

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 4

APRIL 2015

# CIRCLE C

## *Community Newsletter*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CIRCLE C RANCH HOA







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## HOA Announcements

- 4 HOA Announcements
- 5 Who to Call? City of Austin or Circle C HOA?

## Aquatics News

- 6 Spring Pool Hours
- 6 Pool Membership & Guest Forms
- 6 Aquatics Programs
- 6 Looking for a Summer Job?

## Around Circle C

- 8 Mark Your Calendar
- 9 Hope4JD Golf Tournament
- 10 The City of Austin Honors a Former Circle C Resident
- 11 Travel Bargains
- 13 Circle C Cafe April Menu

## Sports News

- 14 Dawgs Football
- 15 Tennis Tips

## News You Can Use

- 16 Get More from Your Garden
- 20 Portable Fire Extinguishers
- 22 Pet Place
- 23 Are You Smarter than a Burglar?
- 26 Are Your Weeds Blooming?
- 27 Ridiculously Clever Household Hints
- 28 Nature Watch: Lovely Lupines
- 29 Formosan Termites
- 30 Headaches
- 31 Kids' Club Coloring Page

## In Every Issue

- 34 Teenage Job Seekers
- 34 Classifieds



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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*

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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

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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

### ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The Circle C Homeowners Association Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, March 4th at 6:30pm at the Community Center. Thank you to everyone who voted, submitted a proxy or quorum proxy; we were able to meet quorum just a few hours prior to the meeting. There were two open board seats up for election. Congratulations to Kim Ackermann and Steve Urban who were each elected to three year terms! Check our website, [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info), to see the power point slides and other information from the Annual Meeting.

### DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT THE NEW CCHOA WEBSITE

The new Circle C HOA website has been launched! The address for the website has not changed, it can still be found at [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info). All residents will need to re-register for the new site!

Once you are at the new website, click the member log-in at the top right corner of the page. Here you will register and create a user name and password for your profile; once registered you can access the resident only portions of the website which includes important documents and the member directory.

The new website has the option to make your assessment payment on-line. Once you have registered you can scroll to the bottom of the home page and click the Online Payment button. There is a 2% convenience fee associated with this option. If you would like to avoid this additional fee, other payment options are to mail the check to the P.O. Box located on your statement or to do "Bill Pay" directly through your banking institution.

Thank you for your patience during this transition. If you have any questions please call the HOA office at 512-288-8663.

### ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT - APRIL 4TH

Join us for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th at 9:00 am at the Circle C Child Development Center. Cost is \$1 per child. Children ages 1-8 years are welcome. Limit is 12 eggs per child (parents, please monitor this). Come see the Easter Bunny and enjoy Easter treats. If you would like to help volunteer for this event, please contact us at [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) or 288-8663 – we can always use extra help!

### FOODTRAILER NIGHT - APRIL 10TH

Our next Food Trailer Night will be on Friday, April 10, 5:30pm at the Circle C Community Center. Make sure that you are signed up for our email announcements and check the website regularly for updates and more details as we get closer to the date.

### COMMUNITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH**

The CCHOA will host Circle C's Annual Garage Sale on Saturday, April 18th. Each individual homeowner is encouraged to hold their individual garage sale on this date. We will be advertising the event (in print and on the internet) from 8am to 5pm and will have street maps available on our website. If you have any questions about this event, please call the HOA office at 288-8663.

## IMPORTANT DATES:

**APRIL 3:**

HOA Office Closed for Good Friday

**APRIL 4:**

Easter Egg Hunt

**APRIL 5:**

Pool Closed for Easter Sunday

**APRIL 10:**

Food Trailer Night

**APRIL 18:**

Community Wide Garage Sale

**APRIL 30:**

CCHOA Board Meeting

## City Of Austin Code on Litter

A little known City of Austin Code (10-5-43) addresses litter removal. Litter is defined as garbage, trash, rubbish, ashes, manure, waste, cloth or rags, paper or cardboard, leaves, grass cuttings, or refuse. This code requires property owners to remove litter from one-half of the street adjacent to the owner or occupant's property.

For our neighborhood, this means that yard debris must be disposed of properly; it is a violation of City of Austin Code to leave it in the street. Please be sure to keep the street and curb line in front of your home swept clean.

Further, City of Austin Watershed Protection addresses this same issue if leaves and clippings are left in the street, swept or blown into the street or sewer system. This debris eventually ends up in the sewer system and pollutes our waterways.

Do your part to keep Circle C beautiful!



## Who to call? City of Austin or Circle C HOA?

We get calls all the time for various issues throughout the neighborhood that are actually issues that are handled by the City of Austin. Here is a breakdown of when to call the City and when to call the HOA:

### City of Austin:

- Emergencies, vandalism, burglaries, suspicious activity
- Based on the incident, either call 911 or 311 first; you may then report it to the HOA so we can inform other residents of the activity.
- Call 911 if the incident requires a police officer's immediate response, call 311 if after the fact and no officer is required.
- Anything that occurs on the street
- The City owns the streets in Circle C, so anything that occurs on the street must be reported to the City. The HOA has no jurisdiction over the street or any activity that occurs there. This would include illegally parked cars (read the Vehicles and Parking in Circle C article below for more details), solicitors, driving/traffic/safety concerns, road conditions, street lights, etc.
- Illegal activity
- Fireworks in the neighborhood, people in the "no trespassing" areas, airsoft guns, etc.
- Watering restrictions
- Wild animals
- City of Austin Right of Way
- The City of Austin right of way is 10 feet back from the face of the

curb. This is typically the area up to the first seam in the driveway. Any issues that happen within this area (basketball hoops, obstruction of sidewalks, etc.) should be called into 311.

- Backyard activity

- The HOA can only regulate what can be viewed from the street. If there are issues with a neighbor's backyard, you may call 311 to see if they are able to assist you.

