



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

July 2013

Volume 9, Number 7

Celebrate The Fourth Of July In The Courtyard

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2013

PARADE AT 10:15 AM

Join us at 10:00 am at Parade Ridge and Courtyard Drive

We will line up behind the Fire Truck and march to the Park

Decorate your bike or wagon and join in the fun

Grab a kazoo and march in the one and only
Courtyard Marching Kazoo Band

Add balloons to the stroller and walk with the
Stroller Brigade

Picnic In The Park !

Wear your bathing suits for the

SLIP & SLIDE

Don't miss the clown, face painting, balloon
animals, and the Moonwalk

Enjoy hot dogs, lemonade, chips & watermelon

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT !!!!

Parade Route: Starts at Parade Ridge and Courtyard Drive then
proceeds to Scout Island Circle South. Turns left on Tom Wooten
then right on Scout Island Circle North and on to the Park.

COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2013

1 P.M. AT THE COURTYARD CLUB

The book selection for August is *Thinking Fast, Thinking Slow* by Daniel Kahneman. In 2002, Kahneman, an Israeli-American economist and psychologist, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics. He and his collaborator in research, Amos Tversky, have been called the "Lew and Clark of the mind." Through their research, they assign human thinking processes to either of two "systems." System one is what we do without consciously thinking about our actions. System two includes deliberative thinking such as when we consider what we will wear, or which item we will buy.

This title was placed on the "Best of the Year list" in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, and The Economist and was awarded the Best Science Book of 2012 by the National Academy of Sciences. One admiring reviewer describes the book this way: "The adage 'you are what you eat' is no doubt literally true, but when it comes to getting at the heart of what we are it is certainly more accurate to say 'you are what you think'; for our identity emerges out of the life of the mind, and our decisions and actions (including what we eat) is determined by our thoughts."

In September, the group will read *The Texicans* by Nina Vida. This novel with larger than life characters is set in the period just before Texas Statehood.

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



COURTYARD CALLER

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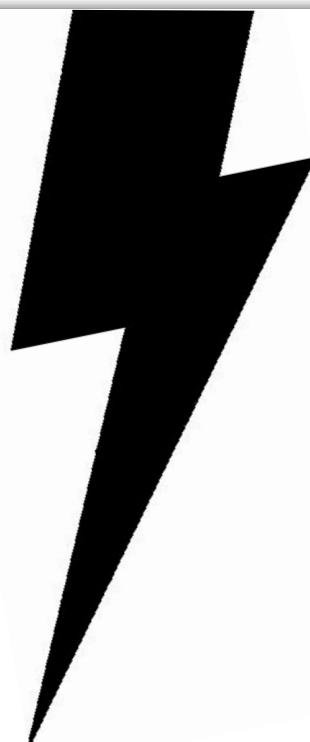
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Installation of Underground Electric Facilities

In case you were wondering, the City of Austin is not drilling for oil at our entrance...AUSTIN ENERGY, however, is working on installing underground electric facilities in the area of the Courtyard entrance off of Capital of Texas Hwy. The entire project should be completed within 2 months if all goes well.



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TRIMMING TREES

As a reminder, all home owners are responsible for keeping plant materials (shrubs and trees) on their property that extend over public sidewalks and streets trimmed to a height of not less than seven feet (7') per the Courtyard deed restrictions and not less than fourteen feet (14') per City Code. Please make the effort to take a good look at your trees and see if there are some branches over sidewalks or streets that could use a trim.

TRIMMING LIVE OAK TREES

July 1 through January 31 is the best time to trim Live Oak trees in Texas

Beginning July 1 and continuing through January 31 is the best time of the year to trim Live Oak trees in Texas to avoid oak wilt. Oak wilt, one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States, is killing oak trees in central Texas at epidemic proportions. Oak wilt is an infectious disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which invades and disables the water-conducting system in susceptible trees. All oaks are susceptible to oak wilt to some degree, but some species are affected more than others. The successful management of oak wilt depends on correct diagnosis and an understanding of how the pathogen spreads between different oak species. If you have any questions or concerns about your oak trees, need additional information or guidelines for proper pruning of Live Oak trees, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from a city, county or state government agency such as the Texas A&M Forest Service or Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.



MODERN PATRIOTISM

By Scott O., University Place, WA

What makes a patriot? People through the ages have carried out both horrible and wonderful acts under the banner of patriotism. How then are we to define it? The concept of patriotism is just as debated and relevant today as it was during the Civil War. If our nation is to survive its current challenges, the definition of a true patriot must be clear.

