

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2017

CIRCLE C

Community Newsletter

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE CIRCLE C RANCH HOA

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HOMES**

*Based on 2015-2016 ABOR data

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CCHOA NUMBERS

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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
Spectrum Management 512-834-3900
Park West
Goodwin Management..... Marilyn Childress 512-502-7509
Muirfield
Real Manage..... Tom Ellis, 866-473-2573

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kim Ackermann – President
Natalie Placer McClure – Vice President
Russ Hodes – Treasurer
James Moseley – Secretary
Jason Bram, Steve Urban, & Dan Vavasour – Board Members
Contact the Board atdirectors@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 Maintenance 311
Schools
Clayton Elementary 512-841-9200
Kiker Elementary 512-414-2584
Mills Elementary 512-841-2400
Cowan Elementary 512-841-2700
Bailey Middle..... 512-414-4990
Gorzycki Middle School..... 512-841-8600
Bowie High School 512-414-5247

UTILITY PROVIDERS

Electric Pedernales Elec. 512-219-2602
City of Austin. 512-494-9400
Gas Texas State Gas 800-700-2443
Water City of Austin 512-972-1000
MidTex Water Company 866-654-7992
Solid Waste City of Austin 512-974-1945
Post Office Oak Hill Station 800-275-8777

ANNOUNCEMENTS | WHAT'S HAPPENING

IMPORTANT DATES

Happy Hour with Hello Nabr
Friday January 13th (@ Community Center)

Circle C Aquatics Polar Plunge
Saturday January 28th

December/January Combined Board Meeting
Tuesday January 31st

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PARTY RECAP

This year Mother Nature modified the Children's Holiday Party on Saturday December 3rd; as the weather was not suitable for outdoor entertainment. We were still able to provide some fun photo opportunities, including pictures with Santa and continue collecting toys for Partnerships for Children's Holiday Wishes program! Thank you to everyone who donated to this wonderful cause.



A special shout out to Sarah Jordan from Miles of Smiles Photography for capturing magic with the kiddos and Santa. Be sure to download your free Santa photos from www.milesofsmilesphotography.com; they will be available until **January 31st!** (See page 9) Thank you so much to Carmen and Tyrell from the Child Development Center who generously donated their time and hard work!

A GREAT TIME AT THE ADULT HOLIDAY & CASINO PARTY!

The Adult Holiday & Casino Party on Friday December 9th was fantastic! From the delicious food provided by Circle C Catering to the casino tables and photo booth, it is safe to say the night was enjoyed by all. Thank you for joining us!

We also wanted to give a HUGE shout out to all the local businesses that donated awesome door prizes and helped make this event a success! Thank you to:

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema
Blue Bonnet Golf Course
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf
Chuy's Tex Mex
Galaxy Café
North by Northwest
Resident Marlene Bannes
Satellite Bistro & Bar
Spero Rehab
Twin Liquors
Waterloo Ice House
Westgate Lanes Bowling
Wildflower Center & Wildflower Center Café



ANNUAL MEETING & BOARD ELECTION

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the two upcoming open board seats through **Friday January 13th, 2017**. You can download a Candidate Questionnaire from the News & Announcements page on our website at www.circlecranch.info, under the Stay Connected tab. The nominating Committee will host a Candidate Forum on **Wednesday February 8th, 2017**.

The Annual Meeting and Election will be held on Wednesday March 8th, 2017 at the Circle C Community Center (7817 La Crosse Avenue). Your ballot and proxy will be printed on the back side of the first 2017 CCHOA dues assessment invoice (which will be mailed Feb. 1st and due Mar. 1st).

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

The 2016 Annual Report to the membership from the Board of Directors will be printed in the March 2017 newsletter. A copy will also be posted on our website and available in the HOA office during the month of March 2017.

ELECTRONIC VOTING

The Circle C Ranch HOA Board is pleased to offer electronic voting this year. Those who have provided email addresses will receive an email invitation to vote; for those who have not provided email addresses, please visit the Circle C Ranch website and click on the "Vote Here" button. You will enter your registration code which is located on your Semi-Annual Billing Statement.



