



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 12

December 2010

www.circlecranch.info

HOA Dues

Submitted by Russ Hodes, CCHOA Treasurer

The board evaluates the budget every year and they adjust the cap on our dues to fund the new budget. Now that we have committed to building the Circle C Community Center, we are also going to begin making payments on a loan, just as most of our members do with their own homes. The added new debt and annual operating costs increased our budget which required the board raise the cap 10%, prior to approving the 2011 budget.

Next year, the new swimming pool operation budget and staffing is projected to cost \$167,000. The community center will also have some new expenses, but we expect that we can rent part of the facility to offset those new expenses. The current swim center budget has increased, but we planned for more programming income to offset those increases. We will adjust the schedules and programming at both sites during the next year, to help manage costs and maximize usage.

From a financial perspective, I felt that gradually increasing the cap on HOA dues was preferable to passing a large, one time special assessment. The dues increase will be \$50 per home next year, whereas a one time special assessment would have been about \$550 and the cap would probably still be increased 5% just to cover the additional operating expenses (utilities, staffing, insurance, etc.). As the Treasurer, my opinion is that special assessments should be reserved for emergencies and never used for any capital improvement projects.

Next year will be exciting with the new facilities opening in the summer, but it will also include some moderate risk for extra expense, no matter how hard we forecast and plan. The project budget has a 10% margin for unexpected expenses built in. If the project comes in on target, there will be some extra funds at the end of the year for some of the smaller things that we had to cut out of the budget ("value engineering"). In fact, our Project Manager has a prioritized list of items that we cut out and he is prepared to add them back whatever the budget allows.

View more
**Official HOA
Communications**
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Circle C Community Center & Pool Update

You may see some activity at the New Community Center and Pool site (at La Crosse and Spruce Canyon) begin this month. We anticipate wrapping up the construction bidding/contract phase and city permitting process over the next month. As construction begins, we want to be sure that any concerns are addressed in a timely manner. We ask that you email the HOA at info@circlecranch.info with any questions or concerns.

HOA Holiday Closures

Swim Center

December 24-25
December 31-Jan 1

HOA Office

December 22-24
Jan 1

December Board Meeting

The December Board Meeting has been cancelled. The next Board Meeting will be held Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at 6:30pm at the CDC.

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

Advertising.....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

Muirfield HOA

Sara Huff 219-1927

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Russ Hodes Treasurer

Chris Poynor Secretary

Joel Pace Development Officer

Brad Compere..... Board Member

Rob Johnson Board Member

Steve Urban..... Board Member

Contact InformationEmail: directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Austin Solid Waste 974.1945

Dead Animal Collection..... 974.2000

Abandoned Vehicle..... 974.8119

Pothole Complaints..... 974.8750

Stop Signs 457.4885

Street Light Outage 505.7617

Schools

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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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. at 512-263-9181 or email advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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

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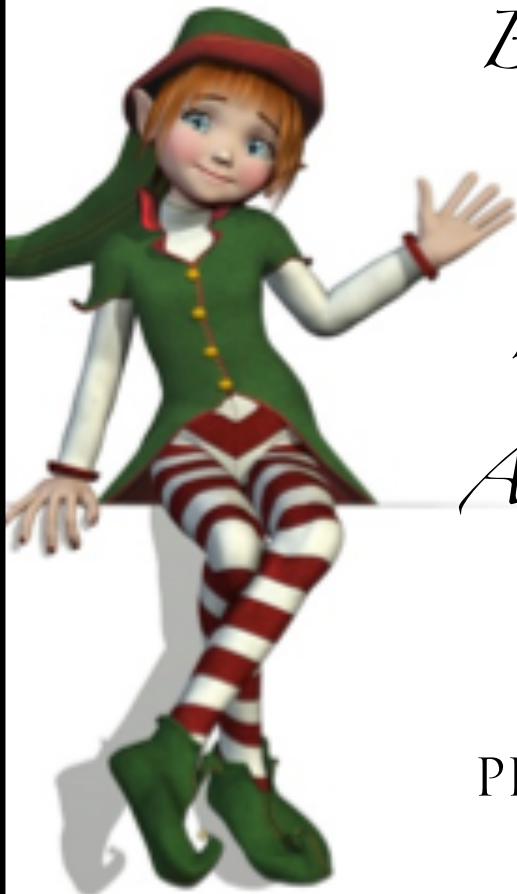
Obtain the Property Report required by federal law and read it before signing anything. No federal agency has judged the merits of value, if any, of this property.Developed by Legend Communities in partnership with Crescent Resources. Powered by Legacy International Resort Properties.

CIRCLE C HOA *Holiday Party*

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

10AM TO 12:30PM

CIRCLE C CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Breakfast Tacos, Coffee Bar

*Games * Face Painting*

*Bouncy Slide * Petting Zoo*

*Arts & Crafts * Pony Rides*

\$1 ADMISSION (ADULTS FREE)

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11200 South Bay



"We listed with John and went on our house-hunting trip. John sold our house in 3 days with multiple offers, so we had to come back early! Thanks John!" Andrew and Jan Anderson, 11200 South Bay

11004 Pairnoy Lane



"We have been searching for the perfect house with John for over 2 years. John found this home when it came on the market and we placed it under contract within 2 days! John found us our dream home for much less than we thought we would have to spend to get everything we wanted. He also leased our old house in a week!" Thanks, John! Steve and Debbie Davis 11004 Pairnoy Lane



11609 Hollister Lane



"JUST LISTED!" Absolutely stunning Fedrick Harris home right on the 8th tee box of Grey Rock golf course. Just an amazing house with a \$75,000. pool, spa and tropical landscaping including palms and rock-scaping! The outdoor living area is outrageous with hi-end stainless grill, beautiful fireplace, beaded ceiling, etc. With 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, office and 4 living areas, there is plenty of room for a growing family! Incredible property!

CircleCRealtor.com or SquiresTeam.com

Hey Circle C! One of the best times to sell your valuable Circle C home is during the holidays! Believe it! The homes are decorated to the hilt, they smell good with all the baking and buyers are in a great mood too! Many buyers, like grandparents, come in town to see the grandkids and look at homes that are available before the busy Spring. Call John for a free, easy, no-obligation market analysis on your home at (512) 970-1970!

