



Volume 17, Number 7

July 2020

www.circlecranch.com

President's Letter

Hello Circle C Residents,

We want you to know that the Circle C HOA is acutely aware of our members' desire for all pools to open again. We are too!

However, the Board of Directors takes the responsibilities associated with our current pandemic seriously.

COVID-19 threw a curve ball into our pool policies and lifeguard training. Our staff and lifeguards, already tasked with their normal duties of enforcing water safety procedures and pool policies (a daunting challenge in itself), must now be also trained to ensure pool patrons respect required social distancing rules, wear masks while not in the pool, adhere to the one-at-a-time restroom rule, and stay to one person per lane, among other responsibilities. These added rules are some with which some people might not agree or want to follow.

In addition, added complications related to the pandemic present themselves even in the training of lifeguards. Practicing life-saving procedures while maintaining social distancing introduces new difficulties to life-guard training, for example. The risk of COVID-19 infection from mouth-to-mouth resuscitation can also be an issue for lifeguards and their families and is an added factor for prospective lifeguards.

Most of our lifeguards are teenagers from our own neighborhood, so please understand the responsibility of policing adults for rule adherence can be intimidating. Some adults are not as receptive as others when reminded by our younger staff members to follow new rules. The pandemic social distancing requirements and new HOA rules are challenging enough for these young lifeguards and staff members. We ask that our residents respect their professionalism, training, and their full support of the HOA board of directors.

Therefore, due to newly introduced COVID-19 sanitation guidelines published by the CDC for public pools, a city-wide shortage of lifeguards, and the necessity of additional training of lifeguards and staff with added responsibilities, the Circle C HOA Board of Directors has chosen to adhere to a staggered and delayed opening of our pools this summer. Phase 1 began on June 2 and, as of this writing, we are in the process of introducing Phase 2.

Continued on Page 3

Important Dates In July

Saturday, July 4 2020

National Independence Day.

(See article in this newsletter for a little history.)

HOA offices are closed.

Wednesday, July 29, 2020

CCHOA Online Board Meeting

HOA Dues Statement Mailed in July

The 2nd semi-annual assessments are mailed the first week of July and are due on August 1st. There are three available options available for paying dues:

- Mail a check to PO Box 163541 Austin, Texas 78716
- Use Bill Pay through a trusted financial institution
- Use the "on-line payment" option on the Circle C HOA website.

NOTE: Payments will NOT be accepted at the HOA office or in the drop box outside the office. Please do not staple your check to your invoice or postdate your check. If you have a question regarding your assessment, please contact the financial office at 512-451-9901.

Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CC&R) Amendment Vote

Your ballot for the CC&R Amendment Vote is included in your 2nd semi-annual billing statement which includes two options to cast your vote, by paper ballot or electronically. You are able to cast your vote electronically through the website at www.circlecranch.com or at <https://circlecranch.ivotehoa.com/register>. You will need your "Unique Code" which can be found on your assessment statement or by calling the financial office at 512-451-9901. You can still return the CC&R Amendment Vote ballot by mail with your payment. To view the original CC&R language and the proposed CC&R changes, please visit the website at www.circlecranch.com.

Continued on Page 3

2020
PLATINUM TOP 50
TOP
500

I'm honored to be ranked
among the top 4% of
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"President's Letter" - Continued from Cover Page

We sincerely hope our residents understand that much thought and consideration has been given to these delays and stricter guidelines for the use of the Circle C pools. We have not taken these decisions lightly. Our main concerns are for the safety and health of our Circle C residents and staff.

Speaking of Circle C residents, we've noticed an influx of rocks painted with inspirational messages or images intended to bring a smile to us all. The artists seem to range in age and artistic ability, and together serve as an excellent representation of the many facets of our neighborhood.



It brings a moment of appreciation for the time that each person took to paint these rocks and place them where they will make a positive difference on someone's day. Thank you to all that help to bring a smile to others, and please thank your children as well

With much gratitude,
CCHOA President

"News and Announcements..." - Continued from Cover Page

The first group of changes are directly related and must be approved as a group or they are unworkable. The other groups are logically related.

Vote - Item #1

Article 1, Section 1 – Definition of a Development Lot - Defines a lot that is owned by a developer or builder but does not have a completed residence.

Article 1, Section 3 – Additions of property to Circle C HOA - Gives the board the authority to add no more than 200 lots to CCHOA within a 12-month period.

Article II, Section 2 – Voting - Class A members will have 1 vote per lot. Development Lots will have .25 vote (1/4 vote) per lot.

