



CIRCLE C RANCH NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, Number 7

July 2005

www.circlecranch.info

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors-

Earlier this year a reality TV show was filmed within Circle C. We've learned the show is called **Welcome to the Neighborhood** and it will be broadcast starting Sunday July 10, 9:00pm CST on ABC. The website (<http://abc.go.com/primetime/neighborhood/>) describes it like this:

One of seven diverse families will win a beautiful dream home on a perfect suburban cul-de-sac in Austin, Texas. But in order to win the luxuriously furnished and opulently appointed house, they must first win over the very people who will be most affected by the ultimate decision — the next-door neighbors.

The producers described it as a family show. I am very curious how Circle C looks on TV.

Unfortunately **Mary Goehring** resigned from the Board of Directors for personal reasons. Mary has been a star contributor to the neighborhood with her calm and process-oriented approach. She led several significant projects, including the bidding of our landscape contract last year (a huge effort on her part, along with other volunteers). She served as Vice President for several months this year, and we (the remaining directors) elected her as President for her last month on the board. I've been honored to work with Mary. We all owe her a debt of gratitude for her efforts on our behalf.

Fortunately I have some counter-balancing good news to report. **Carolyn Merritt** has been appointed unanimously by the remaining directors to serve the remainder of Mary's term (until Q1 2007). Carolyn is well known within Circle C for her work on education. She is principally responsible (no pun intended) for AISD including a middle school on the 2004 AISD bond (which passed). Carolyn previously served as chair of the CCHOA Education Committee, and is currently serving on the AISD Community Bond Oversight Committee. This committee is charged by the AISD Trustees to

advise them and report on the progress of the 2004 Bond Program. We could not have a better advocate for education and children in SW Austin than Carolyn Merritt.

Several neighbors have asked how they can **communicate with the Association** and the board of directors. We have several channels. The best way to report a problem or ask a question is simply to email Denise Nordstrom at info@circlecranch.info or call her at 512-288-8663. You can email the board of directors as a whole at directors@circlecranch.info. We host a homeowner's forum each month at our board meeting where neighbors can speak for a few minutes on neighborhood topics. This is scheduled early in the meeting around 6:30pm.

Please be patient when you are asked to **identify yourself** when entering the pool. Several neighbors have reported that non-neighbors are enjoying our facilities. To reduce this problem we're going to institute some changes. If we ask for ID it's not because we don't trust you – but rather we want to ensure that only Circle C neighbors are allowed free access.

Also, please **do not park in the red striped area** in front of the swim center. This area is for drop-off and pick-up only. We've made this change to allow emergency vehicles clear access to the pool in case of an accident.

See the article inside for more news on the Circle C Swim Center.

Thanks (to roughly 10-14% of you) for voting in the June 11th city council runoff election. We look forward to working with our new council member **Jennifer Kim**. Our precincts were slightly better represented than the city-wide average of 9%. But only slightly—there are many precincts with a better registered voter turnout rate. We can do better, and we should. A high voter turnout within Circle C translates into influence at City Hall.

Stay cool this month,

Quentin Fennessy

President, Circle C Homeowners Association

JULY EVENTS

July 4th, 10:30am Best Decorated Bike Contest

July 4th, 11:00am Parade

July 22nd, Dusk **Movie Night at the Pool**, Feature Presentation is *Racing Stripes*



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Officeinfo@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
Financial Office..... 451-9901
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Inc. 806-385-6444
Adv./Kelly Peelkelly@PEELinc.com, 512-589-5471
Circle C Amenities
Circle C Café..... 288-6058
Circle C Tennis Club.....Circle_CTennis@msn.com, 301-8685
Golf Course at Circle C Ranch 288-4297

2005 Board of Directors

Quentin Fennessy.....President
Steve Urban..... Vice President
AE Martin Secretary
Mike Price Treasurer
Ed ScruggsDevelopment Officer
Matt Cano..... Director
Carolyn Merritt Director
Contact Information..... Email: directors@circlecranch.info

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Movie Night At The Pool
Friday ~ July 22nd at Dusk.
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pillows and blankets.

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CCHOA Announcements

Friendly Reminders

Submitted by CCHOA

- With summer has come a lot of overcrowded parking at the Swim Center. If you are visiting the Swim Center or the Child Development Center, please DO NOT park in the post office parking spaces. It's also not safe to park in front of the fire hydrant to the side of the post office, this is for emergency vehicle parking only.
- Please help us keep the swim center looking great by picking up all trash and throwing away in the trash receptacles.
- We are definitely in the "growing season" so remember you will need to tend to your yard on a weekly basis.
- We've gotten a lot of calls lately on fences and with some approaching 15 years, we encourage neighbors to work cooperatively with one another on repair or replacement of shared fencing.
- **How do I contact the CCHOA office?** If you have a question, a complaint or need information, please contact the CCHOA office at 288-8663 or via email at info@circlecranch.info

4th of July Parade

Submitted by the CCHOA Special Events Committee

It's time for the Annual 4th of July Parade in Circle C!! Join us at 10:00am in the Swim Center Plaza to decorate your bikes, wagons, scooters and strollers. We'll have streamers and party favors on hand. We'll have a contest for Best Decorated Bike at 10:30 with prizes. The parade will begin at approximately 11:00am from the Swim Center. Star Flight will land next to the Child Development Center after the parade – kids you don't want to miss this!! The Circle C Café will be offering hot dogs and hamburgers. We will have prizes for best decorated wagons, strollers and bikes. More details to follow; please be sure to check out the website, www.circlecranch.info and to look for posted information at the mail centers. If you are interested in volunteering, please send us an email at info@circlecranch.com or call 288-8663.

