

The Gazette

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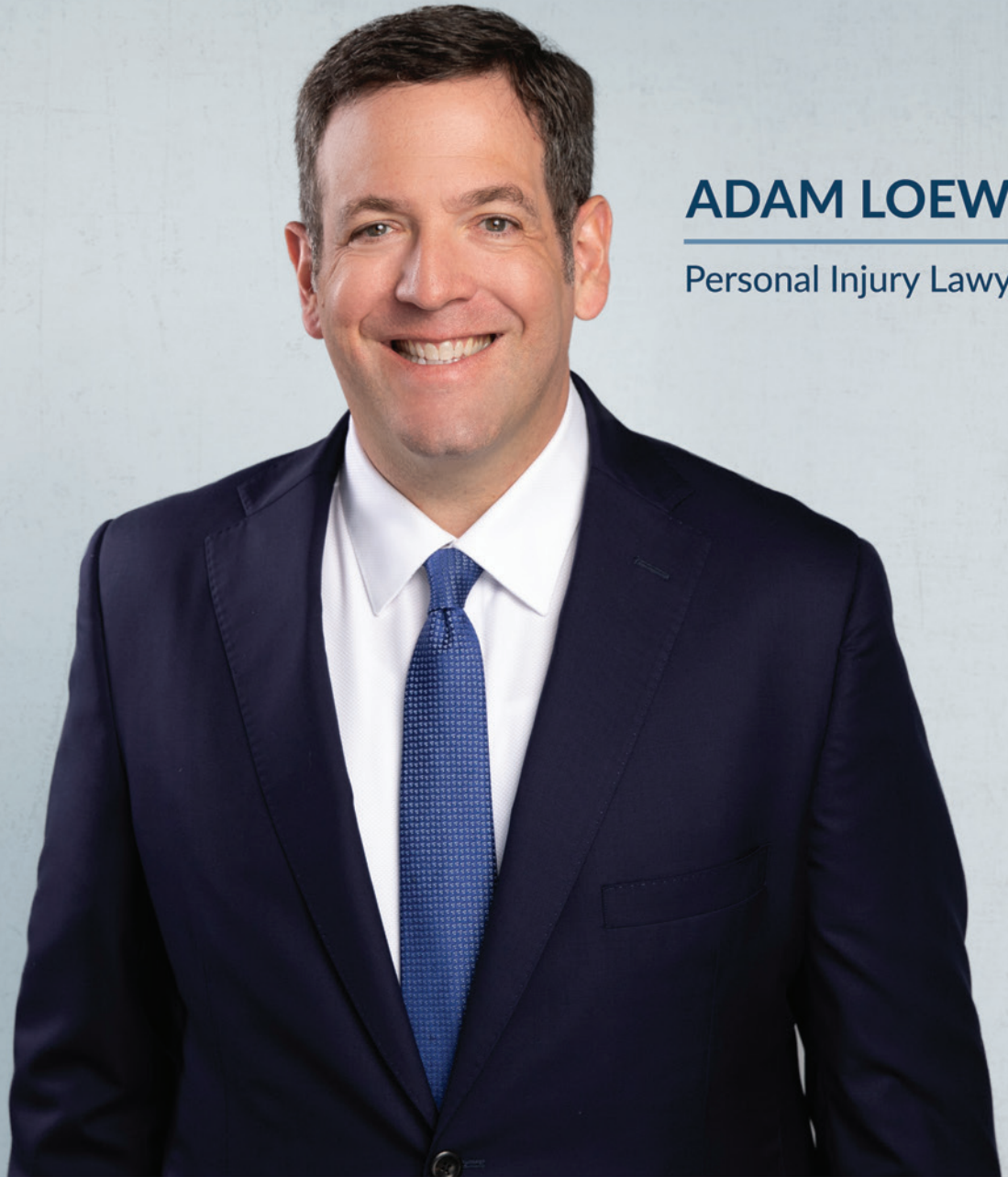


Shreya Ramanathan of
Austin, TX
RECIEVES NATIONAL
YOUNGARTS
FOUNDATION AWARD

See more on Page 6!



