

## Ways to Stay Fit During a Pandemic

With this sweltering August weather and the closing of all public recreation centers (including swimming pools, tennis courts, and golf courses), what is one to do to stay healthy and fit during a pandemic?

We thought we would list a few family-friendly suggestions. Most of the below activities are good for some alone time, or could be done with family, friends and neighbors (when implementing social distancing

practices).

Many residents are familiar with the below options, but it never hurts to see reminders and perhaps become a little inspired.

Because of the fluidity of city closures due to COVID-19, it's always best to call or check online to ensure the following places are open before heading out.

### 1. Bicycle Riding or Rollerblading :



How lucky are we to have the Veloway so close to us? Constructed in the 1990's, the Veloway is a 5k (3.1 mile) paved road designed for bicycle and roller blades / skates only. (No foot traffic allowed.)

It is located at 4900 La Crosse Ave., across from the Lady Bird

Johnson Wildflower Center. The La Crosse bridge over Mopac is open now, so it's an easy trek to the Veloway for Circle C residents North of I-45.

Bicycle riding is an activity that's great for socializing while social distancing. Friends and neighbors can reconnect while keeping a six-foot (or more) distance from each other, and the pace can be leisurely or intense depending on ability and mood.

In this August weather, riding in the early mornings or late evenings is more comfortable. The Veloway does have a water fountain, but it's best to take your own water bottles filled with water.

### 2. Walking/Running on One of Austin's Many Hike & Bike Trails

Once again, the advantage of living in Circle C opens up opportunities for more outdoor activities.

Hike & bike trails wind throughout our neighborhood and begin either just beyond our backyards or a simple hop, skip, and jump away.



From our homes, we can choose to connect to trails like (1) Circle C Ranch on Slaughter Creek Trails (5.9 miles of broken trails winding from the Circle C Metro Park to behind Alamo Drafthouse and extending beneath Mopac to the Veloway); (2) Circle

C Slaughter Creek Trail; (a 1.4 mile loop in the Circle C Metropolitan Park that circles the soccer fields); (3) Slaughter Creek Trail Loop (a 5-mile loop with only one entrance from 9901 FM-1826); (4) Dick Nichols Park Trails (a 1.1 mile loop around Dick Nichols Park with outdoor exercise equipment stations along the way); (5) Western Oaks Trail (a 1.7 mile loop extending from Dick Nichols on Beckett to Davis Ln.); (6) Hill Country Trail (1 mile trail Southeast of the Veloway and connecting through the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center); (7) Violet Crown Trail: Wildflower Center to Convict Hill (7.9 miles of rocky and paved trails winding under Mopac, back and forth, from Southeast of the Veloway, then North to Convict Hill Rd. and Brush Country Rd.); and (8) Arbor Trails Loop (1.55 mile loop from Convict Hill Rd., looping around the Arbor Trails Shopping Center to William Cannon and then circling around to head south back to Convict Hill Rd.).

*Continued on Page 3*

## New Beginnings

Every August marks a new beginning. This year, more new than most. From our schools to our homes to our everyday lives, it seems different is the new norm.

But some things haven't changed a bit. Like the strength of our families, our community, and our hope.

What an honor to be part of that—and, even more, to serve this neighborhood in a way that allows me to offer support, insight, and guidance to the community I love so much.

You're my neighbor in Circle C, and my neighbors deserve a caring, expert navigator for these shifting times.



If you're thinking of making a move, let's talk strategy and timing.  
Serving Circle C buyers and sellers since 2009.

**BARRETT SANDEFUR**

512-925-9100 • [BarrettATXhomes.com](http://BarrettATXhomes.com)

[barrett@realtyaustin.com](mailto:barrett@realtyaustin.com)





### "Ways to Stay Fit..." - Continued from Cover Page

With the exception of the Slaughter Creek Trail Loop off of 1826, all of the above trails are dog friendly (on a leash). So, grab a dog, a kid, or a spouse and hit one of our beautiful trails.

### 3. Stand Up Paddle Boarding on an Austin Lake:



Austin contains a handful of beautiful lakes from which to choose for an outdoor water activity, like paddling on a stand-up paddle board (SUP), that is enjoyable both alone or with friends and family.

It is easy to meet friends at one of our lakes and maintain a 6-foot or more distance from one another

when in a 10-foot paddle board.

Don't have a SUP? That's ok. Rowing Dock on Lady Bird Lake, Peace Paddling on Lake Austin, or Lakeway Marina on Lake Travis are a few options from which to choose in renting SUPs (unless, of course they are still closed due to an extended mandate).

Inflatable SUPs can also be purchased (with pumps) for \$188 and up and are available from online stores like Amazon. Suggested places to launch a SUP are: (1) Lady Bird Lake's Rowing Dock (2418 Stratford Dr, Austin, TX 78746); (2) Lake Travis' Lakeway Marina (103 A Lakeway Dr, Lakeway, TX 78734); or (3) Lake Austin's 360 Boat Ramp (5019 Capital of Texas Hwy North Austin, TX 78746).

