



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 9, Number 4

April 2012

www.circlecranch.info

Circle C Homeowners Association's ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Hop on over and join us for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Visit the Easter Bunny & enjoy cookies and water after the hunt.

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

Admission: \$1 | Child Ages: 1-10 yrs.

*There will be 3 areas for the
following age groups:*

1-3 yrs. (back of the CDC)

4-6 yrs. (front of the CDC)

7-10 yrs. (Swim Center)

**Saturday, April 7
9:30am
Swim Center Plaza**

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



Annual Meeting Recap

The Circle C Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 7th at 6:30pm at Kiker Elementary. Thank you to everyone who voted, submitted a proxy or quorum proxy; we were able to meet quorum prior to the meeting. There were two open board seats up for election. Congratulations to Brad Compere and Kim Ackermann who were each elected to three year terms! Check our website, www.circlecranch.info, to see the power point slides from the Annual Meeting.

New Community Center

We are proud to announce that the Circle C Community Center, CCCC, is officially open! It's been a long time coming, and we'd like to thank everyone involved in this massive project. We hope those who attended our open houses enjoyed themselves, and for those who were not able to attend, please stop by anytime. If you are interested in reserving the Community Center for one of your events, please visit our website, www.circlecranch.info. Click on Amenities and then Circle C Community Center for more details.

The HOA offices are now located at the Community Center as well. Our phone number and fax have remained the same, but our new address is 7817 La Crosse Avenue.

Scoop the Poop

It was brought to our attention at the Annual Meeting that some residents are not cleaning up after their dogs, particularly along La Crosse Avenue. Dog and cat waste left on the ground is more than smelly and unsightly... it pollutes our water and poses a health risk for pets and people, especially children. Please remember to always scoop the poop and to dispose of the pet waste properly.

CCHOA NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Office info@circlecranch.info or 288-8663
 HOA 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 Hibpshman, CMCA, Manager 347-2891
 Parkwest HOA
 Goodwin Management 502-7509
 Streetman Enclave HOA
 Rosalind Peterson..... 441-1041
 Muirfield HOA
 Sara Huff 306-9352

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Jason Bram President and Development Officer
 Brad Compere..... Vice President
 Russ Hodes Treasurer
 Chris Poynor Secretary
 Kim Ackermann..... Board Member
 Rob Johnson Board Member
 Brad Compere..... Board Member
 Steve Urban..... Board Member
 Contact the board at 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 311
 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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- 5) Home prices are more affordable than the peak prices of a few years ago...bringing more buyers into the market!
- 4) Pent up demand is starting to show in certain sub-markets as fewer homes are on the market!
- 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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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.

CCHOA NEWS

- 6 CCHOA Announcements
- 8 Circle C Swim Center
- 8 Circle C Landscape
- 10 Circle C Architectural Control Committee

PARK WEST HOA NEWS

- 12 Park West HOA News

CLUBS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 16 How to Play Tennis
- 18 The Alamo Drafthouse Rolling Roadshow
- 19 6th Annual Clayton Fun Run & Carnival

NEWSYOU CAN USE

- 22 April Events at the Wildflower Center
- 24 Adoption Coalition of Texas
- 26 Austin Newcomer's Luncheon
- 27 AgriLife Extension - Butterfly Gardening
- 29 Legacy We Leave Our Children
- 30 6th Annual East Austin Garden Fair: A Passion for Plants
- 32 Auto Talk - Ask a Medic

BUSINESS SECTION

- 34 Business Classifieds

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 4 Resident Classifieds
- 34 Teenage Job Seekers



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Saturday, April 14, 2012

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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- Face painting, balloon artist, kid's ID fingerprinting
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- Kid's art project to be displayed in the clinic
- Health Screenings: blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI
- Meet the Doctors
- Food vendors and special Happy Birthday cupcakes!

CCHOA Announcements

Submitted by HOA Manager, Denise Nordstrom

CIRCLE C COMMUNITY-WIDE GARAGE SALE

The CCHOA will host Circle C's Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, April 21st. Each individual homeowner is encouraged to hold their individual garage sale on this date. We will be advertising the event (in print and on the internet) from 8am to 5pm and will have street maps available on our website. If you have any questions about this event, please call the HOA office at 288-8663.

VICIOUS AND DANGEROUS DOGS

We love our four-legged friends and welcome all dogs to the neighborhood, but unfortunately we've had some reports of vicious dogs lately. Animal Protection handles dangerous and vicious dogs in Travis County. Call 9-1-1 if a dog seems dangerous and is threatening. If you suspect a dog is dangerous or if a dog kills a pet, you can

declare a dog either vicious or dangerous by submitting a signed bite affidavit to Animal Control. For more information, visit www.austintexas.gov/department/dangerous-and-vicious-dogs.

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.

HIDE YOUR TRASH & RECYCLE CARTS!

We are continuing to receive many complaints from residents about owners who are storing their garbage can and recycle bin in view from the street. Garbage cans and recycle bins should be hidden from view – either behind your fence, in your garage or behind shrubbery. The vast majority of homeowners are able to hide their cans out of view, please do YOUR part to keep Circle C a beautiful place to live.

(Continued on Page 7)

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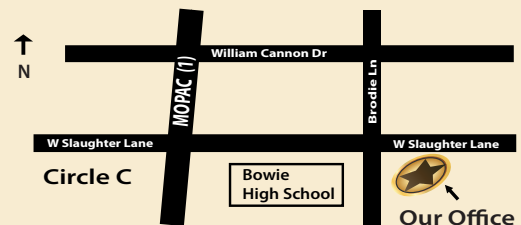


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MISSING PETS

We have been receiving lots of calls and emails lately about missing cats and dogs. If you have found a pet, please send us an email (with a photo if possible). We will post a notice in the Circle C classifieds on the website.. Please DO NOT tape signs to any of the light poles, post office walls or other surfaces throughout the neighborhood – these are very hard to clean up and often peel off paint. If you have lost a pet, please call Town Lake Animal Shelter (they get quite a few cats that are picked up in the Circle C area but never claimed). Check out the City of Austin's website to see their tips on finding your pet and to see an online database of animals in the shelter at www.austintexas.gov/departments/lost-found-pet. You can also contact the HOA office at 512-288-8663 to see if we have any information posted.

