



CIRCLE C RANCH

NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2005

www.circlecranch.info

A Letter from your HOA President

Dear Neighbors,

I hope that you all had a great holiday.

Jim O'Reilly served and led Circle C Ranch for many years. Jim has volunteered countless hours for the benefit of our neighborhood. Unfortunately Jim resigned from the board in January, due to significant business and personal demands on his time. You can read his resignation letter elsewhere in the newsletter. I've taken a brief stroll in Jim's shoes over the last 9 months and have learned to appreciate the spirit and energy that Jim has given to our neighborhood. Circle C Ranch is a special place and one of the primary reasons is because of the hard work of our volunteers. Jim and his family have my personal thanks for all his hard work (and his family's sacrifices) for Circle C.

The Circle C Homeowners Association annual meeting and director's election will be held on 23 March at Kiker Elementary. There are two slots up for election this year—the slot previously held by Jim O'Reilly and the slot currently filled by Chris Dietz. Please consider volunteering for Circle C Ranch. The pay is low (actually it is zero) but the fun never stops. I can honestly state that my time on the board has never been boring. If you would like to run for the board of directors please send your name to Denise at info@circlecranch.info. The CCHOA Nominating Committee will collect names, provide a questionnaire for the folks who decide to run and will hold a candidates forum in March. Nominations must be made by 5pm 14 February.

Ed Scruggs has taken a primary role in the area of developing new amenities within Circle C. We recently learned good news about the Circle C Amenities Fund. This is a fund that will pay for new improvements and facilities for our neighborhood. The money comes from the builders of new homes in Circle C. This fund was in limbo during the Bradley bankruptcy hearings. The good news is that the bankruptcy court has allowed the administrator of the amenities fund to start working with us on real plans, for real improvements. The fund currently has over \$400,000. This topic is related to the Amenities Survey that many of you participated in last year. With the Amenities Survey results we have a good sense of the wishes of Circle C homeowners. With the Amenities fund we have a good idea where at least some of the funding will come from. The next step will be to select and hire a land use planner—an expert to help us develop a plan for implementing Circle C-quality improvements.

We will continue to involve homeowners in the process.

AE Martin has been actively working with the Stakeholders group for the undeveloped Proposition 2 Water Quality Protection Areas that abut Circle C West and Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park. If all goes well then this tract will be the first of the Proposition 2 lands that are made available for public access. This is somewhat complex, but I'll lay out the facts that I know. The City of Austin Water Department owns the land, but will not administer it. The State of Texas has provided a grant of \$42,500 for developing trails on this land. A volunteer organization will be responsible for administering the land. The uses are strictly limited. The primary use is to be water quality preservation. Secondary uses are education and structured recreation such as horseback riding, trailbike riding and hiking. Circle C Ranch has a chance to participate and to help make this happen quickly. This land (not a park!) will be a very nice addition to the set of outdoor-oriented amenities around Circle C, including the Veloway, the Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park and our own Swim Center. AE has also been involved in some safety-oriented improvements

(Continued on Page 2)

Board Election Process

The Nominating Committee is taking nominations for two open board positions that will be up for election at the March 23 Annual Meeting of the CCHOA. You can submit names by one of the following ways:

- Phone: 288-8663
- Email: info@circlecranch.info
- Fax: 288-6488

The **deadline** for submitting nominations is **February 20, 2005.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Slaughter Creek Tree Planting – February 5th
- Town Hall Meeting on Bylaws - February 17th
- CCHOA BOD Nominations Due - February 20th
- Community Blood Drive – February 26th
- CCHOA Board Candidate Forum – March 17th
- CCHOA Annual Meeting – March 23

2004 Board of Directors

Quentin Fennessy.....President
Mary Goehring..... Vice President
Ed Scruggs Secretary/Treasurer
AE Martin Director
Steve Urban..... Director
Chris Dietz Director

Contact Information..... Email: directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

Letter from your HOA President - (Continued from Page 1)

for the disk golf course in the Slaughter Creek Metropolitan Park.

There are many ways you can volunteer for the neighborhood. AE is working to find volunteers for a 5 February tree planting project on the Proposition 2 lands. This newsletter may not be delivered in time for you to participate. But there will be lots of opportunity for work on trail construction and in other areas. This would be a good volunteer project for youth groups such as Scouts (boy, girl, and cub) or school groups. You can contact Denise to ask about such opportunities. The Special Events Committee really could use some help.

We have been very busy working on the contract with Longhorn Aquatics for use of our Swim Center. When I say 'we', I mean the Pool Committee and Mary Goehring and Ed Scruggs. The Pool Committee worked very hard to define terms and structure for how the contract should be designed for 2005. Ed and Mary are still working to find the right balance for use of our pool. I've learned that the Swim Center is the perpetual hot topic within CCHOA and we're trying very hard to balance needs and wishes of homeowners. The feedback we get ranges from requests for more AM swimming hours to requests that we spend less on the pool during winter months. Some folks want the pool open at all hours regardless of usage and others advise that we should close it except for the warm months.

Given that we have 9,000 or more people in our neighborhood I take it as a given that we'll never please everyone but we will try our best.

