



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 1

January 2009

www.circlecranch.info

2008 Annual Report

You can look for the 2008 Annual Report from the Board of Directors in your February 2009 Newsletter. The report will also be listed on the CCHOA website for easy printing.

Board of Direction Elections

Submitted by the Nominating Committee

The CCHOA Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2009 from 6:30pm to 9:30pm; you will be electing two new Board Members to serve three year terms. Cynthia Moreland and Mary Goerhing's terms will be ending. The Nominating Committee will be collecting questionnaires that can be downloaded from the Circle C Homeowner website, www.circlecranch.info. If you are interested in running, please submit a questionnaire by February 4, 2009. The Nominating Committee hopes 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. The Committee will host a Candidate Forum in March for the Homeowners to hear your ideas and views. If you have any questions, please email the HOA office at info@circlecranch.info

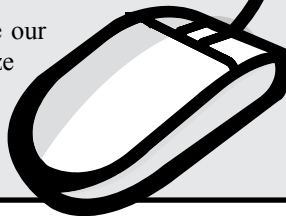
Have You Signed Up Yet?

For those of you who haven't heard, the HOA has a NEW website at www.circlecranch.info. Residents are required to sign up (using their owner and address info) to access resident only portions of the website.

Some of the features you can find on the new website include:

- Homeowner Directory
- Classified Section (to sell and/or buy)
- HOA governing documents
- Minutes of Board Meetings
- Submit a deed violation
- FAQ section

We are currently trying to increase our e-mail database as we begin to utilize mass e-mail for HOA news and events. So please take a moment to sign up and provide your email address.

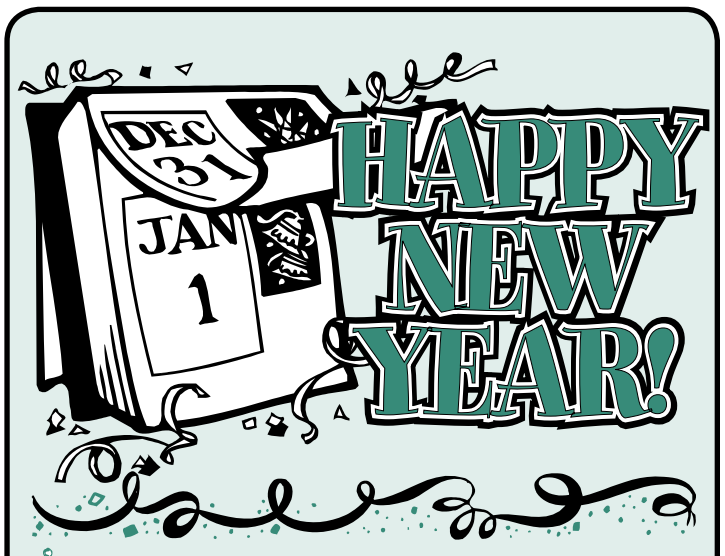


New Solar Lights at Mail Centers

Some of you may have noticed the installation of new solar lights at area mail centers. These lights are motion operated and should come on when you check your mail. The locations include:

- Tollesboro Cove
- Blissfield Drive
- Capstone Drive
- Viridian Lane
- Hansa Drive
- Magenta Lane
- Doswell Lane
- Quincy Cove
- Via Grande Drive

If you notice a light that is not working, please send us an email at info@circlecranch.info or call us at 288-8663.



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CCHOA Numbers

HOA Mgmt Officeinfo@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
 Financial Office..... 451-9901
 Aquatics Director..... 288-4239
 Newsletter Publisher
 Peel, Inc. Sales Office..... 512-263-9181
 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

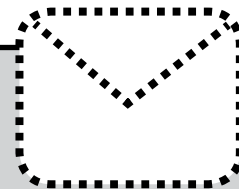
Circle C Capital Area Food Drive

As of submission of this newsletter we have not yet received the final total of food donated, but we want to thank everyone who so graciously took the time to give this holiday season. Also, we would like to thank Circle C Landscape who facilitated this event and picked up and delivered food to the Capital Area Food Bank.

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.

Go Green
 Go Paperless



Sign up to receive *The Circle C Ranch Newsletter* in your inbox.
 Visit PEELinc.com for details.

2009 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

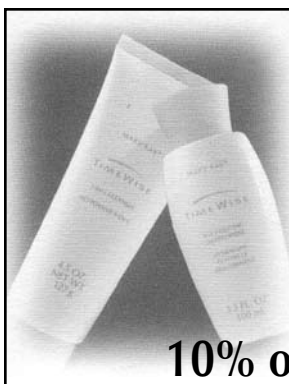
IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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

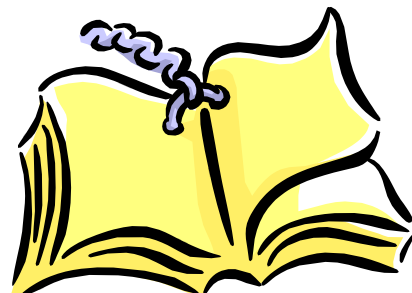
Deed Restriction News

Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, CCHOA Manager

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 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>



2009 Directory

We will be collecting new or updated information for the 2009 Homeowner Directory now through February 6th. In order to be included in the directory we MUST have a Homeowner Information Form on file (form included in this newsletter). You can fax to 288-6488 or mail to 5919 La Crosse Ave, Suite 100 Austin, Texas 78739.

