



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 8

August 2010

www.circlecranch.info

CIRCLE C HOA NEW POOL PROJECT UPDATE

As you know, the CCHOA is currently in the design phase for a new pool and community center located at the intersection of Spruce Canyon and LaCrosse, next to Clayton Elementary. We just wanted to let you know that the site plan for the project has been filed with the City of Austin by the land planner. If you live within 500 feet of the site, you will receive a notice that the site plan has been filed for City of Austin Planning Commission approval. There will be a public hearing as required prior to Planning Commission approval, and if you live within the 500 feet boundary, you will also receive a notice of the hearing.

We want all Circle C owners to be able to view the site plan. We are posting it on line at www.circlecranch.info and are placing a full sized copy on CCHOA office window. The land planners who designed the site plan (Land Strategies, Inc.) have worked with the CCHOA on the programming for the site. The initial exploration of elements to include as part of the program was evaluated by a group of residents (the West Pool Committee) and the CCHOA Board of Directors. The land planners have done an excellent job of locating all of the program elements and ensuring that all City of Austin ordinances are followed. Great care has been taken to protect the trees, design the most efficient water quality control system, locate utilities, provide required parking and circulation driveways, and place all elements in their optimum location on the site.

The site plan is a required element of the planning process. In this particular plan, there is a Phase I and a Phase II. Everything that was possible is included on the site plan in order to ensure that all elements are in accordance with the City of Austin regulations.

Currently the Board of Directors is evaluating the many complex factors regarding the project, including a thorough use and cost analysis. The site plan will not change, however, the decisions on which elements will be included has not been finalized, so what you see in the drawing may not all be built, or may be built in separate phases.

*Official HOA Communications
.. inside pgs 6-12*

CCHOA 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Despite the threat of rain, the CCHOA held the annual 4th of July Parade on Saturday, July 3rd. We had about 300 participants and lots of decorated wheels. The winners of our "Best Decorated Wheels" contest



were: Ella & Landon Baldwin, Kaeleigh Chambers, Quintyn Zoghby, James Matthews, Camryn Cuchia, Richard & Shane Roberson, Rhea, Rohan & Ryan Dharwadker and Alexandra Mueller. Thanks for your participation!

We would also like to thank our volunteers for making this event possible:

Residents: Walter Reinhardt, Katy Hunt, Daphne Bamburg, Terri Savage and Janice Spence, Circle C Swim Center Staff and HOA employee. Thank you.

More Pics on Page 6!

Sign-Up for Circle C HOA Announcements!

*Do you want to find out the
latest news in Circle C? Sign-up
today at www.circlecranch.info.*

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 Hibpsman, CMCA, Manager 347-2891

Parkwest HOA

Goodwin Management 502-7509

Streetman Enclave HOA

K.O. Orsak 646-6739

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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

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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Calendar of Events

August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 LemonAid Stand 9am to 5pm	7
8 Circle C Open House Tours 1-4 pm	9	10 Newsletter Article Deadline	11	12	13 LemonAid Stand 9am to 5pm	14
15	16	17	18 Monthly Board Meeting, 6:30pm	19	20 LemonAid Stand 9am to 5pm	21
22 Circle C Open House Tours 1-4 pm	23	24	25	26	27 LemonAid Stand 9am to 5pm	28
29	30	31	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 12pm (noon) on Friday to have your property on the next tour. Questions? Email info@circlecopenhouse.com or www.circlecopenhouse.com			

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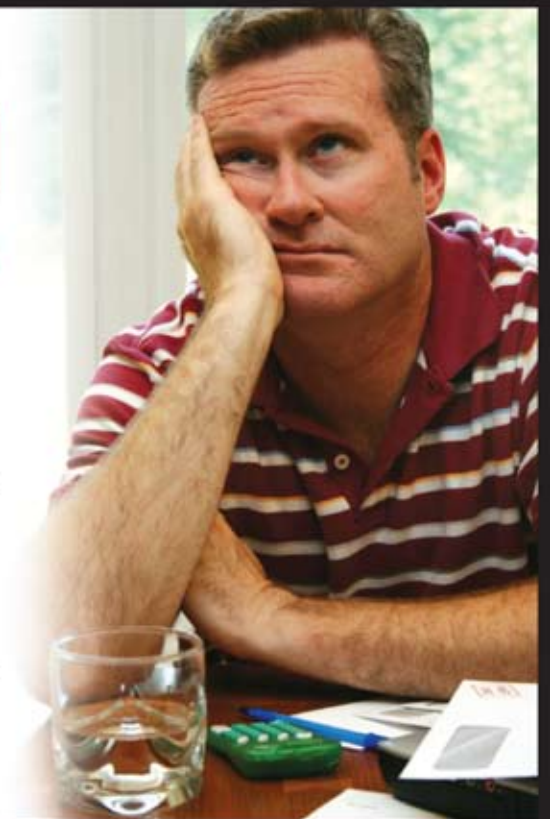


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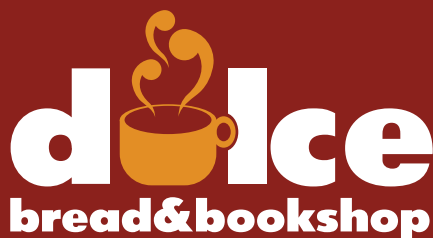
IN EVERY ISSUE

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PLEASE OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT

Speed limit laws should always be obeyed, but especially during the summer when so many children are out playing. Please slow down and keep your speed limit below the limit on our neighborhood streets.

PARKING

The HOA receives quite a few calls and emails from residents who are frustrated with parking scenarios on their street. The BEST place for residents to park is in their garage, not only does this look better, but it's safer in terms of potential vandalism. If you are unable to park in your garage, perhaps it's time to consider clearing out this space and looking for better storage solutions. If you absolutely cannot park in your garage, then the next best place is your driveway. This ensures that the streets are kept clear, which not only looks better, but is also safer in terms of emergency vehicles having the best access. If you have guests over and they must park in the street, ask them to park directly in front of your home. If you are in a cul-de-sac, this is especially true, and cars must not park nose in, cars must park parallel to the curb.

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TIPS TO DISCOURAGE BURGLARS

The association makes every effort to maintain a secure environment in our community, but there is only so much we're authorized to do. Unfortunately, illegal entries into homes in our area—and others—happen from time to time. Residents can do more to protect themselves and their property than the association can do. Here are a few common-sense suggestions for reducing your chances of being the target of burglary.

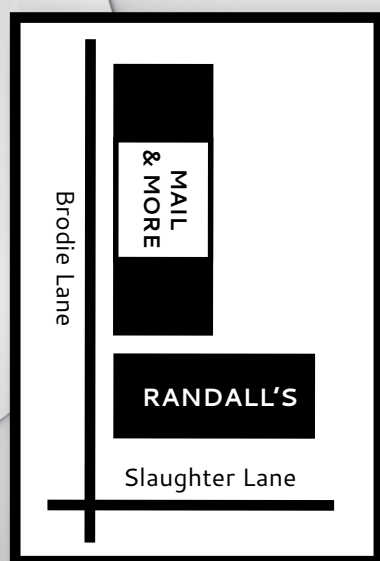
- Install double-cylinder, dead-bolt locks on your outside doors and include a reinforced strike plate to strengthen the doorframe.
- Lock all doors and windows no matter how briefly you'll be out of the house.
- Install bars or lock pins on sliding doors and windows. These are available at local hardware or discount stores. Some mechanisms allow you to lock a sliding window or door in a partially-open position so you can enjoy fresh air securely while you're at home. However, if you go out, close the window and lock it.
- That old trick of hiding a key somewhere outside your home is a bad idea. Burglars—or anyone who may have seen you hiding the key—will know where to find it. Instead, give a key to a neighbor or leave one with the association management office.
- "John, I've gone to pick up your sister. I'll be home at 3:30.—Mom" This note also means, "Burglar, this house will be unoccupied

for 45 minutes. Help yourself." Don't ever leave notes like this.

