



CIRCLE C RANCH

The Official Publication of the
Circle C Homeowner's Association

Newsletter

Volume 17, Number 10

October 2020

www.circlecranch.com

GCHOA 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, October 28, 2020 via ZOOM.

Links to the ZOOM meetings and meeting agendas may be found at 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.

DID YOU KNOW?

Octo means "eight" in Latin and Greek. The month of October was so named because it was originally the eighth month of the Roman calendar.

Austin's Congress Bridge only houses female Mexican Free-Tailed Bats and their pups. The males prefer to live on their own elsewhere in Austin. For more information, look for the "Austin's Bats" article in this newsletter.

IMPORTANT DATES IN OCTOBER:

Thursday, October 1, 2020
World Vegetarian Day

Friday, October 2, 2020
National Custodian Day



Saturday, October 3, 2020
National Kevin Day!! (No, really!)

Monday, October 5, 2020
World Teachers' Day

Tuesday, October 6, 2020
National Coaches Day

Saturday, October 10, 2020
World Mental Health Day

Monday, October 12, 2020
Indigenous People's Day (formerly
Columbus Day)

Monday, October 26, 2020
National Pumpkin Day

Wednesday, October 28, 2020
Circle C HOA Online Board
Meeting 6:30pm via Zoom

Saturday, October 31, 2020



Halloween

New Roots

Fall is a great season for planting in Central Texas. But gardens aren't the only things growing around Circle C. Austin home sales have surged by double-digits, even amidst a pandemic.

Homes Sold
4,537



Average Price
\$449K



Active Listings
5,309



Pending Sales
4,607



In shifting times like these, certain values emerge as perennially important to us all—values like transparency, responsiveness, and people-first expertise.

You're my neighbor in Circle C. And I'm dedicated to helping my neighbors make smart decisions about where and when to put down new roots.

All stats from Austin Housing Market Report, July 2020, in comparison to July 2019 stats



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

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AQUATICS NEWS

Swim Center is open for resident lap swimming by reservation only.

Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday

7 am – 10 am

4 pm – 7 pm

Saturday, Sunday

10 am – 2 pm

3 pm – 7pm

We are continuously monitoring the ongoing public health situation and will make adjustments to our operations as needed.

For more information on Lap Swim reservations including policies and instruction on how to make your reservation, please visit our Aquatics home page

at www.circlecranch.com

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

CCHOA NUMBERS

HOA Mgmt Officeinfo@circlecranch.info or 512-288-8663
HOA Financial Officetgiles@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 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
Bear Creek Elementary..... 512-414-0040
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

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!



Photography by Lee Page

DRUMMOND'S WILD PETUNIA (RUELLIA DRUMMONDIANA)

Life is full of little delights — if you're open to discovering them. Drummond's wild petunia is surely counted therein, popping its periwinkle petals into your day when you least expect them. A recent post-rain walk found them scattered in neighbors' yards, along puddled driveways and decorating soggy furniture awaiting bulk collection. Thomas Drummond, who the species name remembers, surely understood the magic of such discoveries. A Scottish naturalist, he devoted his life to collecting and understanding native Texas flora. A drought-tolerant perennial native only to Texas, *Ruellia drummondiana* likes a bit of shade, making it a great border plant (in the wild, it's often found along woodland edges). It's a larval host for the earth-toned winged beauties known as common buckeyes and provides nectar for other butterflies besides. Not too shabby a bloomer to have your name forever latched to, if you ask us.

RATTLEBUSH (SESBANIA DRUMMONDII)

Another of the many Texas native plants named after Thomas Drummond, rattlebush offers unexpected delights to please an array of senses. The attractive yellow flowers (which bloom from June to September) smell sweetly intoxicating, like many plants in the pea family (Fabaceae), making them a favorite of bees. And their long, compound, pinnate leaves can have up to 50 leaflets, making their foliage a sight of its own. Most notable, however, *Sesbania drummondii* doubles as an instrument once its seed pods dry out (usually in October and thereabouts); seeds become loose once mature, giving them room to rattle about, mimicking the sound of a rattlesnake. The percussive effect is sure to bring out the kid in just about anyone, making it a particularly fun scavenger hunt plant. If you find some in a wild landscape, get those pods a-movin' and do the rattlesnake shake, y'all!



