



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

November 2006

Volume 5, Number 11

Greetings Members

This month we would like to start our campaign to promote and remind members of the importance of sending in their voting proxy for our annual meeting. Every year in January the Courtyard Home Owners Association has its annual meeting. It is required by our Association Declaration that a quorum be present in order to hold an official meeting. When we hold the meeting and a quorum count is not met the Association must hold a second meeting that adds considerable expense to our Association. We can prevent this from happening as we did last year by promoting members to mail in their proxy form as soon as they receive it. This way you won't forget, and if for some reason you can't make the meeting your vote will be counted. If you send in your proxy and later find you are able to attend the meeting you can pickup your proxy at the meeting and vote in person. We will continue our proxy campaign each month until we have our annual meeting January 21 2007.

Thanks for helping the Courtyard to be the great community that it is. Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving.

-Your HOA Board of Directors

Book Club Meeting

Please join your neighbors on Tuesday, November 14 at 11:45 a.m. for lunch at the Courtyard Tennis Club and discussion of an excellent new book by Thomas Cahill.

The title was not stated quite right in the October newsletter. Cahill's book is entitled *Sailing the Wine - Dark Sea*, subtitled *Why the Greek?* Newcomers are most welcome.

Christmas Alert : The December 12 lunch meeting will be a little different. Attendees are asked to bring one of their very favorite books and be prepared to explain to the group why it is their favorite.



Good Things Are Happening

The leaves are falling and, on most any day, many in our community can be found walking their dogs and stopping to visit with their neighbors. But on Thanksgiving Day, as we stroll out of our homes for that after dinner walk, there is one decided difference. Our pace will be a little slower because our tummies will be a little fuller. We will be more aware of all the good things in our lives: family, friends, prosperity, peace, food on the table and, hopefully, good health that allows us to more fully enjoy our blessings. On this national day of remembrance, more than any other in the year, we are called upon to pause and be thankful for whatever it is that fills our lives with joy. It is a holiday that brings us together with our families and as a community. We at the Courtyard are blessed and, hopefully, our smiles and our waves will let everyone that passes our way know we are thankful.



Happy Thanksgiving!



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Tips on Being a Good Neighbor

Is your house a lighthouse?

Long ago and far away (from the Courtyard) on dark and stormy nights and well before global positioning systems and quadruple Doppler radar, ships' captains must have breathed a sigh of welcome relief when they finally saw the strong beacon of the harbor's lighthouse breaking through the dark clouds to guide them safely home. Today, however, in closely-built residential communities, your home security light(s) may appear more as a sleep-killing spotlight shining into your neighbor's bedroom than a welcome beacon of safety.

You want the assistance on home security that a floodlight provides, and your neighbors want some sleep. How to solve this problem? Here are two scenarios. Which one looks like the winner?

Scenario #1

After several sleepless nights, Joe Schmo has had it and calls next door neighbor, Snarf.

Schmo: "You moron! Your light kept me up all night. Douse it!"

Snarf: "Oh yeah, well I need those lights for security, and they're staying on right where they are."

Schmo: "You leave them there, and I'll sue you!"

Resolution: Two years later, after countless arguments, indigestion, more sleepless nights, and litigation, Snarf loses in small claims court, and writes a check for \$1,500. Schmo, too, has spent a chunk of change on lawyers and materials and is now a permanent insomniac.

Scenario #2

Eli Snarf reads this article in the Courtyard Caller and considers...

Snarf: "Gee, I wonder if the guy next door is bothered by my flood lights? I never thought of that." He sees Schmo out in the yard the next day, introduces himself and says, "It just occurred to me that my lights might be bothering you at night. Are they?"

Schmo: "Well, as a matter of fact, yes they are, and I'm glad you asked. Their shining in my windows has kept me tossing and turning in bed. I've got a ladder and would be glad to help you adjust them so that they point down toward the ground a little more."

Snarf: "Sure, thanks, let's do it tonight."

Resolution: Schmo gets the light out of his eyes. Snarf still has the security of floodlights. They both have a new friend, and neither one of them spent a dime.

If any of the above struck a cord with you, let us suggest the following actions to solve the problem.

1. Go outside and check your lights tonight and see if they are shining in your neighbors' windows or on your neighbors' outside deck or porch.
2. Ask your neighbors if your lights are bothersome.
3. Most floodlights can be adjusted so that they can be pointed more downward, or between windows, or away from decks.
4. If you don't have a ladder or cannot do this, ask your neighbor if he or she has one or could help.

