



# CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the  
Circle C Homeowner's Association

## Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 11

November 2009

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

## 2010 ANNUAL HOA MEETING: *Changes Ahead*

If you have attended one of the last few annual CCHOA meetings you are probably aware that we have had some trouble reaching our 10% quorum as required by the bylaws. Without a 10% quorum, the CCHOA cannot conduct business; more specifically we cannot hold an election for open board seats.

In lieu of this challenge, we are making some changes to the 2010 CCHOA Annual Meeting. Each of you will be receiving in the mail a letter detailing all of these changes sometime in mid January 2010. Those changes include:

- The 2010 CCHOA Annual Meeting will be held in early March 2010 (date TBD) *prior* to Spring Break
- Your ballot and proxy will come with the February 2010 Assessment (it will be printed on the back of your invoice) and can be mailed in with your assessment (due Mar 1, 2010).
- The Nominating Committee will be accepting nominations/questionnaires earlier as well – these will be due late January.
- The Nominating Committee will host a Candidate Forum in early February and post questionnaires on the HOA website so that everyone will have the opportunity to educate themselves on the candidates.

There will be other administrative changes such as signage, email distributions, reminders, etc. If you would like to volunteer to help with this effort, please email [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info).

Please keep an eye out for our letter in January and begin talking to your neighbors about possibly running for the CCHOA Board of Directors – there will be (3) three seats open, each for a three year term.

## SAVE THE DATE

### *HOA Annual Holiday Event*

This year the Special Events Committee will be hosting one annual holiday event (rather than a separate adult/kid's event as done in the past) on Saturday, December 5, 2009, 10:00am to 12:30pm at the Child Development Center. This event will be tailored for the whole family and will include: Santa and his elves, craft projects, train rides, petting zoo, Games2U (video games) Mobile Bus, choir performances, pictures, food, drink and special give-a-ways! You don't want to miss the best party of the year.



## CCHOA NUMBERS

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

### Circle C Amenities

Circle C Café ..... 288-6058  
 Circle C CDC..... 288-9792  
 Circle C Swim Center ..... 288-6057  
 Circle C Tennis Club General@CircleCTennis.com, 301-8685

### Sub Association Info:

KB Enclave and Fairway Estates HOA  
 Karen Hibpshman, CMCA, Manager ..... 347-2891  
 Parkwest HOA  
 Goodwin Management ..... 502-7509  
 Streetman Enclave HOA  
 K.O. Orsak..... 646-6739  
 Muirfield HOA  
 Sara Huff ..... 219-1927

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Joel Pace.....Development Officer  
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 Cindy Groves ..... 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  
 Gorzycki Middle School..... 841-8600  
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## ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make the Circle C Ranch Newsletter possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact our sales office at 512-263-9181 or [advertising@peelinc.com](mailto:advertising@peelinc.com). The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month prior to the issue.

## ARTICLE INFO

The Circle C Ranch newsletter is mailed monthly to all Circle C Ranch residents. Residents, community groups, churches, etc. are welcome to submit information about their organizations in the newsletter. Personal news for the Stork Report, Teenage Job Seekers, recipes, special celebrations, and birthday announcements are also welcome.

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

### Peel, Inc. Community Newsletters

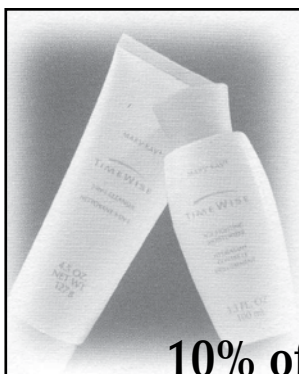
Our goal is to provide the Circle C Ranch community with one source of local news content that is provided by Circle C residents. Our goal is to help build Circle C by connecting local businesses with residents and residents with relevant neighborhood information.

*"Be the Community."*



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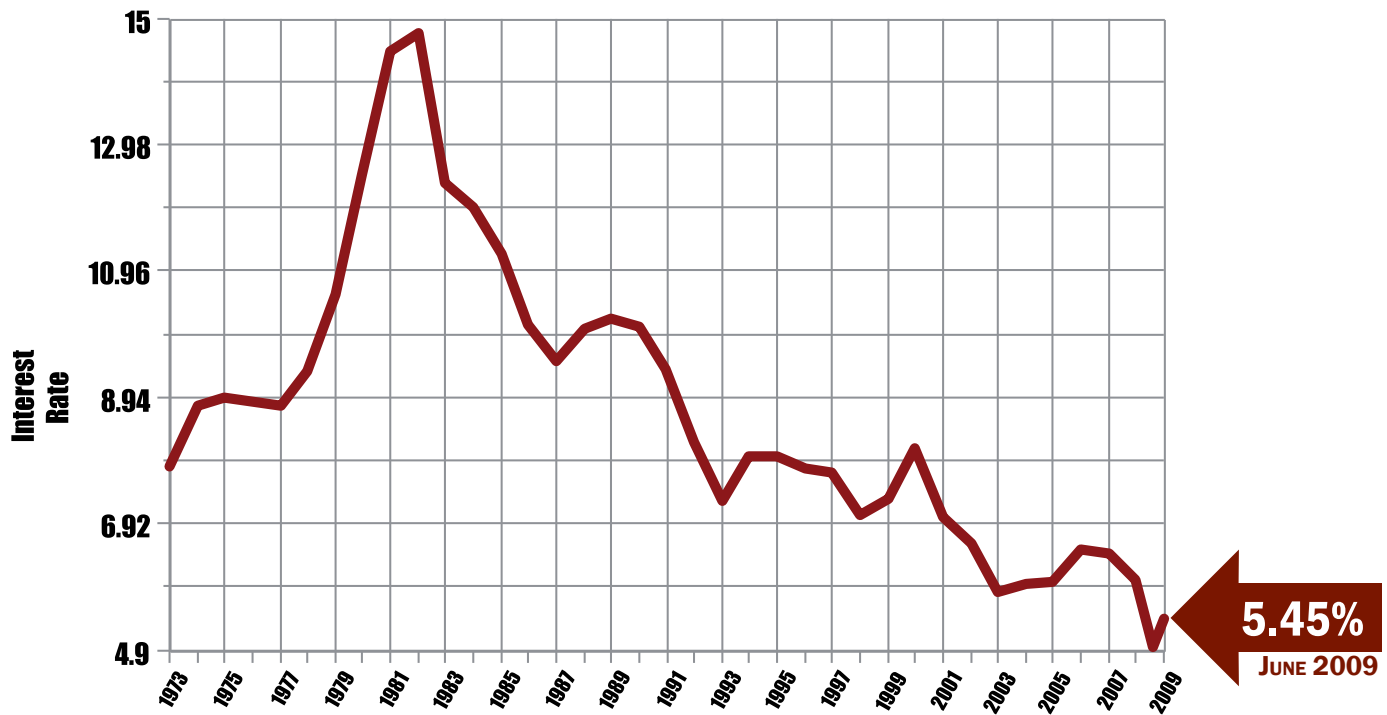
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# Calendar of Events

