

## 8 Reasons to Serve on Your HOA Board

*As Told Through Famous Quotes | Image Courtesy of CLKER Clip Art*



### 1. "Be the change you wish to see in the world."

Did Mahatma Gandhi really say that? Most likely not. Several scholars have searched through Gandhi's writings, teachings, and speeches and have not yet discovered evidence of this famous saying in his works. As former US President Lincoln warned us, we should not believe everything we read on the internet. It seems that great leaders are often posthumously attributed with inspiring quotes.

Regardless of its origin, this inspiring saying rings true. If we believe sectors within our world could stand some improvement, who best to improve them but us?

This March, two of the positions on the Circle C HOA board will open up for new candidates. People with fresh ideas and those that want to make positive changes to our neighborhood and community are needed.

### 2. "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

This quote by John F. Kennedy reminds us that we learn when we lead. Who among us does not want to be smart?

That's right: serve on your HOA board and you too could become the next Einstein!

### 3. "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

Can you guess who first said this? Here's a hint: she was friends with Mark Twain and could recognize him mainly by his smell — of tobacco.

No? Here's another hint: her face is printed on a piece of US currency — along with her name in braille.

If you guessed it was Helen Keller, you would be correct. Helen Keller well understood the importance of working with a good team to accomplish more. If it weren't for her educators, her parents, Mark Twain, and others, she might never have received a Presidential Medal of Freedom, published twelve books, or traveled the world as a motivational speaker.

With over 10,000 people living in Circle C, we surprisingly don't have enough people running for the board. In the past, former board members have stepped up to the plate to serve again, but it is time for our team to grow.

There is so much we can accomplish together — if we have enough helpers.

### 4. "The greatness of a man is not how much wealth he acquires, but in his integrity and ability to affect those around him positively."

Waddup, Rasta!

Perhaps the king of affecting others in a positive manner is singer-songwriter, Bob Marley.

While most of us will never achieve the status of becoming a lyrical genius, we could at least start by helping to keep our neighborhood HOA board continue making sound decisions, keeping our budget balanced, and keeping political sign-stealers at bay.

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# I'll give it to you straight, neighbor: Every dollar counts.

So my goal is to make you money and save you money. To do this, I invest deeply in your property. At **zero cost to the seller**, I provide:

## Gorgeous Professional Photography



## 5X More Listing Exposure on a National & Global Scale

Listing Page Views



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Web leads that convert at 2X the industry average

## Staging for Increased Value



Homes staged prior to going on the market sell in 90% less time.

## High-Impact Print & Direct-Mail Advertising



Featured in Your Local Community Impact Newspaper

About saving: I'm offering negotiable listing fees exclusively to my Circle C neighbors.

For details, please get in touch today.



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512-925-9100 • BarrettATXhomes.com

barrett@realtyaustin.com





### Continued from Cover Page

If that's not making enough of a positive difference, then we don't know what is. Well, maybe something along the lines of adopting a dog. Or writing a legendary redemption song.

#### 5. "If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes — then learn how to do it later."

Richard Branson knows a little bit about inexperience. He also knows about jumping into something that he knows little about. He was just 16 years old when he started his first magazine. Recognizing his youth and inexperience, he even named his record label, "Virgin Records."

You don't have to have experience working on a board to serve on your HOA board. You only need to be responsible, willing to learn, have the ability to listen to others, and want to help your neighborhood. You will work with a variety of people with connections in all sorts of career fields. Who knows, you might even meet the next Richard Branson.

Never be afraid to jump into volunteering for something because you don't feel like you know enough about the work. Plenty of board members in the past have run for office and won the position with no prior knowledge of working on a board. The HOA manager, Karen Hibpsman, knows what she's doing and is patient in explaining the process.

"For my first year on the board, I kept my mouth closed and my ears open," says former Circle C HOA President, Kim Ackerman. "It's fascinating to learn so much about our neighborhood and why decisions are made."

Unlike Richard Branson on his first venture, however, you must be older than 16 years to serve on the board. You have to be at least 18 years of age and own a house in Circle C.

We do promise not to tease you or call you a virgin due to any inexperience.

#### 6. "Energy cannot be created nor destroyed. It can only be changed from one form to another."

Ok, so maybe this has nothing to do with serving on the board.

