

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 10

OCTOBER 2015

# CIRCLE C

## *Community Newsletter*

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CIRCLE C RANCH HOA

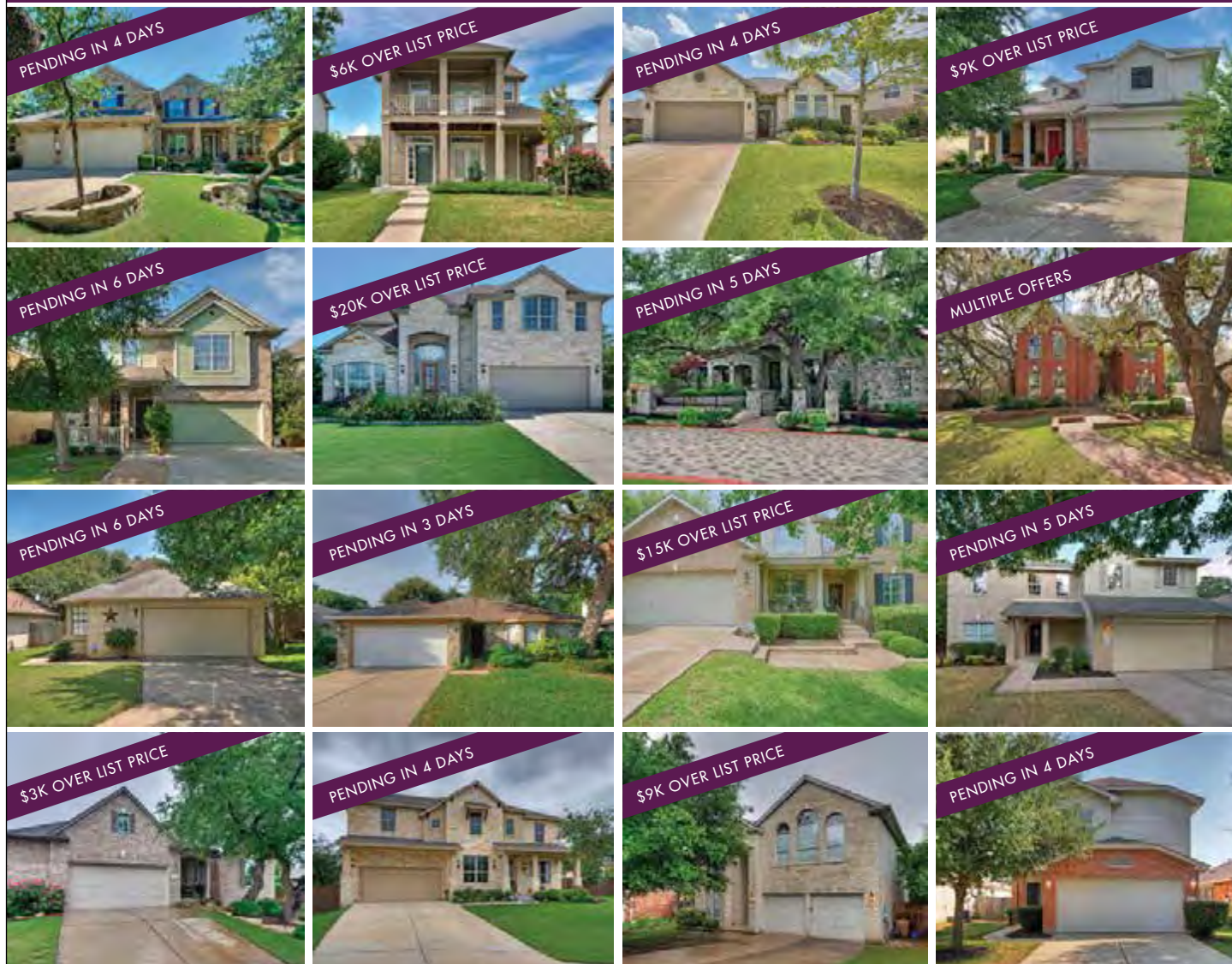




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## CCHOA NUMBERS

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 Avaña Pool ..... 512-292-1518  
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*  
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MidTex Water Company ..... 866-654-7992  
Solid Waste City of Austin ..... 512-974-1945  
Post Office Oak Hill Station ..... 800-275-8777



# HOA Announcements

## HOA ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IMPORTANT DATES

- Food Trailer Night – Friday October 9th
- Social Happy Hour – Wednesday October 21st
- Farmer's Market – Thursday October 22nd
- CCHOA Board Meeting – Tuesday October 27th
- Halloween – Saturday October 31st

### SAVE THE DATES

Children's Holiday Party – Saturday December 5th, 10am-1pm  
Adult Holiday Party & Casino Night – Saturday December 12th, 7pm-10pm

### FALL IS UPON US!

There are sure to be a few who have noticed and enjoyed the slightly cooler air and crisp but brief, breezes. With the season changing, the sun setting sooner, and kiddos back to school there are a few things changing around the community!

- The Swim Center is now operating on Fall/Winter hours. See Aquatics News on page 6 for detailed hours. The Avaña and Community Center pools are closed for the season.
- Food Trailer Night in September was delicious and fun as always! The event also ended at 8:00pm instead of 8:30pm to adjust with the sun is setting sooner. The Food Trailer events moving forward will reflect this schedule until further notice. Also please remember that glass is not permitted at this event!
- Halloween is on Saturday the 31st! We want to wish all our neighbors a fun, sweet, and safe Halloween this year.
- Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday November 1st and we will "fall back" an hour at 2:00 a.m. that morning.
- Reminder! December holiday lights and décor should not be displayed before the week of Thanksgiving, Thursday November 26th.

