



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

March 2007

Volume 6, Number 3

Greetings Members

While you may have gotten a little tired of all the reminders and discussion in the last few newsletters of the importance of attending and/or sending in a proxy for the Homeowners' Association (HOA) annual meeting, we are happy to say that it paid off. Thank you to everyone for their support by attending and sending in the necessary proxies. We easily achieved the required quorum, were able to conduct the necessary business of the HOA, and had a very successful and informative meeting with good questions, discussion, and interests expressed by those attending.

In addition, several people signed up to help with the work of the Association's committees. We asked for your help, and you responded. Another big thanks goes to all those who volunteered their time to serve. We are looking forward to another great year in the Courtyard. Finally, as always, please keep up the good efforts to:

DRIVE SLOWLY IN THE COURTYARD

-Your HOA Board of Directors

Happy
Saint Patrick's
Day!

Book Club Meeting March 13th

The Courtyard Book Club will meet at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 13 at the Courtyard Tennis Club. The Club is open to everyone and is in an easy and enjoyable way for newcomers as well as "old-timers" to meet their neighbors. Please join us.

The March selection is *Isaac's Storm* by Erik Larson. *Isaac's Storm* blends science and history to create a powerful chronicle of the deadly hurricane of September 8, 1900, that slammed into Galveston, Texas. With a tidal surge of roughly four feet in as many seconds, by the time the water and winds subsided, thousands of buildings had been destroyed, entire streets had disappeared, and as many as 10,000 people were dead -- making this the worst natural disaster in America's history. Larson re-creates in detail the events leading up to the disaster tracing the thoughts and actions of Isaac Cline, a scientist with America's burgeoning U.S. Weather Bureau, and considers how Cline's unwavering confidence in the new "age of scientific certainty" blinds him to the impending doom.

Looking ahead: the April selection is *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory. This is a novel of historical fiction based on the character of Mary Boleyn, older sister of Anne Boleyn, second wife of Henry VIII.

If you have any questions, please call Betty Marshall @ 343-8299.



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of the month at www.PEELinc.com**

COURTYARD CALLER

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Bull Creek Park

It is regrettable, but we must again report that the park has been vandalized. This time, someone is shooting blue paint balls at signs, the basketball backboard and other targets. Parents and/or others responsible for neighborhood children that own a paint ball gun are asked to please curtail and/or otherwise closely monitor the child's use of the gun. We do not need more vandalism in the neighborhood. Residents are again urged to call 911 and report to the police any suspicious person(s) or destructive activity they see in the community.

There is a NEW CODE for the park gate. Our property manager, Marilyn Childress, has mailed out the new code, and everyone should have it. Please do not give out the code to non-Courtyard homeowners.

On a positive note, we have recently completed or are in the process of completing park projects that include construction of a new boat dock at the boat launch area next to the County Line Restaurant and the clearing of the trails after the ice storm. If you have any questions or suggestions involving Bull Creek Park, please contact one of the Bull Creek Committee members: Catherine Reynolds - 342-2848, Jim Reed - 502-8511, Fred Wakefield - 343-7103, or Eddie Zamora - 502-9501.

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COURTYARD CALLER

Courtyard Garage Sale – May 5 (Rain date, May 12)

It's never too early to start gathering items for the annual Courtyard Neighborhood's spring garage sale. This year's sale will be on Saturday, May 5, starting at 8 a.m. Street signs and newspaper ads will be provided by the Homeowners' Association. Residents do their own marking, selling and providing change. Be ready early.

Call Mary Lou Nilsson @ 346-8432 for more information and assistance.



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2007 Courtyard Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday April 7, 11:00 AM

Attention all Courtyard Residents -- it's time to start thinking about the Easter Bunny and all the fun to be had at the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Join us in the park near the Playscape for cookies, punch and the great Golden Egg hunt. There will be age specific areas for the children and special prizes for the lucky kids that find the Golden Eggs. Mark your calendar and if you would like volunteer, please contact Michael Castanon at 231-9789.



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Be a Good Neighbor

With the ice storm of 2007 now a memory and winter rains nourishing our trees and yards in preparation for the growing season ahead, many of us are thinking of spring. This is also the time when many of us are clearing out the old brush and dead foliage as well as items to recycle from inside our homes as we start our "spring cleaning" projects.

