



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 8

August 2009

www.circlecranch.info

West Pool Project – *Here We Come!*

Submitted by Steve Urban, CCHOA President

After many years of hoping for this day, I am happy to announce that the CCHOA has finally received the land and funds which our former developer collected and devoted to the building of a new pool and other amenities in Circle C West at Spruce Canyon and La Crosse. For those who are new to the neighborhood, perhaps a history lesson is warranted. Our former developer negotiated several agreements with the builders in the neighborhood which provided that those builders would contribute \$1,000 to an amenities fund each time they transferred a residential lot into the CCHOA. These agreements, among other things, required that the funds be devoted to a pool and other amenities in Circle C West. As late as October 2004, our previous developer's affiliated companies were prepared to voluntarily transfer all rights and obligations under these agreements to the CCHOA. Unfortunately, the local bankruptcy court ruled that same month that all assets, rights and obligations subject to the agreements were part of our former developer's bankruptcy estate.

After many years of working with the bankruptcy court, the trustee for our former developer's estate and other interested parties, the court entered an order in mid-2008 allowing us to assume control of the funds and land which had been set aside for the amenities in our neighborhood. The parties then went through their respective due diligence in anticipation of closing, which took place earlier this month. We now have in excess of \$1,300,000 in our accounts which shall be exclusively devoted to the West Pool Project. What has only been a

concept in the past can now become a reality due to the transfer of these assets to the HOA.

The board appointed a West Pool Committee in March of 2007 to continue the work of its predecessor(s). The committee was asked to research and gather data from the neighborhood through surveys and other comparable neighborhood amenities and develop conceptual plans for the West Pool site. These conceptual plans were presented to the membership at the March 2008 Annual Meeting. The board will receive an update to those plans and the committee's recommendations during a work session following the July board meeting.

So what do we do now? The next steps will include: permitting with the City of Austin to determine exactly what we are and are not permitted to build on the site, fully and finally determining what we want to build and how much we are willing to spend to fund the project and enlisting the help of a project manager to shepherd us through the project and make it happen. We will continue to work with the committee and do our best to build the amenities we want and need within the board's framework of fiscal responsibility to the Association. We will also endeavor to periodically update our website and newsletter, as well as possibly host Q&A meetings to let you know where we're going and how we intend to get there.

Simply stated, hold on to your hats folks – we're off to the races!



Mark Your Calendars!

Upcoming HOA Events

- Aug 8 – Movie Night
- Aug 15 – BBQ Cook-Off and Family Festival



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Circle C Amenities

Circle C Café 288-6058
 Circle C CDC..... 288-9792
 Circle C Swim Center 288-6057
 Circle C Tennis Club General@CircleCTennis.com, 301-8685
 Sub Association Info:
 KB Enclave and Fairway Estates HOA
 Karen Hibpshman, CMCA, Manager 347-2891
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 Streetman Enclave HOA
 K.O. Orsak 646-6739
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IMPORTANT NUMBERS

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 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

Circle C Open House

Circle C Open House is a neighborhood-wide tour of open houses. Any realtor or FSBO may register their home within Circle C. Tours are held every other Sunday from 1pm to 4pm in Circle C. Submit your listings by 3pm on Friday to have your property on the next tour. Questions? info@circlecopenhouse.com or www.circlecopenhouse.com.

Board of Directors Meeting Cancelled

The Board of Directors has cancelled their regularly scheduled board meeting on August 20, 2009. They will resume their monthly schedule and meet on September 16, 2009.

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 10th of the month. The newsletter can also be viewed online at www.circlecranch.info.



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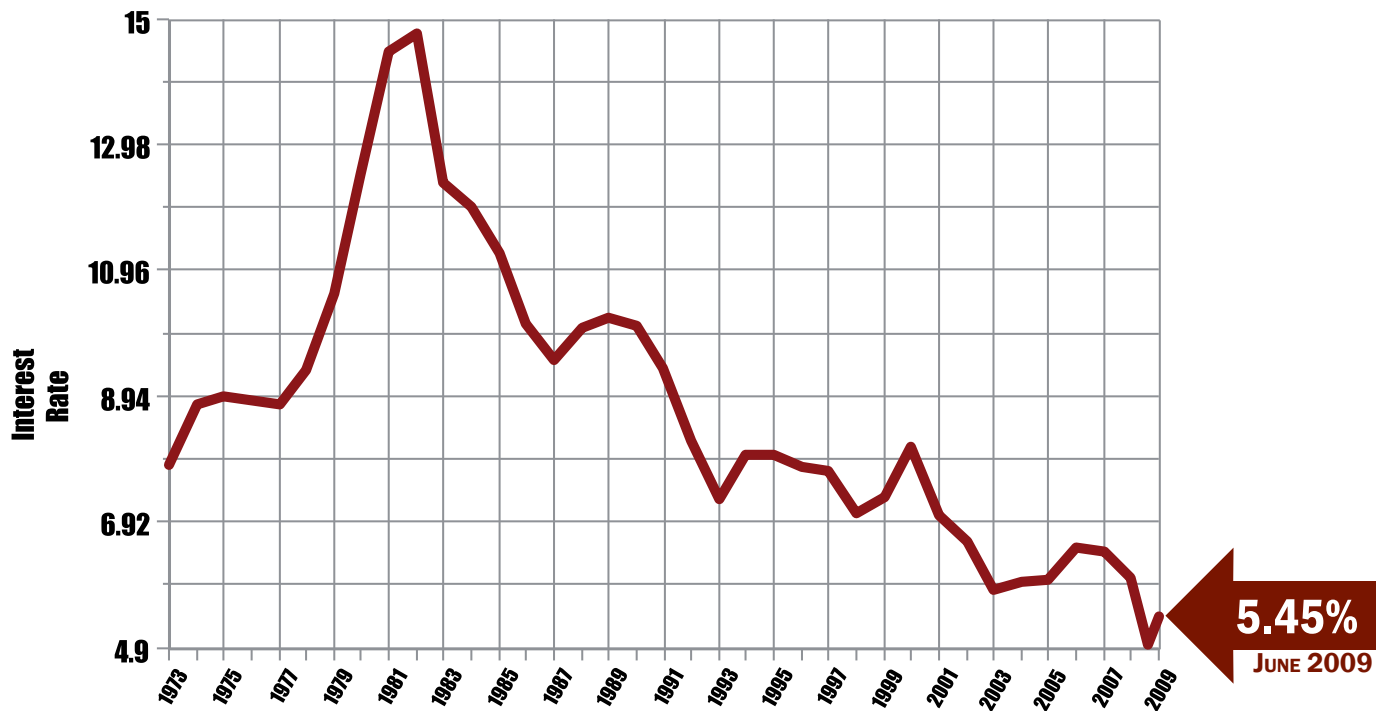
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CCHOA News

Deed Restriction Update

As noted in every newsletter, we are driving 2 to 3 sections of the neighborhood per month. We are looking for violations that can be seen from the street view of the home. You can find a full copy of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions online at www.circlecranch.info. This time of year we are seeing a lot of overgrown yards that have spotty weeds, have not been trimmed and have overgrown shrubbery. We are also looking at the upkeep on the maintenance of the home (paint, siding, roofs, etc.). If you receive a letter from the HOA regarding a violation on your property, Please give us a call at 288-8663 or send us an email at info@circlecranch.info. We can work with you on a plan for bringing your home into compliance.

