



# Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 2009

Volume 5, Number 12

## MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

*Annual Meeting -  
January 24, 2010!*

Please take a moment to mark down a very important upcoming event on your calendars – the Courtyard's annual meeting starting at **6:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 24, 2010** in the lobby of the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and Scout Island Circle North. Although we would like very much for every resident to attend this meeting, we know, as a practical matter, that it is just not always possible. As we have noted earlier, however, our Declaration mandates that a quorum be present at this meeting so that important homeowner association business can be conducted. For this reason, we urge you to read the written materials when they arrive in January, and sign and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible to help us avoid the costs of rescheduling a second annual meeting.

We recognize that it is often difficult to know this far ahead whether your schedule will permit your attendance. Please note that sending in your proxy early in case you cannot attend the annual meeting in person will not prevent you from showing up at the meeting and voting directly yourself. Further reminders and more information about the annual meeting and voting by proxy will appear in the January newsletter and on the Courtyard's website: [www.courtyardhoa.org](http://www.courtyardhoa.org). If you have any questions, please contact any Board member or our Marilyn Childress at Goodwin Management (502-7509).

During this holiday season, please keep an eye out for anything suspicious on or around your neighbor(s)' homes and property. If you know your neighbors are out of town and it looks like they forgot to cancel the newspaper or mail begins to pile up, please try to collect these things and let your neighbor(s) know when they return.

Best wishes to you all for a safe and happy Holiday season !!!

**Drive Safely in the Courtyard**

*Your Courtyard Homeowner's Association Board of Directors*

## COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

*Celebrates Christmas*

For our December gatherings, the Courtyard Book Group has developed a much anticipated method to celebrate the holidays with books. Members will get together at Jean Heath's home, 5909 Tom Wooten Dr., on Tuesday, December 8 at 1 p.m. to visit and exchange books. Bring a book wrapped as a present and a dish to share. Books are exchanged using a number system, and it is always exciting to see what you have received to read in the coming year. Readers discuss why they brought particular books to share -- what they found that makes the book(s) worth passing along. The group also decides at this meeting what books we will read for the coming year. Please come join us at this festive time. For additional information, call Jean Heath at 512-231-9412 or email at [heathcjb@yahoo.com](mailto:heathcjb@yahoo.com)

Looking ahead to the new year, in January, we will read, *The Invisible Wall; a Love Story that Broke Barriers* by Harry Bernstein. The story takes place in an English mill town prior to World War I and explores the separation between Christians and Jews living in close proximity. The book received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly* and has garnered a positive response from readers. *The Invisible Wall* is available in the Austin Public and University of Texas Libraries.



# COURTYARD CALLER

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Tim Sullivan .....	346-3146
.....	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

## HUNGRY GIRL'S

### Butternut Squash Fries



*Servings: 2-4*  
*Difficulty: Moderate*  
*Cook Time: 30-60 min*



#### INGREDIENTS:

1 medium butternut squash (about 2 pounds - large enough to yield 20 ounces uncooked flesh); 1/8 teaspoon kosher salt

#### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 425 degrees.

- Use a sharp knife to remove the ends of the squash.
- Cut squash in half widthwise (making it easier to manage) and then peel squash halves using a vegetable peeler or a knife.
- Cut squash in half lengthwise and then scoop out all seeds.
- Next, cut squash into French fry shapes.
- You can use a crinkle cutter to make authentic-looking crinkle-cut fries, but they'll taste great any way you slice 'em.
- Using a paper towel, pat squash pieces firmly to absorb any excess moisture.
- Place squash in a bowl, add a light mist of nonstick spray, and sprinkle with salt.
- Toss squash to evenly distribute salt and then transfer to a large baking pan sprayed with nonstick spray. Use 2 pans if needed. Squash pieces should lie flat in the pan.
- Place pan(s) in the oven and bake for 40 minutes or so (longer for thick-cut fries, shorter for skinnier fries), flipping halfway through baking. Fries are done when they are starting to brown on the edges and get crispy.



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## OFFICE HOURS

Convenient office hours are  
Monday 9 am - 5 pm

Tuesday – Thursday 8 am - 5 pm

Fridays are reserved for surgical procedures.



