

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

December 2012

Volume 8, Number 12



BOARD MESSAGE

In the midst of all your holiday activities, please take a minute to mark your calendars with the date of our ANNUAL MEETING coming up on Sunday, JANUARY 27, 2013, 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the office building at the corner of Courtyard Drive and North Scout Island Circle. While we hope everyone can attend, we also understand that it is just not possible. Nonetheless, our Declaration mandates that we have a quorum present at this meeting so that we can conduct important Association business. For this reason, please read the written materials when they arrive in your January mail and then sign and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible to help us avoid the costs of rescheduling a second annual meeting.

We recognize that it is often difficult to know this far ahead whether your schedule will permit your attendance. Don't let this stop you from sending in your proxy. Sending your proxy in early does not prevent you from coming and voting directly at the meeting. Your proxy just safeguards your vote if something comes up and you cannot make it. There will be more information and reminders in the January Caller and on our website: WWW.courtyardhoa.org. Please contact any Board member or email Marilyn Childress at Goodwin Management (marilyn.childress@goodwintx. com) if you have any questions. You can also contact us through the website's "Contact Us" page.

A final thought -- many of us will be traveling and gone from our homes at times this holiday season. Try to remember to stop your paper and mail or ask a neighbor to pick them up for you. Keep an eye out for anything suspicious and if you see something -- call the police. Remember that nothing says "No one is home here" to a thief like mail or papers accumulating at the front of a house. If you see this happening, even if no one asked you, be a good neighbor and take a minute to gather them up and save them for when the owner returns.

Best wishes to all our residents and their families for a safe and happy Holiday season and please continue to drive slowly

in the Courtyard

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much." --Henry David Thoreau



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Courtyard Book Club

Tuesday, January 8th 1 p.m. Courtyard Club

The regular meeting date of the Courtyard Book Club is the first Tuesday of each month. However, because the first Tuesday in January 2013 is New Year's Day, the club will meet instead on January 8th.

The year starts with a great read: *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* by Helen Simonson. Consider the attributes of a stereotypical English gentleman, and ascribe all of those to Major Pettigrew—courtly, opinionated, bound by honor and duty—and he brews a proper cup of tea! Major Pettigrew foresees a life for his son, Roger, which embraces the tradition of the English gentleman, but is disappointed at every turn. When the Major's brother dies unexpectedly, he is offered condolences by Mrs. Ali, a Pakistani shopkeeper. Gradually, the two realize they have much in common despite the conflicts in the conventions of their respective cultures. Sharing time over tea and Kipling is a pleasure they share in common. One reviewer characterized this novel as "Jane Austen meets Alexander McCall." This debut novel has been positively received by readers and critics alike.

The complete list of books for 2013 will be published in next month's newsletter. From titles already suggested by Courtyard readers, an enticing list of fiction and nonfiction reading is on tap to fill the 2013 calendar.

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



Oak Tree Trimming Season Ending Soon

As most of you know, oak tree trimming season ends in January. 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, there is little time left to trim any oak trees in your yard. If your oak trees don't get trimmed between now and the end of January, they should **not** be trimmed until July, 2013.

Please remember 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

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://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article. aspx?ctrl=6

US Forest Service: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/ow/states/ts/ts.shtm



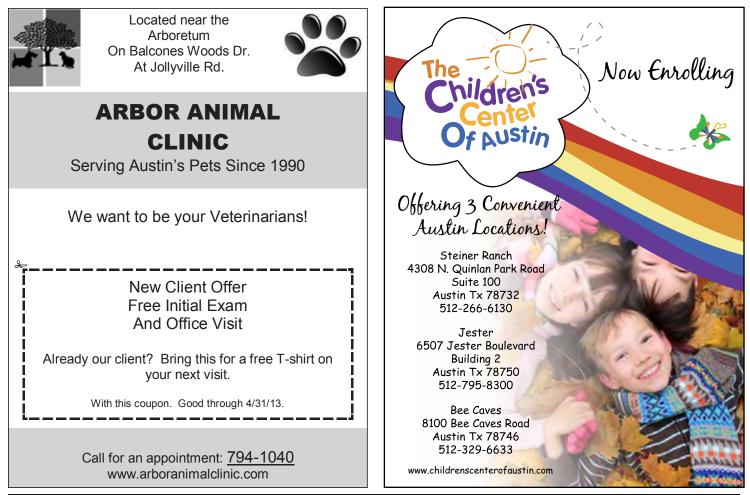
Park Clean-up Day

On Saturday, October 27th, a small group of volunteers tackled our community park at the Courtyard to address various items including picking up trash, trimming branches, cleaning up trails, spraying poison ivy, and cleaning up the boat rack area. Overall it was a very productive day! Special thanks to the following residents who volunteered their time in the community project: Mitch Ortego, Lewis and Joany Price, Jim Vence, Winston Cundiff, Jamie Southerland, Leslie Craven, Robert and Jennifer Wooten, and Zoli Kovacs for organizing the effort.