### Circle C HOA:

- Anything that ties directly back to the Governing Documents
- Maintenance of the home: exterior paint, shutters, window screens, etc.
- Maintenance of the lawn: keeping the yard mowed and edged, trimming trees and shrubbery, removing dead vegetation, maintaining bedding areas, etc.
- Clutter and debris
- Trash carts left out outside of trash pickup days
- Barking dogs
- Fences
- The HOA can only regulate what we can see from the street view. The HOA does not get involved when the back fences and fences shared with neighbors are not visible from the street.
- Any activity in the driveway: clutter and debris in the driveway; disabled cars in the driveway; jet skis, boats, trailers parked in the driveway

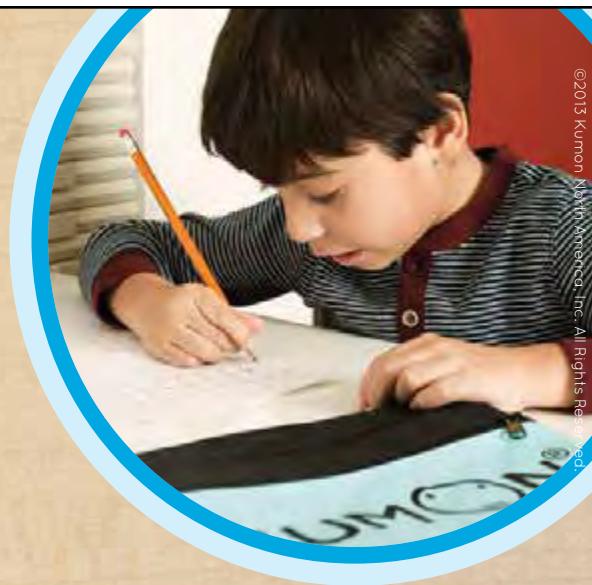
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## Swim Center Spring Hours

**March 23rd - June 8th**

Pool closed April 5th for Easter Sunday

### **Monday-Friday**

6-10am Lap Swim Only

3:30-8pm Lap Swim and Open Swim

### **Saturdays**

7am-10am Lap Swim Only

10am-6pm Lap Swim and Open Swim

### **Sundays**

10am-6pm Lap Swim and Open Swim

## Pool Membership & Guest Forms

Have you registered for membership and pool cards with Circle C Aquatics? Are you a new resident? Are you bringing a guest to the pool this year? If you answered yes to any of these questions keep reading!

Circle C Aquatics requires all residents and their guests to register for membership and guest access. The Resident Information Form and Guest Forms can be found online at our website, [ccswim.net](http://ccswim.net). Please remember that all forms submitted to Circle C Aquatics must be filled out entirely. Residents and/or guests with incomplete forms will not be allowed pool access until a completed form is on file.

Don't get stuck at the desk this swim season, help speed things up by downloading and completing the forms online so they are ready to hand off to the front desk upon arrival.



## Aquatics Programs

With the Spring season upon us and Summer just around the corner we know you are looking for something to keep everyone in the family busy this season!

Circle C Aquatics has tons of great programs for the whole family. Group or Private Lessons for kids, swim team for swimmers looking for more technique instruction, Jr. Lifeguarding and Volunteer Swim Instructor programs for tweens, teens 16 or older can apply for a part-time position with Circle C Aquatics, Masters and Masters Technique classes for advanced swimmers or those just looking for great fun way to exercise, we even have a water aerobics class!

For more information about our programs, please email [coordinator@ccswim.net](mailto:coordinator@ccswim.net) or visit our website at [www.ccswim.net](http://www.ccswim.net)



## Looking for a Summer Job?

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

Don't wait until the last minute! Visit the employment tab on our website, [www.ccswim.net](http://www.ccswim.net), to fill out an application and to sign up for certification classes.

For inquiries about lifeguard positions, please email Cami at [lifeguard@ccswim.net](mailto:lifeguard@ccswim.net).

For inquiries about front desk positions, please email Jessy at [frontdesk@ccswim.net](mailto:frontdesk@ccswim.net).

For inquiries about swim instructor positions, please email a Lead Swim Instructor at [lessons@ccswim.net](mailto:lessons@ccswim.net).

# AUSTIN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS AWARDED BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU'S 2015 TORCH AWARD FOR MARKETPLACE ETHICS

Austin Real Estate Partners, a local residential real estate brokerage owned by longtime Circle C residents Bob and Melinda McKenna, has been honored with the 2015 Better Business Bureau's Torch Award for Marketplace Ethics. More than 200 Circle C and Southwest Austin residents and business owners were on hand when Carrie A. Hurt, President/CEO for the Better Business Bureau serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin (BBB Austin), presented the honor to the Austin Real Estate Partners staff on Friday, February 20, 2015 at their offices at 9600 Escarpment Blvd., in Escarpment Village.

"We applaud the contributions this business has shown in upholding a trustworthy marketplace," Hurt says.

Following the award presentation Austin Real Estate Partners held an open house and celebration with clients, friends and other community members. For Austin Real Estate Partners founders Bob and Melinda McKenna, the honor recognizes its staff and agents' commitment to the highest ethical standards in business and their dedication to client and community service. "We're honored to be acknowledged for our ethical business practices," says Bob McKenna, who co-founded Austin Real Estate Partners with Melinda in 2003. "The BBB's recognition reaffirms to us that success in business and in life is achievable through hard work, honesty and integrity."

"We were determined to deliver a positive experience for our clients from the beginning," he says. "Our primary goal was to be one of the most respected real estate brokerages in Austin. We feel the Torch Award is recognition for our commitment to service at the highest level to our clients, our business partners, the communities we serve, our agents and their families."

Awards were given out in three different business categories:

companies with 1 to 10 employees; companies with 11 to 49 employees; and companies with 50 to 99 employees. Austin Real Estate Partners won the BBB Torch Award in the category of companies with 1 to 10 employees.

"For twelve years, Austin Real Estate Partners has been a strong asset to our community, lending their support to businesses, schools and community organizations," says Michelle Moran, Executive Director of the Circle C Child Development Center. "I am proud to see their efforts and accomplishments recognized by the Better Business Bureau, and we cannot think of another business more deserving."

BBB Austin presents the Torch Awards for Marketplace Ethics each year to businesses that exemplify ethical behavior and display integrity in all aspects of its operations. The Torch Awards competition is open to all for-profit businesses headquartered in BBB Austin's 79-county service area. Nominees are offered the opportunity to submit an entry to BBB Austin, where a panel of independent volunteer business and community leaders review the entries and choose the winners based on a set of criteria.

