

Volume 9, Number 11

November 2012

www.circlecranch.info

## Circle C Celebrates the holidays

## Circle C Holiday Kid's Party

Date: December 1, 2012 Time: 10am to 12:30pm Location: Circle C Community Center

Save the Date! Come enjoy breakfast, holiday crafts, train ride, petting zoo, Games2U videomobile, face painting and Santa! This event is for residents only. Admission per child is one awesome unwrapped present benefitting the toy drive for the Adoption Coalition of Texas.

### Adult Holiday & Casino Party

Date: December 1, 2012 Time: 7pm to 10pm Location: Circle C Community Center

Save the Date! The much requested Adult Holiday & Casino Party is back! Tickets went on sale October 15, 2012; and are open to residents ONLY until November 9th. Ticket cost is \$10/per person and may be purchased at the Circle C Community Center Monday – Friday between 9am and 5pm. Activities will include: hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, casino play, raffle of prizes, music & dancing!

## **Holiday Closures**

HOA Offices: Closed November 22-23 and December 24-26 & January 2 Swim Center: Closed November 21-24 and December 21-January 2

## Holiday Lights Contest

This year's holiday lighting contest will be held December 14-16. In order for a home to be included, the address MUST be submitted to our office no later than midnight, December 9, 2012.

Interested in judging? This can be a fun activity for the family, friends or neighbors. Send us an email if you would like to volunteer at ashley@circlecranch.info.

### **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 Community Center Pool
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
č
Streetman Enclave HOA
Rosalind Peterson
Muirfield HOA
Chris Noel

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Contact the board at	directors@circlecranch.info

## **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

	07/10/5
City of Austin Solid Waste	
Dead Animal Collection	
Abandoned Vehicle	
Pothole Complaints	
Stop Signs	457-4885
Street Light Outage	
Schools	
Clayton Elementary	
Kiker Elementary	414-2584
Gorzycki Middle School	
Small Middle School	
Bowie High School	414-5247
Mills Elementary	
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 <u>ashley@circlecranch.info</u> 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 <u>advertising@peelinc.com</u>. 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.

"Be the Community."



## **CCHOA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **AUSTIN CITY CODE CHAPTER 9-6**

This city code references the use of fire arms and includes the use of air guns. According to our APD Southwest District Representative, this code covers the use of the airsoft guns that shoot the brightly colored plastic bb-like pellets that are very popular with many of our neighborhood kids. It is illegal to fire these within the city limits of Austin.

#### HOLIDAY LIGHTS

The CCHOA governing documents state that holiday lights are permitted during the month of December each year and such lights must be removed by January 15. The CCHOA has allowed for owners to turn on their holiday lights during the week of Thanksgiving which means that lights may be installed the weekend before Thanksgiving. Please do not begin your holiday decorating before November 17th.

#### SCOOP THE POOP

Unfortunately, we are still receiving many reports of residents who are not properly cleaning up after their dogs. Cleaning up after your dog doesn't only mean bagging up their waste, but also taking the bag home with you and disposing of it properly.

#### **BASKETBALL HOOPS**

In the CCHOA governing documents, basketball hoops are not allowed in the front yard. However, temporary basketball goals that are in good shape and being used regularly are allowed. On the other hand, permanent basketball goals and hoops mounted on the home must be submitted to the Architectural Control Committee for approval prior to installation. Basketball goals in the City of Austin right of way (this includes the street and 10 feet back from the curb), are not allowed and can be reported to 311.

#### **COYOTES IN THE GREENBELT**

We've had recent reports from residents that have seen coyotes in the greenbelt areas. "Coyotes may be potentially harmful to outdoor pets, so the City of Austin advises to keep cats and dogs indoors and keep brush low.

#### VANDALISM

We have now received three different reports from residents whose tires have been stolen from their vehicles overnight. These thieves use landscaping rocks from the yard of the home to prop up the vehicle. The best way to prevent this from happening to you is to park your vehicle in your garage. If that is not an option for you, you could look into putting locknuts on your wheels. However, some reports say that professional thieves will know how to take them off. Please be on the lookout for your vehicle and your neighbors' vehicles. If you see anything suspicious, please call 911 immediately.

We also received a report of stolen Halloween decorations. With more holidays around the corner, please be on the lookout for this as well.

#### **NEW STOP SIGNS AT LA CROSSE & SPRUCE CYN**

Please be extra careful at the intersection of La Crosse and Spruce Canyon. New stop signs have been added, making this now an all-way stop. Many people have not noticed the new signs yet and have been accidently running the required stop.

#### OCT. 15 DEED RESTRICTIONS

Did you receive a violation letter from the HOA regarding your landscaping with a deadline of October 15, 2012? For those of you who cooperated with us by contacting us and bringing your property back into compliance, we thank you. We appreciate all your hard work and quick efforts. For those of you who still have not complied, you will be receiving a certified deed restriction from us if you have not already. Please

contact us immediately at 288-8663 to discuss bringing your home into compliance.

#### DEED RESTRICTION

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.

#### **NO DUMPING**

One of the many beautiful aspects of living in Circle C is all the green space that surrounds our neighborhood. Many of you are fortunate to back up to green space that may be water quality land or retention area or open lot. We need your help in keeping these areas clean and free of debris. Under no circumstances should anyone dump or store debris or items in any of these areas. It may seem harmless to dump your clippings or branches, but by doing so you are altering these naturalized areas and in some cases increasing the risk for fire. Lawn clippings and tree and shrub trimmings can be placed in brown refuse bags available at Home Depot or Lowes and placed at the curb on trash day. If you back up to a green space, this is not an extension of your backyard. Please do not store firewood, wheelbarrows, ladders, etc. We have walked many of these areas recently and many residents are storing personal items outside of their fence and lot. As we maintain or walk these areas, these items may be picked up and thrown out so now is the time to remove them.

