



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 12

December 2009

www.circlecranch.info

CIRCLE C HOA ANNUAL MEETING

and Board Election

As reported in last month's newsletter, we are making some changes to the **Annual Meeting and Board Election** timeline. The Nominating Committee will be accepting nominations for the three open board seats beginning now through January 15, 2009. You can download a Candidate Questionnaire from the News Section of the Circle C Website (http://www.circlecranch.info/news/AnnounceGet.asp?assn_id=14837&clink_id=147064)

The Annual Meeting and Election will be hosted the second week in March (date to be determined). The ballot and proxy will be printed on the back of your HOA Dues Assessment Invoice (mailed Feb 1 and due Mar 1).

We will be mailing a first class letter to all residents in early January explaining all changes and directions for voting.

The Nominating Committee will host a Candidate Forum the second week of February, we'll announce the date in the January newsletter.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The CCHOA Board of Directors will publish the annual report in the February 2010 newsletter.

Happy Holidays!



2009 ANNUAL

Holiday Party

Join us on Saturday, December 5th from 10am to 12:30pm at the Child Development Center for the annual holiday party. Activities include Santa and his elves, train ride, petting zoo, breakfast tacos, cookies, drinks, crafts and more!

Calling All Judges!

It's time for the Annual Holiday Lighting Contest and we need YOU to make it happen. If you are interested in driving a section of the neighborhood to look at decorations and lights for the Holiday Lighting Contest, send us an email at info@circlecranch.info

This year, rather than drive all 4500+ homes, nominations must be submitted to be included in the contest. If you or someone you know in Circle C plans to decorate and would like to be included in the contest, the DEADLINE is December 11th at 5pm. Please email the address to info@circlecranch.info, Subject line: LIGHTS.

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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 Mary Goehring Vice President
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 Russ HodesTreasurer
 Joel Pace.....Development Officer
 Rob Johnson Board Member
 Cindy Groves Board Member
 Contact InformationEmail: 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
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 Kiker Elementary 414.2584
 Mills Elementary 841.2400
 Bailey Middle School 414.4990
 Gorzycki Middle School..... 841-8600
 Small Middle School 841.6700
 Bowie High School 414.5247
 SAYSA..... 899.1049

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. The advertising deadline is the 8th 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.

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.

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Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT ARE THE RULES ON TRASH CONTAINERS AND RECYCLE CART STORAGE?

Trash containers and recycle carts are permitted to be at the curb only on your scheduled collection day. Trash containers and recycle carts are to be stored where not visible from the street at all other times.

ARE BASKETBALL GOALS ALLOWED IN CIRCLE C?

Permanently installed goals are not permitted in Circle C. The deed restrictions state that basketball goals are to be stored out of the view of neighbors when not in use. City of Austin code states that only motorized vehicles are allowed to be parked on public streets and all sidewalks must remain clear and open for pedestrians.

ARE CARS ALLOWED TO BE PARKED ON THE STREET?

The CCHOA does not have jurisdiction over the streets in Circle C; they are the responsibility of the City of Austin. Obviously inoperable vehicles may not be parked or left on public streets for more than 72 hours. Please call 974-8119 to report an abandoned or non-operating vehicle. Please call 311 to report illegally parked vehicles.

WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT BARKING DOGS AND STRAY ANIMALS?

Stray Animals may be picked up by animal control by calling 311. The City of Austin states it is unlawful for dogs to make frequent noise disturbing to persons in the neighborhood and violations should be reported to the City. You may also call the CCHOA office at 288-8663 with specific date and time for excessive barking. The staff will send a cooperative letter to the homeowner.

HOW DO I REPORT A STREET LIGHT OUTAGE?

Every light pole has an assigned number mounted on the pole. Jot down the number and call the City of Austin at 505-7617.

ARE BOATS, TRAILERS AND RECREATIONAL VEHICLES ALLOWED IN CIRCLE C?

The Deed Restrictions require that any vehicle or trailer other than a conventional automobile be stored, placed or parked in an area concealed from view of other Homeowners.

WHAT ARE THE RULES ON MAINTENANCE?

Homes are to be kept in a well-maintained, safe, clean and attractive condition at all times. Lawns and garden areas should be kept alive, free of weeds and attractive. Lawn mowing is required

(Continued on page 5)

Oak Hill United Methodist Church

Christmas Schedule

Hanging of the Greens - 5:30 p.m. - Sunday, November 29

Christmas Cantata - Sunday, December 13

Christmas Worship Services - Thursday, December 24

5:00 p.m. - Family service

7:00 p.m. - Traditional service

9:00 p.m. - Contemporary service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion service

Please call the church office at 288-3836 or visit our website at www.oakhillunitedmethodistchurch.org for additional information.



7815 Hwy. 290 W., Austin, TX 78736

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.

Frequently Asked Questions - (Continued from Page 4)

on a regular basis. Trees and shrubs are to be pruned. Public right of way and sidewalks should be clear and unobstructed. Litter, trash, dead vegetation and debris should be promptly removed.

WHAT ARE THE RULES IN CIRCLE C ON WALKING WITH YOUR DOG OFF LEASH AND WHAT ABOUT PICKING UP AFTER YOUR DOG?

Both of these issues fall under the jurisdiction of the City of Austin. It is against CoA ordinance to have a dog off leash except on your private property. It is also a requirement by the City that dog owners pick up and properly dispose of their dog's feces. In this regard, we recommend dog walkers carry a plastic grocery bag or newspaper sleeve. Slide it on like a glove, pick up the offensive matter, pull the bag back over your hand, knot it and throw it in your trashcan when you return home. Please keep our landscaped commons areas beautiful and clean for the enjoyment of all.

DO I HAVE TO SUBMIT PLANS FOR IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS TO MY HOME?