### DEED RESTRICTION LETTERS & VIOLATION DRIVES

As reported in each month's newsletter, the HOA staff drives at least two sections of the neighborhood per month to note violations of the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions. These commonly include: front yard landscape maintenance (mowing, edging, free of weeds), home maintenance (paint, screens, siding) and recreational vehicles (boats, RV's, trailers) parked in the driveway. The HOA is required by state law to notify owners in writing via certified mail and allow for the homeowner to request a hearing before the board of directors.

If you receive a letter, please contact us at the HOA office and let us know your individual situation. We would like to work with you to bring your home into compliance. If you would like to report a violation to the HOA, you can do so via our website at [www.circlecranch.info](http://www.circlecranch.info), call us at 512-288-8663, or email [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info).

### TREE STAKES

The HOA has noticed many properties with tree stakes still installed when they are no longer necessary. All tree stakes and supporting wires and cables should be removed 10-12 months after trees are planted. Left in place any longer, these can damage the tree trunk and limbs, weaken the establishment of the root system, and are unattractive in the appearance of your home.

### WINDOW SCREENS

If your window screens are worn, torn or frayed, they should be replaced. If you choose not to replace your screens, you have the option of removing ALL screens on the front of your home.

### CITY STREET LIGHT MAINTENANCE

If a street light near you is out, call 311 to report the closest street intersection or address and provide the 6 digit pole number located on the light pole.

## Turf Talk: Fertilizing & Top Dressing

Let's all breathe a sigh of relief that we have gotten through another Texas summer. Phew! One of the things we look forward to with the cooler temperatures is fall fertilization. This is an item that pays off in early spring when the turf starts to wake up. Often at the end of summer, the turf is worn down and tired from endless heat, and lack of natural rainwater. While you don't want to over-fertilize, the fall fertilization will boost up your lawn to help it avoid winter weeds, and give it some good nutrients that will carry over into spring. If you are inclined to, you may want to get a soil test to figure out the amount of phosphorus, potassium and other minerals your soil may need. You can go to the Travis County Extension Bureau for complete instructions on how to do a soil test and information on what the results mean. The tests do not include nitrogen in the analysis—it is the one element that is primary in fertilizer and is the prime purpose of fertilization.

For fertilizing in Central Texas, most lawns already have sufficient phosphorus, and it is not recommended that you add any without a soil test. Most of our soils have plenty of phosphorus and the excess runoff into creeks and lakes causes unhealthy fish habitat and problems with algae bloom. So look for a big ZERO as the middle number on the fertilizer bag.

When you go to purchase the fertilizer, you will be looking at three numbers on the bag—Nitrogen (N) Phosphorus (PO), and Potassium (KO). This will tell you the amount by weight of each

*(Continued on Page 5)*

(Continued from Page 4)

element. For residential lawns, we highly recommend an organic fertilizer (like Lady Bug) applied at a low rate (1 lb. or less per 1000 square feet). If you are going to fertilize for the fall, it is recommended that you do so no later than October 15-30. That will allow the fertilizer to be absorbed by the turf while it is still growing. Once the first frost comes and the grass goes dormant, the fertilizer won't be absorbed.

Another option to help boost your lawn's vitality is to apply a top dressing. Thick, healthy lawns begin with healthy soil but here in central Texas, our soil is shallow. Top dressing is simply a way of adding organic material & restoring balance to already-established home lawns. It will soak in slowly and even out the lawn, and refresh a tired soil. You can also do an aeration of the lawn prior to the top dressing which will assist in the restoration process.

Whichever option you choose, avoid doing either right before a heavy rain because doing so will result in all that work going (literally) down the drain!

In Circle C, we will be fertilizing in the month of October. After the long hot summer, our expansive commons areas are really ready for cooler weather and hopefully refreshing rain. They say our El Nino pattern will build and continue through the winter, so at least the forecast is good! For fall improvements we will be installing some trees in Circle C North, Wildflower Park, and along Escarpment. We

are working on a long term improvement to Spruce Canyon from SH 45 to La Crosse, which involves converting that area to drip irrigation, installing rockwork, and replacing turf areas in the side strip. Additionally, look for bed upgrades at entries. We continue with the mission of converting as many areas as possible to drip irrigation as that is the most efficient and conservation oriented way that we can save water and vegetation simultaneously.



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## Pool Hours

**Swim Center**  
**(5919 La Crosse Avenue)**  
August 24th - October 18th

**Monday - Friday**  
6am-10am (Lap Swim Only)  
3:30pm-8pm

**Saturdays**  
7am-10am (Lap Swim Only)  
10am-6pm

**Sundays**  
10am-6pm

**The Avaña and Community Center  
pools are closed for the season.**

## NOW HIRING!

Circle C Aquatics is now hiring lifeguards! Applicants must be at least 16 years of age to be eligible for employment. Flexible schedules and a fun work environment are waiting for you at the Swim Center! Contact John at [lifeguard@ccswim.net](mailto:lifeguard@ccswim.net) for more information. If you need lifeguard certifications, please contact Amanda at [coordinator@ccswim.net](mailto:coordinator@ccswim.net) for information about the next lifeguard class.

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# Swim Lessons & Aquatic Programs

## Swim Lessons & Aquatic Programs

Circle C Aquatics offers private and semi-private swim lessons year round. We have Basic instructors and a premium instructor available during the week and on weekends!