Article III, Section 3 – Annual Assessment - One assessment rate. Assessments will no longer be based on tax appraisal values of a house. Development Lots will pay 25% of the assessment rate for lots with a residence. Current assessment rate is \$706.00 per year.

Vote - Item #2

Article V, Section 3k – Trash - Changes reflect once a week trash service.

Continued on Page 4

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 Golf Course (*City Owned/Operated*)..... 512-288-4297
Grey Rock Tennis Club 512-301-8685
Circle C Grey Rock Pool 512-291-8398

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 Ramirez-Boldo, 866-476-2573

Avana Estates

Relevant Management..... Kim Todd, 512-580-4212

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Russ HodesPresident
Natalie Placer McClure.....Vice President
Michael ChuTreasurer
Steve UrbanSecretary

Kim Ackermann, Alton (A.E.) Martin, Jason Bram,
Board Members

Contact the Board at: directors@circlecranch.info

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

City of Austin Solid Waste512-974-1945
Dead Animal Collection.....512-974-2000
Abandoned Vehicle.....512-974-8119
Pothole Complaints.....512-974-8750
Stop Signs512-457-4885
Street Light Maintenance 311

Schools

Clayton Elementary512-841-9200
Kiker Elementary512-414-2584
Mills Elementary512-841-2400
Cowan Elementary.....512-841-2700
Bailey Middle.....512-414-4990
Gorzycki Middle School.....512-841-8600
Bowie High School512-414-5247

UTILITY PROVIDERS

Electric Pedernales Elec. 512-219-2602
City of Austin. 512-494-9400
Texas Gas Service 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

HOA News

"News and Announcements..." Continued from Page 3

Article V, Section 1 – Single Family Construction – clarifies meaning of Single Family residential Construction.

Article V, Section 3 b – Use Limitations – Allows an owner or resident to conduct business activities with restrictions in place to protect continued residential character of the neighborhood.

Article V, Section 3 m – Recreational Equipment - Allows permanent basketball goals to be installed if Architectural Control Committee approves.

Vote - Item #3

Article VIII, Section 2 – Amendments and Effective Date

a. By Members. This Declaration may be amended or terminated by a majority (fifty percent plus 1) of total eligible votes of the membership.

b. By Directors. This Declaration may be amended by the Board of Directors, without consent of the membership, as necessary to conform the Declaration to the requirements or provisions of any United States or Texas statute or regulation, City of Austin, Travis County Ordinance, Hays County Ordinance, or judicial ruling of a Texas Court or Federal Court with jurisdiction over legal actions in Texas.

c. Effective Date. An amendment of the Declaration becomes effective when the instrument is filed of record in the county official public records

CCHOA Board Meeting

The Circle C HOA Board of Directors meets the last Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. The next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 29 via ZOOM. Links to the ZOOM meetings and meeting agendas may be found on www.circlecranch.com website under the "Resource" tab. Homeowners must be logged onto the site to view agendas and find the link to the ZOOM meetings. Homeowners may sign up to speak at the meeting by calling the HOA manager at 512-288-8663 or emailing info@circlecranch.info.

Circle C Pool and Office Hours:

Please understand that the Circle C HOA is acutely aware of our members' desire for all pools to open again. However, the Board of Directors takes the responsibilities associated with our current pandemic seriously. Our staff and lifeguards, already tasked with their normal duties of enforcing water safety procedures and pool policies (a daunting challenge in itself), must now be also trained to ensure pool patrons respect required social distancing rules, wear masks while not in the pool, adhere to the one-at-a-time restroom rule, and stay to one person per lane... among other responsibilities.

Most of our lifeguards are teenagers, so the responsibility of policing adults for rule adherence can be intimidating enough. Some adults are not as receptive as others when reminded by teens to please follow the rules. Yet, COVID-19 threw a curve ball into the mix and now these teens have much more rules to enforce, rules with which some people might not agree or understand. In addition, added complications related to the pandemic present themselves even in the training of lifeguards. Practicing life-saving procedures while maintaining social distancing

introduces new difficulties to life-guard training, for example. In addition, the possibility of mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and risk of infection from the highly infectious coronavirus disease can be an issue for life-guards and their families.

Therefore, due to the necessity of additional training of lifeguards and staff with these added responsibilities, newly introduced COVID-19 sanitation guidelines published by the CDC, and a city-wide shortage of lifeguards, the Circle C HOA Board of Directors has chosen to adhere to a staggered and delayed opening of our pools this summer.

Phase 1 of Circle C pools opening began on June 2 with the availability of lap swimming at the main pool at 40-minute increments. Registrations are required and can be made online beginning at 6am the day prior to swimming. Visit CircleCRanch.com/amenities/circle-c-aquatics/pool-reservations to make a reservation and to learn more.