Photography by Peggy Romfh

Find these plants at the Wildflower Center and learn more about them at wildflower.org/plants-main.

Submitted by Amy McCullough, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

OCTOBER IS EVERYTHING

There is much to look forward to this fall at the Wildflower Center: Starting Oct. 5, we'll be open late every night (until 7 p.m.), providing more opportunities to connect with nature and take in the fall wildflower show. Plus, Tuesday Twilights return Oct. 6 with special treats and drinks from 5 to 7 p.m. And *Fortlandia* is back with a whole new batch of fantastic forts! Members weekend is Oct. 3 and 4; open to the public beginning Oct. 5. Join us for a fab fall!

Find more details at wildflower.org.

IN THE YARD

Submitted by Jackie Rollins

Staying at home can be lots of fun when you have a playscape like this in your backyard! Oliver, 6, and Henri, 4, the sons of Sara Roesler and Emmanuel Durand, didn't have to pose for these pictures - they just kept on playing. Enjoy!



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Ronda Johnson of Teamlukehopeforminds.org thanks Marcia for her generous donations with the sale of every home sold in Circle C Ranch!

Marcia has worked in the Circle C Ranch neighborhood since 1999 and has sold these homes:

5608 Beachmont Court
6809 Beatty Lane
11000 Bexley Lane
5711 Bexley Court
10225 Broom Flower Drive
7000 Colberg Court
9109 Colberg Drive
5201 Corrientes Cove
7105 Doswell Lane
10413 Foxglove Court
5764 Gorham Glen Lane
11420 Lafitte Lane
11009 Maelin Drive

6508 Nusser Lane
10620 Redmond Road
10512 Redmond Cove
10803 Redmond Cove
5914 Rickerhill Lane
6201 Skahan Lane
11227 South Bay Lane
6813 Tanaqua
6407 Tasajillo
6612 Toolwrith Lane
10105 Wildflower Lane

...and MANY more!!

CALL or TEXT Marcia TODAY to sell your home.
She may have already sold your floorplan!!

Proud supporter of local charity Teamlukehopeforminds.org

SOLD IN 3 DAYS

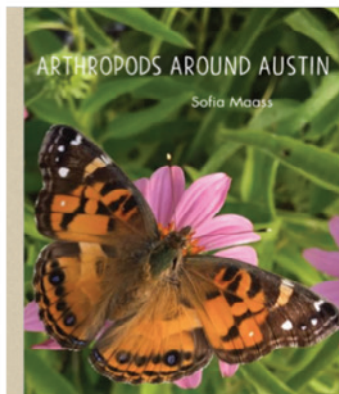
Marcia Pastrana, JD Law and Seller's R.E. Expert

★★★★★ "As one of the original residents of Circle C Ranch, I hired Marcia to sell my large home on Skahan Lane. Marcia Pastrana worked hard to negotiate a contract in order to help us get into our new home. Marcia found our new home and did that deal too!" - Jennifer M.

Circle C Spotlight



SPOTLIGHT ON A CIRCLE C TEEN



Sofia Maass recently graduated from Austin Waldorf School last May (2020) and is currently a freshman at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania where she studies environmental science and biology. In high school, Sofia volunteered at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center where she met Master Naturalist Valerie Bugh who taught her about the fascinating lives of insects. Under Valerie Bugh's

mentorship, Sofia took hundreds of pictures that she compiled into a book to educate us about arthropods. We asked her about her journey into entomology.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about your family? Do you have any siblings? How long have you lived in Circle C?

A: I am an only child, unless you count my poodle, Hank. I was born and raised in Austin and have lived in Circle C my whole life.

Q: How old were you when you first became interested in entomology?

A: I did not become seriously interested in entomology until I joined the Fauna Survey with Val Bugh at the Wildflower Center in high school. But I had always been interested in nature and enjoyed raising the Black Swallowtail caterpillars that I found on my grandmother's parsley.

Q: Were there any childhood experiences that possibly led to your interest in entomology?

A: I went to Cedars Montessori elementary school and we often

played outside in a natural space called "the clearing". There, we learned about nature rather than playing on the playground. It was my early interest in nature that led me to discover my love for entomology.