- If you're going to be out of the house for a short time, leave a television or radio on to create a sense of activity and presence.
- If you're going to be away for a longer time, such as a vacation, take a few simple precautions to keep your home from looking empty. Ask a neighbor to collect your mail and keep the door and porch clear of delivery notices, newspapers and fliers. Pick up several electric timers at the local discount store, and use them to turn lights, a television or radios on and off at various times during the day and evening. Let your neighbors and the manager know how to reach you in case there's an emergency.
- Marking your valuable personal property won't prevent it from being stolen, but it will help you get it back if it is. Engrave your driver's license number on items in a hidden area. Check with the local fire department, police station or library to borrow an engraver. They're also available at large discount stores and are worth the investment if you have many items to mark. Photographing the item (and the engraved marking, if possible) will make it easier to retrieve your items from the police if they are recovered, and will aid in making an insurance claim if they aren't.

It doesn't take much to discourage a burglar. He succeeds on opportunity, and if your home doesn't offer a good opportunity, he'll move on to one that does.

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CIRCLE C LANDSCAPE

Submitted by Susan Hoover

Luckily, we received significant rainfall at the end of June into early July. This greened up all of the areas and also spurred on a lot of new growth on trees, shrubs and grass.

We have been busily trimming, weeding, and trimming more all over the place. These sporadic showers make vegetation grow very rapidly –some species can put on up to 6 to 10 inches per day (usually the weeds). Needless to say, it is difficult to get everywhere at once, but we would far rather have the rainfall than endless days of drought.

Due to the weather, we were able to extend the planting season slightly. We have been busy infilling beds that have long been empty, and replacing some corner beds throughout that have gotten overgrown and impacted visibility on the boulevards. In August, we will be adding a little rock work in selected locations and after September 15 continue the plantings that are planned for 2010. This will include the installation of trees on the Escarpment median, just north of La Crosse to replace the trees that were taken down.

We have done quite well on the water budget for 2010 since we had a normal spring and some summer water. I wanted to make sure that everyone knows some of the measures we take to conserve

and manage water in Circle C. First of all, each irrigation controller has a rain sensor on it. These are small devices set to measure rainfall. When the rain exceeds .5 inches, the devices turn the irrigation controller off until the interior of the device dries out and allows the controller to come on. Additionally, we have central control for many of the irrigation controllers in and around the swim center. This allows us to turn off certain controllers via computer in the office. In the Circle C West areas, we have individual weather stations on each controller, and the rain sensor should turn the controller off in the event of .5 inches of rain.

So, the question remains, why do we see any irrigation systems on during the rain, or during rainy period. Despite our best efforts, we have about 20 locations where there is no electrical service to run the irrigation valves. We have these valves set up on a solar powered system. They are not easily changed during a period of rain, so it could be a while before we get to them to turn them off.

The next problem is if a rain sensor fails to work. Although they are state of the art, the basic mechanism is not highly developed and we have noticed that sometimes, even though they test operational,

(Continued on Page 9)



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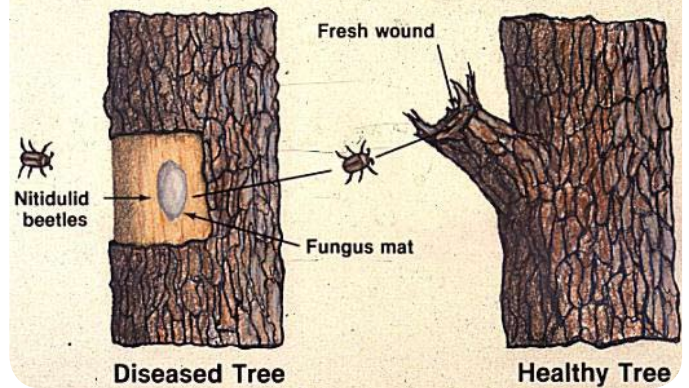
Circle C Landscape - (Continued from Page 8)

they do not turn the controller off. The third condition is that the irrigation running is in a "re-irrigation" system. This is a City of Austin environmental requirement to re-irrigate water that has been collected in a pond. When the pond is full, it triggers a pump that will turn on the irrigation sprinklers. This only occurs during the rain and is designed to do so. We have these types of sprinklers on Slaughter Lane and at a number of pond areas in Circle C West.

We have two irrigators and a supervisor that checks irrigation daily for leaks and problems. Due to our extensive system, we have a large property variance on file with the City of Austin Water Conservation Department. This means that although Tuesday and Friday are our normal watering days, you will see some areas watering on every other day of the week except Monday in order for us to get through the entire system. All watering is scheduled to take place between 7 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. to meet the water conservation ordinance requirements. Just a reminder, all residences are also under the water conservation ordinance. You are limited to watering two days per week, Wednesday/Saturday if your address ends in an odd number and Thursday/Sunday if it ends in an even number. This continues until the end of September for City of Austin residential water customers.

OAK WILT UPDATE

Insect Spread of the Oak Wilt Fungus



There has been a case of confirmed oak wilt in the 10900 block of Beachmont in Circle C. If you live in this area and have live oaks in your yard, we recommend that you contact a certified arborist to find out if your trees are affected and what preventative measures you can take to protect your trees.

The CCHOA has recently had the live oaks at the South Bay Post Office area treated for oak wilt. There has been a diagnosis of oak wilt in the undeveloped area to the east of the post office.

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AUDITIONS

AUGUST 28, 2010

AGES 6-7 1:00 PM

AGES 8-11 2:00 PM

AGES 12-21 3:00 PM

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SWIM CENTER NEWS

Submitted by Brandon Ducote

The Pool is humming with excitement this month as the Circle C Select team kicking off their competitive season. With the last of the Stroke and Conditioning Clinics wrapping up in July, the team officially begins weekly practice August 2nd.

We at the swim center are excited to welcome the newest member of our team, David Kelange, the new head coach for the select team. David is a native of Huntsville, Alabama and has been involved in competitive swimming since the ripe age of 4. Among his swimming and coaching accolades are a USA Swimming Junior National Championship, and in 2009 the American Swimming Coaches Association Certificate of Excellence for coaching multiple swimmers to finals and top three finishes at USA Swimming's National Championships.

Dave moved to Central Texas in 2004 with his wife and daughter.

He can be reached at ccscoachdave@gmail.com.

If you're interested in participating in this year's select team and have never done so before, email Coach Dave to set up an evaluation and see the front desk for registration. Registration started at the end of June for residents and is on-going, and registration for non-

residents begins July 12. For more information regarding the select team, call the Circle C Swim Center front desk at 512-288-6057.

Another exciting development at the pool was the installation of a new state-of-the-art playscape near the sports courts. Be advised the new playscape is designed for children 5 and up. The playscape is a new style of "kinetic" playground equipment that was chosen because it is different than the other playscapes in the neighborhood and surrounding schools that are already available to the children in our neighborhood. Not only does it look different but it is a different style of interaction and activity than the standard decks and slides available at most playscapes.

Regularly scheduled group swim classes continue in the month of August with two sessions left in the summer schedule before school starts, so if you haven't taken advantage of the summer programs yet, it's not too late!

