

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

May 2012

Volume 8, Number 5

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While the spirit of neighborliness was important on the frontier because neighbors were so few, it is even more important now because our neighbors are so many.

LADY BIRD JOHNSON

With May comes the end of school and longer days that give us more time to enjoy the outside. Courtyard residents (and pets) are out in force - walking, jogging, riding bikes, and enjoying the easy access to Bull Creek through our beautiful Community Park. Thank you to everyone for their continuing efforts to keep driving speed down while traveling through our streets. Please keep it up!

Many of our residents will be gone some time this summer and sometimes papers or mail pile up in a driveway or on a porch. If you know your neighbor is not home, please collect these items and keep them for the homeowner until they return. Left alone, they are a big tip-off to thieves that no one is home and an invitation for trouble. Keep an eye out for anything suspicious – strangers cutting through back or side yards or unfamiliar vehicles, especially in the Park area.

Regrettably, there have been several thefts of boats from our kayak racks since January – with the thieves most likely coming from the waterside. If you see any boats or people you don't know in the Park area, please try to write down the license number and/or a description of the boat, especially power boats trying to get into our pond area. They do not belong there.

Remember that only residents and residents' guests accompanied by the resident can be in the Park. If you are comfortable doing so, it is perfectly "ok" for you to ask someone that you don't recognize if they live in the neighborhood. If they do, the person should be happy that you care enough to ask. If they do not live in the Courtyard, you have the right to warn them that they are trespassing and need to leave. If they do not, simply report them to the police. Of course, you are not required to do any of this. It's entirely up to you. Send any information you gather to our Security Committee Chairman, Jim Lloyd jlloyd@austin.rr.com or any Board member you may know. The Board is currently looking into further ways to increase security in the Park, but among the best defensive weapons we have in this neighborhood are alert pro-active residents. Thank you.

SL 360 REVISED PLAN FOR COURTYARD'S ENTRANCE

If you haven't heard by now, at the April 16 public meeting held by TxDOT, they announced a revised plan for the intersection at our entrance. They have basically scrapped the November design that took away our left turns. The current proposal restores both the left turn into the Courtyard and the left turn exit onto 360 to go south. Unfortunately, their plan does not allow for traffic to move directly across 360. Traffic wishing to do so will instead have to turn right and go down to make a new protected U-turn. TxDOT has invited neighborhood and business representatives, and our state and local representatives to a workshop scheduled for May 3. This meeting has not taken place as of the time we have to meet our publisher's deadline for this edition of the Caller so we cannot report on it here. However, we will be continually updating our website and our 360 blog site so check those for the latest updates.

TxDOT's new proposal is a significant improvement over the November plan in that it restores both our left turns. For this reason, we are very pleased with this proposal and commend TxDOT's efforts to address your comments and improve their proposal for this intersection. This does not mean that the Board, at this time, favors or endorses this general project as being the best solution for traffic congestion on 360. That is a far more complex issue. For now, we will continue to participate in whatever 360 meetings are made available to us and to report to the Community what transpires at the remaining two public meetings, one of which is set for May 22 at Westlake High School.

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MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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

SUB-HOA CONTACTS

Center Court:	
Gary Doucha	
Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")	
Allan Nilsson	
	arnilsson@earthlink.net
Villas at Courtyard:	
Thomas Hoy	
	. Thomas. Hoy@freescale.com
Wolf Court:	
Tim Sullivan	
	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

BOARD MEETING NOTICE

If you would like to receive an email notice of the monthly board meetings, please sign up at BoardMeetingNotices. com. After signing up, you will automatically receive notice of the upcoming board meeting and Agenda.

SEND US YOUR *Event* Pictures!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to <u>cathleenbarrett@hotmail.com</u>. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear

in color online at www.PEELinc.com.





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Proper Set Out of Trash and Recycling Containers

We need your help! Residents frequently set their trash and recycling carts too close together, causing operational issues for Austin Resource Recovery collection crews.