Phase 2 is currently being discussed at the time of this writing and we hope to introduce the availability of additional pools soon for use with guidelines.

We sincerely hope our residents understand that much thought and consideration has been given to these delays and stricter guidelines with the use of the Circle C pools. We have not taken these decisions lightly. Our main concerns are for the safety and health of our Circle C residents and staff.

Fireworks Reminder:

Please keep in mind that many U.S. Veterans, children, babies, and animals are severely frightened or traumatized by fireworks. The unexpectedly loud bursts can affect the nervous systems, sometimes causing heart palpitations. For veterans, the sounds resemble gunshots and can trigger PTSD.

The City of Austin does not allow individuals without a permit to use fireworks within the city limits. Those found in violation could be fined over \$500 and possibly charged with arson (if property is damaged) or assault (if a person is injured).

As per their website, the "City of Austin has adopted an ordinance forbidding the storage, use, and handling of fireworks within the City of Austin. The Austin Fire Department has aggressively sought compliance with this ordinance."

For non-emergency fireworks violations, the city asks that residents call 311. Police will then be dispatched. For emergencies only, call 911.

Persons responsible for starting fires from using fireworks will be "vigorously prosecuted".

For more info, visit <https://austintexas.gov/faq/what-does-city-do-enforce-fireworks-ordinance>

Watering Restrictions:

Please visit your water providers website to view current watering restrictions.

City of Austin: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/watering-restrictions>

Midtex: (South West Water Company): <https://swwc.com/texas/drought>

Why Do We Need Lifeguards at All Circle C Pools?

Why do we need lifeguards at all the Circle C pools? This question is always posed among Circle C'ers. The answer lies in the classification of pools (as determined by Texas), insurance policies, and safety of our residents.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (TDSHS) categorizes pools into classes according to their risk in an effort to determine the requirements for maintaining needed safety precautions.

Descriptions for the four different classes of pools may be found under "Definitions" in Texas Administrative Code 25 TAC §265.182(99).

(A) Class A pool: Any pool used, with or without a fee, for accredited competitive aquatic events such as Federation Internationale De Natation Amateur (FINA), United States Swimming, United States Diving, National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHSA), events. A Class A pool may also be used for recreation.

(B) Class B pool: Any pool used for public recreation and open to the general public with or without a fee.

(C) Class C pool: Any pool operated for and in conjunction with:

(i) lodging such as hotels, motels, apartments, condominiums, or mobile home parks;

(ii) property owner associations, private organizations, or clubs; or

(iii) a school, college or university while being operated for academic or continuing education classes. The use of such a pool would be open to occupants, members or students, etc., and their guests but not open to the general public.

(D) Class D pool: A wading pool with a maximum water depth of 24 inches at any point.

Neighborhood pools are generally categorized as "Class C public pools" because of the (ii) property owner associations distinction. Three of Circle C pools do fall into the Class C category. However, because the Main Swim Center Pool is Olympic-sized and hosts accredited competitive aquatic events, it is classified as a Class A pool.

Texas has varied lifeguard requirements for public pools depending on risk of injury. According to TDSHS, "A lifeguard and second responder are required to be provided at Class A pools during competitive events and at all Class B pools. A lifeguard and second responder are required at Class C pools that have a diving board or a slide that is not locked or chained to prevent use." [25 TAC §265.199 (g)(9)].

Under these Texas requirements, our Community Center pool must have a lifeguard and at least one second responder at all times. Katie Moore, Compliance Officer for TDSHS explains, "Anytime lifeguards are required or provided you must have a

second responder, which is generally considered to be a second lifeguard, since most lifeguard standard operating procedures include shift rotation between stations approximately every 30 minutes to 1 hour depending upon various factors including bather load, assigned scanning area, and type of aquatic activity."

The different class distinctions among Circle C's four pools make them more complicated to insure. Sure, pools are fun and a great way to cool off in the summer, but they are also extremely dangerous, and the danger factor makes them expensive to insure. When writing the insurance policy, it was more cost effective to agree to provide lifeguards at all pools, rather than obtain separate policies for the pools in different classes.

We do understand that the choice to provide lifeguards at all of our four pools does result in limited pool hours and creates an inconvenience for our residents. Other neighborhoods can simply hang a "Swim at Your Own Risk" sign and allow residents to use the pools at all hours. However, that choice does increase liability and risk for injury or death. With a large community population (over 18,000 residents), the chances of drowning in Circle C are significantly increased. In fact, our lifeguards have saved children from drowning at all four of our pools (even at our two smallest pools, GreyRock and Avaña).