## November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7 Circle C Swim-A-Thon
Vasquez Benefit 8 4-9:00 PM Open House Tours 1-4 pm	9	10 Newsletter Deadline	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22 Circle C Open House Tours 1-4 pm	23 Pool Closed for Holidays	24 Pool Closed for Holidays	25 Pool Closed for Holidays	26 Pool Closed for Holidays	27 Pool Closed for Holidays	28
29	30					

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## 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/>



## Fence Replacement

We receive many calls and emails inquiring about the rules or procedures for replacing a privacy fence. The Declaration governs that each homeowner is responsible for keeping their fence in good condition; however it does not govern who is responsible for the replacement of shared fences between yards. A shared fence sits on the property line and is normally shared 50/50 with your neighbor so a good rule of thumb is that the fence should be paid for 50/50. The City of Austin sets the guideline for the height of the fence – 6ft, unless a variance is granted by a homeowner who has a pool in their backyard. The standard materials used on privacy fencing is cedar or steel posts, 4” or 6” slats and where fence is visible from the street, the smooth side must face out. If your fence is in need of replacement or repair, your first step should be to discuss with your neighbor. If you are modifying the style or location of your fence, you must submit plans to the Architectural Control Committee. Visit [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info) for forms and instructions.

## Coyote Sightings

We have received reports from residents of coyote sightings in the neighborhood. For complete information on coyotes, please visit the City's website at:

[http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/animal\\_services\\_control.htm](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/animal_services_control.htm)



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## 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](mailto:info@circlecopenhouse.com) or [www.circlecopenhouse.com](http://www.circlecopenhouse.com).

## Recycle Your Junk Mail

Just a reminder to recycle all of your paper junk mail (rather than throw away in the trash cans located at the larger mail centers).

## Deed Restriction News

The HOA staff drives two sections of Circle C per month to note any violations of the deed restrictions. Violations may include, but are not limited to: excessive weeds, areas of no turf, dead shrubs and/or trees, yard art, grass that is not edged or mowed, areas of dead grass, boats, RV's, trailers and general home maintenance issues. We are required to send notification of deed restriction violations via certified mail and we also send regular mail. If you receive a deed restriction violation notice PLEASE CALL the HOA office at 288-8663. It's impossible to know everyone's individual situation, so we appreciate communication from you.

If you have a deed restriction to report, you may submit the specific address at [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) or give us a call at 288-8663. Violations that are reported are generally checked with 3 business days and if we are able to confirm a violation, we will begin the deed restriction process (which you can access on the website at

<http://www.circlecranch.info/documents/AssociationDocuments/DeedRestrictions/CCHOA-DeedRestrictionPolicy2003.pdf>



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## Swim Center News

*Submitted by Brandon Ducote*

### WINTER HOURS

October 26th-March 14th

Monday thru Friday

Mornings- 6am-10am

Evenings- 4pm-7:30pm

Closed Weekends

Holiday Closures November 23rd-27th  
& December 21st-January 1st

### PRE-SELECT SWIM FOR YOUTH

In this developmental class, swimmers will work on endurance and improving all four strokes. Swimmers must be able to swim 25 yards of 2 competitive strokes to join the PreSelect Team.

Days: Tuesday—Friday

Time: 3:20pm—4:00pm

Age - 6 & up

Cost: Resident \$84, Non-Resident \$104  
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### SELECT SWIM TEAM

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## SELECT SWIM TEAM FUNDRAISER

*(Swim-A-Thon)*

*Submitted by Janet Kagy*

The Circle C Select Swimming team will hold a Swim-a-Thon ® at the Circle C Swim Center November 7th, 2009.

The Swim-a-Thon ® will provide funds which enable the team to establish a strong swimming program. The Circle C Swim Swimming Team currently has 75 swimmers in the program and is a newly formed team part of USA Swimming. Our first meet was the AquaTex Swim Meet held in October at Round Rock and we had a great showing. Our upcoming meets are in Austin and Corpus Christi. Our season runs from August – February.

Swim-a-Thons are conducted across the country by many of the more than 2600 member clubs of USA Swimming. Our team will retain 95% of what we collect and send 5% or \$12 per participant, whichever is less, to USA Swimming.

Swimmers from the Circle C Select Swimming team will be collecting pledges for Swim-a-Thon ® from October 9th – November 6th. The swimmers will swim up to 200 lengths on the day of the event.

*Persons interested in sponsoring a swimmer should check our website for contact information <http://www.select.ccsim.net/>.*

## LAWN CLIPPINGS

The best thing you can do with your grass clippings is to blow or sweep them back onto your lawn so that they are recycled. The next best solution is to recycle them in the brown recycle bags available most everywhere that will be picked up every trash collection day. **DO NOT** blow, sweep, or leave your clippings in the street. This is a violation of City Code 6-5-12 which addresses pollution of our City's water supply and specifically mentions grass clippings as a pollutant. Grass clippings in the street are also unsightly.



**PLEASE DO NOT DUMP ANY UNWANTED ITEMS  
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# Clubs & Announcements

## //////////////////////////////////// TENNIS NEWS //////////////////////////////////////

### 25 Reasons For Playing Tennis

*Submitted by Fernando Velasco*

**Last month, I listed 13 out of 25 reasons for playing tennis, written by a Tennis Professional who has encouraged us to share them with others. Here are reasons 13-24:**

14. It teaches teamwork and partnership as players blend their skills in doubles.
15. It satisfies the physical and/or emotional needs of most players in sixty minutes or less.
16. It can earn a valuable college scholarship for the player who works and excels.
17. It encourages self-expression due to the variety of styles, strokes and strategies inherent in the game.
18. It teaches the importance of preparation, including sound instruction, regular practice, hard work and good eating and sleeping habits.
19. It can provide a part-time, weekend or summer job or even a career opportunity!
20. It teaches a pattern of dealing gracefully with success (winning) or failure (losing).
21. It fills youngsters' time with a wholesome, constructive activity and provides them with a healthy outlet for emotions.
22. It teaches the care of and the importance of good clothing and equipment.
23. It allows the tournament player to travel extensively and meet new and interesting people.
24. It has a very unique scoring system that provides drama and excitement to every game, set and match whether in a friendly practice session or in a tournament.

