



Courtyard Caller

OFFICIAL COURTYARD NEWSLETTER

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

November 2010

Volume 6, Number 11

Board Message

Hard to believe another whole year is almost over. It seems like we just had an annual meeting and at least one of us just barely got the holiday decorations put away. Nonetheless, the calendar says it's November and, indeed, we are being inundated with political ads, end of year tax bills are arriving in the mail, Christmas music is already playing in malls, and turkeys are running for cover. Yep – must be November. That means it's time to 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.

During this month, which helps us to focus on the many good things in our lives, the Board wishes to extend its heartfelt appreciation to all those individuals and families in our neighborhood who give so generously of their time and talents throughout the year to help make the Courtyard such a special community in which to live. Thank you to all those who organize and help put on Easter egg hunts, garage sales,

(Continued on Page 2)

Book Club

Tuesday, November 9 at 1 p.m. – Courtyard Tennis and Swim Club

"How did America begin?" This November, in keeping with the history and tradition of Thanksgiving, the Courtyard Book Club will consider Nathaniel Philbrick's exploration of this question in his award winning book, *Mayflower*.

While all Americans learn as school children about the landing at Plymouth in 1620 and the sharing of a feast of Thanksgiving with Indians in the year after, there is much more to the story. Unfortunately, what occurred in the colonies after that first Thanksgiving and before the American Revolution over 150 years later has not been as well publicized.

With the passing of the first generation of colonists and leaders of the local Indian tribe (Wampanoag) between 1657 and 1660, the personal bonds which had maintained peace between these two very different groups were broken. Ultimately, the colonists' hunger for land and their heavy-handed treatment of the natives led to "King Philip's War" in 1675 -- one of the most disastrous wars in American history. "King Philip's War" decimated both the populations of pilgrims and natives – destroyed families and communities and left both settlers and natives facing disease and starvation throughout New England. It took decades for the colonists to recover from the loss of life, the property damage, and the huge military expenditures. Entire families of native people were sold into slavery abroad; others were forced to become servants locally. The Wampanoag had to adapt aspects of their culture to survive, and their political independence ended.

In a refreshingly readable narrative, Philbrick reveals the harsh reality of the colonists' sixty-five day voyage to the New World and the struggle for survival that followed. Previous settlement efforts had been attempted by explorers, noblemen, craftsmen, and their servants seeking land and wealth. How this colony was able to succeed against all odds is a story of the best and worst in nature and humanity. Publisher's Weekly calls *Mayflower* "... a remarkably sensitive account: 21st century readers could ask for no more insightful reinterpretation of America's founding myth." For information about the Courtyard Book Club, call or email Jean Heath (512) 231-9412; heathcjb@yahoo.com

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Karen Johnson.....	343-2420
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COMMITTEES

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Diana Apgar	415-9412
Community Park	
Jim Reed.....	502-8511
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Joany Price.....	775-8942
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Compliance	
Karen Johnson	343-2420
Kayak Committee	
Waneen Spirduso	345-5078
Area Development and Zoning Liaison	
Bill Meredith	345-0593

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Goodwin Management: Marilyn Childress
11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227
512-502-7509

SUB-HOA CONTACTS

Center Court:	
Ryan Duffin.....	626-5905
Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")	
Allan Nilsson	346-8432
.....	arnilsson@earthlink.net
Villas at Courtyard:	
Thomas Hoy.....	231-1270
.....	Thomas.Hoy@freescall.com
Wolf Court:	
Tim Sullivan.....	346-3146
.....	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

Board Message - (Continued from Cover Page)

holiday picnics, and kayak/canoe rides; to the walkers who stop to pick up trash from our streets and yards; to the thoughtful neighbors who bring in a neighbor's newspaper, mail, or garbage can; to our wonderful "green thumbs" who help maintain our Park; to the ones who make our notice signs magically appear and disappear; to our handyman types who are always taking care of "little" problems that need fixing, who monitor our common area sprinklers to minimize water bills, and who keep our entrance lights shining brightly; and to those who continuously monitor pending actions of state and local governments and interact with area neighborhood groups so that we can better assess and take action on matters impacting our neighborhood. A final and HUGE SALUTE is in order to all those who have stepped up in the aftermath of the terrible September flood that caused so much damage to the environment around our Community. As is described in the Restoration report, residents contributions have allowed us to accomplish so much for so little in such a short time.

