



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 4, Number 8

August 2007

www.circlecranch.info

Solid Waste & Recycling Update

Submitted by Ryan Garcia, President

Over a year ago the Board began looking at issues concerning Circle C's garbage collection. While our vendor had issues with skyrocketing gas prices, our community faced a ticking time bomb that few people knew about. Our authority for private garbage collection expires at the end of 2007.

Many of us have been spoiled by years of private garbage collection. We have paid less than the City of Austin charges for their once a week service and we receive two pickups a week. We are able to leave additional bags out next to our garbage cans at no additional cost while the City of Austin charges for those bags. The City of Austin has two bulk pick-up periods a year for free, other times can be scheduled for a fee—our private collector picks up bulk items for free any time.

But our community's authority to have private garbage collection ends this year. Board members and others have spoken with various members of the City Council about extending our authority. The Board formally requested the City extend our authority. The City has failed to do so, and informally has told several people that we lack the votes necessary to extend our authority. The City Council has an easy position, since if they do nothing then we will be forced to use their services starting in 2008.

The Board feels our community would be best served by keeping private garbage collection, but the Board does not have the authority to make that decision. Only the City Council can decide this issue. If you feel that Circle C should be given the authority to continue our private garbage collection then you must make your voice heard now. You can call 311 to be connected to any City Council member's office. In the HOA office we will have a petition that you can sign, or letters that you can use to send to members of the City Council.

During the August 23 town hall, we will invite members of the City of Austin Solid Waste Services to speak about their garbage and recycling collection programs and the transition that will go into effect at the end of the year. We encourage any of you who have questions to attend this important meeting. Please keep in mind that the Solid Waste Services division does not have the ability to let us continue with our private services—only the City Council can do that. But we encourage anyone who has questions about the City's services to attend and find out how our transition will proceed.

Board Town Hall Meeting Date CORRECTION

The incorrect Town Hall date was printed in the July newsletter – please disregard. The August Town Hall will be held Thursday, August 23, 2007 at 6:15pm at the Circle C Child Development Center (for complete guidelines please visit the website at www.circlecranch.info). If you have a community concern or question or just want to meet your board of directors, please join us.



4th of July Parade a BIG Hit!



Despite the wet weather we had about 400 residents turn out for the 4th of July parade this year. We would like to thank our volunteers this year: Special Events Committee (Julie Arevalo, Melinda & Bob McKenna, Cindy Groves, Michelle Moran and Heather Greenberg) Carrie Turlington, Mier Simpson, Jacob Makowsky, Susan and Gale Foster.

Big congratulations to our "Best Decorated" contest winners: David Stout, Ian Walter, Addison Lusk, Nicolas Shimkus and Jayne Kernodle. Please see inside for a page of event photos.

Baby Pool Update

The baby pool construction is still going strong at the deadline for newsletter info (July 15). Our contractor is estimating an early August completion date. Look for more details on the HOA website on a Grand Opening Event.



Upcoming August Events

August 7 – National Night Out

August 15 – Month Board Meeting

August 23 – Board Town Hall

CCHOA Numbers

HOA Mgmt Officeinfo@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
Financial Office.....451-9901
Aquatics Director.....288-4239
Newsletter Publisher
Peel, Inc. Sales Office.....512-989-8905
Adv./Kelly Peel ..advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-989-8905

Circle C Amenities

Circle C Café.....288-6058
Circle C CDC.....288-9792
Circle C Swim Center.....288-6057
Circle C Tennis Club.....Circle_CTennis@msn.com, 301-8685
Golf Course at Circle C Ranch.....288-4297

2007 Board of Directors

Ryan Garcia.....President
Rob Johnson.....Vice President
Russ Hodes.....Treasurer
Cindy Groves.....Secretary
Sam Irwin.....Board Member
Michelle Moran.....Board Member
Cynthia Moreland.....Board Member
Contact Information.....Email: directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

BFI (Allied Waste).....247.5647
Dead Animal Collection.....974.2000
Abandoned Vehicle.....974.8119
Pothole Complaints.....974.8750
Stop Signs.....457.4885
Street Light Outage.....505.7617
Schools
Clayton Elementary.....841.9200
Kiker Elementary.....414.2584
Mills Elementary.....841.2400
Bailey Middle School.....414.4990
Small Middle School.....841.6700
Bowie High School.....414.5247
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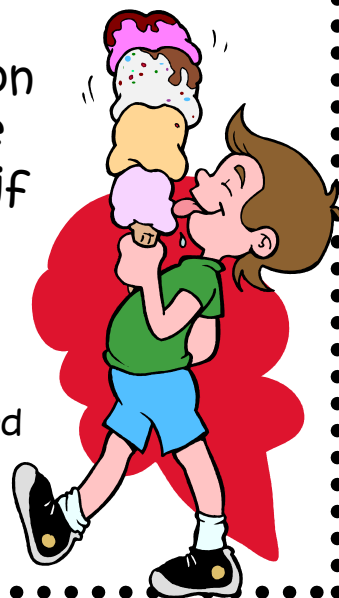
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CCHOA Announcements

Bring Us Your Aluminum Soda Can Pop Tabs!

The HOA is collecting aluminum can tops in the management office so please do not throw your cans away without taking off the tops. The tops will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas. To read more about the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas, you can visit <http://www.rmhc-austin.org/> Thank you to Circle C resident Bob Hendee for helping us coordinate this effort.



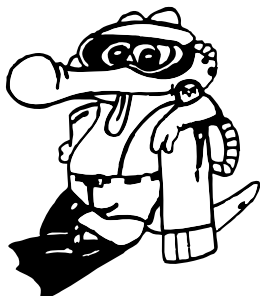
Circle C Newsletter

The Circle C Newsletter is a monthly publication mailed to all Circle C residents. If you have an article of interest to the community please submit to info@circlecranch.info by the 12th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.circlecranch.info

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SOUTH: 3601 W. William Cannon 891-6054

Deed Restriction Review Update

Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, HOA Manager

Since we began our drive of the entire neighborhood in March we have sent over 400 notices of deed restriction violation. We have had 300+ residents cure their violation and we would like to THANK YOU for cooperating with the association. Violations may include, but are not limited to: excessive weeds, areas of no turf, dead shrubs and/or trees, yard art, grass that is not edged or mowed and areas of dead grass. We encourage each of you to evaluate your lawn now so that you have time to re-sod if needed before the heat of summer. Please also refer to the City of Austin Grow Green website at www.growgreen.org. We are required to send notification of deed restriction violations via certified mail and we also send regular mail. If you receive a deed restriction violation notice and would like to speak to us about your plans for improvement, please contact the HOA office at 288-8663. It's impossible to know everyone's individual situation, so we appreciate communication from you. We also recommend that you review the architectural control committee's landscape design guidelines located within this newsletter.

