



# CIRCLE C RANCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2005

[www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info)

## A Letter from your HOA President

Dear Neighbors,

I'm writing this note to you in the midst of pre-holiday stress. I hope that you all are reading this while basking in warm memories of a great and stress-free holiday season. Or perhaps you, like most of us, will still be under some stress even **after** the holidays and New Years. We can still hope for the best.

I just attended the two Circle C Ranch holiday parties on 11 December. Thanks to the events committee (Joy Miletic, Melinda McKenna, Bob McKenna, and Denise Nordstrom) for organizing two great events. We had a parade by the Bowie Marching Band, a kid's party at the swim center and an adult party at the Wildflower Center. See the pictures and report elsewhere in the newsletter for more details.

We made an organizational change in December – we hired Denise Nordstrom as our Operations Director. Denise has done a great job for several years in areas of communications, deed restrictions, events, meetings, and record keeping, among others. Why did we decide to make this change?

I'll try to answer this briefly. Circle C Ranch includes approximately 3200 homes and about 8000 people. We have an annual budget of \$1.7M. We continue to grow—the neighborhood should ultimately build-out to approximately 5000 homes. We have 100 acres of land to manage, insure and landscape. We own one of the largest heated outdoor pools in Texas—a pool that is busy year-round. We have our own solid waste disposal contract. We have complex licensing agreements with the City of Austin. We are a high profile community in Austin (for better or for worse!) We have ongoing significant commercial development in our neighborhood (the HEB site on Slaughter). We have political interests in the development of schools for our children (and neighbor's children.) We have a 7 member board of directors. Whew.

The scope of CCHOA has grown slowly over time – like the frog that was boiled to death slowly. We recently figured out the water was getting pretty warm, and we decided to make a change before we were in *really* hot water. *Ouch!*

Our plan is to delegate significant responsibility to Denise as Operations Director. This will free up the CCHOA Board of Directors

to focus on the future of Circle C, knowing that daily, weekly and monthly operations are well handled.

I suggest you consider this part of the maturing of CCHOA. Initially we were controlled by the developer. Later we were managed by a board of 3 committed volunteers. Next, CCHOA elected a board of 7 volunteers (who should also perhaps be committed.) The next phase in CCHOA history will be to depend on a professional manager who reports to the board of directors.

Denise is the right person for this job. I hope you will join me in welcoming her as our full-time Operations Director of the Circle C Homeowners Association. You can tell her yourself by email to [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info).

*(If you throw a frog into a saucepan of boiling water it will jump straight out (well wouldn't you?), but if you put it in a saucepan of cold water on a very low heat then the frog will not realize that the water is slowly warming up and will boil to death!)*

I'm also glad to report that we have again contracted with Terri Giles for financial management services. I'll describe a few of the things that Terri does for the Association. She prepares statements for all homeowners, and tracks Travis County property assessments. She collects assessments and manages delinquent accounts. She prepares liens as necessary. She manages our bank accounts and disburses funds as directed. She reconciles our accounts regularly. She distributes a financial report to the board every month. She coordinates with the board on prudent investment of our funds. She works with the board in annual budget development. She works with a CPA to ensure we are paying appropriate taxes. She handles questions from individual homeowners. She works with title companies to provide smooth property transfers. And finally she manages Association financial records. And she does all this with a smile. She provides great value for your money!

This is the second issue of our new newsletter format. We hope you like it. If you have suggestions for additional content please contact Denise at [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info).

Your Neighbor,  
Quentin Fennessy

## 2004 Board of Directors

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Ed Scruggs.....Secretary/Treasurer  
Jim O'Reilly.....Director  
AE Martin.....Director  
Steve Urban.....Director  
Chris Dietz.....Director

Contact Information..... Email: [directors@circlecranch.info](mailto:directors@circlecranch.info)

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Office .....[info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) or 288-8663  
Financial Office..... 451-9901  
Newsletter Publisher  
Peel, Inc. .... 806-385-6444  
Adv./Kelly Peel ..... [kelly@Peelinc.com](mailto:kelly@Peelinc.com), 512-589-5471

## CCHOA Holiday Parties a Huge Success!

The CCHOA sponsored two holiday events on December 11. The Kid's Party was held at the Swim Center and kids brought unwrapped toys for Blue Santa (we collected over # toys!). The Adult Party was held at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and was catered by Circle C Café & Catering. Over 335 lbs of food items were collected for the Capital Area Food Bank (that's equal to 268 meals!). Thanks to everyone who participated. These events would not have been possible without the extremely hard work of our Special Events Committee Chair, Joy Miletic and members Bob & Melinda McKenna – thank you!

*Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, Operations Manager*



*Santa and Camden Scruggs at the Holiday Kid's Party*



*Party-goers Francie Kelley, Quentin Fennessy, Kerry Schroeder, Ed Scruggs and Tina Peterson at the Holiday Adult Party at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*



*Blue Santa Volunteers at the Holiday Kid's Party*

# Happy New Year



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## CCHOA Announcements

### Board Actions

One of our neighbors (Annegret Pfeiffer) suggested that each month we provide a summary in the newsletter of actions taken by the board. This is the first of such summaries. The formal meeting record will remain the meeting minutes, posted at [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info) and available to Circle C homeowners at the CCHOA office. But meeting minutes are boring. Believe it or not, most board meetings are boring! I'll state right up front that boring board meetings are **the way to go**. Get in, discuss, listen and vote, and get out. I'm not in this for the excitement. I don't plan to include every detail of every meeting in these articles—just the items that are generally interesting.

### November 2004 CCHOA Board Meeting (November 18, 2004)

Mary Goehring presided because—I was **late!** (Thanks, Mary). The Pool Committee has (at the Board's request) proposed a new comprehensive operations manual for the Circle C Swim Center. This manual looks good and I expect we will incorporate it into our normal operations. The Committee also provided feedback on the structure of our next contract with Longhorn Aquatics (assuming we can agree on terms.) We also agreed on a no-pets rule at the Swim Center. If Fido must swim, bring him to Zilker Park!

Mary Goehring presented a financial report and told us the budget would be ready for a board vote by the end of November. See the notes for the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting for more information.

Denise Nordstrom presented the plans for the two holiday parties (news elsewhere in this issue). The combined estimated cost was \$7500.

AE Martin presented a Volunteer Recognition Policy, which the board accepted. Circle C Ranch has a history of volunteerism – many of our neighbors have put in hundreds of hours for our mutual benefit. You should see results of this at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

AE Martin reported on the state of the Proposition 2 land adjoining Circle C Ranch (it starts west of the Metropolitan Park on Slaughter Lane). AE and some volunteers have been working with a stakeholders committee to help develop a trail system on these lands. Texas Park and Wildlife has promised \$42,500 to provide public access to this land.

AE presented a records retention policy for the Association which was also accepted by the board.

The meeting minutes are at <http://www.circlecranch.info/BODMinutesNov2004.asp>.

## Having Trouble Finding Affordable Health Coverage?

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1. 45 year old male, high blood pressure (non-hospitalized)...\$165/mo\*
2. 50 year old female, diabetes (type-II, diet or pill controlled)...\$228/mo\*
3. Family of 4: Male 37, Female 32, 2 kids ages 12 and 15, all healthy...\$302/mo\*
4. Family of 2: Male 63, Female 60, healthy...\$446/mo\*

\*Issue-Age rates for Good Sense Plan 25, this policy has some limitations and exclusions

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## CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

### *Special CCHOA Board Meeting (November 29, 2004)*

Fortunately I was **on time** for this meeting. Whew. I called this meeting for three special topics: the 2005 CCHOA budget, our contract with Terri Giles and an employment proposal for Denise Nordstrom.

We accepted the budget as proposed by Mary Goehring. The most significant result of that budget is that our property assessments will remain at the **same rate** for 2005 as they were for 2004. We will provide more details in our annual report.

Terri Giles has been our bookkeeper and financial manager for several years. We voted to contract with her again for 2005 for the same services. We already knew that Terri was doing a great job. After some research we learned that Terri also provides great value to the association. Thank you, Terri, for sticking with us! See the President's Letter for more details.

Denise Nordstrom has worked for CCHOA for several years under contract. We voted to offer Denise a full-time job as the CCHOA Operations Director. (I won't keep you in suspense – she accepted the job!) Thanks, Denise, for sticking with us! See the President's Letter for more on this topic. The meeting minutes are at <http://www.circlecranch.info/BODMinutesNovSpecial.asp>.

*Submitted by Quentin Fennessy*

### Swim Center Parking

Please do not park in front of the swim center. The Board is concerned that when this area is completely packed with cars that emergency vehicles may have trouble coming to the aid of someone at the Swim Center. (This has happened, this year! No serious injury, fortunately)

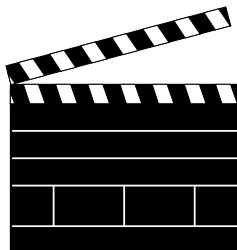
We had red stripes painted on the ground and signs installed to tell folks that these are not **real** parking spots. You can drop off and pick up swimmers here. Please do not park on the red stripes. Our intent is to provide excellent access to the swim center in the event that an ambulance is called.

*Submitted by Quentin Fennessy*

### 2005 Annual Meeting

Our 2005 Annual Meeting is coming up on March 23.

### Possible Press for Circle C Ranch



ABC is hoping to shoot a new, primetime reality series in Circle C Ranch. The series, from the Producers of Extreme Makeover, is a wonderful program during which we will be giving away a home to a family. The CCHOA just learned about this and will provide more details when we can.