The most recent Board meeting was held on 29 November 2004. I summarized that meeting in the January newsletter and so there is nothing to report. The Board has discussed whether or not to appoint someone to replace Jim and as of this writing we have no plans to do so. You can see a summary of our discussions on the website at <http://www.circlecranch.info/BoardMtgJan2005.asp>.

Your Neighbor,
Quentin Fennessy

CCHOA Announcements

Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, Operations Manager

First Public Event Planned for Slaughter Creek Water Quality Protection Lands

A riparian tree planting is planned for the morning of February 5 (Saturday) along Slaughter Creek in the City of Austin Water Quality Protection Lands. This is the first public event scheduled for this property and the organizers are hoping for a large turnout of Circle C volunteers. You may contact Gail McGlamery, volunteer coordinator for the City of Austin, at 263-6437 or sign up on line at <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/volunteerpage.htm>, or call the Circle C office at 288-8663. Make certain you specify your interest in the February tree planting in Slaughter Creek Track.

Slaughter Creek Track WQPL is located adjacent to Circle C on the west and will eventually have hike and bike trails open to the public.

Community Blood Drive

The first community blood drive of 2005 will be held on Saturday, February 26th in the parking lot east of the Child Development Center. If you would like to donate blood, you can sign up online at www.lonestardonor.com or call 288-8663. Please consider donating if you haven't before – we need a big turnout to keep this event alive in Circle C!

Solid Waste & Recycling Tips

There are several things that you can do to help keep our trash and recycling service efficient:

1. Please do not overfill your trash can. The lid should be able to be closed. You may try compacting the trash so that you can make room for more. BFI uses mechanical arms to lift the trash can and when it is overfilled, garbage tends to fall out. The driver has to manually pick up this trash.
2. Place something heavy (like a catalogue) on top of your recycling bin in case it is windy outside. This will prevent recycling materials, especially paper from blowing away.
3. Place packing materials (such as Styrofoam popcorn) in plastic bags before throwing away.
4. Place your recycling bin near, but not directly next to your trash cart.
5. You are allowed to have your trash cart plus three (3) additional bags of trash (under 30lbs) each trash collection day.
6. If you have questions regarding your service or a billing question, please contact BFI at 247-5647.

The 2004 CCHOA Annual Report will be available online at www.circlecranch.info beginning February 1, 2005. If you would like a hard copy, please contact the CCHOA office at 288-8663.



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Featured Listings



6504 Scenic Cove: This beautiful home sits on a quiet cul-de-sac lot. The dramatic entry leads to an open floorplan with tons of extras. The incredible European kitchen features Corian countertops, center island & gorgeous slate floors & backsplash. Luxurious family room with cathedral window & decorative niches!



5434 Austral Loop: Amazing Pulte home with spacious rooms and soaring ceilings. This home is complete with a dream kitchen featuring Brazilian granite counter tops & Brazilian travertine backsplash. Private master is huge and features a wonderful bath including Jacuzzi tub and separate shower.



6845 Beatty: Charming home nestled on a large, quiet lot. Stunning entry with hard tile flooring, and high vaulted ceiling. Arched walkways, island kitchen and fabulous master suite with bay window all make this home elegant and ready for entertaining. The huge backyard is private and has several beautiful trees!



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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Vandalism in Circle C Ranch

As some of you unfortunately experienced over the holidays, there has been vandalism reported throughout Circle C recently. We must all do our part in keeping our community a safe place to live. Please call 911 if you witness vandalism or if you have been the victim of vandalism. All cases, no matter how small, should be reported to the police. Be proactive and be sure to lock your car doors at night, do not leave valuables in sight and keep your garage doors closed when not in use.

Deed Restriction Violation

As our neighborhood is growing, we will be increasing our monitoring of deed restriction violations throughout the neighborhood. If you notice a deed restriction violation, please contact the CCHOA office at 288-8663 or via email at info@circlecranch.com. We will need a valid address in order to check for violation. If a violation is cited, a letter will be sent to the homeowner and they will then have 35 days to comply or request a hearing before the board of directors. This policy is in compliance with state law. The most common violations that are cited are unauthorized vehicle (i.e. boat, RV, trailer), weeds or grass in excess of 6" and dead vegetation. We will also be focusing on fences, garage doors and painting the first part of this year. If you have questions about the deed restriction process, please give us a call at 288-8663.

CCHOA Website

As mentioned last month, we will be featuring a new or revised feature of our website each month. This month, we'd like to direct you to our informal poll. Each month we will feature a new question related to our community. This enables us to hear directly from you on a variety of topics so that we can incorporate homeowner input into decisions that affect you. Please take a moment this month to fill out the poll located on the home page of our website, www.circlecranch.info

Handicap Parking

Parking in the handicap parking slots or the no-parking areas next to the handicap parking slots is a violation of the Texas law. Parking in these areas to pickup kids, drop off or pick up mail, or other reasons are not an acceptable reason for using these parking slots. Typical fines for this offense is \$300.

Submitted by Travis County Volunteer Handicap Monitor

2005 Annual Meeting

Our 2005 Annual Meeting is coming up on March 23.

