

Volume 9, Number I

January 2012

www.circlecranch.info

Circle C HOA Annual Meeting and Board Election

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the two open board seats (election to be held at the Annual Meeting on March 7, 2012 at 6:30pm at the new Circle C Community Center) through January 16, 2012. You can download a Candidate Questionnaire from the News Section of the Circle C Website, www.circlecranch.info

The Annual Meeting and Election will be held on **Wednesday, March 7, 2012 at 6:30pm** at the new Circle C Community Center. Your ballot and proxy will be printed on the back side of the first 2012 CCHOA dues assessment invoice (which is mailed Feb 1 and due Mar 1).

The Nominating Committee will host a Candidate Forum in February, date to be determined and posted on the website and in the February newsletter.

Annual Report to the Membership by the Board of Directors

The 2011 Annual Report to the membership from the Board of Directors will be printed in the February newsletter. A copy will also be posted on our website and available in the HOA office.

Please take a moment to vote this year in the CCHOA Board of Directors Election. We need a 10% quorum in order to host the annual meeting in March.



Circle C Holiday Party

Unfortunately this year's holiday party didn't have the greatest weather, but despite the rain, cold and mud, many children and their families still joined us on December 3 to celebrate the Circle C Annual Holiday Party. And even though we had to cancel some of the activities and had to move the event inside, we still managed to collect many gifts for the Adoption Coalition of Texas, which is an organization for Austin's foster children. Thank you to everyone who donated. We would also like to thank our Special Events Committee, our volunteers and the Circle C Child Development Center and Staff for helping us host a wonderful event!

View CC Holiday Party pictures inside!



Holiday Lights Wrap Up!

The Holiday Lighting Contest was still days away at the time of going to print for this newsletter, however we would like to thank the many volunteers who stepped up to help judge.

We'd also like to send a reminder to all that holiday lights must be removed by January 15th. Thank you for your cooperation.



CCHOA NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Office info@circlecranch.info or 288-8663 HOA Financial Office
Peel, Inc. Sales Office
Advertisingadvertising@PEELinc.com, 512-263-9181
Circle C Amenities
Circle C Café
Circle C CDC
Circle C Swim Center
Circle C Tennis Club General@CircleCTennis.com, 301-8685
Sub Association Info:
KB Enclave and Fairway Estates HOA
Karen Hibpshman, CMCA, Manager
Parkwest HOA
Goodwin Management
Streetman Enclave HOA
Rosalind Peterson
Muirfield HOA
Sara Huff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Chris Poynor	Secretary
Joel Pace	Development Officer
Rob Johnson	Board Member
Brad Compere	Board Member
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Contact the board at	directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Austin Solid Waste	
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Abandoned Vehicle	
Pothole Complaints	
Stop Signs	
Street Light Outage	
Schools	
Clayton Elementary	
Kiker Elementary	
Kiker Elementary	
Kiker Elementary Gorzycki Middle School	
Kiker Elementary Gorzycki Middle School Small Middle School	

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.

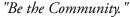
ADVERTISING INFO

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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- 3) The economy is showing continued improvement... which boosts confidence in the real estate market!
- 2) Low, Low, Low Interest Rates which improves buying power... and rates aren't likely to go any lower!
- 1) All the stars may be in alignment... if you are thinking of moving up your wait is over...take advantage of the market in 2012!

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Information

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

CCHOA Announcements

Submitted by Denise Nordstrom, CCHOA Mgr.

COMMUNITY CENTER TO OPEN SOON!

Have a book club and need a place to meet? Throwing a baby shower? Hosting game night? Need a conference room for your next big meeting? We've got you covered!

Construction is still underway for the Community Center, but we are hoping and planning on a late January completion date. Policies and fees for reservations of the Community Center are posted on our website under the Community Center tab. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions about reservations. We are so excited to share this new facility with you, but like anything else, there is going to be a learning curve, so let us know if you have any suggestions for the Community Center's use.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

We have a number of projects around the neighborhood that are starting, finishing or in the midst of construction! These include Parkside Village at MoPac/Slaughter. The Austin Diagnostic Clinic opened there in December, and it appears that the retail will follow in early 2012. The next big opening will be for the Alamo Drafthouse which is now scheduled to open in March.

At La Crosse/MoPac a new graduate school of physical therapy is under construction. This will be for approximately 500 graduate physical therapy students and the faculty. They will be constructing Phase I of the school over the next several months. This includes the primary building and parking lot area. The building is set back

from La Crosse, and the entry will be across from Eclipse.

The Circle C Community Center should be up and running in early 2012 as well. We look forward to the completion of the project and opening the Center up to the community soon.

Residential development includes the east side of Barstow, which will soon begin six residential homes. The west side will go under construction in early 2012.

(Continued on Page 7)



17 years of dedicated service in Southwest Austin





CCHOA Announcements- (Continued from Page 6)

To the south, Avana, the newest Circle C community is well under way with their first phase, Esquel. They will be continuing further south with the project, which includes residential homes in a great natural setting.

KB Homes continues to market and sell Golf Course Estates, and a few homes in the Enclave, located at Spruce Canyon and La Crosse. D.R. Horton has finished Alta Mira, further to the west.

NEW GUIDELINES FOR WATER WISE LANDSCAPE PLANS



Did this summer's extreme heat and severe drought kill your yard? In an effort to assist homeowners who want to change their landscape to a more drought tolerant Central Texas landscape, the Architectural Control Committee is setting new design guidelines for front yards. The goal is to provide attractive and well maintained landscaping for Circle C front yards that enhance curb appeal while emphasizing water conservation.

Water Wise Landscapes provide an attractive alternative for those who are interested in water conservation. They retain green elements, are full of color and texture and provide an interesting area for humans and wildlife while contributing to water conservation.



To see the full set of guidelines, visit our website, http://www. circlecranch.info. Click on Resource Center, Architectural Control Committee, and then Guidelines for Water Wise Landscape Plan.

All homeowners who are substantially changing their front yard landscape are required to submit a landscape design plan to the Architectural Control Committee. Forms for the submission can be found at www.circlecranch.info.

HAVE YOU RECEIVED A DEED RESTRICTION NOTICE?

As reported in each month's newsletter, the HOA staff drives at least two sections of the neighborhood per month to note violations of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. These commonly include: front yard landscape maintenance (mowing, edging, free of weeds), home maintenance (paint, screens, siding) and recreational vehicles (boats, RV's, trailers) parked in the driveway. The HOA is required by state law to notify owners in writing via certified mail and allow for the homeowner to request a hearing before the board of directors. If you receive a letter, please contact us at the HOA office and let us know your individual situation. We would like to work with you to bring your home into compliance. If you would like to report a violation, you can do so via our website at www.circlecranch.info. *(Continued on Page 8)*



CCHOA News

HOA Manager Announcements- (Continued from Page 7)

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

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

HOUSE ADDRESS MARKINGS

It has been brought to our attention that during this past holiday season, packages and deliveries were delayed due to drivers being slowed down while searching for a specific house number. If these drivers were having difficulty, you should assume that EMS, fire, and police will also have difficulty should you need them in an emergency situation. Please make sure that your home address is clearly marked and visible from the street.

