



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

July 2014

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## *“I want to be recycled”* Comes to Austin

Austin Resource Recovery is excited to announce a first-of-its-kind partnership with Keep America Beautiful and the Ad Council. Be on the lookout for the “I Want to Be Recycled” campaign all around Austin. The educational campaign aims to raise awareness and motivate everyone to recycle more.

This partnership couldn't have come a better time. The City of Austin has a goal to keep 50 percent of trash out of landfills by December 2015. Currently, about 40 percent of trash is kept out of landfills.

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO? TAKE PART IN THE “GIVE US FIVE” CHALLENGE.**

**WHAT:** The “Give Us Five” Challenge encourages Austinites to increase recycling by 5 pounds each month.

**WHO:** You! The City of Austin is issuing the challenge to ALL residents with City of Austin recycling service.

**WHEN:** Now – Nov. 15, 2014

**WHY:** By the end of 2015, the City of Austin's goal is to keep 50 percent of materials out of the landfill.

*Visit [AustinRecycles.com](http://AustinRecycles.com) for campaign PSAs, challenge updates and tips on how to waste less and recycle more.*



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## COURTYARD Book Club

Tuesday, August 5, 2014, 1 p.m.  
5612 Scout Island North

In August, when Texas is hot and thirsty, the Book Club will refresh with a classic of Texas writing, Good-bye to a River, by John Graves. In the 1950's, when Texas was growing and looking for sources of power, a series of dams were planned for the Brazos River. The river was named by the Spanish explorers, Brazos, to mean "The River of the Arms of God". It is the 11th longest river in the United States. John Graves, knowing that the dams would change the river forever, decided to make a canoe trip and record what he saw. His stories became a history of this region of Texas. Graves recalls "the people" referring to the Comanche who controlled this land before the Anglo migration to Texas. Later citizens of the nation of Texas as well as the new state would see rough times in the hill country area. There was the lynching of African Americans who had come to Texas as slaves, and there were hangings of Anglo and Tejano residents. In the absence of law and order, revenge was freely taken.

Graves also notes the characteristics of the environs of the river, noting the calls of birds, observing the wildlife and vegetation. For Graves, this canoe trip is his farewell to a river he knew and loved. For the reader, it is a window to a place that once was witness to history at its best and worst.

In September, we will read Half of a Yellow Sun by Chinamando Adichi. This evocative novel from a Nigerian author captures the period of the Nigerian Civil War in African history with haunting intimacy.

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

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## BOOTH HELIPORT APPLICATION UPDATE CASE NO. SPC-2014-0014C

Following up on our report in the May 2014 issue of the Caller regarding the Heliport Site Plan for Bull Creek PUD, we are pleased to report that as of June 3, owner, David Booth has withdrawn his site plan application. This is not to say that Mr. Booth won't try to reapply sometime in the future, but for now, the issue is no longer hovering over our heads.



# ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A BURGLAR?

According to a recent Washington Post article, Anatomy of a Burglar, a home burglary takes place every 14.6 seconds in the U.S. The upside, if there is one, to such an alarming statistic is that plenty of data has been collected to help us understand how these criminals operate. Since knowing your enemy is half the battle, let's take a moment to get to know our average residential burglar, shall we?

- The typical house burglar is a male under the age of 25 who lives or works in the area.
- He does most of his work between 10 am and 3 pm.
- He spends an average of 8 to 12 minutes inside your home.
- He wants to spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into your home
- Of course, he'll take longer if he has a nice place to hide.
- He is particularly attracted to homes that look neglected, hidden or unoccupied.
- His first stop is usually the master bedroom where most people keep their valuables.
- He rarely goes in the kitchen or in kids' rooms.
- He looks for cash, jewelry, electronics, silver, guns and other items that are easy to transport and sell.
- His average take per burglary is \$1,725.
- His most common mode of entry is through the front door (34%), followed by a front window (23%) and backdoor (22%).
- Sometimes, he'll carry a clipboard. Or, he might dress like a lawn guy carrying a rake. He does his best to NOT look like a crook.
- Many times he will knock on the door or ring the doorbell to see if you're home before entering. If you answer the door, he'll just say he got the wrong address and move on to the next house.
- The two things a burglar hates most are loud dogs and nosy friendly neighbors.

