



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

May 2011

Volume 7, Number 5

BOARD MESSAGE

May brings the end of the school year and increasingly longer days that give us more time to enjoy the outdoors. Please be careful of our many walkers, runners, and cyclists and encourage anyone coming to visit you to do the same.

Many of us will be gone for some portion of the summer. Before you leave, among the 100 things you have to remember to do, please do not forget to cut off paper and mail service so materials do not pile up in front of your home. If you know your neighbor is gone and see this happening, please be kind enough to pick up those telltale "No One Home" signals to burglars and save them for when your neighbor returns. It is also good to keep an eye out for anyone you do not know wandering through backyards or between houses. While residents need not be fearful, it is good to be watchful and proactive about our safety and that of our community.

Re-vegetation of the grass areas in the park that began in March continues. We can only hope Mother Nature will be more generous with her rain than she was earlier this spring. Once established, the mixture of grasses we applied is very hardy and requires very little water. However, the hard part is getting the new grass to the point of "established." If anyone knows a good rain dance, please let us know. Until we can remove the erosion fence, please continue your efforts to avoid walking through the hydro mulch areas when you visit the Park. We know these restrictions have been inconvenient to many of you and appreciate your patience and understanding while we get through this final part of our restoration work.

Congratulations to our hard working Park Committee for organizing some great clean-ups this spring. Of course, they couldn't have done it alone. To all those Courtyard residents who have come down to help with cleaning and restoring our Park, thank you. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. We can't do what we do without Community support and nowhere does it show more than with our Park restoration. Although we don't tend to hold clean-ups during our hot summer months, they will resume in the fall so keep an eye out for those notices. Finally, don't forget the Annual Garage Sale coming up on Saturday, May 7, and please don't forget to fill out and return the Directory update form. They can't put together a new book without everyone's help. *Drive slowly in the Courtyard*

Your Courtyard Homeowners' Association Board of Directors

COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, May 10

1 p.m. at The Courtyard Club

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese, The Book Club's selection for May, follows the lives of twins born from the secret love affair between an Indian nun and a British physician. When their mother dies in childbirth at Missing Hospital in Addis Ababa where she is a nurse and their father disappears into the night, the children are adopted by a physician couple practicing at the hospital. One of the twins, Marion, narrates the story of their growing up amid the political turmoil of Ethiopia. The twins are bound together by their familial connection as twins and by their shared fascination with medicine. The story moves across continents from India, to Africa, and finally to North America, over years and generations, all the while the story is held together by unforgettable characters and narrative. The Seattle Times reviewer warns readers: "If you're hungry for an epic . . . open the covers of *Cutting for Stone*, and then don't expect to do much else."

(Continued on Page 2)

COURTYARD NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

*to be held on Sat., May 7th (Rain Day – May 14th)
Call Mary Lou Nilsson (346-8432) with any questions.*

REMINDER.....

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Joany Price.....	775-8942
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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@freescall.com
Wolf Court:	
Tim Sullivan.....	346-3146
.....	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

Courtyard Book Club - (Continued from Cover Page)

Verghese writes from his own experiences as a physician who spent his youth in Addis Ababa before coming to the United States. He took a break from medicine mid-career and applied for the prestigious Iowa Writers Project. He was accepted, cashed in his retirement savings and took his young family to live in Iowa. In 1991 Verghese was awarded a Master of Fine Arts degree. He then returned to the practice of medicine at Texas Tech Medical Center and is currently a professor at the Stanford School of Medicine. In June the Book Club will read *You Know When the Men Are Gone* by Siobhan Fallon, the title selected as the "Mayor's Book" for Austin this year.

For information about the Courtyard Book Club, contact Jean Heath, heathcjb@yahoo.com or 512-231-9412.

