

Volume 9, Number 12

December 2012

www.circlecranch.info

rcle C Announcemen

Circle C HOA Annual Meeting & Board Election

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the three open board seats (election to be held at the Annual Meeting date and time to be determined at the Circle C Community Center) through January 11, 2013. You can download a Candidate Questionnaire from the News Section of the Circle C Website, www.circlecranch.info

The Annual Meeting and Election will be held in March (date and time to be determined) at the new Circle C Community Center. Your ballot and proxy will be printed on the back side of the first 2013 CCHOA dues assessment invoice (which is mailed Feb 1 and due Mar 1).

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

Annual Report to the Membership

The 2012 Annual Report to the membership from the Board of Directors will be printed in the March newsletter. A copy will also be posted on our website and available in the HOA office.

Vote!

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

Holiday Closures

HOA OFFICES: Closed December 24-26 & January 1 **SWIM CENTER:** Closed 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. We hope to announce the winners by 5pm on December 17.

CCHOA NUMBERS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jason Bram	President
Steve Urban	
Dan Vavasour	Treasurer
Chris Poynor	Secretary
Kim Ackermann	Board Member
Rob Johnson	Board Member
Michael Chu	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	
Pothole Complaints	
Stop Signs	
Street Light Outage	
Schools	
Clayton Elementary	841-9200
Kiker Elementary	
Gorzycki Middle School	
Small Middle School	841-6700
Bowie High School	
Mills Elementary	
SAYSA	

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

HOLIDAY LIGHTS

Holiday decorations should comply with the schedule listed in the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions –all decorations, including lights, must be down by January 15, 2013.

LOST DOGS

Unfortunately we have been receiving a lot of lost and found dog reports. Give your dogs the gift of security this holiday season by checking and repairing the fence so they cannot get out, keeping their collars and tags on, and getting them microchipped. If you find a dog, our friends up at Circle C Animal Hospital will check for a microchip at no cost, and no appointment necessary.

TRIMMING TREES AND SHRUBBERY

City of Austin Code 6-3 requires property owners to trim trees in the public right of way (generally the first ten feet from the curb line) to a height of 14 feet. This allows for clear passage on sidewalks and clears all obstructions from street signs and traffic control signs. All shrubbery is also required to be cut back away from the sidewalk. Trees that are not in the right of way should be trimmed up to at least seven feet. And shrubbery that is not in the right of way should be trimmed to reveal at least 2/3 of the windows of the home. Winter is the ideal time for tree trimming and pruning shrubs, so please make sure that you are in compliance with these regulations.

ADDRESS PLAQUES

Address plaques are considered an architectural feature of a home and should be visible and in good repair. Shrubbery should be trimmed away so that plaque is in clear view. Plaque should be cleaned. If your plaque is brass, a brass cleaner should be used. Having highly visible house numbers is a safety issue for Police, Fire, and EMS and makes it easy for USPS, FedEX and UPS delivery drivers to find you with those timely holiday deliveries.

DEED RESTRICTIONS

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.

Circle C Swim Center

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

Winter Swimming Tips

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

• Warm-up. You should always do a warm-up before swimming, but it's especially important to warm-up during the colder months.

• Don't forget your goggles and cap. These work wonders for swimming during colder months. In addition to these necessities, you can also wear earplugs, webbed swim gloves, neoprene swim socks, and a neoprene swim hood.

• Wetsuits are a great investment for swimmers who plan on swimming during winter. Wetsuits trap a thin layer of water in between you and the wetsuit. Your body quickly warms up this water which keeps you warm. Make sure that the wetsuit fits correctly, or else it won't do its job.

• Purchase a swim parka. These long coats will protect you from the cold, wind chill, and wetness. They are perfect to wear before and after a swim.

• Bring an extra towel. This is helpful in case one gets wet, or you can use one to dry off with and use the other to keep warm with.

(Continued on Page 6)

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*.



- * Repaints -Interior, exterior, and much more
- * Free on-site estimates
- * Established company for 17 years
- * BBB member
- * Painting, staining, and popcorn ceiling removal

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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GO PAPERLESS Sign up to receive the Circle C Ranch Newsletter in your inbox. Visit PEELinc.com

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.





My Health. My Doctor. My ADC.

Do what you love . . .

Don't let allergies keep you and your child indoors this winter. Let the allergy and immunology specialists at The Austin Diagnostic Clinic help you enjoy the season without sneezin'.

Call 512-901-4052 or visit ADClinic.com.



ADC Circle C welcomes Carmen Gupta, MD to Family Practice and *EasyCare* Accepting new patients.



The Austin Diagnostic Clinic Circle C Allergy • *EasyCare* • Family Practice Pediatrics • Podiatry 512-460-3404 • ADClinic.com

CCHOA News

(Continued from Page 3)

• We have showers and heaters in the restrooms, so feel free to take a warm shower after your swim.

• Never swim if the temperature outside is 32 degrees or lower. The Swim Center will be closed in such a case.

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

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 Swim Team

The Swim Team is still going strong even during the chilly months. Although it may be close to full you can still call and see about trying out. For more information please check out www. select.ccswim.net or contact that the Swim Center Front Desk at (512)288-6057 or customerservice@ccswim.net

Adult Masters

Our Adult Masters program is still going strong through the winter, and it's never too late to join. This program is an adult technique and conditioning class taught by Hayley McGregory. This class will teach you how to swim faster with less effort. It is for adults of ALL abilities. We will incorporate drills for all four strokes into structured practices that will also increase your endurance.

Check online, www.ccswim.net, for practice days and times.

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

18 years of dedicated service in Southwest Austin



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Call 512.301.1339

CSC Cross

32 CoEd CrossFit Classes/Week



Sport Specific Training & Personal Training





Young Athletes Class (6-10 years)

Teen Strength & Conditionig Programs

FOUNDATION CLASSES

For Circle C & Belterra residents mention this ad. (expires 12/31/12

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9300A Hwy 290 West Austin, TX 78736 - thecombinemgr@csccrossfit.com - 512.301.1331

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CCHOA News

Architectural Control Committee

Submitted by Susan Hoover

Front Yards!!!