Now that we've become better acquainted with our would-be burglar, we can use this knowledge to arm ourselves by implementing ways to make his job harder. Some tips to consider:

- Get to know your neighbors. Watchful eyes and ears are your best defense against unwanted intruders.
- Keep trees and shrubs around your home trimmed for visibility.
- Install motion sensor lights near front and rear entry doors
- Keep your doorbell in working order. You don't want to be surprised by an intruder who thinks he's entering an empty house.
- Keep up the appearance of a normal routine while away on vacation. Ask a neighbor or friend to put out your garbage bins, and pick up newspapers, mail, flyers or anything that would indicate you're not at home.
- Don't announce your vacation plans on social media sites or to strangers in public.
- If you have an attached garage, secure the door by disabling the automatic opener and locking the door before you go away on a trip.
- Secure sliding glass doors with a dowel or metal rod.
- If you keep valuables in a home safe, considering keeping the safe in your kitchen where burglars are less likely to go.
- If you store tools and/or valuables in an outdoor storage shed, secure the doors and windows with a deadbolt if possible.
- Keep valuables out of sight from anyone looking in your windows.
- Perform an assessment of your home's security. Consider how you would break in to your own home if you locked your keys inside. Secure those weak spots.
- A loud dog, regardless of size, can serve as a formidable alarm system.
- Consider investing in a home security system and post plenty of warning signs and window decals, which serve as highly effective deterrents on their own.

When it comes to home security it's important to implement a variety of protective measures rather than relying on just one. Taking multiple precautions works cumulatively to slow down a burglar's progress while exposing him to ever increasing risk and ultimately deterring or thwarting his efforts.

We are fortunate to live in such a safe community, but as we enter into peak burglary season in this growing city of ours, let's take extra precautions to secure our homes and keep those bad guys from targeting our happy hood.



## FREE SMOKE DETECTOR PROGRAM

To encourage fire prevention and public safety, the Fire Department will install smoke alarms with 10-year batteries FREE OF CHARGE to local homeowners and tenants!

**CALL (512) 974-0299 FOR MORE DETAILS**

## SEND US YOUR EVENT PICTURES!!

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in the newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in an upcoming issue. Email the picture to [janeegib@gmail.com](mailto:janeegib@gmail.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](http://www.PEELinc.com)




 The Austin Stone

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP at our new church campus in West Austin

**Sunday mornings at 10A**



Westlake Performing Arts Center  
4100 Westbank Dr, Austin, TX 78746



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## BULK PICK-UP SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 4, 2014!

### Bulk Items Include:

- Doors
- Carpet
- Furniture
- Appliances (*remove doors*)
- Passenger car tires (*remove rims; limit eight tires per household*)
- Lawn mowers (*remove gas/oil*)
- Railroad ties (*cut in half*)
- Pallets
- Rolled fencing
- Nail-free lumber

### Bulk Item Collection Crews Cannot Collect:

- Brush, household trash, cardboard boxes, hazardous materials, mirrors, automotive chassis and bodies, motorcycles, trailers, boats and tires that are still mounted on rims
- Sheet glass and other construction and remodeling debris

### Collection Guidelines

- Place bulk items at the curb in front of your house by 6:30 a.m. on the first day of your scheduled collection week
- Separate items into three piles as described below
- To prevent damage to your property, keep items 5 feet away from your trash cart, mailbox, fences or walls, water meter, telephone connection box and parked cars. Do not place any items under low hanging tree limbs or power lines
- Austin Resource Recovery only collects bulk items from its residential trash and recycling customers
- Items will not be collected if they are in an alley in any area, including Hyde Park, in front of a vacant lot or in front of a business
- Do not put items in bags, boxes or other containers. Bulk collection is for items too large to fit in containers. Bags will be treated as extra trash and are subject to extra trash fees

### Separate Items into Three Piles

1. Metal items - Includes appliances (*remove doors*). These are taken to our Resource Recovery Center for recycling
2. Passenger car tires - Rims must be removed. Limit of eight tires per household. We cannot collect truck or tractor tires. Tires will go to a tire recycling facility
3. Non-metal items - Includes carpeting and nail-free lumber. These items go to a landfill. Austin Resource Recovery is working on plans to salvage reusable items from bulk collection to help meet the City of Austin's Zero Waste goal

*Because these piles are collected by different trucks, they may be collected at different times throughout the week.*



# I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN!



## Have a great 4th of July celebration!



# Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor  
& Tennis Club Member*

Realtor, CLHMS  
Certified Previews™ Property Specialist  
International Diamond Society  
Coldwell Banker United, REALTORS



*I work here, I play here, I live here*  
  
*Joany Price*

## *Ridiculously Clever Household Hints*

- The simplest way to slice a bunch of cherry tomatoes is to sandwich them between two plastic lids and run a long knife through all of them at once!
- Keep brown sugar soft by storing with a couple of marshmallows
- Install a regular coat rack low down the wall to store shoes safely off the floor
- Organize jewelry on a corkboard for easy viewing when deciding how to accessorize an outfit
- Fill an old wooden box with skewers to make an all-purpose knife block
- Remove pet hair from furniture and carpets with a squeegee.
- Cover paint trays with aluminum foil to make cleaning up afterwards a breeze.