Speaking of not too late, the swim center will be hosting yet another movie night on August 14 at dusk. We'll be showing Planet 51, the family comedy about an astronaut that lands on a planet completely run by aliens, aliens who fear nothing more than an

(Continued on Page 11)



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Swim Center News - (Continued from Page 10)

invasion by alien creatures such just like him. Lap swim will be closed while the movie is showing, but residents and their guests are welcome to enjoy the recreational swim area throughout the movie's duration. The Circle C Cafe will be providing drinks and popcorn, so please respect our no outside food or drink policy, as well as no glass containers.

The pool hours of operation will change to our fall schedule on August 24th, the day after school starts.

AUGUST 24TH – OCTOBER 17TH

	<u>LAP SWIM</u>	<u>RECREATION</u>
Monday-Friday	6am-10am 3:30pm-8:00pm	9am-10am 3:30pm-8:00pm
Saturday	7am-6pm	10am-6pm
Sunday	10am-6pm	10am-6pm

The pool is full of activity! If you'd like to participate in any of our numerous programs, or are new to the neighborhood, come on by or see our Web site for more information, <http://www.circlecranch.info/Swim-Center-164811-14837.htm>



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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR.....

It is my firm belief that all of us are given a talent. A talent can be a wide variety of attributes in ourselves. One person might have a physical ability and another person be creative in art or the written word. I had to read an article in the May 27th issue of the Austin American-Statesman to learn of a talented lady living among us in Park West. This issue of the Park West HOA "Meet Your Neighbor" is an introduction to Jann Alexander who lives on Tasajillo Trail.

Jann grew up in the Washington DC suburbs where she lived until moving to Austin in 2004. She was always interested in art and writing. She used these talents early in life as the editor of her high school newspaper. Her college education in journalism and commercial art took her further in that direction. After graduation from the University of MD, Jann worked in advertising for over 10 years as an art director. Later, she worked 3 years for the Washington Post Sunday Magazine.

Her entrepreneurial talents developed after the birth of her son, Riley. She opened a graphic design business specializing in print brochures and magazine design, also advertising for international corporations and nonprofits. Universities were also her clients. Discovery Channel was an early client and became one of her favorites. It was a small firm with a big idea for a channel of

documentary films. Jann considers herself lucky enough to have been the channel's monthly magazine art director as its' success skyrocketed meteorically.

Riley was completing college in Richmond, VA when Jann was ready to experience something new in life. After 2 decades in business as Jann Alexander Design, Inc., it was time. She visited Austin in May, 2004 and by August, she was living Park West. She became a fine artist/photographer and began painting and photographing in 2005. She has exhibited in many Austin venues and became especially known for her Vanishing Austin photography series. In this project, she recorded Austin as she saw it when she arrived and sounds a visual alarm to what Austin stands to lose in the face of potentially insensitive redevelopment. The old juxtaposed against the new. Her paintings in vivid, richly textured oil are of Southwest landscapes and mission churches from her own photographs.

In late July of this year, she began to share her talents in a wider market with the opening of her new downtown gallery, Austin Details Art + Photo. She plans for this to be a creative hub ----- a business center consisting of a high tech gallery, old-style exhibit area and a workshop for artists. Her business is located in the historic Bremond Building at Congress and Eighth Streets, 106 East Eighth

(Continued on Page 15)



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Meet Your Neighbor - (Continued from Page 14)

Street. She would love to have her neighbors visit in her gallery.

Jann is a member of Art Alliance Austin, AMOA, Texas Photographic Society and the Creative Arts Society. She teaches workshops and hosts occasional studio salons for artists.

Her personal passions are to travel and photograph what she sees. She enjoys being outdoors and socializing with her friends and friends of her sweetheart. She attends art and film events, cycles, kayaks, hikes and explores with her dog, Sally. She may be a transplanted East coast resident, but claims she "got here as quick as she could." We share her joy.

PS: On a personal note from me as the person editing this column, I encourage you to view one of her websites: <http://web.me.com/austindetails/AustinDetails.com/HOME.html>. Click "enter gallery", then click "Natural Details". Her photographs are good but Jann's ability to caption them is phenomenal and added joy to my day.

UPDATING INTEREST GROUPS

If you are interested in joining a men's poker group, contact Randy Nelson at 507-5122, or email Randy at bostonx26@aol.com.

UNTIL NEXT TIME.....

My name is Glynda Eschle. I have volunteered to edit the Park West HOA portion of the Circle C Ranch Newsletter. I welcome any constructive suggestions or information you would like to submit. I can be contacted at 6542 Tasajillo Trail; by phone at 288-1503; or by email at glynda.eschle@sbcglobal.net.

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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Clubs & Announcements

FREE CLASS:

*Mom & Child(ren)
Happy Hour Workout*
Submitted by Sarah S. Jordan

AUGUST 28TH 8:30-9:30AM

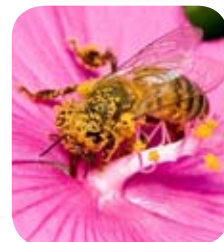
Get fit while enjoying the company of other moms in Circle C! Pack up your sweet little addition(s) in the stroller (or make it mommy-only time) and let's hit the road for a Happy Hour Workout! What better way to expose our children to the great outdoors and their mommies being active than a fitness class together? We will be power walking, using our body weight for sculpting intervals, and enjoying the great outdoors while getting strong, centered, and fit together. Bring sunscreen and plenty of water. More classes to come. We will meet on the back side of the Circle C Child Development Center near the playground and start walking at 8:30am.

AUGUST EVENTS

at the Wildflower Center

Sign up now for Go Native U

The City of Austin Water Utility is offering an incentive for converting your lawn to native plants. Learn how by taking all or some of the Go Native U classes in design, plant selection, installation, maintenance and pest management. Information at www.wildflower.org/gonativeu



Summer Art at the Wildflower Center

"A Closer Look" is a stunning exhibit of nature photography by Bruce Leander on display at the McDermott Learning Center with "Kissed by Nature", remarkable pottery by Susie Fowler that incorporates objects and ideas found on the Edwards Plateau. Through August 22. And the Texas Society of Sculptors Exhibit is held over! More than 40 works by 18 talented Texas sculptors displayed in the gardens. Made of wood, bronze, clay, found objects and other materials. Through August 29.

Sales Tax Holidays

No sales tax on apparel purchases up to \$100 at the store. Saturday, Sunday and Monday, August 13 through 15.

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Submitted by Saralee O Tiede



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Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 - Traditional Worship | 11:00 - Contemporary Worship | 9:30 & 11:00 - Bible Life Groups (all ages)

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Clubs & Announcements

AUSTIN NEWCOMERS CLUB

Luncheon for August

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 varied fun Interest groups.

Time: 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

Date: August 18, 2010

(Reservations required by Thursday, August 12)

For Luncheon Reservations email:

LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com

For other Newcomers information

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

August Program: William "Bill" Gibbens - Forensic Science Services Manger, Austin Police Department

Bill will discuss the Austin Police Department Crime Lab, its capabilities and how it supports the officers on investigations that

directly impact the citizens of Austin. He will also allow time for questions and a few stories.

Bill is the last of a dying breed. He entered the field of forensic science when a degree was not required and there was very little interest. Those two things have surely changed over the past 20 years. Bill now holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management and is currently pursuing his Masters Degree in Public Administration.