If you have a deed restriction to report, you may email us the specific address at info@circlecranch.info or give us a call at 288-8663. Violations that are reported are generally checked with 2 business days and if we are able to confirm a violation, we will begin the deed restriction process (which you can access on the website at <http://www.circlecranch.info/documents/AssociationDocuments/DeedRestrictions/CCHOA-DeedRestrictionPolicy2003.pdf>).

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CCHOA Announcements *Continued*

Oak Wilt in Circle C Ranch

Submitted by Susan Hoover

As is the case in all of Travis County and particularly southwest Austin, oak wilt has been diagnosed in Circle C for many years. We have had requests from homeowners to provide up to date information on oak wilt, including locations of oak wilt centers.

There is a lot of information available on oak wilt and for general education and up to date information on the disease, diagnosis, prevention and treatment look at:

- www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/ This is the City of Austin website which explains the programs of the City available to residents.
- www.texasoakwilt.org This is a great resource for up to date information on oak wilt as well as specifics for homeowners.

Where do we have oak wilt in Circle C?

Oak wilt has been found in Circle C North, Vintage Place, Wildflower Park, on Back Bay (5700-5800 blocks), and sporadically in areas of Circle C West.

What do we do for the commons areas?

Monitoring for symptoms of oak wilt on the commons areas is ongoing. If a center is discovered, a consultation from an oak wilt certified arborist is obtained and their recommendations are presented to the CCHOA Board of Directors. In the past two years, the Board

has approved treatment in the commons areas of Circle C North and Wildflower Park. We also support the planting of diversified trees for the commons areas so no one disease could eliminate vast numbers of trees.

What should I do if I am concerned about the trees in my yard?

You should contact a certified arborist who has is certified in Oak Wilt treatment and have them consult with you regarding your trees.

If I find out I have a tree with oak wilt, should I notify my neighbors?

If you find your have a tree with oak wilt, it would be beneficial to contact the City Arborist who may be able to facilitate a meeting between neighbors and lay out the options for a coordinated approach to treating oak wilt in that area.

Where can I get updates regarding oak wilt in Circle C?

Most homeowners report oak wilt breakouts to the CCHOA. We will continue to provide updates in the newsletter of any new outbreaks of oak wilt in an effort to facilitate neighbors getting together to approach the problem.



Steve Armstrong
PHOTOGRAPHY

www.sarmstrongphoto.com

512-892-7911



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a cup of sugar, or help buying or selling your home,
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The Circle C Ranch market is HOT! 157 properties sold in the first six months of 2007.

Average sale price - \$323,062

Average price per square foot - \$122.10

Average days on market - 34



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CCHOA Announcements Continued**Circle C Landscape***Submitted by Susan Hoover*

Despite an overall slow down due to excessive rains, Circle C Landscape has continued trying to press forward on the scheduled landscape improvements for 2007. Here is a summary of where we are:

--Dahlgreen. Dahlgreen does not have any permanent water from Galsworthy to Gorham Glen. We are renovating the medians to include more drought tolerant plantings rather than sod in the medians. As of mid-July, we had killed out the weeds in the median about four times, but before we could get into plant, due to the rain, they would pop up again. This is the next area to be planted and hopefully, it will be done by the time you get this newsletter

--MoPac/LaCrosse hill on north side. This is a shallow soiled grassy hill that was planted originally with buffalo grass. The plan is to add a large perennial bed and some signage to the wall. We anticipate this being done by the end of August.

--Vinemont entry. The roses at the front were removed and the area has been replanted. Plants were also added to some of the empty beds along Vinemont and at the Carrington intersection. We will be adding some boulders/native rocks as bed enhancement.

--Escarpment decorative trees. This is now scheduled for late fall and will consist of diversified smaller trees being planted along

Escarpment

We are also making a change in the landscape and post office lighting. Circle C Ranch has approximately 650 landscape lights. We have done an analysis of most of the areas and as the current lights burn out and we use the existing inventory, we will be converting some of the areas to compact fluorescent lights. This will include the post offices, and some of the flood lighting that is easily converted. We are also consulting with the electrician regarding any other improvements that can be made in terms of energy efficiency for lighting throughout Circle C.

At this time due to all of the strange weather, we can't really give you an update on treatments and standard services as everything is off schedule. We will be attempting to deal with all of the vegetation overgrowth due to the rains. Everything, including weeds, has grown at about 2-3 times its normal rate, so judicious pruning is in order. Instead of fertilizing a light fertilization in June, we will be doing one in July. If you have yellowing in your plants and grass, it is probably due to too much water or need of fertilization. If it is hot and dry by the time you get this, and you want to apply fertilizer, look for a low nitrogen organically based product and use a minimal amount. Mow first and water in well.



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

Snake Education

Submitted by Keith P. de Solla

Circle C is home to a variety of snakes, some of which are venomous. It is important to teach your children not to attempt to handle any snake. Even non-venomous snakes can bite and a bite wound could become infected.

Non-venomous snakes likely to be seen in Circle C include:

- rough earth snake - small, solid color (silver brown to dark brown)
- rough green snake - up to 2.5ft, thin, bright green
- garter, ribbon and similar snakes - usually have a stripe running the length of the body.

The above snakes are generally small, harmless, and non-aggressive. Still, young children should be taught to respect snakes of all types and not attempt to pick any of them up.

A larger non-venomous snake is the Texas rat snake which can grow to 5 ft or more.

They are beneficial because they help keep the rodent population in check. The rat snake is known to be aggressive.

Texas is home to several venomous snake species including 4 that can be found in central Texas:

- Water moccasin (cottonmouth)
- copperhead
- western diamondback rattlesnake
- Texas coral snake

I am only aware of sightings of rattlesnakes and coral snakes in Circle C. The rattlesnakes can be aggressive but strike only when they feel threatened. And it usually lets you know that by rattling, but not always.

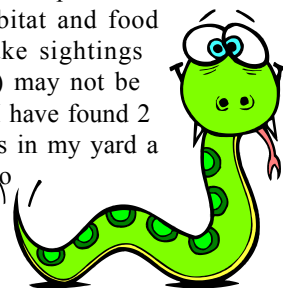
The coral snake is small, brightly colored and non-aggressive. However, its venom is highly toxic. Its mouth is very small and the fangs are further back in the mouth than other venomous snakes so an adult may be less likely to get bitten and injected with venom.

However, children and small pets could be bitten. The coral snake is easily identified by the color bands around its body: red, yellow, black. ("Red touch yellow, kill a fellow") Please see these web sites for more information and pictures:

<http://www.austinreptileservice.net/>
<http://www.kingsnake.com/venom/speciesindex.html>

http://www.bugsinthenews.com/snakes_in_central_texas_friend_or%20foe.htm

NOTE that weather patterns can affect snake habitat and food supplies so snake sightings (or lack thereof) may not be representative. I have found 2 or 3 coral snakes in my yard a couple of years ago when we had an unusually wet spring.