The ACC would like to remind all homeowners that under the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions of Circle C Ranch, each owner is obligated to perform the following maintenance in their front yard:

• Prompt removal of all litter, trash, dead vegetation, refuse and waste

• Lawn mowing on a regular basis (Maximum grass height for developed properties is Six inches

- Tree and shrub pruning
- Watering landscaped areas
- Keeping lawn and garden areas alive, free of weeds, and attractive

In addition, the ACC is in the process of setting guidelines for the following in an effort to get the front yards of all Circle C residents to appear neat and uncluttered from the street view.

The items to be addressed in the new guidelines include:

Tree and Shrub pruning, with the goal to being able to see the front of the house

Pots in the front yard, with the goal to have them be neat, permanent (not the plastic grower containers), planted rather than empty and arranged attractively Limits on decorative objects like statuary, fountains, signage, home décor—i.e. objects affixed to the house or fence, flags and banners. Standards for front yard patios.

If you have any input that you would like to give the Architectural Control Committee regarding any of the above, please email it to shoover@fastmail.fm. We anticipate the guidelines being finished over the next few weeks, and reviewed by the CCHOA Board of Directors in January, 2013.



Greetings from your Escarpment Village (H-E-B

First & foremost, we are excited to share another memorable holiday season with this great community. We hope to continue being your 1-stop shop for everything to make the holidays not only remarkable, but easy! On that note, your Escarpment Village HEB invites you to a **BIGGER, BETTER, BRIGHTER** holiday with us!

PRIMO PICKS

Thanks to our current remodel and NEW Primo Picks that were hand-selected just for you, we now have thousands more selections on our shelves as well as overall enhancements throughout the store, such as:

- Expanded Gluten Free Selection
- Expanded Dairy Department
- Renovated Healthy Living Department
- Wider aisles to enhance your shopping experience

Coming Soon:

- My Fit Foods Bar
- Fresh Cut Fruit Bar
- Renovated Cafe on the Run



Make the holidays easier with help from our bakery & deli departments. **Delve Into:**

- Gourmet Cakes & Scratch Made Pies
- Deli Party Platters

ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE!

Finally, we thank you, the community, for your ongoing patience during our store remodel and we look forward to sharing a taste of the holidays together!

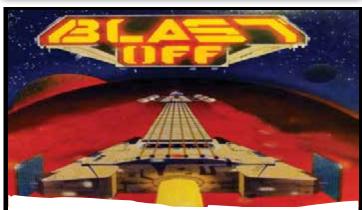
Circle C Landscape

Submitted by Susan Hoover

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM CIRCLE C LANDSCAPE

Circle C Landscape would like to wish all Circle C neighbors and families a wonderful holiday season. We hope you enjoy the holiday lights distributed across the entire neighborhood. I would like to personally thank you for all of the great feedback our team has gotten over the past year, and we look forward to making Circle C look great in 2013.

As far as what we hope to finish up by the end of the year: if the weather holds, we will continue planting throughout December, in hopes of getting a few more beds established before the hot weather rolls around again. We will be weeding and mulching throughout. We will also be diligently working on converting many of our areas to drip irrigation and, as always, improving our water conservation methods.



ATTENTION CIRCLE C PARENTS! want to BLAST your child into the joyful experience of Music? without the hassles of MOPAC? Now you can! So just put your feet up, sip a cool drink, enjoy the beautiful scenery outside your window and listen as your children learn to expand their appreciation for the beauty of Music!



INSTRUCTION IN DRUMSED, PERCUSSION, DRUMPED AND PIANO ALL IN THE COMFORT OF YOUR OWN HOME

Circle C references on request Michael Cerza is a conservatory trained, certified music educator (20 yrs.) AND a professional musician performing on several instruments.

He plays...and he knows how to teach your child to play! contact: mike@mikecerza.com ph: 607-279-1589 info:http://mikecerza.com/music-lessons \$30/half hour:the same rate as local music schools...but without the TRAVE SUDOKU

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CCHOA News

Tennis Tips

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand and a one-handed backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a forehand volley for a right hander. This stroke is used whenever the player is forced to hit a ball in the air. In these pictures student Camille Palafox demonstrates the proper form and technique. Photos by her husband Charlie Palafox.

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 next to the right hand. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners it is okay to use the forehand and backhand grips for the forehand and backhand volleys. As the player gets stronger and the balls come at a faster speed, it will be best to use the continental grip for both volleys.

Step 2: Back Swing: Since the volley is usually executed when a player is close to the net and there is very little time to react to the

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional Fernando Velasco

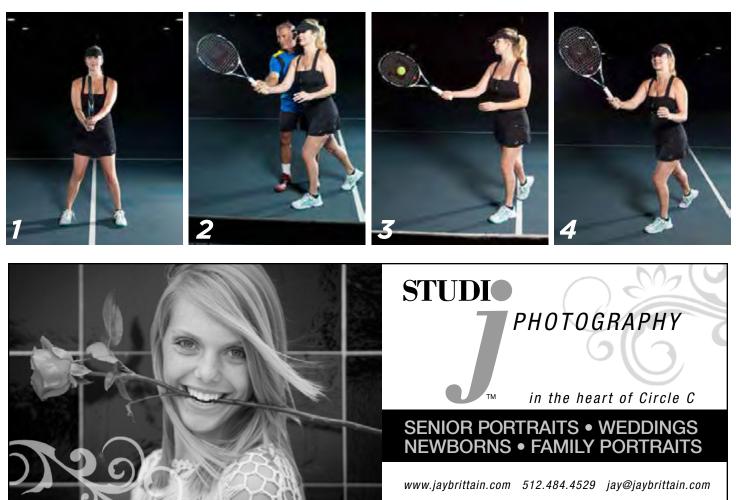
Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX

incoming ball, the back swing is very short. The right arm should take a short turn and the head of the racket should align to the flight of the ball. The right wrist should be "cocked" back slightly and the head of the racket should be above the wrist. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball. Here I am helping Camille to feel the hand on the racket to tilt back and still keep the head of the racket above her wrist.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The right foot is now taking a step forward and the racket is making contact with the ball. It is important to keep the left shoulder closed and not rotate the right hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility to find the proper point of contact and give power to the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, the follow through is very short to allow the player to immediately get back to the ready position. The left arm should be close to the body.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Two-Handed Backhand Volley



