



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

March 2014

Volume 10, Number 3

BOARD MESSAGE

Thank you to all residents that took the time to sign and send in their proxies and/or attended the Courtyard's annual meeting on Sunday, January 26. We received enough proxies to reach the necessary quorum and were able to conduct almost all of our necessary business. Unfortunately, we did not have enough proxies or attendees at this meeting to be able to vote on the request to raise the annual dues so we had to organize a second special meeting, which was held on February 18. Since this was after our deadline for the March Caller articles, we will have to wait to report on that result until the April edition. Results will be posted on the website sooner so if you happened to check the website, you will know the outcome by now.

Three Board positions were up for election this year. Cathleen Barrett and Jim Lloyd were re-elected to three-year terms on the Board. Doug Richards was elected to the position previously held by Ed Ueckert, who decided not to run again. Congratulations to Cathleen, Jim and Doug! Thank you for volunteering your "spare" time for the Community and special thanks to your families for sharing you.

Although we will miss him at the Board meetings, we are very happy that retiring Board member, Ed Ueckert, has agreed to remain the Chairman of our Landscaping and Decorating Committee. While most of our committees are a committee of

one, we were fortunate in this case because when we got Ed, we also got his wife, Jan, and together they are a great committee. THANK YOU to Ed and Jan for all the time and energy they have given to this community over the years to make the Courtyard look good. Easy to do with the unlimited funds some neighborhoods have. Not so easy with our more limited budget. Nevertheless, Ed and Jan make sure we have holiday decorations up and have overseen our landscaping – adding new native trees and low maintenance plants to our entrances and common areas. Perhaps his hardest job has been to keep our old irrigation system working and our grass alive and pretty darn green despite drought restrictions. Not an easy feat. Ed and Jan - we appreciate all you do.

Please observe the 30 mph speed limit while driving in our neighborhood. It is everyone's responsibility to help keep our community safe and as the weather gets warmer and more residents get out to walk, jog, or ride a bike, it is especially important to BE CAREFUL. Whatever you were speeding off or home to do can never be worth running into a person or pet.

**KEEP DRIVING SLOWLY
IN THE COURTYARD!**



2014 COURTYARD EASTER EGG HUNT! **Saturday, April 19, 11:00 - 1:00**

Don't miss the fun...Plan now to attend the 2014 Courtyard Easter Egg Hunt! Bunnies of all ages bring your baskets and hop on down for some Easter fun! In addition to our annual Easter Egg Hunt we will have a Piñata and great prizes!

We look forward to seeing you there! If you think you will be able to attend, please email or call to let us know how many egg hunters will be in your family/group:

Joany Price (Social Chairperson)

775-8942, joanyprice@gmail.com

Volunteers welcome! Please contact Joany Price if you have time and/or ideas to share for this celebration. A lot of work goes into these socials to make them happen, so all volunteers are greatly appreciated!

CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Leslie Craven.....	502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)
Vice President	N/A
Secretary, Cathleen Barrett	817-371-6983
Treasurer, Jim Lloyd	231-0855
Doug Richards	512-527-9001
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Jamie Southerland.....	394-5529
Waneen Spirduso.....	spirduso@utexas.edu

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Community Park	
Jamie Southerland.....	394-5529
Welcome	
Joany Price.....	775-8942
Social Committee Chairperson	
Joany Price.....	775-8942
Landscape & Decorating	
Ed Ueckert	345-6137
Security	
Jim Lloyd.....	231-0855
Communications	
Leslie Craven	502-1124
Cathleen Barrett (<i>Editor - Courtyard Caller</i>).....	531-9821
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.....	N/A
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Waneen Spirduso	spirduso@utexas.edu
Fire Safety Committee	
Jim Gattis	512-345-0593
.....	jim.gattis@ymail.com
Area Development and Zoning Liaison	
Bill Meredith	345-0593

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Allan Nilsson	346-8432
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Villas at Courtyard:	
Thomas Hoy.....	231-1270
.....	Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com
Wolf Court:	
Tim Sullivan.....	346-3146
.....	tsullivan@austin.rr.com

