

**Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.** 

June 2012

Volume 8, Number 6

Soard Message

If you haven't heard by now, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) decided to cancel the 360 left turn intersection project. For now, they will continue to work with the City of Austin to improve synchronization of lights along the 360 corridor. It's fair to say that most residents living along 360 are pleased with this outcome.

Many people were not convinced that the projected time improvements were worth the money and inconvenience to the neighborhood residents. Protestors did not believe it was worthwhile to spend what they saw as a lot of money for minor improvements that would not hold their value more than a few years.

While this one plan may have been scrapped, it is our hope that TxDOT and other regional entities with responsibility for our road system(s) will continue their efforts, including work with our state and local government representatives, to come up with a plan and funding for this plan that will bring about meaningful improvements to this very congested stretch of highway. We stand ready to work with TxDOT on any future projects.

For now, we commend all our residents who took the time to follow what was happening over these past months and who filed their protests in an effort to change TxDOT's original plan. The Board can only do so much in these situations. It is the people in the community, acting together, that are needed to successfully bring about a change, and you all helped to do that in this case. Congratulations! Special thanks to those individuals in our neighborhood that stepped up to help in so many ways. You know who you are.

Finally, looking ahead, don't miss our wonderful July 4th Parade and Picnic in the Park and don't forget the special presentation planned for July 17th from the Texas Forestry Service. This presentation is for all our residents interested in learning how best to safeguard their home and property from wildfires.

Drive Safely in the Courtyard



## **COURTYARD ON FIRE!** *It could happen!*

An informative community meeting will be held July 17th at 6:30 for the purpose of informing Courtyard residents what might be expected in the event of a wildland fire threat.

Qualified speakers from the Texas Forest Service will be present to provide information, suggestions and ideas as it relates to the possibility of a fire threat in our neighborhood. Being informed and prepared will equip us to respond to such a threat.

Please plan to attend! Lives and property can be protected. This will be an excellent opportunity for our neighborhood.

For further information please contact Jim Gattis at jim. gattis@ymail.com or 512-468-2266.

#### **CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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#### 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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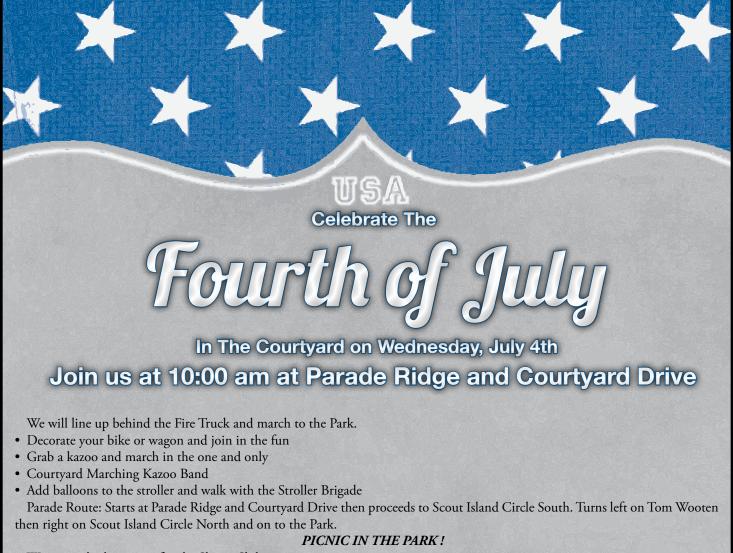
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# COURTYARD CALLER



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## Visit Estância Churrascaria Brazilian Steakhouse at The Arboretum:

#### Austin's first Authentic Brazilian Steakhouse



desired temperature and sliced tableside by gaucho chefs.

Austin's first authentic Brazilian steakhouse welcomes North Austin diners to their new location at The Arboretum, bringing the rich culture and flavorful cuisine of Southern Brazil to the North side. **Estância Churrascaria**, the fine-dining steakhouse known for its skewer-grilled meats, extensive salad bar and a genuine Brazilian experience is now located on the corner of Great Hills and 183 Hwy in the Arboretum, an expansive, 300 seating fine-dining restaurant set in a casual, inviting atmosphere.