So, what is true patriotism? Only 57 percent of U.S. citizens over 18 described themselves as either "extremely" or "very" patriotic in a study by AARP. Can our nation really survive on 57 percent? I believe these shoddy ratings are the result of widespread misuse of the term "patriot." Many believe patriotism to be blind obedience to one's nation. Samuel Johnson, one of the most quoted European writers in history, said, "Patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." Are patriots really just a bunch of yes-men who bow to the president's every whim? If so, one wonders how we have managed to remain a democracy all these years.

I have to disagree with Johnson. I prefer to quote Carl Schurz, the German revolutionary and, later, American political scientist who said, "My country...if right, to be kept right; and if wrong, to be set right." Schurz's idea of patriotism is often referred to today as "loyal opposition." This means seeking to change the social behavior of your country out of feelings of national love and patriotic duty. Loyal opposition is not the blind obedience of the uninformed and ignorant but rather active and sensible reconstruction of a system that one believes to be essentially good but critically flawed.

As a student at a somewhat liberal school in an exceedingly liberal state, I constantly find myself annoyed when my peers talk about "moving to Canada" or some other nonsense. My response? "Go ahead. Please move to Canada. It'll be much easier for the rest of us to fix things without your constant whining." While some may consider this harsh, I invite anyone who can't see the good in America, despite her blemishes, to leave. We must love our country enough to stay and work to change it for the better. We must follow the example of civil rights activist James Baldwin, who said, "I love America more than any other country in this world, and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually." He and other members of the then-loyal opposition understood that the desire to change America is itself a demonstration of one's love for the nation.

Some say that there is little reason to love America. I don't believe any rational person would accept this. Sure, our country has made mistakes throughout history, but while the ethics behind some of these decisions were admittedly murky, it is not right to blame the entire nation for a few morally ambiguous politicians. After all, think of the many wonderful contributions America has made to the world. The cotton gin, steamboat, cylinder printing press, telephone, light bulb, gasoline-powered car, and even air conditioning were American inventions. The first slave to patent an invention did so in America, and the modern rocket was developed here. The first flight across the Atlantic took off from America. Think of where the world would be now were it not for this country. Despite our achievements, it is important that we not lose sight of the big picture. Part of loyal opposition in modern America is a long-term world view. We must look into the future and decide what role we will play in it. As Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana said, "A man's feet must be planted in his country, but his eyes should survey the world." Many third-world nations receive regular and crucial support from America. Our relationship with China will become more significant as that country's wealth and power grow. It will take the practical investment of time and resources by loyal activists to ensure America's continued prosperity.

In the words of Norman Thomas, "If you want a symbolic gesture, don't burn the flag; wash it."

Nationality, Identity, and the Pledge of Allegiance

By Moni Basu, CNN

Atlanta (CNN) – When the moment finally arrived, 86 of us stood up to utter 31 sacred words. I raised my right hand. My heart was pounding. All those years spent in public schools in America, I'd refrained from saying the Pledge of Allegiance. It was wrong to say it when my loyalties lay elsewhere.

But that changed with a ceremony on a July day five years ago. And it changed me. I learned lessons about the meaning of country and more importantly, about myself. I'd been in America almost three decades but happily retained an Indian passport. Over the years, each time it was renewed, my green card changed to pink and white but the status remained the same: permanent U.S. resident. I'd lived here so long that I felt just as much American as I did Indian, but I had my reasons for not taking that last formal step that made my Americanness official.

One was practical – there was a matter of inheriting my father's property in Kolkata, India, and for a long time, that process was excruciatingly painful without Indian citizenship. My father knew what a bureaucratic nightmare inheritance could be, and as long as he was alive, he encouraged me to stay an Indian. The other reason I held back was far more personal. India does not allow dual citizenship with the United States, and assuming U.S. citizenship would effectively mean renouncing India. That felt like betrayal, a severance with the land that gave me birth and shaped me.

I spent a chunk of my childhood in India. When my family finally settled in the United States, I struggled to find myself. I learned to speak English well, even with a twinge of Southern drawl, some would say. I went to high school dances and loved my Levi's and even went out on dates, something I would never have done in India at that time. But I never felt fully accepted. I was always an "other" on forms that asked for race and ethnicity, before the days when Asian-American became a census category.