*I will save Number 25 for the next issue.*

### Henri And Fernando In China

The famous "Bijou" Tennis Show, performed by Henri Elkins and Fernando Velasco, was invited to perform clinics and several performances during the 2009 China Open Tennis Tournament in Beijing, China held on the week of October 5-11. The \$6.6



million dollar event attracted the top singles, doubles and mixed doubles players in the world. Elkins and Velasco were "excited to travel to China, perform in front of 20,000 spectators and bring many smiles with their talent on the tennis court." They gave clinics to the Chinese players and CITI Bank VIPs, plus performed their show 10 times in 5 days prior to the main matches on the Main and Stadium Court. Their show is a combination of sport, spoof, and spectacular acrobatic trick-shots, all thrown into one performance that makes everyone want to start playing and enjoying the game.

Henri and Fernando will be performing in Austin, during the weekend of November 6, 7, and 8. On Friday, November the 6th, they will do the show at the Circle C Tennis Club during an event sponsored by Guy Winhold and Edward Jones Investments, which will include a tennis exhibition. On Saturday, November 7th, they will be part of a clinic hosted by the Capital Area Tennis Professionals at Austin High School, which is open to all players in Austin; and on Sunday, November 8th, at 1:30 pm, they will warm up the crowd at The World of Tennis in Lakeway prior to the exhibition between Pete Sampras and Todd Martin.

For fees and registration, please contact us at Circle C Tennis Club by calling 512-301-8685.



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**Q:** How can teeth be straightened in only six months?

**A:** As an adult, your back teeth are in a stable and comfortable position: you bite and chew without problems right? So, why spend 2-3 years moving the back teeth around, when we can just focus on your front teeth and provide you with a great smile in 6 months!

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**A:** No! This is nothing like the metal-mouth braces that you imagine! Using clear brackets and a tooth colored wire, the braces are almost invisible.

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Fairway Estates has the Last Golf Course Lots available in Circle C

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# VASQUEZ BENEFIT

## *One Community, One Family*

Several communities across Southwest Austin are pulling together to host a benefit for the Rhonda Vasquez family. She is a beloved fourth-grade teacher and Circle C neighbor, who is suffering from a debilitating kidney disease. Because mounting bills from her chronic medical condition have stressed finances, friends across the community are putting on a benefit to help. Please join our community as we help from one family to another.

**Sunday, November 8, 2009, 4:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Manchaca Fire Hall- FM 1626**

**\$15 Adult, \$7.50 Children (5-11), 4 and under free**

*To help support venue hosting, drinks will be sold separately.*

*Vasquez Benefit Details- November 8th:*

4:30-7:30 p.m.	Dinner
4-8 p.m.	Silent Auction
5:30 p.m.	Live Auction
All Evening	Live Music from several artists, including Sara Hickman Moonwalk/Face Painting/Bake Sale

Some of the auction items include: Coach purse and wallet, Autographed UT football, Laptop, Golf Package at Horseshoe Bay, Golf Package at Fazio Course at Barton Creek, Overnight stay at the Driskill Hotel.

Admission tickets will be sold November 4th – November 6th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Circle C at the mailboxes at the North Entrance (Slaughter and Barstow) and the mailboxes at the South Entrance (LaCrosse and Escarpment- across from the swim center). Admission tickets can be purchased with cash or check (make payable to Daniel and Rhonda Vasquez). We are friends helping friends, all donations are not tax deductible. Profits are to benefit Rhonda Vasquez Family.

For questions, please email [community.benefit@yahoo.com](mailto:community.benefit@yahoo.com).

- Jennifer Grance

### ***Classified Ads***

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

### **Jingle, Jangle and Lots of Bangles**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Holiday Home Show**  
**Wed. December 9<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – 7 pm**  
 Mark your calendar now!

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 buy your gifts!!!

This year offering: items for kids, pottery,  
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# Clubs & Announcements

## PARK WEST HOA NEWS

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

### SPRINKLER AND LANDSCAPER NEWS

Rain, rain, please don't go away. Hasn't it been wonderful to receive the numerous showers and even downpours recently? But it doesn't mean that the City of Austin has removed the Stage 2 watering restrictions yet, so please stay tuned for updates. However, with autumn beginning to exhibit signs of actually being here, many of us have already turned our sprinkler systems off and plan to water manually on a fall and winter schedule. Great news....the landscaper says that through September, they broke the "100" mark for front yard sprinkler checks! You can still request yours if you haven't done so by e-mailing [scott@pearsonlandscape.com](mailto:scott@pearsonlandscape.com) or calling Jackie Rollins at 940-5745 for an appointment.

### DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?

In fact, you can have five to present an issue or question to the Board at the beginning of a meeting. The Board meets on the third Monday of each month (check a mail center bulletin board for possible changes), and all you have to do to speak your mind is to contact Board Secretary Jackie Rollins at 301-1839 or e-mail [JackieRollins02@aol.com](mailto:JackieRollins02@aol.com) to reserve your five minute spot.

### DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER

Sometimes it's necessary for a PWHOA Board member to speak to a resident about a rule or covenant violation. It could be something that has appeared as a reminder in this column, something as minor as an exposed garbage container, or something as major as unapproved landscaping and structural alterations. Park West, as a gated community, has specific rules conducive to the care and maintenance of its unique appearance. As residents of Park West, each of us has a responsibility to ensure the continuance of the beauty and special appeal that convinced scores of us to make our homes here. If you are unsure about a rule, or need to refresh your memory regarding a Circle C or Park West covenant, you will find them all

posted on our community website under Community Documents. If you haven't obtained a password to enter the website, e-mail Webmaster [ruthbolsen@austin.rr.com](mailto:ruthbolsen@austin.rr.com) and she'll be happy to walk you through the process.

### THANK YOU

To everyone who carries a plastic bag to scoop the poop while walking their pet: you're helping to keep Park West's streets and curb grass clean and environmentally safe, while also following City of Austin, Circle C and Park West rules. And another thank you to everyone who shows consideration for the appearance of the neighborhood on Sundays when there are visitors for open houses and family gatherings by waiting until after 5 p.m. to place their garbage and recycle carts at the curb.