Q: What is your favorite story of experiences you've had with insects?

A: When I went to my first fauna survey, I did not really know what to expect and was really excited to learn about birds. But, the majority of animal life is arthropods, so that was mainly what we looked for in the fauna survey. I was amazed by how many arthropods I saw once I started looking and I realized how beautiful all of them are--even flies and cockroaches!



Sofia with a tarantula in Arizona

Q: Could you tell us a little about entomology? It is the study of insects, correct? Hasn't it now expanded to also include other groups of terrestrials (like slugs, earthworms, or arachnids)?

A: Entomology is the study of insects. This is different from arachnology which is the study of arachnids (spiders, scorpions, whip scorpions, mites, and ticks.) Though, when many people say entomology, they include arachnids. They are all arthropods.

Q: What are your favorite insects?

A: They aren't insects, but I really love jumping spiders. They each have different personalities, and I think they are hilarious.

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Pure Gold Realty presents

ROCK 'N' RESTOCK

Circle C

**Socially distanced
fun for the entire
family!**

WHEN: Fri, October 16

TIME: 5:30-10PM

**WHERE: Circle C
Community Center,
7817 LaCrosse Ave**

**Wear a mask, bring
snacks and a blanket
or chair.**



**THE WATTERS, DREW DAVIS
& GRAHAM WILKINSON**

**No charge for this event. Donations will kindly be
accepted for CENTRAL TEXAS FOOD BANK.**

Circle C Spotlight

Continued from Page 6

Q: Are there any insects that you don't like?

A: I try to like all insects but some, like fire ants (which I am allergic to), are harder to like than others.

Q: Tell us about the Waldorf senior project? Did it help motivate you to do something you otherwise would not have?

A: The Waldorf senior project is any project a senior wants to take on outside of school that they probably would not have done on their own. I definitely would not have learned as much as I did or have made my own field guide if it was not for the senior project. I am so glad I had it to push me to learn so much. It really showed me how much entomology means to me.

Q: How did you decide which project to do for your senior project? Did you know right away, or did you start something else and then discover you wanted to change it?

A: All through high school, students are exposed to the senior projects, so they start thinking about what they might want to do. There is a window of time in 11th grade when you have to make a final decision and I knew that this was what I wanted to do by then.

Q: How did you get involved with the LBJ Wildflower Center?

A: Waldorf requires 20 hours of community service a year and in 9th grade I started volunteering in the garden. As my interest grew, I joined the fauna survey in 10th grade and in 12th grade I started volunteering in the insectary.

Q: Val Bugh became a mentor for you there, for your senior project, correct?

A: Yes, she inspired me to do this project and I could not have done it without her as a mentor.

Q: Could you tell us about Val Bugh? What is she like? How did she help you?

A: Val is a Master Naturalist and author of some of the fold-out field guides you can get at the HEB registers. She is really knowledgeable and likes to share that knowledge. She even helped me realize that I was probably the first person in Travis County to photograph the larvae of a rare beetle, *Cassida relicta*. She also runs a website called austinbug.com that is really helpful for learning about insects in the Austin area.

Q: Could you share any details about the weekly fauna surveys she does at the Wildflower Center? Did you help with those? If so, what did you learn?

A: The Fauna Survey meets on Thursday mornings. Due to the pandemic, the



Peppered Jumper (*Pelegrina galathea*)

Wildflower Center has not been using volunteers, but during normal times, volunteers can sign up to help. The goal of the survey is to count all the fauna that we see. I learned so much even though I could only participate during school breaks. The Fauna Survey was really what inspired my interest in entomology.



Sofia holds a giant Amazonian ant in a Peruvian rainforest

Q: How long did you work with Val Bugh? Did she inspire you to put together your book? Did she give you any advice? Do you remember what it was?

A: I've known Val now for about 3 years. She was very encouraging throughout the whole process. She pushed me to identify insects completely on my own before asking for help. She also advised me to keep a

good organizational system for my photos, which made putting the book together a lot easier since I took hundreds of them.

Q: Could you tell us a little about the process of putting together your book? Did you use a local printing service to publish it?

