



The Future of TOTH is at a Crossroads

Treasure of the Hills could close if we cannot find enough members to serve on the Board.

Treasure of the Hills Senior Center is at a critical crossroads. If we cannot find enough members willing to serve on the Board of Directors, we may not be able to continue operating the Center under our current structure.

We need members to step forward—NOW!

For more than 30 years, TOTH has been a special place where older adults come to exercise, play games, learn, make friends, volunteer, and simply enjoy being together.

We have built a wonderful community—and we want to ensure it continues for the next 30 years.

But today, the way TOTH is governed is proving to be difficult to maintain.

Our Annual Meeting is September 16, and we do not currently have enough candidates to fill the Board positions required by our bylaws. To stay in compliance with the bylaws we must have a functioning Board. Plus, both Texas and IRS nonprofit laws require nonprofit corporations to maintain appropriate governance.

Most urgently, we need candidates for Secretary and Treasurer.

No one on the Board wants to see TOTH close.

We want TOTH to be here for the next 30 years. But to make that happen, we need your help.

How We Got Here

At our 2025 Annual Meeting, the Board announced that we had begun discussions with the City of Cedar Park about the possibility of the City assuming responsibility for operating the Senior Center.

There were several compelling reasons for exploring this possibility:

- The City already owns and maintains our facility and pays the utilities.

- Hundreds of Cedar Park-area seniors rely on the Center each week.
- The population of adults over 60 in Cedar Park continues to grow.
- Volunteer-run governance is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain.
- Our current governance model, which has served TOTH well for three decades, is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain.

The Board believed that planning for a transition could help prevent a future crisis that might threaten the Center's ability to remain open.

The last two points are especially important.

As our programs and activities have grown and our membership has aged, it has become increasingly difficult to find members who are willing and able to take on the responsibilities of serving on the Board.

When discussions with the City began, the Board received an initial indication that the City was willing to explore the possibility of taking on the administration of the Senior Center and potentially including the necessary funding in its 2027 budget.

Based on that understanding, the Board postponed recruiting candidates for the 2027 Board.

In late July, however, we learned that the City was not able to include funding for Senior Center administration in its 2027 budget.

Rather than give up, the Board immediately began looking for another solution.

Board officers met with the Director of Parks & Recreation and presented a proposal outlining how the City could assume responsibility for the Center's day-to-day operations. The Board President also met with Councilwoman Ann Duffy to discuss possible alternatives.

One possibility that emerged was the creation of a Treasure of the Hills Foundation, modeled in

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President's Message

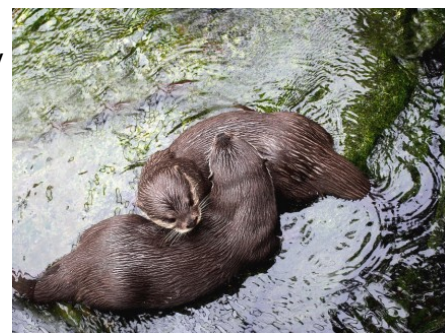
By Ellen Fannin

My most favorite book of all time is *Illusions: The Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah* by Richard Bach, who also authored *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*. I read this book when I was in my 20s, and its message has stayed with me throughout my life.

One of my favorite passages says, "We are game-playing, fun-having creatures, we are the otters of the universe."

If you have ever had the opportunity to watch otters, it doesn't take long to realize that their nature is simply to play—to swim, tumble, chase one another and enjoy being alive. There is something wonderfully unburdened about them.

I believe we should all strive to make our lives full of that kind of joy and play. It isn't always easy. Life has a way of giving us responsibilities, obligations and an endless list of things that need to be done. But when we manage to set all of that aside for a while—to laugh, play, connect with others and simply enjoy the moment—it is incredibly gratifying.



That is why it is troubling when I find myself having to write an article like the one beginning on the front page.

I want Treasure of the Hills to be a joyous place. I want it to be a place where people can come and play, laugh, learn something new, make a new friend or simply sit down with someone they haven't seen in a while and catch up.

But there is a reality behind all that joy.

The programs have to run smoothly. The office has to respond to the needs of our members. The finances have to be managed. Events have to be planned. And, most importantly, someone has to make sure the organization itself is being properly governed.

Those are the board's "duties and responsibilities."

(Continued on page 4)

TREASURER'S REPORT

By Denny Clauson, Board Treasurer

July income :	\$8,503
July expenses :	\$11,304
Investment Fund :	increased \$1,726
Memorial Fund :	increased \$1
Costs of \$2,950 for July 4th dinner will come from Memorial Fund, reducing July expenses.	



Vice Versa

Insights from the VP

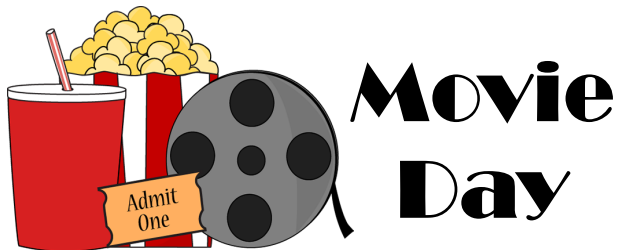
By Sue Holmes, Board Vice President

Hey folks, Thanks for all the suggestions! I'm working on getting things scheduled.

One of the events we are looking into is the Austin Jazz Hall of Fame Awards on November 1st. Presented by the Austin Jazz Society, this event honors well-known jazz artists from the Austin area. More to come on that.

Also on our list, the Palace Theater is open again in Georgetown. The musical, "Oklahoma," is playing in October and "A Wonderful Life" is playing in late November and December. If you love going to plays, watch for more information on these two outings.

For December, we are working on a bus trip to see Fort Hood's annual Christmas lights display that includes a stop at Santa's Village!



Movie Day will be on Tuesday, September 15th to coincide with the opening of "Practical Magic 2." The sequel to the 1998 romantic fantasy film has Sandra Bullock, Nicole Kidman, Stockard Channing and Dianne Wiest reprising their roles as the Owens women, a family of witches living in a quaint New England town.

If you have not seen the original movie, "Practical Magic," you can watch it on HBO Max, Prime Video, Hulu or Starz.