## ABOUT AUSTIN REAL ESTATE PARTNERS

Founded in 2003, Austin Real Estate Partners provides residential real estate services to sellers, buyers, landlord and tenants from its offices in Southwest Austin. Their professionals are recognized by peers and industry publications (Platinum Top 50, Austin Business Journal) as both top producers and agents who are committed to the highest levels of professionalism and ethics. AustinReps LLC is licensed in the State of Texas #515586 and a member of the Austin Board of Realtors. To learn more about Austin Real Estate Partners, how we do business and the services we offer, please visit [www.AustinRealEstatePartners.com](http://www.AustinRealEstatePartners.com).



BBB serving Central, Coastal, Southwest Texas and the Permian Basin



## 2015 BBB Torch Award

Trust • Performance • Integrity

# Winner



# Around Circle C



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

*Submitted by Melinda McKenna*

*April 1 - April Fool's Day*

*April 1 - 8:00 a.m. - Circle C Mom's Board Nominations/  
Elections*

*April 3 - AISD School Holiday (Check AISD website for updates)*

*April 4 - 9:00 am - CCHOA Annual Easter Egg Hunt - Swim  
Center Plaza*

*April 5 - Easter Sunday*

*April 9 - Late Start - Bowie High School*

*April 9 - 7:30 p.m. - Bunko Night - Circle C Moms*

*April 10 - Spring Native Plant Sale (Thru April 12th) - Lady  
Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*

*April 10 - 5:30 p.m. - Food Trailer Family Fun Night - Circle C  
Community Center*

*April 11 - 2:00 p.m. - Clayton Fun Run - Clayton Elementary*

*April 13 - City of Austin Recycle Day - Every 2 Weeks*

*April 15 - 5:00 p.m. - UIL Orchestra Concert - Bowie High  
School*

*April 16 - 7:00 p.m. - Silver Stars Spring Show - Bowie High  
School*

*April 16 - 7:30 p.m. - Bunko Night - Circle C Moms*

*April 17 - 8:00 p.m. - Silver Stars Spring Show - Bowie High  
School*

*April 18 - Circle C Neighborhood Wide Garage Sale*

*April 18 - 8:00 p.m. - Silver Stars Spring Show - Bowie High  
School*

*April 25 - "Texas Highways Photography" Exhibit Opens (Thru  
May 24th) - Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center*

*April 26 - 7:00 p.m. - Broadway Across America: Annie - Circle  
C Moms*

*April 27 - City of Austin Recycle Day - Every two weeks*

*Looking for more information about the organizations listed above?  
Circle C Moms - President Kimberly De La Garza, [delagarzakim@yahoo.com](mailto:delagarzakim@yahoo.com)*

*AISD - [www.austinisd.org/calendar](http://www.austinisd.org/calendar)*

*Bowie High School - [www.jbhs.org](http://www.jbhs.org)*

*Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center - [www.wildflower.org](http://www.wildflower.org)*

*Circle C Community Center - [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info)*

*Clayton Elementary - [www.claytoncardinals.org](http://www.claytoncardinals.org)*



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### Registration Open

Registration -10:00 am

Shotgun Start - 11:30 am

Four Person Scramble

\$150/golfer

To register go to [www.hope4jd.org](http://www.hope4jd.org)

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# Around Circle C

## — The City of Austin Honors a Former Circle C Resident —

*By Dorian de Wind*



On February 26, 2015, the Austin City Council approved a resolution renaming the City's Park and Recreation Department (PARC) Main Office the "Jack W. Robinson Parks and Recreation Department Main Office" in honor of former Park West resident Jack Robinson.

The honor goes to a man who started out as manager of Austin's beloved and historic Zilker Park.

A man who -- like his father and family did -- lived in the Park's tiny, stone caretaker's cottage and who would eventually become Director of Austin's sprawling Parks and Recreation Department and move into the building that now bears his name.

It goes to a man who enjoyed the personal trust and friendship

of Lady Bird Johnson and who shared with the former First Lady a deep love of the outdoors and a passion for protecting and beautifying the Austin and Texas landscape. A man who, as the First Lady's right hand man, was instrumental in the beautification of the Austin Town Lake (now the Lady Bird Lake) Hike and Bike Trail and the founding of the famous Wildflower Center right next to Circle C.

More than thirty letters from the former First Lady to Jack Robinson, some handwritten, reflect the growing sense of reliance, respect and friendship between Lady Bird and Jack Robinson -- a close official and personal relationship that started in 1972 and that would continue for more than a dozen years.

In a December 14, 1982, letter to Robinson, Lady Bird thanks Robinson for agreeing to join the Board of the nascent National Wildflower Research Center -- today the Wildflower Center -- and tells Robinson how "full of excitement," she plans

*(Continued on Page 12)*

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## 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@circlecranch.info](mailto:sarah@circlecranch.info). Portrait (vertical) photos work best.

This month's cover photo was taken by Sarah Jordan, Miles of Smiles Photography.

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.

## TRAVEL BARGAINS

Outsmart the airline reservation system. Try shopping for each passenger ticket separately. When you purchase two or more tickets in a single transaction, most airlines require seats be sold at the same price. If shopping for two people, and there is only one seat left at the \$150 promotional price, you will pay a higher amount for each ticket unless you do two transactions.

Price shop hotels online, but then call the front desk. You may get a better deal.



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# Around Circle C

(Former Resident, Cont. from page 10)



*Parks and Recreation Director Jack W. Robinson discusses plans for the beautification of Austin Town Lake with Lady Bird Johnson (Photo courtesy Robinson family)*

to announce the news on her birthday, the following week. And oh, by the way, "...you will be here for my birthday party the night of Dec. 22. Right?" she pens at the bottom of the letter.

Today, 32 years later, the daughter of President Lyndon B. Johnson and Lady Bird Johnson echoes similar fond sentiments and admiration for the late Jack Robinson.

In a letter supporting the naming of the Austin PARD main office for Jack Robinson, Luci Baines Johnson recalls her mother's fondness for Robinson and her gratitude for his efforts

to beautify the Texas capital. Johnson writes how proud Lady Bird

was when her friend Jack agreed to serve on her "next love," the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center's board. "She leaned on his experience and valued it as none other," Luci Baines Johnson writes.