## SELLING OR BUYING A HOME?

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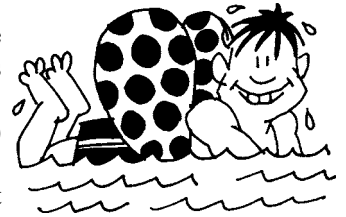


## Brief Reminders for Winter Pool Use

As many already know, our heated Olympic size swimming pool remains open for use during the winter, with Longhorns Aquatics on a regular schedule and lanes open periodically for resident lap swim throughout the week. If you plan on coming down for a swim, we'd like you to adhere to a few rules of common courtesy:

- Under no circumstances are dogs (or any other personal pets) allowed within the swim center facility. This poses a number of potential liability and safety concerns – and has also prompted complaints. Even if your dog is well trained and will wait patiently while you swim, there is no guarantee another dog entering the facility will appreciate the company. *Anyone failing to adhere to this guideline will immediately be asked to leave the facility.*
- Under no circumstances are minors under the age of 5 allowed within the swim facility unless they are under the immediate supervision of a parent or guardian. In other words, it is not appropriate to swim laps while allowing your young children to play on their own. This is an obvious safety and liability concern. The lifeguards on duty must focus on monitoring those in the water – and should not be forced to keep an eye out for three year olds looking to get into trouble. *Anyone failing to adhere to this guideline will immediately be asked to leave the facility.*

- After using the showers, please be sure to completely turn off the shower heads. It is also very important to remove any personal items, such as swimsuits, swim bags, gym bags, combs and backpacks. Please also make every effort to place trash and other unwanted personal items in the available receptacles. Pool staff must focus on running the facility and not operating a community lost and found.
- Before leaving the facility, please remember to remove any personal items (such as clothing, swimsuits, swim bags, gym bags or swim equipment) from the surrounding pool deck. Pool staff members are not responsible for the well being of these items.



It is hoped that if we all pitch in and show respect for others our pool will continue remain a unique, year around first class recreational option.

*Submitted by Ed Scruggs, Secretary/Treasurer*

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## Friendly Reminders

- Remember to recycle your Christmas trees. Place your tree by the curb the first week of January and BFI will pick up. BFI will be on a sliding schedule for the Holidays. If you're pick-up day falls on a Holiday, pick up will be the next day.
- We have received a few calls lately regarding barking dogs. Please be mindful of your pet(s) and the effect they can have on your neighbors, especially between 10pm and 8am.

*Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, Operations Manager*

## CCHOA Website

Hopefully most of you have had the opportunity to visit the new CCHOA website ([www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info)). We will be highlighting different areas of the website each month that we feel enhances communication. This month's feature is our Classifieds Section. We received many requests from residents to have an area where residents can list furniture, vehicles, pets, or just about anything with a price tag. Postings will be made 1-2 business days after received and will stay up for approximately one month. Please be sure to notify us when the item sells so that we can remove from the website. If you have any questions about this feature, please contact the management office at 288-8663.

*Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, Operations Manager*

## Calling all Sitters

If you are a pet, house or baby sitter who resides in Circle C and would like to post your information in the next newsletter, please submit your information to [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) by January 15, 2005. We will have a growing list of sitters posted in each newsletter.

## Sitter Services

### Pet Sitting

Wyatt's Pet Sitting – reliable high school student with 5 years experience. Always available, affordable, references on request. 288-5737

## Circle C Landscape Update

According to the National Weather Service, Central Texans can, in general, expect a cooler and wetter than normal weather pattern. If this happens, you can leave the watering to Mother Nature for the winter. However, cool, dry and windy is another story. If such weather persists, it can lead to vegetation becoming too dry, especially anything that was newly planted in the fall.

In particular, plan on giving your trees and shrubs a drink if the weather is dry over the winter. Even the turf will need a little water if we have no rain.

January is a busy month for all of us. The end of January is the best time to prune the perennials that bloom in the summer. You can also lightly prune crape myrtles and summer flowering trees. Also, winter is a good time to get your oak trees taken care of. Since we have oak wilt in the area, you want to make sure that you hire someone who adheres to standard oak wilt prevention practices to do your tree trimming. A registered arborist is the best source for advice about your trees. After trimming, your perennials will like compost and mulching. This will give them the fertilization boost they need for spring.

The end of January and early February is also a good time to apply a pre-emergent weed treatment to your yard. If you wish to go organic, you can pick up some corn gluten at the local nursery. This will not only inhibit weed growth, but put a little nitrogen in the turf to get it started in early spring. It is, of course, safe for all living things as well as our water supplies.

These are the things that you can look for us to be working on in the commons areas as well. Good luck with your winter gardening!!

