

#### JUST LISTED IN SOUTHWEST AUSTIN















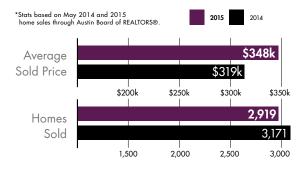






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#### SOUTHWEST AUSTIN MARKET UPDATE



#### HOW MUCH IS YOUR HOME WORTH?

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Days Average Days on Market

Ashley



Austin Average

\*Based on 2014 residential home sales through Austin Board of REALTORS®

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#### **CCHOA NUMBERS**

HOA Mgmt Officei	info@circlecranch.info or 512-288-8663		
<b>HOA Financial Office</b>	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		
	512-288-9792		
	·512-288-6057		
Circle C Community	Center Pool512-301-8259		
Grey Rock Tennis Clu	ıb512-301-8685		
CIRCLE C GATED COMMUNITIES			
	ve off Spruce Canyon (KB)		
Spectrum Management512-834-3900			
Enclave off La Crosse (Streetman)			
Plateau Property ManagementRosalyn Peterson, 512-441-1041			

Fairways Estates Spectrum Management ......512-834-3900

Park West Real Manage...... Diane Malloy, 866-473-2573 Muirfield

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

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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

#### **IMPORTANT NUMBERS**

City of Austin Solid Waste	512-974-1945	
Dead Animal Collection		
Abandoned Vehicle	512-974-8119	
Pothole Complaints	512-974-8750	
Stop Signs		
Street Light Outage		
Schools		
Clayton Elementary	512-841-9200	
Kiker Elementary		
Gorzycki Middle School		
Bowie High School	512-414-5247	
Mills Elementary		
UTILITY PROVIDERS		

Electric Pedernales Elec.	512-219-2602
City of Austin.	
Gas Texas State Gas	
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	

# **HOA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **MARKYOUR CALENDARS!**

- Dive In Movie Friday August 8th
- Food Trailer Night Saturday August 14th
- Farmer's Market Tuesday August 18th
- Pool Hours Change Monday August 24th
- Board Meeting Tuesday August 25th

4TH OF JULY PARADE RECAP



The CCHOA hosted the annual 4th of July Parade last month and we had a fantastic turn out! We hope those friends and neighbors who were out of town or taking advantage of the holiday in other ways had as good a day as we did. We would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers for helping us make the event possible; we couldn't have done it without you!

Big congratulations to the winners of the "Decorated Wheels" Contest! The judges had their work cut out for them this year with so many sets of patriotic wheels! Our winners were: Larkin & Willa Bock, Croix Reich, Damian Pons, Nicholas Lezam, Marley & Leyna Jensen, Savannah & Wyatt Parker, Genevieve Thiel, Alex Doles, Lillian & Olivia Hall, Asher & Elinor Fremont. Congratulations!

HOA ASSESSMENT FEES WERE DUE AUGUST IST

You can pay your dues by one of the following options:

- Mail your check to PO Box 163541, Austin, Texas 78716. Please do NOT postdate your check nor staple your invoice directly to your check but do include it in the envelope.
- Make your payment using Bill Pay through your financial institution
- Use the New "Online Payment" Option through the Circle C HOA website. If you are making your payment through the website please remember to list your property address in the note section.
- If you did not receive a Dues Statement or do not know how much you owe, please contact the Financial Office at 512-451-9901.
   Please remember the Financial Office is not located at the Circle C HOA office, and the CCHOA office is not bonded to accept payment nor can they provide information about account status. All financial questions should be directed to Terri at the financial office.

Terri Giles

Financial Manager Phone: 512-451-9901

E-Mail: terrigiles@mgilescpa.com Thank you for your cooperation.

#### **DIVE IN MOVIE NIGHT**

Circle C Aquatics presents...Jumanji! Join us on Saturday August 8th for the last Dive in Movie Night of the summer at the Circle C Swim Center (Corner of La Crosse & Escarpment)! The pool will be cleared of swimmers at 8pm while staff prepares for the movie and the feature presentation will begin around dusk at which time residents may re-enter the water. Residents are welcome to bring no more than 4 guests per household, standard guest fees apply.