The decision of the Circle C HOA to provide lifeguards at all pools is not just more cost effective overall, but it has proven to save lives, and we prefer to keep our kiddos (and adults) safe.



Picture Courtesy of PublicDomainPictures.net

Around Circle C

Kevin!



Photo Courtesy of Mansoor Ejaz

Circle C residents might have a new mascot.

For the past couple of years, Kevin's been a somewhat-hidden secret resident of Circle C's Muirfield neighborhood. Nestled in the triangular gated community between Grey Rock Golf Course, 1826 and I-45, he was well-loved and kept safe. He had a grand time with his little community, attending street celebrations, and perhaps even a few backyard happy hours. There, his Muirfield family knows what foods he should eat (watermelon, berries, peanuts, and mangos). There, everybody knows his name.

However, like many of our 2020 graduates, Kevin began to wonder about the world beyond. He wanted to spread his wings and see what else is out there.

He first flew to rooftops for sunset viewing and began calling out. Neighbors across the golf course in Fairway Estates heard him calling in mid-May.

Then, in the wee hours of one May morning, Kevin flew the coop. He visited the golf course for a few days before flying over to Fairway Estates, where he was well received. Kids ran out to see him, taking pictures of him and feeding him Cheetos and Pirate's Booty. (Take that, Muirfield!) He thanked them by spreading his feathers for them and putting on a show.

But, alas, Fairway Estates had no peahens to be found, and there is only so much Pirate's Booty a guy can take before he needs to move on, so Kevin left his second home and headed over to Magenta Lane.

He made more friends on Magenta and spread his feathers for them, asking if they knew of any peahens around. He was met with only a camera and a few flashes. He didn't seem to mind, however. He displayed his feathers and pranced around for days. Who knows, maybe one of those pictures might make its way to a peahen that likes what she sees.

Magenta Lane folks posted his pictures on the Circle C Facebook page, a sort of Tinder if you will. "Come over to the Kiker area, Kevin," begged one resident. "We miss him. Send him back to Muirfield," cried another.



Photo Courtesy of Circle C Resident Keith Momi

Continued on Page 8

What do the numbers say about the Circle C real estate market?

Pure Gold Realty closely monitors and analyzes trends in the residential real estate industry. The below information contains single-family home data for the past 90 days for Circle C Ranch as of June 15, 2020. Source: *Austin Board of REALTORS®

\$568,175

Average
SOLD Price



\$197.61

Average SOLD Price
Per Square Foot



60

Homes SOLD
in the Past 90 Days



1 Month

Months
of Inventory



10 Days

Time on the
Market



21

Active
Listings



44

Pending
Sales



23

Years Chad has been
selling in Circle C



Hello Neighbors and Friends!

The market in Circle C is moving at a rapid pace. Currently, we are seeing a low inventory of homes and a high demand. If you are thinking about buying or selling real estate in Circle C or want to know more about what these numbers mean, feel free to call me. I'm happy to help!



Chad Goldwasser, Broker

512-750-8333 | chad@pgraustin.com

Around Circle C

"...Kevin..." Continued from Page 6



Photo Courtesy of Circle C Resident Muriel Edd

One resident called KXAN news to report his sightings (and perhaps to help his cause.)

Unlike Fairway Estates, the people of Magenta Lane posted questions about what foods they should give to him. Unshelled peanuts, they were told. They questioned where he could possibly have come

from. Not Bowie, said Muirfield. Though Bowie has a group, or "pride" of peafowl, Muirfield had checked two years ago, when Kevin first showed up, and Bowie said they were not missing a peacock.

Kevin discovered a perfect little hangout beneath the roof where the resident mailboxes live, so he was sheltered from rain and the hot sun. There, he got to know many residents and had loads of fun scaring away a few children.

Circle C residents continue to hear his calls, mostly in the evenings or early mornings, when the weather was not so hot. His picture and sightings continue to show up on Tinder...er, Facebook.

One day, however, a resident posted a picture of a surprise guest in her backyard. It was a very large bird that resembled... a peahen.

It seems as though we weren't the only ones hearing his call.



Photo Courtesy of Circle C Resident Cheryl McGee

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SPLIT-LEVEL, INFINITY-EDGE POOL WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OVER 8 MILES OF TRAILS MAKE IT EASY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE-OF-THE-ART FITNESS CENTER JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STARGAZING AMPHITHEATER TO EMBRACE DARK SKY COMMUNITY

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WILDFLOWER NOTES

Here's what's likely to be blooming, fruiting or setting seed in Central Texas this time of year. Look for these native plants around town and perhaps in your own backyard!