Luci Baines Johnson also remembers her mother saying, "I was just a part of a merry band of citizens committed to making [the Hike and Bike Trail] a place we can all enjoy for generations." Luci Baines Johnson playfully adds, "Well, if Mother was in the band with [former Austin] Mayor and Mrs. Butler, Jack was the drum major."

And so it goes. Letter after letter praises the accomplishments and the legacy of a distinguished Texan, a superb public servant, an outstanding manager, a loyal colleague, a loving family man, a good friend.

Warren Struss, former Austin PARD Director, refers to the Parks and Recreation Department as "The House that Jack Built."

Now, finally, the building that houses that institution will bear the name of its builder.



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**April 2015**

**Café # 288-6058**

**Hours: Monday – Friday 3:30-7:30pm, Saturday/Sunday Closed**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>All Specials Are \$10.00 Ready at 5pm</b>			Sage Marinated 1 Chicken, Pomegranate Sauce Cranberry Rice, Vegetables	Achiote Pork 2 Tenderloin Tomatillo Sauce Rice, Cesar Salad	Almond crusted 3 Tilapia, Sage & Mushroom Polenta, Vegetables	Closed 4
Closed 5	Lime Grilled 6 Chicken, Mango Salsa Cilantro Rice Grilled Vegetables	Baked Ziti 7 Sausage & Vegetables, Cesar Salad	Chicken Picatta 8 Lemon Caper Sauce Pasta, Caesar Salad	Black Bean & 9 Corn Enchiladas Spanish Rice, Refried Beans	Pulled Pork 10 Tacos, Cabbage Slaw, Rice	Closed 11
Closed 12	Rosemary Chipotle 13 Chicken Roasted Apple Chutney, Oven Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables	Meatloaf, 14 Mashed Potatoes green beans	Sliced BBQ 15 Chicken, Sausage, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cornbread	Pork tenderloin 16 Roasted Pear & Garlic Sauce Oven Roasted Potatoes, Caesar Salad	Eggplant 17 Parmesan Tomato Basil Sauce, Fettuccine, Caesar Salad	Closed 18
Closed 19	Chicken Stuffed 20 Crabmeat, Saffron Risotto, Caesar Salad	New York 21 Strip, Wild Mushroom Sauce Oven Roasted Potatoes	Chicken Marsala 22 Fettuccine, Caesar Salad	Jumbo Shrimp 23 Wrapped in Bacon Angel Hair Pasta White Wine Sauce Caesar Salad	Roasted Rosemary 24 Pork with Roasted Pear & Garlic Sauce Roasted Potatoes, Vegetables	Closed 25
Closed 26	Pistachio 27 Crusted Chicken Poblano Crème Sauce Mashed Potatoes Vegetables	Chicken Fried 28 Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Creamy Gravy, Fried Okra	Pesto Salmon 29 Basil Crème Sauce, Orzo Pasta, Cesar Salad	Cumin 30 Pork tenderloin Black Bean & Corn Rice		

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## FOOTBALL SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!

**Southwest Austin Dawgs (Central Texas Pop Warner) tackle/flag football online registration opens on April 1st, 2015.**

**We'll be holding an informational meeting on April 25th.**

**For more details, visit [www.swadawgs.com](http://www.swadawgs.com). Go Dawgs!**

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# TENNIS TIPS



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



CAPTION 1



CAPTION 2



CAPTION 3



CAPTION 4



CAPTION 5

## “Tennis Tips for Children 8 years old and under”

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. In later issues, I offered 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.

Beginning with this issue, I will offer advice on how to involve children of all ages to learn to play tennis and offer tips to the parents on how to help at home. This issue will address tips for children 8 years old and under.

**Caption 1:** Tennis Racket and balls: The children should be using rackets ranging in length from 19” to 23” long and the red foam ball. These short, lighter rackets and lower-bouncing balls will make it easier for the child to control the swing and the point of contact. The racket to use will depend on the height of the child and the age.

**Caption 2:** Tennis Court: Most clubs have added lines to allow as many as 16 players to be playing on one regular tennis court. Special smaller nets are placed at the dividing center line of the court, thus making the courts only 36’ long and 20’ wide

**Caption 3:** Helping the Player: I suggest tossing the ball as close to the child as possible and let him/her become adjusted to the point of contact. To teach them the eye-hand-ball coordination, I suggest trying to let them hit the ball on the fly first, and later after the ball has bounced.

**Caption 4:** Join a Group: Tennis, just like other sports, is learned better in a group. Children like to imitate other children and learn from their good hits and also avoid their missed shots. I believe in allowing them to “shadow” the person executing the shot, so they become used to the swing and timing of the point of contact.

**Caption 5:** Ready to Play: Future star? They are never too young to get started!!

### Tips to parents:

- Have child tap the red ball or soft inflated balloon up and down on the ground in a safe area, like a garage
- Do the same with ball being hit on the fly without bouncing
- Encourage them to hit in a safe area with them dropping the ball and hitting it against a wall or a garage door. Always be there to supervise

*Look in the next Newsletter for: “Tips for children 9-10 years old”*

# GET MORE FROM YOUR GARDEN

Raspberries require little care to grow, but can cost a lot at the store. You can even freeze them.

Mixed salad greens, like baby lettuce and arugula are tough and quick growing, even after cutting.

If you cut them correctly they will grow again. Start at one end of your garden and cut plants about an inch from the ground. The plant could grow back 3-4 times in a season.

Flat gardening was popular years ago, but now raised beds are much better. They prevent weeds from taking over, let water drain more efficiently and plants thrive in aerated soil.

A very common error in gardening is over watering and drowning plants. If it rains at least one inch per week, you can probably skip heavy watering. Purchase a rain gauge (under \$10) at garden stores to keep track of how much or how little water your plant is getting and add or subtract from there.



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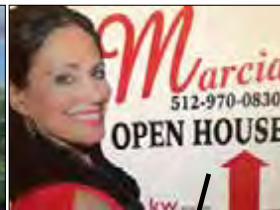
Call Kevin Scragg at (512) 529-8763 to see any house and for all leases!