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CCHOA News Continued

Holiday Lighting Contest

Thank you to all of our volunteer judges who participated in the Holiday Lighting Contest. This event would not be possible without resident volunteers. Due to the growing size of our neighborhood, next year we will require residents to nominate/submit addresses for the contest. Only those addresses submitted will be viewed by the volunteer judges.

If you won 1st, 2nd or 3rd place this year in your area, congratulations, the HOA office will be contacting you via mail by January 5th.

Don't Forget! Holiday lights must be taken down no later than January 15th per the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions.

Speeding on Gorham Glen

The HOA has received complaints regarding excess speeding along Gorham Glen Lane, please remember to keep your speed to under 30mph on residential streets.



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Hours:

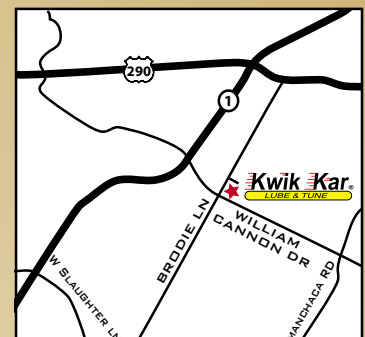
8-6 Weekdays

8-5 Saturday

3416 W. William Cannon

Austin, TX 78745

512-891-7800



Enter from William Cannon or from Brodie at the car wash sign.

CCHOA News Continued



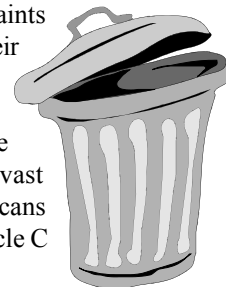
Thank You!

The children of the Ronald McDonald House and their families would like to Thank You for your kind donations!

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/>

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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	5.75% ^{APR*} 15 Year Fixed Rate				6.49% ^{***} 15 Year Fixed Rate
MONEY MARKET	2.63% ^{APY****} \$75,000 to \$124,999	SHARE CERTIFICATES	3.44% ^{APY****} 12 Months	MIN. DEPOSIT OF \$1000 IS REQUIRED	3.65% ^{APY****} 12 Months
	2.84% ^{APY****} \$125,000 to \$174,999		3.55% ^{APY****} 24 Months		3.75% ^{APY****} 24 Months
	3.14% ^{APY****} \$175,000 and ABOVE		3.65% ^{APY****} 36 Months		3.85% ^{APY****} 36 Months

14

LOCATIONS



ACCOUNTS ARE NOW INSURED TO AT LEAST \$250,000.

*Annual Percentage Rate. All rates expressed are "as low as". **Austin Telco will pay all standard closing costs on Home Equity loans below \$100k. Additional non-standard fees will be the responsibility of the member. Credit qualifications apply. ***Rate applies to 1st lien commercial real estate loans with a loan to value of 80% or less, construction/development loan rates/terms may be different. No pre-payment penalty. Please call for details. ****Annual Percentage Yield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. Actual rate may vary depending on credit qualifications. All APRs, APYs and terms are subject to change without notice.

CCHOA News Continued**Education Committee Update***Submitted by Bob Skrobarczyk*

The following meetings will be held in regards to the new southwest middle school boundaries:

December 15, 2008, 7:05 - 8:35 PM - Special Board meeting: Presentation to the Board of the Recommendation for the Attendance Boundary for the New Southwest Middle School and Affected Campuses by FUBTF co-chairs. *There will not be a Citizen's Communication period at this meeting*

January 12, 2009, 7:00 PM - Regular Board meeting: The SWMS boundary proposal is not on this agenda; however, *There will be a Citizen's Communication period at this meeting*

January 20, 2009, 7:00 PM - Special Board meeting: Discussion of Plan 1.1A by the Board of Trustees. *There will not be a Citizen's Communication period at this meeting*

January 26, 2009, 7:00 PM - Regular Board meeting: Action on Plan 1.1A by the Board of Trustees. *There will be a Citizen's Communication period at this meeting*

Citizen's Communication Policy

Citizens wishing to address Austin School District Trustees at regular Board meetings should be aware of the following changes to Board policy regarding Citizen's Communication:

1. At regular Board meetings, Citizen's Communication shall be scheduled for one hour as an agenda item. The overall time limit for public comment at Board meetings shall be 60 minutes. No presentation shall exceed two minutes, persons may not relinquish time to another speaker, and there is a limit of 30 speakers.
2. A person or representative of a group or organization shall be required to sign up on a form provided by the Board prior to the beginning of the meeting. On the day of the Board meeting, the sign-up sheet for citizen's communication shall be available in the Superintendent's Office during regular work hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.) and in the meeting location from 4:45 p.m. to the beginning of the meeting. The person signing up shall give the subject to be addressed, his or her name, address, and telephone number, and, if applicable, the group or organization the person represents.
3. No person shall be permitted to sign up for another person nor shall anyone be permitted to exchange time or yield time to persons not signed up.
4. Citizen's Communication shall be available on a first-come, first-served basis

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If you would like more information or would like a tour of the Center, please call our office at 512/288-9792.

CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

Park West HOA News

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

New Year's Greetings

The Park West HOA Board of Directors extends a happy, healthy and prosperous new year to all Park West residents and their families and thanks everyone for their support in the past year.

Park West Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars to attend the annual meeting which will be held at Kiker Elementary School on Tuesday, February 3, at 7 p.m. Voting will be conducted to fill the seats of two Directors whose terms are ending. If any homeowner is interested in running for the Board, please contact Richard Scott, chair of the nominating committee, at 809-7482.

New Board Member

The Board welcomes Frank Gilbreath, who has assumed the vacated seat of former Director Tom Jdrzejewicz, until the annual meeting and election in February.

Landscaper News

Irrigation has been installed at the east mail center (no more hand watering!) and to the curb grass at the west mail center.

Exterior Modifications to Your Residence

Listen up, everyone. This is a reminder that you must comply with

the Park West HOA Rules, dated January 1, 2007, Paragraph A. 1, which 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. Attachments or adornments to the exterior must be in keeping with the community image."

'Tis the End of the Season

Per the Park West Rules, holiday lights must be removed no later than January 15.

Been There, Done That

Alanna and Richard Scott have many a tale to tell about their sailing cruise in the Grenadines, an island arc of the Caribbean Sea. Boarding a catamaran with a capacity of six passengers, along with the captain and his mate, they set sail from St. Vincent, the main island of the Grenadines, on November 8. Dress was informal and shoes were not allowed on the catamaran. Many of their excursions, off the catamaran and in a dingy, were to various small islands, including St. Vincent, Bequia and Mustique (where many world famous individuals own homes and cruise ships are not allowed to

(Continued on Page 11)

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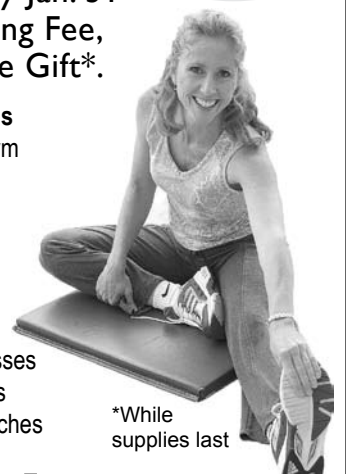
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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Park West News- (Continued from Page 10)

dock or even visit). On the island of Canouan they enjoyed a steel band, dancing and island beverages; on the island of Mayreau they ate at a small restaurant overlooking the bay. From there, they sailed to Tobago Cays – a turtle reserve - where they snorkeled and saw, naturally, lots of turtles, two stingrays, one black and one silver, along with many colorful and beautiful fish. Union was the last island on their itinerary, where they went shopping and began their trip back to St. Vincent - the end of a wonderful seven day cruise. Alanna says that they enjoyed many beautiful sights; snorkeling and swimming; kayaking and hiking; excellent food and drinks; and the company of some great individuals. She and Richard hope that in the not too distant future they will begin planning their next catamaran trip, perhaps in another part of the world.



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.
- New! Never, ever walk your dog off-leash. Walking an unleashed pet is in violation of City of Austin ordinances, Circle C Covenants and Park West HOA rules.
- 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

To those of you who gave unselfishly of your time to various charitable organizations in the Austin area; donated food or money

(Continued on Page 12)



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Recreation Comm. News- (Continued from Page 11)

to the Capital Area Food Bank; gave toys to the Blue and Brown Santa toy drives; helped to make homeless animals' lives a bit brighter by volunteering at a shelter; and enabled, in various ways, others less fortunate than ourselves to experience a merry Christmas and a happy holiday season: thank you!

Good Neighbors of the Month

And to the majority of residents who do things the right way by following the PWHOA Rules: a round of applause and a giant thank you because you help to make the Board's work a lot easier.

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.

Recycle your Xmas Tree with Bowie HS Tennis Team!

Submitted by Angela Alexander

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 tree on the curb are Saturday, December 27th and Sunday, January 4th. 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 Error! Hyperlink reference not valid. with your address and intended pick-up date or call 301-8730.

