



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

June 2009

Volume 8, Number 6



Message to Members

At long last, work to put the Courtyard neighborhood directory on our website has been completed. What began as a project to simply update and republish the hardcopy directory, changed in response to considerations about the usefulness of having a directory that could easily be kept current with no publishing costs or need to sell ads. This month, you should be able to access the latest directory information through the password protected "Directory" page on our website: www.courtyardhoa.org. For more information about the new directory, please read the article in this month's newsletter.

Take note -- it was reported that during a one week period in April, twenty-five (25) burglaries were reported in the 78731 zip code. Thankfully, none of those took place in the Courtyard. However, again, we urge you to please keep an eye out for anything or anyone who looks suspicious. When a neighbor is away from home, help each other out by picking up newspapers, mail, or trash containers sitting out by themselves that indicate no one is home at that residence. If you leave vehicles parked outside your garage, do not leave anything of value in plain sight.

As we head into the long hot summer months, please keep in mind the City's mandatory (May 1 – September 30) residential watering rules. These rules determine watering days by street address: odd numbered on Wednesday and Saturday; even numbered addresses on Thursday and Sunday. If you have further questions, contact the City. Watering rules can be found at www.ci.austin.tx.us/watercon/schedulefaq.htm.

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer and thank you for driving slowly in the Courtyard!

Your Courtyard Homeowners Association Board of Directors



Book Club

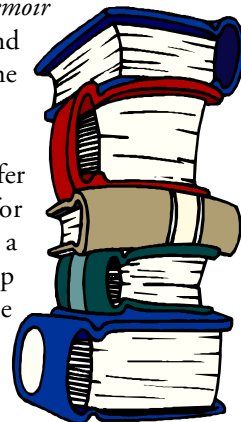
Come spend some time with your neighbors in the Courtyard Book Club and maybe make some new friends. We get together at 1 p.m., the second Tuesday of each month at the Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club. Lunch is available from the Grill. You do not have to have read the selection to attend.

Join us on this month on Tuesday, June 9, when we will discuss the June book selection, *Loving Frank*, Nancy Horan's novel about Mamah Cheney and Frank Lloyd Wright. *Loving Frank* tells the story of the well known but little discussed affair between Wright, a flamboyant architect and Cheney, a married client for whom he designed a house. While Wright never wrote of the affair and did not mention Cheney by name in his autobiography, it was covered in the press when they left their families to live and travel together. Mamah Cheney, however, did leave behind ten letters to Ellen Key, a friend and Swedish feminist whom she considered her mentor. Growing up in Oak Park, Illinois near the Cheney house designed by Wright, the author often heard tidbits about the affair, but longed to know more. Ms. Horan did extensive research for the novel which has received many positive reviews.

Below are future selections for those who want to get a head start on summer reading:

July: *When the Crocodile Eats the Sun; a Memoir of Africa* by Peter Godwin is a memoir and a searing indictment of the corrupt regime of Robert Mugabe.

August: *Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer (Austin Mayor's Book Club selection for 2009) The story of the Amin family, a wealthy Iranian-Jewish family caught up in the ugly repression that followed the overthrow of the Shah.



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Leslie Craven	502-1124
Karen Johnson	343-2420
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Alice Randolph	394-7218
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.....	TBA
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Waneen Spirduso	345-5078
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Bill Meredith	345-0593

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Goodwin Management: Marilyn Childress
11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227
512-502-7509

Sub-HOA CONTACTS

Center Court:	
Ryan Duffin	626-5905
Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")	
Allan Nilsson	346-8432
.....	arnilsson@earthlink.net
Villas at Courtyard:	
Thomas Hoy	231-1270
.....	Thomas.Hoy@freescall.com
Wolf Court:	
Tim Sullivan	346-3146
.....	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*Plans Starting for the Courtyard's
July 4 Parade and Picnic
Celebration in the Community Park*

PARADE starts at 10:30AM on Saturday, JULY 4
Gather at 10:15 a.m. at Parade Ridge and Courtyard Drive
Decorate your bike or wagon and join the fun.
Bring your kazoo and march in the one and only Courtyard
Marching Kazoo Band !!!

Add balloons to the stroller and walk with the Stroller Brigade

PICNIC IN THE PARK !

Back by popular demand – the Slip & Slide, face painting,
balloon animals, the Moonwalk, and canoe rides
courtesy of the Kayak/Canoe Committee
Hot dogs, lemonade, watermelon and more . . .

Please contact any Board member
if you can help with this celebration.

making
fitness
fun!