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

#1 Referral Group in Central Texas has moved to NUEVO LEON

5900 Slaughter Ln, Suite D550

Submitted by Bob McKenna, Circle C Ranch Resident

Did you know The Live Oak Network, a professional business referral organization, was rated #1 in membership and referrals generated in 2006? That's right... and we remain the #1 Chapter in Central Texas! But you know what's even better? We are also the most fun-loving, enthusiastic and supportive group of professionals too!

Quick Quiz:

1. Do you know a reliable and trustworthy service professional (residential, commercial, health and beauty, trades, or wedding/event planning) who places their customer's needs first?
2. Would you refer them to your friends and or family members without hesitation because they are really good?

If you answered "Yes", tell them The Live Oak Network is looking for more trustworthy, experienced professionals to join our growing network today!

The Live Oak Network is a non-competitive professional referral organization that admits one high quality individual or company per professional category to share ideas, contacts and most importantly referrals.

Are you curious? Do you want to learn how to build your business by referral? Visit us this week! We meet each Wednesday morning, and there is no obligation to join.

The Live Oak Network
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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Park West HOA News (pertains only to Park West residents)

Submitted by Board of Directors, Park West HOA

Have you heard the expression, "It is easier to ask for forgiveness than to ask for permission"? Fortunately, most Park West residents wishing to make changes to their front yards do ask for permission before making changes. A few residents proceed with no written approval from Park West, and the bylaws and rules require the Board of Directors to step in and maintain the "Park West Look". While the "Look" may be difficult to define, we know that fences made of chain link, bamboo, white pickets, or painted school colors do not reflect Park West.

What do Park West rules require? Following are excerpts from the rules, which were mailed to all residents in January 2007, and are provided to all new homeowners:

- Section II.A, item 1 states: "Exterior building modifications, including patio covers, decks, trellises, fencing and paint color, other than the existing color, must be approved by the Circle C Architectural Control Committee and the PWHOA Board of Directors."
- Item 3 in section II.A further states: "Fencing color and materials are subject to approval by Circle C Architectural Control Committee and the Park West Board of Directors."
- Section II.C, item 3 states: "An owner must obtain prior written approval from the Park West Board of Directors to make any additions, alterations, or removal of landscaping or fencing in the front yard area."
- What happens if a resident installs changes and then asks for forgiveness?
- Section II.C, item 3.d states: "The homeowner is responsible for the cost and implementation of repairing, removal or restoring any unapproved alterations or damage to the front yard improvements."

This means that the HOA can require the resident to remove the changes and restore things back to the original condition. If the resident fails to comply with this requirement, the HOA can have the removal and restoration work done and bill the resident for the costs incurred. Failure to pay this bill will result in a lien being placed on the property. Bottom line: it is easier (and potentially less costly) to ask for permission than to ask for forgiveness!

How does one ask for permission? The "Procedure for Submitting Plans" and "Procedure for Appeal of Maintenance Decision" were

(Continued on Page 11)



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Park West HOA - (Continued from Page 10)

Our first two "Meet The Landscaper" events were a success with 10-12 residents stopping by to talk to Lance Pearson about their front yard concerns. Future meetings are set for the first Tuesday, each

The recent rainy season has resulted in a few surprises besides the fast-growing grass, weeds, and other vegetation: an unexpected surprise is the appearance of snakes and non-poisonous tarantulas in our yards and garages! Most snakes and spiders are a beneficial part of the environment. Learn to recognize Texas' few poisonous snakes and spiders and let the good ones alone. And be mindful you may not be alone in your yard or garage!

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Mills Elementary Announcements

Submitted by Carrie Turlington

Just a couple of before-school dates to inform you of:

- Class Lists Posted: 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 21 (the PTA will be on hand serving waters and popsicles + bring your checkbook, there will be school spirit items to purchase).
- Open House (Meet your Teacher): 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., Friday, August 24 (pre-ordered/paid for school supplies will be available for pick-up)
- First Day of School: 7:45 a.m., Monday, August 27

If you have further questions, please visit the Mills PTA website at www.millspta.org

Family-friendly Summer Jam is Bigger Than Ever

Submitted by Michelle Moon Reinhardt

Oak Hill United Methodist Church will hold its annual live music festival, called Summer Jam, on Saturday, August 11, from 5pm to 8pm. The family-friendly festival, which is open to the South Austin community, features local bands from area churches, a barbeque dinner, and kids' activities, including water slides, moon walks and carnival games. Be sure to bring a lawn chair and a swimsuit!

New this year is a unique silent auction of more than 100 hand-made crosses. From glass to wood and even shells, each cross is designed and created by a member of the Oak Hill United Methodist Church. The proceeds of the silent auction will benefit youth ministries at the church.

Summer Jam will be held at the Oak Hill United Methodist Church, located across from the ACC Pinnacle campus on Highway 290. Tickets for the festival are \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 12. The ticket price includes entry to all children's activities and a barbeque dinner. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or in advance at the church office. For more information, go to www.oakhillumc.org.

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Austin Newcomers Club

August Luncheon

Submitted by Leslie Weber

Time: 11:00 AM Social; 12:00 Noon Luncheon

Date: August 15, 2007 (Reservations by Thursday, August 9)

Program: Tina Gramann, Director of Education for Zachary Scott Theatre, will discuss the theatre's education and outreach programs

Location: Green Pastures Restaurant

Street address: 811 W. Live Oak Street, 78704

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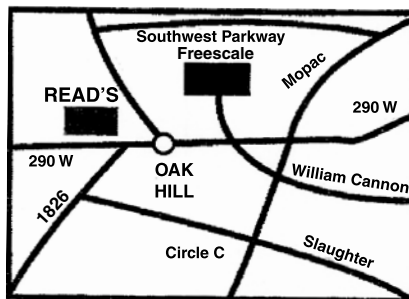
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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Circle C Kids Raise Over \$3300 For PawMatch Animal Rescue

Submitted by Jonathan Klein



What initially started as a desire to get a new pet quickly became so much more. Brandi Bunce, a 12 year old Bailey Middle School Honor Society student, wanted a new dog so she went to PawMatch to adopt "Patches", a brown and white Rat Terrier Mix. "Our family wanted a dog and I thought what better way to find one then to go to PawMatch and adopt an abandoned animal. My love for Patches led me to wanting to do more for animals just like her." Brandi turned her initial desire to do more into volunteering at the shelter on weekends for the last year and a half. As she started working at the shelter she noticed their desire to upgrade their facilities and programs so they could place more dogs and cats in safe and loving homes.

