



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

October 2008

Volume 7, Number 10

Message to Members

Moving into the fall, we'd like to briefly focus on the importance of residents volunteering their services to support the Homeowners Association's operations and express our sincere thanks to those who give their time to help out. As is the case with so many nonprofit organizations, the Board and its supporting committees must rely on you – our member volunteers -- to fulfill their functions throughout the year.

As a primary example, and although much of the work done to maintain our common areas is performed by outside companies, community volunteers are still needed to first help determine what work needs to be done throughout the year and then to monitor the operation to see that the work is done correctly and within budget – “within” budget being a key point. Most would agree that a neighborhood's general appearance can have a direct impact on individual property values throughout the community. As such, those who volunteer their time on such projects for the Community are performing a real service to all their neighbors by helping to maintain high property values and keep maintenance costs down.

Understandably, everyone is busy with work and family. However, we urge you to consider offering a little free time even once a year – everything helps and the cumulative effect of each person's contribution goes a long way to helping keep the Courtyard a great place to live.

If you are interested in helping out or have some ideas or suggestions you'd like to pass along to a committee, please contact any Board or Committee chairperson. Names and phone numbers are listed in this newsletter or visit the “Contact Us” page of our website: www.courtyardhoa.org.

In the meantime, keep up your efforts to
DRIVE SLOWLY in the Courtyard
– it really makes a difference !

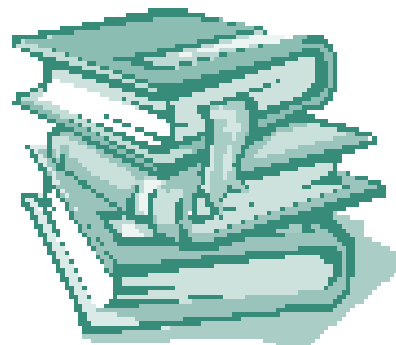
*Your Courtyard Homeowners Association
Board of Directors*

Book Club

Meet us at 1 p.m. on October 14 at the Courtyard Tennis & Swim Club to discuss *The Zookeeper's Wife*. Author, Diane Ackerman, is described as a naturalist and poet. Her previous books have explored the brain, endangered species, and her personal garden. Fascinated by the remembrances of her Polish grandfather about a primeval forest in Poland, Ackerman begins a search for more information. In the process she discovers a diary that supplies many of the details of this book. The diary reveals the heroism of Antonina (the zookeeper's wife) and her husband, in saving more than 300 Jews by housing them in the zoo's cages. Theirs is a historical narrative that could not be more captivating if it were well told fiction. *The Zookeeper's Wife* is on many of the best of 2007 lists and won the 2008 Orion Magazine Award given for books that present new ideas about our relationship to nature and deepen the understanding of the natural world. Ackerman was a featured speaker at the 2007 Texas Book Festival.

As we approach the holiday season, the Book Group will lighten its reading in October with an unusual mystery, *Anarchy and Old Dogs* by Colin Cottrell. Set in 1970's communist Laos, the story is told by the national coroner, Dr. Siri Paiboun. While Cottrell includes all the elements of mystery, much humor emerges in the description of a hard line communist bureaucracy, which poorly fits the ancient Laotian culture.

It is not too soon to think about the 2009 Courtyard Book Group reading list. Suggestions are welcome. Bring your suggestions to a meeting or email Jean Heath at heathcjb@yahoo.com.



COURTYARD CALLER

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Area Developments – Update

Project: Widening of FM 2222 and Replacement of Low Water Bridge on FM 2222 at Lakewood Drive

In August 2006, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) estimated that the above noted project would be ready for construction letting within a year. This time period allowed roughly six months for final acceptance of its right-of-way (ROW) maps and acquisition of the necessary ROW and six months to move the utilities currently in the way of the project to the edge of the new ROW. TxDOT indicated that construction should begin within a few months after bids were let and was scheduled to then take approximately fifteen to eighteen months to complete.

A year later, September 2007, project organizers were still waiting for the City of Austin (City) to contribute its ten percent (10%) of the funding for the purchase of the ROW and indicated the project could not go forward until that money was received.

On September 10, 2008, the City reported that negotiations had finally begun for purchasing all the necessary ROW to construct the project. The latest schedule has bids to be let in September 2009, and construction beginning shortly after.

If you have questions about this or other area matters, please feel free to call me @ 345-0593, or contact me through the “Contact Us” page of our website.

Bill Meredith

Area Development and Zoning Liaison



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Travis County Voter Alert

35 Days and Counting Until November 4 Election !!!

October 1 begins the 35 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

(Continued on page 4)



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Travis County Voter Alert - (Continued from page 3)

- Beginning Friday, September 5, 2008, Texas law allows the 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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Texas Events - October