You will still be able to return your 2017 Board of Directors Election Ballot and Proxy which is located on the back of your Semi-Annual Statement that you may return with your semi-annual assessment by **March 1, 2017**. Otherwise you may attend the annual meeting on **Wednesday, March 8, 2017** and vote at the meeting, or turn your ballot or proxy into the CCHOA office (7817 La Crosse Avenue) by **5:00pm on March 6, 2017**. Replacement absentee ballots and/or proxies are available by calling the CCHOA office at 512-288-8663.



HOLIDAY LIGHTS

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



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Pool Hours

Swim Center

5919 La Crosse Avenue

January 3rd – March 10th, 2017

The Swim Center is open for lap swimming only; the recreational areas will not be accessible. The Avana and Community Center pools are closed for the season.

Monday – Friday

6:00am-10:00am & 4:00pm-7:30pm

Saturday

8:00am-11:00am

Sunday

CLOSED

JOIN US FOR THE POLAR PLUNGE!

Come join the Circle C Seals, the Circle C Select Swim Team and the Circle C Aquatics staff for the annual Polar Plunge on Saturday January 28th at 10am! There will be hot chocolate to drink and games to play! This is a great time to learn about both awesome swim teams and all the programs offered with Circle C Aquatics. For more information about the Polar Plunge, please email Amanda at coordinator@ccswim.net.

MASTERS SWIM, WHAT A WORKOUT!

If the Masters swimmers can brave the cold, so can you! Come swim with us in the heated pool and let Coach Erin get you into the best swim shape you've ever been in. Her workouts are full of endurance building sets that get your heart pumping and build those muscles so you can be the healthiest you can be! Come and try 2 practices for free, we'll see you then!

CONTACT US

For more information about Circle C Aquatics programs, email Amanda at coordinator@ccswim.net.

PRIVATE SWIM LESSONS

Private lessons, in the winter? Yes! Circle C offers private lessons year round for all swimming abilities. We have morning and afternoon slots available. Have a swimmer who needs to work on dives or do you need some help with some stroke technique? Sign up for private lessons today!



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Chad Goldwasser, Broker
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Top 50 Worldwide by Wall Street Journal
Ranked #1 Agent Worldwide by KW Realty



6500 Scenic Cove



6604 Oasis Drive



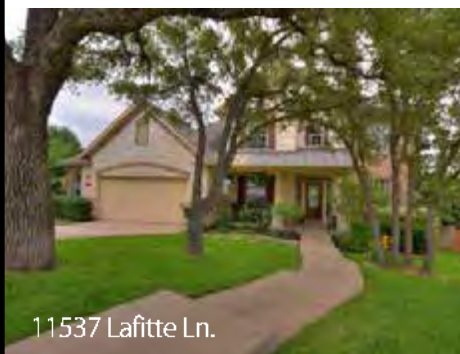
6360 Tasajillo Trail



6608 Hillside Terrace Dr.



10605 California Cove



11537 Lafitte Ln.

CIRCLE C HOMES

There were 45 homes sold in the Circle C neighborhoods during the month of October 2016. Average days on market was approximately 22 days. Let us get you sold in less!

Around Circle C

COVER PHOTO

This month's cover photo was taken at the
Circle C Metro Park by Janelle Barsotti



HOUSE WHERE SAM HOUSTON SLEPT VISITED BY CIRCLE C SENIOR MEN

The Circle C Senior Men's Group recently visited the home where Sam Houston slept in 1857 while campaigning for governor of Texas. The home is in Seguin and is owned by George and Nancy Lowe who are residents of Circle C. George has been a member of the men's group for several years and graciously invited members and their wives for a visit. He also arranged for Mike Cox, Texas historian and author, to tell the story of the home and how Sam Houston came to spend the night. The following article written by Mike appeared on his TexasEscapes.com online Texas history magazine.

Texas belonged to Spain during the administration of the first president of the United States, so what is now the Lone Star State has no quaint inns or taverns with markers noting that "George Washington slept here."