## DID YOU KNOW?

### *Pennybacker Bridge and Loop 360/Capital of Texas Highway.*

Nowadays, most everyone refers to the arched bridge over Lake Austin near the entrance to our neighborhood as “the 360 bridge.” Did you know, however, that this amazing bridge spanning Lake Austin is actually named for Percy Pennybacker, who designed bridges for the Texas Highway Department and was a pioneer in the technology of welded structures?

The contract for the bridge was let in late 1979, and major structural steelwork was finished by July 1982. The bridge was dedicated on November 29, 1982 by Austin Mayor Carole McClellan and other public officials, and was opened for traffic on December 3, 1982.

Built at a cost of \$10 million, the Pennybacker Bridge is made of steel and was given a uniform weathered rust finish to allow it to better blend in with the surrounding hills and lake. The 600,000,000 pounds of steel used in its construction were produced in Japan. Bridge structures were fabricated in Ulsan, Korea by



Hyundai Heavy Industries, shipped on the Jundale freighter to the Port of Houston, and then trucked to the bridge site where it was erected by Bristol Steel of Bristol, Virginia. Construction was coordinated by Clearwater Constructors of Denver, Colorado.

Over 1100 feet in length with a 600 foot central arched span, the Pennybacker Bridge is constructed such that no part of the structure touches the water 100 feet below. This design was intended to keep Lake Austin free from support columns because the recreational lake (really a dammed stretch of the Colorado River) is so popular with boaters and water skiers. The untied arch suspension span is suspended by 72 steel cables. At the time of construction, it was only the second bridge of this design in the world.

Pennybacker Bridge won first place in the 1984 Federal Highway Administration's Excellence in Highway Design competition. In

*(Continued on Page 5)*

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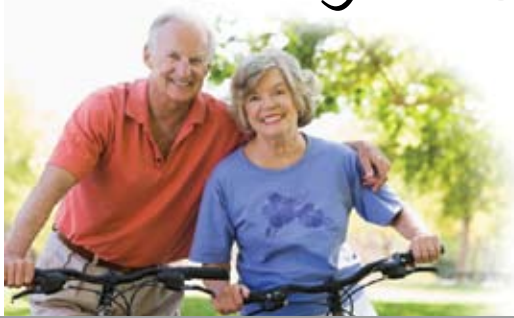
## Did You Know? - (Continued from page 4)

1992, the Austin members of the Consulting Engineers Council of Texas were surveyed and selected the bridge as the most innovative example of Austin architecture.



## Introducing

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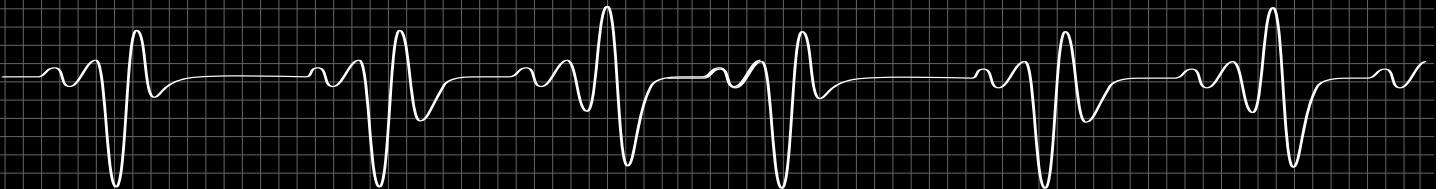
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## Tongue Twisters

### We All Know These Fun Tongue Twisters From Our Past:

- Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, if Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?
- How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? A woodchuck would chuck as much wood as a woodchuck could chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood.

### But Try Your Luck With These:

- I'm not the pheasant plucker, I'm the pheasant plucker's mate. And I'm only plucking pheasants 'cause the pheasant plucker's late. I'm not the pheasant plucker, I'm the pheasant plucker's son, and I'm only plucking pheasants till the pheasant pluckers come.
- A tutor who tooted the flute tried to tutor two tooters to toot. Said the two to the tutor "Is it tougher to toot or to tutor two tooters to toot?"
- Betty Botter bought some butter. "But," she said, "this butter's bitter. If I put it in my batter it will make my batter bitter. But a bit of better butter will make my batter better." So she bought a bit of butter better than her bitter butter and she put it in her batter and it made her batter better. So, 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter.