425 Brandon Way **"JUST SOLD!"** - John's Westlake buyers using John's move-up plan. \$2,500,000.



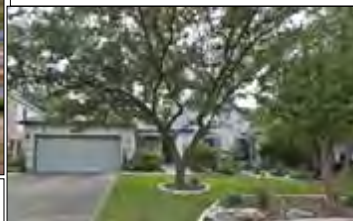
7705 Haggans Lane- **"JUST SOLD!"** John's listing sold in 12 days after previous agent had it listed for 75 days with no offer. \$549,000.



6415 Old Harbor-Marcia's listing- **"JUST SOLD!"** in 4 days. \$359,000



7120 Viridian **"JUST SOLD!"** John's listing sold in 18 days through 2 open houses. \$449,900.



6428 Old Harbor **"JUST LISTED!"** John's listing. \$388,500. Beautiful white brick on a big lot with hardwood trees. 4 bed, 3 full bath with soaring ceilings.



10907 Grassmere Ct. **"JUST LISTED!"** John's listing. 4-side brick David Weekley on quiet cul-de-sac. \$380,000. Perfect for retiree or young couple.



10424 Tasajillo Trail **"JUST LISTED!"** \$429,000. John's listing. Gorgeous Wilshire with wood floors, granite, stainless, barrel tile roof backing to greenbelt in a cul-de-sac.



6301 Needham Ln. **"JUST LISTED!"** \$384,500. John's listing. Near pool and school!



5136 Bluestar **"JUST LISTED!"** \$359,000. John's listing 10 mins to town!

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

**#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.

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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

Hey Circle C, John Squires is dedicating this entire newsletter to his clients and getting their newly listed homes a little more listing exposure to the Circle C Ranch area. Many buyers come from within Circle C Ranch, either looking for something smaller, something newer, something larger, pool, cul-de-sac, etc. If you have a neighbor that has mentioned needing a larger or smaller home, please tell them to call me and I'll arrange for a showing at their convenience of any listing. Below are 6 more of John Squires' new listings coming soon. Tell only your friends that you may want as neighbors! : )



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! Squires Team



10901 Canfield **"JUST LISTED!"** John's listing at \$734,900. Stunning sandstone and stucco mix backing to greenbelt. Wood floors, 8' gleaming wood doors, quartz, stainless, custom paint, HUGE game room on over 1/4 acre in Golf Course Estates. 4 large bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Too many upgrades, call John to see it.



9517 Lynnhaven **"JUST LISTED!"** John's Listing at \$484,500. Gorgeous wood floors, granite kitchen, stainless, soaring ceilings. 5 bedrooms, 4 FULL baths plus game room. Foam insulation for low utilities. TREX deck waiting for a party with HUGE oak trees.

6101 Mordred **"JUST LISTED!"** John's listing at \$434,500. Incredible Newmark on greenbelt. Thermador, Viking, Bosch, Silestone quartz, Brazilian Cherry hardwood floors, Cantera front door, claw foot tub, Italian Travertine and more!



6517 Walebridge is **"JUST LISTED and COMING SOON!"** John's listing. Beautiful Barton 1 model-home plan upgraded and on a big private lot. 4-side white stone with 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, kid's study and a big game room. 3-car garage and more! No price yet.



5500 Ballenton Lane is **"JUST LISTED and COMING SOON!"** John's listing. Gorgeous, rare Highland home on over 1/3rd acre lot with pool and hot tub. Hardwood floors, 3-car garage..showplace. No price yet.



## Portable Fire Extinguishers



A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- **PULL** the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **AIM** low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **SQUEEZE** the lever slowly and evenly.
- **SWEEP** the nozzle from side-to-side.

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.

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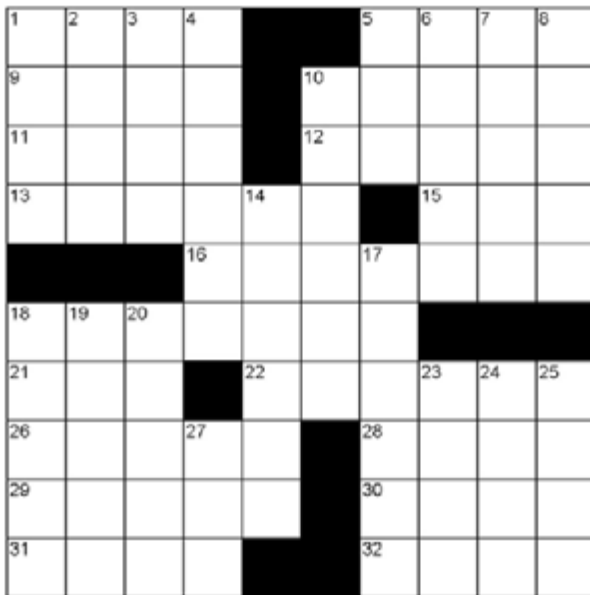
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# CROSSWORD PUZZLE



## 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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# Pet Place

## Reasons to “Scoop the Poop”

by Jennifer Magness, DVM

Dogs are a very popular pet and are found in many households. There are 70 million pet dogs in the United States alone. Opening up your home to a dog also means accepting responsibility for that pet, including cleaning up their waste.

Most people have heard the term “scoop the poop” but some people may not have heard the reasons why this is so important. Some people view dog feces (or what most people call dog poop) as a good fertilizer, but this is actually a myth. Dog diets mostly contain animal products such as chicken and turkey. Thus, a dog’s waste contains substances created by the breakdown of the animal products. It does not enrich the soil for plants such as grass. If not picked up, dog feces can enter waterways via storm drains after it rains. Nitrogen in the feces depletes the oxygen from the water, and the water is made harmful to fish and other aquatics. It is often listed as the third leading cause of water pollution. Dog feces are also considered an environmental pollutant as it contains harmful organisms.



One gram of dog feces may contain as much as 23 million bacteria. Harmful bacteria such as Salmonella and E. coli can be found in dog feces. Parasites such as Giardia, Cryptosporidium, roundworms, hookworms and whipworms may also be found. Many of the parasites (usually in a resistant egg form) linger in the environment for years, even if the rest of the dog feces breaks down over time. Both bacteria and parasites are health hazards for both humans and animals that come in contact with them.