New Middle School: *Sidewalk Completion on Slaughter*

As reported in the July newsletter, we have been communicating with the City in regards to completing the sidewalk on the north side of Slaughter from Vintage Place to the new middle school. The City has informed us that they plan to complete this sidewalk prior to school beginning. AISD is currently evaluating the various routes to the middle school for bicycle and pedestrian traffic and we will continue to update everyone via the newsletter.

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have an article of interest for the newsletter? If so, please submit in article format (MS Word, Georgia 11pt font) by the 10th of the preceding month to info@circlecranch.info

4th of July Parade a Success!

The CCHOA hosted the annual 4th of July Parade this past month and we would like to thank everyone for their participation. Special thanks to members of our Special Events Committee who helped set-up and clean-up for this event: Melinda & Bob McKenna, Julie, Chloe and Canella Arevalo, Katie Hunt, Terri Savage, Daphne Bamburg, Linda Graf and everyone else who pitched in.



YOU ARE INVITED...

**TO COME SEE EVERYTHING MEMBERSHIP AT
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CCHOA News Continued

Capital Budget Projects 2009

A complete listing of all Capital Budget projects approved by the Board of Directors for 2009 can be found on the website, www.circlecranch.info (you must first create an account to log in). Below is a summary of what projects are underway or already completed:

- Landscape - Water Meter Upgrade – COMPLETE
- Landscape - Irrigation Central Control – Underway; centralized computer based control system for water on Escarpment, Slaughter Lane and LaCrosse between MoPac and Escarpment
- Landscape - Turf Replacement – completed along La Crosse, east of Escarpment
- Landscape - Bed Upgrades – Wildflower Park and Circle C North are complete
- Landscape - Outlying Area Upgrades – will begin in Jul/Aug
- Electric - Bollard Lights (the tall pole like lights that line Escarpment Blvd) – COMPLETE; 16 new lights were installed
- Electric Slaughter Landscape Lighting – COMPLETE
- Swim Center – Solar Panels for Toddler Pool - COMPLETE
- Swim Center – Upgrade Volleyball Net - COMPLETE
- Swim Center – Replace picnic tables - COMPLETE
- Swim Center – Furniture Bench Seats - COMPLETE
- Swim Center – Upgrade drains - COMPLETE
- Swim Center – Bathhouse Roof – COMPLETE
- Swim Center – Flash heaters for showers – to begin in the fall
- Swim Center – Fence Repair - ongoing
- Neighborhood - Playscapes – phase II of the playscape projects in Wildflower Park and Vintage Place are underway; shade tarps to both parks will be added in July/Aug
- Neighborhood – Move Mailboxes – not yet started
- Neighborhood – Complete sidewalk on La Crosse, east of Escarpment – Soliciting bids

Summer Movie Series: August 8, 2009 at dusk

Join the fun for the last feature presentation of our Summer Movie Series. We will be showing Madagascar 2: Escape to Africa on Saturday, August 8, 2009 at dusk at the Swim Center. Bring your blankets and chairs. Our apologies to all who came out for the first movie of the series (Jun 13) – our sprinklers were on and the movie start time was delayed.

Please Slow Down

School is out, summer is here. Please be sure to reduce your speed on all neighborhood streets in Circle C and keep your eye out for children. We have specifically been asked to ask for cars traveling south on Dahlen Avenue toward La Crosse Avenue to slow down especially once school starts as many children are passing through this intersection. Thank you.

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CCHOA News Continued



Keep Bringing Your Aluminum Can Tabs

Bring us your aluminum can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House - the children thank you!

Some of you are now in the habit of collecting the aluminum can tabs and we appreciate you taking the time to bring them to the HOA office. The children thank you. We will continue 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/>

Thank You Bowie H.S. ROTC

Submitted by Melinda McKenna

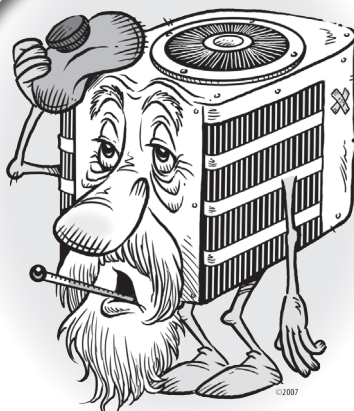


Thank you Bowie High School Junior ROTC for leading the 4th of July parade. The JROTC was collecting donations to assist in starting a NEW competitive rifle program and donations would be greatly appreciated! If you are interested in supporting the JROTC, please contact Melinda McKenna at 288-8088 or Melinda@AustinReps.com for more information.

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CCHOA News Continued

Circle C Landscape Update

Submitted by Susan Hoover

This month I am going to use a Q & A format for your monthly landscape report. Since we are in such extreme heat and drought conditions, we have had some questions and I want to make sure that you all have correct information.

Are the trees dying on Escarpment? We have had three trees on the west side of Escarpment north of LaCrosse lose their leaves in the past two weeks. These are burr oak trees, and in general, they get heat stressed easily and often lose their leaves over the summer, generally in late August. The super hot weather has moved up the schedule this year.

The trees are not dead and will recover. We have dug water trenches around them and around 15 other large trees in the neighborhood and these are being hand watered with our water truck two times per week. The trees that have lost their leaves are planted on the small hills (berms) on the west side of Escarpment. This area is particularly rocky and the water has a hard time soaking in due to the slope. Thus, the trees stress practically overnight. The supplemental water will keep them alive, but they look pretty bad right now.

