



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 4

April 2010

www.circlecranch.info

AND THE TRAIN KEEPS ROLLING

Annual Meeting Recap....

For the first time in recent memory, our annual meeting was quick and mostly painless. Thanks largely to the efforts of Jason Bram, Terri Giles, Mary Goehring and Denise Nordstrom, the CCHOA achieved a quorum prior to the scheduled meeting time. This enabled the board to focus on giving you, the members, an update on what we had done over the past year and what we plan on doing in the coming years. Nothing taints an annual meeting like having to devote your first hour or two to calling everyone you know and pleading with them to cast their vote to enable the CCHOA to get its business done. Thanks to everyone for making it happen!

We achieved another first this year in that we had three directors serve out their entire three year terms. We hope this is a reflection of our community growing more cohesive and focused. Director Cindy Groves opted not to run for another term and we owe her a debt of gratitude for her contributions to the community.

Congratulations to Chris Poynor, our newest director, as well as Russ Hodes and Rob Johnson, who were re-elected as directors, on their successful election campaigns. The coming year is sure to bring many challenges and it is comforting to know that there are people who are both able and willing to meet them head on. A big thank you is also in order for the remaining candidates, Brad Compere, Ornela Deseta and Jack Wang, for throwing their hat in the ring and giving it their best efforts. An association is only as strong as its membership and our community would not be what it is without a strong cadre of volunteers committed to making it so.

Jason Bram and Russ Hodes gave presentations on the status of the West Pool Project and our current financial status. Their presentations can be downloaded from the CCHOA's website (<http://circlecranch.info/HOA/assn14837/images/CCHOAAnnualMtg2010.pdf>) in PDF format for anyone who was unable to attend the annual meeting. At the conclusion of those presentations, the Board then held an open forum and answered questions for the greater part of an hour. As always, any questions that were not addressed can be forwarded to our operations manager, Denise Nordstrom for a quick response at info@circlecranch.info or by phone at 288-8663.

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as your president for the past year. Our community continues to set the standard for the Austin metropolitan area – a fact which is readily acknowledged by those who represent us and those who clamor to join us. I'm confident that the coming year will continue that tradition and am proud to be a part of it. So take a deep breath, buckle up and get ready for another year – it is guaranteed to be one heckuva ride.

- SUBMITTED BY STEVE URBAN, CCHOA PRESIDENT




Happy
Easter!

Upcoming Events

APR 3
Easter Egg Hunt

APR 17
Annual Garage Sale

MAY 8
Community Blood Drive



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CCHOA NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Office info@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
 Financial Office 451-9901
 Aquatics Director 288-4239
 Newsletter Publisher
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 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

Steve Urban..... President
 Mary Goehring Vice President
 Jason Bram..... Secretary/Development Officer
 Russ Hodes Treasurer
 Joel Pace Development Officer
 Rob Johnson Board Member
 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
 Small Middle School 841.6700
 Bowie High School 414.5247
 SAYSA..... 899.1049

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.

ADVERTISING INFO

Please support the advertisers that make the Circle C Ranch Newsletter possible. If you are interested in advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. at 512-263-9181 or advertising@peelinc.com. The advertising deadline is the 8th of the month prior to the issue.

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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Table of Contents

CCHOA NEWS

- 8 Have You Joined Circle C's Email List Yet?
- 8 Circle C Neighborhood Blood Drive
- 8 Missing Pets
- 8 Be a Good Neighbor
- 8 Let's Save Paper
- 9 Home, Lawn & Garden Maintenance Items
- 10 Circle C Landscape
- 11 Circle C Palms in Need of Pruning
- 12 CCHOA 2010 Annual Meeting Election Results

CLUBS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 14 Wildflower Center Events in April
- 14 Are You Paying Too Much in Property Taxes
- 15 Cool Plants for the Shade Garden

PARK WEST HOA NEWS

- 16 Meet Your Neighbors
- 16 Diveristy
- 17 Just for Fun
- 17 Spring is Here
- 17 Until Next Time

SCHOOL NEWS

- 18 Bingo & Sno-cones & iPads - Oh My!
- 18 COA Crossing Gaurd Position Open
- 19 Kiker Elementary is Golfin' & Groovin'!
- 20 2010 Bowie HS Tennis Camp

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- 24 Classifieds
- 25 Meet Isaiah - Adoption Coalition
- 26 Nature Watch
- 28 Austin Newcomers Club
- 29 Do You Like Free Software?
- 30 Financial Focus

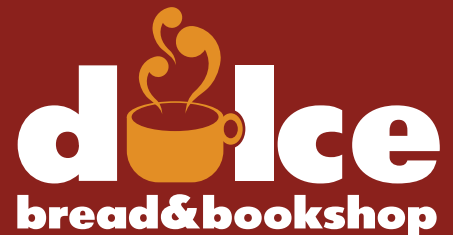
KIDS SECTION

- 33 Playgrounds
- 34 Kids Coloring Page
- 35 Sudoku



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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



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.



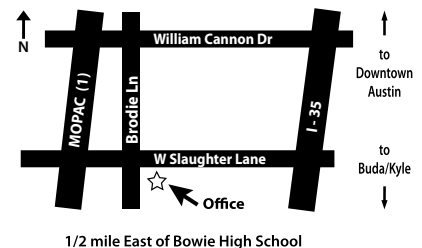
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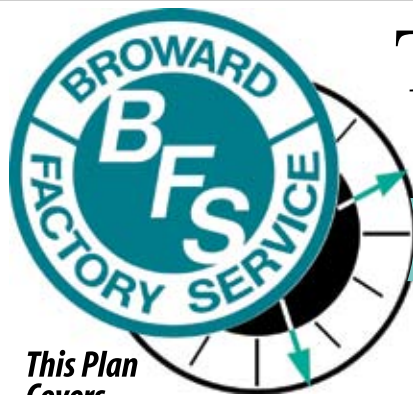


1/2 mile East of Bowie High School

Calendar of Events

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Easter Egg Hunt
4 Circle C Open House Tours 1-4 pm	5	6	7	8 Newsletter Advertising Deadline	9	10 Newsletter Article Deadline
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Community Garage Sale
18 Circle C Open House Tours 1-4 pm	19	20	21 Monthly BOD Meeting 7pm, CDC	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



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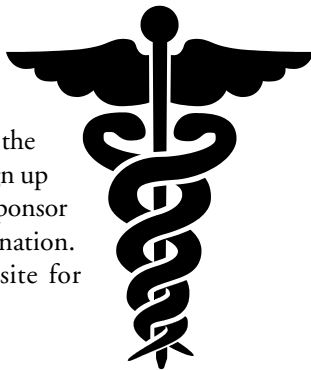
Circle C's Email List Yet?