Run and Roll Event and Fund Raiser for Dustin Strelsky AT GREY ROCK TENNIS CLUB

The "Run and Roll" Mixer and Fund Raiser to help acquire a tennis wheelchair for Dustin Strelsky held at Grey Rock Tennis Club was a great success. Over 125 members and guests attended the special event and played with and against both players in wheelchairs and others with prosthetic aids. Dustin is a 15 year old young man who was paralyzed a year and a half ago in a car accident caused by a drunk driver in a head on collision. Dustin began playing tennis last October during a free clinic sponsored by Orthotic and Prosthetic Technologies. He decided to play junior high school tennis last year, now high school tennis and his future goal to play in college with a scholarship. Thanks to the generosity of the Members of Grey Rock Tennis Club, guests, and donors of the many gift certificates, the goal was not only reached, but surpassed.



Fourth Orthotic Ande Prosthetic/Hanger Technologies Clinic

The Fourth Annual OPT/Hanger Tennis Clinic was held at Grey Rock Tennis Club on Saturday, October 9. This was a complimentary clinic for those interested in learning how to play tennis using a wheelchair and/or wearing a prosthetic aid. The clinic was a huge success and it was well attended by several new players and experienced players. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the tennis show featuring Henri "Bijou" Elkins and Fernando Velasco. This "show" is the equivalent of the basketball Harlem Globetrotters on the tennis court which has been seen by thousands of people not only the in the United States but also in Beijing, China and Bogota, Colombia.



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CCHOA News

Kiker Clean Up

Submitted by Jennifer Leeper

On Saturday, October 27th, the Kiker Elementary Campus Beautification Committee hosted a "Kiker Clean Up Day". More than seventy volunteers joined in the four-hour event to help with projects ranging from building a rock border around the erosionprone outdoor eating area to painting worn and rusted trashcans.

Over the years, there have been many parent-led initiatives to beautify the Kiker campus, including the Sundial garden, the front entry and the Butterfly Garden near the Kindergarten playground. The Beautification Committee's primary goal is to maintain and care for these special areas as well as look for new ways to improve the appearance and safety of the entire school grounds. The core committee is a group of six Kiker parents, including a Certified Arborist and a trained gardener.

During the drought last year, the Beautification Committee's focus switched from beautification to preservation as a majority of the group's time was dedicated to simply watering. With the increased rainfall in past months, the need for watering decreased, but the need for weeding significantly increased. So when school started back up in August and the group met, they knew there was going to be more work than a team of six and the idea for 'Kiker Clean Up Day' was born.

In addition to weeding and needing to prune and remove plants that did not survive the drought, the committee wanted to start moving toward smarter design for the entire campus, focusing on areas that are particularly susceptible to drought and do not receive supplemental watering. They wanted something both environmentally friendly and beautiful for the students and staff to enjoy. The to-do list was long and the list of materials needed, even longer, but with a lot of energy and determination, the team was successful in securing many of the materials through generous donations from area businesses as well as from Kiker families.

Thanks to these donations, volunteers were treated to breakfast from Shipley Do-nuts (Brodie Ln) and Wholey Bagel (Wm Cannon Dr.) who supplied food and Starbucks and HEB located in Escarpment Village who supplied beverages for the event. The Committee also wants to express their sincere gratitude for tree donations made by Tree Folks, The Natural Gardener and the Clayton Girl Scouts. Marcelo's Sand and Loam also provided a significant discount on landscaping stones and Lowe's provided a discount for the remaining supplies to be purchased by the committee. Please remember how these businesses supported Kiker and the Circle C Community when making purchases. In addition, Circle C Landscaping offered advice, supplies, tools and a crew for the day of the event which was invaluable.

A cold front had moved in the morning of the Clean Up and with temperatures in the 50s, the committee wondered if asking for 'donuts & bagels for 50 people' was too optimistic. But by 8:00am, volunteers started streaming in and by the end of the day over 70 volunteers had come to lend a hand to the effort. There were parents, students, grandparents, Girls Scouts, Boy Scouts, Circle C residents and the Bowie High School Key Club members. The Circle C HOA Landscaping team generously provided help with much needed mowing, edging and trimming, and tree pruning and planting throughout the campus. Circle C Landscaping worked hours beyond the event to ensure these items were completed. Their support was integral and very much appreciated.

The results were amazing! You can see the results for yourself by visiting the committee's Facebook page to see some 'Before & After' photos from the event as well as some fun pictures of the volunteers working so hard. If you would like to be kept up to date regarding future Kiker Beautification events and opportunities, you can 'Like' the Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/pages/ Kiker-Elementary-Campus-Beautification/165952826820301). The Kiker Beautification Committee is continually looking for new volunteers to contribute ideas and time to maintain and care for the grounds. To volunteer or for more information please contact Jennifer Leeper at ajleeper@sbcglobal.net or Susanne Kerns at susannekerns@gmail.com.

(See before and after photos on page 25.)





\$125.00/GOLFER AFTER DECEMBER 31ST



JOIN US FOR THE 3rd ANNUAL GOLF4JD TOURNAMENT

> Monday, April 29, 2013 Grey Rock Golf Club Shotgun Start – 12:00 p.m.

Register at HOPE4JD.org

Don't play golf? You can still help!

SPONSOR. Interested in sponsoring the tournament? Go to HOPE4JD.org for sponsorship levels.

VOLUNTEER. Join us in changing lives! There are many opportunities, including *planning events*, *grant writing*, *marketing*, *social media and more*. Contribute as much or as little time as you can.

If you are interested, please contact Ronda Johnson at 512-845-1466 or <u>ronda@hope4jd.org</u>.

DONATE. HOPE4JD has awarded just under \$35,000 this year to help families pay for recovery-based treatments and daily living support. We can do more with your support! Tax-deductible contributions can be made at HOPE4JD.org.