An authentic Brazilian dining extravaganza, Estância is known for having the largest selection of tableside-sliced meats in Austin, more than 14 cuts of savory meats, skewer-grilled to guests'

Featured meats include Picanha (a popular sirloin cut seasoned with sea salt and also with garlic), Costela (slow-cooked, juicy beef ribs), Cordeiro (leg of lamb sliced from the bone and lamb chops), Linguica (traditional slow-roasted pork sausage), and Frango (slow-roasted chicken legs seasoned to perfection and tender chicken breast wrapped in bacon).

The restaurant's salad bar offers dozens of fresh produce items, as well as imported cheeses, aged salami and prosciutto, and other chilled meat varieties, all served alongside traditional Brazilian side dishes like polenta, garlic mashed potatoes, rice and beans, golden-fried bananas and heavenly homemade cheese bread rolls. A menu for everyone, Estância is guaranteed to win the praises of steak lovers and vegetarians alike. Estância Churrascaria also features an impressive wine list comprised of hand-selected wines from the best growing regions throughout the world. From Napa Valley and Sonoma County, to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, France, Italy and Australia, Estância's extensive selection of wines were chosen to perfectly complement the restaurant's authentic cuisine.

The restaurant's distinctive bar is perfect for happy hour, or a cocktail before dinner. Estancia's expert bartenders serve a **variety of cocktails and after-dinner drinks**, including the best *Caipirinha*, and the national cocktail of Brazil – in all of Austin. Prepared **with lime**, **sugar-cane rum called** *cachaça*, **sugar and ice cubes the result is a refreshing**, **slightly tart cocktail unlike any other**, perfect for the summer days ahead. Diners of all ages are welcomed at Estância Churrascaria. Children five years and under are complimentary and children six years to ten years are half price, (beverages, desserts, tax, and gratuity are additional). Senior diners will appreciate the senior discount rate of available on Mondays and Tuesdays every week, beginning at Spm and available all night long.

Estância Churrascaria is also the ideal choice for hosting your special event. Whether a business luncheon, a charity social, or any other occasion, your guests will appreciate the dedicated space in the restaurant and the premier service that the Estância staff extends to special parties. With multiple dining rooms that can accommodate intimate dinner parties as well as gatherings of up to 80 people, available, the restaurant provides the perfect place to host your event.



Estância Churrascaria is located at 10000 Research Blvd. in The Arboretum and is open daily for lunch and dinner service. For more information about Estância Churrascaria or to make a reservation or book a private party, please call (512) 345.5600, or visit www.EstanciaChurrascaria.com.

## COURTYARD CALLER

# Courtyard Book Club Tuesday, July 3rd, 1 p.m. in the Courtyard Club

This month the Book Club traveled back in time to explore the rise to power, and extraordinary accomplishments of Cleopatra as recounted by Stacy Schiff in her biography, Cleopatra, A Life.

In July we will read the 2012 Austin Mayor's Book, Salvage the Bones by Jessmyn Ward, a book set close to home with characters more familiar than those of ancient times but whose problems are equally vexing. Salvage the Bones was awarded the 2011 National Book Award for fiction. Ward grew up in De Lisle, Mississippi on the Gulf coast. She is a survivor of hurricane Katrina and sets this novel in a fictionalized version of her home town. The story takes place over only twelve days surrounding the storm. Through the experiences of a poor, black family, she explores the issues of poverty, natural disaster as well as sacrifice and familial bonds.

Jessmyn Ward was educated at the University of Michigan and Stanford University, receiving awards and praise for her writing throughout her schooling. She has occupied the John Grisham chair at the University of Mississippi and currently teaches at the University of South Alabama in Mobile.

In August, the Book Club will read Pearl of China by Anchee Min, a fictionalized account of Pearl Buck's experience in China.