10728 Galsworthy Lane



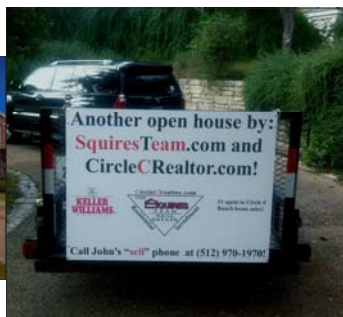
"We had John list our home because many of our neighbors had used him with great success and his signs are all over Circle C. We used John's move-up plan for our new home downtown and received an excellent offer on our old house within 2 days after John's open house. It was a seamless transaction from start to finish and we would highly recommend the Squires Team to anyone in Circle C!" Mark and Jennifer Rogers, 10728 Galsworthy

6824 Beatty Lane



This great little one-story in Circle C was sold to an investor that will receive a positive cash flow from a home in Gorzycki Middle School! Great value, 12% return, cash on cash, perfect investment. Call John if you want one too!

4403 Bellvue Lane



Whenever you see this trailer in your neighborhood it means the Squires Team is doing another open house! No-one markets your home in Circle C Ranch harder than the Squires Team!



Happy Holidays!!

John Squires and The Squires Team is the **#1** agent/real estate sales team in Circle C Ranch, with over 350 homes **"SOLD!"** in C.C.R.! **#10** out of Austin's "Top 50" teams and 9,000 other agents in central Texas. **#2** team in Keller Williams SW market center for 2009. Austinite since 1963.

Call John's "Sell Phone" at (512) 970-1970 for a free, no obligation market analysis on your valuable Circle C Ranch property. -Easy appointments, 7 days a week and nights! -Flexible commissions, no extra/hidden fees. -Generous move-up and move-down plans for your specific needs. -Flexible listing agreements with a cash back performance guarantee.



Call Kevin Scragg, your **Circle C** neighbor, at **(512) 529-8763!**

DEED RESTRICTION Tips of the Month

Holiday Lights – It's that time of year that many homeowners put up holiday decorations and lights. Please remember that decorations must be removed no later than January 15th. A good rule of thumb is to not turn on any lights until Thanksgiving.

Trash Cans – This is one of the most frequent call/email we receive in the HOA Office - PLEASE do your part and keep your trash and recycle bins out of view from the front of the street. This helps keep our streets and neighborhood looking neat and cared for.

SUBMITTED BY DENISE NORDSTROM, CCHOA MANAGER

TRIM YOUR TREES

City of Austin Code 6-3 requires property owners to trim trees in the public right of way (generally the first ten feet from the curb line) to a height of 14 feet. This allows for clear passage on sidewalks and clears all obstructions from street signs and traffic control signs. All shrubbery is also required to be cut back away from the sidewalk.

SUBMITTED BY DENISE NORDSTROM, CCHOA MANAGER

Annual Report to the Members

The CCHOA and Board of Directors is preparing the 2010 Annual Report to the members which will be published in the February 2011 newsletter. Copies will also be available from the HOA office and online.

Have a Question?

The HOA Management Staff is here to serve you. If you have a question or concern, please contact us either at 288-8663, info@circlecranch.info or drop by at 5919 La Crosse Avenue, Suite 100 (in the Swim Center Plaza). Office hours are 8am to 5pm, with walk-in hours 10am to 3pm.

HOA Email

Have You Signed Up Yet?

We are utilizing the HOA email database for up to date news and announcements. If you want to stay in the loop on HOA events, happenings, meetings, etc., please log onto www.circlecranch.info and sign up today!!

SUBMITTED BY DENISE NORDSTROM, CCHOA MANAGER



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Holiday Lighting Contest Needs YOU!

This year's holiday lighting contest will be held December 17-19th. In order for a home to be included, the address MUST BE SUBMITTED to our office no later than midnight, December 13, 2010. We need volunteers to help make this event happen. This can be a fun activity for the family, a group of friends or neighbors. You'll be assigned a manageable section to drive over the weekend and you'll submit your top picks.

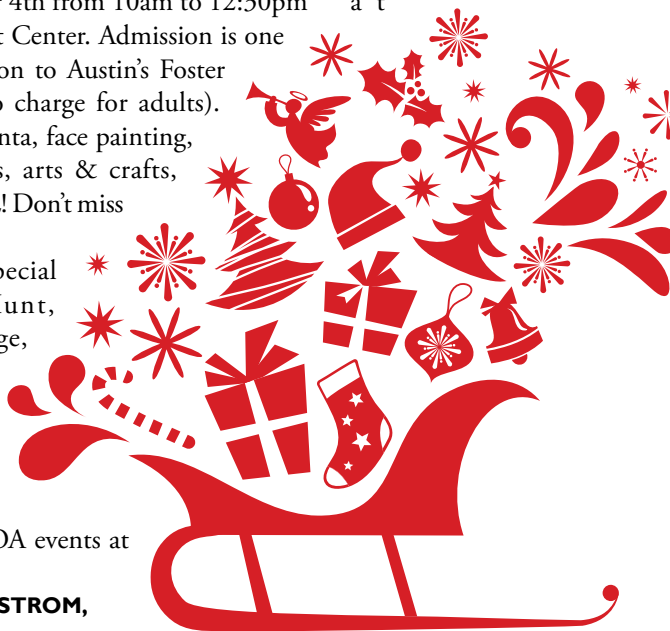
SUBMITTED BY DENISE NORDSTROM, CCHOA MANAGER

CCHOA Annual Holiday Event

Join us on Saturday, December 4th from 10am to 12:30pm at the Circle C Child Development Center. Admission is one new unwrapped toy (for donation to Austin's Foster Children) and \$1 per child (no charge for adults). Activities will include a train, Santa, face painting, pony rides, petting zoo, games, arts & crafts, breakfast tacos, coffee and MORE! Don't miss the most fun event of the year!

A BIG thank you to our Special Events Committee (Katy Hunt, Daphne Bamburg, Terri Savage, Linda Graf, Walter Reinhardt and Michelle Moran) for all of their hard work. We would also like to thank the Circle C Child Development Center for hosting this and many other HOA events at their facility.

SUBMITTED BY DENISE NORDSTROM, CCHOA MANAGER



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FOR SALE: Bunk Bed for sale \$275.00. Paid \$399.00. Very nice bed. Excellent condition. Comes apart to make 2 beds. Very sturdy and safe. 2 Mattresses are available for free. Contact Alison @ 351-3519.