*Submitted by Susan Hoover, Owner*



*The Basenji, a kind of dog found in Africa, cannot bark.*

# Kitty Fowler



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"My wife and I wanted to tell you that you are a pleasure to work with...you are pleasant, friendly, knowledgeable...willing to find the answer...not too pushy...thanks."

## Clubs & Announcements

### Circle C Area Professional Business Referral Group

Would you like to build your business by referral? Not sure how to get started?

Visit the Live Oak Network business referral meeting this Wednesday morning at the Golf Club at Circle C Ranch. The Live Oak Network is an active and dynamic chapter of BNI or Business Network International, a professional business networking organization with over 25 active chapters in Austin. Being active in a BNI chapter is like having up to forty sales people working for you because your fellow members will be carrying your business cards and referring your business to the people they meet every day. Successful businesses depend on "word-of-mouth" marketing as the most powerful form of promotion there is.

#### ***How is BNI different from other networking organizations?***

1. BNI Shares REFERRALS not just leads.
2. BNI members are in non-competitive professions.
3. BNI members are not only looking for business, they give it as well.
4. BNI has a systematic approach to member education.
5. BNI members are bound by a Code of Ethics.

Our chapter averages over 100 referrals per month and we're only getting started!

Want to learn more? Visit us Wednesday morning from 8:00 to 9:30 AM at the Golf Club at Circle C Ranch, 7401 Highway 45, Austin, Texas 78739. Meeting fees are only \$10 for visitors and include a healthy breakfast. Bring at least 35 business cards to hand out to our members! For more information visit <http://www.BNIAustin.com>, email [BNI@AustinReps.com](mailto:BNI@AustinReps.com), or call Bob at 288-8088.

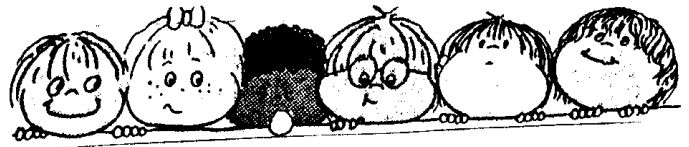
*Submitted by Bob McKenna, Circle C Resident*

### Circle C Open House Tour Update

Selling your home? Join other home sellers on January 9<sup>th</sup> and January 23<sup>rd</sup> on the Circle C Open House Tour.

In December we had 14 homes open to the public from 1-4pm on Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup>. In one case, the open house caused two buyers to submit offers and one was accepted! The Realtor excitedly sent us an email – "As a result of the Open House. We are now under contract!!"

To participate, go to [www.CircleCOpenHouse.com](http://www.CircleCOpenHouse.com) or ask your Realtor® to contact Bob McKenna at 288-8088.



### The MOMS Club of Austin

Circle C (MOMS offering Moms support) is an international non-profit organization for the stay-at-home mothers of today. We help you feel good about your decision of staying at home with your children and give you the opportunity to share activities with other stay-at-home mothers and their children. We have monthly meetings with speakers, art's and crafts, book club, lunch, children's playgroups, Mom's night out, field trips, park day, recipe club... etc. We also include a yearly service project to help needy children in our community. For more information please contact Sandy Flores at 301-9828 or [sandyflores@austin.rr.com](mailto:sandyflores@austin.rr.com).

*Submitted by Sandy Flores, Resident*

### South Austin Mothers Club

South Austin Mother's Club invites all mothers who want to meet other area mothers, engage in adult conversation, enjoy social time, and hear from speakers with expertise in child, family, and personal growth to join us at our monthly general meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. at Western Hills Church of Christ (Not Church Affiliated), 6211 Parkwood Drive, Austin, TX 78735. (512) 892-3532. Childcare provided for a fee with advance reservations.

For more info: [www.southaustinmothersclub.org](http://www.southaustinmothersclub.org) or email [president@southaustinmothersclub.org](mailto:president@southaustinmothersclub.org)

*Submitted by Andrea Houdek, Resident*

### Circle C Mom's Group

Interested in joining a playgroup for your child? Let your children make new friends while you enjoy the company of other neighborhood moms. Playgroups typically meet at either a member's home or mini field trips once a week. In addition, Moms meet once a month for a Mom's Night Out. Call Dee Dee at 301-4717 for more information.

*Submitted by Dee Dee Green, Resident*



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## Real Estate News

Yes Virginia, there is a Real Estate "Season"

Everybody's heard the saying that real estate value is all about "location, location, location" and that is certainly true. But, something I think is not discussed enough, but has a great deal to do with how long a home is on the market and how much it sells for is when it is marketed. Real estate is a seasonal business, that is, there is a great deal of seasonal variation in the buying and selling of real estate. The reasons would appear to be obvious but people don't often think them and often it's not pointed out to them by their realtors.