#### **FOOD TRAILER NIGHT**

Join us Friday August 14th at the Circle C Community Center (located at 7817 La Crosse Avenue) for our famous Food Trailer Family Fun Night!

Festivities begin at 5:30pm so stop by and enjoy great food and music with your neighbors! The Community Center Pool will also be open until 7pm. Please remember glass is not permitted at this event so leave the bottles at home!

We would also like to remind residents that bikes, scooters, and skateboards are not to be ridden through the parking lot or on the sidewalks during these events to ensure the safety of those in attendance.

#### **POOL HOURS CHANGE AUGUST 24TH**

On Monday August 24th the Circle C Pool Facilities will be operating on their fall schedule. This means the Swim Center Pool will be closed during the daytime on week days and the Community Center and Avaña pools will be open on weekends only through Labor Day. Please visit our website www.circlecranch.info to see the new schedule.

#### **BACKTO SCHOOL SAFETY**

The first day back to school is approaching and with that in mind we would like the community to remember to be aware of children walking or biking to and from school. We are a community inspired by activity, we want our youth to pursue these habits and we want to keep them as safe as possible while they do so. Please remember to obey all school zones, speed limits, and crossing guards. Take note of school zone time frames to avoid drop-off/pick-up traffic. Give yourself extra time in the mornings and mid-afternoons and keep an eye on those school zones!

#### CITY OF AUSTIN BULK PICK UP NOTICE

The city will be conducting a bulk trash pickup in the neighborhood starting the week of September 7th.

The list of pick up items from the city includes:

- Doors
- Carpet

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

- Furniture
- Appliances (remove doors)
- Passenger car tires (remove rims; limit eight tires per household)
- Lawn mowers (remove gas/oil)
- Railroad ties (cut in half)
- Pallets
- Rolled fencing
- Nail-free lumber

The below items will not be picked up by bulk collection crews:

- Brush, household trash, cardboard boxes, hazardous materials, mirrors, automotive chassis and bodies, motorcycles, trailers, boats and tires that are still mounted on rims
- Sheet glass and other construction and remodeling debris
  Items must be at the curb by 6:30am on the first day of your scheduled collection week (items set out after this time may be subject to collection fees). Bulk materials cannot be collected from businesses, alleys or vacant lots. Please sort your pickup items ahead of time. Do not put items next to garbage carts, mailboxes, water meters, fences, low hanging tree limbs, power lines or other possible obstacles. If you want more information regarding the City of Austin Residential Bulk Collection call 3-1-1 or visit http://www.austintexas.gov/department/residential-bulk-collection.

### August in the Garden

Submitted by Susan Hoover



For me, August means that Fall is just around the corner & my anticipation of cooler weather kicks into high gear! The problem is that here in central Texas we'll have to wait a while before we start to feel any crispness to the air. As the August temps

soar and rainy days diminish, what do we do to with our lawns and gardens?

Think of August yard maintenance a little like "spot cleaning." I'd much rather do a little clean up on a regular basis than have to spend my whole weekend catching up on chores! The same can be said for the lawn and garden. A little upkeep on a consistent basis can keep things looking nice despite the blistering heat of summertime. A few areas to focus on:

Water. We are still in Stage 2 Watering Restrictions so water is a

(Continued on Page 12)



# POOL POLICY NOTICE

Due to the increase in recent saves, the CCHOA Board of Directors has implemented a stricter policy concerning parents being within arm's reach of a weak or non-swimming child. If your child is identified as a weak or non-swimmer by the staff and there is not a parent and/or guardian within arm's reach, your child will be removed from the pool and/or wade pool area until the parent and/or guardian is located.

The aquatics staff has been authorized to issue a 30 day suspension letter, effective immediately, to the families that do not follow this rule. We are asking all parents if you see a weak or non-swimmer not within arm's reach of their parent and/or guardian to gently remind their parents of the policy or bring it to a staff member's attention so that we can address this issue as quickly as possible. For more information on this rule and other rules, visit the Circle C HOA website at www. circlecranch.info and click on Aquatics.

The CCHOA staff, the Board, and Aquatics staff want all Circle C residents to have a fun and safe summer at the pool!