If you would like up to date notices on HOA and area community events, lost pets and timely news, please sign up for the CCHOA Email Database. Log onto www.circlecranch.info and create a user name and password (be sure to use the legal owner name and CC address) and include your email address as your communication preference.

Circle C Neighborhood

Blood Drive

The Blood Center of Central Texas will be in Circle C on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 10:30am to 1pm in the Circle C Swim Center Plaza. Please sign up online at www.inyourhands.org, the Sponsor Code is: cirlec. Please eat before donation. Photo ID required. Please see website for complete details.



Missing Pets

We have been receiving a lot of calls and emails lately about missing cats and dogs. If you have found a pet, please give us a call and we will either send out an email blast or post a flyer here at the main post office. Please **DO NOT** tape signs to any of the light poles, post office walls or other surface throughout the neighborhood – these are very hard to clean up and often peel off paint. If you have Lost a pet, please call Town Lake Animal Shelter (they get quite a few cats that are picked up in the Circle C area, but never claimed). You can also contact the HOA office at 512.288.8663 to see if we have any information posted.

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).

Let's Save Paper!

Did you know that you can sign up to receive the monthly HOA newsletter electronically? All you have to do is log onto: <http://www.peelinc.com/newsletterInfo.php?newsletter=CC> and click on "Receive this newsletter via email".

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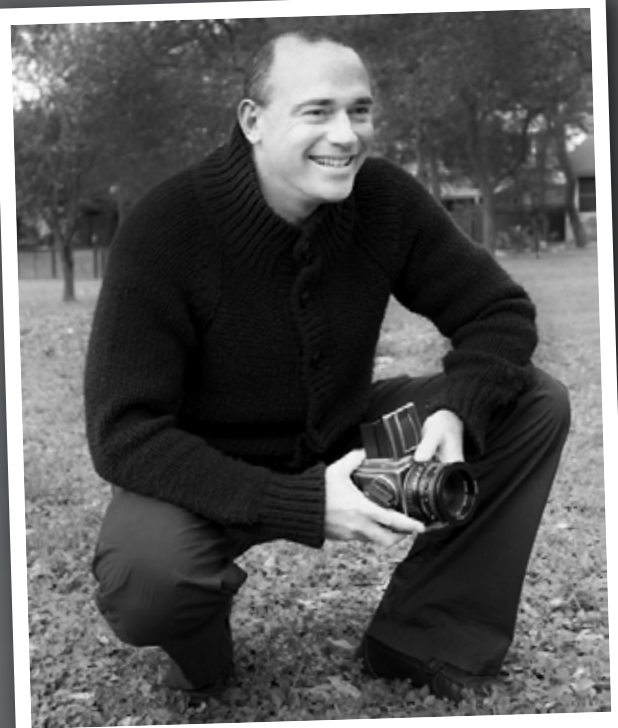
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HOME, LAWN AND GARDEN

Maintenance Items

The CCHOA wishes to give everyone an opportunity for "Spring Cleaning" of their yard and home. The neighborhood standard that can be enforced through the deed restriction process includes, but is not limited to the following:

TURF AREAS:

- Mowed regularly, kept at less than 6" high, edged; we recommend you leave lawn clippings on the yard, and blown from the sidewalks and driveways
- Watered conservatively according to City of Austin water conservation guidelines, but not left to die out
- No obvious weeds or clover

BED AREAS:

- Clean beds, weed and grass free

- All dead vegetation removed
- Shrubs pruned below front window sills
- Plants thinned to present maintained look
- Trees trimmed up over driveways and sidewalks

DEBRIS:

- No trash, debris, piles of dirt, rock, stone, and extra items stored in the front yard of the home.



YARD ART:

- Limited to two pieces, integrated into the landscape. Please put the rest in the back yard.

POTS FOR POTTED PLANTS:

- Plants must be alive and tended to. Pots must integrate into the landscape beds. Put the remainder of the pots in the back yard.

HOMES:

- Please check your home for mold and mildew on the trim and siding and see if you need to power wash or repaint. Most power washing companies will give you a good price for power-washing these areas and include your driveway and sidewalk as well. You won't believe how good it will look.

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Circle C Landscape

As I am writing this in early March, I do believe that we will hit our first spring-like day today. After fog, mist and rain, it is, according to the weather man (?) going to be sunny and 75 degrees. We will see, but I am looking forward to it.

Unfortunately, the only thing that seems to be in bloom thus far is a bunch of pretty bad broadleaf weeds. With all of the inclement weather over the winter, we have only recently had a few appropriate days for spraying weeds. We have treated most of the commons areas, and hopefully, by the time you get this newsletter, we will have some green grass growing in, have had the right weather for mowing and will be fertilizing for the Spring. In other words, after a downright ugly spell, things should be looking good.

As far as regular maintenance on the commons areas, you will see the Circle C Landscape crew mowing, completing bed trimming and mulching, treating for ants, and fertilizing both turf and beds. With a few good spring rains, all will fall into place. We are looking forward to the grass coming out of dormancy, particularly in Vintage Place Park, where it was newly planted in late fall.

During February, we were fortunate to be able to have all of the hardwood trees along La Crosse and the remaining trees that were not done in 2009 along Escarpment pruned by Bartlett Tree Experts. They look great, and will go down in the tree book as

another completed area as we prune the over 2200 shade trees on the property. We also cleaned out and completed a prune on a very large live oak by the South Bay post office.

By the time you get this newsletter, we will have removed or be in the process of removing the aging Bradford Pear trees on Escarpment, just north of La Crosse in the median. Unfortunately, these trees only have a 15-20 year life span and are at the end of days for them. At this point, they begin "shedding" or splitting off limbs that are dangerous to both people and cars. We will be replanting the median with a number of shade and decorative trees, and adding beds. In the second year of the project, the underlying turf will be replaced.

Other special projects that have been recently completed or are in the works by Circle C Landscape are completing the sidewalk project for the new sidewalk that was installed on the south side of La Crosse. We have installed rockwork between the curb and the sidewalk to assist in preventing water run-off in this area. We have also reset the irrigation as a repair after the installation. We will also be installing drip irrigation to the trees along Escarpment, north of the bridge, as well as along South Bay under the shrubs. Other improvements include upgrades to some of the irrigation infrastructure and turf replacement in selected areas.