In 1996 Bill accepted a position as the Identification Manager of the Austin Police Department, of which he was responsible for the Crime Scene, Crime Records, and Latent Print Sections. In 2002 he was promoted to Forensic Science Services Manager and is responsible for a 65 employee crime lab with a \$6 million annual budget. He has been responsible for migrating to a new laboratory and bringing ASCLD Laboratory Accreditation to that laboratory.

Hope to see you all at this most interesting version of "CSI Austin".

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CIRCLE C TENNIS NEWS

Submitted by Fernando Velasco

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR JUNIOR PLAYERS
CATA GRAND PRIX AT CIRCLE C TENNIS CLUB

The Circle C Tennis Club hosted the CATA Grand Prix Tennis Tournament during the week of June 17 - 20, 2010. Over 90 players ranging from ages 10 through 18 entered this yearly event.

Players of the Circle C Tennis programs that participated in this event and reached the finals or semi-finals are shown below. Their names are highlighted in Bold Letters.



Sara Le and
Rebecca Jackson
2nd place
Girls' 10 Singles

Christine
Schrader
and **Brennan**
Foreman
Runner Up
Girls' 12
Singles
Consolation



Mary Gilburg
and Jenna Gietl
Runner up
Girls' 14 Singles
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(Cont. on Page 20)

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Clubs & Announcements

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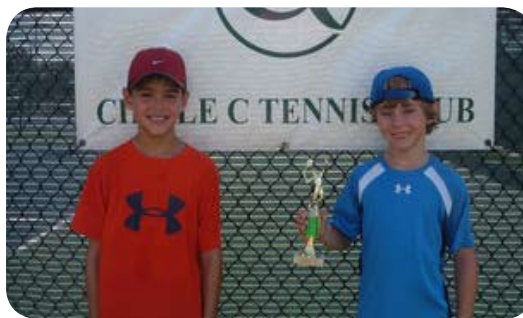
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Business Classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$65, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

Circle C Tennis News - (Continued from Page 19)



Riley O'Connor and Jackson Foreman
Runner up and Winner
Boys' 10
Singles

Aaron Willis
and
Christian Smith
Boys 12-
16 Singles
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JUNE 11 – 12 HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE

JUNE 18 – 19 ASTRO BOY

JUNE 25 – 26 THE SPY NEXT DOOR

JULY 2 – 4 WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE*

JULY 9 – 10 MONSTERS VS. ALIENS

JULY 16 – 17 HOTEL FOR DOGS

JULY 23 – 24 CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS

JULY 30 – 31 SHORTS

AUG 6 – 7 PLANET 51

AUG 13 – 14 CURIOUS GEORGE 2

AUG 20 – 21 THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG

AUG 27 – 28 EARTH

SEPT 3 – 5 ALICE IN WONDERLAND**

* Sunday screening added ** Monday Screening added

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SOUTHWEST BISTRO

An Opportunity to Lower Your Bills By Supporting A Local Non-profit at the Same Time!

Submitted by Tad Wiginton

A national nonprofit headquartered in Austin is offering members of our HOA a unique opportunity to benefit themselves and the community. Southwest Key Enterprises is offering discounted home energy audit and irrigation audit services performed by licensed professionals. You will receive a report of the current energy efficiency of your home and irrigation system

including suggestions for upgrades and repairs that will significantly reduce your monthly expenses. The profits from the program support the nonprofit and also serve as a training ground for participants in their programs. See the ad in the newsletter for pricing and scheduling of these and additional services we provide.

Southwest Key Programs (www.swkey.org) is a national nonprofit organization providing education, safe shelters and alternatives to incarceration for over 6000 youth each day, while creating job opportunities for their families to become self-sufficient. Thousands of youth have been diverted from prisons, jails, and institutions, enabling them to stay at home and out of trouble.

In 2009 SW Key opened a charter middle school, the East Austin College Prep Academy. The headquarters is located at the East

Austin Community Development Center. Construction on the \$8 million facility in an economically disadvantaged neighborhood was completed in 2007. It is home to a Boys & Girls Club, GED and ESL classes, the AMD Community Technology Center and a variety of educational programs and recreational facilities.

In 2007, SW Key Programs implemented a new "social enterprise" model (SW Key Enterprises) to help diversify its sources of revenue, generate a sustainable future for the organization and create jobs. SW Key's Social Enterprise Complex will be first of its kind in the country when construction is completed in 2011. The recession illuminated the need for nonprofits to look to private sector approaches to support their programs. SW Key Enterprises businesses meet a double bottom-line: the companies to support the nonprofit, while lifting families out of poverty. We provide continuous on-the-job training so that even those with few or no job skills will have opportunities for advancement.

Sign up to lower your bills and help this remarkable organization impacting thousands of youth every day. Call Tad Wiginton at (512)-

(Continued on Page 23)

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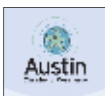
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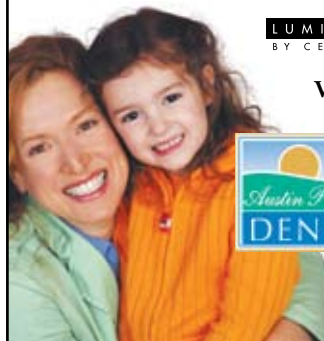


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An Opportunity to Lower Bills - (Continued from Page 22)

650-7015 with any questions you may have or email them to sales@swkey.org

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. 6 social enterprises
. 4th largest Hispanic nonprofit in U.S.
. 30 juvenile justice programs
. 10 community and workforce programs


School Crossing Guards Needed for Baldwin, Clayton, and Mills Elementary Schools

Submitted by Herschell Esquell

The City of Austin is looking for applicants to fill crossing guard positions. We require people who are physically and mentally suited to work with children but also maintain a good relationship with the parents and motorists. These positions require that a person must be able to stand for at least 1 hour and be able to repeatedly cross the street with pedestrians during that time without becoming too fatigued. These persons must be dependable and will be expected to maintain a good attendance record. The applicants must be at least 16 years of age and there is no upper age limit as long as the applicants are 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 these locations. These are City of Austin paid positions. The hourly rate is currently \$8.50. The hours are 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. and 2:30 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. Monday through Friday and follow 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 CONTACT:

Herschell Esquell
Southwest Area Supervisor, City of Austin
Child Safety Program
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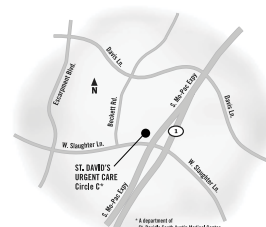
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News You Can Use

THE AUSTIN AFFILIATE OF THE PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK

*Announces the 2010 PurpleStride 5K Timed Run and 1K Walk to be
Held September 25th at the Hill Country Galleria*

WHAT: The Austin Affiliate of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network will hold its second annual PurpleStride 5K on September 25th, 2010. There will be a timed 5K and 1K Fun Run/Walk. Proceeds will benefit the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. This event will be family friendly and will have live music, drinks, and snacks. Pets are welcome and dogs can be registered to walk!

WHY: Pancreatic cancer is usually undetectable and often deadly. There are no routine diagnostic tools to detect pancreatic cancer, and many times it has no early symptoms. Pancreatic cancer research is heavily underfunded, and awareness needs to be raised to help fight this deadly disease. This disease does not discriminate and impacts men and women of all ages and ethnicities.