LET'S SAVE PAPER

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

BURGLARIES IN PARK PLACE

Unfortunately, multiple break-ins in Park Place have been reported

this past month, some of which took place during the day. For Park Place residents, make sure to check your marquis board for updates on community get-togethers to discuss these issues. If you notice any suspicious activity or witness a break-in, call 9-1-1 immediately. Be a good neighbor and look out for each other and each other's homes.

SPEEDING ALONG YORK BRIDGE CIRCLE

From time to time we receive reports from residents about speeding on certain streets within the Circle C neighborhood. Recently we have received a report about speeding on York Bridge Circle near the mailboxes. We advise residents to call the City of Austin or visit www.austintexas.gov/departments/local-area-traffic-management. You may also report it to the HOA office at 288-8663, and we will include it in the next newsletter.

HOME, LAWN AND GARDEN MAINTENANCE ITEMS

The CCHOA wishes to give everyone an opportunity for "Spring Cleaning" of their yard and home. The neighborhood standard that can be enforced through the deed restriction process includes, but is not limited to the following. If you have already received a landscaping letter from us on one of the following issues, please

(Continued on Page 8)




- * Repaints - Interior, exterior, and much more
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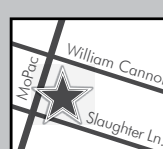
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CCHOA News

CCHOA Announcements- (Continued from Page 7)

expect to have the violation cured by the end of spring. You will be receiving a follow up letter if we have not heard from you or if you remain in violation. If for some reason you are unable to cure the violation by that time, please call the HOA.

Turf Areas

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

Bed Areas

- Clean beds, weed and grass free
- All dead vegetation removed
- Shrubs pruned below front window sills
- Plants thinned to present maintained look
- Trees trimmed up over driveways and sidewalks to 14ft

Debris

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

Yard Art

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

Pots for Potted Plants

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

Homes

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

Circle C Landscape

Submitted by Susan Hoover

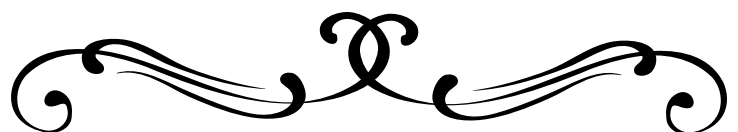
Hello to everyone and welcome to Spring. I am writing this during Spring Break, and we continue to benefit from great weather, including rain on a regular basis. Hopefully, some of that wet stuff will stall out over the Highland Lakes and bring the lake levels back up.


We have been able to turn off most of the irrigation at Circle C for the winter months and it is still off, as opposed to last year when we had to use supplemental water all winter long! Our landscape palette and water budget is designed to be supplemented by a reasonable amount of natural rainfall, so I am hoping that 2012 will not be a repeat of 2011, the hottest and driest I have ever experienced here. According to Mark Rose from the LCRA, last year's weather was a statistical anomaly, not only here but throughout the United States. Records of all kinds were shattered. Thankfully, he does not foresee a repeat in 2012. According to the latest data, La Nina is rapidly dissipating, and there are several models that see us going to an El Nino (higher than normal rainfall) in the Fall.

You will notice that not only your yard, but also our commons area turf took the hardest hit from the extreme drought. That, along with the mild and rainy winter, have created a lot of weeds everywhere. If you are having problems with your yard, we recommend some hand pulling, and putting on a pre-emergent granular weed killer to prevent future weeds. For your yards, consider expanding your mulch beds under your trees if the grass has died out in those areas.

I am waiting to get an update on the revised Water Conservation Restrictions from the City of Austin. We remain under Stage Two, which is watering outside only one day per week, from 12:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on your designated day. The latest word from the City is that the Water Conservation Department will be presenting a revised ordinance to City Council later in the spring. It will contain possibly five restrictive stages, and hopefully, provide ways we can keep our trees alive even during a prolonged and harsh drought. Look for updates on the process in the Austin American Statesman.

This spring, we will be doing some landscape renovations as weather permits. We are hesitant to plant too many new things due to the uncertainty of the availability of water, which is required for establishing new plants. We have finished the required landscape plan at the Community Center and will be diligently making sure that we hand water when necessary to get everything established. Thankfully, most of the sod went in over the winter, which has been very good for it. Please come by and take a look. I have relocated my office for Circle C Landscape to the new Community Center, however, our landscape crew will still be using the main post office area for supplies and check in. Please feel free to drop by and discuss any landscaping concerns you have.





Circle C Swim Center

Submitted by Brandon Ducote

Activities are getting into full swing at the Circle C Pool!

Private and Group Spring Swim Lessons, Masters Swim, and Stroke Clinics for the Circle C Seals are underway. If you are interested in signing up for these programs, or any of our other activities, come by, or give us a call and as always, check out our website at circlec ranch.info.

If you are planning to sign your child up for swim lessons, please come by the pool any time between 5:00-6:00pm on Sunday for a skills assessment with our Lead Swim instructor, Amanda. She will be able to help you decide which class is most appropriate for your child. The New Community Center pool will open on the weekends starting May 5th, so get those swim bags ready, and we will see you soon at the pool!

LOW CIRCLE C HOME INVENTORY FOR SALE MEANS GOOD NEWS FOR SELLERS!