#### **SNAKE SIGHTINGS**

We have had multiple recent reports of snake sightings within the neighborhood of both rattlesnakes and coral snakes, both of which are venomous. We ran an article in the newsletter over the summer telling residents to call 311 for venomous snakes. However, a resident who recently encountered a coral snake reported that the City does not offer this service. If you are faced with a venomous snake, you must ignore it, attempt to remove it yourself, or call a private wildlife control service.



## ADVERTISING

#### Information

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

**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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Please contact Robby Chapman at 512-632-5990 with D&W Painting, Inc. or by email - robby@dwpainting.com

We look forward to helping you create your perfect home!



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#### **REMINDER** *City of Austin Leash Law*

This is a reminder to all dog owners, that the City of Austin has a Leash Law which prohibits dogs from running loose.

§ 3-2-1 RUNNING AT LARGE PROHIBITED.

Except as specifically provided in this title, an owner or handler may not allow livestock, fowl, a dog, or other domestic or dangerous animal or reptile to run at large.

Source: 1992 Code Sections 3-1-3(G), 3-2-2, 3-2-25, and 3-3-2; Ord. 031009-9; Ord. 031211-11.





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PARK WEST & SECTION 9 RESIDENTS (SEE MAP ON NEXT PAGE FOR DETAILS) THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 6:00-7:30 PM CIRCLE C COMMUNITY CENTER

#### Your Child Will Become a Confident and Successful Reader!

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## **CCHOA News**

## Neighborhood **Meet & Greet Party**

for Park West & Section 9 Residents **NOVEMBER 15, 6-7:30 PM** 

The CCHOA will be hosting Park West's and Section 9's Neighborhood Meet and Greet at our new Community Center (located at 7817 La Crosse Avenue, intersection of La Crosse Avenue and Spruce Canyon) on Thursday, November 15, 6:00-7:30 pm. Not sure if you are in Section 9? This map shows all the homes that are in Section 9. The event will be sponsored by the amazing team at Austin Orthodontics Specialists, and food and drink will be provided by Mama Fu's Asian House. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to come out and meet your neighbors, HOA staff, and Board of Directors, and win door prizes! Be on the lookout for your invitation in the mail. See you there!

## 18 years of dedicated service in Southwest Austin









age

Nov 29 - Dec 1 THU 9:30 AM - 8:00 PM

FRI 9:30 AM - 7:00 PM

SAT 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM



**120 HAWTHORNE LOOP** DRIFTWOOD, TX. 78619

CONTACT: LAURA YONGE OR MIKE FLANAGAN AT

512-428-5279

Jingle Bell House is an annual event offered as an opportunity for 75+ artisans to bring their talents to a central location for fun and profit. JBH is always hosted in a beautiful builder's model home that only adds to the festive feel of the show.

Being in a home allows the 75+ artisans to showcase their works in a boutique style setting and allows the public to hop in a "home style" setting. There is a good selection of upscale crafts from Holiday decor, unique gift items, jewelry and childrens attire as well as the ever popular handmade kitchen yummies!

We have a very large following of people who come back to shop annually so we strive to add fresh new vendors as well as update inventories on a



## CCHOA News

## **Circle C Landscape**

Submitted by Susan Hoover

For the first time in two years, Circle C Landscape is able to do some replacement plantings in selected areas this fall. The median just north of LaCrosse on Escarpment has been completely redone as part of a capital improvement project for this area. This is a very large (approximately 650 x 38 foot wide) median. We have removed all of the spray and rotor irrigation in the area, installed subsurface drip irrigation and tree bubblers in order to water the area more efficiently. The old St. Augustine grass has been replaced with drought tolerant zoysia. The drip irrigation will save up to 70% water and be able to keep the turf alive during periods of extreme drought.

Since the City of Austin revised the water conservation code and the City Council adopted it in August, we will be methodically working through the commons areas to look for opportunities to use drip. This will be the best way to save water and keep vegetation alive. Drip is not possible for all of the landscaping in Circle C, but you will see it implemented on median tips and smaller bedded areas throughout all of the areas.

Other landscape improvements going on this fall will include: replacement shrub plantings on Barstow, Escarpment, South Bay and Dahlgreen, replacement bed plantings at Circle C North, LaCrosse at the Park West entrances, Escarpment, LaCrosse and Spruce Canyon, and tree pruning on Slaughter Lane.

We are also in the process of applying an organic fertilizer to all of our areas. This will gently replenish nitrogen and trace minerals without putting stress on the plants. We have already treated the swim center, community center and community parks with ant bait, and will be applying the same along the pedestrian areas of the major boulevards. We are also killing out nut grass in several locations. This is a process and it takes two to three weeks for the nut grass to die out after a treatment. Therefore, you will see longer blades of nutgrass in beds that slowly yellow out and go away. It also looks like we are just about finished with a perennial weed called dallisgrass. It is the tall weed that grows several inches per day in the turf areas. We generally just let it run its course, spot treat or hand pull it as our program does not allow massive chemical treatment of large turf areas by spraying.

We will start putting up the holiday lights near the end of October, and everything will be turned on Wednesday, November 21st, just in time for Thanksgiving.



## UPDATE ON TREE CARE IN CIRCLE C

Susan R. Hoover, Circle C Landscape

The Circle C Homeowners Association takes care of about 2,000 shade trees in the commons areas. As you can imagine, this is always a challenge, and has been particularly difficult with our recent drought conditions. During the drought of 2011, Circle C Landscape hand watered all trees on the commons areas on a rotational schedule from July through November.

