



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

February 2006

Volume 5, Number 2

Courtyard Members

This month we want to focus on our goals for 2006. To begin with we want to thank you for your support of our projects we completed in 2005. The oak tree preservation and trimming project, the park play scape completion, our trailer storage area make over, just to name a few. Our goal for 2006 will be to maintain and improve our community appearance including our park and common areas. We also want to continue our plan to support driving slow in the Courtyard. We started this slogan in 2005 and want to continue talking about the importance of driving slow in the Courtyard. We hope you agree and make it a habit to drive slowly in the Courtyard. In addition to our 2006 projects and plans we will continue to make sure our expenditures are kept in check and stay within budget guidelines. We are looking forward to another great year in the Courtyard and wish you all the same. Remember we always need volunteers for committee positions. If you can give just a little time to your community it would be appreciated. Just call any Board member or the Management Co. Thank you.

Your Courtyard HOA Board of Directors.

Plant of the Month- February

Texas Scarlet Flowering Quince (*Chaenomeles speciosa*)- At the entrance of The Courtyard, on the left, you might notice a low growing (2'-3') deciduous shrub with red flowers at this time of year. It usually starts blooming in January before it leafs out, and blooms for several months. It will bloom until April but usually the foliage covers up the blooms. During hard winters it's more noticeable because it and other shrubs doesn't leaf out until late February or March. It's great for a background plant. Very low maintenance with few problems. The fruit is edible they say.

Tips of the Month

- Did you know that we had less than two inches of rain in our neighborhood between September 1 and December 31? Shrubs, trees and grass need water in winter too. Without supplemental watering blooming shrubs won't develop many flowers.
- The standard rule for roses is to trim them on Valentine's Day. But if it's been warm, do it earlier. Cut them back to about the size of a basketball...but don't trim climbers.
- Spring bloomers, such as Jessamine, Jasmine, Azaleas, Bridal Wreath and Quince should be trimmed after they bloom. If they aren't too tall, just shape them.
- While jogging in the neighborhood the biggest landscaping problem I see it shrubs have gotten too big. Early February is the time to do some trimming on hedges. Cut back foundation shrubs at least 20%-30% shorter than the mature size you want them to be. Most will come back that much during the next six months. Don't be afraid to cut them back. You can see your house better.

ALERT ALERT ALERT

Caution!

Extreme fire hazard in courtyard
p-l-e-a-s-e use extra care when
dealing with flames outside for
both you and your neighbors
sake!!!!

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COURTYARD CALLER

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Good Things

Well it would be foolish to discuss the coming of spring when in truth spring is here and has been here throughout the winter months. All we can hope for is that the trees do not bloom and bulbs do not decide to come up before spring is here to stay.

Keep your fingers crossed and think warm Valentine thoughts. Cards and Candy aside lets turn this season of love into the season of welcome. It's a great time of year to wave, say hello and invite neighbors into our lives.

Sometimes when we are walking the dog I look around and realize that The Courtyard is like a small village. We are truly an oasis surrounded by a busy bustling city. We got lucky when we moved here and we can all stay lucky by sharing a little of our lives with one another.

Happy Valentine's Day 2006 !

REMEMBER, PLEASE: Austin leash laws require all dogs to be on a leash when off the owner's premises.



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Your Courtyard Book Club

Everyone is invited to meet at the Courtyard Tennis Club and discuss Reading Lolita in Teheran by Azar Nafisi on Feb 14th @ 12:00 (Please note new time). We will have a salad and drink (\$6.00 plus tax and tip) while we discuss the book. Call Betty Marshall @343-8299 on or before Feb 10th for your luncheon reservation. Hope to see you there!