Besides the “ick” factor of stepping in dog poop and the unpleasant odor of it, dog feces can serve to attract pests (such as flies) and rodents (such as rats). Being a responsible pet owner and scooping your dog’s poop is important for the community health of both humans and animals. It helps Improve local water quality. Scooping your dog’s poop also promotes favorable views towards dogs by others in the community.

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# ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A BURGLAR?

According to a recent Washington Post article, Anatomy of a Burglar, a home burglary takes place every 14.6 seconds in the U.S. The upside, if there is one, to such an alarming statistic is that plenty of data has been collected to help us understand how these criminals operate. Since knowing your enemy is half the battle, let's take a moment to get to know our average residential burglar, shall we?

- The typical house burglar is a male under the age of 25 who lives or works in the area.
- He does most of his work between 10 am and 3 pm.
- He spends an average of 8 to 12 minutes inside your home.
- He wants to spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into your home
- Of course, he'll take longer if he has a nice place to hide.
- He is particularly attracted to homes that look neglected, hidden or unoccupied.
- His first stop is usually the master bedroom where most people keep their valuables.
- He rarely goes in the kitchen or in kids' rooms.
- He looks for cash, jewelry, electronics, silver, guns and other items that are easy to transport and sell.
- His average take per burglary is \$1,725.

- His most common mode of entry is through the front door (34%), followed by a front window (23%) and backdoor (22%).

- Sometimes, he'll carry a clipboard. Or, he might dress like a lawn guy carrying a rake. He does his best to NOT look like a crook.

- Many times he will knock on the door or ring the doorbell to see if you're home before entering. If you answer the door, he'll just say he got the wrong address and move on to the next house.

- The two things a burglar hates most are loud dogs and nosy friendly neighbors.

Now that we've become better acquainted with our would-be burglar, we can use this knowledge to arm ourselves by implementing ways to make his job harder. Some tips to consider:

- Get to know your neighbors. Watchful eyes and ears are your best defense against unwanted intruders.

- Keep trees and shrubs around your home trimmed for visibility.

- Install motion sensor lights near front and rear entry doors

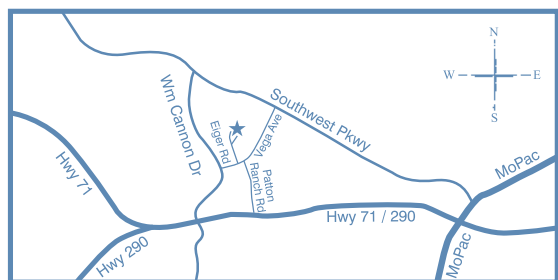
- Keep your doorbell in working order. You don't want to be surprised by an intruder who thinks he's entering an empty house.

- Keep up the appearance of a normal routine while away on vacation. Ask a neighbor or friend to put out your garbage bins, and

*(Continued on Page 24)*



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# News You Can Use

(Cont. from page 23)

pick up newspapers, mail, flyers or anything that would indicate you're not at home.

- Don't announce your vacation plans on social media sites or to strangers in public.
- If you have an attached garage, secure the door by disabling the automatic opener and locking the door before you go away on a trip.
- Secure sliding glass doors with a dowel or metal rod.
- If you keep valuables in a home safe, considering keeping the safe in your kitchen where burglars are less likely to go.
- If you store tools and/or



valuables in an outdoor storage shed, secure the doors and windows with a deadbolt if possible.

- Keep valuables out of sight from anyone looking in your windows.
- Perform an assessment of your home's security. Consider how you would break in to your own home if you locked your keys inside. Secure those weak spots.
- A loud dog, regardless of size, can serve as a formidable alarm system.
- Consider investing in a home security system and post plenty of warning signs and window decals, which serve as highly effective deterrents on their own.

When it comes to home security it's important to implement a variety of protective measures rather than relying on just one. Taking multiple precautions works cumulatively to slow down a burglar's progress while exposing him to ever increasing risk and ultimately deterring or thwarting his efforts.

We are fortunate to live in such a safe community, but as we enter into peak burglary season in this growing city of ours, let's take extra precautions to secure our homes and keep those bad guys from targeting our happy hood.



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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.

# 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.

## Pictures in the Park



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# Are your weeds blooming?



What is a weed? A weed is any plant or flower in your yard or garden that you didn't intentionally plant. Early spring is the time of year that weeds begin to pop-up in your yard. Here are a few tips to help combat these pesky weeds.

Mowing your yard on a regular schedule will help keep the weeds from growing to a stage that they can germinate. Adjust your lawn mower height to the second highest setting. The taller grass will block sunlight from any seeds the weeds spread.

A weed and feed product will help control the weeds and encourage your grass to grow. However, most weed killer products only are effective when the weed is just beginning to grow. The advantage to using these products is to create a healthier lawn that is capable of keeping weeds away. Be sure to follow the directions for application.

One of the best solutions for attacking the weeds is to pull them by hand. Be sure to pull the root of the weed out of the ground. Throw away the weeds in your trash can. Do not use them as compost or allow them to blow-away, doing so will allow any seeds to re-populate your yard or your neighbors!





## Ridiculously Clever Household Hints

- The simplest way to slice a bunch of cherry tomatoes is to sandwich them between two plastic lids and run a long knife through all of them at once!

- Keep brown sugar soft by storing with a couple of marshmallows
- Install a regular coat rack low down the wall to store shoes safely off the floor

- Organize jewelry on a corkboard for easy viewing when deciding how to accessorize an outfit

- Fill an old wooden box with skewers to make an all-purpose knife block

- Remove pet hair from furniture and carpets with a squeegee.

- Cover paint trays with aluminum foil to make cleaning up afterwards a breeze.

- Flip the toaster on its side to make grilled cheese.

- Use a large muffin tin to cook stuffed peppers in the oven - it will help keep them upright.

- To prevent potatoes from budding, add an apple to the bag.

- Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells incredibly easy to peel off.

- Use non-stick cooking spray in votive holders to prevent wax from sticking to the sides

- WD-40 can be used to remove crayon marks from any surface!

- When hanging a picture frame, put a dab of toothpaste on the frame where you need the nails to be. Then simply press against the wall to leave marks (which can later be wiped) as guides for hammering in the nails.

