

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

May 2008

Volume 7, Number 5

Message to Members

While the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many.

Lady Bird Johnson

With May comes the end of school and increasingly longer days that give us more time to enjoy the outside before the really hot summer weather arrives. We have a beautiful community, and it is good to see so many of our residents out walking (people and pets), jogging, riding bikes, and enjoying the Courtyard's easy access to Bull Creek. With this in mind, thank you to everyone for their continuing efforts to keep driving speeds down while traveling through the neighborhood. Please keep it up.

Many Courtyard residents will be traveling during the summer months ahead, and they sometimes forget to make fairly important arrangements for their newspapers and mail. If you know your neighbors are out of town or simply notice that newspapers or mail/deliveries are accumulating on porches or driveways, be a good neighbor and please consider collecting these items and keeping them for the homeowners until they return. Left alone, they serve as a tip-off that homeowners are not home and are an invitation for trouble. Neighbors can also help each other out by keeping an eye out for strangers wandering through back yards or between houses. If you aren't sure what to do, please contact a Board member, our Security Committee chairperson, or the police and let someone know your concerns. While residents need not be fearful, it is good to be watchful and proactive about our safety and that of our community.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy summer ahead!

Your Courtyard Homeowners' Association Board of Directors

Book Club

Join the Courtyard Book Group on May 13, 1:00 p.m, at the Tennis and Swim Club for a discussion of Polio, An American



Story by David Oshinsky. Polio is not just the story of this dreaded disease and its heroes, Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin. It is a picture of a period of United States history that is so close but yet often forgotten. Come and share your thoughts even if you have not yet read the book. Lunch is available from the grill.

In June, we will visit the Hermitage vicariously by reading The Madonnas of Leningrad. Through the memories of Marina, a Russian woman, now living in America, the reader is taken to Leningrad and the Hermitage Museum in 1941 at the time of the German siege. Marina was a tour guide a the Hermitage and along with other museum staff removed the precious paintings for safe keeping as the war approached. Marina, now a victim of Alzheimer's relies on memories of the priceless collection of paintings that she has carefully stowed in her mind. Isabel Allende called this book "an unforgettable story of love, survival and the power of imagination in the most tragic circumstances. Elegant and poetic, the rare kind of book that you want to keep but you have to share."

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

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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 receive 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 <u>advertising@PEELinc.com</u> for ad information and pricing.

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.*

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.*

Advertise Your Business Here 888-687-6444

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Effective May 1 - New Mandatory Residential Watering Rules

The City of Austin's (City) new watering rules for residential property go into effect on May 1, 2008, and are mandatory between May 1 through September 30 of each year. Watering days are determined by your street address – not your zip code. Watering times depend on the method of watering. Recall that the mandatory watering rules for commercial property went into effect October 1, 2007, and are in effect year round. Please note that the commercial rules apply to the common areas of condominium and homeowners associations. The City's watering rules can be found at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/schedulefaq.htm . Some frequently asked Q & A's are noted below.

What are my watering days?

Single family homes (including duplexes, triplexes, and fourplexes) watering days are determined by street address (not zip code):

- · Odd numbered addresses: Wednesday and/or Saturday
- · Even numbered addresses: Thursday and/or Sunday

Commercial and Multifamily customers (including common areas of condominiums or homeowners' associations):

· Tuesday and/or Friday

When are watering rules in effect?

- · For commercial and multifamily customers: year round
- · For residential customers: mandatory only from May 1st



through September 30th.

When do these new rules take effect?

- Watering schedule changes became mandatory on October 1 for commercial and multifamily properties.
- Watering schedule will be mandatory for single family properties starting May 1, this year.

What time of day can I water?

- *Automatic irrigation system*: before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m. This applies to all customers and is in effect year round.
- *Hose-end sprinkler*: from May 1 to September 30 10 a.m. and after 7 p.m. There are no time of day restrictions for hose-end sprinklers during the rest of the year.

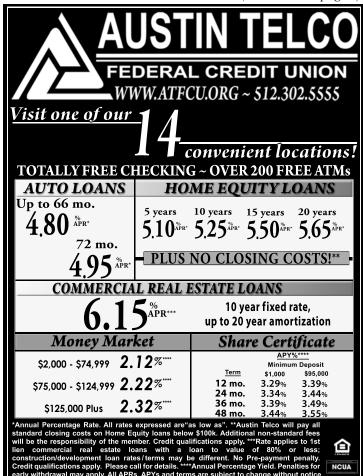
What about watering with a hand-held hose?

• *Hand-held hose* or bucket: any time of day and any day of the week.

If I see someone in violation of the watering ordinance, what do I do?

The best thing to do is to give the City's Water Conservation Department at 974-2199, email watercon *at* ci.austin.tx.us, or use the online reporting form. Please provide as much information as you can (address, time, date, location, type of violation).

(Continued on page 5)



Finding a Cure for ALS

May 17th, 2008 from 10am-2pm

BodyBusiness Summer Sampler & Clubs for the Cure Benefiting Augie's Quest - Finding a Cure for ALS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Entry is complimentary to all! BodyBusiness Health Club & Spa in Davenport Village

- Booths, Silent Auction & Raffle Giveaways Wellness, Fitness Clothing, Food & Drink, Art and more!
- Blood Pressure & Body Fat Testing, and Bone Density Testing
- SkinCeuticals Skin Analysis & Product Recommendation
- · Rae Mineral Makeup Consultation & Color Matching
- Express Chair Massage
- Mini Group Exercise Classes: Cycling, Zumba, Kinesis, Pilates, Yoga, Ab Lab
- Seminar: Fighting the Female Fat Cell with Body-Business Owner Susan Cooper



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Michael W. Burris, M.D. Fellowship Trained in

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Watering Rules - (Continued from page 3)

What are the potential consequences once a report is submitted to the Water Conservation Department?