Or maybe it does. . . In addition to winning the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1921, it is not entirely impossible that Albert Einstein might have known how much energy 2020 would take from us and how we could rearrange that energy to put into serving on the Circle C HOA Board in 2021.

#### 7. "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassion of its members."

Coretta Scott King knows a little about living in a world without compassion for others. If you have

Compassion for others in your heart, please consider running for our neighborhood HOA Board.

#### 8. "If you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself. Something to repair tears in your community. Something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is — living not for oneself, but for one's community."

The notorious Ruth Bader Ginsberg (RBG) taught our nation how to dissent respectfully and still get along with those with whom we might disagree. This is crucial to practicing leadership of any sort, including serving on an HOA board.

We've been prepped, we've learned from her example. Now, let's grab some lace collars and volunteer to join our community HOA. We will toast to RBG and these other greats together!

## 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, 866-473-2573

*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  
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

## **Important Dates in December:**

**Tuesday, December 1, 2020**

World AIDS Awareness Day

**Wednesday, December 2, 2020**

**CCHOA December Board Meeting - 6:30pm**

Circle C Annual Holiday Times Market – Online This Year!

- Join the Facebook Group: Virtually Yours Artisan Market

- Also, Visit [www.AustinCraftLounge.com](http://www.AustinCraftLounge.com) for more Circle C Artisans

**Sunday, December 6, 2020**

St. Nicholas Day: Some Children Leave Shoes Outside the Front Door so St. Nicholas Can Fill Them with Goodies.

**Saturday, December 12, 2020**

Outdoor Craft Fair at Austin Craft Lounge Featuring Circle C Artists

12919 Nutty Brown Road, Austin, TX 78737

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

Bill of Rights Day

**Monday, December 21, 2020**

Winter Solstice (Shortest Day of the Year)

**December 24 – December 25, 2020**

CCHOA Office Closed

**December 31, 2020 – January 1, 2021**

CCHOA Office Closed

**CCHOA Board Meeting – Wednesday, December 2**

The Circle C HOA Board of Directors will meet on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:30pm via ZOOM.

Links to the ZOOM meetings and meeting agendas may be found on our website at [www.circlecranch.com](http://www.circlecranch.com) 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](mailto:info@circlecranch.info).

**ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION/CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE FORM**

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the two open board seats (elections to be held at the Annual Meeting on March 10, 2021) through January 8, 2021. To download the Candidate Questionnaire form, go to [www.circlecranch.com](http://www.circlecranch.com) under News & Announcements. The Nominating Committee will host a Candidate Forum in February. The date will be published on the website and in the February newsletter.

The Annual Meeting and Elections will be held on March 10, 2021 at the Circle C Community Center. Your ballot and proxy will be printed on the back of your first 2021 CCHOA dues assessment invoice (which will be mailed February 1st and due March 1st)

Annual Report to the Membership

The 2020 Annual Report to the membership from the Board of Directors will be printed in the March 2021 newsletter. A copy will also be posted on our website and available at the HOA office during the month of March 2021.

## **? Circle C Amendment ? Proposals Explained**

For many years now, Circle C residents have questioned the original Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs). Questions like: “Why can’t we leave a basketball net outside for our kids?” or “Why are our dues based on our house taxes?” or “Why do the larger homes in Circle C get more votes?” are repeatedly posed to the board and the management team.

Your questions are reasonable. Many of our original CC&Rs are no longer relevant to today’s standards. Rules like not working from home (hello 2020) or allowing trash bins on the front street twice a week (we’ve had weekly pickups now for over eighteen years) are significantly outdated.

So, we took the questions asked the most, and constructed amendments written to adjust our rules to better serve the community. Our lawyers then checked our wording, made some slight adjustments, and here we are, with nine amendments for you – our homeowners – to vote upon. You get to decide if you want to have play equipment in your front yard or want to be able to work from home, etcetera.

The problem now is that people are not voting. Or at least, not enough people are voting. For any of these proposed amendments to pass, per state law, we need at a minimum of 67% of eligible homeowners to vote yes. With over 5600 homes in Circle C, that is approximately 3,752 ‘yes’ votes.