Classified Ads

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

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

ROOFING GUIDELINES From The Architectural Control Committee

Submitted by Susan Hoover

Many homeowners in the neighborhood are replacing their aging roofs. The Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions require that all roofing materials be approved by the Architectural Control Committee. All of the existing roofs on existing homes were approved by the ACC at the time of the construction of the home.

GUIDELINES FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT:

Composite Roofing: 30 year architectural dimensional shingle. This is what is on the majority of roofs in Circle C Ranch.

Color: If you plan to use the same color as the existing roof, no approval is required.

- If you plan to change the color of the

roof, you will need to submit the shingle brand name and color to the ACC, along with a photo of your home. You can request by email to shoover@onr.com or drop your request by the CCHOA office at 5919 LaCrosse.

Other Roofing Types: If you plan to use a material other than composite roofing, you will need to make a full submission to the Architectural Control Committee. This will require a photo of your home, and an actual sample of the roofing type you plan to use. You will need to download the ACC submission form from the Circle C HOA website at www.circlecranch.info and log in as a resident to get the form.

There is no fee for a roofing change.

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Ronald McDonald House Tab Collection

Did you know that the tabs pulled from aluminum cans can bring in anywhere from \$.50 to \$1.00 per pound! 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. And thank you to everyone who is bringing in the tabs!

**SUBMITTED BY DENISE
NORDSTROM, CCHOA MANAGER**



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Circle C Swim Center - December 2010

Although it may be getting colder outside, the Swim Center is still buzzing with activities.

WINTER SWIMMING TIPS

It may be very cold outside, but don't let that scare you away from swimming. Other activities may be limited during winter, so swimming laps in a heated pool is a great way to stay in shape. We are hard at work to ensure that the pool is always heated to around 80-82 degrees. In addition to the pool heater, the lifeguards are putting on or pulling off tarps before and after each shift. These tarps lock in the heat between shifts and overnight to ensure that the pool is always at the ideal temperature. However, if the cold weather makes you resistant to swim over winter, here are some tips on swimming during cold months:

- Warm-up. You should always do a warm-up before swimming, but it's especially important to warm-up during the colder months.
- Don't forget your goggles and cap. These work wonders for swimming during colder months. In addition to these necessities, you can also wear earplugs, webbed swim gloves, neoprene swim socks, and a neoprene swim hood.
- Wetsuits are a great investment for swimmers who plan on swimming during winter. Wetsuits trap a thin layer of water in between you and the wetsuit. Your body quickly warms up this water which keeps you warm. Make sure that the wetsuit fits correctly, or else it won't do its job.
- Purchase a swim parka. These long coats will protect you from the cold, wind chill, and wetness. They are perfect to wear before and after a swim.
- Bring an extra towel. This is helpful in case one gets wet, or you can use one to dry off with and use the other to keep warm with.
- We have showers and heaters in the restrooms, so feel free to take a warm shower after your swim.
- Never swim if the temperature outside is 32 degrees or lower. The Swim Center will be closed in such a case.

Just remember, swimming is learned through repetition. Swimmers

who swim all year round maintain their level of skill and fitness, so starting and stopping swimming throughout the year will not show any progression. Don't let the cold weather scare you, the warm water feels great!

ADULT MASTERS SWIM

If you would like professional instruction on improving your swim skills, we are now offering an Adult Master's Program. This is an adult technique and conditioning class, that will teach you how to swim faster with less effort, and is for adults of ALL abilities. Drills for all four strokes will be incorporated to the structured practices, also increasing endurance. The class meets weekly on Monday and Wednesday from 7:45-9:00 a.m. The cost is \$50 per month for residents and just \$60 per month for non-residents, so encourage your friends to sign-up too.

The class is taught by former University of Texas at Austin swimmer, James Fike. He also competed at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials, and has taught swimming for the last five years both as a private instructor and a coach. If you have questions about the class, you may contact James directly at 512.418.6562. To register for the class, contact the Swim Center front desk at 512.288.6057.

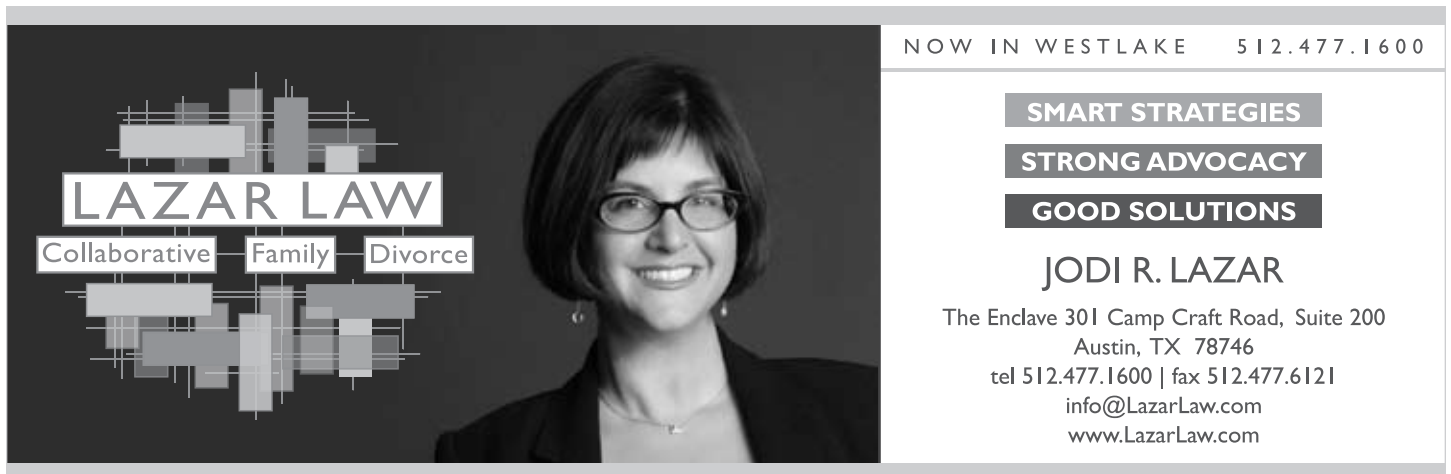
SWIM TEAM

Thanks to the Circle C Select Swim Team, we are staying very busy. The swimmers of the Select Swim Team are working especially hard this month, and we would like to congratulate those swimmers who have continued their dedication to the team throughout the colder months. Good job, team!