We will meet for lunch at 11:45 a.m. at Amy's China Cuisine, next to the Cinemark Cedar Park in the 1890 Ranch Shopping area. The feature begins at 12:50 p.m.

To purchase your ticket, you can go to www.cinemark.com or purchase it at the door.

So that we can let the restaurant know the number of people who will be having lunch, be sure to sign up in the front office at the Center. Come have fun with us at the movies.



Behind the Desk

by Jeanne Allison, Office Manager



Hard to believe summer is almost over. KJ, our high school helper, is starting school this week, which means he will only be available during the evenings to set up our activities.

Because of this change in schedule, our members will need to help set up the following activities scheduled for the Great Room:

- Music Bingo (3rd Monday of the month)
- Mexican Train (Every Thursday @ Noon)

These activities will have to both set up and clear the tables and chairs each week.

- Poker (Every Tuesday @ 12:30)
- Duplicate Bridge (Every Friday @ 1:00)

Reminder: If you set up a large round table or long rectangle table for your activity, please put up when you are finished.

Thank you all for your help and understanding as we adjust to this new schedule.

We would like to hire someone to come in and help with set up and breakdown. If you know of anyone who is able to move tables and chairs and would like to make some extra cash, please have them contact me in the front office.

The work is only part time, but it pays well and you get to work in a great environment around some terrific people. The majority of the duties include setting up chairs and tables, carrying out the trash and other simple tasks. The hours are flexible and we are able to accommodate most schedules.

A Note About Center Security

We previously let you know that TOTH had experienced recent incidents involving missing cash. Now, it appears that we've experienced another incident of petty theft.

While we do not currently have an alarm system or security cameras, the Board is evaluating whether additional security measures may be necessary to help protect the Center and our property.

If you see something that seems unusual, please bring it to the attention of a Board member or staff member.

President's Message *(from page 2)*

And, those simple words can suck the fun right out of anything.

But here is the thing: **those responsibilities are what make the fun possible.**

We are extremely fortunate that so many of our members understand this when it comes to the little things. If chairs need to be put away, there are always people willing to help. If we need a dish for a luncheon, someone brings one. If someone needs a substitute, someone steps up.

Over and over again, I see our members doing what needs to be done so that everyone else can enjoy themselves.

Why is it so difficult to find people willing to serve on the board?

I understand. The vast majority of us are retired, and we have worked hard to get here. We want to enjoy our retirement. We want to play. We want to travel. We want to spend time with family and friends. We don't necessarily want another job.

Neither do I.

But I also know that if everyone simply came to TOTH to enjoy themselves and nobody was willing to accept responsibility for keeping the organization going, there would eventually be no TOTH to come to.

That is the part I hope we will all think about.

Being a member of Treasure of the Hills isn't just about what we receive from the Center. It is also about what we contribute to it. Sometimes that contribution is a plate of cookies. Sometimes it is putting away chairs. Sometimes it is calling Bingo or helping at an event.

And sometimes, it means being willing to serve on the Board of Directors.

Board service may not sound like much fun. There are meetings. There are policies. There are budgets. There are, yes, duties and responsibilities. (Oops! There's that sucking sound again!)

But those things are not the purpose of TOTH. They are the means to an end.

The purpose is the laughter.

The purpose is the friendships.

The purpose is the feeling of belonging.

The purpose is having a place where we can come together and, for a few hours, be the otters of the universe.

So perhaps the question isn't, "Why should I give up some of my retirement to serve on the board?"

Perhaps the better question is, "What can I do to make sure the place I love will still be here for all of us to enjoy?"

After all, somebody has to keep the river flowing.

Otters at Play...



(TOTH at a Crossroads continued from page 1)
part on the foundation created by the Friends of the Library.

Under this concept, the City would assume responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the Center, while a separate Foundation would focus on fundraising, grants, planned giving, major gifts, and other efforts to provide financial support for senior programs and activities.

The Board subsequently prepared and presented a proposal to members of the City Council outlining how the City and Foundation could work together.

As of this writing, we are waiting for the City's response.

But We Cannot Wait to Solve the Board Problem

While we wait for a decision from the City, there is an immediate problem we cannot ignore: **TOTH must have a functioning Board of Directors.**

Our bylaws require a Board consisting of four officers and four directors. The officers serve one-year terms, while directors serve two-year staggered terms.

At our Annual Meeting on September 16, we will elect members of the Board. Here is the current slate:

- **President** – Ellen Fannin
- **Vice President** – Sue Holmes
- **Secretary** – _____
- **Treasurer** – _____
- **Director** – Dru Chrisman
- **Director** – Angie Mendoza

As you can see, we do not currently have a complete slate of candidates.

We cannot simply allow the Board to disappear while we wait to see what happens with the City.

That is why we are asking our members to step forward now.

Three Possible Paths for TOTH

At the September 16 Annual Meeting, the Board will discuss three possible paths for the future of Treasure of the Hills.

Option #1: The City Moves Forward with the Foundation Proposal

This is the option the Board believes offers the greatest long-term stability for TOTH.

Under this model, the City would assume responsibility for:

- Staffing
- Building operations
- Programming and activities
- Registrations
- Maintenance
- Daily operations
- Budget administration

The Center would operate under the umbrella of the City's Parks & Recreation Department.

The Foundation would focus on raising money to supplement what is provided through the City's budget. Fundraising could include the Senior Expo, grants, planned giving, major gifts, and other fundraising activities.

TOTH's existing investment funds could become the Foundation's endowment, providing a long-term source of support for programs and activities benefiting older adults.

A Foundation Board could be relatively small and could include people with specific expertise in areas such as fundraising, grant writing, finance, law, investments, or nonprofit management. Board members would not necessarily have to be seniors or TOTH members.

The transition to this model would likely take approximately 12 months.

Option #2: TOTH Members Step Forward to Serve on the Board

If the City does not move forward with the Foundation proposal in 2027, TOTH will need to continue under its current governance structure. That means we need members willing to serve on the Board.

Serving on the Board does not mean taking on every task at the Center. It means providing the leadership and oversight necessary to keep TOTH operating.