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



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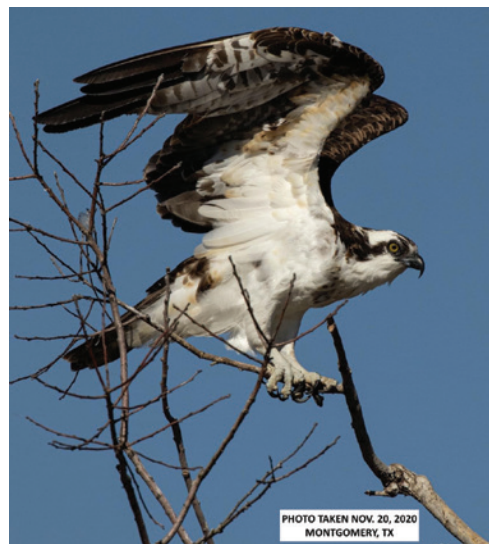


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THE GREAT FISHERMAN

By Cheryl Conley, TWRC Wildlife Center



When one mentions raptors, there are a few species that people are very familiar with like owls, eagles and hawks. The osprey, however, isn't a familiar species to most people even though it is one of the most widespread raptors in the world. They are found on every continent except Antarctica.

Like all raptors, the osprey is a large bird

with a hooked beak and sharp talons, both of which are used to catch their prey and tear it apart to eat.

About 99% of the osprey's diet is made up of fish so it only makes sense that they nest near water along the coasts and large lakes. Occasionally they can be seen along rivers. They build their nests at the tops of dead trees, buoys, chimneys, and even atop power poles. Like the bald eagle, they use the same nest year after year but can be seen making minor repairs each spring.

They are amazing to watch as they glide over water looking for a fish. Sometimes they plunge so forcefully into the water that they are totally submerged. After catching a fish, they arrange the fish so it faces upright with the head forward.

The osprey is a great fisherman, successfully catching a fish one out of 4 tries. They have a much higher success rate than it's relatives like the eagle. Sometimes eagles watch and when an osprey catches a fish, the eagle will attack the osprey causing it to drop the fish. Easy meal for the eagle! Benjamin Franklin said in 1784 that "bald eagles are too lazy to fish for himself.....and does not get his living honestly." True then, true today.

Ospreys generally mate for life but they will find a new partner should their partner die or disappear during spring migration.

If you'd like to watch an osprey nest, there are many online. The Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey has an osprey cam that you can watch here: <http://www.conservewildlifenj.org/education/ospreycam/>. In the New Jersey area, nest building begins in early April and eggs are laid from mid-April to early May. You can watch the eggs hatch and observe Mom and Dad caring for the babies. It's interesting and educational.

TWRC Wildlife Center is a 501(c)(3) organization located in the Spring Branch area of Houston. Since 1979, we have been committed to providing quality emergency care and rehabilitation for injured, ill, orphaned and displaced wildlife. We are proud to be making a difference for the wildlife in our area.

www.twrcwildlifecenter.org

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	911
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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Advertising.....	advertising@PEELinc.com



LETTUCE RECYCLE!

by Dena Houston

WHAT DO I DO WITH.....?

Each week, I receive recycling questions from the readers of "Lettuce Recycle". I love getting these questions and publish the questions and answers in future articles for all of my readers. One of my best tools is the City of Austin website called "What Do I Do With.....". Here is the link to the website: <http://www.austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do>. Type in the name of an item you want to recycle and the website will tell you how to recycle or dispose of it.

This is an amazing website and, in this crazy world of everchanging recycling guidelines and policies, it takes a lot of time and effort to keep it up to date. Kudos to the City for this wonderful recycling tool.

There is also a mobile app available for your phone and tablet. It is called "Austin Recycles" and was launched in April of 2020. After you type in your address, a calendar will pop up with all of your recycling collection dates. If you hit the search icon at the bottom, it brings up the "What Do I Do With" tool.