A: I did not actually publish my book, I put it together on Shutterfly. (Since the point of the project was to learn about the insects and it would have taken up too much time to research about how to publish a book. I do have other friends who wrote and published books for their senior projects though!) I spent hours outside taking pictures of insects, hours identifying and the writing about them, and then formatting the book. The project probably took well over 100 hours.

Q: How many books did you print in total? Where did you sell them? Are you able to print more at a later time if more people are interested?

A: I ended up printing and selling about 40 books. Since I did not publish the books, I mostly sold them to friends and family. If people are interested, I can print more at a later time.

Q: You wanted to raise enough money to provide books to schools, correct? Which schools would you like to see carry your book?

A: Yes, my goal was to raise enough money to give copies of my book to Waldorf and Cedars Montessori. I sold the books at cost and asked people to donate a little extra if they felt moved to do so. I was able to give three copies to each school.

Q: Would you be interested in providing school visits to talk or teach about entomology for a few hours?

A: Sure, during my school breaks! Feel free to email me.

Q: Could you tell us a little about your college?

A: I am now at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania. I chose Allegheny because of their major and minor requirement. All students have to major and minor in completely different areas of study. This allows me to continue dancing through a minor in dance. (I have danced ballet since the age of 2 and miss my friends at ONE Academy of Dance.)



(*Cassida relicta* larvae)



(*Cassida relicta* adult)

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Allegheny is also well-known for their environmental science program, which is ranked #4 in the country, and for undergraduate research. I am really happy with my choice especially because they have a really good COVID plan.

Q: How is living at college during a pandemic? What does Allegheny done to prevent the spread of COVID?

A: It is exciting to be at college, but I know I am not getting the normal experience. There were fewer activities for the welcome week and many of them have been online. It has been harder to make friends with so many of my classes and activities online, but I'm working on it!

Allegheny has a really good plan and I feel really safe here. Everybody has been tested twice so far and no one is allowed off campus for the first few weeks. (It is an all-residential college in a tiny town, which helps.) We have a less than 1% positivity rate so far. When we got here, we all signed an agreement saying we would wear masks and practice social distancing and people seem to be following the rules for the most part.

Q: Have you declared a major yet? Does it have to do with entomology?

A: I am planning on majoring in Biology or Environmental Science and minoring in Dance. In other schools, my major would have been Wildlife Biology. One of the things I like about Allegheny is that I will get a broader education. I have already met the Entomology professor and I look forward to doing some research with her. My ultimate goal is to work outdoors doing science.

Q: What are your most rewarding experiences in your life so far?

A: This senior project was extremely rewarding. I also went on a student exchange to Peru where I learned a lot and also got to go visit the Amazon rainforest. Finally, I have loved my ballet experiences on stage and in the studio.

Q: How can we help you promote your book? Could we still purchase a book if you order more?

A: Contact me at sofia.a.maass2020@gmail.com

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

A: More pictures! :)



Austin's Bats



Halloween is approaching and soon after, Austin's bats will migrate to their second home in Mexico. As if in a nod to Halloween, Austin's bats usually stay here until just after October, leaving sometime in early November for their 1,000-or-

so mile journey to a different country. They return in March, just in time for Spring Break.



Froschauer, Ann – USFWS - Mexican Free-Tailed Bats

WHO Are Austin's Bats?

- Austin's bats are Mexican free-tailed bats (also known as Brazilian free-tailed bats) that choose to live in Mexico for the fall and winter, and Austin, Texas for the spring and summer. Some experts believe they migrate to a cave in the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, while others say they migrate to Central Mexico.
- Bats use echolocation to detect prey and to avoid confrontations in their navigation. Mexican free-tailed bats have at least 15 different types of calls that can be adjusted so they don't interfere with others. If they detect something crossing their path in flight, they change the frequency.
- Mexican free-tailed bats are so named because their tail reaches farther than their uropatagium (a membrane between the hindlimbs that assists in flying). The tail is also much longer than most other bats in relation to their bodies.
- Only pregnant female bats return to the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge. It is a "maternity colony," so non-pregnant females are not welcome.