The number one seasonal variant for real estate sales involves the school year. It happens every year: in May, when school is out, families begin to search seriously and in earnest for homes to buy and in August after schools start up again, home buying falls off precipitously. It's an amazingly consistent pattern and happens, of course, because people do not want to move their children to different schools during the school year. Now, if these families who are looking to move must sell their homes first, as most do, they will begin to put their homes on the market in late January after the holiday season. As they do, they and others will begin looking to purchase as the inventory of homes on the market increases and this is why spring (approximately February through April) is the second hottest real estate season after the summer months.

Now, I need to mention here that not all home buyers can prevent

moving at other times of the year for financial or company relocation reasons and not all buyers have children and care about this so there are certainly homes placed on the market and sold during the off season. But the vast majority of people who shop for homes have families and for them the school year has a tremendous impact on when they will move and they will try very hard not to move during this time, if possible. So, people trying to sell single family homes in traditional suburban subdivisions and particularly those with larger homes (2500+ square feet) need to be aware of this buying behavior as it is very likely their homes will be bought by people with children.

The effect of this seasonal variable can be dramatic in terms of how much a seller can get for their home and how long it will take to sell. An adage in the real estate business is that price overcomes all obstacles. This is to say that if you make a house cheap enough somebody will buy it no matter what's wrong. So, to overcome the strong impact of this seasonal variance sellers of the kind of single family homes I've mentioned often have to lower the price of their homes to much lower than market value if they have sell soon. This seasonal variance coupled with an already extremely competitive buyers market in Austin, means sellers need to pay attention to this variable and, if possible, consider their timing when putting their home on the market.

To a lesser extent but creating a double whammy with the school season, the winter and holiday months are also not the best time to try to sell a home for its best price. This season starts approximately after Halloween through mid- or end January. And, unless buying families are in a position where they must move, they will not be looking to purchase during the holidays. Again, I'm not suggesting there are no real estate sales in these slow seasons, just a very large percentage of the home buying population, those with families, are not in the market.

So, to summarize, the best time to put homes on the market is January through May. Of course, other variables are critical to selling a home including its price and condition relative to the competition. But, the seasonal nature of the residential real estate business is also an important component sellers and their realtors need to consider very carefully when planning their marketing and pricing strategies.

*Submitted by Kitty Fowler, long-time Circle C resident.*

# Resolved.

This is the year to *get your investments* in order.

If you keep only one new year's resolution, make it one that's designed to last a lifetime. Resolve to create and implement an investment strategy to help you achieve your long-term financial goals. Then review and revise it on at least an annual basis.

Do something positive for yourself this January. Call me today for a no cost, no obligation portfolio review. Together we can create the plan that's right for you based on your current situation, objectives and risk tolerance.



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## Circle C Amenities

### The Golf Course at Circle C Ranch

*Here's what's happening at the Golf Club at Circle C in January:*

#### January Highlight of Events:

- Membership Opportunities Available
- Winter Hours in Effect
- Tailgate Party, Every Saturday & Sunday
- 9 Hole Kid's Kourse, Every Day
- Unique Celebration Venue
- Book Your 2005 Tournament Now

**Membership opportunities available** – Our membership program is your chance to experience The Golf Club at Circle C in a whole new way!

#### **"Grow the Game" Plan (Individual Range Membership)**

Includes:

Unlimited Range Privileges

Cart Fee only at Twilight each day

Monthly Golf Clinics with PGA Professional

\$49/month (1 year term) – or – \$58/month (6 month term)

#### **The Masters Package (Individual Membership) – or - The US Open Package (Family Membership)**

Includes:

Green Fees Waived

14 Day Preferred Tee Time Access

Unlimited Range Use

Free GHIN Handicap Service

Ambassador (Guest) Passes

15% Discount on all Logoed Merchandise

\$2,900/Masters Package – or - \$4,350/US Open Package Financing

Options Available - Inquire for more details

#### **Winter Hours in effect January 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup>**

##### **Tee Times**

Closed Mondays

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Available starting at 9:30am

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Available starting at 7:30am

##### **Grill**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Open at 9am, Dining available until 2pm, Beverage Service available until 7pm

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - Open at 7am, Dining available until 6pm, Beverage Service available until 7:30pm

##### **Pro Shop**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9am-5:30pm

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - 7am-5:30pm

##### **Driving Range**

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - 9am-5pm

Friday, Saturday, Sunday - 7am-5:30pm

**Tailgate Party, Every Saturday & Sunday** – It's that time of year – Football Season is here! Every Saturday and Sunday through December we'll have double tee starts in the morning and afternoon to allow you time to get in a quick round of golf between games. Look for food and drink specials at the turn and the best viewing parties in town on our big screen TV in the Grill.

**9 Hole Kid's Kourse, Available Every Day** – Did you know we have a Kid's Kourse? Because the regulation course is too long for most young golfers, we've added two new tee locations specially marked for ages 5-12 years old. Now all members of the family - kids, ladies, men, and seniors, can enjoy playing the game together. Kid's play free during the week and only \$10 on the weekend. Call the Pro Shop at 288.4297 to learn more.