Things are going great in Circle C for people who are selling their homes, because the market is moving! With the opening of the Alamo Draft House and Z Pizza, there is much buzz about what a great place we have to live in. The resale value of homes in Circle C has always been good, but with the low, low inventory currently, and all of the development in the area, it is a great time to be a seller in Circle C. We are about to hit the major selling season and the inventory will start to come up quite a bit, but with that we will also see an increased number of buyers out looking for homes, so we should still see a strong market as we move through 2012. Broker Chad Goldwasser with Goldwasser Real Estate says that he is seeing incredible traffic through the multiple open houses that he

and his company hold on a weekly basis in Circle C. "Last week we had a total of 86 potential buyers through the 6 open houses we held; that is amazing traffic, and it does not seem to be slowing any." He says that with Goldwasser's innovative and unique marketing system they are seeing many multiple offer situations and even homes that sell before they ever hit the market. "We always have a lot of buyers in Circle C because we do a lot of business here, so we frequently have buyers for homes before we ever hit the market, and that is the best time for me to get my clients top dollar. Also, because of our years of experience in Circle C, people know who we are and that we do a great job for our clients." If you are thinking of buying or selling real estate in Circle C, definitely give Chad and his team a call.

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Circle C Architectural Control Committee

Submitted by A.E. Martin

When you purchased your home in Circle C you received a stack of documents which most of you, like me, probably did not read thoroughly. Two very important documents were included which define our Homeowners Association (HOA). These are the "Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions" and "Circle C By-Laws". Circle C is a planned community and these documents define the process by which our homeowners association maintains the quality of our community.

Article IV of the Covenants details the Architectural Control Committee's (ACC) purpose and authority. The ACC is responsible for maintaining a community standard by reviewing and approving any building or landscape new construction or modification. This applies to current

owners, builders, developers, and includes the Homeowners Association. The authority of the ACC is extensive and includes the right to require unapproved modifications to be demolished with restoration to original condition. It also includes the right to issue variances when special situations arise.

The ACC also develops Design Guidelines to provide consistency and ease of application across the community. In general the ACC over the past years has adopted a hill country motif for architectural and landscape elements. These include type of building elements such as brick, stone, roofing, and paint colors. An extensive list of landscape components and guidelines has recently been written for addressing our drought situation. All guidelines are available on the Circle C web site or through the HOA office.

Presently the ACC functions with three volunteer members, as specified in the Covenants, who are appointed by the HOA board of directors. The committee employs Susan Hoover to conduct routine business serving homeowners, which consists mostly of applying the Design Guidelines to residents' requests. Any unusual request is directed to the committee for review and this sometimes leads to a new guideline. The developer of a new subdivision within Circle C, such as the recent Avana addition, must submit plats and elevation drawings of all house plans to the ACC for review and approval. Developer landscape design including irrigation must also be approved.

In 2011 the ACC reviewed 73 new homes and 109 residential projects. Many of these projects include one or more visits to the

(Continued on Page 11)

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2012 Dates

- January 26
- March 22
- May 24
- September 27
- October 25

Circle C Architectural Control Committee- (Cont. from Page 10)

property to check details and ensure compliance. Financially the ACC nets income for the association through review fees, which in 2011 totaled more than \$17,000.

Current members of the ACC are Laura Sherman, AIA registered architect, Trent Rush, principal, TBG landscape architect, and A.E. Martin, retired engineer. With time conditions change and there are innovations in building materials and design considerations. The committee welcomes suggestions for new ways to maintain our community standards, so do not hesitate to give us your ideas. Contacting the committee through Susan Hoover is the most effective way to contact all committee members. You can most easily reach Susan through email at shoover@fastmail.fm.



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

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Spring is the season that awakens the urge to clean house, update our surroundings, and be alive and active! Kudos to all who follow their muse and actually do something about it! We Park West residents need to remember that we are a community within a community and that we must abide by both Circle C and Park West Covenants and Rules when making exterior changes.

If you wish to change the exterior appearance of your building or fencing in any way, you must obtain approval from the Circle C Architectural Committee (please send a courtesy copy of the filing to the Park West Board!)

Landscaping changes must be in accord with Circle C guidelines. In addition, any proposed changes to the front yard landscaping must be approved by the Park West Landscape Committee prior to execution. Committee review is required to ensure that Circle C guidelines and Park West Appearance Standards are being observed (the Park West landscape contract is based on the assumption that certain standard conditions and plantings exist on each property.)

We thank you in advance for being a good Park West neighbor and observing our Rules. In particular, please observe the 20 mile per hour speed limit on the streets

– we have many families with children and the little ones can often be seen riding their scooters and bikes in the street and on the sidewalks. Parents, thank you for watching your children when they are out playing. We must all work together to avoid situations which could allow any accidents and/or serious injuries or worse to occur. If you live next door to children, check your driveway before you pull out!

And of course, if you have a dog, SCOOP THE POOP! And no garbage/recycling containers on the street, please, until after 5 pm on Sundays! Be a good neighbor and do your part to keep Park West looking great!

LANDSCAPER NEWS

February was a relatively quiet month with the exception of warmer than normal temperatures and several rainfall events. We received over 4-6 inches of rain in various areas in Central Texas during February. I attended the Austin Water Wise annual conference. The LCRA indicated that due to the recent rains they would not be cutting off our water for irrigation for the next six months. However, this does not mean we will be returning to two waterings per week. We should plan on Stage Two restrictions for some time. We need to do all that we can to prepare for the worst and hope for the best. I recommend that we do another round of K-mag and gypsum in 60 days to help

open the soil and make phosphorus more available to the grass. By doing so, we will get maximum benefit from the rains in May and June to prepare the root system of the grass for the heat in July, August and September. Furthermore, due to the poor condition of the grass in some yards as a result of the drought, heavy shade and the sloppy job that AT&T did when they installed the cables last summer, we should over-seed in yards that are Bermuda.

The aeration, K-mag application and the gypsum applications have been done and the pre-emergent fertilizer is being put down the last week of February. The weed situation from three years ago is well under control; winter weeds are minimal in Park West due to the pre-emergent application during October. We also checked a handful of sprinkler systems and did six repairs in two yards.