WHEN: Saturday, September 25th, 2010

WHERE: Hill Country Galleria in Bee Cave, Texas

SIGN UP: Registration is online at www.purplestride.org

MORE ABOUT PANCREATIC CANCER:

- Pancreatic cancer is the fourth leading cause of cancer death in the United States.
- Pancreatic cancer has the highest mortality among the leading cancer killers. 94% of pancreatic cancer patients will die within five years of diagnosis – only 6% will survive more than five years. 76% of patients die within the first year of diagnosis.
- There are no early diagnostic tools and there is no cure.
- This year, 43,140 Americans will be diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and 36,800 will die from the disease.
- It is the most under-funded, under-recognized and least-studied of all major cancer killers with less than 2% of the National Cancer Institute's annual budget dedicated to pancreatic cancer research.



PANCREATIC CANCER ACTION NETWORK®
ADVANCE RESEARCH. SUPPORT PATIENTS. CREATE HOPE.

Oak Hill United Methodist Church announces



Music & Drama (MAD) Camp

MAD Camp is for children and youth just finishing first through eighth grades and will meet from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. July 5-9 and July 12-16 (it is a two week camp). Cost is \$35/person or \$55/2 or more in same family. This year's show is "Schoolhouse Rock" and promises to be lots of fun!

Registration forms are available in the church office, the narthex, or can be downloaded from the church website. Please register by July 1.

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. Visit our website at www.oakhillumc.org or call 288-3836 for more information.

Cub Camp

Cub Camp is a half-day activity camp for children 3 years old through those just finishing Kindergarten, and will be held August 2 - 6, 9 a.m. to noon.

Cost is \$35/child or \$55/2 or more in same family.

Space is limited and it is already filling up, so get your registrations in today!

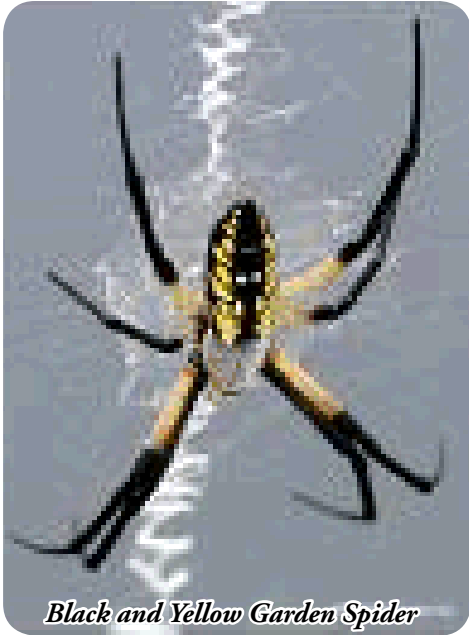
Information and registration forms are available in the church office, the narthex, or can be downloaded from the church website.



7815 Hwy. 290 W., Austin, TX 78736

NATURE WATCH

Spiders on the Prowl!



Black and Yellow Garden Spider

An often seen spider in our suburban yards and gardens is the black and yellow garden spider (*Argiope aurantia*). True to its common name, this spider has distinctive black and yellow (and sometimes orange) markings on its abdomen and a mostly white area behind its head. With a fairly rotund body of 1 ½ inches in length, the females of this species are twice as large as the males (common for most spiders), and can have colorful banding on the legs. These spiders are active during the summer months, and tend to be somewhat local, staying in one place throughout much of their lifetime. Like other members of the *Argiope* family, they are considered harmless to humans.

These garden spiders have three claws on each foot, unlike most spiders that have only two claws, and the extra claw helps them to

spin complicated webs. Many times these webs are built in areas adjacent to open sunny areas, often two to eight feet off the ground. Most distinctively, the circular part of their webs are up to two feet in diameter, with a dense zigzag of silk, known as a stabilimentum, in the center. While the purpose of this structure is disputed, it helps this spider earn its other common name, the writing spider. It is most often thought that the stabilimentum might warn birds of the presence of the web, and only those spiders that are active during the day construct these types of patterns in their webs.

Black and yellow garden spiders breed once a year. The males roam in search of a female, building a small web near or actually in the female's web, then court the females

(Continued on Page 26)



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Nature Watch -

(Continued from Page 25)

by plucking strands on her web. When the male approaches the female, he often has a safety drop line ready, in case she attacks him. After mating, the male dies, and is sometimes then eaten by the female. The female will then lay her eggs, cover them with a sheet of silk, roll them into a sac, and hang them from the center of her web, where she spends most of her time. She guards the eggs against predation as long as she is able, but as the weather cools, she becomes more frail, and dies around the time of the first hard frost. Come spring, the tiny young spiders exit the sac and disperse, often on a strand of silk carried by the wind.


Another common but startling-looking spider is the spiny-backed orbweaver, or spiny orb-weaver (*Gasteracantha cancriformis*). Its shell is shaped like a crab shell, wide, flat and variably red, white, orange, or yellow with dark oval spots, rimmed by six red or orange spines. The males lack these distinctive spines, having only four or five stubby dark projections, and are two-thirds smaller than the females. Their Latin name comes from 'cancer'

(Continued on Page 28)



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News You Can Use

Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 26)

meaning 'crab' and 'forma' meaning 'shape, form, or appearance.'

Also called a jewel or jewel box spider, this spider ranges across the southern half of the United States and is found year-round in woodland edges and shrubby areas of Texas. It usually adds decorations or little tufts of silk to its web, possibly to warn birds and other animals of the web's location. A short-lived spider, its lifespan lasts until reproduction in the spring following their birth. In fact, the males die only six days after mating with a female.

Often found feeding on flowers, the Green Lynx Spider (*Peucetia viridans*) is a bright green spider and the largest lynx spider in North America. The species name is derived from the Latin *viridis*, meaning 'green', and is its signature characteristic. Its abdomen has a series of cream-colored chevrons along its length, with white stripes accented by russet margins. Long, thin legs are pale green to yellow, and are covered with long black spines and spots. Gravid females are able to change color to fit their background, and depend on this ability in September and October, to help them

defend their egg sac filled with bright orange eggs, from predation.

Active during late spring and summer in a wide variety of habitats, the Green Lynx spider does not spin a web, but hunts for moths and other small insects among low shrubs and plants. As such, this spider is of great interest for its use in agricultural pest management, but unfortunately also preys on beneficial insects such as honey bees. Very seldom does this spider bite humans, and its bite is harmless.

Relatively common throughout Texas, tarantulas are our heaviest and largest spiders. Typically, the head and legs are dark brown, and the abdomen is brownish-black. Coloration varies between individuals as well as between the 14 different species found in our state. Identification of species is difficult, however, and is often performed only on mature males under a microscope.

Tarantulas are typically found in grasslands and semi-open areas, and use burrows, natural cavities under stones or fallen logs, spaces under loose tree bark, and

(Continued on Page 29)



Spiny Orb-Weaver



Tarantula



Green Lynx Spider



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Nature Watch - (Continued from Page 28)

even old rodent holes as shelters. They are also capable of digging their own burrows, and often line them with webbing, placing a few strands across the front to help detect passing prey. Laying several hundred eggs in a hammock-like web constructed inside the burrow, females will guard them until they hatch. Females have lived in captivity for over 25 years, while males rarely live over two or three months after reaching maturity.

Other insects such as crickets, beetles, grasshoppers, cicadas, and caterpillars form the basic diet of the tarantula. They inject their prey with a poison when they bite, which liquefies the prey's insides, making it easier to ingest. While they can climb, they are usually restricted to the ground, with the males actively wandering in large numbers in late summer, apparently seeking out females. The hairiness and large size of tarantulas often evokes concern, but the bites of Texas species are not serious to humans. Tarantulas maneuver quickly to face whatever disturbs them, often raising up on their hind legs and stretching out their front legs in a threatening posture. They have also been observed rapidly brushing the top of their abdomen with their hind legs to dislodge hairs that can be used to irritate the attacker's eyes or skin.

