



# CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the  
Circle C Homeowner's Association

## Newsletter

Volume 5, Number 12

December 2008

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

## 2008 Holiday Events – You Don't Want to Miss!

### Kid's Event – December 6, 2-5pm

Join Santa at the Child Development Center for the biggest party of the year! There will be face painting, balloon twisters, crafts, snacks and drinks, a train ride, bouncy castles & obstacle courses and much more.

### Foster a smile this holiday season.

There's nothing to get you in the holiday mood like the smile of a grateful child. Each year the Adoption Coalition of Texas is faced with the task of finding not only families for children in foster care, but holiday gifts to live their spirits. There are never enough resources for foster families to provide for all the children in their care with gifts during the holidays.

This season, give foster children something to smile about! Bring an unwrapped toy or gift to the annual Circle C Kids Holiday party on Saturday, December 6 at 2pm. Or, if you'd like to make it more personal, stop by Austin Real Estate Partners in Escarpment Village to pull a child's name from their tree and buy specific gifts tailored to the child's age and interest.

For more information contact Melinda McKenna at 288-8088 or [melinda@AUSTINREPS.com](mailto:melinda@AUSTINREPS.com)

### Adult Event – December 20, 7-11pm

Join us at the Wildflower Center for a night of casino, dancing and buffet. Tickets prices are \$10 per person and can be purchased at the HOA office between 10am and 3pm. If you can't come by during that time, send us an email at [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) or call us at 288-8663 and we'll make arrangements.

You don't want to miss the biggest HOA events of the year!

## Go Green Go Paperless

Sign up to receive *The Circle C Ranch Newsletter* in your inbox.  
Visit [PEELinc.com](http://PEELinc.com) for details.

## Board of Direction Elections

*Submitted by the Nominating Committee*

In March of 2009 we will have the CCHOA Annual meeting and will be electing two new Board Members to serve three year terms. Cynthia Moreland and Mary Goehring's terms will be ending. The Nominating Committee will be collecting questionnaires that can be down loaded from the Circle C Homeowner website, [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info). If you are interested in running, please submit a questionnaire by February 4, 2009. Once the questionnaire is received, the Nominating Committee will contact you and share information about serving on the Board. We hope to assist any interested people in understanding the time commitment and details of the position. Our goal is to better communicate all that is involved in serving on the Board. If you have any questions, please email the HOA office at [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info)



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## CCHOA Numbers

HOA Mgmt Office .....info@circlecranch.info or 288-8663  
 Financial Office..... 451-9901  
 Aquatics Director..... 288-4239  
 Newsletter Publisher  
 Peel, Inc. Sales Office.....512-263-9181  
 Adv./Kelly Peel ..advertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181

### 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

### Sub Association Info:

KB Enclave and Fairway Estates HOA  
 Kim Bigley, CMCA, Manager ..... 347-2888

Parkwest HOA  
 Goodwin Management ..... 502-7509

Streetman Enclave HOA  
 Camille Belcher ..... 646-6710

Muirfield HOA  
 Sara Huff ..... 219-1927

## Annual Report of the Board of Directors

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors will be published in the January 2009 Newsletter – the board will report on all activities of the HOA; also included will be a year-end financial statement and the 2009 Budget.

## REMEMBER

### NO Dumping at the Swim Center

*Just a reminder that the dumpster located in the swim center parking lot is for HOA trash ONLY.*

## Swim Center Winter Hours (Oct 6 - Dec 22)

### Lap Swim

Mon-Fri 6am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm  
 Saturday 7:30am - 8pm • Sunday 10am - 7pm

### Rec Swim

Mon - Fri 9am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm  
 Saturday 12pm - 6pm • Sunday 12pm - 6pm

The pool will be closed on the weekends after October 26th.

The pool will also be closed in observance of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years on the following dates:

Nov 24 - 28, Dec 22 - 26, Dec 29 - Jan 2

## 2008 Board of Directors

Rob Johnson.....President  
 Steve Urban..... Vice President  
 Cynthia Moreland ..... Secretary  
 Russ Hodes..... Treasurer  
 Jason Bram.....Development Officer  
 Cindy Groves ..... Board Member  
 Mary Goehring..... Board Member  
 Contact Information ..... Email: directors@circlecranch.info

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Austin Solid Waste..... 974.1945  
 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  
 SAYSA..... 899.1049



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The Jaymes Willoughby Team works with home improvement contractors every day, from plumbers to window washers, to landscape gurus. We know who's reliable, and who can't be trusted. Check back here every month to find the name of someone who we think is one of the best!

Not intended to solicit properties currently for sale.

## CCHOA News

### Deed Restriction News

*Submitted by Denise Nordstrom*

The HOA staff drives two sections of Circle C per month to note any violations of the deed restrictions. 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, areas of dead grass, boats, RV's, trailers and general home maintenance issues. 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 PLEASE CALL the HOA office at 288-8663. It's impossible to know everyone's individual situation, so we appreciate communication from you.

If you have a deed restriction to report, you may submit the specific address

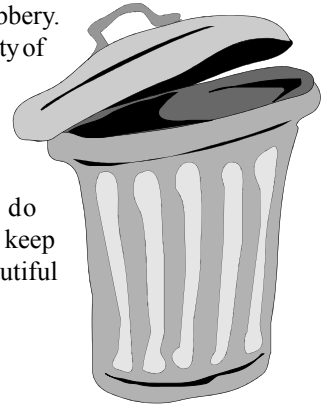
at [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) or give us a call at 288-8663. Violations that are reported are generally checked with 3 business days and if we are able to confirm a violation, we will begin the deed restriction process (which you can access on the website at <http://www.circlecranch.info/documents/AssociationDocuments/DeedRestrictions/CCHOA-DeedRestrictionPolicy2003.pdf>



### Hide Your Garbage Can & Recycle Bin!

We are continuing to receive many complaints from residents about owners who are storing their garbage can and recycle bin in view from the street. Garbage cans and recycle bins should be hidden from view – either behind your fence, in your garage or behind shrubbery.

The vast majority of homeowners are able to hide their cans out of view, please do YOUR part to keep Circle C a beautiful place to live.



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***"...a pleasure to work with"***

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## CCHOA News Continued

### Circle C's Annual Adult and Kid's Holiday Events

*Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, CCHOA Manager*

Please join us on December 6, 2008 at 2pm for the Annual Kid's Holiday Event at the Child Development Center. Come meet Santa, go for a train or pony ride, listen to carolers, write letters to Santa and enjoy holiday treats! There is no cost for admission for residents and their guests, but are asking for a special donation.

This season, give foster children something to smile about! Bring an unwrapped toy or gift to the annual Circle C Kids Holiday party on Saturday, December 6 at 2pm. Or, if you'd like to make it more personal, stop by Austin Real Estate Partners in Escarpment Village to pull a child's name from their tree and buy specific gifts tailored to the child's age and interest.