That's what led initially to a 2007 Spring fundraiser at Bailey Middle School

where student and staff donations raised a phenomenal \$2520, and then to the June 23-24 Summer Carnival which raised over \$800 for PawMatch. "For the Bailey fundraiser we gained permission to educate classmates on the great work PawMatch does by distributing flyers and then we went room to room for a week gathering donations," Brandi said. "The response we received was fantastic. That got my friends and I thinking about what we could do as an encore this summer to raise money and awareness in the neighborhood which lead to the idea of a kids carnival." When Brandi raised the idea with her parents they thought it was an inspired idea. "We told Brandi we would fully support her efforts and made two suggestions," said Rob Bunce, Brandi's dad. "First the kids had to organize and run the

event themselves and secondly, the financing of the prizes, posters etc. to run the event had to be raised by the girls that were putting together the carnival. I am very proud of their accomplishment."

After a few calls and as word spread, Brandi had over 15 Bailey Middle School Circle C classmates and Fusion Dance friends who had agreed to donate their weekend to the Carnival and to give at least \$10 each to finance the event. "Everyone loves animals and working for a great cause, so it was easier than I thought getting friends to participate, though I think everyone was surprised by how much work it was", said Brandi. The key to getting the Carnival off the ground was a donation from local businessman, Clayton Martin. "We couldn't have done the Carnival without the donation of the moonwalk and dunk tank from Bounce Across Texas. The moonwalk and dunk tank were the hit of the carnival for the neighborhood kids". Clayton Martin said, "We get inundated with many donation requests that we can't possibly fulfill them all, but we were so impressed by the neighborhood kids' commitment to this great cause and Circle C residents have been great in supporting our business, so wanted to participate."

The girls held a couple planning meetings at Brandi's house and put the finishing touches on the carnival at a Friday night sleepover where they baked cupcakes, organized prize giveaways and set up the Carnival events. Besides Bounce Across Texas' moonwalk and dunk tank, the Carnival included face painting, a basketball toss, a soccer shoot out, fishing

(Continued on Page 15)

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued***Circle C Kids - (Continued from page 14)**

game, chick petting, a cake walk and more. Kids earned coupons for each event they participated in and were able to redeem the coupons for prizes and treats. Before they knew it, the kid's weekend of fun and hard work had earned over \$800 for PawMatch.

Andrew Odam, Executive Director and Founder of PawMatch of Austin, was overwhelmed by the donation. "We have lots of great community volunteer and support, but the efforts of these girls exceeded our wildest expectations. In the history of PawMatch we have never had a donation this large from local children. We are grateful for everything Brandi and her friends have done."

Children participating in running the Carnival included: Brandi Bunce, Taylor Bryant, Anna Nelms, Kristin Nelms, Kyra Hyman, Jackie Moreno, Cammy Rawl, Caroline Klein, Megan Stookey, Ally Cox, Jake Moore, AJ Franzetti, Cassidy Blalack, Sara Arnold, Suzzana Roberts, Bethany Burke, Ally Kovar, Alex Maurice, Andie Haddad, Katie Zibelin, Lacey Fortune, Vanessa Page, Alexa Denny, Jade Dunlop, Sloan Dunlop, Lisa Hsi and Aubrey Pawelka.

About PawMatch: PawMatch is a fully qualified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Austin, Texas. Our primary mission is to place for adoption dogs and cats from Central Texas rural shelters and to assist pet owners in Austin who can no longer care for their pets. PawMatch operates a No-Kill Shelter, where all of our animals receive current shots and vaccinations and are spayed/neutered prior to being adopted.

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The MOMs Club of Circle C is a group designed just for the stay-at-home mother. We bring together moms from all over Circle C to share activities and playdates, perform service projects, and develop friendships.

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Email Heather Morrison hmmorrison@hotmail.com or Jodie Long jodielong@gmail.com or call 512-964-8051 or 512-215-9628 to join or for more information!



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Cub Scout Recruiting Coming to Area Schools

By Charles Mead

Families have as many choices as ever when it comes to spending their free time together. But few of those choices will offer parents fun for their children, while allowing mom and dad to get involved, too. Scouting can offer all this – plus access and opportunity to people and experiences that can help your child succeed in the future.

The start of the school year is a great time for families who are interested in getting started in Scouting, as school districts across Central Texas offer “Join Cub Scouting Nights” at their elementary school campuses. Join Cub Scouting Nights offer families of boys in the first through fifth grades the chance to find out what Scouting is all about, and ask leaders questions.

“Scouts get out of the house and have fun with friends,” says Capitol Area Council President, Winston Krause. “A child can try so many new things in Scouting, and moms and dads can be there with their children as they figure out what they like and what they don’t. The most important thing is that no matter what a Scout tries, he promises to do his best.”

Scouting aims to serve families in many ways, now and in the future. According to research by Harris Interactive, men who were Scouts are more likely than men who were never Scouts to graduate from high school and college, earn a higher annual household income, value family relationships, have lifelong friendships and believe in helping others.

“I like what they have taught my son, in teaching him how to be a

leader,” says Sandra Conrad, mother and Scout leader. “He’s learned leadership skills and he has the tools and he can move forward from here.”

Cub Scouts and their families can take advantage of the Capitol Area Council’s new 150-acre “Cub World” facility at Camp Tom Wooten, on the LCRA Lost Pines Scout Reservation in Bastrop. Every new Scout that joins this August or September will receive a free Pinewood Derby car kit courtesy of Gatti’s Pizza - and will be invited to an exclusive practice of the University of Texas Longhorn football team, hosted by former Scout, Mack Brown.

For more information about Scouting or Join Cub Scouting Night, go online to www.bsacac.org and look for the “Join Cub Scouting Night” link on the home page. If you don’t see information for the Join Cub Scouting Night at your child’s school, contact James Johnson at (512) 926-6363 ext. 33 or jjohnso@bsamail.org.



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SWFF is meeting at the AMC
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Circle C Committees

West Pool Committee Formed

Submitted by AE Martin, West Pool Committee Chair

The Circle C board has established a committee to plan a second swimming pool and associated amenities to be located at La Crosse and Spruce Canyon adjacent to Clayton elementary school. This property was designated for a pool in the Circle C master development plan and a preliminary concept was included in the master amenity plan which was completed in 2005 by RVI Landscape Architects. The board is in the process of taking ownership of the property and satisfying other requirements for construction.

The committee had an organizational meeting in May and now meets monthly; meeting times and dates are posted on the Circle C web site and meetings are open to residents. Normal meeting dates are the first Monday of each month. Work has focused on reviewing past resident surveys, examining the RVI concept in detail, and brainstorming new ideas. The committee is fortunate to have as members Circle C resident professionals in design and construction of pools and landscape planning. Field trips to other neighborhood associations to familiarize members with typical facilities are planned.

