



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

December 2013

Volume 9, Number 12

Board Message

Please take a moment to mark down an important upcoming event on your calendars – the Courtyard’s annual meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Sunday, January 26, 2014, in the lobby of at the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and North Scout Island Circle. Although we hope to see you all at this meeting, we know that it is just not always possible. On the other hand, 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 from Goodwin Management 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.

Newcomers – please note that sending in your proxy early will not prevent you from attending the annual meeting in person and voting directly yourself. Mailing in your proxy is merely a precaution in case you forget or something comes up and you cannot make it at the last minute. 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, contact our property manager, Marilyn Childress, at Goodwin Management (512) 502-7509, or any Board member.

During the holiday season when many of us travel to visit family and friends, we again urge those of you who are here to keep an eye out for suspicious persons or vehicles cruising the neighborhood - especially if you see them around the homes of neighbors that you know are not home. If you

(Continued on Page 2)

Courtyard Book Club

Tuesday, January 7, 2014 @ 1 p.m.

To learn something new about the history of our country and its leaders would be an admirable New Year’s Resolution for anyone. The Courtyard Book Club selection for January would certainly accomplish that goal for most readers. The subject of Candice Millard’s *Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine and the Murder of a President* is James Garfield, the 20th president of the United States. Garfield’s story of rising from poverty to become a hero of the Civil War, an accomplished scholar and President is a worthy story in itself, but there is so much more to his story.

While reading a biography of Alexander Graham Bell, Candice Millard learned that Bell had tried desperately to save Garfield’s life. She wanted to explore the relationship of Bell’s scientific endeavors and his obsession with saving the life of Garfield. It was this research that resulted in this widely praised biography. *Destiny of the Republic* won the Edgar Award in 2012 for best work of Factual Crime. In praising Millard’s book, reviewers have used terms rarely applied to a biography of a president—“riveting, suspenseful crime story, and nail-biting.”

The remaining list of books for 2014, selected by the Book Club members, will be available at this meeting.

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



COURTYARD CALLER

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Wolf Court:
Tim Sullivan 346-3146
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Board Message- (Continued from Cover Page)

know your neighbors are gone but 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.

Finally, don't forget that December is your last month to finish up trimming your oaks until next June. Oak wilt season begins in January and runs into June, and nothing but emergency trimming of hardwoods, especially oaks, should take place during these coming months. We have wonderful trees throughout our community and so far we have escaped the great harm and loss that occurs when oak wilt invades. The harm and loss too often extends far beyond the yard that is first affected. It can be devastating, and is very difficult and costly to stop. Make sure that the tree company you use follows the practice of cleaning its equipment from earlier jobs before starting yours. Oak wilt is frequently spread through contaminated equipment.

Best wishes to you all for a safe and happy Holiday season and Happy New Year !!!

DRIVE SAFELY IN THE COURTYARD

SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to cathleenbarrett@hotmail.com. Be sure to include the text that you would like to have as the caption. Pictures will appear in color online at www.PEELinc.com.





Join us for Christmas Services:
Christmas Sunday
December 22nd, 10:40 AM
Christmas Eve Service
December 24th, 7:00 PM

6909 W. Courtyard Dr. - (512)343.7858

NEXTDOOR COURTYARD

Those of you who enjoy using Facebook, or other similar social networking, to keep in touch with friends and family may be interested in a new website called Nextdoor. "Nextdoor is a private social network for you, your neighbors and your community. It's the easiest way for you and your neighbors to talk online and make all of your lives better in the real world. And it's free. Thousands of neighborhoods around the country are already using Nextdoor to build happier, safer places to call home. People are using Nextdoor to:

- Quickly get the word out about a break-in
- Organize a Neighborhood Watch Group
- Track down a trustworthy babysitter
- Find out who does the best paint job in town
- Ask for help keeping an eye out for a lost dog
- Find a new home for an outgrown bike
- Call that nice man down the street by his first name

Nextdoor's mission is to use the power of technology to build stronger and safer neighborhoods."