BEA GOOD NEIGHBOR

The Association receives many calls from owners regarding barking dogs. We encourage neighbors to talk to neighbors if this is an issue. However, the Association also sends out Cooperative Letters alerting owners when this is reported. Keep in mind – the Association cannot verify barking dogs; we are relying on information reported from a third party. If you have a pet, take a moment to consider whether they are nuisance to your neighbors and modify the routine. Perhaps ask your neighbors if your dog(s) barking is ever a problem.

PLEASE OBEY THE SPEED LIMIT

Speed limit laws should always be obeyed. It's especially important this time of year when we are getting more rainfall than average. Wet and slick, sometimes even icy, roads are especially dangerous. Be careful out there and be mindful of other drivers, neighbors, and children.

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE TAB COLLECTION

Thank you, thank you, thank you to everyone who is in the habit of collecting their aluminum soda can tabs! The HOA is continuing to collect aluminum soda can tabs in the management office so please DO NOT throw your cans away without taking off the tabs. The tabs will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas. To read more about the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Austin and Central Texas, you can visit http:// www.rmhc-austin.org/. Thank you to resident Bob Hendee for volunteering his time to this effort.





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CIRCLE C SWIM CENTER UPDATE Submitted by Jessica Burkemper

MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL

23+ Adult Members

A friendly reminder to all, aside from the primary and secondary adult, if anyone listed under your membership account is currently age 23 or older, proof of residency is required annually. This can be either a Photo ID with the Circle C address, or a piece of mail addressed to that person at the Circle C address. Please plan to bring this proof of residency with you on your first visit to the Swim Center in 2012.

If a member of your household will turn 23 in 2012, the Swim Center will email a reminder during the month of their birthday directly to you that proof of residency will be needed. Please email customerservice@ccswim.net if you have any questions about this policy.

Bringing a Guest to the Swim Center

Also, Guest Information Forms are archived at the end of each calendar year. Please plan for each guest you bring to the Swim Center to complete a new Guest Information Form. This form can still be found online at www.ccswim.net. Every guest must complete one for the new calendar year, even if they have been here previously, and this form must be signed by the guest. If the guest is 17 or younger, then a parent or legal guardian's signature must be acquired. The Swim Center will not accept verbal permissions over the phone.

Once we receive the new form from each guest, we will keep it on file and simply record the guest's entry for any additional visits. This new form will only need to be filled out one time each year and will be effective until December 31 of that year. This annual form will ensure up-to-date information in case of emergencies, as well as make the guest sing-in process quicker and easier for everyone. Guest fees and policies will still apply during each visit.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: GET BACK IN THE WATER!

It's that time again. Make a commitment this year that you will be sure to achieve. Since membership to the Swim Center is already provided to you as a member of the Homeowner's Association, and our facility is open year-round, it's a perfect place to start.

Write your goals down and a plan of action to achieve them. Then, share them with a spouse, family member or friend so that they can help ensure that you are able to stay on track. Encourage them to do the same so that you can help them to achieve their goals as well.

"Athletes should set goals anyway. Jan. 1 is the perfect time to take that to the next level by making a formal announcement," said Pam Braseth, head coach for the USA Bluewater Barracudas, Okaloosa County, Fla.

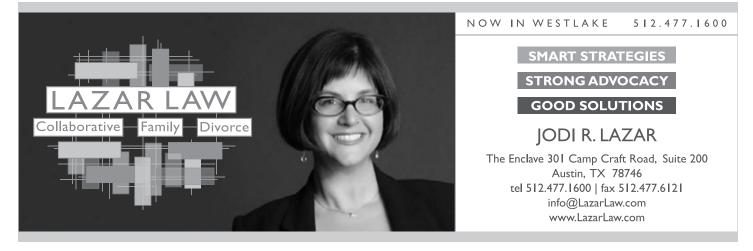
According to a 1997 University of Washington survey on New Year's resolutions, other keys to successful resolutions include strong commitment to a few attainable goals, plans that measure progress and taking action daily.

"Once you've made a resolution, create a plan to achieve it."

www.usaswimming.org

If you need help in setting personal swimming goals, check out our Master's Swim Program, even if only for a month or two. In this class, Coach Hayley works with each student to set individual goals that will continue to improve both skill and ability. The class is only \$50 per month for residents, and is offered three-times weekly 7:45-9:00 a.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Come to as many of the classes as you want, or come just once a week and do your

(Continued on Page 12)



Now in Curr A Diagnostic Clinic

NEW YEAR. NEW LOCATION. Same great care.

Now Open!

Serving families in Austin since 1952, The Austin Diagnostic Clinic is now open at a location near you in Circle C. Our new office in Parkside Village on the southwest corner of Mopac and Slaughter Lane features *EasyCare* after hours and weekend services. Medicare and most insurance plans are accepted.

FEATURING: PEDIATRICS, FAMILY PRACTICE, PODIATRY, ALLERGY, LAB & X-RAY AND EASYCARE

Moving from ADC South to ADC Circle C are:

PEDIATRICIANS Vanessa Chiapetta, MD Diane Garza, MD Beth Nauert, MD

Beth Nauert, MD Sara Woods, MD

PODIATRY Nolaska Souliotis, DPM FAMILY PRACTITIONERS Jennette Cross, MD Shelley Li, MD

ALLERGISTS Thomas Smith, MD John Villacis, MD

EASYCARE

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CCHOA News

Circle C Swim Center- (Continued from Page 10)

custom, individualized workouts on your own time the other 6-days of the week. Have your friend join you so that you can encourage each other along the way, and if your friend is a non-resident, it's only \$60 per month for them.

CIRCLE C SELECT SWIMTEAM

The Swim Center still has Select Team merchandise for sale at the Front Desk. Get your Silicone Swim Caps (\$12), Latex Swim Caps (\$4.50), T-shirts (\$8/\$10) and Long Sleeve Shirts (\$15) now and show your support for the Serpents!

The Circle C Select Swim Team is staying busy through the holiday season. Swimmers participated in two local meets in November, traveled to Corpus Christi for the Reindeer Races in December and are preparing for the Championship Season. Congratulations to all swimmers who placed in the meet events!

UT NOVEMBER UNCLASSIFIED

Congratulations to all the Select swimmers who participated in the UT meet on November 11-13. Each swimmer did a great job and we are proud to announce the amazing results from all three days:

On Friday afternoon, Select Team started off strong with 9 swims, and 7 best times. Overall the swimmers dropped 29.25 seconds, and 7 out of 9 swimmers achieved 100% best times.

The swimmers did an excellent job Saturday morning. Out of the 46 swims, there were 41 best times. Overall the swimmers dropped 115.29 seconds! 100% of the athletes achieved at least one personal best, and 15 out of 17 swimmers achieved 100% best times.

Out of 20 swims, there were 17 best times Saturday afternoon. 100% of the swimmers achieved at least one best time. 7 out of 9 swimmers achieved 100% best times. Overall the swimmers dropped 29.22 seconds.