Davenport Village: 306-0557
West Anderson Lane: 459-9424
WWW.BODYBUSINESS.COM

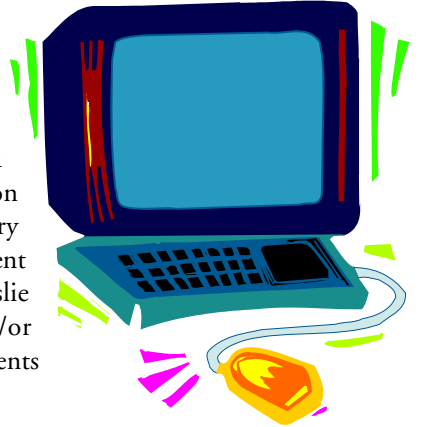
2009 Courtyard Directory Available on Website in June

In an effort to keep information more up to date and to avoid further printing costs, the Courtyard's updated 2009 directory is now available on our website: www.courtyardhoa.org. The directory is password protected through use of the community gate code. If you do not know the current gate code, please contact our property manager, Marilyn Childress, at Goodwin Management or any Board member. You will be notified of changes to the access code as they occur. If use of the gate code does not adequately limit access to the directory to Courtyard residents, please let us know and further security adjustments will be made. Residents who do not own a computer, and, therefore, have no way to access the directory, should contact a Board member or the Communications Committee chairperson, Leslie Craven.

As with the earlier directories, you are able to search alphabetically by last name and by street address. At the suggestion of several residents, a subdirectory of email addresses has been created for when time sensitive information needs to get out to members "ASAP." Examples of such instances might be when help is needed to find a lost child or pet or when there is a need to get information to residents regarding a security matter or some pending action by a governmental entity that will significantly impact our neighborhood and which

requires fast action. Although not all residents have provided us with an email address, this system will, at the least, enable us to quickly contact a good number of our residents at one time. No email addresses will be included in the "ASAP" subdirectory without the resident's permission. To avoid the indiscriminate use of this list, the ability to send messages using this email list is restricted to Board members. Anyone wanting to get a time sensitive message out to the community will need to work through a Board member.

Residents are urged to take a minute and check out the website directory to verify that your information has been transferred in correctly. Requests to add and/or change information shown in the website directory should be sent to the current website administrator, Leslie Craven. Comments and/or suggestions for improvements are welcome.



Great Hills Baptist Church

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Vacation Bible School | **June 15-19**

Going Beyond - Women's Conference with Priscilla Shirer | **June 26-27**

Patriotic Celebration - Both Sunday Services | **June 28**

Children's Fine Art Workshop | **July 6-10**

Veggie Tales Day Camp | **July 27-31**

Middle / High School Camps - Baylor University | **July 27-31**

Celebrate Recovery | **Mondays, 7 pm, 2nd floor of building A**

Regular Sunday Schedule:

9:30 & 11 am Bible Life Groups for all ages

9:30 am Celebration - Connection | *Worship Choir & Orchestra*

11:00 am Life - Connection | *Worship Band*

10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, TX . 78759 | www.ghbc.org | 512.343.7763

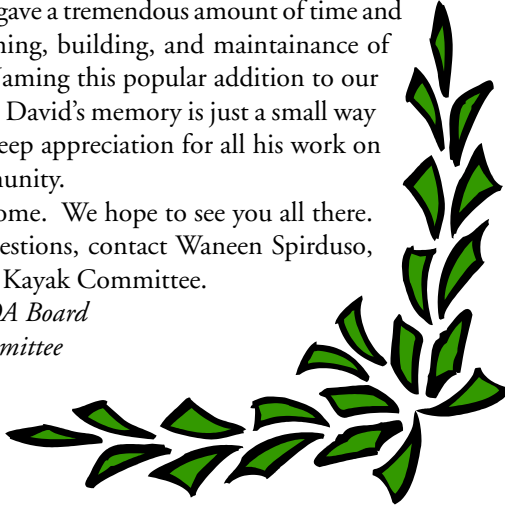
COURTYARD CALLER

Dedication of "TAIT'S RACK" June 6, 2009, 11:00 a.m.

Courtyard residents are invited to come join us on Saturday, June 6 at 11:00 a.m. in the Community Park for the dedication of the kayak/canoe storage rack in memory of our good friend and neighbor, David Tait, who passed away just a few days before Christmas, 2008. In addition to serving as the treasurer of our Homeowners' Association, David gave a tremendous amount of time and energy to the planning, building, and maintainance of this new facility. Naming this popular addition to our community park in David's memory is just a small way of expressing our deep appreciation for all his work on behalf of the community.

Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you all there. If you have any questions, contact Waneen Spirduso, Chairperson of the Kayak Committee.


*Your Courtyard HOA Board
and the Kayak Committee*



Garbage Pick-up Day is Friday ... and Only Friday Blue Recycling Containers Go Out EVERY OTHER Friday

Although everyone probably knows this, with rare exception, Friday is the day that garbage is collected in the Courtyard neighborhood. There is one minor "wrinkle" in this schedule for recycled materials. Trash in the grey, tan or dark green containers is picked up every Friday, but the blue recycling containers are emptied EVERY OTHER Friday. When it passed out the blue containers last fall, the City of Austin included a calendar of scheduled collection days for recycled trash. The Courtyard Caller and our website also note when those days are each month. Save yourself the trouble of hauling your unemptied blue container out and then in from the curb by taking a moment to consider whether it is one of the alternating Fridays for blue container collection.

On a related topic, please keep in mind that our neighborhood regulations require that garbage containers be kept stowed out of sight unless it is trash pick-up day -- Friday. While it is okay to put your garbage out the night before (Thursday) pick-up day, it is NOT acceptable to have your garbage containers out in plain sight at any other time. Our regulations require that when trash collection day is over, the containers should be moved back out of sight. This means that containers should be removed from the curb and put away by the end of the day on Friday and not sit out or lay in the street all weekend. If you are going out of town and will not be home to put your garbage out or bring it in, please ask a neighbor to help you out. We know that many of you do this already and your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Beside violating Declaration rules, please keep in mind that the failure to keep your garbage containers out of sight is an invitation to burglars -- as good as a big sign with an arrow pointing to your home that says: "These people aren't home." If you need help finding someone to help take care of your containers while you are away, please contact someone on the Board and/or our Compliance chairperson.



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WWW.ATFCU.ORG 512.302.5555

HOME EQUITY LOANS

5.15% 10 YEARS	5.35% 15 YEARS	5.60% 20 YEARS
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plus no closing costs**

BUSINESS LOANS

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20 year amortization

AUTO LOANS

3.69% 66 MONTHS	4.39% 72 MONTHS
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new or used

MONEY MARKET

1.31% \$25,000 TO \$74,999	1.51% \$75,000 TO \$124,999	1.76% \$125,000 AND ABOVE
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minimum daily balance of \$2000 required

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT¹

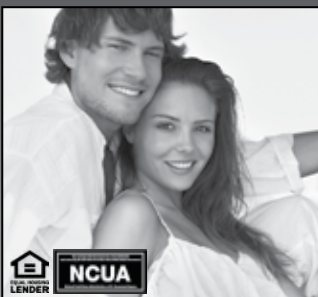
1.81% 6 MONTHS	2.07% 12 MONTHS	2.32% 24 MONTHS
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¹regular - minimum deposit of \$1000 required


CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT²

1.91% 6 MONTHS	2.17% 12 MONTHS	2.42% 24 MONTHS
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²jumbo - minimum deposit of \$95000 required



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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. *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.
****ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD. PENALTIES FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL MAY APPLY. ¹REGULAR - A MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$1000 IS REQUIRED. ²JUMBO - A MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$95000 IS REQUIRED. ALL APYS, APYS AND TERMS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS. THIS CREDIT UNION IS FEDERALLY INSURED BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION.

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Urban Deer Feeding Ordinance

Effective February 23, 2009, the City of Austin (City) adopted an ordinance related to the intentional feeding of deer. The new ordinance amends the City Code to add Chapter 10-8 to:

- Prohibit the intentional feeding of deer within City limits;
- Instructs the City Manager to create a community education program; and
- Establishes a fine of not less than \$75 or more than \$125 for violations.

The Ordinance does not:

- Prevent deer from entering developed suburban areas;
- Reduce the deer population in areas currently experiencing problems; or
- Prevent deer from foraging on landscape amenities, e.g., trees, grasses, shrubs.

Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department's Rodent and Vector

Program is responsible for implementing the ordinance and its enforcement is complaint driven. You also have a right to file a "written complaint" in Municipal Court if you witness a violation of the ordinance.

For more information and to view the ordinance online, see the Rodent & Vector Program website at http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/eh_rodent.htm.

A community education program is cooperatively being developed between the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department, Austin Water Utility and the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department. The program will be available to neighborhood groups and homeowner associations in areas of dense deer populations.