Nevertheless, the tree canopy throughout Central Texas was significantly damaged by the 2011 drought. This situation has caused a rise in a fungus called hypoxylen which leaves healthy trees alone, but attacks trees that have been weakened. A number of trees behind the monument on the southwest side of Escarpment/ Slaughter succumbed to this fungus, for which there is no recourse or treatment.

Currently, Circle C Landscape is supervising a certified arborist to do quite a bit of tree care in the neighborhood. The trees marked with the green and yellow ribbons along Escarpment, LaCrosse and Circle C North are burr oaks. They are particularly vulnerable to heat stress. The ones that are marked have received a water fertilization which aerates the soil and provides food for the tree.

As far as oak wilt, there are pockets of it throughout Circle C. Over the past year, we have treated trees with the appropriate fungicide at Circle C North, and on South Bay. Other areas of concern are the Wildflower Park park area, where oak wilt has existed for many years. The trees have been treated and receive booster treatments as recommended. This site is also used by the Texas Forest Service as a training area for oak wilt remediation. Two years ago, the CCHOA worked with the City of Austin on obtaining a grant for an oak wilt trench to be dug on the south side of Slaughter across from Circle C North, and all the trees in that area were treated as well. In Circle C North, there has been recurrence of oak wilt up near the front. All of the trees in the right of way area were treated three years ago, and have been treated again. On Escarpment, there are several homes which back to Escarpment who have lost their trees to oak wilt on the east side, and they have not removed those trees. The trees on the common area and in the median within range of the diagnosed oak wilt on Escarpment have been treated. In the greenbelt between Back Bay and Gorham Glen, there was an oak wilt diagnosis earlier this year. The affected tree was removed and all trees within 150 feet were treated. Several years ago, a tree in the extension to South Bay succumbed to oak wilt and the trees by the post office and the end of the street at South Bay were treated. They have received a booster just last week. When it looks like someone has left kegs under a tree, that particular tree is getting an oak wilt treatment.

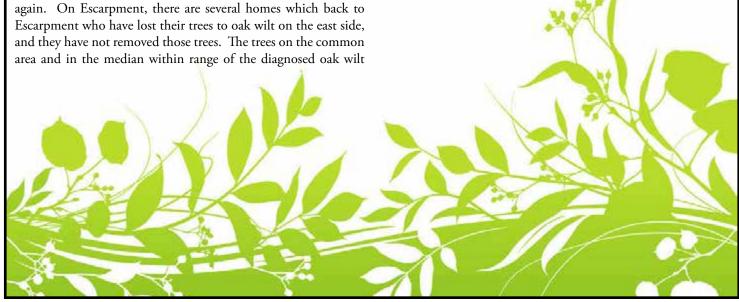
The trees on Escarpment that look weak and yellow are primarily water oaks that are not suited to our alkaline soils. They were imported from Houston at the beginning of the development. They look perpetually out of iron --i.e. yellow--and are subject to disease. We remove these as they decline, which is good as the medians are very crowded with trees.

At the new Community Center, the trees were examined by a certified arborist prior to construction and no oak wilt or disease was detected. Prior to and during construction, a number of treatments in terms of fertilization and pest control were performed. We have also had the City Arborist examine the trees since construction and find them to be in good health.

This winter, the trees on the Slaughter Lane median and sides will receive a health prune. This will be to remove dead wood, lift the canopies and take out anything that would interfere with the health of the tree.

New homeowners with new trees need to be aware that watering trees for the first year cannot be ignored. The trees need the water to establish, but are also sensitive to overwatering. You want to water them deeply and then let them dry out in between watering.

We encourage everyone in Circle C to contact a certified arborist if you have any questions about the health of your trees. The City of Austin Grow Green program also has a very good pamphlet on tree care available at www.growgreen.org/.



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## CCHOA News



#### **Circle C Swim Center**

Submitted by Sammie Surguy

#### WINTER HOURS

October 1, 2012 – March 9, 2012 **SWIM CENTER** Monday- Friday 6-10 a.m. Lap Swim Only 3:30-7p.m. Lap Swim Only Saturday 8-11a.m. Lap Swim Only Sunday **CLOSED** 

**COMMUNITY SWIM CENTER** Monday-Sunday **CLOSED** Holiday Closures November 21st - 24th December 21st - January 2nd

#### PRIVATE LESSONS

Now is the perfect time to get your swimmer into private lessons with some spots still open and all other activities winding down. The air may be crisp and cool outside but the pool is nice and warm at 80 degrees. If you would like to book a private lesson please contact the Swim Center Front Desk at: (512)288-6057 or customerservice@ccswim.net.

#### LANE SPACE

If you would like to know what lanes are available at the pool before you come in you can always check out the Circle C Website at: www.

ccswim.net or give the front desk a call at: (512) 288-6057 **CIRCLE C SELECT SWIMTEAM** 

For the first time ever the Circle C Select Swim Team has maxed out. Although you may not be able join right now, you can always keep checking back to see if a spot has opened up. Below is a photo of the swimmers from the Circle C Swim Team being a little goofy.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Swim Center at: (512) 288-6057 or customerservice@ccswim.net



## Are Noises in your Attic driving you nuts? **Start your New Year Critter Free!**



# **Tennis** Tips

#### By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Fernando Velasco

#### HOW TO HIT A ONE-HANDED BACKHAND

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a Forehand and a Two-Handed Backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a one-handed backhand for a right hander. This stroke is still used by many league and tournament players since it gives players a wider range of reach and flexibility to hit slices and drop shots.

**Step 1: Ready position:** The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is on the throat of the racket. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are shoulder width apart and the body in is good balance.