Sunday the swimmers did an amazing job. In the morning, there were 35 swims, and 29 best times. 15 out of 16 swimmers achieved at least one personal best, and 7 achieved 100% best times. They dropped an amazing 92.82 seconds.

Sunday afternoon, out of 13 swims, there were 13 best times! 7 out of 7 swimmers achieved their 100% best times. They dropped 89.93 seconds overall.

Overall, the swimmers dropped at total of 356.51 seconds, roughly 6 minutes! WOW! Great job, Select Team!

REINDEER RACES

The Select Swim Team traveled to Corpus Christi to represent Circle C Dec. 3-4, at the Reindeer Races Meet. It was once again a very successful meet for our swimmers.

(Continued on Page 13)



Circle C Swim Center- (Continued from Page 12)

On Saturday, swimmers competed in 47 races. In 37 of them personal best times were achieved with 17 of the 18 swimmers achieving at least one best time. In total on day one we dropped 133.32 seconds, which is an average of 3.6 seconds per race in which a personal best was achieved.

Swimmers competed in 28 races and achieved 27 personal best times on Sunday. 100% of the swimmers achieved at least one personal best! On day two, a total of 141.07 seconds, or an average of 5.2 seconds per race, was dropped by the Select Swim Team.

Overall our team dropped another 274.39 seconds, which is over 4 and a half minutes! In addition, every one of our athletes that competed in the meet were able to take home at least one place ribbon. 70 of our 75 races were top eight performances!

A big congratulations to Kaitlyn McDaniel, she was awarded as a high point champion, winning 9 of her ten events in the 9-10 year-old category.

Another great meet for all of the hard working and dedicated swimmers of the Circle C Select Swim Team. Congratulations and keep up the great work!

NOVEMBER SWIMMERS OF THE MONTH

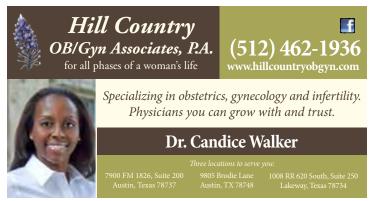
The Swim Center would like to congratulate Ethan Ordaz, Calion Phan and Nicholas Ray for being awarded as the November Swimmers of the Month.



Ethan was awarded on the White Team for displaying the most improvement in swimming skill as well as an improvement in attitude and behavior.

Calion on the Silver Team was awarded for having a great attendance record and being positive and attentive.

Nicholas on the Black Diamond Team was awarded for his attendance, hard work and a positive attitude. He has also had stellar meet performances all season long.



SWIMMER'S JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

We would like to send special birthday wishes to the following Select Swim Team swimmers with January birthdays: Brian Jordan (7th), Brooke Fertig (8th), Rohit Shetty (18th), Kaitlyn McDaniel (21st), Miranda Kagy (29th), and Bianca Rodriguez (30th).

WINTER HOURS

Oct. 17, 2010 - Mar. 12, 2011:

Monday-Friday: 6-10am & 3:30-7pm

Saturday: 8-11am

Sunday: Closed

Lap swim only during winter. The wade pool and recreational swim area are closed for the season.

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Circle C Landscape

Submitted by Susan Hoover

Believe it or not, there are many landscape tasks that are important in the middle of winter. Generally, depending on the weather, we will be trimming back the spring and early summer perennials in January. At the end of January, we start on light trimming of the crepe myrtle trees. This is also a good time to add compost to the beds, and touch up the mulch.

For turf areas, you can check for thatch and get it cleaned out, a necessary task before we get to spring. Throughout December, we got a little rain every week, and turned off all of the irrigation throughout Circle C. During the dormant period, your turf, beds and trees will generally exist with little supplemental water. The exception would be new trees, which need regular watering so they don't dry out.

We will be working closely with the City of Austin over the next few months as they revised the watering restrictions to better deal with prolonged drought conditions. At Circle C, the Board of Directors and Circle C Landscape are very committed to water conservation. Over the winter, we are installing quick couplers along the boulevards. These are lockable hose bibs which help us hand water during extreme conditions. We are also installing additional drip irrigation whenever possible, as this is a big water saver. Drip will water the roots of the plant thoroughly and it eliminates water waste by having no run-off and very little evaporation. Other things that we are doing to assist our vegetation and save water include top dressing the turf areas. This was done in late October, and it helps the turf stay in good condition with less water. We believe that aerating and top dressing are two important elements in water conservation. They are best done as the grass goes into a growing period, however, just about any time is also good. You may want to consider this for a later January/early February project.

As usual, I am giving my annual warning against fertilizing too early in the spring. This is especially true for St. Augustine. It is more likely to develop brown patch if it has too much nitrogen. That means a light fertilization in the Spring when the grass is actively growing. It has to be warm enough for the grass to start growing, so you are looking for night time temperatures that are consistently above 60 degrees. A good rule of thumb is to wait until you have had to mow the grass two times.

Again, hopefully, you can spend a little time in your yard over the winter, as you prepare for a good spring with your beds and turf.

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Park West HOA News

Park West HOA News (Specifically for Park West Residents) Submitted by Dorian de Wind

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Mark your calendar for the Park West Annual Homeowners Meeting on Tuesday evening, February 7, 2012 at 6:30 pm. You will receive by mail an information package about a month in advance of the meeting. It is a great opportunity to meet with your neighbors, learn about activities that support this neighborhood as a great place to live and to elect three members of the PWHOA Board.

LANDSCAPER NEWS

Austin finally received a significant amount of rain in November. The cumulative total for the month was around four inches. In Park West, there was a lot of grass healing and areas that were splotchy began to fill in. We will spread a high quality composted soil over the grass at the east and west mail centers in the coming weeks to help these areas revive. In the spring we will over-seed any yards that are Bermuda tiff grass and have vacant/splotchy areas. We will also top-dress the front right strip at the west mail center and over-seed the path between the houses that goes back to the green belt. These two areas need the most help.

Irrigation checks and repairs were minimal. I think we did two of each in November. Seasonal color is looking very good at the mail centers. At this writing, the mulching of the front yards was to begin on Tuesday, December 6. Through the month of November, our crew spent much of their time removing leaves and doing the fall trimming of bushes and plants.

Thank you. Scott Smith, Pearson Landscape Service

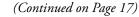
TO ANSWER (THE PHONE) OR NOT TO ANSWER

Submitted by Dorian de Wind

If your household is like mine, you receive several calls a day that turn out to be from telemarketers, political

and other questionable organizations, or so-called "robocalls," etc.

Also, if you are like me, you may rely on your caller ID to avoid such unwelcome phone pitches.





Park West HOA News- (Continued from Page 16)

However many of these organizations and businesses are now using practices called "caller ID spoofing" or "call laundering" to lure you into picking up that phone and giving you that pitch.

A recent article in the New York Times, saying, "caller ID is becoming fake ID" describes this new and disturbing practice and warns:

Telemarketers are increasingly disguising their real identities and phone numbers to provoke people to pick up the phone. "Humane Soc." may not be the Humane Society. And think the I.R.S. is on the line? Think again.