- 16-19—KYLE:** Kyle Fair & Music Festival Offers a free live music festival with a carnival full of rides and amusements, barbecue cook-off, parade, 5K run, Miss Kyle Pageant, KidZone, plenty of arts & crafts and food vendors, Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament and more. Gregg-Clarke Park. www.kylefair.com
- 16-23—AUSTIN:** 15th Annual Austin Film Festival Features a four-day conference, eight days of films and parties, and one-of-a-kind networking opportunities for filmmakers and screenwriters. Downtown Austin & surrounding areas. www.austinfilmfestival.com 512/478-4795 or 800/310-3378
- 17-19—AUSTIN:** Fall Plant Sale & Gardening Festival Guided walks, talks and tips are provided, as well as plenty of activities for the kids. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas at Austin. www.wildflower.org 512/232-0100
- 18—AUSTIN:** The Brew-B-Q Sample beers from Austin and regional brewers, eat barbecue from Central Texas' great restaurants, and listen to live music. www.roadwayevents.com
- 18—DRIPPING SPRINGS:** 14th Annual Chili Cook-Off Includes salsa, chili and pumpkin-carving contests, plus live and silent auctions and a cake walk. Sports & Recreation Park, 27148 RR 12. 512/858-7725
- 18—HUTTO:** 5K Fun Run Stampede Scheduled race time is 8 a.m. Runner packets may be picked up at the Parks and Recreation Department or runners may register Saturday before the race. 512/759-4000
- 18—HUTTO:** Olde Tyme Days Includes a parade, children's carnival, car show, silent auction, arts & crafts, vendor booths, music, street dance and more. Begins at 9 a.m. Downtown Hutto. www.hutto.org 512/759-4400
- 18—ROUND ROCK:** Outlaw Trail 100 Cycling Tour Cyclists can select 10-, 25-, 40-, 50- or 100-mile loop courses or a 100K through Williamson County. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Routes start and end at Old Settlers Park. www.outlawtrail100.com 512/218-5540
- 18-19—AUSTIN:** Citywide Garage Sale More than 120 exhibitors from Texas and the Southwest. Palmer Events Center. www.citywidegaragesale.com 512/441-2828
- 20—CEDAR PARK:** Golf Tournament Includes 11 a.m. lunch and 1 p.m. shotgun start. Twin Creeks Country Club. E-mail: parks@cedarparktx.us 512/401-5500
- 24-25—LIBERTY HILL:** Liberty Hill United Methodist Church Fall Arts & Crafts Fair Features arts & crafts, pumpkin patch, pony rides, train rides, children's activities, music, and auctions. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. 101 Church St. www.lhumctx.org 512/577-5706
- 24-26—AUSTIN:** Gem Capers 2008 Includes jewelry, beads, gemstones, mineral specimens, crystals, fossils, spheres and lapidary equipment with more than 30 vendors. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Road. www.gemcapers.com 512/458-9546
- 25—AUSTIN:** New Growers Seminar, Exhibit & Plant Sale Lectures include light, water, air, temperature, growing medium, fertilizing, pests and diseases. Zilker Botanical Gardens Center, 2220 Barton Springs Road. www.hotos.org 512/477-8672
- 25—FREDERICKSBURG:** Fredericksburg Food & Wine Fest Includes chef demonstrations, Gargantuan Great Grape Toss, auction, art and lively entertainment. Special events include Friday Best of Chefs, Saturday Patron Party and Sunday brunch. www.fbgfoodandwinefest.com 866/839-3378
- 25—KYLE:** Halloween Carnival Includes carnival games, costume contest, haunted house and more. City Square Park. www.cityofkyle.com 512/262-3939
- 25-26—ROUND ROCK:** A Sami Show This is an arts, crafts and home decor marketplace. Dell Diamond. www.samishow.com 512/441-7133
- 26—AUSTIN:** Goblins in the Garden Explore the Spider's Lair, the Haunted Tower and all manner of spooky sites. Enjoy face painting, pumpkin painting and candy stations. Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, University of Texas at Austin. www.wildflower.org 512/232-0100
- 30—HUTTO:** Treats on East Street Enjoy the spooky spirit of downtown Hutto and come out for free candy and refreshments. Begins at 7 p.m. 512/759-4400
- 31—AUSTIN:** Halloween on Sixth Street Thousands of costumed revelers make this one of the country's largest Halloween celebrations. www.6street.com
- 31—TAYLOR:** Halloween Spooktacular Includes kids games and activities, costume contest, scary movies, entertainment, Spook Houses and more. Hours are 6 to 9 p.m. Main Street in Historic Downtown Taylor. www.ci.taylor.tx.us 512/352-5448 or 512/352-3463

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Business classifieds (offering a service or product line for profit) are \$50, limit 40 words, please contact Peel, Inc. Sales at 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com.

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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.

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

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		36 mo.	3.93%
		48 mo.	4.03%
			4.13%
			4.18%
			4.22%

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Recipe of the Month:

Mini Cheesecakes



Ingredients

12 vanilla wafers	½ C sugar
1 8 oz. packages cream cheese, softened	1 tsp. vanilla
	2 eggs

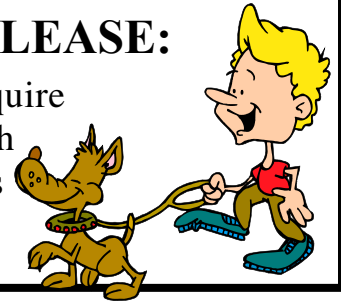
Directions

Line muffin tin with foil liners. Place one vanilla wafer in each liner. Mix cream cheese, vanilla, and sugar on medium speed until well-blended. Add eggs. Mix well. Pour over wafers, filling 3/4 full. Bake 25 min. at 325°. Remove from pan when cool. Chill. Top with fruit, preserves, nuts or chocolate.

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

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