



# Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

April 2008

Volume 7, Number 4

## Message to Members

We hope everyone has been enjoying Spring and the beautiful changes it has brought to our outdoor areas. Several articles in our April newsletter discuss matters that are quite relevant to the quality of life in our neighborhood. We hope you have time to consider and take an interest in their message, as noted below.

First, although we may not like the periodic clean-up, it is probably safe to say that in Texas, we really appreciate our trees and want to encourage their continued growth and good health. Please pay heed to the warnings and preventative tips concerning oak wilt to help ensure that the Courtyard does not have to face the loss of any of our trees to this dreadful disease.

Second, by now everyone should have received a letter providing them with the new gate code number, effective March 3, 2008. Please contact Marilyn Childress, our Goodwin Management representative, if you have not. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of keeping this number secure – both for everyone's personal safety and that of our property.

Third, we would like to express our appreciation to residents Jim Reed and Alice Randolph who have volunteered to serve as the new chairpersons of two very important neighborhood committees. Jim is our new chairperson of the Community Park Committee (formerly "Bull Creek" Park), and Alice is our new Welcome

Committee chairperson. Please contact Jim or Alice if you have any suggestions and/or would like to help with the work of these committees. Come to think of it, all of our committees would welcome a little extra help from residents. Please consider giving the chairpersons a call to volunteer just a little of your time. (See, telephone numbers are listed on Page 2 of this newsletter.) And while we're on the subject, the Community would like to extend our sincere thanks to the outgoing chairpersons of these committees, Eddie Zamora and Alys Honey, who so generously gave their time to serve our neighborhood over the past several years.

Fourth, it's hard to live in the Courtyard and not be aware of the tremendous development, both residential and commercial, along FM 2222 between RR 620 and Capital of Texas Highway (360) and the accompanying increases in traffic congestion and noise pollution. Would you like to know what else is planned for our area and learn what we, as residents, can do to impact future development? See, information provided in this month's newsletter by our Area Development liaison.

Finally, please continue your efforts to DRIVE SLOWLY in the Courtyard. Success increases SAFETY for all!  
Your Courtyard Homeowners' Association Board of Directors

## Book Club

The Courtyard Book Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Courtyard Tennis & Swim Club. The book group is a perfect opportunity to meet your neighbors and enjoy a lively discussion on a variety of interesting topics in addition to the featured book for the month.

Mark your calendars this month for **Tuesday, April 8 at 1 pm**. Enjoy a light lunch ordered from the Grill and join in the discussion of *The Most Famous Man in America: Henry Ward Beecher* by Debby Applegate, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for biography and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award. This book can be enjoyed as history or as story of a figure who rose to great heights of achievement and admiration before falling victim to his own humanity.

Get a head start on the May book by reading, *Polio: An American Story* by Austin's own David Oshinsky, professor of history at the University of Texas and winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize for history for this book. This is not dry academic reading, but has been described as a "gripping narrative covering all the challenges, characters and controversies of America's relentless struggle against polio." Amazon readers consistently give this book a rare 5 of 5 stars. One reader described the writing as "breezy prose." This title is readily available at Austin Public Library. Half Price Books on Lamar Blvd. had several copies on hand on a recent trip and local bookstores stock the paperback edition.



# COURTYARD CALLER

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## Committees

<b>Environmental Control (ECC)</b>	
Diana Apgar.....	415-9412
<b>Community Park</b>	
Jim Reed.....	502-8511
<b>Welcome</b>	
Alice Randolph.....	394-7218
<b>Social</b>	
Michael Castanon.....	231-9789
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Ed Ueckert.....	345-6137
<b>Security</b>	
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<b>Communications</b>	
Leslie Craven.....	502-1124
<b>Compliance</b>	
Waneen Spirduso .....	345-5078
<b>Kayak Committee</b>	
Waneen Spirduso .....	345-5078

## Area Development and Zoning Liaison

Bill Meredith .....	345-0593
Goodwin Management: Marilyn Childress	
11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227 • 512-502-7509	

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## GARAGE SALE REMINDER SATURDAY - MAY 8!!!!