"You don't know who is on the other end of the line, no matter what your caller ID might say," said Sandy Chalmers, a division manager at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in Wisconsin.

Starting this summer, she said, the state has been warning consumers: "Do not trust your caller ID. And if you pick up the phone and someone asks for your personal information, hang up."

While the Federal Trade Commission already prohibits telemarketers from masking their identity and has introduced rules to strengthen the enforcement against the practice, such efforts apparently have had little effect.

Just some words of caution:

- Sometimes, the calls appear to be local calls, perhaps from a legitimate local business, but aren't
- Sometimes they look very legitimate, but aren't.



- Sometimes calls are routed onto the internet and back onto the public telephone network, thereby masking the call's origin.
- Sometimes companies can make a fictitious name appear on caller ID.
- Sometimes the calls show up on the caller ID as a string of zeros or, as mentioned before as a fake ID such as "Humane Soc." "Service Message," or "Service Announcement," or even "F.B.I."

Finally, according to the Times:

The trade commission has received an explosion of complaints about telemarketing and robocalls. In September, it received 140,000 complaints about prerecorded robocalls, more than double the 61,000 complaints in the same month a year ago, the agency said.

The article offers no foolproof method to fight this problem, except perhaps for "forewarned is forearmed."

Read more here: http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/23/us/whoson-the-line-increasingly-caller-id-is-duped.html?pagewanted=1&_r= 2&nl=todaysheadlines&emc=tha23

SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY

As you may have noticed, this month's Park West Column is somewhat "thin." As we have said many times, "It is your column," and it can be of any length you wish. Your inputs are the deciding factor. Please contact Dorian de Wind at ddewind@austin.rr.com with your inputs for the next edition.



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Clubs & Announcements

SHOW OFF YOUR SUPERHERO

Parents this is your chance to brag on your kiddos. We want pictures of your kids doing everyday things, school events, plays, sports, etc.

Send in your pictures to be featured in th Circle C Newsletter. E-mail your pictures to info@circlecranch.info by the 10th of the month.





Front Row: Avery Attaway, Sheridan Austin, Anna Eastin, Isabelle Detrich, Kate Marcus Back Row: Morgan Stone, Emily Williams, Avery Smallwood, Chloe Lee, Emily Clay

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- Call me for your next home purchase
- I shop for the lowest interest rates
- Pull out cash for home improvements
- Put your money into investment properties

This is not a commitment to make a loan. Loans are subject to borrower qualifications, including income, property evaluation, sufficient equity in the house to meet LTV requirements, and final credit approval. Approvals are subject to underwriting guidelines, interest rates, and program guidelines, and are subject to change without notice based on applicant's eligibility and market conditions. Terms of the loan may be subject to payment points and fees by the applicant. NMLS#3116, Branch NMLS #767887



John Squires and the Squires' Team with Keller Williams Realty, your neighbors and Realtors for life!



Call Kevin Scragg, your Circle C neighbor, at (512) 529-8763 to see any home on the market and for all leases!

"COMING SOON!"

Gorgeous custom moldings, wood floors, incredible 4-season addition with wood ceilings! Granite Just a show-stopper!

6007 Tasajillo Trail



Happy New Year! What a fantastic year 2011 was and it is continuing into 2012! Circle C Ranch real estate will not have a down month this year, as there are <u>tons</u> of buyers out looking at homes right now! You can tell how strong a real estate trend will be for the new year in how busy you are in January and February. When we have 10-15 couples come through our open houses in mid-December, that is a sign of lack of supply and pent-up demand. Last year I stated there would be a <u>"Seller's Market"</u> for many homes in Circle C. Well, it's here! There are not enough new homes being built because banks are still skittish and there is no more available land close-in to town. Austin is realizing that the Southwest is still the most affordable area and one of the best locations coupled with fantastic schools. What more can we say!? Call John for a comprehensive marketing package on your valuable Circle C home today and beat the rush! Thanks!

"COMING SOON!" 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath over 3000 ft. on greenbelt with huge gameroom backing to greenbelt!

828 Gorham Glen

"COMING SOON!" 4 bed, 2.5 bath backing to greenbelt! Gorgeous double-sided fireplace and outdoor covered patio!

413 Seneca Falls Loop

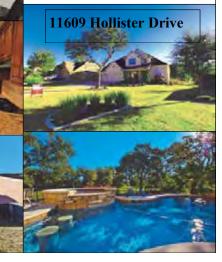


John's "Sell" phone is (512) 970-1970!

Call John Squires for an easy appointment to provide you with a <u>free, no-obligation</u> market analysis on your valuable Circle C Ranch home. John offers move-up and move-down plans to fit your specific needs. We provide FULL marketing of your home with flexible commissions and <u>NO</u> hidden fees. Go to <u>SquiresTeam.com</u> to view all of John's listings and virtual tours.

#1 agent in Circle C Ranch. **#10** team in Austin out of Austin's **"Top 50"** teams. Austinite since 1963.

"JUST LISTED!" Stunning estate home with \$75,000. pool on golf course!





SquiresTeam.com

To say it is a hot market in Circle C Ranch would be an understatement! Buyers are realizing now that rates are incredible and the bottom has already hit in Austin. If they don't buy now, they may be paying more later. Properly priced homes professionally staged by John Squires are selling quickly. Want to make some real money? If possible, lease out your smaller home (with low interest rate) and buy something a little larger (if needed) with a super-low interest rate. (3.75%) You just added a great shelter to your portfolio, the tenants pay off your house and you have some great write-offs. You now have low rates on 2 homes. Want to really hit it out of the park? Say you have 2 young children and you want to plan for their college. Buy 2 rental properties and make one extra payment per year on each. By the time they are 19 you will easily have their college education, or more, in equity in each house. The tenants just paid for your kid's college education and more. I have a client that has done this for each of his 3 kids and it's working great! You can do it too!



7817 Haggans Lane Sold in 7 days with multiple offers! Estate lot!



11609 Coalwood Cove Sold in 3 days with multiple offers!



11716 Via Grande White stone on greenbelt with great plan.



10827 Redmond Gorgeous wood floors on greenbelt! Multiple offers!



970,1970

Call John and he

can have one in

your yard in no

time! 970-1970.

7217 Red Pebble Sold in 17 days! Gorgeous home, loaded to the hilt!



7308 Red Pebble White stone 1story with game room up!



11309 LaRue Belle Sold in 47 days after previous agent at 6 months.



6814 Gabion Sold in 24 days after previous agent at 7 months.



(512) 970-1970

No one works harder or smarter to help you sell or purchase your valuable Circle C properties. What we do for you.

- 1) An HONEST and ACCURATE pricing strategy for your home.
- 2) Professionally stage your home for you at no cost.
- 3) Offer professional handyman services from minor repairs to entire home renovations.
- 4) Offer professional landscape services from curb appeal to entire yard transformations.
- 5) Professional marketing using an \$8,000 digital camera with 4 lenses and software to provide the cleanest sharpest pictures available for internet and flyers.
- 6) Provide a list of different strategies/ facets to advertise your home for maximum marketing exposure to the world as quickly and completely as possible.
- 7) Offer generous move-up and movedown plans to fit every families needs.
- 8) One point of contact at 970-1970 so there is no "big team" confusion, mixed signals or missed deadlines.
- 9) Insure a smooth, successful transaction start to finish.