On the other hand, the first president of the Republic of Texas laid his head down in numerous places across the portion of Texas that was populated during his lifetime. One of the communities that can claim that "Sam Houston slept here" is Seguin, where the hero of San Jacinto passed a night in 1857. He stayed in one of that town's oldest structures.

Not only is the house significant because of that, it is an example of the rarest form of Texas architecture — a wooden house or building constructed prior to the 1840s. Of course, 200-plus-year-old structures are no big deal in the Northeast or other earlier-settled areas of the nation, but in the Lone Star State wooden construction did not begin until the start of Anglo settlement in the second and third decades of the 19th century. Before then, what little construction that occurred usually was stone or adobe.

Seguin's "Sam Houston slept here" home stands not far from downtown. It went up in 1838, only two years after the Alamo. Known variously as the Holloman House, Elm Grove and the Elder House, it's located near a spring-fed creek flowing into the Guadalupe River.

By all rights, the place should be known as the French House, or at least the French-Holloman House. That's because the man who built it was Ezekiel "French" Smith, president of the company formed in 1838 to sell lots and develop a town on the banks of Walnut Branch. The settlement of that community marked the beginning of Seguin. While French ranks as an important historical figure for Seguin, his brother Erastus is far better known today by this nickname, Deaf. He was one of Houston's most effective scouts during the run-up to the Battle of San Jacinto during the Texas Revolution.

The house's present owners, retired Austin heart doctor George Lowe and wife Nancy know their now-sizable home started out as a four-room oak log cabin with a dogtrot (breezeway) between each of the two-room halves. The timber used was a foot thick. Part of a stone wall that once surrounded the then village of Seguin to protect it from Indians still stands on their property, the only remaining remnant of the Republic of Texas-era enclosure.

French Smith occupied the house only a couple of years before selling it to George B. Holloman, whose heirs would retain the property off-and-on for more than a century. Holloman came to Seguin from Virginia with his brother in 1845 and acquired the house not long afterward.

(Continued on Page 10)

FREE GIFT* for
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* while supplies last

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Santa Photos from Children's Holiday Party Available for Download

Submitted by Sarah Jordan with Miles of Smiles Photography

I loved working with Santa and all of the adorable Circle C kids again this year! What a fun event. Here are details about where to find and download your image(s) for FREE. The images are available through January 31st, 2017. Enjoy! To find your images visit www.milesofsmilesphotography.com

and look under the "Announcements" section on that home page. There will be instructions and a link that will take you to the Santa photos.

Please be sure to download them before Tuesday January 31st, 2017; they will not be available after that date!



Around Circle C

(Continued from Page 8)

In today's vernacular, Hollomon redid the place, transforming it from a frontier-style log cabin to a fine ante-bellum house. He hired Seguin's John Esten Park, a chemist who had developed a type of concrete (then called limecrete) eventually used in the construction of 90 early houses in the town, to add three additional rooms and a kitchen. Holloman also refurbished the interior with cypress, oak and walnut. Finally, he built a front porch extending along the length of the house.

That's how the house looked in 1857 when Houston spent the night as Holloman's guest. The former president of the late Republic of Texas, after 13 years as a U.S. senator, had come home to Texas to run for governor and visited Houston during his campaign.

Houston traveled more than 1,000 miles by buggy, delivering stump speeches when public speaking and newspaper reports were the only way a political candidate had of getting his message to the people. Standing beneath a large oak tree that still shades the Holloman house property, Houston addressed the residents of Seguin in July 1857. That night, he stayed with the Hollomans, sleeping in a four-poster bed built by a Seguin craftsman.

"Houston was so impressed by the bed that after he got elected, he had the same cabinet maker build him a larger version that he moved into the Governor's Mansion," Nancy Lowe said.

Though whether the original bed is still around is unclear, it remained in the Holloman family until as late as 1964, when Sue Flanagan mentioned it in her book, "Sam Houston's Texas." At that time, it belonged to T.H. Holloman, George Holloman's grandson. The bed Houston had made for the Governor's Mansion is still there.