Another advantage of a water activity in the hot Texas weather is the ability to jump in the lake for an occasional quick dip to cool off. Want to bring Fido? Several videos are available online that provide tips on training dogs to enjoy the SUP, although that would not be recommended with an inflatable SUP.

### 4. Jumping on Trampolines:

Many residents have trampolines in our backyards. We simply need to sweep away the old Live Oak leaves from March, hose off the collected dust/dirt, and climb on board to jump off those extra COVID pounds and build some muscle.



Trampolines develop balance, coordination, and motor skills. They offer a good, bouncy surface that is easier on our joints than a hard floor, and can make working out more fun. Do some jumping jacks, push-ups, tuck jumps, sit-ups and planks to

work the core. The added motion of exercising on a soft, bouncy surface requires a great deal of balance, making the workout more challenging.

If those exercises are too strenuous, simply jump up and down or do a somersault. Somersaults (or head rolls) are important to keeping our vestibular system functioning well.

*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 Hodes .....President  
Natalie Placer McClure.....Vice President  
Michael Chu .....Treasurer  
Steve Urban .....Secretary

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

Contact the Board at: directors@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  
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

## "Ways to Stay Fit..." - Continued from Page 3

Often referred to as our balance sense (a sixth sense, if you will), the vestibular system is located in the vestibule (in our inner ear) and helps with eye movement and tracking, alertness, spatial orientation, muscle tone, and posture.

Children with sensory disorders and Autistic children tend to be sensitive to vestibular input. They either need more movement (so may spin around or rock back and forth while standing or sitting, and may enjoy jumping, swinging, or sliding), or are oversensitive to vestibular input (so may avoid elevators, escalators, swings or slides and may become dizzy or experience motion sickness more easily than others). Kids with an oversensitivity to vestibular input also tend to have poor muscle tone.

Somersaults and other activities on the trampoline that challenge our own balance and spatial serve to strengthen our vestibular systems and are thus great activities for children and adults with sensory disorders. Those that are oversensitive and do not like motion will likely tolerate trampolines (when they are the ones controlling the movement). So, time on the trampoline, either by themselves or with another person that remains still, will allow them to improve their vestibular system capabilities and develop muscle tone on their own terms. Conversely, those that crave stimulation will be satisfied as well.

Another group of people that benefit from time on the trampolines are people over 55 years of age. Recent studies have shown that the number of nerve cells in the vestibular system begin to decrease at age 55 (along with blood flow to the inner ear). This contributes to struggling with imbalance and feeling the need for a cane or walker.

So, go outside to your backyard (or sneak into your neighbors) and climb that ladder to that trampoline and get your vestibular system in shape!

**Suggestion:** To keep cool in the heat and add a little fun to your jumping, set a sprinkler on your trampoline, like the fun rubbery turtle (pictured beside) or implement a trampoline sprinkler system that wraps around the top outer edges.



## 5. Using Home Gym Equipment

The Peloton exercise bike is all the rage right now. Besides its high-quality status, it offers the ability to connect to live and on-demand workouts with options like displaying a leaderboard on the screen showing usernames of others in the class. Motivational trainers (some of which provide a little eye candy as well) help users to reach milestones and provide shout-outs and encouragement. The bike also measures the pedal speed and wheel resistance used. All this quality apparently comes at a hefty price tag, however. Peloton's sell for up to \$2,245 with a monthly fee of \$39 for the live and on-demand classes.

More affordable equipment offering a smaller footprint in our homes also work to keep us fit. Chin up bars that attach to doorways, for example, start at \$29. Ab roller wheels average \$18 (and are available at our HEB). A small set of neoprene hand weights can be found online for as low as \$30, whereas a set of resistance bands run around \$40.

## 6. Playing Electronic Games:

Electronic games, such as, "Just Dance" (for the PS4), Sports Games, and "Beat Saber" (for Virtual Reality Headsets), can actually give a great workout in most entertaining ways.

And no, your kids did not pay us to put this last one on the list.

## Proposed Amendments and Voting

Greetings Residents,

Have you voted yet for the Proposed Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs) Amendments of our Circle C Homeowner Association (HOA)?



If not, then please read the cheat sheet below to understand the proposed amendments. (A more detailed explanation can be found in the June issue of the Circle C Newsletter or on the [circlecranch.com](http://circlecranch.com) website). Then, please vote.

Online voting only takes a few minutes. Please encourage your neighbors to vote as well.

Remember: **we need 67% of eligible homeowners not simply to vote, but to vote "yes" to any CC&R changes as per Texas law.** So, any non-vote essentially counts as a "no".

Many of our neighbors have volunteered countless hours into shaping these proposed amendments because they want to make some positive changes to our HOA. If these amendments do not pass this time, it will likely be many years before a new set of volunteer residents might have the time and energy to start this process again. Below is a cheat sheet for use when voting.



