



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

## BOARD MESSAGE

Once again, as our year begins, we urge residents to please consider offering a little of their free time to serve on one of our several standing committees: Community Park, Welcome, Social, Landscape & Decorating, Communications or Compliance. If you missed the annual meeting in January, you can still sign up. If you have some questions or suggestions regarding the work of these committees, please call or email the Chairperson. If you don't want to formally sign up for a committee but think you might want to help "sometime" -- just keep an eye out for notices of events coming up and contact the committee if you have the time. We always let you know ahead of time in the Caller and put signs out along Courtyard Drive the week before. Any time you can give is welcome.

Don't forget that our "blue" recycled trash collections this month are Fridays, February 14 and 28. If you haven't sent in your annual Homeowners' Association dues yet, please do so as soon as possible.

Finally, please be especially careful this time of year to drive within or below the speed limit as you travel through the neighborhood. It is still fairly dark in the early morning and evening hours when children are still out playing and many people (and pets) are out walking or jogging.

KEEP DRIVING SLOWLY IN THE  
COURTYARD !

## Courtyard Book Club

1:00 PM, Tuesday, March 4, 2014  
15612 Scout Island North

"There's no place I'd rather be at this time." Such a comment would be considered trite in most contexts, but when it was said by John Gilbert Winant, U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, upon arriving in London in the midst of the relentless World War II bombing, it was a badge of honor. In *Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in its Darkest, Finest Hour*, Lynne Olson portrays the important role Ambassador Winant, Averell Harriman, FDR's point man on the lend lease program, and Edward R. Murrow, correspondent for CBS play in convincing Roosevelt and a skeptical American public of the importance of coming to the aid of Britain during World War II. In early 1941, Britain was perilously close to being forced to surrender to Germany. Submarines were sinking hundreds of thousands of tons of merchant shipping each month, creating dangerous shortages of food and material necessary to fight the war, yet Franklin Roosevelt held back from authorizing U.S. military convoys to accompany ships. Olson re-creates the dramatic interplay of personalities and world politics, from the relationship between Winston Churchill and FDR, to the successful efforts of this small group of Americans living in London who played a vital behind-the-scenes role in bringing the two leaders together and forming an important alliance. After Pearl Harbor, differences emerged in the alliance regarding the conduct of the war. Eisenhower played a crucial role in skillfully integrating the U.S.-British military command. *Citizens of London* is a deftly written history of lesser-known actors during a period of time when victory over Hitler was far from certain.

In April, the Book Club will read a recent collection of short stories, *Runaway*, by Alice Munro. Munro, a Canadian author, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2013.

Call/or email Jean Heath, c.jeanheath@gmail.com; 512-231-9412, for more information on the club or questions about upcoming meetings.

## 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  
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 Jamie Southerland ..... 394-5529  
 Waneen Spirduso..... spirduso@utexas.edu

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 Social Committee Chairperson  
 Joany Price ..... 775-8942  
 Landscape & Decorating  
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 Jim Lloyd ..... 231-0855  
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 Cathleen Barrett (*Editor - Courtyard Caller*) ..... 531-9821  
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 Jamie Southerland ..... 394-5529  
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 Waneen Spirduso ..... spirduso@utexas.edu  
 Area Development and Zoning Liaison  
 Bill Meredith ..... 345-0593

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## SUB-HOA CONTACTS

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 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

MAY 2014

## NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

It is never too early to begin thinking about and preparing for the May 2014 Neighborhood Garage Sale to be held on Saturday, May 3rd (Rain day – May 10th). It's easy... while doing your spring cleaning just gather up items for the sale and the Homeowners Association will do the rest! We will advertise in the *Austin American Statesman* and will put out signs in the neighborhood. If you want a sign placed near your home to direct potential buyers, we'll do that too. If you like, we also have an arrangement with Settlement Home for Children ([www.settlementhome.org/](http://www.settlementhome.org/)) to come by and pick up any "leftovers" from the sale that day as a donation. Just contact Joany Price (775-8942 or joanyprice@gmail.com) if you have any questions or to reserve a sign.



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# OAK WILT DISEASE

## IN CENTRAL TEXAS



Oak Wilt, a systemic fungal disease, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. The fungus causes the water conducting vessels of oaks to become clogged, reducing the flow of water up the tree. While all oak species are technically susceptible, live oaks and those in the red oak group are the most vulnerable, while those in the white oak group (such as bur, post, chinquapin, or monterrey) are more resistant. In Central Texas, the disease has been most devastating for live oaks because of their tendency to grow large interconnected root systems. Once infected, live oaks generally die in three months to a year.