## PLANS TO TRIM YOUR OAK TREES?

### *Do It Now To Avoid Oak Wilt!*

As many of you may recall, oak trees should not be trimmed from February through June as this is when the oak wilt carrier beetle is most active. The season to trim oak trees runs from July through January and if your oak trees don't get trimmed



between now and the end of January, they should not be trimmed until at least June 2010, although many experts maintain waiting until July is safest. See tips on trimming and tree care below.

By way of reminder, our neighborhood Declaration requires that no tree, shrub or planting of any kind be allowed to overhang or otherwise encroach upon any sidewalk or other pedestrian way from ground level to a height of seven (7) feet, and the City of Austin requires that all trees overhanging streets have a minimum clearance of fourteen (14) feet above street level.

### PROPER PRUNING

- Do not prune oaks February through June as this is peak carrier beetle activity season.
- Sterilize tools with bleach or alcohol (Lysol is also a solution) before pruning.
- Employ certified arborists and their firms (avoid scam artists).

### PROPER WOUND TREATMENT

- Immediately paint wounds with pruning paint or latex paint within 15 minutes as carrier beetles may be attracted to untreated cuts or wounds.

### PROPER FIREWOOD USAGE

- Select well seasoned firewood as unseasoned wood might be contaminated.
- Select Oak Wilt free firewood that has no fungal mat contamination.

### RESOURCES

- Texas Oak Wilt Information Partnership: <http://www.texasoakwilt.org/>
- Northwest Austin Civic Association: <http://www.nwaca.org/oakwilt/>
- City of Austin: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/>
- Texas Forest Service: <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?ctrl=6>
- U.S. Forest Service: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/ow/states/tx/tx.shtm>

*Dear January,*

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## AUSTIN NEWCOMERS CLUB

### December Luncheon

Austin Newcomers is a social organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. Join us at our monthly luncheon as well as take the opportunity to learn about and become involved in many fun Interest groups.

**Time:** 11:00 AM Social - 12 Noon Luncheon

**Date:** December 16, 2009 (Reservations required by Thursday, December 10th)

**Location:** Green Pastures Restaurant  
811 W. Live Oak Street, Austin, 78704

**Luncheon Cost:** \$20 per person

**For more information visit [www.austinnewcomers.com](http://www.austinnewcomers.com) or call 512-314-5100**

**December Program:** Fabulous Holiday Entertainment

Join us to hear Emily Bem, an award-winning singer and actress as she sings for us at our holiday luncheon. Emily has been performing in Austin for the past ten years. Most recently, she appeared as Sister Robert Anne in Nunsense with TexARTS, a company she has previously performed with including The Music Man (Alma), Big River (Widow Douglas) and Damn Yankees (Doris). On the Zilker Hillside, Emily played Alice Miller in My Favorite Year (she won a B. Iden Payne award), the Wardrobe in Beauty and The Beast, and most recently, Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn in The Music Man (Payne nominee). Emily performed in eight consecutive Austin Musical Theatre shows. At Austin Playhouse she was Hattie in Kiss Me Kate and Miss Weston in Damn Yankees. She has played a variety of characters as well as playing Aldonza in Man of La Mancha--one of her all time dream roles--at the Sam Bass Theater in Round Rock. Emily directed Schoolhouse Rock Live! Junior for TexARTS at the Long Center, and teaches at their Academy in Lakeway. She also teaches acting and singing at Huntington Surrey High School, and offers lessons to people of all ages at her house in Southwest Austin. She will be accompanied on the piano is Marlene Nichols.



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## TIPS FOR TEACHING CHILDREN

### *About Table Manners*

*Submitted by Rebecca Beavers*

Teaching your children table manners may sound old fashioned, but it never goes out of style. Having good manners shows your respect for other people, and it's more than saying "please" and "thank you." It's about helping your children develop habits and behaviors that will help them relate to adults and other children in a positive way. "To make your family mealtime time special and relaxing, slow down, sit and talk with your children and expect good behavior. You will be pleasantly surprised at how much easier and enjoyable it will become," said Dr. Mary Zurn, vice president of education for Primrose Schools. "This is important because children with good manners often find it easier to make friends and get along with others at school and at home."

#### **Dr. Zurn offers five table manners tips to get parents started:**

1. Start early: Don't wait until you think your child is "old enough" to learn polite behavior. Just as children learn to crawl before they learn to walk, they also learn manners in stages. Even infants watch parents for rules of expected behavior. Very young children can learn to sign key phrases



such as "please" or "thank you" and then transition to the spoken words around age two. By age three, children should be able to stay seated at mealtime if you sit down with them.