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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

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Dear Neighbors,

We have received comments from many of you in the past regarding email messages you have received from CCHOAnews@aol.com. Please understand that CCHOAnews@aol.com is not an email account which is maintained or otherwise controlled in any way by the Circle C Homeowners Association. Upon information and belief, that account is maintained by an individual Circle C resident and the statements, opinions and viewpoints expressed in any email message you may have received from CCHOAnews@aol.com are solely those authored and/or approved by that individual. We apologize for any misunderstanding.

Submitted by CCHOA Board

Circle C Landscape

We would like to say that we have found the last six weeks quite a challenge in terms of landscape weather. Between our 80 degree windy humid days and the alternative very freezing weather, you may be wondering what our plants are doing!!

Well, they seem to be wondering too. We have noticed things budding out in the warm weather, only to freeze off in the cold. About now is the recommended time to begin pruning your summer blooming perennials and grasses. These can be cut back and then composted with a good quality compost in order to get a better start in the spring.

If you are interested in slightly trimming back your crepe myrtles, you probably don't want to commit what a lot of folks refer to as "crape murder." If you just take off the old seed pods and nothing greater than a pencil width for shape. You will still have a lot of blooms and keep your crape myrtle healthy.

Also, if you have roses, you may be thinking that they look really bad and spindly. They do, but try to hold off on the pruning until Valentine's day. They will really do better if you don't prune them too early in the season.

We will be doing weed treatment, trimming and composting, and general landscape cleaning over the next month on the commons areas. There is a lot to do to get ready for spring while we deal with our ever fluctuating weather.

Submitted by Susan Hoover, Circle C Landscape



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

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.
Submitted by Sandy Flores, Resident

Circle C Mom's Group

Interested in joining a playgroup for you 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

South Austin Mothers Club

South Austin Mothers 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 or email president@southaustinmothersclub.org
Submitted by Andrea Houdek, Resident

Why Not Disc Golf?

Many of you have probably noticed the odd looking cage contraptions in the park as you walk the hike/bike trail or observed people carrying brightly colored plastic spheres walking the wooded area near the trail. Maybe you have wondered what are they doing and why? It's disc golf. A game played exactly like traditional golf using discs or (modified frisbees) in lieu of a ball. The game is played by throwing the disc at a target instead of hitting a ball into a hole. The Circle C Metropolitan Park hosts one of Austin's six public courses. The course was established in 1988 and has seen a growing number of players since it's inception. The Waterloo Disc Golf Club, a local non-profit organization, has adopted the course for upkeep and repair. The increased use of the trail coupled with the ever increasing use of the course by golfers has shown the need for a re-design to remove the course from the number of places that intersect the trail. Currently the course intersects the trail in seven different places causing a potential collision between thrown discs and pedestrians. The club hopes to have the City of Austin's Parks Department approve moving the course out of harms way with in the next month or two. Disc Golf like traditional golf is a game enjoyed by people of all ages and skill levels. Equipment is less costly than ball golf and easily obtained at most sporting goods stores and via several distributors on the internet. For more information check the web site of the Professional Disc Golf Assc. (www.pdga.com) or the local site maintained by the Waterloo disc golf club at www.austindiscgolf.org. A local touring professional player is also available for lessons. Contact Mike Olse at 512-468-5002.
Submitted by Dan Mueller, Waterloo Disc Golf Club

**View the Circle C Ranch
Newsletter each month online at
www.PEELinc.com**

Kitty Fowler



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Circle C Area Business Referral Meeting

Would you like to build your business by referral? Could you benefit from the help from other Circle C area professionals representing a wide variety of occupations?

The Live Oak Network (Circle C Area) Business Referral group shares ideas, contacts and most importantly referrals with each other every Wednesday at the Golf Club at Circle C Ranch. Our chapter is a member of BNI (Business Network International), a non-competitive referral organization with 27 active chapters in Austin, 700 individual members strong. BNI differs from other referral organizations in that each chapter allows only one person per professional category and we follow a strict code of ethics.

This month, we seek area professionals in the following lines of business, who would like to grow their business by referral in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

- A/C Repair
- Auto Repair
- Business Broker
- Carpet, Wood, Tile Flooring Provider
- Certified Divorce Planner / Analyst
- Childcare Provider
- Chiropractor
- Commercial Mortgage Lender
- Custom Cabinet Maker
- Custom Window Blinds or Shades
- Electrician
- Family or Pediatric Physician
- Family Relationship Therapist
- General Handy Man
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- Hair Stylist or Beauty Salon
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- Phone Services
- Plumber
- Pool Builder
- Public Relations Consultant
- Remodeling
- Restaurant
- Roofing Company
- Security Systems
- Specialty Cakes
- Wedding / Special Event Planner

If you or a friend is interested in learning more about BNI, visit the Live Oak Network 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 40 business cards to hand out to our members. For more information email BNI@AustinReps.com, or call Bob at 288-8088.

Submitted by Bob McKenna, Circle C Resident

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Keeping Cats Indoors Isn't Just For The Birds!

Each year, millions of cats are run over by cars, mauled by dogs, poisoned and lost. Hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals are killed annually by free-roaming cats. The suffering of both cats and birds is all the more tragic because it is so unnecessary.