Finally, to every individual who makes the effort to drive the speed limit and encourages others to do so as they travel through our neighborhood streets – thank you and please keep up your good efforts. *Best wishes to all for a happy and safe Thanksgiving!*

Your Courtyard Homeowners Association Board of Directors

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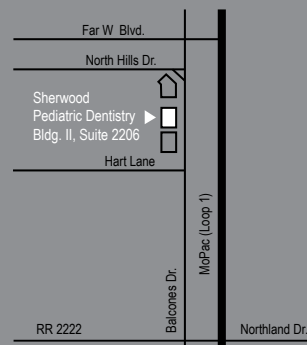
OFFICE HOURS

Convenient office hours are

Monday 9 am - 5 pm

Tuesday – Thursday 8 am - 5 pm

Fridays are reserved for surgical procedures.



COURTYARD CALLER

Caller's New Editor !!!

Dear Courtyard Residents,

The purpose of this letter is to briefly introduce myself as the new editor of the *Courtyard Caller* beginning with the December edition.

My husband and I recently returned to Austin, and it is good to be back in what we consider our hometown. Tomas and I both attended the University of Texas at Austin, returned a second time when business allowed us to do so, and have been trying ever since to return on a permanent basis. We moved into the Courtyard last June and are grateful to have found such a warm and welcoming community in which to live. It has been a pleasure getting to know many of our new neighbors, and we look forward to meeting more of you as time goes on.

In the future, please feel free to forward any news, announcements, and/or helpful information to me at cathleenbarrett@hotmail.com or call me at 512-531-9821. If you prefer, you may continue to send things through Leslie, and she'll forward them on to me.

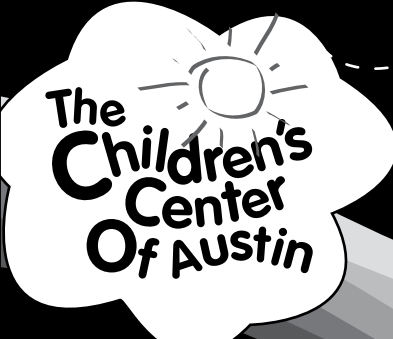
Warm regards, Cathleen Barrett

Citizen Alert - Home Burglaries in NW Hills

Over the last several months, a Northwest Hills neighborhood has been victimized by a suspect or suspects that have been entering homes at night. Most of these burglaries have taken place between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. All of the burglaries have involved the suspects entering through unlocked doors. To capture these criminals, both law enforcement and residents will need to extra vigilant. Austin Police Department's (APD) patrol shifts have been briefed on the nature of the crimes, times of occurrences, and locations where they have taken place. Officers have been directed to document ALL suspicious person calls and direct those reports to the bureau detectives. Although we like to think we are safe once inside our own homes, the reality is that we must remain vigilant and make sure our homes are secure from outsiders. Below are a few tips to help make our homes more secure from these predators.

- Lock all doors and windows. Make it a nightly routine to check every door.
- Look out for your neighbors if you're up late at night or home during the day.
- Install outside lighting. Motion sensing lights at night add an unknown that many intruders would rather not deal with.
- If you have an alarm, use it.
- Report any suspicious behavior to police immediately.
- Request a security survey of your house from your APD district representative.

APD report received in October 2010



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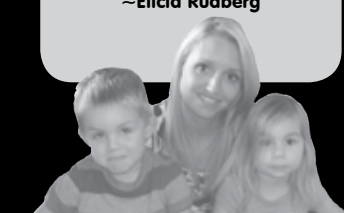
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512-266-6130

Jester
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Building 2
Austin Tx 78750
512-795-8300

Bee Caves
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Austin Tx 78746
512-329-6633

Our time at the Children's Center has been wonderful from the very beginning. I believe this school offers a warm, nurturing environment, while still preparing my twins for the structure of kindergarten. The curriculum is always developmentally appropriate, teaching new skills and strengthening the fine and gross motor skills they are working at perfecting during these preschool years. Almost as important is my kids' enthusiasm for the school. We love the Children's Center!