Photo of Mexican Free-Tailed Bat Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife

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News You Can Use

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- Male Mexican free-tailed bats prefer to live in smaller groups known as “bachelor colonies” consisting of 100 or so male bats. These smaller “bachelor colonies” are usually found in stadium tops or on the sides of buildings, far away from the females. (Can you blame them?) Males do not assist in raising their young.
- Although adult Mexican free-tailed bats can have a wingspan of up to 11 inches wide, they weigh only 12 grams (less than half of an ounce) and their bodies are only 9 cm (3.5 in) long. Females are heavier than males by 1-2 ounces. Mothers birth pups weighing 1/3 of their own weight. This would be the equivalent of human mother birthing a 40 lb. baby.
- According to Bat Conservation International, bats can fly at altitudes over 10,000 feet and at speeds of up to 100mph!
- On a typical dry, late summer day, Austin’s Mexican free-tailed bats will fly a distance of 20 miles at 25mph.
- The average lifespan of the Mexican free-tailed bat is 11 years, although they can live up to 20 years in captivity. Predators of the bats include red-tailed hawks, great horned owls, barn owls, raccoons, skunks, and some snakes.

WHAT are they doing here?

- Well, for one, they search and destroy our most annoying (and dangerous) summer pests: mosquitoes! According to the Texas A&M Agricultural and Environmental Department, Texas has eighty-five different species of mosquitoes, including one with the nickname “Yellow Fever Mosquito” (*Aedes aegypti*). Ouch!
- Three of the top twenty cities in Orkin Pest Control’s “Top Mosquito Cities” in the nation are in Texas: Dallas-Ft. Worth (number 2), Houston (number 7), and Austin (number 20). It is very likely that the reason Austin is not in the top ten cities is because our millions of bats do the nightly clean-up for us by eating up to 75% of their body weight in mosquitoes.
- Mosquitoes spread diseases like encephalitis, Zika virus, and West Nile Virus. In a 2017 Austin Monthly article, Bat Conservation International’s Dianne Odegard is quoted as saying, “They [bats] perform an amazing service that saves Texans millions of dollars and billions across the United States on pesticides.” Austin’s bats collectively eat up to 30,000 pounds of insects a night! That’s a lot of disease-spreading insects from which we residents are spared.
- They also give us a s#! - load of bat guano to use for fertilizing our plants. Bat guano is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium: three nutrients essential to plants. According to Bat Conservation International, some Austin caves were found to have up to 80 tons of bat droppings! So, those bats can have our bugs and excrete them too.



WHEN Did They Arrive in Austin?

- Mexican free-tailed bats arrived in Austin long before the formation of our city. Most likely, they were attracted to our many Texas bugs and lakes. As our city developed and grew, we built more buildings and places, so the bats returning each year discovered more and more places in which to roost.
- According to legend, a large number of bats was discovered roosting in our city’s first city hall, so the building was dubbed, “the rookery.” Before that, bats were found mostly in caves or in loose wall boards and attic rafters in churches and homes.
- When University of Texas built its football stadium, pregnant female bats set up nursery colonies in the stadium, so the university hired exterminators to use cyanide gas to destroy the bats.
- In the spring and summer, Austin’s bats usually wait until just before sunset to make their mass departure from the bridge. First, they will begin high-pitched chirping noises, called “colony chatter,” to communicate with each other. Then, they send out “scout bats” or “light samplers” to check out the area and ensure it’s safe to depart before the mass exodus.



Photo of Bats in Cave Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife

WHERE in Austin do they currently roost?

- Roughly 750,000 pregnant female bats migrate back to the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge each March. They birth their pups sometime in June and then move the pups to the north side of the bridge in a “nursery” while all the new moms choose to live together on the south side of the bridge.
- Pups are placed in crowded conditions with up to 500 pups in one square foot section.
- Although Austin’s Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge hosts the world’s largest urban bat colony, Round Rock hosts the world’s largest suburban colony, and it’s larger than the one in Austin! Whereas most of Austinites try to avoid I-35 whenever possible, more than half a million Mexican free-tailed bats actually choose to live above that highway, under the McNeil bridge.

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- Suburban or urban qualifiers aside, the largest bat colony in the world is in Bracken Cave, near San Antonio and just one hour away from Circle C. It is estimated that more than 15 million Mexican free-tailed bats roost in that cave!