# Dive In Movie Night Is Back!

Circle C Aquatics presents...Jumanji!
Join us on Saturday August 8th for the last Dive in Movie Night of the summer at the Circle C Swim Center (Corner of La Crosse & Escarpment)! The pool will be cleared of all swimmers at 8pm while staff prepares for the movie and the feature presentation will begin around dusk at which time residents may re-enter the water. Residents are welcome to bring no more than 4 guests per household, standard guest fees apply

# **Pool Hours**

## Swim Center (5919 La Crosse Avenue)

June 8th - August 23rd

**Closed Mondays\*** 

**Tuesday - Friday** 

6am-10am (Lap Swim Only) 10am-8pm

**Saturdays** 

7am-10am Lap Swim Only 10am-8pm

Sundays

10am-8pm

**Community Center Pool** (7817 La Crosse Avenue)

\*Closed on Tuesdays

Wednesday-Monday

11am-7pm

Avaña Pool (6610 Trissino Drive) \*Closed on Thursdays Friday-Wednesday

11:00am-7:00pm

Special Labor Day Weekend Pool Hours The Swim Center Pool will close at 6:00pm on September 7th, 2015. The Community Center Pool and Avaña Pool will be open September 5th, 6th, and 7th from 12:00pm-6:00pm.

ATTENTION! The Circle C pool hours of operation change on August 24th, 2015 to reflect our "Fall" schedule. Please visit our website at www.circlecranch.info to view the new hours or call the aquatics office at 512-288-6057.

# AQUATIC PROGRAMS

Did you know that we offer Group Lessons through August? Keep your kiddos in the water and keep up those skills! All participants must complete an evaluation before registering, even if they participated in group lessons last year. Evaluations are held on Sundays from 4-5pm by appointment. To schedule an evaluation appointment, please email lessons@ccswim.net.

Our Private Lesson instructors are ready to get in the water to help improve your swimming skills! We have Basic, Premium and Elite instructors available to help your kids learn to swim, get ready for Swim Team or just brush up on some safe swimming for the summer. Instructor's calendars fill up quickly, so don't wait! Visit circlec.fullslate.com to check out the instructors schedules. When you're ready to book, come by the Circle C Swim Center at 5919 La Crosse Avenue to purchase your lessons and we'll send you the secret code needed to book online. For questions, please email lessons@ccswim.net .

The 2015-2016 season has started for the Select Swim Team! Dive in with the Circle C Serpents this year, make some new

friends and drop time in your swimming events! Come by for a tryout with Coach Jennie Lou Monday-Friday. Email customerservice@ccswim.net or call the front desk at 512-288-6057 to set up a tryout. Have questions about pricing and billing? Email admin@ccswim.net .

#### FIRST RESPONDER DISCOUNT

During the upcoming month of September; firefighters, EMT paramedics and police officers will receive a discount for signing up for private swim lessons. In order to receive the discount, they will need to show their id badges or certification cards to the front desk when signing up. Discount applies to immediate family members living in the house only. Email Amanda at coordinator@ccswim.net for more information.





# matthew horne

Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

#### Your Family, Your Health, Your Time. Your Trust.

We get it. These are as important to us as the quality of our work and the passion of our staff. We are your neighbors, Circle C, and we strive to provide the kind of dental experience that reflects this commitment to you and to our community.

We are Matthew Horne Family Dentistry. Come see us, and experience dental care where values meet the highest quality the profession has to offer.



#### Dr. Valerie Doyle joins our Circle C office!

Hi neighbor, I'm Dr. Valerie Doyle. My husband Andrew and I, along with our two little ones Liam & Luke, call the Circle C community home and engage in every aspect of it--from school to career! I'm thrilled to join Dr. Matthew Home and incredibly grateful for the chance to welcome you and your family to our Dentistry.

Circle C - 5701 Slaughter Lane 512.467.4722 www.TheAustinDentist.com









#### **Around Circle C**

At no time will any source be allowed to use the Circle C Ranch Newsletter's contents, or loan said contents, to others in anyway, shape or form, nor in any media, website, print, film, e-mail, electrostatic copy, fax, or etc. for the purpose of solicitation, commercial use, or any use for profit, political campaigns, or other self amplification, under penalty of law without written or expressed permission from Peel, Inc. The information in the Circle C Ranch Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of the Circle C HOA and Peel, Inc.

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- \* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.
- \* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.

#### **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 deadine 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. Portrait (vertical) photos work best.