The nitidulid beetle often spreads the oak wilt disease. According to the Texas Forest Service, in early spring (considered February 1 through June 30) the beetles that spread the disease become active, and exposed cuts are vulnerable. Pruning should be delayed until midsummer (after January 31st and before June 30th) when the insects are less active.

Oak wilt presents differently in different species. In live oaks, the leaves usually develop yellowed veins that eventually turn brown, a process called veinal necrosis. Many homeowners first notice oak wilt symptoms when the leaf veins are necrotic, but the spaces between veins are still green. In many cases, symptoms also include tip burn, scorching of the leaf margins, and interveinal chlorosis. In red oaks, the foliar symptoms of oak wilt are less predictable, but generally involve the browning or yellowing of leaves from the outer margins progressing inward.

**Please refrain from trimming your oak trees and other hardwood trees from now until July of this year. Trimming trees, especially oaks, should be avoided from the beginning of February through the end of June !!!**

## REMINDER: OAK TREES SHOULD NOT BE TRIMMED UNTIL JULY

Please be aware that January was the last opportunity for 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 (see Oak Wilt Disease in Central Texas article on this page).

## THEFT REPORT

On Wednesday night, January 8, 2014, someone stole money and a pair of sunglasses from the glove compartment of a car that was parked in the owner's driveway. The residents were home at the time and typically keep their car locked. It is unclear how the vehicle was entered unless, on this occasion, it was inadvertently left unlocked. At the time of this writing it appears that nothing else was taken.

Incidents such as this remind us that, although we live in a comparatively safe neighborhood, it is imperative that we all continue to be vigilant in order to keep it that way. When not parked in your garage, please keep your car doors locked at all times and keep your garage doors closed, especially at night. When out and about the neighborhood, please be aware of and on the lookout for any unusual activity. Any suspicious activity should be reported to 311 as soon as possible. At the very least, if you don't contact the police or 311, please contact Jim Lloyd, our Security Committee Chairperson (512-231-0855).



## Odd Origins

An old pub in Marble Arch, London had a gallows next door where prisoners were taken to be hung. As the horse-drawn wagon approached the gallows the armed guard would stop in front of the pub and ask the prisoner if he would like one last drink. If he said yes, it was referred to as "one for the road" and the drink went "down the hatch," an expression stemming from the fact that cargos lowered into the hatch below deck appear to be consumed by the ship. If he declined a drink, that prisoner was "on the wagon."

## LOST AND FOUND

Last month a resident of the Courtyard discovered two items accidentally left in our Park. They appear to be brand-new and possibly Christmas gifts. If you have misplaced some items and believe they may have been left in the Park, please contact Kathy Cundiff at 551-8737. She would like to return them to their rightful owner(s). Thanks, Kathy, for retrieving these items and for passing the information onto the Board!

## February Humor

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm and says: "A beer for me, please, and one for the road."

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any.

I went to a seafood disco last week ... and pulled a mussel.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. The one turns to the other and says, "Dam!"

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Not surprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel, and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office, and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said. "I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer."

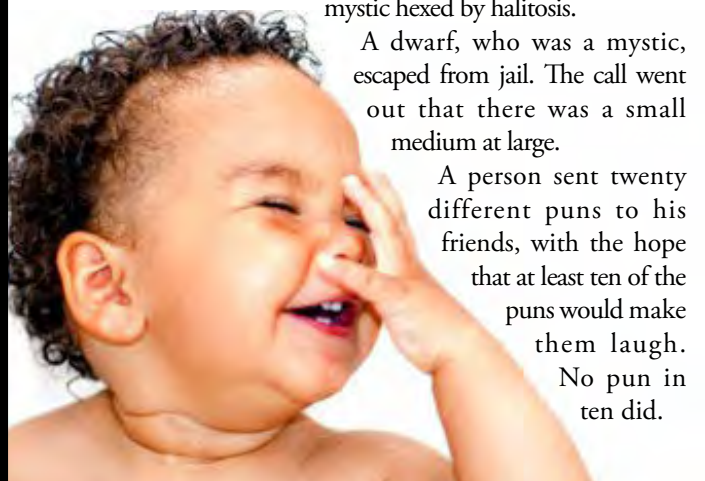
A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named 'Ahmal.' The other goes to a family in Spain and is named 'Juan.' Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him: a super-calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

A dwarf, who was a mystic, escaped from jail. The call went out that there was a small medium at large.

