

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 3

MARCH 2015

# CIRCLE C

## *Community Newsletter*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CIRCLE C RANCH HOA







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*#28 in the state of Texas (Real Trends, 2013)*



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## CCHOA NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Office ..info@circlecranch.info or 512-288-8663  
HOA Financial Office..tgiles@mgilescpa.com or 512-451-9901  
Aquatics Director ..... director@ccswim.net or 512-288-4239

### Newsletter Publisher

Peel, Inc. .... advertising@PEELinc.com or 512-263-9181

### Circle C Amenities

Circle C Café ..... 512-288-6058  
Circle C CDC..... 512-288-9792  
Circle C Swim Center ..... 512-288-6057  
Circle C Community Center Pool..... 512-301-8259  
Grey Rock Tennis Club ..... 512-301-8685

### CIRCLE C GATED COMMUNITIES

*Enclave off Spruce Canyon (KB)*

Spectrum Management ..... 512-834-3900

*Enclave off La Crosse (Streetman)*

Plateau Property Management.....Rosalyn Peterson, 512-441-1041

*Fairways Estates*

Spectrum Management ..... 512-834-3900

*Park West*

Real Manage..... Jodie Walker, 866-473-2573

*Muirfield*

Real Manage..... Tom Ellis, 866-473-2573

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chris Poynor ..... President  
Kim Ackermann..... Vice President  
Dan Vavasour ..... Treasurer  
Natalie Placer McClure ..... Secretary  
Jason Bram..... Board Member  
Michael Chu ..... Board Member  
Bob McKenna..... Board Member  
Contact the Board at .....directors@circlecranch.info

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Austin Solid Waste ..... 512-974-1945  
Dead Animal Collection..... 512-974-2000  
Abandoned Vehicle..... 512-974-8119  
Pothole Complaints..... 512-974-8750  
Stop Signs ..... 512-457-4885  
Street Light Outage..... 311  
Schools  
Clayton Elementary ..... 512-841-9200  
Kiker Elementary ..... 512-414-2584  
Gorzycki Middle School..... 512-841-8600  
Bowie High School ..... 512-414-5247  
Mills Elementary ..... 512-841-2400

### UTILITY PROVIDERS

Electric Pedernales Elec. .... 512-219-2602  
City of Austin. .... 512-494-9400  
Gas Texas State Gas ..... 800-700-2443  
Phone AT&T ..... 800-288-2020  
Water City of Austin ..... 512-972-1000  
Solid Waste City of Austin ..... 512-974-1945  
Post Office Oak Hill Station ..... 800-275-8777

## HOA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CCHOA ANNUAL MEETING

The Circle C Homeowners Association will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30pm at the Circle C Community Center, 7817 La Crosse Ave. Please arrive at 6:00pm to allow time for check-in.

### BOARD ELECTION

The Nominating Committee accepted nominations to the Board of Directors through January 9, 2015 and the following residents were nominated: Kim Ackermann, Cara Kelly, and Steve Urban. You can find their bios and candidate questionnaires posted on our website, [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info). You may also opt to sign your proxy over to a trusted neighbor or board member – this will still count toward our quorum. You can fill out the absentee ballot or proxy on the back side of your February dues assessment or contact the Financial Manager at 512-451-9901 if you need a replacement. The Board Election results

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**MARCH 1:**  
First ½ Annual Assessment Due

**MARCH 4:**  
Annual Meeting

**MARCH 26:**  
HOA Board Meeting

will be posted on the website by March 5, 2015.

### ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014 Annual Report to the Membership from the Board of Directors is included in the center of this publication. If you would like to request an extra copy, please contact the HOA office at 512-288-8663.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> HOA ASSESSMENT DUE MARCH 1

Please be sure to mail checks to:  
**CCHOA, PO BOX 163541**  
*Austin, TX 78716*

Payments will NOT be accepted at the HOA Office and should not be placed in the drop box outside the office. Please do not staple your check to your invoice. Please do not post date your check. If you have a question regarding your assessment, please contact the accounting office at 451-9901.

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## Summer Jobs

*Submitted by Amanda Hartman*

It's never too early to start thinking about a summer job! Circle C Aquatics starts hiring lifeguards, swim instructors and front desk positions for the summer season around this time.

Don't wait until the last minute! Visit the employment tab on our website to fill out an application and to check for certification classes. Please email [customerservice@ccswim.net](mailto:customerservice@ccswim.net) for more info.

## Lifeguarding Class

Circle C Aquatics will be holding 4 Lifeguard and CPR training sessions this year. The first one will take place over spring break.

Participants must be 15 years old by the last day of the class. Completion of the course does not guarantee employment with Circle C Aquatics. For more information and to sign up, please email Amanda at [coordinator@ccswim.net](mailto:coordinator@ccswim.net)

## Swim Team Lane Usage

The Select and Seals swim teams will both be in the water from 3:30pm-7:30pm from the end of April through May. There will be limited lane space at the Swim Center during this time.

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**Bryan Webb**  
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[bryan@bryanwebbtx.com](mailto:bryan@bryanwebbtx.com)

**Patty Webb**  
*Realtor*

Cell: (512) 415-6321  
[patty@webbcirclec.com](mailto:patty@webbcirclec.com)

"The #1 Circle C Ranch virtual tour real estate website originally designed in 1997 and still serving our Circle C residents today.

# CircleCRealtour.com

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

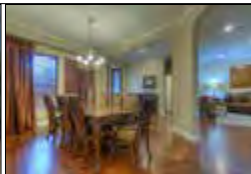
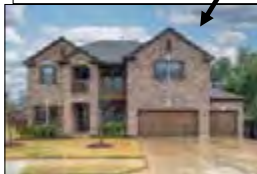


Call Kevin Scragg at (512) 529-8763 to see any house and for all leases.



7705 Haggans Lane-**"UNDER CONTRACT!"** John Squires was able to effectively market and sell his exceptional new listing in the gated, Enclave Estates in 12 days, when the previous real estate broker had it listed for 75 days without an offer. There were several different marketing items John Squires changed and/or employed to effect the sale. 5 beds, 4 full baths, 4 living areas on a HUGE lot and cul-de-sac, close to Clayton and the new resort-style pool. Wood floors thru! **\$549,000.**

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



7304 Tanaqua John's listing **"JUST SOLD!!!"** on greenbelt! **\$435,000.**

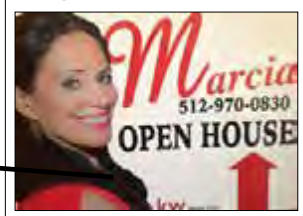
4913 Hibiscus Valley John's listing **"JUST SOLD!!!"** in 1 Day on New Years Day! **\$364,500.**



**"JUST LISTED!"** John's listing on Old Harbor. 1-story! Gorgeous 18' soaring ceilings with dramatic entry leads back to cozy family room with fireplace. 4 beds and 3 FULL baths. Private back yard. Call John to see it first!