Cover Photo Credit: Jeff Cohen of Moonshine Images. This photo was taken at McKinney Falls after the recent rains.

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.

# WORK WITH THE BEST

LINDA TAKENAKA

### MY PROMISE TO YOU

#### **EXEMPLARY SERVICE**

You are guaranteed to receive a response from Linda within 3 hours!

#### YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

Over the years, Linda has sold hundreds of homes in Circle C & South Austin

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# Circle C Moms! Do you need a break?



Are you interested in getting together with neighboring Moms to enjoy an uninterrupted meal, laugh, make friends, try some creative activities and hear inspiring speakers while your children are lovingly cared for? If so, visit our MOPS group at Shepherd of the Hills

#### Church!

MOPS stands for Mothers of Preschoolers but we are open to all mothers of children from birth through kindergarten. You do not have to be a "church-goer" or from a specific denomination to join us. MOPS is a place where moms come to be encouraged and supported by other moms who are in the very same season of life...And best of all, to make some great friends! If you are interested in joining our group or if you'd like to try out a meeting, call Kim at (512) 699-9199, e-mail mops@shpc.org or visit http:// www.shpc.org/mops.

When & Where? William Cannon SHPC Campus (5226 W Wm Cannon Dr) Most 2nd & 4th Thursdays; September - May 10am-12pm \*First meeting 9/10/15 Stay tuned for a possible Wednesday MOPS!

Submitted by Erin Johnson

#### EVE'S PLUMBING Master License: M-39722 Water Pressure Problems • Sewer & Drain Service • Fiber Optic Drain **Line Inspections** Free Estimates · Satisfaction Guaranteed **Steve Brougher** 512.276.7476 2605 Buell Ave

#### Does your daughter want to join Girl Scouts?

#### Are you interested in being a **Troop Leader?**

The Oak Hill Service Unit of Girl Scouts of Central Texas will hold a Recruitment Rally on Saturday, August 29, 2015. At Rally, you will learn more about our mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. In addition, you will have an opportunity to join and form new Troops! Girl Scouts participate in various activities throughout the year, some of which are pictured here: Veteran's Day parade, Cookie Sales, Camp Champions, and the Austin Humane Society. We hope you will join us!

> Girl Scouts Recruitment Rally Saturday, August 29, 2015 Western Hills Church of Christ 6211 Parkwood Drive, Austin, TX 78735 Clayton, Kiker and Baldwin Elementary: 9:30-11:30am Mills, Oak Hill and Patton Elementary: 1:30-3:30pm

Questions? Email: Janessa Glenn (Oak Hill Service Unit Director) at oakhillgirlscouts@gmail.com Submitted by Charmaine Hinahon



#### Around Circle C

# IN THE YARD

Submitted by Jackie Rollins

Besides relaxing in their spacious and lovely Park West back yard, Tom and Patti Davey have the added bonus of enjoying their unusual "potted" fountain.







#### Lee Ann LaBorde, Agent 8400 Brodie Ln Ste 105 Austin, TX 78745 Bus: 512-282-3100 leeann@leeannlaborde.net

# When "That will never happen to me" happens.

#### I'm ready to help.

There's never a good time for an accident to happen. But when it does, you can count on me to be there quickly so you can get your life back to normal. **GET TO A BETTER STATE**... CALL ME TODAY.



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# EVERY SECOND COUNTS



# BE PREPARED!

### GET CPR AND FIRST AID TRAINING

ву: НФРЕсрг

Who: Adults & Children 12 or older

When: Aug 8th from 4:30pm - 7:00pm Where: Circle C Community Center

7817 La Crosse Ave Austin, TX 78739

How: Sign up at www.hope4minds.org

(limited space)

**Cost:** Suggested donation of \$5 per person

**Certification:** \$20 for CPR (starts at 4:30pm)

\$10 for First Aid (arrive at 5:30pm)

\$25 for CPR and First Aid

Certification is through the American Safety Health Institute (paid day of)

Each year 1 in 500 school-age children receive a brain injury serious enough to be hospitalized.

Every day, about 10 people die from an accidental drowning.

#### PRESENTED BY:





For more information, contact ronda@hope4minds.org

HOPE4MINDS is a public charity organized to foster hope and enrich the lives of children with an acquired brain injury through support and education.