Why are people not voting? Some residents have posted questions inquiring why these proposed amendments are grouped together. Some are not sure about the wording. We will do our best to explain answers to some of your questions and concerns below.

First, convenience is an issue. Grouping the nine proposals into three voting items helps to make the process easier and faster. It is also why online voting is now accessible via the [www.circlecranch.com](http://www.circlecranch.com) website. If you have not yet registered, you may do so at <https://circlecranch.ivotehoa.com/register>. You will need a registration code unique to your address. This code can be found by calling our finance office at 512-451-9901 or by checking your assessment statement.

Second, below is a quick explanation for the proposals. For a more comprehensive explanation, please refer to the June edition of the Circle C Newsletter or visit the CircleCRanch.com website and search for “download voting pamphlet”.



Image Courtesy of PublicDomainPictures.net

# VOTE

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**Item 1:** The below proposals relate to voting and assessments.

**Article I. Section 1:** Adds the term “development lot” to distinguish between our current homeowners and developers for both voting purposes and for collecting dues. For unfinished homes that sit longer than six months after the certificate of occupancy for residence is issued, we would like to collect 25% of normal assessment dues from the developers.

**Article I. Section 3:** Allows the Board to add up to 200 lots within a 12-month period. Speaking of developers, there is a section in Avana (called the Rowell) where homeowners purchased their houses but are not actually part of Circle C HOA. Those neighbors have to pay a complete separate HOA now and would like to officially join our community.

**Article II. Section 2:** Changes our voting to one vote per lot for homeowners. Currently the voting process allows larger homes to have more voting points than others. One vote per lot gives every homeowner an equal vote.

**Article III. Section 3:** Sets a uniform assessment rate. Having one uniform rate for every homeowner simplifies the process rather than paying dues based on tax appraisals. Also, under this proposal, developers holding development lots would have to pay 25% of the rate.

**Item 2:** The below proposals relate to Circle C houses and lots.

**Article V. Section 3 (k):** Changes the number of times per week

homeowners may leave trash bins out to only one time per week. Before Circle C was annexed, our trash was picked up twice a week. Now, it's only once a week.

**Article V. Section 1:** Defines “residential purposes” as using the house as “a place of abode”. This proposal allows for approval of storage sheds and greenhouses.

**Article V. Section 3 (b):** Did you know that under the old CC&Rs, you are technically not allowed to work from home? This proposal seeks to change this.

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

**Item 3:** Discusses future changes to the CC&Rs.

**Article VIII. Section 2:** Allows future amendments to be made by one of 2 ways: (1) by a fifty percent plus 1 of total eligible votes), and (2) by the Board of Directors as necessary to conform to current U.S., state, or local laws.

If you have any questions or concerns about the proposals, please feel free to call our HOA manager, Karen, at 512-288-6488 or email [info@circlecranch.com](mailto:info@circlecranch.com). Karen is very familiar with the history of Circle C Ranch and the reasons for the proposed changes. She's happy to answer any questions you may have.

## **Selling Austin and Circle C Ranch for over 20 years!!!** Text, Call or e-mail:

FREE Professional photography  
FREE Professional staging

FREE Cleaning services  
FREE Market reports and updates!!

**(512) 970-0830**

[Marcia.pastrana@CBRealty.com](mailto:Marcia.pastrana@CBRealty.com)

### **OUR WEEKLY OPEN HOUSES SELL your home FAST!!!**



**COLDWELL BANKER**



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.

# Around Circle C / Aquatics



'Tis the Season for Giving. In past years, Circle C HOA has partnered with Partnership for Children which supports children in foster care by collecting toys at the Children's Holiday Party. Since we aren't able to do the Children's Holiday Party this year due to COVID-19 and collect toys for this great organization, we are sharing how the community can still support this organization. Here is the link to the Holiday Wishes donation page <https://partnershipsforchildren.org/holiday-wishes/>

## AQUATICS NEWS

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

### Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday

7 am – 10 am

4 pm – 8 pm

Saturday

8 am – 1 pm

We will be closed December 17th January 5th for Christmas and New Years. 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](http://www.circlecranch.com)