We also wanted to remind swimmers about the following swim team events:

- The Select Holiday Party is being held at the County Line on Saturday, December 4 from 1pm-3pm. An all-you-can eat meal will be offered, including turkey, sausage, brisket, potato salad, cole slaw, bread, soda, tea, and coffee. Cocktails may be purchased at an additional cost. As far as entertainment goes, the kids will lead the fun! The address of The County Line on the Hill is 6500 Bee Caves Rd, Austin, TX. All tickets should

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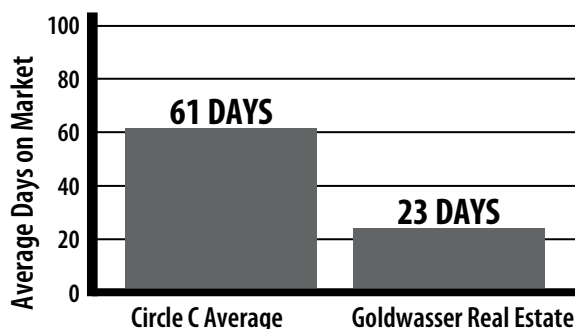
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- Assess your needs
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- Review your Net Analysis
- Conduct a home staging consultation
- Complete a home pre-inspection
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 - Skillfully negotiate offers
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Statistics based on data from the Austin Multiple Listing Service for 12/21/09 through 4/23/10.



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CCHOA News

Circle C Swim Center- (Continued from Page 12)

have already been purchased by this time. Please contact Jenn Hunt with any questions.

- The Reindeer Races swim meet will be held in Corpus Christi on December 11 and 12. Good luck to all our representatives and thanks to the parents for supporting our swimmers and they travel to represent Circle C. GO Serpents!
- Lastly, due to the holidays, practice times for December 20-30 will be different than normal. The Black and Senior Select teams will practice from 8am-10am, and the Blue, White, and Silver groups will practice from 10am-11am. There will be no practice on December 24, 25, 31, and January 1. The normal practice schedule will resume Monday, January 3, 2011.

We would like to send special birthday wishes to the following Select Swim Team swimmers with December birthdays: Megan Whittington (2nd), Kate Livingston (3rd), Parker Elder (4th), Nicholas Ray (5th), Lucy DeBonis (7th), Sydney Criswell (7th), Caedon Spencer (13th), Jordan Adkins (13th), Elliott Clapper (15th), Charlie Starr (17th), Galen Martens (17th), Harrison Gregg (17th), Lexi Hunt (21st), Larry Pan (23rd), Lilli Geen (30th), and Sydney Staveley (31st). Happy birthday from everyone at the Circle C Swim Center!

We also wanted to say a special thank you to all the wonderful

volunteer parents of the Select Swim Team. You have all done an outstanding job helping out whenever possible. Whether it's handing out candy, organizing a fundraiser, or passing out T-shirts, your hard work is greatly appreciated. It's safe to say that the team wouldn't exist without you, so thank you all very much!

Parents, don't forget to join the Yahoo! group and check the team website often. This is how everyone can communicate and stay connected about all upcoming Swim Team events.

We may be more than half-way through the competition season, but this is a year-round team, and it's never too late to join. We are always accepting new applicants. If you are interested in arranging a try out, contact Head Coach, Dave Kalange, at ccscoachdave@gmail.com. Also, check out the swim team website at <http://select.ccs swim.net>.

OTHER FACILITIES

For those who aren't interested in swimming during the winter, don't forget that we offer plenty of other facilities, including the playground, basketball court, and the volleyball court. We have elected to leave the parking lot gate open to these facilities outside of swim center hours – however, please note that the amenities are only open to 10pm each night.

(Continued on Page 15)



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Circle C Swim Center-
(Continued from Page 14)

The only times that the gate will be locked, will be during normal Swim Center business hours, when the pool is open. In such a case, you can enter through the front desk and all Swim Center policies will remain in effect. Make sure you remember your pool ID. Even though you aren't swimming, we will still check you in to ensure that you are a Circle C residents and current on your HOA dues. You are still welcome to bring guests to the other facilities but they will still need to sign in and pay the \$3 fee, and no more than four guests per household. It's a great time to enjoy these facilities, so come join us!

If you have any other questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Phone: (512) 288-6057

Email: customerservice@circlecranch.info

SUBMITTED BY ASHLEY GLADDEN

CIRCLE C SWIM CENTER NEWS



For those of you new to Circle C, we have a year-round heated swimming pool so don't let the cooler temperatures stop you from getting a work-out in!

WINTER HOURS

Effective October 17, 2010 thru
March 12, 2011

LAP SWIM

Monday-Friday
6:00-10:00 a.m. and 3:30-7:00 p.m.
Saturday - 8:00-11:00 a.m.
Sunday - Closed

HOLIDAY - ADJUSTED HOURS

(LAP SWIM ONLY)
Dec. 20-23 - 8:00-11:00 a.m.
Dec. 27-30 - 8:00-11:00 a.m.

HOLIDAY - CLOSURES

Dec. 24-25
Dec. 31-Jan. 1

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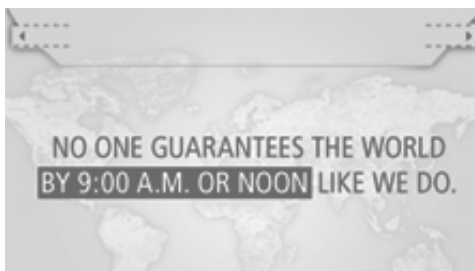


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DECEMBER STORE HOURS

Mon-Fri 8 AM - 6 PM
Saturday 9 AM - 5 PM • Sunday 11 AM - 4 PM



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– Shirley & George Haley



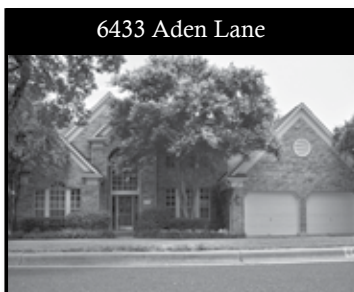
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Park West HOA News

Park West HOA News (Specifically for Park West Residents)

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Three open board positions were filled at the October 19 meeting. Congratulations to new directors Michael Harris, John Lowe and Jack Robinson. Jackie Rollins continues as Secretary and Linda Prieto as Treasurer. John Lowe was elected President. The board has several important jobs to complete in the three months before the Park West annual meeting, including the selection of a nominating committee to name candidates for four director positions and the preparation of the 2011 HOA budget. The Board of Directors encourages your attendance at the meetings, which are typically held on the third Monday of each month, convening at 6:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Your comments are welcome during the homeowners' forum.