Many thanks, Bowie Tennis



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

The Sound Of Music

Submitted by Betsy Cornwell

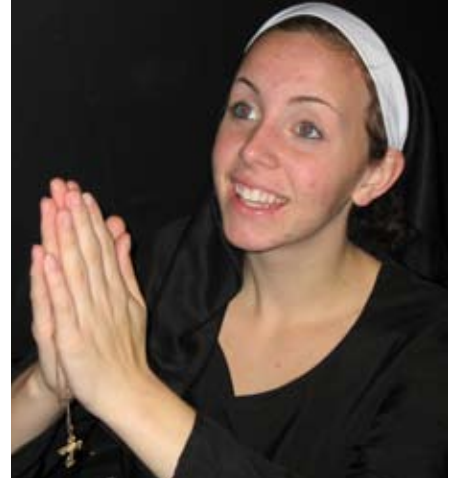


The James Bowie High School Fine Arts Department will present THE SOUND OF MUSIC Thursday, January 15 - Saturday, January 17 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, January 18 at 3:00 p.m.

This is the famous Rodgers and Hammerstein musical based upon the life of the Austrian family who found it necessary to flee from the Nazis before the outbreak of World War II.

Over one hundred Bowie students are involved in the cast, crew, and orchestra.

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Healthy Eating: Not Just Another Resolution

Submitted by Tracy Lee

As the year comes to a close, many people make a resolution to eat better and exercise more. Fitness and nutrition don't start on January first. It is good to focus on proper eating habits and staying active all year long.

Eating organic is a great start. A few reasons to eat organic are.

1. Fresh organic produce contains on average 50% more vitamins, minerals, enzymes and other micronutrients than intensively farmed produce.
2. Organic produce simply tastes better. Fruit and vegetables are much more full of flavor. Experiment with an organic carrot and a conventionally grown carrot. Which is sweeter?
3. Organic food is not really more expensive than intensively farmed foods and supports many local businesses.

Congratulations to the Corsairs!

Submitted by Stephanie Lee

Congratulations are in order for the Corsairs of the West Austin Pop Warner Flag Football league. With an unblemished record of 8 – 0, the Corsairs scored a total of 194 points against worthy opponents while only giving up a total of three touchdowns all year. But more than just winning, we would like to congratulate the Corsairs on learning the value of teamwork and promoting good sportsmanship.



Front Row: Brooks Nelson, Trey Johnson, Vincent Villanueva, Jace Kuchar, Bailey Pratt, Chase Beverly
Second Row: Manuel Esparza, Chandler Mitchell, Cristian Villanueva, Kainoa Lee, Aaron McInvale, Joshua Jones
Back Row: Asst. Coach Ken Jones, Head Coach Kevin Johnson, Asst. Coach Leslie Pratt

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued**Adoption Coalition of Texas***Submitted by Tracy Eilers***Kendrell and Jonathan****DOB: October 1993 & October 1997**

Kendrell and Jonathan want to find a forever family. They have a close bond; Jonathan looks up to his sister and Kendrell is very nurturing to her brother. They enjoy each other's company and play well together and other children. Kendrell and Jonathan do well in school and excel in sports. They are both wonderful children who appear shy or quiet when you first meet them, but both can also be strong-willed and determined.

Kendrell is outgoing, cheerful and makes friends easily. She enjoys running and doing typical "girl" things. She is engaging and talkative. Kendrell may present as a tough girl, but her foster parents report that underneath her tough exterior, Kendrell has a big and generous heart.



Jonathan is a happy, easy-going child. He is active and enjoys sports and drawing. He is smart and can watch someone doing something and it will only take him a few tries to be able to do it himself.

These children very much want to be adopted together and would contribute significantly to the happiness of a family. Jonathan would benefit from a positive male role model that will spend time doing mutually enjoyable activities. Kendrell would thrive in a home that allows her to be a teenager while guiding her in becoming a mature young woman.

If you would like more information on becoming an adoptive parent, please contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-301-2825 or info@adopttexas.org. For more information about Kendrell and Jonathan, please contact: Grace Lindgren, LMSW, Adoption Coalition of Texas/Wendy's Wonderful Kids Recruiter, Gracelindgren@adopttexas.org, (512) 687-3209 office/(512) 692-2540 fax

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Come Join the International MOMS Club of Circle C

Submitted by Heather Morrison

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.

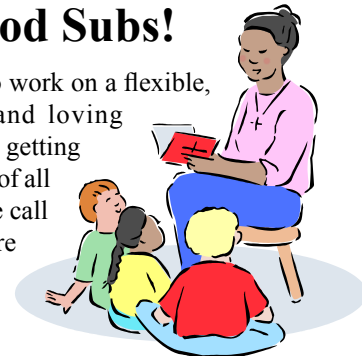
We meet during the day, when at-home mothers need the most support. Children are welcome at our activities, and we have mothers of all ages among our members. Each of us has a unique parenting style and we are able to share and learn from each other in a fun, relaxed environment.