Please watch for neighborhood signs and newsletter or website notices regarding more volunteer park cleanup days during the cooler months!

Courtyard HOA Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 27, 2013, 6:00 p.m. Please be on the lookout in early January for the materials and voting proxy that will be mailed to you regarding the HOA annual meeting. Even if you plan to attend, please promptly send in the voting proxy in order for us to establish a quorum. Without a quorum we cannot conduct important Association business and we will incur the additional costs of rescheduling a second annual meeting. Sending in your proxy will not prevent you from attending and voting directly at the meeting.

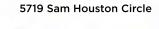


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& Tennis Club Member

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INITED REALTOR

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Home Athletics Schedule December 2012

Date	Sport	Opponent	Time
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

Gifts That Make a Difference

A teacher recently asked her students to respond to two questions in their journals: If you were to give five gifts this holiday season that would make a difference in the world, what would they be? If you were to get five gifts that would make a difference in your life this holiday season, what would they be? These are just a few of the ideas that came from her mostly freshmen students:

- I would give something that reduces selfishness and makes people think of others. I would like to get a more open heart and attitude so I am not always so defensive. It seems as though the world needs patience and kindness, but not material possessions.
- I would give a good night's sleep for any children caught in war, the world a day without relying on electricity, and a shoulder to lean on to everyone suffering from depression; I would like to get the understanding of other cultures.
- I would give silence...everyone is always hustling and bustling, even when they don't have to...to hear themselves take a deep breath and relax, even if it's not for long.
- I would give more patience to my sisters and more time to simply be with them. I would also give gratitude to my parents for what they give me, whether it is a run to Starbucks to get a coffee or spending time together playing a game. I would like to get more time to relax and spend with my family.
- I would give more time to everyone in the world to help others, to be with loved ones, and to appreciate the blessings around them. I would like to get the gift of knowing all languages so I could interact with everyone when I travel.
- I would give a home cooked meal to everyone—this summer when I volunteered at Hunger Buster and Meals on Wheels I was surprised at how many poverty-stricken parts of the city there are—I would also give a book and journal to everyone so they can see how relaxing reading and writing can be.
- I would give everyone a tissue—sometimes we don't understand the value of a tissue until we've just used it to wipe away a tear. I would ask for my departed pastor and grandfather to come back and tell me everything is going to be okay.
- I would give everyone a goal—there are too many people in life who aren't reaching for something, and that makes them miserable and they question the point of life—this way they would have something to strive for.
- I would give a gift to allow everyone to slow down in life and stop rushing so much. I would also like to serve the community at the Austin Street Shelter helping those without a home; I would like to get the gift of having my parents be more appreciative of my successes rather than focusing on my negative aspects.
- I would like to give everyone a place in the woods to reconnect with nature. I would also give the elimination of stress and the love of learning.

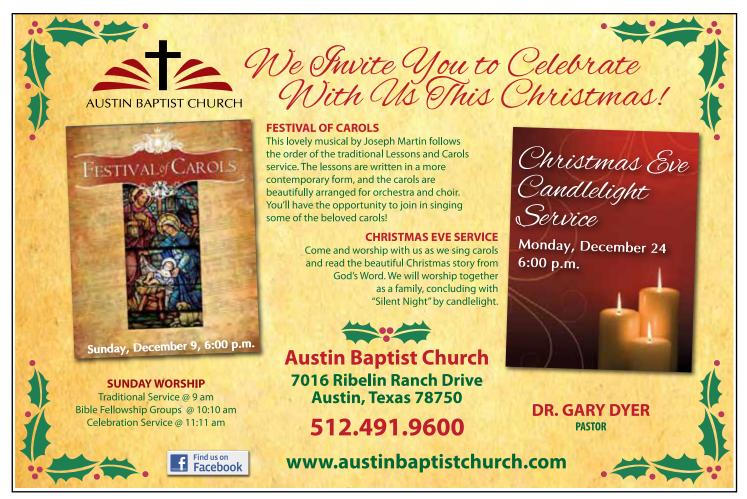
COURTYARD CALLER

Gifts- (Continued from Page 6)

- I would give the gift of knowledge, as it gives people independence and the power to be an individual. I already have most of what I need. The only significant gift that I need is the gift of understanding.
- I would give the gift of second chances--I've had fights with one particular friend, and I wish we had a second chance to start over. I would also give the ability for everyone in the world to have health checkups.
- I would give a worldwide agreement to change full-scale war and convert conflicts into games of skill.
- I would give a friend to everyone, and I would get a real friend that doesn't pretend to hang out with me.
- I would like to run a "Free Hug" campaign in a public spot and give hugs to whoever wants one. A hug always makes my day, so I hope it has the same effect on others.
- I would like to receive the knowledge of what is really happening when someone doesn't "feel well."
- I would give money to those who have an idea but nothing to spark it; advice to those who need a light in dark times; I would get law and order so that the boundaries I can't break shine brighter than the ones I can break, and epistles from those beyond us so I may learn from their lives.