BFI Holiday Schedule

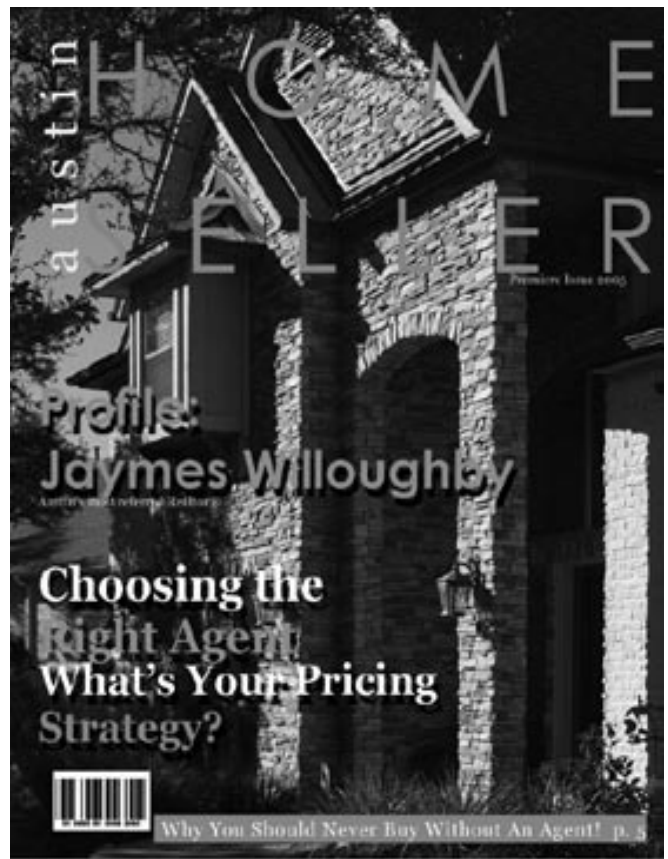
Submitted by CCHOA

BFI's solid waste and recycling schedule will slide forward one day on the following holidays: 4th of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Both of your normal pick up days will slide forward one day. For questions, please contact BFI at 247-5647.

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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Guided Hikes Planned for Slaughter Creek Water Quality Protection Lands

Submitted by AE Martin

The City of Austin has announced monthly guided hikes on the Slaughter Creek Tract of the city's Water Quality Protection Land, which is located adjacent to Circle C. Volunteer organizations, including Circle C Homeowners Association, are working with the city to gain public access to this property and to develop hiking, biking, and equestrian trails. Several Circle C residents have been trained as docents and are participating in opening this property, which will become a valued recreational attraction in our neighborhood.

The focus of the hikes is to learn about "9000 Years of Water for Hill Country Residents" and will be offered on the first Saturday of every month. Participants will enjoy a gentle 1/2-mile interpretive hike that uniquely blends the human history and natural resources of this property in telling the story of why these lands are protected and how they are managed today.

Hikes are limited to 20 individuals and **pre-registration is required** by midnight on the Thursday before the day of the hike. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Hikes with fewer than 6 registrants may be subject to cancellation. **To register, please call 263-6433 or send an email to nancy.didonato@ci.austin.tx.us** with your name, daytime and evening phone number, email address and number of people in your group. Please bring a water bottle and

dress appropriately for the weather, including sun protection and sturdy closed-toe hiking shoes. After registering, you will receive a confirmation with a map and directions to the property entrance.

During the warmer months of May through October, the 1.5-hour hike will take advantage of cooler mornings by starting at 9:00 a.m. In the cooler months of November to April, hikes will begin at 10:00 a.m. For a complete listing of hike dates and times, please go to the Upcoming Events page at www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wildlands.htm.

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The Bryant Family: David, BJ, Taylor, Bailey

CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Living with Snakes

Andrew G. Gluesenkamp¹ and Travis J. LaDuc²

¹Zara Environmental LLC, 118 W Goforth Road, Buda, TX 78610
andy@zaraenvironmental.com

²Texas Natural History Collections

Texas Memorial Museum, University of Texas at Austin
10100 N. Burnet Road, PRC 176/R4000, Austin, TX 78758-4445
travieso@mail.utexas.edu

Texas has a tremendous diversity of snakes found in a variety of habitats. There are over 70 species of snakes in Texas; 36 species are known to occur in Travis County, but only five of these species are venomous (coral snake, copperhead, cottonmouth, and two species of rattlesnake). The most common snakes encountered in central Texas are members of the largest snake family, Colubridae (including rat snakes, garter snakes, earth snakes, and hog-nosed snakes). Members of the families Leptotyphlopidae (blind snakes), Elapidae (coral snakes) and Crotalidae (pit vipers including rattlesnakes, copperheads, and cottonmouths) are native to this area as well. Snakes are generally shy and secretive and most are nocturnal or crepuscular (active in the evening), especially when the weather is warm. All snakes are predatory; some species feed on earthworms, slugs, and salamanders, others specialize on other snakes or toads, and some feed on birds, lizards, rats, squirrels, and mice. Overall, snakes are beneficial members of their communities and their presence usually reflects a healthy and complex ecosystem. In the Hill Country, human activity often lead to unexpected encounters with native wildlife, including snakes, occasionally with unpleasant consequences for snakes, humans, or both.

There is no way to completely snake-proof a home or yard, but there are ways to make your place less attractive to snakes. Snakes enter yards and buildings for two reasons: food and shelter. Many central Texas snakes feed on small rodents and birds. Remove rodent and bird hang outs and snakes will be less inclined to come around. Piles of brush, wood piles, and abandoned vehicles and outbuildings are favorite places for rodents to set up their own homes. Brush piles and bird feeders are attractants for birds. If you're resistant to removing bird feeders (as we are), place them in conspicuous places where snakes cannot ambush visiting birds. Keep in mind that snakes aren't fond of being out in the open where they are more likely to encounter snake predators.

