

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

November 2012

Volume 8, Number 11

BOARD MESSAGE

November is the month of Thanksgiving. It's the time of the year that helps us to stop for a moment and focus on the many things there are to be grateful for in our lives. In this regard, to our Courtyard friends and neighbors who make this such a special place to live, **we thank you**. Special appreciation goes to those who organize and put on our social celebrations throughout the year; to the walkers who take the time to stop to pick up trash from our streets and yards; to thoughtful neighbors who bring in a fellow neighbor's newspaper, mail, or trash can; to our wonderful "green thumbs" who help with Park clean ups and the nurturing of our beautiful woodland and water areas; to our mechanical types who help maintain the quality of our irrigation and lighting systems; to our technically skilled friends that help us establish and remain in better contact with each other; and to those who interact with other neighborhood groups and keep us aware of the activities of state and local governments that can impact our neighborhood. Without the generous gift of time by our residents, the Courtyard would not be the great place it is to live.

November is also when we start our campaign to remind all homeowners association members of the importance of sending in their voting proxy for the Courtyard's annual meeting in January. For the benefit of new homeowners and as a reminder to those who have lived here longer, here's what we're talking about. Our Association Declaration requires that a quorum be present to hold an official meeting, and we want to avoid having to hold a second annual meeting. Over the years, we have found that it really helps if homeowners sign and mail in their proxy form as soon as it arrives. This way, it doesn't get forgotten in the midst of all the other activities we have going on through December and January. If for some reason you can't make the meeting, your vote will be counted. If you sent in a proxy but later find that you are able to attend the annual meeting, you can simply pick-up your proxy at the meeting and vote in person. Further reminders and more information about our next annual meeting will appear in future newsletters and on the Courtyard's website: www.courtyardhoa.org. If you have any questions, please contact any Board member or our management company representative, Marilyn Childress.

As our daylight time grows shorter, please continue your efforts to drive slowly through our neighborhood streets and encourage all your visitors to do so too.

Happy Thanksgiving to all residents and families of the Courtyard! May your holidays be safe & filled with family, friends, fun & of course, good food.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

Election Day: Tuesday, November 6, 2012

Last day of Early Voting in Person Friday, November 2, 2012

For further information and polling locations visit

http://www.traviscountyclerk.org/eclerk/ Content.do?code=Elections

"Election Day:", HOA Voting Proxy:

When it arrives in the mail, please send in your voting proxy for the Courtyard's Homeowners Association Annual meeting to be held in January 2013. You will receive reminders in future issues of The Caller and on the Courtyard website. Our Association Declaration requires that a quorum be present to hold an official meeting, and we want to avoid having to hold a second annual meeting. Over the years, we have found that it really helps if homeowners sign and mail in their proxy form as soon as it arrives. This way, it does not get forgotten in the midst of all the other activities we have going on through December and January. If for some reason you can't make the meeting, your vote will be counted. If you sent in a proxy but later find that you are able to attend the annual meeting, you can simply pick-up your proxy at the meeting and vote in person.

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Ten Things to Be Thankful For

Barton Goldsmith, Ph.D. in Emotional Fitness

As Thanksgiving approaches, I think it's important to take a gratitude inventory. A number of things in life can make us uncomfortable or even a little miffed. But sometimes they are gifts in disguise. With that in mind, here are my top ten things to be thankful for.

- 1. Be thankful for growing older. Not everyone gets this opportunity. Aging with health and grace is a rare and beautiful gift.
- 2. Be thankful that you can read these words. It is a very sad thing that many people do not have the ability to read.
- 3. If you have to wait in line at the supermarket for your Thanksgiving dinner, be thankful that you can afford what you want to eat and have a convenient place to buy it. We are all aware of the many people waiting in line to have a meal at the local homeless shelter.
- 4. Be thankful for the ability to pay your bills, even if it means that you have to give up some things that you want. Remember that having basic needs met is a luxury for many people.
- 5. If you have to get up before dawn to get to work, be thankful that you get to see another sunrise and have a job to go to. Think about what it would be like if you slept everyday until noon and spent the rest of your waking hours wondering what to do with your life.
- 6. When you're stuck in traffic, be thankful you have a car to get where you need to go and money to buy gas. Standing in the rain while waiting for a bus is, at the very least, uncomfortable.
- 7. When the kids are screaming at each other, be thankful that you have children to love and who love you, and remember that at least some of the time, they do get along. There will always be bumps in the road, but they are usually followed by easier times.
- 8. When your mate is acting grumpy or giving you a hard time, be thankful for having love in your life and someone to grow old with. A life partner is something that less than half the population has. Having your partner is a blessing that needs to be counted several times.
- 9. When your parents are telling you how to run your life, be thankful that you still have them around. If they are no longer with you, take a moment to be thankful for the time you had with them.
- 10. When you sit down with your loved ones for your Thanksgiving dinner, be thankful for everyone and everything that makes it possible. Look your family and friends in the eye and express to them your gratitude for sharing this wonderful time together.