Carts should be placed 5 feet apart and away from mailboxes, cars and other objects. Please help us spread the word to your neighbors, friends and family.

Why 5 feet apart? The trucks that collect trash and recycling are equipped with automatic arms that pick up the carts. If carts are set too close together or too close to other objects, the drivers have to get out of their trucks to move the carts so the automatic arm can pick up the cart without bumping into or knocking over anything.

The crews can collect materials more safely and efficiently when your recycling cart, trash cart and yard trimmings are placed 5 feet apart from

each other and from other objects like parked cars, mailboxes, etc.

What if I don't have room to set my carts 5 feet apart? We understand that some areas won't allow for this; simply set the carts as far apart as possible.

OTHER IMPORTANT COLLECTION GUIDELINES:

- Always place the handle of the cart toward your house.
- Your trash cart, recycling cart and yard trimmings must be placed at the curb by 6:30 a.m. on your collection day.

Need Help? Volunteers Available

If you are temporarily or permanently mobility-impaired, community volunteers are available to assist you with both setting out your trash containers for the Friday collection and removing them from public view after the collection. If you will be away from home after the trash/recycling has been collected on Friday, especially for an extended period, please ask a neighbor or friend to remove your trashcans from public view. Otherwise, community volunteers may be available to assist you with this on a one-time basis.

Please contact Bill Meredith at 512-345-0593 for assistance.

• Do not put recycling or yard trimmings in plastic bags. Plastic bags cannot be recycled in Single Stream Recycling and cannot be composted with yard trimmings.

•Help prevent litter by bagging your trash and allowing room for the cart lid to close.

• Extra bags of trash that do not fit in your trash cart with the lid closed must be placed next to the trash cart and tagged with an Extra Trash Sticker, which can be purchased at most local grocery stores (\$4 + tax).

•Extra bags without a sticker will be charged a per-bag fee of \$8 + tax.

• Do not put carts in the path of the mail truck or on top of a water meter.

For more information, visit austinrecycles.com.

TRASH CONTAINERS & COLLECTION RULES

Courtyard HOA Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions: Article VIII, Section 10

No garbage or trash shall be placed or kept on any Lot or Common Area except in covered containers of a type, size and style which are approved by the Board of Directors, which may include the requirement that all containers will be disposable.

In no event shall such containers be maintained so as to be visible from neighboring property except to make the same available for collection and, then, only the shortest time reasonably necessary to effect such collection.

Courtyard Book Club

Tuesday, May 1st 1 p.m. in the Courtyard Club

This month's book selection, Scottsboro, A Novel by Ellen Feldman, is wrapped in human tragedy—a powerful story of courage, deceit, prejudice, cowardice, love and loyalty. In the "Scottsboro Case," an infamous incident in the history of the south, nine young black males were convicted of rape and sentenced to the death penalty within four days of their arrest. Wikipedia describes in one sentence the problems associated with this incident: "The case included a frame-up, an all-white jury, rushed trials, an attempted lynching, an angry mob, and a miscarriage of justice."

Ellen Feldman has said that she likes to write about historical events in fictional form in order to explore the human dimension along with the history. She tells the story through the voice of Alice Whittier, a journalist covering the trial. In an interview Feldman notes that in Alice she combines the personalities of two young female reporters who covered the trial at the time. Through her interviews with the accusers, Alice explores the personalities in this event in a way that creates a captivating story. Scottsboro, a Novel was on the short list for the Orange Prize, awarded to the best novel of the year written by a woman in the English language.

In June the Book Club will discuss the well-received recent biography of Cleopatra by Stacy Schiff. Cleopatra is a mythical figure whose name permeates our life and culture. This biography offers the reader a path to separate the facts from the fancy.

For information about the Courtyard Book Club, contact Jean Heath, c.jeanheath@gmail.com or 512-231-9412.