In high school and college, I found myself fighting stereotypes and answering absurd questions about India, such as "do people live in grass huts?" Sometimes, I felt Americans simply didn't understand me and that everything would be better if I could just go back to India. The yearning for home and family grew stronger with age, especially after my parents moved back to India in 1985. I felt a need to rediscover my roots, not uncommon, I suppose, among immigrant children. But every time I returned home to visit, I realized I could never feel fully at home in India anymore. I was too Americanized. A memsahib, the elders in my family joked, referring to the term for British women during colonial times.

That, too, is not uncommon among immigrant children. Many of us feel neither here nor there, straddling two cultures as we navigate key years of our lives. In my case, I was happy to go on as a citizen of one country, a resident of another. I paid my taxes and enjoyed all the freedoms afforded Americans save two things. I never served on a jury and more importantly, I could not vote. I never had an electoral say in India either because it did not allow absentee voting. I hailed from the world's largest democracy and lived in the world's most powerful one, but was unable to take part in a free society's most essential expression. I always felt cheated, or worse, that I was falling short.

In 2004, I covered the presidential elections for an Atlanta newspaper, and after months of excitement and intrigue I was frustrated that I could not cast a ballot on Election Day. By then I had cleared the biggest legal

hurdles in India in settling my father's property. And so it happened that I sat down to fill out the necessary forms declaring my intent to become American. I was fingerprinted, passed citizenship tests that challenged my knowledge of the Constitution and was finally called to take the oath in July 2008.

At the suburban Atlanta offices of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, I scanned the room to see faces from Vietnam to Venezuela. There were people from 38 different countries there that day for the naturalization ceremony. I thought back to all the people I had met in my career as a reporter, of people who fought for freedom in lands that kept them caged, and others who clawed their way to these shores to break free. I remembered Cuban dissenters I had met on my trip to Havana, and Afghan women who risked their lives to make things better for their little girls.

Today, all we have to do is look to the men and women of the Arab Spring, who took to the streets to oust governments that kept them down. Think of how much people risk to attain the kind of freedom we enjoy in America. And how much people in our own country have struggled to rid our society of prejudice and persecution. My naturalization ceremony was testament to the American spirit. I looked around me and realized that this wasn't just about the journeys people had made; it was about the potential of all they could achieve in their new nation. I thought about the Americans I'd met who worked hard, determined to achieve the American dream; about how their expectations were greater than their fears.

On that July day, I felt proud, and extremely lucky, to be a part of this land. I glanced at Francisco Montiel of Venezuela, standing to my right, dressed for the occasion in a khaki suit and blue tie. And on my left stood my friend Vino Wong, a photographer for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution newspaper and a native of Malaysia. I wondered what they were thinking as they, too, became U.S. citizens. Did they have the same emotions I did? Was their joy tinged with the melancholy of giving up a homeland?

My eyes welled as I began the oath. "I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen; that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same."

Two worlds collided in my head as I drove to the Fulton County Courthouse with my new certificate of citizenship so that I could register to vote in time for the 2008 presidential elections. That November, America made history with the election of Barack Obama as its first black president. The election became an important part of my own history as I stepped up to a voting booth and cast a ballot for the very first time.

Since then, I've come to think differently of my new citizenship. I know now that swearing allegiance to the red, white and blue gave me new nationality. But nothing can ever take away my identity or that of the 40 million other people living in America who were born in other countries. My Indian roots run deep, and I strive to carry with me every day the very best of two lands.

That is, after all, what makes America great.



Joany Price *Realtor, CLHMS*

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*



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Annual CityWorks Academy

Apply for annual CityWorks Academy Jun4 – July 29, 2013

The City of Austin has begun accepting applications from the community for the fifth-annual CityWorks Academy. Application deadline is July 29. The academy is another opportunity for Austin residents to get involved in local government and learn first-hand about the programs and services the City provides, directly from the people who deliver them. Participants will have the chance to learn the “A to Z” of City operations in 11 to 12 weekly sessions designed to give a hands-on, behind-the-scenes look at their City government.

Classes will be from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17 through Nov. 26, at various City facilities. CityWorks Academy will be led by City of Austin Executive Team members, Department Directors and other City staff who will share information about the City’s operations and discuss key issues facing our community. Mayor Lee Leffingwell and other members of the Austin City Council will also participate in CityWorks Academy sessions. CityWorks Academy applications are available online at www.austintexas.gov/cityworks; at Austin City Hall, 301 W. Second St. (third floor reception area); or by calling (512) 974-2969. CityWorks Academy is limited to 30 participants. Since the program’s beginning in 2009, more than 100 Austin residents have graduated from the academy and several have gone on to serve on City boards and committees. Each year the City has received more than 250 applications for the program’s 30 spots.