For more information about donations, contact Melinda McKenna of Austin Real Estate Partners at 288-8088 or [melinda@AUSTINREPS.com](mailto:melinda@AUSTINREPS.com)

The Adult Holiday Event will be held on December 20, 2008 at 7pm at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. Join us for lavish buffet, music, casino and dancing.

*Dr. Simon Garza & his Dental Staff  
wish you a Merry Christmas!*



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## CCHOA News Continued



### We Would Like to Thank You for Bringing in Your Aluminum Soda Can Pop Tabs!

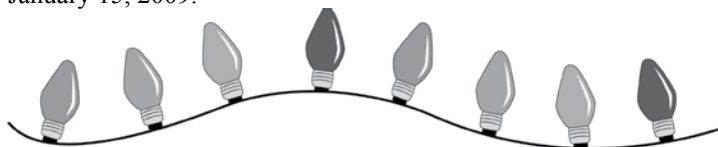
Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who has begun the habit of collecting their aluminum soda can tabs! The HOA is continuing to collect aluminum soda can tabs in the management office so please **DO NOT** throw your cans away without taking off the tabs. The tabs will be donated to the Ronald 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/>

### Holiday Lighting Contest

It's time to pull out all your holiday decorations and light up the night! This year's Holiday Lighting Contest will be Friday, December 19th (beginning at 6pm) through Sunday, December 21st (ending at 9pm). Judges will drive the neighborhood Friday, Saturday or Sunday night so in order to participate, you **MUST** have your lights on all three nights. Winners will be announced Monday, December 22nd via the website. Prizes will be awarded by January 30th. The neighborhood will be divided into 10 sections and each second will have a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winner. Winners receive a \$25, \$50 or \$100 gift card that is available through our credit card points reward system. Winners will be notified through mail. In order to make this event a success we need **YOU** to volunteer with your family, a friend or a neighbor to drive one of the sections. If you are interested please contact the HOA office at 288-8663 or via email at [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info)

Please remember that all holiday lights should be removed by January 15, 2009.



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**CCHOA News Continued****Oak Wilt Alert—Escarpment Area South Bay, East Of Terminus***Submitted by Susan Hoover, Circle C Landscape***Escarpment Area**

Homeowners on Escarpment, east side need to be aware that the oak wilt which was reported earlier in the year near Escarpment is still active. The specific area this originated in was Pinkney Court. Homeowners in that area have had their trees diagnosed and treated.

Earlier, we treated four trees on Escarpment in the direct pathway and adjacent to the diseased trees. Unfortunately, they did not respond to the treatment and are not able to be saved. We are currently providing treatment in the median to hopefully stop it in this area.

If you back to Escarpment, you can see the trees that have died (they are tagged in pink ribbon) and the ones that we are treating in the median (tagged with white ribbon).

**South Bay Area**

Oak Wilt has been diagnosed in a tree that died rapidly east of the east terminus of South Bay. Denise Nordstrom, CCHOA Manager has worked with the City of Austin arborist and Stratus Properties in obtaining a grant to provide an oak wilt trench along the future east extension of South Bay.

**What you can do as a homeowner:**

If you live in either of these areas in close proximity (east side of Escarpment between the two Redmond roads, or South Bay area, particularly south Gorham Glen, Bexley Court, Gorham Glen Court) you may want to have your trees evaluated by a certified arborist. We also recommend to anyone in the neighborhood with large oak trees that you use a certified arborist for pruning and treatment. This is the safest way to protect your trees. For more information on oak wilt, you can reference the following website:

[www.texasoakwilt.org](http://www.texasoakwilt.org)

***Don't want to wait for the mail?***

**View the current issue  
of the Circle C Newsletter  
on the 1st day of the month at  
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## CCHOA News Continued

### Circle C Supports the Capital Area Food Bank

December 1-December 15, 2008

In a unique opportunity to work together as a community, the Circle C Homeowners Association Special Events Committee, Circle C Landscape, and the Escarpment Village vendors coordinated by Austin Real Estate Partners will be sponsoring a major food and donation drive to benefit the Capital Area Food Bank during the holiday season.

We encourage everyone to participate.

#### Food Facts for Central Texas

- The Capital Area Food Bank partners with 370 social service agencies to distribute food to 21 counties in Central Texas. They also provide additional assistance in times of need for hurricane and other disaster relief.
- In Central Texas, 1 in 4 children and 1 in 5 adults need assistance with obtaining food. Of these, 82% are food insecure, and 49% have outright hunger.
- In tough economic times, and with the cost of food rising, senior citizens, and low income families simply have to make choices between the basics, and often eliminate food to buy medicine, or pay for housing and gas.


#### How to Donate

- We will be placing food collection bins at prominent locations throughout the neighborhood. Look for the blue barrels at the post offices, swim center, child development center, Escarpment Village, and elementary schools December 1-December 15. See the list below for most requested items. For every 1 lb of food donated, the Food Bank can provide .8 meals.
- Consider making a financial donation online. Go to the Circle C website at [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info) and look for the link to make an online donation as part of the Circle C food drive. This is a great way to participate because for every \$1.00 given, the Food Bank can provide 5 meals to a hungry child, adult or senior.

Our Goal: Provide 15,000 meals for Central Texans

We would like the Circle C community as a whole to provide 15,000 meals for Central Texans during the food drive. Given the 4,000 plus homes in the community, this is certainly achievable. So, take a little time to either donate online or bring any of the following items to one of the food barrels in December.

*(Continued on Page 9)*




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We look forward to helping you create your perfect home!





## CCHOA News Continued

CC Supports - (Continued from Page 8)

### Most Requested Items:

- Canned meat like tuna, stew and chili with pop tops
- Canned vegetables
- Pasta and Pasta Sauce
- Beans
- Rice
- Healthy cereals
- Peanut butter
- Baby food and Baby formula

We hope that every family in Circle C will take a little time to remember others in need during the holiday season and we look forward to a great food drive.

## 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](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) by the 12th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info)

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Turn Hungry Holidays  
into Happy Holidays.

The Circle C Homeowners Association invites you and  
your family to join us in generously supporting the  
Capital Area Food Bank this Holiday Season.

## Donate Food or \$\$\$ December 1-December 15, 2008

**FOOD DONATIONS: 5 LBS OF FOOD PROVIDES 4 MEALS**

Look for the food collection bins throughout the neighborhood at the post offices, swim  
center, Child Development Center, Escarpment Village, elementary schools.

**\$\$\$ DONATIONS: A \$5.00 DONATION PROVIDES \$20.00 WORTH OF MEALS**

**\$\$\$ Donations (Online or at CCHOA Office)**

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

### Food Barrel Donations

#### Food Items:

Canned meat—tuna, stew, chili with pop tops

Canned vegetables

Pasta and Pasta Sauce

Beans

Rice

Healthy Cereals

Peanut Butter

Baby Food and Baby Formula

### Monetary Donations

#### \$\$\$ Donations:

Checks to:

Capital Area Food Bank  
(drop at CCHOA Office)

DONATE ONLINE:

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

**Goal for Circle C Ranch 2008 Food Drive  
15,000 meals**

## CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

### Gardner Named Wildflower Center's Official Artist for Wildflower Days 2009

*Submitted by Barbara Rodriguez*

AUSTIN, Texas— The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at The University of Texas at Austin is proud to announce South Texas native Mary Catherine Gardner as the official artist of Wildflower Days 2009.