Many Thanks to Park Clean-up Volunteers

A clean-up day for the Courtyard Park was held on March 31st. Several volunteers donated their time to assist in general maintenance of the grounds. As with our personal yards, each spring the park requires some sprucing up in addition to some clearing along the paths in the less traveled areas. The volunteers worked diligently to clear out some poison ivy, to clean up the beach, playscape, and kayak areas, and to prepare for the Easter celebration in the park. We are so grateful to those of you who generously give their time to make the park more enjoyable for us all! A special thanks to the following volunteers for their involvement in this project: Fred Heath, Eddie Zamora, Zoli Kovacs, Waneen Spirdoso, Joany Price, Lewis Price, Melody Chatelle, Leslie Craven, Ed Ueckert, Jerri Ollier, Winston Cundiff, and Regan Walgren!!!

Other clean-up days will be held before the full heat of summer is upon us. Please look for notices announcing what days these will be held and consider donating your time to the community park that we all use, enjoy, and benefit from!



2012 Summer Camps

Boys Basketball June 4-8 contact: 512-313-4504

Girls Basketball June 25-29 contact: 512-313-4509

Baseball June 18-21 & July 9-12 contact: 512-313-4507

Softball

June 11-15 contact: 512-313-4502

Boys & Girls Volleyball June 11-15 & July 16-20 contact: 512-313-4510

For up to the date information please check out our website at:

athletics.concordia.edu

Be Deer Smart During Fawning Season

A message from the City of Austin, Texas



Although the newborns may not be visible to the casual observer for several weeks, the fawning season has begun! The newborns are not visible because of excellent camouflage of their coats and their mother's care in hiding them from predators. Because deer are frequently seen in and around some Austin neighborhoods, the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department wants to remind residents to be aware of the best ways to protect themselves and respect wildlife. Now is the time to remind your children and neighbors to be deer-smart for the deer's safety and your own.

If you find a fawn, leave it alone. For the first three to four weeks of their lives, the fawns are too small to follow their mothers, and it is normal for a doe to leave a fawn alone for several hours at a time. If you find a fawn, do not move it or try to rescue it. Most fawns are not orphaned or abandoned. Unless the fawn is obviously sick, injured or in an unsafe area, it should be left alone. If you think the fawn is in danger, call Austin Wildlife Rescue at 472-9453 (472-WILD).*

Remind your children to stay away from the deer. Baby animals naturally draw the attention of curious children. Fawning season in central Texas provides a unique opportunity to teach your children about cycles of life and kindness to animals. Educate your children about the fawning season. Explain to them that the fawns are not abandoned. Teach them that they should stay away from the fawns because the mother is nearby, she will take care of the baby, and the fawn's best chance of survival depends on its being left alone.

Restrain your dogs. Fawns also draw the attention of curious dogs. Walk your dogs on leash. Standard leashes are better than retractable leashes at this time of year in deer country. Off-leash and unrestrained dogs are a primary cause of conflicts with deer.

Use deer deterrents. If you do not want fawns around your property, now is the time to refresh or activate your deer repellents. Does will not leave fawns in an obviously hostile environment. Mend your fences if you do not like deer.

Don't feed or make food available to deer. Supplemental feeding does more harm than good and is illegal inside the city limits. Additional information can be found on the City of Austin website: www.austintexas.gov/department/deer-feeding-ordinance.

*Austin Wildlife Rescue, Inc. (www.austinwildliferescue.org) is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that rehabilitates and releases orphaned, sick or injured animals, and educates the public on how to co-exist with wildlife.



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Easter Egg Hunt a Success!

Approximately 100 people of all ages enjoyed the annual Easter Egg Hunt held in our park on Saturday, April 7th. The eagerly awaited yearly main event, the egg hunt, was followed by a piñata chock full of candy. The addition of a beautiful Easter Bunny was a big hit! Cupcakes and small Easter prizes were also provided. The day was gorgeous and everyone went home with a full basket!

Many thanks to Joany Price and Dana Ivers for their work in putting together this fun family event! Thanks, also, to Scott Ivers and Joany Price for pictures of the event which can be found on the Courtyard website.