All improvements such as decks, patio covers, pools, change in fencing or any other permanent structure must be submitted to the Architectural Control Committee. You may download an application form as well as a fee schedule on our website at www.circlecranch.info under the "ACC" quick link section.

WHAT DO I NEED TO VISIT THE SWIM CENTER?

All residents must possess and show their swim center ID card to enter the facility. ID cards are available at the aquatic office. Contact 288-6057 for information on what is required to obtain an ID. Guests of Circle C residents must pay a \$3 entrance fee and sign a liability waiver before entering the facility. Children under 3 are free.

ARE DOOR TO DOOR SOLICITORS AND DOOR FLYERS ALLOWED IN CIRCLE C?

Both of these issues are governed by the City of Austin. By City ordinance, solicitors must abide by "No Soliciting" signs on private property. Some neighbors have had success in placing a small "No Soliciting" sign near the doorbell and/or a small staked sign near the front porch.

WHAT DO NEW TEXAS RESIDENTS NEED TO KNOW?

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety (www.txdps.state.tx.us) a new Texas resident is required by state law to obtain a Texas driver's license, get a Texas vehicle inspection and a vehicle title/registration within 30 days of moving to Texas to legally operate a vehicle.



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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 is in 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/>. Thank you to resident Bob Hendee for volunteering his time to this effort.



Holiday Lights

Circle C is one of the best places to be during the holidays largely because of all the wonderful lights. The common areas are lit up and many homeowners participate by decorating their own homes. However, we ask that everyone comply with the deed restrictions and remove their lights by January 15th.

Holiday Lighting Contest

If you are planning to go all out with holiday decorations and lights or if you know of a neighbor who is, please let us know. The Holiday Lighting Contest will be held beginning at dark on Friday, December 18th through Sunday, December 20th at 9pm. This will be the first year that nominations will be **REQUIRED**. All address submissions must be submitted to the HOA office by Friday, December 11th. All we need is the Circle C address emailed to: info@circlecranch.info, subject line: LIGHTS (member must be in good standing with HOA dues). Be sure that if you are participating or if you are nominating a neighbor, that they realize their lights must be on all **THREE** nights listed above. We need volunteers to make this event happen so email us if you are interested in being a judge.

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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 or www.circlecopenhouse.com.

Monthly Board of Directors Meeting

The Circle C Board of Directors meet monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 7pm at the Circle C Child Development Center. Meetings are open to homeowners and if you wish to address the board, please contact the HOA office at 288-8663 to sign up for the Homeowners Forum (five (3) minute speaking slots at the start of the meeting).

HAVE YOU RECEIVED *a Deed Restriction Notice?*

As reported in each month's newsletter, the HOA staff drives at least two sections of the neighborhood per month to note violations of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. These commonly include: front yard landscape maintenance (mowing, edging, free of weeds), home maintenance (paint, screens, siding) and recreational vehicles (boats, RV's, trailers) parked in the driveway. The HOA is required by state law to notify owners in writing via certified mail and allow for the homeowner to request a hearing before the board of directors. If you receive a letter, please contact us at the HOA office and let us know your individual situation. We would like to work with you to bring your home into compliance. If you would like to report a violation, you can do so via our website at www.circlecranch.info



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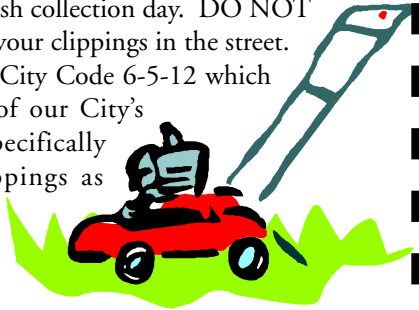
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LAWN CLIPPINGS

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
IN THE SWIM CENTER PARKING LOT!!
THIS DUMPSTER IS FOR SWIM CENTER, CAFÉ
AND LANDSCAPE SERVICES TRASH ONLY.**

PLEASE RECYCLE

Your Junk Mail

Please recycle your junk mail by taking home and shredding and placing in your recycle bin rather than throwing away at the mail center. This is safer for you and the environment.



Be A Good Neighbor



We receive many calls and emails at the HoA office concerning neighbors storing their trash and recycle carts in view from the street. Please be a good neighbor and store your trash and recycle carts out of view (ideally in the garage or behind your fence).

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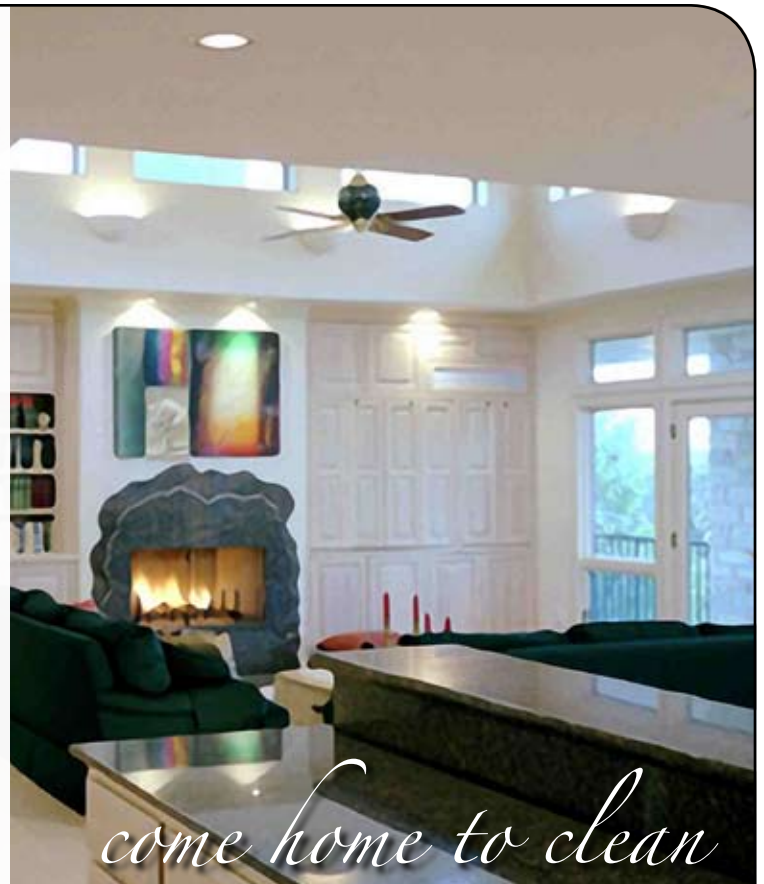
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Circle C Swim Center News