Her winning watercolor painting featuring winecup wildflowers will become a permanent addition to the center's art collection.

"The piece's vivid and contrasting colors capture winecups' beauty," said Joe Hammer, director of product marketing at the Wildflower Center. "Her piece will be a unique addition to our art collection."

Gardner's painting will serve as the official promotional logo for Wildflower Days™ and will be available as posters for sale in the Store. Wildflower Days™ is an annual season of special spring events, which includes the Artists and Artisans Festival, March 21 and 22 and the Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival on April 11 and 12.

Schedule permitting, she will also be one of more than a dozen artists on hand the weekend of the center's Wild Ideas Holiday Shopping Event on Dec. 5, 6 and 7. Admission to the center is free during this event.

Gardner's creative presence in Austin started with Apple-Gardner Design, a graphic design business she began in 1991. In summer 2003 she shifted her focus to watercolor painting. She has since been commissioned to create several private works and continues to gain recognition along the South Texas Coast.

"My paintings are strongly influenced by my love of photography and my desire to capture impressions of shape, color, texture and mood," Gardner said about her art. "I want my colors to be vivid. I love color and contrast."

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**CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued****Circle C Senior Men's Group***Submitted by Ralph Francis*

No officers. No age limit. No dues. No bylaws. Just a group of guys who are old enough to solve all the world's problems over breakfast every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. at the Escarpment Waterloo Ice House.

No special invitation is necessary. Just join us Wednesdays for "lots of talk on senior guy stuff...like home repairs politics, doctors, grandchildren, cars, and every other topic."

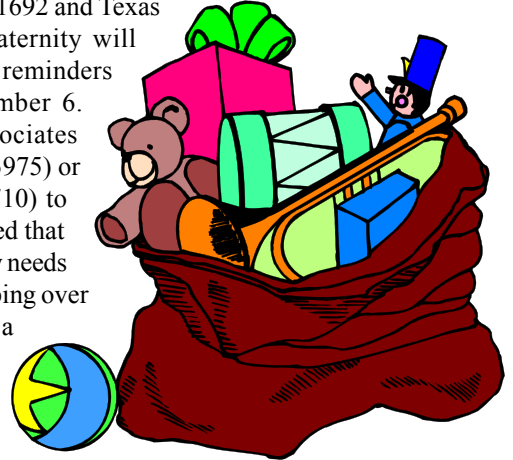
When the mood strikes, we plan one-day field trips to Central Texas locations of general interest. So far, we've visited the historic military aircraft display in San Marcos, seen antique autos in Bastrop, toured the Navy museum in Fredericksburg, and explored the Texas Ranger Museum in Waco.

Future trips may include visits to the Alamo, the Bullock Museum, UT Ranger Computer Lab and Hill Country steam train. All trips include lunch at a unique Texas restaurant or café.

Interested Circle C residents are encouraged to join us at least one time Wednesday morning at Waterloo Ice House. Just look for the group of casually dressed men sitting at adjoining tables, and pull up a chair. If you find what you like, there will always be a cup of coffee waiting for you every Wednesday morning.

**Blue Santa Items Pickup-  
December 13***Submitted by Shirley Faske*

Reminder to have your Blue Santa items (toys, can goods/food items, or money donations) with the donation sticker on the bag on your front porch or at the street BEFORE 9 AM on Saturday, December 13. Our neighborhood Cub Scouts Packs 535 and 505, Girl Scouts 787 and 1692 and Texas State Sigma Nu Fraternity will deliver doorhanger reminders on Saturday, December 6. Call Stanberry Associates Shirley Faske (789-3975) or Shellie Hall (627-6710) to pickup items if missed that day. Blue Santa really needs our assistance in helping over 4000 families have a Merry Christmas this year.



# Holiday Lights Made Easy

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## CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

### Park West HOA News

(Specifically for Park West Residents) - Submitted by Jackie Rollins

#### Landscaper News

Fall mulching has been done and the mail centers await seasonal plantings. Also on the schedule was another application of a new, improved pre-emergent for Park West's front lawns, as mentioned in Pearson's November maintenance newsletter. The mowing schedule is winding down for the winter months. Check the landscaper schedule and Pearson newsletter, posted on the mail center bulletin boards, to see what else is on the agenda.

#### What's the Rush?

Although this topic has won a permanent spot in the Broken Record Department, it's been awarded a special mention this month. It appears that when one Park West resident puts their garbage container (or garbage and recycling containers) out too early on Sunday, others quickly follow suit. Sometimes it's really early, like 9 a.m., and well above the 12-hour rule for when to place them at the curb. Early evening is the appropriate time. Nearly every week, there are a few containers that are still at the curb even a day or two later. There's nothing that can dampen one's spirit more, than when going for a brisk stroll along Park West's lovely streets on a cool fall morning, to see an army of tan garbage containers lined up a day ahead of

time. This shouldn't be the first impression someone has of our community, especially when Sunday is the day the gates are open for house hunters and visitors. Please! If you're going to be away, arrange for a neighbor to place them at the curb and return them to a spot out of view from the street within the designated time frames. You say you don't know - or have - a neighbor to ask for help? Just ask Board member Jackie Rollins and she will be more than happy to assist. She's waiting to hear from you now. Call her at 301-1839.

#### 'Tis the Season

Per the Park West Rules, Holiday lights are permitted from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. They must be removed no later than January 15.

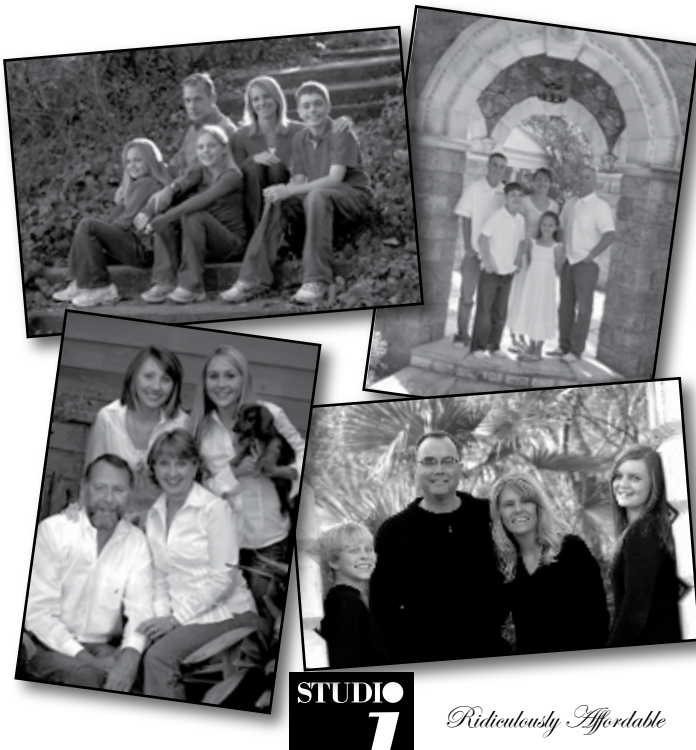
#### Been There, Done That

Welcome home, Barbara and Justin Cooper! The Coopers have returned to Park West after their annual visit to their summer home in Castine on Penobscot Bay in Maine. Austin residents since the early 1950s, the Coopers spend the months of May through October in Maine and November through April in Austin, enjoying the best of weather each place has to offer. In Castine, they participate in