#### Around Circle C

(Continued from page 5)

bit of a scarce commodity! Lawns should be watered very early in the morning. Keep an eye on vegetable gardens and anything recently planted; these sensitive areas may need a little extra hand watering. Have you considered rain barrels yet?

Weeds. Pulling one now will save you from pulling hundreds more later on. Plus, they steal water and nutrients from the plants that you do want to keep alive! Try to take a pass through your beds on a weekly (or dare I say daily?) basis to stay on top of weeds.

Small tasks. Now is a good time to trim & fertilize roses and deadhead faded perennials & summer bulbs. Fertilize your container plants & replenish mulch in your plant beds- especially in areas looking sparse. Remove any dead patches, leaf piles, etc. to keep your yard looking pretty. Warm season vegetables can be planted now. And late August is also the time to sow wildflower seeds!

Going on vacation? Double check that sprinkler systems are set correctly! If you are leaving for longer than a few days the heat will take a toll on flowers and shrubs. Consider asking a neighbor to help out with your hand watering once or twice to avoid coming home to a sad mess!

We've been fortunate this year with all the rain we have seen and I think we are all enjoying a break from the blistering temps of summers past! With just a little more patience and regular "spot cleaning" we will be sliding right into Fall before we know it- and with pretty yards to boot!

Happy Summer, Y'all.

Sources:

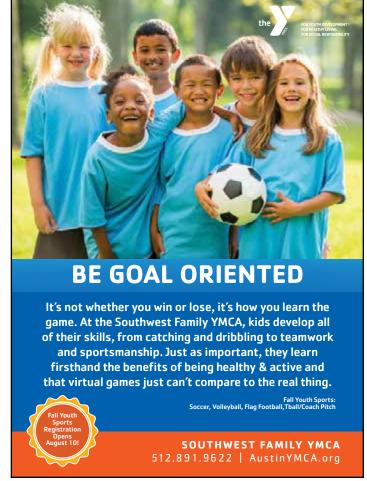
COA water info: austintexas.gov/department/water centraltexasgardening.net texasgardener.com

#### Circle C Public Safety Committee

The Circle C Public Safety group has formed a committee and is looking for 3-5 additional residents to join the 4 residents already serving. The group meets quarterly, next meeting being Wednesday September 2nd 6:30PM at the Community Center at the corner of La Crosse and Spruce Canyon. Join our Facebook page "Circle C Public Safety".

Contact Robert Adams with any questions. robadams007@gmail.com (512) 922-9532





SPONSORS AND VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Thank You



GENERAL ADMISSION BUY TICKETS AT www. hope4minds.org or at the gate

# HOPE 4 MINDS

Strait Music Company and **AUSTIN SCHOOL OF MUSIC** PRESENT

TLE OF THE YOUTH BANDS



OCTOBER 17, 2015 10:00am - 6:00pm



FRIENDS FAMILY FOOD AND

FUN!

at THE RUSTY MULE 9201 Hwy 290 AUSTIN



JOIN THE FUN!

GYROSCOPE ROCK WALL FOOD TRUCKS FACE PAINTING REDNECK GAMES KNOCKDOWN CARNI VAL GAMES SILENT AUCTION

... AND MORE

Signed waivers are mandatory for participation. They are available at www.hope4minds.org or at the event.





















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

# CircleCRealtour.com Yep.same guy.

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!





9517 Colebrook JOHN'S LIST-ING "JUST SOLD!! Listed at \$489,000.!



6708 Maelin Cv. "JUST SOLD!!"JOHN'S LISTING \$475,000.



her open houses every weekend or call to see any home at (512) 970-0830.

> Varcia 512-970-0830

**OPEN HOUSE** 

Call John for an

accurate market analysis to be

done on your valuable property

pointment at your

and a no-

obligation ap-

convenience.











10907 Grassmere Court JUST LISTED JOHN'S LISTING Beautiful remodel with all new paint! Choose your own flooring. HUGE back yard is perfect for kids and pets. Very private cul-de-sac. \$399,000.



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

#1 Agent in Circle C Ranch history with 450+/- homes "SOLD" in Circle C Ranch alone and well over 900 total homes sold in the greater 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 <u>all</u> relocation companies. (Yes, it is your choice to use *any* agent you choose to sell your home with any relocation company) John is relocertified 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.



