



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

May 2013

Volume 9, Number 5

BOARD MESSAGE

Safety Tips

Around the Home: Many of us will be gone for some period of time in the coming summer months and sometimes we forget to make arrangements for newspapers and mail. If you know your neighbors are out of town or simply notice that newspapers or mail/deliveries are accumulating on porches or driveways, please consider collecting and keeping these items for the homeowners until they return. Left in the driveway or collecting on a front porch, they serve as a tip-off that the homeowners are not home and are an invitation for trouble. Neighbors can also help each other out by keeping an eye out for strangers wandering through back yards or between houses.

In the Park: If you see any boats, cars, 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, car or person(s), especially powerboats trying to get into our pond area. Powerboats do not belong in the pond. If you see someone walk or drive in and do not know who they are, it is perfectly "ok" for you to ask them if they live in the neighborhood. If you are not comfortable doing this or aren't sure what to do, call the police and let them check it out.

While residents need not be fearful, it is good to be watchful and proactive about your personal safety and that of our community. Report any information or concerns you have to our Security Committee Chairman, (Jim Lloyd jilloyd@austin.rr.com or any Board member you may know. The Board is currently looking into further ways to increase security in the Park, and among the best defensive weapons we have are alert residents.

Finally, as a community, we are very fortunate to have the

(Continued on Page 2)

Gate Code Change Coming Soon

BE ON THE LOOKOUT for a new Park gate code coming to you sometime in May. The new code will be effective beginning Monday, June 3rd. To save on mailing costs, we are sending it to residents via the broadcast email system. This means that the new code will get to everyone for whom we have email addresses. If you do not receive an email from us with the new gate code sometime this month, it is either because we do not have your current email address or were not given one. In this case, you may contact any Board member or email only our property manager, Marilyn Childress, and simply let them know. If you provide an email address, the code will be sent to your email address as soon as possible. If you do not have email or simply do not wish to share your email address, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Marilyn Childress, or a Board member and the code will be mailed to you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Courtyard Homeowners' Association Board of Directors

REMINDER



**Courtyard Neighborhood Garage Sale to
be held on Sat., May 4th
(Rain Day – May 11th)!**

Call Joany Price (775-8942) or Dana Ivers
(497-0642) with any questions.

COURTYARD CALLER

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11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227
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SUB-HOA CONTACTS

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Thomas Hoy..... 231-1270
..... Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com
Wolf Court:
Tim Sullivan..... 346-3146
..... tsullivan@austin.rr.com

Board Message- (Continued from Cover Page)

ownership and use of a private park on beautiful Bull Creek. "Private" means just that – it is not open to the public. Access to enjoy the trails, playscape, picnic areas, dock, and pond area is a privilege as well as an added benefit to Courtyard homeowners. If friends and/or family (not living in the Courtyard home) of a resident wish to enjoy the use of the Park, the resident must be present and personally provide the access. We have had many instances of nonresidents coming into the Park unaccompanied by a homeowner. When asked if they lived there, the answer has been something like, "no, but our friend lives here and he/she/they said it was okay for us to come down." With this in mind, please keep in mind that the code to our park gate is NOT to be given out to anyone who is not a resident of the Courtyard. Although trespassers can still walk into the Park, at least we can make it less convenient for them by not letting them drive in.

**WE WISH YOU ALL A SAFE AND HAPPY
SUMMER! PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY IN
THE COURTYARD! !**

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Courtyard Book Club

*Tuesday, June 4th
1 p.m. in the Courtyard Club*

In June the book club will read *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie. This acclaimed novel deals with India's transition from British colonialism to independence. *Midnight's Children* was awarded the "Best of the Booker" award as a celebration of the 40th anniversary of this award given annually for the best novel written in the Commonwealth and Ireland.

The title comes from the children who were born in India at the stroke of midnight on the date that India became independent in 1947. The plot is revealed through the eyes of one of these children, Saleem Sinai. When Saleem convenes a conference of all these children, the issues mirror the complexities of the new state: differences in language, political views, religion. The book has a fantastical element as children possess special powers. Saleem attempts to find the significance of the group's special gifts. The experiences of Saleem and his family follow the history of post-colonial India, including wars and the separation of Pakistan from India. One reader described the book as "a true and beautiful picture of a newly born country in the form of its children."

