



The Gazette

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Is your child's workspace working for them?

What is the best way to set up a workspace for a child during remote learning due to COVID-19? Creating an effective working space will depend on your child's age, their learning preferences, and the specific demands of their curriculum.

It's important to include your student in making decisions on their learning environment. When students are able to make choices in their learning, they're more likely to take ownership of the process, and engagement will increase. For students grades K-2, try asking: what is your favorite thing about school? What is your favorite thing you do in school? Ask older students (grades 3-12) students to describe their favorite teacher or classroom. What is it about that space they like? When have they felt most successful in their learning? What is something that helps them be successful in the classroom? Through these discussions, students will often describe their ideal learning environment.

In thinking about personalized learning preferences, it's important to consider how to support your child's learning style by designing an environment that meets their needs.

Think about...

The auditory environment:

Have headphones available for them to listen to their teacher or participate in virtual classrooms. This may help them to focus. Some students may prefer a quiet workspace, while other students need some background noise. Consider the use of a white noise machine or soft music playing for students who prefer a bit of sound.

The visual environment:

Visual tools for organization are key. If they are in 4th grade and under: consider having folders for each subject in a different color might be helpful. If they are 5th grade and above: a written agenda will help students track what assignments are due, supply reminders, and provide a space for important information, - for example, digital learning app suggestions, teacher office hours, and log-in information.

The physical environment:

Supply Desk Set Up for all kids, adolescents, teens and even some adults! When setting up a workspace it is preferable to set it up in a place where it will be quiet and , but also where there is natural

light. Exposure to natural sunlight wakes up our brain and helps us to mentally focus. Have your student help keep the space clean and organized. Daily decluttering of the space will help with organization of materials. Consider that some students may prefer to sit in a chair at a desk, while others may be more productive on the floor or a bed.. Students will need frequent breaks in order to move throughout the day and should have a few different options of where they can do their work. Consider providing "fidget" items that students can use while engaged in online learning- small squishy balls, Play-Doh, and doodling. Wobble cushions for Pre-K to elementary or a Flex-Space ergonomic bounce chair (5 year – adult) may help students or adults to pay attention during long Zoom sessions.

Here are some items you may consider purchasing in order to organize your student's workspace:

Acrylic Desktop File, STORI Clear Plastic Hanging File Organizer with Handles, Amazon, \$20. You can see at a glance what you need without having to dig through it. Best of all, it is versatile, has handles and is portable from room to room. It can hold hanging files, sort working files vertically, hold a 3 ring binder and a legal pad for notes.