Below is a brief history and more information about "What Do I Do With":

- It was launched in 2015.
 - Since it was launched, it has been viewed more than 612,000 times.
 - This tool was built by a third-party partner, ReCollect. They work with many municipalities and provide these tools. They manage the coding, build-outs, and technical improvements.
- The Austin Resource Recovery marketing representative manages this website in the following ways:
- Makes updates as needed when an item's recyclability changes or more recycling resources become available.
 - Posts news of facility changes (like when the Recycle & Reuse Drop-Off Center was closed temporarily during the pandemic).
 - For items not listed, adds information as it becomes available.
- The number of items added to this website increased more than 33% in the last year.

QUESTION AND SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR READERS:

HOW DO I RECYCLE PLASTIC COAT HANGERS? – These can go into your blue recycling bin. Savers will take them for reuse; Goodwill will not.

ARE SMALL PIECES OF PLYWOOD COMPOSTABLE? They are not. The glue that holds the pieces of wood together makes them non-compostable. Put them into the trash bin.

HOW DO I RECYCLE PLANT FLATS FROM THE NURSERY? These can go into your blue bin. Be sure they are clean and dirt-free.

REGLUE AUSTIN was featured on KUT as a nonprofit organization that makes used PC's available to school children. Here is their website: <http://reglue.org/>

INSIDE BOOKS PROJECT donates books to Texas prisoners. Please check out their website for details: <https://insidebooksproject.org/donate-books>.

If you have any questions or recycling ideas, please send them to: recycling@hpwbana.org.

PLEASE REMEMBER - WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT!

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NATURE WATCH

A CHARM OF FINCHES

by Jim and Lynne Weber



Lesser Finch

At times, winter in Central Texas may seem a bit drab, colorless, and dreary, but the season is usually brightened by members of a beautiful and diverse group of birds called finches. These small, seed-eating birds have an undulating flight, and flocks of them often roam south in the winter.

Found primarily west of the Balcones escarpment, Lesser Goldfinches (*Spinus psaltria*) are present year-round, but are more likely to be seen at bird feeders in the colder months. At 4.5 inches long, males have an entirely black crown and back, white wingbars, and are lemon yellow below, while females have olive backs, black wings with whitish wingbars, and duller yellow underparts. They can gather in groups of up to several hundred at a time, and are most commonly found in Texas and California.

The American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) is a slightly larger bird that is less common but typically present here from November to March. At 5 inches long, males have a bright yellow body, a black cap, and black wings with white wingbars. Females are duller overall, with an olive body and black wings with prominent white wingbars. They are the only finch that molts its body feathers twice a year, in late summer and then again in late winter in preparation for breeding season.

Most gregarious are the Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*), a 5 inch long finch with prominent brown streaking and yellow at the base of the tail and in flight feathers. At first they may appear mostly grayish-brown, but they flash their yellow markings as they explode into flight

or flutter while feeding. Typically present from December through March, flocks of Pine Siskins may congregate at bird feeders one winter and be completely absent the next. Their behavior is highly nomadic and their presence is erratic across North America in winter in response to available seed crops. In fact, some individuals may stay near a dependable food source and breed far south of their normal breeding range, which is in Canada, the northern U.S., and higher elevations of the west.



Pine Siskin



American Goldfinch

COVER STORY: Shreya Ramanathan of Austin, TX RECEIVES NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION AWARD

FOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN World Dance/Indian Classical Dance

Austin, TX (12/18/2020) – Shreya Ramanathan of Austin, TX from LASA High School, has received a 2021 **National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts)** award in World Dance/Classical Indian Dance. Shreya Ramanathan has been recognized at the Honorable Mention level, the organization's second highest honor, for her caliber of artistic achievement and joins 659 of the nation's most accomplished artists in the visual, literary, and performing arts. Ramanathan was selected by an esteemed discipline-specific panel of artists through a rigorous blind adjudication process. YoungArts award winners gain access to one of the most comprehensive programs for artists in the United States in which they will have opportunities for financial, creative and professional development support throughout their entire careers. A complete list of the 2021 winners, all 15–18 years old or in grades 10–12, is available online at youngarts.org/winners.