Courtyard Book Club

1 pm, Tuesday, April 1, 2013
5612 Scout Island North

In 2013, at the age of 82, Alice Munro was named the 2013 winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature for her work as “master of the contemporary short story”. In 2009 she won a Booker Prize for her lifetime body of work in literature in the English language. Most of her writing is set in southwestern Ontario where she has lived most of her life. Readers have noted that her short stories are often as complete and complex as novels. In *Runaway*, her most recent collection of stories and the Book Club’s April selection, she writes about women of all ages and circumstances. As she does often, Munro, in this collection, moves characters from one story to another. The publisher describes the stories about Juliet in this way: “...in the first, she escapes from teaching at a girls’ school into a wild and irresistible love match; in the second she returns with her child to the home of her parents, whose life and marriage she finally begins to examine; and in the last, her child, caught, she mistakenly thinks, in the grip of a religious cult, vanishes into an unexplained and profound silence.” From one story to another, as noted in the *GoodReads* summary, “she shows the betrayals and surprises of love—between men and women, between friends, between parents and children—that are the stuff of all our lives. It is Alice Munro’s special gift to make these stories as vivid and real as our own.”

In May the Book Club will celebrate the onset of the summer reading season with *An Autobiography* by Agatha Christie. While the character, Miss Jane Marple and Hercule Poirot were well known to millions of fans throughout the world, little was known about Christie’s personal life during her lifetime. In this book, published after her death, she reveals details of her life, which are as witty and captivating as her novels.

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

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.



CONTINUED COYOTE SIGHTINGS IN THE COURTYARD

Please be aware that residents of The Courtyard, as well as other neighboring communities, continue to report sightings of coyotes. Coyote sightings near greenbelts in Travis County are increasing as these intelligent, adaptable animals have discovered that an urban environment provides many sources of food. **Be aware and alert, especially at night, and keep**

your pets inside when not being supervised, particularly small cats and dogs. To report coyote sightings, especially aggressive behavior toward people or pets, call 3-1-1. The information gathered through 3-1-1 will be relayed to Texas Wildlife Services for response and follow-up. Call 9-1-1 to report a coyote attack on a human.

FAQS ABOUT URBAN COYOTES

What about children's safety?

Small children are at risk from coyotes. Children over the age of 5 or 6 generally play in groups and are too large to attract a coyote's interest. Children under 5 years old should be well supervised at all times, especially when near a pool, around streets, with domestic dogs, or where wildlife may be a concern.

When are coyotes a risk to people?

On rare occasions, bold coyotes have bitten humans. Although naturally curious, coyotes are usually timid animals and normally run away if challenged. Coyotes are a risk to people once they become comfortable around humans, usually as a result of feeding and/or indifference. When this occurs, coyotes lose their natural fear and learn to see humans, their yards, and their pets as food sources and safe havens. It is not normal for coyotes to attack or pursue humans, especially adults; it is a learned response to human indifference. You must aggressively discourage coyotes from feeling comfortable around you and your family by eliminating coyote attractants (food sources) from your yard and encouraging your neighbors to do the same.

What should I do if a coyote approaches me?

Remember, the human is the dominant player. The most successful method of frightening a coyote away is to appear as large and threatening as possible. Making aggressive gestures toward the animal (moving arms and legs), shouting in a deep voice, throwing rocks, sticks or other objects at the coyote, waving an object (walking stick, handkerchief, etc.), maintaining eye contact and moving toward human activity or populated areas are proven techniques for either making the coyote flee or ending the encounter. Teach children to remain calm, not the shriek or scream (it might sound like a wounded prey item to the coyote) and to move toward adult activity. Even if the above

methods don't appear to be working continue and exaggerate them. Do not turn away or run. Keep constant eye contact with the coyote and continue to move toward other people, a building or an area of activity. These techniques will generally frustrate even a bold coyote.

How can I discourage them from my backyard?

It is crucial to understand the importance of a unified neighborhood effort! If there is a regular coyote food source in one yard on your block, there will be coyotes active throughout the neighborhood. The elimination of any potential food source is essential to keep the coyotes away. Coyotes can easily get over a 6-foot fence, or even higher. Eliminating the coyote's ability to get a grip on the top of the fence or wall is the best means of prevention.