The Select Swim Team is almost at capacity! Come join our team before these spots fill up! Schedule a tryout with the front desk by calling 512-288-6057 or emailing [customerservice@ccswim.net](mailto:customerservice@ccswim.net). Come by and swim with Coach Erin in the Masters Swim program! Great for all abilities, focused around swim sets and building endurance and strength. Masters meets Tuesday and Thursdays 8-9am and Fridays from 6-7am year round. Masters Technique is for swimmers who are new to the sport, with more 1 on 1 coaching to learn freestyle and backstroke. Masters Technique meets Tuesday and Wednesdays from 7:15-8am year round.

For more information on any of our programs, please email Amanda at [coordinator@ccswim.net](mailto:coordinator@ccswim.net)



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### 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 Horne and incredibly grateful for the chance to welcome you and your family to our Dentistry.

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# Around Circle C

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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.

Cover Photo Credit: This month's cover photo, taken in the backyard of their Circle C home, was submitted by Chris and Jim Turner.

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

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# James Bowie High School Homecoming Mums for Sale!



James Bowie High School's Homecoming is October 23rd, 2015!

Pre-order Homecoming Mums now thru October 16th, 2015. Online orders can be submitted at [www.silverstars.org](http://www.silverstars.org). Pre-orders will be available for pick up

between October 20th and October 22nd from 4pm-6pm.

Questions? Email [silverstars\\_mums@yahoo.com](mailto:silverstars_mums@yahoo.com)

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# Around Circle C

## Nature Nights in Circle C: Wonder Experienced by All



Kids, adults, and families flooded into the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center during six Thursday evenings this summer for Nature Nights. Beyond the beautiful amenities that the Wildflower Center offers throughout the year, these nights were extra special because of the free, theme-based activities offered each week.

Stationed at a table under the Pavilion by the Family Garden, our Kairos Academy of Austin team had a great view of kids playing in the water and running around to complete a scavenger hunt. I had the privilege of meeting many families from around Austin. Our team helped children of all ages through hands-on learning activities. The themes and activities were Plants (identifying/playing with edible plants), Pollinators (identifying pollinators and flower features in pollination process), Snakes (building a model snake jaw to compare to human's jaw in swallowing food), Springs/Streams/Ponds Ecology (moving runoff through it's path; identifying the circle of life for pond animals), Harnessing Fire (identifying household fire hazards and practicing how to put fires out), and Birds of Prey (testing the ability of different beaks to pick up various birds' food). There was a lot of learning going on and it was so fun that the kids may not have even realized they were learning! Experimenting with the purpose of each type of bird "beak" (tweezers, chopsticks, scoop, and scissors) was a big hit.

The rewarding feeling that comes from watching the wonder in children's eyes as they learn something new is priceless. Thanks to the serene natural landscape of the Wildflower Center, these experiential learning moments could not have been more perfect. If you missed it this year, put it on your calendar for next summer! Hope to see you there!

Submitted & Written By: Jennifer Frazier, Resident and Founding Board Member of Kairos Academy of Austin  
[jen@kairosacademyaustin.org](mailto:jen@kairosacademyaustin.org)  
[www.KairosAcademyAustin.org](http://www.KairosAcademyAustin.org)



## IN THE YARD

*Submitted by Jackie Rollins*

### October 2015

Who could ask for more? Park West residents Nick and Nina Woolverton have much to enjoy from their lovely plant-filled back yard with a tree-laden view of the greenbelt.







**October 2015**

**Café # 288-6058**

**Hours: Monday – Friday 3:30pm-7:30pm; Saturday & Sunday closed**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All Specials \$10.00 Ready at 5pm Call early to reserve your dinner!				Bacon Wrap 1 Shrimp Pineapple Rice Mixed Vegetables	Salvador Day 2 Pupusas & Curtido, Black Beans, Fried Platanos, Fresh Crema	3
4	Beef Tenderloin & 5 Shrimp Kabobs Orange Ginger Sauce, Basmati Rice Mixed Vegetables	6 Grilled Rib eye, Baked Potato, Shallot Sauce, Green Beans	7 Paprika Herb Chicken Breast, Papaya lime chutney, Cilantro Rice, Cesar Salad	Roasted Thyme Pork 8 Roasted Pear & Garlic Sauce Oven Roasted Potatoes, Cesar Salad	9 Black Bean & Corn Enchiladas, Pumpkin Poblano Sauce, Rice, Beans	10
11	Chicken Fried 12 Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Creamy Gravy, Roasted Corn	13 Coriander Crusted Chicken Breast, Ranchero Sauce, Cilantro Rice, Cesar Salad	14 Tarragon Salmon Serrano Mango Salsa, Pineapple, Rice, Cesar salad	15 Braised Pork Chops, Roasted Garlic Cabernet Sauce, Cheesy Potatoes, Cesar Salad	16 Chicken Marsala Fettuccine Cesar Salad	17
18	Pistachio 19 Crusted Chicken Wild Mushroom Sauce, Orzo Pasta, Grilled Vegetables	20 Almond Crusted Tilapia, Potatoes Au gratin, Spinach Basil Crème Sauce	21 Ancho Pepper Rub pork tenderloin Pineapple sauce Oven roasted potatoes, vegetables	22 Chicken Stuffed Gorgonzola cheese, Argula, Oven Roasted potatoes, Vegetables	23 Molasses Baby Back Ribs, Ranchero Beans, Potato Salad, Corn Bread	24
25	Coriander Crusted 26 Pork Tenderloin Black bean, corn, mushrooms ragu Julienne Chayote Squash & Carrots Cilantro & Red Bell Pepper Rice	27 New York Strip Cabernet Mushroom Sauce Scallop Potatoes Caesar Salad	28 Chicken Cordon Bleu, Rice Pilaf, Vegetables, Caesar Salad	29 Pan Seared Mahi Mahi, Fruit Salsa, Orzo Pasta, Cesar Salad,	30 Fried Cod, Coleslaw, Fries, Hush Puppies	<b>Friend us on Facebook for specials offers!</b>