**Step 2: Back swing:** When the opponent's ball is headed to the backhand side, the left hand takes the racket back and the right hand changes the grip with one quarter turn placing the index knuckle at the upper ridge of the handle. The body should start taking the racket back before the ball bounces. Notice the turn of the upper body and the right foot leading the left foot. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

**Step 3: Point of Contact:** The eyes now shift toward the point of contact which should be about 12-18 inches in front of the right foot.



The right hand is holding the racket tight. The racket has made contact with the ball and weight of the player has shifted toward the point of contact. It is important to keep the right shoulder closed and not open the left hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility and power on the ball.

**Step 4: Follow Through:** Once the racket has made contact with the ball, both of the arms need to be extended for better balance. The right arm should be straight and the follow through upwards above the head. *Look for next Issue: The Forehand Volley* 



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## CCHOA News RACE FOR THE CURE

*in Circle C* Submitted by Andrea Adams

MOMS Club of Austin/Circle C-NW is hosting the 2nd Annual Race for the Cure event in Circle C on Sunday, November 4th at 10am at the Circle C Metro Park. Everyone is encouraged to join us in walking/running this 5k event in the park, which takes place at the same time as the official event downtown. Proceeds from the event will go directly to the Komen Austin Foundation to help raise awareness and funds to support breast cancer education, screening and treatment.

Please visit this website to learn more details and register for the event: http://circlecrace4cure.eventbrite.com

Benefits of participating in Circle C: No need to drive downtown and search for a parking spot on race morning; Enjoy exercising with your neighbors and friends; Refreshments at the finish line; No special awards or timing chips (just for fun!); Strollers encouraged; Playground easily accessible after the race; and No crowds or hassle when picking up your packet/t-shirt.

We are so grateful to our event sponsors: Waterloo Ice House, Starbucks, and Central Texas Orthodontics. Sponsorships are still available. For more information, please email swaustinmomsclub@ gmail.com.



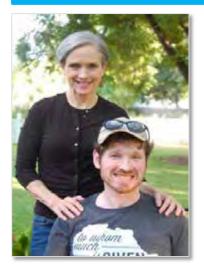
Are you interested in learning or improving your skills in the beautiful and ageless art of China painting?

The Porcelain Art Club of Austin may be exactly the place for that. The club meets every first Monday of the month at the Austin Area Garden Center in Zilker Park.

For more information, please call Carol de Wind at (512) 301-5143.



#### When life doesn't go as planned, what will you do?



Jeanne Damoff with her son today

#### Where

First Evangelical Free Church Community Hall 4220 Monterrey Oaks Blvd. (49)

#### When

Sunday, December 2, 2012 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

#### Admission

Tickets are \$10 Buy online: www.hope4jd.org *or at the d*oor (seats are limited)



## FIND BEAUTY IN BROKENNESS

## with Jeanne Damoff Author of *Parting the Waters*

Join us for an afternoon with Jeanne Damoff as she shares how her son's near drowning accident tested her faith, family and community and how she found beauty in brokenness. Her message revolves around God's faithfulness and purpose in suffering and how He redeems everything that touches our lives for our good and His glory. She'll encourage us to look beyond our loss and pain to see what God is doing and to recognize that He is always at work.

"...this is for anybody whose life didn't turn out quite the way they expected."

-Lisa Samson, Christy Award-winning author

Proceeds go to



HOPE4JD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to provide HOPE through financial and recovery based support services to families of children suffering from a hypoxic/anoxic brain injury due to a nonfatal drowning. For more information on HOPE4JD, visit www.hope4jd.org.

EIN: 32-0351208

## CCHOA News

## FREE TO BREATHE EVENT

On Saturday, November 3rd, Free to Breathe – Austin will hold its second annual 5k fun run and 1 mile walk at Old Settler Park in Round Rock. Free to Breathe is a non-profit organization whose mission is to decrease deaths due to lung cancer and help patients live longer through research, awareness and advocacy. Lung cancer takes more lives than breast cancer, colon cancer and prostate cancer COMBINE! It is also the least funded.

#### LOCATION

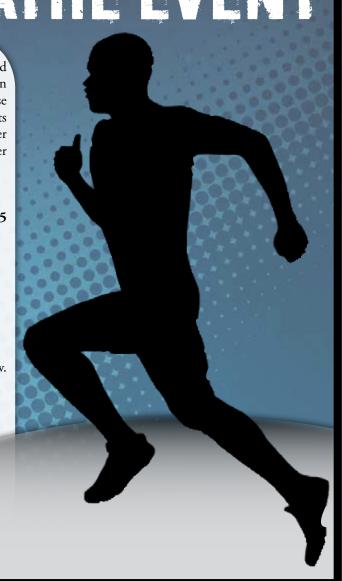
Old Settlers Park, 1001 Harrell Parkway, Round Rock, TX 78665

#### **EVENT SCHEDULE**

7:30 a.m. - Registration & check-in 8:45 a.m. - Rally 9:05 a.m. - Kids' Dash 9:10 a.m. - 5K run 9:15 a.m. - 5K walk & 1-mile walk

Online registration is \$25 before October 31st. Please visit www. freetobreathe.com to sign up.

To learn more about National Lung Cancer Partnership, our programs and our financial information, visit www. NationalLungCancerPartnership.org.





## STUDI PHOTOGRAPHY in the heart of Circle C

#### WEDDINGS • SENIOR PORTRAITS FAMILY PORTRAITS • INFANTS

www.jaybrittain.com 512.484.4529 jay@jaybrittain.com



Attention Kiker and Clayton Moms! Do you worry about your children? Come experience how you can replace your anxiety and fear with peace and hope by praying with other moms.