In July, reading *The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt*, by T.J. Stiles will bring a change of time and place. Stiles sheds light on Vanderbilt's leadership in expanding railroad transportation and in establishing the modern corporation. *The First Tycoon* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for biography in 2010 and the National Book Award in 2009.



Easter Celebration in the Park

The annual Easter celebration in the Park, held on Saturday, March 30, was a huge success as always! Dawn and Greg Lanier, Stephanie Giancola, and Joany and Lewis Price hid approximately 800 eggs for the traditional, and always favorite, egg hunt. In addition there was a hoola hoop contest, sack races, three piñatas for the three age groups represented, and of course an appearance by the Easter Bunny herself (Joany's daughter, Madeline)! The refreshments, supervised by Sherry and Ron Cass, included cookies, cupcakes, apples, bananas and bottled water. Attendees, totaling 75 to 80, included kids, parents, grandparents, and dogs. All had a great time and everyone went home with a full basket!

Many thanks to Joany Price for planning and organizing this fun family event!



"Three year old, Lila Kovacs, hunts for Easter eggs"

Seeking Volunteers for Fire Safety Committee!!!

With the hot dry summer coming soon, the on-going drought, and the constant threat of wildfires, we are looking for volunteers to establish a Fire Safety Committee for the Courtyard neighborhood. It is clear that the threat of a wildfire in our area is very real (see "Austin Program Cuts Risk of Wildfires" and "Austin City Council Passes Items to Increase Wildfire Protection" in this issue). Michael Levy, Public Safety Commissioner, told KVUE News that "Austin has dodged a bullet for years. The Forest Service has said that we're one of the one or two urban areas that are at the highest risk." Of particular concern are neighborhoods along Highway 360 in Northwest Austin and Jester Estates off 2222 because the homes in these areas are surrounded by large amounts of brush and often have only one way in and out of the neighborhood. "Unless we get real serious, real fast, we're going to lose 10,000 homes in basically an instant," Levy said.

The work of the Committee will be to put together a fire safety plan for the Courtyard neighborhood at large. As a consequence of the City of Austin's efforts in this area, some monies could potentially be available to assist in doing necessary work to make our common areas less susceptible to wildfires. Additionally, the Committee will encourage and assist residents to complete the same for their personal home and property. Jim Gattis, who was responsible for bringing us the fire safety talk last summer, has graciously volunteered to be our first chairman. Please contact Jim (512-349-2856 or bgattis1@austin.rr.com) if you are interested and/or can help in any way!

Please help protect our neighborhood!

<http://www.kvue.com/news/Austin-City-Council-passes-items-to-increase-wildfire-protection-196213751.html>

Here is a link to "an easy-to-use application that brings together a variety of checklists and fire tools, and gives them to you in a manageable, timely, and actionable form".

<http://www.prepared.ly>



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Austin City Council Passes Items to Increase Wildfire Protection

by ASHLEY GOUDEAU / KVUE News

The landscape off Loop 360 is serene, it's downtown Austin's backyard, but the juniper and cedar trees that blanket the area are fuel. The area has been identified by the Austin Firefighters Association as one of the most volatile wildfire areas in the city.

"If anything caught in this neighborhood, it would be a very tragic event," said Ross Beal. Beal is a waiter at Maudie's Tex Mex in the area and also did carpentry on homes in the area for ten years. "If a wildfire did start in that neighborhood I've always thought that it could be really bad because the trees cross the streets and it could block off one of the few exits that they do actually have," Beal said.

With the memory of the Bastrop wildfires of 2011 still fresh on the minds of Central Texans, the Austin City Council approved four items to protect the city from wildfire. The first two items involve spending \$100,000 to create a wildfire protection plan.

"That \$100,000 will connect up, marry up with the county, Travis

(Continued on Page 5)

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(Continued from Page 4)

County, for another \$100,000 to put together a \$200,000 plan that will lay out our areas of highest hazard, it will help us prioritize where our hazards are and it will help with some mitigation solutions," said Austin Fire Department Wildfire Mitigator Jim Linardos.