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

#### **Cooking in the Park with** Luis Suarez!

June 10th

If you have the time, give yourself and your family a real treat on Sunday, June 10th. Come join your Courtyard neighbors for a cookout in our community Park, starting at 4 p.m., weather permitting. Luis Suarez and his wife, Marre, sometimes get together with friends for cookouts in the Park. In a spirit of true neighborliness, Luis thought it would be fun to share some of this good time with more of his fellow residents and invites you all to come join them for an occasional "communal" cookout - the first being set for June 10th. Basically, each family brings their own meat and/or vegetables for grilling and each brings something for others to share. Luis has volunteered to do the grilling "honors."

Contact Luis Suarez, 795-8800, if you are interested in more details and to sign up to come.



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# The Housing Market Is... HOT HOT HOT!!!

#### Year To Date Sales In Courtyard/MLS Stats # of Active Listings - 6 # of Pending Listings - 3 # of Solds - 10

#### **REMAINING MONTHS OF INVENTORY = 3**

Less than 4 months = (which is our remaining inventory) = STRONG SELLER'S MARKET 4 - 6 months inventory = BALANCED MARKET Greater than 6 months = BUYER'S MARKET

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Courtyard Caller - June 2012

# COURTYARD CALLER

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### **Our Park**

As our very pleasant spring moves on to summer, more and more of our residents are enjoying the beautiful scenery and many amenities of our Community Park. Already this year, several large groups have enjoyed birthday parties there and many events are scheduled for the summer. To help insure everyone's time in the Park is pleasant, please keep a couple of things in mind while you are in the Park, and exercise caution, especially with children and pets while you are in and around the park.

Poison ivy, although never really gone in the winter, is again flourishing. Oh – would our flowers and grass grow so well! Since mid-March, the Park Committee has been spraying weekly to kill poison ivy and poison vines growing along pathways, the edges of the driveway& the woods and will continue to do so. Keep on the lookout for "leaves of three (3)" and if you think you've come into contact with a poisonous plant, try to wash as soon as you can with any of the several poison ivy scrub soaps that are available without prescription at your pharmacy. Plants oils can remain on clothes and shoes even after they have been washed with regular laundry detergent so you may want to check into some of the special soaps made to remove these poisonous oils. And don't forget that your pet(s) can also transmit these oils to you if they happen to brush against these plants while they are out. Good luck!

Residents have reported seeing some snakes in and around the cove area. Although we have been told that most likely the snakes are not poisonous, please use caution in the pond area, especially if you are with children and pets.

If you haven't seen it yet, we have a beautiful new Mexican Sycamore tree in the Park. These trees are not susceptible to oak wilt and, once established, will grow fast to provide us with a nice shady area at the edge of the open field area.

Finally, we ask again that pet owners please take care to clean up after their pets. Bags and trashcans have been provided to make this as easy as possible for you. If you see anyone not pick up their dog's poo, please report them. It would be regrettable if the few irresponsible owners ruin it for those who are so good about picking up after their pets. We do not want to have to ban dogs from the Park so please make an effort to police yourselves.

Don't forget that if you want to reserve the park for large groups, call Marilyn Childress, our property manager, at 750-2883.



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## Pick Up After Your Dog!

Courtyard neighbors who own dogs are asked to clean up after their dogs at all times. Dog poop contains fecal coliforms, worms and parasites which are a danger to children, other pets and to our creek and river. The deposits, if not picked up, eventually find their way to our drinking water and pose a danger to everyone. Picking up your dog's poop is plain and simply the right thing to do. Not only is it illegal in our city and against the Courtyard homeowners' bylaws to leave dog poop unattended, it's also plain rude and

a og poop unattended, it s also plain rude i irresponsible. Other people shouldn't have to worry about stepping in it or smelling it.

Please do not walk your dog on our streets and in our park unless you are carrying two or three plastic bags for use when your dog or dogs poop. No Courtyard resident appreciates finding dog poop in his or her front yard, and no one likes seeing dog poop in the Park. Parameter



seeing dog poop in the Park. Remember that

a lot of people use the Park every day, so please keep your dog (s) on a leash and pick up after them. If you run out of plastic bags, some have been placed in the Park for your use and convenience.

Pick up the poop even if no one else is looking at you. It is your responsibility as a dog owner. Your dog does not know better, but YOU do. Be a responsible dog owner.

