

The Gazette

JUNE 2020
VOLUME 13 ISSUE 6



A BIRD THAT SAYS ITS NAME

By Cheryl Conley,
TWRC Wildlife Center

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EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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Fire.....	911
Ambulance	911
Sheriff – Non-Emergency	512-974-0845

SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton	512-841-9200
Kiker.....	512-414-2584
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Patton	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small.....	512-841-6700
Gorzycki	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

UTILITIES

Water/Wastewater	
City of Austin.....	512-972-0101
City of Austin (billing)	512-494-9400
Emergency	512-972-1000
Texas State Gas	
Customer Service	1-800-700-2443
Gas related emergency.....	1-800-959-5325
Pedernales Electric Cooperative	
New service, billing	512-219-2602
Problems	512-219-2628
ATT/SBC Telephone	
New Service	1-800-288-2020
Repair	1-800-246-8464
Billing	1-800-288-2020
Allied Waste	512-247-5647
Time Warner Cable.....	512-485-5555

OTHER NUMBERS

Oak Hill Postal Station.....	1-800-275-8777
City of Austin	
Dead Animal Collection.....	512-494-9400
Abandoned/Disabled Vehicles	512-974-8119
Stop Sign Missing/Damaged	512-974-2000
Street Light Outage (report pole#).....	512-505-7617

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(Continued from Cover)

A few years ago, when I took my dog out for her last potty of the night, I heard the most beautiful bird singing. Just a few seconds later, another bird responded with the same beautiful song. I had no idea what species it was but after some research I learned it was a whippoorwill. The whippoorwill actually got its name because of its song—three syllables with emphasis on the first and last syllables.

Whippoorwills are nocturnal. They feed exclusively on insects and start foraging 30 minutes after sunset and continue until it's too dark to see. They continue their foraging at first light and stop just before sunrise. If the moon is bright, they may hunt all night. They have large mouths and can swallow insects up to 2 inches long.

The most interesting fact about the whippoorwill is that they don't build a nest. The female will lay her eggs on the ground and cover with dead leaves or debris. Often times she'll find a spot on the north or northeast side of a shrub or plant so she's shaded during the heat of the day. Mom is responsible for incubating the eggs during the day and both Mom and Dad share the duty at night. Amazingly, whippoorwills time their breeding patterns to coincide with the lunar cycles so that the eggs hatch when there is at least a half moon. It is believed that the extra light helps in caring for her young. Within 24 hours of hatching, the baby birds instinctively move apart. The parents will also push the babies to keep them apart. It is thought that this is done to make it harder for predators to see them. The male stands guard over the nest and will hiss and spread his wings if he thinks there is a predator nearby. Another tactic used to protect the young is he will fake an injury away from the babies to draw attention away from them. While he draws the predator away from the young, the babies scatter and freeze.

At about 8 days, the down-covered babies molt and the female leaves them in the care of the male. If conditions are right, the female will often find a spot nearby and lay 2 more eggs.

TWRC Wildlife Center cares for injured, orphaned and displaced wildlife brought to us by the public. Due to the Corona Virus, we've had to alter our admission procedures. If you find an animal needing help, please call us. We will advise you on how to care for the animal until you can bring it to us: 713.468.8972

Lettuce Recycle!

by Dena Houston

QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS – PART 1

Every week, I receive questions about recycling. I always answer each question personally and then try to include the question and answer in Lettuce Recycle. If any reader has any recycling questions or comments, please send them to recycling@hpwbana.org. Below are some of the questions (and the answers) I have received in the last year.

WHAT DO I DO WITH CARDBOARD BOXES THAT WON'T FIT INTO MY BLUE BIN? Flatten them, tie them up, and set them next to your blue bin. The driver of the recycling truck might not pick them up when he services your blue bin, but he will call a truck to come get them that day.

IF I DON'T KNOW IF SOMETHING CAN BE PUT INTO THE BLUE OR GREEN BINS, SHOULD I THROW IT IN ANYWAY AND LET IT BE SORTED BY THE CITY? The answer is NO! If you are unsure about whether or not something can go into either of these bins, put the items into your trash cart. Recycling contamination is very costly.

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!

WHAT DO I DO WITH PLASTIC BAGS FOR FERTILIZER, COMPOST, AND SOIL? These bags are treated with special polymers to make them hold more weight. Many of them also contain materials

that are considered contaminated, e.g., Dillo Dirt. Therefore, they cannot be recycled at the plastic collection bins at the grocery stores or at the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center. They must go into the trash carts.

Below is a "cheat sheet" for recycling that I have created to provide a basic understanding of what can and cannot go into the blue curbside bin. I hope this helps.

RECYCLING CHEAT SHEET FOR THE BLUE BIN

Nothing smaller than a credit card.

No mixed materials (no plastic soap pump with metal spring, no candy wrappers, no orange juice cartons, no paper coffee cups).