2. Give specific feedback: Children learn best when they receive specific feedback about their behavior which is far more effective than generic praise. For example, instead of

saying, "Good job," you can say, "I'm so glad you set the table."

3. Encourage polite conversation: Children as young as two can learn to engage in polite conversation at the dinner table with the right kind of guidance. As you are at the table eating together, show them how to take turns listening, talking, and asking questions.

4. Set a good example: Make sure your words and actions match. Children watch parents all the time for behavior clues. For example, if you want your child to eat broccoli because it's a healthy food choice, you will need to let them see you enjoy eating it as well.

5. Create a routine: Children learn best from consistency because it helps them know what to expect. Start with the repetition of a few simple steps such as putting a napkin in your lap when you sit down. Create a routine that is easy for them to repeat and remember. For more tips from Dr. Zurn and a list of book suggestions on teaching your children table manners, visit [www.Dr.ZandMe.com](http://www.Dr.ZandMe.com).

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# Christmas is...



something different to everyone. What is it to you?

We invite you to celebrate with us this year.

**LightFest** | December 6 - 6:15pm

**Christmas Is... Program** | December 12 & 13 - 7pm

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service** | 5pm

**Christmas Weekend Worship** | December 27 - 11am

### Sunday Morning Schedule

9:30 . Blended Worship | 11:00 . Contemporary Worship | 9:30 & 11:00 . Bible Life Groups (all ages)

**Great Hills Baptist Church** | [www.ghbc.org](http://www.ghbc.org) | 10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759 | 512.343.7763



## Attention KIDS: Send Us Your Masterpiece!

Color the drawing below and mail the finished artwork to us at  
Peel, Inc. - Kids Club  
311 Ranch Road 620 S, Suite 200  
Lakeway, TX 78734

