



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

April 2014

Volume 10, Number 4

## BOARD MESSAGE

Happy springtime to everyone! After a longer and more real winter than Austin has experienced in quite a while, Mother Nature has finally brought us that fresh green feeling of renewal that makes springtime so special. Hope you can make it to the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Spring Celebration in the Community Park at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 19. Try to get there a little before 11 if you are bringing children who plan to participate in the "hunt." Thank you to our Social Committee Chairperson, Joany Price, and all the volunteers who give their time and energy to make this event possible. These things wouldn't happen without them.

Residents – sorry to keep "nagging" about this, but – PLEASE be a good neighbor and pick up after your pets. It's easy to do. Free environmentally friendly disposal bags are located in several convenient spots along our streets, with two in the Park. Still, pet "deposits" are being left to decay in our walking areas and along our streets. City regulations require owners to pick up pet's deposits and fine those who do not. It might help to stay off your cell phone and pay more attention to your dog as you walk. Good neighbors and responsible pet owners simply don't do this to their community.

Sorry for the delay, but due to the publisher's deadline, we couldn't get this information into the March edition of the Caller. At a second special annual meeting on February 18, the proposed \$52.00 increase in dues beginning in 2015 was approved by the requisite number of voters. We appreciate all those homeowners

who took the time to vote on this important issue. The following were elected as officers for the 2014 Board of Directors at the first Board meeting after the annual meeting: President - Leslie Craven; Vice President - Jamie Southerland, Treasurer - Jim Lloyd, Secretary - Waneen Spirduso. Jamie Southerland volunteered to chair the Park Committee this year and has scheduled the spring cleanup in conjunction with a Fire Safety Committee's safety & fire prevention day at the Park. Mark your calendars for April 12 and come help do some spring cleaning and safety work in the Park. Watch for sign reminders around the neighborhood.

Don't miss the details about valuable safety and security information included in this month's Caller: Reverse 911 regional notice system – how to set up your household to receive critical emergency information in situations where property or human life are in danger; Free smoke detectors installed for free courtesy of our City Fire Department; and a simple way to prevent thieves from getting into your home through your garage door. Thank you to the residents that brought these things to our attention so we could share them with the whole community.

Finally, please continue your efforts to drive at or below the speed limit through the neighborhood.

**OUR BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL FOR A  
HAPPY AND HEALTHY SPRING!**



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

Join the fun and attend the 2014 Annual Courtyard Easter Egg Hunt! Bunnies of all ages are welcome to bring their baskets and hop on down for some Easter fun! In addition to the annual Easter Egg Hunt, there will be 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
.....	dougrichards714@gmail.com
Jamie Southerland.....	394-5529
Waneen Spirduso.....	spirduso@utexas.edu

## COMMITTEES

Environmental Control (ECC)	
Diana Apgar .....	415-9412
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
Compliance	
.....	N/A
Kayak Committee	
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

## 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

**Tuesday, May 6, 2014, 1 p.m.**  
**5612 Scout Island North**

In May the Book Club will read about the life of an author whose characters are familiar to everyone -- Agatha Christie. For years she shunned the notion of writing her own story, but ultimately realized that if she did not tell it herself others would tell it for her. Over the last twenty years of her life Christie created, piece by piece, a manuscript for an autobiography that was published after her death in 1976. While she created the world's best-known detectives in Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot, during her lifetime the world knew little about her personal life. She wrote 79 novels and short story collections plus 14 plays, including *The Mousetrap*, the longest running play in history. The autobiography tells of Christie's happy childhood and close relationship with her mother. She also writes of the painful year when she learned of the adulterous relationship of her husband as well as the loss of her mother.

In 1930 she married archaeology professor, Max Mallowan, with whom she traveled on several expeditions and later recounted those trips in the 1946 memoir, *Come, Tell Me How You Live*. The year of her second marriage also saw the release of *Murder at the Vicarage*, which introduced readers to Miss Jane Marple. While Christie wrote a few romance novels, she was best known as the Queen of Crime and Mystery. It is thought that she planned this autobiography to be a collection of reports from her life and travels. The manuscript she left is comprised in this autobiography with ample editing done by the publisher after her death.