As many of you know, the City of Austin (City) provides a bulk pick-up service at least twice a year in addition to weekly garbage service. Whether you are planning to leave items along the curb for bulk pick-up in the distant future or only intend to leave out your garbage can or other bulk items such grills, trash containers, and old furniture out until the next week's pick-up day, please be considerate of your neighbors. Imagine how you would feel if you were forced to view your neighbor's garbage every day you go outside of your house. Do a favor for your neighbor and keep all the trash and junk out of sight.

The above request just makes sense as a good neighbor. However, there is also a more formal requirement found in Article VIII, Section 10 of the Deed restrictions that you received when you purchased your home. Section 10 states:

No garbage or trash shall be placed or kept on any Lot except in covered containers of a type, size, and style which are approved by the Board of Directors, which may include the requirement that all containers will be disposable. In no event shall such (covered garbage) containers be maintained so as to be visible from neighboring property except to make the same available for collection and, then, only the shortest time reasonably necessary to effect such collection.

Obviously, when the City has a bulk pickup, items may be left out briefly which are not in containers.

If you did not receive a copy of the Deed restrictions or if you have questions regarding compliance related to trash and items in your driveway, please contact Marilyn Childress of Goodwin Management 502-7509.

HOA Compliance Committee

lucky dog.



Austin Canine Central
706 Brentwood Street
512.458.8800

Security

Thank you to all those who attended the annual meeting and especially to those who signed up for the Security Committee. If you missed the annual meeting but are interested in working on this committee, please let us know and we'll be happy to add you to the group.

*Neighborhood gossip is usually bad,
most would agree that's iron-clad.
But there is a case when chatty is good,
and it is a case when talking you should.*

*Look out for your neighbor and talk, talk, talk,
about the lights, cars or people that gave you a balk.
For this conversation might prove helpful
when caring for our neighbors and stopping the unwelcome.*

*So keep your eyes open for the unusual and oddly
and call 911, 311 or the Board by gosh-ly.
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Hound Rescue



Hound Rescue is an all volunteer group of people who rescue and foster dogs in their homes while working to find loving homes for these unwanted dogs in the Central Texas area. The group is proud to say it has just been granted non-profit status (501c3), and is trying to expand its services during 2007.

To help raise funds for these services, Hound Rescue is holding a benefit garage sale in March. As you begin your spring cleaning, please keep in mind that any and all donations of household goods would be most welcome for their sale. Members are also always in need of "doggie" items such as crates, leashes, collars, dog food, dog beds, and towels. New or used, any donation is appreciated that will help the dogs and their foster homes during their transition.

Please call Catherine Reynolds, a neighborhood member of Hound Rescue, at 342-2848, and she will be happy to pick-up whatever donations you have. More importantly, if you have any interest in becoming a foster home – please contact Catherine for details or visit www.houndrescue.com.

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Spotlight on . . . Highland Park Elementary

The Courtyard is fortunate to be in the attendance zone for Highland Park Elementary School (Highland Park) located at 4900 Fairview Drive in Austin.

Built in 1952, Highland Park looks nothing like the more spacious and modern school buildings of today. Nonetheless, the building has the charm and feel of a school from a different era from the shine on the old tile floors to the bountiful displays of student work found throughout the halls and classrooms. Visitors and attendees alike experience a comfortable, friendly, but businesslike, atmosphere, and the school is proud of its reputation for having a cooperative relationship between faculty and community and dynamic administration and staff.

Last year, Highland Park ranked first out of seventy-four Austin Independent School District elementary schools in number of students passing all areas of the TAKS test. Rated "EXEMPLARY" each year since 1995, Highland Park has over thirty special programs for its students, including Gifted and Talented, Mentoring, Technology, tutoring and after school childcare.

Being situated the foot of the Balcones Fault has provided Highland Park with a rather interesting surrounding terrain and, together with its large playground area and city park facilities at its doorstep places, Highland Park is in a prime location for giving students a wonderful opportunity to learn, explore, and play in the outdoors.

Next month – Lamar Middle School

Play Group Time

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays

9AM to 11AM

At the Park



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