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Prevention is the key to decreasing Oak Wilt spread *TFS Urges Caution When Selecting and Transporting Oak Firewood*

AUSTIN, Texas – Texas Forest Service is encouraging Texans to be careful when collecting and purchasing firewood at this time of year. Transporting and storing diseased wood is a known means of spreading the devastating oak wilt fungus to previously uninfected neighborhoods. Utilizing these prevention steps is the key to safeguarding against spreading the disease through the selection and use of firewood:

- Select well-seasoned firewood. Well-seasoned wood is cut before the summer and is typically dry with loose bark and cracked ends. Avoid oak wood that appears unseasoned, that may have tight bark and cut ends which show no cracks or signs of aging. The extreme heat and drying of a full Texas summer effectively destroys the fungus in cut firewood.
- Safely store unknown sources of firewood. If the oak wood comes from an unknown source and it is not well seasoned, cover the woodpile with a clear piece of plastic. Burying the edges of the plastic will prevent the entry or exit of insects that might have been attracted to diseased wood and fungal mats.
- Destroy diseased red oaks. A knowledgeable arborist or forester should diagnose red oaks (i.e., Spanish, Texas red, blackjack or shumard oak) that die rapidly (2-3 weeks) or in groups (2 or more trees over several years) for oak wilt. Trees suspected to have died recently from oak wilt should be destroyed by burning, burying or chipping. The heat of a fire destroys the fungus and the smoke emitted poses no threat

to healthy trees. When planning to do any outdoor burning, be sure you check with local officials to see if an outdoor burning ban is in place for your county and take care not to burn on windy days with low humidity.

- Avoid wounding oaks during vulnerable seasons. The general recommendation is to avoid injuries to oaks from February through June. The best times for pruning of oaks are during the heat of summer (minimal spore production) or the cold of winter (minimal insect activity).
- Paint all oak wounds including pruning cuts. Throughout the year, immediately apply a thin coat of latex or pruning paint to all fresh wounds and other injuries that expose the inner bark or sapwood of oaks. This prevents contaminated sap beetles from infecting the wound with oak wilt spores.

Oak firewood is an important commodity to Texans, whether it's used for firing up the barbecue pit or for warming up the home on a cold winter's day. By selecting well-seasoned, disease-free firewood and by following other disease prevention guidelines, homeowners are taking the correct steps to prevent a new oak wilt disease outbreak in their neighborhood. Visit <http://texasforests.tamu.edu/forest/oakwilt/default.asp> or www.texasoakwilt.org for more information, or call the TFS/Lower Colorado River Authority's Oak Wilt Hotline-512-473-3517.

Establishing a Web Site 101 -- for Business or Fun

By Kaylee Kolditz, Kaylee@kayleeskoaching.com

As we've likely all figured out by now, the Internet is here to stay. Many of us use it daily and the rest use it at least occasionally. From weather and news to shopping and chatting with family and friends, the Web has become as much a part of our lives as the telephone and the automobile.

The good news for businesses and individuals looking to establish themselves as an entity on the Web is that building a basic Web site has become easy and affordable. Getting started is just a matter of knowing what you need to do. So, here are six steps for launching a basic site that can be uniquely you:

1. Select a domain name.

The domain name is the address for your site -- also called the URL (for example www.companyname.com). Come up with a list of several names you can choose from; each of which should indicate to Web visitors something about your site or your business (i.e. SmithFamilyPhotos, BusinessName, WhatIKnowAboutXYZ, etc.). You can be creative, but make sure that the name is easy to spell and easy to remember.

2. Register your domain name.

Now it is time to see if the name you want is available and get it registered. You can accomplish both tasks by visiting a domain name registrar (a Google™ search will give you many to choose from). You will have the option to choose from a variety of extensions (that is the part after the ".dot"; i.e. com, net, biz, org). The registrar should provide guidance on the appropriate use for each extension. Dot com tends to be the most frequently used extension, so if you really like the domain name you've selected and it is already registered using ".com", consider using .net or one of the other alternatives.

3. Find a Web host/design service.

There are numerous services that can provide both the design and the hosting of your site. Again, an online search will reveal many services you can choose from. Shop around -- review prices as well as offerings. (Keep in mind that if you want a lot of bells and whistles on your site or are developing an eCommerce site, you'll need to do a bit more research and should consider using a Web developer and/or designer for your site build.)

4. Select a template.

Perhaps the easiest way to build a site is to use the templates provided by the online design and hosting company you choose. The selection is getting broader and some services even allow limited customization, such as choice of color or addition of your own graphics. Make sure you review the selection of templates and find several options you're willing to use before you purchase your service.