(Continued on Page 15)

## Family Portraits

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## CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

### **Park West HOA-** *(Continued from Page 14)*

the Castine Town Band, the Tarratine Fifes and Drums and the local Congregational Church. In Austin, they enjoy the variety of fine restaurants, touring the Hill Country and the many excellent medical facilities. The Coopers noted that the new landscaping on the drive into in Circle C was a very welcoming sight to see upon their recent return. Another welcome home goes to Jean and Chuck Griffith, who report that summers in Wyoming are a relief from the Austin heat but not the only charm of visiting Jackson Hole in the summer. They enjoy the resort atmosphere with its many restaurants, art and music festivals, performing arts center events, wildlife parks and, most of all, the scenic beauty of nearby Grand Teton National and Yellowstone Parks. The Griffiths can count on seeing a variety of wildlife, including moose, bison, foxes, coyotes, elk, deer and many small mammals birds, when hiking, driving, canoeing, etc. in and around

the Jackson Hole Valley. They say that this year the ample winter snow provided water for a spectacular wildflower show which lasted all summer. However, they were careful to watch the weather forecast this fall and flee south to Austin two days before the first 12-18 inch snowfall in the Valley.

### **Broken Record Department**

- Place your garbage and recycling containers out of view from the street, either in the garage or behind the fence. Do not leave them curbside longer than a total of 12 hours from before and after pickup. If you are gone on pickup day, arrange for a neighbor or friend to place them at the curb and return them to their resting place within the 12 hour time frame. Never put them out a day (or earlier) in advance or leave them out for a day or longer after pickup.
- Carry a plastic bag for the scooped poop when walking your dog.

- The speed limit on all Park West streets is 20 mph. Please slow down.
- No overnight parking is allowed on the street. Move your vehicle onto the driveway or into the garage.

### **Helping Hands**

Don't miss the 2008 Seton Southwest Hospital Holiday Bazaar. This year its title and theme is "A Jeweled Yule." Those who have attended in previous years know how much fun the Bazaar is, with wine tasting, food samples from several area restaurants, a silent auction with fabulous items to bid on, a chorus and other musical entertainment, plus many, many other fun activities. All proceeds from the Bazaar and Silent Auction go directly to the hospital. Tickets are available from one of the many Seton Southwest volunteers who reside in Park West. For more information, call Seton Southwest volunteer and neighbor Veta

*(Continued on Page 16)*

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## CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

*Park West HOA- (Continued from Page 15)*

Winick at 215-2842. You can also read a separate article about the Bazaar in this issue of the Circle C Newsletter.

### Good Neighbors of the Month

On November 1, Les Weinstein noticed that the outgoing west gate was open and off its track, but because it was jammed against the curb he was having difficulty fixing it. Tom and Kathryn Jenks happened to be driving out at that time, saw that he was having trouble and stopped to ask if they could help. After a few tries, Tom managed to jar it loose and get it back on track so that Les could return it to its normal operating condition. Thanks and kudos to the Jenks for being good Samaritans and giving of their time to stop and help.

If you know someone who should be given credit for being a good neighbor, please e-mail their name(s) and a brief description of what good deed they've done to JackieRollins02@aol.com for inclusion in next month's column. Until then, your suggestions and ideas for topics are appreciated. And please consider submitting a "trip report" for Been There, Done That and an item for the Helping Hands section.

## Seton Southwest Holiday Bazaar, "A Jeweled Yule"

*Submitted by Veta Winick*

The Seton Southwest Volunteers have pulled out all the stops for fun in planning their Friday, December 5 Holiday Bazaar. "A Jeweled Yule" will be held at Seton Southwest Hospital from 6:30pm - 9pm. This annual event promises a little something for everyone and will be a sparkling event for the community. Highlights will include hors d'oeuvres by some of Southwest Austin's best restaurants, a wine tasting, and festive holiday music.

There will be fabulous holiday shopping opportunities...including a Silent Auction filled with unique gift items, a Yule Tree filled with surprises, original costume jewelry by designer Christi Thomas and an incredible array of wonderful gift shop merchandise. Back by popular demand, Sue's Sassy Salsa will be available exclusively for this event. All proceeds will benefit Seton Southwest Hospital. Tickets may be purchased for \$20 or two for \$35. For more information please contact the Seton Southwest Gift Shop at 324-9018



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## CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

### Happy Holidays Circle C Residents!

*Submitted by Leanne Jakubowsky*

The Bowie High School Tennis Team will be providing their yearly fundraiser, the Christmas tree pick-up, in your neighborhood once again.

The dates to leave your trees on the curb are Saturday, December 27 and Sunday, January 4. A donation check payable to Bowie Tennis can be left attached to the tree.

The trees go to an organic recycling facility on the outskirts of Austin.

The Bowie Tennis team greatly appreciates the support it gets from the Circle C neighborhood. Your kind donations allow us to purchase much needed supplies for the team and attend tournaments.

Please email LJak193@austin.rr.com with your address and intended pick-up date.

*Many thanks, Bowie Tennis*



### "Over 40" Circle C Bunko Group

*Submitted by Kathy Carlson*

Our Bunko group has been meeting for about a year and recently some of our members have moved out of Austin. We are in need of some new members and some who are interested in being on the "sub" list. We meet the 2nd Thurs of each month at 7:00pm. If you are "over 40" (most of us are 45-50ish) and interested in meeting some of your very friendly neighbors we are eager to meet you. There are limited spaces for members. Call Kathy Carlson at 636-0048.

### STEVE'S PLUMBING REPAIR

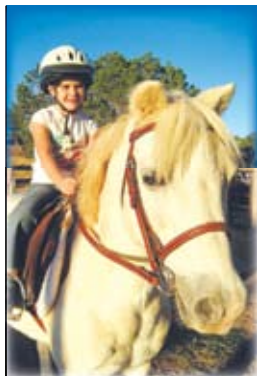
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Circle C Homeowner's Association

# *adult holiday party*

Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center  
**Saturday, December 20th**

from 7 till 11 o' clock in the evening  
\$10 per person

Currently accepting donations for casino prizes. This is a great opportunity to advertise your business, product or service.  
Donations must be tangible or represent a desirable product or service.  
To donate, or for more information, contact Melinda McKenna at [melinda@AUSTINREPS.com](mailto:melinda@AUSTINREPS.com)

Ticket information online at [www.CircleCRanch.info](http://www.CircleCRanch.info) or call the CCHOA at 288-8663

## Circle C Amenities

### December Events at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

*Submitted by Saralee O Tiede*

#### 18th Annual Wild Ideas Shopping Event

Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 7, Noon to 5 p.m.