Submitted by Brandon Ducote

WINTER HOURS

October 26th-March 14th, Circle C Swim Center
Monday thru Friday, Mornings - 6am-10am
Evenings - 4pm-7:30pm, Closed - Weekends
Holiday Closures - November 23rd-27th
& December 21st-January 1st

HEATING THE POOL EFFICIENTLY-

The Circle C Swim Center completed the installation of two new heaters for the competition pool. The new heaters are over 90% efficient compared with the heater that was replaced, which was 50% efficient. This means that with the new heater only 10% of the energy is lost to the environment compared to 50%. This would be similar to going from a car that gets 9 miles to the gallon to one that gets 17. So, keeping the pool heated to 81° will be significantly less expensive and we will be doing it in a much more environmentally friendly way.

HOT WATER-

The Circle C Swim Center has switched over to a tank less hot water system for the showers and sinks. This improvement is a much more efficient method of heating water, since it heats on demand

versus continually heating a tank of water while there may not be a need. "On-demand", tank less systems, heats the water from cold to hot as it is needed, and then shut off. There is no interim period of waste of heat into the surroundings, other than the water between the heater and the fixtures.

CIRCLE C SELECT SWIM TEAM

The Select Team is currently preparing for the Reindeer Games in Corpus Christi, Texas. Below are some pictures from previous meets the team has competed in.



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Circle C Landscape

Submitted by Susan Hoover

GET OUT THOSE HEDGE TRIMMERS

One of the big things we have recently noticed throughout all parts of the neighborhood is UNTIDY AND OVERGROWN SHRUBS. If you take five minutes to be aware of your evergreen vegetation, most of you will notice that the shrubs have either gotten really big, or they look like they could use a haircut in the worst way.

You can do a tidy up or light trimming at just about any time. If you are going to perform a significant cut back, late winter is the best time. For us, that usually means end of January to mid February.

GUIDELINES FOR YARDS IN CIRCLE C:

- a) You should be able to see at least 85% of your front windows after you trim back the shrubs
- b) Shrubs should be self contained, shaped and not overlapping on each other
- c) Sprouted ends that are waving in the wind should be gone
- d) Shrubs should be trimmed back so they aren't touching the house.

Trimming your shrubs regularly improves their health, and will make your home look much more desirable. For a complete guide to shrub trimming, you can access this link: www.onlinegardener.com/pdf/Pruning%20Evergreen%20Shrubs.pdf



FINAL LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2009

After the long hot summer, the CCHOA was able to complete the following scheduled projects for 2009:

- Plantings in Circle C North
- new grass installation in Vintage Place Park
- additional rockwork in some of the outlying areas

Each year Circle C Landscape compiles a complete annual report for the records of the Circle C Homeowners Association. If you are interested in the details of the landscape program, you are welcome to come by during office hours and take a look at the notebook.

VINTAGE PLACE PARK GRASS INSTALLATION—HELP ESTABLISH THE GRASS!!

Vintage Place Park Residents: Please take care to stay off the new grass in the Park. The playscape is open, but the grass will be off limits for a while. It needs to root in and be kept moist over the winter. If you walk on it, it will get lumpy. Thank you very much.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CIRCLE C LANDSCAPE— WE ASK YOUR SUPPORT OF THE CAPITAL AREA FOOD BANK.....

This holiday season, we send warm holiday greetings to you and your family. Our crew has worked hard on putting up all of the lighting that helps make Circle C Ranch a special place during the holidays.

We will be making a monetary donation to the Capital Area Food Bank on behalf of the Circle C Community. Last year we collected food from all of our neighbors and it was quite successful. However, after visiting with the Capital Area Food Bank, they expressed their need for monetary donations. This is due to the fact that even a small donation has the capacity to provide a number of meals due to the reduced pricing the food bank is able to obtain. If you would like to make a donation or learn more about hunger in Central Texas, you can access their website at www.foodbankaustin.org.

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Clubs & Announcements

PARK WEST HOA NEWS (Specifically for Park West Residents)

Submitted by Jackie Rollins

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

An important election is coming up soon for our homeowners' association. At the PWHOA Annual Meeting in February, three members will be elected to the Board of Directors. Since the Board consists of five members, this equates to a majority of its members. These members should be committed individuals, willing to devote a little time and energy in making Park West an even better community. Therefore, volunteers are being requested to serve on a nominating committee responsible for seeking out and selecting the best possible candidates. Thus far, only one homeowner has responded, so if you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on this committee, please contact Board President Frances Bush at 394-9539/fjbush42@yahoo.com or Board Secretary Jackie Rollins at 940-5745/ JackieRollins02@aol.com by December 31.

LANDSCAPER NEWS

Curious about what's on the schedule now that fall is here and

the mowing is reduced? Just check the lower right corner of either mail center's official bulletin board to find the complete schedule by month. More detail work, such as plant and shrub trimming, is on the schedule for the months ahead and, of course, the semiannual mulching of our front beds in late November/early December.

WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS

Since the Park West community website was last mentioned in an earlier column, several new residents have moved into the neighborhood and may not know about this great communication resource. If you haven't signed on yet, you don't know what you're missing: discussion groups, photos of pets and social activities, community documents (including financial reports), Board meeting minutes and much, much more! Don't wait any longer.... e-mail webmaster ruthbolsen@austin.rr.com now for sign on instructions.

(Continued on Page 13)

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READ ALL ABOUT IT

And since we're talking about the website.....do you know of a dependable handyman that can fix anything at a reasonable price?.... a cleaning service that does a super job?....a great new place to eat?....a pet sitter extraordinaire? If you have something worth sharing with your Park West neighbors, don't keep it to yourself....post it on the PWHOA website. It's easy. Just sign on to the website, click on "Message Board" at the top of the page and then "Neighborhood Referrals." Post your referral, or read the many that have already been posted by other residents. If you haven't been to the website yet, you will need a registration code to complete your initial sign on, so e-mail webmaster ruthbolsen@austin.rr.com for the code.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

From Marie Bryant: "I had a great trip to the Big Apple, doing the things that tourists do, such as going on a city tour via double decker bus, strolling through Manhattan and enjoying a carriage ride through Central Park. I also had a wonderful dinner at the famous Tavern on the Green. New York was everything I expected it to be....what an exiting city! I hope to visit there again. A seven-day cruise to Nova Scotia was good too; however, the Caribbean Princess, with 3,100 people on board, was too big a cruise ship for my liking. We made port calls in Newport and Bar Harbor. The only fall

foliage we saw was in Acadia National Park in Maine, with colors you only see in New England. Our final destination was historical Halifax, Nova Scotia. On our return trip to New York, we had more excitement than we wanted, "surviving" a day on rough seas and a rocking ship. It was wonderful to come home to balmy 70-degree temperatures. Park West and home never looked so good."



(Continued on Page 14)



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Clubs & Announcements

Park West HOA News - (Continued from Page 13)

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.

RULES REMINDER

Oil and other vehicle fluid stains larger than one square foot caused by residents' or guests' vehicles parked in the street must be removed by the resident. In addition, oil stains on driveways are unsightly and can be seen by passersby; therefore, they should be removed as a part of routine driveway/Street Yard maintenance.

HELPING HANDS

Consider contacting your neighbors when you are expecting a pickup of donated items to organizations such as the Salvation Army, Disabled Veterans and St. Vincent de Paul. Some residents hesitate to call when they have just a few items, but if neighbors are aware of the pickup, items can be pooled for a larger donation – a win-win situation for both the donors and the charitable organization!

GOOD NEIGHBORS OF THE MONTH

Thanks go to Jess and Mary Williams for answering a concerned call from a Board member to check on a neighbor, living alone, who had reported that a snake was in her house. The snake – a garden variety – was dispatched by Jess to the great outdoors, much to the neighbor's relief. Thanks and appreciation is also extended to Ruthie Bolsen for delivering her special chicken soup to neighbors who are under the weather.

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 with your suggestions and items of interest.

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CIRCLE C SENIOR MEN'S TRIP

to the Camp Mabry Military Museum

Submitted by Dave Maril & A.E.Martin

The Circle C men's group recently enjoyed a visit to the Camp Mabry museum, and to commemorate the trip the group's poet laureate Dr. Charles A. Stone composed a poem entitled "Rotating Exhibits". The opening lines are:

museum pieces
from around the country
rotated slowly
gallery to gallery....

As the group entered Camp Mabry on a beautiful October day, they drove by an array of weather instruments that daily inform local weather folks of Austin's changing conditions. Upon speaking with the Camp's unofficial weather expert a few secrets of the trade were revealed such as the weather reports often come direct from the military gate guard's observation of the sky.

The visit to the Camp Mabry Military Museum was enjoyed by all. The history of the Texas Guard and 36th Infantry from

Republic of Texas days to Afghanistan was very well presented. An excellent tour guide explained displays of the Alamo, Texas' role in the Civil War, the War to End All Wars, Lost Battalions of W.W.II and the River Kwai, Korea, Viet Nam, and current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The CC Senior Men's Group concluded its sixth outing with an excellent Hula Hut lunch over looking Lake Austin on a beautiful day. None will soon forget the peppermint desert.

The group continues weekly breakfasts and informal discussions at the Escarpment Waterloo Ice House, 9:00 AM, every Wednesday. Dr. Charles A. Stone frequently rewards us with original poetry on our ventures. For a complete copy of "Rotating Exhibits," stop by any Wednesday or contact a club member. Circle C male residents who claim to be seniors are welcome to join. For more information send a note to aemartin@austin.rr.com or come to a Wednesday meeting.



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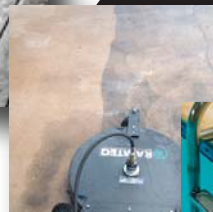
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UPDATE ON RM 1826 & SLAUGHTER

A Signal to be Installed in Early Spring

Submitted by Valinda Bolton's office

It may not have been a seamlessly smooth process, but we definitely have an outcome that is better, less expensive and can be completed sooner than the proposed plan for a tunnel. The proposed tunnel's overall project costs increased more than expected when it was discovered that extra right-of-way was needed. Rep. Bolton asked TxDOT to go back to the drawing board and think outside the box.



here we had the State, Travis County, Austin, TxDOT and AISD - you're bound to hit a few bumps in the road.