Clubs & Announcements



LIVING WITNESS:

OUTSTANDING TREES OF TEXAS

January 7 through March 11

Ralph Yznaga's photographic odyssey is on display

in the McDermott Learning Center.

URBAN FOLK

January 7 through March 11

Judy Paul's mixed media exhibit on display in the store.

JANUARY EVENTS at the Wildflower Center

TREE TALK, WINTER WALK

Saturday, January 28, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. If the worst drought in decades damaged your trees, this is your chance to replace them with hardy Texas natives and plant a few more for the future. Guided walks for all and a Tree Climb for kids from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

GO NATIVE U

This is the year you should learn about native plant gardening. Take a class or a course at Go Native U. Registration information at www.wildflower.org

Admission is Free in January!



The First Annual Taste of Circle C Home Show

January 21, 2012

From 11 am to 5 PM on Saturday, January 21, 2012, Home Base will be sponsoring a Taste of Circle C/Home Show. It will take place in the Kiker Elementary School cafeteria.

If your New Year's Resolution is to fix up your home, come out and sample food from area restaurants, while meeting with vendors that will help you spruce up your home- all within the "hood".

Included may be Electricians, Plumbers, Air Conditioning Specialists, Window and Window Treatment Products, Painters, Carpenters, Carpet Cleaners, Flooring & Millwork, Interior Design, Landscapers, Lawn and Garden Maintenance, Irrigation Specialists, Tree Trimmers and Arborists, Outdoor Play Systems, Outdoor Room Builders. Housekeeping and Window Cleaning, and many more.

Cost is \$5 for adults, no charge for children. There will be bounce houses, face painting and other activities for the children.

There will be silent auction and 50/50 raffles.

All proceeds donated to Kiker Elementary School. For more information contact Aly Chapman at 512-919-0344 or Peter Berardino 695-2334.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

New Year's is a time to reflect on the year past. It is also a time to set goals for the future, and Edward Jones can help you do just that. We're in your neighborhood and available to help you take steps now to help meet your longterm financial goals.

Call today to set up a complimentary portfolio review.



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Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the current issue of the Circle C Newsletter on the 1st day of the month at www.PEELinc.com



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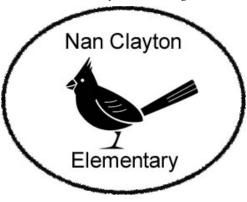
<u>Clubs & Announcements</u> Clayton Elementary's Cultural Celebration

Congratulations to Clayton Elementary and their PTA board that celebrated their First Clayton Cultural Celebration (C3) which was held Friday December 2, 2011! Dr. Robinett & Mrs. Beachum and their incredible staff offered nonstop support from initiation to culmination. Dr. Robinett MCing the event was the icing on the cake. She brought out the inner sparkle of all the participants and talented performers.

Spearheading this magnificent event were Teresa Rodriguez & Lisa Haney. Thanks to the generosity & support of the PTA, these amazing women and a group of 30+ wonderful volunteers, were able to make their vision for the first multicultural family event in Clayton Elementary a reality that was enjoyed by all.

That evening Clayton was transformed

Submitted by Teresa Rodriguez



into a Country Showcase with hands-on learning environment for the children and gave a vivid depiction of their countries via photos, artifacts, murals, video, live music, amazing native dress & more! It was like visiting a professional exhibit at the Austin Convention Center Clayton's hallways dressed in their best with all the children's cultural artwork and participation. Over 45 cardinals represented their culture in front of a crowd of 550+ in an exceptional parade.

The entertainment was extraordinary as well. Four rows of chairs were set up for guests to come and go, but there was never an empty seat! Even the ample seating space for children was overflowing!

Entertainment was one of a kind and graciously provided by: Tarang School of Dance, April Rain Chinese School of Dance Performance, Mariachi soloist (former Clayton Alumni), and Mu Sool Won of South Austin – Martial Arts.

Food was brought from Clayton's diverse community. That evening everyone was able

(Continued on Page 25)

THE GOLDWASSER ADVANTAGE LISTING SYSTEM WILL HELP SELL YOUR HOME FAST!



"We were absolutely excited about our home selling in 3 days!"

"When our Goldwasser Real Estate agent first mentioned the **Goldwasser Advantage Listing Sytem**, we had really never seen anything like it before.

Our Goldwasser agent went through all the different steps in the process, like showing us all the comps in the neighborhood and educating us with a thorough analysis of the market. He was so prepared, whereas I think a lot of other real estate agents really don't have that structure. The system in general was key to us getting the most money for our home.

Because of the systems Goldwasser Real Estate applied, we got 4 offers in 3 days and sold our home for over our list price.

It all happened very quickly. Goldwasser Real Estate and the Goldwasser Advantage Listing System blew away our expectations!"

Logan and Kellie Wostal Home Sellers • Austin, TX



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Call today for a free Home Market Evaluation and to explore how the Goldwasser Advantage Listing System can get you the most money for your home in the shortest amount of time! Chad Goldwasser 512-750-8333

Clayton Elementary- (Continued from Page 24)

to savor the mouth watering international dishes prepared and shared by all the attendees.

A very special thanks goes out to our local businesses & organizations that supported C3 via donations of food, entertainment & volunteers: HEB of Escarpment Village, Panda Express of Arbor Trails, Peel Inc., Gorzycki/s NJHS, and Bowie High School/s French Club.

It truly is a community effort that has made this very first event a pleasurable accomplishment. Thank you all!

Thanks again to our wonderful community!

MOMS Club of Austin Southwest

Submitted by Kim Gallant

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.

Kiker Elementary

Submitted by Tracy White

Attention Circle C neighbors! Do you own a business, a vacation home, tickets to sporting events or any other items that might be used to raise funds in the Kiker Elementary Groovin' in the Green Annual Fundraiser? This annual fundraiser helps provide funding for enrichment and academic support programs. Groovin' in the Green will be held on May 6th, 2012. As you plan your budget, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Groovin' in the Green.

In past years, funds from Groovin' in the Green have allowed Kiker Elementary to provide Reading and Math specialists, Daily Organizational Planners for grades 3-5, Faculty and Staff Continuing Education training, Computer Technicians, a Library Clerk, Author Visit(s), an Accelerated Reading Program, a Literacy Library Curriculum (class sets of books) and Student Periodicals such as Time for Kids and Weekly Reader. This list is not exhaustive and would not be possible without the generous contributions from the Circle C Community!

Thank you for considering supporting Kiker Elementary. Please contact Andrea Bredl at 414-2584 (andrea.bredl@austinisd.org) to notify us of your support or with any questions.