**Unique Celebration Venue** – If you're seeking an idea setting for a special celebration, wedding, rehearsal dinner, birthday party or any festive occasion the Golf Club at Circle C is the perfect venue. We offer a variety of location options including the recently updated and covered Biergarten, the Live Oak Patio, the Grill and the Rose Garden. We'll handle all the details so you and your guests can relax and enjoy the easy-going elegance of our unique setting. Call Denise Fisher at 512.288.4297, extension 4 to book your event.

**Book Your 2005 Tournament Now** – Give us a call today to get your family, company or colleague tournament scheduled for 2004. Guest will enjoy the challenges of our 18-hole Jay Morrish designed course in championship condition, professional tournament services by our staff of PGA Pros and superior dining in an unmatched setting. A simply unique experience awaits you! To check available dates, call Denise Fisher at 512.288.4297, extension 4.

Thanks and please call with questions!

*Submitted by Denise Fisher, Director of Sales & Marketing*

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Email: [melissa@calusio.com](mailto:melissa@calusio.com)

Location: Near Sam's Club on Mopac & Hwy 290 West

## Circle C Amenities *Continued*

### Circle C Tennis Club

Start the New Year learning how to play tennis. The Circle C Tennis Club offers this great program to get you back on the courts, or to start you playing the "sport of a lifetime"

Our staff is ready to serve you in the following Beginners Programs:

Monday, 6 to 7 pm	(Men)
Tuesday, 8am – 9am	(Ladies)
Thursday, 8:30 to 9:30 am	(Ladies)
Friday, 8:30 to 9:30 am	(Ladies)
Saturday, 11 to 12 noon	(Co-Ed)

Fee for six-week lessons is \$60.00 and includes use of the demo racquets, ball machine (\$10.00 per hour), Childcare on Monday through Saturday in the mornings (\$5.00 per child) and open play on the courts on a non-reservation basis.

So, sign up today. Call us for details at 301-8685.

The third session of Junior lessons will begin the week of January 3. Lessons are offered for children 3-5 years old (Pee Wee); Grand Prix for ages 6-8, 9-11, 12-15 and the Pre-Advanced Tournament Program (PATP) for juniors who are interested in competing in Tennis Tournaments or play for their school's tennis teams. Lessons are open for members and non-members. If you want us to send you a brochure with all the schedules and fees, please call Kathi.

For schedules and fees for all above events, please contact us at 301-8685 or send us an e-mail to: [Circle\\_CTennis@msn.com](mailto:Circle_CTennis@msn.com) We also encourage you to visit our new designed website: [CircleCTennis.com](http://CircleCTennis.com)

### Tennis League Results


Residents of Circle C Ranch and its neighbor communities had a great Fall WTTA 2004 Season and USTA League Season. Among the winners are::

**WTTA Flight 2** ending in second place and moving to **Flight 1** for next Spring. Members of the team are: Lisa Munden (Captain), D.J. Osterloh (Co-Captain) Donna Auger, Cindy Breed, Maria Groten, Leanne Jakubowsky, Jennifer McDaniel, Polly See-Reynolds and subs Katy Fisher, Pam Salada and Susan Marvin.

**WTTA Flight 5** winning 1st place and moving to **Flight 4**. Team members are: Audrey Scouller (Captain), Michelle Wenson (Co-Captain), Moira Cornyn, Michele Haggerty, Lea Irons, Susan Marvin, Maureen Percenti, Valerie Sansing and subs Pat Cripe, Pam Salada, Michelle Rigterink and Michelle White.

**WTTA Flight 9-1** winning first place and moving to **Flight 8**. Players in the team are: Shelby Walden (Captain), Sandee Setterquist (Co-Captain), Lesley Dobbin, Linda Forsyth, Stacy Garcia, Pam Manley, Deborah Patton, Teresa Scott, and subs Carole Scala, Michelle White and Amy Hill.

**Men's Division 4 in ATL** also won first place and will move to **Division 3**. Players on the team are: Corey Horton (Captain), David Laird, Jake Stine, Jim Hoffmann, Alan Veenendaal, Mike O'Keefe, Mark Muenze, Jim Belanger, Leanne Jakubowsky, Brian Beasley, Doug Bruster, Dave Thomason, Bob Grisamore and Nick Ling.



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## Circle C Amenities *Continued*

The **Ladies' 2.5 USTA** Team finished the season undefeated. Players are: Annie Yu (Captain), Linda Henson, Sunnay Jordan, Pegeen Kramer, Carole Scala, Sunita Lal, Mubina Merchant and Mone Nguyen.

The Flight 9-2 Team finished in fifth place and The Flight 10 Team in sixth place.

Congratulations to all.