FEBRUARY 8, 2001, Austin City Council, John Herron, Chief of Wildlife Diversity Texas Parks & Wildlife, said: "We are concerned about predation on wildlife by free-ranging cats, not just feral cats but stray cats and pet cats that are allowed outside. Studies indicate that we now have more than twice as many cats as there were in 1970. No surprise to those of us who have seen the City of Austin grow. These studies indicate that in general, there is one cat for every 6 people in the U.S. This means that there are about 100,000 cats in Austin. Cats Kill; on average 30 animals a year. This means that cats in Austin kill about 3,000,000 wild animals every year. This predation pressure adds to the natural predation these animals face from foxes, coyotes, snakes, bobcats, hawks and owls – in fact in many studies cat predation is estimated to equal or exceed all other predation pressure combined."

"Some folks are passionate about their feeling that cats should be outside, but you need to ask yourselves why we should have a double standard of prohibiting stray dogs but not stray cats. Why should one citizen have to be affected by a neighbor allowing their pets to trespass on the property of others?"

Today's cat owners face an important decision: "Should I keep my cat indoors?" For your cat's sake, and that of the birds and other wildlife in your neighborhood, the answer to that question must be "yes!"

Keeping Cats Indoors is for the Cats...

The average life expectancy of an outdoor cat is just two to five years, while an indoor cat may survive for 17 or more years. Cats who roam are constantly in danger...

GENERAL HAZARDS TO FREE-ROAMING CATS

Cars: Cars kill millions of cats each year in the U. S. and maim countless others, either from being hit or from crawling inside the hood of a car to get warm in the winter. Automobile accidents also occur as drivers attempt to avoid hitting a cat in the road.

Poisoning: Cats can find chemicals that are poisonous to them on treated lawns, in rat or mice bait, and on driveways and roads from antifreeze leaked or drained from cars. Antifreeze tastes sweet to a cat, but as little as one teaspoon can be fatal.

Animal Attacks: Outdoor cats can be injured or killed by free-roaming dogs, wildlife, and other cats. Cats can suffer torn ears, scratched eyes, abscesses and other injuries requiring expensive veterinary treatment.

Fatal diseases can be transmitted by bites and scratches from infected animals.

Human Abuse: Animal care and control agencies often learn of situations in which cats have been burned, stabbed, or hurt by other means. Free-roaming cats are also susceptible to theft.

Traps: Cats can get caught in traps set for other animals and may become injured or suffer before being released.

Overpopulation: Unaltered outdoor cats are the main source of cat overpopulation, causing millions of unwanted cats to be euthanized at animal shelters each year. Humane societies and animal control agencies struggle daily to rescue, treat, feed, and house stray and unwanted cats.

Dealing with this preventable tragedy costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year.

FELINE DISEASES

Free-roaming cats are at risk from many diseases, some of which are acquired from prey animals. Some diseases affecting cats can be transmitted to humans. Vaccines are available for some of these diseases, but no vaccine provides 100 percent protection.

- Feline Leukemia Virus (FeLV)**
- Feline Panleukopenia Virus (FPV)**
- Feline Infectious Peritonitis (FIP)**
- Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)**
- Upper Respiratory Infections (URI)**

DISEASES AND PARASITES OF CATS TRANSMISSIBLE TO PEOPLE

- Rabies**
- Plague**
- Cat-Scratch Disease (CSD)**
- Roundworms**
- Hookworms**

For more information, go to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention web site at: www.cdc.gov/healthypets/.

Conclusion: While letting cats outdoors may seem the natural thing to do, the hazards that cats face when they leave home are clearly numerous. The best way to keep cats healthy, and protect wildlife and human health, is to keep cats indoors.

(Continued on Page 9)

We're in your neighborhood, and we're a community of Christ's grace for you...

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Keeping Cats Indoors - (Continued from Page 8)

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OUTDOOR CAT A HAPPY INDOOR CAT

- Although it takes patience, an outdoor cat can become a perfectly content indoor pet. Some people make the transition from outdoors to indoors gradually, bringing their cats inside for increasingly longer stays. Other people bring the cat in and shut the door for good. Either way, the key is to provide lots of attention and stimulation while the cat is indoors.
- Your geographic location may affect your schedule of change; choose a good time of year to bring the cat indoors. In many parts of the country, the easiest time of year to make this conversion is during the cold winter months when your cat is more likely to want to be inside anyway. By the end of winter, your cat may be completely content to remain inside.
- Substitute outside excursions with periods of special playtime. Supervised trips out on the patio can also make the transition from outside to inside a little easier. Cats need human companionship to be happy, and when they spend all their time out of doors, they get very little attention. An outdoor cat may welcome the indoors if he or she gets more love, attention, and play.
- To keep your cat occupied indoors, provide secure cat condos, which offer interesting places to lounge, play and scratch. You should also provide scratching posts, corrugated cardboard or sisal rope for your cat to scratch. Praise your cat for using them.
- To encourage your outdoor cat to exercise, offer interesting toys,

especially those that are interactive. These usually consist of a long pole and attached line with fabric or feathers at the end of the line. Some cats enjoy searching for toys. If your cat likes to explore the house looking for "prey," hide toys in various places so your cat can find them throughout the day. Be sure that the toys are not so small that they can be swallowed or get stuck in your cat's throat. Cats also enjoy ping-pong balls, paper bags and cardboard boxes.

