

**Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.** 

December 2011

Volume 7, Number 12

### January 29, 2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Please take a moment to mark down a very important upcoming event on your calendars – the Courtyard's annual meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 29, 2012 in the lobby of the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and Scout Island Circle North. Although we would like every resident to attend this meeting, we also understand that it is just not always possible. As we have noted earlier, however, our Declaration mandates that a quorum be present at this meeting so that important homeowner association business can be conducted. For this reason, we urge you to read the written materials when they arrive in January, and sign and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible to help us avoid the costs of rescheduling a second annual meeting.

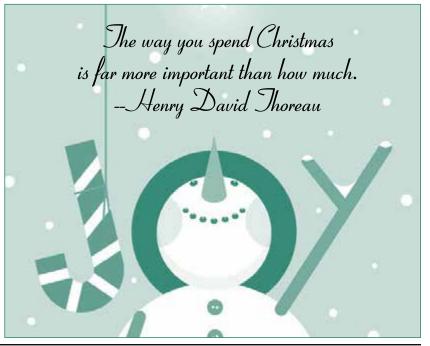
Remember that sending in your proxy early will **not prevent** you from attending the annual meeting in person and voting directly yourself. Further reminders and more information about the annual meeting and voting by proxy will appear in the January newsletter and on the Courtyard's website: www.courtyardhoa.org. If you have any questions, please contact any Board member or our property manager, Marilyn Childress, at Goodwin Management (502-7509). You can also email us through the "Contact Us" page of the website.

During this holiday season, please keep an eye out for anything suspicious on or around your neighbor(s)' homes and property. If you know your neighbors are out of town and it looks like they forgot to cancel the newspaper or mail begins to pile up, please try to collect these things and let your neighbor(s) know when they return.

Best wishes to you all for a safe & happy Holiday season! Drive Safely in the Courtyard Courtyard BOOK CLUB Tuesday, December 13th

### 1 p.m. at the Heaths Home (5909 Tom Wooten Dr.)

In December the Courtyard Book Club will celebrate the joy of reading with a potluck lunch and book exchange at the home of Jean Heath. Please bring a gift-wrapped favorite book, new or used, for exchange. For lunch bring either an appetizer, salad, dessert, or bread to share. Phone or email Jean at the address below to let her know you plan to come. At the December meeting the list of books chosen for reading in 2012 will be available. Remember to send in your choice of 9 titles from those suggested for the 2012 reading list by December 8th. In 2012, the meeting date will change to the FIRST Tuesday of each month beginning with the January meeting to be held on January 3, 2012. For information about the Courtyard Book Club, contact Jean Heath, c.jeanheath@gmail.com or 512-231-9412.



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### **CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President, Leslie Craven	. 502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)
Vice President,Ed Ueckert	
Secretary, Waneen Spirduso	
Treasurer, Jim Lloyd	
Frank Apgar	. 794-8346, 415-9412 (cell)
Cathleen Barrett	
Karen Johnson	

### COMMITTEES

Environmental Control (ECC)		
Diana Apgar4	<i>i</i> 15-9412	
Community Park		
Ellen Sharphorn5	524-9344	
Welcome		
Alice Randolph3	394-7218	
Social Committee Chairperson		
Joany Price	775-8942	
Landscape & Decorating		
Ed Ueckert3	345-6137	
Security		
Jim Lloyd 2	231-0855	
Communications		
Leslie Craven5	502-1124	
Cathleen Barrett (Editor - Courtyard Caller) 5	531-9821	
Compliance		
Karen Johnson3	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		
Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")		
Allan Nilsson		
	arnilsson@earthlink.net	
Villas at Courtyard:	-	
Thomas Hoy		
TI	homas.Hoy@freescale.com	
Wolf Court:		
Tim Sullivan		
	tsullivan@austin.rr.com	

### **DID YOU KNOW THAT...**

- TxDot has tentative plans to overhaul traffic lights and turn lanes on SL360, as well as limiting access into and out of selected neighborhoods. If the current proposal were to go into effect, The Courtyard would be detrimentally affected. We would be limited to only a right in, right-out (RIRO) at our main entrance at SL360 and Courtyard Drive. This would mean that cars leaving our neighborhood and wanting to go south on SL360 would have to turn right, travel along the access road toward RR2222 and make a U-turn under the bridge. Likewise, cars already traveling southbound on SL360 wanting to turn left onto Courtyard Drive and into our community would have to continue across the Pennybacker Bridge to Cedar Road, make a U-turn there, and come back across the bridge in order to make a right turn into The Courtyard. This not only makes access to our community difficult and cumbersome, it could very well reduce property values in the neighborhood, as potential buyers would be discouraged by the limited access. The Board has contacted as many residents as possible by email, in person, and by hand-delivered letters. A preliminary meeting, in conjunction with the monthly Board meeting, was held on November 15th to organize and plan a unified response to TxDot's current plan. For more information and/or to volunteer to help on this critical project, please contact one of the Board members (names and phones numbers can be found on the second page of this newsletter), or email Leslie Craven (lcraven1@att.net).
- Oak Wilt is a serious threat to the oak trees in central Texas. The oak wilt carrier beetle is most active from February through June, so the season to trim oak trees is now through January. If your oak trees don't get trimmed between now and the end of January, they should not be trimmed until July, 2012. Resources: Texas Oak Wilt Information Partnership: http://www.texasoakwilt.org/ City of Austin: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/
- Homeowners are responsible for keeping plant materials (shrubs and trees) 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. While trimming your oak trees, please take a good look at all your trees and see if there are some branches over sidewalks or streets that could use a trim.
- Some area neighborhoods have seen an increase in door-to-door solicitations as well as some break-ins. Whether the two are related is not known, but it is best to be aware of the possibilities. Here are some tips to consider: You do not have to open the door to anyone! When an unknown person knocks, acknowledge that you are home. Whether or not you open the door, it's better to let persons know that the residence is occupied. BEFORE you open the door to talk to a solicitor be sure to verify their name, company, and product or service. If anything seems "off," call 311 and report the incident to the police. If the person is persistent in staying on your doorstep, call 911.