~Elicia Rudberg



www.childrenscenterofaustin.com



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Community Restoration Work

Members of the Courtyard community have been working hard to restore those areas of the neighborhood hit hardest by the terrible flooding on September 7. To date, we have completed clean-up and restriping of the boat storage area. A hearty group of our resident woodsmen were able to get the Park playscape moved back to its original position, reset its wooden boundary logs (no small feat), and refilled it with the special playscape mulch. Pictures of the aftermath damage and restoration work are being put in the website's Photo Gallery. You can keep tabs on the progress as more pictures are added through the winter and spring.

The Park Committee, lead by Jim Reed, sponsored several Saturday clean-ups in the woodland areas of the Park. Many wonderful and hard working volunteers have showed up to clear natural debris from the paths and carry countless wheelbarrows of mulch to re-cover them, and to collect incredible amounts of manmade trash that was carried in by the floodwaters. Removal of dead wood and branches continues and will go on for some time. If you haven't had a chance to help out at the Park, it's not too late for you to still get in on all the "fun." Just keep at eye out for the workday signs near our entrances, check the news section of the website, or call any Board member or the Park Committee chairman, Jim Reed. We can always use help. If you can't make it to the workdays, you might consider donating to



the restoration cause. Large brown bags are always in demand. The loan of a wheelbarrow or nice sharp clippers and/or a rake is always useful too. Put your name on anything you loan, and we will take good care of it.

Bids are still being collected to rebuild our dock. Input received from many residents has us looking at a design that is shorter in length and lower to the water. Suggestions from members is always welcome so don't hesitate to let a Board member know if you have something

(Continued on Page 7)

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Sonoma Cutrer Russian River chard.....	Was \$26.99.....	Now \$20.99
Cuvaison Chardonnay.....	Was \$26.99.....	Now \$18.99
Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio.....	Was \$26.99.....	Now \$18.99
Mumm Napa Cuvee.....	Was \$24.99.....	Now \$17.99
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Girard Chardonnay.....	Was \$22.99.....	Now \$16.99
Frei Brother's Chardonnay.....	Was \$20.99.....	Now \$14.99
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Twenty Bench Cabernet Sauv.....	Was \$20.99.....	Now \$16.99
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Cline Ancient Vines Zinfandel.....	Was \$18.99.....	Now \$12.99
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Avalon Cabernet Sauvignon.....	Was \$18.99.....	Now \$10.99
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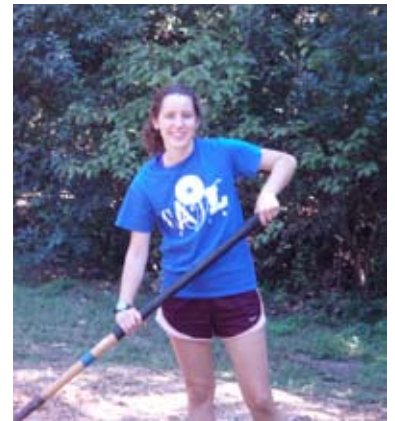
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Community Restoration Work - (Continued from Page 5)

to say about restoration work in our neighborhood. Finally, we are still in discussions with the City of Austin regarding how best to proceed with clearing the debris that is choking the waterway along our shoreline. Consideration is being given to whether it will be possible for us to complete some work when the LCRA lowers the lake level this winter as well as removal by barge and truck after the drawdown period. We will let you know more as more concrete decisions are made.

With their help, we have been to complete restoration of the boat storage area and the playscape and make substantive inroads towards restoring our Park paths and woodlands. Residents continue to lend their valuable support to the work that lies ahead before the Park lagoon and shoreline is restored.



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