Circle C Ranch Newsletter - August 2015 Copyright © 2015 Peel, Inc.

# Squires Team.com

Hey Circle C! What a difference 2 months makes. In May we were seeing record sales, few days on market and high price per foot. Today, there are still a lot of buyers out there, but they have become a little more wary of paying tip-top dollar unless the home is absolutely perfect for them. Much of the inventory is priced so extremely high that it is starting to sit for a bit. We now have 40 homes active on the Circle C market as of July 8th, 2015. Typically, the market picks up at this time and we are strong through the Christmas holidays as homes sell year-round in Circle C. Seeing homes go up in value/price 1%+ per month since last year has made some buyers wary as to when it will stop appreciating. No one wants to buy super-high and then be without a seat when the music stops. Buyer are doing their homework a little more thoroughly now and are not afraid to walk away from homes if there is anything not right with the property. The next 2 months are critical to see how the fall and winter will shape up. Below are 2 new transactions John Squires is involved in. This gives a snapshot of what medium/large 2-stories are bringing. Thanks!



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! John Squires



"UNDER CONTRACT" JOHN'S BUYER 10901 La Estrella Cv. Stunning chopped stone with wood floors backing to permanent greenbelt with downtown Austin views! \$499,900. list price.

Southwest Austin specialist, Circle C Expert.

#1 Selling Realtor in Circle C Ranch history with over 450+/homes sold in the neighborhood. #1 listing agent in Circle C Ranch with a 99.8% listings-sold rate.

Well over 900+ homes sold in Austin, city-wide. Austin Business Journal "Top 50" agent 7 times city-wide. #10 in Austin in 2014.

John has a vast knowledge of all the builders, their floor-plans and their differing values in the different areas of Circle C Ranch.

Easy appointments are made with John as he works 7 days per week by appointment with sellers and buyers. You just call 1 number for all of your real estate needs to be met and that is John's personal number. You will not ever be handed off to an assistant while working with him.

10705 Canfield Drive "LISTED!" John's Listing \$629,000. Fairway Estates at the golf course.



"JUST LISTED!" JOHN'S LISTING 6517 Goodall Ct. Gorgeous Streetman home on a corner lot with hill country views! 3-car garage, party patio, 4/3.5, double-office! \$489,900. list!



#### News You Can Use



# TAWNY CRAZY ANTS

The Tawny crazy ant, formerly known as the Rasberry crazy ant, was originally found in Harris County in 2002. It is currently confirmed in 27 Texas counties.

Tawny crazy ants have a cyclical population level throughout the year with populations peaking in late summer, decreasing in the fall and then beginning to build again in the spring. Tawny crazy ants are capable of biting, but do NOT sting like fire ants. They are mostly nuisance pests, but can reach extraordinary population levels (in the millions) and can become a problem when getting into electrical equipment. Tawny crazy ants do not have nests or mounds like fire ants; they tend to nest under things- rocks, landscape timbers, flowerpots, etc.

For more information on this particular ant species go to http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/rasberry.html

Treatment Options

Removing harborage areas-fallen limbs, rocks, leaf litter, etc. These ants will nest under pretty much anything on the ground, so you may want to remove anything that is not necessary.

Alter moisture conditions (crazy ants prefer moist, humid conditions)- reduce watering, repair any leaks, improve drainage

Eliminate honeydew producers from area. Crazy ants tend honeydew producers such as aphids, whiteflies, hoppers, mealybugs and scale insects.

Use pesticide sprays to treat infested areas- under rocks, along landscape edging, etc. Pesticide sprays can also be used to create a barrier around the outside of the home. Piles of dead ants may build up in treated areas, so they must be removed to keep the barrier maintained.

Hire a pest management professional (PMP). PMPs have access to pesticides that are unavailable to homeowners and they also have experience dealing with pest problems regularly.

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

The information given herein is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by Texas 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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# Thoughts on moving to a Senior Residence

Many adults are finding themselves assisting aging parents, and facing questions every day particularly as to what will happen when things get too difficult for a loved one to live independently at home.