To find out more information about this free and secure service, check out https://Nextdoor.com/about_us. Currently, 60 residents of the Courtyard have signed up for this site, and we have received several positive comments from those who have joined. To sign up, please visit https://thecourtyard.nextdoor.com/choose_address/ (the apparent misspelling is not an error).

PARK CLEAN UP & WILDFIRE PREVENTION DAY

On Saturday, October 19th, a small (but mighty) group of volunteers gathered at our community park to tackle some of the many items needing attention: picking up trash, trimming branches, cleaning up and spreading mulch on the trails, spraying poison ivy, and cleaning up the waterfront pier area. In the wake of recent years' wildfire-related devastation in Central Texas, our neighborhood HOA has been placing extra effort on wildfire prevention around our common areas as well. Much of the work time was spent pulling dead branches and trees out of wooded areas and cleaning up dry and dead ground vegetation. Overall it was a very productive day! Special thanks to the following residents who gave their time for this important community work: Frank Apgar, Mike Bocchieri, Winston Cundiff, Julie Fritz, Fred Heath, Zoli, Ashley, Mac and Lilla Kovacs, Jamie Southerland, Waneen Spriduso, Mike Stone, and Fred Whalers.



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A FEW HOLIDAY THOUGHTS...

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

There are two ways to live your life. One is as
though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though
everything is a miracle.
Albert Einstein

The way you spend Christmas is far more important
than how much.
Henry David Thoreau



You're
Invited to

Christmas

In the Dog Park

*Bring your dog and your family to enjoy our exclusive
Dog Park and support the Austin Humane Society*

Sunday, December 15th
2:00pm to 4:00pm
DogBoy's Dog Ranch

*Admission to the event is a donation to the AHS.
All event profits will be donated to AHS!*



RSVP online to learn AHS donation options
and receive the following:

- + Pictures with your dog at the holiday photo booth
- + Hot Chocolate provided by Amy's Ice Cream
- + Free drink ticket compliments of Saint Arnold Brewing
- + VIP parking pass
- + Satisfaction of helping an orphaned pup

Make a difference this holiday season and have fun doing it! Visit dogboys.com/christmas to sign up today.



peace

TO MY Friends and Neighbors
in the courtyard



**Joany
Price**

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

*Realtor, CLHMS
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Traveling with your pet over the holidays? Here are some tips that will help make your drive smooth sailing.

Submitted by Kristen West, Owner of Gusto Dogs LLC.

1. Take your pet on short trips prior to the big day to let him get used to traveling by car.

2. Keep your pet safe in a secured, well-ventilated crate or carrier. It should be large enough for your pet to stand, sit, lie down and turn around. Letting him have free range in the car not only puts him at risk, but it also poses a risk to your family if you were to stop suddenly.

3. Never let your dog travel in the bed of a truck. Even if he is secured on a short line to prevent him falling or jumping out, your pet can experience discomfort from the weather and wind or sustain injury from debris.

4. Feed your pet three or four hours prior to departure and avoid giving him any food or treats in the car.

5. Never leave your pet in a parked vehicle, which can quickly become a furnace and cause heatstroke, even with open windows. In cold weather, the car holds the temperature like a refrigerator.

6. Your pet's microchip should be up-to-date and he should be wearing a flat collar and ID at all times.

7. Bring a bowl and extra water in case you get stuck in the inevitable holiday traffic jam!

8. Take lots of breaks to let your pet stretch his legs and relieve himself. It's a great excuse to do some sight-seeing or pick up a fun treat for yourself!



ATTENTION ALL PET OWNERS!

PLEASE be aware that if your pet goes missing, the HOA has the ability to broadcast an email to the neighborhood, along with a picture of your pet and any contact information you'd like to provide, asking for people to be on the lookout for your missing animal. Additionally, anyone who comes across a wandering pet can get a broadcast notice out to try and find the owner.

Contact Leslie Craven at lcraven1@att.net if you are in need of this service.



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