Austin Public Library.

"I hope that people who buy the book enjoy it with their entire family. In our family, it's been wonderful for reading to children, and it's been enjoyable to read to my grandchildren," said Fouse, who was invited recently to read from his book to children's classes at Regents and other area schools. "I would be happy to be available to sign any copies. I'm in the neighborhood, and I'm retired, so I'm at home, and it would be a pleasure."



Fouse, at his Travis Country home with his two dogs.

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Ricky and The Cain Team make a donation to their non-profit, Cain Cares, for every successful home sale. This helps to ensure they can continue helping their clients and the community in severe times of need. Visit CainCares.org to learn more!



In addition to sponsoring numerous events in Travis Country over the past decade, The Cain Team also has a fun rewards program, Cain Club. Visit CainClub.com to begin having fun and winning prizes, memberships and services!



Travis Country Resident,

RICKY CAIN, REALTOR

is a 5x Platinum Top 50 Award Winner, a 7x 5-Star Realtor, an Austin Business Journal Award Winner, a 5x KW Platinum Award Winner and he's dedicated to ensure all of his clients receive a jaw-dropping customer service experience.

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TC MAILMAN HANGS UP HIS BAG AFTER 35+ YEARS

TC NOTES STAFF

November 17 was Ken Moore's last loop around the Travis Country neighborhood in his trusty postal truck. Moore, a familiar face to many TC residents, hung up his mailbag after more than 35 years of faithfully delivering the daily mail.



Moore's route has included TC since July 20, 2015; he delivered mail to the 78749 area for many years previously. "There are several aspects of the job that are enjoyable, but the thing I enjoy the most is interacting with the public," Moore said. "I especially like encountering the kids. Their outlook and perspective is refreshing, and you never know what they're going to say."

Moore and his wife, Maria, plan to move to Atlanta, Georgia, to be closer to their daughter, Samantha, who graduated from Vanderbilt in 2013. Samantha is getting married soon, and they look forward to being with her more often.

Moore said he plans to spend his time enjoying watching sports—and eventually playing with some grandkids. "I am a sports fan, especially baseball. The Houston Astros have been my team since before I hired on with the Postal Service, and it was enormously gratifying when they won it all in 2017."

And the grandkids? "Samantha is getting married in May of next year, and yes, we do anticipate the arrival of a grandchild or two in the not-too-distant future."

The main thing he'll miss about the job? The people, Moore said. "I have greatly enjoyed my time out here. I rarely have problems with my customers. I believe being friendly doesn't require any more effort or energy than being disagreeable. I have found that if I'm nice to people, they usually reciprocate."

"We could always count on Ken to deliver our mail, usually at the same time each day, with a friendly smile and cheerful greeting," said TC resident Diane Wright.

CITY COUNCIL GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO NEW FIRE/EMS STATIONS

STAFF

After many years of waiting and hoping by TC residents, the Austin City Council has moved ahead with authorization of construction of a new fire/EMS station to better serve the neighborhood.

The item approved by the Council reads as follows:

"Authorize negotiation and execution of a design build agreement with JE Dunn Construction, for design and construction services for New Fire/EMS Stations project in an amount not to exceed \$12,000,000. [Note: This contract will be awarded in compliance with City Code Chapter 2-9B (Minority Owned and Women Owned Business Enterprise Procurement Program) by meeting the goals 28.90% MBE and 18.50% WBE participation.]. District(s) Affected: District 2, District 6, District 8, District 10. Approved."

A note of thanks goes out to Battalion Chief Bob Nicks, president of the Austin Fire Fighters Association, who has been a tireless advocate for new stations to address poor response times. And a big "thank you" is extended to the mayor, city council, and city manager for responding to the critical needs of the five under-served areas of Austin (Travis Country being number 1 in terms of need, according to statistics) and for establishing an aggressive timeline to complete construction of the badly needed stations.

TC Notes will provide updates on the timeline and progress of new fire/EMS station construction as information becomes available.



CUT BACK YOUR VEGETATION

TC residents, remember to trim vegetation (including flowers and shrubs) away from neighborhood sidewalks. Overgrown vegetation is a nuisance and dangerous obstruction for residents walking or jogging and for kids walking to the bus stop. Now is a good time to cut back because many plants and shrubs are going dormant for the season.

TC REAL ESTATE UPDATE

TC RESIDENT



Real estate tends to have seasonal trends. There is the thought that the market is at its peak during the spring and summer months, which historically is true, but there is always a small uptick in sales from October through mid-November of buyers purchasing a house before the end of the year.

