

October 2014 Volume 10, Number 10



## BOARD MESSAGE

Moving into the fall, we'd like to acknowledge and express deep appreciation to all our community volunteers. We cannot emphasize enough how important your gifts of time and energy are. You make it possible for the Board and its supporting committees to do the work of maintaining our common areas and property values, keeping maintenance costs down, and creating a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in our community.

Understandably, everyone is busy with work and family. However, we urge you to consider offering a little free time during the year – everything helps and the cumulative effect of each person's contribution goes a long way to helping keep the Courtyard a great place to live.

While we are on this subject, we are very happy to announce that residents Denise Hogan and Carolyn Brakhage have joined our Welcome Committee. Being themselves new to the Courtyard this year, Denise and Carolyn have brought a valuable newcomer's perspective to the committee's efforts. Check out the Welcome Committee article in this month's Caller and contact them about some of their great suggestions for making neighbors into friends.

Don't miss a chance for a free fire safety home assessment. The Fire Safety Committee and other community volunteers participated in a training session on September 13. Another training time is being set for December. The Committee will be starting individual assessments soon and continue them through fall, winter, and into spring. Contact any Board member or Committee Chairman Jim Gattis [(512) 468-2266, BubbaGattis37@gmail.com] to sign up for the assessment and/or to join volunteers in this EXTREMELY important community work.

And it probably wouldn't be a Board message if we didn't ask everyone to please keep up your efforts to drive safely and SLOWLY in the Courtyard. Be especially careful on Halloween night to watch out for our neighborhood ghosts & goblins, pirates & princesses, space invaders & super heroes. Have a happy and safe Halloween and don't forget the pre-trick or treating party on the Tom Wooten Drive island.



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Waneen Spirduso spirduso@utexas.edu
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BubbaGattis37@gmail.com
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### **MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

Goodwin Management: Marilyn Childress 11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227 512-502-7509

### **SUB-HOA CONTACTS**

Center Court:	
Gary Doucha	
	gmdoucha@yahoo.com
Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")	
Allan Nilsson	
	arnilsson@earthlink.net
Villas at Courtyard:	
Thomas Hoy	
	Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com
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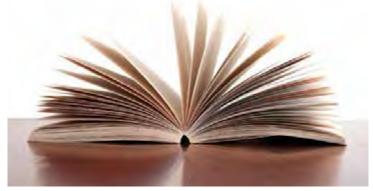
### Courtyard Book Club

Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 1 p.m., 5612 Scout Island North

On August 1, 1966, Charles Whitman climbed to the top of the University of Texas Tower. The ex-Marine had three rifles, two pistols, and a sawed-off shotgun. Whitman, 25, was an architectural engineering major who had already murdered his mother, Margaret, and his wife, Kathy, earlier in the day. He fired his first shots just before noon, aiming with chilling precision at pedestrians below. Elizabeth Crooke chooses this event as the background for her novel, Monday, Monday which was selected by the Austin Public Library as the Mayor's Book for 2014. Crooke imagines three young people whose lives become intertwined on that fateful day and follows these characters for the next 20 years as they try to make their lives whole again. Previously Crooke won awards for her historical fiction and with this new novel is again rewarded with praise from her peers. The Dallas Morning News describes *Monday*, *Monday* as "Authentic. . . harrowing. . . makes us believe the characters were there. . . Crook's exploration of Whitman's massacre and its lingering effects will have relevance for years to come."

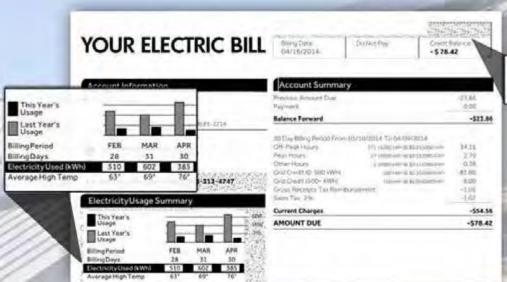
Please send suggestions for the 2015 reading list to Jean Heath at the email address below. Books for the list should be available in paperback, as well as in the Austin Public Library. Both recent publications and classics of fiction or nonfiction are welcome nominations. Members will vote for their choices prior to the December Meeting.

Call/or email Jean Heath, c.jeanheath@gmail.com; 512-964-8791, for more information on the club or for details about upcoming meetings.





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WATER SAFETY TIPS AT WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG



60 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year. \* Take our Water Safety Quiz. www.colinshope.org/quiz/

**Year round:** Athlete and Community Ambassadors needed. Email us: <a href="mailto:info@colinshope.org">info@colinshope.org</a> **November:** Underwater Holiday Photos! Back by popular demand, and coming soon.

Colin's Hope will again offer awesome and unique underwater holiday photos to capture your BEST Holiday picture Ever! Proceeds from photos will help us prevent drowning. Locations and dates will be posted at www.colinshope.org and our Facebook page soon.

Volunteer - Donate COLINSHOPE.ORG Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their year round support!

A special thank you to Peel, Inc. From donated ads to pledges raised in our golf tournament, their support helps us to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning.