**"JUST LISTED!"** John's listing on Grassmere Ct. 1-story! New granite counters, 4-side brick David Weekley nestled on a quiet cul-de-sac, close to pool and Kiker. Perfect for retiree or young couple. Call John for more info!

**"JUST SOLD!"** Marcia's listing on South Bay. 1-story! Marcia was able to market and sell this home through an open house that resulted in multiple offers on the home. Call her for more information at (512) 970-0830. **\$354,500.**



#1 Agent in Circle C Ranch history with 440+/- homes **"SOLD"** in Circle C Ranch and well over 900 total homes sold in the Austin area.

#1 Keller Williams agent listings and buyers sold in Circle C. #10 agent out of Austin's "Top 50" agents in 2014.

Made **"Top 50"** agents in central Texas 7 times!

**FLEXIBLE COMMISSIONS** and move-up/move-down plans for growing families or retirees. John works with all relocation companies. (Yes, it is your choice to use *any* agent you choose to sell your home with any relocation company) John is **relo-certified** with all relocation firms and he is the #1 Circle C Ranch listing expert.

John Squires will professionally consult, stage, renovate, update and upgrade your home (if needed) to sell for the maximum price the market will bear at no additional fee ever! Call him for a no-obligation consultation.



# SquiresTeam.com



In honor of our veterans and our service personnel that protect our freedoms, John Squires donates from each real estate transaction to the **Wounded Warriors Project** and **The 100 Club of Central Texas**.



Hey Circle C, John Squires likes to insure his client's selling and moving experiences are as smooth and seamless as possible in every aspect. You may have seen his trailer in the neighborhood at one of his open houses or being used by another thrilled client. The trailer is yours to be used for free in any local moves when employing John to assist you in your real estate. A few clients have used it to move their entire homes and have saved \$1,000's in moving expenses. It is huge inside with a garage door ramp for easy access. Also, John will give any of his clients 2 free "pulls" anywhere in Austin by appointment using his own vehicle if needed. John believes in having fun and helping people achieve their real estate goals whatever they may be. He will work 7 days per week to make sure all of his client's homes are properly marketed, sold and their moves are easy. If you love what you do as much as John does, it's not really work.

Call John Squires directly at **(512) 970-1970** for an easy, no obligation appointment to list your house for sale or be professionally represented in the purchase of any real estate in Texas. Thanks!



Hey Circle C! Need a little more elbow room? How about 3.5+/- acres with your own flowing creek and raw land to ATV on? Unbelievable resort-lifestyle 1-story in Lewis Mountain Ranch with over \$300,000. in upgrades in the last 3 years. STUNNING upgrades through! Slate and wood floors. Custom, custom, custom everything...Cabinets, level 7 granite thru house, slate kitchen, GE Monogram, new roof, new Zoyzia lawn, granite wine bar, professionally installed playground with kiddie-mulch, completely new bathrooms, etc., etc. The guest quarters is a separate house with steam shower, built-in cabinetry, murphy bed, granite kitchen, outdoor fireplace, lanai looking over incredible pool with built-in seats and a rain-sheet waterfall. Taxes are 2.00%, yet City of Austin water. Super-quiet ranch-style neighborhood RIGHT behind Circle C on 1826. This is truly the last house you would ever need. **10101 Silver Mountain Drive "JUST LISTED!"** John's new listing at **\$999,000**. You gotta see it to believe it!



# Around Circle C

**SAVE THE DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 11<sup>TH</sup>**

## Clayton's 9<sup>TH</sup> Annual Fun Run, Carnival & Auction!

### ***THIS YEAR WE ARE RUNNING WILD!***

Calling all children ages 4 years old – 5th grade. Come run wild with us at the Clayton Fun Run & Carnival. Go to [claytoncardinals.org](http://claytoncardinals.org) to register online.

Carnival highlights include 2 petting zoos, pony rides from Texas Trail Rides, 8 bungee jumps, a rock wall, bounce houses, giant slides, an obstacle course, laser tag, mechanical swings, and a trackless train. Parents can shop the great products and gift certificates from Austin's best restaurants, service providers, and companies, exciting class baskets, teacher buy a spots, and much more at the auction while your children play. If you would like to donate an item to the auction please contact Emily Cannata at [claytonsilentauction@gmail.com](mailto:claytonsilentauction@gmail.com).

Come hungry! We have delicious dinner options this year from some great local vendors. Texas Roadhouse will be serving up hamburgers,

cheeseburgers and chicken sandwiches. Circle C Café is serving pizza slices. Evil Weiner is serving hot dogs and fries. Wholly Kebab is serving gluten-free bowls and pita wraps. There will be lots of treats including ice cream from Austin Scoops, snow cones from Kona Ice, Gold Star Kettle Corn, cotton candy, and more.

Local businesses, we need your support. As a sponsor of this amazing event, you gain exposure to the 3,000 people that attend. Donations support the school's focus on science, technology and literacy. Sponsorship opportunities start at only \$100 with great incentives for each level up to the Platinum level. To take advantage of this opportunity or if you would like more information about sponsorships, please contact Shannon Peris at [president@claytoncardinals.org](mailto:president@claytoncardinals.org). If you have any questions about the event, please contact Chris Pollom at [fundraising@claytoncardinals.org](mailto:fundraising@claytoncardinals.org).

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## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Submitted by Melinda McKenna*

*March 1 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - Wildflower Days™ Spring Preview*

*March 1 - Zilker Park Kite Festival*

*March 5 - 8:00 pm - Circle C Moms Book Club*

*March 6 and 7- 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. - High School Musical Performance - Gorzycki Middle School*

*March 9 - Recycle Day*

*March 12 - 7:30 p.m. - Circle C Moms Bunko Night*

*March 13 - 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 - Trailer Night*

*Mar. 14 - Mar 28 Rodeo Austin*

*March 14 - May 31 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - Exhibits "Alternate Views" and "Paper Sculptures" Open*

*March 15 - May 31 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - Wildflower Days™ - Spring comes alive with wildflowers. From March 15 to May 31 we celebrate the bounty of spring by opening 7 days a week, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.*

*March 17 - March 22 - Spring Break*

*March 21 - 22 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - Artist & Artisans Festival. Taking a staycation this Spring Break or coming to town for a visit? Drop by the Center to enjoy early spring blooms and purchase unique arts and crafts from local vendors.*

*March 28 - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - Anniversary Celebration: 20 Years in South Austin - It's been 20 years since the Wildflower Center moved to 4801 La Crosse Ave. We'll celebrate with docent tours on the hour, specials in the store and much more.*