Moms In Prayer International gathers moms together to pray specifically and scripturally for our children and school. Won't you join with us in prayer for this next generation?

We meet every Thursday from 9:00am-10:00am. Clayton moms please contact Amanda Sylvie at amanda\_ sylvie@hotmail.com and Kiker moms please contact Jennifer Appleton at jennifer.appleton@shcc.net, for more information about Kiker & Clayton Moms in Prayer.

AUSTIN

BABYPROOFING COMPANY

For more information about Moms In Prayer International, visit www. MomsInPrayer.org.



## ST. GABRIEL'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**OPEN HOUSE** Tuesday, November 13, 2012 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



www.sgs-austin.org | 512-327-7755



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Her Safety is our #1 priority! Jennifer Murray 512-736-3265 info@austinbabyproofing.com www.austinbabyproofing.com John Squires and the Squires' Team with Keller Williams Realty, your neighbors and Realtors for life!



Call Kevin Scragg, your Cirele C neighbor, at (512) 529-3763 to see any home on the narket and for all leases!



Wow Circle C! Many homes are selling very quickly, now that school is under way and there is still a shortage of homes on the market. Small and medium sized families are all placing homes under contract quickly and the inventory is getting very sparse, as some are selling as quickly as they come on the market depending on the floor plan, size, lot, etc. The "Second Spring" is about to start as a completely different segment of buyers are about to start looking for their dream homes in Circle C, with hopes of closing by the holidays. October, November and December are fantastic months to have your home on the market, as Circle C sells year-round anyway. Homes always show fantastic during the holidays, as the they always smell good with all the fresh baking and are decorated to the hilt. There is an exodus of buyers relocating to Southwest Austin from Northwest and Westlake areas. The word is out that Circle C is only 10 miles to downtown, is very affordable for many families and is a great place to retire. Many people have adult children and grandchildren in Circle C and are moving here to be closer to the kids. With the new home subdivisions coming on strong and the interest rates staying at all-time lows, it has just kept the market very active all year in this area. It makes it easier for the people moving here to sell their homes too from wherever they are moving from. Call John for an update on the whole area, where the new homes are being built and for how much. As usual, with the holidays the home builders slow down. This also increases the demand for resale homes for those buyers not wanting to wait for a new home. Right now, Avana is backed up and they can't even start building a home for a new buyer for probably 2-3 months after contract. Halloween is here, Thanksgiving is a speed-bump and Christmas is upon us! If you would like to list now please call any time at 512 970-1970.





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

John is the #1 Circle C Ranch agent since 1999 with over <u>360</u> homes <u>"Sold!"</u> John's "dollar-per-foot" at <u>\$98.6% of listing price</u> is higher than any other agent's in Circle C! John knows all the different builders, their floor plans and their values. For *FAST* results, call John Squires for an easy appointment any time!



My name is Milo-Picasso-Kali-Squires and John is my dad. If you can guess which type of dog I am and which breed I am, John will send you a \$30.00 gift certificate to Santa Rita Cantina! Woof! Just call him at (512) 970-1970!

# SquiresTeam.com



"I have been watching the Squires Team successfully sell scores of my neighbor's homes over the years, so when it came time for my move, John Squires was at the top of my list. Being my biggest investment, I spoke with several other agents just to make sure of my decision. John and I hit it off immediately, as he was dead-on with his thinking as far as value, time-to-market, price-per-foot and what was needed to bring my home to it's maximum potential as far as upgrades and professional staging. John had his professional crew basically renovate the interior of my home with new paint, wallpaper removal, Travertine backsplash, Italian glass and gorgeous granite counters. Suggestions from other agents were to sell it "as-is". John listed the home on Friday and we had 4 full-price or better offers in 3 days. I sold my home for \$10,000. over list price because I followed John's suggestions. I absolutely couldn't be more pleased with the outcome. I would highly refer John Squires to assist you in any of your real estate transactions! Thanks John!" Tim Hanna 5208 Corrientes Cove, Circle C Ranch



Click on the QR box to see all of John's listings!



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

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- 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) <u>One point contact at (512) 970-1970</u> so there is no "big team" confusion, mixed signals or missed deadlines.
- 9) Insure a smooth, successful transaction start to finish.
- Negotiate moving schedules/timing/ leasebacks to insure no hassles or disrupted transitions.
- 11) Flexible Commission structures with move-up, move-down plans!

## CCHOA News FAITH IN ACTION CAREGIVERS

Imagine having to give up your car keys. Think how difficult transportation to the doctor, the grocery store, or even to see a friend would be. Your ability to do these daily activities would no longer be based on necessity, it would now depend upon the availability and kindness others. Unless you choose to continue to drive, although it could possibly present a safety risk to yourself and others. Recent statistics reveal that averages of 500 senior adults are injured every day in crashes, not including injuries to others. Buses are out of the question for many, the stamina required to transport on and off buses, along with the length of time required are a risk to the older seniors. Many of those who depend on others for transportation



FAITH IN ACTION

and support services become isolated and neglect their basic needs potentially exacerbating their health issues. In addition, loneliness and depression can become another concern. Fortunately, there is help available through Faith in Action Caregivers South Austin (FIAC-SA).Our mission is to empower and enable independence with a quality of life for senior adults. We currently serve over 250 clients, 60 years-old and up, in the South Austin area. As a volunteer-driven nonprofit, services are offered to clients at no cost. While transportation is the service most requested, we also provide other services which include minor home repairs, yard work, social visits and reassurance calls, emergency food deliveries, and resource referrals. FIAC-SA develops additional programs for the changing needs of senior adults in order to fulfill the FIAC-SA mission. A new program in development is "Fall Risks" assessments for our clients. One in three senior adults will suffer a fall, with 40% of those requiring recovery in a nursing home. Every 30 minutes a senior adult will die as a result of a fall. FIAC-SA volunteers provide much more than a service, they may be the only human the

clients come into contact with that week, the only ear that will listen to their story. Empowering senior adults with respect and dignity is a requirement of every volunteer serving this deserving population. Be warned! You'll hear a lot of good stories and many thank you's! If you are interested in helping a senior, please call Deborah Brockman at 512-445-5552.