The *London Daily Mail* published this assessment of the book: "Agatha Christie's most absorbing mystery -- the story of her own unusual life. She has put it all on record: her early romances; a broken (and a happy) marriage; strange events on the path to roaring success." *The Times of London* called her autobiography "the best book she has written".

The book selection for June is *Lincoln at Gettysburg: The Words that Remade America* by Garry Wills. By examining both the address and Lincoln in their historical moment, Wills gives new life to words so familiar, and reveals much about a president who became one of the most admired leaders the world over.

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

## IMPORTANT REMINDER

## ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD GARAGE SALE

If you have recently moved into the Courtyard, completed a spring cleaning, or just have some items you have been intending to sell on Craig's List, don't forget about the May 2014 Neighborhood Garage Sale scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd (Rain day – May 10th). It's easy.... the Homeowners Association will advertise in the Austin American Statesman and will put up 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.

Just have a few items? Join up with a neighbor(s)! This annual event, which includes neighboring communities in addition to the Courtyard, is always a big success and well attended!

## PARK CLEANUP & FIREWISE WILDFIRE PREVENTION EVENT

**SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2014, 9:00AM**

Please join us in the Park on Saturday, April 12, at 9:00 AM for our annual spring cleanup event. The tasks we plan to accomplish are:

- Common area trash pick-up
- Trimming of overhanging branches on the trails
- Spreading mulch on the trail
- Kayak-Canoe rack and surrounding area maintenance
- Branch and brush clearing

We will provide tools, gloves, and paper yard bags as well as refreshments. If you own a pruning tool, rake, shovel, wheelbarrow, and/or gloves, please bring them! Feel free to stay for the whole time or just as long as your schedule allows. Kids are always welcome!

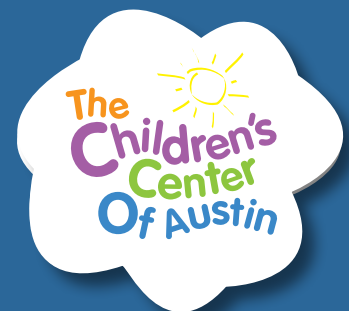


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[www.childrenscenterofaustin.com](http://www.childrenscenterofaustin.com)



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512.266.6130

#### JESTER

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Building 2  
Austin, TX 78750  
512.795.8300

#### BEE CAVES

8100 Bee Caves Rd  
Austin, TX 78746  
512.329.6633

## REVERSE 911 A REGIONAL NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (RNS)

*Reverse 911 is a valuable notification system for alerting the public of critical emergency information in situations where property or human life is in danger.*

In 2006, CAPCOG (Capital Area Council of Governments) used homeland security grant funds to implement a Regional Notification System (RNS). This system uses a “reverse dialing” telephone method to notify members of the public of critical emergency information in situations where property or human life is in danger as well as events that affect them. One such emergency that could occur is a wildfire in the immediate or surrounding area(s) of the Courtyard. The hope, of course, is that such an event will not occur and endanger our community. However, in the event of a wildfire, the Fire Safety Committee felt it advisable to make residents aware of this notification system. Any interested household can register their address and contact information with the RNS. It only takes a few minutes and could prove invaluable for preservation of life and property.