The Board is committed to helping establish an open, friendly community, as well as fulfilling their responsibilities under the HOA's governing documents.

LOT 103

Especially for residents new to Park West: What is Lot 103? It is a City of Austin designated Water Shed Protection/Drainage Easement Area with a retention pond and a utility easement behind the residences from 10404-10428 Tasajillo Cove and 6328-6428 Tasajillo Trail. Lot 103 is owned and maintained by the Park West HOA and is a common area; however, its use is regulated by the City of Austin. The City has posted "No Trespassing" signs on Lot 103. HOA landscape contractors have permission to enter the property for maintenance work, and Park West residents also have access

to the property. In addition, Park West residents whose homes back up to the lot may weed-eat across the back fence line (up to 20 feet) and remove trash and fallen limbs. Dumping of trash and debris on Lot 103 is prohibited. Residents may not install or store personal items on the property. Lot 103 may not be used to access the Circle C Metropolitan Park on Slaughter Creek. If trespassers are observed using the property as a shortcut to the park or for any other reason, the Austin Police Department should be contacted by calling 9-1-1.

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

From Lisa Koonce: For the last two years, I've been invited to be a visiting scholar at Nanyang Tech University in Singapore. I've never been anywhere but Canada and the

(Continued on Page 21)



Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 20)

Caribbean before, so this was a real treat to go to Asia. What an interesting country. It's so clean; you cannot even imagine how clean. Parking garage floors are painted and spiffy clean. People back into the parking spaces, all very neat and tidy. Singapore is well known for its shopping, primarily Orchard Road. It has the equivalent of about twenty or more Water Tower Places (Chicago) on one road. Quite amazing. While Singaporeans are into their shopping, this is primarily a tourist attraction street. One day there and you've done that.

To me, though, the high point in Singapore is their hawker centres. These are essentially open 'food courts' where all kinds of great food are prepared by vendors. The food courts are highly regulated (a typical thing in Singapore) so they are extremely clean with little chance of problematic food. You can choose among many different types of food – Indian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Thailand, Japanese, etc. And it's so cheap, too, maybe \$2 US for a great meal. Indeed, just a great experience! Many locals eat at these courts each night. The Singaporean culture is such that people work long hours, so these centres are often busy at night. Many are located around big housing areas (housing there is high rise complexes; only the really rich have any kind of house with a yard).

The other real treat for me in Singapore was a small area called Little India. Such a contrast to the neat and clean Singapore, and such great bargains in a multi-story shopping complex called Mustafa Centre. I spent too many hours there buying stuff. Great fun.

Finally, if you ever get a chance to fly on Singapore Airlines, please do so as they put to shame the US airlines. I've never been on a better airline!!! But I'm glad I live in Austin; Singapore is hot and humid 24/7. But it's on the equator....what do you expect?

LET IT SNOW

Don't miss the 7th Annual Seton Southwest Hospital Holiday Bazaar on Friday evening, December 3. This year the theme is "Let it Snow." Those who have attended in previous years know how much fun the Bazaar is, with wine tasting, food samples from local restaurants, a sumptuous dessert bar, a Silent Auction with fabulous items to bid on, boutique-style shopping, musical entertainment and more. All proceeds from the Bazaar and Silent Auction go directly to the hospital. For more information and to purchase tickets, contact Park West resident and Seton Southwest volunteer Leta Dalton at 301-7218.

WISH YOU WERE HERE

October was a popular month for Park West residents to travel far and wide. Jackie Rollins hit the Big Apple for three days in advance of a flight to Ireland so she could show one of her traveling companions, who had never visited New York City, the sights. After a whirlwind tour of three museums in as many days, a Broadway show, LOTS of quality shopping and PLENTY of walking, they met up with another friend at JFK airport and it was off to the Emerald Isle for a week of

(Continued on Page 22)

Oak Hill United Methodist Church Christmas Schedule

Christmas Worship Services - Friday, December 24

5:00 p.m. - Family service

7:00 p.m. - Traditional service

9:00 p.m. - Contemporary service

11:00 p.m. Candlelight & Communion service

*Join us SUNDAYS for Vibrant Worship
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8:45 A.M. Blended Worship Service

10 A.M. Pathways Contemporary Praise Worship Service

11:15 A.M. Traditional Worship Service



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.

Park West HOA News

Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 21)

fun and more fun. Having lived and worked in Dublin several years ago, Jackie says her friends made her their “unofficial” tour guide. Besides visiting the usual requisite sights in Dublin (pubs and...more pubs, plus the Guinness brewery), they took a train to Galway and Connemara to see first and foremost the amazing Kylemore Abbey and motored from Dublin to Wicklow County on another day to visit the beautiful Powerscourt Gardens. Jackie returned home for barely six days and was then off on another travel adventure to Santa Fe with the Park West Travel Club, consisting of herself, Barbara Cothron and Anne Hansen. Although they are neighbors, they had “tested” their travel compatibility previously with a local trip to the Blanton Museum and a drive to Fredericksburg. (Just kidding! They always got along!) A great time was had by the three who spent their time visiting the Chimayo weavers, Taos, Canyon Road galleries, museums, shopping and taking the train to Galisteo Basin and back, to mention just a few things that kept them moving nonstop.

RULES REVISITED

Flyers offering holiday lights installation are already being circulated in the neighborhood. The PWHOA Rules permit holiday lights from Thanksgiving through January 15.....Oh, for green grass all year 'round. What about rye grass in the winter to grant this

wish? Sorry, it's a no-no. Only Bermuda and zoysia are permitted in Park West and all of Circle C, for that matter, so we'll just have to accept this seasonal change and wait until spring has sprung to grow green again.....