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#### **FREE ADMISSION!**

(Please consider bringing a canned food item for donation to the Capital Area Food Bank)

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## CCHOA News

### **GIVING THANKS**

Submitted by Trish Hardin-Moore

**FUN FACT:** Turkeys have heart attacks. The United States Air Force was doing test runs and breaking the sound barrier. Nearby turkeys dropped dead of heart attacks!

**LETTER:** T-Point out "T" words such as "Turkey", "Tomatoes", and "Thank You". Let your children check books out from your local library that are about "Fall", "Thanksgiving", or that start with the letter "T".

**NUMBER:** - "3" - Throughout the day count out groups of 3:

3 "Pumpkins", 3 "Leaves", or 3 "Marshmallows". Take a nature walk and see how many groups of three you can find-clovers with 3 leaves, 3 berries, or a leaf with 3 points.

**SNACK:** Use those extra pumpkin seeds for a fun and healthy snack that the kids can help make. Combine 1 1/2 cups whole pumpkin seeds, 2 teaspoons melted butter or olive oil and a pinch of salt. Toss all ingredients together and spread the seeds in a single layer on a baking sheet. Bake for 25-45 minutes at 325, stirring occasionally. Let cool and enjoy!

YOGA POSE: Knees to Chest-This is a great pose to aid in

digestion after the big Thanksgiving meal- Lie on your back and hug both knees towards your chest. Then, rock slowly from side to side, taking long, deep breaths.

SONG: "Mr. Turkey" to the tune of Frere Jacques

Mr. Turkey, Mr. Turkey Run away, run away If you are not careful You will be a mouthful Thankagining Day, Thank

Thanksgiving Day, Thanksgiving Day!

**CRAFT**: Hand and Footprint Turkeys-Paint hands and fingers different colors (green, yellow, orange, red) and stamp down with thumbs overlapping to create the "wings". Paint one foot brown and stamp over the thumbs with toes facing down to create the turkey body. Allow child to add eyes, a beak, and legs. Just laminate or cover with clear contact paper to make fun placemats for the big day!

**FIELD TRIP:** There is a great duck pond off of Lindshire and Slaughter. Ducks need black oil sunflower seeds to eat (not bread), which you can get at HEB on the pet food aisle.



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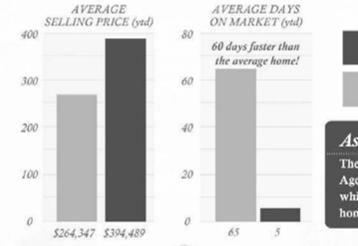
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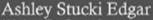
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2011

2017



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SHLEY AUSTIN

## News You Can Use



Would you like to help us make the holidays brighter for hundreds of Central Texas foster children! Secret Santa is a special holiday gift program of the Adoption Coalition of Texas (ACT) helping Child Protective Services and foster families provide gifts and spread holiday cheer to Central Texas foster children through the generosity of community donors.

If you would like to be a Secret Santa this year and purchase holiday gifts for a Central Texas foster child, please email your name, email address and contact phone number to ACTSecretSanta@gmail. com. The gift drop-off days will be at several Austin-area locations on Wednesday through Saturday, December 5 – 8, and caseworkers will be picking up the gifts the following week. Once you sign up to be a donor, we'll send you all the details. Last year, thanks to the kindness of people like you, we brought smiles to the faces of more than 350 foster children!

The Adoption Coalition is a partnership of nonprofit adoption agencies and Child Protective Services working together to find forever families for abused and neglected children waiting for adoption. These are usually older children, sibling groups and children with special needs. For information about ACT and adoption, visit www.adoptioncoalitiontx.org.

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**SEWING IMPAIRED?** EXPERIENCED SEAMSTRESS & FORMER FABRIC STORE OWNER: Located in Circle C offering alterations, hemming, mending, and uniform patches, as well as wardrobe consultations. Providing fitting and consultations on formal wear for all occasions including proms and weddings. Do quilt repair and have associates for home dec projects. Call LIZ: 301-6966

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## PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

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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 ashley@ circlecranch.info.

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

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## TEXAS A&M EXTENSION

### **Red Headed Centipedes**

Centipedes have a head with one pair of antennae and a long segmented body. The body is wormlike and flattened with one pair of legs per body segment. The first pair of legs have become modified to function as claws used to capture prey. These claws are sometimes called fangs since they are connected to poison glands that can inject venom to subdue captured prey.

Most centipedes found in Texas are relatively small, the red headed centipede, Scolopendra heros, can reach over nine inches when full grown. The bite of larger species of centipedes may cause discomfort and pain.