We need people willing to:

- Serve as officers or directors
- Attend Board meetings
- Help make decisions about the future of the Center
- Provide leadership and oversight
- Work together to ensure that TOTH remains strong

(Continued on page 6)

(TOTH at a Crossroads continued from page 5)
Someone needs to step up and this may be your opportunity to be that someone.

The most immediate needs are Secretary and Treasurer. On page 7, you will find a description of the responsibilities of each position.

You do not have to be an expert in nonprofit management. You do not have to know everything about running an organization. You simply need to care about Treasure of the Hills and be willing to help.

Option #3: Close the Center

No one on the Board wants this to happen.

We also believe our members deserve to know the reality of the situation.

If we cannot maintain the leadership necessary to operate TOTH under our current structure, closing the Center may ultimately become unavoidable.

After more than 30 years of service, we do not want the legacy of Treasure of the Hills to end simply because we could not find enough people willing to help lead it into the future.

This Is Where You Come In

Treasure of the Hills belongs to all of us.

The Board has worked hard to find a way to preserve the Center and build a sustainable future. The possibility of a City/Foundation partnership could provide the stability we have been seeking.

But until that decision is made, we still need a Board. And that is where we need you.

You do not have to be an expert. You do not have to have served on a Board before. You do not have to know exactly what the future will look like. **You simply have to be willing to step forward and help.**

If you are willing to serve as an officer or director—or if you would simply like to learn more about what serving on the Board involves—please talk with a current Board member as soon as possible.

Our Annual Meeting is September 16.

The future of Treasure of the Hills depends on what we do now. Let's make sure the place we have built together will be here for the generations of seniors who will need it in the years ahead.

PLEASE CONSIDER SERVING ON THE BOARD.

Parks & Rec Senior Coordinator Resigns

We were saddened to hear from Grant Meeks that he has resigned from the Parks & Recreation Department. Grant served as the Senior Coordinator before resigning in early August.



For the past six months, Grant has served as an advocate for Treasure of the Hills and was a friend to all who met him.

In his note to Board President Ellen Fannin, he stated, "More than anything, I want to personally thank you and the entire Treasure of the Hills family. You have all been the greatest blessing to come from my time with the City. From the moment I arrived, you welcomed me with kindness, encouragement, and genuine friendship. You made me feel like part of your family, and I will always be grateful for that."

Grant will be returning to Indiana where he plans to go back to school to become a nurse.

He will sorely be missed, but we wish him well as he takes his next steps in his future.

We love you, Grant!

Senior Fun and Fit



By Diana Hiebeler

We have started Fun and Fit on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10. This is a standing aerobics class (not sitting, unless you need to) that really helps with endurance and balance. We have fun choosing which YouTube video we want to follow.

Recently it's been Paul Eugene. He's a senior, too, and really seems to enjoy helping people move. Paul Eugene comes up with some unique moves that can really challenge you.

Occasionally, we include work with weights, but a lot of times we get a great workout without them! No need to sign up, just come on back to the TV Room (the room to the left of the Great Room) and have some Fun while you get Fit!

Responsibilities of the Board Secretary and Treasurer

The following listing of duties has been taken straight from the TOTH Bylaws, Article IV, Sections 1 & 2.

Please do not let the formal, language intimidate you.

The Secretary takes minutes at the Executive Committee and Board Meetings and creates the agendas for both with the help of the President.

The Treasurer has the assistance of our bookkeeper, Lori Rainey, who manages the day-to-day financial operations. When the bylaws state, "Be responsible for..." that often simply means reviewing the information and reports that Lori prepares. She also prepares the reports that are given to board members at each of the meetings.

The treasurer generates the annual budget data, which Lori uses to prepare the initial draft. The treasurer and finance committee then collaborate to finalize a proposed budget for Board presentation.

As stated in the article on page one, we need people to step up and be willing to support the future of Treasure of the Hills.

The Secretary:

- Must have been a member of TOTH for six months or more as of the beginning of the calendar year the nominee's term would begin.
- Must have some proficiency with the use of a computer.

The Secretary shall:

- Serve as a member of the Board of Directors and its Executive Committee.
- Handle all associated correspondence.
- Publish the agenda from Executive Committee for the Board meeting.
- Write and maintain Minutes of all Board and Membership meetings.
- Submit Minutes for Board approval within one week of Board meeting.
- Make approved Minutes available at the Receptionist desk for membership perusal.

- Perform such other duties as may be designated by the President or the Board of Directors.

The Treasurer:

- Must have been a member of TOTH for six months or more as of the beginning of the calendar year when the nominee's term would begin.
- Must have some proficiency with the use of a computer and working knowledge of current accounting practices.

The Treasurer shall:

- Serve as a member of the Board of Directors, its Executive Committee, and as Chair of the Finance Committee;
- Be custodian of all funds and securities of TOTH;
- Be responsible for submitting full and accurate accounting records of monies of TOTH and deposit all monies and other valuables in the name of and to the credit of TOTH in such depositories as may be designated by the Board.
- Be responsible for the timely filing of all required Federal, State, and local tax returns;
- Make capital expenditures as designated by the Board.
- Co-sign all TOTH checks along with one of the individuals designated by the Board as co-signers; in the absence of the Treasurer, two other authorized individuals, at least one of whom must be an officer of TOTH, shall co-sign all checks.
- Submit a financial report at each regularly scheduled meeting of the Board and an annual financial report at the January business meeting of the membership;
- Submit all financial records for review or audit, as requested by the Finance Committee;
- Submit a proposed annual budget to the Executive Committee in December for approval by the Board of Directors at the first Board meeting of the new calendar year.



— Board Notes —

New Petty Cash Policy

To help safeguard the Center's funds, we have made a few changes to our cash-handling procedures.

During the month of July, the Senior Center experienced two separate petty cash thefts totaling nearly \$100. While the amount was relatively small, any loss of Center funds is taken seriously. As a result, we have reviewed our procedures and implemented additional security measures to better protect our financial resources.

Effective immediately:

- Petty cash will no longer be kept at the front desk.
- Access to petty cash will be available only between the hours of **8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.** This will allow us to better monitor its use while still meeting the needs of members and volunteers during our busiest hours.
- The Center will no longer make change for bills larger than **\$20**. We encourage members to bring smaller bills or the exact amount whenever possible.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we implement these changes. These measures are intended to protect the Center's resources and help ensure that funds remain available to support the programs and services that benefit all of our members.