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## HOPE4MINDS' BATTLE OF THE YOUTH BANDS

**Hope4Minds' Second "Battle of the Youth Bands" Lets Kids Sling Their Six-Strings and Raise Money for Hope4Minds, Offering Hope and Support to Kids with an Acquired Brain Injury**

Rock on and play hard for a good cause this fall at the second Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest on Saturday, October 17, 2015 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at The Rusty Mule, 9201 Hwy 290 in Austin. Produced by Hope4Minds with Strait Music and Austin School of Music, the Battle of the Youth Bands and Family Fun Fest is a high octane day of live music, a silent auction and activities including gyroscope, rock wall, food trucks, face painting, redneck games knockdown, carnival games and much more. Youth bands will compete before and during the event to raise money. Proceeds benefit Hope4Minds, a 501 3(c) public charity that's fostering hope and enriching the lives of Texas children with an acquired brain injury. For more information or to donate, visit [www.hope4minds.org](http://www.hope4minds.org).

Bands are competing both on and off stage by raising money for Hope4Minds, with two winners earning a gig at Stubb's Bar-B-Q on Dec. 6, 2015. In addition to their Stubb's show, the first place winner will receive six hours of recording time at Austin School of Music.

Brianna, an 8 year old singer in one of the participating duos, suffered a traumatic brain injury when she was 12 months old and has physical disabilities as a result of her injury. Brianna said, "I want to help other kids get help like I did so they can get better."

Ronda Johnson, executive director for Hope4Minds, is especially impressed by the bands' enthusiasm to support other kids. "These young musicians from all over Austin are coming together to support

our kids and families, and there's something really special about that."

Admission is \$5 a person with free admission for children 2 or under. Tickets are available online at [Hope4Minds.org](http://Hope4Minds.org) and at the event. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs/blankets due to limited seating.

2015 Battle of the Youth Bands sponsors represent community-minded businesses from across Austin including Dell Children's Medical Center, Engel & Volkers; On Call Emergency Center; Premier Family Physicians; Community Impact; Covert Buick; Peel Inc. ; Big Sky Pediatric Therapy; AR Signs; Kim Burke of Sotheby's International Realty; Peter King Design; Massage Envy; European Wax Center; Moreland Properties; Sonrisas Therapies; Escarpment Village; Core Health Care; Stubb's Bar B Q; Maggie Ruiz of Realty Austin; Critter Ridder; Home Source Mortgage; Mercedes-Benz of Austin; William Talbot-Allstate; V & V Liquors; Therapy Center of Buda; Neuro Performance Austin; Anytime Fitness; Momentum Public Relations; Hill Country Sun; Victor Thompson Insurance Agency - Farmers Insurance Group; Curious Chords; OpenLabs; Wilson AC and Appliance; Mike and Cari Coble & Family; Protecting Texas Kids; Chris AT Liquor; Big Village IT; and Texas Music Water. Sponsorships are still available at [www.hope4minds.org](http://www.hope4minds.org).

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# 38th Annual Bethany Marketplace

Saturday, Nov. 14  
9am to 4 pm

This craft show, featuring handcrafted items from over a hundred craftsmen is the major mission fundraiser for the Bethany Women in Mission LWML. Lunch and baked items will be available for purchase. Admission & parking is FREE.

*This event will be held at*

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## CLOTHES MOTHS

Clothes moths can cause considerable damage to materials containing wool, fur or other animal-derived products. There are two common clothes moths, case making clothes moths and webbing clothes moths. The names describe the larval (caterpillar) stage of the moth. Case-making clothes moths spin silken cases that they drag along with them while they feed. Webbing clothes moths feed within silken burrows that they spin over the surface of fabric.

Adults are small, tan moths about 3/8 an inch long. They are weak fliers and avoid light. Larvae like to feed in protected areas, such as folded clothing, and rarely leave their food source.

To reduce or avoid clothes moth problems, the following tips may be helpful:

- Locate & remove any infested items
  - Look in drawers & closets; on the floor; on or under furniture; on or in walls, ceilings & attics
  - Launder or dry clean clothing
  - Periodically shake & air out items such as rugs & clothing
  - Use heat and/ or cold to kill insects in infested items
  - Thoroughly clean storage areas
  - Store clothing in tightly sealed containers
  - Cedar is not that effective in repelling clothes moths
  - Cedar must be freshly cut or chipped for vapors to be effective & vapors lose potency quickly
  - Mothballs (naphthalene or paradichlorobenzene) can be used to repel insects
  - Read & follow all label instructions
  - Use only in sealed areas or closed containers
  - Note that the fumes from these products may soften or melt some plastics
  - Insecticide sprays can be used to supplement sanitation techniques
  - Remove all items from the area before treating with an insecticide
  - Allow area to completely dry before returning items
- 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)

## SUDOKU

View answers online at [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

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8	3							7

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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.

*As a member of the Circle C Ranch HOA, you and your family are eligible for membership.*

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- C.L., Austin, TX

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



**11113 Bastogne Loop "JUST SOLD!"** JOHN'S LISTING Gorgeous plan backing to permanent greenbelt! Gated! Upgraded at \$469,000. \$187. per foot !!