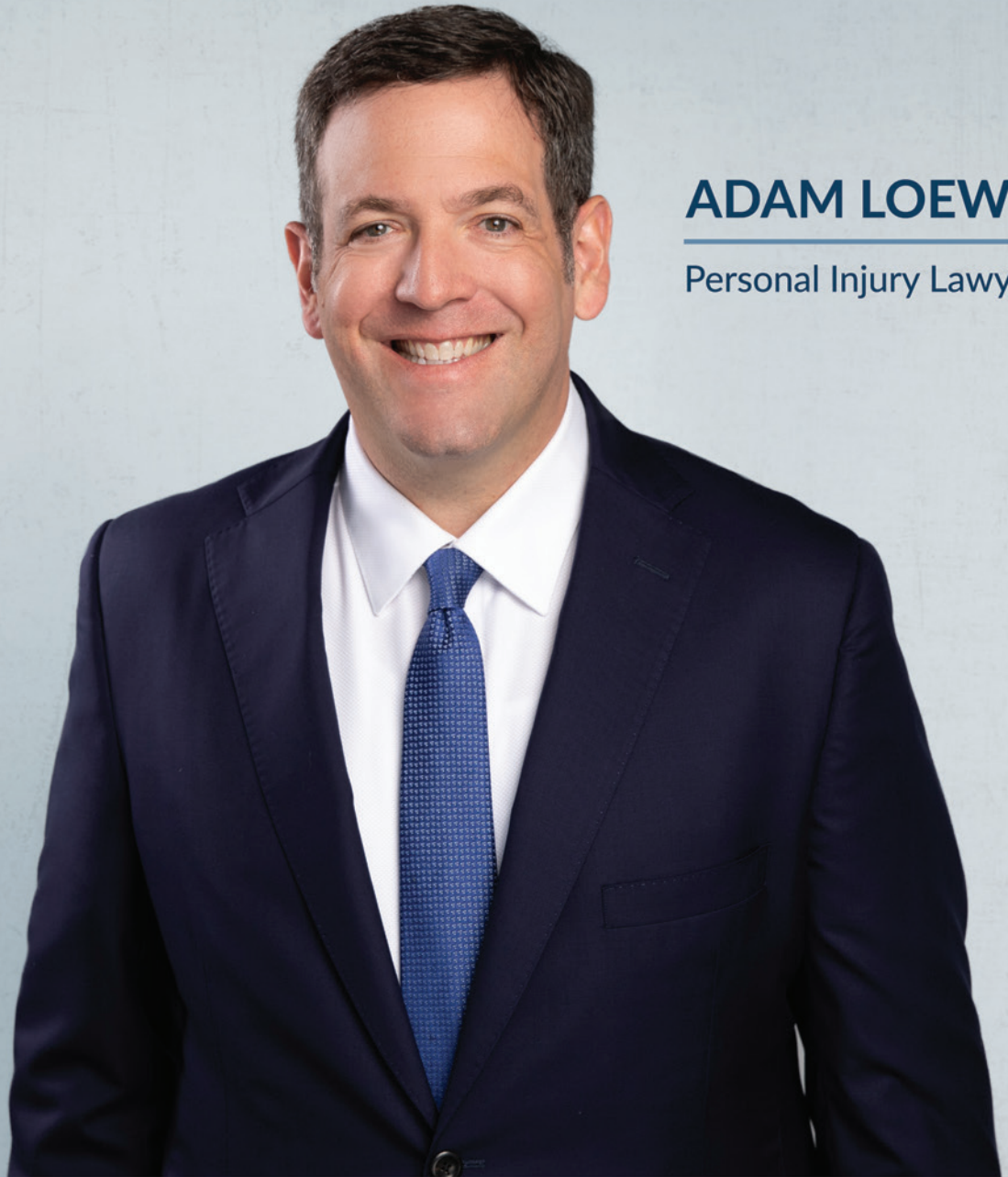
- A 1-1/2 inch notebook (with dividers) per child detailing: passwords to online platforms, app suggestions per class, emails from school that might need to be printed off, Agenda sheets, or college applications

- A laptop, Chromebook and Desktop if needed
- Dividers for a 3 ring binder
- Agenda Notebook or Agenda weekly Calendar to print
- Calendar for the wall (if needed)
- Dry Erase board to write out reminders/schedule or to work out problems

- Working and/or hanging file folders
- Pencil box and/or pen holder for taking notes
- Notebook Paper for kiddos needing to work out problems

Sally Grayum, is an Austin based professional organizer that lives in the Northwest Hills area and works with business professionals, working and stay at home parents. For more information please visit OrganizeMeSally.com.

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

SCHOOLS

Elementary	
Clayton.....	512-841-9200
Kiker	512-414-2584
Mills	512-841-2400
Patton.....	512-414-1780
Middle	
Bailey.....	512-414-4990
Small	512-841-6700
Gorzycki.....	512-841-8600
High School	
Austin.....	512-414-2505
Bowie.....	512-414-5247

UTILITIES

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

OTHER NUMBERS

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

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The Gazette

THE MOURNING DOVE

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center

The mourning dove is native to Texas and gets its name from the soft, sad-sounding coo that usually only the male makes. What you may not know is that the mourning dove also has a non-verbal whistling sound it makes when it takes off and lands. This sound is an alarm signal and is also associated with courtship. They are one of the most abundant birds of all North American birds.

Doves are highly-developed and range in size from a sparrow to a chicken. Mourning doves are one of seven species of doves in our area. The others are the white-winged dove, the white-tipped dove, the erasian collared, the rock dove (pigeon), the band-tailed pigeon, the inca dove and the common ground dove. Some of them, like the mourning dove, are monogamous. That means they'll stay with their mate for life unless something happens to the mate. If that happens, the mourning dove will find a replacement.

Mourning doves are recognizable by black spots on brown wings, a black beak, black eyes and a long, pointed tail. They look somewhat plump with a small head that looks a little too small for the size of the body.

You might catch a glimpse of a mourning dove on the ground or on a limb, leaning over and stretching one wing. The bird is either sunbathing or rainbathing. It can hold this position for up to twenty minutes. They also like to dustbathe.

Their diet consists mostly of seeds. They have a preference for rapeseed, corn, millet, safflower, and sunflower seeds. They eat until their crops are full and then fly away to digest the food. They'll often swallow sand or fine gravel to aid in digestion.