### HELPING HANDS

Many of our Park West neighbors volunteer at Seton Southwest Hospital, located nearby at FM 1826, close to the Highway 290 intersection. Besides assisting in the gift shop or helping nurses and other hospital staffers, they plan and participate in many fund raising activities throughout the year, the proceeds of which directly benefit the hospital. The biggest and most anticipated event of all is the upcoming annual Holiday Bazaar. They hope you will join them and many, many others for an evening of live music, a silent auction, food and wine tastings and holiday shopping on Friday, December 4, from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the hospital. To purchase tickets at \$20 each or two for \$35, or for more information, call Seton Southwest's Great Habits Gift Shop at 324-9018. See you there!

### UNTIL NEXT TIME

This is your column and your input is important. Without it, there wouldn't be a column. So, please contact Jackie Rollins at 301-1839 or [JackieRollins02@aol.com](mailto:JackieRollins02@aol.com) with your suggestions and items of interest.

## ARE YOU READY FOR WINTER?

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# Wildflower Events

*Submitted by Saralee Tiede*

## **LAST CHANCE—A LARRY J. SCHWEIGER READING**

6:30 p.m. Sunday, November 8

The president of the National Wildlife Federation reads from his fascinating book about climate change and solutions we need to avert the consequences.

Free admission. In the auditorium.

## **NATURE NIGHTS—ASTRONOMY**

6 to 9 p.m. Friday, November 13

Tour the evening skies and wonder at the stars. Admission \$1.

## **INTRODUCING THE 2010 WILDFLOWER DAYS™ ART PRINT**

Saturday and Sunday, November 14 and 15

In the store.

## **HOLIDAY GIFTS PREVIEW**

Saturday and Sunday, November 21 and 22

The store features new paper sculpture by artist Shou Ping and leather accessories.

## **WILDFLOWER CENTER CLOSED**

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26



## *The Authentic Australian Swaddle*

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Goldwasser Real Estate set our expectations well, and we listed our home at a price that we thought we would get. Instead, because of everything that they put into the situation, we got 4 offers in 3 days and sold our home for over our list price.

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—Logan and Kellie Wostal



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## Circle C Resident Conducting a UT Study on Weight Management

*Submitted by Rene Dailey*



### *Help UT Researchers Develop Better Ways to Help Families with Weight Management and Receive Gift Cards for Your Time!*

I am a Circle C resident (in Wildflower Park) and an assistant professor in the Communication Studies department at UT. My research team and I are currently recruiting participants for a study investigating how families talk about weight management (e.g., diet, exercise, health). Please consider participating!

#### **WE ARE SPECIFICALLY LOOKING FOR:**

- 1) families with a teen between the ages of 13 and 17—OR—spouses/couples currently living together,
- 2) families/couples who have one or more members who want to change or are in the process of changing their diet or exercise behaviors (regardless of whether they are under-, normal-, or overweight), and
- 3) families/couples who have at least some conversations about weight management (e.g., weight, diet, exercise, etc.), whether they are in-depth or short conversations.

Participation involves each family member completing a set of questionnaires at a location and time of the family's choice. The questionnaires ask each person about interactions with other family members about weight management and his/her current diet and exercise behaviors. Total time involved is approximately an hour to an hour and a half. Participation is completely confidential. We also provide a summary of the study's results to any participants who are interested.

Each participating family member will receive a \$15 Visa or Amazon.com gift card. Please contact me if your family would like to participate or if you have any questions about the study. Thank you!

*Dr. René Dailey, Department of Communication Studies*

*University of Texas at Austin, email: [rdailey@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:rdailey@mail.utexas.edu), phone: 471-4867*



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# School News

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## James Bowie High School *Silver Stars*



### UPCOMING EVENTS!

**November 4th** – Taco Cabana night 5:00 – 9:00 pm.

**November 7th** – Silver Stars 50 Family Garage Sale 7:00 am – 1:00 pm. Immediate Care parking lot (next to Wendy's at Slaughter & Mopac).

**December 2nd** – Taco Cabana night 5:00 – 9:00 pm.

**December 12th** – Barton Creek Mall giftwrap 12:00 – 6:00 pm.  
Winter Dance Clinic 9:00am – 3:00 pm.

**December 19th** – Applebee's pancake breakfast –

8:00 – 10 am. Barton Creek Mall giftwrap 12 – 6 pm.

**Dec. 29 – Jan. 3** – See the Silver Stars perform in the "A Texas Christmas Carol" – The Long Center, [www.thelongcenter.org](http://www.thelongcenter.org)

**Winter** – Wii Rock 'N Bowl tournament – Time/Location TBD  
– stay tuned at [www.silverstars.org](http://www.silverstars.org)

-Join the Silver Stars on the 1st Wednesday of each month at Taco Cabana on Mopac and Wm Cannon. Taco Cabana has graciously agreed to give the Silver Stars 20% of sales at their Benefit Nights. Just tell the cashier that you're there to support the STARS! Proceeds will benefit the Silver Stars who are preparing for their dance competition in Hawaii this March. See you Wednesday, Nov. 4th & Dec. 2nd between 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm. Thank you for your support!

- The Silver Stars are hosting a 50+ family garage sale. Donations are also being accepted; please contact Kim Moss Leslie, [ka\\_moss@yahoo.com](mailto:ka_moss@yahoo.com) for more info

-Reduce some of the holiday stress! Come to Barton Creek Mall Saturday Dec 12th and 19th from 12 until 6; and for a donation let the Silver Stars wrap your presents.

-Join us again for our Winter Dance Clinic. Moms-Day-Out, children Kinder-9th grade. 9:00am-3:00pm.

Dancing-Games-Pizza-Fun. Visit our website to download registration information. [www.silverstars.org](http://www.silverstars.org)

-Join the Silver Stars at Applebee's on Mopac for a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, December 19 from 8:00 am - 10:00 am. Tickets are available from any Silver Star or contact Kathy at 292-0471 for ticket information. Proceeds from the Breakfast will benefit the Stars as they prepare for their Dance Competition in Hawaii this March. See you December 19th and thanks for your support!

-Bowie Silver Stars Wii Rock 'N Bowl Tournament Date/Time TBD

*For more information on any of these events and updates, please visit [www.silverstars.org](http://www.silverstars.org) or contact Carrie Turlington, [CarrieRust@aol.com](mailto:CarrieRust@aol.com) –or- Rosie Mendoza, [silverstarsboosterpres@yahoo.com](mailto:silverstarsboosterpres@yahoo.com)*

## Join Mills on World Tour for the Holidays

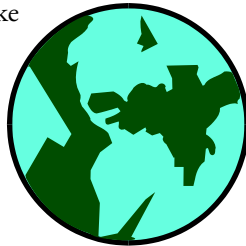
*Submitted by Kristen Card*

Mills Elementary is seeking "tour guides" to help the school's students and families take a figurative trip around the world this holiday season.