**6813 Hansa Loop "JUST LISTED!"** JOHN'S LISTING Impeccable cottage backing to permanent greenbelt. 2236 sq. ft. at \$449,000. \$200.81 per foot !!!!

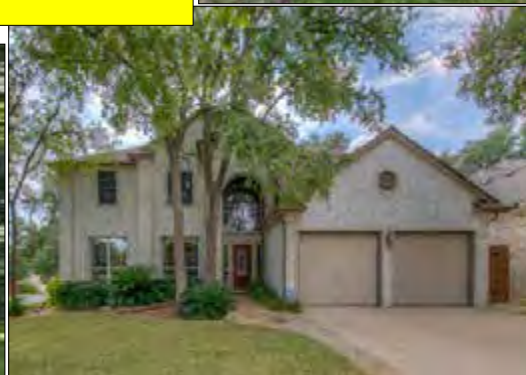


**3901 Pete's Path "UNDER CONTRACT"** JOHN'S LISTING Shoal creek for \$549,000.

**4913 Scottish Thistle "UNDER CONTRACT!!!"** JOHN'S LISTING . \$329,000.



**6300 Needham Lane "UNDER CONTRACT!!!"** JOHN'S LISTING Complete remodel at 3500 sq. ft. HUGE Newmark on corner lot with big back yard. HUGE bedrooms! \$399,000!!!!



**6601 Orchard Hill "CONTRACT PENDING!!!"** JOHN'S LISTING Pending in 5 days! Gorgeous wood floors and corner lot with huge trees. \$479,000.!!

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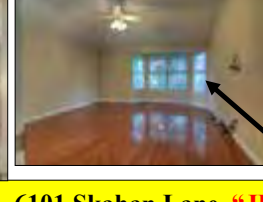
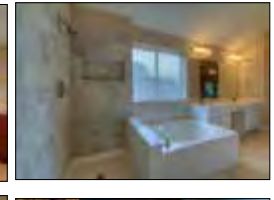
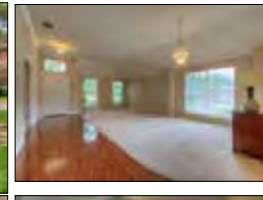


# SquiresTeam.com



Come and see Marcia and I at our Circle C Ranch open houses every weekend. Just follow the polka dot or red balloons! John

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

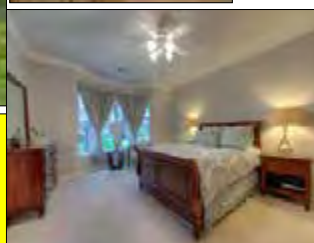


6101 Dedham Lane **"JUST LISTED!!"** JOHN'S LISTING Brazilian cherry hardwood floors, \$50,000 in kitchen upgrades alone, \$35,000. in bathroom upgrades, custom lights and fans through. Model home. **\$499,000.** list price.

6101 Skahan Lane **"JUST LISTED!"** JOHN'S LISTING **\$475,000.** Complete remodel 1-story with granite, wood floors, media room., new stainless appliances, corner lot for privacy.



6517 Goodall Ct. **"JUST SOLD!"** JOHN'S LISTING Gorgeous Streetman home on a corner lot with hill country views! 3-car garage, party patio, 4/3.5, double-office! **\$489,900.** list! **Under contract with multiple offers!!! "SOLD OVER \$500,000.!"**



6713 Walebridge Lane **"JUST LISTED!"** JOHN'S LISTING Beautiful mixed rock and brick w/HUGE game room on shady lot with big trees. 4 beds PLUS an office! **\$469,000.**



# THE BLOOD CENTER OF CENTRAL TEXAS

## SOUTH LOCATION - Coming Soon!

Attention South Austin... there is no need to cross the river. We repeat, NO NEED to cross the river. We'll hold for cheers. The Blood Center of Central Texas is back in South Austin starting early October. Stay tuned for more details on our grand opening celebration (i.e. the party we're throwing for YOU, our new neighbors). But in the meantime, start marking your calendars because in early October our new center will be open:

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Marques is a charming and quiet young man. He loves basketball and enjoys most all sports. He also enjoys riding his bike, playing video games and listening to music. He would enjoy being in a family that would provide activities for him to be active, especially sports. He would like to have a Mom that is caring and loving. He would also like to have a father that will do "guy things" like playing basketball and camping.

Adopting a child from the foster care system requires little or no cost to the adoptive family and funding may be available to help the adoptive family support the child or sibling group.

The Heart Gallery of Central Texas is a program of Partnerships for Children. To learn more about the adoption or fostering process, please call the Heart Gallery of Central Texas at (512) 834-4756, email [heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org](mailto:heartgallery@partnershipsforchildren.org) or visit our website at [www.partnershipsforchildren.org](http://www.partnershipsforchildren.org)

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# News You Can Use

## OMG HOMEWORK

OMG – It's homework time and I need a drink!

Ah, the school year starts. Parents everywhere rejoice with visions of free time!

Free time to catch up on shows that aren't animated, to work out, to get your mani/pedi, to shop without listening to whining, to have conversations with complete sentences and big words.

But, instead that free time is:

Free time to get the oil changed! In both cars, to take the dogs to the vet for annual check ups, to call a plumber to fix the tub jets, to call an electrician because the plumber won't fix the tub jets, to call a tub dealer because the electrician won't fix the tub jets, to have an appliance guy come and tell you the tub has to be removed because the pump was installed backwards – and nope, he doesn't remove tubs, to call BOTH a plumber and the appliance back together – that may take forever to get scheduled, to take a bath IF you ever get the tub fixed!

Still it is easier than doing all of those fun chores AND playing referee to the kids.