In the 1880s and again in the 1920s, the Holloman house saw additional remodeling, she said. Around 1883, she continued, it got indoor plumbing.

The Holloman house may have been standing for a long time, but it's had a couple of close calls. For a time in the late 1950s and early 1960s, it stood empty and in ill repair, ripe for vandalism or fire. Then, after changing hands and undergoing extensive refurbishing, in the early 2000s a strong storm sent one of the ancient oak trees crashing down on the house.

That damage having been repaired by the Elder family, when Dr. Lowe and his wife bought the house and surrounding acreage, they also had some restoration work done. The only thing missing in this

beautiful property by the Guadalupe River is a sign out front declaring "Sam Houston slept here in 1857."

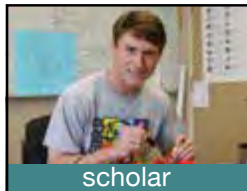
The Circle C Senior Men's Group meets every Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the Waterloo restaurant on Escarpment for breakfast and discussion of all things important. Senior men who live in Circle C are invited to join the group for lively discussion, friendship, retiree networking, and occasional day trips to explore our city and central Texas. If you are interested in joining the group, come to the Wednesday morning breakfast or contact A. E. Martin (aemartin639@gmail.com or 512-940-1434) for questions.



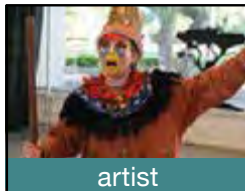
*George Lowe and Circle C Men's Group's Wives Tour
Historic Texas Home*



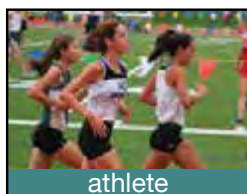
*Nancy Lowe and Beverly Cox Discuss Features of Home
Where Sam Houston Slept*



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



Thank you to all of our current and past Circle C Ranch clients and the surrounding Austin communities for enabling the Squires Team to hit their goals and surpass their career milestones. The Squires family has been investing in Austin real estate and land since the 60's, but it wasn't until 1977 that we began our real estate careers in Austin. Gary Keller and Joe Williams invited John and Martha Squires to join their firm in 1986 and The Squires Team has been with Keller Williams Realty ever since. We've been working 5-7 days per week for the last 30+ years to insure our clients receive the best real estate fiduciary representation available. We take our financial responsibilities to our clients very seriously and as long as they continue to be thrilled, so are we. Through years of experience, farming the neighborhood and hard work we have just surpassed another goal of selling over 500 homes in the Circle C Ranch neighborhood alone and over 1000 homes city-wide in Austin. Real estate is a practice and through the years we've implemented a system that works very well for our client's home-selling successes. Please allow us to help you with any real estate needs you may have. Below are 2 more homes we've just brought to market. Have a great New Year and please feel free to call any time with questions about the market and timing.

Call John Squires' "Sell" phone at (512) 970-1970.

#1 Agent in Circle C Ranch history with 500+/- homes **"SOLD!"** in Circle C Ranch alone and over 1000 total home sales in the greater Austin area. Austin Business Journal **"TOP 50"** agent 8 times. #10 agent in 2014. #19 in 2015.

FLEXIBLE COMMISSIONS!!

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

John Squires will professionally consult, stage, renovate, update, upgrade and landscape your home (if needed) to sell for the maximum price the market will bear at no additional fee ever! Call John Squires directly any time to speak with him or set an appointment. John works **7** days per week for your convenience and he answers his phone!

(512) 970-1970



11209 Bastogne Loop **John's new listing~ "JUST LISTED!"** Beautiful 1.5 story home with 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths and a separate office space! Big game room up with 1 bedroom and 1 full bath up! Nice, shady yard backing to permanent greenbelt too! Gated area across from Clayton. Completely re-painted, new wood floors and new carpet throughout the home! Listed at **\$489,000.!**



2603 Fentonridge Drive **"JUST LISTED!" John's listing** Gorgeous \$45,000. remodel in the heart of original Cherry Creek. New, low-E windows, flooring, stainless appliances, deck, lights, fans, hardware, entire yard is re-sodded, granite in kitchen and all bathrooms and painted throughout! Perfect for grandparents. **\$319,000.!**



Call John Squires on his “sell” phone to list and sell your house today at (512) 970-1970.