Mills will hold its 4th annual **Holidays Around the World** on Saturday, December 5th, and needs your involvement! Volunteer opportunities abound for this magical, educational event.

Be a *Cultural Ambassador*, and represent the holiday traditions of a different land – or even a region of the U.S. You can either share your own heritage, or learn and teach about a new one. If you're a *business owner*, space is available for you to promote your company – you can register and pay quickly and conveniently at our secure website. Or, if you're a behind-the-scenes type, then there are lots of opportunities to help make the world happen for Mills students and families!

To volunteer or for more information, please visit [www.MillsPTA.org](http://www.MillsPTA.org).



## Elementary-School Boundaries are a'Changin'

*Submitted by Kristen Card*

The Austin Independent School System is currently in the process of redrawing elementary-school attendance-zone boundaries, potentially affecting the boundaries of Boone, Clayton, Kiker, Mills, Oak Hill, Patton and Sunset Valley elementary schools.

In addition to imbalanced school populations and some serious overcrowding issues here in southwest Austin, a new elementary school opening next August at Meridian Park is spurring this reconsideration of elementary-school boundaries.

AISD's boundary process began in October. Information about which areas will be most affected should be available to the public in November. Boundary presentations will be given at individual schools in December.

For more information about AISD's boundary process or new schools, please visit the AISD website, [www.AustinISD.org](http://www.AustinISD.org), or call the AISD Boundary Process hotline at 414.2667.

People within Mills Elementary's attendance zone can visit [www.MillsElementary.blogspot.com](http://www.MillsElementary.blogspot.com) for more information on boundary-related issues, meetings and presentations as they might affect Mills students and families.

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## Read Around the World Book Fair!

*Submitted by Zonia Smith*

### Mark Your Calendars

*Come to Kiker & Clayton's  
Book Fair Monday,  
Nov. 2nd - Friday, 6th.*

Circle C families, friends, and neighbors are all invited to come out and support our neighborhood schools by visiting our school's Scholastic **Read Around the World** Book Fairs. We will have many children's books and lots of extras such as, educational toys, adult gift books, teacher books, preschool books, and lots more! This is a great place to start your holiday shopping!

VISA/MC/AmEx/Disc are accepted!

### Kiker Book Fair Hours:

**Mon. 11/2 from 7:45 - 4:00**

**Tue. 11/3 from 7:45 - 7:00**

**Wed. 11/4 from 7:45 - 4:00**

**Thu. 11/5 from 7:45 - 7:00**

**Fri. 11/6 from 7:45 - 4:00**

**First Day Drawing! Purchase a book and enter \$25 drawing!**

**Open Late for Family Night! - Drawing!**

**Book Fair "Grand" Picnic!**

**Open Late for Family Night and Spelling Bee! - Drawing!**

**Last day for Book Fair!**

### Clayton Book Fair Hours:

**Mon. 11/3 from 8:00 - 5:00**

**Tue. 11/4 from 8:00 - 8:00**

**Wed. 11/5 from 8:00 - 5:00**

**Thu. 11/6 from 8:00 - 5:00**

**Fri. 11/7 from 8:00 - 4:30**

**First Day of Fair!**

**Wrapped Up In Reading Family Night - Drawing for \$25 in free books!**

**Shop at "Lunch with Someone Grand!"**

**Great day to buy books!**

**Last day for Book Fair!**



**FAMILY**  
**fun night**  
**November 1 - 5-7 pm**  
**Great Hills Baptist Church | [www.ghbc.org](http://www.ghbc.org)**  
**10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759 . 512.343.7763**

**Sunday Morning Schedule**  
9:30 . Blended Worship  
11:00 . Contemporary Worship  
9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)

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November Special!  
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## Slaughter Creek Trail And Water Quality Protection Lands Now Open

*Submitted By Britt Jones*

### TRAIL RULES:

***Entering the trail is your acceptance of and a willingness to obey the trail rules.***

Please note that failure to follow trail rules can result in fines and citations for trespassing and such incidents will result in closure of trail to all users. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting these sensitive lands.

- Hours of operation: **Dawn (7am) to Dusk (7pm), 7 days a week – No Pets Allowed.**
- Please remain on marked trails at all times. This is to ensure that land is preserved and protected for good water quality. Do not attempt to create new trails or explore the tract on your own.
- Trail traffic is two-way. **Hikers and Horses go one direction, Bikes go the opposite direction. Bikers yield to hikers and to horses. Hikers yield to horses. Horses have the right-of-way.**
- Temporary closures may occur for the following reasons:
  - o In the event of heavy rain,
  - o During preventative maintenance activities either on the trail or on the tract,
  - o When threats to public safety may be present.

Access points. Please enter and exit only by established trail head(s). Access to WQPLs in other areas or creation of

social trails is strictly prohibited and is considered criminal trespass.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and should be supervised closely at all times.

- Pack it in. Pack it out. No trashcans are available. Take out whatever you bring in.
- Please limit groups to 6. If you have a larger group, please split up into smaller groups.
- Emergencies – Call 911, and provide address: **9901 FM 1826**. If possible, designate someone to meet emergency responders at gate.
- Crime in progress – Please call 911 and report your location and the specific vandalism or damage.
- For existing damage to the trail, please contact the trail steward at [arrprez@yahoo.com](mailto:arrprez@yahoo.com)
- Horse manure in parking lot or staging area shall be disposed of offsite by riders/owners.

For educational opportunities, volunteer activities or special events, contact: City of Austin's Wildland Conservation Division to arrange.

**Entering the trail is your acceptance of and a willingness to obey the trail rules. This trail was built and is maintained by volunteers of the Austin Ridge Riders Mountain Bike Club and Austin Metro**

**Trails and Greenways, with assistance from other volunteers, under a special agreement with the City of Austin.**

**Please note that failure to follow trail rules can result in fines and citations for trespassing and such incidents will result in closure of trail to all users. Thank you for your cooperation in protecting these sensitive lands.**

### SITE RULES

#### ***Prohibited Activities:***

- Leaving the marked trail
- Alcohol consumption
- Smoking
- Glass containers
- Fires of any kind
- Fishing, hunting, and trapping
- Access with motor vehicles
- Weapons possession or usage, including paintball guns
- Swimming or wading
- Access with pets (Seeing-eye dogs need special approval.)
- Collecting of plants, artifacts and/or other natural resources
- Startling or scaring wildlife – no feeding of wildlife
- Camping

### FACILITIES:

- No picnic facilities on site
- No water available - Please carry enough for you and your horse(s).