Snake shelters fall into two categories: long-term and temporary. People often complain about snakes in their garages: usually snakes looking for a nice place to settle down, out of the cold and the elements of our unpredictable (!) Texas winters. To decrease the likelihood of finding snakes in your garage, police the outside of your house for small holes and gaps that might allow snakes (or prey species like squirrels and rats) to get inside your home. Seal potential entrances

with caulk or weather stripping. Snakes don't like to be in the open so they often move between temporary shelters such as brush piles and low shrubs as they hunt for food. By removing covered corridors, at least dead branches and deep leaf litter around the base of plants, snakes will be less likely to remain in your yard for a buffet. This will not keep all of the snakes out, rat snakes search in trees as well as on the ground for food. However, this is a non-venomous species and shouldn't cause any concern. None of the venomous snakes in central Texas climb trees very often, if at all.

Editor Note:

Dr. Gluesenkamp and Dr. LaDuc are both local herpetologists who welcome your questions about snakes. We appreciate very much their article, which was written for our Circle C newsletter, and we hope it will help you understand how to live harmoniously with Texas snakes. You can learn more by going to the University of Texas website <http://www.zo.utexas.edu/research/txherps/>.

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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Landscape Update

As we enter the summer months, **water conservation**, and keeping our plants alive becomes a big issue. The City of Austin promotes voluntary water conservation in order to ensure an equitable delivery system that does not put inordinate stress on the available water resources by causing what is referred to as a Peak Day, which means the system is at capacity.

How you can help and still maintain your vegetation:

1. Water only between the hours of 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 a.m.
2. Access the water conservation section of the City of Austin website at www.ci.austin.tx.us. There are numerous tips for water conservation on this site.
3. In order to get adequate water to your plants on a five day schedule, consider running more than one water cycle on your watering day. Since we live on an aquifer, our soils are very shallow and watering too long causes a lot of run-off. Consider running your system for only five or six minutes per station, two or three times during the allowed hours.

During this time of year we can always use your help in noting any water problems on the commons areas. Circle C Landscape maintains an extensive system that has 36 controllers, 483 valves and approximately 6,200 heads. If you see water running improperly, please report it to info@circlecranch.info or call 288-8663 and we will take care of it as soon as possible.

Park West News

A five foot snake was discovered in the front yard of a home in the 6200 block of Tasajillo Trail on June 3. Though we are aware of only one other large snake sighting in Park West since 1999, all homeowners should be cautious when out in their yards.

If you have concerns about your landscape maintenance, first contact our contractor Susan Hoover at 288-7215. If Susan is unable to answer, contact Park West landscape committee coordinator, Jackie Rollins, 301-1839, with your concern. If she is unable to answer your concern on the phone, she will request a letter stating your landscape concerns for forwarding to the board.

If you see one of our auto gates is malfunctioning, call Frank Gilbreath, 762-3714. If Frank or one of his Roads and Gates committee members can repair the gate, the HOA saves of \$100 on a service call.

Last month's barbecue was a success with 70 residents enjoying visiting with their neighbors, beautiful weather, and great Po-ke-Joe's barbecue.

In the interest of pedestrian and bicycle safety, Park West residents are encouraged to park their vehicles in their garages and driveways.

Save the date! The Park West Neighborhood Wine Tasting is scheduled for Friday, September 30th. Stay tuned for more information.

HIGH-TECH CARE IN AUSTIN WITH A DOWN-TO-EARTH FEEL



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Circle C Amenities

Circle C Swim Center News for July

We are now providing a **lifeguard for the baby pool**. We have had a rule posted that kids in the baby pool must be attended – but too often we’ve seen small kids in that pool with no parents close by. We still require parental or guardian supervision of kids in the baby pool.

We still have **no pool manager**. Two of our more experienced lifeguards, Heather Sellers and Siobhan Cox have stepped up to increased responsibility and are serving as interim pool managers. We really appreciate the extra effort these two women have made over the last few months. We requested and have received resumes and applications and have interviewed several candidates. The board is also working with the YMCA and by the time you read this we will have decided whether or not to hire a manager or to contract with the Y for pool management for the rest of the year.

Several folks have asked why we are considering **contracting with the YMCA** for pool management. Here are some reasons. We have traditionally hired a pool manager and lifeguards directly as employees of CCHOA. This means that CCHOA is responsible for all pool expertise, all staff management and associated payroll costs. In contrast we’ve contracted with Circle C Landscape for landscape services. We have no need to have landscape expertise, and no need to manage the staff and staffing costs for landscaping. Effectively landscaping is an out-sourced service. We run our \$1.7M budget with a staff of one full-time person (Denise Nordstrom) and one part time person (Gale Foster). This (we hope) is a lean and efficient organization. If we choose to contract with an outside organization for pool management we may see the same benefits for the Association. We estimate that our staffing costs will not vary significantly from 2004 if we contract with the Y. There are pros and cons to every decision and this is no exception.

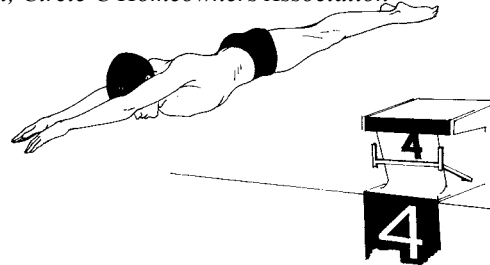
The **UT contract is unsigned**. Trust me, I’m frustrated too! Most of the terms of the proposed contract are in force, including pool usage schedules. The last issue of contention is indemnification. We want UT to protect CCHOA from liability which may arise from UT’s use of the pool. UT is protected by a legal doctrine called sovereign immunity, which precludes it from being sued without its consent. We need to protect CCHOA assets so this final item

continues to be negotiated. While this is a frustrating issue, we understand that there are several dozen families within Circle C who are avid supporters of the UT Longhorn Aquatics program.