For most seniors the idea of entering a facility is not a welcome pastime, perhaps hoping to be able to live independently for their entire lives. There are many seniors who do manage to live successfully long term in their own homes, but the odds are that this will become too difficult at some point. It is projected that 3.9 million people will be in nursing homes at some time in their lives and an estimated twice that number in a type of senior residence. Overall it's good to have a plan or at least an outline for every eventuality, and starting the conversation early to encourage everyone to consider all possibilities. It's so much better that our loved ones be involved with the decision process from the beginning. If not, it's probable that should an event happen that makes independent living impossible, choices will have to be made quickly, leaving the person little or no choice as to where they will live.

There are many facilities available now with varying levels of independence and care. Location is a premium factor to consider, whether it be near relatives, friends, children, or maybe not! The financial piece is a key component with most residences now costing upwards of \$3,500 a month with an expected inflation rate of 3% per year. It's important to explore possible benefits such as the Veterans Aid and Attendance award and how these will contribute to the overall cost.

Online searches and senior magazines are a good way to narrow down the search and visits can be arranged to the selected residences. Initially it's important to get a feel of how it would be to live there. For instance how is the décor and friendliness of the staff? Residences have a number of ongoing activities and will invite future residents to participate which helps to make connections. Some residences also have medical services onsite such as physical therapy which are open to outside seniors. Obtaining services at a residence is a great way to get acclimated to the surroundings.

Starting the planning process early is a good way to get options in place and avoid the stress and uncertainty as to what may happen in the future. The plan may not be needed, but at least it's there just in case.

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



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# **CROSSING GUARDS** NEEDED

Submitted by Don Hatley

The City of Austin Safe Routes to School Program is hiring for an open Crossing Guard Position at Clayton Elementary. Hourly wage is \$10.30, 2.5 hours per school day in the sun, rain, sleet, snow etc. A criminal background check will be conducted. Please contact Don Hatley, Crossing Guard Supervisor, for more information at 713-857-5639 or email donhatley@ymail.com.



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Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to sarah@circlecranch. info Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption.

Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.



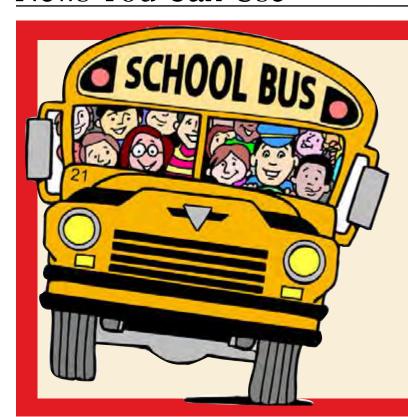


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### **Back To School**

School starts in August, so now is the time for drivers to pay closer attention to the school zones in the neighborhood. We want to remind you that the speed limit in a school zone is 20mph and traffic fines double!

#### Other changes to be aware of include;

- Children behaving unpredictably
- School Bus Stops
- Crossing Guards please obey the guards! Remember, they are there for the safety of you and your children
- New areas of traffic congestion
- Be prepared for delays
- Use of cell phones in schools zones is prohibited!

Please give yourself extra time in the mornings and midafternoons and remember if you are traveling in a school zone to slow down.

Time To Slow Down

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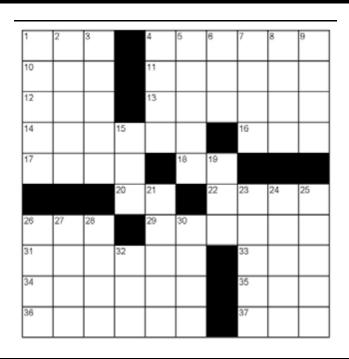


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#### **CROSSWORD PUZZLE**



#### ACROSS

1. What's owed 4. Beats it!

10. Hotel

11. Flower child

13. White fur

14. Breath mint

16. Rescue

17. Opposed

18. Scottish "one"

20. Acidity

22. Corn syrup brand

26. Insane

29. Angry

31. Relating to horses

33. Kimono sash

34. National capital

35. Reverend (abbr.)

36. Bath powder

37. East northeast

#### DOWN

1. Formal statement

2. Remove pins from

3. Playact

4. Popular stadium

12. Certified public accountant 5. Approximate date

6. Revolutions per minute

7. Capital of Western Samoa

8. Short

9. Origination

15. Lean

19. Stretch to make do

21. Large eastern religion

23. Before

24. Hot sandwich

25. \_\_Oyl (Popeye's girlfriend)

