

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

April 2010

Volume 6, Number 4

BOARD MESSAGE

Ah Springtime! After what, for many of us, was more of a real winter than we've ever had in Austin, what a wonderful sight it is to see fresh green on the trees and new flowers, to hear birds singing, and to enjoy the longer days outside. After such a rough winter, congratulations and thanks go to everyone for your efforts to repair the winter's damage and give your yards a well deserved "facelift" for the summer.

Just a reminder that whether or not you "hunt," join your neighbors for some fun at the annual Easter Egg Hunt in our Community Park at 11 a.m. on Saturday, April 3. Special thanks to chairpersons Jeff Gordon and his wife, Lisa Lawrence, and to all the volunteers who are working to make this event possible. It wouldn't happen without them. New ideas for social activities or events? Contact any Board member by phone or through the website: www. courtyardhoa.org.

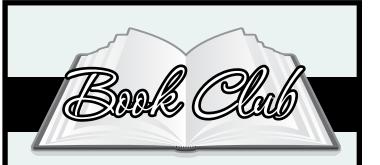
Please continue your efforts to drive the speed limit through the neighborhood. Ask friends or visitors coming to see you or that you know are coming here to play tennis or swim to also please watch how fast they drive through our streets. If someone is late for an appointment, speeding through the neighborhood and possibly running into someone or their pet will not make the speeder any more timely.

Our best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy Spring! Your Courtyard Homeowners' Association Board of Directors

Go Green Go Paperless



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Just in case you were wondering, it's not laws or constitutional theory that rule our country's High Court. Rather, it is the political intuition of those quirky men and women who sit at that high bench. So goes the argument in The Nine by New Yorker legal writer Jeffrey Toobin. (The Run of His Life: The People v. O.J. Simpson)

Come - join the Courtyard's book group at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 13, as it considers Toobin's survey of the United States Supreme Court from the Reagan administration onward as the justices wrestled with abortion, affirmative action, the death penalty, gay rights, and church-state separation. Despite a Court dominated by Republican appointees, Toobin paints a picture, not of a conservative revolution, but of a period of intractable moderation. The real power, he argues, belonged to supreme swing-voter Sandra Day O'Connor, who decided important cases with what Toobin sees as an almost primal attunement to a middle-of-the-road public consensus.

If you want to get a headstart on May's selection, check out In Other Rooms; Other Wonders by Daniyal Mueenuddin.

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2010 ANNUAL COURTYARD EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 3, 11 a.m.

ATTENTION ALL COURTYARD RESIDENTS!

It's time to start thinking about the Easter Bunny and all the fun to be had at the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Join your neighbors in the Community Park near the Playscape for cookies, punch, and the great Golden Egg hunt. There will be age specific "hunting" areas for the children and special prizes for the lucky kids that find the Golden Eggs.

Mark your calendars and if you would like to help with preparations, please contact Lisa or Jeff Gordon at 346-9156. Any time you can spend will be appreciated. You haven't lived until you've stuffed 1000 plastic eggs!

NEIGHBORS

Helping Neighbors

Got a request for help from a new resident who, after a diligent search, was having no luck finding childcare for her young baby. If you have any information that could help steer her in the direction of a home day care center or if anyone would be interested in a nanny share, please contact the Welcome Committee chairperson, Alice Randolph (394-7218) or Leslie Craven (502-1124), and we will pass the information along. Any help would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

WELCOME TO good health



Take the first step toward your child's good oral hygienea vital part of your child's development. Your child's first visit is recommended between 12 and 18 months of age.

YOUR CHILD, OUR PRIORITY

Your child is provided with the highest level of dental care in a friendly, caring and fun environment. Your child's dental needs will be evaluated regularly to provide the highest level of prevention and treatment.

SMILES ALL AROUND

You are invited to visit our office or our website for more information. Our fun and friendly office is specially designed with kids in mind, including video games and toys for all ages.