See the color chart for the **pool schedule**. We’re trying this new format to better communicate when the pool is available and how it is being used during the week.

The morning lap swimmers are a mix of folks who prefer different lane formats. UT typically has the pool configured week days with long lanes in the morning (before the pool opens for general use.) Some folks like long lanes, some like short lanes. The compromise we have in place is that **Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday we will provide short lanes** – by dividing the long lane with a flip board in the middle of the lane. Monday, Wednesday and Friday the long lane will be open end-to-end.

*Submitted by Quentin Fennessy,
President, Circle C Homeowners Association*





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CIRCLE C RANCH

Circle C Swim Center Week of July 3rd-9th

	Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
5:30 AM	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming
6:00 AM	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation
6:30 AM							
7:00 AM							
7:30 AM							
8:00 AM		5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM
8:30 AM							
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WALK-INS WELCOME

**Circle C
Swim Center
Week of
July 10-16th**

	Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
5:30 AM	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming
6:00 AM	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation
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7:00 AM							
7:30 AM		5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM
8:00 AM		Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons
8:30 AM		CDC	CDC	CDC	CDC	CDC	CDC
9:00 AM		UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics
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10:00 AM							
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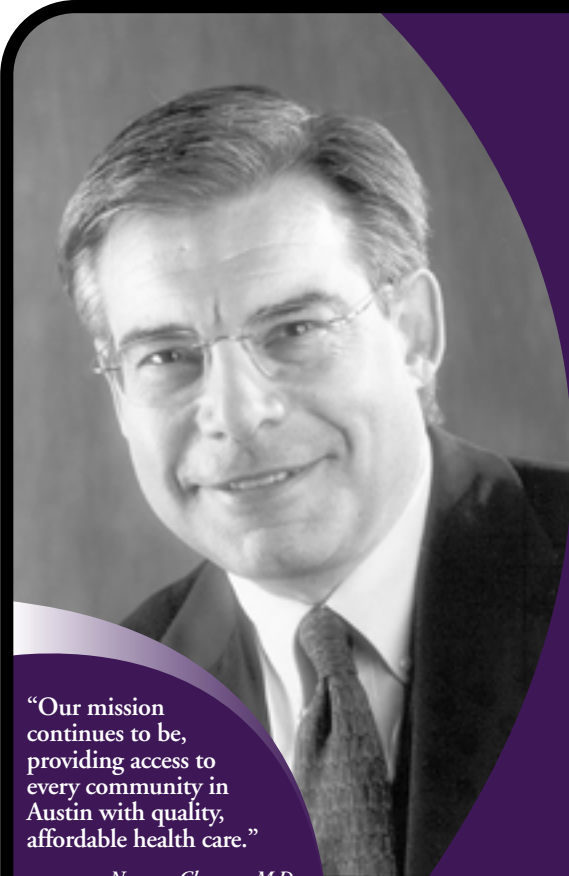


CIRCLE C RANCH

Circle C Swim Center Week of July 17-23rd

	Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
5:30 AM	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming
6:00 AM	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation
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**Circle C
Swim Center
Week of
July 24-30th**

	Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
5:30 AM	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming	Resident Lap Swimming
6:00 AM	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation	Resident Recreation
6:30 AM		5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM	5:30AM to 9:30AM
7:00 AM		Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons	Seals + Swim Lessons
7:30 AM		CDC	CDC	CDC	CDC	CDC	CDC
8:00 AM		UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics	UT Longhorn Aquatics
8:30 AM							
9:00 AM							
9:30 AM							
10:00 AM	10:00AM to 9:00PM	10:00AM to 9:00PM	10:00AM to 9:00PM	10:00AM to 9:00PM	10:00AM to 9:00PM	10:00AM to 9:00PM	10:00AM to 9:00PM
10:30 AM		10:00-12:30	10:00-12:30	10:00-12:30	10:00-12:30	10:00-12:30	10:00-12:30
11:00 AM		10:3	10:3	10:3	10:3	10:3	10:3
11:30 AM							
12:00 PM							
12:30 PM							
1:00 PM							
1:30 PM							
2:00 PM		2:00-7:30	2:00-7:30	2:00-7:30	2:00-7:30	2:00-7:30	2:00-7:30
2:30 PM		3:00-7:00	3:00-7:00	3:00-7:00	3:00-7:00	3:00-7:00	3:00-7:00
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8:30 PM							

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Circle C Amenities *Continued* General Rules for Pool Facility