Courtyard Book Club

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH, 1:00 P.M.
THE HEATH'S HOME, 5909 TOM WOOTEN DR.

The Courtyard Book Club will launch the holiday season with their annual Pot Luck Lunch and Book Exchange on Tuesday, December 4th. Please bring a dish to share as well as a book, new or used, wrapped for giving to the Heath's home, 5909 Tom Wooten. Everyone goes home with a book to start the New Year.

At the December meeting the reading list for 2013 will be shared. At press time for the newsletter, the book for January is not available. A list will be posted on the Courtyard web page once it is finalized.

As year-end approaches, selecting books for reading in the coming year is a priority. Please send any recommendations for next year's reading list to Jean Heath at the address below. Books should be available in paperback and in the Austin Public Library, assuring easy access.

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





Who Wants to be a Top Turkey Millionaire?

Answers on page 10

If you're a fan of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire," you'll gobble up this Thanksgiving trivia quiz. Do you have the gizzards to be a Top Turkey? There are no prizes (sorry!); the dollar amounts only indicate difficulty. Whether you get all the way to the million-dollar question or your goose gets cooked, have a Happy Thanksgiving!

For \$100...

- 1. Which wild bird was NOT on the Pilgrims' Thanksgiving menu in 1621?
- a) Turkey b) Duck c) Goose d) Bald Eagle

For \$200...

- 2. The Pilgrims celebrated the First Thanksgiving in:
- a) Herald Square in New York City b) Plymouth, Massachusetts
- c) Washington, DC d) Jamestown, VA

For \$300...

- 3. What was the name of the Pilgrims' ship?
- a) The Pinta b) Old Ironsides c) The Mayflower d) Titanic

For \$500...

- 4. What historic landmark is known as the place where the Pilgrims landed in America?
- a) Pilgrim Rock b) Patriot's Rock c) Plymouth Rock d) Pet Rock

For \$1,000...

- 5. The Pilgrims came to America:
- a) For religious freedom b) To fight the Indians c) To start a company
- d) To trade tea for animal furs

For \$2,000...

- 6. In the U.S., Thanksgiving is celebrated on:
- a) The day before the Winter Solstice b) The Fourth Thursday of November c) The Thursday after the full moon in November
- d) The last Thursday of November

For \$4,000...

- 7. The Pilgrims' first landing place in America was:
- a) Plymouth, MA b) Provincetown, MA c) Boston, MA d) Salem, MA

For \$8,000...

- 8. The Indians who celebrated the First Thanksgiving dinner with the Pilgrims were from which tribe?
- a) Cherokee b) Mohican c) Wampanoag d) Pequot

(Continued on Page 6)