PARK CLEAN UP EFFORTS A SUCCESS

Our first Park clean-up day of the year, March 26, was a great success. Over twenty hard-working volunteers showed up and over the next several hours cleaned up trash and debris that had been deposited throughout the Park by the September flood waters. They raked and cleaned up leaves around the playscape, along and in the woods around the parking lot, and in the area of Tait's rack. Others watered the areas where we are trying to grow new grass, trimmed broken and dead branches along the edges of the woods, and smoothed and raked piles of sediment sand out of the area around the cypress and pier. Betty Marshall and her friend Zack even brought us a young tree, which was planted in the wildflower area.

To every one of these wonderful and thoughtful neighbors, thank you for your generous contribution of time and energy to help restore our Community Park: Jonathon Babbia, Robert Dickenson, Dax Ely, Rong Fu, Stephanie Giancola, Betty Marshall and Zack, Gerry Ollier, Joany and Lewis Price, Kevin Rambaud, Randy Randolph, Dan and Ellen Sharporn, Carol Spielberger, Waneen Spirduso, Ed and Jan Ueckert, Jim and Mimi Vence, and Eddie Zamora.

BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) reported that as of Monday, April 4, it moved into the "blended Phase 4" of its bridge construction project on FM 2222 at Bull Creek. In this phase, Lakewood Drive is completely closed, even to emergency vehicles, and the north-east section of FM 2222 and Lakewood Drive is being constructed to the proposed elevated grades. Phase 3 work on the north side of the bridge and the north-west section of FM 2222, which began back on January 23, is also continuing at this time. Westbound FM 2222 traffic will be allowed on the north side of the bridge, and Lakewood traffic will be restored shortly after the work on Lakewood Drive is substantially complete. At this point, work in the median area can begin. Completion of the median work marks the end of Phases 3 and 4. TxDOT fully expects the contractor to meet and beat the eleven-month schedule set to complete these two phases. At the completion of the median work, the project moves to Phase 5, placing hot asphalt over the entire roadway.

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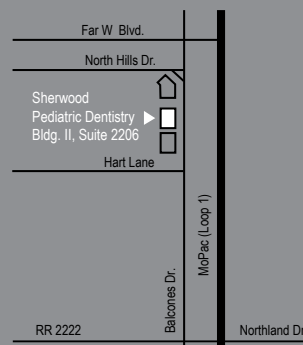
OFFICE HOURS

Convenient office hours are

Monday 9 am - 5 pm

Tuesday – Thursday 8 am - 5 pm

Fridays are reserved for surgical procedures.



CHAMPION'S TURN LANE CONTROVERSY – UPDATE

This update is based on information known as of April 7. We regret this early cutoff date, but it is necessary to meet the Caller's deadline for this May edition. For the most current information, contact Bill Meredith, the Courtyard's zoning issue liaison and representative in the matter: www.bmeredith1@aol.com; 345-0593.

In the March Caller we told you about a very alarming traffic issue involving the Champion Assets' (Champion) property at the southeast corner of FM 2222 and Loop 360 – OUR corner of this intersection. In brief, recall that:

- Champion has plans to develop a retail project on this corner.
- Champion has asked the City of Austin (City) to remove a restriction that it had earlier agreed to in 1992 so that it could gain desired zoning designations for this property.
- This property is currently limited to one driveway approach from FM 2222 and one from the Highway 360 service road to FM 2222. More importantly for the Courtyard, the relevant restriction makes these "right in, right out" (RIRO) driveways and bars left hand turns into this property from westbound FM 2222.
- Imagine the current westbound lanes at this intersection. Now, if

you can, try to imagine another short left turn lane added to this mix that would allow westbound cars on FM 2222 to turn left in front of two lanes of FM 2222 eastbound traffic. The driveway those westbound cars will be trying to turn into is directly across from the driveway into Siena Restaurant. This is what Champion is now asking that the City allow it to do.