*Submitted by Fernando Velasco, General Manager & Director*

### Circle C Cafe & Catering

Cafe line - 288-6058

Catering line - 301-7235

Hours - Monday - Saturday 3pm-8:30pm, Closed Sunday

Cafe serves hamburgers, salads, pizzas and more. We also feature nightly gourmet specials. Email [circleccafe@aol.com](mailto:circleccafe@aol.com) for a calendar of specials or visit our website, [www.circleccatering.com](http://www.circleccatering.com). Always offering free delivery! Chef Jaime is now operating the Cafe at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Admission is free in the month of January. Please stop by and have lunch in the Wildflower Cafe! We are available to cater all events large and small including weddings, corporate events, bunko parties, etc. Please contact us for a proposal. We are planning a wine tasting soon. Please check our website for an update!

*Submitted by Chef Jaime Arevalo*

### Circle C Swim Center

January Hours:

Mon:	Closed
Tues:	6am to 9am and 2pm to 8pm
Wed:	6am to 9am and 2pm to 8pm
Thu:	6am to 9am and 2pm to 8pm
Fri:	Closed
Sat:	12pm to 6pm
Sun:	7am to 10am and 12pm to 6pm

### The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's 2005 Docent Training program starts on January 13, 2005. Wildflower Center docents are a special group of volunteers who choose to expand their knowledge of the Wildflower Center's mission and the natural heritage of Central Texas to better represent the Center and serve the public. They answer questions in the Visitors' Gallery, give tours, work with children's groups, and generally serve as the Center's "ambassadors" to visitors from all over the world.

Docent training consists of eight weeks (48 hours) of classroom and field study followed by 24 hours of experiential learning. Core components of the program include: Natural History of Central Texas, Restoration Ecology, The Center's History and Mission, Mrs. Johnson's Legacy, Botany, Native Plant Horticulture, Landscaping and Gardening. The first eight-week portion of training will take place on Thursdays from 9:30am - 3:30 pm. The second experiential portion will have flexible hours throughout the week and weekend. Following graduation, ongoing service hours at the Center are required for docents to remain in good standing.

There is a materials fee of \$65 for members and \$100 for non-members. The non-member fee includes a one-year individual membership valued at \$40.

For more information, visit the Docent Training Page under "Volunteer With Us" at [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) <<http://www.wildflower.org>>, call 292-4200 ext. 102 or email [megan@wildflower.org](mailto:megan@wildflower.org) <<mailto:megan@wildflower.org>>.

*Submitted by Anne Lasseigne Tiedt, Communications Manager*

Sara Castillo, GRI

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## Scavenger Hunts And Smiley Faces Ease 'Veggie Fears'

*Baylor College of Medicine*

Vegetables can play an important role in healthy growth and development, but getting kids to eat them can sometimes be a challenge.

"To get kids to eat vegetables, they must be available when and where kids tend to eat, be very easy-to-eat and taste good," said Joan Carter, a registered dietitian at the Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital in Houston.

To make vegetables more tempting to kids, Carter offers these tips:

- Offer the new vegetable at the beginning of the meal when small children are the hungriest and serve vegetables in new combinations. Children tend to favor peas, potatoes, carrots, beans and corn. Mix these vegetables with others they are less likely to eat, such as broccoli and cauliflower.
- Use a little fat, sugar and salt to make the healthy foods taste good to kids. "Kids are born liking sweet tastes, so use this to your advantage," Carter said. Cook carrots with a little sugar and chicken stock; make carrot 'slaw' with raisins; top broccoli with low-fat cheese sauce.
- Prepare vegetables in new ways. Try a stir-fry or add fresh vegetables to prepared soups. Mix a vegetable in with a favorite food, such as peas in macaroni and cheese or blend soft cooked carrots into mashed potatoes. Add vegetables to pizza toppings or sautéed minced veggies like broccoli and red pepper and add to spaghetti and pizza sauces, meat loaf, and pureed soups.
- Make eating veggies fun and easy. For kids over the age of 4,