Doves are the number one game bird in the country and Texas leads the nation in hunter and harvest humbers. Every year from June to August, Texas Parks and Wildlife place leg bands on thousands of mourning and white-winged doves. The primary reason for banding is to track the harvest. This is done in order to monitor the factors that influence the populations. Hunters report banded birds and the information gathered provides estimates of harvest and survival rates. The data is used in several programs to help manage populations and set hunting regulations. Hunters are urged to report any bands they find.

Here are a few very interesting facts about this very common bird.

- They have a very short life span. They usually only live about 1.5 years. The oldest recorded age of a mourning dove is 31.
- They are one of only a few birds that can actually sip water like humans. Most birds gulp water and then rotate their heads until the water goes down their throats.
- Many of them lay eggs several times a year.
- Mourning doves can fly up to 55mph. Compare that to a Northern Flicker that weighs about the same but can only fly 23 mph.
- Another name used for mourning doves is turtle doves.

TWRC admits hundreds of injured, orphaned and displaced doves every year. Some have dog and cat wounds, some have had collisions with windows, or have fallen out of a nest. Whatever the reason for their admission, we care for them until they are able to be returned to the wild. If you'd like more information about what we do, check out our website at www.twrcwildlifecenter.org.



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

STOP THE MONEY TRAIN TO UNAFFORDABILITY

\$7 BILLION IS TOO MUCH FOR SOMETHING THAT DOES TOO LITTLE

THEY ARE TELLING YOU A FAIRY TALE:

WHY SHOULD WE TRUST CAPMETRO TO MANAGE A MONUMENTALLY COMPLICATED AND EXPENSIVE PROJECT?

They said the Leander-Convention Center line would cost \$60 million, but former Senator Kirk Watson said it wound up costing \$140 million, 133% more than was promised voters. They're asking you to vote on a marketing idea, just colored lines on a map, yet no significant engineering or environmental studies have been conducted. Plus, their plan includes a rail line in a tunnel under Congress Avenue, which they say will be very expensive, but they won't say how expensive because they don't have a clue.

This suggests that Project Connect could wind up NOT costing \$7 billion but \$16 billion OR MORE.

CAPMETRO HAS A DISMAL RECORD OF MANAGING MONEY AND CARING ABOUT SAFETY.

A Texas State Legislature investigative staff reported that CapMetro mismanaged \$200 million in a reserve fund. They had to delay the opening of the Leander-Convention Center line for two years when federal safety regulators found an improper signal system, unsafe bridges, and other safety problems—all of which added \$30 million to the final cost of the line.

San Antonio's transit agency, VIA, moves 20% more riders than CapMetro in a service area that's twice as big, yet CapMetro spends 42% more per ride.

From The Washington Post (August 10) on the D.C. rail system: "Officials use terms like 'catastrophic' and 'Armageddon' to describe the system's money woes."

CAPMETRO PROMISED VOTERS THAT A PORTION OF THE LEANDER-CONVENTION CENTER LINE'S COST WOULD BE PAID FOR BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN.

Now, CapMetro is making the exact same promise to voters for Project Connect. **This is a myth!** And if they don't get those federal dollars, they will still collect the taxes and do as much as they can—with no concrete completion plan.

WHO WILL RIDE THE MONEY TRAIN?

The rail cars will be like all the empty buses we see every day. It will **NOT** increase the number of riders of public transportation. Too few people live close to the lines. An increasing number of people will be working remotely, and this kind of transport just won't be necessary. Downtown offices will no longer be a destination for as many workers as CapMetro is putting into its ridership estimates. **And don't forget our weather:** Would you walk a mile in Texas heat and cold and rain to a rail stop?

PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns against being on crowded rail cars, such as the subways in New York City, which are seen as a principal cause of it being the epicenter of the global coronavirus pandemic. The Washington Post: "...They stand on station platforms and at bus stops, nervously waiting for rides in confined spaces with strangers—prime conditions for spreading the virus. They board thinking the virus could be lurking anywhere—on subway poles, bus seats or floating in the air around them from another passenger's uncovered cough or sneeze."

Political ad paid for by Our Mobility Our Future PAC.