Hearings before the Zoning and Planning (ZAP) Commission, a prelude to consideration by the City Council, have been delayed since the end of 2010 – first, so that a more accurate Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) could be prepared, and then because the revised TIA and the City Staff's analysis of that TIA were not sent to the concerned neighborhoods that oppose Champion's plan for a left turn lane until just days before the scheduled hearing. Our representative successfully argued to the ZAP members that a postponement was appropriate under these circumstances. Since that time, the TIA has again been revised and the neighborhood coalition has been reviewing this new document and the City Staff's response.

- The ZAP hearing is now set for **April 19** with the follow-up City Council meeting now set for **May 12**. With no good explanation given, we have learned that the City Staff will be asking for a

(Continued on Page 5)

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What's on your to-do list this month?



Change Your World - sundays @ 10 am

THE RADIANT CHURCH | WATCH LIVE services Sunday mornings
or view any time at www.ghbc.org

Sunday Morning Schedule
10:00 - Worship
8:30 & 11:30 - Bible Life Groups (all ages)

Great Hills Baptist Church
10500 Jollyville Road . Austin, Texas 78759 | 512.343.7763

Champions Lane Controversy - (Continued from Page 4)

further delay of the City Council meeting to May 26. Could it be that they wish to avoid this controversy until after City Council elections (May 14) are over?

NOTE: We have just learned that if the proposed westbound FM 2222 left turn lane is approved as Champion's has requested, we will lose the continuous right turn arrow that is now at the traffic light at the northbound Highway 360 service road and FM 2222. This is the traffic light just down the hill -- a short distance from our STOP sign exit near the office building. Eliminating the continuous right turn arrow is needed to limit the eastbound FM 2222 traffic so that left turns will be easier. Although this traffic light will continue to allow a right turn on red, the potential for the right turn only lane to back up and block our exit dramatically increases.

By the time you read this in May the ZAP Commission hearing will have already happened as further postponements are doubtful. At this point, the Courtyard, together with the other neighborhoods opposing the left turn lane, is concentrating its efforts to let the City Council know of our opposition to granting Champion's request.

- **Please know that communication to Council members and attendance at the hearing does matter.** It has been shown in the past that Council members pay attention to a public outpouring. If you care about this matter and do not want to see another turn lane placed in the westbound lanes of FM 2222, LET THE COUNCIL KNOW. It is much more meaningful if numerous Courtyard residents attend this important hearing and not just our Zoning Liaison.
- If you want your effort to do the most good, please note that any communication to Council members should not occur until just before the May 12 hearing when their focus is then on the issues at hand. It is also best if any emails or letters are sent to arrive May 9 to May 11.

We realize these ever moving hearing dates are confusing and hard to plan for, and will be posting any changes to the hearing dates on our Courtyard website. We are also maintaining an email list for updates. If your email address is not in our directory and you wish to be added to this list, you can send it in confidence to our liaison, Bill Meredith. We assure you it will not be made public or used in any other way except for updates on this issue and public hearing dates.

Below are the email addresses for ZAP and City Council, and the necessary case information, which needs to be referenced in your communication:

Case # C14-91-0015(RCA) – Application to Amend a Restrictive Covenant – 5617 RM 2222

City Council members and link to group email form:
<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/groupemail.htm>

For up-to-date information on hearing dates, visit www.courtyardhoa.org, www.2222cona.org, or check the City of Austin's calendar at www.ci.austin.tx.us, or call or email our CHA Zoning Liaison.

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COURTYARD CALLER

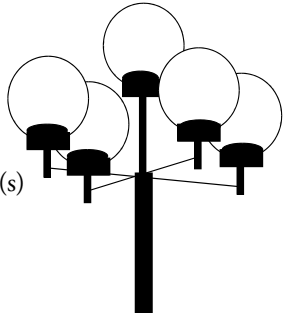
STREET LIGHTING MAINTENANCE & REPAIR 24/7

To report a street lighting problem, you can inform the City of Austin (COA) by using ONE of the following methods:

- Call 311 or (512) 974-2000
- Fax your request to (512) 972-2876
- E-mail your request to austin311@ci.austin.tx.us or lightingrepair@austinenergy.com

The COA wants to know about:

- Lights which are not operating
- Lights which are going on and off
- Broken glass
- Open, broken, or missing light fixture(s)
- Damaged poles
- Exposed wires
- Graffiti on streetlight poles



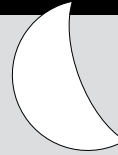
When reporting the need for repairs, please give the street address closest to the location of the light in question and pole number. Don't forget to give a daytime phone number in the event they have difficulty identifying the reported location. Repairs will be made within three to five business days.