“YoungArts empowers artists to pursue a life in the arts beginning at the critical time when many are faced with decisions about life after high school and we are thrilled to announce this

year's YoungArts award winners. This group of extraordinary artists has reminded us yet again that extraordinary artistry is ageless, and I encourage everyone to get to know these faces and names as we will be seeing them for many years to come,” said Executive Director Jewel Malone. “To all of this year's winners, congratulations! This is just the start of YoungArts' commitment to supporting your careers, we look forward to working with you and supporting your artistic and professional development.”

Ramanathan will receive a cash prize and the opportunity to learn from leading artists such as Debbie Allen, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Frank Gehry, Wynton Marsalis, Salman Rushdie and Mickalene Thomas. Ramanathan is now also eligible for exclusive creative and professional development support including a wide range of fellowships, residencies and awards; virtual and in-person presentation opportunities in collaboration with major venues nationwide; additional financial support; and access to YoungArts Post, a free, private digital network for YoungArts artists to connect, collaborate and learn about additional opportunities.

As a YoungArts award winner, Ramanathan joins a distinguished group of accomplished artists including Daniel Arsham, Terence Blanchard, Camille A. Brown, Viola Davis, Allegra Goodman, Josh Groban, Judith Hill, Tarell Alvin McCraney, Andrew Rannells, Desmond Richardson and Hunter Schafer.

Support

Support for the 2020-21 YoungArts season is provided by Together campaign supporters, including Campaign Chairs Sarah Arison and Thomas Wilhelm, Jay Franke and David Herro, and Michi and Charles Jigarjian and Lead Sponsors Sandra and Tony Tamer.

Additional support for National YoungArts Foundation programs is provided by Anthropologie; Batchelor Foundation; the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture; Funding Arts Network; the City of Miami Beach, Cultural Affairs Program, and the Cultural Arts Council; Miami-Dade County Department of Cultural Affairs and the Cultural Affairs Council, the Miami-Dade County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners; Dr. Sidney Stern in loving memory of Florence Stern; and Bruce and Ellie Taub.

ABOUT NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

National YoungArts Foundation (YoungArts) was established in 1981 by Lin and Ted Arison. YoungArts identifies the most accomplished young artists in the visual, literary and performing arts, and provides them with creative and professional development opportunities throughout their careers. youngarts.org



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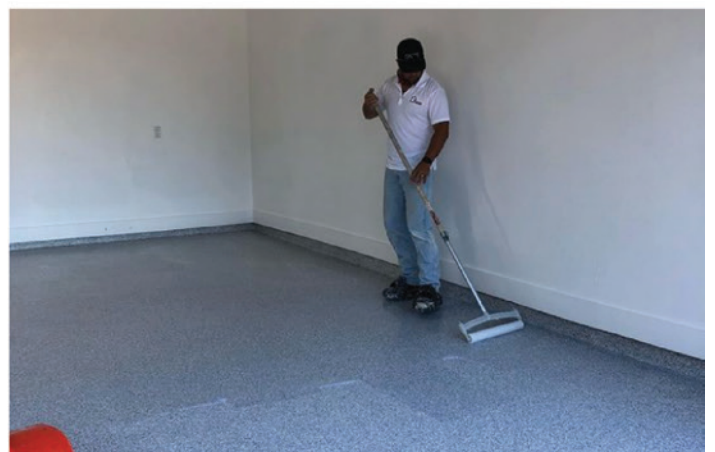
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SquiresTeam.com

Hello Southwest Austin! John Squires with Keller Williams Realty and the Squires Team would like to thank you for another great year in real estate. Whether you own a **Scott Felder, Newmark, David Weekly, Plantation, Mercedes, Streetman, KB, Highland, John Lloyd, Village Home, Standard Pacific, etc., etc.**, John knows your home's value. There are actually **well over 25 different builders** in Southwest Austin that have come and gone since 1988. The current market is extremely busy, as we have never seen where entire subdivisions have no homes on the market until this year! Covid-19 has changed the real estate landscape forever. Since industries are shut down or slowed, building materials have been harder to come by and are now increasingly more expensive. That, in turn, creates a lack of supply, yet there is still a huge demand for residential real estate. Interest rates have remained fairly constant for owner-occupant and investor loans. **About 2.50% - 2.75%~ owner-occupant primary home and 2.85% - 3.00%~ investor.** All rates are credit driven and percentage of down payment. Still, **UNBELIEVABLE** rates! The Squires Team takes their fiduciary responsibility to their clients very seriously and strives to ensure your home is marketed and sold for the highest value the market will bear. Give us a shout for a no-obligation market analysis on your valuable property or to show you any homes in Austin. **(512) 970-1970.**



