



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

January 2015

Volume 11, Number 1

## BOARD MESSAGE

Happy New Year and welcome to 2015! We hope you all had a safe and happy holiday. Don't forget the **Courtyard Homeowners' Association annual meeting starting at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2015**, in the lobby of the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and North Scout Island Circle. Watch for important information and materials about this meeting that will be coming by mail to you in January. Although you may be tired of reading about it by now, it is very important that we establish a quorum for this meeting so that we can conduct necessary business as required by our Declaration. Regardless of whether you think you will attend or know you will not, we urge you to read the written materials, sign, and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible to help us avoid the costs and time of rescheduling a second annual meeting. Sending in your proxy early will not prevent you from showing up at the meeting and voting directly yourself. If you have any questions, please contact any Board member.

The terms of two current HOA Board members end January 2015, and we will be voting to fill those positions at the annual meeting on January 29. We are very happy to announce that **Waneen Spirduso** has volunteered to serve another term. For those of you who don't know Waneen, she has lived in the Courtyard for twenty-six years and has "loved every minute of it." She is willing to serve on the board because she cares about our community being as safe, pleasant, and friendly as possible, and she wants our homes and property not only to maintain their value but to increase their value. Over the years Waneen has served on the Environmental Control Committee, chaired the Compliance Committee, and was among the founders of the Kayak Committee in late 2007. Waneen has chaired that committee since 2008 and, in that position, has established one of our newer traditions – the boat rides that so many enjoy during the July 4 picnic in the Park.

After serving on the Board for three years in several capacities (Compliance Committee Chair, Park Committee Chair, and VP) **Jaime Southerland** is stepping down from his position due to pressing new responsibilities with work. Our loss is UT's gain. We are grateful to Jamie for all of his hard work and for the many contributions he has made to this community. Thank you, Jamie, we will miss you! Fortunately for us, however, **Paul Siegel** has generously volunteered to replace Jamie. Paul has been a resident of the Courtyard for four years, and a Texan for more than forty years. He retired as General Counsel for Pennzoil-Quaker State Company in Houston in 2002, having worked there for twenty-three years. From 2003 to 2004, Paul established the Houston corporate practice section of a large Texas law firm entering the Houston market and retired for good in 2004. Paul has served as president or board member of several organizations in Houston, including his local HOA, of which he was the president for eleven years. Paul has always been interested in and committed to his neighborhood, and looks forward to contributing to the Courtyard.

Anyone who goes to the Park will have noticed by now that we recently completed a long overdue cleanup of the section to the right as you enter and drive down the hill. Although it might look a bit "sparse" right now, keep in mind that this area is a "work in progress" and the Park Committee will be continuing to foster the growth of the many good trees and bushes that were hidden in the darkness and choked back by the heavy vines and overgrowth that kept them from developing. Keep an eye out for notice of Park clean up days this Spring. The Community Park can really use your help – ideas and hands on work. Contact Park Chairman, Terry Edwards, if you have some time to volunteer.

***Drive Safely in the Courtyard !!!***

## CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Leslie Craven..... 502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)  
Vice President, Jamie Southerland ..... 394-5529  
Secretary, Waneen Spirduso ..... spirduso@utexas.edu  
Treasurer, Jim Lloyd ..... 231-0855  
Doug Richards 512-527-9001, dougrichards714@gmail.com  
Cathleen Barrett ..... 817-371-6983  
Henry Mistrot ..... 459-7313

## COMMITTEES

Environmental Control (ECC)  
Diana Apgar ..... 415-9412  
Community Park  
Terry Edwards ..... 214-392-4627  
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  
Jane Gibson (*Editor - Courtyard Caller*) ..... 850-3346  
..... janeegib@gmail.com  
Compliance  
..... Open  
Kayak Committee  
Waneen Spirduso ..... spirduso@utexas.edu  
Fire Safety Committee  
Jim Gattis ..... 512-468-2266  
..... BubbaGattis37@gmail.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, January 6, 2015, 1 p.m., 5612 Scout Island North***

Many great stories have been told about the resilience of everyday citizens during the Depression years of the 1930's. *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown, is much more than just another of those stories. While it is a gripping account of how a team of young working class boys used grit and determination to win gold in the 1936 Olympics, it also highlights the Nazi determination to prove their mettle as a master race. One reviewer describes the team's efforts this way: "... they reaffirmed the American notion that merit, in the end, outweighs birthright. They reminded the country of what can be done when everyone quite literally pulls together. And they provided hope that in the titanic struggle that lay just ahead, the ruthless might of the Nazis would not prevail over American grit, determination and optimism."