1. Pool is open to residents and their guests only. All guests must be accompanied by a resident. No more than two (2) guests are allowed per resident under age 18. Guests will need to sign in with the responsible resident and pay the guest entry fee.
2. Residents will sign in and out of the pool facility per operating procedure in place. At a minimum, this procedure will involve signing in with name, address, and phone number for every person entering the facility. Separate sign-ins will be available for recreational and lap swimmers to facilitate check-in/check-out. All users of the facility must be prepared to show adequate identification while at the facility. This can include but is not limited to driver's license, voter registration, utility bills.
3. Only resident adults (18 years or older) may participate in early morning resident lap swimming. Children will not be allowed in the pool area unless they are actively supervised by an adult not swimming. All swimmers must check in per current practice.
4. All children age **12 and under** must be actively supervised by someone who is at least 14 years of age while using the swim center. All children between the ages of 12 and 14 will be required to take a swim test if they are unsupervised. The 12 to 14 year olds will be allowed use of the facility once they pass the swim test. The test will be to swim 25 meters without stopping and will be administered by the in-charge lifeguard/manager.
5. Lap lanes are for lap swimming only.
6. The pool will close for at least 30 minutes when thunder is heard and/or lightning is sighted. The pool will reopen at some point after the last thunder is heard or lightning seen (as determined by on-duty CCHOA head guard/manager). **ALL** Swimmers must get out of the pool immediately and take cover under a man-made structure during a thunderstorm.
7. Ten (10) minutes before every hour there will be a ten (10) minute safety check when all recreational swimmers will be asked to get out of the pool. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Lap swimmers may also be asked to exit the pool in certain instances.
8. Animals are not allowed at ANY time within the pool fenced area.
9. Diving is never allowed for recreational swimming. Diving blocks are for use by the organized swim team with appropriate supervision during agreed-upon hours.
10. Radios or music players of any kind must be used in pool area with headsets. No exceptions.
11. Fighting or rough horseplay is not permitted at any time. This includes chicken fighting and dunking.
12. SCUBA equipment (tank, regulator and buoyancy control device) is not allowed to be used. Snorkels are allowed if they are used with supervision of parent/adult or swim instructor.
13. No Frisbees, tennis balls, or hard balls will be allowed in the pool. These items may be used in the recreational field area **AWAY** from the pool. Balls used in the pool must be watersport/foam balls.
14. No profanity or public display of affection is allowed.
15. Bicycles, skates, or skateboards are not allowed in the pool area.
16. Water guns are not allowed.
17. All children who are not yet toilet trained must wear a swim diaper along with their bathing suit. A plastic or rubber diaper cover is highly recommended in addition to a swim diaper. A swim or regular diaper must be worn while out of the water.
18. No glass containers are permitted in the swim center.
19. No drugs or alcohol are allowed. Intoxicated individuals will be denied entry or asked to leave the facility. (CCHOA BOD may, at their discretion, permit alcohol at approved events held at the pool.)
20. No smoking is allowed.
21. Swim fins/flippers may only be used while **IN THE WATER.**
22. Baby floats are allowed only if the child is being supervised by **THEIR** parent or qualified adult. The child must remain within arms reach of the supervising adult at **ALL** times.
23. Non-pool toys are not allowed inside the pool area.
24. No shoulder-sitting/diving is allowed—including with parents and their children.
25. Lost and found items will be kept for one week and then thrown out.
26. Personal property and valuables are not the responsibility of the CCHOA.

Kitty Fowler



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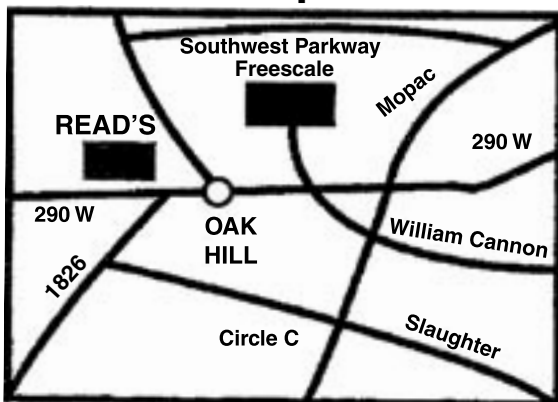
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Circle C Amenities *Continued*

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center and Texas Parks and Wildlife Present: **Family Fun with Live Animals for \$1 per person.** The Wildflower Center has teamed up with Texas Parks and Wildlife to present this family-friendly educational series. Each Thursday evening in July, visitors are invited to learn about a different animal-themed topic and interact with live animals. The Wildflower Center and Texas Parks and Wildlife staff members have created programs that not only feature a variety of animals, but also discuss their habitats. Programs begin at 7 p.m. each evening with a repeat performance at 8 p.m. Each week will also feature a habitat hike, walk, or talk by Wildflower Center Staff. The Center will close at 9 p.m. each evening.

Scheduled Topics:

Thursday, July 7 - Flying Jewels: Attracting Hummingbirds to Your Yard Mark Klym, Outreach Specialist & Manager of Texas Wildscapes Program, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

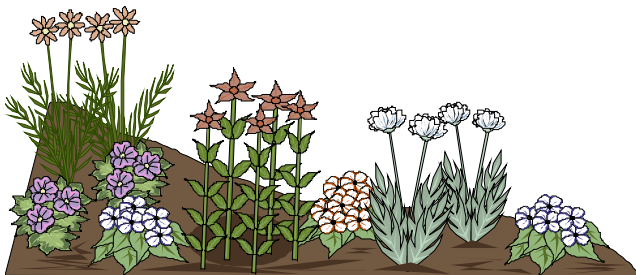
Thursday, July 14 - Slither and Slide: Get to Know the Snakes of Texas Dr. Andy Price, State Herpetologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Thursday, July 21 - Symphonies of the Night: Finding a Frog Concerto in Your Backyard Lee Ann Linam, Texas Amphibian Watch Coordinator, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Thursday, July 28 - Creepy Crawlies: Insects Working the Night Shift; Mike Quinn, Invertebrate Biologist, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

For more information about Nature Nights, call (512) 292-4200 or visit www.wildflower.org.

The purpose of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center is to educate people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants.



The Golf Club at Circle C Ranch

Stars & Stripes Celebration, July 1st-July 4th

****Duck Soup Concert and Fireworks Display on Sunday, July 3rd****

Bring the whole family for weekend activities celebrating the 4th of July. Enjoy Live Music on Friday evening July 1st, Grill specials and featured drinks specials all weekend and the course will be open on Monday, July 4th for your enjoyment. Mark the weekend with a fun-filled, family concert by Austin's own Duck Soup on Sunday, July 3rd at 7pm with a spectacular Fireworks Display at Nightfall! Call the Pro Shop for more details.

