



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

September 2008

Volume 7, Number 9

Message to Members

As our daylight hours grow shorter and the school year gets underway, we ask everyone to please make an extra effort to watch their speed as they drive through our neighborhood streets. This is especially important in the early morning and late afternoon/early evening hours when people tend to be most in a hurry to get somewhere. The care you take to drive slowly helps keep the Courtyard safe for children playing and for our many walkers, runners, cyclists, and animals (domestic and wild).

Just a reminder to please contact the Environmental Control Committee (ECC) if you are planning, for example, to remove trees, remodel the outside of your home (including the repainting of any painted surfaces or painting of formerly unpainted surfaces), install a fence, or undertake any major landscaping projects. [See, Art. XI of the Second Restated Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions (Declaration).] We are trying to avoid further instances of these actions taking place without the ECC's prior knowledge and approval. Please keep in mind that the Declaration's requirement for notice and approval of such projects by the ECC was written to benefit all homeowners in the community and is not intended to delay your personal plans. On the contrary, the Declaration's notice and approval process requires the ECC to meet to consider a proposal within fifteen (15) days and to render its decision within thirty (30) days. Please contact the chairperson or any member of the ECC if you have further questions about this process.

In closing, we encourage everyone to check out the Courtyard's website at www.courtyardhoa.org. Except for the Photo Gallery, no passwords or log-in information is required. To view pictures from community events, simply click on the Photo Gallery and follow the directions. You can also click on HOA Documents for an easy way to view the Declaration discussed above. Keep in mind that the website is a "work in progress" so if you run into any problems using it or have suggestions for improvements, it is important to let us know. This is the Courtyard Community's website – your website. In creating it, our goal has been to make it as useful and user-friendly as possible for everyone, and we can't do it without your input.

DRIVE SLOWLY IN THE COURTYARD!

Your Courtyard Homeowners
Association Board of Directors

Book Club -- Sept. 08, 2008

Join the Courtyard Book Club on Tuesday, September 8 at 1:00 p.m., as this month's selection takes us to Africa to review *A Long Way Gone; Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* by Ishmael Beah. When he is 12 years old, rebels attack Ishmael's home village in Sierra Leone, and he becomes separated from his parents. Wandering on foot through the war-torn countryside, he is discovered by the government army and trained as a soldier. Five long years later, at age 17, Ishmael flees Sierra Leone for the United States and, ultimately, achieves a degree from Oberlin College. Now at the age of 26, and with time and distance from the horrors he witnessed and participated in, Ishmael is able to tell his story in this remarkable memoir.

The following are some additional titles for those who have read *A Long Way Gone* and/or wish to explore other timely books on this volatile region of the world:

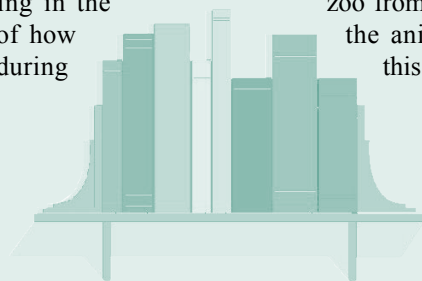
When the Crocodile Eats the Sun: A Memoir of Africa
by Peter Godwin.

Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Say You Are One of Them by Uwem Akpan.

What is What by Dave Eggers.

Don't Let's Go to The Dogs Tonight by Alexandra Fuller

Looking ahead, October's selection is *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman. Ackerman presents the remarkable WWII story of Jan Zabinski, director of the Warsaw Zoo, and his wife, Antonina, who work to not only take care of the animals, but also hide 300 Jews in animal cages in addition to Polish resistance fighters. This is not, however, just a war story of Jews hiding in the zoo from the Nazis, but also of how the animals were affected during this period.



COURTYARD CALLER

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Security Reminder -- Close those Gates !!!

It has been reported that gates at both of the Courtyard's boat storage areas (near the County Line and the kayak/canoe racks in the Community Park) are again being left open with no one around. In one instance, the lock was left open on the ground with the combination fully visible. We cannot emphasize strongly enough how important it is that residents who use these facilities be diligent so that these gates remain locked when residents are not using them to enter and/or exit the storage areas. Please be careful and act responsibly when using our neighborhood facilities. Thank you.



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TACLB 26116E

Summer Workouts for the Brain



(Answers to August's questions)

- A. The only matching color available for Elizabeth's present is red paper and a red bow. The only contrasting paper color remaining for Anna's present is silver. Caroline's present is left with green paper and a gold bow.
- B. Three sons and four daughters.
- C. Yes, she has seven daughters.
- D. Four minutes. The first wall has twenty-five bricks. The second wall has four times as many, so it will take four times as long, or four minutes.

Reminder -- Current Recycling Guidelines

Recycling must be at the curb by **6:30 a.m.**

Keep your recycling about **5 feet** away from your garbage, if they are collected on the same day.

Rinse containers and put the lids in your garbage.

Separate paper from the rest of your recycling. Put the paper in a brown, paper grocery bag or a second recycling bin. Wet paper cannot be recycled. Please avoid putting out on rainy days or where paper will be wet by a sprinkler.

Flatten corrugated cardboard, cut or fold it to **2 feet by 2 feet**, and tie it into manageable bundles with string or twine. Put pizza boxes in your garbage cart.

