



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 2010

Volume 6, Number 12

Kid's Korner Calling all Kids...

... if you receive an award (academic, athletic, the arts, etc.) we would love to recognize you by announcing your achievements/accomplishments in this new section of the Courtyard Caller. In addition, if you would like to have a poem, an essay, an art drawing, etc. published in our newsletter, please feel free to submit those as well (cathleenbarrett@hotmail.com or 512-531-9821). Finally, announcements regarding any of the schools our neighborhood children attend are also welcome.

Thanks, kids (and parents)!

Courtyard Parents of Babies, Toddlers, or Young Children

Would you like to be part of an on-line parents' group for courtyard parents?

On-line groups are a great way to meet other families, schedule play dates, and share tips and information.

If you would be interested in joining the group, please contact Lee Zarnikau at leezarn@austin.rr.com



Board Message Annual Meeting - January 30, 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 30, 2010 in the lobby of at the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and Scout Island Circle North. Although we would like every resident to attend this meeting, we also understand 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.

Remember that sending in your proxy early will not prevent you from attending the annual meeting in person 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. If you have any questions, please contact any Board member or our property manager, Marilyn Childress, at Goodwin Management (502-7509). You can also email us through the "Contact Us" page of the website.

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**

CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Leslie Craven.....	502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)
Vice President, Ed Ueckert.....	345-6137
Secretary, Mitch Ortego	299-2133
Treasurer, Jim Lloyd	231-0855
Frank Apgar	794-8346, 415-9412 (cell)
Karen Johnson.....	343-2420
Waneen Spirduso	345-5078

COMMITTEES

Environmental Control (ECC)	
Diana Apgar	415-9412
Community Park	
Jim Reed.....	502-8511
Welcome	
Alice Randolph	394-7218
Social Committee Chairperson	
Joany Price.....	775-8942
Landscape & Decorating	
Ed Ueckert	345-6137
Security	
Jim Lloyd.....	231-0855
Communications	
Leslie Craven	502-1124
Compliance	
Karen Johnson	343-2420
Kayak Committee	
Waneen Spirduso	345-5078
Area Development and Zoning Liaison	
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@freescale.com
Wolf Court:	
Tim Sullivan.....	346-3146
.....	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

Courtyard Book Club

*Tuesday, December 14, 1 p.m.
at 5909 Tom Wooten Drive*

In the Book Club, we save the best for last. If you have missed joining us this year for our second Tuesday book discussions, don't miss our December meeting as most feel it is the best one of all. Members will gather at Jean Heath's house, 5909 Tom Wooten, for a potluck lunch and a book swap. Bring a favorite book—used or new—current or classic—wrapped as a gift. Along with a book, bring a dish to accompany Jean's pot of soup. At this meeting the list of books for reading in 2011 will be unveiled.

The 2011 list of books from which the Book Club will make its monthly selections includes books about our world close to home here in Texas such as *Infinite Monster* by Leigh Jones which relates the devastating effect of hurricane Ike on Galveston in 2008. It also features books with an international reach such as *Bread of Angels* by Stephanie Saldana, a romantic memoir of a year spent in Damascus, Syria and *The Next 100 Years* by George Friedman, a forecasting of international affairs into the 21st century. Other titles are included for the strength of story such as *Cutting for Stone*, an unforgettable story of love and betrayal, compassion and redemption.

Getting to know Courtyard neighbors is the reason often cited by Book Club members for enjoying the group. Being inspired to read books that would have otherwise been overlooked is another common sentiment among members. If you would like to know more about the Courtyard Book Club or wish to join us in December, email or call Jean Heath at 512-231-9412 or heathcjb@yahoo.com.



NOTICE

*Bulk and Large Brush Scheduled
Pickups for the Courtyard
Bulk collection is scheduled for
January 10, 2011*

Large brush collection is scheduled for January 17, 2011
Guidelines are available at www.austinrecycles.com

WELCOME TO *good health*



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

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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

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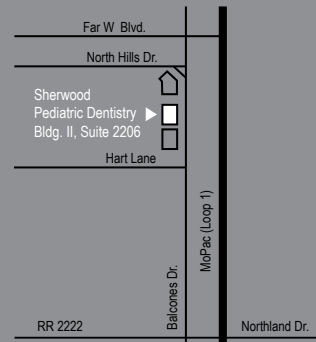
Stephen Sherwood, DDS

6500 North MoPac, Bldg. II, Suite 2206
Austin, Texas 78731
Tel: 512.454.6936 Fax: 512.454.0437
www.drsherwood.net



OFFICE HOURS

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



Oak Tree Trimming Season is Now

As many of you will recall from the frequent yard signs around NW Austin earlier this year, **the season not to trim oak trees is from February through June as this is when the oak wilt carrier beetle is most active. Consequently, the season to trim oak trees is from July through January**, and many oaks in our neighborhood need it. If your oak trees don't get trimmed between now and the end of January, they should not be trimmed until July, 2011.