SquiresTeam.com



No one works harder or smarter than John Squires to help you list and sell your valuable Circle C Ranch or Austin real estate. What we do for you:

- 1) An honest and accurate “maximum seller net” pricing strategy for your home. We won’t exaggerate price just to get the listing.
- 2) Provide a professional staging consultation for you at no cost.
- 3) Offer professional home renovation services to have your home show at it’s best to garner top dollar.
- 4) Offer professional landscape services from minor curb appeal to entire yard transformations.
- 5) Professional photography to provide the cleanest sharpest pictures available for internet and flyer advertising.
- 6) Provide a list of different strategies/facets to advertise your home for maximum marketing exposure to the internet as quickly and completely as possible.
- 7) Offer generous “move-up and move-down” with negotiable commission plans to fit every family’s needs.
- 8) You will have my personal Sell Phone to contact me at (512) 970-1970 so there is no “big team” confusion, mixed signals or missed deadlines. I answer the phone 7 days per week and/or will call you back immediately at my first opportunity and you will *never* be handed off to an assistant. **You will have only 1 number to call** for everything through the entire home selling process.
- 9) Insure a smooth, successful transaction start to finish.
- 10) Negotiate moving schedules/timing/leasebacks to insure no hassles or disrupted transitions.

Below are the 4 latest homes in Circle C Ranch and 1 home in Lakeway John Squires has gotten under contract in the last 3 weeks. Call him for further info on any property!



Call John Squires directly on his sell phone at (512) 970-1970 for a free, no obligation appointment to find the value of your home or be professionally represented in the purchase of any real estate in Texas. Thanks!



5712 Trelawney **John’s listing “UNDER CONTRACT!”**
John’s listing Stunning Newmark 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath close to Kiker and pool! Quiet, private street lined with trees. Upgraded and updated house with private yard—just a showplace. Listed at **\$419,000.**



6501 Goodall Court ~ **John’s buyer. “UNDER CONTRACT!”** Stunning Streetman Barton 1 on secluded cul de sac street in the heart of Circle C Hielscher. Model home floorplan with high ceilings, 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, a game room and 2 office spaces! 3 A/C’s! Listed at **\$549,000.**



6601 Hansa Drive~**John’s listing. “UNDER CONTRACT!”** Gorgeous, 1/3rd-acre +/- home-site with in-ground pool and hot tub, wood floors and 3-car garage! Listed at **\$519,000.**



11220 South Bay Lane **John’s new listing ~ “UNDER CONTRACT!!”** Beautiful white stone home with 5 bedrooms, 3 baths and a private back yard. The original owner/empty nester has decided to move to a smaller home and allow the new owner to come and make this home their own with their own custom décor. Listed at **\$369,000.** The home sold in two weeks after 15 viewings!



16 Tournay Lane~ **John’s Buyer. “JUST SOLD!!”** Stunning retirement condo in Lakeway John found for his buyer utilizing his “move-down” plan. John sold their large home on Van Winkle in Circle C earlier this year and then found this gem of a property in “The Hills of Lakeway”. Listed at **\$450,000.**



TEXAS A&M AgriLIFE **FUNGUS GNATS**

Fungus gnats often become a problem in homes due to an overwatering problem. Since this time of year can bring poinsettias or other plants into the home, fungus gnats are a pest to watch for.

Fungus gnat adults are small, black, long-legged flies with long antennae. Most adults are about 1/16 an inch but some can get up to 1/2 an inch. They are weak fliers and generally remain near potted plants, growing media, foliage or leaf litter.

Larvae, or immatures, have a black head capsule and long whitish body without legs. They feed on organic matter such as mulch, compost, grass clippings, plant roots and fungi. When conditions are very moist, fungus gnat larvae can become abundant and may leave slime trails on media that looks similar to trails left by snails or slugs.