**Live Music & Family Dining, Fridays
July 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th**

We'll rock your backyard with our own version of the Austin music scene in our new covered Biergarten. Bring the whole family, relax in our comfortable hill country setting and enjoy the tunes of local talent. Fresh dinner and drink specials will be featured every week. Check our website for dates at www.thegolfclubatcirclec.com and call the Grill at 288.4297.

Tina's Tour of Texas & Buck's Bus Tour of Texas

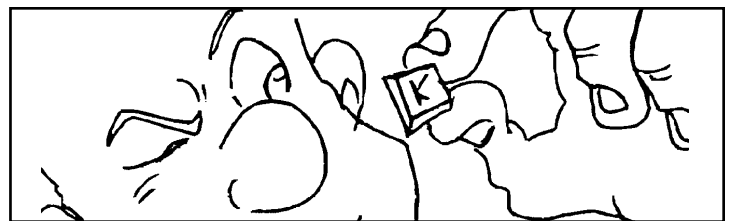
Join PGA Professional Tina Bradley-Mayers and Teaching Professional Buck Mayers for a fun-filled golf experience at some of the best golf venues in Texas! Tours each month are all inclusive of luxury transportation, golf, lunch, happy hour and fun! To book now or to learn more call Mike Scott at 512.965.6571 or the Golf Academy at 512.301.2932.

Ladies Clinics now available with more dates

Beginner and Intermediate ladies can now get first hand help with their game three times a week. Clinics are held Thursdays & Saturdays at 10am and Thursdays at 6:30pm. Cost is only \$20/per class. Call the Golf Academy at 512.301.2932 to register or email bucktina@austin.rr.com.

There's still time to register for our Junior Summer Camps

To register, go to www.ussportscamps.com or call 800-NIKECAMP for more information.



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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.

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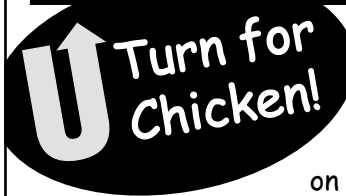
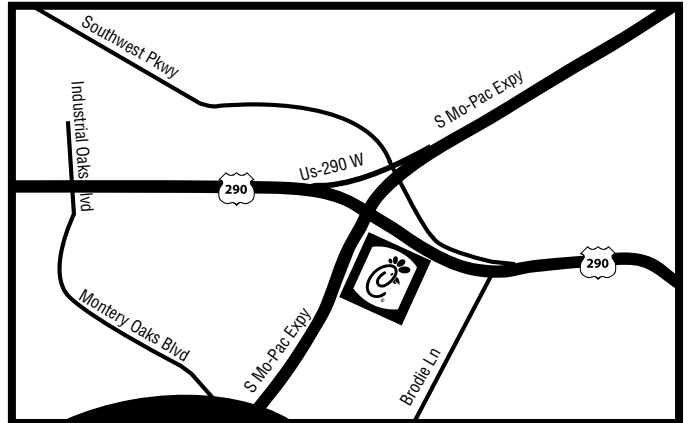
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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

Green\$ for the Garden – off to a GREAT start!

As of this writing, individual contributions for the Butterfly Garden at Kiker is OVER \$200.00!!! I am so tickled and so impressed at all of the people who care so much. Thank you, thank you, sincerely - thank you.

Kindergarten Corner (a parent's perspective)

I hope you find this article helpful. There will be so much information coming at you soon – especially with Kindergarten Round-Up (KR) just around the corner (perhaps already taken place by the time you see this article!) The following information is given to you from a parent who has a first grader. (It is not submitted by Kiker Elementary.)

When you have time to sit by yourself and really concentrate, read all the info in the Handbook and the packet that will come (or probably has come) home with you from KR at Kiker. You'll find a lot of really useful information. It will make your child's transition (and yours! Ha) a smoother one.

This month's tips (which you'll no doubt see in your packet):

Sunblock – this is probably a no-brainer for locals but in case you're new to TX, you'll want to put sunscreen on your child each and every day they come to school – at least until the November time-frame (or even then also). The children are outside sometimes twice a day

and the Texas sun can be brutal.

Sneakers – as in preschool – always send your child to school in sneakers. Not sandals, not heels, not flip-flops. They'll be doing a lot during the day and will need to have stable shoes to keep them safe. (And you might not want to send them in “designer clothing” either as some days tend to be very messy! Ha)

Bottles of Water – help your child become responsible for remembering to ask for a bottle of water to take to school each day. You don't need a lecture – you know the reason. Ha

Speaking of **being responsible** – Kiker emphasizes being responsible. This is something your child will hear a LOT at Kiker. You are going to see your child BLOSSOM with confidence during the first few months of Kindergarten. Much of the reason is that they are given responsibilities at school that make them feel like a “big kid”. Over the summer (if you don't already) you will want to begin giving your child tasks at home like *cleaning off the table with a cloth, putting their own dishes in the sink, putting their backpack in the place it will be when school starts, putting their jackets away*. These are ALL things the kids will do at school. They have tables in their classroom. These are sometimes called “centers”. The children do their tasks and school work there. And the children are responsible for cleaning these tables. They also clean the tables and

(Continued on Page 17)



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Kindergarten Corner - (Continued from Page 16)

sweep under their table in the cafeteria. Each morning when they enter the class, they put their backpacks and jackets away in cubbies or cabinets. Letting them get used to doing this helps the teacher, your child and, at home, YOU. It really does make the kids feel like "big kids".

Prepare YOURSELF – I remember the mixed feelings of being proud and being amazed and saddened that my "baby" was old enough to go to Kindergarten already – wasn't he just born *yesterday*? I learned good lesson from some of my most grounded friends. Their children transition to things so easily because Susan and Brenda always approach everything with a positive attitude and open mind. They don't gush or over talk the situations. They are just calm and let the child enjoy the moment. Then they cry in private if they need to! Ha And many of us do need to. Just try your darndest not to do it (or SAY IT) in front of your child. Why would mommy (or daddy) cry is this "Kindergarten thing" is supposed to be "good" for them, right?