Clubs & Announcements

CIRCLE CTENNIS CLUB

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



Group of youngsters getting advice from Master Tennis Pro, Fernando Velasco

Circle C Manager/Director of Tennis Visits Home Country

Fernando Velasco, General Manager and Director of Tennis at the Circle C Tennis Club, visited his home country, Bolivia, in November. This is the second time that Velasco travelled to his native city Cochabamba since he and his family moved to the United States in 1963. The first time was 5 years ago. Velasco, with his wife Frances and son Anthony, enjoyed 10 days of celebrations of his 50th High School Class reunion, plus the 100th year that his home school, the American Institute, first started in Bolivia.

In addition to the school celebrations, Velasco gave tennis clinics in the Tennis Club of Cochabamba, where he played until moving to America at the age of 20. He conducted a ladies' clinic, a junior clinic and gave a two hour seminar on "The Role of a Tennis Teacher, Coach and Parent." Velasco mentioned that "the quality of tennis in both the junior, adult and advanced players was very high. The players and parents were most appreciative of the advice that Velasco gave to the players. With some exposure to better quality of teaching and coaching, several could develop into top players. The conditions were mostly good, but the availability of equipment is thin and very expensive. It was an honor to be back again on the red clay courts where I learned to play tennis and competed during my youth"



Trees surrounded with gifts donated by the Members of the Circle C Tennis Club

Circle C Tennis Club donates toys to Blue/Brown Santa

The Circle C Tennis Club hosted its annual "Toys for Blue/Brown Santa" on Friday, December 9, 2011. Participants of this yearly event, had to provide an unwrapped new gift to be donated. There were so many great gifts, that is was decided to split half and half between the organizations for Blue Santa and Brown Santa. Director of Women's Tennis, Mari Bishouty, organized a great event that combined a round robin, lunch and drinks. She mentions that "these incredible gifts will brighten up many children's Christmas Day holiday. This is of my favorite event and the Members of the Club are most generous with their donations. Kids will be excited to see the quality and quantity of gifts donated." This is the 10th year of this event.

LIST WITH ASHLEY TODAY AND GET ahead OF THE COMPETITION



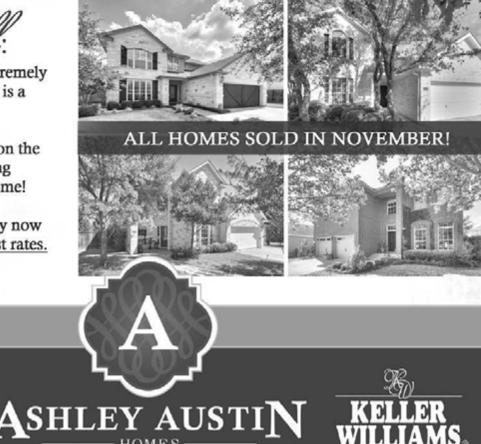
FEATURED LISTING Hard to find, highly desired Streetman floor plan on quiet cul-de-sac street with 4744 Sq Ft. Media room, separate office, gym, game room, sun room and more! Visit Ashleyaustinhomes.com for details.



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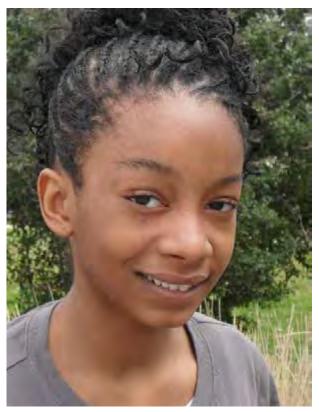
- Housing inventory is extremely low which means <u>NOW</u> is a perfect time to sell!
- Due to very few houses on the market, seller's are getting <u>higher prices</u> for their home!
- Buyers are looking to buy now due to record low interest rates.



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Clubs & Announcements



Adoption Coalition of Texas

Tasha is a 13 year old teenager who is quiet initially, but loves to talk once she feels comfortable. She is very creative and enjoys drawing and writing. Tasha excels at school and takes pride in earning straight A's. She enjoys all sports and especially loves playing basketball. She also participates in band. Tasha needs an adoptive family that will guide and encourage her to reach her full potential. The family will need to be patient and set consistent rules and expectations for her to follow.

To find out more about Tasha or the foster care adoption process, please contact the Adoption Coalition of Texas at (512) 301-2825. You can also email us at info@adopttexas.org and visit our website at www.adoptioncoalitiontx. org.

Adopting a child from the foster care system requires little or no cost to the adoptive family and funding may be available to help the adoptive family support the child or sibling group.

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She's all about RESULTS... she sold our home & found our beautiful, new home! We can't be happier with the service & results that we received."

- S. & R. Rezall

RESULTS

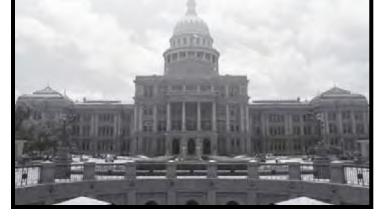


Start the New Year by Attending AUSTIN NEWCOMERS - CLUB JANUARY – LUNCHEON

Austin Newcomers Club is a non-profit social and recreational organization of 500 member- households celebrating is 60th year. It is dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Attend the January luncheon to learn about the forty-five Interest Groups, including book clubs, card and board games playing, dinning, gardening, kayaking, golfing, hiking, dancing and special events for both couples and singles. The Austin Chronicle has named the club as the "Best Way to Get Acquainted with the Best of Austin."

The January luncheon speaker will be **Mike O'Krent**, founder of *LifeStories Alive*, *LLC*, specializes in making personal history videos for families that value their heritage. They create family heirlooms in video – digitally mastered records of life stories with personal accounts, photos and mementos of family history.

- When & Where: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 West Live Oak Street, pre-payment \$20.00.Reservations are required by: January 11th.
- Time: 11 a.m. Social Hour, Luncheon begins at noon.
- For Luncheon Reservations: Email: LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com
- Welcome Coffees: You are invited to attend a morning or evening Welcome Coffee & Orientation. For more information visit the website at: www.AustinNewcomers.com
- To Join Austin Newcomers Club: Any person who has a zip code beginning with 787 is eligible for a new membership with the annual dues payment of \$40.00. Membership includes The Welcome Mat, the monthly newsletter, and the annual Members' Directory. Contact Dotti Thoms, New Member Services, at (512)314-5100. For more information visit the website at: www.AustinNewcomers.com



HOPE4JD *Becomes a 501(c)(3) Public Charity*

What an inspiration this community is! For just over 3 years now the Hartman family has been picked up and carried through the toughest time of our lives by this community. Financial gifts and gifts of service have been beyond expectation and have truly provided the best recovery based treatment plan for JD along with support for our family of 6. We continue to see improvements from all areas of treatment, including the cord blood and bone marrow stem cell treatments JD received in San Diego last summer; brain injury recovery is slow, but JD is improving and we have HOPE! God is good and He has provided. At the fundraising events last spring, we spoke about a vision to give back, to help others that face these trials. It took much effort, but in December, HOPE4JD officially became a 501(c)(3) Public Charity! HOPE4JD is focused on "financial and services" support of families of children with anoxic or hypoxic brain injuries. HOPE is what we plan to provide each child and person we reach through this organization. Visit the website at www.HOPE4JD.org.