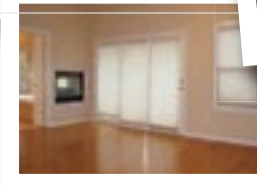
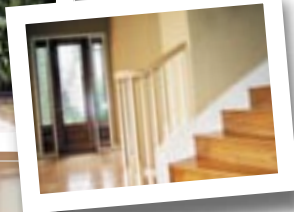
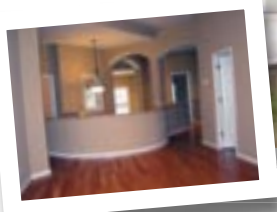
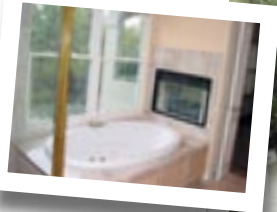
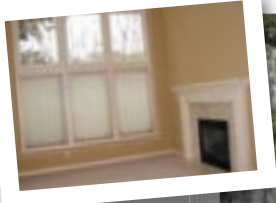
5. Develop your content.

Content is basically the words of your site. What will your site say to your visitors? Keeping your content short and to the point will increase your chances of having it read. Additionally, adding some personality to your words -- showing a bit of who you are or what your company culture is -- can help make your site more inviting.

6. Share with the world!

The adage "If you build it, they will come" does not apply to Web sites. If no one knows your site exists, no one will visit. So, start spreading the news. Send an email to friends, family, colleagues -- everyone. If yours is a business site, look into search engine marketing and other online advertising opportunities. Know who you want to visit your site and find a way to let them know the site is now live and waiting for them!

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Texas Events - February

2—ROUND ROCK: Main Street Artisan Stroll Talented artists, musicians and performers display wares and entertain strollers from 5 to 9 p.m. Historic Downtown. www.mainstreetstroll.com 512/341-8788

2-3—AUSTIN: George Winston Begins at 7 p.m. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

3-4—AUSTIN: The Austin Symphony Includes Janina Fialkowska, pianist, and Peter Bay, conductor. Begins at 8 p.m. Bass Concert Hall. www.austinsymphony.org 888/462-3787 or 512/476-6064

3-5, 10-12—WIMBERLEY: Jazz Festival Features famous and soon-to-be-famous jazz musicians from surrounding areas. Cypress Creek Cafe. E-mail: bcwimbo@aol.com 512/847-2515

4—AUSTIN: Carnival Brasileiro Flamboyant costumes, Brazilian samba music and the uninhibited atmosphere make this one of the biggest such festivals outside of Brazil. Palmer Events Center. www.sambaparty.com 512/452-6832

4—FREDERICKSBURG: Chorale Mid-Winter Concert Features original and newly composed choral music by Mark Hierholzer. St. Joseph's Hall, 212 W. San Antonio St. www.fredericksburgchorale.com 830/997-0212

4—FREDERICKSBURG: Fredericksburg Peach Opry This is Branson-style opry show with music, comedy entertainment and fun for the whole family. www.texaspianoman@aol.com 210/831-3272

4-5—NEW BRAUNFELS: Antique Show Features 60 selected dealers from the Shelby, Round Top, Warrenton and Marburger Farms Antique Show. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Civic Center, 380 S. Seguin Ave. 281/373-9977

7-12—AUSTIN: Peter Pan In her farewell performance, Cathy Rigby takes flight in the 100th anniversary of this immortal tale. Bass Concert Hall. www.broadwayacrossamerica.com 512/478-4265, 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

10—AUSTIN: Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder — An Evening of Bluegrass Begins at 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

10—AUSTIN: Strings Attached with Monte Montgomery Montgomery is recognized by critics and musicians for his stunning six-string work and his abilities as a singer and a writer of original songs with a deep roots sensibility. Begins at 8 p.m. St. David's Episcopal Church. www.stringsattached.org 512/775-2371

10—ROUND ROCK: Valentine Dance Features live music and spaghetti dinner. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Senior Center. 512/218-5499

10-12—AUSTIN: Needle Arts Show & Boutique Eileen Bennett is the featured guest teacher and lecturer. A special exhibit is Michelangelo's Ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, a 40-inch by 80-inch depiction in cross stitch. Includes merchants, exhibits, boutique, tea room and classes. Northwest Recreation Center. www.austinstitchers.org 512/858-1506