Discover the difference. As always, thank you for your continued referrals to family and friends. We hope to see you soon.





Stephen Sherwood, DDS - Brad Singleton, DDS

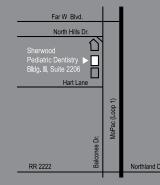


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OFFICE HOURS

Convenient office hours are Monday 9 am - 5 pm Tuesday - Thursday 8 am - 5 pm Fridays are reserved for surgical procedures.





COURTYARD NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

Here is your early reminder so you can start gathering up items for sale during spring cleaning. If you haven't participated before, it's simple. You collect the stuff, and the Homeowners Association provides advertising in the Austin American Statesman and will put out signs in the neighborhood. Call Mary Lou Nilsson (346-8432) to reserve a sign or if you have any questions.

HINTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SALE:

- You can add your own signs if you feel it will help. Home Depot and others have them. Just be sure they come down when the sale is over;
- Feel free to open earlier or later that day;
- It is advisable to have prices on every;
- Children's items are especially popular;
- Multi-family sales tend to be more successful, so you might want to join with your neighbors to pool sale items at one location and take turns running the sale.

Please note that Settlement House will come by and pickup any "leftovers" from the sale that day. Email annbcham@ gmai.com if you want to schedule this helpful service.



SATURDAY, MAY 1ST (RAIN DAY - MAY 8)



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I play here



I live here



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COLDWELL BANKER E

YOU DROP IT -YOU PICK IT UP

For some unknown reason (maybe the cold and/or rainy weather?) increasing piles of unclaimed dog poo are being left behind throughout the Courtyard for someone else – or no one — to pick up. Whether or not you always agree with his commentary and/or politics, John Kelso once presented a good warning for dog owners who do not "scoop the poop" for their pets. In it, Kelso reviewed a humorous video created by a Steiner ranch resident who grew tired of the dog droppings left behind for others to step in in his neighborhood. The video chronicles the activities of a Dragnet-style community dog detective patrol who watch from their cars with binoculars to scope out the "poopetrators" and chase down their owners who do not scoop. The Joe Friday-like video detective wisely observes that, "[m]ost people don't understand that dog poop is not fertilizer; it's unhealthy and illegal not to scoop. . ."

While the video scenario is funny, it's message is serious and right on point. Too many pet owners seem to feel that the law and responsibilities of pet ownership do not apply to them when it comes to picking up their dog's deposits from community streets, sidewalks, common areas, and their neighbors' lawns. And that, Friends and Neighbors, is not funny. It is especially sad when it is happening here in the Courtyard with increasing frequency. Please understand

that the failure to pick up pet droppings really does violate the law and is punishable by fine. More importantly, the owner who leaves his/her's dog droppings behind creates a health hazard for other children and adults who have the misfortune to come into contact with it. If people cannot walk through the Courtyard tossing their personal trash out along sidewalks and lawns, why would anyone think that is acceptable behavior to leave their dog's "trash" behind on a walk? This is true, regardless of the size of the desposit.

Very simply, good neighbors do not leave their trash in other people's yards and community parks and sidewalks. Pet owners -- please make an effort to take a couple of plastic baggies with you to facilitate clean-up – and leave no poo behind!





SOME THOUGHTS ON SECURITY

The Burglar's Perspective*

- 1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
- 2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
- 3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... and taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
- 4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it, or see if you are away.
- 5. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
- 6. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom- and your

- jewelry, it's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.
- 7. It's raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.
- 8. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)
- 9. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet. Helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.
- 10. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables. But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.
- 11.A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television.

(Continued on Page 8)



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COURTYARD CALLER

Some Thoughts on Security- (Continued from Page 7)

- 12. Sometimes, I carry a clipboard. Sometimes, I dress like a lawn guy and carry a rake. I do my best to never, ever look like a crook.
- 13. The two things I hate most: loud dogs and nosy neighbors. I'll break a window to get in, even if it makes a little noise. If your neighbor hears one loud sound, he'll stop what he's doing and wait to hear it again. If he doesn't hear it again, he'll just go back to what he was doing. It's human nature.
- 14. I'm not complaining, but why would you pay all that money for a fancy alarm system and leave your house without setting it?