*March 23 - Recycle Day*

*April 4th - Easter Egg Hunt*

*April 10th - Food Trailer Night*

*April 18th - Community Wide Garage Sale, Chili Cook Off*



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**March 2015**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>All Specials Are \$10.00 Ready at 5pm</b>	Tarragon Walnut 3 Crusted Chicken Apple Fennel Sauce, Cranberry Rice, Vegetables	Chicken Fried 4 Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Creamy Gravy, Fried Okra	Shrimp 5 Flautas Rice, Beans	Smothered Pork 6 Chops, Apples, Cabbage, Onions Rosemary Potatoes, Cesar Salad	Mahi Mahi Fish 7 Tacos, Jicama Slaw, Rice	Closed 7
Closed 8	Pistachio Crusted 9 Porkloin, Cabernet Cherry Sauce Garlic Mashed Potatoes Grilled Vegetables	Chicken 10 Teriyaki Basmati Rice Vegetables	Almond Crusted 11 Tilapia, Potatoes Au gratin, Spinach Basil Crème Sauce	New York 12 Strip, Wild Mushroom Sauce Oven Roasted Potatoes	Lime & Cilantro 13 Marinated Shrimp Tequila Butter Sauce Rice Julienne Chayote Squash	14 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm
15 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm	16 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm	17 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm	18 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm	19 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm	20 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm	21 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm
22 Spring Break 11am-6:00pm	23 Oven Baked Chicken Fennel Leeks, Julienne Carrots, Potatoes	18 Sliced BBQ Chicken, Sausage, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cornbread	19 Lime Grilled Chicken, Mango Salsa, Green Beans Oven Roasted Rosemary Potatoes	20 Grilled Porkloin Chops, Lentils, Vegetable Ragu, Cesar Salad	27 Pan Seared Salmon, Spinach & Pine nut Pesto, Sundried tomato Polenta, Cesar Salad	28 Closed
29 Closed	30 Chicken Picatta Linguine, Cesar Salad	25 Pulled Pork Tacos, Cabbage Slaw, Cilantro Rice				In observation of Lent, Friday specials will be meatless

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# Around Circle C



## INDIANMEAL MOTHS

Indianmeal moths can be found in dogfood, birdseed, cereals, dried fruit, nuts, powdered milk and candy. Adults are small with grayish wings tipped in copper. Larvae are creamy yellow to yellow-green to pink and often crawl along pantry walls. Spun pupal cases are often found along corners and edges of wall areas.

To eliminate a pantry pest problem, the first step is to locate and remove all infested items. Removing infested items is the easy part; finding the infestation is not always so simple. Begin with the oldest food items, usually in the back of the pantry. Inspect everything, including unopened food items since these can also be a source. If you find an infested item, do not stop your inspection, more than one item may be infested.

Throw away infested items. If you don't feel that you can throw away



food, place the infested food in a ziptop plastic bag and place it in the freezer for about 5-7 days or spread the infested food item on a baking sheet and bake at 250 degrees for 4-6 hours to kill any insects. Once all the insects are dead, you can sift the food item or pick out the insects. Of course, you can always just leave the insects in the food and get a little more protein with your meal!

It is extremely important to find the source, and not all pantry pest infestations come from the pantry. Check rooms for items such as dried, decorative peppers, dried flowers, potpourri or rice heating packs.

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

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



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An Official Publication of the Circle C Homeowners Association

# INTRODUCTION

• FROM THE PRESIDENT •

CHRIS POYNOR

This past year was a very big year for Circle C. The HOA completed the extensive repairs to the Swim Center lap pool which included the addition of more lap lanes, new steps on both sides of the pool, new plaster and tiles. The Community Center continues to be a success and has been heavily used. It is a great place for our residents to gather for neighborhood functions and personal gatherings. The landscaping and irrigation improvements have been completed on Barstow and along La Crosse Ave. Our newest sections, Avana and GreyRock Ridge continue to grow. We are happy to announce that a third pool in Circle C will be located in Avana and is being built by the developer. The estimated opening date will be sometime in the summer of 2015. GreyRock Ridge will also have a pool built by the developer and is not expected to open until 2016. This will make a total of four pools in Circle C. At the end of 2014, after careful review, the board paid off the remaining balance of the loan for the construction of the Community Center!

As we approach our annual meeting in March, I ask that you take the time and fill out your absentee ballot or name a proxy. The absentee ballot and proxy can be found on the back of this year's first assessment which was mailed to you at the beginning of February. We need to have ten percent of members voting to have a quorum or we cannot conduct business at the annual meeting. This board has done a lot this year and the best way to thank them is to participate in the Annual Meeting and vote. Candidate biographies are available on the website, so please take the time to research the candidates.

The current Board of Directors would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve you. It has been an honor and we will continue to strive to keep Circle C the best and most sought after neighborhood in Austin.

*This is the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Circle C Homeowners Association. In this report we provide an overview of the activities and achievements of 2014 for the Association as well as an outline of our proposed activities and goals for 2015. We believe that 2014 was a year of significant progress for the Association, and we are committed to continuing that progress in 2015. Our primary goal remains preserving and improving the Circle C Ranch subdivision.*

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*Calendar of Events*

# CIRCLE C RANCH ANNUAL REPORT

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### COMPLETED PROJECTS DURING 2014

- Swim Center Pool re-plaster
- Irrigation infrastructure improvements
- Bed upgrades including the MoPac/Slaughter entrance
- Rock work throughout Circle C
- Swim Center Furniture & Equipment
- Tree work throughout Circle C

### GROWTH OF CIRCLE C RANCH

<i>Year</i>	<i>Lots in the Association</i>	<i>Lots paying full assessment</i>
2014	4897	4386
2015	5154	4775

### CIRCLE C GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

All of the Circle C HOA's defining documents can be found on the HOA website at [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info); under the Resource tab. Residents must register for the website in order to access the documents.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The members of the CCHOA elect a volunteer Board of Directors (BOD) to run the Association. The board consists of seven people, all of whom must be property owners. Directors are elected for three year terms. We have two director seats that expire in 2015 (Dan Vavasour and Kim Ackermann). Chris Poynor, Natalie Placer McClure and Michael Chu's terms expire in 2016. Jason Bram and Bob McKenna's terms expire in 2017. As of this writing the CCHOA BOD has four officers: President (Chris Poynor), Vice President (Kim Ackermann), Treasurer (Dan Vavasour) and Secretary (Natalie Placer McClure). Michael Chu, Bob McKenna and Jason Bram also serve on the board. You can email the board at [directors@circlecranch.info](mailto:directors@circlecranch.info)

### OPERATIONS STAFF

- Operations Manager: Karen Hibpshman, CMCA
- Operations Asst. Manager: Gale Foster
- Community Center Coordinator: Sarah Humphrey
- Facility Maintenance Coordinator: Robert Bardeleben
- Aquatics Director: Brody McKinley
- Financial Manager: Terri Giles, Giles & Shea

### PUBLIC BOARD MEETINGS

The CCHOA BOD holds monthly board meetings that are open to residents, currently scheduled at 6:00PM on the last Thursday of each month at the Circle C Community Center. We allot time at the beginning of each meeting for a Homeowners Forum that allows residents to address the board.

### ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

#### *Committee Members:*

A.E. Martin, former CCHOA Board Member  
Laura Sherman, AIA Registered Architect  
Trent Rush, Principal, TBG Partners, Reg. Landscape Architect

#### *New Homes Reviewed:*

200 new homes were reviewed and approved.