Find the perfect gifts and share the best shopping experience. Admission is free. Local artists and artisans show their work Saturday and Sunday. Featuring in the store: Jo Pollock and Kitty Keller signing ornaments, Shou Ping's trunk show, and booksignings by Barbara Beery, Jeannie Ralston and Jackie Poole. See [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org) for times and information.

#### Luminations

6 to 9 pm. Saturday and Sunday, December 13 and 14

The celebration of lights is our holiday gift to our community. Admission is free with a donation of two canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank or an unwrapped gift for Blue Santa. See thousands of luminarias, twinkle lights and torches and listen to



the music of Austin choirs, bands and quartets. Enjoy hot holiday fare and Frosty the Snowman, decorated trees and special crafts for kids. Sponsors include the Austin American-Statesman and Samsung.

#### Art by Linda Calvert Jacobson

Joyful splashes of color define the look of Texas native plants. In the McDermott Learning Center through December 14

#### Sculpture by Barry George

There are 10 of these fun and fanciful sculptures, many interactive, on the grounds. Hear the artist on our cell phone audio tour through January 31

#### Children's Little House

Closed December 15 to February 17

#### Wildflower Center Closed

December 22 through January 2

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## Circle C Amenities Continued

### Chef Jaime Arevalo [www.circleccatering.com](http://www.circleccatering.com)

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**Wildflower Cafe #232-0154**  
4801 LaCrosse Ave

Hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-4pm;  
Sunday 12-4pm

Serving salads, soups,  
sandwiches, and desserts.

### Catering #301-7235

We cater all events large and small at the Wildflower Center  
or the venue of your choice. Please email for a  
personalized proposal and catering menus.

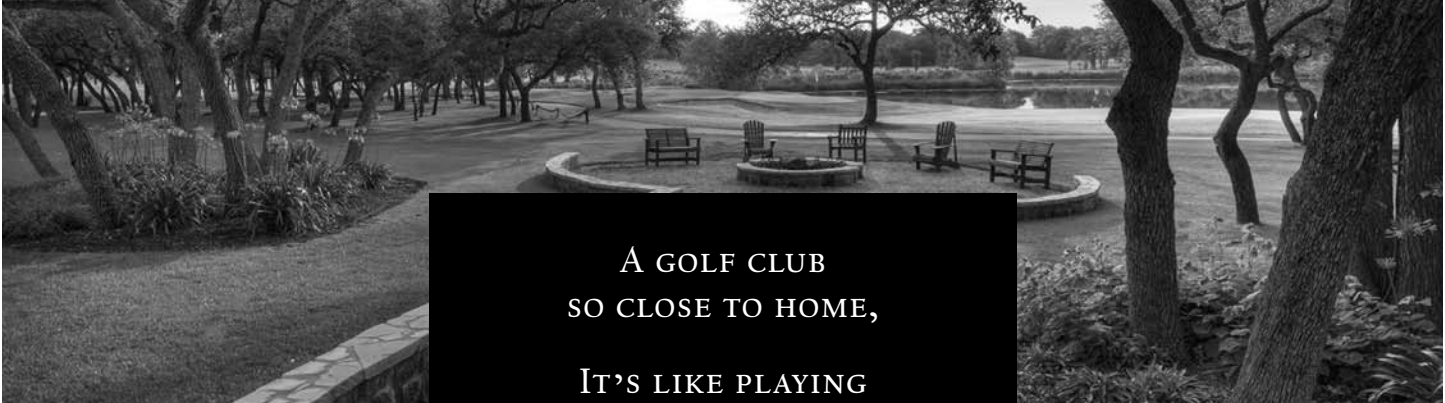
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### ***Classified Ads***

**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](mailto:info@circlecranch.info).

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$65, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).



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## School News

### News from Mills Elementary

*Submitted by Michelle Moon Reinhardt*



#### Holiday Festival Returns

Saturday, December 13th 10am – 2pm

Has the travel bug bitten you, but you can't seem to get away? Then come with us and explore the world, right in your own backyard!

Mills Elementary School PTA presents our 3rd Annual Holidays Around the World, a fun-filled extravaganza with an international flavor. Travel the globe with stops at exotic locales to partake in cultural crafts, games and activities. Sample ethnic cuisine. Shop with local vendors for Holiday gifts for the family. View native entertainment. And be prepared for a few more surprises - perhaps a visit to the North Pole to see you-know-who?

Mark your calendars now for this popular community event. It's for children, it's for parents, it's for the Mills community. Holidays Around the World 2008 - the world is waiting for you. Vendor booths now available! Purchase your booth at [www.millspta.org](http://www.millspta.org), click on PTA webstore. Eat More Chicken!

Did you know that Tyson Foods will pay our PTA 24 cents for each label we collect? That is real money that adds up quickly. Most of us buy those yummy little nuggets and frozen chicken breasts. Let's help our school out by saving those labels. Tell your friends and family to clip them and send them to you! Just clip the label and drop them off in the front of the school. There will be a bucket marked, "Tyson Labels". You do not need to be a parent of the school to help us out; just a generous contributor!





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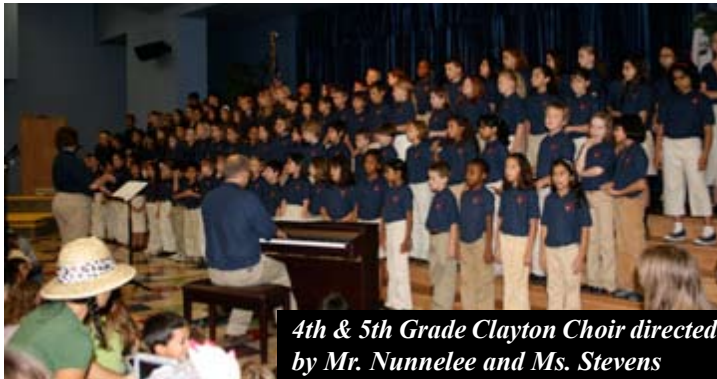


## School News Continued

### 3rd Annual Clayton Fun Run and Celebration

*Submitted by Catherine Thirk*

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Clayton Fun Run & Celebration, Saturday, April 18th from 4:00 - 7:00 pm. The event is open to the public and will be a fantastic family event full of fun, great music & yummy food! Sponsorships are available now starting at just \$250 with awesome new benefits added this year. Benefits include inclusion in promotional materials, event t-shirts, online and much more. FREE Ad Early Bird Specials if you sponsor by November 21 or December 12!! Please contact [funrun@claytoncardinals.org](mailto:funrun@claytoncardinals.org) for sponsorship levels packet or for more information. Fun Run registrations will start in the spring. All proceeds for the event go to campus and classroom needs at Clayton Elementary. See you there! <http://claytoncardinals.org>.