We do have some other trees that have died over the past year and some trees that are at the end of their life cycle and will need to be taken down. All of the dead trees will be removed before the end of August. They have been inspected by a certified arborist and do not have oak wilt or any spreading disease. During extreme drought conditions, some of the weaker trees will succumb to any underlying problems. We have not lost any landmark trees (trees greater than 19" caliper).

What is the watering schedule for the Circle C Commons Areas? The commons areas are under the commercial watering ordinance for the City of Austin. This ordinance allows watering between the hours of 7 p.m. and 10 a.m. on Tuesday and Friday. As a large property, we are allowed to file a water variance plan with the City, which we have done. This allows us to water certain sections a Wednesday/Saturday or Sunday/Thursday schedule. Therefore, you may see water on in certain locations on any day of the week except Monday.

(Continued on Page 8)



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CCHOA News Continued

Circle C Landscape Update- (Continued from Page 7)

When is a variance granted for watering? The City of Austin allows us to submit a new landscape watering variance request which allows a 30 day period to water in new vegetation. It allows watering at all times during the first 10 days and then sequentially limits water over the next two 10 day periods until the normal watering schedule kicks in on the last day.

Why do we have large yellow spots in some locations? Our water system has 41 irrigation controllers, about 1500 sections of irrigation and about 10,000 heads. If you see a large section that suddenly yellows out, it is generally a valve that has stopped functioning. We do a check on the entire system one time per month, but a valve can malfunction at any time. We review the property on a daily basis and additionally check any section that looks like it is not coming on. Unfortunately, with such hot weather, that yellow look can come on overnight. The smaller spots are either places where the wind has blown the water away from its watering spot, or a head or nozzle that needs fine tuning. This time of year, we are checking everything daily and making corrections as soon as possible.

What is our water budget for the year, and are we able to work within it? The total water budget for the year is \$180,000. We have

100 acres of irrigated area, so the cost breaks down to \$1800.00 per acre per year, or \$150.00 per acre per month. Most Circle C lawns are less than .3 acres for comparison purposes.

As of June, we had spent \$56,615.00 on water and have \$123,384.00 remaining. We anticipate high water bills for July, August, and September. We have not gone over the water budget in the past five years.

What other watering rules are the commons areas subject to? The City of Austin can mandate or otherwise restrict outdoor irrigation watering. In July when the 54 inch line from the Ulrich Treatment Plant was drilled into by a contractor, the City mandated no outdoor water while they fixed it. Since we are on limited water, an event such as this can cause us to miss a water cycle. If the City determines that excessive water use is threatening the overall water system, they can move the Stage 2 provisions of the water conservation ordinance which limits or prohibits outdoor irrigation watering for commercial properties.

What steps are being taken to promote water conservation?

About five years ago, the CCHOA Board of Directors adopted the Green Community Landscape Model. This has served as a guidepost

(Continued on Page 9)



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CCHOA News Continued

Circle C Landscape Update- (Continued from Page 8)

for renovating the commons areas to environmentally sensitive water conservation oriented vegetation. All areas that are being renovated are required use drought tolerant sustainable plantings, limit turf area, and use a drought tolerant turf grass.

Improvements have been made to the irrigation system. On the long boulevards of LaCrosse West and Spruce Canyon, individual weather sensors have been installed on all of the irrigation controllers. These sensors calculate rain, temperature and solar radiation and automatically adjust the time settings on the controllers to provide the amount of water they are set for. They are sensitive enough to detect a short rain shower and figure it into the amount of water still needed for the area and provide an automatic adjustment. We are tracking the water use on these controllers and have found them to adjust water accurately, to shut the controllers off quickly during a rain and cut back their watering time if we do get rain. They will also automatically add a certain amount of additional water if conditions warrant.

We have also added a centralized computer based control system for water on Escarpment, Slaughter Lane and LaCrosse between MoPac and Escarpment. These areas have long water loops where water

pressure is an issue. The centralized system monitors the controllers and uses radio communications to reset or stop them if necessary. This system controls about 200 sections of sprinkler heads.

Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Circle C Ranch Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

Classified Ads

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

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

**We recommend an even higher level
of protection this summer.**

Great Hills Baptist Church**Sunday Schedule:**

9:30 & 11 am - Bible Life Groups (all ages)

9:30 am - Celebration-Connection
(Worship Choir & Orchestra)

11:00 am - Life-Connection
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CCHOA News Continued**Swim Center News***Submitted by Brandon Ducote***POOL MAINTENANCE UPDATE**

The Circle C Swim Center recently underwent repairs to the sand filtration system for the main pool, which had begun to malfunction in May, leaving large amounts of sand in the competition pool. Swim Center Staff repaired the filters on June 28th and 29th by removing 10 tons of sand and repairing the broken filtration components "laterals" that allowed the sand to get into the pool. Once the laterals were repaired, 10 tons of new sand and gravel were placed into the filters and the pool was able to reopen on Tuesday June 30th. In addition, the pool sprayers, which cool the pool at night, had a break in the main line. Staff repaired the leak the same day allowing the pool cooling system to stay in operation keeping the pool cool during the hot days of summer.

ADULT SWIM CONDITIONING - TUESDAY AND THURSDAY 8-9AM (8 CLASSES \$45)

Coach Carol Fritz, CYT, CPT is leading the Adult Swim Conditioning class towards better stroke technique, increased flexibility and strength, while learning to swim with less effort/more enjoyment. Carol will look at individual goals and work towards achieving them.

CIRCLE C SELECT SWIM TEAM - SHORT COURSE- (AUGUST 4, 2009 -FEBRUARY 25, 2010)

The Circle C Select-Swim Team is a Circle C Swim Center program organized under the auspices of the Circle C HOA and supported by parent volunteers. The team is a USA Swimming Club and will be competing in the South Texas Region. The goal of the team is to develop each swimmer's technique, conditioning, discipline, goal setting, self-esteem and competitiveness while learning the sport of swimming. The team is composed of three training groups, which are listed below.