#### *Remodels/Residential Projects:*

The ACC reviewed 229 residential projects

#### *Current Circle C Residential Builders for New Homes:*

Streetman Homes in Greyrock Ridge

Standard Pacific Homes—Avana 1-1

Standard Pacific Homes—Avana 1-2

Standard Pacific Homes—Cornerstone

### RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE:

In mid 2014, Standard Pacific acquired Streetman Homes, the active builder in Greyrock Ridge. Some of the product continues to be built under the Streetman Homes name as a transition in this area to all Standard Pacific built homes occurs. Since KB Home finished up at Fairways Estates, that leaves Standard Pacific as the single builder in Circle C. Their current subdivisions include:

Avana—a mixture of 50, 60, and 75 foot single family lots and homes are under construction.

Greyrock Ridge—will include 368 sixty foot frontage single family lots.

Cornerstone—located across from the Fire Station located in Circle C on Escarpment, this small section of 35 single family lots is underway.

Avana Estates—20 estate lots located at the south end of Escarpment are under construction.

### COMMON AREA IMPROVEMENTS:

Over three acres of common area landscape located on Escarpment between Trissino and Bernia were accepted for landscape maintenance. This area includes zoysia turf, naturalized areas, trees, and perennial beds and is watered primarily by drip irrigation.

The entrance to Cornerstone was also accepted for landscape maintenance.

Avana Amenity Center—Standard Pacific has constructed a pool and playground facility at Escarpment and Trissino in Avana. This facility will be open to all residents. We anticipate the facility being open for the 2015 swim season.

### ANNUAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS

The CCHOA holds its Annual Meeting in March. The Annual Meeting agenda includes election of directors, a financial review, and an operational report to members. The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30pm at the Circle C Community Center. Please be on the look-out for the February assessment with ballot and proxy on the back. We encourage everyone to attend the Annual Meeting as well as vote in the 2015 Board of Directors election.

### COMMUNICATIONS

There are several ways to contact the Association. You can submit a concern, report a deed violation or ask a question via the HOA website at [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info). You can email or call our manager, Karen Hibpshman. Her phone number is 512-288-8663, and her email address is [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info). You can speak to the Board at the monthly board meeting or send them an email at [directors@circlecranch.info](mailto:directors@circlecranch.info).

We have several ways we use for neighborhood communications. Our web page is at <http://www.circlecranch.info> (please register if you haven't already), we publish a newsletter monthly, sent to your home by first class mail. We maintain eight marquees around the neighborhood for announcements.

We also utilize a Community Email database for Circle C HOA announcements. Please take a moment to sign up to receive timely HOA news via email by logging onto: [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info)



## AQUATICS REPORT

### AQUATICS REPORT

#### *Aquatics Lead Staff*

Aquatics Director:	Brody McKinley
Program Coordinator:	Amanda Hartman
Administrative Coordinator:	Trevor VanOsselaer
Aquatics Supervisor:	Cami Kelly
Aquatics Supervisor:	Jessy Lieck
Select Head Coach:	Jennie Lou Leeder

#### 2014 USAGE

Swim Center Entries	-	38,700
Community Center Entries	-	15,247
Total Resident Entries	-	53,947
Guest Entries	-	4,135
Total Facility Entries	-	58,082

#### 2014 EVENTS

- Dive-In Movie Nights (June 14, July 12, August 23)
- World Championship of Texas: 3-on-3 Swimming Tournament (September 14)
- Blue Santa Guard-A-Thon (December 7)

#### 2014 SELECT SWIM TEAM

Head Coach	-	Jennie Lou Leeder
Assistant Coach	-	Cami Kelly
Dry Land Coach	-	Erin Gerbrecht

#### 2014 TEAM ENROLLMENT

Jan - 52	May - 77	Sep - 126
Feb - 51	Jun - 78	Oct - 114
Mar - 63	Jul - 76	Nov - 106
Apr - 81	Aug - 86	Dec - 83

#### 2014 SWIM MEETS ATTENDED

January 11	-	B Champs
Jan 31 - Feb 2	-	BB Champs
February 14-16	-	A Meet
April 18-20	-	Long Course Kick Off
May 16	-	End of School Splash
June 27	-	Texas Open
July 17	-	A Champs
August 1-3	-	Junior Stags
September 19	-	AQTX Unclassified
October 21	-	AQTX Tuesday
October 24-26	-	Fall Kick Off
October 25	-	Great Pumpkin
November 1	-	Unclassified
November 4	-	AQTX Tuesday

November 14	-	November Unclassified
November 18	-	AQTX Tuesday
December 2	-	AQTX Tuesday
December 12-14	-	'Tis The Season
December 12-14	-	Jingle Bell Splash
December 27	-	Trained or Tapered

#### 2014 GROUP SWIM LESSONS

349 registrations

#### 2014 PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS

1,141 Private Swim Lessons Taught

#### 2014 CLASSES & CLINICS

##### *Water Aerobics*

Instructor – Marilyn Vaillant  
Class Participation: 59

##### *Masters*

Instructor – Erin Gerbrecht  
Class Participation: 48

##### *Lifeguard Certification Classes*

Class Participation: 58

##### *Boy Scout Swim Testing*

Class Participation: 25

#### AREA RESERVATIONS

Swim Center	-	48
Community Center	-	57

#### FACILITY RENTALS

Swim Center	-	6
Community Center	-	7

#### CONTRACTED RENTALS

- Austin T3
- Bowie High School Swim Team
- CDC Summer Camp
- Dreams of Hope Ranch Special Olympics
- Elli Overton Training Systems
- Kiker Summer Voyager Summer Camp
- Seals Swim Team
- SwimVersity
- TriZones
- Veritas / Regents / Waldorf Swim Team

#### INCIDENTS

Water Rescues	-	18
Injuries Treated	-	30
Sudden Illnesses Treated	-	3
Total Incidents	-	51

# CIRCLE C RANCH ANNUAL REPORT

## CIRCLE C HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION 2014 INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