VOTE NO FOR PROJECT CONNECT

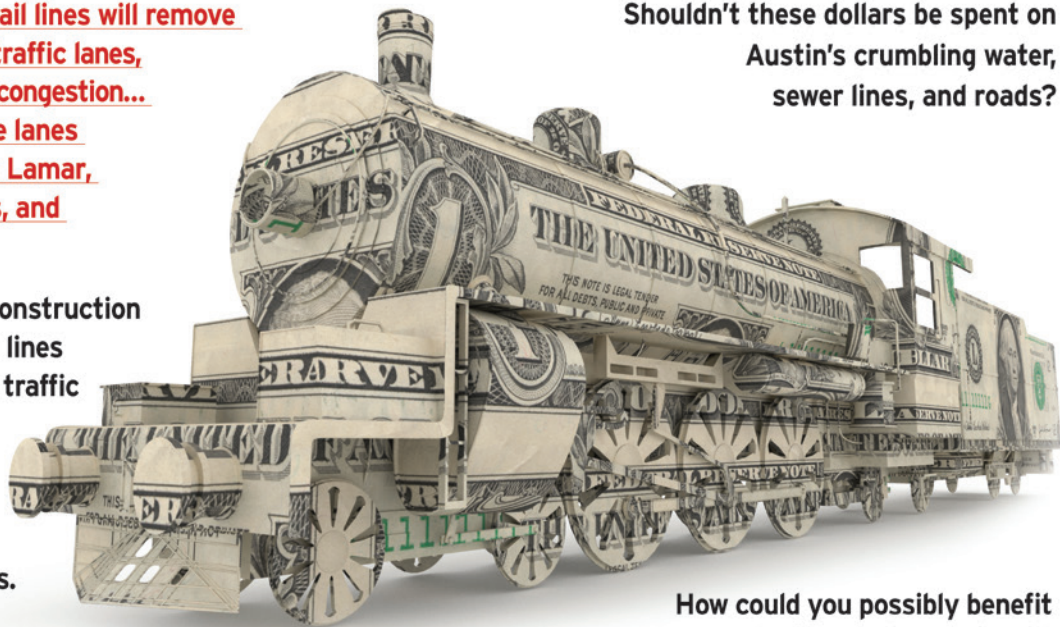
If Proposition A with Project Connect Passes...

A **25%** PROPERTY TAX INCREASE TO PAY FOR THIS MONEY TRAIN

The \$460 million "Active Transportation" bond that's also on this ballot would cost even more. And taxes will yet again increase as property values inevitably rise. Landlords will raise rents to cover higher property taxes. This is all from the same mayor and council members who are "defunding" and "re-imagining" \$150 million of the APD budget, with a huge reduction in the number of officers on the streets. The mayor and council members obviously don't care about affordability or public safety.

Project Connect's rail lines will remove miles and miles of traffic lanes, creating even more congestion... Such as the outside lanes of North and South Lamar, The Drag, Congress, and South Congress.

The decades-long construction of the proposed rail lines would make Austin traffic even more of a nightmare and result in small businesses closing along the rail routes.



Shouldn't these dollars be spent on Austin's crumbling water, sewer lines, and roads?

Say goodbye to hundreds of parking spaces.

How could you possibly benefit personally from this massive hit to your budget and your savings?

"This election will tell us how much BS Austin voters will believe and how much taxes they will pay to get it."

Retired Travis County Judge Bill Aleshire

Listening to developers and lobbyists, city staff, and small activist groups has put the mayor and council so out of touch with reality. They don't understand why it's wrong to raise property taxes by 25% in the middle of a pandemic when so many people are out of work, behind on their mortgage and rent payments, and struggling to meet their necessities. **The mayor, a multi-millionaire, got elected promising affordability.** Instead, he wants to slam the 65+, the disabled, the retired, and those living paycheck to paycheck with a 25% tax increase.

Political ad paid for by Our Mobility Our Future PAC.

Lettuce Recycle! *by Dena Houston*

MIXED-UP RECYCLING

Mixed materials present a special challenge to the recycling industry. In the Austin market, these items are not recyclable and must go into the trash can. The reason they cannot be recycled is that these items consist of layers of material that cannot be separated in order to recycle the various parts. Tetra packs are the most common material. They are layers of plastic, cardboard, and foil. The following items are examples of Tetra packs and other mixed materials that cannot be recycled in Austin:

- Amazon packaging consisting of padding material between two layers of brown paper
- Bread crumb containers (e.g., Progresso bread crumbs)
- Snack foods, cookies, and chip bags
- Single use food pouches – baby food, tuna fish, etc.
- Juice boxes (single serving)
- Mailing envelopes consisting of stiff paper lined with bubble wrap or other insulation
- Cardboard box containers (Tetra packs) – Orange juice, milk, bouillon

PLEASE REMEMBER – WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!!!
AUSTIN CREATIVE REUSE

Due to the pandemic, Austin Creative Reuse is closed. However, they are accepting appointments to take donations. Please visit <https://www.austincreativereuse.org/> for current information. They also provide Zoom shopping and curbside pickup.

IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT CURBSIDE COMPOST

COLLECTION

All Austin residents who do not yet have curbside compost collection were originally scheduled to have it begin in September 2020. Sadly, because of the pandemic, the equipment necessary to make this happen (green curbside bins, etc.) is not being produced. It is the hope of Austin Resource Recovery that the rollout will happen by the end of 2020.

RECYCLE & REUSE DROP-OFF CENTER

Due to the pandemic, the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center is closed. However, you can make an appointment to have hazardous materials and batteries picked up safely at your home. The Center cannot take electronics or Styrofoam at this time. Please call 512-974-4343 to schedule a home pickup.

NEW CURBSIDE PICKUP PROGRAM IN AUSTIN

Austin Resource Recovery has just teamed up with Goodwill of Central Texas to offer clothing and housewares curbside collection to all residential customers at no cost! They will pick up unwanted clothing, shoes, accessories, toys, linens, and housewares in any condition for reuse or recycling. The pickup is by appointment only. Please see the following website for details: <http://austintexas.gov/department/clothing-housewares-curbside-collection>


QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS:

IF THE RECYCLE & REUSE DROP-OFF CENTER IS STILL CLOSED, WHERE CAN I RECYCLE OLD COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL CAMERAS? The Staples Store on Barbara Jordan Blvd. will accept electronics for recycling. They provide this service free of charge. This includes laptops, hard drives, and digital cameras. Please remove or erase hard drives on any donated computer.

HOW DO I RECYCLE THE SILVER INSULATED BAGS THAT COLD FOOD IS DELIVERED IN? Sadly, these bags are not recyclable but they are certainly reusable. They make great bags for using at the grocery store. At this time, I have not been able to locate an organization that can reuse them.

Here is a very informative City of Austin recycling website that offers help in finding out how to recycle specific items: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>

Stay tuned for future tips that will include creative ways to recycle or reuse. If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to me at this address: recycling@hpwbana.org.



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Nicholas Madsen



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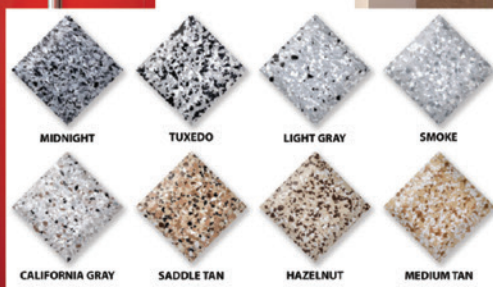
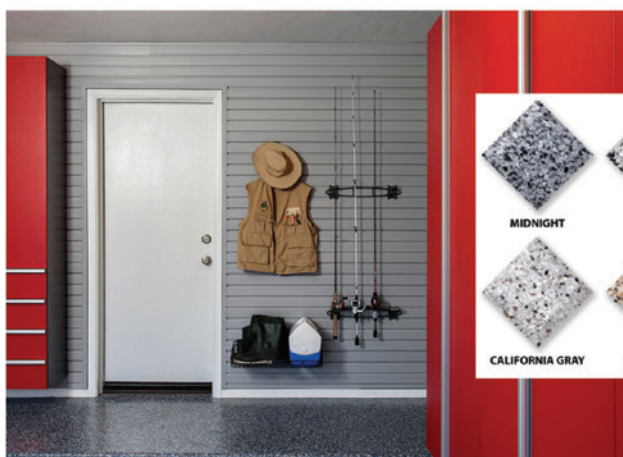
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SOLD IN LESS THAN 7
DAYS AND 67% OF THOSE
HOMES HAD OFFERS OVER
THE ASKING PRICE!



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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 August, 2020.

KW
KELLERWILLIAMS
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.

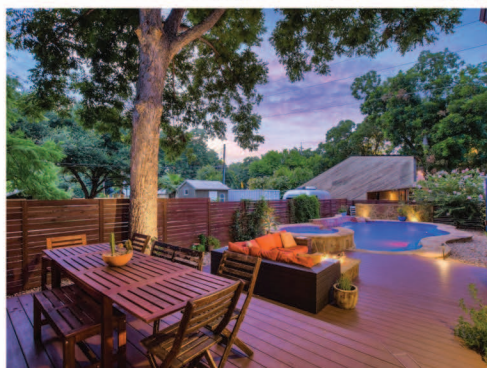
10212 Rhett Butler is **"COMING SOON!"** John is listing this stunning Fedrick Harris Estate home **"On The Park"** on one of the most sought-after streets in all of Circle C Ranch. Just 1 block from the highly acclaimed Kiker Elementary. At over 3,700 square feet, it has all the room for a growing family.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