



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

June 2007

Volume 6, Number 6

Greetings Members

As some of you may be aware, prices for Courtyard homes appear to be keeping pace with the appreciating values found in our general area of Austin. As a community, it is important that we continue our efforts to maintain our homes and beautiful surrounding landscaping, which contributes to everyone's property appreciating in value. One simple and easy way we can all help to do this is to make an effort to put away trash cans that are being left out after the Friday pick up and that can be seen from the street. Why does this matter? First, because it is a requirement of our Community regulations that trash cans not be visible from the street. Second, eliminating trash cans from view presents a more pleasing and positive picture when you or any visitors drive through our neighborhood. Please help by doing your part to keep your trash container(s) out of sight after the Friday pick up, and thank you in advance for your help keeping the Courtyard the best in Austin.

One final word of caution, schools are out and with the warmer weather and longer daylight hours, there are more residents out and about on Courtyard streets. Please continue your efforts to DRIVE SLOWLY and help keep our community a safe place to live.

Your Courtyard HOA Board of Directors

Don't want to wait for the mail?
View the current issue of the
Courtyard Homeowners Assoc.
Newsletter on the 1st day
of the month at www.PEELinc.com

NOTICE -- New Website Up and Running – NOTICE !

We are happy to announce that as of this June, the Courtyard has its own website. All community members are encouraged to check it out at www.courtyardhoa.org. No passwords or log-in information is required. Please keep in mind that this young website is a work in progress and may take many months to reach a "final" form.

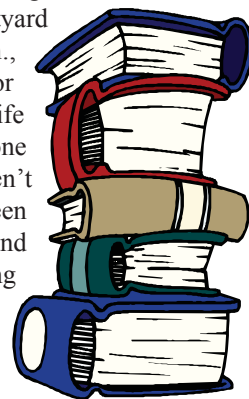
Our goal throughout this process has been to develop a website that is simple, easy to use, and can grow and adjust to meet the needs of the community. For this reason, user feedback is needed, and residents are urged to send in their comments and suggestions of ways to improve or enhance the site.

A special thank you and note of deep appreciation must be given to the Courtyard resident (who asked to remain nameless) who generously volunteered his time and company expertise to design and set up our new website. Even better, this kind person has bravely taken on the task of teaching your Communication Committee Chairperson how to manage this website and has promised his continued assistance on other technical matters should they arise.

Book Club Meeting – June 12

Why not get a start on your summer reading with your neighborhood friends in the Courtyard Book Club? This June 12 at 1:00 p.m., we'll meet at the Courtyard Tennis Club for lunch and a discussion of "The Secret Life of the Bees" by Sue Monk Kidd. Everyone is welcome. In fact, people who haven't read the selection for the month have been known to come just to enjoy the food and conversation. Looking forward to seeing you!

Looking ahead: July's selection is "The World is Flat" by Thomas Friedman.



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Bull Creek Park

Despite the cool and wet weather central Texas was experiencing, we are happy to report that nothing seemed to “dampen” the spring holiday spirits at the Easter-egg hunt in April. This year’s well-attended celebration was held on April 14, a one-week rain delay that provided neighborhood youngsters with a “bonus” the Saturday after Easter. Many thanks to Michael Castanon and the Social Committee for putting on the egg-stravaganza. We are looking forward to the July 4 Independence Day festivities.

Since articles for the June newsletter had to be submitted before our scheduled May 19 clean-up day, the Bull Creek Committee simply wishes to express its appreciation to all the neighbors that came to help that day as well as those others who help out on a continuous basis throughout the year to keep the park clean and trim.

Finally, as a note to newcomers and reminder to other residents with young children, don’t forget that group play time is scheduled on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the playscape in the park. This is a good way to make new friends and for the children to enjoy the park.

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Be a Good Neighbor!