Shop your favorite event **VIRTUALLY** on Facebook

### CIRCLE C COMMUNITY CENTER'S ANNUAL **HOLIDAY TIMES MARKET** STARTING DEC 2, 2020

Request your invite or find us on Facebook at  
**Virtually Yours Artisan Market**

Supporting our Neighbors - Local Artisans & Small Businesses  
Daily Virtual Stores | Unique Gift Ideas | Custom Discounts



## HOLIDAY WISHES

A program of PARTNERSHIPS for Children

Through its Holiday Wishes program, Partnership for Children provides gifts for the holiday season to kids served by Child Protective Services. Each year, Holiday Wishes provides presents to over 6,500 children in Central Texas. This table provides general guidance for gift donations based on age categories and gender – all children are different. Many items are suitable for multiple age categories, when selected on an age appropriate basis.

### Teens/Young Adults (13-18 years)



#### GIRLS

- Jewelry making kits
- Jewelry (bracelet, necklace, earrings)
- Make-up
- Perfume
- Scrapbooking kits, Origami kits
- Bath and body products
- Hair Styling Tools
- Clothing: H&M, Old Navy, Forever 21
- Lululemon Headbands
- Purses/wristlets
- Outdoor Voices Gift Card



#### BOYS

- Sports jerseys L/XL (UT, Cowboys)
- Handheld video games
- UT Longhorn items
- Skateboard with helmet
- Cologne/Body Spray
- Body wash (Axe)
- Clothing: American Eagle, DC, Hollister, Hurley, Old Navy, Polo, Vans
- Lego Bionicle
- Basketballs/Footballs



#### ANY CHILD

- MP3 player
- Video games: all consoles
- Drawing supplies or kits
- Bike or Scooter with helmet
- Digital camera
- CD/Radio boom box
- Headphones
- Kindle Fire Tablet
- Athletic/Sports clothing
- Clothing Gift Cards (\$25 max)
- Portable DVD player

### Preschoolers/Grade-schoolers/Pre-teens (3 – 12 years)



#### GIRLS

- Barbie dolls and accessories
- Dolls and accessories
- Princess-themed items
- Dress up clothes
- Disney Princess items
- Arts & Crafts kits
- Littlest Pet Shop
- Surprise toys
- LOL Dolls/Rainbowcorns
- Shopkin
- Lego Kits for girls
- PJ Masks Toys
- Frozen Toys



#### BOYS

- Video games: all consoles
- Remote control vehicles
- Action figures/Superheroes
- Handheld video games
- Paw Patrol Toys
- Toy cars and trucks
- Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles
- Thomas the Train
- Clothing: Carter's, Kids Gap
- Star Wars
- Nerf items
- Dinosaur toys
- PJ Mask Toys



#### ANY CHILD

- Educational learning toys
- Legos, Building blocks
- Board games
- Dora the Explorer/ Go, Diego, Go items
- Emoji items
- Disney items
- Football, Basketball, Soccer ball
- Bike, Skateboard, Scooter w/helmet
- Coloring books, Activity books
- Puzzles
- Books, Chapter books
- Drawing/Painting supplies or kits
- Slime Kits

### Newborns/Infants/Toddlers (0 – 36 months)



#### ANY CHILD

- Educational learning toys, examples include LeapFrog, VTech, Fisher Price, Baby Einstein
- Toys that produce light, music or sound
- Ride-on toys, Tricycle
- Toys that help with balance or developing walking skills
- Activity or Musical table
- Toys that can be pushed or pulled
- Board books, Talking books
- Toys suitable for bath time or the car

## JOIN US BY BECOMING A SPONSOR!

For more information, please contact  
Partnerships for Children at  
[holidaywishes@partnershipsforchildren.org](mailto:holidaywishes@partnershipsforchildren.org)  
or 512.834.4756.

Partnerships for Children is a non profit  
501(c)(3) organization; contributions are tax  
deductible as allowed by law.

To support more local artisans go to: [www.austincraftlounge.com](http://www.austincraftlounge.com)  
Don't miss their Outdoor / In Person Fair  
DEC 12 at 12919 Nutty Brown Road, Austin, TX



# I recently sold my personal home in Circle C Ranch.

Using our proven, repeatable listing system followed to a T, we were able to sell at 12% over asking price with multiple offers in just 4 days.