We would like to congratulate Jeff Lim, a Circle C resident and HOPE4JD supporter, for winning the 3M Community volunteer award. Jeff was given \$1,000 to donate to a 501(c)(3) public charity and he chose HOPE4JD. Thank you Jeff for supporting and believing in our mission!

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 Adopt a Family Christmas Program

Submitted by Al Veach

sharing the blessing of giving with family and friends. It is an they were planning on bringing to Goodwill. awesome way to share the true meaning of Christmas with your children. However, we are happy to deliver for them if they prefer. know is: Additionally, we ask everyone to let us know if there are families children this Christmas.

HERE IS HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS:

We will provide you with the information on the families in need including their names, ages, genders, clothing sizes, gift ideas and even some information on their current life situation. Givers can choose genders, ages, and even the location of the family receiving the gifts. Leveraging this flexibility allows givers to provide lightly used clothing, furniture and other household items, which is very to deliver. We will be happy to accompany anyone on a delivery.

The Adopt a Family Christmas program was designed to give We are also providing pick up services of gently used clothes, furniture, people the option of participating in the actual gift exchange and toys, etc. Monday-Thursday 9am-5pm for those people who have items

For the people who would like to adopt a family, all we need to

• Budget - How much money would you like to spend? This will out there that they know who need help providing gifts for their allow us to understand how many children we should assign to each giver.

• Preferences – If the giver is trying to target a certain age, gender or location in Austin, let us know. We will do our best to accommodate.

• When will you be ready to deliver? - We like to establish deliveries as early as possible, starting as early as the week of Thanksgiving and extending well into December.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

• Adopt a family - We will match families to those who would like much in need. Through this program, givers have the opportunity to participate according to their budget or personal preference. For (if they choose) to deliver the gifts personally and share in the joy of instance, a donor may have a lot of gently used items that would fit giving. Once we have matched the giver with a family/individual, a particular age or gender. Once the family has purchased the gifts they can go and purchase the gifts and notify us when they are ready we will work with that family to coordinate a date/time when the

(Continued on Page 15)

HAMPIONS ARE MADE

Get a jump on classes before the New Year! Enjoy a FREE trial class (\$15 value) for any KidSPARK Gymnastics class or Synergy Dance class at Champions, or take \$15 off the drop-in fee for KidSPARK Day Out. Why Champions? Because setting kids on a positive track for success means the world to you, and it does to us too. Enroll Today!











KIDSPARK DAY OUT

FREE BABY GYM

PARENT / TOT PRESCHOOL GYM SYNERGY DANCE

** Offer valid for new students only. Limit one coupon per child. Only valid for KidSPARK Gymnastics, KidSPARK Day Out, or Synergy Dance class at Champions. Expires 01/31/2013. Must present ad at time of redemption. Schedule trial one week in advance. Code: Peel 09



(Continued from Page 14)

family can go out and give them to the "adopted" family. If they prefer not to participate in the delivery of the gifts, we can handle that for them. However, we strongly encourage everyone to deliver the gifts personally and bring their kids! There have been many awesome experiences that we've been blessed to share as a result of this program.

• Donations – All financial donations should be sent to Bannockburn Baptist Church and put "Adopt-A-Family" in the for section to get a tax deduction. All gently used or new items can be scheduled for pickup by calling Al Veach at 512-608-5220.

• Shopping / Delivery – There may be a need for volunteers to help with the shopping for those that provide donations. We will probably need help with delivery as well depending on the volume.

• Getting the word out! – This is an excellent opportunity to invite your workplace or neighbors to participate by adopting a family or providing donations.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Contact Al Veach at aveach1@austin.rr.com or by calling 512-608-5220.



motivates your child and reduces their frustration in a stress-free environment. **To find out how,** visit WinningLearners.com or call 512.585.3523 today. Mention this ad and receive \$20 off.





Clubs & Announcements

December Events at the Wildflower Center

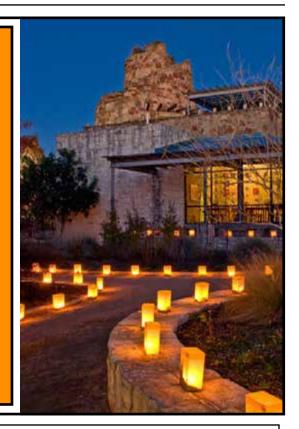
22nd Annual Wild Ideas Shopping Event Friday and Saturday, November 30 & December 1, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, December 2, Noon to 5 p.m.

Find your holiday gifts without the hassle. Artists and artisans in the Gallery Saturday and Sunday. Special discounts, trunk shows and book signings in The Store all three days. Free admission.

Luminations

6 to 9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, December 8 & 9. Our gardens dress up for the holidays with thousands of lights. Local musicians entertain. Children can make take-home crafts. The café has winter evening treats. Book signings and food tastings in the store. Free admission.

Closed for the Holidays December 22—January 1



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SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to ashley@ circlecranch.info Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www. PEELinc.com.



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I

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!



Hey Circle C! The Squires Team wants to thank you for another fantastic year in Circle C Ranch real estate, thanks to all of our past client's referrals! John Squires is, hands down, the <u>#1 selling realtor in Circle C Ranch history</u> with approx. 375 homes "Sold!" since the inception of the neighborhood according to the "Austin Board of Realtors" statistics! If you would like an honest, accurate market profile of your home, please contact John at (512) 970-1970 for an easy appointment. His fiduciary responsibility is to *your* wallet, not his. That is why John sells his client's homes for <u>more</u> money than competing agents thought they were even worth in many instances. That's because he knows the neighborhood better and sells the neighborhood better than any other agent. This coming January is going to be crazy-busy as ever, as there are *scores* of buyers out there still, waiting for that one special property to come on the market. List early to avoid the Spring rush and sell your house for more due to the lack of nice, properly priced homes on the market. John will ensure a smooth transaction start to finish! Happy Holidays! The Squires Team



Coming Soon!!! Gorgeous Streetman home at 7508 Doswell Lane. 4245 sq. ft. Wentworth II. 1/3rd acre backing to greenbelt. 3-car garage. 6 bedrooms, 4.5 baths and 3-4 living areas! Limestone and brick mix butler pantry. Media room wired for surround and projector. Super-spacious 1-story with media/game room up and full bath and bedroom. A quick 3 minute walk to Clayton and the new resort-style pool! \$569,000.