BEGINNER GROUP (3 DAYS PER WEEK)

This is an instructional team program designed to establish excellent form and technique for each swimmer. Swimmers will learn drills and proper technique to improve swimming ability. Requirements for this group are to swim competitively:

- _ 200 yd. Freestyle
- _ 50 yd. Backstroke
- _ 25 yd. Butterfly & Breaststroke

Practice Schedule

Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Time: 3:45pm – 4:30pm

Cost: \$58 month per swimmer

INTERMEDIATE GROUP (4 DAYS PER WEEK)

Swimmers will increase their competitive fitness level and enhance stroke technique. Swimmers will also learn and utilize goal setting and racing strategies to prepare for meets. Requirements for this group are to swim competitively:

- _ 100 yd. IM with legal turns
- _ 500 yd. Freestyle
- _ 50 yd. Backstroke, Butterfly & Breaststroke

Practice Schedule

Days: Tuesday - Friday

Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm

(Dry Land: 5:15pm -5:30pm)

Cost: \$88 month per swimmer

ADVANCED GROUP (5 DAYS PER WEEK)

Swimmers will demonstrate their commitment level as much as athletic talent. Swimmers will continue stroke development, endurance, and strength training. Swimmers will also continue to utilize goal setting and race strategies, focusing on making age

(Continued on Page 12)

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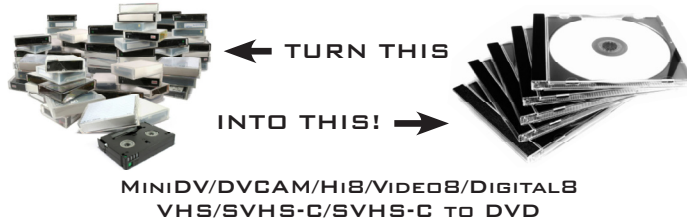


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CCHOA News Continued

Swim Center News- (Continued from Page 11)

group times for TAGS. Requirements for this group are to swim competitively:

- _ 200 yd. IM with legal turns
- _ 1200 yd. Freestyle
- _ 100 yd. Backstroke, Butterfly & Breaststroke

Practice Schedule

Days: Tuesday - Saturday

Time: 5:15pm - 7:15pm

(Dry Land: 5:15pm - 5:30pm)

Cost: \$108 month per swimmer

CIRCLE C SWIM CENTER POOL HOURS (AUGUST 24TH- OCTOBER 25TH)

Monday thru Friday-

Lap Swim 6-10am & 4-8pm

Rec Swim 9-10am & 4-8pm

Saturday-

Lap Swim 7am-6pm

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements

Mills Students:
The End is Near!*Submitted by Kristen Card*

The end of summer is already creeping closer – but a finish to this fiery summer also marks a fresh start to a new school year for our community's kids.

Mills Elementary School has set the dates for learning and getting to know your 2009-10 teachers. Please mark your calendars for:

- **Tuesday, August 18th, 5 p.m.** – Class lists will be posted along the library entrance in front of the school; and
- **Friday, August 21st, 4 – 6 p.m.** – Open house will be held for students to come check out their new classrooms and chat with their new teachers.

Here's to a fun summer's end and a great school year yet to come!

For further information about what's happening at Mills, please visit www.millspta.org.

Kindergarten Playdates for
New Kiker Kinders!*Submitted by Jeanna Crow*

Are you interested in meeting some new Kiker Kinders? If so, please join us at the park or at the pool on the following Wednesdays:

- 10:00 am August 5 for swimming at the Circle C pool
- 9:00 am August 19 at Wildflower Park

Look for the Kiker poster and grab a name tag and meet some new friends.

Questions?

Contact Becky Johnson, becky.johnson@alumni.utexas.net

Kim Reaves, kbreaves13@yahoo.com

Kate Scholz, k_scholz@att.net Save the Date - September 19, 2009 - Strap on your helmet and ride over to the Kiker Bike Fest. This family event is a great chance for young people to learn and practice their safe riding skills in a fun, non-competitive atmosphere. Experienced riders will also be able to Tour the Veloway with six-time Tour de France finisher Kevin Livingston. Mark you calendars for a morning of fun! Registrations will begin in August. Check the Kiker PTA website for updated information at www.kikerpta.org



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued*

Circle C Ranch Cycling Club Sweeps Austin Commuter Challenge

Submitted by Wes Robinson

During National Bike Month in May, the commuter team of Circle C Ranch Cycling Club (CCRCC) competed in the Bicycle Sport Shop's first annual Austin Commuter Challenge and won all three of Austin's Commuter Cups. CCRCC's commuter team was made up of Dave Dobbs, Steve James, Josh Quist, Ellie Robinson, Kennedy Robinson, Laurie Robinson, Wes Robinson, Bill Simons, Nick Sheen, and John Williams. Over the course of the month, CCRCC's commuter team replaced 972 car trips with bike trips and logged 2,873 miles. More than 300 Austinites participated in the Challenge and collectively logged more than 8,487 trips and 36,000 miles by bike.

The Challenge was the brainchild of Chris Carter of the Bicycle Sport Shop and the goal was to inspire people to use their bikes for transportation. Forty-five percent of the car trips in the U.S. are within two miles of the home. Fifty percent of our workforce



L to R: Dave Dobbs, Laurie Robinson, Wes Robinson, Ellie Robinson, Josh Quist, Kennedy Robinson, and Bill Simons

lives within five miles of their place of employment. These car trips are the easiest to replace with a bike and do the most to reduce automobile emissions. In addition to the environmental benefits, more bike trips improve individual and societal health, reduce traffic congestion and preserve natural resources, thereby reducing transportation costs for everyone.

Circle C has some of the best bicycle infrastructure in the city. In addition to the miles of bike lanes and multi-use paths, Circle C is very close to the Veloway and is home to many recreational and transportation cyclists. All of the businesses at Escarpment Village are easily reached by bike, as is the swimming pool and local elementary schools. When teaching bicycle safety classes, I commonly brag on how friendly and accommodating Circle C's motor vehicle drivers are to cyclists. Next time you need to make a trip to the pool, the grocery store, a local restaurant, or grab a coffee or ice cream, consider going by bike.

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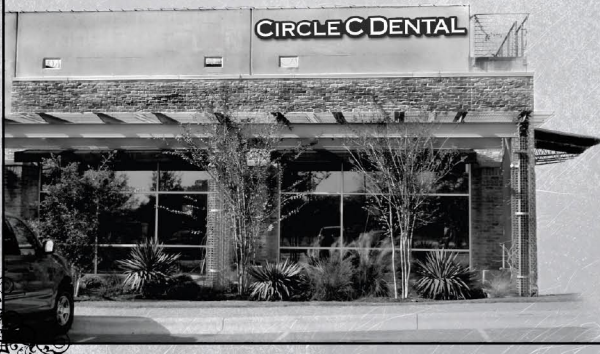


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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Park West HOA News

(Specifically for Park West Residents)

Submitted by Jackie Rollins

Emergency Vehicles on Park West Streets

Thanks go to Fran Greve, a member of the PWHOA Bylaws and Rules Committee, who gathered the following information while doing research about parking on our neighborhood streets and put it in writing for this column:

The firefighters from Station 43, our local station on Escarpment, made a community service call to Park West on Monday, June 29, and drove through the neighborhood in one of the fire trucks used to respond to emergencies. The purpose of the visit was to assess maneuverability for fire trucks and EMS equipment on Park West streets in the event they have to make a first responders call in our neighborhood. Lt. Josh Anderson and his fellow firefighters drove the neighborhood and made some suggestions for maintaining our streets to ensure that the first responders (fire and EMS) have quick access in case of an emergency. They expressed concerns about negotiating the curve on Tasajillo Trail in the approximate area of houses numbered 6408 - 6425 and 6501 - 6526 if there were cars

parked on the street. This area would be impassable if both sides were blocked. They also doubted they could make the turns directly out of our three cul-de-sacs if there were cars parked close to the intersection or directly across from the cul-de-sac street. (Note: A City of Austin ordinance mandates parking no closer than 20 feet from an intersection.) It may require several attempts at backing/going forward/backing again to turn. The roundabout, at the bottom of the east side of Park West, is a similar situation; however, it is illegal to park in a roundabout. The fire trucks stationed on Escarpment are pump trucks. Pump trucks can range from 24 - 28 feet long, while ladder trucks can be between 35 - 50 feet in length. This makes it very difficult to maneuver in a small area. Equipment ranges from 7 feet to 10.5 feet wide. Since our streets are approximately 25 feet wide, if cars are parked on both sides of the street, the fire trucks and EMS equipment may not be able to pass. The following are a few suggestions for keeping our neighborhood streets safe:

(Continued on Page 16)

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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Park West HOA- (Continued from Page 15)

- Park your car on the driveway or in the garage to lessen the obstructions emergency vehicles face in order to negotiate our streets.
- Whenever possible, don't park opposite another car on the street. Have guests space their parking so that there is adequate room for emergency vehicles to pass.
- Park at least 20 feet away from an intersection - it's the law.
- Allow 15 feet on each side of a fire hydrant, whether or not the curb is painted. (Park West does not have painted curbs alerting us to the location of a fire hydrant.)
- Remember that emergency vehicles require a much larger turning radius than any car we drive. Park cars to allow for easy and quick egress from the cul-de-sacs.
- Do not park in the roundabout.
- Be particularly aware if parking on the curve on Tasajillo Trail since this presents a hazard for both visibility and maneuverability.

We are fortunate that we have a fire/EMS station in the Circle C Ranch community. By following some guidelines and a few laws regarding parking, we help the firefighters and EMS responders do their jobs in addition to making Park West safe for all our residents. Many thanks to the firefighters who made this community service call and to all emergency personnel for their dedication to our safety.

Landscaper News and Sprinkler Checks

Summer is here, and is it ever! With heat of 100 degrees plus beating down on our lawns every day, it's a wonder that, for the most part, they stay green. As long as we continue to water them on the schedule set by the City of Austin, they should continue to make it through the summer. However, many of our lawns and curb grass areas have parched sections in one or more spots. According to the landscaper, the reason could be a broken or malfunctioning sprinkler head causing the spraying water to miss or overshoot its mark. If you have parched areas on your lawn, please schedule a sprinkler check as soon as possible to see if this could be the problem. It only takes a few minutes to ensure that your system is working at its optimum

level. E-mail scott@pearsonlandscape.com or call Jackie Rollins at 940-5745 to schedule an appointment.

City of Austin Watering Rules

FROM MAY 1- SEPTEMBER 30:

- Odd-numbered houses water only on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Even-numbered houses water only on Thursdays and Sundays.
- No watering between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.
- Set your automatic sprinkler accordingly.
- Hand-held hose watering okay at any time.
- City of Austin penalty for violations.

Good Neighbors of the Month

Submitted by Dorian deWind: Returning home late from some pre-4th of July fireworks on the eve of Independence Day, as we entered Park West, we were greeted by a lineup of beautiful, little American flags on both sides of Tasajillo Trail. The next morning, on the 4th of July, we realized that those flags were everywhere - in front of every house in Park West. What a generous and patriotic act by some thoughtful Park West residents! The next morning, July 5, just as mysteriously and unobtrusively as the little flags had appeared, they were discreetly and tidily gone. After some checking, we found out that **Joan and Dave Maril** were not only responsible for planning and organizing the tribute to this special day, but also for the flags' purchase, placement and removal, to be used again another year. Joan and Dave, on behalf of the Park West HOA, thank you for such a thoughtful, community-oriented and just plain nice gesture.

If you know someone who should be given credit for being a good neighbor of the month, 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.



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

Do You Have a Child Who Is Ready for Pre-k?

Submitted by Michelle Moran

Kiker Elementary and the Child Development Center are excited to announce that we have openings in our spectacular Inclusion Pre-K Classes for the 2009-2010 school year!

These classes are a great transition into Kindergarten—full of learning, excitement, and tons of fun. Each class has a degreed Child Development Center teacher, a certified AISD teacher, and an AISD assistant. These teachers work collaboratively to create a phenomenal learning environment. The class sizes are kept small, and the student to teacher ratio is 1:7.



LOCATION, HOURS, AND OPTIONS:

Kiker Elem. ~ Monday-Friday	7:45-2:00	\$610/mos
+Extended Hour	7:45-3:00	\$660/mos
+Extended Hour & Kiker Krew	7:45-6:30	\$810/mos

(Your child must be 4 years old by Sept. 1st, 2009 to be accepted into this program)

If you would like to hear more about this program or are interested in one of the openings, please call the Child Development Center at 512/288-9792.

These spots will not last long, so call TODAY!

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CCHOA Clubs & Announce. Continued

Circle C Tennis Update

Submitted by Fernando Velasco, General Manager and Director of Tennis, Circle C Tennis Club

CIRCLE C PLAYERS WIN AWARD AND BERTH TO CHAMPIONSHIP PLAYOFFS



Circle C Tennis players Samantha Jorden and Carol Pimentel attended the A&M Tennis Camp this summer. Samantha earned the "Aggie Heart Award" and Carol, the MVP Award for her group. Circle C Tennis Club stands out again in Aggieland!!

The Circle C Setters won First place in the Weekend USTA 3.0 Spring League and have received an invitation to Little State Championships in Corpus Christi Aug 7-9. Watch for them on ESPN!!



(Continued on Page 21)



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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued

The “Four Awareness” Points When Playing Tennis

Submitted by Fernando M. Velasco

In past issues, I have written about how to choose proper tennis equipment and efficient ways to practice. This issue offers advice on how to tackle the “critical points” in your matches.