### Item 1:

Article I. Section 1: **Adds the term "Development Lot" to the CC&Rs.** This defines a lot owned by a developer. Adding this term allows us the ability to use language later in the CC&Rs that determine how best to handle lots with unfinished projects for long periods of time. We would like to collect 25% of assessment dues for unfinished projects that sit over six months after a certificate of occupancy for residence is issued.

Article I. Section 3: **Allows the Board to add up to 200 lots to our community within a 12-month period.** This was written for instances like the back section of Avaña (the Rowell) where houses were built not on Circle C property. As a result, those families are not officially a part of our community and cannot vote or use our facilities, although their neighbors on the same street can. We would like the ability to include these homes into our community.

*Continued on Page 5*

"...Amendments..." Continued from Page 4

Article II. Section 2: **Changes our voting to one vote per lot for homeowners** instead of a point system that gives more points to larger homes of higher value. Also, Development Lots that pay dues would have ¼ vote per lot.

Article III. Section 3: **Sets a uniform assessment rate** instead of the current system that bases amount on tax appraisal values. Development lots would also pay 25% of assessment rate.

## **Item 2:**

Article V. Section 3 (k): **Changes the number of times per week homeowners may leave trash bins out to only one time per week** (not two, as is currently written). Bins may be brought to the street the day before pick-up and must return to screened or hidden spots (not visible from the streets) the day after pick-up.

Article V. Section 1: **Defines "residential purposes" as using the house as "a place of abode", and also removes original language that prevented people from working from home. Last, this will allow the Architecture Control Committee to approve of greenhouses and/or storage sheds.**

Article V. Section 3 (b): **Clarifies that limited business use will be allowed in residential homes.** (The old CCRs were written so that residents that work from home are in violation!)

Article V. Section 3 (m): **Allows recreational equipment (i.e., basketball nets) to be placed in the front yard.** (Permanent ones would require approval by the Architectural Committee.)

## **Item 3:**

Article VIII. Section 2: **Allows future amendments to be passed with 50% + 1 of votes or by HOA Board (to conform to current city or state laws).** Future amendments would be made by one of 2 ways: (1) by members (with fifty percent plus 1 of total eligible votes); (2) by the Board of Directors as necessary to conform to current U.S., state, or local laws.



If you did not receive an email invite to vote and would like to vote online, please email [info@circlecranch.info](mailto:info@circlecranch.info) to have your email address added to the list.

Voting online is the easiest method and only takes a few minutes.

## **New Monument!**



Yes, we know. Many of you miss our old obelisk while others are glad it's gone.

Regardless of strong opinions either way, the old obelisk was a symbol of our neighborhood for many decades.

Unfortunately, however, the tall, thin monument began to have structural issues; so, in 2018, the old obelisk was removed for safety reasons and the process for a new monument began.

A recommendation for a design with alternatives for materials was requested in early 2019, and by summer, the HOA Board presented the design with the alternatives for different materials to the community using image boards that were displayed both at the community center and during Food Trailer nights for resident input.

Using feedback from residents, a new design was created that implemented the community's most favorite features.

The HOA Board approved the new design and began a bidding process. Outback Masonry presented the most attractive bid; so, they were awarded the bid by the HOA Board.

Because the location for the monument (at both the Southwest and Southeast corner of Escarpment Boulevard and Slaughter Lane) is on property now owned by the City of Austin (after the annexation into the City of Austin), the design and build had to be approved by the City of Austin Parks Department.

Obtaining approval from the City of Austin was quite the process, lasting for months. Finally, in May 2020, the plans for our new monument were approved.

The contract has now been signed and Outback Masonry is currently working on the sign permit.

Construction should begin sometime in August.



# Around Circle C

## New Circle C Metropolitan Playground

Some Circle C Residents, particularly those with children, might have noticed that our beloved city park in the neighborhood has been missing a few items for quite some time. The City of Austin (COA) has removed the Circle C Metropolitan Park's playground structures to make room for brand new, more modernized structures for Austinites.

For many residents with older children, the purging of the old play equipment is bittersweet. Hundreds of our Circle C young adults grew up making friends at the old jungle gym dome, sometimes from an upside-down position.

Any parents here remember random parents monitoring our kids at the top of the twisty slide, scolding them to: "Wait until the kids at the bottom are off the slide before you go down!" How many of us pretended not to know our own kids that couldn't follow those rules? How many of us were that parent scolding the defiant kids?

Thousands of our kids' collective birthday parties were spent sipping ice pops and eating cake under the shade provided by our Heritage Live Oak trees at the Circle C Metropolitan Park playground.

Many parents have memories of consoling a random kid or two with a skinned knee or a bumped head. while his overtired mom attended to a sibling



But alas, our little slice of heaven began to show signs of aging and, like a man in a mid-life crisis, the COA decided to toss out the old and bring in the new equipment.

No, scratch that. It's not true at all. In reality, our old playground is estimated by the COA to have been built in 1990, the same year that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became a law. The U.S. Department of Justice set the deadline for all new or revised equipment to be ADA-compliant as of March 2012. To bring playgrounds into compliance, all municipal play structures must: (1) have ramps and barrier-free travel routes for easy wheelchair access, (2) contain a range of accessible options for play, and (3) provide a safe surface flooring in case of falls.