*(Continued on Page 23)*



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Three Doors down from Starbucks  
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**Monday – Friday 8am– 6pm, Saturday 8am– 3pm**

**Slaughter Creek** - (Continued from Page 22)

- No permanent restrooms on site – porta-johns only
- Parking – allowed in designated spaces only. When lot is full, the trail is at capacity. Please come back later.
- Leave no Trace – Take out what you bring in.

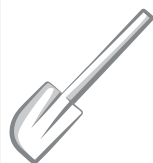
**THE SLAUGHTER CREEK TRAIL HAS BEEN APPROVED AND ACCEPTED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN FOR PUBLIC USE. IT IS NOW OPEN FOR YOUR WATER QUALITY PROTECTION EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND ENJOYMENT.**

I would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all of you that have helped build and support this trail.

Sincerely,  
Britt Jones, Trail Steward  
Austin Ridge Riders Mountain  
Bike Club

## Recipe of the Month

### String Bean Casserole



- 4 cans French style green beans, drained
- 1 lb. Velveeta cheese
- 1 medium jar pimentos
- 1 large can mushrooms
- ¼ lb. butter or margarine
- 1 large green pepper, chopped
- Ritz crackers or sliced almonds



Melt butter. Saute green peppers. Add cheese to melt. Add beans, mushrooms, and pimentos. Put into baking dish and sprinkle with Ritz cracker crumbs or sliced almonds. Bake at 350° for 25 minutes.

*If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to [articles@peelinc.com](mailto:articles@peelinc.com).*

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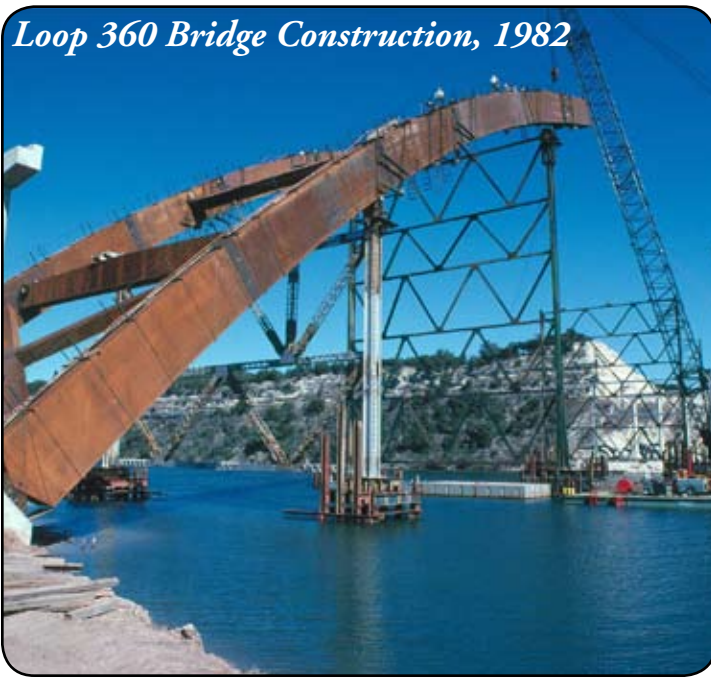
phone: 512.698.8449 or email: [service@maidsbymelissa.com](mailto:service@maidsbymelissa.com)



## Austin Currents

*Submitted by Rich Keith*

*Loop 360 Bridge Construction, 1982*



Did you know that Austin had a world-class freeway plan as of 1985 which would have nearly eliminated the congestion that we experience today? And that by 1987 a major arterial network had been designed for northwest Austin? Why were all these freeways cancelled, and why are freeways which were never on these plans being built today?

The next time you're sitting in traffic on one of our scenic roadways, just imagine wider lanes, better connectors, and (no, it can't be true!) actual east-west roads in this town. The city planners were well aware of the city's needs and its growth patterns as far back as the early 1960's, when the first freeway plans were announced. But that plan was for mostly an inner-city freeway system, one which did not go far out of town. By the end of the decade that plan had been cancelled, all except Mopac Loop 1. That was probably the best thing because otherwise downtown would have been all chopped up with freeways. Traces of it still exist, such as the wide places on Riverside Drive east of I-35.

This plan went through several iterations including a Crosstown Freeway system, but they were eventually retired in favor of the

*(Continued on Page 25)*

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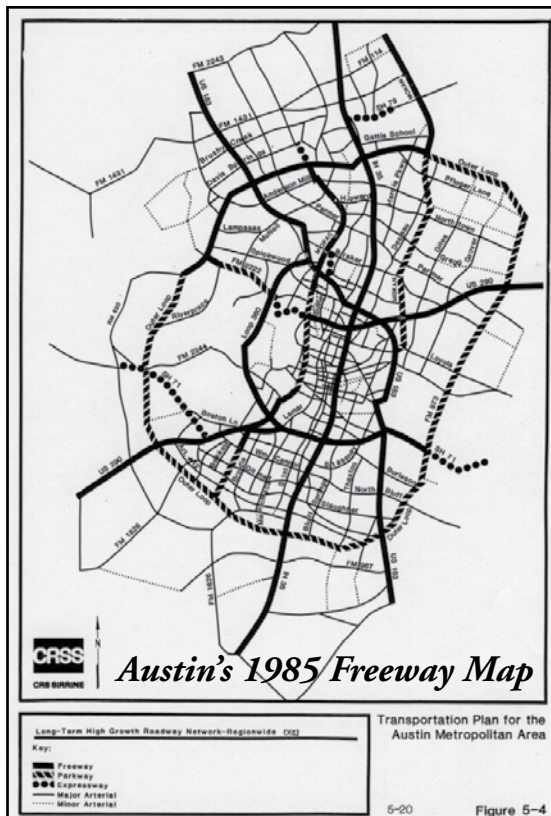


## Austin Currents - (Continued from Page 24)

broader freeway plan of 1980. This plan focused on existing corridors away from the center of the city. The new major freeways were Loop 360 freeway (later cancelled), and the 183 freeway all the way through Austin. Loop 360 was "downgraded" from a freeway to a corridor, though it space is there to be upgraded to a freeway.

The most comprehensive freeway plan was the 1985 plan, which showed a sprawling network of freeways in Austin including an inner and outer loop. It also featured the Koenig Lane Freeway, coming east to west from the Hwy 290 out to Loop 360. The 2222 Freeway was west of 360 out toward Lake Travis. The Outer Loop Freeway (SH 45) was the outer limits. The MoKan Freeway became SH 130. 1987 saw the extension of these freeways. Interestingly, on the 1985 and 1987 maps, the Outer Loop appears to show that Quinlan Park Road (now part of Steiner Ranch) would be part of the loop, forming a bridge over Lake Austin and back over to Bee Cave Road.