Thank you. *Scott Smith, Pearson Landscape Service.*

KUDOSTO A NEIGHBOR

In investigating a “watershed protection pond” runoff and drainage issue on Lot 103, it became important to ascertain where the water -- and accompanying trash -- originates.

As usual, neighbor Frank Gilbreath jumped right in and -- using a great deal
(Continued on Page 14)

Is your relationship strained? Do you have a troubled teen?
Are you or a loved one struggling with stress and or depression?



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Park West HOA News

Park West HOA News-

(Continued from Page 12)

of ingenuity and perseverance -- was able to provide the Lot 103 Committee with valuable information needed to document the problem and to recommend a course of action. Frank consistently and voluntarily renders invaluable services to our community and epitomizes what a "good neighbor" is. Thank you, Frank.

ABOUT ANOTHER NEIGHBOR

Frank Gilbreath is a good neighbor and a close neighbor who rightly deserves our appreciation. But allow me to introduce you to another neighbor -- a few miles away -- who also deserves our appreciation and, in addition, our support.

His name is Allen Hancock, a Vietnam War veteran who served in the U.S. Coast Guard in South Vietnamese territorial waters during that war and, having received serious injuries to his right leg, was disability-discharged in 1975.


Hancock's father, Allen W. Hancock, served in the Philippines during World War II, was taken prisoner by the Japanese, forced to march in the tortuous "Bataan Death March" and spent an equally tortuous 44 months as a prisoner of war in Japan.

Although "Young" Hancock -- he is 58 now --served his country honorably during wartime overseas, as did his father, and was injured, he doesn't like to talk about his service -- he feels he was just doing his job. "I was just down in the engine room on a ship I can imagine what the 'ground pounders' went through," he says modestly. I also get the impression that Hancock compares himself to his father who he feels sacrificed so much more.

But Allen himself would go on to suffer more than many of us can imagine.



(Continued on Page 15)



We believe the best way to get to know our neighbors is to have them over for coffee.

Frost BANKING INVESTMENTS INSURANCE

We've opened a new financial center on W William Cannon near Mopac. Stop by and say "hello" to bankers who'll actually enjoy meeting you and providing the kind of personal service that's all too rare these days. And while our coffee's pretty good, we think you'll be even more impressed with our banking.

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Perhaps due to his wartime leg injuries, which still cause him severe pain and problems, Allen was involved in a serious motorcycle accident in Oak Hill last May. As a result of that accident, Allen underwent above-knee amputation of his left leg and has been in and out of hospitals, including the renowned Veterans Administration (VA) Audie L. Murphy Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center at San Antonio, where he was fitted for a prosthetic leg.

When Allen was discharged from his latest VA hospital in Temple, he had literally nowhere to go. And here is where the story of a veteran who has gone through so much takes a turn for the better. Because of the empathy and hard work of fellow veterans, the goodwill of regular citizens, and the generosity of local merchants and organizations, Allen now has a place to live in.

Allen's new home happens to be a small house -- one of seven rental houses -- on the beautiful, wooded Hill Country grounds of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 4443, "Veterans Cove," on Thomas Spring Road just west of Oak Hill. As part of Post 4443's commendable efforts to reach out to veterans and to the community, it immediately decided to make the rental house available to Hancock upon hearing about his situation. However, there was a lot of fixing to be done to the house.

VFW members grabbed hammers, saws, paint brushes and, applying a lot of elbow grease and innumerable labor hours, tackled the job with enthusiasm -- almost devotion. Others obtained labor and materiel donations from local merchants -- ranging from new floors and floor coverings, cabinets and appliances, to new roofing -- to make the small house Allen's "new home" in-as-much-as-possible.

They were even able to make the glacially-moving VA cut through layers of red tape and install a super-duper ramp for Allen to enter his home using his new, VA-furnished, motorized wheel chair, and to provide various other safety and disability equipment and services.

Painfully remembering how our Vietnam veterans were treated after that war, Allen is almost overwhelmed by this outpouring of sympathy and goodwill. A couple of weeks ago, fellow veterans gave this Coast Guard veteran the "welcome home" he didn't receive nearly 40 years ago and their wishes that, in Veterans Cove, he will finally find a safe and peaceful harbor.

By the time you read this column, Allen will have been in his new house about a month-and-a-half. While the title of this story (originally published here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dorian-de-wind/a-house-in-the-texas-hill_b_1296889.html) is "A House in the Texas Hill Country Becomes a Home for a Vietnam War Veteran," there are still some things that need to be done before it is really a "home" for Allen.

And here is where Park West residents can help out. If you are interested in helping out this new neighbor please contact Dorian de Wind at ddewind@austin.rr.com. The things we can do for this deserving veteran run from getting him a few household items, bringing him some home-made cookies, helping him with his shopping, taking him out to lunch, to just stopping by for a little chat.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR RULES COMMITTEE

Wait until 5 PM to roll trash receptacles/recycle bins to the curb on Sunday

Sunday is the busiest day for visitors to our community. Realtors, neighbors, prospective home buyers drive through to look or attend open houses. The receptacles/bins make the neighborhood unsightly, take up space for parking, make driving on our streets less safe because two cars cannot pass at the same time and cut down on visibility, making children at play more difficult to see.

Garage doors are to remain closed unless work is being done in the garage.

Scoop the poop.

Dispose of your pets' waste properly for a sanitary and disease free community.

Note: The Rules Committee will be featuring some of the rules and appearance standards in this column as a friendly reminder to homeowners to be good neighbors and to keep our neighborhood at its best.

SEE YOU IN MAY

Please contact Dorian de Wind at ddewind@austin.rr.com by April 5 with your inputs for the May edition of your Park West column.