WHY do pregnant females return to the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge each year?

First, let's explore the history of our Congress Avenue Bridge (before it was renamed the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge).

- Originally built sometime between 1869 and 1871, Austin's first bridge over the Colorado River served to provide much needed transportation across the water for residents. The pontoon structure was washed away in a large flood, however, so the people turned to a system of "fords and ferries." When the water was low, fords (not the car, but the use of wading) would transport to the other side, and when the water was high, ferries took the people across.
- A few years and \$80,000 later, Austin received its second bridge: a wooden toll bridge to properly connect north and south Austin across the Colorado river. This was in 1875, thirteen years before the Texas State Capitol was built. As luck would have it, a large part of the wooden bridge collapsed when a herd of cattle rushed across it in a stampede, resulting in hundreds of cattle falling to their death in the river.
- It was not until 1884 that Austin finally replaced the old wooden bridge with an iron, modern one. This iron bridge, designed and built by engineer C.Q. Horton, was a steal at only \$74,000. A major investor in the bridge was the Swisher family who charged five cents to walk across, and fifteen cents for a man and horse. By 1891, the city of Austin and Travis County Road and Bridge Company had purchased the bridge and discontinued the toll.
- As the population grew and traffic on the bridge increased, the city of Austin decided, in 1910, (twelve years after the Capitol was built) to build a larger, concrete bridge. This is the same bridge we have today, although it was widened and updated in 1980.
- In widening the bridge in 1980, expansion joints were added, unintentionally creating holes ranging from 1-2 inches wide and 16-20 inches deep. These holes were surrounded by concrete that

soaked up the summer heat during the day and remained warm in the evening. As it turned out, these were optimal living conditions for the pregnant female Mexican free-tailed bats to roost with a perfect, warm spot for their newborn pups.

- Pregnant bats moved in that very summer in 1980 and returned each year. In just four years, the number of pregnant bats roosting under the Congress Avenue Bridge had increased to 75,000. Since 1984, that number has stabilized and remains consistent each year.
- In 1984, after the nursery colony had grown to 75,000 bats, the city of Austin declared a public health crisis and planned to close the holes.
- By 1995, the city of Austin had learned not only to live with the bats, but to embrace them, and the Texas State Legislature named bats as the state's official flying mammal.
- On November 16, 2006, the Austin City Council renamed the Congress Avenue Bridge as the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge.

HOW Do We Best View Austin's Bats?

- It is best to wait until July or August to view the bats emerging from the bridge because the pups are born in June, so waiting a month or two will provide double the number of bats emerging at dusk and a much more dramatic experience.

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Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife

News You Can Use



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. 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 | 512.288.3836



FAREWELL
FROM HOME

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

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Nicholas Madsen

Because
you've been
through enough.

I've got it
from here.

*This combat veteran
will fight for you!*



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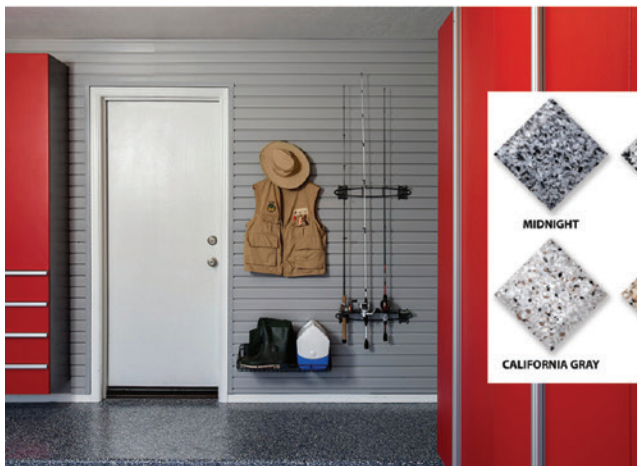