This is a win for everybody and a great example of dogged determination! Almost always there is more than one solution to any given problem. And, yes we can hit some road blocks, but it's everybody's job to keep plugging away. The community continued to

The solution will incorporate a signal at RM 1826 and Slaughter along with a combination of advanced warning technologies to address the sightline problem posed by the hill south of the intersection. Without the advanced warning technology, TxDOT would not be able to install a signal at this location. It's critical that drivers be alerted to the possibility of stopped traffic once they crest the hill. Because of the short distance available to warn drivers about stopped traffic, the use of a signal at this location was dismissed at the beginning of the process. However, TxDOT investigated best practices in states that have lots of hills to find innovative solutions to apply at this intersection to increase safety and allow for a signal to be erected.

We've come up with a solution that meets the needs of the neighborhood and the school. Any time you have multiple, independent governmental sub-divisions working together – and

be a vocal advocate for their needs, AISD was a strong voice for our children's safety, TxDOT continued to work toward a safe solution that met the needs while complying with state/federal safety rules, and Travis County and the City of Austin have provided much needed resources to build sidewalks to complete the project.

Right now it looks like we'll have the signal up in early spring. Students will be able to walk to and from school and the community can access the parks and the hike and bike trails

OHAN has graciously agreed to put this issue on the agenda for their Nov. 11th meeting. Rep. Bolton has invited Commissioner Huber, TxDOT's new District Director, Carlos Lopez, and representatives from the City of Austin and AISD to join her to present the plan to erect a signal at 1826 & Slaughter and talk about some of the new technologies that will be used.

Thanks to everybody for your hard work.

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Clubs & Announcements

Circle C Tennis Club

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

25 Reasons For Playing Tennis

In the last two months, I listed from one to twenty-four reasons for playing tennis, written by a Tennis Professional who has encouraged us to share them with others. Here is reason number 25:

25. Tennis creates life situations which should be viewed by parents and coaches as *opportunities* ... which, if seized upon, can be used to teach **Character**...., or, *if ignored, these same life situations can teach undesirable behavior patterns and negative character traits.*

- a. It can teach **Honesty** – truthfulness, fairness and sincerity....
or it can teach lying, cheating and gamesmanship.
- b. It can teach **Obedience** – respect for authorities, including parents, coaches, officials and other players..., and also respect for rules.... *or it can teach disrespect, disobedience and discourtesy to others....and it can teach abuse, indifference and flagrant disregards for rules.*
- c. It can teach **Humility** – modes and meekness....*or it can teach abuse, indifference and flagrant disregard for rules.*

d. It can teach **Self Control** – both of attitude and emotions....
or it can teach anger, bad temper, grumbling, etc.

e. It can teach **Resourcefulness** – flexibility, acceptance and the skill of ingenuity to adjust and adapt to changing conditions, different situations and new circumstances....*or it can teach refusal or resistance to adjust to changing situations, inflexibility and stubbornness.*

f. It can teach **Kindness** – unselfishness, thoughtfulness and consideration of others....*or I can teach faultfinding and rudeness.*

g. It can teach **Perseverance** – endurance, patience and fortitude – continuing effort in spite of difficulties, problems, obstacles and handicaps....*or it can teach slothfulness, half-hearted effort, giving up, and quitting.*

I hope these “25 Reasons to Play Tennis” will encourage you and your family to start and/or continue playing the “sport of a lifetime”



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Special Clinic At Circle C Tennis Club



The Circle C Tennis club hosted the "First Volley Adaptive Tennis Clinic" sponsored by the Orthodic & Prosthetic Assistance Fund, Inc (OPAF). This clinic was designed for individuals with physical challenges who would like to enjoy the game of tennis.

A total of 14 amputees, 5 of them in wheelchairs, enjoyed the opportunity to learn to play tennis in spite of their individual challenges. Members of the Club who attended this special event mentioned that this was the "most exciting and rewarding experience they have had on the tennis court". All of the sudden, the Members'



"aches and pains" and their "tennis balls going into the net or too long" took a new and less important feeling when they saw all these players hitting tennis balls and having a smile on their faces.

Darren Kindred, First Volley Director of Tennis was assisted by Host Pro of Circle C Tennis Club, Mari Toro. Due to the great turnout and cooperation with the staff, this will become an annual event and with the expectations of having even greater participation. This event, ties in perfectly with the articles published in the newsletters on the "25 Reasons For Playing Tennis"

Christmas is... something different to everyone. What is it to you?



We invite you to celebrate with us this year.

LightFest | December 6 - 6:15pm

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service | 5pm

Christmas Is... Program | December 12 & 13 - 7pm

Christmas Weekend Worship | December 27 - 11am

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

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Clubs & Announcements



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December Events



WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT

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Find the perfect gift in the garden. Sales, discounts, demonstrations and book and ornament signings. On Saturday and Sunday some 14 artists and artisans display their work for sale. Sponsored by Majic 95.5.

LUMINATIONS

Members Night, 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, December 11 - Public, 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13

Thousands of luminarias and twinkly lights, music, taste treats and children's crafts, all for the donation of two canned goods for the Capital Area Food Bank. Sponsored by Samsung, Silicon Labs, Majic 95.5 and the Austin American-Statesman

ART EXHIBITS

Nature inspired sculpture in the gardens through March 7. Collage and mixed media by artist Mary Frasher in the McDermott Learning Center through December 6. Water Sparks by sculptor Damian Priour—a joint exhibit with the Umlauf Sculpture Garden through December 20.

CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

The Wildflower Center will be closed from December 21 through January 1



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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.

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MILLS GOES ON WORLD TOUR

for the Holidays

Submitted by Kristen Card

Mills Elementary will hold its 4th annual Holidays Around the World on Saturday, December 5th, and wants your participation!

Volunteer opportunities abound for this magical, educational event. You can help behind the scenes, be a Cultural Ambassador sharing the holiday traditions of a different region or country, or sponsor a booth to boost your business.

But regardless of whether you can serve as a "tour guide" for the event, be sure to come travel the globe with Mills! You'll learn about holiday customs from around the world through games, crafts, activities and prizes. You can sample something sweet to eat, see children dancing in cultural garb and visit the photo booth for a souvenir to remember your trip.