Allen Hancock's House in the Texas Hill Country

Clubs & Announcements

Circle C Manager & Director of Tennis Gives Advice on How to Play Tennis

Submitted by Circle C Tennis Club General Manager, Fernando Velasco

In the previous issue, I answered questions about beginning to play tennis, and how to select a tennis racket. In this issue, I will answer questions regarding the proper selection of tennis shoes.

Q: I want to start playing tennis, but I only have running/walking shoes. Can I play with them?

A: There is a huge difference in the construction and fit of running/walking shoes. Athletic shoes have a more flexible sole and have the appropriate tread to absorb the impact of running/walking. They are lighter and narrower since the runner/walker need to step from the heel to the toe. Tennis shoes have a different tread, depending on whether the player is playing on a hard court, grass court or clay court.

Q: What happens if I play tennis with my athletic/shoes?

A: Athletic shoes are made so a person can place their weight on the heel and move toward the toe. Tennis shoes are wider, have more arch support and a higher heel to absorb the shock of stopping and starting. Several of my students, who did not want to invest into buying tennis shoes and continued playing with athletic shoes, developed plantar fasciitis and developed problems with the calf muscles.

Q: How much should I spend on buying tennis shoes?

A: Most sporting goods stores carry "tennis shoes" for sale. These can range from \$39.00 to \$129.00, depending on the brand and the durability expectation. These shoes, most

of the time, are bought from the tennis companies after they have discontinued the styles. Most Tennis Clubs, however, usually carry two or three brands of shoes of various prices to cater to their players. If the facility has different court surfaces, they will also offer the proper shoes to wear for the respective surface.

Q: When I buy tennis shoes, how should I know that they are the right size?

A: Rule of thumb is to buy tennis shoes at least ½ sizes bigger than normal street shoes. When a player stops, there are 5G forces on the foot, and it needs space to move. Players who purchase tight tennis shoes end up either with broken toe nails or injuries to their feet. I normally recommend people

(Continued on Page 17)

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How to Play Tennis- (Continued from Page 16)

buying tennis shoes and wearing them at home before they start playing tennis. This gives the player a “break-in” period and allows the shoe to mold to one’s foot. This process will let you if the shoes are too narrow, too wide or the wrong size.

Q: What type of socks should I wear with my tennis shoes? A: Players and teaching pros need to protect their feet so they can play and teach comfortably. Several of us, wear two pairs of socks: one thick pair and one thin pair. This method has been proven successful to eliminate both blisters and calluses. It is proven that when excessive perspiration occurs, that one pair attaches to the shoe, while the other protects the shoe from rubbing against the skin, thus giving double protection.

In the next issue, I will answer questions about appropriate court attire. Until then, start shopping around for the most comfortable tennis shoe and keep enjoying the “sport of a lifetime: Tennis”.

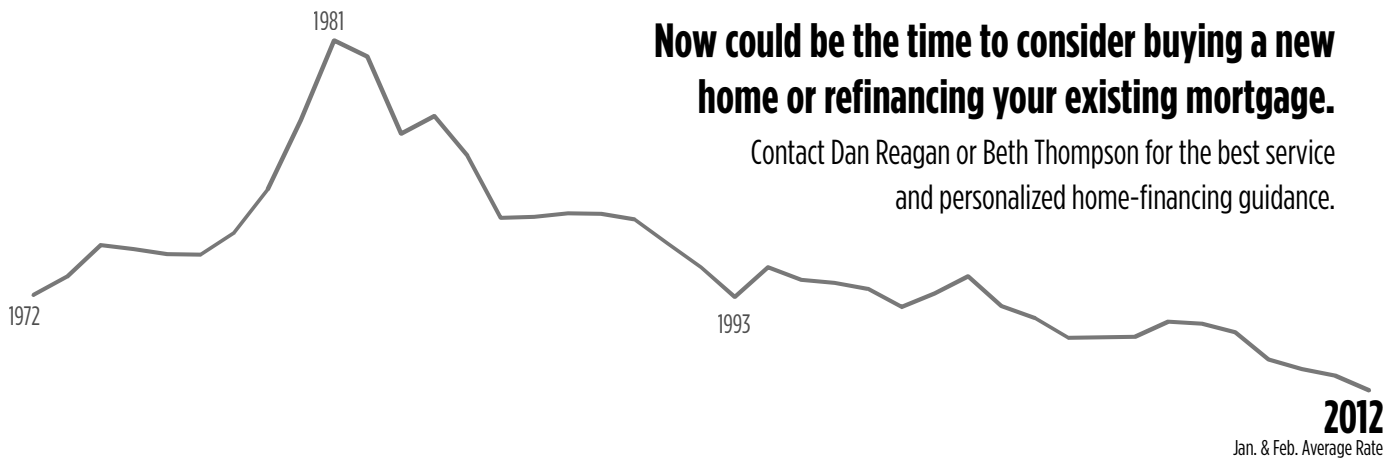


For Circle C Ranch Residents

The Circle C Tennis Club will be offering a “Complimentary Tennis Clinic” on Saturday, May 5th from 11:00 am to 12 noon for adult residents of the Village of Western Oaks. This free clinic is open only to Non-Members of the Circle C Tennis Club. The staff, headed by General Manager and Director of Tennis, Fernando Velasco, will be giving advice on how to begin playing tennis, and also to give tips on how to improve your game to those already playing the sport. Guests may use our “Demo” Rackets, if they do not presently own one. You are also more than welcome to stay afterwards to join us for snacks and drinks, and ask any questions about the game.

**Registration is required by calling
The Circle C Tennis Club at 512-301-8685.**

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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!