Why Office at Home

"When you could have a quiet place"
At Jester Village



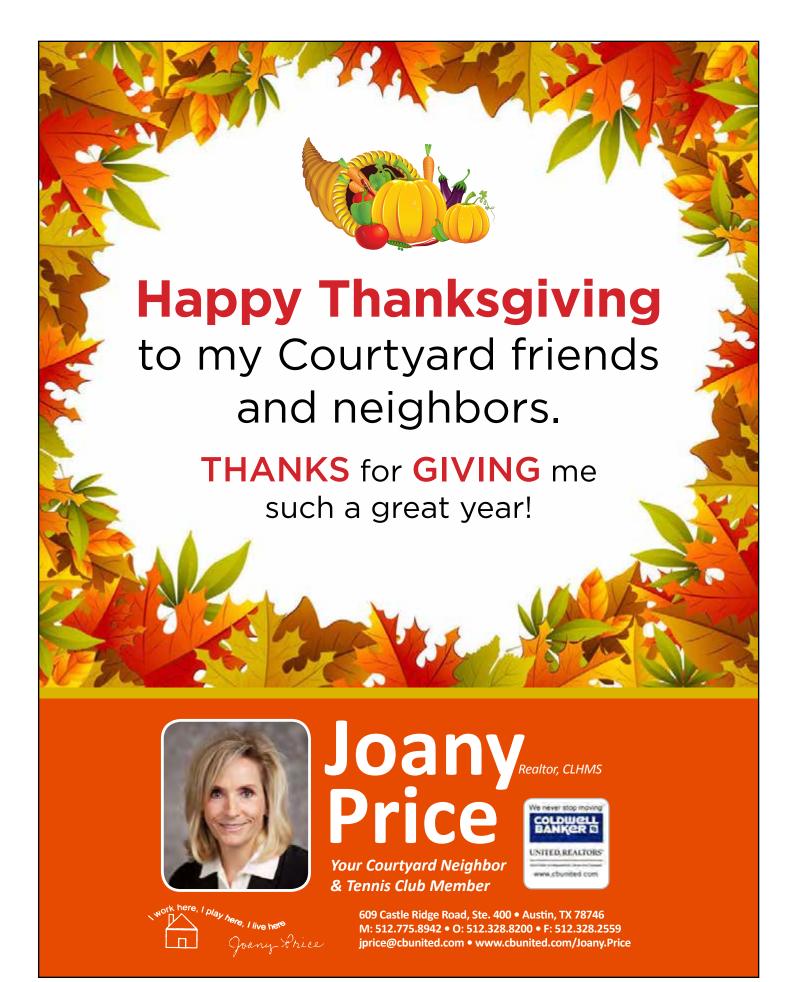
Jester Village is running a special for next couple of months

— 2 Months' Rent Free —

Sizes from 150 to 510 feet available.
Jester Village Shopping Center and Business Park
6507 Jester Blvd
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Graham Properties Real Estate 512.345.9400







Home Athletics Schedule November/December 2012

Date	Sport	Opponent	Time
11/15	WBB	Whittier!	6 p.m.
11/17	WBB	LeTourneau!	1 p.m.
11/29	WBB	LeTourneau*	5:30 p.m.
	MBB	LeTourneau*	7:30 p.m.
12/1	WBB	Ozarks*	1 p.m.
	MBB	Ozarks*	3 p.m.
12/17	MBB	Northwood	3 p.m.
12/20	WBB	Texas-Dallas*	1 p.m.
	MBB	Texas-Dallas*	3 p.m.
12/29	WBB	Wisconsin-Stout^	4 p.m.
12/30	WBB	Rust^	4 p.m.
12/31	MBB	Wisconsin-Stevens Point	11 a.m.

MBB (M. Basketball) WBB (W. Basketball)

! CTX Tip-Off Tournament

* American Southwest Conference Opponent

^ CTX Christmas Classic

CTX Athletics Is Now Accepting Tornado Club Applications!!!

For up-to-date information about CTX
Athletics and to register online for the ticket
pass, please check out our website at:

athletics.concordia.edu

(Continued from Page 4)

For \$16,000...

- 9. A successful barley crop enabled the Pilgrims to wash down the first Thanksgiving feast with what beverage?
- a) Bourbon b) Beer c) Rum d) Champagne

For \$32,000...

- 10. The baby born aboard the Mayflower was named:
- a) Paul b) Miles c) Seamus d) Oceanus

For \$64,000...

- 11. Before carrying the Pilgrims to America, the Mayflower was:
- a) A battleship b) A passenger ferry c) a cruise liner d) A wine vessel

For \$125,000...

12. The turkey is native to America and was first brought to Europe from: a) Massachusetts b) Florida c) Virginia d) Kentucky

For \$250,000...

- 13. What event inspired a U.S. President to proclaim Thanksgiving an annual holiday?
- a) The 300th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing b) The bombing of Hiroshima c) The Battle of Gettysburg d) The Louisiana Purchase

For \$500,000...

14. The Pilgrims' three-day Thanksgiving festival, a feast for 50 colonist and 90 Indians, was prepared by the surviving married women among the Pilgrims. How many "hostesses" were there?

a) Two b) Four c) Seven d) Fifteen

For \$1 million...