While these gnats are a nuisance they are fairly easy to manage.

Indoors, it is a good idea to use yellow sticky cards as a monitoring tool. Potato pieces may also be used as a monitoring tool for fungus gnats. To do this, imbed a peeled potato cube into media and inspect the underside of the potato and the media directly below it twice a week for fungus gnat larvae.

To manage fungus gnat populations, work on reducing excessively moist conditions. Avoid overwatering and make sure that there is good drainage. The surface of container soil should be allowed to dry before watering again.

If using compost, make sure that items have been fully composted. Compost piles should be turned regularly and kept away from doors or windows. Inspect all doors, windows, vents and screens for a good seal to reduce the number of gnats that may enter a structure.

Bacillus thuringiensis var. *israelensis* or the nematode *Steinernema feltiae* can be applied in containers to control larvae. Either spray on the media or apply as a soil drench. Biologicals work best when they are applied early in an infestation. If a population is already large, they may not provide the control desired.

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

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NEW YEAR TRIVIA

"Happy New Year!" That greeting will be said and heard for at least the first couple of weeks as a new year gets under way. But the day celebrated as New Year's Day in modern America was not always January 1.

ANCIENT NEW YEARS: The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring). The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary. The Babylonian New Year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison. The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun. In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year.

But changes continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the New Year.

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS: Traditions of the season include the making of New Year's resolutions. That tradition also dates back to the early Babylonians. Popular modern resolutions might include the promise to lose weight or quit smoking. The early Babylonian's most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment. The tradition of using a baby to signify the new year was begun in Greece around 600 BC. It was their tradition at that time to celebrate their God of Wine, Dionysus, by parading a baby in a basket, representing the annual rebirth of that God as the spirit of fertility. Early Egyptians also used a baby as a symbol of rebirth.

AULD LANG SYNE: The song, "Auld Lang Syne," is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the New Year. At least partially written by Robert Burns in the 1700's, it was first published in 1796 after Burns' death. Early variations of the song were sung prior to 1700 and inspired Burns to produce the modern rendition. An old Scotch tune, "Auld Lang Syne" literally means "old long ago," or simply, "the good old days."

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How to Keep Your New Year's Resolutions

The New Year has arrived, and you have already made your resolutions. Now, how to stick to your plan?

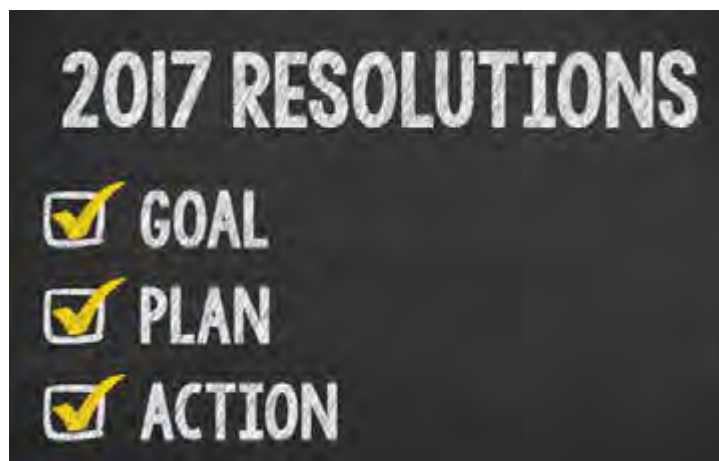
Steps:

1. Put it all on paper. Write your resolutions down, and keep them in an accessible place as reminders - tape them to your mirror, write them in a journal or put them on your refrigerator door.
2. Mark your calendar. Set deadlines for yourself to tackle each step toward reaching your goal, one at a time.
3. Start as soon as possible. Purchase the necessary equipment or literature; call now and set up an appointment with your dentist, your doctor, your trainer, your accountant....
4. Find a role model. Is there anyone who has succeeded in fulfilling an ambition like yours? Look to this person as a reminder that it is possible to achieve your goal.
5. Check your progress regularly, and give yourself an occasional reward for your efforts. Make sure the reward isn't contrary to your resolution.

