



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

*Official Courtyard Newsletter*

January 2014

Volume 10, Number 1

## BOARD MESSAGE

We hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday. Welcome to 2014! 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 26, 2014 in the lobby of the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and North Scout Island Circle. Information about this meeting will be coming by mail to you soon. Please read the written materials about the meeting when they arrive, sign, and mail in your 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 showing up at the meeting and voting directly yourself. Receiving your proxy just helps insure we will have a quorum and gives us the ability to conduct necessary business if you do not attend. If you have any questions, please contact any Board member or Marilyn Childress.

The terms of two directors end this January, and one of the necessary things we will do at this meeting is vote to fill those positions. We are very happy to announce that Cathleen Barrett has decided to give us three more years of her time and will run for a second term. Cathleen is also our Caller editor, and we are very thankful for all the time and care she puts into every issue. After many years of serving our community on the Board and as Chairman of the Landscaping and Decoration Committee, Ed Ueckert has decided someone else should have some of the fun and will not run for another term. However, Ed has promised to continue to help out with irrigation, electrical, and landscaping problems and for that we are very lucky and thankful. If you want to learn more about the nominees who are running for these positions, checkout the Courtyard website.

Another important matter to consider is the need to raise annual dues by \$52.00 starting in 2015. This comes out to a \$1 a week and is long, long overdue. In addition to the increased costs of everything we do as part of the routine maintenance of the common areas, you are all aware that the Courtyard has suffered the repercussions of extreme and severe weather events over the last several years – both

flooding and drought. After going through a major cleanup following the 2010 flood, the recent heavy October 2013 rains caused the waters of Bull Creek to again cover major parts of the woods and the peninsula near the pier, and fill in our channels and areas within the pond and around the island with new silt. This new debris needs to be cleared before the pond is filled in completely. In the aftermath of the recent deadly Central Texas fires and recognizing the continuing threat that hill country communities face, the Board has begun what will be a long, difficult - but very important process of making our neighborhood safer in the event of a wildfire. Initial fire safety work will involve clearing the common areas of years of dead and dried vegetation and wood that all become deadly tinder during the dry summer months. Very simply, we cannot accomplish this important work plus the regular maintenance of our common areas with the current dues. Without this raise, the Board cannot continue to maintain our facilities and common areas as required by the Declaration. Please call and talk with a Board member if you have any questions.

Looking ahead - to help safeguard our trees from oak wilt, keep in mind that January is your last month to finish up any tree trimming projects. Get it done now. Oak trees should not be trimmed from February through June, as this is when the carrier beetle is most active. Play it safe & safeguard your shade. Blue trash days this month are Saturday, January 4 (holiday slide) and Fridays January 17 and 31. Please do not leave containers out for days before or after Friday pick-ups.

Finally, drivers - please continue to watch your speed in the Courtyard as you come and go during this darkest time of the year. Our many walkers and runners (both 2 & 4 legged varieties) can help, too, by wearing light and/or reflective clothing, carrying a flashlight, and not taking up more space than is needed to get by on our streets. Everyone benefits when we make the effort to keep our neighborhood safe. Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

## CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Leslie Craven..... 502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)  
 Vice President, Ed Ueckert..... 345-6137  
 Secretary, Cathleen Barrett ..... 817-371-6983  
 Treasurer, Jim Lloyd ..... 231-0855  
 Zoli Kovacs ..... 761-4242  
 ..... zoltan.kovacs@ttiinc.com  
 Jamie Southerland ..... 394-5529  
 Waneen Spirduso..... spirduso@utexas.edu

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 Community Park  
 Zoli Kovacs ..... 761-4242  
 Welcome  
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 Social Committee Chairperson  
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 Landscape & Decorating  
 Ed Ueckert ..... 345-6137  
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 Jim Lloyd ..... 231-0855  
 Communications  
 Leslie Craven ..... 502-1124  
 Cathleen Barrett (*Editor - Courtyard Caller*) ..... 531-9821  
 Compliance  
 Jamie Southerland ..... 394-5529  
 Kayak Committee  
 Waneen Spirduso ..... spirduso@utexas.edu  
 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:  
 Gary Doucha ..... 401-3105  
 ..... gmdoucha@yahoo.com  
 Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")  
 Allan Nilsson ..... 346-8432  
 ..... arnilsson@earthlink.net  
 Villas at Courtyard:  
 Thomas Hoy ..... 231-1270  
 ..... Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com  
 Wolf Court:  
 Tim Sullivan ..... 346-3146  
 ..... tsullivan@austin.rr.com