*4th & 5th Grade Clayton Choir directed by Mr. Nunnelee and Ms. Stevens*



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### Barnes & Noble Bookfair

**December 5, 6, 7 to benefit Mills Library and Roaring Reading Program**

*Submitted by Neva Fernandez*

Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley will be hosting a book fair to benefit Mills' Roaring Reading Program and the Library on December 5th, 6th and 7th.

That weekend, buy all those games, books and CD's you want for the holidays. All weekend long, for every purchaser who mentions Mills before checkout, Mills Elementary will get from 10-20% percent of the sale.

Everything in the store is included, Books, Music, Games, Magazines, Cafe purchases, etc.

Just like last year, Mills faculty, students and staff will be offering a fabulous show at the Sunset Valley Barnes & Noble stage on Saturday, December 6th from 4:00 - 8:00.

Look for some of our teachers, administrators and students to be offering up their best talents!

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## Support Friends of Girl Scouting

Friends of Girl Scouting (FOGS) is the family fund-raising program for Girl Scouts of Central Texas. All donations to FOGS support and enhance the Girl Scout experience. 100% of every dollar contributed to FOGS supports Girl Scout programs in Central Texas!

The money collected by FOGS helps to pay for:

- Volunteer training
- Staff support for each service unit
- Silver and Gold Award ceremonies
- Possibilities, Girl Scout Scoop, and other publications
- Girl Scout properties (program centers, GS houses and camps)
- Trailblazers and volunteer recognition
- 1-800 phone number and council web site
- Multiple day and resident camp programs
- Financial assistance for girls and adults
- Destinations and other travel opportunities
- Program materials and bilingual materials
- Outreach programs like Enterprising Girl Scouts Beyond Bars and Girl Scouting in the School Day
- Supplements the cost of council events
- Supplements the cost of a leader handbook

***Come eat Breakfast with us on December 6th!  
Bring your friends!***

A poster for Oak Hill United Methodist Church Christmas 2008. The top half features a black and white photograph of a star-shaped decoration made of twigs. The bottom half has the text "Oak Hill United Methodist Church Christmas 2008" in a serif font. At the very bottom, there is a small line of text: "Please call the church office at 288-3836 or visit our website at www.oakhillunitedmethodistchurch.org for details or additional information."

## Advent/Christmas Schedule

### Sundays, November 30 - December 21

Blended Worship at 8:45 A.M.  
Contemporary Worship at 10:00 A.M.  
Traditional Worship at 11:15 A.M.  
Sunday School for all ages, 10:00 A.M.

### Sunday, November 30

*Hanging of the Greens* - 5:30 P.M.  
Service of decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas and understanding the significance of the decorations.

### Friday, December 5

*Choir's Christmas Spectacular* - 7:30 P.M.  
A wonderful evening of Christmas music, comedy skits, costumes, a 13-piece Big Band and more! Tickets on sale now!

### Saturday, December 6

*Bethlehem Bazaar* - 9:00 to 11:00 A.M.  
Family Advent Festival, Christmas arts and crafts for children, Gifts of Caring, live nativity presentation, live music and more.  
*Choir's Christmas Spectacular* - 7:30 P.M.  
Don't miss the second night of fun!

### Sunday, December 14

*The Magnificat* - 8:45 A.M. and 11:15 A.M.  
*"The Grumpy Shepherd"* - 10:00 A.M.

### Christmas Eve Services, December 24

5:00 P.M. - Family service, with emphasis on children (children are invited to portray a nativity character).  
7:00 P.M. - Traditional service with Candlelight and Bells (everyone invited to bring a bell to ring).  
9:00 P.M. - Contemporary service, with praise music  
11:00 P.M. - Candlelight and Communion service with guitar music



7815 Hwy. 290 W., Austin, TX 78736  
[www.oakhillunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://www.oakhillunitedmethodistchurch.org)



*We here at Austin Air Rescue love the holidays. I have found this recipe and everyone just loved it. My wife actually baked it. I thought it would be nice to pass this along to our friends. -Will*

# Spiced Apple Cake with Eggnog Sauce

## *It is the Best!*

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup raisins or dried cranberries
- 3 tablespoons Applejack, dark or golden rum, or warm water
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup (packed) light brown sugar, sifted
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened
- 3 large eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 Golden Delicious apples, peeled, cored, and cut into 1/2-inch dice (about 4 cups)
- 1 cup (4 ounces) pecans, coarsely chopped
- 1/3 cup crystallized ginger, finely chopped

Special Equipment: 10-inch Bundt pan (3 1/4 inches deep; 3-qt capacity) Garnish: confectioner's sugar for dusting.  
Accompaniment: 3 cups eggnog, chilled

### Preparation:

In small bowl, combine raisins and rum. Let stand until raisins plump, about 1 hour. Drain (discarding rum) and set aside. Position rack in middle of oven and preheat to 350°F. Lightly butter Bundt pan, then dust with flour-knocking out excess.

In large mixing bowl or bowl of electric mixer, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, allspice, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves, and salt. Add brown and granulated sugars, butter, eggs, and vanilla. Using electric mixer, beat on high speed, scraping down sides of bowl with rubber spatula as needed, until batter is pale and smooth, about 3 minutes for handheld mixer or 2 minutes for standing mixer. Stir in apples, pecans, ginger, and raisins. Spoon into prepared pan and smooth top.

Bake until wooden pick or skewer inserted in center of cake comes out clean and cake just shrinks from sides of pan, about 1 hour. Cool cake in pan on rack 10 minutes, then invert and unmold onto rack and cool completely. (Cake can be made up to 3 days ahead and stored at room temperature, wrapped tightly in plastic wrap.) Just before serving, sift confectioner's sugar over cake. Serve accompanied by eggnog.

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## Happy Pets Make For Happy Holidays

The fall holiday season is a wonderful time for fun, food, family and friends all of which can be overwhelming for you family pets. The extra activities of the season can dramatically change the household routines, sights, and smells around the home. Therefore, it is import to consider these holiday activities from your pet's perspective and safe guard your furry friends to ensure that everyone in your family enjoys a happy and healthy holiday season.

First it is important to understand the hazards that our pets face as the holidays approaches. The following are some basic hazards that each pet can face during the holidays:

- Rich, fatty foods can be very dangerous to both cats and dogs. Many holiday foods such as turkey, smoked ham, garlic, onions and chocolate can cause GI upset, vomiting, diarrhea and even death.

- All bones, especially turkey bones, can cause intestinal tears and obstruct the digestive tract.
- Even grapes and raisins can be dangerous for dogs and can lead to kidney failure.
- Caffeine and alcohol can be toxic and should never be given to our pets, no matter how funny Uncle Pete thinks it might be.
- Cooking aids like aluminum foil, string and holiday decorations can all be very enticing for any pet, but each can be very dangerous and potentially deadly if ingested.

In addition to these specific hazards, the fact that the family routine can change dramatically can be very stressful to any pet. As parties occur, or when family and guests spend the night, pets can be overwhelmed with the noises and interactions which often leads to unwanted behaviors such as

aggression, soiling and possibly running away.