10-12, 17-19—FREDERICKSBURG: Wine Lover's Trail Travel through the Hill Country and taste new vintage wines and enjoy different kinds of activities in celebration of the season. Wineries feature dinners, pairing of wines/foods and entertainment. www.texaswinetrail.com 888/997-2300, 830/997-6523 or 866/621-9463

11—AUSTIN: Dave Douglas Quintet A master composer, innovative arranger and powerhouse trumpeter, Douglas carves new and inventive terrain from the inspirational glory of jazz legends. Begins at 8 p.m. Hogg Auditorium. www.utpac.org 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

11—NEW BRAUNFELS: 14th Annual Hill Country Doll Show & Sale Includes antique and modern collectible dolls, bears, miniatures, accessories, supplies, books and restoration. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. New Braunfels Civic Center. www.dollldr.com 830/606-5868

11—NEW BRAUNFELS: American Legion's Third Annual '50s and '60s

Sockhop Begins at 7 p.m. American Legion Hall, 410 W. Coll. 830/625-0719

12—AUSTIN: Lily Tomlin Tomlin is a cultural icon whose performances on life, love and pop culture keep the audience laughing. Paramount Theatre. www.austintheatrealliance.org 512/472-2901

14—AUSTIN: Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater This groups' daunting breadth of stylistic and technical feats take audiences to unexplored territory, making each encounter fresh and exhilarating. Begins at 8 p.m. Bass Concert Hall. www.utpac.org 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

14—AUSTIN: Bobby Caldwell — Valentine's Day Shows are 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre. 512/329-6753

16-17—AUSTIN: Cowboy Junkies Begins at 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

16-19—AUSTIN: Ballet Austin's New American Talent The work of the three finalists from Ballet Austin's emerging choreographers competition is performed. Paramount Theatre. www.balletaustin.org 512/476-2163

17—AUSTIN: Ojos de Brujo This collective of Spanish musicians use the tools of traditional flamenco as a foundation for cross-genre experimentation. Begins at 8 p.m. Hogg Auditorium. www.utpac.org 512/471-1444 or 800/687-6010

17-19—FREDERICKSBURG: Trade Days Includes more than 300 vendors, five barns, acres of antiques and more, biergarten and music. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Hwy. 290 E. across from Wildseed Farms. www.fbgradedays.com 830/990-4900 or 210/846-4094

18—AUSTIN: February Pops Includes the Spinners and conductor Peter Bay. Begins at 8 p.m. Riverbend Centre. www.austinsymphony.org 888/462-3787 or 512/476-6064

18-20—AUSTIN: Pop Go the Texans! Features music inspired by Texas and the West and the rich heritage of music composed by Texans. www.austinchambermusic.org 512/454-0026

19—AUSTIN: Freescale Marathon This is the 15th largest marathon in the country and draws nearly 10,000 runners to Austin. Northwest Austin to Auditorium Shores. www.freescaleaustinmarathon.com 512/478-4265

23—FREDERICKSBURG: Van der Stucken Music Festival Series of songs, skits of comedy and pathos tell the stories of historical characters presented by the Fredericksburg Chorale, Hermann Sons Mixed Chorus and the Arion Men's Choir of Fredericksburg. St. Joseph's Halle, 212 W. San Antonio St. E-mail: kenknopp@kfc.com 830/997-3273

23—KERRVILLE: Symphony Orchestra Concert — Symphony of the Hills Classical music concert features musicians from the Hill Country. Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater. www.symphonyofthehills.com 830/792-7469

24—AUSTIN: Maynard Ferguson & his Big Bop Nouveau Band Begins at 7 and 9:30 p.m. One World Theatre, 7701 Bee Caves Road. 512/329-6753

25-26—ROUND ROCK: A Sami Show This is an arts & crafts show. Dell Diamond. www.samishow.com 512/441-7133

28—AUSTIN: Diverse Diversions Welcome Quinton Morris, Young Eight violinist, back to the stage for the fourth annual concert displaying rich, varied and rarely heard works by African-American composers. Huston-Tillotson University. www.austinchambermusic.org 512/454-0026

28—KERRVILLE: Mardi Gras on Main Includes fine art, fine wine and fine cuisine. Kathleen C. Cailloux Theater. 830/792-8395

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