\*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water

### LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING













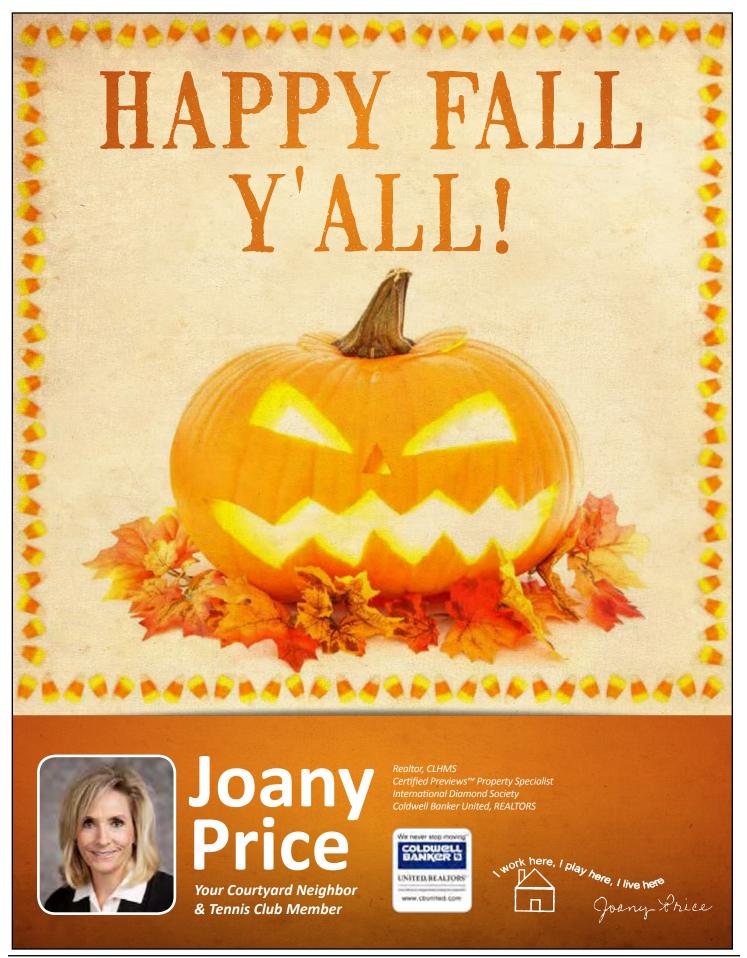






CONSTANT VISUAL SUPE<u>rvision</u> LEARN TO SWIM WEAR LIFE JACKETS MULTIPLE BARRIERS TO WATER KEEP BACKYARDS & BATHROOMS SAFER

CHECK POOL & HOT TUB FIRST STAY AWAY FROM DRAINS BE SAFER AT THE BEACH LEARN CPR & REFRESH SKILLS YEARLY



## Turning Neighbors into Friends

Would you like to turn more of your Courtyard neighbors into friends? The Courtyard has several fun seasonal events when we get together with our neighbors, catch up, and meet new neighbors in our vibrant community. Because those events are well attended and everyone enjoys the social interaction, the Welcome Committee would like promote additional activities that may be of interest. Below are a few ideas:

> Wine and Dine (quarterly) Mom (or Dad) and Tot Play (weekly) Quilting (monthly) Bunko or Keno (monthly) Bridge (monthly)

If you have an interest, or have ideas for other activities, we'd love your input. Please contact one of us on the Welcome Committee: Denise Hogan - denise.1.hogan@gmail.com or Carolyn Brakhage

cbrakhage@gmail.com.

Although we will not list names without their permission, the Welcome Committee has decided to start listing newcomers' addresses as a way to welcome them and let the rest of us know that we have new neighbors. Below are new residents who have moved here since January 1, 2014. If you are new and are not on this list, please let us know.

5703 Eagle Cliff 5722 Sam Houston Circle 5802 Harrington Cove 5203 S. Scout Island Circle 5909 Intercouncil Cove 5215 S. Scout Island Circle 5612 Intercouncil Cove

5503 S. Scout Island Circle 5805 Karankawa Cove 5704 Scout Island Cove 5606 Parade Ridge 5737 N. Scout Island Circle 5700 Sam Houston Circle

We are glad you are here!







### COURTYARD CALLER

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

### FROM THE AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Make sure costumes are visible and can be seen by drivers. For greater visibility in dusk or darkness, costumes should be decorated or trimmed with reflective tape.
- Use cosmetics instead of face masks. If a mask is used, make sure it fits securely and does not block vision.
- Carry either a flashlight or a "glow-stick." Do not carry candles, torches, or other actual flaming devices.
- Costumes should be flame retardant.
- Do not drive in a costume that restricts movement or vision.
- Children should always have an adult with them.
- An adult should inspect all candy before children are allowed to eat it.
- Throw away any candy that is not individually wrapped or purchased at a store.
- Children should stay on the sidewalk when trick-or-treating.
- Stay in small groups (we suggest six or fewer to a group). Stay near home in a familiar neighborhood and surroundings.
- Cross streets only at intersections.
- Candle-lit jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame.
- Indoor jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from curtains, decorations, or other furnishings that could be ignited.
- Jack-o-lanterns should be treated like all other candles. Extinguish them before leaving them unattended and before going to sleep.



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Go to www.margieforaustin.com to see Margie's stand on all the issues.

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### I AM YOUR TAX CUT LADY

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