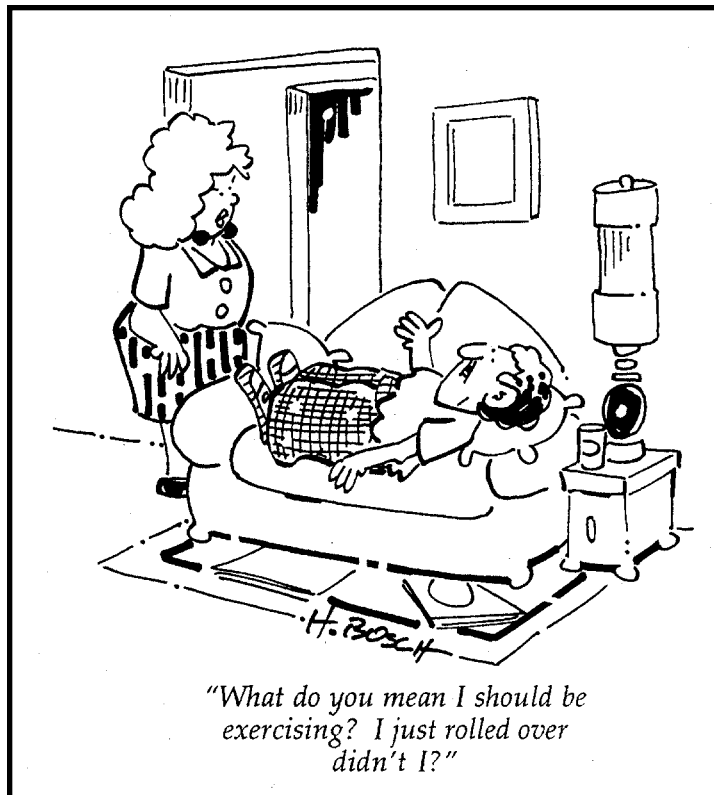
keep veggie 'kabobs' with cherry tomatoes and cucumber slices or 'grab bags' with baby carrots, broccoli 'trees,' and celery sticks near low-fat dips or salsa on a child-level shelf in the refrigerator. Use cut-up pieces of vegetables to make a "smiley face" on mashed potatoes. Offer an edible spoon, such as a stalk of celery, to scoop up chili or stew.

- Enlist kids to help scour magazines for new veggie recipes that the family could try. Let kids use the recipe to conduct an "ingredient scavenger hunt" at the grocery store and later assist in preparing the recipe at home.
- Become a family of Farmers' Market 'explorers' who stop and ask growers about their produce, their farms, and how they cook their vegetables for themselves. Grow a family vegetable garden.
- Be a good role model. Eat your vegetables, and show your excitement about finding and trying new ones.

And what if despite your efforts, your children still turn up their noses at anything yellow, green or leafy?

"Don't give up," Carter said. "It may take some time before kids try a vegetable and it might take a lot of tries before they begin to like it." Young children can sometimes be afraid of new foods.

Continue to offer vegetables at each meal and encourage children to try one bite. If they don't like it, that's fine. Allowing young kids to stop at one bite can make trying new foods less scary, while forcing them to eat something they truly don't like will only make the situation worse.



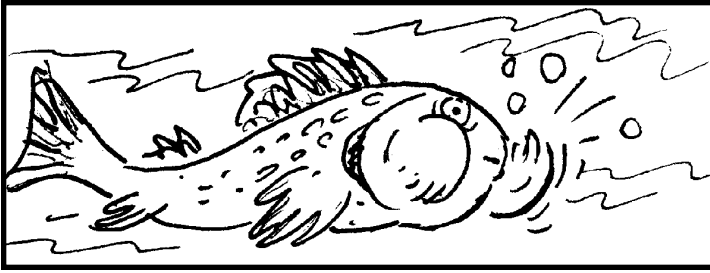
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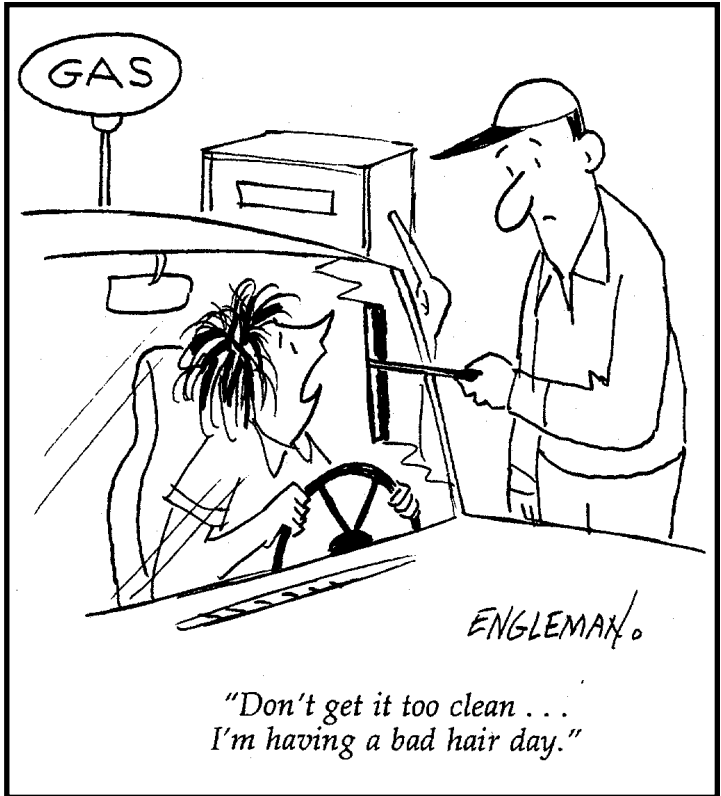
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