Uber Pick Up Location at TOTH

It came to the attention of the board that members have experienced some difficulty in catching Uber rides since the address is on Ridgewood Drive. Uber drivers were unaware that they needed to come into the parking lot at TOTH to locate their fares.

The board considered purchasing a bench to put on Ridgewood side of the building. However, Grant Meeks, former Senior Coordinator with Parks & Recreation, offered to contact the Uber office to see about changing the pickup point so that TOTH members can wait at the end of the walk at the entrance to the building. Thanks to Grant's efforts, Uber drivers will now turn into the parking lot and pick up at the end of the walkway.



September Lunch & Learns

Recycling Follow-Up

What happens once your recycling is carried off? Where does it go, and what becomes of it? Is there more we could do to help make sure we are recycling properly?

Join us on Wednesday, September 23 at noon when a representative from Republic Services, the official recycling company for the City of Cedar Park, comes to talk with us and share ways that we can make recycling more effective.

A light lunch will be served. Be sure to register by Monday, September 21st. Lunch is free for TOTH members; \$5 for guests.

Wednesday, September 23—12:00 p.m.

Aging in Place vs. Moving On

Join local realtor, Allyson Carter, as she shares insights into living at home or moving to a smaller place; there are pros and cons to both. Come learn how to make an informed decision on what is best for you.

A light lunch will be served. Be sure to register by Monday, September 28th. Lunch is free for TOTH members and \$5 for guests.

Wednesday, September 30—12:00 p.m.



New Uber pick up point marked in red. Old pick up point in yellow. Members can wait on the bench under the trees for their Uber ride.





CREATE
LEARN
CONNECT

September Craft:

The September Craft project is brought to us by Angie Mendoza. We will be using pouring paint to design and create beautiful octagonal coasters that you will take home with you.

The class is limited to 10 participants and will cost \$10 per person. All supplies will be provided.



ed, but be sure to wear an old shirt or apron that you don't mind getting paint on. It is important that you arrive on time because the class will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday, September 23—10:30 a.m.—\$10

Pressed Flower Cards

Pressed Flower Card classes continue in the library on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Taffy Gauger provides all the materials you'll need and is available to help with instructions. Supplies cost \$5 per person.

Be sure to sign up in advance. Payment can be made at the class.

Wednesday, September 16—10:30 a.m.—\$5

Interested in teaching?

Do you have a skill or craft you'd love to share?

Classes are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the library. AV equipment is available, and a small materials fee (typically \$5–\$10) helps cover the cost of your supplies.

Contact the front office at 512-331-6000 or email Ellen Fannin at fanninellen@gmail.com.

Cruisin' with Recycled Teenagers

by Mary Riordon



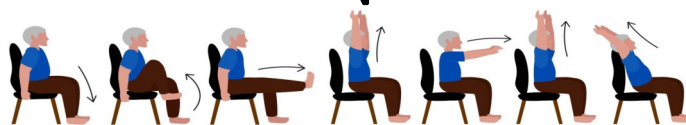
Nineteen Recycled Teenagers went on the Bahamas cruise the end of August and had a great time.

Now it's time to decide what is next. If you have an idea of what our next adventure could be, contact me, Mary Riordon, at 512-260-8876 (land line). I can also be found at the front desk on most Mondays and Wednesdays.

Some ideas for a European trip have been kicked around, but we would like input from people on trips they would like to see scheduled.



Sit & Fit



By Diana Hiebeler

We continue to move while sitting (with occasional standing to work on balance), on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 to 10.

On Mondays and Wednesdays, we follow exercise CDs that last from 35 to 50 minutes and use weights appropriate to our level of ability.

On Fridays, we do seated Zumba, which is following exercises to oldies or more current popular music by following someone on YouTube.

You'd be surprised how challenging and fun sitting and exercising can be!

Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 to 10:00 am

Coming in October...

Travel Talk

The first Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m., starting in October, Melissa Norris, Travel Specialist out of Sun City, will bring representatives from different travel companies and organizations to talk about a variety of travel opportunities for seniors.

You are invited to come learn about places to see and adventures to follow.



By Chris Campbell

The Book Clubs now have a new email address. It is **tothbookclubs@gmail.com**. If you have questions or comments for the Book Clubs, please send them to this email address.

The book clubs are always open to anyone who would like to join in the discussion.

Friday, September 11—9:30 a.m.

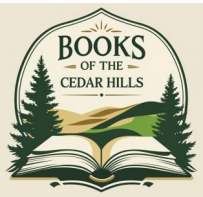


The Rated PG Book Club meets on the 2nd Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

The September book is *A Lady's Guide to Marvels and Misadventure*, by Angela Bell. The book is available in paperback, on Audiobooks and Kindle. The Rated PG Book Club is open to all and drop-ins are welcome!

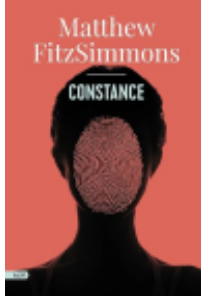


Friday, September 25 —9:30 a.m.



The "Books in the Cedar Hills" Book Club gathers on the 4th Friday of the month at 9:30 a.m.

The September book is *Constance* by Matthew FitzSimmons. This book is available on Kindle. The BCH Book Club is open to all and drop-ins are welcome!



The book club discussions are led by TOTH members. The groups are always open to new book suggestions.

October Books

To help you get ahead on your reading, here are the books for the October discussions:

Rated PG Book Club—The October 9th book is *The Diva Haunts the House* by Krista Davis.

BCH Book Club—The October 23rd book is *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* by Agatha Christie.

We are always open to new book recommendations. Come and share why you like it!



COME JOIN THE FUN!

**September 2026 Session:
Monday, September 21
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Great Room**

Bring your favorite snack to share;
\$2 per card/No card limit
(2 max is recommended)

Cash Prizes

**Music Genre for September:
70s & 80s Country**

Here's a tip if you've never played before:

Download the Shazam app
on your phone in advance
to help you identify the songs.