Looking for results like this?

Give me a call.



Chad Goldwasser, Broker  
512-750-8333 | [chad@pgraustin.com](mailto:chad@pgraustin.com)

# Around Circle C



**Circle C Cafe**  
Hours: Monday - Friday 11am—7pm

Phone: 512.288.6058  
Email: Café@circleCcatering.com

## DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>GF</b> 1 Artichoke Chicken w/ Roast Potatoes and Asparagus	2 Coconut Shrimp Pineapple Fried Rice Veggies	3 Chicken Piccata Pasta + Veggies	4 Pot Roast + Mashed Potatoes and Veggies	5 <b>CLOSED</b>
6 <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>GF</b> 7 Harissa Salmon Winter Quinoa + Veggies	<b>GF</b> 8 Pomegranate Chicken Roasted Corn Salsa— Rice Pilaf + Veggies	9 Beef Stroganoff Egg Noodles + Salad	<b>GF</b> 10 Grilled Chicken Citrus Beurre Blanc Rice Pilaf + Roasted Veggies	11 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes + Veggies	12 <b>CLOSED</b>
13 <b>CLOSED</b>	14 Meatloaf w/ charred tomato sauce + veg roasted potatoes	<b>GF</b> 15 Deep Eddy Lemon Chicken w /fig Polenta + Veggies	<b>GF</b> 16 Shrimp Creole Dirty Rice + Salad	17 Chicken Parm Pasta + Salad	18 Beef Tenderloin + Truffle Mac + Green Beans	19 <b>CLOSED</b>
20 <b>CLOSED</b>	21 Spinach + Mushroom Lasagna Salad and Garlic Bread	<b>GF</b> 22 Bacon Wrapped Pork Tenderloin + Polenta + Veggies	23 Chicken Fried Chicken Mashed Potatoes Veggies	24 <b>CLOSED</b> X-MAS EVE	25 <b>CLOSED</b> MERRY CHRISTMAS !	26 <b>CLOSED</b>
27 <b>CLOSED</b>	28 <b>CLOSED</b>	29 <b>CLOSED</b>	30 <b>CLOSED</b>	31 <b>CLOSED</b>	1 <b>CLOSED</b>	<b>CLOSED</b>
	Café is Open Mon—Fri from 11am—7pm for Curbside Pick-up. Dinner Specials are served from 5pm—7pm	\$11.95 per serving	Email your order for the day week or month Café@CircleCcatering.com Include: Full Name   Number of Meals   Date + Menu Item   Vehicle Description We encourage pre payment w/ CC or Venmo @primizieatx			

A SPECIAL CIRCLE C PROJECT

# Kevin Tree

**STEPS**

- Pick up your Kevin Coloring Page at the Café
- Color your Kevin  
- Write your name on the back!
- Return your Kevin to Circle C Café with a canned good or dry good for the Central Texas Food Bank to get your Free Ice Cream Coupon
- Café team will laminate & hang all Kevins on the Tree!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

START DATE: MONDAY 11/30  
END DATE: FRIDAY 12/18

CAFE HOURS  
MONDAY - FRIDAY  
11AM - 7PM

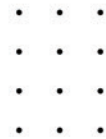
COME BY AND VISIT YOUR KEVIN ANY TIME





COMPASS

## A Fall Market Unlike Any Other



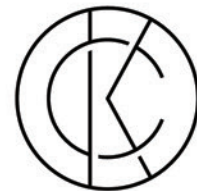
### LIST YOUR HOME WITH AMY STUBBS

While the fall in Real Estate typically means time to slow down and prep your home for a busy spring, this year, we disagree. With record low inventory in Austin, Fall is the perfect time to sell your home at its highest value.