(Continued on Page 11)

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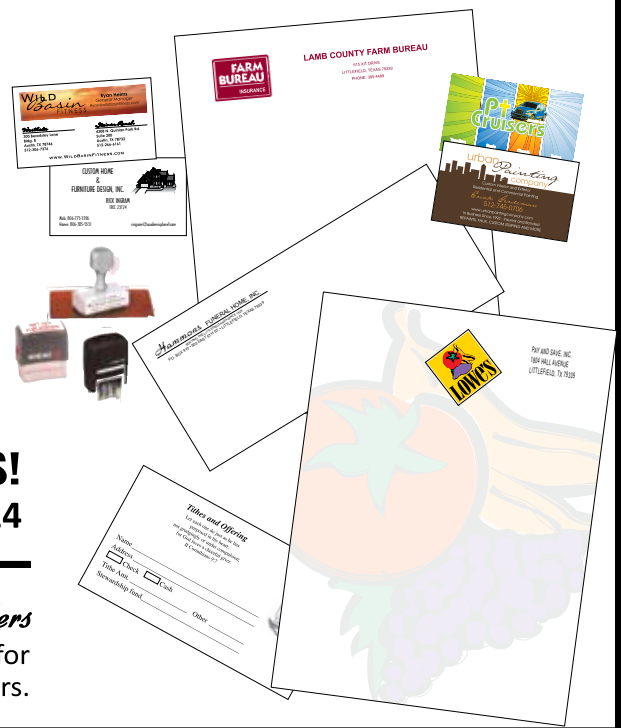
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Circle C Landscape Update- (Continued from Page 10)

We are also awaiting the final bollard lighting replacement on Escarpment. The lights are on order and will be installed as soon as possible. We will also be adding some lighting at the Escarpment /Slaughter intersection to replace what was removed during the landscape reconstruction of this area.

- SUBMITTED BY SUSAN HOOVER

Advertising Information

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

Classified Ads

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.

CIRCLE C PALMS

In Need of Pruning

The unusually cold weather we experienced this winter affected the palm trees of many Circle C residents; resulting in yellow, brown, broken, and dead fronds. Pruning, or trimming, of dead fronds is necessary for maintaining healthy and prosperous palms, and this, the beginning of Spring, is the optimal time for trimming. All yellow, brown, broken, and dead fronds, and any fronds that touch the ground, should be carefully pruned. Gloves, and a protective layer, such as a jacket, are recommended for protection from the spikes on the fronds. Using a large pair of garden loppers prune only the damaged or dead fronds, taking care not to cut too close to the trunk. While this is a relatively easy fix, the CCHOA recommends the use of a tree maintenance specialist for the pruning of any palm taller than 20 feet. The CCHOA will be sending cooperative letters regarding dead palm fronds beginning April 1st. Beginning, May 1st, the CCHOA will issue a deed restriction to those still not in compliance.

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CCHOA 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Election Results - 3/11/10


TOTAL ELIGIBLE VOTES - 14,287,995
 TOTAL VOTES CAST - 1,992,060 (estimated 14% of eligible votes)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (SEATS GOING TO THE THREE HIGHEST # OF VOTES)

CANDIDATE	VOTES RECEIVED	% OF TOTAL VOTES	RESULTS
Rob Johnson	1,484,736	74.6%	3 year term
Russ Hodes	1,376,919	69.2%	3 year term
Chris Poyner	1,194,868	60.0%	3 year term
Brad Compere	582,393	29.3%	
Jack Wang	425,767	21.4%	
Ornela Deseta	377,059	19.0%	

VOTE BY TOTAL # OF HOMES / INDIVIDUALLY OWNED LOTS (716 VOTED)

CANDIDATE	# HOMES VOTED FOR	% HOMES VOTED FOR
Rob Johnson	459	64.1%
Russ Hodes	519	72.5%
Chris Poyner	463	64.7%
Brad Compere	275	38.4%
Jack Wang	138	19.3%
Ornela Deseta	119	16.7%



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Clubs & Announcements

Wildflower Center Events In April

NATURE NIGHTS: BUTTERFLIES
Friday, April 2

Learn about these important Texas pollinators and the food they need through guided hikes, and butterfly identification, 6 to 9 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING - *Saturday, April 3*
Nathan Jensen signs his new children's book, Rattlesnake Rules, 1 to 3 p.m. and Jerry Wehrmund signs Soil—More than Just Dirt, 1 to 4 p.m.

SECOND ANNUAL WILDFLOWER CENTER EGG HUNT - *Easter Sunday, April 4, Noon to 1 p.m.*

SPRING PLANT SALE & GARDENING FESTIVAL *April 9 - 11*
Members' Sale, 1 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 9.
Public Sale, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, April 10 and 11

JEAN ANDREWS LECTURE
Wednesday, April 14
In the auditorium, 7 p.m.

BOOK SIGNING IN THE STORE
- Saturday, April 17
Jan Wrede signs Trees, Shrubs & Vines of the Texas Hill Country noon to 3 p.m.

NATIVE PLANT SPRING SYMPOSIUM: THE STATE OF TEXAS TREES - *Saturday, April 24*

This one-day meeting will focus on urban native tree programs, state conservation initiatives and individual species. Sponsored by the Native Plant Society of Texas and the Wildflower Center. Register at www.wildflower.org.

EARTH DAY WEEKEND - *Sat, April 24*
Lance Allred sings Enchanted Rock 1 to 4 p.m.

Are You Paying Too Much In Property Taxes?

Mr. Jeff Bullard of Tax Remedy, Inc. will deliver a very informative presentation about property taxes on April 15th (fitting day, no?) from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, at the Circle C Child Development Center, 5917 La Crosse. He will talk about the Homestead and Over 65 exemptions, and then spend a good deal of time thoroughly explaining exactly how Travis CAD calculates your property tax appraisal. Contact neighbors Walt Reinhardt, Coldwell Banker (512-826-5065) or Bernie Bernfeld, Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (512-587-4279) to get copies of the meeting handouts if you cannot attend. You can reach Mr. Bullard at (512) 476-2277 or by email at questions@taxremedy.com. Please RSVP with Pattie Hessenius at 512-330-3241. - **SUBMITTED BY GARY BERNFELD**

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Cool Plants for the Shade Garden

Friday, April 9, 9-11am, Demonstration Garden at AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County, 1600 B Smith Rd., Austin TX 78721

Cool Plants for the Shade Garden is a free in-the-garden discussion. See some of the shade loving plants growing and learn about other perennials and annuals which require limited sun. This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. For information, see <http://www.tcmastergardeners.org> or call the Travis County Master Gardener's help desk at (512) 854-9600.

PLANT PROPAGATION

April 17, 2010, 9am-11am, AgriLife Extension Office of Travis County, 1600 B Smith Rd, Austin TX 78721

Learning how to propagate from existing plants is a great way to populate your garden or pass along your favorites to friends. This seminar covers various propagation methods including cuttings, layering, and division, and help you overcome that fear of starting plants from seeds. The seminar will be part presentation, part

participation so class size is limited to 30 participants. Please call the Master Gardener Help Desk at (512) 854-9600 to reserve your place. Participants must also bring scissors and an empty, clear plastic, 2 liter soda bottle with lid for the hands-on project.