Our beloved Circle C Metropolitan Park Playground, with all its wonderful memories, has not been out of compliance for many years now. So, when the COA's 2018 Bond passed on November 6, our Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) was allotted \$149



million (under Proposition C), "for improvements, renovations and upgrades to various Parks and Recreation assets, as well as for the acquisition of new parkland." \$25 million of that amount was earmarked specifically for parkland improvements.

Due to our ADA non-compliance, the Circle C Metropolitan Park fell into the Prop C category of parks needing improvement.

Patrick Beyer is a Licensed Professional Landscape Architect (PLA) and serves as project coordinator for the COA PARD. In designing our new Circle C Metro Playground, he has conducted studies, questionnaires, meetings, and votes for the new playground, both in person and online.

"In the voting process at the public meeting and online, citizens voted on their preferred equipment for ground level components, swings, and elevated play structures," says Beyer.



As it turned out, the favorite pieces were not available from the same vendor. So, Beyer obtained equipment from three different vendors. "The project budget could support it, so we went with that selection [voted upon by citizens]. The swings are from Superior Recreation, the ground level pieces are mostly from Little Tikes Commercial, and the elevated play structures are from Miracle.

In designing the new playground, the City of Austin has published four main objectives: (1) Improve accessibility and inclusivity for children of all ages and abilities; (2) Limit risk to playground safety hazards including low branches and [the] nearby parking lot; (3) Provide new play features to allow maximum enjoyment of the area; and (4) Protect the Heritage Live Oak Trees.

Let's explore these options in a little more detail.

### Inclusivity and Accessibility:

The new playground will contain places like the "quiet grove" (pictured beside here) for children that might have sensory issues and need a place to escape.

*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](mailto:chad@pgraustin.com)



# Around Circle C

"...New Playground..." Continued from Page 6



Providing play opportunities is a factor that seems important to Patrick Beyer. "All COA playgrounds must meet Texas Accessibility requirements, but we did work to go beyond those requirements to create a more inclusive space because this is a metro level park that serves the entire city," Beyer states.

## **Safe Equipment and Surroundings:**

Merry-go-rounds are a favorite of children but present a safety risk, so they have been redesigned so the structure sits on the ground level. These are called "turnabouts".

Lowering the structure into the ground both keeps the children safer and allows for children in wheelchairs to participate.

Surrounding the turnabout will be a thick, poured-in-place rubber flooring to provide safe landings for children.

All of the equipment in the 2-to-5-year-old section will contain a poured-in-place rubber flooring. Other areas will contain "engineered wood fiber" (mulch).

No more pea gravel?

"Pea gravel isn't accessible, and we do not typically install it in any new builds," Beyer tells us. "However, it was one of the requests we heard in the public meetings, so we are keeping a section of pea gravel with this design as a sand box of sorts."



## **New Play Features:**

Children love to climb!

The new playground will contain various climbing features that move as the kids climb, such as the "Sway Net" (pictured beside here).

There will be three bays of standard belt swings, Beyer tells us, but there will also be different options, like the group swing (pictured beside here) that will allow a parent to swing with the child or small groups of children to swing together.

"Overall I think this expansion offers more for older kids," states Beyer.



## **Protecting Heritage Oak Trees:**

Ah, yes. Our beautiful Heritage Live Oak Trees with the twisty, low-hanging limbs, perfect for climbing.

"No trees will be removed, but we are 'limbing up' the canopies in a few trees to get clearance for play pieces," says Beyer. "We've had to alter the layout some to preserve the canopy, though."

Beyer and the City of Austin have exceeded standard protocol for our shady little playground, even to the point of adding additional trees. Not Live Oaks, though. It is important to diversify the types of trees to prevent losses due to diseases such as Oak Wilt. "All of the new trees will be large, 5-inch diameter cedar elms," Beyer states proudly.

Sustainable materials are a factor as well in the new design. The old playground contained two wooden picnic tables. The new one will contain four picnic tables made from recycled plastic. Two of those will be ADA accessible.

So, all future birthday parties and friend-making that will happen from this point on at the Circle C Metro Park will include a place at the table for kids in wheelchairs as well!

The new Circle C Metropolitan Playground is currently scheduled to open in September 2020. Get your ice pops frozen and ready!

