



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

February 2007

Volume 6, Number 2

Greetings Members

We hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Now that we are in to a new year we would like to talk about the importance of supporting your neighborhood association and ask that you consider volunteering to serve on one or more of our community service committees. The Courtyard's committees are: Bull Creek Park, Communications, Compliance, Environmental, Landscape & Decorating, Security, Social, and Welcome. Without the assistance of its residents, the Board cannot, by itself, maintain the high quality of the Courtyard community.

For example, to help sustain the Courtyard's history of increasing property values, the Homeowners' Association (HOA) continually monitors the neighborhood's general appearance as shown in areas such as the main entrance off of Capital of Texas Highway (360), the second entrance along the 360 access road, the common areas located throughout the community, and Bull Creek Park. While, the HOA contracts with companies to perform the necessary physical work, it still relies on the residents to provide input on that work, especially their recommendations on how the quality of those services might be improved.

If you have any interest in a specific committee and/or any general interest(s) in accounting, communications, public relations, or the environment, please contact any Board member, committee member, or our management company representative, Marilyn Childress, to let them know. Their telephone numbers are listed in the 2006 Courtyard Directory and on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Finally, our thanks to all residents for your past and ongoing efforts to keep the Courtyard a great place to live.

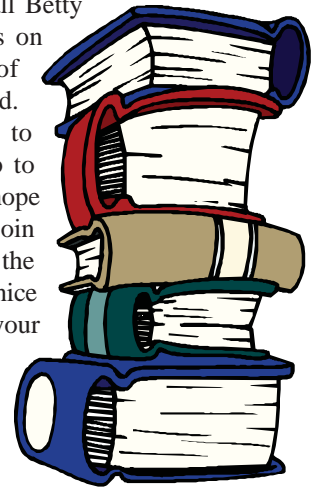
-The Courtyard HOA Board of Directors



Book Club Meeting

The Courtyard Book Club is meeting at the Tennis Club at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13. Lunch will be ordered from the grill and discussion will center on a book that is soon to be published. Please call Betty Marshall (343-8299) for details on how to obtain an early copy of the to-be-published book to read. Remember that you don't have to be a member of the Book Club to attend. All are welcome, and we hope as many as possible are able to join us for an interesting discussion of the new book, some good food, and a nice beginning to the new year with your friends and neighbors.

If you would like to get a head start on next month's reading, the March selection is *Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson.



Happy Valentine's Day ♡

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Michael Castanon.....	231-9789
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Be a Good Neighbor!

CONGRATULATIONS TO US! In 2006, Courtyard residents were 100% in compliance with Deed Restriction Article XIII, Section 11, which indicates that clothes lines cannot be put up where they can be seen by neighbors or from the street. If we have any outdoor clothes drying facilities in our community, they are well hidden.

Because we all use clothes dryers, we thought it might be helpful to review some tips on keeping dryers "healthy and safe" Why? Good maintenance can prevent fire, improve drying efficiency (time and energy \$\$ savings), reduce repairs (cheaper), and extend your dryer's life.

The Chimney Safety Institute of America (CSIA) cautions the public that there's a growing fire and carbon monoxide poisoning danger that could result in unnecessary deaths, injuries or property damage – the obstruction or improper venting of clothes dryer exhaust ducts.

Statistics from the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) indicate that, in 1996, there were 15,500 residential fires in the United States originating in clothes dryers. These fires resulted in 320 personal injuries, 20 deaths and over \$84.4 million in property damage. The CPSC also reports that that same year, approximately 400 people were non-fatally poisoned by carbon monoxide as a result of a gas clothes dryer.

(Continued on page 5)



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Bull Creek Park - Clean Up Opportunities

Generally, every other year since the 1950s, the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) has lowered the water level of Lake Austin at the City of Austin's request. This action is undertaken to help curb the growth of aquatic nuisance plants and to allow lakeside residents to perform construction and maintenance. These lake "drawdowns," as they are sometimes called, help control the growth of unwanted vegetation by exposing the plants to the air and killing off the leaves and stems by dehydration, providing temporary relief, particularly in the shallower areas where the plants are exposed.

You may be already be familiar with the following two more troublesome nonnative plants in our local area that are targeted by these biennial drawdowns. Hydrilla, a fast growing water weed that was first discovered by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Lake Austin in 1999; and Eurasian watermilfoil, the older and predominant water weed in Lake Austin, commonly known as "duckweed." While hydrilla has been less of a problem in recent years in Lake Austin, it has begun to spread again in some areas of the lake and lowering the lake is only one component of the plan to fight this invader.

As you may have noticed, the LCRA began lowering the level of Lake Austin in early January of this year, and it will remain in this condition until the middle of February. This is a very good time for neighbors to go down and help clean up cans, bottles, tires and other debris from the dry creek areas that border the Courtyard.

WARNING: please be aware that LCRA could have to raise the lake quickly in an emergency. As such, lakeside residents should remain aware of the lake level when performing work and remove equipment and tools from the shoreline when not in use.

Play Group Time

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
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Good Neighbor - (Continued from page 2)

Tips:

Always keep the space around your clothes dryer clean and free of clutter. Believe it or not, keeping the lint screen clean in your clothes dryer can add years to its life, and your clothes will dry faster. A plugged lint screen makes your dryer work harder to dry your clothes. Also, the lint will begin to accumulate inside the dryer which can cause a fire hazard.

Inspect the dryer vent periodically for leaks or damage. Dryer vents can be made of metal or plastic. Do not overload your dryer. Clean out the exhaust vent system at least once a year, and be sure it is not clogged at any time. NEVER vent the dryer into house; vent outside. Use of a natural gas clothes dryers is another reason why dryer exhaust duct maintenance is necessary. If a gas clothes dryer is not properly vented, it can cause carbon monoxide to be forced back into the home with potentially deadly consequences.

Take care in using laundry products not to spill them on the exterior of the dryer. Wipe up any spills at once. Most exteriors are painted (synthetic enamel) which can be damaged or removed by chlorine bleach, ammonia, solvents or other chemicals often used in laundering and stain removal. Do not use the dryer top as a work-top for stain removal unless it is protected by heavy plastic cover, or for rust removal. Use a sink instead and follow remover product label directions exactly including flushing sink with cold water!

Follow manufacturers instructions in manual on using fabric softeners in dryer, and do not use any type they warn against.

Websites for more detail:

http://www.home-smart.org/basic_care/section_detail.aspx?itemID=2932&catID=759&SelectCatID=759&cat_1=751&cat_2=759&ref=2932:BC_I_2

http://www.startremodeling.com/dryer_care.htm

For more information on clothes dryer exhaust duct maintenance and safety or for a list of CSIA Certified Dryer Exhaust Duct Technicians, contact the Chimney Safety Institute of America at 1-800-536-0118.

<http://www.csia.org/homeowners/dryer-maint.htm>

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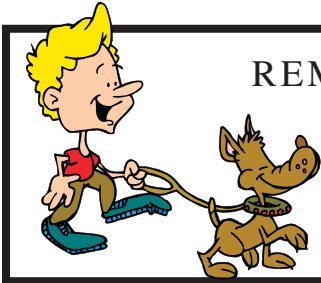
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Sudoku

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.

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

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