Sorry, but not everyone likes to see garbage and recycle carts out past their prime time, so please heed the deadline for returning these beasts of burden to their rightful place – stored out of street view in your garage or other storage area - by evening of the day of collection. And there's really no rush to get them to the curb the day before pickup because it happens to be a Sunday when Park West likes to show off to potential homebuyers and other visitors what a beautiful neighborhood it is. The magic hour for “curbing” them is the evening before the day of pickup....Thanks for reading and heeding this message.

HELPING HANDS

Marilyn Vaillant, whose granddaughter Ainsley McDonald, age 9, dances with Ballet Southwest Academy, has spent much of her spare time over the past four years designing and sewing costumes for Lisl Vaillant-McDonald's ballet productions. The most recent one is the upcoming *The Nutcracker*. Ainsley is pictured in the dress her grandmother designed and made for her performance in *The*

(Continued on Page 23)



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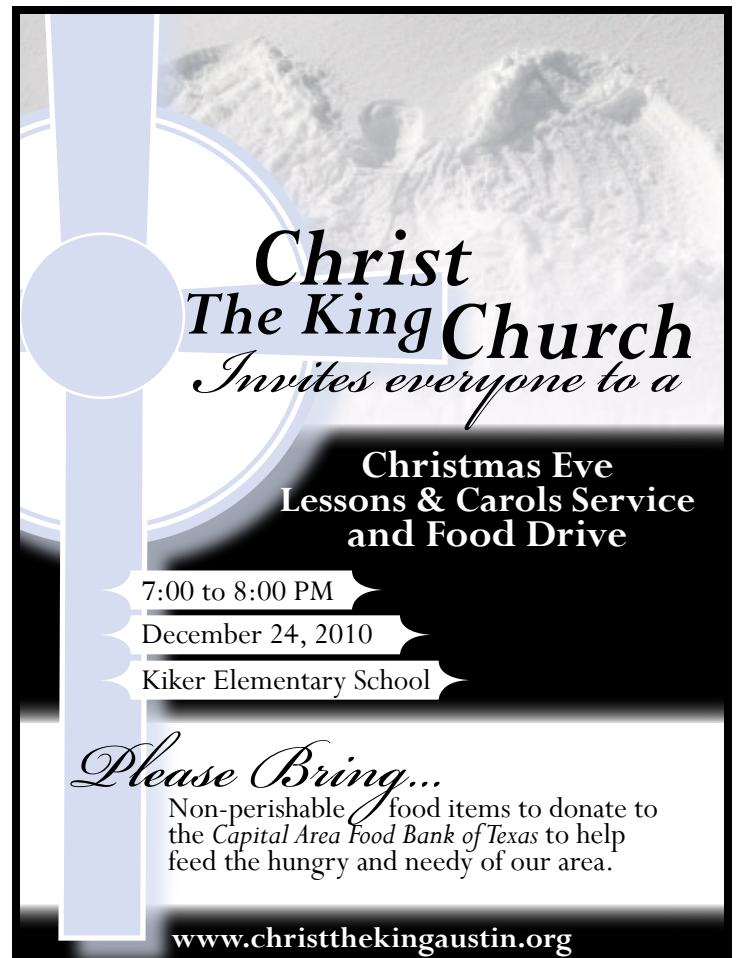
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December 24, 2010

Kiker Elementary School

Please Bring...

Non-perishable food items to donate to the *Capital Area Food Bank of Texas* to help feed the hungry and needy of our area.

www.christthekingaustin.org

Park West HOA News (Continued from Page 22)

Nutcracker. You can read more about the production in the Circle C section of this newsletter.

GOOD NEIGHBOR OF THE MONTH

Thanks and appreciation go to Donna Friedenreich for acting as Park West's "spokesperson" to Circle C Landscape regarding the appearance and maintenance of the exterior plants and shrubs at the east and west gates. As President of the Austin Area Garden Council at Zilker Botanical Garden, Donna has a great eye for things that bloom and this neighborhood benefits from her involvement in helping to maintain its inner and outer beauty.

UNTIL NEXT TIME

This is your column and your input is important. Without it, there wouldn't be a column. We'd really like to hear about that special neighbor for Good Neighbor of the Month, a volunteer for Helping Hands, or something about someone that you feel deserves a mention. So give them the credit they deserve by writing a few lines about why they should be recognized and submitting it for publication to JackieRollins02@aol.com.

SUBMITTED BY JACKIE ROLLINS



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Clubs & Announcements

Circle C Tennis News

Submitted by: Fernando Velasco, General Manager, Circle C Tennis Club.

COMBO STATE TENNIS CHAMPIONS



Austin was well represented at the 2010 USTA Sectional Championships during the weekend of October 15-17 weekend in Dallas, TX, by the "Eat, Play, Love" Team. Circle C Tennis Club Players from the team are: Gina Hughes, Kathy Smith, Kathleen Augustine, Matilda O'Connor, Michele Haggerty, Maureen Percenti, Shelly Foreman, Lisa Laird (Captain) and guest Michele Wenson.

The team was undefeated in the three matches in the Sectionals group representing Lubbock, Dallas and Corpus Christi, and qualified to advance to the playoffs. In the semi finals, they defeated the Ft. Worth team 2-1 and in the final match against the Northeast Texas team; they won all three matches, thus bringing the First Place Banner to Austin. The 7.5 division for the State of Texas was the largest division for this league, which makes winning the Championship an even bigger accomplishment.

FIRST VOLLEY CLINIC



The Circle C Tennis Club hosted the second annual "First Volley Clinic" for players who have prosthetic aids and players who are in wheelchairs. Over 20 players and 25 volunteers participated in this successful event sponsored by the Orthotic and Prosthetic Technologies Company from Austin. One of the guest player and participant was world class player Dennis Ralston, who was player, coach and captain of the U.S. Davis cup team; Wimbledon and US Champion; and travelling coach for Chris Evert, Yannick Noah, Gabriela Sabatini and John Lloyd. Mr. Ralston had his leg amputated after an infection following ankle surgery and is now learning to play and teach tennis with a prosthetic leg.

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DECEMBER EVENTS

*At the Lady Bird Johnson
Wildflower Center*

20TH ANNUAL WILD IDEAS SHOPPING EVENT

Friday and, Saturday, December 3 and 4, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 5, noon to 5 p.m.

Free admission.

Discounts and ornament signings in the store, all three days. Artists and artisans sell their wares in the Visitors Gallery on Saturday and Sunday

LUMINATIONS

Saturday and Sunday, December 11 and 12, 6 to 9 p.m.