No contaminated paper products (no wet paper, even if dried out; no pizza boxes; and, no food product on paper).

Nothing that can wrap around sorting machinery or that poses a danger at the recycling facility (no plastic bags, wire coat hangers, rope, garden hoses, hypodermic needles, or aerosol cans with anything in them). Empty aerosol cans DO go into the blue bin.

Lid rules: All glass jars need to have their lids removed. Keep all plastic lids on plastic bottles and containers. All separate lids smaller than a credit card go into the trash. All separate lids larger than a credit card go into the blue bin.

*Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website:
www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do*



Wonders & Worries

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Looking for something fun to do with your family?
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For more information, contact Leslie Schulze at
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HOST AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT



In a time when life has come to a screeching halt, we begin to feel isolated and divided from the rest of our communities and the world as a whole.

Help us make 2020/2021 the #YearOfUnity!! Our goal is to help Texas recover and thrive by reconnecting with the world around us once again!

We have so many international teens from many different countries who are eager and ready to experience life in America and they dream of the host family who will choose to welcome them this fall. What better way to introduce your family to another country and culture without having to travel half way across the globe!

What is a host family?

- Minimum age requirement of 25. Must be able to pass a background check and have a stable home life.
- Hosts come in all shapes and sizes! Married, single, with / without children all kinds of families are welcome!
- With the help of a Local Coordinator, Hosts are able to choose a student who fits with their family's interests and hobbies. They can begin communicating with their student once the placement is finalized in the database!
- Hosts receive monthly contact as well as 24/7 support during their hosting experience!

- Students cover all of their own personal expenses and carry their own medical insurance.

- Students arrive about 10 days prior to school starting and they depart about 7 - 10 days after school ends. Some have signed up to come for a semester (Aug. - Jan.) and most have signed up to come for the full school year (late Aug - late May/early June)

Hosts provide students with:

- 3 shared meals a day. Students cover lunch if they choose to buy hot lunch at school.
- Students can share a bedroom with a host sibling of the same sex and within 4 years of age from each other. Student must have their own bed.
- The ability to attend American public high school. Hosts would help with transportation to extracurricular activities, within reason and based on availability.
- The love of your family! Students are to be treated as a family member and will share in household chores and daily life with the family.

Help us bounce back from isolation and 2020/2021 the YearOfUnity! If you would like to hear about our student applicants to see if we have a match for you, please contact me directly at 832-455-7881, or email me at vicki.stsfoundation@yahoo.com

BICYCLE SAFETY

Bicycling certainly has become a popular exercise option (or for some just to get out of the house) during the Covid Virus. Families and individuals were spotted within the neighborhood and on the walking/jogging/riding trails that surround us. Thus, this is a good time to remind everyone of bicycle safety, not just now...but anytime, such as riding for exercise/recreation, to school/work, etc.

EXCERPTS FROM THE USAA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Bicycling is fun, good exercise and good for the environment. You and your family can enjoy years of safe bicycle riding when you understand the risks involved and take steps to prevent accidents and injuries. Covid 19 got a lot of people out walking and others pulling their bikes out of the garage to kill the boredom of being cooped up in the house.

5 Keys to Safe Bicycling

1. Wear a bicycle helmet.
2. Be visible.
3. Stay alert.
4. Know and obey traffic laws.
5. Be predictable.

Wear a Bicycle Helmet

You should always wear a bicycle helmet. Do not assume you will be safe from injury just because you are going a short distance or riding on an unpaved surface. Many serious bicycle accidents occur on residential streets or bike paths and do not involve vehicles.

Inspect Your Bicycle

- Lift the bicycle by its seat and spin the rear wheel. It should spin freely without wobbling, slowing quickly, or touching the brake pads.
- Apply the rear brake smoothly to stop the wheel. The brake pads should touch the wheel rim evenly. When released, the brake should spring back into place.
- Lift your bicycle by the handlebars, and spin the front wheel. It should spin freely without bobbling or touching the brake pads.
- Apply the front brake smoothly to stop the wheel. The brake pads should touch the wheel rim evenly. When released, the brake should spring back into place.
- Inspect brake pads. Replace them if they become worn or cracked. They should be at equal distances from the wheel rim.
- Check the spokes on both wheels. Replace broken spokes before riding.
- Check the tire tread. There should be no worn patches.
- Make sure tires are properly inflated.
- Check your handlebars. Stand in front of your bicycle holding the wheel tightly between your knees and try to move the handlebars back and forth or up and down. They should not move.
- Lift the frame near the handlebars and turn the front wheel back and forth. It should swivel freely.
- Make sure brake levers are secure.

- Apply the brakes and try to move the bicycle forward or backward.
- Make sure the ends of the handlebars are protected.
- Make sure the seat is secure and does not move from side to side.
- Clean reflectors and headlight. Make sure they are securely attached.
- Lubricate the chain if needed.
- Take your bicycle for an annual tuneup and safety check to ensure it remains in good condition.