We are reminded that our 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. The City of Austin as well has a requirement that all trees overhanging streets have a minimum clearance of fourteen (14) feet above street level.

Oak Wilt is a serious threat to the oak trees in central Texas. Below are some tips for proper pruning of oak trees:

• **Proper Pruning**

- Avoid pruning oaks from 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

• **Monitor Utility Easement Clearing Activities**

- Review project with city project manager
- Inspect actual work for

equipment sterilization and wound treatment

• **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://texasforestservicetamu.edu/main/article.aspx?ctrl=6>
- US Forest Service: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/ow/states/ts/ts.shtm>



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The Children's Center Of Austin
www.childrenscenterofaustin.com

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4308 N. Quinlan Park Road
Suite 100
Austin Tx 78732
512-266-6130

Jester
6507 Jester Boulevard
Building 2
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One month's free tuition!

*Schedule a tour for details

- please present coupon at time of enrollment
- one discount per family

Make a Birdseed Wreath

By Sonya Welter

The Almanac for Farmers and City Folk, 2011 Edition

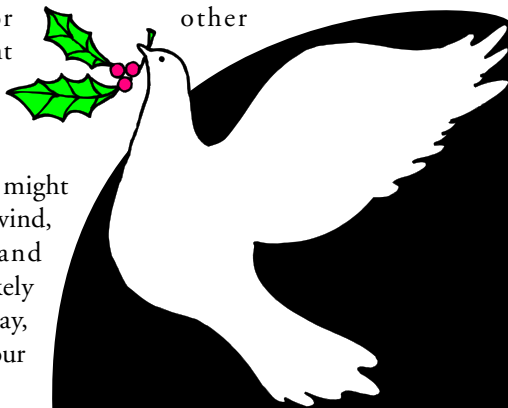
Wild birds add joy and beauty to your backyard, but our feathered friends can use a little extra help in the winter months when the temperature drops and natural food sources become scarce. Why not feed them (and add a little more beauty to your yard) with a decorative birdseed wreath?

You must admit, a birdseed wreath adorned with ribbons or pine cones is a charming holiday decoration for your front door, garage, or barn. Kids like greasing up the wreath mold and scooping the goopy birdseed – and as an added bonus, watching the birds enjoy their hard work helps teach them to love and respect nature. You can use any type of seed in this recipe, although smaller seeds tend to hold the shape of the wreath better. Sunflower seeds and shelled peanuts are popular with a wide variety of birds, including jays, woodpeckers, and chickadees. Sparrows and finches like thistle and millet. You can also add dried fruit such as raisins, cranberries or currants to the birdseed mixture. Here's what you'll need: 8 cups (1.9 L) birdseed; 1 oz. (30 ml) unflavored gelatin (4 ¼ oz. packages); 2 cups (473 ml) water, divided; oil, shortening, or lard; ribbon, and some pine cones or other decorations.

To make the wreath mold, first grease up a bundt cake pan with a generous amount of oil, shortening, or lard and set it aside. Combine the gelatin with ½ cup (119 ml) cold water in a large bowl. Let sit. Meanwhile, bring the other 1-½ cups (355 ml) water to a boil in a small pot. Add the boiling water to the gelatin mixture and stir 2 to 3 minutes, until gelatin is completely dissolved. Add the birdseed to the gelatin mix and stir well. Allow to sit for one minute, then stir again to make sure that the liquid is well absorbed by the seeds. You may have to repeat this step a few times, until there is no visible water on the birdseed clumps together. Then spoon birdseed and gelatin mix into the greased bundt cake pan and refrigerate for at least 3 hours.

When the gelatin is set, invert the bundt pan to remove the birdseed wreath. Do not force it out; if it seems to be stuck, allow the wreath to come to room temperature first.

Once it's out of the pan, dry the wreath overnight on a cooling rack. Loop a pretty ribbon around the wreath to hang it up. You can also decorate it with pine cones, dried leaves, berries, or other baubles you might have around the house. However, avoid using bells or anything else that might flap around in the wind, since the noise and movement will likely scare the birds away, thereby defeating your purpose!