With great joy comes great pain and agony – namely Homework!!

Seriously, even Charles Dickens agrees... "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." (A Tale of Two Cities)

O.M.G. Homework.

When. Did. Homework.

Become. Such. A. Big.

Horrible. Fricking.

NIGHTMARE???

I remember homework:

I remember homework from when I was a child. The teacher taught something in class. I listened and learned. I took the book home and did the "odd numbered problems" on page 72. This didn't take long because I actually knew the material. I had seen it recently – that same day! Homework – 15 minutes BOOM. Skill reinforced, mom not involved, and STILL time for playing outside.

Homework today?

Now kids stare blankly at the homework page which covers things they discussed months or even grades ago...and maybe, just maybe something they have actually seen before in class. Who refreshes their memory about these long forgotten skills? Mom, of course AND without the help of a textbook!

I remember homework:

I remember homework from my teaching days. (1988-2004) Each subject had a separate day for homework. For me that meant I only gave homework once a week – 20 minutes homework for language arts. The kids had to know what to do or it wasn't useful for reinforcing that day's learning AND the phone rang off the wall the next day with parents complaining. Boom! Skill reinforced, mom not involved, still time for playing outside.

Homework today?

There are no text-books. Everything is online and Lord help me, everything requires 'signing' in. We have log in and password

information for countless (no seriously, I don't even want to count them!) accounts:

\*profiles \*schoolology \*band calendar \*PTO information \*lunch account \*soccer schedule \*Prezi \*spelling town \*math practice \*school newsletter AND \*each teacher has a website \*\* I just went to parent night at the school last night and there are more accounts coming soon. Wonderful.

All of the above...for EACH kid. I have trouble keeping track of my own online life and you want me to add 40 logins and passwords per kid? I need a drink.

Skills reinforced? Um...I have no idea what skill this reinforces. Mom involved? You BET! Time to play outside? HAHAAHAHA!

Sigh...remember the good old days?

Homework was easy and painless, dishes washed themselves, fairies did the laundry in the night, beautifully coifed children played happily together while you cooked gourmet meals in your heels and pearls, remember those days? Yeah, me neither. And since none of those things are a part of the world, past, present, or ...well hopefully in the future we need to get it together now!!

Tips for less painful homework time!

1) Pay attention.

Homework time always comes during the witching hour of the day when the baby is crying and the dogs are barking and dinner needs to be cooked... Homework is hard enough when you are focused on it, right? So, do what you can to give yourself the space to pay attention. Like:

\*Make dinner early or use a crockpot.

\*Feed dogs a little earlier so they will not be needy or freaky.

\*Break out the treats for baby.

2) Foster independence.

I'll wait for you to stop laughing. I know I just said that the kids don't have any idea what have the homework is even about so how are they supposed to be independent? By trying. Yes, foster that "old college try" while they are still in elementary school. It turns out some of those problems they really CAN do or at least get close.

3) Keep it quiet.

It should go without saying that the house should be quiet. No TV. No DVD. No Internet. Just kids sitting at tables focusing on their task. I have no luck with mine together so I divide and conquer by having them at different work stations. (Fancy word for one at the kitchen table and one at the coffee table.)

4) Free time first.

I believe it a little break between working all day at school and working again on homework, but only a little one. Give them a snack, potty break, time to tell about their day...part of a video game or tv show or swing set time in the backyard. Thirty minutes of downtime gives everyone a breather before settling down for work.

5) NO breaks.

Just get it done. Whining about it and talking about it and needing

*(Continued on Page 21)*



(Continued from Page 20)

a drink and throwing a fit, etc. all just wastes time. Tell the kids to just get it over with. We all know that if they would just buckle down, focus, and get to it, homework would take 1/2 the time!

6) Bring the phone.

OK, perhaps this is the “WTF is math all about this year” part of me, but please keep your phone nearby logged into Facebook so you can bail me out when I post a picture of tonight’s “how the hell do I figure out this math problem?” photo. I’m happy to help you out, too for more reasonable subjects than math.

7) Be ready.

Have paper, pencils, books, drink, snack, dictionary, lap top ready. Do not give kids the chance to ‘forget’ something and waste time wandering around the house looking for it. You’ll save your sanity by spending 2 minutes getting ready.

8) Have a mantra.

When the kids are whining about how hard the homework is or how stupid the homework is or how ‘mean’ their teacher is for assigning it, you need a mantra. Do NOT engage in this time wasting conversation – even if Mean Mrs. Smith really did assign the dumbest homework assignment ever. Instead, have a mantra to repeat over and over again in response. Mine is, “We are not talking about that right now. We are doing our homework. Focus.” Over

and over and over and over.

9) Pat yourself on the back.

Lastly, raise your glass in a toast (we really are drinking now aren’t we?) and give yourself a pat on the back. Homework is tough on everyone and making sure they 1) do it and 2) do it well will give them skills to last their entire life. You are doing a great job, momma. Cheers to you!

Boy, you’ll need a vacation when you get a break from homework for the holidays.

Stop by and see me for tips on making it AWESOME!

Natalie Tanner, The Educational Tourist helps family plan adventures and make them awesome! [Www.theeducationaltourist.com](http://www.theeducationaltourist.com)



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PEEL, INC.

# News You Can Use

## SEND US YOUR Event Pictures!!

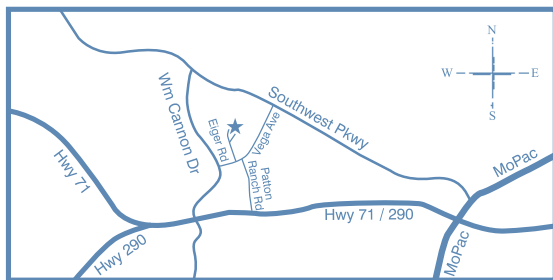
Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue.