With all these hazards to contended with my recommendation is to develop a simple and direct plan that everyone, both young and old, family and guest, can quickly understand and support.

*(Continued on Page 29)*



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**Happy Pets-** (Continued from Page 28)

## HOLIDAY GAME PLAN:

**Post the Rules:** How often have you heard your guest say “Oh, just one bite won’t hurt”? The problem is if everyone offers your pet a little nibble there is no way to know what might have caused your pet to get sick. Preventative safety measures are the best strategies. By simply letting everyone know the rules your pet will be safer and there won’t be any confusion about your expectations from both family and friends.

**No Table Scraps:** With so many holiday health hazards involving food and diet, this simple recommendation will ensure a healthy and well fed pet throughout the holiday season. Discourage family members and guests from indulging your pets with inappropriate treats. Food that is high in sodium and fats, such as peanuts, chips, poultry skin and other meats can cause an inflammation of the pancreas which can lead to pancreatitis, a potentially life threatening condition. Always try to maintain the same feeding schedule as the rest of the year and if Uncle Pete just can’t resist, have a small amount of veterinary approved pet treats on hand.

**Tidy Tidy Tidy:** This means everything from food to decorations. I know that this is easier said than done, but if everyone knows the game plan you will be more successful than you might expect. Decorations might not seem like a good meal, but the holiday season can seem like a buffet smorgasbord to some pets. Keeping the house

(Continued on Page 31)

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people once she becomes comfortable. Celeste is in 4th grade. Elijah is a helpful child who enjoys playing out side. He is in 2nd grade. Steven is a loving and funny child who enjoys playing with Legos. Steven is currently in 1st grade.

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## Happy Pets- (Continued from Page 29)

neat with decorations out of reach will discourage bad behavior and help you keep track of the ornaments that go missing. Keep leftover foods out of reach and in tightly closed containers and make sure garbage cans are secure and all trash bags and places in trash can. It only takes a couple of minutes for a pet to tear up a trash bag and devour whatever is inside.

**Time Out:** When animals are stressed they can often become unpredictable and behave erratically. This is never good for a party. Be mindful of how scared your cat might get with a house full of strangers or how hyper Fido can be when all of the cousins are over. Providing a quiet out of the way spot for your pet to relax and get away from all of the holiday activities can go a long way to ensuring a comfortable get together for everyone. Consider a pet time out when you sit down to eat. This will serve double duty by limiting the temptations for everyone. Cats are especially well served if they can hideaway in a back bedroom until everyone has gone home.

**Be Prepared:** This is especially true during the holidays. Always have your pet fully vaccinated and maintain your records for easy access. If your pet bites a guest the first question the ER will ask is "Is the animal vaccinated for rabies." If you can answer yes and provided current documentation you will greatly reduce all medical concerns and your potential financial obligations. Also, keep your veterinary hospital and the emergency veterinary clinic numbers

handy. Your veterinarian can provide you with the closest emergency clinic information, this is especially important during the holidays when many animal hospitals are not open.

The holiday season should be fun for everyone, including your family pet. By putting together a Holiday Game Plan you can ensure the health and safety of your pet and your guests. Remember to share your plan with all of your family and friends, maintain your pet's regular diet and schedule, keep hazards away and be prepared and ready to take action if your pet becomes sick. By following these simple guidelines you can ensure that your pet will be healthy and happy for the holidays.



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## Trail of Lights, Environmental Ambassadors

This year the Solid Waste Services Department is partnering with the Parks and Recreation Department to make the 2008 Trail of Lights a 'Zero Waste' (or pretty darn close) event. The trail will run December 14th through December 23rd. As part of the city's effort to reduce the waste at the Trail of Lights, volunteers are needed to serve as "Environmental Ambassadors" at the Trail of Lights. The primary role of the Environmental Ambassadors is to let the Trail of Lights guests know where recycling is available at the event. Volunteers will be stationed throughout the Trail of Lights to assist attendees in recycling.

Date: December 14th – December 23rd

Time: 5:15 pm to 10:15 pm

Location: Zilker Park's Trail of Lights

Registration: Rebecca Hays at [rebecca.hays@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:rebecca.hays@ci.austin.tx.us) or 974-7720 or Zakiya Larry at 512-974-6421 or Zakiya.Larry@ci.austin.tx.us.

### Please note that:

\*Groups must provide one adult volunteer for every five volunteers ages 15-17.

\*Volunteers are hosts for the evening and their organization's name will be displayed at the Trail of Lights from 5:15 to 10:15 p.m.

\*Groups need to arrive by 5:15 and leave at 10:15 p.m. on their designated night to work.

\*Organizations will provide one liaison to work with Solid Waste Services and Parks and Recreation to assist with any communications.

\*Each volunteer will be provided with training and the necessary information to complete their volunteer assignment.

If you think this is something your group might be interested in, please send an email to [Zakiya.Larry@ci.austin.tx.us](mailto:Zakiya.Larry@ci.austin.tx.us) and include the following information:

- Group Name
- Number of Participants
- Age Range of Participants
- Point of Contact for the Group (please include: name, email, and phone number)
- Dates Available- Dates for volunteering will be issued on a first come first serve basis so please respond as soon as possible to get your preferred time slot. \*\*please note that the following time slots have been filled thus far: Thursday, December 18.

To find out more about the Trail of Lights please go to: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/tol/>. For more information about how the City of Austin is working towards Zero Waste please link to: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/0waste.htm>

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## Wastewater Averaging Period – A Perfect Time to Conserve Water

The Austin Water Utility encourages customers to conserve water during the annual wastewater averaging period, which begins in November and lasts through the March billing cycle.

Nov. 14 marks the beginning of the wastewater averaging period because less outdoor watering is used in the fall and winter months. This allows for more accurate measurement of indoor water usage, which is typically returned to the wastewater system.

Wastewater averaging is calculated using the two lowest customer bills out of the three months of billing cycles, with the bill reflecting the highest daily usage not used in the calculation. This timeframe usually spans from mid-November to mid-March. The customers' new wastewater average will be reflected beginning in the April 2009 statement.

Regardless of customers' water usage throughout the year, the wastewater billing average won't increase, but it could decrease depending on usage. For more information about wastewater averaging in the City of Austin, visit [www.cityofaustin.org/water/wwaverage/default.htm](http://www.cityofaustin.org/water/wwaverage/default.htm).

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## The Green Corner - Green the Holidays, Part Two

*Submitted by Sheri Hicks*

Last month, I focused on how to green up the Thanksgiving holiday. This month, in Green the Holidays, Part Two, I will focus on greening up Christmas. Christmas is a wonderful time, full of joy, celebration, remembrance, love and family. But it is also a stressful time full of consumption, overindulging and debt. I have a few suggestions that might take a bit of the stress and, in these hard economic times, debt from your shoulders so you can enjoy the holiday season for what it means to you and your family.