SCORPION'S-TAIL (**HELIOTROPIMUM ANGIOSPERMUM**)

Perhaps you've heard of giant desert hairy scorpions; the largest species in North America, their tails are covered in fine brown hairs. As cool as that sounds, we're pretty sure you'd rather run across flowering scorpion's-tail in your garden, which are fuzzy in their own right. A member of Boraginaceae, *Heliotropium angiospermum* has leaves with hairy undersides, a common trait among borages. This white-flowering annual gets its common name from the tapering, curved shape of its flowers. Native in the U.S. to only a smattering of counties in Texas and Florida, scorpion's-tail likes warm and moist conditions and can bloom year-round. Its delicate, fingerling blooms look lovely spilling out of containers, and these nectar-providing scorpions are butterfly friendly. We can't say as much for the eight-legged scorpions, which feed on all types of insects (as well as small reptiles).



Photography by Wildlife Center

WILD SHRIMP PLANT (**YEATESIA PLATYSTEGIA**)

Here's another plant with an animal namesake. Wild shrimp plant warrants its crustacean comparison from bracts that look like something like a shrimp abdomen. But rather than antennae, this strikingly unique perennial is adorned by small lavender flowers. When we say unique we mean it: *Yeatesia platystegia* is native only to Texas and found exclusively on the Rio Grande Plain and Edwards Plateau — in the wild, that is. (You can easily view a cultivated specimen in our Theme Gardens.) You may be more familiar with another shrimp plant, *Justicia brandegeana*, that is common in gardens throughout Central Texas but native to Mexico (its red bracts are similarly shell-like). The native Texan version likes part shade and moist soil; if you've got those conditions, considering adding a bit of the sea to your garden; the shape of this plant is eye catching (even when not in bloom), and it's a more interesting nautical nod than a souvenir shell.



Photography by Joe Marcus

Learn more about these monarch-supporting plants at wildflower.org/learn/power-the-migration, and find many more plants on our database at wildflower.org/plants-main.

SUPPORT THE CENTER DURING CLOSURE

The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center needs your support now more than ever. All of our revenue streams have been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. Your donation and/or membership directly supports our operations and keeps our mission alive.

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14824 N IH-35 Austin, TX 78728
512-989-2878 (NW Corner of Wells Branch & IH-35)

BEE CAVE / LAKEWAY LOCATION

14422 W Hwy 71 Austin, TX 78738
512-263-5082 (Hwy 71 at Hamilton Pool Rd)

SOUTH CONGRESS LOCATION

4241 South Congress Austin, TX 78745
512-326-8411 (South of Ben White)

BUDA / KYLE LOCATION

420 South FM 1626, Buda, TX 78610
512-523-9800

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SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. Includes, Inspection for leaks and complete visual A/C Inspection

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*If additional diagnostics are necessary fees will apply. Expires 08/31/20. PEST.

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- ✓ Tire Rotation
- ✓ Fluid Inspection
- ✓ Air Pressure Checked

- ✓ Steering & Suspension Check, Belts & Hose Inspection
- ✓ Battery Starting /charging System Check

**MCSPADDEN'S
TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE**

Cannot be combined with any other offers. Oil up to 5 quarts. Does not include disposal fee of oil. One time use only. Expires 08/31/20. PEST.

MCSPADDENAUTOMOTIVE.COM

Circle C Spotlight



Caleb Capoccia is a Circle C teen, a professional actor with agents in Austin and Los Angeles, and a National Merit Scholar with a scholarship to Harvard. Despite all of this, the accomplishment he is most proud of is the volunteer work he's done with the Mobile Loaves and Fishes at the cinema for the Community First! Village benefitting the chronically homeless.

He took the time to answer a few questions for us.

Q: We noticed you were homeschooled. Do you mind describing any experiences leading to the decision of homeschooling?

A: My parents chose to homeschool me because they believed traditional schools were assigning too much homework and not giving kids enough time for free play. They believed free play is critical for healthy childhood development.

Q: Several schools will likely continue online learning in the fall and many parents are considering homeschooling their kids. Is there any advice you could share with those parents that are on the fence about homeschooling?

A: There are plenty of fantastic resources out there for homeschooling, whether it be online courses on Aleks.com and Khan Academy, homeschool academies like REACH, or community college classes at Austin Community College.



Q: How did you become involved in acting?

A: When I was eight, I took a week-long theatre camp. At that time, it was the best week of my life. Shortly after, I started doing extra work in local, independent films & performing in UT Austin student films, then I signed with a local Austin agent. After obtaining representation in Los Angeles, my mom & I started traveling out to LA for a few months at a time for me to audition and work.

Q: What are some mistakes you have made in your acting career?

