

meet your neighbors:

Contributed by John, Alice, and Mia Fisher
Written by Elizabeth McCabe



Lost Mine Peak: Big Bend



Beach horseback riding in Cabo San Lucas



Kyrgyzstan expedition



Choc Run on Allen Parkway

Say Hello to the Fishers!

Meet the Fisher family! John and Alice Fisher and their daughter, Mia, have lived in the neighborhood on Allston for almost 20 years. They also enjoy the constant companionship of their two dogs, Walnut and Chestnut.

Alice shares, “We love the diversity in architecture, people and places that creates such rich character for the neighborhood. Unmatched convenience to services and amenities is nice too!”

John is originally from Houston and attended the University of Houston. He works as a commercial real estate appraiser. Alice was born in South Korea. However, she lived in Greensburg, PA, until college at Rice University. Now she works as a computer science teacher at Bellaire High School.

John says, “Alice works very hard as a teacher and frequently lesson plans in the evenings (another over-worked/underpaid teacher!). She has little time for hobbies but enjoys hiking/walking, math puzzles/coding challenges and catching up on *The Voice*.” She also volunteers as a chaperone for multiple clubs at Bellaire. Alice’s experience covers a broad spectrum of education from inner-city public schools (Chavez) to charter schools (KIPP) to private schools (River Oaks Baptist) to prominent public

schools (Reagan & Bellaire) to the university arena (Rice University School of Mathematics Project).

John and Alice’s center of the universe is Mia. At 11 years old, Mia is about to enter middle school, so days may be numbered when Mia **wants** to hang out with mom and dad. John explains, “We appreciate and cherish the time together in this window of our lives. We enjoy active, outdoor recreation such as walking to Milroy Park, riding bikes to Menchie’s or playing on the backyard trampoline.”

Mia enjoys a lot of activities. Piano, Girl Scouts, coding, robotics, and 3D printing are some of the hobbies she likes. John adds, “She is strong physically and mentally, has an adventurous spirit and loving heart. Since she was a small child, I told her that her superpower is to instantly make people happy simply by smiling at them.”

Mia loves spending time with friends doing what tween girls do: talk and play. She’s into gymnastics, listening to music (except country – John plays country in the car when he wants a reaction from her), books and movies. *Star Wars* and *The Avengers* are her favorite movies. John says, “Mia loves to read, and we regular-

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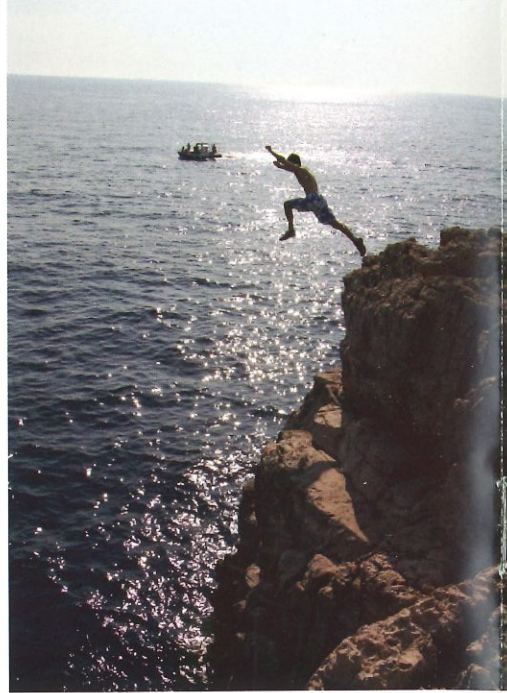
Recycled art: Texas flag



Recycled Art: Planter



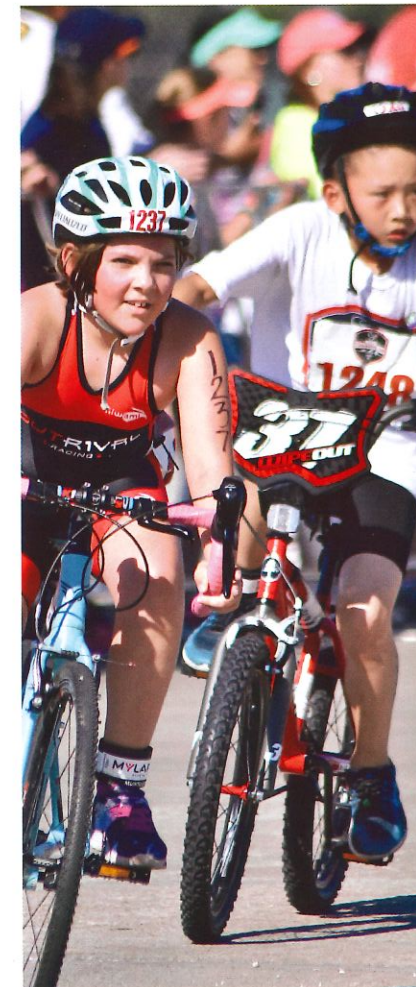
Recycled art: Corn-hole game



Cliff jumping in Croatia



Heights Kids Team



Alden Sperber



ly walk to the Heights Library for new material. As a parent, it seems wrong to tell your daughter to stop reading, but I often say, “Stop reading, and eat dinner/get ready for bed/feed the dogs.”