#### TIPS TO PREVENT CENTIPEDES FROM MOVING **INTO HOMES:**

- move objects providing harborage such as compost piles, firewood and stones away from the structure
- create a band of gravel, or similar material between the foundation of the home and any landscape beds that touch the structure
- · occasionally turn the mulch near home to allow it to dry out
- seal cracks or pipe penetrations
- repair weather stripping as needed
- properly ventilate crawl spaces or areas under the home to allow for air flow through the area
- use perimeter sprays around a building's foundation
- inside the home treat crack and crevice areas as well as baseboards, and other hiding places
- treat wall voids with boric acid or diatomaceous earth

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Also check out www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com



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## PET CORNER

#### CAN I GIVE MY DOG THANKSGIVING SCRAPS?

Submitted by Kristen West

We know it's tempting, but most Thanksgiving scraps are not safest treat for your pets. Cooked turkey bones are a big no-no as they can splinter and result in a trip to pet ER. Additionally, overindulging your pet in other fatty foods can lead to stomach upset, diarrhea or even life-threatening pancreatitis. Other items to avoid are onion, sage, garlic ... and

please, don't ever give your pet alcohol.

If you can't turn away from those puppy-dog eyes, a bite or two of pet-safe veggies like plain broccoli, sweet potato or carrots, or a small taste of plain turkey is usually OK. Put the treats in a Kong or other puzzle toy while you sit down to eat with your family so that your furry begger is happily preoccupied!



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## News You Can Use

### NatureWatch by Jim and Lynne Weber

a Plethora of Parakeets

Established in Austin in the early 1970s from escaped caged birds, Monk Parakeets (Myiopsitta monachus) also known as the Quaker Parrot, are native to the temperate and subtropical regions of Argentina and surrounding countries in South America. Monks are often heard before they are seen, as their call is a loud and throaty chap(-yee) or quak quaki quak-wi quarr, and their sometimes startling screeches sound like skveet! They have grown in numbers by being able to survive our mild winters, and as such have now been included on the official list of accepted Texas species.

A colorful bird with bright green upperparts, pale grey forehead and breast with darker scalloped edges, and very light green to yellow underparts, Monks also have an orange bill, stiff dark blue flight feathers, and a long tapered tail. Technically a parrot, it is this tail that makes them a parakeet, which is a term for small to medium sized species of parrots that generally have long tail feathers.

Monks are the only parrot that builds a stick nest, either in a tall tree or man-made structure, rather than using a hole in a tree. They often breed in colonies, building a single large nest that has separate entrance holes for each pair. In the wild these colonies can become quite large, with communal nests reaching the size of a small automobile! Also unusual for a parrot, these birds occasionally have 'helper individuals', typically grown offspring, which assist in feeding the young. Highly intelligent and social birds, Monks can live anywhere from 15 to 30 years, and like other species of parrots kept as pets routinely develop quite a large vocabulary.

Monk Parakeets readily adapt to urban neighborhoods, as they are an open woodland species. A recent informal survey found over 65 nests in Austin, mostly in cell phone towers, tall telephone poles, and sports facility light poles. Even if the nests are cleared out, many colonies return to the same place to rebuild their nest. While mainly constructed out of willow branches, these nests may include man-made items such as rope, carpet, newspaper, and scraps of cloth. The Monks' diet consists of berries, tree buds, and seeds, which can be plentiful in both the native and non-native the tree species common in the Austin area.

The exact number of wild Monks in our area is unknown, and evidence of harm by feral colonies of Monks is disputed. While they can be agricultural pests by eating fruits, grains, and other crops, they can also benefit local economies through birdwatching-based ecotourism. It is also important to remember that tens of millions of parrots have been removed from the wild worldwide, and have been traded in greater numbers and for far longer than any other group of wild animals. Many parrot species are still threatened by this trade, as well as by habitat loss, predation by introduced species, and hunting for food or feathers. As such, let's respect their existence enjoy our plethora of parakeets!



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

## Why Knowing About Kilowatt-Hours Can Help You Save Money

#### By Chris Lee

Let's all admit it - we've all taken electricity for granted. As soon as we were young enough to reach the light switch to turn on the lights, we've never thought about electricity since it's been integrated into our lives as a basic neccessity. By understanding a little bit about a Kilowatt-Hour (kWh) of electricity use, you'll more easily measure and compare the costs to operate your appliances in order to figure out how you can save some money.

The concept of kWh is difficult to visualize since most of us have forgotten the details of our high-school physics class (for those of us that actually took high school physics). Power, energy, time?...how can we define kWh? If you turned on twenty 100-watt lightbulbs in your house and left them on for 1 hour, you would have used 2 kWh (20 lightbulbs x 100w x 1 hour = 2000 watt-hours). And if you used your clothes dryer for an hour and your dryer is rated at 5000 watts, then you used 5 kWh (5000w x 1 hour). While each family uses electricity differently based on their living habits, here's a website that will give you an idea on

energy use of common household appliances. Caution: the dollar figures used in this chart are based on \$0.07 per kWh instead of they typical \$0.10 per kWh in Texas:

#### 

So if you looked at your energy bill, you'll see that you're paying for the amount of Kwh's that you and your family use. By knowing the concept of kWh you'll be able to more easily correlate your energy use to your energy bill and therefore be able to do more to save money. To help you save energy and therefore more money, here are some resources with helpful energy saving tips:

www.takealoadofftexas.com/index.aspx?id=energy-efficiency-tips (http://goo.gl/meydE)

http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/energy\_savers.pdf (http://goo.gl/u3fuE)

I hope you've understood the basics of a Kilowatt-Hour and how it's measured to help you see your energy usage. If you have any questions about this, please ping me at leec89@gmail.com.



## News You Can Use



### by the Four Points Foodie

#### FIRE ROASTED CHILE AND JALAPENO INGREDIENTS:

- 5 Hatch Chiles
- 5 Jalapenos
- 1 paper sack

Directions: Over a high flame on the grill, char and blister the skin of the chiles and jalapenos. Place in the sack to steam. Once cool, peel the charred skin. Split open, remove seeds and chop.