Continued from Page 11

- Standing on the bridge itself is for tourists, not locals. Most Austin locals know that the bridge gets too crowded (up to 100,000 viewers) and fighting your way to peer over the edge to try to view the bats below can be unpleasant.
- The bats usually emerge heading east, away from the setting sun. So settling your group of bat-watchers on the east side of the bridge allows for observing thousands of bats flying over your heads for their nightly emergence. It is quite the experience.
- Parking can be an issue. The Austin American Statesman's Bat Observation Center (305 S. Congress Ave.) has limited parking for \$6 for up to four hours. This fills up quickly, however, so the Hyatt Regency right across Congress Ave. has a large parking garage with ample parking that charges \$7 for the first hour and \$17 for up to three hours.
- Bring your blanket and maybe some wine and cheese, then sprawl out on the blanket, pour the drinks, eat the cheese, lay back on that grassy hillside of the Bat Observation Center (free for observers) and wait for the experience. The bats will fly directly over your head. Get your camera ready, but please do not use the flash.
- You may hear the colony chatter (chirping noises) begin earlier. These signify their preparation to emerge. You will likely see the first scout bats fly out to check things out and report back to the colony. You could even get a good whiff of that beneficial bat guano (that may not smell quite so beneficial). A few bats will fly out in smaller groups before the big emergence. Be patient and wait for the mass exodus. It is well worth it.
- For those less adventurous, the Hyatt Regency does have an outdoor patio close to the bridge with a nice view where they serve food and drinks. You will be on the west side of the bridge, however, so this is not as ideal, but the convenience of drinks and food delivered to your table might serve as a good compromise for a lesser optimal viewing point.
- Watching the emergence from a floating device in the lake is also a nice and relaxing way to view the bats. Kayaks, stand up paddleboards, and canoes are welcome on the lake and can be rented from places like Texas Rowing Center or Congress Avenue Kayaks. Larger boat companies, like Capital Cruises or Lone Star Riverboat, offer hour-long sightseeing cruises running between \$9-\$12 for adults.
- When around the bridge and the bats, please do not use bright lights or flashes that can temporarily blind the bats. Also, do not play loud music or make loud sounds, as this can interfere with the echolocation of the bats.



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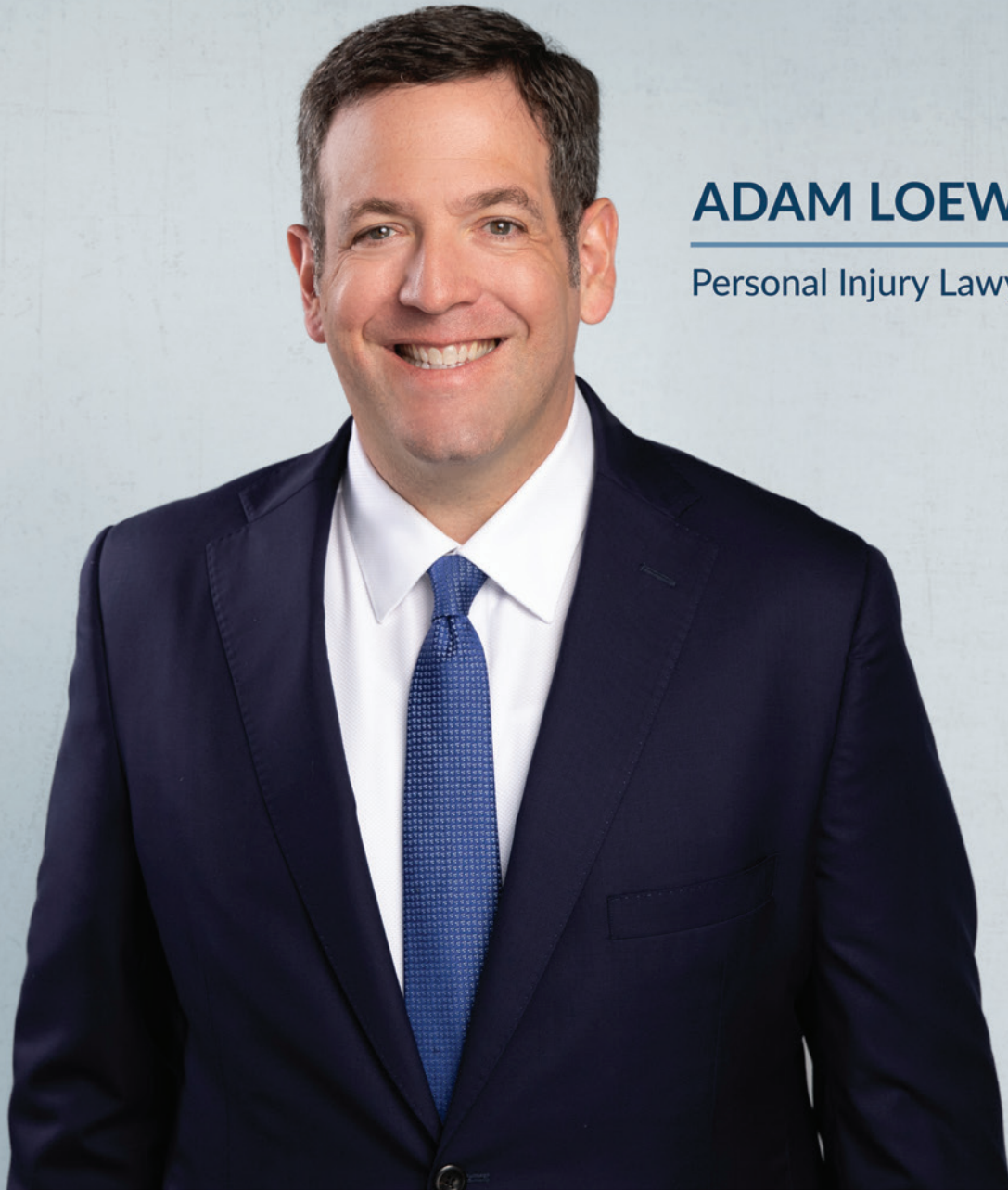
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The homes you see on both sides of this newsletter is some of the Squires Team's home-sales activity in Southwest Austin for the month of August, 2020.