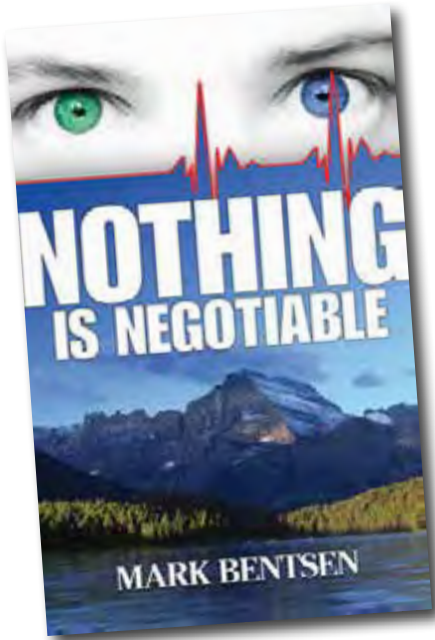
How can I keep my cat safe?

Unfortunately, the only way to ensure that your cat is safe from coyotes and other perils is to keep it indoors permanently. Some owners ensure their cat's safety by building outdoor enclosed cat runs.

How can I keep my dog safe?

Dogs most likely to come into conflict with (or be endangered by) coyotes are typically cat size or smaller. The ensure your pet is safe, the best action is to supervise it at all times when it is outside and make sure it is off leash only in enclosed areas. There have been reports of coyotes taking small dogs not only in the vicinity of their owner, but also (rarely) directly off the leash. If you notice a coyote when walking your small dog, let the coyote know you are there and either gather your dog in your arms, or keep it as close to you as possible while using some of the deterrents described previously.

COURTYARD RESIDENT BECOMES PUBLISHED AUTHOR!



Many residents of the Courtyard may know long-time resident, Mark Bentsen, as a good neighbor and gardener with a lovely yard stocked with plants from the nursery where he has spent a career. As of October 2013, Mark is also a published author of a new novel, *Nothing is Negotiable*. The seeds of the story were planted when Mark and his wife, Sharyn, took a trip to Glacier National Park a few years ago.

The story, full of mystery and suspense, has received 5 star ratings by nearly 100% of reviewers on Amazon. On a working vacation in Glacier National Park with her husband, Luke, Bonnie Wakefield disappears while seeking treatment for minor injuries at a clinic just over the Canadian border. And, the plot thickens rapidly. For Texans the book has some familiar references; the UT windbreaker which becomes a clue, and Edcouch, Mark's hometown in South Texas becomes the character, Ed Couch.

While Mark says he does not foresee a sequel to this novel, he does plan to keep writing and hopefully another novel will be on the horizon. The book, as well as information about the book, is available on Amazon. To find out more about Mark and his novel check out the website below.

Mark's website with interview: <http://www.markbentsen.com>

Oxymorons

- Is it good if a vacuum really sucks?
- Why is the third hand on the watch called the second hand?
- If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
- If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?
- Why do we say something is out of whack? What is a whack?
- Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?
- Why do "tug" boats push barges?
- Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?
- Why are they called "stands" when they are made for sitting?
- Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light?"
- Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?
- Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
- Why do "overlook" and "oversee" mean opposite things?
- Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?
- If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?
- If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?
- If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?
- If you are cross-eyed and have dyslexia, can you read all right?
- Why is bra singular and panties plural?
- Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?
- Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?
- Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?
- Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?
- Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?
- Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?

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Joany Price

Interested in a Courtyard Boot Camp?

Are you ready to shake off the winter blues and start getting active? With just 8 to 10 people Courtyard neighbors can have a personal trainer provide a weekly "boot camp" in our Park on Saturday mornings for only \$20 per person, per session. What could be better than enjoying a good workout with friends and neighbors? Josh Kintigh (512-739-7255; sethkintigh@gmail.com), who trains out of Anytime Fitness on RM 2222, is in the process of organizing weekly Boot Camps for other HOA organizations such as Rolling Wood and Rob Roy. Josh also has connections to Snap Kitchen and can make arrangements to have their food available after the workout. Please contact Josh at the number and/or email above, or Cathleen Barrett (817-371-6983) if you are interested and/or want more information.



May 2014 Neighborhood Garage Sale

It's that time again to begin 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. Contact Joany Price (775-8942; joanyprice@gmail.com) if you have any questions or to reserve a sign.

The HOA also has an arrangement with Settlement Home for Children (<http://www.settlementhome.org/>) to come by the day of the sale and pick up any "leftovers" you may have as a donation, however you will need to contact Settlement Home directly to set that up.

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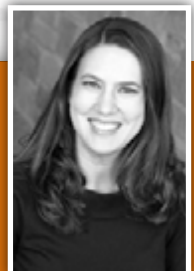
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