15. I love looking in your windows -- for signs that you're home, and for flat screen TVs or gaming systems I'd like. I'll drive or walk through your neighborhood at night, before you close the blinds, just to pick my targets.

- 16. Avoid announcing your vacation on your Face book page. It's easier than you think to look up your address.
- 17. To you, leaving that window open just a crack during the day is a way to let in a little fresh air. To me, it's an invitation.
- 18.If you don't answer when I knock, I try the door. Occasionally, I hit the jackpot and walk right in.

*Sources: Chris McGoey, CPP, CSP, CAM (security consultant, see crimedoctor.com); and "Burglars on the Job: Streetlife and Residential Break-ins" – author Richard T. Wright (criminology professor at the University of Missouri-St. Louis) with Scott H. Decker. Wright and Decker interviewed 105 active burglars to collect offenders' perspectives on the process of burglarizing a residence. Unlike earlier studies of residential burglary, which collected data from a small number of offenders within a prison environment, this ground-breaking work examines a larger sample of unincarcerated burglars, all identified and contacted without the assistance of criminal justice agencies or authorities., which authors contend enabled them to obtain more honest and forthright responses from offenders.



COURTYARD CALLER

Caller's New Editor

After Leslie Craven's long tenure and hard work as editor of the Courtyard Caller, Betty Chang will assume the editor post with the May 2010 issue. This is Betty's first engagement as an editor. However, as a writer, Betty has been published in a variety of publications, including "Texas Intellectual Property Law Journal" and "The Racing Post," which covers bicycle racing throughout the South Central U.S. She also writes freelance articles about bicycle maintenance and repairs.

Betty welcomes your contributions to the Courtyard Caller. Please send your submissions to changbetty@sbcglobal.net. The deadline for submissions is the first of the month, for publication in the next month's issue. (For example, please send your submissions to Betty by May 1, for an article you would like to see in the June issue.)

Note that the title "editor" entitles Betty to edit your work before publication or to decline to publish your work altogether; by submitting your work, you allow Betty to make changes to your work at her sole discretion or to not publish it at all.

You should also note that Peel, Inc., the company that prints and distributes the Courtyard Caller, includes a disclosure in the Caller to claim that "The information in The Courtyard Caller Newsletter is exclusively for the private use of Peel, Inc." So, beware if you are thinking about trying that Maple-Orange Chicken recipe, and don't take it personally if no one comes to your garage sale.

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White/Sparkling Wines

Far Niente Chardonnay						
Taittinger Champagne	Was	\$54.	.99	Now	\$36.99	,
Rombauer Chardonnay	Was	\$39	.99	Now	\$30.99	
J Sparkling Cuvee	Was	\$32	.99	Now	\$20.99	
Sonoma Cutrer Russian River Chard	Was	\$26	.99	Now	\$20.99	
Cuvaison Chardonnay	Was	\$26	.99	Now	\$18.99	
Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio	Was	\$26	.99	Now	\$18.99	
Mumm Napa Cuvee	Was	\$24.	.99	Now	\$17.99	
La Crema Chardonnay	Was	\$21	.99	Now	\$14.99	
Kim Crawford Sauvignon Blanc	Was	\$18	.99	Now	\$14.99	
Clos du Bois Russian River	Was	\$12	.99	Now	\$12.99	
Merryvale Chardonnay	Was	\$20	.99	Now	\$12.99	
Simi Chardonnay						
Oyster Bay Sauv Blanc	Was	\$15	.99	Now	\$12.99	
Kendall Jackson Chardonnay	Was	\$14	.99	Now	\$11.99	
Rodney Strong Chardonnay	Was	\$19	.99	Now	\$10.99	
Chateau St. Jean Chardonnay	Was	\$14	.99	Now	\$10.99	
Simi Sauvignon Blanc	Was	\$14	.99	Now	\$10.99	
Edna Valley Chardonnay	Was	\$13	.99	Nov	v \$9.99	
Murphy Goode Sauvignon Blanc	Was	\$12	.99	Nov	v \$9.99	