Don't miss the sleigh for Holidays Around the World – festive fun for you, for free!!

To volunteer or for more information, please visit www.MillsPTA.org.



James Bowie High School *Silver Stars*



UPCOMING EVENTS!

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

December 12th – Barton Creek Mall giftwrap 12:00 – 6:00 pm.

Silver Stars Holiday Parent's Day Out 9:00 am-3:00 pm

December 19th – Applebee's pancake breakfast – 8:00 – 10 am.
Barton Creek Mall giftwrap 12:00 – 6:00 pm.

Dec. 29 – Jan. 3 – See the Silver Stars perform in the "A Texas Christmas Carol" – The Long Center, www.thelongcenter.org. Purchase tickets over the phone (512-474-LONG) and mention the code SILVER STARS - the Stars will receive 20% of each ticket sold.

Dec. 09 – Powder Puff Football Tournament – Time/Location TBD

-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!

-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 for our Holiday Parent's Day Out. Kids day of fun - Girls AND Boys ages Kinder - 8th grade. 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Visit our website to download registration information. 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!

For more information on any of these events and updates, please visit www.silverstars.org or contact Carrie Turlington, CarrieRust@aol.com –or- Rosie Mendoza, silverstarsboosterpres@yahoo.com

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School News





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

AISD TO PRESENT *School Boundary Plan at Mills*

Submitted by Kristen Card

The Mills Elementary Campus Advisory Council will hold a community meeting on December 2nd at 5:30 p.m. in the Mills cafeteria.

At the meeting, staff from the Austin Independent School District will present the proposed new attendance-zone boundary map affecting all southwest elementary schools – including Boone, Clayton, Kiker, Mills, Oak Hill, Patton, Sunset Valley and the under-construction southwest elementary school at Meridian Park.

Mills Elementary School parents and attendance-zone residents are urged to come to the meeting and complete comment cards related to the proposed boundary map.

For more information about AISD's boundary process or new schools, please visit the AISD website, 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 for more information on boundary-related issues, meetings and presentations as they might affect Mills students and families.



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Help Your Child Read

Submitted by Wendy Wilbanks

Studies have shown and experts have emphasized time and again the importance of literacy in child development: The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends reading aloud to babies as young as six months. Carnegie Corporation research showed reading to infants and toddlers helps stimulate brain development. The National Early Literacy Panel reported that a child's background knowledge and understanding of the world represents a key building block for reading comprehension.

So what can we as parents do to nurture our children's literacy? Here are some tips for fostering a love of reading at different ages and stages:

INFANTS/TODDLERS

- Let your little one chew on the story – literally! They don't differentiate between books and other toys.
- Keep it simple. Sometimes read the story, other times just point to the words that correspond with the pictures.
- Get ready to repeat. Youngsters love to hear the same story over and over again, and learn through repetition.

PRESCHOOL-AGE

- Just keep reading. At this age, it's normal for children's attention

to wander. But the child who may not be actively listening still hears what you're reading.

- Get attention with questions. Use open-ended questions about events in the story to engage the child: "What do you think might happen if the dinosaur came to our house?"
- Use rhyme to make time. Include the child in the reading process by choosing rhyming books in which the child can guess the next word from the pictures.
- Give them tools. Have a variety of writing utensils, art supplies and letter magnets on-hand to help preschoolers develop pre-reading skills.

SCHOOL-AGE

- Listen up. Make sure your child is regularly reading aloud to you.
- Be a reading cheerleader! Support and encourage children as they read; leave the correcting to their teachers.
- Follow the finger. Run your fingers beneath the words as you read aloud to your child.
- Pick up on the pictures. Point out the pictures to help your child understand the meaning of the words.

(Continued on Page 26)



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News You Can Use

Help Your Child Read - (Continued from Page 25)

- Provide pauses. Pause often while reading to let your child pose questions or offer comments about the story.
- Employ the echo effect. If reading is a real struggle, then read together by reading a line and letting your child repeat it.
- Team teach. Work together with your child's teacher to discuss reading concerns and address the best ways to help your child succeed.



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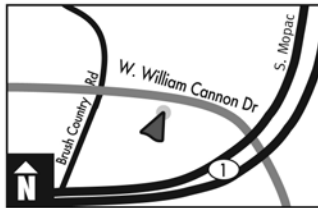
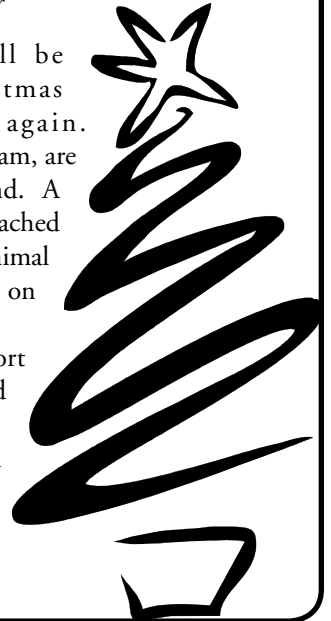
with Bowie HS Tennis Team!

Submitted by Angela Alexander

The Bowie High School Tennis Team will be providing their yearly fundraiser, the Christmas tree pick-up, in your neighborhood once again. The dates to leave your clean trees on the curb, by 9:00 am, are Wednesday, December 30th and Saturday, January 2nd. A donation check payable to "Bowie Tennis" can be left attached to the tree. The trees will be going to the Austin Zoo for animal habitat, as well as going to an organic recycling facility on the outskirts of Austin.

The Bowie Tennis Team greatly appreciates the support it gets from the Circle C neighborhood. Your kind donations allow us to purchase much needed supplies for the team and attend tournaments. Please email bowietennisrules@yahoo.com with your address and intended pick-up date.