In every match, you will find critical points that can determine whether a player wins or losses. At these critical points, I suggest reviewing what I call the “four awareness” points:

FIRST AWARENESS: SELF

Every player possesses certain shots that they feel more comfortable hitting on a critical point. For example, it could be a forehand topspin, or a slice one. When choosing which shot to hit on a critical point, decisively utilize the shot that comes more naturally without changing your mind. That is when mistakes are made.

SECOND AWARENESS: OPPONENT

When the players decide on a shot at a critical point, they need to consider their opponent’s strengths and weaknesses. During the match, they should notice the shots the opponent has less success with than others. On a critical point, players should use the shot they feel more comfortable with but also they will aim towards their opponent’s weaknesses.

THIRD AWARENESS: COURT

Once you decide on your most consistent shot, consider the opponent’s weakness, you also need to take into account the court conditions. Factors such as the sun, wind, and surface will make a difference on the shot executed. When in doubt, you should either choose a shot toward an opening on the court, or directly at your opponent’s feet; open spaces or shoe laces.

FOURTH AWARENESS: SCORE

When you decide on your shot, the placement and being aware of the court challenges, a good player should also remember the score in hand. Players will be aggressive when the score is in their favor, and be more conservative when tied, or behind. For example, when a player is serving at 40-15, the serve should be a powerful and assertive. In contrast, if the score is 15-40, the player should serve the first serve with some power, but with more placement.

Over time, these four awareness points will become both automatic and reactionary as players become more experienced in playing and competing. After the shot has been properly executed, they will sometimes give themselves a pat on the back for doing the right thing at the right time, and remind themselves that they followed the “four awareness” points.

food, fun, games, waterslides, being with good people, singing, praise bands, lots of great bar-b-
que, shade, great live music, cool drinks, dancing, kids bouncing, bidding, relaxing, new friends,
happy children, summertime, breezy clothes, snacks, guitars, dunking booths, food, fun, games,
waterslides, being with good people, singing, praise bands, lots of great bar-b-que, shade, great
live music, cool drinks, dancing, kids bouncing, bidding, relaxing, new friends, happy children,
summertime, breezy clothes, snacks, guitars, dunking booths, food, fun, games, waterslides,
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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements *Continued***Circle C Tennis Update-**
(Cont. from pg 19)

Team:

Angela Alexander,
Kathleen Augustine,
Eileen Beckmann,
Priya Bhavsar,
Kathi Calhoun,
Nelissa Conners,
Kim Greer,
Ceci Griffiths,
Noelle Heinze,
Candice Keen,
Meagan Maddux – Co-Captain,
Carmen Manzur,
Mary Cromack,
Kathy Mungle – Captain,
Emily Speight
Diane Willenburg
Good luck to all!!

**August Events at the Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center***Submitted by Saralee Tiede***Sign up for the Fall Session of Go Native U**

Learn about garden design, plant selection, installation, maintenance and pest management starting in September. For information and registration, check www.wildflower.org

**The Origami Diva - Through
October 4**

Joan Son's intricate installation of origami, "Natural Rhythm" features birds and plants. In the McDermott Learning Center

**Held over—Texas Society of
Sculptors Exhibit - Through
August 31**

This popular exhibit features additional sculptures in the gardens.

**August is Butterfly Month! - Saturday
and Sunday, August 1 and 2**

A 15 percent discount on butterfly books, gift or apparel.

**Pre-Fall Seed Sale - Saturday and
Sunday, August 15 and 16**

Save 20 percent on all wildflower seed purchases this weekend in the store.

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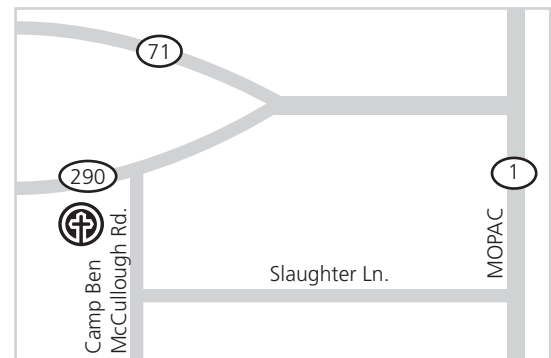
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CCHOA Clubs & Announcements Continued



Ladies' Book Club

Submitted by Rachel Smith

Come join other Circle C women for a once-monthly book club. We will meet for brunch on August 22nd at the home of Rachel Smith to choose the first book and discuss options for the club. Email rachelsmith4@gmail.com or call (512) 653-8857 if interested!

Classified Ads

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

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

Austin Adoption Coalition

Submitted by Tracy Eilers

JOHNATHAN, DOB: 10/1997

Johnathan is an affectionate child who loves to give and receive hugs. He loves trains, building with Legos and cardboard boxes. He also enjoys going on outings and watching cartoons, especially Scooby-Doo. His favorite food is pizza.

He has been diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder which requires therapy. He is not able to communicate as easily as other children his age, which can be very frustrating for him. He has made tremendous progress in foster care and has a strong desire to please the adults around him. Johnathan requires a high level of supervision due to his activity level and his social skills. Johnathan's foster mom describes him as a "lovable child" and a "good kid."

For more information about adoption in general or Johnathan, please contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at info@adopttexas.org.



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Circle C BBQ Cook-Off



CIRCLE C 1ST ANNUAL BBQ COOK-OFF AND FAMILY FESTIVAL!

Join us on Saturday, August 15th, 4pm to 7pm for an afternoon of fun! Activities include:

- Games 2 Go Tour Bus
- Volleyball & Basketball Tournament
- Local vendor booths
- Face Painting
- Food & Drink
- & Much More!!

Admission is FREE!

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE LAST BIG EVENT OF THE SUMMER!