#### Residential Curbside Collection Schedule

It has come to the attention of the Board that several neighbors in our community have already put out bulk and large brush items for city pickup and have left them out. No items, including large brush and bulk items, should be placed out until the night before or morning of the pickup days scheduled for our community. The next bulk item collection day for The Courtyard is July 9th and the next large brush collection day is July 16th. For further information and guidelines regarding residential curbside collection, please go online to www.austintexas.gov/department/residential or call 3-1-1.

Additionally, some residents seem confused about what days are "Blue Trash," or blue recycling days. Information and guidelines regarding recycling can also be found on the website listed above. The blue recycling days for June are scheduled for June 8th and June 22nd. Austin Resource Recovery also provides weekly, curbside yard trimmings collection. Yard trimmings are grass clippings, leaves, and small branches or limbs that are no longer than 5 feet and no thicker than 3 inches in diameter.

Thank you for doing your part in keeping our community clean and clutter-free by following the guidelines of both the community and the City of Austin regarding curbside collection.

## FUELYOUR CHILD'S CREATIVITY QUOTIENT

Submitted by Sugandha Jain

The impact of a high creativity quotient (CQ) is evident even among the top management in business. Results from 2010 IBM Global CEO study reveal that highly effective CEO's place the greatest emphasis on creative leadership. In order to achieve top results, CEO's are not fearful of experimenting. These CEO's lead the new generation by continually thinking of new ways and fresh approaches. However, the sad reality is that creativity scores have been decreasing in children since 1990. In their book, *The Creativity Crisis: New Thinking about children, authors* Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman, cite evidence on how creative quotient in children has plummeted.

As parents, we have to ask ourselves some tough questions. Is our education system so hyper-focused on testing that we are squeezing out the innate creativity of our children? Are we pushing our children so hard that we are leaving no room for creativity? What can we do to turn things around? The good news is that creativity can be nurtured and learned. Exposing children to a creative environment can assist in enhancing their CQ. Creativity training actually changes brain function. It creates new neurons in key parts of the brain and builds new connections between these neurons.

So, what is the recipe for sparking creativity in children? The right amount of sleep, nutrition and avoiding pessimism can work wonders. Positive thinking is so powerful that it can attract unimaginable successful results in a person's life. Teaching children to trust themselves is a vital ingredient as creativity comes from trusting your instincts.

Asking 'What if' questions to your children can increase their CQ. Leo Burnett says that curiosity about life in all of its aspects is the secret of great creative people. Solving open-ended problems also nurtures creativity. Parents and children who work together to solve challenging problems gain understanding on mastering uncomfortable feelings that these problems present. Families that create together stay together!

> Sugandha Jain is a Master Registered Texas Trainer & Director of Accreditation at a local preschool



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## 2012 ASC Baseball Champions



#### 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

### **Metaphors Be With You**

I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It 's syncing now.

When chemists die, they barium.

Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.

I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.

How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.

They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Type-O.

PMS jokes aren't funny; period.

Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.

We're going on a class trip to the Coca-Cola factory. I hope there's no pop quiz.

I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.

Did you hear about the cross-eyed teacher who lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?

When you get a bladder infection urine trouble.

Broken pencils are pointless.

I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.

I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.

I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.

All the toilets in New York's police stations have been stolen. The police have nothing to go on.

I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.

Haunted French pancakes give me the crêpes.

Velcro — what a rip off!

A cartoonist was found dead in his home. Details are sketchy.

Venison for dinner again? Oh deer!

The earthquake in Washington obviously was the government's fault.

Be kind to your dentist. He has fillings, too.

# DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE



### **Colin's Hope Upcoming Events Calendar**

June: Water Safety Walk - Packet Stuffing and Distribution June 7: Eat, Drink & Shop for Colin's Hope at

- Point of Origin Gift Boutique in Lakeway, 5-7pm
- June 16: Colin's Hope Got2Swim the Pure Austin Quarry

July 21: UltiFit Challenge #2 at Reveille Peak Ranch

September 16: Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon - registration opens June 1st

#### LAYERS OF PROTECTION



2012

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June

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