#### Amy Stubbs, Realtor®

937.371.7893  
amy.stubbs@compass.com

2500 Bee Caves Rd, Bldg 3 Ste 200  
Austin, TX 78746



CHRIS KING

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## WILDFLOWER NOTES

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



### MISTLETOE (PHORADENDRON TOMENTOSUM)

Though oak mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*) is a more wide-ranging mistletoe species in the United States, *P. tomentosum*, also known as “Christmas mistletoe,” is more common to Central Texas. A southern beauty, it's also native to Louisiana and Oklahoma and likes to hang out in hackberry and cedar elm trees. As a parasite, it needs them (and other host trees) to survive. Once you first notice *P. tomentosum*'s “witches' brooms” — green bunches of evergreen leaves — you'll start seeing them everywhere. In fact, they're especially conspicuous this time of year due to their appearance in deciduous trees. Mistletoe brings out complex feelings in plant lovers (read more on that at [wildflower.org/magazine/native-plants/plant-a-kiss](http://wildflower.org/magazine/native-plants/plant-a-kiss)), but it's also associated with human lovers. Hang its glossy white berries overhead this holiday season, and you might find a kiss planted on your face. 'Tis the season for foliage-inspired romance!

### YAUPON HOLLY (ILEX VOMITORIA)

If there's one thing most of us could use more of during the holidays, it's caffeine. How else to keep up with the demands of this notoriously busy, stressful time? Though it could justifiably be famous, many are unfamiliar with yaupon holly, the only North American native plant containing caffeine. Native Americans throughout the Southeast consumed tea made from its leaves and twigs; in certain purification ceremonies, it was drunk in large quantities and then vomited, lending the plant its specific epithet, vomitoria. But don't let that dissuade you; it's actually quite enjoyable (it's related to the South American yerba mate, which is made from *I. paraguariensis*). In fact, its earthy flavor and homegrown appeal have caught on as of late, with several local producers and a growing fanbase. Try it warm, iced or in baked goods. Because, let's face it, we could all use a boost to finish out the year.



*Find these plants at the Wildflower Center and learn more about them at [wildflower.org/plants-main](http://wildflower.org/plants-main).*

*Submitted by Amy McCullough, Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center/ Photography by Wildflower Center*

## LIGHT UP YOUR NIGHTS

Our winter tradition has returned! This year, Luminations keeps on glowing with new, scintillating features. For the first time ever, stroll our naturally beautiful Arboretum Trail lined with luminarias and illuminated oaks. We're even lighting up select structures in Fortlandia so you can experience the exhibition in a whole new way. Through Jan. 3, 2021.

*Purchase tickets at [wildflower.org/luminations](http://wildflower.org/luminations).*



# Widow Spiders

Four species of widow spiders can be found in various parts of Texas. Southern widows, western widows, and northern widows look remarkably similar to each other while the brown widow is easy to discern from the other widows in the state. Brown widow spiders are not native to Texas and originate in Africa. They have naturalized and can be found in various parts of the state.



Female brown widows can vary in color from light brown to gray with a reddish-orange hourglass on the underside of the abdomen. Lighter colored females may also have white markings on the upper side of the abdomen. Legs are alternating bands of black/ dark brown and light brown.



Southern widows, western widows, and northern widows tend to be dark grey to black in color. Northern widows may completely lack an hourglass or may have two red lines in place of an hourglass. Southern and western widows have an hourglass or two triangles on the underside of the abdomen. Western widows may have the back triangle somewhat larger than the front. All three of these widows may have a reddish-orange spot on top of the abdomen just above the spinnerets. Nevertheless, widow spider coloration can vary wildly.

Widow spiders do not like being in the open. They can often be found outside in protected areas such as rainspouts, shrubbery, firewood piles or unused grills or BBQ pits. It is also possible to find them in garages, cellars, crawl spaces, attics, furniture, or electric or water meter boxes. Widows are shy creatures and often people are bitten when they accidentally disturb a web.

The bite of a black widow sometimes is not noticed, but when it is, it often feels like a pin prick.

*Continued on Page 12*



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# Around Circle C

*Continued from Page 11*

The bite location will have two red marks surrounded by redness and swelling. The bite reaction is systemic and intense pain usually occurs within 1-3 hours and continues for around 24 hours. Other symptoms include tremors, nausea, vomiting, leg cramps, abdominal pain, profuse perspiration and rise in blood pressure. It is also possible for breathing difficulties and unconsciousness to occur. If bitten by a black widow, immediately seek medical attention.