Those solutions could include more training for firefighters and clearing brush near homes.

Austin City Council also approved the creation of two new AFD positions called wildfire prevention captains. "These two captains will help us coordinate, work more together, work smarter with our money and stretch the dollars," said Linardos.

Linardos said the department hopes to have the captains hired by the end of March.

The final measure Austin City Council approved was a five-year deal with Texas A&M Forest Service that allows the city to buy firefighting equipment at a lower cost.

"We need a state or federal partner, as a city, and once we have that state partner, which is the Texas A&M Forest Service, then we can buy things through GSA which is really for federal government. It allows us in that area, arena to purchase," Linardos said.

Linardos said the deal will save the City tens of thousands of dollars over the term of the contract. It will also makes Austin eligible to receive state and federal funds for firefighting.

Austin Program Cuts Risk of Wildfires

by KRIS BETTS / KVUE News

For the first time in history, the Austin City Council has approved a year-round project meant to cut down our risk of wildfires. The project, called the Wildfire Mitigation Fund, designates nearly \$1 million to pay for research and maintenance to remove wildfire "fuels," otherwise known as brush. Technically, Austin should be coming out of winter wildfire season and into "spring green up," however, the on-going drought has created hazardous fire conditions.

"You're still seeing all of the dead fuels that are sitting on top of the spring growth that's starting to come out," said Chief Thayer Smith with the Austin Fire Department.

Due to high winds and dry conditions, AFD responded to 21 brush and grass fires on one day alone. The goal of the Wildfire Mitigation Fund is to try and prevent future fires from spreading. "We've got to be proactive, not reactive," Smith said.

Public Safety Commissioner Michael Levy told KVUE he believes the new Wildfire Mitigation Fund is absolutely critical. "Unless we get real serious, real fast, we're going to lose 10,000 homes in basically an instant." Levy said the conditions now are similar to those in Bastrop in 2011. "Austin has dodged a bullet for years. The Forest Service has said that we're one of the one or two urban areas that are at the highest risk," he said.

The Jester Estates community off 2222 and Highway 360 in Northwest Austin will be one of the first areas addressed by the mitigation fund, because homes there are surrounded by large amounts of brush.

"The worry is that once you get a fire in this type of fuel, it spreads to the cedar trees or the bigger fuels and will really get a fire going," said Smith. The fund will allow firefighters to remove dangerous undergrowth before it sparks a disaster. Crews are expected to begin prescribed burns to get rid of the brush in several demonstration zones by September.



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Why God Made Moms

(Answers given by 2nd grade school children)

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom like me.

What kind of a little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

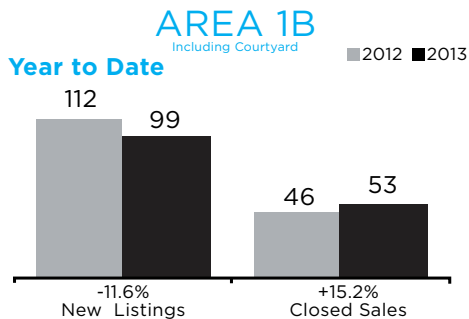
1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.

(Continued on Page 8)

April Showers...



Bring May Sales!



Joany Price

Realtor, CLHMS

**Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member**



609 Castle Ridge Road, Ste. 400 • Austin, TX 78746
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jprice@cbunited.com • www.cbunited.com/Joany.Price



I am happy to announce Dawn has teamed up with me to better serve the Courtyard community.

Dawn Bohls Lanier
512-914-2072 • dlanier@cbunited.com

COURTYARD CALLER

(Continued from Page 6)

2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friends.
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.



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The Month of **MAY**

May is the fifth month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars, and one of seven months with a length of 31 days. May is a month of spring in the Northern Hemisphere and autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. No other month begins or ends on the same day of the week as May in any year. The month May was named for the Greek goddess Maia, who was identified with the Roman era goddess of fertility, Bona Dea, whose festival was held in May. Conversely, the Roman poet Ovid provides a second etymology, in which he says that the month of May is named for the majores, Latin for "elders," and that the following month (June) is named for the juniores, or "young people."