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

My clients have been calling me lately wanting to know the absolute best time to bring their homes to the market. Generally, the Springtime is the best, however, homes sell in Circle C Ranch all year round. February is typically to slowest month and all real estate companies take their conventions then. March and April get busier with the early sellers/listings and then it explodes in May when the weather is warm, grass is green and flowers are out. The large families tend to buy then, to have the kids in school by Fall. Now we are seeing a lot of young families with babies looking at homes and we have had as many as 20 couples in one Sunday afternoon through our open houses. We typically have 3-4 open houses on most Sundays. There are a lot of buyers and not many sellers. If you can, in any way, get your home on the market before the end of March/April you will be way ahead of the game. Right now, as of 3/8/12 there are only 26 homes on the market in Circle C! That is really, really low. Yes, the market has stabilized in Circle C Ranch. You will have certain cases where homes are selling cheaply for one reason or another, but by-in-large no-one is giving their home away in Circle C Ranch anymore and buyers are taking note of it. There are 27 pending homes and 26 active. That means we have 1 month's inventory on the market. Another great reason to list as soon as you possibly can. The Squires' Team is known for it's generous move-up and move-down plans, but if you must leave Austin or are being relocated by your company, we'd love to help you with that move too! The Squires Team has been working with relocation companies since the relocation inception 16 years ago. You do not have to use the relocation agent or brokerage the company provides to you. You may interview and use whomever you please and it is usually much to your financial advantage to use the neighborhood expert, instead of a brokerage/agent that rarely works in the area. The Squires Team has successfully sold scores of homes through Bristol relo, Hewitt relo, Sirva relo, Global relo, Quantum relo, Primacy relo, Summit relo, Promisor relo, Cartus relo and more! We are relocation tested and certified to work with all relocation companies. Please give us a chance to earn your business and show you why the Squires Team sells more homes than anyone else in Circle C Ranch. Call John for an easy appointment at **(512) 970-1970**.

Call John Squires for an easy appointment to provide you with a free, no-obligation 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 no hidden fees. Go to SquiresTeam.com to view all of John's listings and virtual tours.

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Below is a quick snapshot of The Squires Team's client's properties that have had contracts placed on them within the last 2 weeks. In many cases in Circle C real estate, it has become a seller's market if the homes are properly cleaned, staged, updated and priced correctly. If you would like a free, no-obligation market profile of your valuable home, please allow me to apply for the job. Thank you so much! John Squires



7508 Doswell Lane
"Sold" before coming on the market with multiple offers. Gorgeous 1-story with game room on greenbelt. Sold to Squires Team "silent market" buyer represented by Kevin Scragg.

6712 Hansa Loop
John's listing "Sold" before coming on the market to a Squires Team approved buyer on John's buyer list. This home was sold on the Squires Team's "silent market!"



10520 Hansa Loop
John's listing "Sold" with multiple offers. Backs to permanent greenbelt in Circle C West.

11400 Bastian Cove
Gorgeous white-stone home with hardwood floors, cul-de-sac, over 4200 sq. ft. and huge lot. John's listing "Sold" within 11 days of coming to market.



Call John directly at (512) 970-1970 on his "sell" phone any time for an easy appointment!

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- 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 flyer advertising.
- 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 move-down plans to fit every families needs.
- 8) One point contact at (512) 970-1970 so there is no "big team" confusion, mixed signals or missed deadlines.
- 9) Insure a smooth, successful transaction start to finish.
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Free admission.

CENTENNIAL GALA

Friday, April 27. Wildflower Center closes at 3 p.m.



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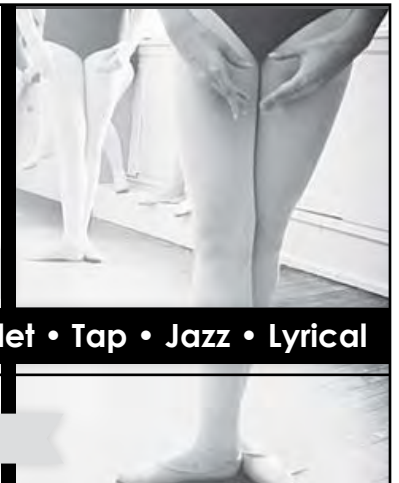
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Registration: 12:30 pm Shot Gun Start: 1:30 pm

Awards Dinner: 7:00 pm ~ Sponsored By

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REGISTRATION FEES

Early Bird Fee: March 22 – April 19

\$100 per player

Tournament Fee: April 19 – Tournament

\$125 per player

All Current Bowie Football Players: \$90 anytime



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Team Prizes:

To include rounds of golf at

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Hole-in-One Prize:



2012 Chevy Camaro
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Prizes ~ More To Come:



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Attire for Private Club:

- **NO** blue jeans or denim of any kind on the course as well as jogging/workout clothes, halter tops, tee shirts, short shorts, or bathing suits.
- Golf shirts **must have collars and sleeves** and tucked in at all times.
- Slacks or proper length Bermuda shorts (one fist above the knee) are acceptable.
- Onion Creek Club is a **Non-Metal Spike** facility; however, tennis shoes are permitted. Players must replace metal spikes prior to arrival or use courses replacement services.

Golf and/or Sponsorship Registration Forms:

www.bowiefootball.org/golf.htm

Golf Registration Deadline:

May 11, 2012

Questions: Contact Golf Chair

Durell Hoskins

Cell: 512/507-6480

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Billy

JUNE 1994

Billy is a friendly, sweet, likeable young man that LOVES to talk! He is very open and outgoing with adults and peers. Billy likes to play with toy soldiers, electronic games, Hot Wheels and Pokemon cards. He also enjoys playing sports outdoors and riding his bicycle. Billy needs an adoptive family who is very structured, consistent, loving and committed to helping Billy make the transition to adulthood. For more information on Billy, please contact Grace Lindgren at the Adoption Coalition of Texas by email gracelindgren@adopttexas.org or by phone: 512-810-0813. *Submitted by Murray Chanow*



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FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

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2nd Annual **GOLF4JD** Tournament

Monday, April 23, 2012
Grey Rock Golf Club
7401 Highway 45
Austin, Texas 78739

Registration – 11:00 a.m.

Shotgun Start – 12:00 p.m.