This seminar is free and open to the public. It is presented by the Travis County Master Gardeners Association, a volunteer arm of the Texas AgriLife Extension Service in Travis County. www.tcmastergardeners.org or call the Travis County Master Gardener's help desk at (512) 854-9600.

- SUBMITTED BY BONNIE MARTIN

Don't want to wait for the mail?

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Meet Your Neighbors


To acquaint readers with Park West neighbors, my first introduction is Darwin and Veta Winick. Their romantic life began with their fortuitous introduction. Veta, from Malden, Massachusetts, spent summers at Salisbury beach. One of her friends was Darwin's cousin. Darwin arrived from his home in Muncie, Indiana, for a visit with his cousin who then introduced him to Veta at the beach. After their marriage, Darwin attended Purdue University with Veta at his side, working to help support him as he achieved a Ph.D. in Psychology. Darwin was founder and president of the consulting firm, Winick and Associates. He is well known in education and business communities at local, state, and national levels. On March 5, 2010, he was in Washington D.C., where he was honored as chairman of the National Assessment Governing Board, a position he held for 7 years.

Veta is in Who's Who of American Women as well as Who's Who of Jewish Women in Texas. She served as Mayor Winick of Dickinson, Texas, where she and Darwin lived for 50 years. For 20 of those years, she was the Director of O'Kane Art Gallery at the University of Houston. Veta served as President of League of Women Voters of Texas from 1967 to 1970 and was invited to serve as Vice-President of Public Relations on the League of Women Voters of the United States. This position gave her an opportunity to visit

the Rose Garden at the White House. Recently, Veta was elected President of the Volunteer Board of Directors for Seton Southwest Hospital. Four of the Winick's seven grandchildren live in Circle C. Darwin's hobby is tinkering in his garage and teaching grandsons Sammy and Joseph how to use tools in his workshop. Darwin and Veta enjoy reading books, going to theater productions, collecting art and traveling. Their most memorable trip was to Russia. Veta also reads to students at Kiker Elementary School. She has enjoyed this activity for the past 4 years.

Diversity

Let Park West residents celebrate their diversity. The word diverse is defined quite simply in the dictionary as "different; unlike; various". (Webster's Expanded Dictionary) Diversity is the state of being diverse. When I moved into my home on Tasajillo Trail in June 2005, I quickly noted I was no longer surrounded by native Texans. Friends among my neighbors are a diverse group representing California, Kansas, Michigan, Tennessee and a variety of other places. I joined a Park West book group. Good friends would rate a book with a score of a low two. This was the same book I would rate higher with a score of eight. I immediately recognized we are a wonderfully diverse group of people.



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48 MONTHS	3.05%*	\$125,000 AND ABOVE	1.36%****
60 MONTHS	3.15%*		
66 MONTHS	3.25%*		
72 MONTHS	3.95%*		

USED OR REFINANCE		JUMBO CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$95,000 REQUIRED	
60 to 66 MONTHS	3.45%*	6 MONTHS	1.36%****
72 MONTHS	3.95%*	12 MONTHS	1.61%****
		24 MONTHS	2.07%****



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Sunset Valley Homestead Shopping Center (CR1)
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Just for Fun

The residents of this gated community have been placed together with one thing in common: the choice to purchase a home in Park West. Recently several homeowners began organizing a variety of groups open to every resident of Park West. For example, Nancy Hall offered to lead a group interested in playing Scrabble. It was one of the first groups to meet when two others joined her for an afternoon of fun. Each Monday at 2 PM was set as Scrabble time. The groups are listed below. With an attitude of "the more the merrier," each event welcomes new people. Pick one or more and contact the person listed to sign up or to get more details.

Walkers – Mah Jongg – Scrabble – Book Club: Nancy Hall-
nansuehall@aol.com - 638-3807

Travel Club: Barbara Cothron -
barbara.cothron@yahoo.com- 288-1995

Men's Poker Club: Randy Nelson -
bostonx26@aol.com - 507-5122

Wine Tasting: Ruthie Bolsen -
ruthbolsen@hotmail.com - 301-2281

Tasters Lunch Club: Jean Griffith -
grifithj@bresnan.net - 695-5569

Social: Jordan McDole -
jordanmcdole@gmail.com - 351-9901

Spring is Here

Publicity has recently been posted for Garden Tours in Park West. In the past, this has been an opportunity to see the back yards of friends and neighbors. On Sunday, April 18, from 1 PM to 4 PM, the tradition continues with signs in yards that indicate they are open for viewing. There is still time to volunteer to display your yard. Call Jean Griffith at 695-5569 to have your home placed on the list of open gardens. The yard does not have to be something newly landscaped nor very fancy. There is no criterion when viewing nature. A related event in April is the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center Spring Plant Sale and Gardening Festival on April 9-11. Members' Sale is on Friday the 9th from 1 PM to 7 PM. Saturday is a public sale from 9 AM to 5 PM, and on Sunday the event will be open from 11 AM to 5 PM.

Until Next Time

My name is Glynda Eschle. I have volunteered to edit the Park West portion of the Circle C Newsletter. With the printing schedule in mind, it is necessary to have articles available for the Newsletter editor by the 10th day prior to the month of issue. I welcome any constructive suggestions or information you would like to contribute. I can be reached at 6542 Tasajillo Trail; by phone at 288-1503; and by email at glynda.eschle@sbcglobal.net.

Celebrating 10 Years of Seton Southwest Hospital

2nd Annual Goala

Join celebrity athletes including Olympic Gold Medalist Aaron Peirsol, former Dallas Cowboy Robert Jones, Gilbert Tuhabonye of Gilbert's Gazelle's, Olympic Gold Medalist Garrett Weber-Gale, Olympic swimmer Eric Shanteau, Texas Iron coaches and Pro Triathletes Andrea Fisher and Jamie Cleveland, and more for a fundraising event to sponsor Seton Southwest Hospital.

Live Music by The Tony Harrison Band
Texas Hold 'em Poker Tournament
Casino Games
Incredible Silent Auction
World Renown Salt Lick BBQ

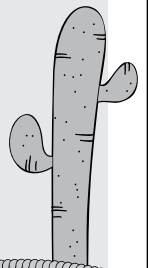
**Sunday, May 2
6:00 p.m.**

The Salt Lick Pavilion
18300 FM 1826
Driftwood, TX 78619

For more information, and to purchase tickets, go to seton.net/goala

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School News

Bingo & Sno-cones & iPads

Oh My!

It was a longer- and gloomier-than-usual winter here in Austin – so who's ready for spring?

Put a little extra spring in your season at the Mills Elementary Spring Festival, Saturday, April 24th from 2 to 6 p.m. This year's Spring Festival will have all the favorites – bounce houses, petting zoo and dunking booth among them – and will add a few new attractions, like a karaoke station and a three-person obstacle course!