Your comments are welcome and may be directed to the committee via e-mail to Denise Nordstrom at info@circlecranch.info

Members of the committee are:

A.E.Martin, Chair
Richard Scott, Vice Chair
Catherine Thurk, Secretary
Jason Bram
Jessica Davis
James Moseley
Brian Pinsky
Charlie Rodenberg
Ronnie Stafford
Kelly Schmidt (non voting member)

Board liaisons are Michelle Moran and Russ Hodes

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Circle C Committees Continued

Circle C Neighborhood Watch Recruiting Block Captains

Submitted by Safety Committee, Dr. Steve Elmore, Committee Chair

Circle C Neighborhood Watch is now recruiting Block Captains (BC). We need a BC designated for every 10-15 houses, and each BC should be directly involved with his or her immediate neighbors. The BC's responsibilities include:

- Acting as liaison between block residents and the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator on the Safety Committee;
- Establishing a "telephone chain" by compiling and distributing a current list of names, addresses and telephone numbers of block participants;
- Visiting and inviting new residents to join Neighborhood Watch and notifying them of meetings and training sessions;
- Contacting each neighbor as often as possible to discuss possible crime problems, needs for assistance, and suggestions for program improvement.

If you are interested in becoming a BC and making your block, neighborhood and all of Circle C safer, please submit your name to the HOA office via email at info@circlecranch.info

National Night Out 2007

Submitted by Safety Committee, Dr. Steve Elmore, Committee Chair

National Night Out is Tuesday, August 7, 2007 from 6:00 to 9:00pm. NNO is an opportunity for Circle C Residents, law enforcement and other public safety officials to participate in events that promote crime and drug prevention awareness and to strengthen community ties. Circle C neighbors come together and send the message that we are all working together to prevent crime and keep our streets safe. On August 7th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., Circle C residents are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, EMS, and fire fighters.

Events in the past have included cookouts, block parties, parades, flashlight walks, contests, and youth activities. For the past 12 years, Texas had led the nation in citizen and police involvement. This will be a great opportunity to meet your neighbors, select block captains and organize Neighborhood Watch for your street! For additional information, please contact the Circle C Safety Committee!



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Circle C Committees Continued

Circle C Police Blotter - June 15 through July 14, 2007

Submitted by Safety Committee, Dr. Steve Elmore, Committee Chair

CRIME ALERT! Please note the increased number of vehicle burglaries and vandalism, almost all to Jeeps and pick-ups and most on the vicinity of South Bay. Please keep an eye out for any suspicious activity!

Tue, Jun-19-2007 00:00
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE
5000 block of VAN WINKLE LN

Thu, Jun-21-2007 00:05
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
6000 block of OLD HARBOR LN

Sat, Jun-23-2007 13:00
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
6000 block of BACK BAY LN

Sat, Jun-23-2007 22:00
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
11000 block of SOUTH BAY LN

Sat, Jun-23-2007 22:20
TERRORISTIC THREAT
4000 block of BLUESTAR DR

Mon, Jun-25-2007 13:00
THEFT OF BICYCLE
11000 block of PEBBLE GARDEN LN

Wed, Jun-27-2007 08:30
ASSAULT BY CONTACT
5000 block of VAN WINKLE LN

Wed, Jun-27-2007 22:00
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
6000 block of TASAJILLO TRL

Thu, Jun-28-2007 12:00
CRED CARD THEFT
11000 block of VIA GRANDE DR

Sun, Jul-08-2007 22:30
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF
11000 block of SOUTH BAY LN

Mon, Jul-09-2007 20:15
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE
6000 block of NEEDHAM LN

Mon, Jul-09-2007 22:00
THEFT OF LICENSE PLATE
11000 block of TRACTON LN

Mon, Jul-09-2007 23:00
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE
5000 block of SAVIN HILL CT

Tue, Jul-10-2007 00:01
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE
11000 block of MARDEN LN

Wed, Jul-11-2007 01:30
PROWLER
6000 block of BACK BAY LN

Thu, Jul-12-2007 01:46
BURGLARY OF VEHICLE
11000 block of SAVIN HILL LN

The police blotter is a public service provided by the Circle C Safety Committee and is intended to increase community awareness and inform residents. Reports have been modified to protect the identity of crime victims. All information provided is obtained through public records. Full reports can be found at <https://www.ci.austin.tx.us/police/reports/index.cfm>

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Circle C Committees Continued

Vacation Security Tips

Submitted by Safety Committee, Dr. Steve Elmore, Committee Chair

August is traditionally one of the busiest months for vacations, and burglars. Here are a few tips from the Circle C Safety Committee and the National Sheriff's Association so you can return from your vacation and find your home the same way you left it:

Install timers for your exterior lights (i.e. outside garage and above front door) that have a random time function – they go on or off within 10 to 20 minutes of the time you set. This gives a more random appearance to anyone casing the residence.

Put a hold on newspapers and mail. The Statesman delivery can be stopped online at <https://chatterbox-isd.ca/austin/Login.asp>, via e-mail at circulation@statesman.com, or by phone at (512)445-4040. The mail can be stopped online at <https://holdmail.usps.com/duns/HoldMail.jsp>.

Have a neighbor put out and return your trash cans and pick-up any flyers or deliveries left at the front door. Also, invite you neighbor to periodically park a car in your driveway.

Notify APD that you will be out of town (dial 311) and provide your contact numbers. If something happens to your home, APD has no way to track you down without them! Also advise your neighbors and Neighborhood Watch Block Captain. Let them know there should not be a "furniture delivery truck" in your driveway!

Test all your door and window locks. Secure anything that can be used to access unseen areas of your house (i.e. ladders, chairs, etc.).

Unplug all unnecessary electronics and appliances in case there is a nearby lightning strike.

Adjust your thermostats.

Keep blinds and curtains in the daylight position so neighbors and police can see in.

Turn down the ringer volume on your phones so they cannot be heard from outside. Forward your home phone to a cell phone if possible.

Lock the garage door and the gate to the back yard.

Test your alarm system. A cellular back-up is the only way the central monitoring station will receive a signal in the event your phone or cable lines are cut or not functioning.

If you do not have a lawn service, consider having a service come for the week you are away. "Realtor service" is typically \$35 to \$40.

If you are going to be gone for more than 4 days, make sure your irrigation system is turned on. Five straight days of 100°F heat will put your lawn and plants into decline.

Don't forget, Tuesday, August 7 is National Night Out!



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Circle C Amenities

The Golf Club at Circle C Ranch Announcements

Submitted by Denise Fisher

FIRST FRIDAYS Live Music Series:

August 3rd - Duck Soup

September 7th - Fast Lane

October 5th - Cory Morrow

Join us from 6-9pm on the First Friday of each month as our fall series continues with appearances by some of Austin's best local talent. Bring the whole family and enjoy fresh dinner and drink specials and FUN for all! Check our website for other dates and artists at www.thegolfclubatcirclec.com.