The story of one rower, Joe Rantz, is particularly captivating. Joe was abandoned by his family as a young boy. The book follows his struggles not only to survive in trying times, but to prove his own worth as well.

In March, the club will read the entertaining *Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion. With endearing humor, the author tells the story of a bachelor's attempt to find the perfect wife using scientific methods he applies in his work in the technology industry.

***The complete list of books to be read in 2015 is below:***

***January:*** *Shadow of the Sun* (NF) by Ruzard Kapuscinski

***February:*** *Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown.

***March:*** *Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion,

***April:*** *The President's Club* by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy.

***May:*** *The Lady in Gold: The Extraordinary Tale of Gustav Klimt's Masterpiece, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer* by Anne-Marie O'Connor.

***June:*** *One Summer, America 1927* by Bill Bryson.

***July:*** *Girls of Atomic City; the Untold Story of the Women Helped Win World War II* by Denise Kiernan.





## NOTICE OF COURTYARD HOA ANNUAL MEETING

.....  
**JANUARY 25, 2015**  
**@ 6:00PM**  
.....

**WHERE:** Lobby of office building at the corner of Courtyard Dr and North Scout Island Cir.

**QUESTIONS?** Go to [www.courtyardhoa.org](http://www.courtyardhoa.org) or contact property manager, Marilyn Childress at (512) 502-7509 or any Board Member.

## NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS FOR A BETTER NEIGHBORHOOD

Many of us start off each new year with lofty goals of improving our health or our finances or our well-being. Of course, most of us give up or forget about our resolutions by the time February rolls around. That's because most goals involve really hard work. And discipline. Hard work and discipline, by definition, is no fun at all. So why not resolve to build a better community? It's a worthy ambition but a lot more fun than giving up chocolate or digging your way out of debt. Here are some ideas:

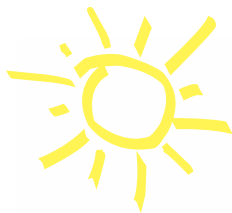
**Get Involved:** You don't have to invest a lot of time to get involved. Consider attending an HOA meeting or help with park cleanup or one of our annual events.

**Stay Informed:** Whether it's reading or re-reading your neighborhood Declarations or keeping up with zoning or ordinance changes, being informed is empowering.

**Meet Your Neighbors:** Just saying "hi" and introducing yourself will go a long way toward opening the lines of communication.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

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## Currently Accepting Student Enrollment



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



# COURTYARD CALLER

(Continued from Page 3)

**Go Outside:** Walking around the neighborhood or putzing around in your front yard are fun ways to meet more neighbors and to observe what's happening in your hood.

**Drive Carefully:** We are blessed with a great climate and tree-lined streets with no thru traffic which is ideal for walking, jogging or playing. If we all resolve to put aside the stress of having endured the notorious Austin traffic and waiting through the longest turn signal in the city (and possibly the world) and make a conscious effort to slow it down and pay attention once we turn onto Courtyard Drive, we'll make our streets safer for everyone.

**Pick Up Litter (human or otherwise):** Think back to this past summer. Did you happen to see a couple of your neighbors digging flags out of various gutter drains? That was Randy and Lynda Kirk from Sam Houston Circle who took it upon themselves to retrieve 80 to 100 flags that vandals had taken from our yards and thrown into the gutters. (The flags, which are generously donated and placed in our yards by Jo Carol Snowden have become a welcome annual tradition.) As if crawling in and out of gutters all day wasn't enough, the Kirks, with Jo Carol's approval, donated the flags to Randy's dad's VFW post to be used for decorating veterans' graves on holidays. In Randy's own words, "Lynda and I are both military brats. We were disgusted by this desecration of the flags so maybe this will make 'all's well that ends well'". This is just one example of wonderful Courtyard neighbors being good stewards of our community.