Email Heather Morrison
hhmorrison@hotmail.com to join or
for more information!



Circle C Child Development Center is looking for A Few Good Subs!

We are looking for substitutes to work on a flexible, as-needed basis in our warm and loving preschool building. If you enjoy getting down and having fun with children of all ages, this is the job for you! Please call our office at 512/288-9792 for more information about this position.



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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Saturday 6th 8pm	Chase and the Porchcats
Thursday 11th 8pm	" ZeeRock and the Immigrants –of the Red Elvis's®
Friday 12th 8pm	"Phillip's Songwriter Series RoundRobin format"
Saturday 13th 7pm	'Stephen Bright ClassicalChristmas'
Saturday 13th 8pm	'Airoidi & Falleta' of South Austin Gypsy Jazz®
Thursday 18th 8pm	' ZeeRock and the Immigrants' of the Red Elvis's®
Friday 19th 8pm	'Phillip's Songwriter Series RoundRobin format'
Saturday 20th 8pm	'Airoidi & Falleta' South Austin Gypsy Jazz®
Thursday 25th	Closed, Merry Christmas!
Friday 26th 8pm	'Phillip's Songwriter Series RoundRobin format'
Saturday 27th 8pm	'Chase and the Porchcats'

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- *Music students get better grades.*
- *Making music is good for the soul!*

Circle C Amenities



CIRCLE C TENNIS CENTER RECEIVES BEST OF AUSTIN 2008 AWARD

WASHINGTON D.C., October 13, 2008 -- Circle C Tennis Center has been selected for the 2008 Best of Austin Award in the Tennis Courts category by the U.S. Local Business Association (USLBA).

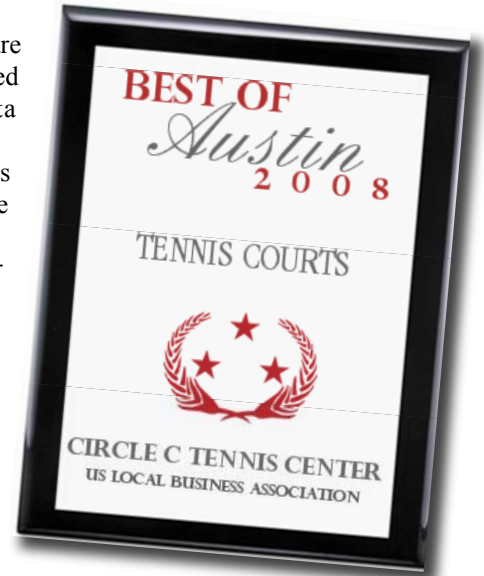
The USLBA "Best of Local Business" Award Program recognizes outstanding local businesses throughout the country. Each year, the USLBA identifies companies that they believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and community.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2008 USLBA Award Program

focused on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the USLBA and data provided by third parties.

In 2006, the Circle C Tennis Club was among "The Top 50 Welcome Centers" in the United States.

Upon receiving award, General Manager and Director of Tennis, Fernando Velasco mentions that "it is an honor to be recognized by a Business Association without even knowing about it. Being in tough competition with older and more establish clubs in Austin, to receive this award is the result of being surrounded by great staff and Members who believe in our programs and are loyal to our Club".



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Circle C Amenities Continued

January Events at the Wildflower Center

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Rainwater Collection Weekend

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Keith Steber and Barbara Irwin Exhibits

Mixed media and oil paintings by Steber and found object flower art by Irwin in the store. January 17 through March 15

Tree Talk & Winter Walk

Find the trees and shrubs you need at the sale and learn all about Texas tree species with walks and talks led by Wildflower Center staff and local tree experts. Book signing at the store and 20 percent off tree books. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Saturday, January 24

Winter Clearance at the store

Final reductions on seasonal goods. Saturday, January 31



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Bowl for Kids' Sake

Submitted by Connie Anderson

It's almost time to lace up your bowling shoes, don your Mardi Gras attire, and roll a strike to benefit Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Texas (BBBS). For more than 25 years, Bowl For Kids' Sake (BFKS) has been Big Brothers Big Sisters' largest annual fundraiser. To thank participants for their contributions, BBBS hosts a free, fun-filled bowling party with team prizes! The 2009 Mardi Gras themed celebration (PG rated) will be held at Highland Lanes on February 27th, 28th, and March 1st.


Big Brothers Big Sisters mission is "to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships." This year BBBS of Central Texas has served more than 1,500 children and has been "ranked among the top five [agencies] in the country!" This success wouldn't be possible without community support, especially that of BFKS participants. "One hundred percent of the proceeds support the recruitment and screening of volunteers, and the professional support staff that check in with each child, parent, and volunteer on a regular basis."