Transfer high-rate credit card balances

**\$0 Balance Transfer Fee**

Consolidate all your cards into one monthly payment

Pay off balances faster with a lower interest rate

\$0 fraud liability on unauthorized credit card purchases

Apply today | **RBFCU**  [rbfcu.org](http://rbfcu.org)

Membership eligibility required. Subject to credit approval. Rates, terms and programs are subject to change; other restrictions may apply. Balance transfer(s) may not exceed your available credit limit. You should continue to make all required payments on your other accounts until you confirm that the balance transfer has been made. Cash back rewards or points are not earned on balance transfers or cash advances. RNS30737



# NEW PREMIER COLLECTION OF HOMES NOW SELLING

EXPANSIVE VIEWS & GREENBELT BACKYARDS

## HEADWATERS

### A BETTER VIEW JUST DOWN THE ROAD

CHECK-OFF YOUR WISH LIST AT HEADWATERS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>FUTURE DSISD SCHOOL SITE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NEW HOMES FROM THE HIGH \$300S - \$700S+</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>ASHTON WOODS NOW SELLING! NEW MODEL HOME SUMMER 2020</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NATURAL GAS COMMUNITY SAVES MONEY ON THE UTILITY BILL</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>SPLIT-LEVEL, INFINITY-EDGE POOL WITH PANORAMIC VIEWS</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>OVER 8 MILES OF TRAILS MAKE IT EASY TO CONNECT WITH NATURE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STATE-OF-THE-ART FITNESS CENTER JUST A FEW STEPS AWAY</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>STARGAZING AMPHITHEATER TO EMBRACE DARK SKY COMMUNITY</b>

PLAN YOUR VISIT TODAY

708 HEADWATERS BLVD | DRIPPING SPRINGS, TX 78620 | 512-879-6119 | HEADWATERSLIFE.COM

Materials are protected by copyright, trademark, and other intellectual property laws. All rights in these materials are reserved. All products and company names marked as trademarked (TM) or registered (®) are trademarks of their respective holders. Copying, reproduction and distribution of materials without prior written consent of Peel Holdings Communities is strictly prohibited. All information, plans, and pricing are subject to change without notice. This information does not represent a specific offer of sale or solicitation to purchase property within Headwaters. Models do not reflect racial preference. Buyer incentives are subject to change without notice. Please see each individual builder for more information on incentives and special pricing.



## The Dog Days of Summer!



Photo Courtesy of Vigil S.

Although many believe the phrase “dog days of summer” refers to laying around like a lazy dog in the high heat of summer, the actual history is much more interesting.

The Canis Major constellation in our night sky resembles a dog, hence its name: “Canis” (dog) and “Major” (greater). The big dog in the sky loyally follows his buddy Orion (the hunter) in the Orion constellation.

This Canis Major constellation contains the biggest and brightest star of our night sky. Noting its large size and bright glow, the Greeks named this star Seirios, which means “scorching” or “glowing,” and believed that it worked alongside our sun to generate heat upon the earth, thus contributing to our sticky, summer days.

We now call this star “Sirius” and dub it the **“Dog Star”**, because its large, blueish twinkle makes it so easy to find, it has become the signature star when searching for the dog image. And no, although Sirius is twice as big, over ten times as bright, and much hotter than our sun — we cannot feel its intense heat because it lives 8.6 light years away from earth.

The ancient Greeks, Romans, and Egyptians noticed that, in the hot summer months following the summer solstice, Sirius was no longer visible in the night sky. Instead, it seemed to appear just before the sunrise, as if the dog was leading the sun. So, the 40 days when the dog star made itself visible before the sun rises, became known as the “dog days of summer”.

Although mostly bluish in color, Sirius spatters flashes of rainbow colors intermittently within its twinkling. These sky tricks encouraged ancient civilizations to believe the star

contained magical qualities. The Egyptians went so far as to consider the star a goddess (named **“Sopdet”**) and set their calendar so that the new year begins on the first of the dog days. It was during those days that the Nile river flooded and overflowed, spilling onto the land and watering the crops so they grew plentifully. On the other hand, the Greeks and Romans noticed the Seirios star preceding fever, disease and war, so they believed the star to be malevolent.

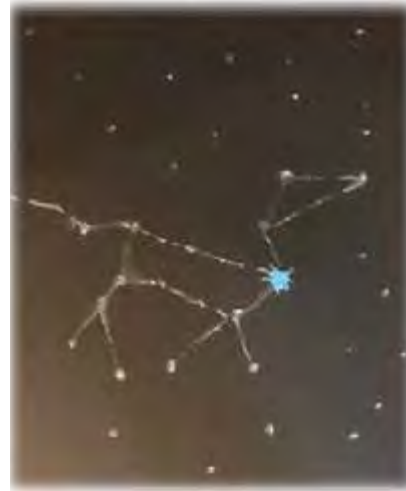


Image Courtesy of Cara Canary

Homer spoke of Sirius in in ***The Iliad***:

*“Sirius rises late in the dark, liquid sky. On summer nights, star of stars, Orion’s Dog they call it, brightest Of all, but an evil portent, bringing heat And fevers to suffering humanity.”*

Of course, these stories are nothing but folklore, right? Certainly, a large,

blue, twinkling star could have nothing to do with a river’s rising waters or an increase in fevers and sickness within a population, correct?

In 2009, scientists in Finland decided to conduct a retrospective study to determine if the dog days truly did coincide with a rise of infections in their Töölö Hospital (one of the largest trauma centers in Northern Europe). They looked back at the number of surgeries performed and the number of subsequent surgical infections from 2002 to 2005. The conclusion? They discovered the risk of infection after surgery during the dog days was two times higher than during the rest of the year.

