



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

August 2008

Volume 7, Number 8

Message to Members

Pleasant breezes and remarkably comfortable July temperatures greeted residents participating in our annual Independence Day celebration parade and picnic in the Park. Hats off to Mike Castanon's Social Committee and other resident volunteers for organizing a terrific party in the park. Canoe rides, face painting, a water slide, Moonwalk, and, of course, lots of good food were waiting when everyone arrived at the Park. Special thanks is also due the members of the Kayak/Canoe Committee, who gave their time and shared their boats so that we could offer canoe rides for the first time at this year's celebration. What a great idea! Take a moment and enjoy a few of the parade and picnic pictures in this month's newsletter and check out the Photo Gallery in our website for the rest.

Just a quick reminder to any Courtyard homeowner/resident who hasn't yet sent in their updated information for the new 2008 Courtyard Directory due out this fall. As soon as possible, please take a moment and send in your information to either the Communications Committee chairperson, Leslie Craven or our Property Manager, Marilyn Childress, at Goodwin Management. (See page 2 for contact #s) Everyone's cooperation is needed to get the most accurate and up-to-date information as possible before the new directory goes to publication.

Don't forget about the City of Austin's (City) new watering restrictions for

residential customers that became effective on May 1 of this year. If you aren't familiar with them, check out page 3 of the May 2008 Courtyard Caller for the abbreviated version or the City's website www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/schedulefaq.htm.

Dog owners – thank you all for what appears to be stepped up vigilance in picking up after your dog and in observing the leash laws. Similar requests often go unheeded when community boards ask residents to either take certain actions or refrain from certain activities. It is a tribute to our Courtyard community that its members make the effort to respond in a positive way to this Board's requests on this subject – or any matter. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated and helps make our work much easier.

Lastly, we urge everyone to continue their efforts to **DRIVE SLOWLY** in our neighborhood.

*Your Courtyard Homeowners
Association Board of Directors*



Book Club



We can all likely recall times when we wish we'd the vision to see where our decisions would take us in the future, but there's no going back. This is a truth learned harshly by the characters in Ian McEwan's novel, *Atonement*. Here, youngest daughter, Briony, makes a scurrilous accusation with tragic consequences for her sister and the boy she was in love with. Can Briony ever make amends for her actions or is there another who needs to atone? Come join the Courtyard Book Club for a lively discussion of these and many more questions on Tuesday, **August 12 at 1:00 p.m.** at the Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club. *Atonement* has won recognition from serious critics of literature and garnered the National Book Critics Circle Award and the Los Angeles Times Book Prize in 2007. The movie, based on this book, has also won positive acclaim and is a worthy accompaniment to reading the novel.

Looking ahead – the Book Club's featured book for **September** is *A Long Way Gone; Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah and the Austin Mayor's Book Club selection for this year. It tells the tragic story of a boy soldier caught up in the civil war in Sierra Leone at the age of 12. At a UNICEF rehabilitation center, he turns his back on the violence in which he has been absorbed, is able to heal and becomes a leader in the effort of eradicate the practice of using children in war. All those interested are invited to read *A Long Way Gone* or another book set in Africa and join us for a discussion of how the current issues in Africa are portrayed in the various books we have read.

COURTYARD CALLER

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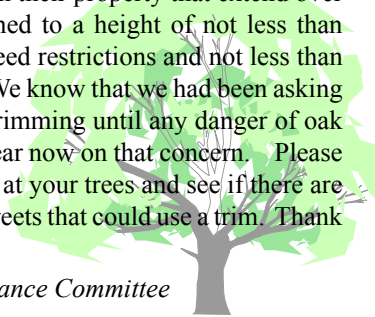
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Tree Clearances

You don't have to be a NBA basketball player to know that in some areas of the neighborhood, our tree branches have gotten too low. Please keep in mind that home owners are responsible for keeping plant materials (shrubs and trees) on their property that extend over public sidewalks and streets trimmed to a height of not less than seven feet (7') per the Courtyard deed restrictions and not less than fourteen feet (14') per City Code. We know that we had been asking everyone to hold off on their tree trimming until any danger of oak wilt had passed, but we're in the clear now on that concern. Please make the effort to take a good look at your trees and see if there are some branches over sidewalks or streets that could use a trim. Thank you for being a good neighbor.

Your Friendly Courtyard Compliance Committee



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“Paddles Up” from the Kayak Committee

Many kayakers and canoers were pleased to take to the water last month to support the July 4 Parade and picnic celebration our Community Park. Fleet members provided canoes and paddlers to make available short Bull Creek excursion tours to kids and a few adults as well. We hope to do so again next year. A special thanks from the Kayak Committee to all fleet members for their active support.

Rack Space We are fully subscribed for the 50 boat storage capacity for the coming year which runs July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. However, we encourage all interested paddle boaters to add their name to the kayak/canoe wait list if you have not done so already. This is our primary way to determine the number of residents who would like to take further advantage of our newest and most popular park amenity for individuals and families.

Take Charge of Your Safety As most residents know, the entire Bull Creek tributary of Lake Austin is designated a NO WAKE ZONE, and yet occasional violations continue to be a problem. Many high powered boats pass though the creek channel, some without regard to speed even after they pass the second NO WAKE buoy. With all the new kayak and canoe paddlers using the creek, it is especially important for witnesses of wakes behind power boats or personal water craft to verbally take forceful exception to such behavior. If the operator does not comply, a report of the incident,

boat description, and registration number (TX number) can be made to me and the City of Austin. Once we build a violation database we can command more diligent lake police patrols.

Looking Good We continue to hear many compliments on the general appearance of the rack space and are very glad to learn of residents' positive reactions. The committee welcomes constructive suggestions or concerns from any resident on its operation or relationship to the community park in general.

Finally, we hope everyone is enjoying the summer in and around our beautiful city and neighborhood community. Safe Boating !

*Waneen Spirduso - Chair
Kayak Committee*



We need to get away everyday.



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Summer Workouts for the Brain

(Answers to July's questions)

- A. Ben must give Brittany five marbles. He would then have five less, she would have five more for a difference of ten.
- B. Ed should buy the ring from the first jewelry store. Hypothetically, if Ed proposed twice, Teresa should say "yes" once and "no" once. This would mean that if he bought the ring from the first store twice, he would have spent \$6600 and if he bought the ring from the second store twice, he would have spent \$7000. On average, the ring cost him \$3300 from the first store and \$3500 from the second store.
- C. Stephen picked fifteen.
- D. Max weighs 100 pounds.

New Workout for August

- A. Under the Christmas tree there were three presents – one for Anna, one for Caroline, and one for Elizabeth. Each present was wrapped with a different color paper, either red, green, or silver. There was also a different color bow on each present, either red, green, or gold. Using only the following two statements, determine the color of the wrapping paper and bow that was on each of the present.
 1. Anna's present had a green bow.
 2. Elizabeth's present was the only one without contrasting colors of bow & paper.
- B. If each of Tom's sons have twice as many sisters as brothers and each of his daughters have just as many sisters as brothers, how many sons and daughters does Tom have?
- C. Is it possible for Melanie to have seven children if half of them are girls?
- D. Daniel and his brother can build a wall five bricks long and five bricks high in one minute. How long will it take them to build a wall ten bricks long and ten bricks high?



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