When working around the house or in the yard, it is best to wear leather gloves to avoid being bitten by venomous arthropods. The easiest way to remove widow spiders is with a vacuum. Make sure to shake out shoes, clothing and linens that have been in storage.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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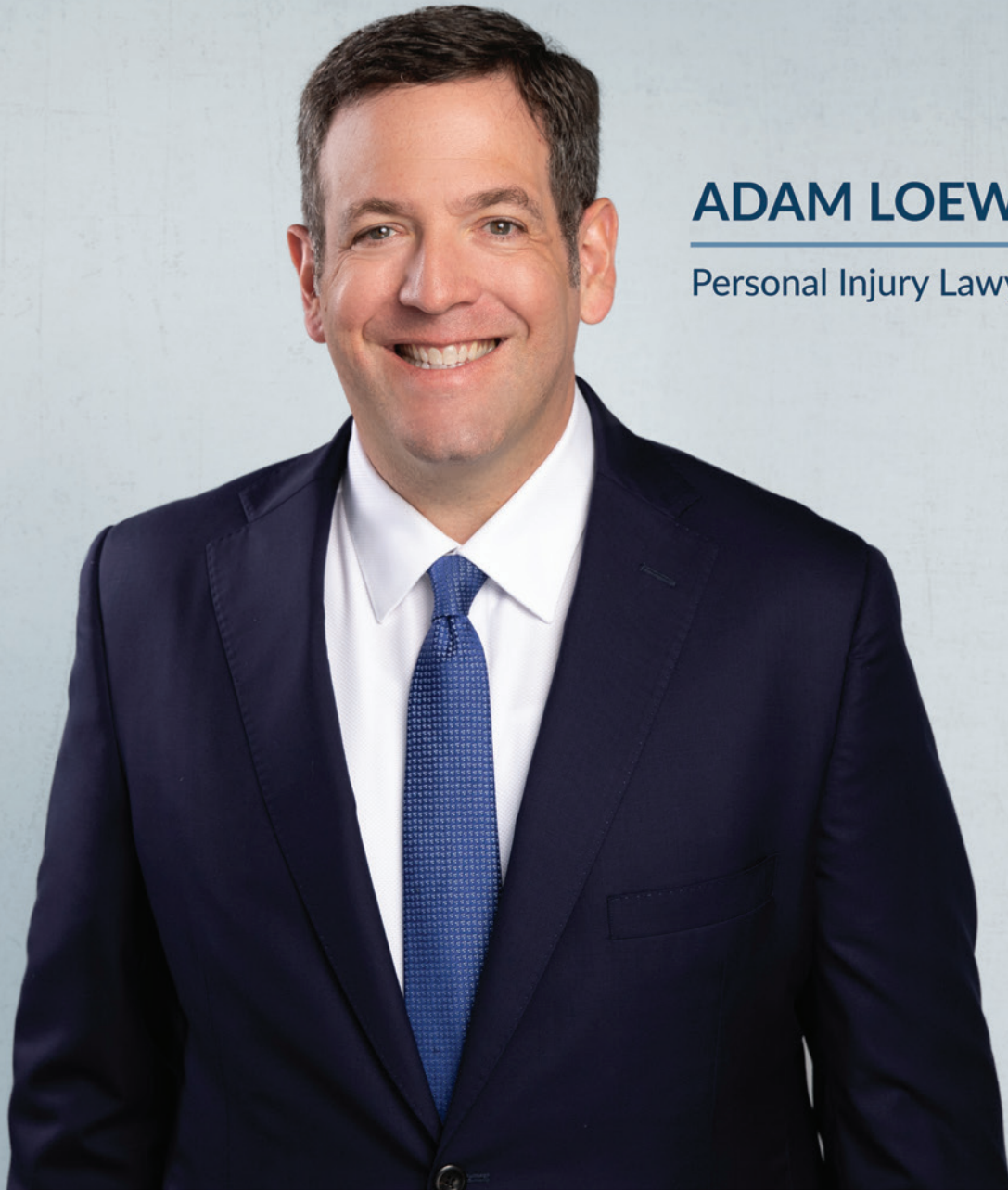