On the Road

When riding your bicycle on public streets, you are required by law to follow the same rules as any other vehicle driver. You also have the same rights as drivers of other vehicles.

Be Predictable

- Use hand signals to communicate your intentions to other vehicle drivers and bicyclists.
- Communicate verbally (ex: "passing on your left").
- Ride in straight line and avoid sudden swerves.

Teach Children Bicycle Safety

Is your child ready to ride? According to The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), most children are not ready to ride a two-wheeled bicycle until 5 or 6 years of age. Along with physical skills, your child must demonstrate the mental readiness and self-control for understanding and obeying safety rules.

Set Clear Rules

Children – and all bicycle riders – should always wear a bicycle helmet when riding. In addition, you should set age-appropriate limits on when, where, and how children may ride. Be prepared to take away children's riding privileges if they do not follow these rules.

Be A Good Example

Practice what you teach about bicycle safety. Be diligent about wearing a bicycle helmet, stopping at stop signs and following other important safety rules. Your children will learn more from your example than from your words. Ultimately you should be able to practice bicycle safety while having fun!



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To find out what your home is worth in today's market, call or text me. Let's set up a time, in person or virtually, to get your home sold!



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SquiresTeam.com

The homes you see on both sides of this newsletter is the Squires Team's current activity in Southwest Austin for the month of May/June, 2020.

KW
KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

Hey Southwest Austin, the market is extremely active right now, as buyers are back out in droves, placing all of our listings under contract and taking advantage of less traffic. Even with the Covid-19 pandemic, it is still "May/June" and one of the hottest selling times of the year. The Squires Team enforces and practices the strictest Covid protocol guidelines when listing homes and showing properties to buyers. If you would like to speak with John Squires to list your home for sale or help you in the purchase of your next home, please call/text him directly at **(512) 970-1970**.



John's new listing is **8402 La Plata Loop** in Lewis Mountain Ranch is **"JUST SOLD!"**. Another unbelievable opportunity to live on over 1.2 acres with un-ending views on your private greenbelt lot. The 1-story home is highly upgraded. RIGHT behind Circle C off 1826. NO CITY TAXES! (2%) You'll never leave! **\$700,000**.



Call John Squires' real estate 'sell' phone at **(512) 970-1970** at any time or text for a quick response. Thanks!



11105 Pairnoy Lane in The Arbors of Circle C Ranch is **"SOLD!"** John listed this amazing Streetman Home. Probably the largest 1-story home in Circle C. Listed at **\$799,000**.

11104 Pairnoy Lane in The Arbors of Circle C Ranch is **"SOLD!"**. The home was to be listed at **\$655,000**

9111 Ginita Lane is **"SOLD!"** John Squires listed this beautiful Scott Felder 4 bedrooms and 2 full baths on a secluded corner street in the heart of original Circle C! Rockin' at **\$485,000**.



SquiresTeam.com

kw KELLER WILLIAMS.
REALTY

"Right behind Circle C Ranch across 1826, where you are not in the City of Austin, so you have low taxes!"



8335 La Plata Loop is **"JUST LISTED!!"** Views, views, views! John has brought this amazing Lewis Mountain Ranch acreage property to market for those looking for more room and fewer restrictions. The home has been completely renovated with wood floors, complete paint, lights, fans, granite countertops, hi-end stainless, Samsung appliances, 3 brand new A/C's and more! Approximately 1.78 acres allows you to store your boat, RV and/or build additional out-buildings, work-shops, etc. right there at on your private property. Great opportunity to own to own this entertainer's home within 14 miles of downtown! Listed at **\$685,000**. Low 2.00% taxes!



6415 Mirarosa in Cornerstone of Circle C. John Squires' new listing was just listed and **"JUST SOLD!!"** in 10 days and closes approximately June 1st. Gorgeous Luederstone Standard Pacific home, loaded with wood floors and many customizations. Rain glass cabinetry w/lighting, barn wood accenting thru home, quartz counters, garage cabs! LOADED at **\$585,000**.

John Squires is the top agent in Southwest Austin and Circle C home sales over the last 23 years with over **730~** homes sold to date and **1100~** homes sold city-wide. **Only 1 number to call and John Squires answers his phone.** Move-up/down plans, flexible commissions offered. Call for a free, no-obligation market assessment on your valuable home. Only John works directly with all his clients and you will never be handed off to an assistant or another agent. 7 days or nights per week by appointment.



6509 Needham Lane in original Circle C is **"JUST SOLD!!"** John Squires just listed this beautiful Newmark Home in the heart of original Circle C Ranch. At approx. 3100 sq. ft., this home has 5 large bedrooms, 3.5 baths and a huge game room, ready for a growing family. Offered at **\$539,000**.

(512) 970-1970



John Squires donates to the 100 Club of Central Texas and The Wounded Warrior Project in support of those that protect our freedoms.