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501	ARGYLE	201.01	11-0.5	FOXGLOVE	VOLB!	11002	NEEDHAMLANE	SQLD	6712	TANAQUALN	SOLD
504 600	ARCYLE	BOLD !	6504	FRESSIA COURT	SOLDI	6900	NUBLAN NURSER LANE	SOLD I SOLD I	6417	TANAQUA CV TANAQUA LN	SOLD
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230	AUSTRAL LOOP	SOLDI	6000	GABION	SOLD1	6420	NUSSER LANE	SOLD	6205	TANAQUALN	BOLD /
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700	BACK BAY LANE	NOLD /	10707	GALSWORTHY LN	SOLD /	11004	PAIRNOY	SOLD 28	9013	TANAQUALN	SELD)
808	BACK BAY LANE BACK BAY LANE	SOLD!	10715	GALSWORTHY LN GALSWORTHY LN	SOLD SOLD	11005	PAIRNOY	SOLD /	SALES	TANAQUALS	SOLD 2
829	BACK BAY LANE	SOLD 28	10728	GALSWORTHY LN	SOLD 24	11005	PLEBLE GARDEN	SOLD7	6000	TASA.ILLO TRL	SOLD !
835	BACK BAY LANE	SOLDI	10813	GALSWORTHY LN	SOLDI	11000	PEBBLE GARDEN	SOLDI	6002	TASAJILLO TEL	SOLD
630	BACE BAY LANE	SOLD !	10507	GALSWORTHY LN	SOLBI	11313	PEBBLE GARDEN	SOLDI	6017	TASAJILLO TEL	SOLD
844	BACK BAY LANE	KOLD 2x	11413	GEORGIAN OAKS	SOLDI	10025	PENKNEY LANE	50201	6105	TASAJILLO TRL	SOLD
909	BACK BAY LANE	FOLDI	6120	GINTTA LANE	SOLD1	10705	PINKNEY LANE	SOLDI	6116	TASAJILLO TRL	SOLD
924	BACK BAY LANE	805.01	6612	GORHAM GLEN	SOLDI	10710	PINENEY LARE	SQLD?	611.9	TASAJILLO TRL	ROLD
925	BACK BAY LANE	SOLDI	5746	GORHAM GLEN	SOLDI	10711	PINENEY LANE	SOLD I	6200	TANAJILLO TRL	SOLD (
600	BACK BAY LANE	SOLDI	5764	GORHAM GLEN	SOLDI	9517	PRESCOIT	SOLD !	6209	TASAJILLO TRL	SOLDI
617	BACK BAY LANE	202.01	5626	GORHAM GLEN	SOL01	11115	READVILL COURT READVILL COURT	SOLDI	6315	TASAJILLO TEL TASAJILLO TEL	SOLD
706	BALLENTON CRT	I GARW	5904	GORHAM GLEN	ROLD 1	62005	READVILL COURT	ROLDT	6367	TANAJILLO TRL	501.0 1
808	BEACHMONT	NOLDI	5924	GORRAM GLEN	WOLD)	6303	REDGATE COURT	SOLD -	6366	TANAJILLO TRL	worth -
0.00	DEATTY	101.01	5772	GORHAM GLEN	SOLDI	10911	REDGATE LANE	SOLD	6407	TASAJILLO TEL	SOLD
824	DEATTY	SOLDY	5910	GORHAM GLEN	SOLD1	10510	REDMOND RD	SOLDT	6416	TASAJILLO TEL	SOLD /
1001	BEXLEY LANE	=01 N	59232	GORHAM GLEN	SOLD	10512	REDMOND RD	SOLD	1		
807	DEXLEY LANE	SOLD	ICEOS	GORHAM CLEN	SOLD /	10513	REDMOND RD	SOLDE	10301	THEFTLEMOSS	SOLD
1000	BEXLEY LANE	SOLDI	11205	CORHAM CLEN	SOLD	and the second second second	REDMOND RD	20101	10221	TINITA CL.	SOLD
711	BEXLEY LANE BEXLEY CT.	SOLDI	11205	GORHAM GLEN HANSA LOOP	SOLD /	10536	REDMOND RD	SOLD :	10721	TOLLESBORO	SOLD
105	BLISSFIELD	SOLDI	10505	HANSA LOOP	SOLD /	10810	REDMOND RD	SOLD!	-oras	a second second	and the second s
713	HLISSFIELD	2QLD 2x	8928	HAT CHITA LANE	SOLDI	10621	REDMOND RD	NOLDI	0115	TRACTON CT	SOLDI
109	BLISSFIELD CV	804.01	461.3	HIBISCUS VALLEY	SOLD	10624	REDMOND RD	SOLDI	0420	TRACION CT	SOLD 1
124	HLISSFIELD CV	805.01	9009	HEDIEN	BOLD)	10608	REDMOND RD	KOLD	d624	TRACTON CT	501.01
124	HLISSFIELD CV	30LD1	0013	HEDREN	ROLDI	10803	REDMOND RD	SV2LD	11234	TRACTON CT	501.01
124	BLUESTAR DRIVE	NOLD)	0004	HILLSIDE TERRACE	SOLD I	10822	REDMOND RD	h G.Kee	\$708	TRELAWNEY	ROLD
2085	BUESTAR DRIVE	SOLUER	11414	BOLLINTER	BOED /	10836	REDMOND RD	SOLD/	2232	TRELAWNEY	NOLD
400	BLUESTAR DRIVE	NOLD	11616	HOLLISTER	ROLD /	10208	RHETT BUTLER	SOLD /	100	ITTICA CONT.	SOLD
404	IRECOURT MANOR IRECOURT MANOR	SOLD/	0/12	a da v	ROLD /	2906	RICKERHILL.	NOLD	6104	UTICA COVE	SOLD
ous -	BRECOURT MANOR	SOLDI	8017	LADERA VERDE	SOLD	5914	RICKLERHILL	SOLDT		A sure parts	and the last
413	BRECOURT MANOR	SOLDI	8113	LADERA VERDE	BOLD !	6005	RICKERHILL	SULDT	5706	VAN WINKLE	SOLD
214	BROOM FLOWER	SOLDI	8121	LADERA VERDE	SOLDI	6012	RICKERHILL	SOLDI	5710	VAN WINKLE	SOLD
1225	BROOM FLOWER	201.DT	8132	LADERA VERDE	1-6.50e	6116	RICKERHILL	SOLDI	5804	VAN WINKLE	\$91.8 /
2010	CANFIELD	SOLDI	\$136	LADERA VERDE	SOLD :	10905	RICKERHILL	SOLD /	5815	VAN WINKLE	SOLDI
222	CAPSTONE	SOLD1	11415	LAFITTE LANE	SQL01	10705	RIGSBEE CT	SGLD /	5820	VAN WINKLE	SOLDI
000	COLBERG LANE	ROLDI	11420	LAFITTE LANE	SOLD I	10712	RICSBEE CT	SOLD !	58.36	VAN WINKLE	SOLD 1
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CCHOA News