Our festival of lights! Luminarias, local musicians, children's crafts, food and fun! Free with a donation to the Capital Area Food Bank.

WILDFLOWER CENTER CLOSED

December 24 through January 4



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Clubs & Announcements

Live Oak Referral Network

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Tell them The Live Oak Network is looking for more qualified, reliable professionals to join our growing business network!

The Live Oak Network is a non-competitive professional referral organization that admits only one highly qualified individual or company per professional category to share ideas, contacts and most importantly referrals.

Curious? Do you want to learn how to build your business by word-of-mouth referral? Visit us this Wednesday morning... have a great time, enjoy the good food, meet new people - and there is no obligation to join.

The Live Oak Network
Every Wednesday - 7:45 AM to 9:30 AM
Waterloo Icehouse Restaurant
9600 Escarpment Blvd, 78749

The \$10.00 meeting fee includes a healthy breakfast and beverages. Bring at least 50 business cards to hand out to our members. For more information email Katy@AUSTINREPS.com, or call 695-6347 for more information.

SUBMITTED BY KATY HUNT

MOMS Club of Austin - SW

Are you new to the area or a new mom who wants to get out and meet new people? We're a friendly, active support group just for you, the stay-at-home mom. We are the International MOMS Club with a chapter in your neighborhood. We offer a variety of activities, play dates, outings, educational speakers and most importantly, support. For more information, email swaustinmomsclub@gmail.com.

SUBMITTED BY KIM GALLANT

South Austin Mystery Book Club

If you love a good mystery story, come join us once a month at the South Austin Mystery Book Club. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 pm, at the Sunset Valley Barnes & Noble on Brodie Ln.

Our December, 21st, book is Nobody Move, by Denis Johnson, by Colin Cotterill, and our, January, 18th, book is The Case of the Missing Servant, by Tarquin Hall

If you have any questions please give me a call, 301-4914 or email, deschieck@yahoo.com.

SUBMITTED BY DAVID SCHIECK

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The Nutcracker

Ballet Southwest Academy will be presenting their youth production of The Nutcracker. You can discover the magic of this beloved holiday classic with the sumptuous sets and costumes supporting a vibrant cast that includes several Circle C students, a graceful Sugar Plum Fairy, an enormous Mouse King, a cavalier nutcracker prince, a dozen dancing candy canes, and many more delights! Performances run just over 60 minutes, with a 10 minute intermission, and are appropriate for all ages. Performances will be held at the Austin Waldorf School theatre on Dec. 4 at 4:00 and 6:00, and Dec. 5 at 2:00. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased by calling #512-288-8282. Read more online at balletsouthwestacademy.com.



com.

Ainsley McDonald, age 9, granddaughter of Park West residents Marilyn and Maurice Vaillant, will be performing in Ballet Southwest Academy's youth production of The Nutcracker. Ainsley's costume was sewn by her grandmother.

SUBMITTED BY JACKIE ROLLINS

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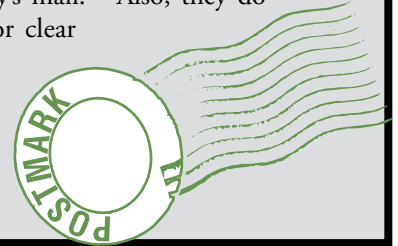
Neighborhood USPS Mail Sub Station

Did you know that we have a USPS Mail Sub Station close to our neighborhood where there are rarely lines and the service is courteous and efficient?

It's located in the Stor Self Storage facility across the street from the new Gorzycki Middle School on Slaughter Lane. The address is 7401 W. Slaughter Lane. They are open Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Pickup times are 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday.

They can handle any of your USPS shipping and mailing needs. Just a couple of things to note: If you haven't completed your transaction when the pickup is occurring, then your item will go out in the next day's mail. Also, they do not provide free priority or clear packing tape. They do sell it, however, or you can bring your own.

SUBMITTED BY LISA TODD



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JAMES BOWIE HIGH SCHOOL STARLIGHT THEATRE COMPANY PROUDLY PRESENTS...

Creative Dramatics Workshop



*James Bowie High School
Starlight Theatre Company
Creative Dramatics Workshop*

**Saturday, December 4
9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Children ages 5-11**

*(Please keep this portion after you send in
the following page.)*

Research studies indicate that experience in creative drama helps children in developing language arts skills, stimulating creative imaginations, developing an understanding of human behavior, boosting self-confidence, and participating in group work and group problem-solving.

The members of the award-winning James Bowie High School Starlight Theatre Company are offering a full day of opportunities to experience the world of creative drama. Children from ages five to eleven can participate in sessions, which will include pantomime, movement, improvised stories, and experiences designed for the growth and development of the player, rather than for the entertainment of the audience.

Children attending will be divided into three different age categories and will be assigned to one group leader who will stay with that group through each session.

Children attending will need to bring a sack lunch. A mid-morning snack will be provided.

Cost: \$35 pre-registration
\$40 on-site registration per child

Pre-Registration: Send or drop off attached sheet to be delivered by December 3 to:
Betsy Cornwell
Bowie High School
4103 W. Slaughter Lane
Austin, Texas 78749

On-site Registration: 8:30 - 9:00 A.M. on December 4

If you have any questions, please call 414-2343, preferably between 12 and 1 p.m. To reach Betsy Cornwell on the day of the workshop, please call the cell phone number, 577-5499.

Bowie High School is located one-half mile west of the Slaughter Lane and Brodie Lane intersection. Registration and meeting area will be in the hall next to the theatre. (Look for the "B" on the building and on the driveway.)

Please fill out this form and return with the payment by December 3. You may mail or drop it by the Bowie High School office.

Name of Child

Age

School - Grade

PAYMENT:

(PER CHILD)

\$35 pre-registered

\$40 on site registration

8:30-9:00 a.m.

Saturday, December 4

Parent

Home Phone

Cell Phone

SEND TO:

Betsy Cornwell

Bowie High School

4103 W Slaughter

Austin, TX 78749

Person other than parent who may pick up child

Recycle your Xmas Tree with the Bowie HS Tennis Team!

WHEN: Wednesday, Dec 29th and Sunday, Jan 2nd

The Bowie High School Tennis Team will be providing their yearly fundraiser, the Christmas tree pick-up, in your neighborhood. The trees will be going to the Austin Zoo for animal habitat, as well as going to an organic recycling facility on the outskirts of Austin.