TRIAL MEMBERSHIPS

NOW is the TIME.....To treat yourself to that golf membership you've always promised yourself! Circle C Residents now have the opportunity to purchase a Trial Membership for just \$500. Experience all the benefits of full membership for 3 months. Space is limited so call today to get signed up and start your privileges. Some restrictions apply.

MEN'S LEAGUE every Wednesday!

NOW is the TIME.....To connect with friends and neighbors that share your passion! As a member of the league you'll play in competitive events every Wednesday and weekend tournaments

including a member/member, club championship, member/guest and the Circle C Cup. All this and much more for only \$500! Call the Pro Shop at 288.4297 ext. 1 to learn more.

EWGA every Tuesday!

The South League EWGA meets each Tuesday at 5:30pm for a 9-hole game. The mission of EWGA is to promote and foster a spirit of acceptance, dignity and respect of career-oriented women golfers. For more information or to register, call the EWGA Hotline at (512) 707-4402 or go to www.ewga-austin.com.

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DATES to REMEMBER

SATURDAY, August 18th: FREE Member Clinic. Open to all Grow-The-Game and Annual Members.

(Continued on Page 25)



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Circle C Amenities Continued

Golf Club- (Continued from Page 24)

SUNDAYS: Every Sunday at 1pm is our SUNDAY SKINS GAME

FRIDAYS: Every Friday afternoon is our MEMBER GAME

TWILIGHT TIME: 5:30pm

HOURS OF OPERATION: GRILL 6:30am-8pm, PRO SHOP - 6:30am-7pm

CLOSED: Monday, August 13th & Monday, August 20th

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Circle C Amenities *Continued*

Circle C Tennis Club Announcements

Submitted by Fernando Velasco

The Circle C Tennis Club is a Private Club. The dues paid to the Circle C Home Owners Association do not give automatic usage of the courts. Residents and non-residents of Circle C Ranch are welcome to join. There is an affordable Initiation Fee for the different types of Membership. Monthly dues paid allow Members to use the Tennis Courts on an unlimited basis, plus be able participate in all the programs that the Tennis Club offers. For membership information, please contact us at 301-8685 or visit us at the tennis facility located across the Golf Club at Circle C.

Fall Tennis Programs

The Circle C Tennis Club will be offering lessons for adults and juniors of all ages and abilities during the Fall months. Lessons are taught by Fernando Velasco, Darin Pleasant, Mandon Maloney, Brent Smiga, and Danny Rodriguez.

Fall Schedule – Begins the week of August 27, 2007

Juniors

- Pee Wee for ages 3-5 (half-hour sessions)
 - Monday and Wednesday 4:00 – 4:30 pm
- Pee Wee for ages 3-5 (one-hour sessions)
 - Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 – 4:30 pm

- Grand Prix for ages 6-8:
 - Monday and Wednesday 4:30 – 5:30 pm
- Grand Prix for ages 9-11:
 - Tuesday and Thursday, 4:30 – 5:30 pm
- Grand Prix for ages 12-15:
 - Monday and Wednesday, 4:30 – 5:30 pm
- Pre-Advanced Tournament Players I (By Invitation Only)
 - Tuesday and Thursday, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
- Pre-Advanced Tournament Players II (By Invitation Only)
 - Monday and Wednesday 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm
- ATP (Advanced Tournament Players (By Invitation Only)
 - Monday through Friday, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

Adults Beginners

- Monday, 6:00 – 7:00 PM (Co-ed)
- Thursday, 8:30 – 9:30 am (Ladies)
- Friday, 10:00 – 11:00 am (Ladies)
- Saturday, 11:30 – 12:30 pm (Co-Ed)

To sign up, please stop by the Tennis Pro Shop. For more information, you may contact us at 301-8685 or visit our Web-site: www.circlectennis.com.

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Circle C Amenities Continued

August Events at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Submitted by Saralee Tiede

Summer Sessions, Go Native U

Go Native U has one special summer session in August.-- Native Grasses for the Home Landscape will explore grass function and the "top ten" native grass species for your home. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, August 11. For details, prices and registration, visit www.wildflower.utexas.edu/gnu

Summer Camps with Abrakadoodle®!

There are some places left in the Abrakadoodle®, art education half-day, full-day and new evening summer camps. Programming for Mini-doodlers (ages 3-5) and Doodlers (ages 6-14). All half-day camps are four days long, Monday - Thursday. Details and registration at www.abrakadoodle.com or call 380.7555.

Specials at the Store

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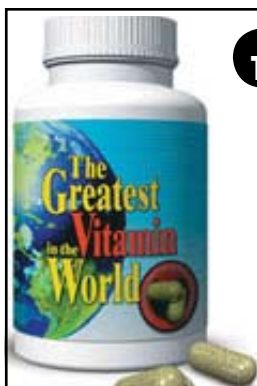
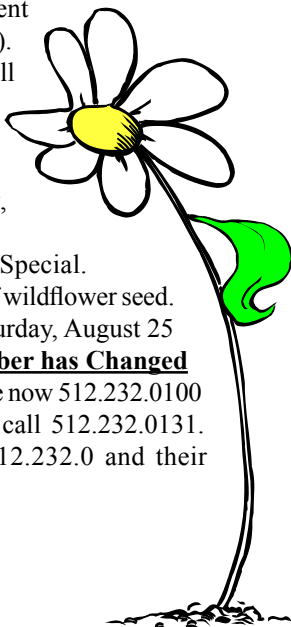
Annual art print sale. Save 50 percent on all Wildflower Days art prints from any year, and 25 percent off any other art print (not photographs). All weekend. (Are you a member? You'll save yet another 10 percent!) Saturday, August 11

Book Clearance. Save 40% or more on various selected titles. Saturday, August 18

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The Wildflower Center's Phone Number has Changed

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The live wire

August 3rd..... Guy Forsythe
Nuttly Brown Café

August 8th..... Adam Hood
Hills Cafe

August 10th..... Ray Wylie Hubbard
Threadgill's

August 10th..... The Gourds
Gruene Hall

August 12th..... Jimmy LaFave
San Marcos River Pub

August 16th..... Texas Renegade
Nuttly Brown Café

August 18th..... Ian Moore
Antone's

August 24th..... Reckless Kelly
Stubb's BBQ

The "Live Wire" is not a paid advertisement or endorsed by the performers or venues. The list of suggested events is provided as a convenience in support of Austin's status as the "Live Music Capital of the World"; it is compiled from information available at the time of submittal, and may change. Readers are encouraged to validate accuracy with the performer or the venue.