SHAZAM

***Wanna sing along?
Join us at the Sing-Along Table!***



The Greatest Puns of All Time

- To the guy who invented zero...thanks for nothing.
- I should have been sad when my flashlight batteries died, but I was delighted.
- For a fungi to grow, you must give it as mushroom as possible.
- Why did the Mexican take anti-anxiety pills? For Hispanic attacks!
- What do you get when you mix alcohol and literature: Tequila Mockingbird.
- What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator.
- A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."
- What do you call a camel with no humps? Humphrey.

From The Quiz Master



By Kevin Hallett

The Senior Scribblers met twice in August and submitted stories under two topics: 1) workplace experience; and 2) writer's choice. In September, we will be meeting from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on the 9th and 23rd.

We are now designing the short book made up of the "Longest Day" submissions we have. It will be available for the holiday season for gifting.

For September, our short story submission for the Gazette is called *Living in Turkey* by Pamela Haynes.

Living in Turkey

By Pamela Haynes

The family car was stopped in the middle of a dirt road, dripping oil. Our mother had driven over a large rock which punched a hole in the oil tank of our totally impractical 1955 red and white Oldsmobile. Now we were stranded in the Turkish countryside. In 1956 areas of Turkey were barely out of the Middle Ages. In fact we were lucky that we had just outrun a large sheep dog. These were fierce animals with large iron collars, which were studded with large spikes to dissuade any wolf that might try to grab the dog's neck. We were miles from any service station. What were we to do?

As we sat there pondering, along came a local Turkish bus which passed us in a cloud of dust and stopped. Out poured the entire busload of men who came to examine the problem. My father spoke a little Turkish, so he explained our dilemma. There was much conversation among the men and then one fellow cried, 'Ekmeck!' He rushed toward the bus and came back with a loaf of barely digestible thick Turkish bread. He chewed it partially and then crawled under the car and pushed the mush up into the hole. We all said 'Tersh-e-keri-derim!' Satisfied, the men piled back onto their bus and proceeded toward town, as did we. The car took us safely to the next small village with a service station.

When we had joined Daddy in Turkey six months before, we took the Orient Express from Istanbul to Ankara, where we were to live for a year. I was fascinated with the train. The rooms had all sorts of hidden cubbies. The bench seat turned into a bed for one while the upper bunk was hidden in the ceiling and accessed by a large key which the porter opened when we were ready

to sleep. A small cabinet had a lid on the top. When opened, it revealed a sink for washing up. The dining car was something you can imagine out of the movie about this famous train.

Once in Ankara, like all American children, my brother Chuck and I went to an English speaking school. I was 12 years old and starting the 8th grade. There was only one classroom for the entire grade. This school had been set up by the Department of State for U.S. embassy children. So the school taught children whose parents were diplomats, military members as well as some businessmen. We had great teachers and lots of fun. I learned to love history. In those days electricity in Ankara was intermittent. "The lights went out last night. So I could not do my homework" was always an acceptable excuse!

Daddy had lived in Turkey for a year before we joined him. He was helping the Turks set up military communications all around the country. He wanted us to see some of this amazing nation so, rather than an 18 month unaccompanied tour, he had elected to take the first year alone followed by an accompanied second year.

In the first trips, we drove east of Ankara to places like the ancient Hittite ruins. The Hittites were an Anatolian Indo-European people that flourished between 1650 BC and 1200 BC. We then went to Urgup (Cappadocia region), where the early Christians lived in cone shaped caves and decorated the walls with Christian symbols. We traveled through the Taurus Mountains to where Alexander the Great cut the Gordian knot. We drank water straight from a stream (the only place in Turkey where we could safely drink water

(Continued on page 12)

("Living In Turkey" continued from page 11)
that was not boiled). We saw Konya, the center of the Sufi movement. Then on to Kayseri ('the fly capital of the world' according to Daddy), where we rode Arabian horses.

Sometimes in our journeys, we would see Bedouin tent villages or a man with two wives who were dressed in purdah (except for the eyes it is a total covering of the body). We had lots of conversations with Mother about the differences in life style. We ended in Mersin, which was supposed to be a wonderful beach town. Actually the beach was rocky and we could take hot showers only around midnight! Daddy had a good sense of humor about it all, but I don't recall that Chuck and I did.

Later on, we went west to more familiar places like Ephesus. Did you know that seven of the early Christian churches were located in what is now Turkey? We visited the ruins of ancient Troy. We travelled to Pamukkale (originally Hierapolis), where the river water evaporates as it runs over cliffs that are left with calcium deposits. All the cliffs look shockingly white. The thermal pools are considered to be healing.

On the way to Pamukkale, we stopped at the Greek temple of Artemis, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was partially destroyed by an earthquake. The Roman emperor Justinian had the columns taken to Istanbul to build Hagia Sophia, his most beautiful church. After the Turks invaded, they made it a mosque. For many years it was a museum, but recently it has become a mosque again.

We also travelled to the turquoise coast on the Aegean Sea. Daddy had done some scuba diving and found numerous coins from ancient Rome and Greece. I had a silver coin with the head of Alexander the Great, circa 300 BC, which recently I gave to my niece Jocelyn. While swimming, I got an urchin stuck in my foot. Daddy tried to cut it out, but I refused. Those can make you very ill. I survived.

We always ended in Istanbul, where we would go to the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, the Topkapi palace, the Roman Hippodrome, with Cleopatra's needle and Rumeli Fortress. Our last 17 days in Turkey were spent in the Istanbul Hilton. As children, I think what we enjoyed the most was swimming all day in the hotel's pool!

In 2014, I travelled back to Turkey with a small tour group. So much had changed. The roads were paved. I saw no Bedouins. Pamukkale was crowded with tourists, where in 1957 we had been the only ones in the water. Ephesus was so crowded you could hardly walk, while we had been practically alone. We flew a hot air balloon over Cappadocia. The few people still living in the 'fairy chimneys' had recently been told that they would have to move out. The Grand Bazaar in Istanbul was more like an air-conditioned mall! Really a disappointment.

Still there is a charm about Turkey that can never change. It is ancient and it is modern. It is ever changing and yet eternal. It is the East meeting the West and will be so for many years. It is a history lesson all by itself.