#### **PULLED PORK INGREDIENTS:**

- 2 lb boneless pork shoulder roast, trimmed
- 1 t paprika
- 1 t ground cumin
- 1/2 t ground cinnamon
- 2 T salt
- 1 T cracked black pepper
- 1 T olive oil
- 1 C apple juice
- 1 C Woody's Sweet BBQ Sauce
- 1 T finely chopped chipotle peppers in adobo sauce

*Directions:* Combine dry ingredients and rub over trimmed pork should roast until ready to cook, a day in advance. In a large crock pot insert or regular pan, heat olive oil and sear roast on all sides. Add apple juice and simmer, again in either the crock pot or on the stove top, until the pork is very tender. Drain as much fat off the top as possible, then remove and shred or "pull". Return to the crock and finish with the Woody's Sweet BBQ Sauce, chipotle in adobo sauce and keep warm until ready to serve.

*To assemble:* Toast slider buns on a hot griddle with a bit of butter. Add the pulled pork and top with a mixture of the fire roasted chile's and jalapeno's. Slap the top on it and devour! Perhaps you could add a slice of jalapeno jack cheese, but it's not necessary!

# SHOW OFF YOUR SUPER HERO

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 the Circle C Newsletter. E-mail your pictures to ashley@circlecranch.info by the 10th of the month.

 $\star \star \star$ 

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#### MCLANE FAMILY DENTAL

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SOUTHWEST FAMILY YMCA 6219 Oakclaire Dr. & Hwy 290

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NTO THE

The Southwest YMCA helps kids learn about developing healthy habits. The benefits are

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to swim or building the positive relationships

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gaining the confidence that comes from learing

that lead to good sportsmanship and teamwork,

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## News You Can Use

## STAY Sun SMART

Skin Cancer Screenings, Prevention Tips

By Adam J.Mamelak MD, FRCPC, FAAD

Skin cancer is on the rise, affecting more Americans over the past three decades than all other cancers combined, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation. The good news is that you can do much to prevent it.

"The danger in skin cancer is gravest when it goes undetected," says Dr. Adam Mamelak of Sanova Dermatology in Austin. "It is extremely treatable, and in a large sense preventable when caught early."

To help reduce your risk, follow these sunsmart practices.

#### 7 WAYS TO REDUCE SKIN CANCER RISK:

1. See your physician every year for a professional skin exam. Regular total-body checkups are the best way to make sure your skin is healthy and stays that way. The American Academy of Dermatology recommends annual skin exams. You can receive a FREE skin cancer screening through 2012 at Sanova Dermatology, 12319 N. Mopac in Austin. To schedule your free screening, call (512) 837-3376; no purchase or insurance coverage is necessary.

**2.** Avoid tanning and UV tanning booths. Even occasional sunbed use almost triples your chances of developing melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer. Young people – including teenagers – are especially sensitive to the ultraviolet radiation from tanning booths.

**3.** Seek the shade and do not burn. Stay in the shade especiallybetween the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., when the sun's

rays are often strongest. Avoid getting burned; even a single sunburn increases your risk of developing melanoma.

4. Cover up with clothing and UV-blocking sunglasses.

Protect your skin with densely woven and bright- or dark- colored fabrics, which offer the best defense. Wear a hat with a brim of 3" or greater to protect the face. Use wraparound sunglasses that block 99-100% of the sun's UV rays, which helps prevent cataracts and melanomas of the eye.

5. Use a broad spectrum (UVA/ UVB) sunscreen. Every day, year-round, use abroad spectrum sunscreen with UVA and UVB protection and an SPF (Sun Protection Factor) of 15 or higher. For extended outdoor activity, use a water-resistant broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or more. Apply 1

ounce (2 tablespoons) of sunscreen to your entire body 30 minutes before going outside. Reapply every 40-80 minutes or immediately after swimming or excessive sweating.

**6.** Help protect children from sun damage. Keep newborns out of the sun, since their skin possesses little melanin, the pigment that provides some sun protection. Sunscreen should be used on babies over the age of six months. Make sure your children are well-protected with clothing, hats, sunscreen and sunglasses. Ask the pediatrician to examine your child's skin thoroughly as part of a yearly check-up – especially important for those with fair skin, light eyes and hair, and those with a family history of skin cancer.

7. Examine your skin head-to-toe each month. Look for skin changes and let your doctor know about any sore that does not heal or spot that changes in size, texture or color.

Adapted from the Skin Cancer Foundation



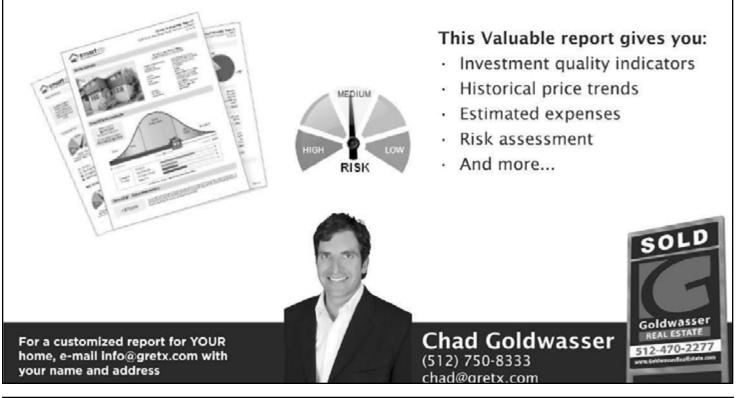
#### Home Selling Rule #1

## Price it Right.



## Owning a home is a serious business.

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#### COMMITMENT ~ EXPERIENCE ~ REPUTATION ~ ETHICS ~ RESULTS

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