If you are interested in participating in the BBQ Cook-Off and/or renting a booth as a vendor, please see registration forms in this newsletter. Questions? Call us at 288-8663 or email at info@circlecranch.info

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Circle C BBQ Cook-Off Continued



Circle C BBQ Cook-Off and Family Festival Rules & Regulations

1. All registration forms are due by July 31, 2009. There will be no on-site registration on the day of the cook-off. Judging will begin at 2pm with turn-ins at separate times. Cooks may begin set-up anytime on Friday, August 14th beginning at 6pm.
2. The team captain must be a Circle C resident. A barbeque team may have no more than 4 people per team.
3. Barbeque must be cooked from scratch on-site the day of (or night before) the cook-off. It must be prepared in the open at the team's booth site. No gas cooking allowed.
4. Teams are asked to prepare and cook food in as sanitary manner as possible. Cooking conditions are subject to inspection by the head judge. All food, equipment and utensils must be stored at least 6" off the floor on pallets, shelving or tables at all times.
5. Each team will be given one parking space at the back of the swim center. Spaces will be numbered and each team, upon registration, will be given a number. Appropriate themed decoration of your area and related costuming is encouraged, but please remember this is a family event.
6. Cooking will take place in the designated parking space area only. Cooks must provide their own materials to include: table, chairs, shade, cooking utensils & ingredients.
7. At the discretion of the head judge, cooks may be required to taste their own barbeque in front of a judge at any time during the event.
8. Firearms, explosives or other pyrotechnics will not be allowed on the premises.



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Circle C BBQ Cook-Off Continued



BBQ Cook-Off and Family Festival

The CCHOA will host the 1st Annual BBQ Cook-Off and Family Festival on Saturday, August 15, 2009 from 4pm to 7pm in the Swim Center Plaza.

Join us for a day of fun! We'll have a Mobile Video Game (state of the art electronics, lighting and sound, including multiple flat screen HDTV displays inside and outside with tons of games to play), a volleyball tournament at the pool, face-painting/tattoos, motorized boat races, vendor booths with many items for sale and lots more!

- If you are interested in entering the BBQ Cook-Off, look for official rules and registration in this newsletter and online at www.circlecranch.info

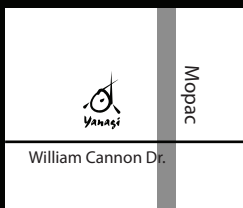
- If you would like to rent a booth space to sell crafts, merchandise, jewelry, services, etc., the cost will be \$50 per spot (maximum 6ft table to set-up your product). For \$75, you will also get your name/company logo on the back of our official BBQ Cook-Off T-shirt which will be given away

at the event. CCHOA residents will be considered for booths first with remaining booth rentals available to non-residents. Vendors are responsible for set-up and equipment of booth including tables and chairs.



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National Night Out 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings! It's time again to gather your neighbors and team up with your Law Enforcement Agency to give crime a going-away party.

National Night Out is an annual event held on the first Tuesday of October. National Night Out is sponsored by the National Night Out Association of Town Watch. This past year's National Night Out campaigns involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, business, neighborhood organizations and local public officials from more than 9,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 29.5 million participated in National Night Out last year.

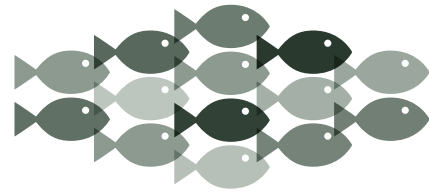
National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime efforts, and to strengthen neighborhood spirit and law enforcement – community partnership. But its primary goal is to send a strong message to criminals to let them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

Along with the traditional display of porch lights and front-yard vigils, cities, towns and neighborhoods celebrate NNO with a variety of events and activities such as block parties, cookouts, visits from local law enforcement officers, parades flashlights walks contests and youth programs. NNO has proven to be an effective, inexpensive and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for safer communities. The benefits that your community will derive from NNO will most certainly extend well beyond the one night.

The Travis County Sheriff's Office has promoted National Night Out for the past 25 years. Our participation has grown from helping with a handful of neighborhood get-togethers to more than 4,000 participants enjoying block parties, carnivals, parades and an assortment of other activities. Our involvement has grown from a couple of crime prevention officers, to dozens of patrol officers, sergeants, lieutenants, captains, majors, county commissioners and the Sheriff.

National Night Out is a great way to get together with your neighbors, find out what's going on in your community and visit with local law enforcement officers about what you can do to help reduce the opportunities for crimes to occur. Participation can be as simple as a small block party, or as big as a parade or carnival. To get involved, or to find out how to register your event for National Night Out, call the Travis County Sheriff's Office at 854-8413 or 854-9770.

Deputy James Kitchens
Travis County Sheriff's Office
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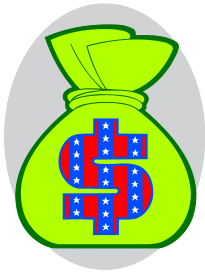
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A Sensible Plan for College Funding

Submitted by Rich Keith

As a parent, you may feel a moral obligation to fund your children's education, but you don't want to sacrifice your current lifestyle or rob your future retirement in order to fund education costs. Well, to make funding both their education and your retirement a non-issue, you must consider how to:



- Maximize your cash flow so that you can invest funds in education and retirement accounts. This includes both reducing debt and lowering expenses.
- Utilize the numerous education tax incentives provided by the IRS to reduce taxes and produce so-called "tax scholarships" for your family.
- Qualify for merit and need-based financial aid offered by colleges

If you can maximize the benefits produced by the above strategies, you may not have to compromise your education and retirement goals. Historically, we see that college costs have risen at 2 to 3 times the inflation rate of the Consumer Price Index. And college really costs you more than you think because it is paid with after-tax dollars. Depending on which tax bracket you are in, the amount you must

earn to pay for college is a good deal more because you must first pay the IRS...before you pay the college.

How old will you be when your last child graduates from college? Assume that you are 45 years old and you plan to retire in 20 years and that a public college costs \$60,000 for 4 years. You take the money out of your retirement savings today. The money you give to a public college for four years will cost your retirement fund about \$280,000 at an 8% return. Elite colleges cost more, but there is a hidden benefit which we will get to later. And remember, these numbers are for just one child's college education.

Clearly this presents a funding dilemma shared by parents everywhere: how to fund college and retirement? Experts agree there are two methods to make this work:

The first method is by using your money through: (A) paying out of your current income, (B) paying with withdrawals from your savings accounts, or (C) borrowing. Most people use some combination of all three. The second method is to use money from others. This comes in the following forms: (A) financial aid, (B) by using special education tax strategies, (C) gifts from relatives, or (D) your child's resources (his/her income and assets). We will explore this topic in future columns, how to make a sensible, methodical plan for funding college expenses.

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Host an Exchange Student— *Experience another culture without the cost of travel!*

Submitted by Katie Robinson

iE International Student Exchange is seeking host homes for high school exchange students from Germany and other nations. We are seeking couples, singles, or families who are willing to open their home to one special exchange student for 6 weeks or for the entire 2009-2010 school year. You will be amazed to find what you gain from the experience, as well as what you give: the chance for one international student to have a lifechanging encounter. This is a great opportunity to connect with someone from another culture! All you need to host is a spare bed and an open heart!