Email the picture to [sarah@circlecranch.info](mailto: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](http://www.PEELinc.com).



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# Webb Real Estate

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## **Real Recent Examples**

Realtor listed incorrect number of rooms  
Realtor listed incorrect schools feeding home  
Realtor selected the wrong buyer(multiple offers)

## **Cost to Seller**

**\$22,000**  
**\$15,000**  
**\$20,000**

Not only do mistakes cost the SELLER \$\$\$, they also add **additional stress**...the homes above stayed on the market, on average, an additional **34 days**. Let the numbers do the talking...compare **Webb Real Estate** with all other Realtors just in Circle C.

## **Webb Real Estate**

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Sale Price  
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**44 Days**

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## Hosting an International Exchange Student

*Submitted by Vicki Odom*

Hosting an International Exchange Student is such a great experience for all of those involved. It leads to a better understanding between individuals of other cultures, hopefully branching its way out to a more peaceful global society. But don't just take my word about it, read about Nelva's experience and understanding of the exchange program.

*I'm so lucky to have been placed with a great host family in Texas! The best part is when we share each other's cultures and have a lot of quality time together. I'm blessed to have chance to study in American High School.*

*Being an exchange student is hard. For the first couple days it was hard because I didn't know anybody, the moving class system is new for me and sometimes it's hard to understand what they say. But America is really friendly and handy so I got a lot of help from them. From the exchange program, people can really get to know each other, people start to respect each other and we can start a new chapter to have a better world.*

So if you want to enrich your life, host an exchange student!

Nelva is from Indonesia and is spending the academic year here in Texas as part of the Kennedy-Lugar Youth Exchange and Study (YES) program. This program is funded by the US Department of State which provides scholarships for secondary school students from countries with significant Muslim populations. As part of her program year, Nelva is required to perform at least 60 hours of community service (however most YES students hours amount to hundreds of hours) and continue working with the program in her home country.

Our application process for the 2016 Spring Semester and 2016/2017 academic year will soon be opening. School spots in our area tend to fill up rather quickly, so get your application in early to host one of these amazing students!

Ayusa is a non-profit organization founded in 1981 to promote global learning and leadership through foreign exchange, study abroad, and leadership programs for high school students from the U.S. and around the world.

For more information about hosting a high school foreign exchange student, please contact your local representative Vicki Odom at 832.455.7881 or [vodom@ayusa.org](mailto:vodom@ayusa.org) or Ayusa at 1.888.552.9872 or by visiting the website at [www.ayusa.org](http://www.ayusa.org).



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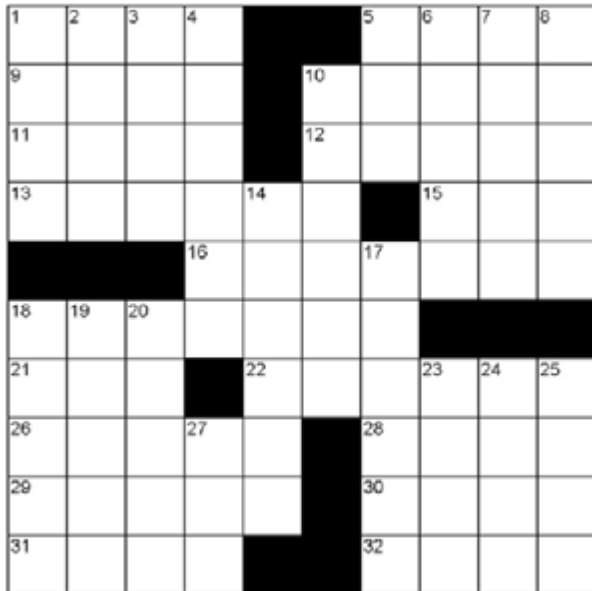


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\*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) accurate as of June 26, 2015. A minimum of \$50.00 to open account. Rate tiers are as follows: Reward Rates 2.50% APY applies to balances of \$.01-\$15,000 and 0.50% APY will be paid on balances over \$15,000 as long as qualifications are met each monthly qualification cycle. Base Rate 0.05% APY will be earned on balances if qualifications are not met. All Balances will earn 0.76% APY to 2.50% APY as long as qualifications are met each cycle. Rates may change after the account is opened. Fees may reduce earnings. Account available to Texas Residents only. ATM fee refunds are provided only if qualifications are met within qualification cycle. \*\* ATM fee refunds are awarded on next statement cycle after qualifications are met. Member FDIC



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. Syllables used in songs (2 wds.)
5. Swiss mountains
9. Waterless
10. Expression
11. Unwanted plant
12. Striped animal
13. Seasickness symptom
15. Affirmative
16. Set loose
18. Pups
21. Epoch
22. Vapors
26. Vapor
28. Singing voice
29. Japanese city
30. Not mine
31. In \_\_ (together)
32. Skewer

### DOWN

1. Worship
2. Domain
3. In \_\_ of (instead of)
4. Totals (2 wds.)
5. Wood chopper
6. African country
7. Tiny skin holes
8. Hit
10. Rhododendron
14. Mystery
17. School writings
18. Spanish coins
19. Salaam
20. Encomium
23. Pig food
24. Decorative needle case
25. Classify
27. American Kennel Club (abbr.)

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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - [Facebook.com/PeelInc](https://www.facebook.com/PeelInc).