The dog days of summer vary in calendar dates and seasons according to latitude, location, and climate, and depend on the tilt of the earth. In the Southern Hemisphere, for example, the dog days of summer begin in late January and extend until March. Here in the Northern Hemisphere, the current dog days of summer begin on July 3 and ending on August 11.

Perhaps the dog days have nothing to do with the rise of infections at Finland’s hospital or the recent spikes in U.S. coronavirus cases; but, here in Texas where we have run out of hospital beds, the impending arrival of August 11 might be a welcome relief.



# MCSPADDEN'S TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE

Dealer Quality Repairs, Without the Dealer Price!!

FOUR LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU  
Serving Central Texas since 1999

We are taking every precaution to keep our waiting areas and serviced cars clean and disinfected daily to keep you and your family safe!

## WHY CHOOSE MCSPADDEN'S

- Locally owned and operated
  - Full service automotive repairs and maintenance  
Same day repairs in most cases!
  - We work on all makes and models, both foreign and domestic, Diesels, trailer repairs & more!
  - No appointment necessary - Why wait? No wait oil changes in most cases!
  - Major Discounts - Teachers, EMS, Police, Firefighters and Military.
  - Courtesy Shuttle available on all repairs
  - Major Fleet Discounts!!
- Contact Raymond@mcspaddenautomotive.com for details.

**"Dealer quality work,  
without the dealer price"**

**BUDA / KYLE LOCATION**  
420 South FM 1626, Buda, TX 78610  
512-523-9800

**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)

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

## SUMMER SPECIALS

### A/C SERVICE

#### Free A/C Inspection

\$25 Off A/C Service or Repair if needed.

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

**MCSPADDEN'S  
TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE**

Excludes taxes. Cannot be combined with other offers. One time use only. Expires 09/30/20. PLS.

### INTRODUCTORY OFFER

**\$25 OFF** any repair on maintenance service of \$150 or more  
**\$50 OFF** any repair on maintenance service of \$350 or more  
**\$100 OFF** any repair on maintenance service of \$750 or more

**MCSPADDEN'S  
TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE**

Cannot be combined with any other offers. Excludes tires and batteries. One time use only. Expires 09/30/20. PLS.

### PREMIUM BRAKE SPECIAL

**\$50 OFF** CERAMIC OR OEM EQUIVALENT PADS

Includes:

- New brake pads or rear shoes
- Inspect master cylinder & brake hoses
- Resurface rotors or rear drums

- Repack front wheel bearings (Except sealed units)
- Road test the vehicle

MOST CARS AND LIGHT TRUCKS

**MCSPADDEN'S  
TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE**

Per axle. Must present coupon at time of service. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Expires 09/30/20. PLS.

### CHECK ENGINE LIGHT ON?

**FREE\***

We will scan your onboard computer for diagnostic codes free of charge

**MCSPADDEN'S  
TIRE & AUTOMOTIVE**

If additional diagnostics are necessary fees will apply. Expires 09/30/20. PLS.

### TIME FOR AN OIL CHANGE

**PREMIUM  
SYNTHETIC BLEND**

**\$27.95**

**PREMIUM  
FULL SYNTHETIC**

**\$49.95**

W/4 tire rotation and 52 point inspection

SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

- ✓ Brake Inspection
- ✓ Alignment Check
- ✓ 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 09/30/20. PLS.

**MCSPADDENAUTOMOTIVE.COM**



# Around Circle C

## BUSINESS CLASSIFIED

**MARIANNE'S CLEANING SERVICE:** Serving S.W. Austin for over 20 years. Bi-weekly, monthly, one time, move in/move out cleans welcome. Honest, dependable with excellent references. Isn't it nice to come home to a clean house? Call 512-653-5955 or email at maryspicandspan@yahoo.com. Free estimates.

### Classified Ads

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office @ 512-263-9181 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).



### WELCOME

Oak Hill United Methodist Church is excited to welcome our new pastor, Stephen Sanders. We would love to have you join us in worship and fellowship each Sunday morning at 10 a.m. on [facebook.com/OakHillUMC](https://facebook.com/OakHillUMC). You don't need a Facebook account to join the service. All are welcome.

COVID-19 and so many other things seem to make this a particularly difficult time. This month we'll be exploring how to "Thrive in the Wilderness."



[oakhillumc.org](https://oakhillumc.org) | 512.288.3836

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

**DISCLAIMER:** Articles and ads in this newsletter express the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Peel, Inc. or its employees. Peel, Inc. is not responsible for the accuracy of any facts stated in articles submitted by others. The publisher also assumes no responsibility for the advertising content with this publication. All warranties and representations made in the advertising content are solely that of the advertiser and any such claims regarding its content should be taken up with the advertiser.

\* The publisher assumes no liability with regard to its advertisers for misprints or failure to place advertising in this publication except for the actual cost of such advertising.

\* Although every effort is taken to avoid mistakes and/or misprints, the publisher assumes no responsibility for any errors of information or typographical mistakes, except as limited to the cost of advertising as stated above or in the case of misinformation, a printed retraction/correction.