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A Lesson for Us All

Drawn from a March 2007 speech given by former Governor of Arkansas, Mike Huckabee

In September of 2005, a social studies teacher from Arkansas did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal, and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks from her classroom. When the kids came into first period, they looked around and asked, "Where are our desks?"

The teacher said, "You can't have a desk until you tell me how you earn them."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades."

"No," she said.

"Maybe it's our behavior." "No, it's not even your

behavior."

And so the students came and went ... first period, second period, third period ... and still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had gathered in the class to find out about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her classroom.

The final period of the day

came and as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the deskless classroom, the instructor said, "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at the desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

She went over to the door of her classroom and opened it, and as she did twenty-seven (27) U.S. veterans, wearing their uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk. They placed the school desks in rows and then stood along the wall. By the time they had finished placing the desks, those kids, for perhaps the first time in their lives, began to understand how they earned those desks. Their teacher said, "You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them responsibly, to learn, to be good students and good citizens. They paid a price for you to have that desk and the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

In May 2005, this same teacher and her class organized a Vietnam Veterans Recognition Week, including an official "Thank You Ceremony"

held in the school auditorium. Veterans from World War II and the Korean War also attended. as did people from all walks of life, to honor those who had served. During that week, students videotaped veterans as they recounted their war memories, thus preserving their stories for later generations. Since that time, the instructor and her student have sent numerous care packages to U.S. military personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. They also write letters to soldiers in those theaters, having sent off

1,200 missives in 2005-2006 alone.

In 2006 the Veterans of Foreign Wars named Martha Cothren, military history class teacher at Joe T. Robinson High School in Little Rock, their "Teacher of the Year." Ms. Cothren regularly has veterans visit her classroom – it's one of the ways she teaches her course on the history of World War II and the Vietnam War. Part and parcel of what she teaches is an appreciation for members of the armed forces.

Memorial Day, May28th

A day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.





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AUSTIN NEWCOMERS CLUB — MAY — LUNCHEON

Folks who have been in Austin for a while are familiar with Sue Patrick's clothing emporium. She has been in the clothing business in Austin for 37 years and at her current location, 5222 Burnet Road, for the past 13 years. The store is not like any other in Austin. The merchandise includes everything from UT T-shirts to formal wear. Sue specializes in Vera Bradley and Brighton Collection handbags and carries some wonderful clothing lines including FDJ Jeans, Not Your Daughter's Jeans, Foxcroft shirts and Joseph Ribkoff. In addition to great clothing lines, you will find special candles and home fragrances and University of Texas clothing and memorabilia. This is a very popular event, so be sure to make your reservations early.

WHEN & WHERE

Wednesday, May 16, 2012 at Green Pastures Restaurant, 811 West Live Oak Street, pre-payment \$20.00 Reservations are required.

TIME

11:30 a.m. socializing, Luncheon begins at noon. For Luncheon Reservations: Email: LuncheonDirector@AustinNewcomers.com

Austin Newcomers Club is a non-profit social and recreational organization dedicated to introducing residents to the Austin Community and giving them the opportunity to meet and make new friends. To Join Austin Newcomers Club: Any person who has a zip code beginning with 787 is eligible for a new membership with the annual dues payment of \$40.00, membership includes The Welcome Mat, the monthly newsletter, and the annual Members' Directory. Contact Dotti Thoms, New Member Services, at (512) 314-5100. You are invited to attend a morning or evening Welcome Coffee and Orientation. For more information visit the website at:

www.AustinNewcomers.com



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Colin's Hope Upcoming Events Calendar May-June: Water Safety Walk - Packet Stuffing and Distribution

June 14: World's Largest Swim Lesson at Schlitterbahn June 16: Colin's Hope Got2Swim the Pure Austin Quarry July 21: UltiFit Challenge #2 at Reveille Peak Ranch

August 30: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Lake Austin September 16: Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon Volunteer Signup - Register COLINSHOPE.ORG

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