A wristband gets you into all attractions – adults are just \$5, and children over 4 cost \$10. Food and drink are extra. And don't forget to visit the school's silent auction, featuring dozens and dozens of themed gift baskets and specialty items from local businesses. A lot of goodies for just a little green!

Additionally, Mills will be raffling off a new Apple iPad and a Nintendo DSi – raffle tickets will be available at the door, and you need not be present to win.

For more information, please visit www.MillsPTA.org.

**- SUBMITTED BY
KRISTEN CARD**



COA Crossing Guard

Position Open

We regret to announce that Ms. Vivian, our School Crossing Guard on La Crosse in front of Clayton Elementary, will be leaving us as of 3/12/2010 to move out of state. Therefore we are in urgent need to hire a replacement for that location. We require a person who is physically and mentally suited to work with children and also maintains a good relationship with the parents and motorists. The position requires that a person must be able to stand for at least an hour and be able to repeatedly cross the street with the pedestrian during that time without becoming too fatigued. This person must be dependable and will be expected to maintain a good attendance record. The applicant must be at least 16 years of age and there is no upper age limit as long as the applicant is physically and mentally able to keep our children safe. This is not a hard job but very important for the safety of our children crossing at this location. This is a City of Austin paid position. The hours are 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. and 2:15 P.M. – 3:15 P.M. Monday through Friday and follows the same holiday schedule that AISD does. A Criminal Background Check will be conducted. No experience is required. Training will be provided. Anyone interested should immediately contact: *Herschell Esquell, Southwest Area Supervisor, City of Austin, Child Safety Program, (512) 589-4006, hesquell@austin.rr.com*

- SUBMITTED BY DRU E. MCGOVERN-ROBINETT, PH.D

Oak Hill United Methodist Church

7815 Highway 290 West, Austin, Texas 78736

Join us SUNDAYS
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8:45 A.M. Blended Worship Service & Sunday School

10:00 A.M. *Pathways* Contemporary Praise
Worship Service & Sunday School

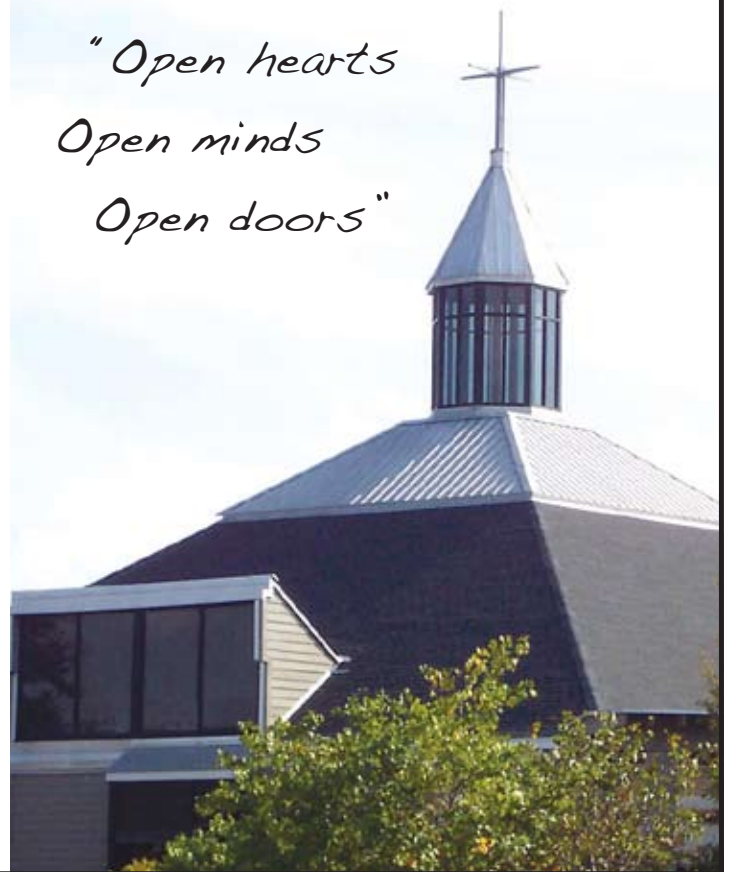
11:15 A.M. Traditional Worship Service & Sunday School

(Sunday School includes classes for Children and Adults.)

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



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.



Kiker Elementary is Golfin' and Groovin'!

Kiker Annual Fundraiser May 2 & 3, 2010, Submitted by Tracy White

For more information, contact tracywhite@austin.rr.com, visit Kiker's front office or call Kiker at 414-2584.

GROOVIN' IN THE GREEN AUCTION, DINNER & DANCE

*Creeside Pavilion, Driftwood, TX
Sunday, May 2, 2010 5:30-9:00 p.m.*

Tickets are \$25.00 each and will be sold April 12-23, 2010 only.

KIKER GOLF CLASSIC

*Grey Rock Golf Club
Monday May 3, 2010—1:30 shotgun start*

- Early bird registration by April 19, 2010
\$125.00 per individual, \$400 per team of four
- Registration after April 20, 2010
\$150.00 per individual, \$500.00 per team of four

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2010 Bowie HS Tennis Camp

Submitted by Angela Alexander

WHEN: Monday-Friday, June 7th-11th, 2010
(8:30-11:30 a.m.)

WHO: Three divisions for novice and intermediate players:
"Pup" Division-K-3rd Grade (Grade Levels-Fall '10)
Junior "Dawgs"-4th-6th Grade
Senior "Dawgs"-7th & 8th Grade

All 7th & 8th graders must furnish a current (last 12 months) physical exam before participation can be allowed.

COST: \$110 per camper
\$165-two campers from same household

DESCRIPTION: Campers will receive appropriate level instruction in tennis specific conditioning activities, fundamental tennis skills, rules, and etiquette in a positive, encouraging atmosphere that highlights the benefits of this terrific lifetime sport. The camp will be under the direction of the Bowie Tennis Coaching Staff, and clinicians will be current Bulldog players. Camp proceeds will support the Bowie HS Tennis program. Participants must bring their own racquets and shoes. Camp fees include a personal tee shirt and water bottle.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Pre-registration is required for necessary staffing arrangements. Please complete the attached application form, and mail or deliver it (it must be received before the registration deadline of 5:00 p.m. Thursday, June 3rd with the appropriate registration fee (no cash payments please) to:

**BOWIE TENNIS
4103 W. SLAUGHTER LANE
AUSTIN, TX, 78749**

(Please make checks payable to "Bowie Tennis" as credit/debit card services are unavailable)

A full or partial waiver of camp fees is available to low SES participants (based on reduced or free lunch information). Waiver forms are available on the AISD web site or in the main office, and must be returned with the completed registration forms.

If sessions must be cancelled due to inclement weather, partial refunds of camp fees will be made available.