This may be buyers who want to consider a purchase while the market is slowing down before the spring housing market and uptick in prices, or as a possible tax break for the current year. Either way, it always seems to be a good time to buy in Travis Country, no matter the season or the reason!

Currently, there are 10 houses on the market, ranging from \$395,000 to \$662,000. The square-foot range of the current houses for sale is between 1,425 and 3,531 square feet. The average price per square foot is \$241, and the average days on the market is 46.

There are three pending properties in TC that will close before year end. These houses range from \$457,000 to \$610,000, with a square-foot range between 1,730 and 3,389.

Eight houses have sold in the past month (since early October), ranging from \$428,500 to \$640,000 sold prices, with a minimum square footage of 1,551 and maximum square footage of 3,360. The average price per square foot of what has sold in the neighborhood is \$263 per square foot.

The overall Austin market currently has a three-month supply of houses for sale, which a balanced market holds at a six-month supply. We continue to be a sellers' market, although houses are staying on the market a little while longer than they have been. Well-presented houses priced according to the market still sell a bit more quickly. Multiple offers have slowed down a small amount, and buyers have more than a few-hour period to consider the purchase of a house before presenting an offer.

Interestingly, the average sale of a house in TC at this time in 2008 was \$310,000. Now, in 2018, an average house here sells for \$515,000. Investing in a home in TC has traditionally been a good thing, and that doesn't seem to be changing.

Enjoy yourself this holiday season—and be sure and contact a neighborhood Realtor® to help guide you through all your real estate needs!

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Ever so often our wonderful 50+ *TC Notes* distributors are not able to cover their route temporarily. Please e-mail tcnotes@traviscountry.com if you are willing to step in if a route needs to be covered until the regular volunteer can resume the next month.

CAN I RECYCLE THIS? MORE FROM TC’S ‘RECYCLING GURU’

TC RESIDENT

Welcome back to “Can I Recycle This?”—otherwise known as “Can I Learn How to Recycle Before I Lose My Mind and Just Throw Everything in the Trash?!”

Previously, we learned that milk/soup cartons are not recyclable, but boxes are—no matter how much tape is stuck on the surface. We also learned that shredded paper goes in the compost bin, not the recycling container! I recently found out that if you don’t compost and are so inclined, you can actually drive your shredded paper to Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) at 4108 Todd Lane or at 2514 Business Center Drive. But that seems like a lot more work to me than burying it in the back yard!



Now let’s address something you probably don’t want to hear: It is NEVER okay to put your recyclables into plastic garbage bags to toss into the blue bin! It may save on mess, but you can’t do it. Well, you can, this is a free country—but you will be completely undoing your good recycling deed if you do.

So what does the city do with stuff entombed in a white plastic garbage bag? Most likely, it goes straight to the landfill. First, plastic bags tend to get stuck in and gum up the recycling machinery. Second, recycling workers don’t know whether a closed bag is full of glass or cow manure—and they’re not going to take the time to untie it to find out—so chances are they will toss the whole shebang.

ARR’s Scott Johnson adds that we ought to keep in mind how much petroleum is used to make each of those plastic bags, and avoid using them as much as possible, anyway. So, skip the trash bags! Rinse items before you throw them into recycling, and you should not have a big mess on your hands. I have to rinse my inside recycling bin only two or three times a year to keep it presentable.

A couple of quick additional items: I had heard we can’t recycle sticky notes or thermal paper (store receipts and old faxes). Nay, says Johnson: “Throw them in the recycle bin.” There’s some good news for you!

Finally, let’s talk about Styrofoam. First, some more good news: All of it is recyclable. Now the bad news: You are going to have to load it up and haul it to Austin Resource Recovery.

Johnson says they will take all of your Styrofoam, but don’t bring any of those crazy Styrofoam peanuts. Workers at the site don’t have all day to chase flying bits of polystyrene. But here’s a cool thing: the city sends all its Styrofoam to a vendor who then shreds it, melts it, molds it, and ships it off to be used elsewhere. It kind of looks like soft-serve on slo-mo. Check it out on Youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=C6Q3GYpvQ6w.

Side note: I grew up in Cleveland, AKA the Mistake on the Lake. Our river caught fire multiple times, parts of Lake Erie were declared dead, and we walked along a shore covered with thousands of dead fish. One day when I was little, we were at the lake, and my mom said, “Don’t go in past your knees.” Of course, I did, and when I came out of the water my yellow bathing suit had turned white from all the industrial chemicals. We have the near-death of Lake Erie to thank for the Clean Water Act.