**Vote:** We are all responsible for protecting our rights as property owners and the quality of our community through our democratic process.

**Express Gratitude:** We are fortunate to have a beautiful neighborhood filled with happy residents, thanks in large part to the generosity of our hard working, and highly competent board members and all of our dedicated neighbors who volunteer their time and energy to ensure the quality of our Courtyard community.

*Be at War with Your Vices, at Peace with Your Neighbours, and Let Every New Year Find You a Better Man (or woman)*

*~Benjamin Franklin*

## 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](mailto:denise.1.hogan@gmail.com) or Carolyn Brakhage - [cbrakhage@gmail.com](mailto:cbrakhage@gmail.com).

## ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS TO YOUR NEIGHBORS

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# LET'S MAKE A DEAL

in 2015 with Joany Price



## Let's See What's Behind Your Front Door!

It promises to be another great year in real estate!  
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## Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor  
& Tennis Club Member*

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# COURTYARD CALLER

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## START COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR COURTYARD NEIGHBORS TODAY!

*It's free and easy to join. Go to [www.thecourtyardad.nextdoor.com](http://www.thecourtyardad.nextdoor.com)*

"Babysitter needed"

"Garage sale this Saturday"

"Free kids bike!"

"Car break-in! See anything?"

"Anyone missing a dog?"

### You're Invited!

Please join us on **Nextdoor**, the private social network just for our neighborhood.

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## *Featured Smile Makeover of the Month*

*by Dr. Lance Loveless*



"I had seen Dr. Loveless' Dentalife online and liked what I read. I had not gone to a dentist for over three years. I was discouraged about dental care in general as I had never had a good experience. However, now I had a genuine interest in resolving my dental issues. My mouth revealed five teeth that I had ground down, broken crowns, fractured teeth, tooth decay, and several spaces where teeth had once been. I would often cover my mouth when I smiled. I was beginning to lose my front teeth which caused difficulty when eating. Imagine my embarrassment of not being able to eat for fear of breaking more teeth. Dr. Loveless gave me back my smile. I had once been depressed and withdrawn, but am now completely outgoing and jubilant! I laugh and smile and now have a positive outlook on life". -- Brandy - Austin, TX

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# NEW YEAR TUNE-UP

Home ownership comes with its share of routine seasonal tasks and chores. But keeping track of what needs to be done – and when – can be a challenge. To help homeowners stay on top of their maintenance projects, home improvement retailer Lowe's offers easy-to-follow checklists for each season of the year and covers both inside and outside chores. **GET YOUR HOME READY FOR THE NEW YEAR WITH THESE TASKS.**



## INDOOR TASKS:

- When you turn clocks back, change the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- Install weather-stripping where needed around the windows
- Have the furnace professionally inspected
- If needed, set traps for rodents
- Dust blinds and vacuum curtains throughout the house
- Clean kitchen and bathroom cabinets and throw away outdated food, medicine and cosmetics
- Change or clean furnace filters; consult the manufacturer's instructions to determine how frequently the filters should be replaced
- Clean kitchen appliances inside and out, including refrigerator coils
- Maintain clean drains by adding one-half cup of baking soda followed by one-half cup white vinegar; after 10 minutes, flush with boiling water

## OUTDOOR TASKS:

- Clean gutters and downspouts
- Inspect the roof and chimney for cracks and damage, and have them repaired
- Rake and shred leaves to use as mulch or dispose of them
- Close or install storm windows
- Remove hoses from spigots and drain, and store indoors, coiled and flat
- Store outdoor furniture and cushions
- Walk around the house to check for open crawl space vents and close them before cooler temperatures set in
- Cover your central air conditioning unit, and remove and store window air conditioners
- Clean and store garden tools

**If you are thinking about selling or purchasing a home in the next few months, call me!**



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