- 15. Which of these U.S. Presidents could claim Mayflower ancestry?
- a) George Washington b) Gerald Ford c) George Bush
- d) Franklin Pierce

ANSWERS ON PAGE 10

SEND US YOUR Event

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 <u>www</u>. PEELinc.com.



Courtyard Caller - November 2012

Something to Gobble About:

No Crates or Cages for Thanksgiving Turkeys at Whole Foods Market®

NEW GLOBAL ANIMAL PARTNERSHIP WELFARE STANDARDS MEAN TURKEYS RAISED WITH RESPECT

By Whole Foods Market

This Thanksgiving, thanks to Global Animal Partnership's (GAP) 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating, Whole Foods Market shoppers can know exactly how turkeys were raised for their holiday meals. Whole Foods Market is the first national retailer to offer full transparency in regards to raising practices for turkeys sold in the meat department. (http://photos.prnewswire.com/prnh/20121015/DA92273LOGO)

Global Animal Partnership is a multi-stakeholder non-profit aiming to improve farm animal welfare by setting guidelines for raising practices and animal management in the form of the tiered 5-Step system. Whole Foods Market began using 5-Step ratings in 2011 on beef, pork and chicken sold in meat departments to provide customers with information about the way animals were raised. This year, GAP announced new standards for turkey.

At Step 1, turkeys are raised without crates, cages or crowding plus more than 125 other requirements. Beyond Step 1, each successive Step requires more animal-focused practices. Customers can review the complete standard online or review a condensed version in brochures available in stores.

- Step 1: no crates, cages, no crowding
- Step 2: enriched environment (things to do!)
- Step 3: enhanced outdoor access
- Step 4: pasture centered
- Step 5: animal centered, no physical alterations.
- Step 5+: animal centered, entire life on the same farm

Whole Foods Market's quality standards for all meat also require that animals are raised without antibiotics.

"What makes the GAP program unique is that it outlines minimum animal welfare standards for our suppliers, provides transparency for our customers, and explains incremental changes suppliers can make to continue improving the lives of their animals," said Anne Malleau, assistant global meat coordinator for Whole Foods Market. "Animals raised in an environment that encourages them to perform their natural behaviors are animals 'raised to taste better.'"

Something to Gobble About - (Continued on Page 6)





Served Saturday and Sunday 10am - 3pm Saturday Kids eat free 10am - 3pm, 50% off 3-10pm*



*One Kids meal per Adult Entrée Served



Keverse Happy Hour
Thursday through Saturday Nights 9pm-11pm

Buy One Get One Free Brunch!



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-Offer valid at Opal Divine's Davenport location only -Cannot be combined with other offers Expires 1/31/2013

3801 N. Capitol of Texas Hwy Ste. A-180 **ph** (512) 369-3709

Something to Gobble About - (Continued from Page 4)

Whole Foods Market's trained butchers can help shoppers choose the best bird for their budget – from frozen turkeys, raised this season to reach the perfect size then processed and stored just above the freezing point to fresh brined kosher; organic; or heritage or heirloom turkeys, raised for their remarkable flavor. Recipes and turkey carving guides are available at www.wholefoodsmarket.com.

Find a chart of turkey standards, plus high-resolution photos and videos at http://media.wholefoodsmarket.com.

Contact: Beth Krauss 512-542-0380 Beth.Krauss@wholefoods.com







Help us CELEBRATE!

Our 12th Anniversary serving the Courtyard Neighborhood!

3801 N. Capital of Texas Hwy. Suite J-240

Austin, TX 78746

Davenport Village Shopping Center Bldg. J
At bottom of the hill, across from Maudie's