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

- by Jim & Lynne Weber

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Investors Can Learn from World Cup Teams

It's World Cup time, and soccer fans everywhere are focusing on South Africa, where 32 countries compete for what may be the most coveted championship in all of sports. As a spectator or casual athlete yourself, you can certainly admire the skills of the World Cup players — but as an investor, you can also learn a great deal from them.

Let's Look At Some Key Areas Of Soccer And See How They May Apply To Your Investment Philosophy And Techniques.

• **Offense** — When a forward, or “striker,” scores a goal in a soccer game, it can look almost effortless. But it's not that simple. Before the striker could even make the kick, the ball had to be moved around, sometimes by almost the entire team, before it was in the right place for the striker to shoot. As an investor, you, too must position your portfolio properly so that, when the occasion arises, you can take some “good shots.” Specifically, stay invested in the market, so you'll be prepared to take advantage of good buying opportunities, as when prices drop.

• **Defense** — In soccer, the defenders, such as the fullbacks and the goalkeeper, must anticipate the opposing team's moves and then react to them. And as an investor, you must be ready to cope with threats, such as market volatility, economic turmoil, inflation and so on. When these forces appear, you may need to adjust your portfolio in one way or another. However, your best defense is preparation — and one of the best ways to be prepared for any event that could affect your investments is to build a diversified portfolio. Diversification can help smooth out the ups and downs of the market to help reduce the effect any one investment may have on your portfolio. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, cannot guarantee a profit or protect against a loss.)

• **Stamina** — As you watch World Cup matches, you will see very few substitutions. In fact, only three players can be substituted throughout the entire course of a game, which places a premium on players' stamina. As an investor, you also need to have the staying power to “go the distance,” despite the bumps in the road

(Continued on Page 31)

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Financial Focus - (Continued from Page 30)

you will encounter. But if you have the patience and discipline to keep investing for the long term, your efforts may be rewarded.

- **Teamwork** — For a World Cup team to succeed, it needs outstanding teamwork. The players must know one another's tendencies, must communicate well and must trust each other to make the right plays. When you invest, you can also benefit from working with a team, which may consist of your financial advisor, your tax advisor and your legal advisor. The investment world can be complex, with ever-changing laws and regulations, so you'll want to be confident that you're making the right moves at the right time.

You may never get to play in the World Cup, but, by observing the players and the games closely, you can learn some lessons that can apply to your portfolio.

Recipe of the Month

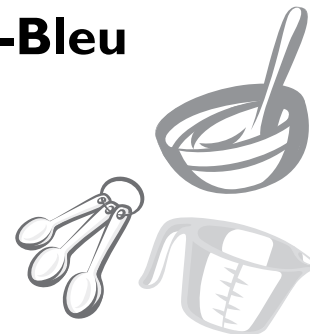
Chicken Cordon-Bleu

Ingredients

8 small boneless, skinless chicken breasts	½ C margarine
8 thin slices ham	¼ C white wine
8 slices Swiss cheese	¼ - ½ C sour cream
1 egg salt & pepper	parsely, minced
2 C bread crumbs, with Parmesean cheese	

Directions

Flatten chicken breasts with meat cleaver or mallet. Place slice of ham and cheese on each chicken breast. Roll up and secure with string. Dip chicken in egg and roll in seasoned bread crumbs. Heat butter in skillet. Brown breasts. Reduce heat and cook until done, about 30 minutes. Remove breasts. Add wine and sour cream to drippings. Mix. Add parsely. Put chicken back in wine sauce. Heat and serve.



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News You Can Use

COMPUTING 101: KEEPING UP TO DATE

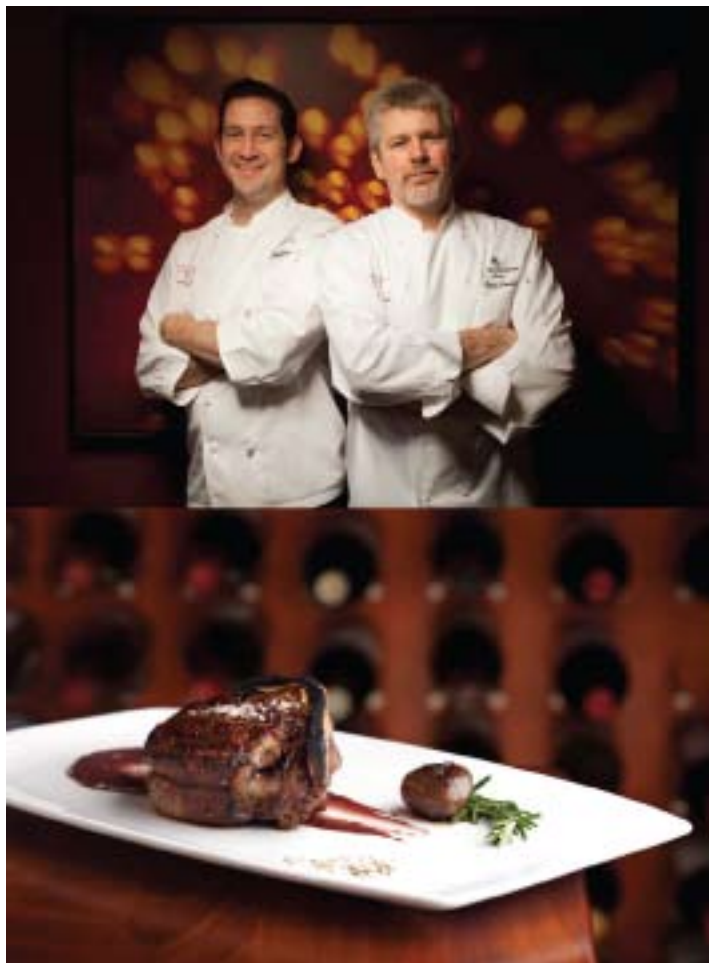
Keeping your computer up to date is the single best way to avoid problems caused by viruses, hackers and just misbehaving software. So what do you need to do to keep your system current? Well, actually not very much. Your key programs will tell you when they need to be updated.

Most important is your operating system. Both Windows and the Mac regularly check for any updates that are needed. Microsoft usually saves its updates for the 2nd Tuesday of each month, but sometimes a critical security update will be pushed earlier than that. It is VERY important that when you get a notice on your Mac or you see the little yellow shield in the lower right corner of your PC that you allow those updates to install. The updates may be to fix bugs that make your system run better, but they may also be to plug holes that the bad guys have discovered as a way to gain access to your computer. Last month I mentioned that Microsoft was ending support for Windows 2000 and Windows XP (with Service Pack 2.) If you're still using Windows XP, right-click on "My Computer" and select "Properties" to check your installation. You need to be running Service Pack 3 to continue getting updates from Microsoft. If you're on a Mac, Apple may soon stop updating "Tiger" (OSX 10.4), and Mozilla (the ones who make the Firefox browser) has already said they will no longer support Tiger.

If your anti-virus software is not updating because it's expired or just not working right, either renew it or fix it. There are good free products available like Microsoft Security Essentials, AVG, Avast and others for the PC. There's no reason not to have basic protection on your computer. Mac's are pretty secure from viruses because nobody bothers with them. The famous bank robber from the early 1930's Willie Sutton was once asked "Why do you rob banks?" He simply replied "Because that's where the money is." With Windows machine about 90% of the market, that's where the bad guys go for the money.