Submitted by Angela Schuckle (any questions or comments? Write to "laerdana@yahoo.com")

SAFETY TIPS

Play it Safe In The Sun

(NAPSA)-When the weather's warmer and more and more time is spent outdoors, an association that works to help people live better and save more says heed these tips on how to play it safe, while having fun, in the sun.

- Use a sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15-most doctors recommend using SPF 30. Apply 30 minutes before sun exposure.
- Reapply your sunscreen every 45 minutes to an hour, especially if you have been perspiring or in the water.
- Some medications, including acne medication and oral contraceptives, can increase skin's sensitivity to the sun. Check with your doctor to see if this is a side effect of a medication you are taking. If so, use extra caution in the sun.
- Steer clear of tanning beds which have damaging effects on your skin, similar to the sun. Luckily, a wide variety of quality sunless tanners are now available.

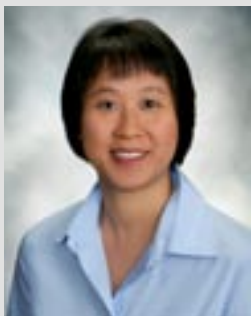
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Protecting Your Back at Work

Back pain is one of the most common medical problems in the United States. The cause is often poor posture and body mechanics in the workplace. A supervised program of back protection and exercise may be the key to alleviating and even preventing such problems.

Correct posture and body mechanics play a vital role in preventing back pain because pressure on the discs and strain of the muscles, ligaments and back joints is aggravated by incorrect posture and body mechanics. At the same time, when your posture is good and you move your body correctly, you reduce the strain on your back.

SITTING DOWN ON THE JOB

Sitting is often the greatest cause of back pain. When sitting either in a relaxed position, driving, or while at work, support your lower back. Use a rolled towel, small pillow, or a specially designed seat support, available at medical supply stores. Remove this low back support every half hour for five minutes to give your lower back a change of position. Your head should be positioned so that your ear is in a line with your shoulder and your chin is parallel with the floor.



Avoid leaning to one side when you are sitting, and avoid overstuffed furniture as it does not offer adequate support.

When working at a desk, your chair should be pulled close to the desk. An office chair with short arm rests will allow this. Office chairs should also have adjustable height, back rests and seats. The back rest spring should be adjusted so that the back rest moves with you. A seat that tilts forward is a particularly useful feature.

Use a swivel chair to enable you to work without twisting your back. Place objects such as adding machines and computers as close to you as possible to minimize the amount of twisting and turning you need to do.

When you lean forward at your desk, bend forward at the hips instead of rounding your lower back. This will allow you to keep your back straight and in good alignment.

TALKING ON THE PHONE CAN BE A PAIN IN THE NECK

Holding the phone between your ear and shoulder is a common cause of neck pain. Use a clipboard to hold your papers down so that your hands are free. Special phone adapters also are available.

After sitting for a prolonged period, it is helpful to straighten your back to an upright position and, if possible, stand and walk for awhile.

DON'T FORGET EXERCISE

Appropriate exercise, done regularly, will provide the strength and flexibility in the muscles of your legs and back that you need to help avoid excessive strain and possible injury. Some forms of exercise, such as yoga and tai chi, may help relieve or prevent back pain by increasing flexibility and reducing tension. These exercises should not be done, however, if they are uncomfortable or place a strain on the back. And don't neglect strength training; strong abdominal, back and leg muscles play a vital role in helping you maintain good posture and body mechanics.

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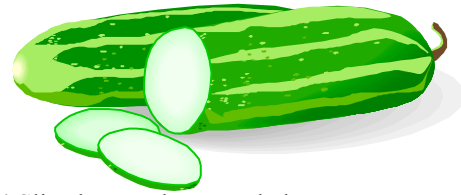
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Fresh Cucumber Salad



- 3-4 Sliced cucumbers, peeled
- 1/2 medium onion, sliced
- 1/3 cup Mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup vinegar
- Salt
- Pepper

Combine mayonnaise, sugar, and vinegar. Pour over sliced cucumbers and onions. Salt and pepper to taste. Chill approximately 2 hours before serving.

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Texas Events - July

1-23—AUSTIN: Austin Chamber Music Festival Features a variety of concerts and workshops. Performing artists include the Amadeus Trio on July 9, Duo Turgeon on July 16, the Jupiter String Quartet on July 21 and the Aurora Guitar Quartet on July 19. www.austinchambermusic.org (Began Jun. 20.) 512/454-7562

2-3—FREDERICKSBURG: Island Assault: 1944 Features a living history program of World War II weapons, demonstrations and battle re-enactments. Admiral Nimitz Museum — Pacific Combat Zone. E-mail: jeff.hunt@tpwd.state.tx.us • www.nimitz-museum.org 830/997-4379 ext. 226

4—AUSTIN: Fourth of July Fireworks & Symphony The Austin Symphony hosts an annual concert of patriotic music culminating in a spectacular fireworks display. Zilker Park. www.austinsymphony.org 512/476-6064

4—FREDERICKSBURG: Fourth of July Parade & Program Enjoy a parade on Main Street followed by a patriotic program at Market Square. Hours are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admiral Nimitz State Historic Site — National Museum of the Pacific War. 830/997-6891 or 830/997-4379

4—ROUND ROCK: July 4 Frontier Days Celebration Come out for a day of festivities, arts & crafts vendors, live music concerts, Sam Bass Shootouts and more. Old Settler's Park. www.roundrockfrontierdays.com 512/218-5540

6- 23—AUSTIN: Austin Chamber Music Festival Features a variety of concerts and workshops. Performing artists include the Amadeus Trio on July 9, Duo Turgeon on July 16, the Jupiter String Quartet on July 21 and the Aurora Guitar Quartet on July 19. www.austinchambermusic.org 512/454-7562