(Rain date, May 12)

You collect the stuff, and we provide the advertising and signs. Call Mary Lou Nilsson to reserve a sign or if you have any questions. (346-8432)

## Advertising Information

Please support the businesses that advertise in the Courtyard Neighborhood Association Newsletter. Their advertising dollars make it possible for all residents to receive a newsletter at no charge. No homeowners association funds are used to produce or mail the newsletters. If you would like to support the newsletter by advertising, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales Office, 512-989-8905 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com) for ad information and pricing.

*Don't want to wait for the mail?*  
View the current issue of the  
**Courtyard Homeowners Association  
Newsletter on the 1st day of the month  
at [www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com)**

## 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](mailto:LouBetty@aol.com).

**Business classifieds** (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales at 512-989-8905 or [advertising@PEELinc.com](mailto:advertising@PEELinc.com).



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## Courtyard Neighborhood Garage Sale Saturday - May 3!!!! (Rain date, May 10)

Here is your early reminder so you can start gathering up items for sale during spring cleaning. If you haven't participated before, it's simple. You collect the stuff, and the Homeowners' Association provides advertising in the Austin American Statesman and will put out signs at the entrance and in the neighborhood. Call Mary Lou Nilsson to reserve a sign or if you have any questions. (346-8432)



- Children's items are especially popular;
- Multi-family sales tend to be more successful, so you might want to join with your neighbors to pool sale items at one location and take turns running the sale.

Please note that Settlement House will come by and pick-up any "leftovers" that day. Contact Rebecca Lee (346-4220) if you want to schedule this helpful service.

Hints for a successful sale:

- You can add signs if you feel it will help. Home Depot and others have them. Just be sure they come down after the sale is over;
- Feel free to open earlier or later;
- It is advisable to have prices on every item and be prepared to dicker;
- Have change – both bills and coins available;

Mention this ad for \$100 off service of \$1000 or more

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# COURTYARD CALLER

## Play Group Time Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays



9AM to 11AM  
At the Park

### Business Classifieds

**AUSTIN ARTISTS SPRING SHOW in LAKEWOOD** on Saturday, May 3, 10 am- 4 pm. Hand-made, exquisite, unique products: Collages, Decorative Boxes, Tamarinda Soaps and Diffusers, ZStudio Jewelry, Photographs, Note Cards, and Crafts. Enjoy wine and refreshments as you shop. (Directions: On 360, 1st light North of Rt.2222 turn WEST onto Lakewood Drive . Clubhouse is approx. 1/2 mile on right.)

## Area Developments

NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE

The 2222 Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (2222CONA) is holding an Open House to update area neighbors on the development projects planned along FM 2222 between Loop 360 and RR 620, and along City Park Road. The number of projects is astounding. And there are more to come!

Come learn what's going on in your backyard! Look at the maps and site plans. What is the traffic impact to FM 2222? Can the creeks and watershed be protected? Find out how you can have an impact on what is being built.