So the browsers (the program you use to get on the Internet) are next in line for updating. It doesn't matter if you use Internet Explorer, Firefox, Safari, Chrome or some other browser, this is a major avenue of attack for the bad guys because they are out there just waiting for you to come to them. If you click on "Help" or "About" in your browser you'll see what version you are using. If you are using Internet Explorer 6, RUN, don't walk to your computer and download IE8. IE7 users should update also. The latest Firefox version as of this writing is 3.6.6. I still find people using Firefox 2.x. It's time to update! Version 4 is now in beta testing and should

(Continued on Page 33)



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Computing 101 - (Continued from Page 32)

be out soon. The latest version of Safari is now 5.0 and is available at apple.com. Google Chrome versions vary depending on what operating system you're on, but if you use Chrome, you're probably geeky enough already to keep it current.

Adobe is one of the worst offenders in keeping you secure. Both Acrobat Reader (for .pdf files) and Flash (for viewing most online videos and animation) constantly are found to have significant problems and Adobe is often slow to correct them. You should go to www.adobe.com/downloads to download the latest versions of Reader and Flash.

Now that your system is completely up to date, don't get complacent or a false sense of security, if you're careless on the Internet or with your email, you can still get bit. Take all the precautions you want, if you decide to walk down a dark alley in New York in the middle of the night, you still might find yourself in trouble.

So be smart, keep your computer up to date and enjoy all the goodness your computer and the Internet can bring you (and stay out of the dark alleys.)

SUBMITTED BY LAURIE SCOTT

Meet Jessica

(DOB: 10/1996)

Jessica is described as a very loving and helpful child who has a lot of potential to do great things in life. She is quite creative, with a great imagination. She is also very friendly, child-like and eager to please. Her feelings are hurt easily, but she responds readily to comfort and affirmation. She thrives on individual attention.

Jessica likes to color, draw, sing and make jewelry. She also enjoys reading as well. Jessica is involved in basketball and track at school and plans to play volleyball in the fall. Jessica loves animals and has recently raised a rabbit through Future Farmers of America (FFA) at her school.

Jessica's forever family needs to be patient and committed to parenting a teenage girl. Jessica would like a family that lives in the country and prefers to be any only child. Jessica needs to have a family to love her unconditionally; make her feel secure and encourage her and help her become more self-confident. *For more information contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at 512-687-3208*



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News You Can Use



August Texas Events

- 13—AUSTIN:** Christopher Cross One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. www.oneworldtheatre.org 512/329-6753
- 13—CASTROVILLE:** Friday Night Fever This is a show of cars, trucks and bikes, plus food for sale and live music. Lundquist Automotive, off Hwy. 90. www.castroville.com 830/538-3142
- 13-15—MARBLE FALLS:** LakeFest Drag Boat Race Lake Marble Falls, 307 Buena Vista Drive. www.marblefallslakefest.com 800/759-8178
- 14—BLANCO:** Kids Corps Animal, insects, fish and plants — every meeting will bring a new adventure. Appropriate for children 6 years and older. Begins at 10 a.m. Blanco State Park. 830/833-4333
- 14—BOERNE:** Second Saturday Art & Wine Hop on the trolley, stroll or drive to a collection of eclectic fine art galleries for wine tasting, hors d'oeuvres and guest artists. Enjoy "The Ultimate Art and Wine Experience." Hours are 4 to 8 p.m. Boerne Visitor Center. www.secondsaturdayartandwine.com 877/833-0621 or 830/249-1500
- 14—LAMPASAS:** Indian Artifact Show Provides an opportunity for vendors and exhibitors from all over Texas to showcase their archeological collections. www.lampasaschamber.org 512/556-5172
- 14—SONORA:** Sutton County Days Features parade, arts & crafts booths, food, children's rides and games, entertainment and Little Mr. and Little Miss Sutton County Contest. www.sonoratx-chamber.com 325/387-2880 or 888/387-2880
- 14-15—AUSTIN:** Citywide Garage Sale Vintage flea market features second-hand, vintage and used merchandise. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Palmer Events Center. www.citywidegaragesale.com 512/441-2828
- 14-15—BOERNE:** Market Days Dozens of vendors from all over Texas offer arts & crafts, antiques, collectibles, unusual items and great food. Main Plaza. www.mainstreetinboerne.com 830/249-5530 or 210/844-8193
- 14-15, 28-29—FREDERICKSBURG:** Pari-Mutuel Horse Racing Features quarter horse and thoroughbred races, special races and trials for the 2010 Fair Futurity. Gillespie County Fairgrounds. www.gillespiefair.com 830/997-2359
- 19-21—JOHNSON CITY:** 80th Annual Blanco County Fair & Rodeo/Big Carnival Blanco County Fairgrounds. www.johnsoncitytexaschamber.com 830/868-7684
- 19-Sep. 19—KERRVILLE:** Hometown Crafts Teacher's Show Judged multimedia exhibit features works by educators. Kerr Arts & Cultural Center. www.kackckerrville.com
- 20—AUSTIN:** Paula Poundstone One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. www.oneworldtheatre.org 512/329-6753
- 20-22—FREDERICKSBURG:** Trade Days Shop more than 350 vendors. Includes acres of antiques, live music and more. Hwy. 290 E., across from Wildseed Farms. www.fbgradedays.com 210/846-4094
- 21—BLANCO:** Fish with a Ranger A Park Ranger will be on hand to provide a basic safety and skills lesson. Begins at 8 a.m. Blanco State Park. 830/833-4333
- 21—FREDERICKSBURG:** Roots Music Series: Texas Country Concerts feature both emerging and established artists in an informal, family setting. Hours are 6 to 10 p.m. Pioneer Museum, 325 W. Main St. www.pioneermuseum.net 830/997-2835
- 21—NEW BRAUNFELS:** Winery U! Sun & Fun Looks at the major growing regions of Spain and Italy to see why both are so popular among the world's wine lovers. Hours are 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 1741 Herbelin Road. www.drycomalcreek.com 830/885-4076
- 21-22—GRUENE:** Old Gruene Market Days Nearly 100 vendors offer uniquely crafted items and packaged Texas foods. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.gruenemarketdays.com 830/832-1721
- 22—CASTROVILLE:** 128th Annual St. Louis Day Celebration Includes rides, food, arts & crafts, and entertainment. Koenig Park. www.castroville.com 830/538-3142
- 24—MASON:** County Opry Features Mona McCall. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Odeon Theater. www.heartoftexascountry.com 325/597-2119
- 26-29—FREDERICKSBURG:** Gillespie County Fair Features agricultural, livestock and home skills displays. Includes horse racing, concerts, dances, carnival and midway. Parade begins at 10 a.m. Friday. Gillespie County Fairgrounds, Hwy. 16 S. www.gillespiefair.com 830/997-2359

(Continued on Page 35)



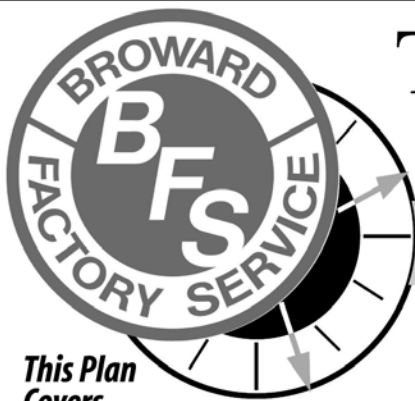
Texas Events - (Continued from Page 34)