John has his own pastimes that he likes. He says, “I enjoy wood-working, with a particular interest in finding new ways to use discarded objects. Alice and I take evening walks, and I routinely see items on the curb that scream for revival. I don’t see things as they are but rather what they could be.” These may include a pen-cil holder made from a discarded counter-top, a Texas flag and planter box made from trashed cabinet doors, a soap tray from a cedar branch and a corn-hole game made from a thrown-out oak flooring (which appeared to be original Heights construction, which makes it 50 to 100 years old). John says, “I love these proj-ects because they reduce trash in the landfill, I have fun creating something new, and it saves money; it’s a win-win-win deal.”

While woodworking is a slow, measured process, John’s other favorite activity is about letting go and “finding those moments where you are not just alive but **living fully**.” A true adventure seeker, John likes to stretch his limits.

He says, “Most recently, for my 50th birthday, I wanted some-thing genuinely epic. So this past August, my brother and I joined an expedition that attempted to summit a peak never climbed before in the Tien Shan Mountains, Kyrgyzstan. After 23 hours of travel to Kyrgyzstan, eight hours in a Soviet GAS 66 military truck through mountains and riverbeds, a four-hour trek to ad-vanced base camp, and five-plus hours climbing, we were perched on a severe incline within 200 yards of the summit. So close to the summit, our guide turned us back due to extreme risk of ava-lanche. This, for me, is living fully!”

This is just one of John’s many adventures. He has also gone on a shark dive in Belize, piloted a dogfight in a T-34 plane over Lake

Conroe, mountain-biked down Bolivia’s one-lane, cliff-side Death Road, and climbed to 20,000 feet on Chimborazo mountain in Ecuador. That’s just the beginning of his accomplishments. He has trekked through the jungle outside of Chiang Mai, Thailand and even spotted two jaguars on a rafting trip the Manu/Ama-son rainforest. A true adrenaline junkie, John has done multiple skydives, cliff jumped in Croatia, and tracked supercars: Lambo-rghini Huracan/Ferrari GTB 488/Porsche 911 GT3. He has also hiked/camped in the backcountry of the Guadalupe Mountains, where there is no available water source, and played the second highest golf course in the world at La Paz, Bolivia, among many other accomplishments.

John truly loves the outdoors, whether that is whitewater rafting in the Grand Canyon or fly fishing in Montana. He says, “Love of the outdoors brought Alice and me together, and we hope to pass this appreciation on to Mia. Our vacations typically are to natural areas like state and national parks, the Texas Hill Country, snow skiing or beach destinations.”

As a family, they enjoy running together in the Heights Fun Run. John has participated in virtually every run for the past 18 years. The Fisher family enjoys spending time with neighbors. They also enjoy hosting the Houston Texans Season Opener party annually, which is always fun for everyone.

John concludes, “The Heights has been a wonderful home for us. We love our neighbors and neighborhood. After all these years, we still find ourselves commenting on how fortunate we are to live in The Heights. We are excited to be in this issue so we can say, “Thank you to all our neighbors who make The Heights extraordinary!”



Get to know your neighbors better by having your family featured in the next available issue! Email us at danielle.stewart@n2pub.com.

kids' triathlon

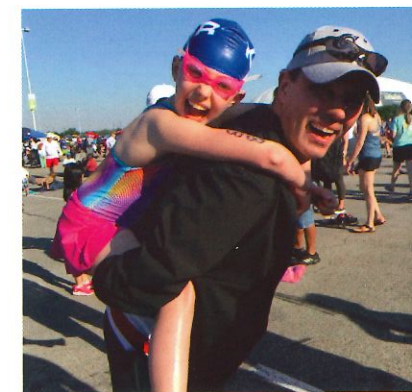
Heights Kids Compete in the Kids' Triathlon

“At first I was really nervous since it was my first time doing a triathlon, but once I got started, I really enjoyed it. I am definitely doing it again next year.”
– Viviana Koivumaa, 8

“The triathlon was really fun and short. A lot of my friends were there too. My favorite part was the bike.” – Alden Sperber, 9.



Hey, kids – would you like to be the superstar of The Heights? All you have to do is ask your parents to email danielle.stewart@n2pub.com and answer some questions in order to be featured in the next available issue!



Viviana Koivumaa