- Sprinkle salt in the spaces between patio slabs and at the bottom of walls to get rid of pesky weeds (but be careful NOT to get salt near plants you want to keep as salt will kill them!)

- To clean a wooden chopping board, sprinkle on a handful of Kosher salt and rub with half a lemon. Rinse with clean water and dry to ensure it is clean and germ-free. You can use the same lemon and salt to clean brass.

- Use ice-cubes to lift out indentations made by furniture on your carpets.

- Prevent soil from escaping through the holes in the base of flowerpots by lining them with coffee filters

- To sharpen scissors, simply cut through sandpaper.

- Rub a walnut on damaged wood furniture to cover up dings.

- To prevent your eyes watering while chopping onions, wipe the chopping board with white vinegar (which won't affect the taste of the onions.)

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## LOVELY LUPINES

*by Jim and Lynne Weber*

# NATUREWATCH

Bluebonnets are often thought of as the 'floral trademark of Texas', akin to the shamrocks of Ireland, the cherry blossoms of Japan, the roses of England, and the tulips of Holland. Loved for centuries, bluebonnets were described by early explorers as they roamed the vast prairies of Texas, planting them around the Spanish missions by early-day priests, and making them the subject of several Native American folk tales. Technically known as 'lupines' or 'lupins', bluebonnets received their present-day common name due to the shape of the flower petals, which resembled the bonnets worn by pioneer women to shield their faces from the sun.

Bluebonnets are part of the legume or bean family, and like other members of this family they offer nitrogen-fixation through their root system's symbiotic relationship with *Rhizobia* bacteria. This gives them the useful ability to grow in poor, disturbed soils, and bring much-needed nitrogen back to these soils as they decompose. Ironically, bluebonnets are all in the genus *Lupinus*, which is Latin for 'wolf-like', from the original but erroneous belief that these plants ravenously exhausted the soil.

In our area, bluebonnets normally bloom between March and April, but the timing and extent of the blooms depends on the amount of rain received the previous fall and winter. The flower is purple to blue in color, about half an inch long, with a white spot on the upper petal or banner. This banner spot acts as a target to attract the bumblebees and honeybees that pollinate the flower. When the pollen is fresh and sticky, the banner spot is white, and is seen by the bees as reflected ultraviolet light and appears to them as a good landing spot. But as the flower and its pollen age, the banner spot turns yellow and then reddish-magenta, and is ignored by the bees, whose vision cannot see red. The decline in bee populations has a direct effect on how many seeds a bluebonnet can produce, because bluebonnets cannot self-fertilize. Each plant has the potential to produce hundreds of seeds, but often only a small number result, due to the recent decline in the number of bee pollinators.

Infrequently, both white, and more rarely, pink bluebonnets can occur naturally. In fact, there is a legend associated with how the pink bluebonnet came to be. Many years ago, in a spring wildflower field near San Antonio, children came across a pink bluebonnet on their way to Lenten devotion at the mission church. Their grandmother told them the story of Texas, when it was a remote province of

Mexico. After their Constitution was overthrown by a terrible Mexican dictator, a war broke out between the brave new Texans and the Mexican troops. The troops eventually overwhelmed the Texans, and much blood was shed and lives lost. Several years later, the grandmother saw her mother place a pink bluebonnet in a vase by the statue of the Virgin Mary. She said she found it by the river, where "it had once been white, but so much blood had been shed, it had taken a tint of it." Interestingly, the only place in the state where the original native pink bluebonnets were found was along the side of a San Antonio road not far from the original mission.

Texas has 6 state flowers, more or less, and they are all bluebonnets. In the spring of 1901, the Texas Legislature selected a state floral

emblem after much debate and consternation. Both the cotton boll and prickly pear cactus were hardy contenders, but the National Society of Colonial Dames of America won the day, and the Sandyland Bluebonnet (*Lupinus subcarnosus*) was selected and passed into law on March 7th. And that's when the bluebonnet war started. The Sandyland Bluebonnet is a dainty little plant growing in the sandy hills of coastal and southern Texas, and many thought it was the least attractive of all the bluebonnets. They wanted the



Texas Bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*), which was a showier, bolder bloomer. For the next 70 years, the Legislature was encouraged to correct its oversight, not wanting to get caught in another botanical trap or offend any supporters. As politicians often do, they solved the problem with clever maneuvering by creating an umbrella clause, and in 1971 added the two species together, plus "any other variety of bluebonnet not heretofore recorded" (including potential species not yet discovered), and lumped them all into one state flower.

Long before the bluebonnet became the Texas state flower, many stories existed about its origins. Some believed it was a gift from the Great Spirit, and that it arrived with rain after a young, orphaned girl sacrificed her precious doll in the hopes of bringing a terrible drought to an end. Whatever you believe, look for these lovely lupines during our central Texas spring!

Send your nature-related questions to [naturewatch@austin.rr.com](mailto:naturewatch@austin.rr.com) and we'll do our best to answer them. Check out our blog at [naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com](http://naturewatchaustin.blogspot.com) if you enjoy reading these articles!



## FORMOSAN TERMITES



There are three main types of termites that can cause problems for homeowners in Central Texas- native subterranean termites, formosan subterranean termites and drywood termites. This article will focus of formosan termites.

Formosan termites are a more voracious type of subterranean termite. These termites have been spread throughout Texas through transport of infested material or soil. Formosan termites build carton nests that allow them to survive above ground without contact with the soil. Nests are often located in hollow spaces, such as wall voids.

Formosan subterranean termite workers and soldiers.

Formosan termites feed on a wider variety of cellulose than other subterranean termites, including live plants, consuming both spring and summer growth wood whereas native subterranean termites feed only on spring growth. Formosan termites have also been known to chew through non-cellulose materials such as soft metals, plaster or plastic.

The type of termite is determined by using soldiers (the group that defends the colony) or alates (winged reproductives) for identification. Formosan termite soldiers have a hardened head capsule that is tear-drop shaped. The alates have two heavy veins on the leading edge of the front wing along with hairs on the wings. If you suspect termites, you can submit sample insects to me for identification. Treatment would need to be carried out by a profession pest management company.

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)

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# HEADACHES

## Have You Tried Doing This?

*By Mike McTague, DPT, OCS*

“Take two aspirin or ibuprofen, drink lots of water, rest and get a good night’s sleep.” Sound familiar?