Many thanks, Bowie Tennis



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AUSTIN NEWCOMERS CLUB

December Luncheon

Austin Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Join us at our monthly luncheon as well as take the opportunity to learn about and become involved in many fun Interest groups.

Time: 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

Date: December 16, 2009 (Reservations required by Thursday, December 10th)

Location: Green Pastures Restaurant

811 W. Live Oak Street, Austin, 78704

Luncheon Cost: \$20 per person

For more information visit www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100

December Program: Fabulous Holiday Entertainment

Join us to hear Emily Bem, an award-winning singer and actress as she sings for us at our holiday luncheon. Emily has been performing in Austin for the past ten years. Most recently, she appeared as Sister Robert Anne in Nunsense with TexARTS, a company she has previously performed with including The Music Man (Alma), Big River (Widow Douglas) and Damn Yankees (Doris). On the Zilker Hillside, Emily played Alice Miller in My Favorite Year (she won a B. Iden Payne award), the Wardrobe in Beauty and The Beast, and most recently, Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in The Music Man (Payne nominee). Emily performed in eight consecutive Austin Musical Theatre shows. At Austin Playhouse she was Hattie in Kiss Me Kate and Miss Weston in Damn Yankees. She has played a variety of characters as well as playing Aldonza in Man of La Mancha--one of her all time dream roles--at the Sam Bass Theater in Round Rock. Emily directed Schoolhouse Rock Live! Junior for TexARTS at the Long Center, and teaches at their Academy in Lakeway. She also teaches acting and singing at Huntington Surrey High School, and offers lessons to people of all ages at her house in Southwest Austin. She will be accompanied on the piano is Marlene Nichols.

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Buyers Find Good Deals on Luxury Homes

Although the overall housing market in Austin is strong, one sector continues to struggle a bit. Many homes in the highest price points—particularly those listed for sale at more than about \$500,000—are selling at reduced prices.

As a result, buyers looking to move into that market segment can often find good deals right now.

Case in point: A home recently sold in Northwest Austin that was originally listed for \$1.1 million. The home eventually sold for less than \$750,000—a whopping one-third less than its original asking price!

How We Got Here

Why did the home fail to sell at its original list price? The home was recently remodeled, in good condition, and in a desirable location. The buyers, however, failed to materialize at the higher price.

Many factors contribute to the softer market at higher price points. Most buyers moving into the \$500,000 and above price range feel less urgency than most, and many delay their decisions to move, especially when the economy falters.

In addition, so-called “jumbo” loans (those above \$417,000) have been more difficult for buyers to obtain



Many buyers are finding good deals on high-end homes. Coupled with the new tax credit, it's a good time for many buyers to move up.

in recent months, putting pressure on sellers of homes priced above about \$600,000.

What This Means for Home Buyers

Now is one of the best times ever for buyers looking to purchase a home in the higher price ranges. With a relatively large supply, and a number of fairly steep price reductions, buyers can find good deals on homes that they may not have thought they could afford.

As more buyers realize that jumbo loans are becoming easier to obtain, Austin's luxury home market will likely begin to pick up in the coming months. That means now is the time to take advantage of good deals on higher-priced homes.



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Britt's Book Buzz

"A TRUE TEXAS INSPIRATION"

*Same Kind of Different as Me by Ron Hall
and Denver Moore*

At the core of *Same Kind of Different as Me*, a true story written by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, are the relationships that Ron and Denver have with each other, their friends, Ron's spouse and children, nature, the environment in which they were raised (especially Denver) and most importantly, God.

Denver, an illiterate and homeless African American man from Louisiana has suffered at the hands of many throughout his life but through it all become a true messenger for God. The book begins with Denver recounting his heartbreaking life—from the back breaking work of picking cotton to seeing the people he loved most in the world disappear. The book so graphically reveals the gut wrenching life of a boy who wants for almost nothing, but is treated terribly.

Ron is a self-made millionaire whose heart was open to being guided by God, at the hands of his wife Deborah. Deborah—a person so filled with faith—heard God speak to her and conveyed these very specific and detailed visions to Ron (including seeing Denver's face even though they had not met him yet) and together, they became an integral part of a community of homeless people in Forth Worth, Texas. And this is where Ron's and Denver's lives intersected and forever changed.

The writing is relatable and each personality (the book alternates between Ron's and Denver's voices) is clearly unique and endearing. For example Ron, who worked on this grandpa's farm during summers writes of the land, "...the land is miserable, cursed with soil that may well be the original inspiration for cement."

The book addresses a question that all of us have asked, "Why did God let that happen?" It challenges faith in a very personal way. The book also encourages each of us to believe that God has a purpose for us, even if it isn't clear at this moment.

Same Kind of Different as Me demonstrates that the human spirit is fragile while at the same time immensely strong. It shows how trust, prayer and unconditional love can bring out amazing change and a life long friendship.

The book ended with a wonderful reminder, "...everybody's different...We're all just regular folks walkin down the road God done set in front of us...this earth ain't no final restin' place. So in a way, we is all homeless—just workin our way toward home."

Feel free to comment on this review, your thoughts on the book or suggest a book for me to review on my blog: <http://brittsbuzz.blogspot.com>.

Tips for Teaching Children about Table Manners

Submitted by Rebecca Beavers

Teaching your children table manners may sound old fashioned, but it never goes out of style. Having good manners shows your respect for other people, and it's more than saying "please" and "thank you." It's about helping your children develop habits and behaviors that will help them relate to adults and other children in a positive way. "To make your family mealtime special and relaxing, slow down, sit and talk with your children and expect good behavior. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much easier and enjoyable it will become," said Dr. Mary Zurn, vice president of education for Primrose Schools. "This is important because children with good manners often find it easier to make friends and get along with others at school and at home."