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www.dsi-consultingservices.com

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Cuvaison Chardonnay.....	Was \$26.99.....	Now \$18.99
Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio.....	Was \$26.99.....	Now \$18.99
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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Still Time for Year-end Financial Moves But Hurry 'Cause...



Time is Running Out

The holiday season is always a busy time of year, so you're probably pretty busy. But it is important to take some time now to evaluate year-end financial moves that may be beneficial in preparing for your financial future.

Which year-end moves should you consider? You will want to talk to your financial advisor and tax and legal professionals first, but here are a few ideas to get you started:

- **Boost your IRA contributions.** You have until April 15, 2011, to fully fund your IRA for the 2010 tax year, but the sooner you finish with your 2010 contribution, the quicker you can get started on your 2011 contribution — and the earlier in the year you fund your IRA, the more time you give your account the opportunity to grow.
- **Put more money into college savings plans.** If you have a 529 college savings plan for yourself or someone else, consider putting more money in before year-end. You can gift up to \$13,000 (\$26,000 per married couple) per person per year without gift tax consequences. However, this must be accomplished by year-end.

- **Be generous.** If you've been thinking of making charitable gifts, don't put them off any longer. As long as you make a donation to a qualified charity before the year ends, you can claim a deduction on your 2010 tax return. For example, if you donate \$100 to a charitable group [either a religious organization or one that has received 501(c)(3) status from the Internal Revenue Service], and you're in the 25% tax bracket, you can deduct \$100 (with a tax benefit of \$25) when you file your taxes for 2010, providing, of course, that you itemize. If you donate stocks or other types of assets, you may also be able to save on capital gains taxes, because it will be the charity, not you, that eventually sells those assets.
- **Sell your "losers."** If you own investments that have lost value since you purchased them, you can sell them before 2010 ends and then use the tax loss to offset capital gains you may have earned in other investments. If you don't have any capital gains, you can use up to \$3,000 of your tax losses to offset other ordinary income. If your loss is greater than \$3,000, you can "carry over" the excess and deduct it from your taxes in future years. However, if you then want to repurchase the investment you sold, you'll need to wait at least 31 days to avoid violating the IRS' "wash sale" rules.
- **Take capital gains.** In 2011, the tax rate on long-term capital gains is scheduled to increase to 20% for most investors, up from the 15% rate it's been the last several years. If you have stocks or other appreciated assets that you were thinking of selling in the near future, you might want to do so before the year comes to a close. However, it's generally not a good idea to make investment decisions strictly because of tax consequences. If your appreciated assets are still a part of your overall financial strategy, you may be better off holding them for the long term, even with a higher capital gains rate.

Considering these moves before the year ends may help you better prepare to address your financial picture in 2011.

THE NAMES OF

G D

YAHWEH EL ROI
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 JEHOVAH SHALOM

SERMON SERIES BY PASTOR DANNY FORSHEE

Christmas

AT GREAT HILLS

SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 12 | 6:15 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 | 5:00 PM

WATCH LIVE services Sunday mornings or view any time at www.ghbc.org

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 | 10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759 | 512.343.7763

TACKLE HUNGER IN TEXAS *with the Souper Bowl of Caring!*

Learn more at
tacklehunger.org.

What would happen if every American that celebrates the Big Football Game donated one can of food or \$1 to fight hunger and poverty in their local community?

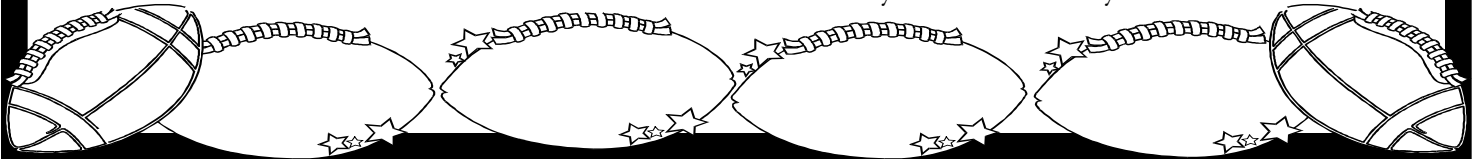
The result would be an astounding \$90 million in cash and cans to help feed the hungry, provide shelter to the homeless and help our neighbors in need.