Left: Pamukkale Healing Pool, 1956

Below: Coin with Alexander the Great's head.



Safety Tips from the Cedar Park Fire Dept.



By Adam Story

Administrative Assistant Chief and Fire Marshal

September is Fall Prevention Month!

As the leaves begin to fall, we want to stand tall. You can help prevent falls with a few simple safety checks and ideas to keep you upright and enjoying the changing weather.

- **Get a grip, don't slip** – Use hand holds and grab bars wherever they are available. Install these aids before it's too late to keep you from slipping and falling, especially around stairs and bathtubs. Use non-slip bathmats.
- **Avoid the magic carpet rides** - Make sure rugs are secure and don't have corners or edges that can catch your feet and cause you to fall. Use non-slip rubber backings for rugs and mats.
- **Hydrate while you wait** – Drink plenty of water! Dehydration is the number one cause of falls in the senior community. Water is our bodies greatest need.
- **Brake pads engaged** – Make sure you wear non-slip socks and footwear. Avoid smooth socks and slick shoes.

GenLink News

The next GenLink Technology Session will be on Saturday, September 19 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Please sign up so we know how many students need to come help.

The question came up about whether the GenLink students would go to someone's home to work on their computer.

For the safety of both the students and the seniors, we do not recommend home sessions. The students are happy to connect with you virtually via Zoom or in person at the Center. Contact the front office if you would like to schedule an appointment.

Thank you for your understanding.

GenLink Technology Tips

Do you have a lot of duplicate photos on your phone? Most of us do and there is an easy way to get rid of them that was shared at the GenLink session. Simply follow the instructions below and remember that if you have other questions, the students from GenLink come to the Center on the third Saturday of the month to help you with them.

Steps to Rid Your iPhone of Duplicate Photos

- Open your phone and tap on the Photos icon.
- If it did not open to the Library, tap the area at the top of the screen and locate the Library.
- At the bottom of the screen should be two icons; one says "Library," the other "Collections." Tap on "Collections."
- Scroll up until you see "Utilities."
- Under Utilities, find "Duplicates" and tap on it.
- Photos that are duplicated will show up and the word "Merge" will be next to it.
- Tap on "Merge." A message will appear.
- Read through the message to determine whether you want to merge the duplicates.
- If you do want to merge them, tap the merge button at the bottom.
- If you do not want to merge them, tap to the side and go to the next photo.
- This may be a long, tedious process, but you will have more control over the selections than you do with apps that delete all duplicates.

This process should help you clear out unwanted photos and give you more space to take additional photos.

Tai Chi

Following a brief hiatus in August, Dr. Tom Barrett will resume teaching the Tai Chi classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Tom is an excellent instructor, taking time to work with individuals who may need assistance. Be sure to sign up for the classes.





Constable's Corner



by Constable Jeff Anderson

September Senior Safety Reminder

I always enjoy spending time with our friends at the **Treasure of the Hills Senior Center**. September is a good time to remind everyone that a few simple precautions can make a big difference.

Watch for scams, never give personal or financial information to unexpected callers, keep emergency contacts up to date, and take a few minutes to remove trip or fall hazards around the home.

Most importantly, stay connected with family, friends, and neighbors. If something doesn't seem right, trust your instincts and ask for help. Our seniors have spent a lifetime helping build and strengthen our community, and I'm proud to do my part to help keep them safe.

SENIOR KAYAKING

We know the summer heat can be a little unbearable at times. We have decided to push Senior Kayaking session times up to accommodate the heat. Please find new times listed below and we hope to see you on the water!



SENIOR KAYAKING 101

Dates:
September 3rd: 9:00AM - 11:00AM
Location: Brushy Creek Lake Park

SENIOR KAYAKING 102

Dates:
August 20th: 9:00AM - 11:00AM
September 17th: 9:00AM - 11:00 AM
Location: Brushy Creek Lake Park

SINGLE KAYAK PRICING

\$15 PER PERSON

TANDEM (2 PERSON) KAYAK PRICING

\$15 PER PERSON

REGISTER AT:
CEDARPARKTEXAS.GOV/PLAY
OR IN PERSON AT CEDAR PARK
RECREATION CENTER
OR RE|CREATE





Have you visited RE|CREATE?

RE|CREATE is a program-based facility offering year-round classes, workshops, camps, and special events for children, teens, adults, seniors, families, and homeschool students.

From creativity and wellness to recreation and community connection, RE|CREATE is designed to bring residents of all ages together through engaging programming.

Most activities require advance registration to ensure the best possible experience for participants.

Learn more and register for upcoming programs: www.cedarparktexas.gov/ReCreate

TAP. CALL. RIDE.

IT'S THAT SIMPLE

TAP



Request a ride through the Uber app.

CALL



24/7 phone support. No smartphone required.

RIDE



Go anywhere in Cedar Park, affordably.



SCAN TO
LEARN MORE

Enroll in minutes 1. Visit www.cedarparktexas.gov/Link
2. Complete registration

Or call
(512) 515-9108.



CEDAR PARK

Powered by Uber & zTrip - Administered by Tripp Consulting
A City Council strategic mobility initiative



September Presentations, Meetings & Events

Sit & Fit

Meets Monday, Wednesday & Friday at 9:00 a.m.

Senior Fun & Fit

Meets Tuesday & Thursday—9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Tai Chi

Meets Tuesday & Thursday —10:00 a.m.

Conversational Spanish Classes

Thursdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17, 24—10:30 a.m.

Senior Scribblers Writer's Group

Wednesdays, September 9 & 23—9:30 a.m.

(see article & story on page 11)

Rated PG Book Club

Friday, September 11—9:30 a.m.

(see article on page 10)

Movie Day

Tuesday, September 15— "Practical Magic 2" -

Lunch at 11:45 a.m.; Movie at 12:50 p.m.

(see article on page 3)

Pressed Flower Cards

Wednesday, September 16—10:30 a.m.

(see article on page 9)

GenLink Technology Session

Saturday, September 19—10:00 a.m.

Music Bingo

Monday, September 21—3:00 p.m.