Headaches can be caused by a large variety of conditions including tumors, vascular problems, sinus issues, mold, pollen, pesky Austin cedar fever and more. Some headaches are caused by issues with our muscles and joints.

Have you thought of trying physical therapy? A prescription of physical therapy can be what is needed instead of those little white or blue pills. Even though physical therapy is not thought of first as a treatment for headaches, there is strong evidence that shows that it can be effective when treating headaches that are caused by musculoskeletal issues including muscle tension and tightness, disc pathology, lack of neck motion, poor posture, and even tightness in the back between the shoulder blades.

Each patient is treated differently depending on the cause and the individual. Physical therapy can be extremely effective and work immediately. It can work as fast as one visit. A patient can go into a clinic with a headache in their first visit and leave without one. For other patients, it may require a few weeks of therapy to address more severe motion and strength issues. Some patients require more time if they have persistent headaches that are musculoskeletal in nature and have been occurring for a long time. For these patients, the pain may not go away completely until they are addressed with therapy!

Next time you get a headache and your preferred treatment doesn’t do the trick to alleviate the pain, ask your doc about Physical Therapy. It’s definitely worth trying when headaches are too often a part of your everyday life!







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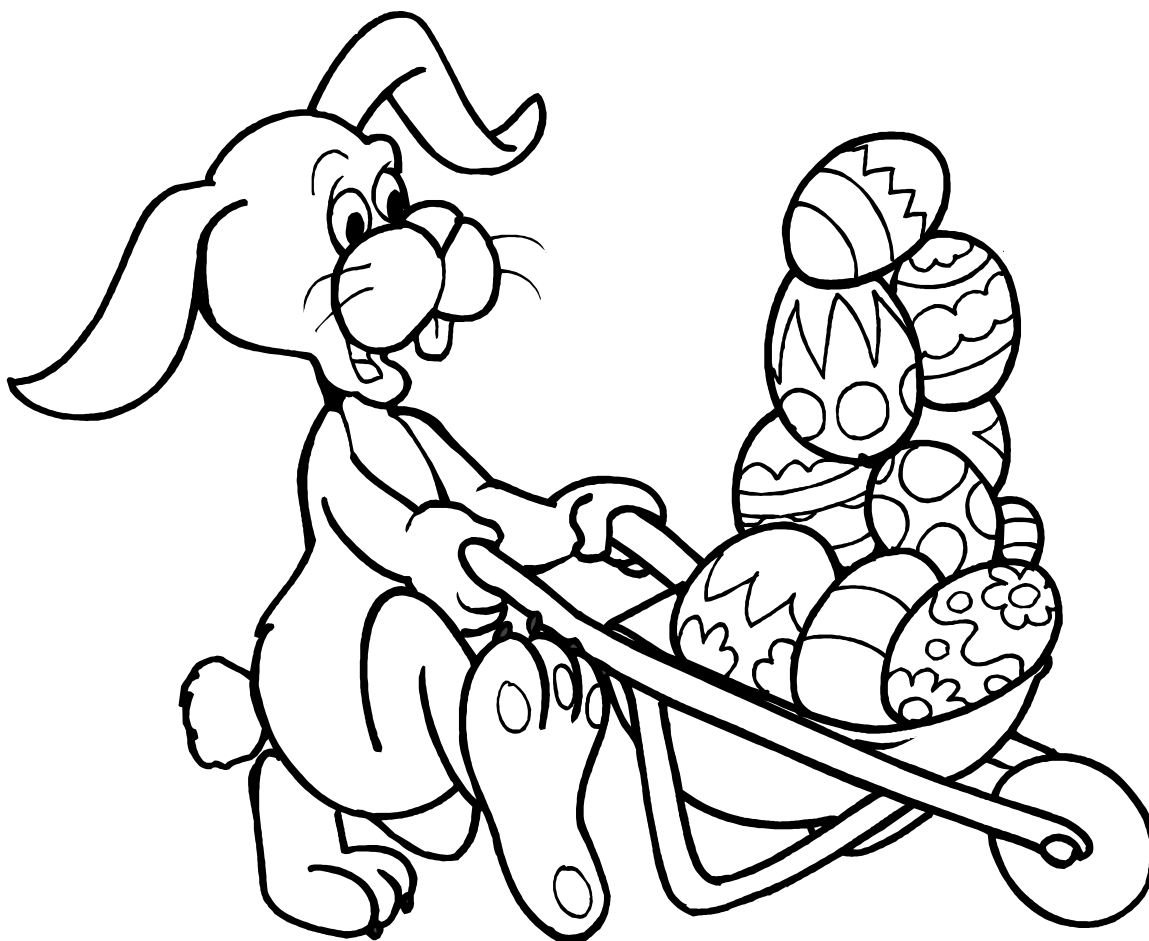
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If you want more information, contact Liz Jensen at 512-301-6966 or [lizleej@gmail.com](mailto:lizleej@gmail.com) or Peter Berardino (The King of SWING) at 512-695-2334 or [peterberardino@gmail.com](mailto:peterberardino@gmail.com).



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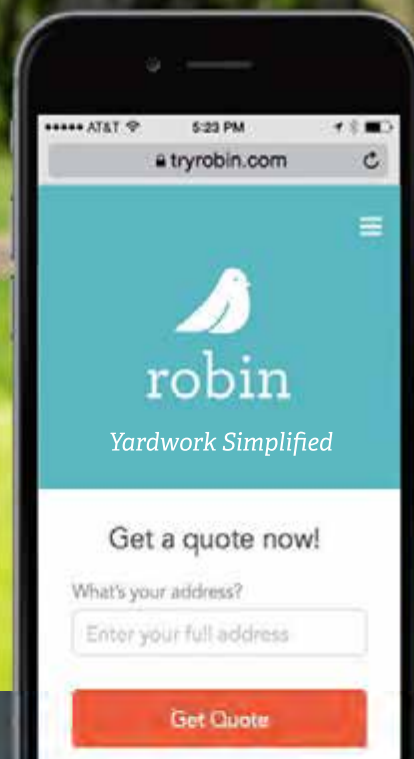
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