There’s a lot to remember related to recycling, but I really am making an effort to get it right because I want my kids to live in a cleaner world than the one I grew up in. And I hope you will, too!

AUSTIN RUNOFF ELECTIONS FOR TC RESIDENTS' CONSIDERATION

JIM MCNABB, TC NOTES

Who will be the next Austin City Council member to represent Travis Country and the rest of District 8? Who will join the Austin ISD Board as the at-large trustee? It's up to you. Two elections that have gone to a runoff that are of interest to TC residents include that of City Council District 8, in which Paige Ellis and Frank Ward will face off, and that of Austin ISD's open at-large seat, in which Carmen Tilton and Arati Singh will vie for the position. The runoff election is set for December 11, with early voting November 29 through December 7. The TC Office will be open for early voting Friday, December 7, from 8 a.m. to noon, and will be open on December 11 for voting on election day.

Austin City Council, District 8. From a field of four, the District 8 City Council candidates are down to two—Ellis and Ward—since no one received 50 percent of the vote. In fact, the vote was split fairly evenly in the November 6 general election.

Frontrunner Ellis received 31 percent of the vote. Her challenger in the runoff, Ward, picked up 25 percent. Bobby Levinski and Rich DePalma garnered 23 percent and 22 percent, respectively.

"During the course of the campaign, I got to know both Rich DePalma and Bobby Levinski quite well, and I am honored to have their support heading into the December 11th runoff election," said Ellis.

Ellis received the endorsement of groups that previously supported DePalma and Levinski: LiUNA Laborers Local 1095 Union; Stonewall Democrats of Austin; and the Circle C Area Democrats.

Ellis, an environmental marketing professional, has been a volunteer for the Texas Book Festival and Keep Austin Beautiful and has served as a state convention delegate for the Texas Democratic Party.

Ward is endorsed by outgoing District 8 Councilmember Ellen Troxclair. His other endorsements include Travis County Republican Party; Home Builders Association of Greater Austin; Tra-

vis County Republican Party; and Building Owners and Managers Association Austin.

Ward is a member of the City of Austin Parks Board and was recently selected to serve as chair of the Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee. He currently serves as a member of the KLRU-TV/Austin PBS Strategic Planning Committee, according to his website.

More information on Ward and Ellis can be found on their respective websites:

- www.paigeforaustin.org
- www.wardforaustin.com

Austin ISD Board, At-Large Seat. Frontrunner Tilton, who captured 40 percent of the vote in the general election, faces Singh, who got 36 percent.

Tilton has experience with the Texas Legislature as a former legislative policy advisor for Representative Joaquin Castro and former Texas senator Wendy Davis, both of whom endorse her. She is also endorsed by the *Austin Chronicle*. Tilton is a sixth-generation Tejana and mother of a 2-year-old.

Singh is a former bilingual teacher whose two children attend Austin ISD schools. Besides her 20 years' experience in the classroom, she, like Tilton, has significant history advocating and working with the Texas Legislature. Singh is endorsed by Education Austin; University Democrats; Austin Young Democrats; Austin Kids First; Liberal Austin Democrats; and NxNW Democrats.

More information on Tilton and Singh may be found on their respective websites:

- www.carmentiltonforaisd.com
- www.singhforaisd.com

Tilton and Singh were scheduled to meet with voters in Travis Country December 1 at 2 p.m., along with another runoff candidate, Stephanie Gharakhanian, who is running for the Austin Community College Board of Trustees.

Cast your vote!



Paige Ellis (L) and Frank Ward (R) will square off for Austin City Council, District 8, in runoff elections.



Carmen Tilton (L) and Arati Singh (R) vie for a seat on the AISD Board in the runoff elections.

REMEMBER TO RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE



Don't throw away your Christmas tree; give it another life by recycling it! City of Austin curbside customers can recycle their trees by leaving them at the curb on their regular collection day.

When you recycle at the curb, remove all decorations and the stand from the tree. Set out your tree by 6:30 a.m. on your regular collection day. Trees over six feet should be cut in half. Do not place the tree in a plastic bag.



GARDEN PARTY FUN

Residents enjoyed the TC Garden potluck party on November 11, despite cold and wet weather.

TC CLUBS

Travis Country Clubs are sanctioned by the TC HOA and are open to all TC residents.

