

Courtyard Homeowners Association, Inc.

January 2012

Volume 8, Number 1

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. Welcome to 2012! Please don't forget to mark your calendars to attend the Courtyard Homeowners' Association 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. Information about this meeting will be coming by mail to you soon. Although you may be tired of reading about it by now, it is very important that we have a quorum present at this meeting so that we can conduct necessary business as required by our Declaration. We understand that it is not always possible to attend in person and, for this reason, we urge you to read the written materials, sign, and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible to help us avoid the costs of rescheduling a second annual meeting. Note that sending in your proxy early in case you cannot attend the annual meeting in person will not prevent you from showing up at the meeting and voting directly yourself. More information about the annual meeting and voting by proxy may be found on the Courtyard's website: www.courtyardhoa.org. If you have any questions, please contact any Board member.

Two directors positions are at the end of their terms this January, and we will be voting to fill those positions at the annual meeting on January 29. Waneen Spirduso has chosen to run for a second term. Karen Johnson did not. If you want to learn a little about the nominees who are running for these positions, look on the Courtyard website. Finally, don't forget the 360 highway issues that we will be dealing with this spring. Meetings with TxDOT are supposed to start in January. Check the News page of the website and/or Caller or call any Board member for information and updates. *NOTE:* We have recently learned that you can contact TxDOT directly and ask to be put on their direct email contact list for these things. To do this, email denise.guerra@txdot.gov and simply ask.

Drive Safely in the Courtyard Your Courtyard Homeowner's Association Board of Directors

DID YOU KNOW THAT ...

TxDOT's current plans for 360 take away your ability to turn LEFT into or out of our entrance onto 360 and to cross 360 to Courtyard West.

To exit south or get to Courtyard West, you will have to turn R on the access road, make a U-turn under the 2222 overpass, and merge with southbound 360 traffic from the access road.

To enter the Courtyard from the north, you will have to cross the bridge, drive up to Cedar St, make a U-turn, and then merge with northbound 360 traffic, cross the bridge back and be in the R lane to turn right at our entrance.

The possible negative outcomes of this are:

- Longer routes, lost time, and more opportunities for accidents while attempting to merge with traffic after U-turns;
- Lower property values due to the inconvenience; and
- Longer response times from police and fire department

WHAT CAN YOU DO? GO TO FUTURE MEETINGS!

TxDOT has agreed to hold four 2012 meetings currently set to begin in January – no date, time or location information yet.

As soon as we are given this information, we will put it on the website and will send an "emergency" broadcast email to all residents who have provided their email addresses. You can also email TxDOT directly and ask to be put on their direct notice list. CONTACT: denise.guerra@tsdot.gov to do so.

Tell TxDOT, state & local reps that you are opposed to this plan! Tell them over & over & over again ! Do not let them think you have forgotten OR GIVEN UP!

Although a TxDOT official has said, "We can always change it if it doesn't work," don't think this will happen. Once they spend \$18M to create this mess, they aren't going to spend more money to undo their damage anytime soon.

(Continued on Page 2)

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 Apgar 415-9412
Community Park
Ellen Sharphorn
Welcome
Alice Randolph 394-7218
Social Committee Chairperson
Joany Price
Landscape & Decorating
Ed Ueckert 345-6137
Security
Jim Lloyd 231-0855
Communications
Leslie Craven 502-1124
Cathleen Barrett (Editor - Courtyard Caller) 531-9821
Compliance
Karen Johnson 343-2420
Kayak Committee
Waneen Spirduso 345-5078
Area Development and Zoning Liaison
Bill Meredith

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	
ΓΤ	Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com
Wolf Court:	• •
Tim Sullivan	
	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

Did You Know?- (Continued from Cover Page)

Unless we continue our opposition efforts now, TxDOT has no incentive to change its current plan. We must give them that incentive through our persistent and vocal opposition throughout this process.

Contact Info: put "SL 360" on all emails or correspondence

1. TxDOT – attn. Carlos Lopez

P.O. Box 15426 Austin, TX 78761-5426 AUS_LOOP360@txdot.gov

2. Hon. Donna Howard, Dist. 48 State Rep.

Room E2.418, Capitol Extension P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78767 Donna.howard@house.state.tx.us (512) 463-0631

3. State Senator, Honorable Kirk Watson

P.O. Box 12068 Austin, TX 78711 kirk.watson@senate.state.tx.us (512) 463-0114

4. Austin City Council

www.ci.austin.tx.us/council/groupmail.htm

5. Ben Wear – Austin American Statesman

P.O. Box 670 Austin, TX 78767 (512) 445-3698

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COURTYARD CALLER

COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3RD | | P.M.AT THE COURTYARD CLUB

First on the 2012 reading list for the Courtyard Book Club is *War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo. This is a timely selection since Steven Spielberg's film based on this novel opened on Christmas Day and the Broadway play won a Tony award for best play in 2011. The story features Joey, a beautiful horse with a distinctive white cross on his nose who is sold to the army in 1914 and thrust into the midst of the war on the Western Front. With the soldiers he witnesses the horror of the battles in France. His courage touches the soldiers around him. But Joey's heart aches for Albert, the farmer's son he left behind and pines to see again. This oft told story of man and loyal pet is remarkable for the historical wartime setting as well as the superb storytelling.