**2222CONA OPEN HOUSE –**

**Sunday, April 13, 2008 - 3pm to 5pm**

**River Place Country Club, 4207 River Place Boulevard**

**Light refreshments served**

**[www.2222CONA.org](http://www.2222CONA.org)**

Bill Meredith, Area Development & Zoning Liaison

# I want to see Austin's city limits.



**Jo Carol  
Snowden**

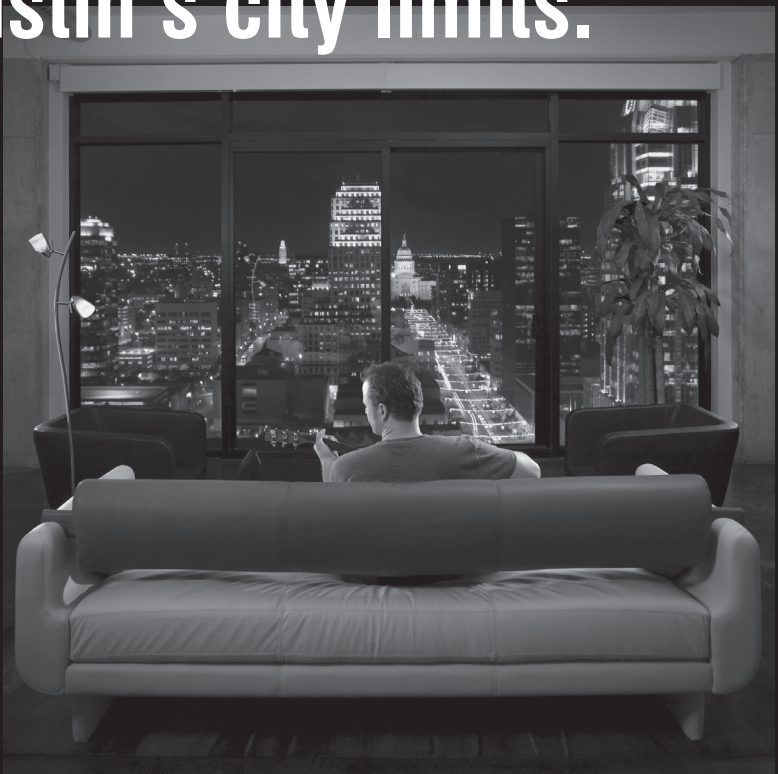
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## WARNING \* \* \* \* Oak Wilt Threat \* \* \* \* WARNING

If you haven't noticed the many warning signs around town, please be aware that "oak wilt" is a serious threat to the live oak and red oak trees in the Courtyard and throughout central Texas. Since the first oak wilt discoveries in the 1980s, the City of Austin (City) and North West Austin Civic Association's (NWACA) Oak Wilt Committee have promoted aggressive prevention and containment techniques. Please take a minute and review the information below before you begin your outside "spring cleaning." Remember, the best defense is prevention!

### PREVENTION TECHNIQUES

#### Proper pruning:

- AVOID pruning oaks during the most vulnerable months of February through June (peak carrier beetle activity season). The best times for pruning of oaks are during the heat of summer (minimal spore production) or the cold of winter (minimal insect activity).
- Sterilize tools with bleach or alcohol (Lysol is also a solution)
- Employ certified arborists and their firms (avoid scam artists)

#### Proper tree wound treatment

- Immediately (within 15 minutes) paint all wounds, including pruning cuts, with pruning paint or latex paint. Contaminated sap beetles may be attracted to and infect untreated cuts or wounds with oak wilt spores.

#### Proper firewood usage

- 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 (Spanish, Texas red, blackjack or shumard oak) that die "rapidly" (2-3 weeks) or in groups (two 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. Check with local officials to see if any bans are in effect before planning to do any outdoor burning and take care not to burn on windy days with low humidity.

#### Monitor utility easement clearing activities

- Review project with city project manager
- Inspect actual work for equipment sterilization and wound treatment

Plant trees other than Live Oaks or Red Oaks (see "Trees of Central Texas" recommendation)

#### Containment Techniques

- Trenching: digging trench to bed rock; major neighborhood

projects can cost \$100,000 each

- Infected tree injection: possible to be a "do-it-yourself" project but it is recommended that you contact a certified arborist or Board Certified Master Arborist
- Infected tree removal – recommend contacting certified arborist or Board Certified Master Arborist; act quickly - red oaks must be quickly removed to prevent fungal mats risk

#### Resources and Contacts

<http://www.texasoakwilt.org/> (all your Oak Wilt questions)

<http://texasforests.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?id=1173>

<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt>

<http://www.treesaregood.com/> (general)

<http://www.isa-arbor.com/findArborist/findarborist.aspx> (area arborists)