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Red Wines

Ven Mille?		
Far Niente Cabernet Sauvignon	Was \$132.99	Now \$99.99
Silver Oak Napa Cab Sauv	Was \$100.99	Now \$84.99
Silver Oak Alexander Cab Sauv	Was \$70.99	Now \$54.99
Joseph Phelps Cabernet Sauvignon	Was \$59.99	Now \$44.99
Flowers Pinot Noir	Was \$54.99	Now \$39.99
Stags Leap Merlot	Was \$42.99	Now \$29.99
Mt. Veeder Cab	Was \$40.99	Now \$26.99
Ferrari-Carano Cab Sauv	Was \$36.99	Now \$22.99
Ferrari-Carano Merlot	Was \$32.99	Now \$19.99
Franciscan Cabernet	Was \$26.99	Now \$18.99
Franciscan Merlot	Was \$26.99	Now \$16.99
Sterling Napa Cab / Merlot	Was \$23.99	Now \$16.99
Simi Cabernet	Was \$24.99	Now \$16.99
La Crema Pinot Noir	Was \$22.99	Now \$16.99
Markham Merlot	Was \$22.99	Now \$16.99
Simi Merlot	Was \$24.99	Now \$14.99
Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauv	Was \$20.99	Now \$14.99
Rodney Strong Cabernet / Merlot	Was \$19.99	Now \$12.99
Dynamite Cabernet	Was \$19.99	Now \$12.99
7 Deadly Zins Zinfandel	Was \$18.99	Now \$12.99
Estancia Cabernet Sauvignon	Was \$18.99	Now \$12.99
Louis Martini Cabernet Sauv	Was \$18.99	Now \$12.99
Cline Ancient Vines Zinfandel	Was \$18.99	Now \$10.99
Avalon Cabernet Sauvignon	Was \$18.99	Now \$10.99
J Lohr Cabernet / Merlot	Was \$18.99	Now \$10.99
Dynamite Merlot	Was \$19.99	Now \$10.99
Chateau St. Jean Cabernet / Merlot	Was \$18.99	Now \$10.99
337 Cabernet Sauvignon	Was \$15.99	Now \$10.99
Estancia Merlot	Was \$14.99	Now \$10.99
Gascon Malbec	Was \$14.99	Now \$10.99
Liberty School Cab	Was \$13.99	Now \$9.99

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36							37			

ACROSS

rd Puzzle

- 1. Can
- 4. At sea
- 10. Maturity
- 11. Apt
- 12. Winter mo.
- 13. Cactus drug
- 14. Choose (2 wds.)
- 16. Long time
- 17. Tush
- 18. You
- 20. Hey!
- 22. Baby's "ball"
- 26. Fortify
- 29. Groove
- 31. Relating to the laity
- 33. Loose gown worn at mass
- 34. Accounts
- 35. Central Intelligence Agency
- 36. Stacking card game
- 37. Critical

DOWN

- 1. College field of study
- 2. Open mouthed
- 3. Rumormonger
- 4. Dog food brand
- 5. Zealous
- 6. Repose
- 7. Double-reed instrument
- 8. Singing voice
- 9. Adolescent
- 15. Saute
- 19. Move away
- 21. Toothbrush brand
- 23. Taken (shocked)

*Solution at www.PEELinc.com

- 24. Negate
- 25. Treed (2 wds.)
- 26. Alack's partner
- 27. Standing
- 28. Short
- 30. Too
- 32. Hat



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