On windy days, flattening aluminum cans and plastic bottles will help keep them from blowing out of the bin. Try placing a brick or another heavy object on top of your paper recycling, or if you put paper in a recycling bin, stack the second bin with your cans and jars on top of the paper recycling bin.

Recycle only the following items:

- Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, junk mail & office paper
- Aluminum, steel & tin cans
- Glass bottles and jars, all colors
- Plastic bottles (#1 and #2) -- no other shaped plastic containers than bottles
- Corrugated cardboard.



The items below may **NOT be recycled curbside**: Styrofoam, paper milk and juice cartons, egg cartons, dairy or margarine tubs, pizza boxes, take out containers, metal, motor oil or other containers that have held hazardous materials.

For more details see <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/recycling.htm>



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<h1 style="font-size: 2em;">14</h1> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">CONVENIENT LOCATIONS!</h2>	<h4>Share Certificate Rates</h4> <p style="text-align: center;">APY%****</p> <table style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Term</th> <th colspan="2">Minimum Deposit</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>\$1,000</td> <td>\$95,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3 mo.</td> <td>3.21%</td> <td>3.31%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6 mo.</td> <td>3.67%</td> <td>3.82%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12 mo.</td> <td>3.82%</td> <td>3.93%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 mo.</td> <td>3.93%</td> <td>4.03%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Term	Minimum Deposit			\$1,000	\$95,000	3 mo.	3.21%	3.31%	6 mo.	3.67%	3.82%	12 mo.	3.82%	3.93%	24 mo.	3.93%	4.03%
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Travis County Voter Alert

65 Days and Counting Until November 4 Election !!!

September 1 begins the 65-day countdown to the November 4 elections, and the Travis County Clerk's Elections staff expects this to be an historically high turnout. To help ensure voters are ready for Election Day, the staff prepared the following preparation check-list and suggestions to facilitate the voting process.

1. REGISTER to Vote and UPDATE your voter registration NOW

Deadline to register to vote or update your registration is **Monday, October 6, 2008.**

- Newcomers to Travis County must register to vote to be eligible to participate in the election on Tuesday, November 4.
- To avoid unnecessary delays and possibly miss your chance to vote, if you have moved within Travis County or changed your name, you must update your registration with the most current information. Voters who have not updated their records must do so at the polling place before being issued a ballot. On Election Day, voters must vote at the precinct where they are registered, so this means returning to the polling location designated for the previous address if their registration is not current.

While the County Clerk administers elections in Travis County, the County Tax Assessor-Collector handles Voter Registration functions. To register to vote, or to update your Voter Registration status, contact

the Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector's Voter Registration office at (512) 854-9473. You may confirm your voter registration status on the Tax Office website: www.traviscountytax.org.

2. VOTE EARLY in Person

Early voting runs from Monday, October 20 to Friday, October 31, 2008

Texas provides for no-excuse Early Voting in Person, and Travis County offers one of the most extensive Early Voting programs in the state. The County Clerk's "retail approach" focuses on securing polling places that voters regularly frequent – such as grocery stores, libraries, and community centers. Taking advantage of early voting – especially during the first few days of the period, is the easiest way to cast a ballot in person.

3. Prepare and Submit BALLOT BY MAIL Application when Eligible.

Who is an "eligible" voter?

- Active-duty military and overseas citizens are eligible to submit a "Federal Post Card Application" (FPCA) to receive a ballot by mail at any time; and
- Beginning **Friday, September 5, 2008**, Texas law allows the

(Continued on page 5)



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Travis County Voter Alert - (Continued from page 4)

following other "eligible" voters to submit an "Application for a Ballot by Mail." (ABBM) Note, however, that pursuant to state law, applications received prior to September 5 must be rejected.

Registered voters that meet one of the following four qualifications:

1. 65 years of age or older;
2. Out of the registered county for the entire voting period (Oct. 20 – Nov. 4);
3. Disabled; or
4. Incarcerated but still eligible to cast a ballot.

Both FPCA and the ABBM forms can be downloaded from the County Clerk's website: www.traviscountyelections.org, or the Elections staff can mail the applications to voters. Contact the County Clerk's office at 854-4996 for assistance: www.traviscountyelections.org.

4. Confirm Your Polling Place. Site selection will soon be completed for Early Voting and Election Day polling places. The County Clerk has directed staff to plan for additional capacity and expanded opportunity. Once finalized, the complete list of polling locations will be posted on the Elections' website. At least a few sites change each election, so voters should be sure to check polling locations before heading out to vote.

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COURTYARD CALLER

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

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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Recipe of the Month:

Lemon Ice Box Cake

Submitted by Madra Ford



- 1 yellow cake mix
- 2 cans sweetened condensed milk (Eagle Brand)
- 1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
- 1 8oz. container Cool Whip

Bake cake as directed for two layers. When cool, slice each layer in half, making four layers. In a bowl combine condensed milk with lemon juice.....reserve 1/2 cup & set aside for frosting.

Use remaining juice/milk mixture as a filling between the four layers. With reserved mixture, gently fold in the Cool Whip and frost entire cake. Holes can be poked in cake so frosting is absorbed. This is better if made a day or two in advance.

If you would like to submit YOUR recipe email it to articles@peelinc.com.



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- Laurel Oaks Neighborhood Assoc.
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
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- River Place
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