In 1994, environmentalists took control of the Austin City Council and nearly all the freeway plans were immediately cancelled. At the same time, the Austin Chamber of Commerce did its job well and advertised what a great place Austin was to live. As a result, since 1994, Austin has experienced explosive growth from a high-tech boom and severe traffic congestion. The new Mobility Plan from CAMPO, revised every two years, strives to cope with the need for roadways and the desire to keep Austin beautiful. If you care about transportation you can become involved. We are the future of Austin's roads. Source: Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, TexasFreeway.com, TxDOT. For more information contact Rich Keith rkeith@primerica.com 512 266-8498.



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# Nature Watch

## *A River of Raptors*

One of the most dramatic natural events occurs every fall when changing weather patterns mark the migration of hawks (also called raptors, or birds of prey) from their summer nesting and breeding grounds to their wintering grounds in South America. While northward migration in the spring months is more sporadic and allows for hawks to spread out over a larger geographic area, fall migration is the more spectacular of the two, with millions of hawks observed overhead in concentrated groups within a period of only a few months.

Scientists believe that hawks use a myriad of tools to find their way along migratory routes. First and foremost, they orient themselves by using a sun compass, or knowing where the sun should be at any given time of day. Some also use a polarization pattern of light for orientation, and are able to find the portion of the sky where light is uni-directional and utilize it to estimate the sun's position. Lastly, most hawks bring into play a magnetic compass, which allows them to orient themselves to the Earth's magnetic field.

In order to get airborne and use these internal orientation systems, hawks find thermals, or large columns of warm air, and ride these rising air currents in a spiral, high into the sky. From this vantage point, they



glide slowly down in the intended direction, and search for the next thermal to help move them along their way. From these elevated perspectives, hawks generally navigate by large geographic features or landmarks, such as coastlines, waterways, and mountain ranges.

The most common species of hawk that migrate over our area start with the Mississippi kite, continue with the Broad-winged hawk, and end with Swainson's hawk. Dark gray above and pale gray below with a red eye, long pointed wings, and a dark flared tail, the Mississippi kite hunts primarily insects, eats on the wing, and nests in loose colonies in woodlands and swamps in the southeast and south central United States. Brown-gray above with white underwings bordered in black, and a broad tail with black and white bands, the Broad-winged hawk breeds in the eastern woodlands of the United States and

southern Canada. The largest of the three, the Swainson's hawk light morph is the color form that is most likely seen in our area. In flight, their long, narrow pointed wings exhibit a dark trailing edge and light leading edge, a dark chest bib, and light face and lower belly. These hawks hunt chiefly small mammals and insects in the grassland areas of the western United States and Canada.

Large groups of hawks flying overhead are called kettles. During fall migration, single kettles of 10,000 hawks are routine, and single flights of over 100,000 hawks or more have been recorded. Occasionally, a strong cold front will ground several thousand hawks for the day and result in an overnight roost. Weather in the northern and eastern United States is one of the biggest factors in determining the timing of these migratory flights.

With the large number of hawks taking part in this annual event and the vast geographic areas that they cover, it was late into the 19th century before migration was beginning to be understood. With large populations of hawks shifting from breeding to wintering habitat, migration is a seasonal and predictable event that can be enjoyed year after year!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. *-Jim & Lynne Weber*



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## Free Stuff for Your Computer (And Cell Phone)

Submitted by Laurie Scott

As holiday spending approaches, here are some free programs to make your computing easier and more fun with zero impact on your budget.

Everybody hates dealing with usernames and passwords at login screens, and as a result I see a LOT of people who have very easy passwords (like the name of their dog) not only for their computer but even for their online banking! Well, here's LastPass to the rescue (download from <https://lastpass.com>) with a password manager that works with Windows, Mac OSX and even Linux. With LastPass you can have strong passwords that are hard to impossible to remember, but don't have to remember because LastPass will remember for you. Your passwords are encrypted using a master password that only you will know, so your private information is always safe. LastPass will work across all your browsers and computers. You can even retrieve your passwords online from another computer on their web site (where no one but you can access them.)

How about free music, legally! Amazon has over 1,000 songs in all styles from Blues to Folk to Rock to Opera. Many of these are new groups getting their music out, but I've seen everything from Alice Cooper to Andres Segovia to Jeff Beck to the Boston Pops. If you use iTunes, Amazon's download manager will seamlessly add

your songs to iTunes for you. So load up your iPod and Zune with all this free music. This abbreviated link will take you to Amazon's free music page: <http://tinyurl.com/TekChicFreeMusic>

How does a free secretary sound? TimeCave.com will any message you create back to you or anyone you want at ANYTIME you want within 3 years. Do you keep a perfect calendar but your best friend is, shall we say "challenged" when keeping her calendar organized? Have a lunch date next week? Go to Time Cave and enter your message "don't forget about our lunch tomorrow", enter her email address and the day and time you would like it delivered. Now, even if YOU forget to remind her, Time Cave will.

Cell phone users, you're not left out. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to call 411 from your cell phone without having to pay a dollar or more for each call? Thanks to Google you can now get information for any city in the country by simply dialing 800-466-4411 (that's 800-GOOG-411). They have a voice recognition system that lets you tell it what you're looking for and it's amazingly accurate. So program that number into your phone and say goodbye to excessive 411 charges from your carrier.

Next month look for my annual "Geeky Gifts for the Techie in Your Life" Christmas article.



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## Healthy Tailgating This Football Season

By Tarie Beldin

Now you finally know its fall, not because the temperatures are cooler, but because it is FOOTBALL season! With high school games on Friday nights, college games on Saturdays and professional games on Sundays, our weekends can be full of concession-stand food, barbecue, six-foot sandwiches and chips.