Remember, our goal is to have a safe and congenial community. Let's work together to make that happen.

(The legal version that specifies that bright lights must be shielded from the neighbors and restricted to the property is in our Deed Restrictions, Article VIII, Section 22)

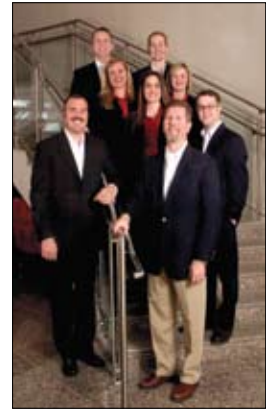
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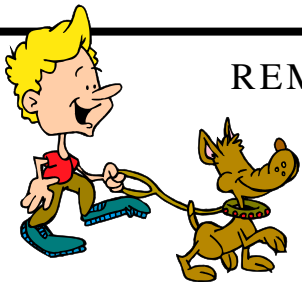
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COURTYARD CALLER

Directory Additions & Corrections

1. Brown, Thomas
5713 Sam Houston Circle 300-0310
2. Roland, Ann
6003 Little Bull Cove 372-3788
3. Hutchison, Tom & Susan
5604 Scout Island Circle No. 345-7603
4. Preston, Alan 215-2190
5. Villaion, Augusto & Karla T
5608 Courtyard Drive 231-9050
6. Thomas, Darryl
5408 Scout Island Circle No. 215 9652



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

FYI CORNER

Safe Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste

Many people do not realize their homes and/or areas in and around their homes may contain materials that are considered to be hazardous or otherwise "toxic" to humans and/or the environment. For example, harsh chemical cleaning products and/or gels that unclog drains, fertilizers, pool chemicals, pesticides, motor oil, batteries, paints, empty paint cans, and thinners (including nail polish remover) should all be handled with care and disposed of at places specifically established for this purpose. They should not be mixed in with your regular household garbage such as paper, glass, plastic, or food materials.

To this end, the City of Austin maintains a household hazardous waste facility available free of charge to residents of Austin and Travis County. The facility is located at 2514 Business Center Drive, just south of the Ben White /Burleson Road /Todd Lane intersection and east of Interstate Highway 35. It is open every Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 7 p.m. For further information call, 974-4343.

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

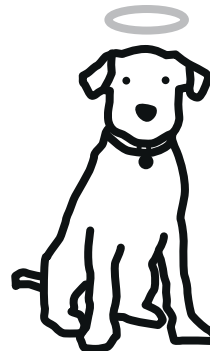
6	1	8		2	9	3		
			5				9	
					3	1		
3	8		4	5				
		7					5	6
				7		8		
							7	2
	6							
	3			1		4		

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Did You Know?

When a giraffe is born, it falls from a height of six feet, usually unharmed.

Classified Ads

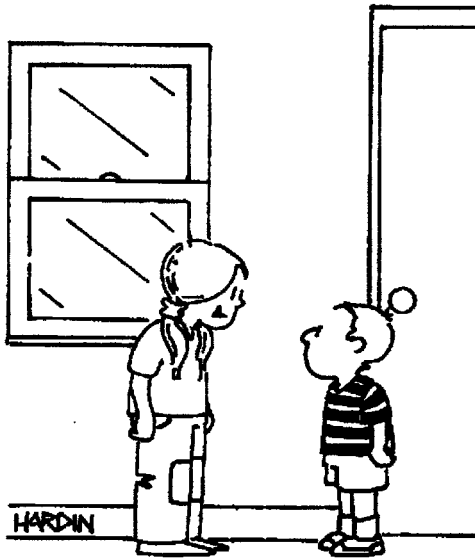
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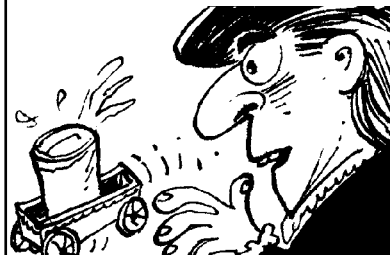
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Cartoon Corner



"While Mom's away Dad will be feeding us from the four major food groups: Canned, Frozen, Fast and Junk"

Did You Also Know?



Hang on to your glass. Prior to 1750, coasters originally came with small wheels so drinks could be moved across a table. Sometimes shaped like tiny wagons, they were also known as sliders.

Ten percent of the Russian government's income comes from the sale of vodka.



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