INCOME:		EXPENSES:	
HOMEOWNER INCOME		COMMONS AREAS SERVICES	
Homeowners Dues	\$2,664,585.27	Landscape Maintenance Contract	\$840,516.00
Resale Certificate Income	\$50,268.82	2014 Land Additions	\$(180.00)
Transfer Fee Income	\$87,850.00	Landscape Repairs	\$42,508.05
Late Fees Collected	\$25,686.83	Landscape Utilities – Water	\$177,994.63
Lien Admin Fee Income	\$2,254.55	Landscape Utilities - Electric	\$31,559.39
Filing Fee Income	\$3,135.62	Tree Pruning	\$13,327.97
NSF Fee Income	\$150.00	Fence Repairs & Maint	\$4,674.85
Collection Fee Income	\$4,326.08	Electrical Repairs & Maint	\$10,932.28
Total Homeowner Income	\$2,838,257.17	Neighborhood Repairs & Maintenance	\$13,867.01
<b>ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW INCOME</b>		Total Commons Area Services	\$1,135,200.18
Total Architectural Review Income	\$84,460.00	<b>SWIM CENTER FACILITY</b>	
<b>RENTAL INCOME</b>		Administrative	\$30,413.51
Office Rent	\$8,378.00	Supplies - Pool	\$2,302.07
Grill Rent	\$8,755.76	Supplies – Chemicals	\$33,545.36
Total Rental Income	\$17,133.76	Supplies & Fees – Programming	\$2,113.22
<b>SWIM CENTER INCOME</b>		Supplies & Fees – Swim Team	\$36,025.97
Pool Programs	\$81,401.25	Maintenance – Pool	\$30,683.59
Pool Programs-Swim Team	\$140,378.68	Maintenance – Building	\$24,937.36
Guest Fees/Facility Rentals	\$46,900.12	Maintenance – Contract Landscaping	\$23,641.80
Total Swim Center Income	\$268,680.05	Maintenance – Non-Contract Landscaping	\$1,834.85
<b>CIRCLE C COMMUNITY CENTER INCOME</b>		Payroll – Staff	\$391,314.75
Cccc Facility Rentals	\$44,045.64	Payroll – Programming Staff	\$27,276.28
Total Community Center Income	\$44,045.64	Payroll – Swim Team	\$70,740.80
<b>OTHER OWNER LANDSCAPE REIMBURSEMENTS</b>		Utilities – Water	\$22,603.99
Stratus Landscape Reimb	\$97,000.00	Utilities – Electric	\$33,189.54
Coa Landscape Reimb	\$17,600.00	Utilities – Gas	\$19,182.42
Total Other Owner L/S Reimb	\$114,600.00	Avana Pool	\$3.42
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>		Utilities – Phone/Internet	\$3,361.19
Interest Income	\$2,243.86	Total Swim Center Facility	\$753,170.12
Total Miscellaneous Income	\$2,243.86	<b>COMMUNITY CENTER FACILITY</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,369,420.48</b>	Utilities – Water	\$7,456.49
		Utilities – Electric	\$24,194.82
		Utilites – Phone/Internet	\$10,733.74



# CIRCLE C RANCH ANNUAL REPORT

## CIRCLE C HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

### 2014 INCOME & EXPENSE STATEMENT (UNAUDITED)

Events Salaries	\$842.99	Legal	\$45,513.96
Furniture	\$1,864.54	Total Legal	\$45,513.96
Maintenance – Building	\$23,366.43		
Maintenance – Contract Landscaping	\$23,641.80		
Maintenance – Non-Contract Landscaping	\$1,320.65		
Total Community Center Facility	\$93,421.46		
<b>HOA OPERATIONS</b>		<b>TAXES</b>	
Office Supplies	\$5,089.92	Taxes – Property	\$22,948.94
Office Equipment & Maintenance	\$11,602.75	Taxes – Other	\$0.00
Maintenance Salaries	\$77,163.52	Total Taxes	\$22,948.94
Maintenance Payroll Taxes	\$6,309.91		
Postage/Delivery	\$10,890.98	<b>INSURANCE</b>	
Website Operations	\$4,317.50	Gen'l, Property, B&M & Auto	\$61,691.37
Printing/HOA Office	\$1,187.60	Insurance - D & O	\$8,688.00
HOA Meetings	\$556.82	Insurance - Workers Comp	\$13,177.71
Deed Restrictions	\$5,107.96	Total Insurance	\$83,557.08
HOA Special Events	\$36,315.33		
Misc Operational Expenses	\$477.43	<b>COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT</b>	
HOA Operations Total	\$159,019.72	Donations	\$780.00
<b>FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT</b>		Association Memberships	\$174.00
Financial Management Services	\$89,610.12	Total Community Enhancement	\$954.00
Resale Certificate Expense	\$8,133.65	<b>DEBT SERVICES (NEW COMMUNITY CENTER LOAN)</b>	
Lien Filing Fees	\$2,910.00	CCCC Debt Services - Principal	\$736,873.34
Bank Fees	\$22,664.79	Interst – Austintelco	\$38,132.15
Cpa/Audit	\$7,700.00	Total Debt Services	\$775,005.49
Total Financial Management	\$131,018.56	<b>CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS</b>	
<b>HOA MANAGEMENT</b>		Landscape – Bed Upgrades	\$15,998.34
Management Salaries	\$166,548.33	Landscape – Irrigation Infrastructure	\$24,022.78
Management Payroll Taxes	\$13,308.60	Landscape – Rock Work	\$2,679.38
Mileage Reimbursement	\$5,619.11	Landscape – Tree Planting	\$7,685.00
Health Insurance Stipend	\$27,900.00	Total Landscape Projects	\$50,385.50
Continuing Ed/Skills Enhancement	\$1,485.76	Swim Center Shade Structures	\$3,586.70
Management Staff Total	\$214,861.80	Swim Center Lounge Chairs	\$4,507.00
Architectural Review	\$35,892.50	Swim Center Awning	\$3,337.35
Total Architectural Review	\$35,892.50	Swim Center Pool Covers	\$7,683.60
		Total Swim Center Projects	\$19,114.65
		Pool Renovation	\$257,026.95
		Total Neighborhood Projects	\$257,026.95
		<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,777,090.91</b>
		<b>EXCESS EXPENSES OVER REVENUE</b>	<b>\$(407,670.43)</b>

# CIRCLE C RANCH ANNUAL REPORT

## LANDSCAPE SERVICES - 2014

Circle C Landscape continued providing landscape maintenance, irrigation and installation services for the CCHOA in 2013. Over the course of 2013, the commons areas increased in size due to the addition of Escarpment in Avana. In late 2013, Archeleta Boulevard and the further extension of Escarpment were added for the 2014 year. In total, the landscape area for the Circle C Commons Areas includes approximately 125 acres of irrigated high maintenance land, approximately 65 acres of maintained natural areas, 26 postal stations, and the Circle C Swim Center and the Circle C Community Center.

Landscape Maintenance Services include standard mowing, blowing, weed-eating, bed weeding, fertilizations, trimming and pruning, daily trash pickup, irrigation monitoring and repair and installation of landscape and irrigation improvements according to projects approved by the CCHOA Board of Directors.

The Green Community Model which emphasizes water conservation, diversified trees, limited turf area, installation of drought tolerant plants and conversion to drip irrigation and more efficient irrigation where possible is the governing standard for care on the commons areas. Circle C Landscape is responsible for complying with all City of Austin Water Conservation requirements, filing the appropriate variances and audits with the City and keeping all irrigation systems up to the standards of the State of Texas and the City of Austin.

**Water Management:** Water is carefully controlled on the commons areas and irrigation controllers are monitored and re-set according to weather conditions. Irrigation repairs are completed in a timely fashion to prevent water waste.

**Tree Care:** Circle C Landscape monitors and supervises tree care throughout the commons areas. This year, all trees located on Escarpment from Aden Lane to LaCrosse received a health prune. In addition, trees on LaCrosse west of Escarpment were pruned and all trees that overhang walls and fences in that area were trimmed back to prevent damage. Due to the drought, weak trees have been under pressure and more than average have died. They are promptly removed to keep the commons areas looking their best.