Entry Fee - \$150/player

Sack lunch, Dinner & Golf Shirt included

HOPE4JD
HOPE → SUPPORT → RECOVERY

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Visit www.HOPE4JD.org
to **REGISTER** and view the
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- Silent Auction
- Gift Bags
- Longest Drive
- Closest to the Pin
- Other contests & games
- Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and Last Place



Hope4JD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public charity organized to support families and caregivers of children up to age 21 who suffer a hypoxic/anoxic brain injury. Cerebral hypoxia refers to a reduced supply of oxygen to the brain; cerebral anoxia refers to a complete lack of oxygen to the brain

Please visit www.hope4jd.org for more information regarding our organization.



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Austin Newcomers Club APRIL LUNCHEON

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE ZACH?

Founded in 1933 as Austin Civic Theater, ZACH has been a major player in the Austin Theatre and Theatre Education life of this region for almost 80 years. Our speakers this month are Joy Selak, the Board President at ZACH, and Nat Miller, ZACH's Education Director. They will be telling us about the work they do in theatre education and theatre for youth at ZACH as well as working with arts education in the Austin school system. They will also share with us the progress on their new state of the art Topfer Theatre under construction on the expanding campus. Joy has served on ZACH's board for 8 years. Nat recently joined the organization from the Paramount, where he was education director. Nat is also a former high school teacher and received his MFA in Theatre Education from the University of Texas.

WHEN & WHERE

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012 at Green Pastures Restaurant,
811 West Live Oak Street, pre-payment \$20.00.**

Reservations are required.

TIME

11:30 a.m. socializing, Luncheon begins at noon.

For Luncheon Reservations Email:

LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com

Austin Newcomers Club is a non-profit social and recreational organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. 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. You are invited to attend a morning or evening Welcome Coffee and Orientation. For more information visit the website at: www.AustinNewcomers.com.





Butterfly Gardening

Submitted by Wizzie Brown

Butterfly gardening can be a wonderful way to invite nature into your backyard. With a little knowledge on local butterflies and the correct plants, you can create a garden that allows you to watch butterflies in various life stages. Adult butterflies feed on nectar, gathering it from flowers. Larvae, or caterpillars, feed on plant foliage, so if you do not like to have your plants eaten by insects, butterfly gardening may not be for you. Some larvae feed only on particular plants. The following is a list to help you with your plant selection:

BUTTERFLY

Monarch butterfly	milkweed, butterfly weed
Queen butterfly.....	milkweed
Viceroy.....	cottonwood, poplar, willow
Black swallowtail	parsley, dill, fennel
Spicebush swallowtail	spicebush, sweet bay, saffras
Pipevine swallowtail	Dutchman's pipevine
Giant swallowtail.....	citrus, Hercules club
Brazilian skipper.....	canna
Brush-footed butterflies.....	nettles, thistles
Hairstreak butterflies	pecans, walnuts
Gulf fritillary.....	passionflower vines
Giant purple hairstreak.....	mistletoe
Gray hairstreak.....	legumes
Question mark	hackberry, elm
Texas crescent.....	shrimp plant, dicliptera, ruellia
Painted lady.....	hollyhock, thistles
Buckeye.....	plantain, snapdragon

PLANT



(Continued on Page 28)

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News You Can Use

Butterfly Gardening- (Continued from Page 27)

Adult butterflies need a source of nectar in the garden. The following is a list of plants they might like:

PLANT NAME	FLOWER COLOR
Asters	lavender, pink, purple, white
Blazing star.....	lavender
Butterfly bush.....	lavender, purple, white
Butterfly weed	orange, yellow
Cone flower.....	fuchsia
Flame bush.....	red-orange
Goldenrod.....	yellow
Ironweed	pink, purple
Lantana	combinations, lavender, orange, pink, white, yellow
Loosestrife.....	lavender
Mexican heather.....	lavender
Mexican milkweed	red-orange, yellow
Mexican mint marigold.....	yellow-orange
Mist flower.....	blue, white
Phlox.....	pink, purple, red, white
Salvia.....	blue, lavender, pink, red
Verbena.....	blue, lavender, pink, purple, red, white
Zinnia	orange, pink, red, white, yellow



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



The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas AgriLife Extension Service or the Texas AgriLife Research is implied. Extension programs serve people of all ages regardless of socioeconomic level, race, color, sex, religion, disability, or national origin.



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Legacy We Leave For Our Children

Undoubtedly, as parents, we have thought about the money we will leave behind for our children. Have we ever thought about the part of our spirits that we want our children to inherit? Granted, our children are unique individuals. But, we can still leave footprints in the sands of time that will continue to connect us with our children, long after we die.

Our children will learn their own life lessons. But, that should not stop us from modeling survival skills to our children that have helped us handle the struggles of life. We can nurture resilient children by talking to them about our core values through sharing photographs, conversations and dining table games. Our children will learn from us, both consciously and sub-consciously, the skills that can help them weather the physical

and mental storms of life. The time spent in reflecting on what really matters to us and communicating the same to our children can make our bonds with our children richer and more meaningful.

My parents actively reinforced the value of gratitude in me. Being mindful and expressing thankfulness for every experience has attracted many positive forces in my life. Gratitude is the legacy that my parents have left for me. Legacy is a priceless gift that we can pass down to the generations that come after us. Legacy unites us with our ancestors, children and grand-children. Legacy is thinking about what qualities our ancestors have blessed us with, that we will continually strive to transmit in our kin.

It is important to ask ourselves some questions. Which qualities do we value:

Humor and Power of laughter; Faith and Spirituality; Forgiveness; Pride; Compassion or something else? Do our children know of our values? What effort am I making in leaving a physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually strong legacy for my children? What difference can I make in the lives of my children in April 2012 through daily affirmations and encouragement?

We leave a legacy when we make a positive impact on our children's souls. This legacy is pure, powerful and long-lasting. Just like wood becomes stronger and harder when immersed in water, our legacy can preserve the resilience of our children.