- Provide your indoor cat with fresh greens. You can buy kits that include containers and seeds to grow, (see Cattail Gardens at www.cattailgardens.com. Or plant pesticide-free alfalfa, grass, birdseed, or catnip in your own container. This way, your cat can graze safely and not destroy your houseplants. Many cats love cooked string beans or peas cooled to a safe temperature, which is another way to give them greens.
- If your cat remains stubbornly committed to life outdoors, help your cat adjust by providing an outdoor covered enclosure or run that the cat can access through a window or pet door. Such a facility gives the cat some of the advantages of being outside while minimizing the dangers. You can make the outdoor enclosure interesting and appealing by adding objects for the cat to explore, such as tree limbs, multilevel cat condos, tires, toys hanging from branches, and boxes in which the cat can curl up or hide.
- If you cannot, or prefer not to offer your cat a run or enclosure, consider leash-training your cat so you can supervise time outside. Attach the leash to a harness. Your cat may resist leash training at first, but will eventually accept the leash. Never leave your cat outside unsupervised while on a leash or lead.
- Some cats may develop behavioral problems when they are no longer allowed outside. Most of these problems can be attributed to a change in routine that is too abrupt or a lack of attention and stimulation inside. Review your steps and keep working with the cat. Be patient and continue to praise your cat when playing with toys, using the scratching post and litter pan. If your cat becomes destructive or stops using the litter pan, consult a veterinarian or animal behaviorist to find ways to solve the problem. Remember that these symptoms can also be contributed to boredom and loneliness.

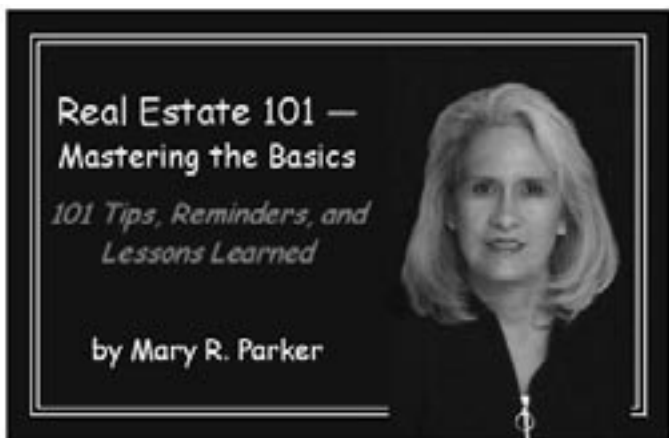
Additional tips for a happy indoor cat:

- Trim your cat's claws every one to two weeks to keep your cat from damaging furniture, rugs and drapes, or glue on artificial nail caps called *Soft Paws* www.softpaws.com every six to eight weeks.
- Provide one litter pan per cat and scoop the litter pan at least once daily. With non-clumping litter, change once or twice weekly; with clumping litter, change every two to four weeks.
- Many cats enjoy the companionship of another cat or compatible dog of the opposite sex. If you can make the financial and emotional commitment, consider adopting another companion animal for yourself and for your cat.

Adapted from, "All Cats Should Be Indoor Cats" by Rhonda Lucas Donald, *Shelter Sense*, August 1990, and "From Outdoors to Indoors" by Karen Commings, *Cat Fancy*, September 1993. Other information adapted and reprinted with permission from John Herron and THE AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY www.abcbirds.org/cats

Submitted by Circle C Resident, Susan Schaffel

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Circle C Amenities

Swim Center

The Swim Center hours for February are:

Early Morning Adult Only Lap Swim

Tue, Wed, Thu 6am to 9am

Sun 7am to 10 am

Open Swim

Tue-Thu 2pm to 8pm

Sat & Sun 12pm to 6pm

The Swim Center will be closed on Saturday, February 26th for repairs. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Circle C Café & 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 for a calendar of specials or visit our website, www.circleccatering.com. Always offering free delivery! We accept credit cards - American Express, Visa, Mastercard!!! 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



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The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Wildflower Days* 2005 Begin at the Wildflower Center

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center welcomes spring with its annual Wildflower Days(tm) season from March 14-April 25, 2005. In addition to beautiful blooms, the upcoming season includes long-time favorite events, special book signings, and a US premiere - The Ladybird Chronicles.

Wildflower Days* kicks off with The Ladybird Chronicles by Jane Davenport. This open-air, outdoor art exhibit will make its United States debut from March 10-April 27. The internationally award-winning exhibit includes 30 six-foot-high photographic artworks featuring the bugs and beetles of Australia's Wollongong Botanic Garden. Ladybugs, known as ladybirds in Australia, are featured in each of these photographs that blend art and entomological detail.

An Artisans Festival is the season's first event is on March 19 and 20, 2005, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. From fine art to folk art, the best in natural forms will be on display. More than 20 artists and artisans will showcase their nature-related work including metal work, painting, photography, pottery, and more. Event highlights include a children's interactive mural painting activity, educational discovery stations, walks and talks, and entertainment provided by various local musicians.

Wildflower Days* continues with the ever-popular Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival held on April 9 and 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a special members-only preview sale Friday, April 8, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. This plant sale boasts the largest selection of native plants in Central Texas with some 300 species and 23,000 plants from which to choose. Native plant experts are available all day to help visitors make the best choices for their gardens.