Dr. Zurn offers five table manners tips to get parents started:

1. Start early: Don't wait until you think your child is "old enough" to learn polite behavior. Just as children learn to crawl before they learn to walk, they also learn manners in stages. Even infants watch parents for rules of expected behavior. Very young children can learn to sign key phrases such as "please" or "thank you" and then transition to the spoken words around age two. By age three, children should be able to stay seated at mealtime if you sit down with them.
2. Give specific feedback: Children learn best when they receive specific feedback about their behavior which is far more effective than generic praise. For example, instead of saying, "Good job," you can say, "I'm so glad you set the table."
3. Encourage polite conversation: Children as young as two can learn to engage in polite conversation at the dinner table with the right kind of guidance. As you are at the table eating together, show them how to take turns listening, talking, and asking questions.
4. Set a good example: Make sure your words and actions match. Children watch parents all the time for behavior clues. For example, if you want your child to eat broccoli because it's a healthy food choice, you will need to let them see you enjoy eating it as well.
5. Create a routine: Children learn best from consistency because it helps them know what to expect. Start with the repetition of a few simple steps such as putting a napkin in your lap when you sit down. Create a routine that is easy for them to repeat and remember. For more tips from Dr. Zurn and a list of book suggestions on teaching your children table manners, visit www.Dr.ZandMe.com.



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NATURE WATCH

The Simple Beauty of Sparrows



Chipping Sparrow

Coming from the Anglo-Saxon word 'spearwa' and literally meaning 'flutterer', sparrows often conjure up images of the ubiquitous and non-native House sparrow and the House finch, which isn't a sparrow at all. While most sparrows are generally small to medium brown birds with streaks, the differences between sparrows can best be determined by their relative size, head markings, and habitat.

All sparrows have conical bills that they use to shell seeds, a primary component of their diet year-round, but especially so in the winter months. There is little difference between the males and the females in terms of appearance, but males are on average larger than females. As a group, most sparrows are birds of grasslands, prairies, and marshes, and seem

to prefer weedy fields and woodland edges in the winter. Of the sparrow species that migrate, none travel further than the southern United States or northern Mexico.

One of our most common winter sparrows is the Chipping sparrow. Small and slim, with a long notched tail, rusty cap, white stripe over the eye and a black line through the eye, this sparrow moves in loose flocks and frequently feeds in short grass and open woods. While still fairly abundant, this sparrow is declining in numbers, mainly due to habitat destruction, and winters in the southern part of the United States. When first identified in 1810 by an American ornithologist, it was nicknamed 'the social sparrow' for it was easily approached and associated with human habitation.

A fairly large sparrow, the White-crowned sparrow is

(Continued on Page 33)



White-Crowned Sparrow



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Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 32)

distinguished by its black and white striped head, unmarked gray breast, and dark pink bill. It is found in large groups in thickets and weedy areas, foraging on the ground. Discovered in 1772 by a German naturalist, this sparrow was originally named the 'white-eyebrowed bunting', for in the Old World, sparrows were usually called buntings.

Found in a variety of grassy habitats, and often in small flocks, is the Savannah sparrow. Streaked on both their back and their breast, Savannah's have pink legs, yellow above the eye, a thin white median crown stripe, and a short notched tail. First described by a British ornithologist in 1790, it was called a 'sandwich bunting' due to the first specimens being collected from Sandwich Bay in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska.

Lincoln's sparrow is a medium-sized bird with a rather short tail, broad gray stripe above the eye, buffy moustache stripe,



Savannah Sparrow

and a buffy upper breast with crisp, blackish streaks. Found in winter in brushy edges of ponds and other moist areas, this sparrow was named by John James Audubon in 1833 after his research companion, Thomas Lincoln, shot the first specimen in Labrador.

Sparrows are gregarious and are often our most hardy winter visitors. Adorned in various shades of brown, gray, black, and white, they reflect the subdued hues of a winter landscape. Often dismissed as 'little brown birds' when seen with the naked eye, these birds invite closer inspection and are nature's way of reminding us that subtle colors and patterns can be beautiful, too!

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



Lincoln's Sparrow

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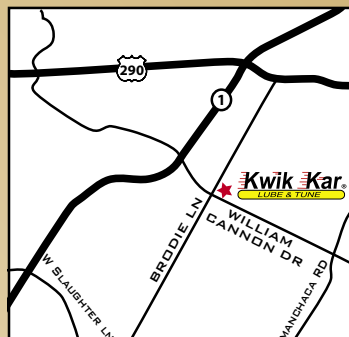
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Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report								
Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (May '09 - Oct '09)						CURRENT MARKET	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	47	2,942	\$ 104	\$ 307	1993	87	13	7
North	19	2,057	\$ 128	\$ 264	1996	64	5	2
Wildflower	11	2,231	\$ 124	\$ 278	2002	62	8	0
On The Park	5	3,582	\$ 115	\$ 412	1996	61	2	2
Vintage Place	8	3,386	\$ 98	\$ 330	2003	172	2	1
Hielscher	16	3,091	\$ 115	\$ 355	2003	119	8	4
West	26	3,373	\$ 114	\$ 383	2005	103	6	2
Park West	5	2,333	\$ 137	\$ 321	2001	152	9	3
Park Place	6	2,600	\$ 119	\$ 309	2005	135	5	2
Muirfield	8	3,301	\$ 122	\$ 403	2006	83	0	1
Enclave/Stone Creek	17	2,810	\$ 109	\$ 307	2006	95	3	3
Alta Mira	8	3,053	\$ 118	\$ 359	2008	47	7	6
Fairway Estates	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	1
Circle C Ranch Total	176	2,897	\$ 114	\$ 330	2000	94	68	34
% Change Mo/Mo	4%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	-20%	-8%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 11/02/2009. 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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