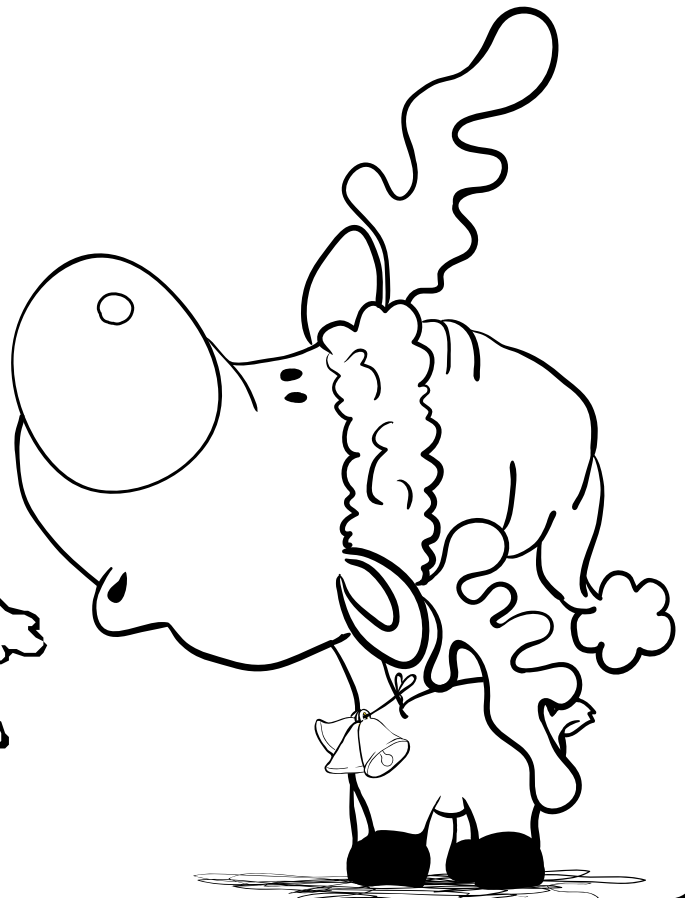
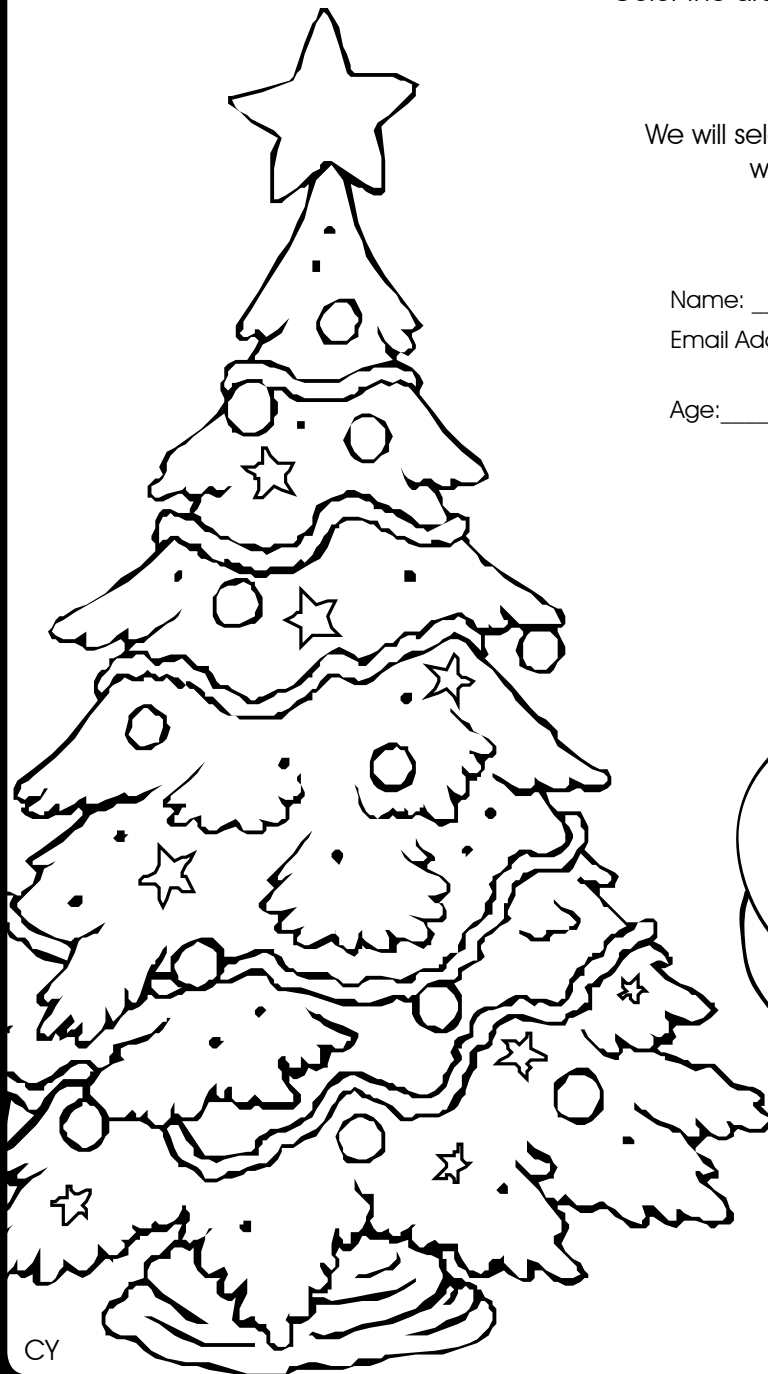
We will select the top few and post their artwork online at  
[www.PEELinc.com](http://www.PEELinc.com). DUE: December 31st

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

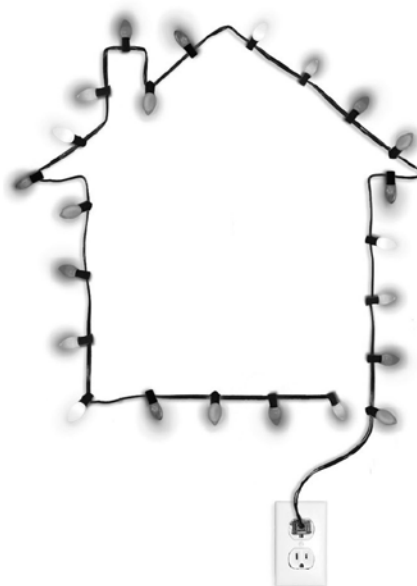
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(first name, last initial)

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





# Ho Ho Home.



Making your holiday dreams come true.

## Jo Carol Snowden

REALTOR®, ABR, CRS, GRI  
*And, your neighbor in the Courtyard*  
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We get it.



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