**Tree planting:** In accordance with the Circle C Green

Community Model, diversified trees and trees that enhance the urban landscape are planted in areas that are undergoing restoration or renovation.

### IMPROVEMENTS:

Conversion of rotors or spray heads to drip. Due to the new water conservation rules from the City of Austin and in an effort to provide the most efficient irrigation, it is a goal of the CCHOA to convert as many areas as possible to drip irrigation. In 2013, the following areas were converted:

- Circle C North—all bedding areas have been changed to drip irrigation
- Dahlgreen, south of Galsworthy—side and median beds
- Circle C Swim Center—area around new deck
- LaCrosse—Rhett Bulter to Dahlgreen, north side and median
- MoPac/LaCrosse intersection—median beds and trees
- LaCrosse, median north of swim center
- Escarpment/Slaughter, south side, trees and shrubs behind monument and on outside of circle on east side.
- Irrigation controllers throughout the commons areas more than 10 years old were replaced.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS:

**Circle C North:** All old shrubs from the mail center to Hillside Terrace were removed to facilitate the installation of the new fence. After the fence was installed, new plantings, drip and rock work were installed. The median across from this area was renovated. The developer of Barstow Court paid to have new landscaping and drip irrigation installed along the outsides of the new wall on Barstow. Additional beds on the east and west side were renovated at the time of this project. Rock work was installed in key locations to prevent water run-off and improve visibility.

**LaCrosse:** Park West Pass to Fox Creek Pass. A landscape renovation was needed in this area to reduce turf areas and replace with drip irrigation, drought tolerant plantings and ornamental trees. This will allow the sidewalk and street areas to be maintained according to the Green Community Model, while allowing the more remote areas to naturalize. Rock work was installed in appropriate areas.

## LANDSCAPE SERVICES - 2014 - 2016

Landscape Services, 2014-2016. The CCHOA Board of Directors created a Board task force to review the current specifications and pricing for the landscape maintenance on the commons areas since the contract with Circle C Landscape ended in 2013. After extensive review, the Board unanimously voted to enter into a new contract for three years with Circle C Landscape. The experience on the property, excellent supervision, active response to concerns, leadership in water conservation and management, and pricing were considered in this decision.



# CIRCLE C RANCH ANNUAL REPORT

## FINANCIAL REPORT

*(for the period ending December 31, 2014)*

The CCHOA Treasurer has very specific responsibilities, which are detailed in our By-Laws (Article VIII, section 8, (d)). Those duties include ensuring that our funds are collected and accounted for in the bank accounts and books, securing the annual audit, and reporting our financial condition at the annual members meeting.

The CCHOA completed 2014 over budget due to the additional loan payment that paid the loan in full.

- Income was \$3,369,420 (vs. \$3,477,216 last year).
- Expenses were \$3,777,090 (vs. \$2,934,437 last year)
- Retained Earnings \$4,627,011 (vs. \$3,394,025 last year)

The income break-down is \$2,664,585 from HOA dues (79%) and \$704,834 from other sources (21%). Under expenses, the larger categories were, \$1,135,200 (30%) for common area services, \$846,591 (23%) for the swim center & community center, \$326,525 (93%) for capital improvement projects and \$504,898 (13%), for operations. The Delinquency rate for the HOA dues is 2.9% currently compared to last year which was at 10.5%.

CCHOA used a combination of their dedicated reserve funds, the developer collected Amenity Fund, and a 10-year mortgage loan to finance the Circle C Community Center (CCCC) and pool. In 2014, total payments on the loan totaled \$775,005.49 which has paid the loan in full.

The developer continues to collect an Amenity fee for every home sold in Circle C Ranch and will continue to add to this fund, as new lots are sold to home builders. The result is that CCHOA can anticipate more than \$600,000 of income over the next 10-15 years, which goes into the capital improvements and amenities for the neighborhood.

CCHOA continues to maintain a reserve fund for emergencies. The goal of the Reserve fund is to cover 10% of our annual expenses. This is the current fund size for 2015:

***The General Reserve Fund is \$505,798.***

The required annual audit was completed by Stephen M. Tilson, PC. The inspections took place during March of 2014, for the budget year that ended on December 31st, 2013. The CCHOA budgets and audits are always available for inspection, by any HOA member at the HOA office, during the usual office hours.

All of the board members participated in preparing the 2015 budget this year. As always, we look forward to answering your questions at the annual meeting, on March 4th at the Community Center, next to Clayton Elementary school.

*Dan Vavasour  
CCHOA Treasurer*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2015

*Circle C Homeowners Association  
[www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info)*

**JAN 1**

New Year Holiday, HOA Office Closed

**JAN 15**

Holiday Lights/Décor must be removed

**FEB 1**

First ½ year assessment mailed, Due March 1st  
Ballot & Proxy to be printed on back of assessment

**FEB 11**

Board of Directors Candidate Forum: 6:30-7:30pm

**MAR 4**

Annual Meeting, Community Center: 6:30-9:30pm

**APR 4**

Easter Egg Hunt Swim Center Plaza 9am

**APR 18**

Circle C Community Wide Garage Sale: 8am-5pm

**MAY 25**

Memorial Day, Pools Open, HOA Office closed

**JUL 1**

Second ½ years assessment mailed, due August 1st

**JUL 4**

4th of July Community Parade, Pool Plaza, 9-11am  
Pools open, HOA Office closed

**SEPT 7**

Labor Day, HOA Office closed

**NOV 26 & 27**

Thanksgiving, HOA Office closed

**DEC 5**

Kid's Holiday Party Saturday 10am-1pm CCCC

Entry is one new unwrapped toy per child

**DEC 12**

Adult Holiday Party Friday 7-10pm CCCC

**DEC 24-25**

Christmas Break, CCHOA Office closed

**Board of Directors Meeting, last Thursday of every month,  
6:00 pm at the Circle C Community Center (CCCC)**

**Swim Center Events, please see website,  
[www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info)**

**\*\*All dates subject to change**

# MARCH SPECIAL!

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# Change Your Clocks & Change Your Batteries

*Submitted by Robert Rainey*

On Sunday, March 8, 2015, Austinites will “spring forward” with the beginning of daylight savings time, moving our clocks forward one hour until the fall. The Austin Fire Department (AFD) is urging us to use this opportunity as a reminder to also check—and, if necessary, change—the batteries in our homes’ smoke alarms.

The number one reason that lives are saved in a fire is the presence of a working smoke alarm, which can cut the risk of dying in a house fire by almost 50 percent. “A 9-volt battery is the simplest, cheapest life insurance you can buy,” said Fire Chief Rhoda Mae Kerr. “It only takes a few minutes to check and change the batteries, but it could save your life.”