6. Inform friends and family of your goals, and recruit them to regularly remind and support you in your endeavors.

Tip:

- Don't sweat the setbacks; persistence is the key.

An advertisement for Baylor Scott & White Clinics. The top half features the word "CLINICS" in large, bold, blue and orange letters, with each letter inside a location pin shape. Below this, a compass rose indicates North, South, East, and West. The text "Your care is right around the corner." is written in blue and orange. Below that, a paragraph states: "You'll find Baylor Scott & White Health primary care clinics everywhere you look. Each of our clinics is part of a large network of physicians, specialists and advanced technology. This gives you the care you need, when you need it." Another line of text says: "Your care is close to home at one of our primary care clinics." The bottom left section, highlighted in orange, says "Now Open" and "Baylor Scott & White Clinic - Austin Circle C", followed by the address "5000 W. Slaughter Lane, Bldg. 6, Ste. 100, Austin, TX 78749" and the phone number "For appointments, call 512.291.8002". The bottom right section features the Baylor Scott & White Health logo and the text "For more locations near you, visit us online at: ATX.BSWHealth.com".

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**ATM fee refunds are awarded on next statement cycle after qualifications are met.

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NATUREWATCH THE PRESERVES AROUND US

by Jim and Lynne Weber

One of the main reasons Austin is such a wonderful place to live is because it is interlaced with a patchwork of preserves, which together comprise the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve (BCP) System. In 1992, voters in the City of Austin passed Proposition 10, approving \$22M in bonds for the sole purpose of acquiring and improving lands to protect air and water quality, conserve endangered species, and provide open space for passive public use. Jointly owned and managed by the City of Austin, Travis County, the Lower Colorado River Authority, the Nature Conservancy, the Travis Audubon Society, and private landowners, the BCP's ultimate goal is to set aside 30,428 acres that contribute to the quality of all life here in Austin.

A multi-agency conservation effort that operates under a regional permit issued under the Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the BCP consists of several tracts of land in western Travis County. It is important to note that a 'preserve' is different than a 'park', and is set aside for the purpose of maintaining a natural state rather than developed for recreational use. The BCP protects prime habitat for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler, a bird species that is found only to breed within Central Texas' specialized mix of native, mature Ashe Juniper (often incorrectly called 'cedar') and stands of Live, Spanish, and Shin oak trees. This type of mixed oak-juniper woodland grows mainly on



The endangered Black-capped Vireo.

their entire existence underground in karst formations. These karst features, such as caves, sinkholes, cracks, and crevices, were formed by the dissolution of calcium carbonate in limestone bedrock by mildly acidic groundwater. Over 70 other rare plant and animal species also exist on the preserves, making this region one of the most biologically diverse areas in the country. As such, Central Texas is happily home to more habitat conservation plans than any other region in the United States.

These wild and beautiful areas require management plans in order for them to remain pristine habitats. This includes establishment of secure boundaries and rules for access control, maintenance of appropriate trails, species monitoring, habitat enhancement, and – last but not least – public education and outreach to promote good neighbor relations. As Austin residents, we can do our part to become stewards of these unique habitats. While in the preserve system, we can stay on marked trails, travel only on foot, and “take only photographs, leave only footprints.” In our neighborhoods, especially those that border preserve tracts, we can landscape with native plants, remove invasive plants, eliminate pesticide use, be responsible pet owners, practice water conservation, and always respect preserve boundaries.

Most importantly, we can all minimize further negative impacts on the fragile habitat that surrounds our neighborhoods by caring for the preserves through volunteering. Some of the activities you can become involved with in the preserve system include long-term habitat restoration, gathering and planting native seeds, removing non-native invasive plants, leading guided hikes, and learning about and sharing your knowledge of the native plants and animals that make this such a special place to live. For more information, visit the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve website at: www.austintexas.gov/bcp.