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you HOPE and a future". With thanks to each of you for prayers, support and love... The Hartman Family

Want to make your new year's resolution stick?

CELEBRATE RECOVERY Mondays @ 7:00 pm

Codependency Group (for those with loved ones struggling with addiction) Sexual Addiction Group (men's group) Anger Open Share Group (men's group) Chemical Addiction Groups (men's & woman's groups) Women's Support Groups (eating disorders, sexual addiction)

HOPE, HEALTH, HEALING Wednesdays @ 7:00 pm

Divorce Care Safe People Boundaries

A Man After God's Own Heart Sunday Macraling

SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 11 AM BIBLE LIFE (all ages) @ 9:30 AM

WATCH LIVE SUNDAY MORNINGS OR VIEW ANYTIME ONLINE

Great Hills Baptist Church 10500 Jollyville Road . Austin 78759 // 512.343.7763

www.ghbc.org

Clubs & Announcements The Computer Club of Austin: A Helping Hand Submitted by A.E.Martin



When I first came to Austin about thirteen years ago I left my computer support behind and quickly found that maintaining a home system and keeping up with fast developing technology was a job I was unprepared for. After a few years of self training and making lots of costly mistakes I found the Computer Club of Austin. This network of computer expertise has been a savior many times over.

The Computer Club of Austin (incorporated with 501(c)(3) taxexempt status) is Central Texas' largest group of PC aficionados in the Austin area. They have an active roster of members and regular visitors with eclectic interests running the gamut from Linux to Vista, from genealogy to MS Office, from beginners to Java.

The first Tuesday of each month is devoted to a General Meeting which is currently conducted at the Northwest Village branch library, 2505 Steck Ave, just west of Burnet Rd. The meeting, preceded by 15 minutes of informal Q and A which is great for getting that nagging problem answered, starts at 6:30 PM and is usually over by 8:30 PM.

Each month, representatives of a wide variety of products give hardware, software, or program demonstrations, and often give away samples of their products. Local businesses often donate gift certificates to use as door prizes for members; visitors are eligible to win a club membership as a door prize. Visitors are welcome to any meeting.

I especially like the Special Interest Groups or SIGs, which meet at various locations during the month. Each SIG is led by a person who devotes a lot of time to gathering and disseminating topical information. Current SIGs are as follows:

INTERNET SIG, North Village Library, 1st Saturday, 10am Discussion of new websites, new internet computing developments and related software.

LINUX BEGINNERS SIG, 8109 Greenslope Dr. (SE from Mesa and Steck), 2nd Tuesday, 6pm. How to use Linux, where PC software is always free or cheap. It's a great alternative to Microsoft Windows.

BEGINNERS SIG, Old Quarry Library, 2nd Saturday, 10am Every month we introduce a different topic of interest to computer beginners.

GENEALOGY SIG, Old Quarry Library, 2nd Saturday, lp-3p Learn more about your ancestors.

MOBILE WIRELESS SIG, Waterloo Ice House, 8600 Burnet Rd., 3rd Tuesday, 6pm

See the latest smart phones, iPads, Androids, book readers and other cutting edge gadgets.

GRAB BAG SIG, Old Quarry Library, 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm A smorgasborg of computer topics, software and websites.

OFFICE SIG, Old Quarry Library, 3rd Thursday, 6:30pm

Try Open Office, Google Docs and other alternatives to Microsoft Office.

MICROSOFT OFFICE BEGINNERS SIG, North Village Library, 3rd Saturday, 10am.

Learn the basics of Microsoft Office, including Excel, Word and Power Point

Membership is \$20 per calendar year and gets you all the computer-related camaraderie you can hope for. Attend FREE any meeting as a visitor to begin your network of computer help. You can visit their web site for more information: www.ccaustin.org.





Business Section

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SUZIE'S SITTING SERVICES - Adult woman would love to provide loving childcare, house sitting or dog sitting for your family. Ten years experience in professional childcare. References available. Please call 512.297.8877.

NEED A WILL? Protect your family with a custom will package prepared by a Texas licensed attorney and Circle C resident. \$450 for basic will package includes the following for both spouses: Will (including declaration of guardian for children), Directive to Physicians, Medical Power of Attorney & Durable Power of Attorney. Call Aimee at 512-750-2370 or email agordon1110@yahoo.com.

ALTERATION SPECIALIST: Former Tailor with more than 40 years experience. Men's, Women's, and Children's Clothing. Formal Clothing, Bridal, and Uniforms are a specialty. Fast Quality Service. Conveniently located in Park Place in Circle C. Eloise Cabrera (Beckett and Slaughter area), Phone: 512-394-1141.

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EXPERIENCED SEAMSTRESSAND FORMER FABRIC STORE OWNER: SEWING IMPAIRED? Located in Circle C. Offering alterations, hemming, mending, as well as sewing on buttons, and uniform patches. Also hem drapes, make pillow covers, and repair quilts. Call LIZ : 301-6966 **CLEANING SERVICE-** Free estimates.Weekly or bimonthly.Regular service,one time cleans or move ins/out.No subcontracting. Excellent references. Call Marianne at 653-5955 / maryspicandspan@yahoo.com

NEED TO LOSE WEIGHT? I've tried them all. System utilizes new 21st century technology combined with traditional proven weight management methods. Using your own food and easy to use technology. Keep the weight off! I finally feel successful! Circle C Resident. Call Terri @ 512-551-9254

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AN OP-ED FROM REPRESENTATIVE PAUL WORKMAN:

Texas Tuition Promise Fund Offers Opportunity for College Savings

With the holidays quickly approaching, I wanted to let you know about a great gift idea -- the Texas Tuition Promise Fund.

Texas believes in the importance of education, an educated workforce is the only way to keep our state the best place to live, work, and do business. Despite a stagnant economy, college tuition continues to rise, leaving many students and parents in the difficult position of having to choose between incurring massive debt or foregoing a college education.

The Texas Legislature believes Texas families should not have to make that choice. That's why we created the Texas Tuition Promise Fund -- a program that allows parents to purchase prepaid "units" that can be used toward future undergraduate tuition and fees at Texas public colleges and universities at today's prices. Here's how it works:

- Type I units, priced for tuition and required fees for the most expensive public four-year school in Texas, currently cost \$111.68 per unit.
- Type II units, based on the weighted average cost of tuition and required fees across all Texas public four-year schools, currently cost \$79.70 per unit.
- Type III units, priced at the weighted average cost of tuition and required fees across all Texas public two-year schools, currently cost \$20.54 each.

Under the plan, 100 units fund one academic year consisting of 30 semester hours. Families can prepay for up to six years of undergraduate tuition and required fees. There are many payment options available and start as low \$15 per month. You can choose to pay by lump sum payments, installments at eight percent interest or pay-as-you-go plans, creating a flexible and affordable plan to accommodate Texas families.