This spring the Wildflower Center also welcomes five authors for book signings.

- * Jane Davenport, Ladybird Chronicles - Saturday, March 19
- * Melanie Gerth, Ten Little Ladybugs - Sunday, March 20
- * Michael Lind, Bluebonnet Girl - Saturday, April 9
- * Kathi Appelt, Miss Lady Bird's Wildflowers: How A First Lady Changed America - Sunday, April 10
- * Susan Wittig Albert, Dead Man's Bones - Saturday, May 14

Finally, on Saturday, May 7, 2005, the Wildflower Center will feature a NEW Austin Gardens Tour. Participants will take an exclusive look into Austin's backyard native gems. The tour includes six to eight homes.

Hours for the Wildflower Center are Tuesday - Sunday 9am - 5:30pm.

From March 14 to April 25, the Center is open on Mondays as well.

Spring admission is \$7 for adults; \$5.50 for seniors and students; and \$2.50 for Children. Children 5 and younger, and members are free.

The Wildflower Center is located in southwest Austin: Follow Loop 1 south, turn left on La Crosse Avenue, the first light past Slaughter Lane. The Wildflower Center is two blocks down on the right.

For more information on any of these events or additional information on the Center, call (512) 292-4200 or visit www.wildflower.org <<http://www.wildflower.org>>.

Circle C Amenities *Continued*

The Golf Course at Circle C Ranch

Get your game in shape for 2005

“Grow the Game” Plan (Individual Range Membership)

Includes: Unlimited Range Privileges, Cart Fee only at Twilight each day, Monthly Golf Clinics with PGA Professional. The cost is \$49/month (1 year term) or \$58/month (6 month term)

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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 (Financing Options Available), Family Memberships also available!

To learn more, call 288.4297

Winter Hours - January 1st through February 28th

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

Course will be CLOSED the following days in February: Monday, February 7th, Monday, February 14th, Monday, February 28th.

Note: We are open on Monday, February 21st!

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If you're seeking an idea setting for a special celebration the Golf Club at Circle C is the perfect venue. We'll handle all the details so you and your guests can relax and enjoy the easy-going elegance of our unique setting and **new COVERED Biergarten!**

Call Denise Fisher or Stephanie Parson at 512.288.4297, extension 4 to book your event.

Did you know the facility is open to the public? Bring your friends, family and business associates out anytime for golf, breakfast, lunch or happy hour. We want to serve as an amenity for all residents even if you don't play golf!

Did you know..... the course record is 61?

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Jan/Feb/March the Golf Club at Circle C is offering a special Resident rate of \$20 off the 18 hole rate weekday or weekend. This means residents play weekday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday for only **\$29** and on the weekend, Friday, Saturday, Sunday for only **\$45**. Rate includes cart and is good for residents only. Based on availability.

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Circle C Amenities Continued

The Circle C Tennis Club

The Circle C Tennis Club is a Private Club with 8-lighted Plexi-cushion tennis courts, a Child Care Room, and a Pro Shop. There are no initiation fees and no membership contracts. Residents, who wish to become members of the club, pay reasonable monthly fees, which gives them unlimited access to the tennis courts.

The Circle C Tennis Club offers programs for all levels of play and ages. Their top national and international recognizes professional staff offers one of the most respected teaching programs in Austin, ranging from children 5 yrs old to nationally recognized players, and adult beginners to tournament players.

Monthly mixers are offered to allow new players to mingle with the present members of the club. Men's Nights and Ladies' Nights meet on a weekly basis. Challenge ladders are very active and junior and adult tournaments open to Austin players are hosted by the Club.

Their league participation is respected among the Austin Tennis Clubs. They offer Ladies' WTTA and USTA Leagues, Men's ATL and USTA Leagues, Juniors USTA leagues and Adult Mixed Doubles USTA leagues in all different levels. Many of their teams placed on first place during the 2004 season.

New residents to Circle C Ranch have received a personal welcome letter from Fernando Velasco, General Manager and Director of Tennis, with coupons inviting them to receive a gift, a complimentary guest pass and a discount on a tennis lesson. Fifty-nine new Members have joined Circle C Tennis Club last year.

For more information about fees and programs, we encourage you to visit our re-designed website: circlectennis.com or call us at 301-8685.



Teenage Job Seekers

Name	Age	Baby Sit	Pet Sit	House Sit	Phone
Chang, Bryan	13	•	•	•	288-7247
Freeman, Jaclyn*		•	•	•	288-3243
Freeman, Lauren*		•	•	•	288-3243
Janowski, Andrea	14	•	•	•	301-9626
Pugh, Lauren*+		•	•	•	771-2739
Tarrillion, Courtney	15	•	•	•	288-7216

Attention Teenagers

The **Teenage Job Seekers** listing service is offered free of charge to all Circle C Ranch teenagers seeking work. Submit your name and information to info@circlecranch.info by the 12th of the month!