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Natural Highs

Think about each of them slowly, one at a time, before going on to the next.

- Laughing so hard your face hurts
- A hot shower
- No lines at the supermarket
- Getting mail
- Taking a drive on a pretty road
- Hearing your favorite song on the radio
- Lying in bed listening to the rain outside
- Hot towels fresh out of the dryer
- Chocolate milkshake (vanilla, strawberry)
- A bubble bath
- Giggling
- A good conversation
- The beach
- Finding a 20 dollar bill in your coat from last winter
- Laughing at yourself
- Looking into their eyes and knowing they love you
- Running through sprinklers
- Laughing for absolutely no reason at all
- Having someone tell you that you're beautiful
- Laughing at an inside joke with true friends
- Accidentally overhearing someone say something nice about you
- Waking up and realizing you still have a few hours left to sleep
- Making new friends or spending time with old ones
- Playing with a new puppy
- Having someone play with your hair
- Sweet dreams
- Hot chocolate
- Road trips with friends
- Swinging on swings
- Making chocolate chip cookies
- Holding hands with someone you care about
- Watching the expression on someone's face as they open a much desired present from you
- Knowing that somebody misses you
- Getting a hug from someone you care about deeply
- Knowing you've done the right thing, no matter what other people think
- Watching the sunrise
- Watching the sunset
- Getting out of bed every morning and being grateful for another beautiful day

Austin Animal Center Not Accepting Animals

The Austin Animal Center for the first time in its history is not accepting animals surrendered by owners. The Animal Center is over capacity by more than 100 kennels for both dogs and cats. The shelter has more than 1,000 pets available for adoption and is currently experiencing a low adoption rate. The center has reached out to all its rescue partners and organizations for assistance. Many of these groups are doing what they can, but they too are in a similar situation with a high inventory of abandoned pets. The City and its partner, Austin Pets Alive, are hoping that the public will step up to help keep Austin no-kill by saving a life. The Center is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information check www.austininanimalcenter.org or call 3-1-1.

THE MONTH OF JULY

July is the seventh month of the year in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and one of seven months with the length of 31 days. It was named by the Roman Senate in honor of the Roman general, Julius Caesar, it being the month of his birth. It is, on average, the warmest month in most of the Northern hemisphere (where it is the 2nd month of summer) and the coldest month in much of the Southern hemisphere (where it is the 2nd month of winter).

Birthstone: Ruby - A ruby is a pink to blood-red colored gemstone, a variety of the mineral corundum. The red color is caused mainly by the presence of the element chromium. Its name comes from *ruber*, Latin for red. Other varieties of gem-quality corundum are called sapphires. The ruby is considered one of the four precious stones, together with the sapphire, the emerald, and the diamond. Prices of rubies are primarily determined by color. The brightest and most valuable "red" called pigeon blood-red, commands a large premium over other rubies of similar quality. Rubies can be found in Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Tanzania, Cambodia, Afghanistan and India.

Birth Flower: Larkspur - July's birth flower is larkspur. Larkspur can refer to any one of 300 species of perennial flowering plants in the delphinium family, as well as to their close cousins in the *consolida* family. Its genus name, *delphinium*, comes from the Greek word for dolphin, because the plant was said to resemble a dolphin's nose. The flowers grow in groups along a single stalk, much like gladioli, and range in color from whites and yellows to deep reds, blues, and purples. Each flower has five petals and a protruding center – its "spur." Larkspur is poisonous if ingested, and is responsible for many cattle deaths in areas where it grows wild in pastures. It is also said to have medicinal and magical properties, and has been used to cure eye diseases, asthma, dropsy, and head lice. During the Victorian era, flowers came to have a language of their own. People used them to send messages they wouldn't otherwise speak aloud. According to this language, pink larkspur symbolizes fickleness, white larkspur symbolizes joy, and purple larkspur normally represents a first love.

July Fruits and Veggies: Cucumbers, tomatoes, summer squash, corn, green beans, lettuce, watermelon, strawberries, cantaloupe, blueberries, peaches, apricots, kiwi, raspberries, plums

July Holidays: National Blueberry Month; National Anti-Boredom Month; Unlucky Month for weddings; National Cell Phone Courtesy Month; National Hot Dog Month; National Ice Cream Month, Independence Day.



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