(see more detail on page 10)

90-Minute Craft: Paint Pouring Coasters

Wednesday, September 23—10:30 a.m.—\$10

(see article on page 9)

Lunch & Learn: Recycling Follow-Up

Wednesday, September 23—12:00 p.m.

(see article on page 8)

BCH Book Club (Books in the Cedar Hills)

Friday, September 25—9:30 a.m.

(see article on page 10)

Lunch & Learn: Aging in Place vs. Moving

Wednesday, September 30—12:00 p.m.

(see article on page 8)

September Shared Meals

Members and friends are invited to join us for any of these events. Please remember that reservations are required! You can register in the front office of the Center or call 512-331-6000.

TOTH Dinner Club

Thursday, September 3 at 6:00 p.m.

Cilantro Grill

325 N. Bell, Cedar Park

(Limit 18)

Contact: MarEllen Basalyga, 512-905-1102

Meet & Eat Lunch Group

Tuesday, September 15 at 1:00 p.m.

Cheddar's

13301 N. Hwy. 183, Austin

(Limit 18)

Contact: MarEllen Basalyga, 512-905-1102

Monthly Breakfast

Saturday, September 26 at 9:00 a.m.

TOTH Senior Center Great Room

(Free for members; \$5 for guests. Sign up in advance; deadline is September 22. Seating is limited to 40 people.)

Is there an activity or game that you would like to start at Treasure of the Hills? We are always looking for new activities to engage our membership. Contact Sue Holmes, Board Vice-President, sue.holmes1950@gmail.com or Ellen Fannin, Board President, fanninellen@gmail.com, with your idea.

September Birthdays

Melba Ford..... 1	Neena Puri10	Gerri West..... 19
Thomas Brandt..... 2	Phyllis Epps..... 13	Laurie Glomski 21
Gerry Booth..... 5	Julio Carrillo Novoa 14	Maggie Ingraham 23
Bonnie Meyer 6	Beverly Gallegos 17	Cynthia Williams 24
Laura Tying 9	Jana Stull..... 19	Sheila Perkins..... 26
Phyllis Walker 9		Paula Knappe 29



Hugs & Sunshine



**Vicki Jones
Stan DeRocher
Sue Holmes
Pat Thomas**

If you or another member of TOTH is experiencing an illness or loss and need a little more sunshine in your life, please contact the front office, 512-331-6000, to let us know.

We've all gone through, and may still be going through, a rough patch physically or emotionally. Every member is important to us and we want to know that you are doing well.

September Anniversaries



Diane & Norman Houle..... 1
Laurie & Jeff Lentz 4
Margaret & Jack Conboy 11
Jan & C.W. Clark 13
Doris & Rich Stone 19
Kathy & Lyle Williamson 25
Laura & Norman Tying 27

Donations to the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Calvin Allison

June Peterson • Lisa Leirvaag

In Memory of Lynne Bounds

Lisa Leirvaag

In Memory of Lois Carlson

Lisa Leirvaag

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION - July/Aug. 2026

Welcome to Treasure of the Hills. TOTH is a special place where you can develop some wonderful friendships and participate in fun and entertaining events. Please know how much we appreciate each of you!

July 2026
Larry Martin



August 2026

Margaret Conboy • Jack Conboy
Keith Barry • Betsey Vanderbilt
Bob Atkinson • Jerre Atkinson

welcome!



IN MEMORIAM



Lois Elora Carlson

October 8, 1924—August 1, 2026

Lois Carlson, lifetime member of Treasure of the Hills Senior Center passed away on August 1st at the age 101.

Lois was one of the eight founding members of the Treasure of the Hills Senior Center, creating a welcoming place where older adults could gather, be active, build friendships, play games, and enrich one another's lives.

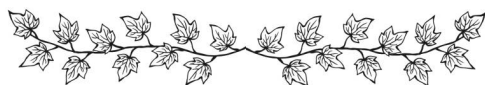
Lois loved to play canasta and played until COVID hit. She was instrumental in starting the Red Hat group at TOTH, went on several cruises and was very active in other areas as well. She was the Monday morning receptionist for years. It was one of her favorite things to do because she got to know so many of the people who were part of the Center. She was always volunteering and helping out wherever she could.

Lois was a lifetime member of TOTH. We are grateful for the legacy of devotion and dedication Lois leaves. The foundation that she and other charter members formed has made our organization strong and viable. As we mourn her passing, we also honor Lois and all she stands for within our heritage.



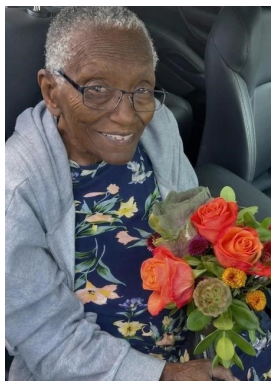
Lois at her 100th birthday party in 2024.

Below: Ellen Fannin and Gail Brennen celebrated with her.



Ellen Virginia Rhyne Bailey

March 27, 1937—July 20, 2026



Ellen Bailey passed away on July 20th at the age of 89.

Ellen and her husband, Paul, were married for 67 years. She spent 40 years as a Medical Technologist with Brackenridge Hospital and was Laboratory Manager when she retired. She loved to cook, bowl and was an avid bridge player.

Ellen joined Treasure of the Hills in 2024.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family as they grieve their loss.

Photo Gallery: Hawaiian Luau

Photos courtesy of Gail Brennen, Kathy Bonardi, Shirley City and Linda Rettinger.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Ellen Fannin

Vice President

Sue Holmes

Treasurer

Denny Clauson

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Lisa Leirvaag

Directors

Jeanne Allison • Jim Anderson
Pat Fiero • Emma Sue Johnson

OFFICE MANAGER

Jeanne Allison

Email:

toth.director.tx@gmail.com

512-331-6000

STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance

Denny Clauson

Nominating—TBD

Special Events & Resource Dev.