KW
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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 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 SOLD!"** by John. 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 learn more on Park West, just call John. He's the #1 real estate expert in Southwest Austin homes sales.

10 Borello is **"JUST SOLD!"** in Lakeway in Flintrock Falls on the 13th fairway. John's buyer is absolutely thrilled with this gorgeous condo John found for them, 3 blocks from the Hills Country Club. When you're ready for a life of golf and relaxation, call John to find your dream home. Listed at **\$749,000**.





This is an absolutely unbelievable opportunity to own a Fedrick Harris Estate home with one of the most amazing back yards in all of Circle C Ranch. The inground pool is stunning and surrounded by mature flora and fauna with large shade trees and privacy. The custom built workshop with electricity would also easily double as a kid's outdoor playhouse. Call John to see this amazing property!



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

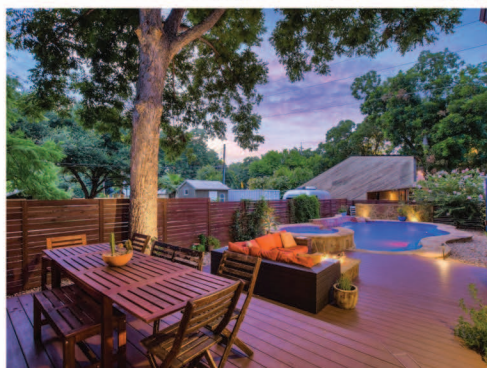
10212 Rhett Butler is **"COMING SOON!"** John is listing this stunning Fedrick Harris Estate home **"On The Park"** on one of the most sought-after streets in all of Circle C Ranch. Just 1 block from the highly acclaimed Kiker Elementary. At over 3,700 square feet, it has all the room for a growing family. Call John for pricing and more information at (512) 970-1970.



John Squires is the top agent in Southwest Austin and Circle C Ranch home sales over the last 23 years with over **740~** homes sold to date in the Southwest neighborhoods and **1115~** 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.**



903 Newman is John's new listing. **"UNDER CONTRACT"** and was priced at **\$699,000**. Sweet cottage in west Austin, close to town and hike/bike trails. Perfect for retiring to!



2304 Holly Street is **"JUST SOLD!"** by John Squires. "John stuck with us for 2 years to find just the right house for us. This is our absolute dream home, with a pool, downtown access, yet secluded and near parks and the lake. John, you totally rock and we love working with you!" Janna Kenniston and Jeremy Rice. Listed at **\$1,000,000**.