Please leave your clean trees on the curb by 9am. A donation check payable to: "Bowie Tennis" can be left attached to the tree.

Email bowietennisrules@yahoo.com with your address and intended pick-up date or call (512) 301-1017.

The Bowie Tennis Team greatly appreciates the support it gets from the Circle C neighborhood. Your kind donations allow us to purchase much needed supplies and attend tournaments.

Many thanks,

Bowie Tennis

SUBMITTED BY ANGELA ALEXANDER

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The Wonders of Texas Bats



Within the rich and varied medley of Texas wildlife, few creatures are as fascinating and beneficial as the Lone Star State's 32 species of bats.

No other group of Texas mammals is more important to the balance of nature, and none is more diverse. Red, silver-haired, and spotted bats are strikingly colorful. Ghost-faced bats look as exotic as any dinosaur. Mexican free-tailed bats sing like warblers. Greater bonneted bats have narrow wings

for jet-like flight, while big-eared bats fly like helicopters on broad wings. Most Texas bats eat insects, including many that attack farmers' crops. Other Texas bat species are essential pollinators of desert plants.

Worldwide, there are more than 1,100 species of bats – nearly a fourth of all mammal species. Bats are found everywhere except in the most extreme desert and polar regions. Most live in tropical forests, where they feed on fruit, nectar, pollen, and insects. A few tropical species feed on small fish, frogs, mice, and birds. Despite their notoriety, vampire bats, which do indeed feed on blood, account for only three of the world's bat species and live only in Latin America.

Most Texas bats feed almost exclusively on insects, except for pallid bats that also prey on scorpions and centipedes, and long-nosed and long-tongued bats that eat nectar and pollen.

Millions of Mexican free-tailed bats spend their summers in a single cave on the fringe of San Antonio. Their emergence each evening is one of the most awesome sights in nature. Bats spiral up from Bracken Cave in an unbroken stream for hours. The countless flapping wings spread a whispered "whoop ... whoop ... whoop" over the arid Hill Country.

The bats form great columns that wend over towns and farms for miles around. Each night, the bats eat some 200 tons of insects, many of them costly agricultural pests that would otherwise attack cotton and corn crops.

Another, more famous colony of about 1.5 million Mexican free-tailed bats spend their summers under the Congress Avenue Bridge in downtown Austin. Like the Bracken Cave bats, this is a maternity colony of female bats that give birth and raise their young while

(Continued on Page 29)

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The Wonders of Texas Bats- (Continued from Page 28)

snuggled into the bridge's crevices.

Each night, the bridge bats come streaming out to patrol the city in search of flying insects. By morning, they will have eaten about 20,000 pounds of pests. This twilight "emergence," with the urban skyline as a backdrop, is a dramatic sight that draws tens of thousands of visitors each summer.

Mexican freetails arrive each spring after spending the winter in Mexico. They return south after the first cold fronts of fall.

Bat Conservation International owns and protects Bracken Cave and its remarkable bat colony. The organization, which moved to Austin from Milwaukee in 1986, was also instrumental in saving the bats of the Congress Avenue Bridge from extermination.

When the bridge was renovated in 1980, engineers inadvertently created an ideal bat roost by adding a series of long, thin joints along the underside of the bridge. Bats by the hundreds of thousands moved in over the next few years, and the public reacted with near panic. But Bat Conservation International educated the city and its leaders about the benefits and safety of those bats, and now they are a beloved and economically valuable part of Austin.

Bat Conservation International is the world leader in defending these beleaguered flying mammals and the habitats they serve so well. From its headquarters in Austin, BCI has achieved major



conservation successes, dispelling myths and educating the public and decision-makers of many countries about the benefits of bats, and winning protection for many bat populations and habitats.

Bat Conservation International combines education and outreach with scientific research and direct conservation action to transform attitudes and protect bat populations now and for years to come. The nonprofit organization supports and nurtures future scientists and conservationists and helps establish self-sustaining conservation efforts around the world.

Now North American bats are facing the gravest threat ever, as the wildlife disease known as White-nose Syndrome continues spreading across the country after killing more than a million bats in four years. White-nose Syndrome has not reached Texas yet, but the fungus that's associated with it was reported last spring in Oklahoma.

The threat is imminent. Bats need your support now more than ever. For more information go to Bat Conservation International (www.batcon.org) and see how you can help ensure that bats will still be around to keep our natural world healthy for our children and grandchildren.

SUBMITTED BY AE MARTIN



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Non-toxic Cleaning Solutions for the Bathroom

Many of the commercially available cleaning products for the bathroom use very strong chemicals. Although they may be very effective, there are non-toxic alternatives that you can easily make yourself. Let's start with the shower. To clean the grout and soap scum there are two good alternatives. One is to make a paste of equal parts baking soda and borax; and add lemon juice to desired consistency. I apply this paste using an old washcloth or brush and then rinse well. This paste is non-abrasive and can be used on bathtubs as well. The lemon juice has disinfectant properties and leaves a fresh, clean smell. Also, the borax and baking soda absorb odors as well. Another option is to combine 2 parts baking soda, 1 part Borax and 1 part hot water, adding water as necessary to make a thick paste. Apply the paste to the tile and grout. Scrub with a soft brush and rinse well.

To help prevent soap scum build up on the shower door and walls, use a squeegee to remove water after each shower.

For fiberglass showers and tubs you can heat white vinegar until it is hot, but not too hot to pour into a spray bottle and work with. Spray it heavily on the shower or tub. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then moisten a scrubbing-type sponge with more of the vinegar and scrub, using additional heated vinegar as necessary. Rinse well and dry. The vinegar smell will dissipate.

To clean soap scum and mildew off plastic shower curtains, place the shower curtain in the washing machine with one cup of white vinegar, ¼ to ½ cup of your favorite liquid laundry detergent, and several old, light colored towels. Fill the washing machine with warm water and run through a complete wash and rinse cycle. Remove from the washing machine and hang on the shower rod immediately to dry.

I haven't forgotten about the countertops, mirror and toilet, but I shared my recipes for an all purpose cleaner, glass cleaner and toilet cleaner in my first article in the October newsletter.

I wish you a merry, non-toxic Christmas!

SUBMITTED BY LISA TODD



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