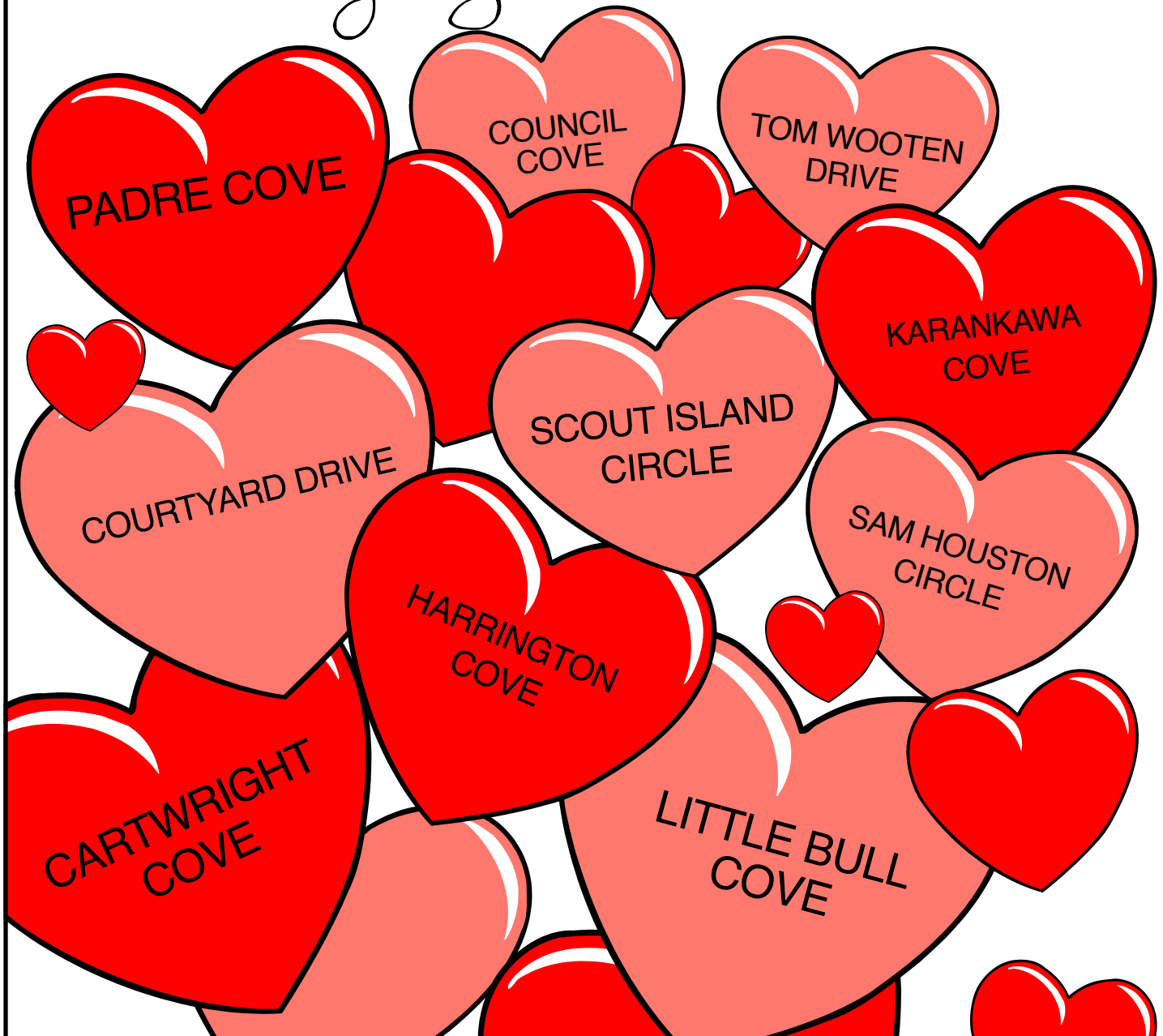
A person sent twenty different puns to his friends, with the hope that at least ten of the puns would make them laugh.

No pun in ten did.



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## AIRLINE SECURITY

Here's a solution to all the controversy over full-body scanners. Have a booth that you can step into that will not X-ray you, but will detonate any explosive device you may have on you. It would be a win-win for everyone.



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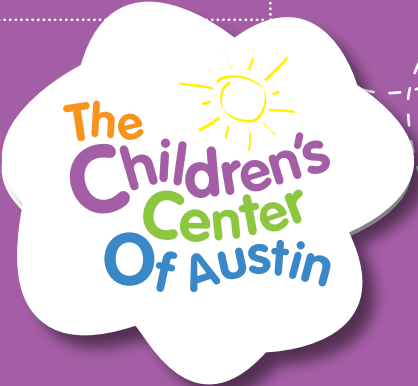
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