- Flip the toaster on its side to make grilled cheese.
- Use a large muffin tin to cook stuffed peppers in the oven - it will help keep them upright.
- To prevent potatoes from budding, add an apple to the bag.
- Add half a teaspoon of baking soda to the water when hard-boiling eggs to make the shells incredibly easy to peel off.
- Use non-stick cooking spray in votive holders to prevent wax from sticking to the sides

- WD-40 can be used to remove crayon marks from any surface!
- When hanging a picture frame, put a dab of toothpaste on the frame where you need the nails to be. Then simply press against the wall to leave marks (which can later be wiped) as guides for hammering in the nails.
- Sprinkle salt in the spaces between patio slabs and at the bottom of walls to get rid of pesky weeds (but be careful NOT to get salt near plants you want to keep as salt will kill them!)
- To clean a wooden chopping board, sprinkle on a handful of Kosher salt and rub with half a lemon. Rinse with clean water and dry to ensure it is clean and germ-free. You can use the same lemon and salt to clean brass.
- Use ice-cubes to lift out indentations made by furniture on your carpets.
- Prevent soil from escaping through the holes in the base of flowerpots by lining them with coffee filters
- To sharpen scissors, simply cut through sandpaper.
- Rub a walnut on damaged wood furniture to cover up dings.
- To prevent your eyes watering while chopping onions, wipe the chopping board with white vinegar (which won't affect the taste of the onions.)
- Drop a couple of denture cleaning tablets into the toilet bowl at night to clean stubborn stains.
- Use a can opener to open those annoying blister packs and avoid cutting yourself.
- Use a cut potato to easily remove a broken light bulb.
- Use chalk to remove grease stains from clothes. Simply rub chalk on the stained area and wash as normal. The chalk will absorb the grease and be washed away in the cycle.
- Freeze grapes to chill white wine without watering it down.
- Use a rubber band to rescue a stripped screw.
- Wrap rubber bands around the ends of a coat hanger to prevent dresses from falling off.

## "NO SEASON HAS TO BE ALLERGY SEASON"

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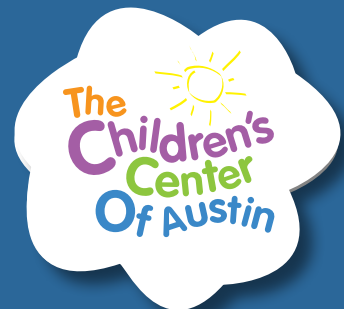


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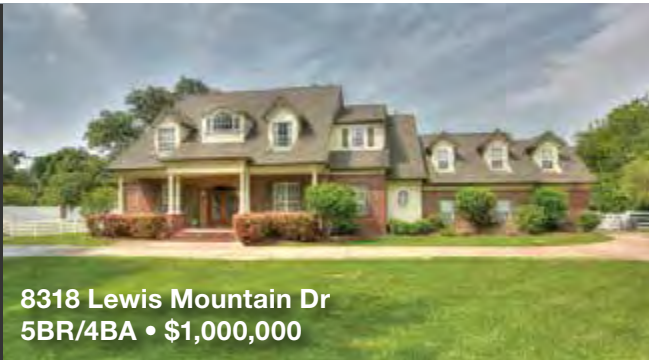


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5BR/3BA • \$660,000



6607 Lakewood Point Cv  
3BR/2.5BA • \$525,000

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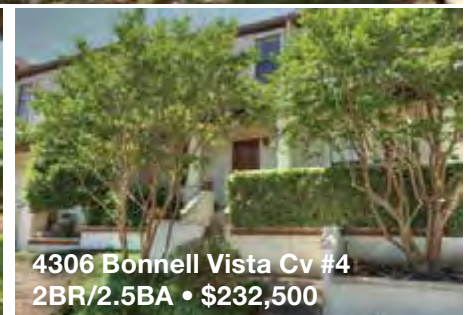
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3BR/3BA • \$1,200,000



187 Skyline Drive  
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7500 Canna Cv  
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4306 Bonnell Vista Cv #4  
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Summer is a great time to sell. CALL ME!

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