In addition, the Austin Fire Department (AFD) is excited to announce our involvement in a new initiative entitled Community Risk Reduction. We hope to enhance our use of evidence-based decision making by better defining performance measures, clarifying our definition of success, and engaging community members. Our ultimate goal is to improve how we tackle our prevention mission. This new approach involves soliciting and receiving regular feedback from community members, which will be used to develop better methods, and ultimately reducing the risk of fire and medical emergencies. Each newly formed district has a community representative. The representatives for District 8, which serves Circle C are Robert Rainey and Susan Klein.

“When I was approached about the opportunity to join this board as a community volunteer I signed up immediately. I’ve always enjoyed being able to give back and felt this new initiative gave me the chance to do just that,” said Robert Rainey.

For additional information about life-saving fire prevention, please visit [www.austinfireddepartment.org](http://www.austinfireddepartment.org). Theresa Sifuentes is the Community Outreach Program Coordinator for the Austin Fire Department, she is officed at 4201 Ed Bluestein Blvd and can be reached by phone at 512-974-0121, or by fax at 512-974-0101 if you have any questions.

## DID YOU KNOW?

*The Austin Fire Department:*

- Was founded on September 25, 1857
- Is one of the 20 largest departments in the country
- Has 45 fire stations located throughout the city
- Employs more than 1,100 employees



## COVER PHOTO

*Do you take great photos?*

Do you take great photos? Would you like to see your photo published? We are looking for great cover photos for upcoming issues of the Circle C Ranch Newsletter. Our deadline for submittals is always the 9th of the month prior to the issue. All photos should be submitted electronically by the deadline date in high resolution (300 dpi) to [sarah@circlec ranch.info](mailto:sarah@circlec ranch.info). Portrait (vertical) photos work best.

This month’s cover photo was submitted by resident Shannon Talbot.

By submitting your photo you agree to allow your photo to be published in future issues of the Circle C Ranch Newsletter or other Peel, Inc. publications. Call 512-263-9181 to find out how to have your business featured on the cover of the Circle C Ranch Newsletter.

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**512-891-7800**

## Tax Returns - Assistance for Seniors

*Submitted by Elizabeth Ball, Daily Money Manager, Certified Senior Advisor: resident of Circle C*

The Federal income tax filing deadline is as always April 15th so it's time to think about your return to avoid the anxiety of a last minute filing. Research unfortunately shows that seniors are more likely to make mistakes on their returns, so it's important to get the correct advice.

Remember that tax rules can change from year to year, so it's important to review the rules as those changes may affect you.

As Social Security Income is not generally taxable some seniors will assume they do not have to file a return, but this may or may not be true depending on any other income. It's best to check on your situation to determine as to whether you should file.

Also note that the elderly or disabled are entitled to receive a tax credit, but that you must file Form 1040 or Form 1040A. You cannot get this credit in filing the 1040EZ.

If you have questions or need help the IRS sponsors the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA), which offers free tax assistance for qualifying individuals.

Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) is also a free service offering help to those 60 and older. These advisors specialize in providing answers to tax questions unique to seniors such as pensions, annuities and social security income. The closest posted TCE location to Circle C is:

*The Community and Financial Center,  
2600 West Stassney Lane, Austin 78745*

Call 800 906 9887 for information and other locations.

AARP also offers a free assistance program, Tax-Aide. For more information on this program go to their website or call 888 227 7669.

Returns as now generally submitted electronically, a process that has been around now for some 20 years, so don't be nervous. It is the safest and fastest way to file – and the fastest way to receive a refund!

Preparing a tax return can be overwhelming for all of us, especially for seniors. Fortunately there is lots of help out there, so do reach out for assistance if you feel you are unsure and start the process as early as possible to avoid any delays in your refund.



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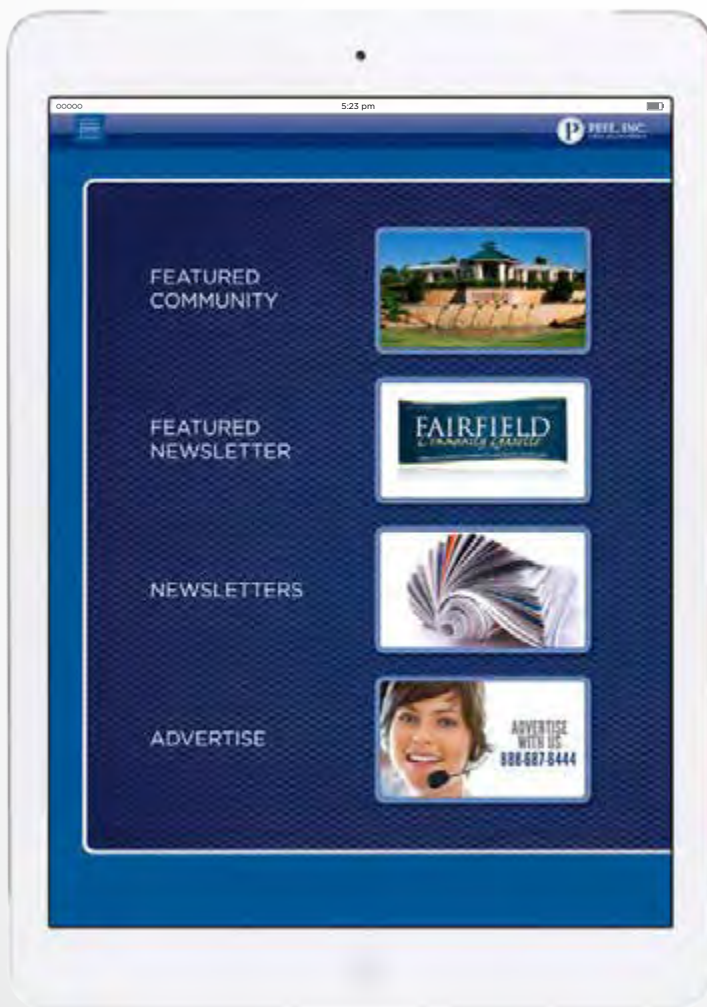




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# TENNIS TIPS

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



## The Modern Game: “The Overhead from the Baseline”

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to execute the basic strokes for players who are just beginning to play tennis or who want to resume playing.

I am now offering suggestions on how to play the “modern” game mostly geared towards players who are happy with hitting the ball over the net and controlling the point with consistency. These players may already be playing for leagues or in tournaments and are looking for more “weapons” on the court.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute “The Overhead from the Baseline.” This shot is used when an opponent gives the player a deep lob and it lands back on the baseline and it has enough height to be able to get on top of the ball for an overhead “smash.”

In the illustrations, Fernando Velasco, Director of Tennis and teacher at The Grey Rock Tennis Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke. Velasco is presently ranked #1 in Singles and Doubles in the USTA Men’s 70 Division in Texas, and #15 in Singles

and #7 and #11 in Doubles in the US.

**Step 1: The Back Swing:** When Fernando sees the opportunity, he makes a quick turn of his upper body and takes the racket high and back. The head of the racket is now at shoulder height, his shoulders are turned, and his eyes are focused on the incoming ball. His left arm is high and his finger is pointing to the incoming ball. His weight is in his back foot and his grip is in the same position as a serve.