26. Soften cheese

27. Greenish blue

28. Twofold

30. Stack of paper

32. Business abbr.

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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# PLACE: DIY Treats for Our Feline Friends

#### TUNA CATNIP KITTY TREATS

(Makes about 2 dozen)

1 (5 oz.) can tuna, no salt added packed in water, drained

1 cup oat flour\*

1 large egg

1 heaping Tablespoon dried catnip

1 Tbsp olive oil

- Place a rack in the upper third of the oven and preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
- In the bowl of a food processor fitted with a blade attachment, combine all ingredients. Blend until mixture is smooth. It will be thick, but pliable and not terribly sticky.
- Roll dough into half teaspoon balls and place on prepared cookie sheet. Use a skewer to press an X-shape into each cookie ball.
- Bake cookies 10 to 12 minutes, until they are dried on top and slightly browned. Allow to cool completely.
- Place treats in an airtight container and store in refrigerator for up to seven days.
- \*Note: It's easy to make your own oat flour. Simply grind oldfashioned oats in a spice grinder (or a super clean coffee grinder) until it is transformed into a light powder.

#### **CHEWY CAT TREATS**

(Makes about 50 small treats)

1 (4 oz.) jar of chicken and brown rice baby food (or something meaty, can use wet cat food)

1 large egg 2 teaspoons olive oil

2 Tablespoon water 1/4 cup parsley, coarsely chopped 1 cup brown rice flour ½ cup cooked white (or brown) rice

- 1. Prepare same as #1 above (Tuna Catnip Kitty Treats).
- 2. In a medium bowl, whisk together egg, baby food (or wet cat food), parsley, olive

oil and water. Add brown rice flour and cooked rice. Stir to incorporate. Mixture will be thick but spreadable.

- Spread mixture onto prepared baking sheet, creating a rectangle that is about 1/3 inch thick. Bake for 12 to 15 minutes.
- Remove from the oven. Let rest until cool enough to handle, then slice the soft dough into bite-size pieces. Return pieces to the oven to bake for 8 more mins.
- Remove from the oven. Allow to cool completely. Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator.



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# TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional - Owner, Manager and Director of Tennis Grey Rock Tennis Club, Austin, TX



#### "Tennis for Children 11 years and older - Yellow Ball"

This series of Tennis Tips is focused on how to involve children of all ages learning to play tennis and offering tips to the parents on how to assist at home. In the last issue I offered advice for children 9-10 years old and under playing with the softer green ball on a 78' foot court. This issue, will focus on children 11 years and older playing with the yellow ball on a 78' foot regular size court.

The children should be using rackets ranging in length from 25" to 27" long. The size of the racket will depend on how tall and strong the players are. The grip size should now range from 4" to 4 ½ ", again depending on the size of their hands.

Caption 1: Tennis Court: For those players ready to cover the regular size court, they will now be playing on a 78" x 36' tennis court. Lines are now painted regular white making it much easier to see the ball landing, especially while the opponents are serving. Players need to be physically ready to cover the entire court.

Caption 2: Groups: The key to children learning how to play the game of tennis, is to assemble them in group lessons. Most clubs offer them according to age level and ability. The tennis professional

will separate them so each player is comfortable in their respective group. A good ratio is 6 players to 1 pro, and the range going from beginner to advance.

Tennis camps are also an excellent way to give them a concentrated learning experience. The students usually spend two hours working on fundamental strokes and also playing games. At the end of the week, these players should be able to start playing on their own and/or with the help of their parents. Of course, if additional help is needed, they may consider taking tennis lessons from a certified tennis professional.

Children at this age are already playing points and are given tips on how to hit groundstrokes, volleys and serves with control. The USTA provides tournaments and leagues for children 12, 14, 16 and 18 and under using the yellow ball. Matches are normally 8 game pro-sets and they are encouraged to play round robins and/or consolation rounds.

Look in the next Newsletter for: "Tips for Adult Beginner Lessons – The Forehand". For more information about our programs and club information, you can visit us at www.greyrocktennis.com or call us at 512-301-8685.



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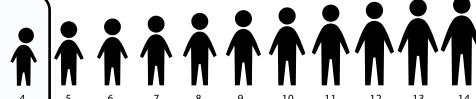


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