A: One of the mistakes I made was getting inside my head for some big auditions. Instead of focusing on giving the best performance I could, I became too concerned about whether the producers would want to cast me. Another mistake I made was to sometimes play it safe when coming up with character choices because I was worried about what people might think of me. This leads to bland and forgettable performances.

Q: What have been your most interesting acting experiences?

A: My favorite acting experience was working on *Better Call Saul*. Jonathan Banks was one of the nicest people I've ever met, despite playing the intimidating Mike Ehrmantraut. He warmly welcomed the actress who played my sister, me, and our moms to the set, and in between filming scenes told us stories from working in the film industry for years.

Q: What is it like working with a monkey (in *Monkey Up*)?

A: I absolutely loved it! Crystal was a joy to work with in *Monkey Up*. Capuchin monkeys signify their respect and deference to each other by placing their pointer fingers above their mouths. At the end of the month working on the movie, I had bonded enough with Crystal for her to give that sign to me. When my family visited the animal sanctuary where Crystal lived a few months after filming, she remembered us!



Q: Tell us the truth about Pierce Brosnan. What is he really like?

A: He is quite charismatic. Although I did not get to spend as much time talking with him as I did with some of the other actors. When I did talk to him, it was interesting to observe the contrast between the Texas twang he used for the show and his native Irish accent.

Q: Do you plan to continue acting?

A: While I hope to join a performing arts group at Harvard, I plan on taking a break from professional acting while in college.

Q: Congratulations on your achievement as a 2020 National Merit Scholar. Will you share with students the steps you took to accomplish that feat? How did you prepare for the SAT/ACT? How many hours would you estimate you spent studying/ practicing?

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Announcements

"...Spotlight..." Continued from Page 12

A: Thank you! To prepare for the PSAT, I used Khan Academy's free Official SAT Practice. I probably spent around 15 hours total preparing for the PSAT. For the SAT, I spent at least an hour a day practicing on Khan Academy for a month and I took multiple free practice tests that the College Board posts on their website. Consequently, I did well enough that I only had to take the SAT once.

Q: Do you have advice for teens hoping to become a National Merit Scholar?

A: My advice for teens hoping to become a National Merit Scholar is to do their best to prepare for the PSAT, but to not put too much pressure on themselves. There are plenty of students who end up attending their dream schools without even making it to Semifinalist! Additionally, there are many other scholarships that students can apply for.

Q: In lieu of traditional high school, you participated in the Austin Community College's "Early College High School" (ECHS), taking only college-level classes. Do you care to share any interesting experiences with this program?

A: I am grateful for the ECHS for Independent Learners program at ACC for a couple of reasons. One is that I've been able to take classes that many high schoolers are unable to take, including Introduction to Philosophy and Solar System Astronomy; these courses pushed me out of my comfort zone and made me a stronger student. Additionally, at ACC I have been in study groups with students from all age groups and backgrounds, including some from Nepal, France, and Myanmar. Studying with these students enriched my high school experience and broadened my perspective.

Q: Tell us about the college search. What were your top choices? What were your worst experiences?

A: My top choices were Vanderbilt, Harvard, and UT Austin. I visited the campuses of all of the colleges I ended up applying to. I strongly urge all students to do the same. Originally, Princeton was my top choice, but after visiting and getting a feel for the campus, I realized that it would not be a good fit for me.

Q: What were the factors in your decision to attend Harvard? Do you mind sharing details of your scholarship?

A: My main two factors for choosing a college were freedom to explore and cost of attendance. Harvard gives students until the end of their sophomore year to declare a major, which was attractive because I am not sure what I would like to study yet. Harvard also has a very generous financial aid policy, even for middle class families, making it as affordable as a state school. Additionally, the students I met while touring Harvard campus seemed genuine and down to earth.

Q: How did you get involved in Mobile Loaves and Fishes?

A: In spring 2019, UT Austin screened the documentary, "The Pursuit," which included a segment about a program in New York that empowers the chronically homeless. At the end of the screening, the director gave a shout out to Mobile Loaves & Fishes' Community First Village for providing affordable housing and dignified income opportunities for the formerly chronically homeless in Austin. A week later, I started volunteering for the Community Cinema in the village and within two months was promoted to a cinema captain, the responsibilities of which include running the weekly movie nights.

Q: What are your favorite experiences with working with the chronically homeless?



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A: Working with the residents at Community First has been an immensely rewarding experience. My favorite part has been hearing their stories and learning about their hobbies. I am proud to call them my friends.