## Courtyard Book Club

### Reading List 2014

**FEBRUARY:** *The Light Between Oceans*, (F) by M. L. Stedman, 354 p.  
**MARCH:** *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour* by Lynne Olson, 471 p.  
**APRIL:** *Runaway*, (F-SS) by Alice Monroe, 354 p.  
**MAY:** *Autobiography of Agatha Christie*, (NF) by Agatha Christie, 506 p.  
**JUNE:** *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America*, (NF) by Garry Wills, 320 p.  
**JULY:** *The Silver Star*, (F) by Jeanette Walls, 290 p.  
**AUGUST:** *Goodbye to a River: A Narrative*, (F) by John Graves, 302 p.  
**SEPTEMBER:** *Half of a Yellow Sun*, (F) by Chinamando Adichi, 543 p.  
**OCTOBER:** *Sweet Thursday*, (F) by John Steinbeck, 249 p.  
**NOVEMBER:** *Mayor's Book*  
**DECEMBER:** *Book Exchange*  
**JANUARY 2015:** *Shadow of the Sun*, (NF) by Ruzard Kapuscinski, 325 p.



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## Courtyard Book Club

In the month of Valentines and declarations of love it is fitting that the Book Club discuss the theme of love, loyalty, justice and the pleasure and anguish of those most human of needs and emotions. *Light Between the Oceans*, by M. L. Stedman is set on a remote island, Janus Rock, off the coast of Australia. Tom Sherburne, returning from World War I, seeks out the job as lighthouse keeper, embracing solitude as an antidote to his war experience on the western front. Once a season a boat brings supplies and every other year Tom is allowed shore leave. Ultimately he brings Isabel, a bold, adventurous young woman anxious to embrace life on Janus Rock. After two miscarriages and one stillbirth, the grieving Isabel hears

**Tuesday  
February 4  
2014  
1:00 PM**



*5612 Scout Island North*

a baby's cries on the wind. A boat has washed up onshore carrying a dead man and a living baby. At this point, early in the book, "the plot thickens"!!! This first novel has garnered highest praise from professional reviewers and readers alike, winning three ABIA awards in 2012.

In March, the Book Club will read *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour*. Lynne Olson's history, told from the perspective of three key players, Edward R. Murrow, Averell Harriman, and John Gilbert Winant, gives a behind the scenes view of how the United States forged its wartime alliance with Britain.

Call or email Jean Heath, [cjeaneath@gmail.com](mailto:cjeaneath@gmail.com) / 512-231-942, for more information on the club or questions

about meeting locations.



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## ADMISSIONS OPEN HOUSE

*Preschool - Grade 12*

Sunday, February 2, 2014

2:00-4:00

Center for Science and the Arts, Bldg. F



## NEXTDOOR

### *The Courtyard Update*

Last month's Courtyard Caller announced the creation of Nextdoor The Courtyard, a private social network for our community. It is an easy, safe, and free way to communicate with one another regarding issues directly related to our neighborhood. Nextdoor The Courtyard is a quick and effective way to get the word out about such things as a break-in, finding/recommending a trustworthy babysitter, recommendations for tradesmen, asking for help finding a lost pet, or announcing community events. As of 12/9/13, we were up to 73 members and growing. "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](https://Nextdoor.com/about_us). To sign up, please visit [https://thecourtyarad.nextdoor.com/choose\\_address/](https://thecourtyarad.nextdoor.com/choose_address/) (misspelling is not an error).

## NEXTDOOR

### *in the City of Austin*

The City of Austin is now working with Nextdoor to provide official notifications and alerts to all neighborhoods across the city. As part of this effort, you will see periodic updates from various city departments, including the police, on Nextdoor The Courtyard. For example, you may receive updates about nearby road closures or safety issues that are relevant to our neighborhood.

It is important to note that city staff can only see their own posts and replies to these posts. They can NOT access or view any information that you or our neighbors have shared on Nextdoor The Courtyard, including your profile information. Access to Nextdoor The Courtyard is still restricted to members who can verify that they live within the neighborhood boundary.

Communicating with city staff is entirely voluntary. You can choose to:

- Comment publicly on city posts to start a community dialogue
- Contact city staff via private message
- Mute city staff if you'd prefer not to receive updates
- Adjust the amount of email notifications you receive by changing your email settings

If you have any questions or feedback about this announcement, please email Nextdoor at [citysupport@nextdoor.com](mailto:citysupport@nextdoor.com). For general questions about Nextdoor, please go to [help.nextdoor.com](http://help.nextdoor.com).