May Birthstone: Emerald

May's birthstone is the emerald, which means love or success. Emerald is a gemstone, and a variety of the mineral beryl, colored green by trace amounts of chromium and sometimes vanadium. Emeralds are green by definition (the name is derived from the Greek word 'smaragdus', meaning green). Colombia is by far the world's largest producer of emeralds, constituting 50–95% of the world production. Zambia is the world's second biggest producer. Zambian emeralds are of very high quality, being less porous and brittle than Colombian emeralds, with more even color. Emeralds are found all over the world in countries from Afghanistan to the United States.

May Birth Flower: Lily of the Valley

Convallaria majalis, commonly known as the Lily of the Valley, is a poisonous woodland flowering plant native throughout the cool temperate Northern Hemisphere in Asia, Europe and in the southern Appalachian Mountains in the United States. All parts of the plant are highly poisonous, including the red berries, which may be attractive to children. If ingested—even in small amounts—the plant can cause abdominal pain, vomiting, and a reduced heart rate. In the "language of flowers," the lily of the valley signifies the return of happiness. Legend tells of the affection of a lily of the valley for a nightingale that did not come back to the woods until the flower bloomed in May. Convallaria majalis is a popular garden plant, grown for its scented flowers and for its ground-covering abilities in shady locations. It has gained the Royal Horticultural's Award of Garden Merit. In favorable conditions it can form large colonies. Various kinds and cultivars are grown, including those with double flowers, rose-colored flowers, variegated foliage and ones that grow larger than the typical species.

(Continued on Page 10)



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(Continued from Page 8)

May Fruits and Veggies:

Apples, bananas, grapefruit, grapes, kiwifruit, watermelon, figs, lemons, persimmons, beanshoots, broccoli, carrot, cauliflower, mushrooms, potatoes, pumpkin, spring onion, turnip

May Holidays:

May is Date Your Mate Month, Foster Care Month, National Barbecue Month, National Bike Month, National Blood Pressure Month, National Hamburger Month, National Photograph Month, National Recommitment Month, National Salad Month, Older Americans Month

Tuesday, May 7, 2013 National Teacher Day

Sunday, May 12, 2013 Mother's Day

Saturday, May 18, 2013 Armed Forces Day

Monday, May 27, 2013 Memorial Day



My Favorite Animal

by a young boy

Our teacher asked me what my favorite animal was, and I said, "Fried chicken." She said I wasn't funny, but she couldn't have been right, because everyone else laughed. My parents told me to always tell the truth. I did. Fried chicken is my favorite animal. I told my dad what happened, and he said my teacher was probably a member of PETA. He said they love animals very much. I do, too. Especially chicken, pork and beef. Anyway, my teacher sent me to the principal's office. I told him what happened, and he laughed, too. Then he told me not to do it again. The next day in class my teacher asked me what my favorite live animal was. I told her it was chicken. She asked me why, so I told her it was because you could make them into fried chicken. She sent me back to the principal's office. He laughed, and told me not to do it again. I don't understand. My parents taught me to be honest, but my teacher doesn't like it when I am. Today, my teacher asked me to tell her what famous person I admired most. I told her, "Colonel Sanders." Guess where I am now...

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.



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May 18: Colin's Hope Got2Swim Pure Austin Quarry Lake. <http://www.tinych.org/QuarryLake>



Water Safety Alert: 74 Texas children drowned last year. Keep your children and families safe in, near and around all bodies of water. Multiple layers of protection can prevent drowning.

LAYERS OF PROTECTION



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May 2013 Austin Community Events

3 80's Rock Concert in the Park
www.cedarparktexas.gov

7-18 National Wildflower Week
www.wildflower.org

3-5 Central Texas Air Show
www.centraltexasairshow.com

10-11 Pachanga Latino Music Festival
www.pachangafest.com

4 Chuy's Hot to Trot 5K & KIDK
www.chuys.com

19 Viva Streets Festival
www.vivastreetsaustin.org

4-5 Old Pecan Street Festival
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