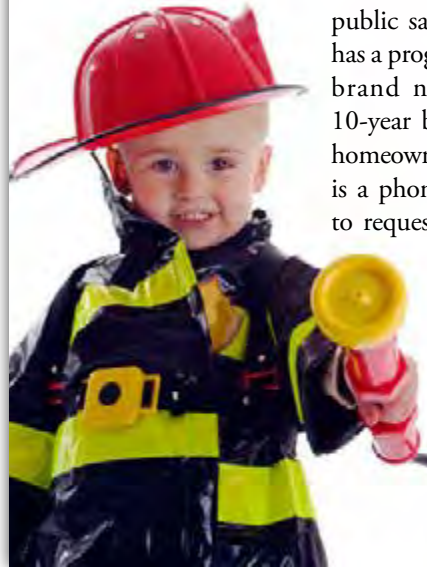
Originally the RNS would contact only those with regular landline telephone service. However, with the increased number of people no longer maintaining traditional telephone service, CAPCOG has now added the ability to notify you on your cell phone if there is an emergency near your home, business or other location and upgraded the RNS to provide enhanced notification capabilities to both cell and landline telephones. The system can send automated messages for certain types of weather events, such as severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, and flash floods. You can register your phone(s) to receive these warnings by checking the appropriate box on the registration form. Persons may link their cell phone numbers to one or more locations within the 10-county CAPCOG region, including their homes, businesses and the homes of relatives. You must create a separate record for each address, but you can use the same cell phone numbers for each record.

If a participating local government activates the system for an area that contains a location that has been registered to a particular cellular telephone number, the system will attempt to send the emergency message to that cell telephone. PLEASE NOTE: This notification system only works within the Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties.

Regional notification messages are initiated by local public safety agencies as one of several methods of relaying vital information to their citizens. To register your contact information into the CAPCOG’s Regional Notification system, please call 866-484-3264 or go online to [http://www.alertregistration.com/capcog/CitizenRegistration\\_Reg.cfm](http://www.alertregistration.com/capcog/CitizenRegistration_Reg.cfm)

## Valuable Fire Department Program

*FREE smoke detectors installed for FREE...REALLY!*



To encourage fire prevention and public safety, the Fire Department has a program where they will install brand new smoke alarms, with 10-year batteries, free of charge to homeowners and tenants. All it takes is a phone call to our local station to request the new fire alarms and schedule a time for them to come by. For additional information and/or to schedule an appointment, please contact:

*Captain Mike Becker  
Fire Station 31, C Shift  
512-338-4899*



## GARAGE DOOR SAFETY MEASURE

It is fairly easy, depending on the pull return, for someone to quickly breach a garage door and enter not only your garage but very possibly your home as well. A Courtyard resident recently notified the HOA about an incident at her home. During some of the cold weather her garage door did not raise up easily when the button was pressed. She contacted her handyman to check it out. While doing so he noticed scratch marks atop the door and a bit of separation in the rope. He informed the resident of how easily an intruder is able to slip an open coat hanger through the top of the garage door, grab the rope and quickly open the door. Fortunately this resident’s garage door rope has to be pulled toward the house and is not vulnerable. However, there was clear evidence that someone had tried.

*For an easy, quick, and inexpensive fix, please link to this news story on YouTube that demonstrates a simple way to prevent this from happening to you:*

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=KSO\\_HTBHLFI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSO_HTBHLFI)

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## Joany Price

**YOUR COURTYARD NEIGHBOR AND  
COURTYARD TENNIS CLUB MEMBER**

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## GET PAID TO GO GREEN WITH AUSTIN WATER

Austin Water is now accepting applications for the WaterWise Landscape Rebate Program that offers cash incentives to decrease outdoor irrigation. Austin Water consumers that replace healthy St. Augustine grass with native plant beds and permeable hardscapes may be eligible for up to \$1,250 in rebates. WaterWise refers to gardening in ways that reduce or eliminate the need for supplemental watering. Residential properties may receive \$25 for every 100 sq. ft. converted from healthy turf grass to native plant beds and permeable hardscapes. Participants must convert at least 500 sq. ft. to be eligible for rebates.

### PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Program only available to Austin Water customers or a customer of a qualifying water provider.
- Complete the application and supporting documents.
- Automatic irrigation systems must be capped or converted to drip in the conversion areas.
- Conversion area must be comprised of 50% or more plant cover (at plant maturity).
- 75% of the area to be converted must be healthy turf grass.
- The minimum size to be converted is 500 sq. ft.

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