I encourage you to take advantage of this excellent program and consider it as a holiday gift for your loved ones. By doing so, you will provide them with the opportunity to achieve their educational goals -- whether it is a four-year institution or a community college, and gain the necessary skills for a well-paying job in their chosen field.

For more information about the Texas Tuition Promise Fund, including a college cost calculator, visit www. TexasTuitionPromiseFund.com or call (800) 445-GRAD

Representative Workman represents House District 47 in the Texas Legislature.

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THE BOERNE STAR - AT THE TRAIL

Drought needs deer hunters to help deer thrive By: Ben Eldredge & Kate Villarreal (Submitted by Billy Howe)



Deer hunting season is on across Texas. This interaction between hunter and prey is one of many that contributes to a balanced ecosystem where relative numbers of species are more or less constant.

Deer hunting is one of the most humanitarian efforts that can be undertaken to help restore ecological balance to the Hill Country.

Central Texas is currently experiencing an overabundance of deer. The extreme drought conditions of 2011 are compounding this situation on several fronts and action is needed today to ensure that the deer population returns to a stable number.

An ecosystem's carrying capacity may be described as the maximum number of organisms that it can sustainably support. It may seem a bit counterintuitive, but the relatively high number of deer at the start of a drought can actually decrease carrying capacity in the long-term.

This happens for several reasons. Among them is that drought reduces the forbs and browse in the food supply that are especially critical to the animal's diet. Deer eat forbs and browse, not grass. They rely on non-grasslike broadleaf plants like clover and verbena, as well as the shoots, twigs and leaves of woody plants and vines for nutrition and sustenance.

Since the drought is causing the decline and death of many older trees, the browse supply is severely diminished. This can have tough consequences down the road.

In addition, when trees die off, less seeds are produced, which limits the growth of

(Continued on Page 36)



News You Can Use

The Boerne Star- (Continued from Page 35)

future trees that would normally provide food. Spanish Oaks and other species, already compromised by the lack of rain, may also have trouble recovering from the heavy browsing.

The combination of too many deer and too little food accounts for the thin and haggard appearances of many animals this season.

"We went into the drought with more deer than the land could support in a good year," said Texas Parks and Wildlife biologist Rufus Stephens.

"As a result, we're seeing a decreased fawn crop and decreased health, and from a hunters standpoint, animal quality is down."

Without a supply of forbs and browse, deer are forced to eat what food is available, even though it may lack the nutrients needed for healthy development. This includes deer corn, jokingly referred to as "beer for deer" because of its empty calorie content and lack of nutrition.

While those who stock deer feeders with grain do it with the best of intentions, the results can be potentially harmful for the animal population as a whole.

For one, a deer's digestive system is simply not adapted to process large amounts of corn, resulting in acidosis and sometimes death.

Grain consumed on the ground is also vulnerable to fungus. One danger is aflatoxin, a fungus that can grow on feed even during hot and dry conditions and in spite of efforts to store it carefully. Another cause for concern is that incidents of EHD, or Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease, are increasing. In this case midge flies serve as the vector, biting the deer and spreading the pathogen.

EHD affects the blood flow to the extremities and causes extensive hemorrhaging, often resulting in an insidious death.

To summarize, the drought has exacerbated the already compromised ability of the land to produce the amount and quality of food needed to sustain a healthy deer population. The animals are struggling with starvation, illness and disease on a scale that poses serious risks to their long-term viability.

Just as a rancher de-stocks, or takes cattle to sale during a drought, actions must be taken in the Hill Country that will keep deer numbers stable in the long run.

Harvesting deer is both a tool and a responsibility of good land management. The severity of the current drought requires greater efforts at stewardship than were needed in the past, and these efforts must be balanced with the complexities of the local ecosystem.

Past lessons in management teach that the devastation of local wildlife populations can take place slowly, or overnight, but the effects can last forever.

Ben Eldredge is the director of adult education and citizen science at the Cibolo Nature Center. Kate Villarreal is a freelance writer and lifetime friend of the Cibolo Nature Center.

Submitted by Bill Howe, Circle C Resident





BOOKLICE

Booklice are given their name because they are often found among books or papers. They are small, soft-bodied insects with a pale color. Usually booklice are wingless. The head and abdomen are large, while the middle section (thorax) is narrow. Booklice have long, thread-like antennae. Nymphs, or immatures, look similar to the adults but are smaller and always lack wings.

Booklice have chewing mouthparts and often feed on mold and fungi but have also been found to feed upon pollen, cereal, dead insect parts or paste and glues in book bindings. They can be found indoors in areas such as libraries, office spaces, areas with many cardboard boxes or any other area that may contain large quantities of paper. In homes they may infest pantry items such as flour, cereals, grits or grains. They thrive in areas that are damp or have high humidity.

There are no male booklice; females produce offspring parthenogenically (from unfertilized eggs). Females can lay up to 60 eggs during their lifetime. The life cycle- egg to adult- takes about 1-2 months (sometimes longer) depending on environmental conditions.

Cast skins and fecal material from large populations of booklice may cause the sensation of being bitten by insects for some people.

Tips for managing booklice:

- · Lower humidity using heaters, fans, dehumidifiers
- · Vacuum up any accumulated debris that collects in the structure
- · Discard infested food items or freeze at 0 degrees for 7 days
- · Repair plumbing leaks & eliminate standing water

· Install a vapor barrier in crawl space area (if not on slab) & make sure crawl space has a good cross-flow of air

· Seal cracks & crevices around the outside of the structure

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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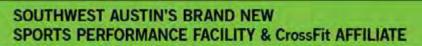
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		6 Months Sold History (06/2011 - 11/2011)							Current Market TOTAL	
Circle C Ranch by	TOTAL	AVERAGE								
Neighborhood	Homes Sold	Square Price / Sq. Feet Foot		Sold Price SK		Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale	
Circle C Central	38	2,887	s	108	\$	312	1993	44	7	6
North	21	1,991	5	126	S	250	1996	49	3	1
Wildflower	10	2,193	S	131	s	286	2002	31	3	5
On The Park	9	3,739	\$	109	\$	407	1996	81	0	0
Vintage Place	2	3,357	\$	104	S	350	2004	34	0	1
Hielscher	20	3,026	S	115	S	349	2002	29	4	4
West	16	3,354	S	116	S	388	2005	58	0	-4
Park West	9	2,077	S	141	S	292	2002	82	2	1
Park Place	5	2,579	S	119	\$	307	2005	17	1	2
Muirfield	8	3,828	\$	124	5	476	2006	51	1	1
Enclave/Stone Creek	10	2,841	S	118	5	336	2007	97	0	3
Alta Mira	8	2,972	S	120	5	356	2009	75	3	2
Fairway Estates	1	4,423	5	119	s	525	2009	7	1	0
Avana	2	2,340	\$	136	\$	317	2011	10	0	1
Circle C Ranch Total	159	2,840	\$	118	5	336	2000	51	25	31
% Change Mo/Mo	-5%	合 1%	0	0%	ŵ.	1%	0%	1 2%	8 -29%	1 15%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 12/02/2011. In some cases new construction and

FSBD homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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