Come learn more about BFKS at the official Kick-Off Party Monday, January 19th at Trudy's North Star, 8820 Burnet Rd, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. There will be door prizes, games, trivia, fundraising

tips, and team registration. Be sure to brush up on your bowling and Mardi Gras knowledge!

If you're unable to attend the kick-off party, there are several ways to be a part of Bowl For Kids' Sake. Gather your friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers to form a team of five (maximum) or register individually at <http://austinbown.kintera.org>. The registration deadline is February 19th. There are also corporate sponsorship opportunities and group/industry bowling sessions listed on the website. For more information about BFKS or the Kick-Off Party, contact Meghan Jones by phone at 512-472-5437 or email at meghan@bbbscentraltx.org.






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Dear Friends,

Please forgive the direct approach, but far too many people are beating around the bush about what they want these days. So, here it is...

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We will charge you for our services, but the price will be fair and the value will be high! We also guarantee our work and will be there when we say. (Won't that be a bit of fresh air, no pun intended)

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Sincerely,

Will Hawkins, King of Comfort

We are also proud to announce we have opened our Plumbing Division! So you can now have the same great service that you get with our Heating and Cooling side. Our new plumbing manager's name is **Don Files**, he has been in the plumbing trade for over 30 years. If he can't fix your problem, no one can. It's the same number
512-328-2000.

This picture kind of looks like Don. Although, he is a little shorter and heavier, and his face is different. And doesn't have as much hair.



This is the Slowest time of the year for us. Needless to say, this economy isn't helping. So in order to keep my techs busy I am willing to pass on some great deals to you. **It's a win, win** for both of us. You get a great deal, my guys get to work!

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NatureWatch

by Jim and Lynne Weber

The Cunning Coyote

Although the coyote has been (and continues to be) one of the most persecuted mammals in human history, this is largely due to the common misconceptions and myths that surround the species. Add the fact that they are a highly intelligent animal with keen senses of hearing, sight, and smell, and you can easily see why they are the subject of such scrutiny.

About the size of a small German shepherd, the coyote weighs an average of 25 to 40 pounds, with long, slender legs, a bushy tail with a black tip, and large ears that are held erect. While its coat can vary, it is usually grey or buff-colored and its snout is long and slender. A strong swimmer, the coyote characteristically runs with its tail down, instead of horizontally like foxes or up like wolves



and dogs. Primarily nocturnal and very opportunistic, coyotes will eat almost anything, but in Texas they prefer rabbits, rodents, and insects. Because coyotes can utilize many different food sources and humans have all but exterminated its main predator, the wolf, coyotes have rapidly spread to all parts of the country, including urban and suburban areas.

Considered monogamous with pairs living together for several years, coyotes are usually shy and elusive, but are frequently seen individually, in pairs, or in small

groups, especially when near food. A family group, more commonly known as a pack, consists of the parents, their pups, and, occasionally, the previous year's pups. Male and female coyotes pair up, establish a territory, and breed from mid-January to early March. Normally utilizing a natural cavity or a den dug by another mammal, they

(Continued on Page 23)

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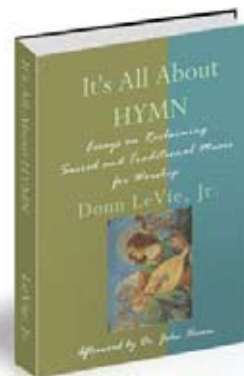
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Nature Watch- (Continued from Page 22)

will make the necessary renovations by excavating multiple escape tunnels linked to the surface. After a gestation period of 63 to 65 days, a litter of five to seven pups is born. During the weeks following the birth, the male will bring food to the family, but the female will not allow him inside the den. Coyotes normally may live from 10 to 12 years.

It is easy to get the impression that an area is overflowing with coyotes when one hears a family's howls. In reality, there are probably only 2-6 individuals in a pack! While some people may find it a bit unnerving, coyotes use howling as a means of communication to tell non-family members to stay out of their territory, to locate one another within their territory, to distract other coyotes away from young pups, and as a means for older pups to practice mimicking their parents.

Due to misconceptions and fears about coyotes, many people don't recognize the beneficial aspects that coyotes contribute to our ecosystem. Predators, such as the coyote, serve a valuable function in keeping prey species in balance with their habitat. Populations of small animals, such as rodents and insects, could increase out of control without predators. Coyotes can reduce the number of small animals that homeowners and gardeners consider as pests. While coyotes may change ecological balances of predator and prey species

somewhat, they will not eliminate other species from the environment. Many scavenger animals, such as foxes and vultures, benefit from coyote predation on other animals through increased food availability from leftover carcasses.