DUE: October 31<sup>st</sup>

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first name, last initial)

Age: \_\_\_\_\_



CC

# TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master  
Professional  
Fernando Velasco

## How to Hit a Two-Handed Backhand Groundstroke



### How to Hit a Two-Handed Backhand Groundstroke

In last month's newsletter, I gave tips on how to execute a Forehand Groundstroke. In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute a two-handed backhand for a right hander. Kim Cousins, Member at the Grey Rock Tennis Club in Austin, is showing the

proper stroke.

Step 1: Ready position: Kim's body is facing the net and both of her hands are on the handle of the racket. Her left hand is not overlapping the right hand and it is gripping the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Her feet are shoulder width apart and her body is in good balance.

Step 2: Back swing: Once Kim makes the decision to hit on the left side, her shoulders are taking the racket back before the ball bounces. Notice the slight change of her grip on the right hand toward the top of the handle (continental grip). Her upper body has turned and is ready to take the right foot forward. Her eyes are still focused on the incoming ball.

Step 3: Point of Contact: Kim's eyes now shift toward the point of contact which should be in front of her right foot. Her right hand is still slightly relaxed, but her left hand is doing most of the work

*(Continued on Page 29)*

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**Chad Goldwasser.**

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(Continued from Page 28)

at the point of impact. Her racket has made contact with the ball and her weight has shifted toward the point of contact. Her focus is to keep her right shoulder turned and not to open her left hip too early. Her right knee is slightly bent with will allow for more flexibility and power on the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once her racket has made contact with the ball, her arms are extend out toward the target selected. Her elbows now are bent and the head of the racket is wrapping around her left shoulder.

Look for next Issue: The One-Backhand Groundstroke

Ask the Pro:

Also, beginning with this issue I will answer e-mails that players are sending me with questions regarding tennis. If you wish to seek my advice, please sent me your question/concern/problem to: [Fernando\\_Velasco@GreyRockTennis.com](mailto:Fernando_Velasco@GreyRockTennis.com)

Question: I stared to play tennis again and my arm and elbow are hurting. Can you give me some advice?

Response: The first thing I suggest is checking your racket. Strings may be dead, and/or racket be too old, especially if it was stored in the garage or an attic. "Dead" strings and frames are the first cause of arm and elbow pain. Many local tennis centers have demo rackets

available for you to try. The new and more advanced rackets are larger and lighter than previous models.

Second, I suggest starting slowly to retrain your strokes. Try to just drop and hit balls without much pace to get the confidence and consistency of getting the balls over the net by creating a nice arch on top of the net and land before the baseline.

Third, I suggest joining some group lessons and seek the advice of a certified tennis professional. They will give you tips on how to get you into playing tennis again without pain.



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*Personal Classifieds* (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Fairfield residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail [fairfieldgazette@peelinc.com](mailto:fairfieldgazette@peelinc.com)



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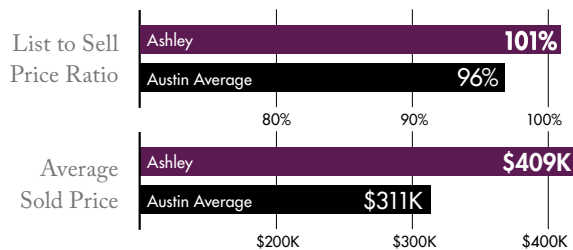
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Circle C Ranch by Neighborhood	6 Months Sold History (03/2015 - 08/2015)						Current Market	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE					TOTAL	
	Homes Sold	Square Feet	Price / Sq. Foot	Sold Price \$K	Year Built	Days On Market	Available	Pending Sale
Circle C Central	37	2,814	\$ 149	\$ 420	1993	17	15	4
North	12	1,971	\$ 177	\$ 350	1996	21	3	1
On The Park	8	3,390	\$ 148	\$ 502	1997	53	1	0
Wildflower	16	2,168	\$ 167	\$ 361	2001	14	5	2
Park West	7	2,318	\$ 176	\$ 407	2001	13	1	0
Vintage Place	8	3,223	\$ 142	\$ 458	2001	39	1	0
Hielscher	20	3,096	\$ 159	\$ 492	2003	17	4	1
West	23	3,428	\$ 150	\$ 514	2005	35	6	0
Park Place	10	2,385	\$ 174	\$ 414	2005	11	0	1
Muirfield	5	3,414	\$ 167	\$ 569	2006	33	4	0
Enclave 1&2	2	2,953	\$ 163	\$ 482	2011	70	0	1
Lacrosse	3	2,954	\$ 146	\$ 431	2007	48	1	1
Alta Mira	16	3,103	\$ 150	\$ 466	2008	18	1	2
Fairway Estates	5	4,127	\$ 164	\$ 676	2011	116	1	0
Enclave Estates	2	3,820	\$ 142	\$ 541	2011	50	1	0
Avana & Cornerstone	30	2,832	\$ 173	\$ 489	2014	155	21	15
Barstow Village & Court	1	3,128	\$ 145	\$ 452	2013	45	0	0
Greyrock Ridge	11	2,461	\$ 172	\$ 424	2015	85	16	3
<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>2,876</b>	<b>\$ 160</b>	<b>\$ 460</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>% Change Mo / Mo</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>-42%</b>
<b>% Change Yr / Yr</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>111%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>7%</b>

Market Report data was obtained from the Austin Multiple Listing Service (MLS) on 09/04/2015. Texas License # 513586.

In some cases, new construction and FRBO homes are not included in the MLS data and therefore are not represented. Data is deemed accurate but not guaranteed.

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