**BE THE BEST "DAWG" GONE TENNIS PLAYER
YOU CAN BE!**



Celebrate Easter!

Good Friday Service
April 2 - 6:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt
April 3 - 10:00 am
(toddlers - 5th grade, bring a bag/basket)

Easter Services (no Bible Life)
April 4 - 9:30 & 11:00 am

Relationships Sermon Series
Sunday Mornings in April

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

Great Hills Baptist Church | www.ghbc.org | 10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759 | 512.343.7763

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**CIRCLE C HOMEOWNERS
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Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Come visit the Easter Bunny!
Enjoy cookies and water after the hunt.

April 3, 2010 at 9:30am - Swim Center Plaza

(Please be on time, as the hunt will begin exactly at 9:30am).

Admission:

\$2/child (Ages 1-10yrs.)

There Will Be 3 Areas For The Following Age Groups:

1-3yr (back of the CDC)

4-6yr (front of the CDC)

7-10yr (Swim Center)

**Limit 12 eggs per child, once each child has collected 12 eggs,
we will allow children to go through a second time.*

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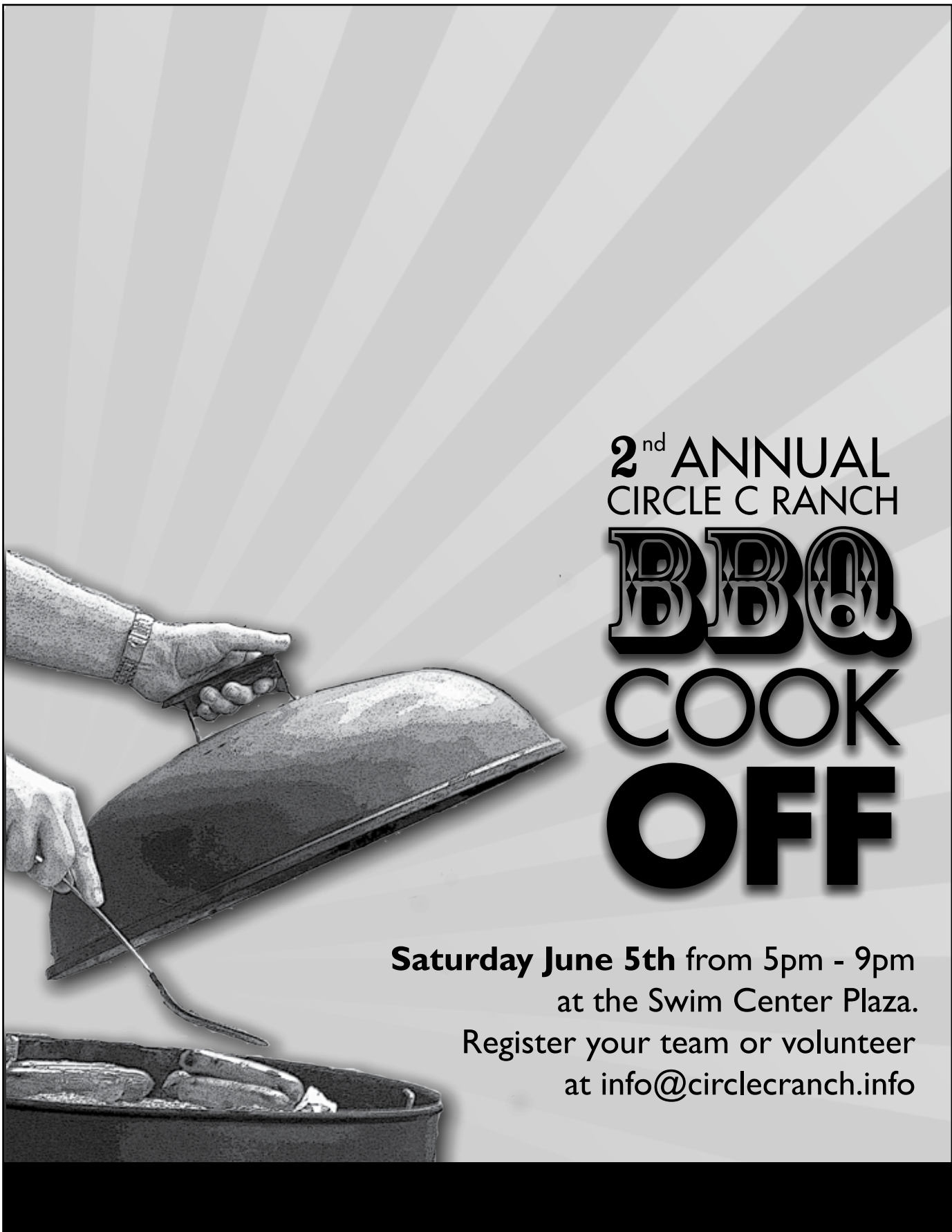


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MEET ISAIAH

(DOB: 8/1996)

Isaiah is a cute, slightly built 13 yr. old young man in search of his forever family. Isaiah is a polite, cooperative, and respectful young man. He plays the baritone in the school band and loves to collect pencils and pens. Isaiah has a genetic bone disorder which causes excess bone growths. He must undergo periodic examinations and often surgeries to remove these growths. Isaiah is not limited in any physical way by this condition. He is ambulatory and has no restrictions physically. Isaiah would do well in any permanent environment, but would like a family that allows him to stay in contact with his younger brother. For more information on Isaiah contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-687-3208 / info@adopttexas.org



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NATURE WATCH

The Song of the Vireo

As a family, vireos are small to medium-sized birds that seem similar to warblers at first glance, apart from their heavier bill and generally dull-green plumage. In fact, the word vireo is Latin for 'I am green.' Most vireo species are migratory, and return to their breeding grounds in early spring.

Of the 13 true vireo species that are present in the United States and Canada, none is more at risk than the black-capped vireo, which has been on the endangered species list since 1987. At 4.5 inches in length, it is the smallest vireo to occur regularly in the US, and ranges from only three counties in Oklahoma to central and west Texas, and south to north and central Mexico.



A handsome songbird, adult male black-capped vireos are olive green above and white below with faint yellow flanks and wing bars. A glossy black cap is broken by white spectacles that frame brownish-red irises, and the bill is black, sturdy, and slightly hooked at the tip. It takes two years for a male to reach full adult plumage. Females are similarly marked but duller in color, and have a slate gray crown and greenish-yellow underparts.

Recent research has shown that Black-capped vireos have the largest repertoire of song notes to draw from, about ten times larger than other vireos. The males are persistent singers, usually

(Continued on Page 27)

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Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 26)

vocalizing in melodious phrases of two to four notes separated by one to three second pauses. It can also emit several calls, including a scolding 'zhrree', especially while vigorously defending its territory. Insectivores, they glean leaves, twigs, and branches, sometimes hanging upside down or hovering, as they feed on beetles and caterpillars.