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪
♪ “Summertime, summertime, sum...
sum... ♪ summertime, summmmm-er time”,
♪ ♪ “School’s out for the summer” “It’s
summertime and the living is easy” ♪

....and many of those other old tunes come to mind as all the students and teachers in our lives wind down their academic terms and the rest of us begin to think of the summer season that lies ahead. It is time to change the pace, think of good times in and out of the water, picnics, barbeques, family reunions, and all of the fun that we have in Austin during summer. Summer is a magical time for our Courtyard community as we enjoy a special place near the water and Lake Austin boating activities. The compliance committee would like to say “Have Fun!”, but also remember our regulations regarding boats and trailers: no boats and/or trailers parked on the streets, driveways or yards. Here’s the official regulation:

Article XIII, Section 7: Trailers, Boats and Motor Vehicles . No mobile home, trailer of any kind, truck camper, permanent tent or similar structure, boat or inoperable motor vehicle of any type should be kept, placed, maintained, constructed, reconstructed or repaired upon any property or street or private driveway in such a manner as will be visible from neighboring property or a public street...except in emergency situations or temporary construction approved by the Environmental Control committee.

Also, here are some boating safety tips and reminders from the American Red Cross @ <http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/tips/healthtips/safetywater.html>

Boating Safety

- Learn to swim. The best thing anyone can do to stay safe in and around the water is to learn to swim. This includes anyone participating in any boating activity. The

American Red Cross has swimming courses for people of any age and swimming ability. To enroll in a swim course, contact your local Red Cross chapter.

- Alcohol and boating don't mix. Alcohol impairs your judgment, balance, and coordination -- over 50 percent of drownings result from boating incidents involving alcohol. For the same reasons it is dangerous to operate an automobile while under the influence of alcohol, people should not operate a boat while drinking alcohol.
- Look for the label: Use Coast Guard-approved life jackets for yourself and your passengers when boating and fishing.
- Develop a float plan. Anytime you go out in a boat, give a responsible person details about where you will be and how long you will be gone. This is important because if the boat is delayed because of an emergency, becomes lost, or encounters other problems, you want

(Continued on page 5)

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Good Neighbor - (Continued from page 4)

help to be able to reach you.

- Find a boating course in your area (U.S. Power Squadron, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, US Sailing, etc) -- these courses teach about navigation rules, emergency procedures and the effects of wind, water conditions, and weather.
- Watch the weather: Know local weather conditions and prepare for electrical storms. Watch local news programs. Stop boating as soon as you see or hear a storm.

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2006 Directory Update

<u>Location/Resident</u>	<u>Effective date</u>
5800 #3 Courtyard Drive – Muriel Katz	3/29/2007
5626 Parade Ridge – Carol Reid	3/13/2007
5723 Sam Houston Circle – Chad Capps	2/22/2007
5302 Scout Island Circle North – Robert & Jeanne May	2/16/2007
5209 Scout Island Circle South – Alice McBee	1/22/2007
5300 Scout Island Circle South – Winston & Anna Walker Cundiff	4/09/2007
5407 Scout Island Circle South – Chi Dinh	1/31/2007

The Hounds Thank You !!



A special thank you to the Zamora's, the Bene's and the Conway's for donating household goods to the Hound Rescue benefit garage sale. On Saturday, April 28, we were able to raise a bit over \$300, which will cover much needed vet bills. Hound Rescue thanks you for your donations and efforts, they are really appreciated !!!

Area Developments

As you may have noticed, FM 2222 and Highway (Hwy) 360 have recently been plagued by people holding large commercial signs, mostly on weekends, but on weekdays as well. The signs advertise real estate developments and direct interested parties to them. One of these developments, Monte Vista Condominiums, is located off West Courtyard on top of Shepherd Mountain and the other, Overlook at Greenshores by Monterey Homes, is located off City Park Road near Greenshores. Unfortunately, much of this activity occurs near the entrance to our beautiful community.

According to Section 25-10-103 of the City of Austin's (City) Code, there should not be any commercial signs in the public right-of-way (ROW) where this activity is taking place. Furthermore, FM 2222 and Hwy 360 are both designated "Scenic Roadways," which have additional Code protections against the placement of such signs along their routes.

Due, perhaps, to initially inconsistent positions taken by City departments on this question, the City has been slow to respond to requests that it take appropriate enforcement action to address what appear to be violations of the City Code. Persistence paid off, however, and I was finally able to obtain, through City Manager Toby Futrell, a letter from Assistant City Attorney Deborah Thomas, which states clearly that the activity of people holding commercial signs in the public ROW violates multiple provisions of the Austin City Code.