CITY OF AUSTIN LAUNCHES A NEW ONLINE SERVICE

The City of Austin has launched a new online service to enhance community engagement and provide a forum for residents to offer suggestions on how to improve the way the City does business.

The new Web portal, www.speakupaustin.org, is a moderated online discussion forum where residents can offer ideas and comment or vote on the ideas provided by others. The website enables users to contribute ideas on any subject, by answering the question, "How can you make it better?" Users can suggest a new service, a service improvement, a policy change or other recommendation. It also invites users to visit subject-specific forums on topics the City is currently exploring. The Communications and Public Information Office will provide oversight to ensure comments remain civil, as would a facilitator at an in-person meeting.

MAY MOON PHASES



New Moon.....	May 3rd
First Quarter Moon.....	May 10th
Full Moon.....	May 17th
Last Quarter Moon	May 24th



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Join us in getting ready for a safe summer in the water!

**Colin's Hope Night at Eastside Movies in the Park
Tuesday, May 3rd, Doors open at 6PM, Movie at sundown**

Join us at The Expedition School Lagoon (On Lady Bird Lake in East Austin next to Fiesta Gardens) for a screening of Whale Rider. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the movie under the stars.

**Colin's Hope Day at Schlitterbahn-New Braunfels
Saturday, May 21st**

Join us for a day to promote Water Safety and Drowning Prevention at Schlitterbahn-New Braunfels! Special tickets are available from Colin's Hope. Email alissa.magrum@colinshope.org for more information.

For more info visit our website at www.colinshope.org

KID'S KORNER ANIMALISTIC PHRASES

Match these columns: (answers below)

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Piggy bank | A. Tuxedo |
| 2. Pony Express | B. Very obstinate |
| 3. Catamaran | C. Seen from above |
| 4. Black sheep | D. Infatuation |
| 5. Puppy Love | E. Senseless search |
| 6. Hot dogger | F. Money saver |
| 7. Bullheaded one | G. Overeat |
| 8. Goose egg | H. Type of boat |
| 9. Pig out | I. 1800s mail service |
| 10. Wild goose chase | J. Causes family shame |
| 11. Monkey suit | K. Zilch |
| 12. Bird's eye view | L. Showoff |

Reminder: The Courtyard Caller would like to recognize any award and/or achievement your children have earned by announcing it in the newsletter. Please submit these to cathleenbarrett@hotmail.com. Additionally, any poem, essay, drawing, etc. are also welcome as well as announcements regarding your child's school.

Kid's Korner Answers: 1-F; 2-I; 3-H; 4-J; 5-D; 6-L; 7-B; 8-K; 9-G; 10-E; 11-A; 12-C

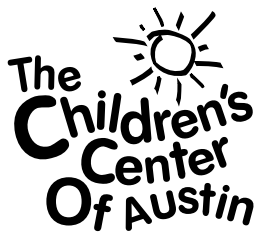
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may events

may

APR 30-1 Wiener Dog Races

1-31 Latino Music Month

2-10 Early Voting Day

3-4 Ballet Austin's Build-a-Ballet: Carnival of the Animals

6-8 Ballet Austin's Production of "The Magic Flute"

7-8 Old Pecan Street Spring Arts Festival

8 Gospel Brunch with a Texas Twist in Gruene Hall

14 Voting Day

20 Bike to Work Day

26-JUN 12 Kerrville Folk Festival

28-29 Texas Tax-Free Appliance Weekend

30 Memorial Day

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