Coyotes are naturally afraid of people and their presence alone is not a cause for concern, though they can become habituated to rely on human-related sources of food. Simple steps you can take to peacefully coexist with them include keeping your garbage and recycling inside and secure until the morning of pickup, closing off crawlspaces under porches and decks, feeding your pets indoors, keeping your pets indoors at night (especially cats and small dogs), and educating your neighbors to do the same.

Like all wild animals, coyotes have a right to inhabit our wild places, including the preserves that border our suburban homes. If you do your part to help strike a proactive balance between humans and these wild creatures and respect their right to exist, you may well be rewarded with a familial chorus of howls on a moonlit night!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them.





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TRAVIS COUNTY TAX BILLS FOR 2008 SHOULD BE IN YOUR HANDS!

If you own property in Travis County, chances are you already received a 2008 property tax bill. And if you are among the 114,497 homeowners who escrow through a mortgage company or lending institution, don't worry the mortgage company probably received the bill and will pay your property taxes. But you might want to check to be sure.

"All taxpayers or their mortgage companies should have received their bills," said Travis County Tax Collector Nelda Wells Spears. "Especially for owners of multiple properties, this is the time of year to make sure you have received all bills."

Spears said many taxpayers want the advantage of federal tax deductions that require paid taxes by the end of the year. Any payment postmarked by December 31 will be recorded as a December payment and the receipt issued will show the same.

"Some taxpayers believe that if they do not receive a bill, they are not liable for tax payment," Spears said. "Taxpayers are responsible for requesting a tax bill if they do not receive one."

Spears said anyone who needs a tax bill can download a copy at www.traviscountytax.org or call (512)-854-9473 to request a mailed copy.

Over the past several weeks, 258,543 bills hit mailboxes, Spears said. Seniors and disabled taxpayers may take advantage of a special provision in the law that allows for installment payments. Last year 2,427 persons participated in the program. She urged taxpayers to call (512)-854-9473 for details on what the law allows for seniors and disabled persons.

"If you can't pay all of your tax bill, please call or come in and make arrangements," Spears recommended. "Taxpayers will find it much cheaper to contact us than to wait for our office to contact them."

The deadline to pay 2008 property taxes is February 2, 2009. Those who want a tax receipt showing payment in calendar year 2008 must make payment on or before the last day of the current calendar year.

The Travis County Tax Office main location is 5501 Airport Boulevard, between Koenig Lane and 53½ Street. The office opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drive-through service and two deposit boxes for non-cash payment are available.

Satellite offices offer convenience to those in East Austin, Oak Hill, Pflugerville and near Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. All satellite offices open at 8:00 am and close at 5:00 pm.

East Austin – 4705 Heflin Lane at Springdale and MLK Blvd (drive through service)

Oak Hill Office – 8656 Highway 71W Building B, second floor

Pflugerville Office – 15822 Foothill Farms Loop (drive through service)

Southeast Office – 4011 McKinney Falls Parkway (drive through service)

Call (512) 854-9473 for assistance at all locations.

See Graphic of Average Tax Amount - <http://www.traviscountytax.org/pdfs/081204.pdf> See Tax Office Vital Statistics - <http://www.traviscountytax.org/pdfs/081204.pdf>



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A New Year's Resolution for your PC

Submitted by Laurie Scott

The holidays are now behind us and we are all brimming with New Year's resolutions that are probably destined to fail, but I have a resolution you can actually keep.

I preach and preach to backup your computer's data to everyone I encounter, yet invariably someone will have a system failure and when I ask if their data was backed up, I'll get a great story about how they meant to purchase an external drive, or that have the drive, but never got around to setting it up. Well, it's a new year and time to commit to safeguarding your data. Stop and think for a minute about all you have on your computer. Maybe you have priceless photos from a vacation, or a birthday, or even wedding and honeymoon pictures. How would you feel if the hard drive suffered a catastrophic failure, or you were the victim of a break-in and your computer was stolen. You can never get those pictures back. Maybe you have important business or financial data, how would you get that back?

So here are a couple of inexpensive ways to protect your precious data. One way is to use an external hard drive that connects to your computer's USB port. You can find them for under \$100 and most of them come with some kind of backup software. A favorite backup software of mine is the free version of SyncBack, which can be downloaded at www.2brightsparks.com/freeware. It is easy

to use, and you can schedule it to run daily so you don't have to remember.

An even better choice is an online, off-site backup. This gives you access to your data from anywhere, and even in the event of fire your data is safe. If you have less than 2 Gigabytes of data, you can backup your information for free at mozy.com. My favorite is using a \$20 software package called JungleDisk. You download it from jungledisk.com. You use the software to easily upload your data to Amazon's secure servers designed just for storage. Your data is encrypted during transmission and while being stored – only you have access to the data because only you have your encryption code. The cost is only \$.15 per Gigabyte for storage and \$.10 per Gigabyte for transfer. You don't have to upload everything you have, just your most valuable files. Even if you have lots and lots of photos, you'll probably only pay 25 cents a month or less. The software lets you easily schedule what files and folders to backup, so you again can set it and forget it.