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Lance Loveless, DDS

COURTYARD CALLER

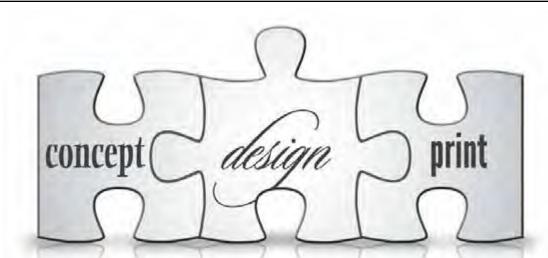
Top Turkey Answers:Questions on Page 4

- 1. d The Pilgrims did NOT eat Bald Eagle at the first Thanksgiving.
- 2. b The Pilgrims celebrated the First Thanksgiving in 1621 at their Plymouth, Massachusetts, settlement.
- 3. c The Pilgrims came to America aboard the Mayflower.
- 4. c Plymouth Rock marks the place where the Pilgrims landed.
- 5. a The Pilgrims came to America to escape religious persecution.
- 6. b Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of Nov. each year in the U.S.
- 7. b The Pilgrims landed first at Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod before moving on to Plymouth, Massachusetts, where they established their permanent settlement.
- 8. c The Wampanoag Indians assisted the Pilgrims in their first year and shared the first Thanksgiving dinner with them.
- 9. b The Pilgrims enjoyed their own microbrew with the first Thanksgiving Dinner.
- 10. d Oceanus Hopkins was born aboard the Mayflower during the Pilgrims' two-month voyage to America.
- 11. d The Mayflower was a wine vessel before its historic role as the Pilgrims' America-bound transportation.
- 12. b The Spaniards brought the first turkeys back to Europe from Florida.

- 13. c President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed Thanksgiving a holiday in 1863, three months after the Battle of Gettysburg in the American Civil War.
- 14. b The job of preparing the first Thanksgiving feast fell to the four married women who survived the Pilgrims' first winter in Plymouth. 15) c – George Bush is a descendant of two Mayflower passengers, John Howland and Francis Cooke. Other U.S. Presidents with Mayflower ancestors are: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Zachary Taylor, Ulysses S. Grant, James Garfield, and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Did you get them all right? Are you a TopTurkey? Happy Thanksgiving?





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Why Knowing About Kilowatt-Hours Can Help You Save Money

By Chris Lee

Let's all admit it - we've all taken electricity for granted. As soon as we were young enough to reach the light switch to turn on the lights, we've never thought about electricity since it's been integrated into our lives as a basic necessity. By understanding a little bit about a Kilowatt-Hour (kWh) of electricity use, you'll more easily measure and compare the costs to operate your appliances in order to figure out how you can save some money.

The concept of kWh is difficult to visualize since most of us have forgotten the details of our high-school physics class (for those of us that actually took high school physics). Power, energy, time?...how can we define kWh? If you turned on twenty 100-watt lightbulbs in your house and left them on for 1 hour, you would have used 2 kWh (20 lightbulbs x 100w x 1 hour = 2000 watt-hours). And if you used your clothes dryer for an hour and your dryer is rated at 5000 watts, then you used 5 kWh (5000w x 1 hour). While each family uses electricity differently based on their living habits, here's a website that will give you an idea on energy use of common household appliances. Caution: the dollar figures used in this chart are based on \$0.07 per kWh instead of they typical \$0.10 per kWh in Texas:

www.glendalewaterandpower.com/rates/appliance_operating_costs. aspx (Shortened: http://goo.gl/kCelA)

So if you looked at your energy bill, you'll see that you're paying for the amount of Kwh's that you and your family use. By knowing the concept of kWh you'll be able to more easily correlate your energy use to your energy bill and therefore be able to do more to save money. To help you save energy and therefore more money, here are some resources with helpful energy saving tips:

www.takealoadofftexas.com/index.aspx?id=energy-efficiency-tips (http://goo.gl/meydE)

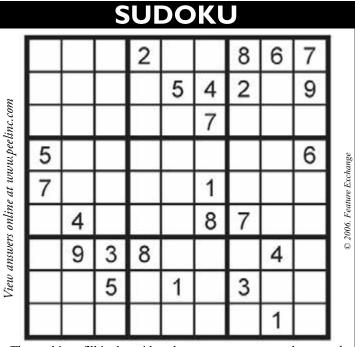
http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/energy_savers.pdf (http://goo.gl/u3fuE) I hope you've understood the basics of a Kilowatt-Hour and how it's measured to help you see your energy usage. If you have any questions about this, please ping me at leec89@gmail.com.



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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



I was tempted to show you one of my beautiful listings.

Instead I opted for a simple thank you to all of my clients for their loyal business and continued referrals.



Jo Carol Snowden REALTOR®, ABR 512.657.4441 jocarol@moreland.com www.moreland.com

Our intimate knowledge of Austin's best properties has helped thousands of people make Austin their home for over 25 years.



We get it.