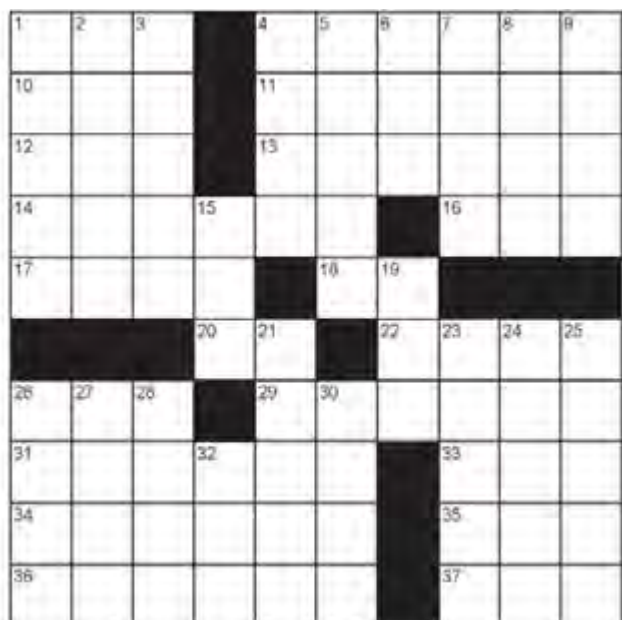
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The endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler.

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ACROSS

1. However
4. Brand of soda
10. Environmental protection agency (abbr)
11. Large zoo animals
12. Revolutions per minute
13. Timely (2 wds.)
14. Careen
16. BB association
17. Totals
18. We
20. Disc jockey (abbr.)
22. ___ the hatchet, forgive
26. Move up and down
29. Famous female pilot Earhart
31. For each one
33. Teaspoon (abbr.)
34. What a pastor gives
35. Representative
36. Scours
37. Whichever

DOWN

1. Baseball player Yogi
2. Elevated
3. Broken in
4. Loafer
5. Eastern religion
6. Liable
7. Gyrate
8. Burial chamber
9. At sea
15. Drug
19. Compass point
21. Israel's former name
23. Radical
24. Got out of bed
25. Talky
26. Singing voice
27. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
28. Energy
30. Not women's
32. Flightless bird

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TENNIS TIPS

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How to execute The Forehand Lob



In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit the forehand groundstroke, the two-handed backhand, the one-handed backhand, the forehand volley, the two-handed backhand volley, the serve, the forehand half-volley, the one-handed backhand volley, the overhead “smash”, the forehand service return, the backhand service return, the forehand high volley approach shot, the two-handed high volley approach shot and the one-handed high volley approach shot.

In this issue, I will offer instructions on how to execute the Forehand Lob. This shot is used when a player is forced to retrieve a ball that is hit deep and the opponent is either charging to the net or staying far back. The player hitting the lob is looking for “air time” to regain balance and court space. This ball should be hit high enough so the players at the net cannot reach and “slam” the ball down, or force the opponent at the base line to retrieve back. In the illustrations, “Suzie” Foster, Member of the Polo Tennis and Fitness Club, shows the proper technique to execute this stroke.

Step 1: The Back Swing: When Suzie is forced deep into the court and realizes that she must hit a defensive lob, she pivots to the right and gets her racket back early. Notice that the head of the racket is

low and her left arm is up in front to keep her balance. Her eyes are focused on the path of the ball and her weight is in her right foot.

Step 2: The Point of Contact: Suzie is now ready to hit the ball. Her eyes are now on the point of contact and the face of the racket is tilted at a 45-degree angle to create height and depth on her lob. Her goal is to keep her head still and not start looking up to her opponent or to the other side of the court.

Step 3: The Follow Through: The success of a deep lob is the follow through. Suzie’s wrist is still “laid back” and her shoulder is lifting the racket above her head. Her right arm is still in front of her to allow maximum balance.

Step 4: The Shuffle Back: Once Suzie finishes the stroke, her goal is to either move forward toward the net to hit an overhead, or to shuffle back to the middle of the court to drive the next ball back to the opponent.

*Look in the next Newsletter for:
How to execute
“The Two-Handed Backhand Lob”*

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