\* Under no circumstances shall the publisher be held liable for incidental or consequential damages, inconvenience, loss of business or services, or any other liabilities from failure to publish, or from failure to publish in a timely manner, except as limited to liabilities stated above.



When it's time, you and your beloved pet can choose where you say farewell.

### Dr Rick Lusk DVM

Circle C resident for 15 years

Serving SW Austin for 25 years

Please call or text: 512-350-8291

24 hour availability (including weekends)

[Farewell-From-Home.com](https://farewell-from-home.com)

Home euthanasia for all household pets including birds



# MADSEN

— LAW OFFICE —

Injury and Insurance Law

5401 S. FM 1626, Ste. 170-484

Kyle, Texas 78640

Tel. 512-358-1616

Fax 210-855-7551

# FETCH WORTHY

## LEASH TRAINING, DOG WALKING & PET SITTING

"Walk healthier together."

- Learn how to communicate better with your dog.
- Enjoy walks without pulling, barking, or lunging.
- Experience more freedom!

Save \$25  
on dog  
walking\*  
with this ad  
3-week contract

- Certified & Insured
- Positive Training
- Woman-Owned
- Neighborhood Referred
- COVID-19 Safety Protocol

Let's connect! | (512) 648-3770 | [www.fetchworthy.net](https://www.fetchworthy.net) | [hello@fetchworthy.net](mailto:hello@fetchworthy.net)





**Epoxy Floors | Epoxy Flake Floors | Storage Solutions**



- Strong and Durable
- Easy to Clean
- Many Color Options
- Low Maintenance Cost
- Environmentally Friendly
- Increase Home Value

**CALL OR EMAIL  
FOR A FREE ESTIMATE!**

**512.791.7453**

**Contact@FortitudeGarages.com**

**FortitudeGarages.com**



Looking for online music lessons?  
Ask us about our new student discounts!

**Clavier-Werke School of Music**

**PIANO \* VOICE \* GUITAR  
VIOLIN \* VIOLA \* CELLO**



Check out our website and Facebook page to see what our students are capable of accomplishing with online lessons. We've posted some amazing performances by incredible students!

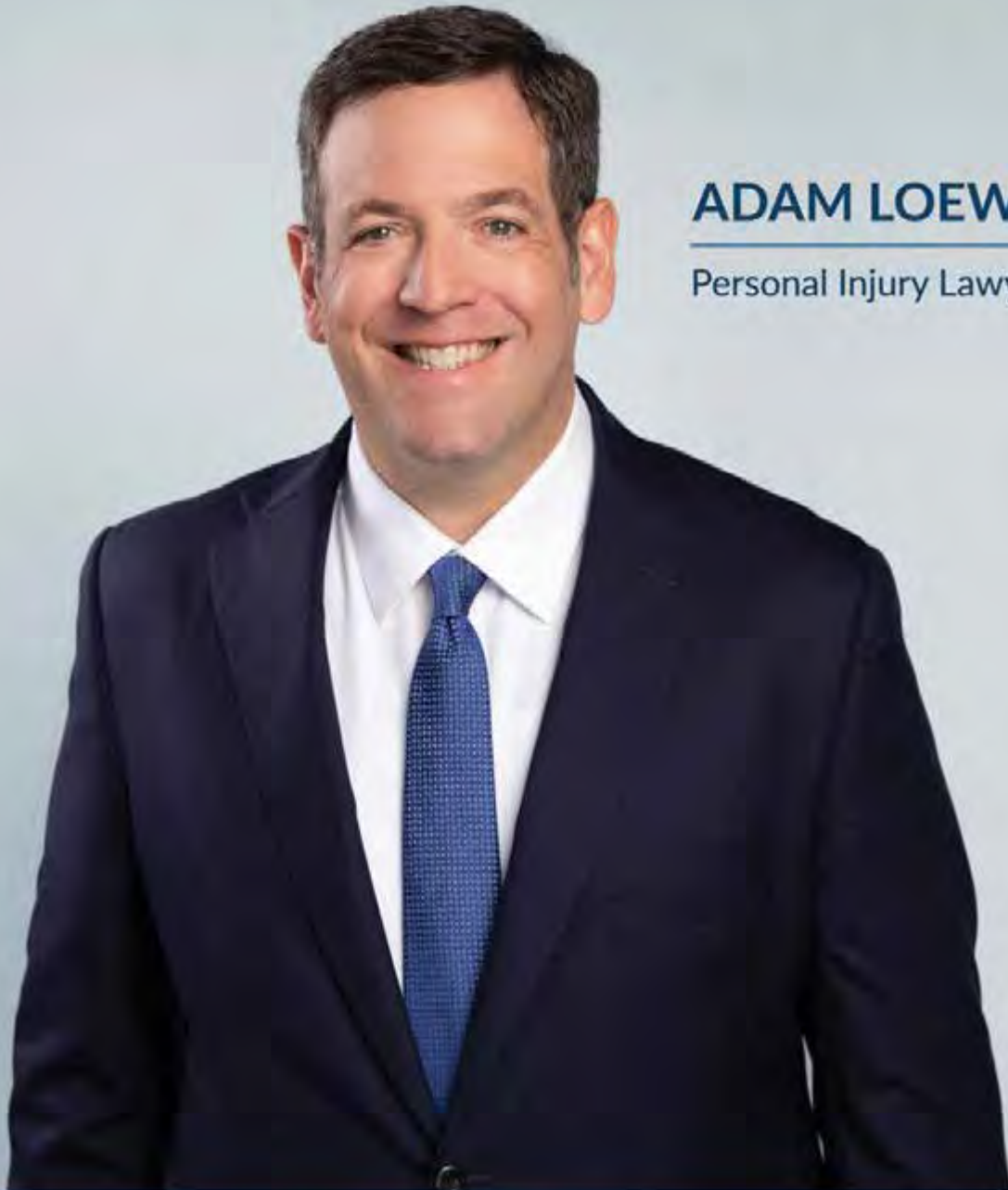
[www.clavierwerke.com](http://www.clavierwerke.com) || [www.Facebook/ClavierWerke](https://www.facebook.com/ClavierWerke)