7—ROUND ROCK: Main Street Artisan Stroll Talented artists, musicians and performers fill the sidewalks, displaying wares and entertaining strollers from 5 to 9 p.m. Downtown Round Rock. E-mail: info@mainstreetstroll.com • www.mainstreetstroll.com 512/341-8788

7-Aug. 28—AUSTIN: Keepin' It Weird This "weird-o-rama" holds up a mirror to celebrate all that is odd, crazy and funky about Austin. Zachary Scott Theatre. www.zachscott.com 512/476-0541

8—AUSTIN: Rippingtons Featuring Russ Freeman The Rippingtons continue to redefine smooth jazz with some of the greatest instrumental melodies ever written. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. www.oneworldtheatre.org 512/329-6753

8-10—ROUND ROCK: Triple Crown Baseball "Championship" Old Settler's Park. 970/674-8872

9—AUSTIN: Farmers Market Watermelon Festival 512/236-0074

9—AUSTIN: Third Annual Hill Country Doll Show & Sale Includes antique and modern collectible dolls of all types, bears, miniatures, accessories, supplies, books and restoration. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Travis County Expo Center/Banquet Hall, 7311 Decker Lane. www.dolldr.com 830/606-5868

9-10—AUSTIN: Spirit Echoes Fine Art Festival Features a diverse array of unique handmade items on exhibit and for sale by more than 100 artists from Texas and across the United States. Includes bronze sculptures, paintings, drawings, pastels, handblown glass and ceramics, Native American jewelry, fetishes, photography and inlaid wood furniture. Enjoy artist demonstrations

(Continued on Page 23)

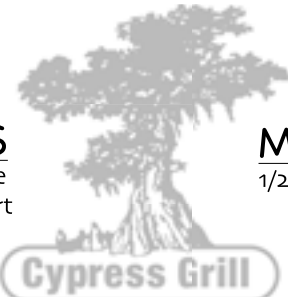
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MONDAYS

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"Yummy and Authentic!...this is the first restaurant I have found (in Austin) with great Cajun food." -Julie Latimer (former Louisiana resident)

"Good incorporation of Cajun selections with a healthy balance." -Jerry Knowles

"It's like a piece of Louisiana in Austin!" -M. Boudreaux



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Texas Events - (Continued from Page 22)

and children's hands-on arts & crafts. Palmer Events Center. www.spiritechoes.com 512/345-0706

9-16—ROUND ROCK: 102nd Old Settlers Association of Williamson County Annual Celebration Includes The Kyle Family and the Geezinslaws performing on the first Saturday, morning gospel singing on Sunday, Cricket's Night with local talent at 7:30 p.m. Monday; the Blue Crowns playing '50s music at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday; Charlie St. George and Co. playing big band sounds from the '40s at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday; the Little River Playboys at 7:30 p.m. Thursday; country music by Bill Maynard and The Country Singers at 6 p.m. and a fiddlers contest at 7 p.m. Friday; Crossline playing and singing gospel on the second Saturday and more. 3300 Palm Valley Blvd. E-mail: waltonik@aol.com 512/388-1733 or 512/680-8093

15-16—FREDERICKSBURG: Night in Old Fredericksburg Enjoy mouth-watering German food and drink, dance to the lively beat of polka music, browse the arts & crafts booths, let kids play in the kids area or view historical exhibits. Hours are 6 p.m. to midnight Friday and 11:30 a.m. to midnight Saturday. Marktplatz, 100 block of West Main. E-mail: creative@kctc.com • www.tex-fest.com 830/997-8515 or 866/839-3378

15-16—TAYLOR: Annual Taylor Rodeo Includes the full action from bull riding to mutton busting. A dance is held after the rodeo. 512/352-8720

15-17—FREDERICKSBURG: Trade Days More than 300 vendors sell antiques, collectibles, tools, primitives, shabby chic, ranch furniture, crafts, unique clothing and jewelry, food 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.fbgtradedays.com 830/990-4900 or 210/846-4094

16-17—AUSTIN: Citywide Garage Sale Includes antiques and collectibles. Palmer Events Center. E-mail: info@cwgs.com • www.cwgs.com 512/441-

2828

16-17—AUSTIN: Greater Austin Pond Tour Enjoy a weekend of visiting water gardens. Homes on tour are located throughout Austin and are a delight to see. www.austinpondsociety.org

20, 27—AUSTIN: Clifford Antone's History of Blues & Rock 'n' Roll See history come alive with the sights, sounds and stories of blues, rock 'n' roll and everything in between. Antone, an Austin music icon, hosts a musical journey into American popular music. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. www.oneworldtheatre.org 512/329-6753

29—AUSTIN: Tuck & Patti Over a 25-year career of jazz, rhythm and blues, and crossover recordings, this duo have quietly changed the world with a sound that nestles and grows in the garden of the soul. One World Theatre. www.oneworldtheatre.org 512/329-6753

29-31—FREDERICKSBURG: 28th Annual Texas Hill Country Swap Meet Includes a Car Corral, flea market, indoor car display and more. Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park. www.fredericksburgcarclub.com 325/388-2223

29-Aug. 20—ROUND ROCK: Other People's Money When Wall Street take-over king Lawrence Garfield, a.k.a., Larry the Liquidator, sets his sights on the company owned by Andrew Jorgenson, Jorgenson enlists the help of Kate, a sexy young Manhattan lawyer as wily as Garfield. Sam Bass Community Theatre. www.sambasstheatre.com 512/244-0440

Texas Events has been published with the permission of the Texas Department of Transportation. All events are taken in part from the Texas Events Calendar. All dates for events were correct at the time of publication and are subject to change.

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