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

I work by appointment and will provide you with a free, no-obligation market analysis 7 days per week and any evenings at your convenience. I am on your schedule and just a call or text away.

Below are 1-story and 2-story home **sold** statistics for Southwest Austin neighborhoods for the year 2020. These also include all the new-built homes that were on the MLS, so the price per foot may not be relevant to all homes represented in this study. An accurate market study would have to be done on your property to find the true market value range for your specific property. These are general data averages in the Southwest and your home could be worth more or less, depending on many factors. Call John for a more accurate study.

1-story **"Active"** homes on market averages. Price \$755,444. 1 total homes on market now. Average price per foot \$268.46. Average days on market 3.

1-story **"Contract Pending"** homes on market averages. Price is \$589,000. 1 total homes under contract right now. Average price per foot \$199.39. DOM is 3.

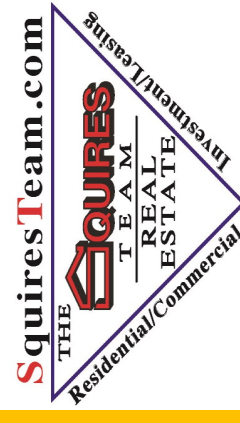
1-story **"Sold"** homes on market averages. Low price \$380,000. High price \$790,000. 103 total homes sold in 2020. Average price per foot \$222.82. Average days on market 24.

2-story **"Active"** homes on market averages. Price is \$450,000. 1 total homes on market now. Average price per foot \$200.45. Average days on market 2.

2-story **"Contract Pending"** homes on market averages. Low price \$529,000. High price \$659,000. 4 total homes under contract right now. Avg. price per foot \$223.03. Days on market is 8.

2-story **"Sold"** homes on market averages. Low price \$405,000. High price \$1,530,000. 224 total homes sold in 2020. Average price per foot \$200.15. Days on market 19.

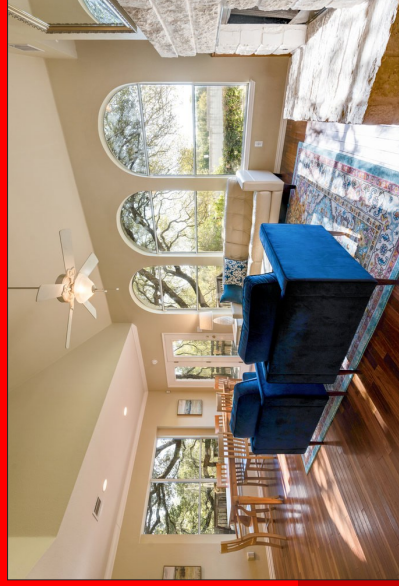
**Circle C Ranch
Wildflower Park
10433 Snapdragon**



SquiresTeam.com



Call John Squires directly at (512) 970-1970.



John Squires' marketing and results-proven home-selling system is unmatched in obtaining the absolute top price for his clients and providing a hassle-free and smooth transition to their next venture. John had this home professionally staged for his clients at his expense, landscaped and touch-up painted before bringing it to market. He listed **10433 Snapdragon** at **\$589,000.**, which is the highest listing price ever asked for in Circle C Ranch/Wildflower Park history. John's expert negotiating experience enabled them to receive 11 offers on the home with a *guaranteed* resulting sales price in excess of **\$670,000.** in 4 days. Approx. 2525 sq.ft. Call or text John at any time for an easy, no-obligation appointment to list your house for sale or see any home for purchase! **(512) 970-1970** is his direct sell phone. 7 days/evenings per week at your convenience by appointment.