With all eyes on North Texas this year as they host the Big Game, you can join the Souper Bowl of Caring and help make this vision a reality! For more than 20 years, groups all over the country have joined forces to demonstrate the power of caring. To date, more than \$71 million in cash and cans has been collected and 100% was donated in communities throughout the U.S. Every penny stays local and every collection matters!

Last year, 1,900 schools, churches, businesses and grocery stores in Texas collected more than \$4.5 million for local charities that fight hunger and poverty. The need is growing and we need your help!

JOIN THE TEAM. GET STARTED TODAY!

1. REGISTER your school, church or business at tacklehunger.org and designate an organizer for your Souper Bowl of Caring event. You'll receive a free Resource Kit!
2. COLLECT money and/or canned foods anytime January 17-February 6, 2011. Super Bowl Sunday is February 6, 2011.
3. REPORT the amount of your collection to the Souper Bowl of Caring so it can be added to the national tally.
4. DONATE 100% of your collection to the charity of your choice in your own community.



Thank You

to all the businesses who advertised with us
in 2010 and made this newsletter possible.

Merry Christmas!



Recipe of the Month

Christmas Punch

INGREDIENTS

- 1 can concentrated white grape juice
- 1 can concentrated cranberry juice
- 3 liter bottle 7-up

DIRECTIONS

Combine. Garnish with fresh black cherries.



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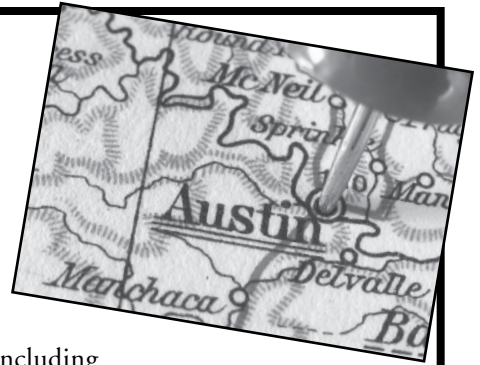
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December Texas Events



1-31—AUSTIN: The Santaland Diaries Experience the laugh-out-loud holiday comedy by David Sedaris. Zachary Scott Theatre. www.zachtheatre.org

1-31—AUSTIN: Turner to Monet: Masterpieces from The Walters Art Museum This selection of 40 paintings includes works from 19th-century Impressionist artists such as Claude Monet, Camille Pissarro, Edouard Manet and Edgar Degas, as well as British and American masters J.M.W. Turner, Gilbert Stuart and Asher B. Durand. Blanton Museum of Art. <http://blantonmuseum.org>

1-Jan. 2—AUSTIN: James Sham: Close Caption This video that addresses issues of language, translation and mistranslation via DJ Kool's song "Let Me Clear My Throat" inaugurates the Lift Project, a series of short videos shown in Arthouse's elevator. Arthouse at the Jones Center, 700 Congress Ave. www.arthousetexas.org

1-Jan. 2—AUSTIN: Mequitta Ahuja: Automythography II Features new paintings and drawings that continue Ahuja's ongoing artistic investigation into the construction of gender, cultural and ethnic identities through a multi-layered process of self-portraiture. Arthouse at the Jones Center, 700 Congress Ave. www.arthousetexas.org

1-Jan. 2—AUSTIN: Ryan Hennessee: The Specious Present at 700 Congress Austin-based artist Ryan Hennessee has created a looping video animation that cleverly re-imagines and collapses the past, present and future of 700 Congress Avenue. Arthouse at the Jones Center. www.arthousetexas.org

1-Jan. 3—AUSTIN: Cronkite: Eyewitness to a Century Exhibit

explores the journalist's influence and perspective on some of the most crucial moments in history, including

D-Day, the assassination of John F. Kennedy, the civil rights movement, the Watergate scandal and more. Lyndon B. Johnson Library & Museum. www.cronkiteexhibit.com

1-Jan. 16—AUSTIN: Jason Middlebrook: More Art About Buildings & Food New York-based artist transforms remnants from the renovation of the Arthouse at the Jones Center into sculpture, dining furniture and other functional objects. 700 Congress Ave. www.arhousetexas.org

4-23—AUSTIN: The Nutcracker The Long Center, 701 West Riverside Drive. www.balletaustin.org

17-31—AUSTIN: Radio City Christmas Spectacular Starring the Rockettes. Bass Concert Hall. www.broadwayacrossamerica.com 800/731-7469

31-Jan. 1—AUSTIN: First Night Austin New Year's Eve celebration features programs for all ages that appreciate the arts. Downtown. www.firstnightaustin.org

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