- I would like to learn sign language for the deaf and mute so it would brighten their days; I would want people to donate organs more willingly to kids or adults worldwide, not only thinking about themselves. I also want a dog, so I will never be alone.
- I would give my brother the understanding that no matter what he does, I will always forgive him; I would give my grandma the ability to finally be healthy so she can do the things she wants to do; I would get the proficiency to help others to be more tolerant of all people.
- I would give hope so people in places like Africa and other third world countries could believe in a better life; I would get self-discipline as sometimes I don't take care of everything that I should.
- I would give loving parents to all children and a loving family to old adults so that no one feels lonely; I would give optimal health for all of my family members and a lot of money when I grow up so that I can provide for my parents and be able to give vaccines to all the people in the world who need them.

"It is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a child himself." --Charles Dickens



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



{Fajita 'Omelet!}

*One Kids meal per Adult Entrée Served



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

Buy One Get One Free Brunch!

Buy one brunch item and get the second item of equal or lesser value from our brunch menu free!

-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

Lamar Middle School and Fine Arts Academy Open House

December 13, 2012 8:30 am – 11 am 6201 Wynona Avenue 78757 Come see what exciting things are happening at Lamar! All prospective parents and students are welcome. Parents please accompany students.

PLEASE REMEMBER, NOW THAT THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER, THAT ALL SIGNS NEED TO COME DOWN AND/OR BE REMOVED FROM YOUR PROPERTY. THANKS!

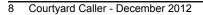
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	B
9	+	-	-		10		-	1	1
11	+				12	+		+	+
13	+	+	1	14			15	+	+
			16	1	+	17			1
18	19	20	-	1	+				
21	+	+		22	+	-	23	24	25
26	+	+	27			28	-	+	+
29	-	+	-			30	1	+	+
31	-	-	-		_//	32	-	+	+

ACROSS DOWN 1. Syllables used in songs (2 wds.) 1. Soft white cheese 5. Dress 2. Arabian 9. Time periods 3. Mutton 10. Satan 4. Facet 11. Tap in lightly 5. Jewel 12. Adult insect 6. -garde 13. Prioress 7. Severity 15. Today 8. Wispy 10. Render harmless 16. Chapel 18. 10,000 squared meters 14. Soft drink brand 21. Cutting tool 17. Lacked 22. Scents 18. Hurry 26. Small herring 19. Deport 28. Two 20. Tic tac's competitor 29. Fish tank dweller 23. Pear shaped instrument 30. Volcano 24. Alley 31. Otherwise 25. Close the door hard 32. Hold 27. Be

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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HOLIDAYWISHES2012

Each year, neglected and abused children in the Austin area must be removed from their homes by Child Protective Services caseworkers. Separations occur all year, but it is especially difficult during the holidays. Partnerships for Children is making a difference in the lives of these children and we invite you to join us by participating in our Holiday Wishes program.

With your help, how many children can we impact this year? **Please contact us at:**

512.834.4756

holidaywishes@partnershipsforchildren.org

GET INVOLVED:

- SPONSOR a child by purchasing items from their wish list
- MAKE a donation and we will shop for you
- DONATE general gifts for children that are not matched with community donors
- ✓ ORGANIZE a drive to collect gifts commonly requested on children's wish lists

Thank you for your support!

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BEST ANAGRAMS

PRESBYTERIAN When you rearrange the letters: BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER When you rearrange the letters: MOON STARER

DESPERATION When you rearrange the letters: A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES When you rearrange the letters: THEY SEE

THE MORSE CODE When you rearrange the letters: HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY When you rearrange the letters: DIRTY ROOM

SLOT MACHINES When you rearrange the letters: CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY When you rearrange the letters: IS NO AMITY

SNOOZE ALARMS When you rearrange the letters: ALAS! NO MORE Z'S

A DECIMAL POINT When you rearrange the letters: I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES When you rearrange the letters: THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO When you rearrange the letters: TWELVE PLUS ONE

ELECTION RESULTS When you rearrange the letters: LIES – LET'S RECOUNT

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