Black-capped vireos nest in brushy areas called 'shinneries.' Groups of shin oak or sumac of appropriate height and density are critical success factors for breeding, with the most important requirement being foliage that extends to ground level. Once trees begin to reach to full size, the vireos will look for other early succession sites in which to breed. Nests are an open, hanging cup, only 15-50 inches from the ground, and are made of leaves, grasses, plant fiber, and spider silk. Obscured from view by foliage, they are often decorated with items like lichens or bits of paper. The opening to the nest is usually narrower than the nest itself, but the nest is deep enough so that an adult bird can sit inside with only its bill and tail tip showing.

Both the male and female share the task of nest construction and incubation. After the three or four eggs that are laid have hatched, the female does most of the brooding while the male supplies most of the food. While breeding pairs are sometimes able to produce more than one clutch of eggs during the breeding season, the male cares for some or all of the fledglings, while the female re-nests, sometimes with another male.

The black-capped vireo is endangered due to multiple threats of brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird as well as loss of suitable habitat through urbanization, fire exclusion, livestock grazing, and brush control. Female cowbirds may remove some of the host eggs from the nest and replace them with their own. These eggs hatch first and the quickly growing nestlings out-compete the smaller vireo nestlings for food and nest space. Cowbird trapping and habitat maintenance and creation through prescribed burning and mechanical manipulation are a high management priority in prime areas like the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system.

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them. If you enjoy these articles, look for our book, NatureWatch Austin, to be published by Texas A&M University Press in 2011. - by **Jim and Lynne Weber**

SEND US YOUR

Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in the Circle C Ranch Newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to info@circlecranch.info. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



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Take The Epworth Sleepiness Test

How likely are you to doze off or fall asleep in the following situations?

Activity	0 = never 1= slight 2= moderate 3=high	Chance of Dozing
- Sitting and reading		<input type="checkbox"/>
- Watching T.V.		<input type="checkbox"/>
- Sitting, inactive in a public place (theatre or meeting)		<input type="checkbox"/>
- As a passenger in a car for an hour without a break		<input type="checkbox"/>
- Lying down to rest in the afternoon when circumstances permit		<input type="checkbox"/>
- Sitting and talking to someone		<input type="checkbox"/>
- Sitting quietly after a lunch without alcohol		<input type="checkbox"/>
- In a car, while stopped for a few minutes in the traffic		<input type="checkbox"/>
- In a car driving	(> 10 equals risk for sleep apnea)	<input type="checkbox"/>



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News You Can Use

Austin Newcomers Club

April 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 of the varied fun Interest groups.

TIME: 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

DATE: April 21, 2010

(Reservations required by Thursday, April 15th)

**LOCATION: Green Pastures Restaurant
811 W Live Oak Street, Austin, 78704**

LUNCHEON COST: \$20 per person

For Luncheon Reservations email:

LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com

or contact Marilyn Amey, 473-0118

For other Newcomers information visit

www.austinnewcomers.com or call 512-314-5100

APRIL PROGRAM: Jed Cecil - Art of Whistling

Centuries ago, when an orchestra was short an instrument, they called in a trained whistler to whistle the part of that instrument. That art of whistling is seeing a revival, and we will have with us, Jed Ceci such a trained whistler. He'll tell us stories about whistling, and as he said, he'll whistle for his lunch. What a fascinating program this will be!

Jed began to study piano at age four, viola at eleven, orchestral conducting at fifteen, and went on to study at the Juilliard School. There followed a "long and winding road encompassing diverse careers," one as Executive Director of the Abilene Philharmonic Orchestra.

His performances have included Nashville's "Woman's Musicale," and the BACHanalia Festival for the last five years. The Cape Cod Repertory Theater has used Jed's recordings. In March, Jed will be back in Nashville, performing with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. He made his "Austin art whistling debut" at the University of Texas Lamp program last year.

This will be such an unusual and delightful program.

Please join us!



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Hey, everybody likes free software – just be careful what you get. Enter anything you want into a Google search with the word FREE and all kinds of things will show up. If you're not careful, you can download a FREE VIRUS – how's that for a deal?

For you readers, here are a few of my favorite free software choices that won't get you into trouble:

For Windows machines, I like Picasa for doing simple editing and cleanup of photos. It's from the folks at Google and you can find it just by going to www.Picasa.com (note that it's Picasa ending with an "a" and not Picasso like the painter with the additional "s"). Do you shop online and like to keep the receipts? Rather than printing them out and storing them in a filing cabinet, use CutePDF to "print" your receipts (or anything else that can be sent to a printer) into a PDF file that you can save on your hard drive. I buy a lot online and CutePDF lets me store all the receipts into a folder on my hard drive that makes life much easier at tax time for my accountant (which is this month if my calendar is correct.) You can download CutePDF at www.CutePDF.com, just download the CutePDF Writer. It installs as if it were a printer and you're ready to go.

For the Mac, Anxiety is a useful to-do list manager to (hopefully) reduce the stress in your life in getting all the things you need to get

done, done. It works with iCal and Mail. You can download it at <http://www.anxietyapp.com/>. Carbon Copy Cloner lets you backup your entire hard drive to another, allowing you to boot to the 2nd drive should the first one fail completely (and it happens more often than you know.) Download it at <http://www.bombich.com/>.

Stay away from sites offering free music or movies (like LimeWire), this is an excellent way to contract a virus. If you think you're getting something that costs money in a store for free online, it's probably going to cost you more than you know by the time you get your computer cleaned up.

Be skeptical and be safe. One of the best places to go for free software is <http://sourceforge.net/>. You're not going to find Microsoft Office for free, but you might find a program that does something close. Want Photoshop but don't have \$400 to spend, then check out Gimp. There are a lot of genuinely nice people developing programs because they enjoy doing it. Some will ask for but not require a donation, that's only fair. If you like a program, throw a few dollars their way to encourage them to keep improving their program. If you can say "I wish I had a program that", then you'll probably find something at SourceForge.net that meets your needs. - **Submitted by Laurie Scott**

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Put Your Tax Refund to Work

It's Tax Refund Season again. This year, if you're going to get a check from your Uncle Sam, why not put it to work to help you meet your financial goals?

Last year, the average tax refund was more than \$2,700, according to the IRS. The size of your refund, or whether you will get one at all, depends on your individual circumstances. But if you are going to get a refund, plan ahead for what you'll do with it. Here are a few possibilities:

- **PAY DOWN SOME DEBTS.** In these difficult economic times, you may be carrying a higher debt load than usual. If so, you may want to use some of your refund to pay down some of these debts. The lower your debt payments, the better your cash flow and the more money you'll have to invest for the future.
- **BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND.** If you don't already have an emergency fund containing six to 12 months' worth of living expenses, you could use your tax refund to start one. Without such a fund, you may find yourself constantly dipping into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a new furnace or an expensive car repair. Keep your emergency fund in

a liquid account — one that you don't draw on for your day-to-day expenses.