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Nature Watch - Webs of Intrigue

by Jim and Lynne Weber

Spending summer days in the fields, woods, and even our own suburban gardens can yield many interesting sights, but few are more curious than that of the spider web. Formed out of protein-rich silk extruded from a spider's spinnerets (or silk-producing organs located at their abdomens), webs can take many forms, including spiral orbs, tangles, funnels, tubes, sheets, domes, and tents. While most spiders can use both sticky and fluffy silk to construct a web, they can also position the web horizontally or vertically or at any angle in between, depending on its specific purpose.

Web construction is unique and delicate process, with the spider using its own body for measurements. Starting with the most difficult part, the first thread, spiders use the wind (and a bit of luck) to carry it to an adhesive surface. Once caught, the spider will carefully walk over the thread while strengthening it with another thread, repeating this action until this primary thread is strong enough to support the finished web. Step two involves the process of making many radials, making sure that the distance between each radial is small enough to cross. Ergonomically speaking, this means that the number of radials in a web depends directly on the size of the spider and helps to determine the final size of the web.

Once the radials are complete, the spider will fortify the center of the web with several circular threads, and move outward, continuing a spiral of non-sticky, evenly-spaced threads made so the spider can easily move around its own web. Then, beginning from the outside edge and moving toward the center, it adds sticky spiral threads by utilizing the radials and non-sticky spirals as guidelines. Once again using its body as a measuring device, the spaces between each of the sticky spirals is directly proportional to the distance from the tips of its back legs to its spinnerets. After the sticky spirals are complete, the spider consumes the

non-sticky spirals as they are no longer needed, chews off the initial center spiral threads and sits and waits for prey.

Webs are literally extensions of a spider's ability to feel, and they allow them to catch their prey without having to expend the energy to run it down. Some spiders will decorate their webs with loose, irregular tangles of silk to disorient and knock down flying insects and to warn birds and other flying predators of the presence of the web. Constructing a web is energetically costly for a spider due to the large amount of protein required, so broken webs, especially if they are still structurally sound, are not always repaired. It is not uncommon, however, for spiders to eat their own web daily to recoup some of the energy used in spinning and recycle the protein by spinning a new web. Normally, a spider's web will remain in one location for the entire summer, but spiders can change locations usually early in the season, if they find a place with better protection or better hunting.

Commonly, webs are about twenty times larger than the spider building it. Rich in vitamin K, which can be effective in clotting blood, spider webs were used several hundred years ago as gauze pads to stop an injured person's bleeding. Today, we know that the tensile strength of spider silk is greater than the same weight of steel and has a much improved elasticity. Research into its microstructure is being performed for potential and surprising applications such as bullet-proof vests and artificial tendons!

The next time you are out in your garden in the early morning hours and you come across a delicate spider web glistening with drops of dew like strings of tiny diamonds, appreciate what you are seeing for its natural beauty, strength, and purpose!

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



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—Layne Brunner, Home Seller



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Recipe of the Month

Orange Julius

Ingredients

- 1 6 oz. Can Concentrated Orange Juice
- 1 Cup milk
- 1 Cup Water
- 1/2 Cup sugar

Directions

Put in blender container, fill container to top with ice. Process.

If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.

Host an Exchange Student–

Experience another culture without the cost of travel!

Submitted by Katie Robinson

iE International Student Exchange is seeking host homes for high school exchange students from Germany and other nations. We are seeking couples, singles, or families who are willing to open their home to one special exchange student for 6 weeks or for the entire 2009-2010 school year. You will be amazed to find what you gain from the experience, as well as what you give: the chance for one international student to have a lifechanging encounter. This is a great opportunity to connect with someone from another culture! All you need to host is a spare bed and an open heart!

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Your Home's Air Conditioning Efficiency

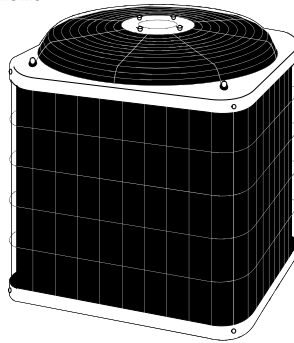
Submitted by Robert Lee

Over the previous six months there has been more discussion on Air Conditioning efficiency and home efficiency than any other time in recent years! Since manufacturers, local utilities and the Federal Government are offering rebates people have a better understanding of SEER and EER (efficiency ratings) of air conditioners. Overall this is a good thing, but it only addresses half of the problem!

The air distribution system (air ducts) are the other half of the equation and have nothing to do with the published SEER or EER ratings! The only way to know if your system is even close to running at capacity is to test it after it is installed so that the entire system, including the ductwork, is tested.

Have you spent good money on a new system but still have hot spots, cold spots or uncomfortable rooms; or maybe you haven't seen your energy bills reduced? Are you thinking about taking advantage of the Federal Rebate by purchasing new high efficient equipment? If your answer is yes to any of these questions then please think about the whole system! Efficient new equipment on old, inefficient ducts is a recipe for discomfort, or worse, failure!

Call to have a certified professional test your entire system today; stop throwing money away every month and have a more comfortable, and efficient, home.



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Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report								
Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (Jan '09 - Jun '09)						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	36	2,867	\$ 106	\$ 305	1993	91	24	9
North	17	2,037	\$ 128	\$ 261	1997	44	7	0
Wildflower	12	2,199	\$ 125	\$ 276	2001	39	7	2
On The Park	3	3,488	\$ 112	\$ 389	1996	45	4	1
Vintage Place	5	3,321	\$ 99	\$ 328	2005	242	1	1
Hielscher	18	3,154	\$ 114	\$ 361	2003	132	13	2
West	13	3,359	\$ 112	\$ 375	2004	93	14	10
Park West	4	2,382	\$ 142	\$ 338	2001	76	9	0
Park Place	4	2,619	\$ 120	\$ 314	2005	120	5	0
Muirfield	4	3,015	\$ 129	\$ 388	2006	27	8	0
Enclave/Stone Creek	16	2,502	\$ 114	\$ 284	2006	113	8	5
Alta Mira	7	3,060	\$ 118	\$ 360	2008	80	2	3
Fairway Estates	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0
Circle C Ranch Total	139	2,771	\$ 116	\$ 320	2000	91	103	33
% Change Mo/Mo	13%	-1%	0%	-1%	0%	-1%	5%	-15%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 07/08/2009. 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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