So this year, make a New Year's resolution to protect your computer's data and do daily or weekly backups. Once you set it up, your computer will keep your resolution for you and a year from now, you can look back and know that you kept at least one of your 2009 resolutions.

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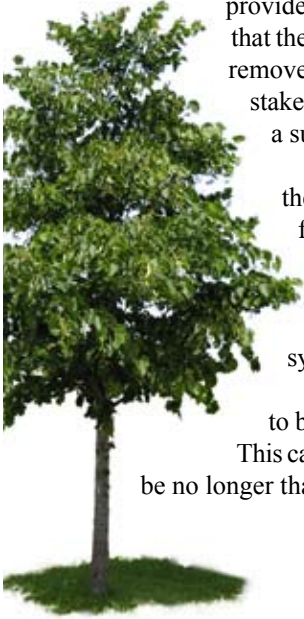


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Movement of the trunk helps strengthen the tree by thickening it and giving it taper from bottom to top. Trunk movement also stimulates root growth. The artificial support from the stakes leaves tree trunks weak and their root systems less developed.

Bottom line - all staking material needs to be removed after roots have established. This can be as early as a few months, but should be no longer than one growing season.

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5. Strong local businesses help maintain property values and contribute to the character of our community by offering a diverse selection of goods and services.
6. Local businesses are most often the first job for our children and also the first introduction into the "real world" of economics.
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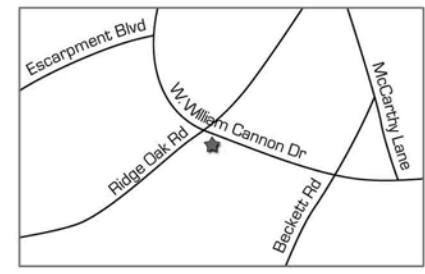
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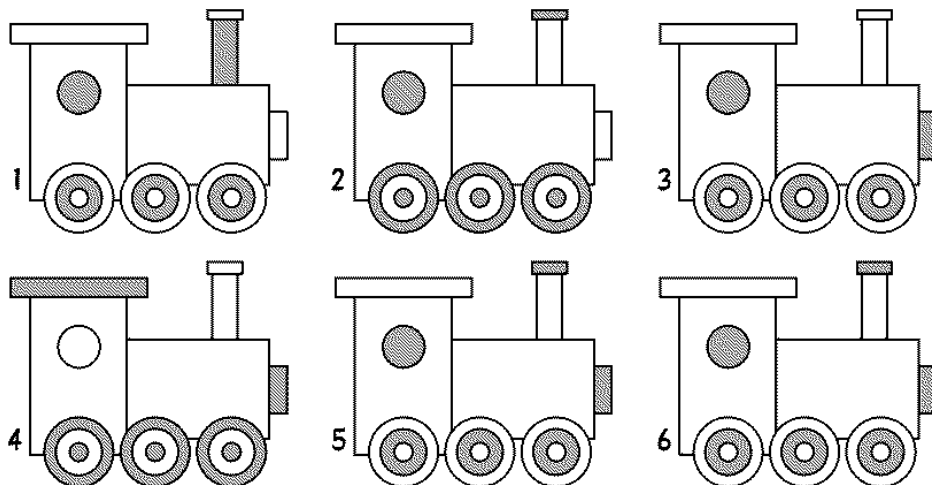
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Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (Jun '08 - Nov '08)						CURRENT MARKET	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	41	2,672	\$ 115	\$ 307	1993	41	25	5
North	13	2,075	\$ 125	\$ 259	1996	43	4	0
Wildflower	10	2,145	\$ 128	\$ 274	2000	36	1	1
On The Park	4	3,733	\$ 121	\$ 451	1995	30	3	1
Vintage Place	3	2,878	\$ 109	\$ 313	2003	60	5	0
Hielscher	18	2,901	\$ 123	\$ 356	2003	51	11	1
West	22	3,275	\$ 121	\$ 396	2004	51	11	0
Park West	3	2,095	\$ 146	\$ 305	2002	24	8	0
Park Place	4	2,401	\$ 129	\$ 310	2004	42	2	0
Muirfield	4	3,882	\$ 127	\$ 493	2006	70	3	0
Enclave/Stone Creek	2	2,852	\$ 119	\$ 339	2006	105	15	1
Alta Mira	9	2,908	\$ 129	\$ 374	2007	58	4	0
Circle C Ranch Total	133	2,775	\$ 121	\$ 337	1999	46	92	9
% Change Mo/Mo	-9%	0%	1%	1%	0%	-2%	-6%	-36%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 12/10/2008. 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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