TEXAS A&M GRILIFE EXTENSION Watch for bed bugs

Bed bug problems are on the rise in the United States. Some think the return of the bed bug is due to more travel, specific pesticides no longer being used, or changes in pest management practices. Regardless of the why, bed bugs are back and something to be aware of.

Bed bugs are small, dark brown to reddish colored insects with no wings. Their bodies are oval and the color and size often depends on if the insect is engorged with blood. Immatures, or nymphs, resemble the adults but are smaller and lighter in color. Usually adults are about the size of an apple seed.

Bed bugs feed on the blood of animals. The common bed bug, Cimex lectularius, is most often associated with humans while other species of bed bugs feed on animals such as birds or bats. Most feeding occurs at night with bed bugs piercing the skin while people sleep. The bugs inject a fluid while feeding that can cause some people (about 50%) to have an allergic response causing the skin to become irritated and itchy.

After feeding, bed bugs crawl away into hidden areas- mattress seams, headboards, nightstands, behind baseboards as well as other locations. They prefer to hide in locations that are close to where they feed, but they will crawl several feet to get to a meal. Over time, congregation areas become marked with blood, fecal material, hatched eggs and cast skins of molted bugs.

When travelling, always inspect rooms thoroughly for bed bugs before moving luggage into the room. If you are concerned about bringing bed bugs home, place clothing in the dryer (before washing) on high heat for about an hour.

For more information see the following website: http://citybugs.tamu.edu/factsheets/biting-stinging/bed-bugs/

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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Circle C Ranch Newsletter - December 2012 21

2011

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2015

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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OFFICE SUITES AVAILABLE: Private office suites in Oak Hill! 10x12 with window and access to two conference rooms. One story building. \$300/month. Free Wireless. Contact Rafe Jackson 217-3171.

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

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

CLEANING SERVICE- Free estimates. Weekly or bimonthly.Regular service, one time cleans or move ins/out.No subcontracting. Excellent references. Call Marianne at 653-5955 / maryspicandspan@yahoo.com

PERSONAL CLASSIFIED

WANTED: Circle C husband/father looking to possibly start a ping-pong/foosball club. A great way to keep those reflexes young.. E-mail if interested. duv.allie@yahoo.com

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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Sign up to receive *The Circle C Ranch Newsletter* in your inbox. Visit PEELinc.com for details.

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Think of your happy place.

Don't be surprised if you find it right here.

Our experienced team will go out of their way to make sure you're happy, comfortable and completely relaxed at every visit. Our family-friendly practice uses the most advanced dental techniques so you can always expect painless treatments and a healthy, beautiful smile. Visit us in our new Circle C Ranch location and find your happy place...it's closer than you think.

OUR CIRCLE C LOCATION IS NOW OPEN! To schedule a visit with free consult, call 512.467.4722. Parkside Village, 5701 Slaughter Lane, Suite B120



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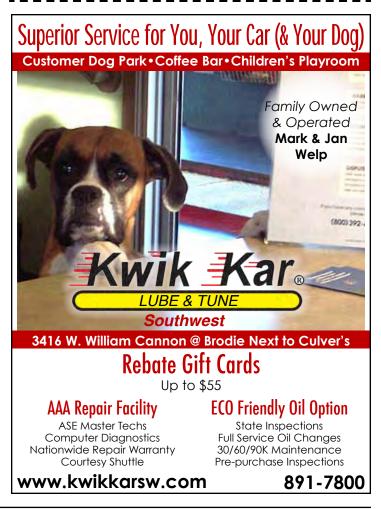
3345 Bee Caves, Suite 102B | 512.329.5250 5701 Slaughter Lane, Suite B120 | 512.467-4722 theaustindentist.com

Follow us for updates and specials at both locations!

Traveling With Your Pet?

Submitted by Kristen West

- Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.
- Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.
- Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris.
- Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.
- Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.
- Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.
- •Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!
- Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's
- a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself.





Before

After



We have art classes for all ages. We offer a true Fine arts education using professional quality art supplies. Denise Dews is an award winning art educator that has been teaching art for 20 years to aspiring artist of all ages. In addition to our Fine arts classes we also have the following activities available:

Toddler Arts · Home School Art Classes · Art Portfolio Development and Assistance · Various Artsy Workshops Arty Parties · Ladies Night Out · Fun and Flirty Couples Date Night with Art · Saturday Afternoon with Art-Walk Ins · We also have a gallery space with art for sale, Unique Gifts, Art Arrangements and Art Kits.

BUY SOMEONE THE GIFT OF ART THIS HOLIDAY...GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE.



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News You Can Use

Signed, Sealed, and Delivered: Travis County Tax Bills for 2012 Should Be In Your Hands!

Submitted by Tina Morton, Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector & Voter Registrar

If you own property in Travis County, chances are you already received a 2012 property tax bill. Over the past several weeks, 269,550 bills hit mailboxes. And if you are among the 122,569 homeowners who escrow through a mortgage company or lending institution, don't worry, the mortgage company probably requested the bill and will pay your property taxes. But you might want to check with them to be sure. Anyone who needs a tax bill can download a copy at www.traviscountytax.org or call (512) 854-9473 to request a mailed copy.