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Circle C Swim Center Hours July 29th - August 25th Updated 7/10/07 (Pool Office 288-6057)

Time	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
5:30am	Closed	Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm	Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm	Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm	Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm	Lap Swim 5:30am - 6pm	Closed
6:00am							
6:30am							
7:00am							
7:30am							
8:00am							
8:30am							Lap Swim 7:30am-9pm
9:00am							
	Rec & Lap Swim 1:30-7:30pm Closes at 7:30PM	Group Swim Lessons 9-11am Rec Swim 9am - 9pm Closes at 9:00PM	Group Swim Lessons 9-11am Rec Swim 9am - 9pm Closes at 9:00PM	Group Swim Lessons 9-11am Rec Swim 9am - 9pm Closes at 9:00PM	Group Swim Lessons 9-11am Rec Swim 9am - 9pm Closes at 9:00PM	Lap Swim 5:30am - 6pm	Group Swim Lessons 9-11am
9:30am							
10:00am		Aqua Aerobics 9:30am-10:30am	Aqua Aerobics 9:30am-10:30am	Aqua Aerobics 9:30am-10:30am	Aqua Aerobics 9:30am-10:30am		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
10:30am							
11:00am		Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm	Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm	Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm	Lap Swim 5:30am - 9pm		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
11:30am							
12:00pm							
12:30pm							
1:00pm		Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
1:30pm		Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
3:00pm							
3:30pm		Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
4:00pm							
4:30pm							
5:00pm							
5:30pm		Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
6:00pm		Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
6:30pm							
7:00pm		Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
7:30pm							
8:00pm		Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p	Group Swim Lessons 4:30p - 6:30p		Rec Swim 9am-9pm Closes at 9:00PM
8:30pm							

Lake Travis, Mansfield Dam Spare Austin From Blunt of Recent Floods

Submitted by LCRA



Four floodgates were open at Mansfield Dam.



Debris and high water from floodwaters make the lakes unsafe for recreational boating.



Water rushes into Lake Austin from floodgate operations in Mansfield Dam.

Thanks to Lake Travis and Mansfield Dam, Austin has been spared the brunt of what state emergency officials call the most extensive flooding in 50 years.

Built and managed by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), Lake Travis captured and stored roughly 700,000 acre-feet – more than 228 billion gallons – of floodwaters that resulted from torrential rains in the Hill Country in late June, including a 19-inch rain in the Marble Falls area.

Before Mansfield Dam was completed in the early 1940s, such floodwaters would flow uncontrolled down the Colorado River channel, cutting Austin in half and sweeping away anyone and anything in its path.

One flood in April 1900 destroyed the original Austin Dam, built just a few years earlier. Basinwide, the flood claimed 47 lives and caused the equivalent of \$327 million of property damages in today's dollars.

Unfortunately, floods of this magnitude were a frequent occurrence, which eventually led to the construction by LCRA of Mansfield Dam, which forms Lake Travis, from 1937 to 1942, as part of its mission of protecting people, property and the environment.

Of the six Highland Lakes created by LCRA from 1935 to 1951, Lake Travis is the only one that is specifically designed to hold Hill Country stormwaters that can cause horrendous flooding. The 266-foot-high Mansfield Dam joins with the Colorado River's high canyon walls to form a giant holding area, called a "flood pool," where LCRA can store floodwaters until they can be released in a controlled manner downstream.

This gigantic holding pool is necessary, as all storm runoff from a 15,000-square-mile area in West and Central Texas eventually flows into the Colorado River – and into Lake Travis.

During the peak of the flooding in late June, floodwaters were flowing into Lake Travis at the rate of about 250,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), or about 162 billion gallons a day. Because of floodgate operations by LCRA, the amount of releases through Mansfield Dam was only about 26,000-30,000 cfs, enough to fill the river channel while keeping the floodwaters in check.

As of July 6 the rains of late June and early July had caused Lake Travis to peak at 701.52 feet above mean sea level (msl) – more than 20 feet above the lake's full elevation into its flood pool. This is the lake's fifth highest all-time peak elevation, almost 9 feet below the all-time high of 710.4 feet msl set during the Christmas Flood of 1991.

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After two decades, the fight continues to suppress Oak Wilt

By Clare Miers

SPECIAL TO THE AMERICAN-STATESMAN
Saturday, May 26, 2007

[Reprinted with Permission]

National experts are gathering in Austin on June 4-7 to discuss strategies for fighting oak wilt, a fungal disease that has wiped out more than a million trees in Central Texas as it continues its aggressive march through the area.

The second National Oak Wilt Symposium will feature speakers, research presentations and brainstorming from some of the people who are relentless in their efforts to stem the tree disease.

"Oak wilt doesn't know the boundaries between houses, like we do when we edge our yard or mow it," says Damon Waitt, a senior botanist at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. "You almost have to come together as a community. It's not usually one house; it's the entire community that's impacted."

Oak wilt is one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States. The culprit is *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, a fungus that invades and clogs the tree's water conducting system, causing the tree to rapidly die. The disease is spread from one tree to another through the trees' root systems and also can be spread by nitidulid beetles that are attracted to freshly cut wood. As the beetles come into contact with fresh wounds — from pruning or storm damage for instance — they pass the oak wilt fungus from tree to tree.

Oak wilt can spread as much as 200 feet per year, but many experts

give a more conservative estimate of 75 to 100 feet per year. Still, it wreaks devastation on homeowners and neighborhood residents who watch tree after tree die.

"We have about 250 of what we refer to as oak wilt mortality areas within the city limits," says Chris Dolan, arborist with the City of Austin's Oak Wilt Suppression Program.

Travis Heights in South Austin has been a hotbed since the 1980s. Like an unwanted visitor, oak wilt is going door to door on several blocks east of South Congress Avenue bounded by Academy Drive, Newning Avenue and Park Lane.

Because oak wilt spreads through roots, one of the extreme ways to battle the disease is by digging deep trenches around an infected area to keep the roots from sharing the fungus with healthier trees. In some cases, this is effective, but by no means foolproof.

"The good news is that the most recent big trench in Travis Heights appears to be holding, so that's good news when you spend somewhere in the neighborhood of \$150,000 for that Travis Heights trench," Dolan says. "You are keeping your fingers crossed that it won't breach."

Travis Heights is not alone.

Forester Carrie Jean Burns is in charge of patrolling oak wilt infestations in Lakeway, on the shores of Lake Travis west of Austin. She is managing 20 oak wilt centers that have been identified since the late 1980s. An oak wilt center is an area where oak wilt initially infects

(Continued on Page 41)

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Oak Wilt - (Continued from Page 40)

one oak, then moves through the roots to surrounding oaks, creating a continually expanding area of dead and dying trees.

Burns says she's been getting on average one new oak wilt center a year. Luckily, the latest oak wilt center consists of only a few infected oaks on one property. A bit more harrowing is the largest oak wilt center, identified in 1988, which now includes 17 acres.