Water Conservation wants first to educate people about the proper way to water their landscapes and assist them in complying with the ordinance. Often violators are not even aware of the problem and can make corrections immediately. However, violations are a class C misdemeanor and customers who refuse to comply can be cited.

Why are we mandating watering restrictions when we have had so much rain?

The watering rules are designed to last for many years, regardless of annual weather variations. By setting a watering schedule that is easy to follow and to remember, we will be helping our customers use their water efficiently. Twice a week is more than enough to maintain healthy, green landscapes and build strong root systems that can withstand drought.

How will this save water? Twice a week offers more watering days than the old five-day schedule?

The new schedule will save water by being easier to remember and easier to follow. Water Conservation's irrigation staff found that only 12% of the properties they audited were following the five-day schedule, and over 60% were watering more than twice a week. Getting those customers to water just twice a week will result in large savings. In addition, many customers will find that their landscapes will do well on just once a week watering, something that was difficult under the five day schedule.

Does the watering ordinance prohibit people from washing their cars or sidewalks or other hard surfaces?

The watering ordinance only restricts car washing or washing down sidewalks or other hard surfaces if increased watering restrictions become necessary. (The last time the City went to Stage 2 restrictions was summer 2000.) However, the City recommends that you use a broom to clean your driveway or sidewalk rather than using water, and if you are washing your car, make sure you have a nozzle on the end of your hose that allows you to easily shut off the water when not being used.

I'm putting in a new landscape. Do these restrictions apply to me?

Commercial customers who are installing new landscapes may apply for a temporary variance from the watering restrictions by submitting a Notification of New Landscape form (pdf) at least one day prior to installation. Variances will not be granted for seasonal color beds or overseeding.

What if I can't water my entire property in only two days per week?

Large properties where the irrigation system is incapable of covering the property within the mandatory watering schedule may apply for a variance. You must submit a completed Variance Request Form (PDF) along with a site map and proposed watering schedule. Do not deviate from the mandatory schedule until you receive approval, typically issued within five business days.

What other situations are eligible for variances?

In very limited circumstances, the City may be able to grant variances from either the watering day and/or time of day restrictions. Variance forms are available for download. Please note that variances will not be granted for overseeding lawns, conflicts with trash pickup, or lawn maintenance schedules.

Bill Meredith, Area Development and Zoning Liaison





Gardening in the Hill Country May 2008

Spring is in full swing with bright green mornings full of sunshine and bird song. Area garden centers are bursting with eager gardeners loading carts with compost, flowers and landscape supplies. While riding the energy of the season to beautify your yard, keep in mind a few things that will help the garden flourish through spring and summer.

Healthy soil supports a healthy landscape. Dedicate energy every year to improving your soil, and you will be richly rewarded with better blooms, improved water efficiency, and fewer disease problems. Work compost into garden and flower beds, and top-dress established areas and lawns with compost. Compost improves soil quality, and reduces or eliminates the need for fertilizer.

Water your garden efficiently and effectively. Although some watering is necessary to sustain gardens in the Hill Country, many people water too much! Over-watering wet or shallow soil results in weakened or diseased plants as well as runoff (water and money down the storm drain). For our thin and clay Hill Country soils, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, twice per week is the maximum amount you should need to water--even during the heat of summer. During spring and fall, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch once per week is plenty.

Watering between dusk and dawn further increases the effectiveness of the water you use by reducing evaporation and increasing the amount of water that makes it to plant roots. Twice per week summer watering is good for landscapes and also good for water supply. Over 60 percent of residential water is used on landscapes in the summer, resulting in water treatment plants experiencing peak demands. Efficient watering reduces the need to built new water treatment plants.

The City of Austin recently adopted a mandatory twice per week watering schedule effective May 1 through September 30. In April, the LCRA board will consider adopting the same watering schedule for LCRA water customers. The watering schedule is as follows:

Odd addresses: Wednesday and Saturday Even addresses: Thursday and Sunday Commercial and HOA common areas: Tuesday and Friday

Healthy soil and efficient watering will assure that the vibrant flowers in your shopping cart at the garden center thrive in your yard throughout the growing season. Happy planting!

Elizabeth Drozda-Freeman is the conservation landscape specialist for the Lower Colorado River Authority. She can be reached at (512) 473-3200 Ext.2230 or elizabeth.drozda-freeman@lcra.org if you have comments, questions or suggestions for future gardening topics.

NOW ENROLLING! Classes Begin May 2008

Children and Adult Classes

Ballet, Ballroom, Latin, Social Dancing, Fitness, Pilates, Yoga

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Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at 203 W. Main Street, Ste. D, Pflugerville, TX 78660. We will select the top few and post their artwork online at www.PEELinc.com. DUE: May 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name:

(first name, last initial)

Email Address:

[This information will only be used to notify you or your parents if your artwork was selected.]

Age:







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