"All taxpayers or their mortgage companies should have received their bills," said Travis County Tax Collector Tina Morton. "Especially for owners of multiple properties, this is the time of year to make sure you have received the bills for all of your properties."

The deadline to pay 2012 property taxes is January 31, 2013. Morton said many taxpayers want the advantage of federal tax deductions that require taxes be paid by the end of the year. Any payment postmarked by December 31 will be recorded as a December payment regardless of when the payment arrives by mail. Payments can be made in person at any of the five tax office locations during normal business hours. Taxpayers can deposit checks or money orders in the tax office drop box after hours or pay online by credit card at www.traviscountytax.org by midnight, December 31.

"Some taxpayers believe that if they do not receive a bill, they are not liable for tax payment," Morton said. "Taxpayers are responsible for requesting a tax bill if they do not receive one."

Seniors and disabled taxpayers may take advantage of a special provision in the law that allows for four installment payments with no penalty and interest provided payments are made before February 1, April 1, June 1 and August 1. Last year 3,943 eligible property owners participated in the program. Senior and disabled taxpayers interested in the installment payment plan should call (512) 854-9473 for details.

One of the most common questions this time of year concerns the ability to pay taxes. "If you can't pay any or all of your tax bill, please call or come in to our main office on Airport Boulevard and make payment arrangements," Morton recommended. "You don't need to wait until the deadline. We can assist taxpayers even before the bill becomes delinquent." *(Continued on Page 27)*



(Continued from Page 26)

The Travis County Tax Office main location is 5501 Airport Boulevard, between Koenig Lane and 531 1/2 Street. The office opens at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Drive-through service is available.

Satellite offices open at 8:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. and include the following locations

• East Austin – 4705 Heflin Lane at Springdale and MLK Blvd (drive-through service)

• Oak Hill Office – 8656 Highway 71W Building B, second floor

• Pflugerville Office – 15822 Foothill Farms Loop (drive-through service)

• Southeast Office – 4011 McKinney Falls Parkway (drive-through service)

Call (512) 854-9473 for assistance.



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.





News You Can Use

Wash Your Hands

REDUCING SPREAD OF DISEASE WHILE AT HOME AND WORK

By: Concentra Urgent Care

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say that nearly 90,000 patients die in U.S. hospitals each year due to a preventable disease – many could be avoided if everyone properly washed their hands.

From germs on office equipment to sick colleagues who decided to come into work anyway, people face the same dangers in the workplace. The same simple fact holds true: Washing your hands regularly is an effective way to prevent yourself from catching or spreading a preventable disease or illness.



Hand washing basics

The CDC has issued specific guidelines about effective hand washing:

- Wet hands with water
- Use plain bar or liquid soap
- Create a lather by vigorously rubbing hands together for 15-20 seconds—about the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice
- Be sure to wash palms, back of hands, fingers, and nails (clean nails by gently scratching nails down your opposing soapy palm)
- Rinse off soap under a stream of water

When to wash your hands

- The CDC recommends washing your hands every time you:
- Prepare or eat food
- Use the restroom
- Tend to someone who is sick; both before and after
- Blow your nose, cough, or sneeze
- Handle garbage
- Treat a cut or wound
- Change a diaper or clean up after children
- Handle an animal or animal waste

⁽Continued on Page 29)



HOLIDAYWISHES2012

Each year, neglected and abused children in the Austin area must be removed from their homes by Child Protective Services caseworkers. Separations occur all year, but it is especially difficult during the holidays. Partnerships for Children is making a difference in the lives of these children and we invite you to join us by participating in our Holiday Wishes program.

With your help, how many children can we impact this year? **Please contact us at:**

512.834.4756

holidaywishes@partnershipsforchildren.org

GET INVOLVED: ✓ SPONSOR a child by

purchasing items from their wish list

- MAKE a donation and we will shop for you
- ✓ DONATE general gifts for children that are not matched with community donors
- ✓ **ORGANIZE** a drive to collect gifts commonly requested on children's wish lists

Thank you for your support!

(Continued from Page 28)

What else can you do?

• Focus on hand washing in the lunch and/or break room

• Be careful when using sponges and dish towels. These are ideal sites for bacterial growth. Always wash your hands after using these items.

• Maintain a clean work area; regularly clean any office equipment, especially shared items such as phones and keyboards.

• Remind your colleagues of the importance of hand washing, particularly when you witness someone neglecting to wash his or her hands.

For more information

To learn more about how washing hands regularly can help prevent disease, ask your health care provider, or visit the CDC's creative Web site dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of hand washing at www.henrythehand.com.

NatureWatch by Jim and Lynne Weber

Merry Mistletoe

From the earliest times mistletoe has been considered one of the most magical, mysterious, and sacred plants found in European folklore. Originally used to bestow life and fertility, as a protection from poison, and as an aphrodisiac, in medieval times branches of mistletoe were hung from the ceiling to ward off evil spirits. With the process of immigration and settlement of North America, traditions associated with the European plant were transferred to the New World and evolved into a folklore all its own.

In Central Texas, two species of mistletoe are native, the Christmas Mistletoe (Phoradendron tomentosum) and Oak Mistletoe (Phoradendron leucarpum). The genus comes from the Greek 'phor' which means thief and 'dendron' which means tree, as both species are semiparasites that steal water and nutrients from their host trees. Christmas mistletoe has small, elliptical evergreen leaves and smooth green stems covered by short hairs, with tiny green flowers on the male plant and shiny white berries on the female plant. It is widely used in the United States as a Christmas decoration, and is especially common growing on Sugar Hackberry, Cedar Elm, and Honey Mesquite trees in Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.

(Continued on Page 30)



News You Can Use

(Continued from Page 29)

Native north to New York State, south to Florida, and west to New Mexico, Oak Mistletoe is another common mistletoe hung at Christmastime. It is a larval host plant for the Great Purple Hairstreak butterfly, and while similar in appearance to Christmas Mistletoe, its berries are covered with a sticky substance poisonous to humans but relished by winter resident birds such as Cedar Waxwings, Eastern Bluebirds, and American Robins. These birds eat the berries and spread the seeds through their droppings and by wiping their beaks on tree branches, both of which may cause a new plant to take hold and become established.