For additional information, please call the Rodent & Vector Program Deer Feeding Ordinance information line at 972-5692 or e-mail to ECHU.service@ci.austin.tx.us.

Scheduling Use of Community Facilities

FYI --- Residents who wish to schedule the use of Community's facilities (e.g., the pavillion in the Park), should contact our property manager, Marilyn Childress at Goodwin Management, 512/502-7509. Our Park Committee is responsible for plantings and general upkeep of the Park, but cannot help you with scheduling needs. Ms. Childress can also help you find answers to other questions you might have concerning the use of Community facilities.

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Lakewood
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Long Canyon

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Pemberton Heights
Ranch at Brushy Creek
River Place
Sendera
Shady Hollow
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COURTYARD CALLER

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.

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

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

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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, 512-263-9181 or advertising@PEELinc.com for ad information and pricing.

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Nature Watch

by Jim and Lynne Weber



CAVERNS & CAVES

Millions of years ago, the great seas that stood over Texas deposited the makings of thick layers of limestone. As the land rose and the seas fell, eons of rainfall leached out hollows, deep pits, and underground streambeds, and over time, these deeply hidden worlds built a silent beauty. Today, Texas is riddled with over three thousand known caves and sinkholes, most of them in the Edwards Plateau region of central Texas.

The most important factor in cave formation is the presence of carbon dioxide in water, the main source of which is found in the soil. Rains form a weak carbonic acid that drives the progressive process of dissolution, a process that is more common in limestone than in any other type of rock. Fractures in the limestone allow this weak acidic water to fill voids in the rock, and as the water flow eventually decreases and the water table recedes, caves may become dry or partially dry.

Some of the carbon dioxide that was in the water is released into the cave atmosphere, causing the water to become less acidic, and the calcium carbonate dissolved in it begins to form tiny crystals or precipitate. Individual crystals build upon one another, and a steady drip from a cave ceiling can create a wide variety of cave formations. There are downward-building stalactites, upward-growing stalagmites, and if the two grow together they can form a column. Ribbons of stone can develop into shapes resembling draperies, curtains, soda straws, coral, pearls, and even strips of bacon!

The unusual and ever-changing environment of a cave with its constant darkness, temperature, and relative humidity creates unique and interesting inhabitants. Scientists believe that many are relic species, isolated populations that were left to follow their own evolutionary path. Those species truly adapted to caves have reduced eyes & pigment, slender bodies, and extra long legs, which allows the animal to spread itself over a larger surface area in such a food-poor environment. These extreme adaptations can be seen in many of central Texas' threatened and endangered species such as cave salamanders, beetles,

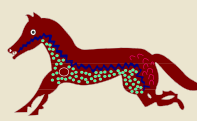
spiders, pseudoscorpions, and other cave invertebrates. While several species of bats inhabit Texas caves – almost 100 million in about a dozen caves – they routinely leave the caves in search of food and therefore show the least adaptation and restriction to these environments.

While many central Texas caves are considered “wild” and are explored mainly by expert cavers, geologists and biologists, seven of these caves are considered “show” caves, or caves that have been

developed enough to be enjoyed by the general public. Natural Bridge Caverns, located north of San Antonio, is the largest commercial cave in Texas, and full of draperies, curtains, stalagmites, and stalactites. Cascade Caverns in Boerne, otherwise known as the “Peep in the Deep”, has a 90-foot waterfall when conditions are wet. Wonder World Cave in San Marcos is the oldest commercial cave in Texas, where you can find ceilings full of fossils and directly view the waters of the Edwards aquifer as well as the underside of the Balcones fault line. Longhorn Caverns in Burnet was used for shelter by the Comanche Indians and for worship by a local church, and has large calcite crystals filling its walls. Inner Space Caverns in Georgetown features soda straw ceilings and an underground theater for educational programs. The Caverns of Sonora, a short drive from Sonora, was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1966, and is one of the most active caves in the world, with over 95% of its formations still growing. The Cave Without a Name, just northeast of Boerne, holds the state's best examples of cave bacon, one of which is almost 22 feet long!

As unique features of the land, caves are protected by Texas law, and benefit from the stewardship of cavers, cave owners, and the general public. Marvel at the formations (but don't touch), seek to understand their origins, and remember, summer is the perfect time to get out of the Texas heat by heading down into a cave!

Send your nature-related questions to naturewatch@austin.rr.com and we'll do our best to answer them.



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There's no place like Austin.
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Jo Carol Snowden Broker Assoc., ABR, CRS, GRI

And, your neighbor in the Courtyard

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