# LET'S MAKE A DEAL

in 2014 with Joany Price



## Let's See What's Behind Your Front Door!

It promises to be another great year in real estate! Call me and let's talk business. Your home is worth more than ever.



# Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor  
& Tennis Club Member*

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## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS *for 2014*

It is said that most New Year Resolutions do not last more than a few days, or at most a few weeks. Many resolutions are light hearted and fun, others are too lofty. At times, however, New Year Resolutions are the best chance to incorporate basic changes and create healthy habits. Below are a dozen basic ideas for New Year Resolutions that we should all consider incorporating into our daily lives:

**Reuse and Recycle**—We are getting more and more conscious about our surroundings and ecology. So in 2014 it would be best if we took a step towards a greener planet Earth. This also includes conservation of Natural Resources.

**Kind and Caring to the World at Large**—Charity, they say, begins at home. You don't have to donate a chunk of your income or be very vocal about a cause. Just try to do something for those who are less fortunate. Every small measure counts.

**Shop Local**—This is the best way to help out local farmers, artisans, and businesses—an indirect way of promoting small scale and cottage industry.

**Make More Time for the Finer Things in Life**—The best way to enrich one's soul is by connecting to art, books, music, theatre and of course nature!

**Think Before You Speak**—Many regrets are caused because we let a harsh word slip out before giving it a proper thought!

**Think Before Acting**—It is an old saying but always appropriate. A thoughtless action is only for mindless fools.

**Don't Stagnate**—There should always be a zeal for change and something new. Traveling and learning new things are the easiest ways of keeping open the window to your mind.

**Take Calculated Risks**—You should never regret not having tried something you have always wanted to do, but do it safely!

**Limit Online Activities**—The less time you spend online, the more time you would have for yourself and your loved ones. Get out and play!

**Connect with Friends and Family**—In this world of technological advances, interpersonal communication seems to have suffered the most. The warmth of the personal touch cannot be underestimated. (connected/similar to the previous resolution)

**Management Mantra**—This is for those who are always a little short of breath. You need to learn to manage your time, organize your habitat, and also learn to tame the urge to splurge by mastering money management.

**Get Back to Good Health**—Not surprisingly, most New Year Resolutions revolve around fitness, eating habits, losing weight, or conquering addictions. Focusing on a healthy lifestyle is always a good goal.

Life isn't fair, but it's still good.

When in doubt, just take the next small step.

Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.

Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends and parents will. Stay in touch.

Pay off your credit cards every month.

You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.

Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.

It's okay to get angry with God. He can take it.

Save for retirement starting with your first paycheck.

When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.

Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.

It's okay to let your children see you cry.

Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.

If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.

Everything can change in the blink of an eye. But don't worry; God never blinks.

Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.

Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.

Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.

It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.

When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.

Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.

Over prepare, then go with the flow.

Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.

The most important sex organ is the brain.

No one is in charge of your happiness but you.

Frame every so-called disaster with these words "In five years, will this matter?"

Always choose life.

Forgive everyone everything.

What other people think of you is none of your business...

Time heals almost everything. Give time, time.

However good or bad a situation is, it will change.

Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.

Believe in miracles.

God loves you because of who God is, not because of anything you did or didn't do.

Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.

Growing old beats the alternative—dying young.

Your children get only one childhood.

All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.

Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.

If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.

Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.

The best is yet to come.

No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.

Yield

Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

## 2014 NEW YEAR MESSAGES

Fresh HOPES, Fresh PLANS, Fresh EFFORTS, Fresh FEELINGS, Fresh COMMITMENT.

Welcome 2014 with a fresh ATTITUDE. Happy New Year! May the year 2014 greet you with days as fragrant as roses, as colorful as rainbows, as bright as sunshine and as happy and cheerful as a lark.

May the year 2014 give you the opportunity to realize your dreams, rediscover your strengths, muster your willpower and rejoice in the simple pleasures that life brings your way.

May the New Year give you the strength to face the challenges of life and courage to adjust the sail so as to take every situation in stride.

My New Year wish for you is to dream big, but be satisfied with the simple blessings that life has gifted you with; to make mighty plans for the future, but never to ignore the little joyous moments of the present.

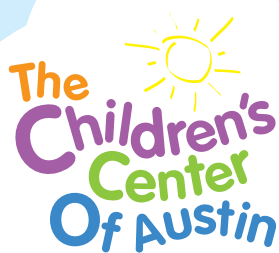
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