While ancient folklore has attributed a wide range of mystical abilities to mistletoe, none is more fascinating than the myth of Frigga, the Norse Mother Goddess worshiped by pre-Christian people of northern Europe, and how mistletoe became her sacred plant. She was believed to be the mother of Balder, the God of the Summer Sun, who had a dream of death. Alarmed by this dream, Frigga went to all the elements, plants, and animals to seek a promise that no harm would come to her son. Balder was thought to be safe from harm by anything on or under the Earth.

But Balder's enemy, Loki, was the God of Evil, and he knew of the one plant that Frigga overlooked. It was the lowly mistletoe, which grew neither on nor under the Earth itself, but on the branches of

oaks and other trees. Loki made an arrow tip with the mistletoe, and gave it to the Hoder, the blind God of Winter, who used it to strike Balder dead. The sky paled and everything wept for the Sun God, who was restored by Frigga after working with the elements for three days. The tears she shed for her son were said to be the pearly white berries of the mistletoe, and in her joy at his resurrection she kissed everyone who passed beneath the tree on which it grew.

Thus began the custom that whomever should stand beneath the humble mistletoe will come to no harm, but receive only a kiss as a token of love. Merry mistletoe to you and yours!

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.





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Real Estate News

THE MARKET IN CIRCLE C CONTINUES TO BE HOT

There are currently 29 listings in Circle C, which is historically very low. The homes that Goldwasser Real Estate has been listing have been selling quickly. Currently, the average price of an active home is Circle C is \$387,574, and the average days on market is 62. In the past 90 days there have been 67 sales with an average price of \$356,742. Interest rates continue to be historically low and the buyers looking to purchase in the holiday season are very serious buyers. When looking at the overall Austin Market as of November 6, 2012, our inventory is down almost 20% from last year with a total number of homes on the market at 7,560. Chad Goldwasser has been selling homes in Austin and Circle C for the past 15 years. He studies the market constantly, and he believes now is a great time to sell a home. With the low inventory and the rising prices, it is also a great time to buy a home.

Goldwasser Real Estate Listings Sell FASTER AND FOR MORE MONEY than any other broker - 4 YEARS IN A ROW!



11234 Tracton Lane - \$350,000 5 BR/3 BA/3,208 sf



11113 Blissfield Cove - \$535,000 4 BR/3.5BA/3,675 sf



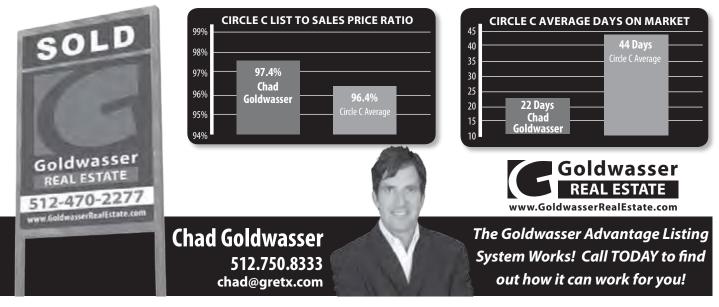
6025 Mordred Lane - \$327,500 4 BR/2.5 BA/2,433 sf



4504 Hibiscus Valley Dr. - \$320,000 4 BR/2.5 BA/2,560 sf



10804 Split Stone Way - \$365,000 4 BR/3.5 BA/3,105 sf



News You Can Use



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.





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Circle C Ranch Newsletter - December 2012

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www.centraltexasrealtyaustin.com

If your house is currently listed with another broker this is not intended as a solicitation of that listing.

512-306-15 For Details

News You Can Use



By the Four Point Foodie | www.fourpointsfoodie.com

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 C butter, softened
- 3/4 C finely chopped pecans
- 1/2 C powdered sugar 1 t vanilla
 - 1/4 t salt
- 2 1/4 C all-purpose flour Pow
- Powdered Sugar to roll in

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Cream butter with 1/2 C powdered sugar and vanilla in a large bowl. Stir in flour, nuts and salt until the dough holds together. With clean hands, roll dough into 1 inch balls and place about 1 inch apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 10 - 12 minutes or until set but not brown. Remove from cookie sheet, cool slightly, then roll the warm cookies in powdered sugar. This makes about 40 cookies.

Whether you call them Mexican Wedding Cookies or Russian Tea Cakes, these treasures will melt in your mouth! Always on our Christmas Cookie making list, there are so many variations of the recipe. What I am sharing with you today is the best of my best - tweaked here and there but with amazing results.



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26	1	1	27			28	-	-	+
29	-					30	-	-	-
31	-	-	-		-	32	-	+	+

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS **DOWN** 1. Syllables used in songs (2 wds.) 1. Soft white cheese 5. Dress 2. Arabian 9. Time periods 3. Mutton 10. Satan 4. Facet 11. Tap in lightly 5. Jewel 12. Adult insect 6. _____-garde 13. Prioress 7. Severity 15. Todav 8. Wispy 16. Chapel 10. Render harmless 14. Soft drink brand 18. 10,000 squared meters 21. Cutting tool 17. Lacked 22. Scents 18. Hurry 26. Small herring 19. Deport 28. Two 20. Tic tac's competitor 29. Fish tank dweller 23. Pear shaped instrument 30. Volcano 24. Alley 25. Close the door hard 31. Otherwise

27. Be

32. Hold

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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6 Months Sold History (05/2012-10/2012)

5 211

Price /

2,916 5 115 5 330

2,392 \$ 145 \$ 342

3,015 \$ 118 \$ 35/

3.134 5 123 5 387

3,432 5 123 5 423

2,540 5 153 5 337

3,627 \$ 130 \$ 472

2,682 5 129 5 345

2,635 \$ 112 \$ 295

3,036 S 132 S 401

3,764 5 145 5 545

3.819 \$ 125 \$ 475

183 2,901 5 125 5 368

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147

Internet Report data was operatived from the worst-Multiple Upping Service (MUS) on 312(2022), in power (Side Anni Operational end

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8,305 \$ 131

2,211 5 1.12 5

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