This year, instead of buying any roll of gift wrap, look for reusable bags or paper made from 100% post-consumer recycled products. My own family has passed around the same gift bags for the last five years!

Make your own Christmas Cards by enlisting your kids. Kids create the most


amazing drawings with just a few crayons and card stock.

Make your own holiday ornaments. You can find recipes and instructions online for almost any kind of ornament from homemade cookie ornaments to origami. One of the prettiest trees I have ever seen was decorated almost exclusively with origami cranes.

If you have to buy lights, go LED. LED lights save up to 90% on energy consumption. The colors aren't quite as true as traditional lights, but with that kind of energy savings I am willing to adjust!

Give the gift of experience. Research has shown that people are far happier with experience than an object. In a study conducted by the University of Colorado at Boulder, researchers concluded that people tend to internalize their feelings during an experience and that is just not possible with

an object. That could explain how so much stuff ends up in our garages! If you know a wine lover, give them a gift of wine of the month club or a tour of a local vineyard and winery with a nice bottle of wine. If you know a golfer, give them green fees for a local course. My own family loves to travel and this year, our gift to our nine year old, is to travel to New York City for Christmas. He is excitedly anticipating ice skating in Rockefeller Center, visiting Macy's Santa land, seeing the Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, walking through Central Park, visiting the Natural History Museum and riding the subway. Of course he will get a few small gifts to open on Christmas morning but when those toys are discarded for the next "big" thing, he will still have his memories of his trip to NYC.



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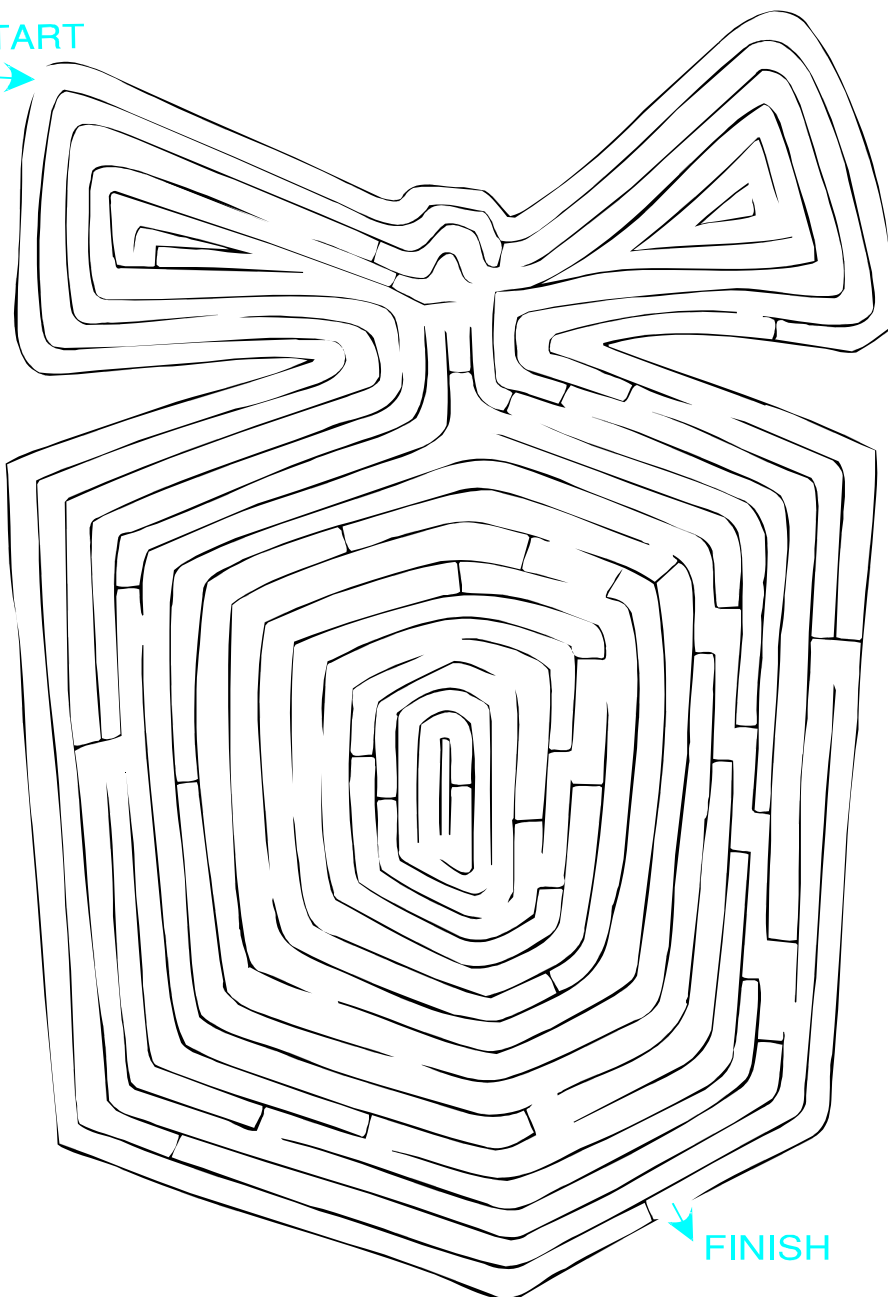
# Merry Christmas

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# Kids Corner

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Lady Bird Wildflower Center  
December 12,13,14  
FREE 6pm-9pm

**ESCARPMENT VILLAGE  
HOLIDAY EVENT**  
Saturday, December 13

**CIRCLE C HOA  
ADULT HOLIDAY PARTY**  
Saturday, December 20  
7pm \$10/pp



AUSTIN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS  
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Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report								
Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (May '08 - Oct '08)						CURRENT MARKET	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	47	2,699	\$ 113	\$ 305	1993	49	33	4
North	13	2,099	\$ 124	\$ 260	1996	40	5	2
Wildflower	13	2,267	\$ 124	\$ 282	2001	34	4	2
On The Park	5	3,776	\$ 118	\$ 444	1996	48	5	2
Vintage Place	4	3,067	\$ 108	\$ 332	2003	72	5	0
Hielscher	19	2,980	\$ 122	\$ 364	2003	50	14	3
West	19	3,270	\$ 122	\$ 399	2004	41	9	1
Park West	4	2,086	\$ 148	\$ 310	2001	39	7	0
Park Place	4	2,401	\$ 129	\$ 310	2004	42	0	0
Muirfield	4	3,882	\$ 127	\$ 493	2006	70	1	0
Enclave/Stone Creek	5	2,689	\$ 123	\$ 330	2006	71	11	0
Alta Mira	9	2,860	\$ 129	\$ 369	2007	53	4	0
Circle C Ranch Total	146	2,782	\$ 120	\$ 335	1999	47	98	14
% Change Mo/Mo	-5%	-1%	0%	-1%	0%	-6%	1%	-36%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 11/04/2008. In some cases new construction and FSB/O homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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**Melinda & Bob McKenna**  
Owners/Brokers, CRB, CRS, ABR, GRI, ePRO

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