South location **(512) 288-7664**  
[clavierwerkesouth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clavierwerkesouth@sbcglobal.net)

West Lake location **(512) 328-5777**  
[clavierwerke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:clavierwerke@sbcglobal.net)



Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents  
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



**ADAM LOEWY**

Personal Injury Lawyer



**LOEWY LAW FIRM**  
HELPING INJURED TEXANS

LoewyFirm.com  
(512) 280-0800



**PEEL, INC.**

1405 Brandi Ln  
Round Rock, TX 78681

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PEEL, INC.

CC

## ASHLEY AUSTIN HOMES

THESE 4 HOMES RECENTLY WENT PENDING IN 4 DAYS OR LESS!



**WITH AN UNCERTAIN PLAN FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR, LET US HELP YOU  
FIND THE PERFECT HOME TO MEET YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS.**

As an expert in the Austin market and the #1 agent in Southwest Austin, we'll make sure your real estate goals are met when you list your home.

Now is the time to discover what your home is worth in today's market. Call or text me so we can set up a time, in person or virtually, to get your home sold!

Find out why your neighbors are trusting Ashley Austin Homes to sell their home quickly and for more money!

[WWW.ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM](http://WWW.ASHLEYAUSTINHOMES.COM) 512.217.6103

**ASHLEY'S AWARD WINNING SYSTEM IS SHOWN IN HER RECORD BREAKING RESULTS**

*Austin's Platinum Top 50 Nominee and Award Winner 2015 – 2019 | AIOREP Top 10 Agent for Client Satisfaction in Texas 2015 – 2019  
Austin Business Journal Top Producing Agent 2013 – 2019 | Texas Monthly Five Star Agent 2013 – 2019*



# SquiresTeam.com

The homes you see on both sides of this newsletter is some of the Squires Team's home-sales activity in Southwest Austin for the month of July, 2020.

KW  
KELLERWILLIAMS

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 CHEAP interest rates! *John has been getting his clients incredible interest rates, like 2.875% on a 30 year fixed rate mortgage!* 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**.



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



6216 Tasajillo Trail of **Circle C Ranch** is **"JUST LISTED!"** John is bringing his newest listing on the market, as soon as it's ready. It's a gorgeous 2-story Wilshire Home backing to permanent greenbelt. 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, PLUS a huge game room upstairs. Enjoy the view from your family room looking out over the greenbelt or sip your morning coffee on the back deck while watching deer graze, just past your wrought-iron fence. Barrel tile roof and gated community. Walk out your back door and straight to the Circle C Ranch soccer fields! Thoughtfully priced at **\$529,000**. John Squires built the first two homes in Park West back in 1997, thus starting this gated, sub-neighborhood of Circle C Ranch. To see this gorgeous home or to learn more on Park West, just call John. He's the real estate expert in Southwest Austin.



John Squires supports APD and all first responders with monthly donations to give back to the families of those injured or who have fallen serving our community.



1474 Flint Rock Loop is **"JUST SOLD!!"** In **Rimrock**. Need a manicured acre lot backing to permanent greenbelt? There's plenty of elbow room out here with many homes coming on the market. John sold this gorgeous 1-story, loaded with upgrades to his thrilled buyer this week. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, media room, outdoor kitchen and NEW POOL coming! **\$565,000**.

7924 LaDera Verde is **"JUST SOLD!"** 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**.







Call John at (512) 970-1970  
to list your house for sale  
and/or buy another!

**John Squires sells homes other Southwest real estate experts cannot!** 8335 La Plata Loop of Lewis Mountain Ranch 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 **"JUST SOLD!!!"**. 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 "JUST SOLD!"** John just placed this amazing unicorn property under contract before market with his thrilled buyers. This is a uber-rare Streetman, Barton 2, model-home floorplan, highly upgraded, on a 1/2 acre~ with in-ground 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 \$820,000's.



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