**Step 2: The Point of Contact:** The acceleration of the head of the racket began from the back is now making contact on the upper part of the ball. Fernando is keeping his head still and his eyes are focused on the point of contact, not on the target. His wrist started relaxed, but will “snap” upon contact with the ball.

**Step 3 and 4: The Follow Through:** The success of an overhead from the baseline is to extend the follow through as long as possible. Different from the serve, Fernando will aim high of over the net and hope for the ball to land as close to the opponent’s baseline as possible. His weight is now forward ready to react to the opponent’s return.

*Look in the next Newsletter for: “Tips on how to start children playing tennis”*



# Photos Needed!

The Circle C HOA is working on a new website which will make finding the information needed much easier and will also have the added convenience to make your HOA assessment payment on-line. Watch for the blast emails with more information on the website as we get closer to the launch date.



We are looking for photos of Circle C to add to the website. If you have any photos, either new or from the beginning of Circle C, please email them to [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info). Those that are not used in the banner will be in the photo gallery for all owners to enjoy. Please add the year the photo was taken and/or date to help us organize them for everyone's enjoyment.



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Sue Hart: [sue.hart@colinshope.org](mailto:sue.hart@colinshope.org)

**[WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG](http://WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG)**

## 10 Tax Breaks Reauthorized for the 2014 Tax Year

*Submitted by Robert Greene*

In late December Congress finally took action, passing the tax extender bill, officially known as the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 (H.R. 5771), and was signed into law by President Obama.

Of course, there's always the good and bad of every situation. The good news is these are retroactive back to January 1 of 2014. The bad news is that they expire again on December 31 of this year and may or may not be continued for the 2015 tax year. But, let's not look a gift horse in the mouth just yet and see what you may be able to take advantage of when you file for 2014.

1. Teachers' Deduction for Certain Out-Of Pocket Expenses
2. State and Local Sales Taxes
3. Mortgage Insurance Premiums
4. Exclusion of Discharge of Principal Residence Indebtedness
5. Distributions from IRAs for Charitable Contributions for 70 1/2 and Older Taxpayers
6. Parity for Mass Transit Fringe Benefits
7. Energy Efficient Improvements (including Appliances)

8. Qualified Tuition and Expenses for Education
9. Donation of Conservation Property
10. Small Business Stock

In addition to the tax extenders, there's also good news for people with disabilities. Attached to the extender bill is the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Act that allows people who were disabled before the age of 26 (and including family and friends) to contribute up to a combined total of \$14,000 a year to an ABLE account. Accumulated earnings are currently tax free. Also, money held in the account would not disqualify the disabled person from receiving federal assistance benefits such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income--provided it is not used to pay for housing, transportation, education and wellness.

There is no better time to get together with your financial and tax professionals to get the details on these items and to make a plan on how to best put these savings to use today. Don't become a victim to the High Cost of Waiting.

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# GriefShare

GriefShare will meet at Manchaca United Methodist Church, located at 1011 FM 1626, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. each Sunday beginning March 8, 2015. There is a \$15 charge for workbooks (scholarships available). GriefShare is a 13-week faith-based seminar and support group for people grieving the death of a loved one. It's a place where you can be around people who understand how you feel and the pain of your loss. You may begin the class at any point during the 13-week time frame. Call 512-970-6130 for further information.

[www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org)



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## Apple Cake

- 3 medium apples, peeled & thinly sliced
- 1/4 Cup plus 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon plus 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 3 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs, beaten
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup orange juice
- 1 tablespoon vanilla

Combine first 3 ingredients, tossing well. Set aside. Combine flour, 2 cups sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large mixing bowl. Combine next 4 ingredients; add to flour mixture, mixing well. Pour 1/3 of batter into a greased and floured 10 inch tube pan. Top with half of the thinly sliced apples, leaving a 1/2" margin around center and sides. Repeat layering, ending with batter on top. Bake at 350° for 1 hour or until a wooden pick comes out clean. Cool in pan 10-15 minutes; then remove from pan. Let cool completely. Sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired.

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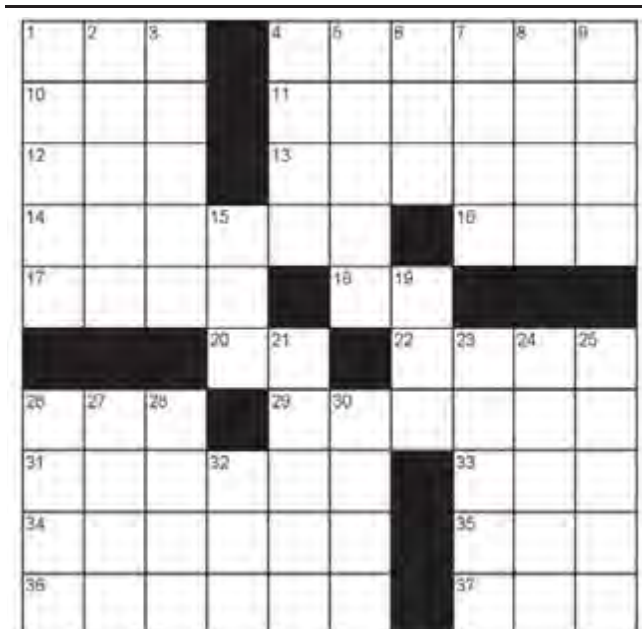


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## ACROSS

1. Extremity
4. Nun's headwear
10. Men's neckwear
11. Asian nation
12. Limited (abbr.)
13. Serf
14. Flower
16. Poem
17. Monetary unit
18. Atomic number
20. Paid (abbr.)
22. Package label
26. Punching tool
29. Esc
31. Fine
33. Modern
34. Cat mystery writer  
Braun
35. Lingerie
36. Elevate
37. Sign language

## DOWN

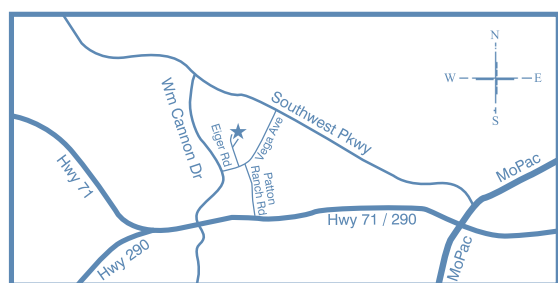
1. Reference book
2. Swanky
3. Award
4. Marry
5. Abraham's son
6. Mr.'s wife
7. El \_\_ (Texas city)
8. Precede
9. Women's magazine
15. Brim
19. American Football Conference (abbr.)
21. Coffee shop order
23. Ballroom dancing
24. Aromas
25. Particular style
26. American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)
27. Lash
28. Lounge
30. Delivered by post
32. Roman three

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If you want more information, contact Liz Jensen at 512-301-6966 or [lizleej@gmail.com](mailto:lizleej@gmail.com) or Peter Berardino (The King of SWING) at 512-695-2334 or [peterberardino@gmail.com](mailto:peterberardino@gmail.com).



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