Note that code enforcement in Austin is a complaint driven process and no enforcement against either Monterey Homes or Monte Vista will occur unless citizens make complaints. If you want to see the Austin City Code enforced, you can register your complaint in one of several different ways:

- Make a nonemergency report to 311. I don't recommend this method as it is cumbersome with long hold times, and frequently the 311 operators won't understand the complaint you are trying to make in this situation. This is the only way I know of to make a complaint by telephone as Code Enforcement does not directly take complaint calls.
- Send your report to Code Enforcement via email using the following web address: http://coa311web.ci.austin.tx.us/web_intake/Controller?op=locform&invSRType=CODECOMP&invSRDesc=Code%20Enforcement&locreq=Y&stnumreq=Y. This way, there will be a written record of your complaint, but this still goes through the 311 system.
- My choice is to send an email directly to Code Enforcement at either sws.pio@ci.austin.tx.us or keith.leach@ci.austin.tx.us. Code Enforcement is part of Solid Waste Services, hence the first address. And Keith Leach is the head of Code Enforcement. By sure to put your name, address and phone number on any email you send this way.
- Regardless of which method you use, you will need to provide an address (s) where you claim the violations are occurring: The intersection of Courtyard and 360 is at 5400 Capital of Texas Highway North, The intersection of 2222 and 360 is at 5700 FM 2222, The intersection of 2222 and City Park Road is at 6400 FM 2222, and The intersection of Courtyard and City Park Road is at 5900 City Park Road.

Bill Meredith, Area Development and Zoning Liaison
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Austin Recognized as One of Top 25 Cities in America

City Ranked as 2nd Most Popular Overall in 2004

AUSTIN, TX - Travel + Leisure magazine and CNN Headline News have released the 2007 survey of "America's Favorite Cities." After ranking second as the overall favorite city in the 2004 poll, Austin again appears among the country's most popular destinations. Dallas/Fort Worth and San Antonio also make the list, as do Honolulu, New York, San Francisco, San Diego, Nashville and Santa Fe.

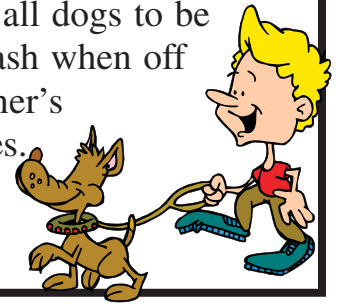
Travelers are asked to vote for their favorites at both www.cnn.com/travel and www.travelandleisure.com/afc. Voting continues through July 15. During this time, Travel + Leisure editors profile the cities on CNN Headline News' morning show "Robin & Company." Austin's profile is on the schedule for June 8, along with Portland and Seattle. Viewers can also submit their

own pictures and video of Austin through CNN.com's I-Report. Survey results will be announced on CNN Headline News and via the websites on Oct. 10, as well as in the November issue of Travel + Leisure.

The surveys rate the cities on such variables as cleanliness (Austin scored 7th in the '04 poll), attractiveness, weather, peace and quiet, shopping (at #25 Austin placed at the bottom in the last poll), romance, sexiness, outdoor activities and eating out (again, Austin previously came in last). Despite two last-place finishes, however, Austin scored a total of 85 points to trail only behind Honolulu with 88 points as "America's Favorite City." San Antonio came in fourth, and the last-place finisher in '04 was Washington, DC. Houston, which made the list at #21, is not included in this year's survey.

REMEMBER, PLEASE:

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



Classified Ads

Personal classifieds (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Courtyard residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail LouBetty@aol.com.

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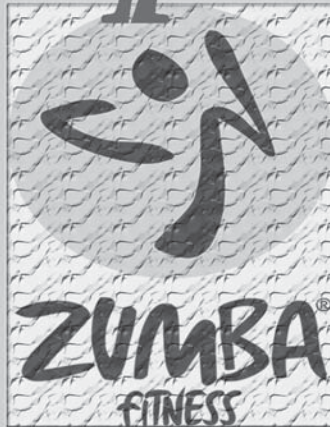
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