Battling oak wilt on a day-to-day basis, Burns says the casualties and anticipation of more trees becoming infected are distressing.

"Many of the homeowners are keeping their oaks alive with expensive fungicide treatments that are usually repeated every two to three years," Burns says. "Those who can't afford to treat their oaks with fungicide often end up having to pay thousands of dollars to cut down the dead trees later. It's heartbreaking for anyone who loves their oaks, but it's particularly hard on retirees living on fixed incomes."

In 2001, the Texas Forest Service, which surveys oak wilt's damage and is constantly seeking proactive measures, awarded some cities an Oak Wilt Partnership Grant to hire a full-time forester to deal with the problem. Lakeway's Burns has been overseeing many trenching projects for five years.

"We've been following the guidelines laid out by the Texas Forest Service, but despite all of the effort and expense, the results have been disheartening," Burn says. "We have an unusually high rate of breakouts (where oak wilt crosses the trench lines) and some neighborhoods have been trenched three or four times without stopping the oak wilt."

Trenching can be a tricky strategy. In addition to dealing with many

factors, such as the depth needed to sever all roots, the Forest Service requires a minimum of 100 feet of distance from an infected tree.

Twenty-four oak wilt suppression trenches, costing \$627,000, have been installed in Lakeway since 1989 and all were paid for by the city with assistance from the Texas Forest Service.

"It's very difficult and expensive to trench across streets, between houses and through people's yards, but that's where the oak wilt is concentrated — in older residential neighborhoods with big trees," Burns explains, adding that Lakeway is at a turning point in its efforts.

"We're just having too many trench failures," she says. "In the near future I'll be meeting with the City Council to discuss whether we should continue our city-funded trenching program."

Burns says that even if the city continues trenching, Lakeway

(Continued on Page 42)



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Oak Wilt - (Continued from Page 41)

concentrate on planting as many different tree species as possible now. Dealing with the aftermath of oak wilt is an important phase of dealing with the overall problem, she says.

Other areas are not immune. Cedar Park is dealing with nine known oak wilt centers within the city limits and three other areas in extrajurisdictional jurisdictions. Trees in the red oak group, including Spanish oak, Shumard oak and blackjack oak, are extremely susceptible, too.

"Most of the areas have kept the oak wilt in check by trenching and/or injection (fungicide treatments). The homeowners association will typically raise the funds for suppression with whatever cost-share programs are available from the Texas Forest Service," says Curt Randa, director of the Cedar Park Parks and Recreation Department."

Randa is warning Cedar Park residents to trim at appropriate times — spring is an especially bad time to prune because the beetles are active — and with correct methods, but he also believes in pushing for tree diversification.

"We also plant a wide variety of species in our parks to limit susceptibility to oak wilt," Randa says.

Waitt agrees. "I would say to people to think ahead in terms of 100 years," he says. "Let's start to diversify our oaks in Central Texas now because this disease is not just going to disappear overnight. It's going to be an ongoing battle, so let's start diversifying now."

There are challenges even with proactive measures Central Texans are taking. Some believe that oak wilt is an ecological act of Mother Nature.

"There's definitely a relationship between disease spread and host density," Waitt says. "Some say that this is Mother Nature taking her normal course of action."

Dolan is looking for proactive approaches. He hopes to nip things in the bud by encouraging new developments to trench around the oak wilt mortality areas before they build.

"I am able to get a heads up on where oak wilt is on raw land that is being developed; either it is already in the city or it's about to be annexed," Dolan says.

"I contact developers and get them to basically spring for this trenching because if you wait until the neighborhoods developed, it would cost \$40,000 (to) \$150,000 (or more) and would be a nightmare to get it done" after the development's infrastructure is in place."

If you divide Austin into quadrants, Dolan says that Southwest Austin by far has the worst case of oak wilt. He says Oak Hill is dealing with substantial outbreaks and Circle C Ranch has oak wilt within the property.

"There's a lot of oak wilt along Brodie Lane, headed toward Hays County," Dolan notes.

Neighborhoods are becoming very involved in educating one another. And communities are responding. In Lakeway, there's zero tolerance for tree trimming ignorance. A daily, steep fine is assessed if a homeowner doesn't paint the wounds of a freshly trimmed oak. Also, building and development ordinances prohibit the planting of any oak susceptible to oak wilt.

(Continued on Page 43)

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Oak Wilt - (Continued from Page 42)

City municipalities, residents and neighborhood associations are warning shady and careless tree trimmers to back away from the city's cherished oaks from February through June when the beetles are running rampant. Web sites and blogs are in place to discuss problem areas for oak wilt, first-hand accounts and schedules for meetings.

Dolan, with a PowerPoint slideshow in tow, recently spoke to a packed house of 400 Northwest Hills folks. Austin citizens want to be educated and share vital information about oak wilt. Dolan says that Northwest Hills is the No. 1 example of a unified community action group trying to fight oak wilt.

"The Travis Heights neighborhood (South River City Citizens association, www.saveaustinoaks.org) did just a phenomenal job at recognizing the problem, and then systematically addressing the issues one at a time while leveraging and getting ownership from multiple partners including the City of Austin, Texas Forest Service, Texas Gas company, Milkshake Media, the Austin music community and the many, many, concerned, ambitious, educated, and talented residents of this neighborhood," says Jim Rooni, chief regional forester with the Texas Forest Service/Central Texas Region. "The result is over a mile of suppression trench while also educating citizens on oak wilt awareness (prevention, treatment options and replanting of resistant species)."

Oak wilt will likely never be eradicated, but the intelligent search and exploration are on to reduce the casualties.
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	TOTAL	AVERAGE				TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Feet	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	46	2,806	\$ 110	1993	39	32	12
North	22	1,906	\$ 133	1996	23	8	5
Wildflower	16	2,403	\$ 120	2001	14	3	8
On The Park	6	3,355	\$ 114	1996	29	3	2
Vintage Place	11	2,899	\$ 118	2004	71	3	1
Hielscher	31	3,047	\$ 122	2003	28	14	4
West	14	3,483	\$ 127	2005	73	8	3
Park West	12	2,288	\$ 146	2002	49	5	1
Park Place	17	2,620	\$ 124	2003	29	3	0
Muirfield	11	3,215	\$ 137	2006	122	5	6
Enclave / Lacrosse	4	2,553	\$ 123	2006	44	5	0
Alta Mira	10	2,911	\$ 121	2006	65	6	3
Circle C Ranch Total	200	2,757	\$ 123	2000	43	95	45
% Change Mo/Mo	9%	-1%	1%	0%	-9%	16%	-20%

Corresponding Neighborhood Map on AUSTINREPS.com

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 07/09/07. In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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