BOOK CLUB

The TC Book Club will meet at 2 p.m., for our holiday social. We will not discuss a specific book but will schedule hosts and books for discussion for the first part of 2019, so bring your suggestions and calendars. Please bring a festive appetizer, dessert and/or beverage of choice to share. Allergy note: cat.

BUNCO

Come one and all! TC Bunco is ending the year at 6 p.m. . Elaine will provide an entrée of turkey or ham. Please bring a side, dessert, or rolls. Dinner will be followed by games and a White Elephant Party. Remember to bring a wrapped White Elephant gift.



FIRST FROST OF THE SEASON

Frosted grass and trees line the AISD land path on November 14.

TC OFFICE HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Please note the TC Office at Blue Valley will be closed on the following days for the holidays:

- December 24, 25, 26 and 31
- January 1

NATIVE PLANTS EVENT

Travis Country Community Garden
Saturday, December 8, 9 a.m. - noon

The City of Austin's Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) will answer questions and provide information about native plants and conservation.



Free seedlings will be provided to interested attendees. (two to four plants per household. Species information and planting instructions will be included with the seedlings.) Bring a plastic bag or bucket to take the seedlings and soil home. Please plan on installing your seedlings the same day.

Native plants benefit local wildlife and look great, too!

THIS OLD SPOUSE

THIS YEAR, SANTA'S FROM THE '70S, LIKE, MAN

ROGER WHITE, TC NOTES



I must have fallen and hit my head again. Do you hear those mountains? Listen to all that purple. *Ding!* Ooh, time for cocoa! I swear, from looking at the little calendar icon on my computer, that it is December 2018. That's what it says, right there on my screen. Yes? No? But as I run down the list of Christmas presents requested by our two offspring types I realize that it must be approximately December 1973, give or take.

Do you know what our oldest daughter, fresh out of college, wants for Christmas? A record player. That's right. An actual turntable with an actual needle that plays actual albums. I had to ask her again to make sure I was hearing correctly. I didn't think she grasped what a record player was. Or a record, for that matter. Apparently, they're all the rage with the young adult crowd now. Who knew? I never should have gotten rid of my old Magnavox solid state stereophonic hi-fi phonograph with diamond stylus. Ah, those were the days. Put on a little "Seasons in the Sun" by Terry Jacks, slap on some Hai Karate cologne, slide on my polyester bell botto—OK, never mind.

Our oldest kiddo, who has Pink Floyd and Hendrix posters in her room by the way, also requested headphones. Not those microscopic little earbuds that can get lost in the inner canals of your cranium, mind you. No, she wants the mammoth vintage-style phones that cover half your head, like those awesome KLH monsters that looked more like heart defibrillators than musical accessories. Remember those things? Your mom could be screaming at you not two feet away that the house was on fire, and all you could hear was Edgar Winter. Yeah, man. Rock on.

Anyway, those giant ear-suffocating mufflers are back, too. Retro is in, apparently. Going down the list, I see that our youngest daughter—she of the Smart-phone Ariana Grande Maroon 5 Instagram genera-

tion—wants, get this, a Polaroid Land Camera. Seriously. If you need a memory jog, the Polaroid Land Camera was that behemoth box of an instant camera that would spit the photo out right then and there immediately after you snapped it. You stood there and shook and waved and shimmied the photo as it developed in front of your eyes. Remember that? A technological marvel! Instead of waiting a week and having to run to your pharmacy to see that your thumb was over the lens, you got to see your stupid mistake instantly. By the way, Polaroid didn't call it the Land Camera because you could use it only on land. The guy who invented it was named Edwin Land, who was cofounder of the Polaroid Company and invented the thing. Just so you'll know.

Oh, and let's not forget about shoes. Sneakers, to be more precise. Do you know what sneakers our youngest runs around in nowadays? Keds. Old-style, high-top, Johnny Unitas-looking Keds! Except they don't call them Keds now. And they dang sure don't sell them for \$10 anymore, to be certain. Holy mother of mackerel, they're high fashion now, produced by hoity-toity outfits with names like Maison Martin Margiela or Steve Madden or some Nordstrom-sounding company called Giuseppe Zanotti Ferrari—and for only \$759.99 they come in gold lamé or day-glo lace or faux snakeskin. I'm thinking if I snag a pair of original Keds from Goodwill and spray-paint them gold leaf, she'll never know the diff.