Q: What is your biggest dream for yourself? What are your greatest fears? A: One of the central concepts in Aristotelian ethics is eudaimonia, which refers to the sense of flourishing we experience when we challenge ourselves and complete a daunting task. To me, this feeling is satisfaction and contentment to the highest degree. My dream is to strive for this sense of meaning in whatever line of work I end up pursuing. My greatest fear is living in regret. Consequently, this motivates me to push myself out of my comfort zone where I can.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

A: I would like to share a final piece of advice to kids who might be reading this: Let go of ego and prestige, and instead develop humility. Humility makes us aware of more than ourselves and keeps us present in the moment, which in turn enables us to focus on producing our best work. In acting, whenever I thought about what it would mean for my career if I booked a particular job, I didn't perform as well as I could have in the audition. Last year, when I started seriously considering various colleges, I got caught up in the college admissions mania and focused on the prestige of schools. Consequently, I was constantly stressing out and I lost sleep, even to the point where it was too overwhelming to sit down and work on my college essays. It wasn't until I told myself that I wouldn't apply to Harvard or any other Ivies that I was able to complete my essays for the other colleges I applied to. Because I had already written most of the essays I would need, I applied to Harvard in late December, shortly before the application deadline. I no longer deeply cared about whether or not I got in, as I knew it would not be a reflection of who I am. When I was admitted, it was a pleasant surprise.

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Mealybugs are pests of landscape plants and houseplants. Outdoors, they are often active during times of warm, dry weather, but can be a problem indoors at any time of year. Infestations usually start at the base of stems and then spread from there as populations increase.

Mealybugs are a type of unarmored scale insect. They are sexually dimorphic, with males and females looking different. Males have wings and can fly while females remain wingless throughout their life. Immature (nymphs) and female mealybugs are oval, soft-bodied and covered with a white waxy powder.

These insects have piercing-sucking mouthparts which is used to penetrate plant tissue to suck out juices. Feeding by mealybugs can lead to yellowing or wilting of the plant and distortion of the leaves. With larger infestations, the insects may cause stunted growth, premature leaf drop or plant death. Mealybugs excrete honeydew, which is a sweet, sticky substance on which a fungus called sooty mold can grow. Sooty mold can indirectly harm plants by blocking sunlight from reaching plant surfaces and reducing photosynthesis.

Tips for mealybug management:

- Conserve beneficial insects; there are many insects that feed on or parasitize mealybugs
 - To help conserve beneficial insects, use other methods to manage pests before choosing a pesticide.
- **Use high pressure water sprays to dislodge the insects from the plant
 - **Insecticidal soap
 - **Horticultural oils
 - **Other insecticides labeled for mealybug control (look for active ingredients such as azadirachtin, pyrethrum, pyrethrins). Read and follow all label instructions.
- For severely infested plants, it may be best to throw the plant away and buy a new one
- **If treating houseplants, move plants outside during treatment then move back inside once treatment has dried.