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Top 10 Ways To 'Lighten Up' In 2005

Baylor College of Medicine

Resolving to shed post-holiday pounds? You don't have to resort to a crash diet, say weight-loss experts at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Molly Gee, a nutritionist at BCM, suggests that a few simple guidelines can help you lose or manage your weight:

- Don't arrive hungry to restaurants or parties.
- At restaurants, split an entrée or order an appetizer as a main course.
- Eat less; talk more – leave food on your plate.
- Move more – take the stairs instead of escalators or elevators.
- Wear a pedometer to keep track of a goal of 10,000 steps per day.
- Get a buddy for lifestyle changes in diet and physical activity.
- Slow down your eating – use a salad fork or chopsticks.
- Choose more fruits, vegetables, whole grains and low-fat dairy foods.
- Lighten up on gravies, sauces, dressings and butter or margarine where fats hide.
- Set realistic goals for weight loss (0.5 lbs/week) or prevent putting on pounds.

Do you have a Home Based Business right here in Circle C Ranch?

You can get information about your service or products to every home in Circle C Ranch, by running a business classified in the **Circle C Ranch Newsletter**. It is a great way to get your name and contact information to many potential customers in your growing neighborhood. The cost is \$45 for up to 40 words. There are discounts available for multiple month ads (10% off for 2 months, 15% off for 3 months). For more information, please contact Kelly Peel, 512-589-5471; kelly@Peelinc.com. The deadline is the 10th of each month for the upcoming month's newsletter.

Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Circle C Ranch residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail to info@circlecranch.info.

Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$45, limit 40 words, please contact Kelly Peel @ 512-5879-5471 or Kelly@Peelinc.com.

Parents: Make Healthy-Eating A Family Affair, Not Family Feud

Baylor College of Medicine

Encourage your family to make healthy food and fitness choices together this year, say experts at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

"Parents can help get their kids on the right track by encouraging healthy habits rather than focusing on weight problems. Supporting their kids' positive actions, like going on a long walk every day or eating more fruits and vegetables, is one of the most important things a parent can do," said Joan Carter, a registered dietitian at the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital.

Helping kids conquer their unhealthy tendencies is a team effort between parent and child. A few tips for parents include:

- Enlist kids to help do a 'kitchen and pantry makeover.' Replace high-calorie sodas, teas and drinks with low-calorie versions or bottled waters. Stock the pantry with whole wheat crackers and single-serve canned low-sugar fruits like mandarin oranges. Buy a microwavable 'hot air' popcorn popper for low-calorie snacking.
- Step it up. Buy inexpensive pedometers for everyone in the family and create a friendly family member competition by posting everyone's daily step totals on the refrigerator. Experts recommend kids log 5,000 and 7,500 steps per day.
- Pay attention to portion sizes. It is harder for kids to stop eating when they are full and food is still on their plate.
- Make healthy eating a team event. Go grocery shopping together and make cooking dinner a fun activity for children.
- Limit television- watching or any sedentary activities like video games to less than two hours per day. Turn on the music and dance instead.
- Limit sodas, sweet tea and juices to just one 8 oz. serving per day to cut back on empty calories.
- Ask children if they are hungry when they want a snack. Kids have a hard time knowing when they are full and may be tired or bored.

A BCM website featuring interactive resources and health and fitness articles is available at <http://www.bcm.edu/pa/fatfree.htm>.

Visit my website at: www.nicolepeel.com

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Texas Events

February - Hill Country

4—AUSTIN: An Evening with Shawn Colvin Colvin is one of contemporary folk's most endearing performers. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

4-6, 11-13—WIMBERLEY: Jazz Festival Features famous and soon-to-be-famous jazz musicians from surrounding areas. Cypress Creek Cafe. E-mail: bcwimbo@aol.com 512/847-2515

5—AUSTIN: Carnaval Brasileiro Features flamboyant costumes, Brazilian samba music and the uninhibited atmosphere. Palmer Events Center. www.sambaparty.com 512/452-6832

5—FREDERICKSBURG: Chorale Mid-Winter Concert Chorale performs an encore performance of music performed throughout the year. Shows are at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. St. Joseph's Hall on the grounds of St. Mary School, 212 W. San Antonio St. E-mail: chorale@kctc.com 830/997-0212

8—KERRVILLE: Mardi Gras on Main Includes wine tasting, award winning artwork and more. www.kerrville.org/economicdev 830/792-8395

9-13—AUSTIN: Little Shop of Horrors Presents the musical comedy masterpiece about a loser, the girl he loves and the man-eating plant that is about to change their lives forever. Bass Concert Hall. www.utpac.org 512/478-4265

11—AUSTIN: Kirk Whalum Whalum is one of the most popular jazz/pop artists of the last decade with seven Grammy-award nominations and one Stellar Award. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

11-12—LUCKENBACH: Hug-In On Friday, the fun begins at 3 p.m. with music, camping out and singing. Musical entertainment begins at noon on Saturday. The Valentine Ball is at 8 p.m. On RR 1376 off Hwy. 290 E. E-mail: neal@luckenbachtexas.com • www.luckenbachtexas.com 830/997-3224

11-14—AUSTIN: Ballet Austin's Director's Choice Bass Concert Hall. www.balletaustin.org 512/476-2163

11-Mar. 5—ROUND ROCK: Man of La Mancha Join Don Quixote and his faithful servant Sancho, as they take to the road in a campaign to restore the age of chivalry and defeat evil — one windmill at a time. Sam Bass Community Theatre. www.sambasstheatre.com 512/244-0440