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F Visit www.DrSherwood.net

# Happy Holidays to All My Friends & Neighbors In The Courtyard!

Thank you for your continued support!



# Joany Price Realtor, CLHMS YOUR COURTYARD NEIGHBOR AND

COURTYARD TENNIS CLUB MEMBER

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Joany Price

tk here, I play here, I live here

# HANDLING STRESS

A young lady confidently walked around the room while leading a seminar and explaining stress management to an audience. With a raised glass of water in her hand everyone assumed she was going to ask the ultimate question, "Half empty or half full?" She fooled them all. "How heavy is this glass of water?" she inquired with a smile. Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, that's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my right arm. If I hold it for a day, you'll have to call an ambulance. In each case it's the same weight, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, "and that's the way it is with stress. If we carry our burdens all the time, sooner or later, as the burden becomes increasingly heavy, we won't be able to carry on. As with the glass of water, you have to put it down for a while and rest before holding it again. When we're refreshed, we can carry on with the burden holding stress longer and better each time practiced. So, as early in the evening as you can, put all your burdens down. Don't carry them through the evening and into the night... pick them up tomorrow."

Whatever burdens you're carrying now, let them down for a moment. Relax; pick them up later after you've rested. Life is short. Enjoy it and the now 'supposed' stress that you've conquered!

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# **DESIGN TIPS & TRENDS**

One of the latest trends in home design is the creation of outdoor "open air" rooms. Open-air rooms range in size, scope, and function - from a conversation area to full-blown living/dining areas and open-grill styled kitchens. Open-air rooms give you the ability to create an environmentally friendly, seamless extension to your home that increases your virtual square footage, value, and can be enjoyed year round. An added benefit in Texas is the ability to reduce a "traditional" grassy backyard and replace it with an outdoor room and drought-resistant, low maintenance landscaping, planters and stone surfaces. And, there are great new fabrics and products that weather the outdoors. Designing an open-air room can be a fun and rewarding experience. You can either choose to make it an extension of your current home by adding complimentary style and design features or try new and different colors, styles, and textures. Maybe even create an oasis reminiscent of a place you may have traveled to that transcends the design of your home.

It's that time of year when we can enjoy our backyards and the beauty of The Courtyard. The addition of an open-air room might enhance your enjoyment while adding value to your home. And, don't forget to familiarize yourself with The Courtyard HOA and other applicable HOA guidelines, restrictions and approvals that you must abide by prior to implementing to avoid costly restructuring.

DeeAnne Abernathy, Interior Design Consultant



COURTYARD CALLER

# **KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ON HOLIDAY ROAD TRIPS**

As millions of families prepare for their annual holiday road trips, Texans In Motion at Scott & White Healthcare would like to encourage parents and caregivers to keep safety in mind as they travel. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that three out of four car seats are improperly installed.

### FOLLOWING ARE SOME TIPS TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD IS RIDING SAFE:

- ALWAYS Buckle Up no matter if the trip is long or just a quick ride into town.
- Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12.
- The best car seat is the one that fits your child, vehicle and budget.
- Read car seat and vehicle instruction manuals to ensure proper installation.

- Safety seats should move no more than 1" from the car seat's belt path.
- Harnesses should be snug with the retainer clip at chest level.
- Booster seats are highly recommended for fourth to seventh graders who are under 4'9 tall and may not fit the adult seat belt.

Keeping these simple tips in mind may not reduce backseat sibling squabbles, but will help increase peace of mind when it comes to your child's safety.

Texans In Motion is an injury prevention program sponsored by the Trauma Center at Scott & White Healthcare, in cooperation with the Texas Department of Transportation. The program serves 11 Central Texas counties and focuses on child passenger safety. Our mission is to increase child passenger safety restraint use and reduce the number of deaths and injuries to children in motor vehicle crashes through educational programs, activities and check-up events. Staff is certified under part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Standardized Child Passenger Safety Training Program.

All services provided by Texans In Motion at Scott & White Healthcare are FREE. For more information about car seats or to find a car seat inspection event in your area, please contact Texans In Motion at Scott & White Healthcare at 512-336-3423 or 512-509-0200 or visit sw.org.



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# COURTYARD CALLER

### NOVEMBER MOON PHASES

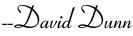
FULL MOON..... DECEMBER 10TH

LAST QUARTER MOON..... DECEMBER 17TH

NEW MOON..... DECEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

### TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE MOON DECEMBER 10TH

Visible in North America except the eastern part, the northern half of Mexico, the Hawaiian Islands, Oceania, Australasia, Asia, eastern Africa, Iceland, and most of Europe If we think of our heart, rather than our purse, as the reservoir of our giving, we shall find it full all the time



It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you...yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand.

-- Mother Jeresa

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

--Charles Dickens

God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith; the warmth of Christmas, which is love; the radiance of Christmas, which is purity; the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice; the belief in Christmas, which is truth; the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

--Wilda English



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