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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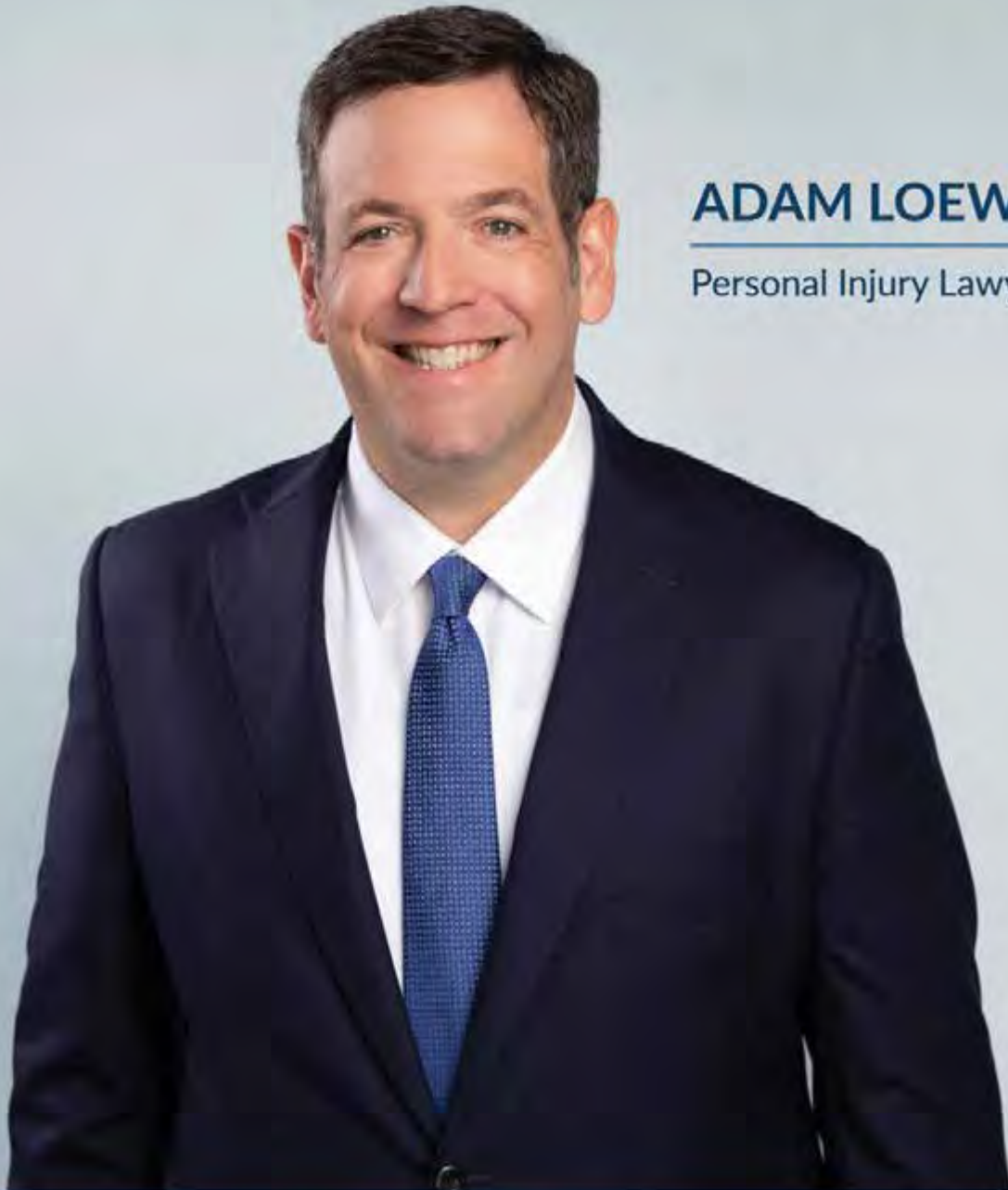
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SquiresTeam.com

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
KELLERWILLIAMS
REAL ESTATE

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 June/July 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 Squires has been working with his buyer/clients for nearly 9 months on their incredible, new 3800 sq. ft. home at **7017 Vicenza in Avana** in Circle C Ranch south. It is a brand new Lennar Home and was contracted at **\$725,000**. The home is going through it's final walk-throughs and inspections before final delivery to John's thrilled buyers next week. Just to show you the value appreciation for these final brand new Lennar homes, this same home today would be approximately **\$825,000**. That is the appreciation in *9 months!* If you would like professional representation in the building and purchase of one of the last remaining new homes in Circle C, give John a call. There are about 16 brand new Lennar home-sites left in the entire subdivision, before it is permanently built out. Give John a call to inquire.

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

Happy July 4th



7924 LaDera Verde is **"CONTRACT PENDING!"** in Circle C Ranch. John Squires placed this stunning D.R.Horton home under contract before the home made it to the market. This is a beautiful home backing to permanent greenbelt with a custom deck! 4 bedrooms. 3 full baths with 2 bedrooms and 2 full baths downstairs. The deep cul-de-sac is great for kids to play and make friends. Circle C Ranch at it's best. Rockin' at **\$575,000**.



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John Squires sells homes other Southwest real estate experts cannot! 8335 La Plata Loop was listed by two other southwest area brokerages for 375 days on the market and they could not sell it. John met with the sellers and set forth a plan to get it sold. John had the home professionally staged at his expense, properly marketed the home, held open house and placed the home under contract in 10 days... The home is now **"CONTRACT PENDING!"** and set to close in two weeks. Allow John to meet with you and get your home sold faster and for more money. No one knows the southwest Austin market, the builders, the floorplans and different area's values better than John. Listed at **\$685,000.**



John Squires is the top agent in Southwest Austin and Circle C Ranch home sales over the last 23 years with over **735~** homes sold to date in the neighborhoods and **1110~** 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. **(512) 970-1970.**

11004 Pairnoy Lane in Circle C Ranch Hielscher is **"CONTRACT PENDING!"** John just placed this amazing unicorn property under contract before market with his thrilled buyers. This is a rare Streetman, Barton 2, model-home floorplan, highly upgraded, on a 1/2 acre- with inground pool and hot tub. The entire property backs to permanent greenbelt, has outdoor living areas/fireplaces/soccer field and more! All at the end of one of the most desirable cul-de-sacs in all Circle C Ranch. Call John and he can help you too. Priced in mid **\$800's.**



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