Sue Holmes

OPERATIONS

Bldg Maintenance:	Cedar Park
Bookkeeping:	Lori Rainey
Kitchen & Supplies:	Lisa Leirvaag
Membership:	Barbara Duprey
Reception:	Mary Riordon
Memorials:	Colleen Sanchez
Sunshine:	Colleen Sanchez
Mem'l Garden:	Jim Anderson
Historians:	Ruby Banks
	Gail Brennen
Library:	Ruby Banks
Bulletin Board:	Angie Mendoza
Newsletter:	Ellen Fannin
Website:	Outside Vendor

REGULAR ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Breakfast (monthly)	Rotating	Sign up Required
Lunch & Learn/Snack & Learn	Sue Holmes	Sign up Required
Meet & Eat Lunch (monthly – locally)	MarEllen Basalyga	Sign Up Required
TOTH Dinner Club (monthly – locally)	MarEllen Basalyga	Sign up Required
Golf (weekly)	Frank Mignoli	
Sit & Fit (3x week)	Diana Hiebeler	
Quilting Bee (weekly)	Cindy Glenn	
Crochet Class (weekly)	Sue Chesnut	
Technology Classes (3rd Saturday)	GenLink Students	Sign up Required
Tai Chi (Tuesdays & Thursdays)	Dr. Tom Barrett	
Book Clubs (2nd & 4th Fridays)	Chris Campbell	
Senior Scribblers (2nd & 4th Wednesdays)	Kevin Hallett	
Conversational Spanish (Thursdays)	Leslie Blanton	
90-Minute Crafts (various Wednesdays)	Ellen Fannin	Sign up Required
Senior Fun & Fit (Tuesdays & Thursdays)	Diana Hiebeler	

GAMES

Bingo (Weekly on Monday & Friday)	Curt Kubitz/Barbara St. Marie	
Bunco (Weekly on Wednesday)	Ruby Banks/Barbara St. Marie	Sign up Required
Canasta (Weekly on Tuesday)		Sign up Required
Cribbage (Weekly on Monday)	Stan DeRocher	
Hand & Foot (Weekly on Monday)	Ray & Angie Mendoza	Sign up Required
Hearts (Weekly on Wednesday)	Chris Campbell	
Mahjong (Weekly on Thursday)	Joyce Francis	
Mexican Train (Weekly on Thursday)	Leo Riggi	Sign up Required
Music Bingo (3rd Monday)	Ellen Fannin	Sign up Required
Pinochle (Weekly on Tuesday)	Sue Holmes	Sign up w/Leader
Poker (Weekly on Tues.)	CW Clark	
Skip-Bo (Weekly on Thursday)	Leo Riggi & Linda Staas	

BRIDGE

Duplicate Bridge

Tuesday (weekly)	Frank Mignoli	
Friday (weekly)	Ken Birdwell	Sign up Required
2nd Saturday	Carolyn Patrick	Sign up w/Leader

Rubber Bridge

Tuesday (weekly)	Jacquee Guida	Sign up Required
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September 2026

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

September 3 TOTH Dinner Club:

Cilantro Grill* - 325 N. Bell Blvd.;

Cedar Park—6:00 p.m.—Limit: 18

September 15 Meet & Eat:

Cheddar's* - 13301 N. Hwy. 183,

Austin, TX—1:00 p.m.—Limit: 18

September 26 Monthly Breakfast:

TOTH* —9:00 a.m.—Limit: 40

6



7

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10³⁰ Hand & Foot*
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo

13



14

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10⁰⁰ Board Meeting
10³⁰ Hand & Foot*
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo

20



21

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10³⁰ Hand & Foot*
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo
3⁰⁰ Music Bingo*

27



28

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10³⁰ Hand & Foot*
1⁰⁰ Cribbage
1⁰⁰ Bingo

1

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
9³⁰ Rbr Brdg*
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge
1⁰⁰ Pinochle

2

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9/10⁰⁰ Hearts
1⁰⁰ Bunco*
3⁰⁰ Crochet Class

3

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Skip-Bo
10³⁰ Conv Spanish*
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mexican Train*
6⁰⁰ TOTH Dinner Club*

4

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

5

8

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
9³⁰ Rbr Brdg*
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge
1⁰⁰ Pinochle

9

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9/10⁰⁰ Hearts
9³⁰ Senior Scribblers
10³⁰ Exec Comm
1⁰⁰ Bunco*
3⁰⁰ Crochet Class

10

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Skip-Bo
10³⁰ Conv Spanish*
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mexican Train*

11

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9³⁰ Rated PG Book Club
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

12

1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge

15

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
9³⁰ Rbr Brdg*
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
11³⁰ Movie Day*
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Meet & Eat*
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge
1⁰⁰ Pinochle

16

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9⁰⁰/10⁰⁰ Hearts
12⁰⁰ Press Flw Cards*
12⁰⁰ Annual Meeting*
1⁰⁰ Bunco*
3⁰⁰ Crochet Class

17

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Skip-Bo
10³⁰ Conv Spanish
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mexican Train*

18

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

19

10⁰⁰ GenLink Tech Session*

22

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
9³⁰ Rbr Brdg*
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge
1⁰⁰ Pinochle

23

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9/10⁰⁰ Hearts
9³⁰ Senior Scribblers
10³⁰ 90-Min Craft
12⁰⁰ Lunch & Learn: Recycling Follow-Up
1⁰⁰ Bunco*
3⁰⁰ Crochet Class

24

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
10/11⁰⁰ Mahjong
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Skip-Bo
10³⁰ Conv Spanish
12⁰⁰ Quilting Bee
12⁰⁰ Mexican Train*

25

9⁰⁰ Sit & Fit
9³⁰ BCH Book Club
10³⁰ Bingo
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge*

26

9⁰⁰ Monthly Breakfast*

29

9⁰⁰ Sr Fun & Fit
9³⁰ Rbr Brdg*
10⁰⁰ Tai Chi
10⁰⁰ Canasta*
12³⁰ Poker
1⁰⁰ Dup Bridge
1⁰⁰ Pinochle

30

9⁰⁰/10⁰⁰ Hearts
12⁰⁰ Lunch & Learn: Aging in Place or Moving On
1⁰⁰ Bunco*
3⁰⁰ Crochet Class



Treasure of the Hills Senior Center

408 Ridgewood Dr. • Cedar Park, TX 78613 • Phone 512-331-6000 • Open Monday-Friday, 9 am-3 pm • www.toth-seniors.com • Email: gazette.toth@gmail.com