During the remainder of 2012 the Book Club will be reading the books listed to the right and welcomes anyone who would like to join us. Please remember that the meeting date for 2012 has changed to the FIRST Tuesday of each month. For information about the Courtyard Book Club, contact Jean Heath, c.jeanheath@gmail.com or 512-231-9412.

JANUARY	
February	The Tiger's Wife: A Novel by Tea Obreht
March	<i>Unbroken</i> by Laura Llenbrand
April	<i>Room, a Novel</i> by Emma Donoghue
Мау	Scottsboro by Ellen Feldman
June	<i>Cleopatra: A Life</i> by Stacy Schiff
JULY	(Mayor's Book)
AUGUST	Pearl of China by Anchee Min
September	
October	In the Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson
NOVEMBER	Open
DECEMBER	Celebrate



COURTYARD CALLER

COYOTE SIGHTINGS IN COURTYARD

Please be aware that in recent weeks there have been several sightings of a coyote, or possibly coyotes, in our neighborhood. This, of course, is not a new phenomenon for our area. However, it is important that residents are aware of the increase in coyote activity and to take the necessary precautions to protect young children and small pets. Randy Farrar, Wildlife Damage Management Biologist, has previously stated that the reason there's a perception that more coyotes are roaming the West Austin area is because coyote pups born in the spring are now moving around this time of the year. According to Farrar the coyotes will travel up and down streets and up and down greenbelts looking for empty space.

A coyote is very similar in size to a small German Shepherd and weighs an average of 25 to 40 pounds. It has long, slender legs, a bushy tail with a black tip, and large ears that are held erect. The coyote's coat is usually gray or buff-colored, and there is no mistaking the yellow eyes and black, round pupils. It is primarily nocturnal.

HERE ARE SOME COMMON SENSE PRECAUTIONS PEOPLE CAN TAKE TO MANAGE COYOTES:

- Keep pet food and water inside. Keep garbage securely stored, especially if it has to be put on the curb for collection.
- Keep pets inside, confined securely in a kennel or covered exercise yard, or within the close presence of an adult.
- Walk pets on a leash and accompany them outside, especially at night.
- Keep wild bird seed in feeders elevated or hanging above ground. Clean up spilled seed from the ground as coyotes can either be drawn directly to the seed, or to the

rodents drawn to the seed.

- Do not feed feral cats. This can encourage coyotes to prey on cats, as well as feed on cat food left out for them.
- Minimize clusters of shrubs, trees and other cover and food plants near buildings and children's play areas to avoid attracting rodents and small mammals that will in turn attract coyotes.

For further information: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/pets/ wildlife.htm

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/ wild/nuisance/coyote/

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/ wild/species/coyote/





COURTYARD CALLER

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- The annual HOA meeting will be held on Sunday, January 29th, at 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and Scout Island Circle North. If you are unable to attend, please read the written materials about the annual meeting when they arrive in the mail this month and sign and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible. Thanks!
- January is the last opportunity for your oak trees to be trimmed until July of this year. The season not to trim oak trees is from February through June when the oak wilt carrier beetle is most active. Oak Wilt is a serious threat to the oak trees in central Texas. Additionally, 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 requires that all trees overhanging streets have a minimum clearance of fourteen (14) feet above street level.

NEW YEAR HUMOR

- Accept the fact that some days you're the pigeon, and some days you're the statue.
- Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.
- Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.
- Drive carefully... It's not only cars that can be recalled by their Maker.
- If you can't be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably worth it.
- It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.
- Never buy a car you can't push.
- Never put both feet in your mouth at the same time, because then you won't have a leg to stand on.
- Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.
- Since it's the early worm that gets eaten by the bird, sleep late.
- The second mouse gets the cheese.
- When everything's coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.
- Birthdays are good for you. The more you have, the longer you live.
- You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- Some mistakes are too much fun to make only once.
- We could learn a lot from crayons. Some are sharp, some are pretty, and some are dull. Some have weird names and all are different colors, but they all have to live in the same box.
- A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

*Save the earth - It's the only planet with chocolate! *

LARGE BRUSH COLLECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 16, 2012 **GUIDELINES ARE AVAILABLE AT - WWW.AUSTINRECYCLES.COM**



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