So all this retro rage got me thinking about my Christmas list. I might as well go with the flow, I reasoned. Why not? OK, Santa, this year I'd like: 1. Soap on a rope (preferably English Leather or Irish Spring); 2. A Sony Walkman (in lemon yellow or groovy grape color); 3. A Rock 'em Sock 'em Robot set; and 4. A Man from U.N.C.L.E. lunchbox with thermos. If you don't have Man from U.N.C.L.E., I'll take Green Hornet, but please try. Thanks, Santa dude.

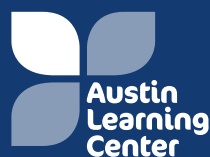
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MOVIE NIGHT A BIG (IF A LITTLE LATE) SUCCESS

Thanks to all who made the annual TC Halloween movie night such a success! About 300 people showed up to enjoy the perfect fall weather and watch *A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving* and *Hotel Transylvania* on Saturday, November 3. Enjoying Blue Valley with a movie in the park experience is a great way to meet your neighbors, see old friends, and enjoy neighborhood amenities. Watching the adults catch up with friends (and make new ones!) and watching the kids run around and be kids was priceless.



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MOLLY'S 2¢ (ON GIVING BACK)

Recently, while whistling to my favorite Christmas and holiday songs, I started to consider all the kindness and goodness we have in our family and right here in our wonderful TC community. This led me to began thinking about ways I could share the love and good cheer I always feel this time of year. Here are a few simple ideas that are meant to embrace the act of giving back, along to the joy and happiness you can share with others. You just might catch yourself whistling too!

Serve a Holiday Meal. This Thanksgiving, I read where H-E-B put on several large scale feasts for the homeless and those in need in Austin and the surrounding communities. Things like that make me love my H-E-B even more, but you can give too, albeit on a more personal scale. There are upcoming opportunities at several shelters such as Mobile Loaves and Fishes or St. Vincent de Paul that would appreciate a few hours

of your time to help those in need celebrate the season.

Consider a few easy financial ways of giving back. The easiest way is to corral all the spare change that is either on top of a dresser, in a jar near your keys, or scattered randomly throughout your house. Gather all the coinage and take it to the bank or a coin machine and have it sorted, then give the proceeds to a food bank or shelter. Many banks or credit card companies offer charitable giving, which make donations to nonprofit organizations with every purchase. Amazon can connect your spending to a charity of your choice (local schools included) with AmazonSmile, a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. Go to smile.amazon.com to activate. Win-win!

Donate blood. A no-cost way to give back that generally takes less than an hour. Your blood donation could mean the difference between life and death for someone. Keep an eye out for blood drive posters, or head down to a donation center. Better yet, start a Travis Country Neighborhood Blood Drive and make the entire neighborhood win good citizen awards for the gift of giving blood!

Share your pet. Do you have the most adorable pet known to humankind? Don't we all? Does the love it shares with you need to be shared with others? Why not call nearby assisted living centers and see if residents would enjoy a visit from you and your four legged friend?

Offer help. When thinking of offering help, we usually think outside of our friend and family zone. This holiday season, offer your over-worked brother a few free hours of babysitting, or give your granddad or grandmom a ride to their doctor's appointment. Little acts like these go a long way!

Get to know your neighbors. By that same token, now is a great time to get to know your neighbors. Raking leaves, signing for a package, or minding potted plants for a few days could be a huge help. You can also double your recipes while making holiday goodies and share those with friends and neighbors.

'Tis the season to share your time, talent, and holiday cheer with those around you. Whether you choose to donate time, food, money, or just good thoughts, we can all make this holiday season just a little bit better for ourselves and, most importantly, our community.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from my family to yours!

THINKING OF SELLING?

Have you been thinking of selling your house or even house-swapping within the neighborhood? Let's chat!
512-771-0721
molly@mollyaustin.com

Tip of the Month



This is the time of year when traveling can test one's nerves. And while there are some things you can't control, there are ways to make the most of your holiday travels.

- Travel on a holiday if possible to save on airfare.
- Always take a carry-on, never check your bags.
- Packing healthy snacks saves money and keeps you running on positive fuel during travel.
- Bring your own charging devices. Don't count on outlets being available.
- Take a deep breath and smile. You'll feel better and maybe even brighten a fellow travelers day.

All About Austin

Join the magic of **Luminations**, at **The Wildflower Center**, December

6-9, 2018. Enjoy the illuminated gardens with thousands of lights alongside performances, music and festive fun. Tickets are \$10-\$15, free for children up to 4 years old.