Oak Wilt Information Line (Texas Forest Service and LCRA) 512-473-3517

Texas State Oak Wilt Coordinator, Jim Houser 512 339-4589

Texas Staff Forester, Eric Beckers 512-339-3772

City of Austin, Chris Dolan 512-974-1881

NWACA Oak Wilt Committee, Parker Blevins 512-345-6182



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\$75,000 - \$124,999	<b>2.78%</b> <sup>****</sup>	<b>12 mo.</b>	<b>3.96%</b>
\$125,000 and Above	<b>3.04%</b> <sup>****</sup>	<b>24 mo.</b>	<b>4.09%</b>
		<b>36 mo.</b>	<b>4.22%</b>
		<b>48 mo.</b>	<b>4.32%</b>
			<b>4.36%</b>

\*Annual Percentage Rate. All rates expressed are "as low as". \*\*Austin Telco will pay all standard closing costs on Home Equity loans below \$100k. Additional non-standard fees will be the responsibility of the member. Credit qualifications apply. \*\*\*Rate applies to 1st lien commercial real estate loans with a loan to value of 80% or less; construction/development loan rates/terms may be different. No Pre-payment penalty. Credit qualifications apply. Please call for details. \*\*\*\*Annual Percentage Yield. Penalties for early withdrawal may apply. All APRs, APYs and terms are subject to change without notice.





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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.

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

\* Solution at [www.peelinc.com](http://www.peelinc.com)

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## Be Safe: When an Armadillo Sees its Shadow, is it Boating Season in Texas?

Submitted by LCRA



Have fun this summer but remember:  
Nobody's Waterproof.

The time of year known nationally as the official boating season is about as relevant to Texans as Punxsutawney Phil seeing his shadow on Groundhog Day in Pennsylvania.

Our climate does not limit water recreation to three months out of the year as in many other states across the country. Many a Texas Christmas photo shows family members sporting shorts. On Feb. 25, Austin's 92-degree high was one of the warmest on record for that date. With warm, sunny days today, boaters and swimmers are not waiting until May to enjoy water recreation.

And with LCRA's meteorologist Bob Rose forecasting a trend of warmer temperatures, we can expect to see the numbers of lake visitors on the

rise well before the official first day of spring. What we don't want to see, however, is more lake accidents occurring earlier as well.

Unfortunately, the first two Highland Lakes drownings already occurred in February. They were both at Lake Travis and both victims were Austin-area residents. This is the earliest in a year that a lake fatality has occurred on Lake Travis in at least eight years.

So just as our mild Texas winters don't limit use of the lakes, actions and precautions that make lake visits safer should not be limited to Memorial Day through Labor Day. That doesn't mean folks won't hear plenty about National Safe Boating Week when it takes place May 17-23; it just means we want the safety reminders to be heard now when it's already warm enough to enjoy the lakes.

Plenty of water in the Highland Lakes and warm temperatures provide a great opportunity for people to enjoy the water by boat or from the shoreline. And lake visitors of all types can benefit from following a few easy water safety tips such as swimming or boating with a friend, wearing a life jacket, drinking responsibly and taking time to learn about risks such as water-related illnesses that are associated with any lake.

For the third year, LCRA will promote safe enjoyment of the lakes through its Nobody's Waterproof™ campaign. See [www.nobodyswaterproof.com](http://www.nobodyswaterproof.com) for dates and locations of these interactive lake events as well as tips to make sure your lake visit is fun and safe from start to finish.

### Five to stay alive

1. **Always swim with a friend.**  
Recognize the signs of someone in trouble. Most drowning victims don't yell for help; instead, they panic and slip quietly under water.
2. **Always wear a life jacket.** And, don't overestimate your swimming abilities.
3. **Drink responsibly.** Many drowning accidents involve alcohol, which affects your coordination and judgment, especially when boating or swimming. Always drink lots of water.
4. **Boat safely.** Familiarize yourself with the lake, and be aware of your surroundings at all times.
5. **Have required equipment onboard.**  
And, make sure it works correctly!

For more information, check out the Nobody's Waterproof Web site.



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