12—FREDERICKSBURG: Fredericksburg Saturday Night: American Music in the Texas Hill Country Series of live music concerts features bluegrass, blues, soul, jazz, gospel, Cajun, zydeco and other American music styles. Begins at 7 p.m. Historical Society Center, 312 W. San Antonio St. www.pioneermuseum.com 830/997-2835

12—GOLDTHWAITE: Valentines Big Band Dance www.goldthwaite.biz 325/648-3619

12-13—BOERNE: Market Days Features food, antiques, crafts and music. Main Plaza. 830/249-5530

13—AUSTIN: Freescale Marathon Health & Fitness Expo, where participants pick up packets, is Friday and Saturday. Includes a full marathon and a half marathon. Race begins at 6:55 a.m. for wheelchair participants and 7 a.m. for runners and walkers on Sunday. This is formerly the Motorola Marathon. 420 W. Riverside Drive. E-mail:

info@freescaleaustinmarathon.com • www.freescaleaustinmarathon.com 512/478-4265 or 877/601-6686

13—GRUENE: Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist Serves up a New Orleans-style gospel brunch of awe-inspiring gospel music and a mouth-watering buffet. Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Road. www.gruenehall.com 830/629-5077 or 830/606-1601

17-20—FREDERICKSBURG: Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of Iwo Jima Heroes' Parade down Main Street begins at 10 a.m. Saturday. Memorial service is at 11 a.m. on Sunday, with Gen. Michael W. Hagee — commandant of the U.S. Marines Corps — as the keynote speaker. On Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p.m., several hundred re-enactors re-create the capture of Mount Suribachi and the raising of the American flag. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the Fredericksburg Theater company presents *South Pacific*. www.nimitz-museum.org 830/997-4379 ext. 226

18—AUSTIN: Libby Kirkpatrick with Strings Attached St. David's Episcopal Church. www.stringsattached.org 512/775-2371

18—AUSTIN: McCoy Tyner Tyner has changed the sound of modern jazz piano and is constantly inventing and expanding his vocabulary. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

18-20—BOERNE: St. Valentine's Day Motorcycle Massacre Kendall County Fairgrounds. 210/566-2836

18-20—FREDERICKSBURG: Trade Days More than 300 vendors sell antiques, collectibles, tools, primitives, ranch furniture, crafts, unique clothing and jewelry, food vendors and more. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Hwy. 290 across from Wildseed Farms. www.fbgradedays.com 830/990-4900 or 210/846-4094

18-Mar. 6—AUSTIN: A Woman Called Truth Celebrates Black History Month with this chronicle of the life of Sojourner Truth. Austin Playhouse at Penn Field. www.secondayouth.com 512/386-8292

19—AUSTIN: February Pops — Glen Campbell Riverbend Centre. 512/476-6064 or 888/462-3787

19—NEW BRAUNFELS: Let's Rock 'n' Roll for Kids Enjoy a '50s-style dinner and dance with Johnny Dee & the Rocket 88's. Hours are 8 p.m. to midnight. Come dressed in '50s attire. Wursthalle. E-mail: cis@cisnewbraunfels.org • www.cisnewbraunfels.org 830/620-4247

19—NEW BRAUNFELS: Orange Kellin's New Orleans Blue Serenaders These seasoned performers thrill listeners with the sounds of the Big Easy. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Brauntex, 290 W. San Antonio St. 830/627-0808

19-20—GEORGETOWN: Williamson County Gem & Mineral Society's 34th Annual Show Features dealers, demonstrations and non-competitive exhibits from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Community Center in San Gabriel Park. 512/793-2740

19-20—GRUENE: Old Gruene Market Days Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Road. www.gruenemarketdays.com 830/629-6441

19-Jun. 5—AUSTIN: Drawn from Experience: Landmark Maps of Texas Traces the evolution of the shape of Texas through 500 years of mapmaking. Brings together more than 60 historic maps, several

(Continued on Page 15)

Texas Events - (Continued from Page 14)

of which have never before been displayed. The Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum. www.thestoryoftexas.com 512/936-8746

24—GEORGETOWN: Conversations from Opposite Sides of the Room Presents deep, rich, vibrant ensemble singing — choirs in a conversation. Conspirare performs important works for double chorus. Begins at 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 410 E. University Ave. 512/476-5775

24—KERRVILLE: Symphony Orchestra Concert — Symphony of the Hills Classical music concert features musicians from the Hill Country. Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater, 910 Main St. www.schreiner.edu/symphony, 830/792-7469

24-Mar. 13—MARBLE FALLS: Oklahoma! Enjoy this Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. Hill Country Community Theatre, 4003 W. FM 2147. E-mail: hcct@hcct.org • www.hcct.org 830/798-8944

25-26—UVALDE: Sahaw Indian Dancers Winter Ceremonials Features songs, dances, costumes and folklore of the Indians of the Southwest pueblos. First United Methodist Church. 830/278-2016

25, 27—AUSTIN: Conversations from Opposite Sides of the Room Presents deep, rich, vibrant ensemble singing — choirs in a conversation. Conspirare performs important works for double chorus. Begins at 8 p.m. Friday University Presbyterian Church, 2203 San Antonio. Begins at 2:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Church, 8001 Mesa. 512/476-5775

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