- 27—**AUSTIN:** Judy Collins Few singers have the staying power of this folk icon. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. www.oneworldtheatre.org 512/329-6753
- 27—**BURNET:** Twilight Paddle: A Sens-ational Adventure An interpretive specialist will be the “senses-guide” through this evening adventure on the flat waters of Inks Lake. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Reservations required. Inks Lake State Park, 512/793-2223
- 27—**STONEWALL:** LBJ’s Birthday Celebration Celebrate the president’s birthday with an “old-fashion style” bash, including refreshments and games — marbles, tops, jacks and stick-horse races. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sauer-Beckmann Farm and Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site. 830/644-2252
- 27—**STONEWALL:** 102nd Anniversary of LBJ’s Birth — Wreathlaying Ceremony LBJ Ranch District. www.nps.gov/lyjo 830/868-7128 ext. 244
- 28—**BIG LAKE:** Santa Rita Days Celebrates the Santa Rita No. 1, the discovery well of the Permian Basin oilfield. Enjoy vendors, food and game booths, plenty of activities and music. Reagan County North Park. www.biglaketx.com 325/884-2980
- 28—**BLANCO:** Volunteer Day Volunteer to work with park staff to pick up trash, pull weeds, remove invasive species, maintain trails

and much more. Arrive early to fill out required paperwork. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon. Blanco State Park. 830/833-4333

- 28—**BURNET:** Moonlight Hike & Owl Prowl Meet at the amphitheater to talk about owls and trail safety. Then explore the sights and sounds as seen on the trail on a full moon night. Includes a stop at a natural seating area where owls will be called. Begins at 8 p.m. Inks Lake State Park. 512/793-4689
- 28—**KERRVILLE:** Kerr Market Day www.kerrmarketdays.org 830/792-4655
- 28-29—**AUSTIN:** Texas Bamboo Festival Celebrate the wonders of bamboo. Zilker Botanical Garden. www.bamboocentral.net
- 29—**AUSTIN:** Austin Chronicle Hot Sauce Festival Amateurs and pros compete with their hottest sauces in a taste-off. Waterloo Park. www.austinchronicle.com 512/454-5766

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- Kids Stuff -

Section for Kids with news, puzzles, games and more!



Are you ready for a road trip? People in the United States will take millions of trips this year — many of them traveling by car. The most popular treks are trips to the beach, visits to friends and family, and scenic drives. A scenic drive means there's something to see while you're driving, like an ocean, mountains, or a beautiful valley.

But sometimes when you're on the road, there isn't a whole lot to look at. For those times, you'll need to keep yourself busy. Here are some ideas:

- Bring a small map or road atlas. Use stickers to track your family's progress.
- Create a trip box that includes stickers, pipe cleaners, pens, paper, and anything else you want to have on hand.
- Draw. You can draw what's outside your window or make a game out of it by drawing a picture of someone that you know and making everyone guess who it is.
- Start writing in a trip journal and keep track of what you do each day on your vacation. Add photos later.
- Read aloud — a scary story or a mystery are great choices.

- Make up your own story and draw the illustrations to go with it.
- Listen to a book on tape or CD.
- Listen to music.
- Sing silly songs that you might be too old for, like "Old MacDonald," "B-I-N-G-O," and "She'll Be Coming 'Round the Mountain" — or even Christmas songs if you're in the mood. For added fun, make up your own silly songs with your family's help.
- Snooze.
- Play "I Spy."
- Play the license plate game by trying to spot as many different states as you can.
- Play "20 Questions."
- Play travel games, such as checkers, that have magnetic pieces that won't slip off the board.
- Play the "My Favorite" game by picking your top five songs, books, ice cream flavors, sports heroes, etc.
- Have a spelling bee or trivia contest. Bring index cards to write down words or questions.
- Don't fight with your brother or sister!

Reviewed by: Steven Dowshen, MD

Date reviewed: May 2009

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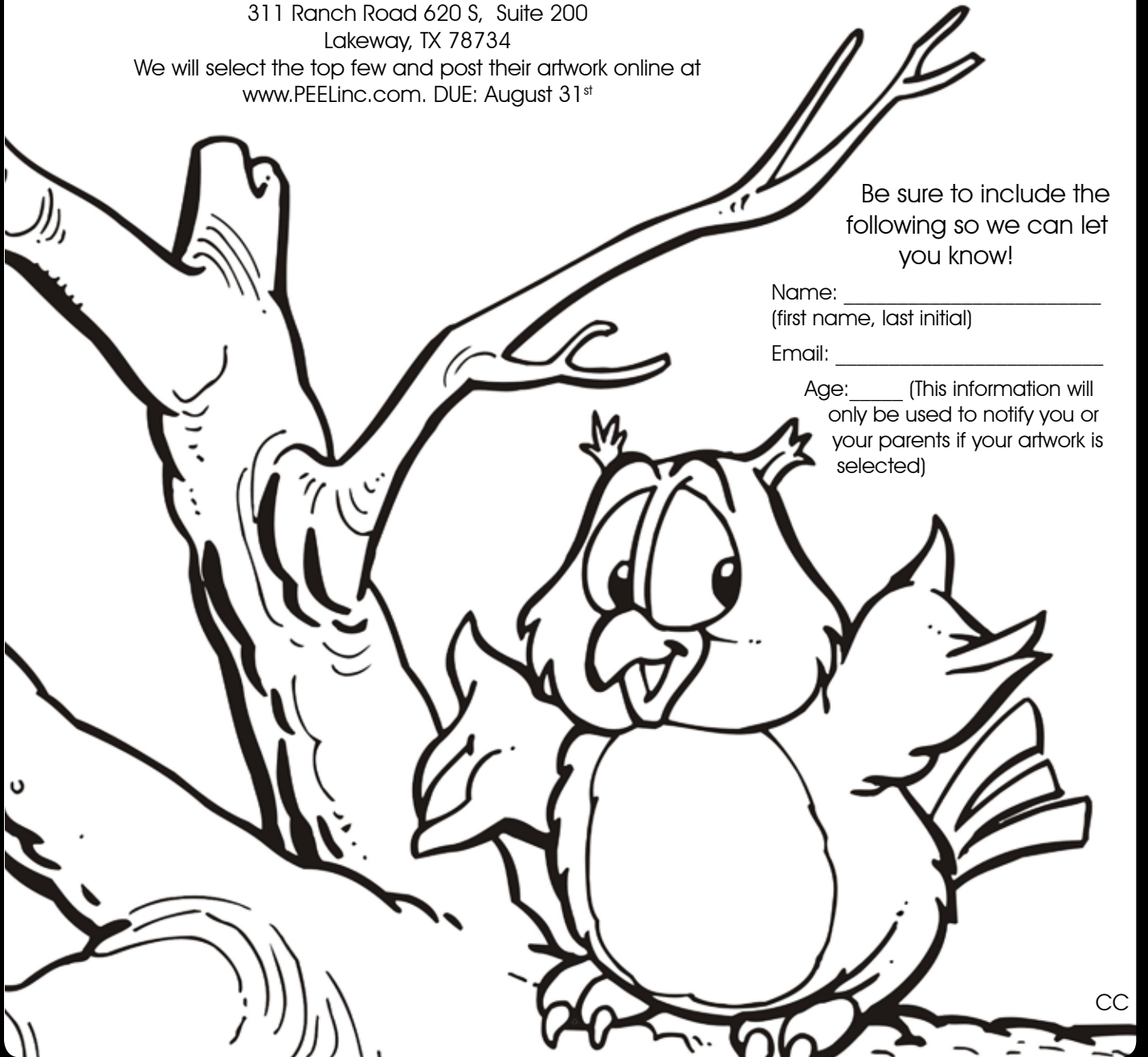
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