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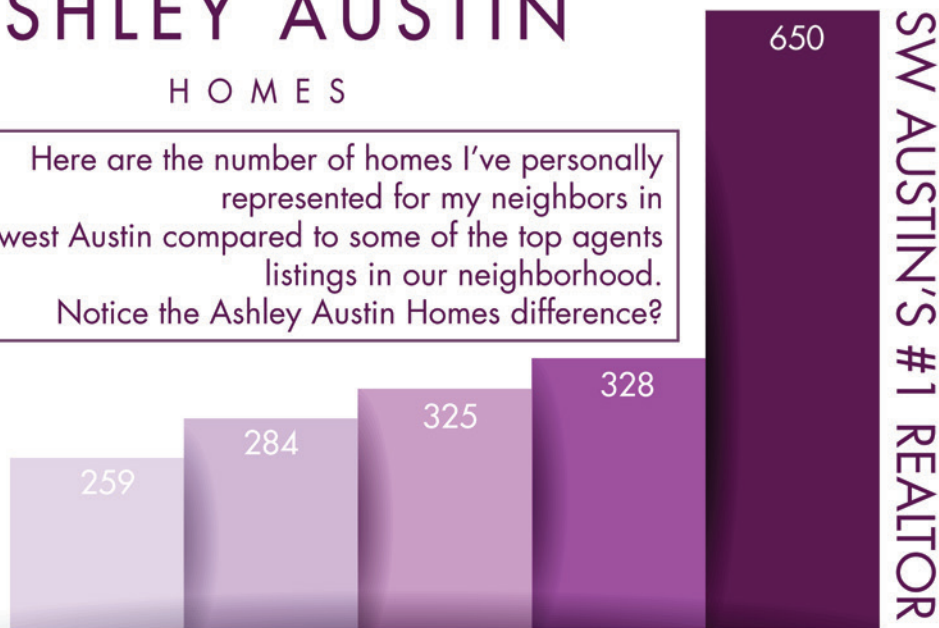
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# ASHLEY AUSTIN

## HOMES

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John has been receiving many calls lately from families young and old looking to move a little further out into the hill country from southwest Austin. Some just want a little more space, views and perhaps a little slower pace. Some younger families have decided to raise their kids out in the Dripping Springs school system while some older families may want more of a retirement property. Some of those areas we've been showing/selling in lately have been Lewis Mountain Ranch, Rimrock, Reunion Ranch, Parten, Polo Club, Saratoga Hills, Caliterra, the 1826 corridor, Saddletree Ranch and even out into Wimberley. Below are 4 new-builds of John's clients just going up or are in the planning stages of construction. The lots have been chosen, plans decided upon and the fun process of building starts. If that is lifestyle change you have been considering, please don't hesitate to give John a call or text to exchange some ideas. Thanks!



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



**1293 Gato Del Sol in Saratoga Hills** will be a luxury single story home at approx. 4400 square feet on a deep cul-de-sac with an in-ground, negative edge pool and distant views. Ashton Woods is the builder at approx. \$995,000.



**192 Bridge Water Loop in Caliterra** will be a single story home backing to permanent greenbelt with stone and stucco masonry. Bridge Water Loop is a quiet back street, yet just a 5 minute walk to the gorgeous hoa pool. Scott Felder is the builder at \$575,000.



**240 Tangled Brush Drive in Bear Creek Crossing** is a single story backing to permanent greenbelt and highly upgraded. Wood floors and quartz throughout. It is being constructed as a retirement home through MI Homes. \$415,000.



**593 Cross Water Lane in Caliterra** will be a single story, post-modern contemporary build on this stunning homesite. Wood floors, vaulted ceilings with beams, quartz and stained concrete with rough-hewn accent wood textures. Knockout Mid-Century Home at \$775,000.



This **Westlake/Rollingwood A. D. Stenger** gem at **432 Ridgewood** was placed under contract within an hour after John was notified by his buyer of a sign going in the yard. In this market, timing is everything and you must respond to your clients *immediately*. These are rare homes, inspired by the lines of Frank Lloyd Wright designs and were built in the mid-60's. Pine-beamed ceilings, stained concrete and walls of glass to view the fauna of the private back yard. Fantastic investment at \$995,000.

The Squires Team have the top-selling agents in Southwest Austin and Circle C Ranch home sales over the last 23 years. John Squires has sold over 600 homes in Circle C Ranch alone and knows the ever-changing values, areas and marketplace. **There's only 1 number to call and John 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.**