*Sugandha Jain, Master Registered Texas
Trainer & Director of Accreditation
at a local preschool.*



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SHRED DAY 2012

FREE HOUSEHOLD DOCUMENT SHREDDING

With the increased awareness of identity theft, it is more important than ever to carefully dispose of personal records such as credit card statements and checking account records. ARMA, the Financial Fitness of Greater Austin and Austin Resource Recovery Department are sponsoring a free "Shred Day." Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 19, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Austin High School parking lot. Households can bring up five boxes of paper records for shredding. Box size should not be larger than 24" X 24". Mobile shredding trucks will be on site to shred all materials. Please make sure your records are paper only (no hard plastics, no plastic bags, electronic media or three-ring binders) and are not wet or moldy. In lieu of a fee – monetary donations will be accepted for the Capital Area Food Bank. Last year, the event shredded over 83,500 pounds of material and collected 302 pounds of food and over \$7,100 for the Capital Area Food Bank. All of the shredded material and cardboard boxes were recycled.

For more details regarding the free household shredding, e-mail Jannette.goodall@austintexas.gov or call 974-9045.

6th Annual East Austin GARDEN FAIR: A Passion for Plants

Submitted by Bonnie Martin

**Saturday, April 14, 10am-2pm
Zaragoza Recreation Center
2608 E. Gonzales Street, Austin TX**

Texas AgriLife Extension and the City of Austin are partnering to present the East Austin Garden Fair. This year's theme is "Grow Well-Grow Your Own", offering lots of information on creating your own garden space. Informational and activity booths will be offered for adults and children on various topics such as composting, rainwater harvesting, school gardens, insects and pests, nutrition and exercise to name a few. Information will be available in both English and Spanish. Attendees will be eligible for a free plant.

This event is open to the public and parking & admission are free. www.tcmastergardeners.org. For information, call (512) 854-9600.



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TO APPLY NOW:

Complete and submit the application online at the TAP web site between March 19, 2012, and April 27, 2012.

www.improveirs.org

**PLEASE CALL 1-888-912-1227
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT
TAP OR THE APPLICATION PROCESS.**

To qualify as a TAP member, applicants must be a U.S. citizen and able to commit 300-500 volunteer hours per year to the panel. Applicants must also be current with tax obligations and pass an FBI criminal background check.

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Auto Talk – Ask a Medic

Recently my mechanic said my catalytic converter is defective and has to be replaced.

WHAT IS A CATALYTIC CONVERTER & HOW DOES IT BECOME DEFECTIVE?

A catalytic converter is a device that converts three harmful compounds (hydrocarbons, carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides) in car exhaust into harmless compounds. Carbon monoxide is a poison for any air-breathing animal. Nitrogen oxides lead to smog and acid rain, and hydrocarbons produce smog.

A catalytic converter becomes defective when too much raw fuel enters the exhaust system—causing the metals inside to start imploding. When this happens, severe black exhaust fumes (smells like raw fuel) and/or “bogging down” can happen and causes

back pressure on the engine. Your check engine light will illuminate on your vehicle’s dashboard when this occurs.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT CATALYTIC CONVERTER FAILURE?

TWO SIMPLE THINGS:

- Make sure your vehicle is tuned up on time; every time. Why? Once the spark plugs become worn, they will not burn fuel optimally—this causes raw fuel to enter and/or collect in the vehicle’s exhaust system.
- Service your cooling system every two years or 30,000 miles (contrary to the manufacturer’s suggestion of five years or 100,000 miles. With wear and tear, your vehicle’s cooling system thermostat may be sticking “open,” causing continuous flow

of coolant—never allowing the engine to reach its full operating temperature the majority of the time. The driver will never see this issue on the gauge. It’s a minute problem that will cause severe issues to the catalytic converter later down the road. If the vehicle continuously stays cool, the computer wants to dump more fuel in the engine than what is really needed. This again allows raw fuel to enter the exhaust thereby causing catalytic converter failure.

Tommy Bludworth is an ASE certified technician with more than 15 years experience. Advice and recommendations given are for your convenience. You should see a qualified, professional when having any automotive repairs made on your vehicle.

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Colin's Hope Upcoming Events Calendar

April - May: Water Safety Walk - Packet Stuffing Distribution

April 18: Colin's Hope Classic Golf Tournament at Flintrock Falls

June 14: World's Largest Swim Lesson at Schlitterbahn

June 16: Colin's Hope Got2Swim the Pure Austin Quarry

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Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (09/2011 - 02/2012)						Current Market	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	35	2,809	\$ 111	\$ 311	1993	48	9	4
North	19	1,993	\$ 125	\$ 249	1996	45	0	3
Wildflower	12	2,149	\$ 132	\$ 284	2002	96	3	4
On The Park	9	3,739	\$ 109	\$ 407	1996	81	0	0
Vintage Place	3	3,164	\$ 105	\$ 332	2003	74	0	1
Hielscher	17	2,946	\$ 117	\$ 346	2003	30	5	1
West	16	3,321	\$ 116	\$ 385	2005	61	3	3
Park West	8	2,106	\$ 140	\$ 294	2002	102	1	0
Park Place	8	2,610	\$ 119	\$ 310	2005	45	0	0
Muirfield	6	3,819	\$ 126	\$ 481	2006	36	0	2
Enclave	6	3,188	\$ 122	\$ 390	2007	90	0	0
Lacrosse	6	2,869	\$ 117	\$ 335	2006	36	0	0
Alta Mira	8	2,952	\$ 122	\$ 360	2009	75	4	0
Fairway Estates	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0
Avana-Esquel	2	2,340	\$ 136	\$ 317	2011	10	0	1
Circle C Ranch Total	155	2,798	\$ 119	\$ 334	2000	57	26	19
% Change Mo/Mo	18%	1%	-1%	-1%	0%	0%	-21%	-39%

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin-Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 03/08/2012. In some cases new construction and FSBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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