All of these game-day feasts can lead to extra calories, which can mean extra pounds, even before the holiday season arrives! The good news is that with a few changes, such as these tailgate make-over tips, you can decrease the fat and calories and increase the nutrition of your tailgating menu, without sacrificing taste:

### TYPICAL TAILGATING FOOD

- Regular chips
- Queso or guacamole
- Fried or buffalo wings with ranch or blue cheese dressings
- Traditional burgers or chili
- Sandwiches or hoagies made with salami, high-fat cheese and mayo
- New England clam chowder
- Pork brats
- Potato salad
- Cookies and cakes
- Regular beer and wine
- Soda or juice



### HEALTHY TAILGATING ALTERNATIVES

- Baked tortilla chips
- Salsa
- Boneless/skinless chicken breast tenders with wing or teriyaki sauces
- Burgers or chili made with lean ground beef or ground turkey breast
- Sandwiches or hoagies made with lean meats, low-fat cheeses and mustard on whole wheat bread
- Low fat gumbo
- Turkey brats
- Grilled corn on the cob

- Caramel or candied apples and low-fat brownies and desserts
- Light beer and wine spritzers
- Iced tea or diet lemonade

It is also never a bad idea to have a fruit and/or vegetable tray available for those who are vegetarian or for low-calorie snacking. If you have a favorite tailgating food or snack, allow yourself to indulge in it, but try to replace other tailgating options with healthier alternatives and be mindful of portion sizes.

Whether you are tailgating at the stadium or “tablegating” in your living room, it’s easy to keep game day food fun, tasty and healthy. Most importantly though, remember, it is about the camaraderie and the love of the game, not the food. Consider having your own game of touch football during half time to burn off those extra calories!

With the last football games in both pro and college football set for the beginning of next year, we still have many opportunities to load up on calorie-laden and high-fat tailgating food. Practice these easy and tasty substitutions to help you stay healthy this football season.

Tarie Beldin is a registered and licensed dietitian at St. David’s Round Rock Medical Center.



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*Oak Hill United Methodist Church is located on Hwy. 290, just west of the Hwy. 290/Hwy. 71 split  
("the Y") in Oak Hill. We are directly across from the ACC Pinnacle Building.*

# News You Can Use

## Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

					6		3	4
		7		1	2			
	9		4					
							6	
	5		8					
		8	9	2	7		4	
8				5		2		
	3			8		5		
7								9

\*Solution at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)

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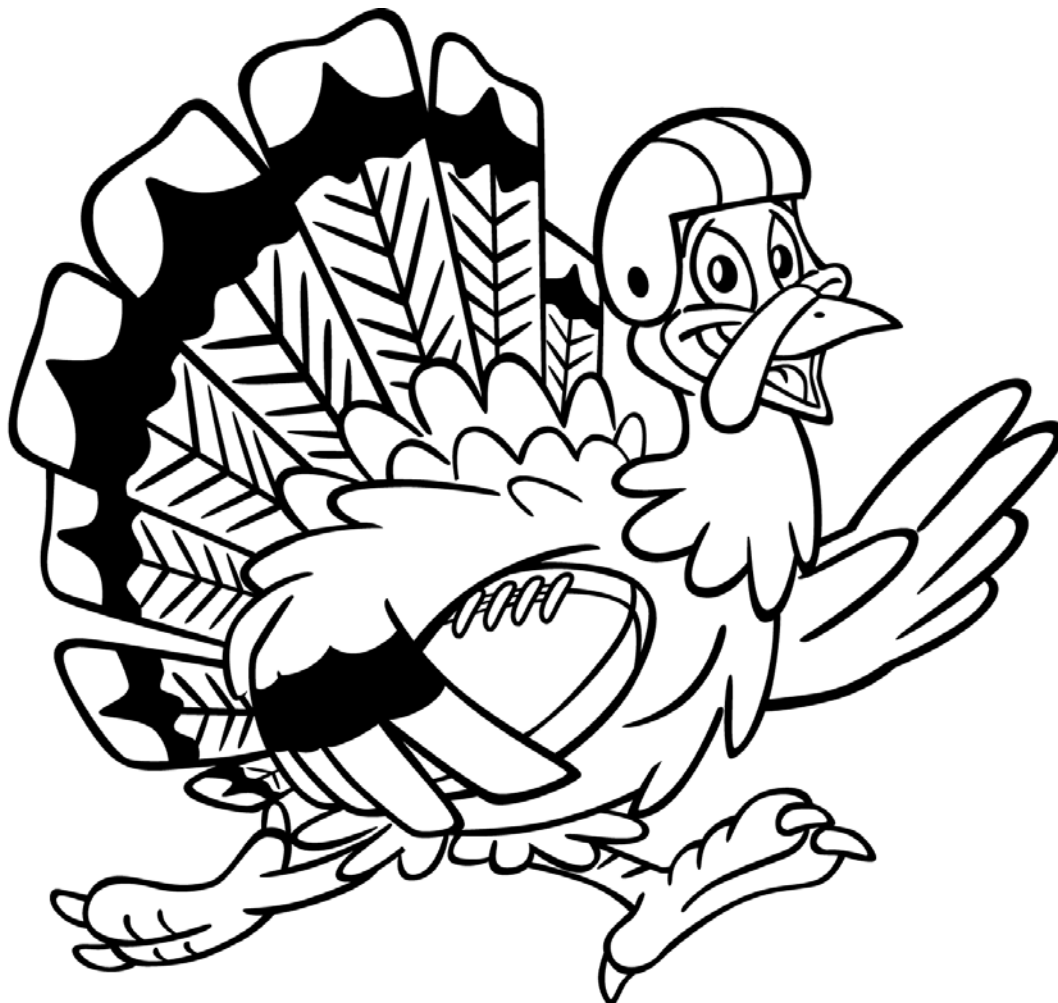
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## Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report

Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (Apr '09 - Sept '09)						CURRENT MARKET	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	46	2,928	\$ 106	\$ 311	1993	85	16	9
North	15	2,092	\$ 126	\$ 263	1997	66	6	5
Wildflower	12	2,305	\$ 122	\$ 281	2001	50	9	1
On The Park	4	3,560	\$ 118	\$ 420	1996	54	5	0
Vintage Place	7	3,343	\$ 97	\$ 324	2004	196	2	1
Hielscher	15	3,166	\$ 115	\$ 365	2003	119	8	5
West	23	3,370	\$ 112	\$ 378	2005	94	6	6
Park West	5	2,380	\$ 135	\$ 321	2000	174	10	3
Park Place	6	2,600	\$ 119	\$ 309	2005	135	7	0
Muirfield	7	3,146	\$ 122	\$ 385	2006	68	2	1
Enclave/Stone Creek	21	2,685	\$ 110	\$ 295	2006	99	6	2
Alta Mira	9	3,100	\$ 117	\$ 362	2008	52	7	4
Fairway Estates	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0
Circle C Ranch Total	170	2,884	\$ 113	\$ 327	2000	93	85	37
% Change Mo/Mo	2%	1%	-1%	1%	0%	28%	-11%	6%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 10/08/2009. 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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