- **HELP FUND YOUR IRA.** In 2010, you can put in up to \$5,000 to your IRA. Consequently, if you received a \$2,700 refund, you'd have more than half of what you need to fully fund your IRA for the year. (If you're 50 or older, however, you can contribute up to \$6,000 per year.)

You might not think that your \$2,700 would make much of a difference in the long run. But by investing your refund and giving it many years of growth potential, you could end up with a sizable amount. Consider the following:

- If you put \$2,700 in your IRA, and you earned, on average, seven percent a year for 30 years, you'd end up with about \$20,000, even if you never invested another dime.
- If you put \$2,700 every year in that same IRA, again earning an average seven percent annual return, you'd end up with more than \$270,000 after thirty years.

(Continued on Page 31)

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Financial Focus- (Continued from Page 30)

(These examples are hypothetical illustrations and do not represent any currently available investments.)

You'd eventually have to pay taxes on your earnings, typically when you make withdrawals at retirement. And if you qualified for a Roth IRA, you'd never have to pay taxes on your earnings, as long as you had your account for at least five years and didn't start taking withdrawals until you were at least 59-1/2.

• **CONTRIBUTE TO A SECTION 529 PLAN.** If you have children or grandchildren, you may want to establish Section 529 plans to help them pay for college. You can contribute virtually any amount, and the earnings grow tax-free, provided the money is used for higher education expenses. (Withdrawals used for expenses other than qualified education expenses may be subject to federal, state and penalty taxes. Contributions are tax-deductible in certain states for residents who participate in their own state's plan. Please note that a 529 college savings plan could impact a beneficiary's ability to qualify for financial aid.)

You may be tempted to spend your tax refund on things you want today — but, with a little planning, you can use it for things you need tomorrow.



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Playgrounds



 **What's a Sprayground?**

More and more cities are opening spraygrounds, which are water playgrounds. At a sprayground, kids can shoot each other with water cannons and get sprayed by dozens of water jets that squirt from different colored nozzles and hoses.



Do you have a favorite playground? Maybe it's a new wooden one that has lots of tall towers and passageways. Or maybe your favorite is an old-fashioned playground with swings and a seesaw. Playgrounds are fun places for kids because there's so much to do and other kids to have fun with. But sometimes kids get hurt at playgrounds. That's no fun, so here are 10 ways to keep safe:

1. Take a grown-up. As kids get bigger, they like doing things on their own. Going to the playground shouldn't be one of them, though. Grown-ups come in handy because they might spot problems at the playground, they can help you down if you get in a tight spot, and they can help if you happen to get hurt.

2. Take a good look around. If the playground has lots of trash, such as broken glass, or the equipment looks broken, don't play there.

3. Keep your size in mind. Many playgrounds have some equipment that's for little kids (like 2- to 5-year-olds) and other equipment that's meant for older kids. Use the equipment that's right for your age. If you squeeze yourself onto a swing for toddlers, you might get stuck. Likewise, if your little brother or sister starts climbing something meant for older kids, guide him or her to the little kid stuff.

4. Don't go too high. Many playgrounds have tall stuff to play on, such as towers or open passageways between equipment. Don't climb higher than you feel comfortable, and feel free to ask your grown-up if you need help getting down. Never climb up the outside of equipment, or hoist yourself up on the roof. The view might be cool, but it's a long way down.

5. Look out below. The best playgrounds put down special surfacing material, such as mulch, wood chips, sand, gravel, or rubber matting. These surfaces can help soften a fall, but that doesn't mean you won't get hurt, especially if you tumble from a high spot.

6. Swing safely. Kids often get hurt at the playground because they get hit by someone on a swing. If you're swinging, watch out for people who

might be getting too close. And if you're walking around the playground, don't get too close to the swingers.

7. Use your head. Sometimes you'll see kids going headfirst down the slide or maybe two or three kids will get on a piece of equipment that's only meant for one. Or some kids might start goofing around and trying to push each other off a swing or off of a high spot. If your grown-up sees you doing this, he or she will probably say, "Knock it off. Someone's going to get hurt." It's true, so try to use the playground equipment properly. And if you get stuck, or don't know how to get down from something, call your grown-up over so he or she can help you down.

8. Report problems. If you see graffiti (when people write or paint on stuff), a broken swing, or find any other problems while you're playing, tell your grown-up. He or she can report the problem so it can be fixed.

9. Clean up. If you bring a drink or snack to the playground, clean up your trash before you leave. When you do, the park will look nice when the next kid comes along to play and you will have shown that you're a good playground citizen.

10. Have a great time! How can you make a good time at the playground even better? Bring a friend and only complain a little when it's time to leave.

Reviewed by: Steven Dowshen, MD
Date reviewed: May 2008

This information was provided by KidsHealth, one of the largest resources online for medically reviewed health information written for parents, kids, and teens. For more articles like this one, visit www.KidsHealth.org or www.TeensHealth.org. ©1995-2006. The Nemours Foundation

Kids' Club

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Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at:

Peel, Inc. - Kids Club
311 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite 200
Lakeway, TX 78734

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Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____ Email Address: _____ Age: _____
(first name, last initial [This information will only be used to notify you or your parents if your artwork was selected.]



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.

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

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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Austin Real Estate Partners' Market Report								
Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (Sep '09 - Feb '10)						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	29	2,918	\$ 102	\$ 297	1992	100	20	3
North	11	2,082	\$ 127	\$ 265	1996	59	7	5
Wildflower	8	2,044	\$ 125	\$ 255	2001	56	13	4
On The Park	7	3,472	\$ 109	\$ 377	1996	139	5	1
Vintage Place	6	3,284	\$ 101	\$ 333	2003	30	3	2
Hielscher	18	3,022	\$ 115	\$ 346	2003	80	8	3
West	16	3,417	\$ 114	\$ 388	2005	94	8	1
Park West	10	2,281	\$ 136	\$ 311	2001	77	6	2
Park Place	5	2,483	\$ 122	\$ 304	2005	99	3	3
Muirfield	4	3,528	\$ 124	\$ 439	2006	115	4	0
Enclave/Stone Creek	9	2,631	\$ 119	\$ 313	2008	37	2	1
Alta Mira	10	2,979	\$ 122	\$ 365	2008	80	4	5
Fairway Estates	1	4,811	\$ 114	\$ 550	2009	235	1	0
Circle C Ranch Total	134	2,870	\$ 116	\$ 332	2001	83	84	30
% Change Mo/Mo	-4%	0%	1%	1%	0%	-7%	33%	3%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 3/04/2010. 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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