

February 2015

Volume 11, Number 2

# BOARD MESSAGE

Sometime this month, you may go to the Courtyard website and find it looks a little different. Don't worry - it's just a new and improved version. It came about as a response to requests from our residents who use the website but found that they could not access documents on the website from their cell phones or ipads - only their computers. When we described the problem to the very kind and talented person who created and maintains our website for us, he explained that our website needed some major upgrading to offer that option to users. We decided to get this done and also used this opportunity to update and reformat parts of the site. Hope you all find it easier to use. Note: the passcode has not changed so when it is required, use the same four digit code that you did before. Please let us know if you have problems or questions as you use the new website. Again - we sincerely appreciate the generosity of our annoymous resident who has made this website and its continued maintenance possible at no cost to our community. To that resident -- thank you very much.

If you missed the annual meeting, you can still volunteer some of your time to the community by signing up on one (or more) of our standing committees. These committees and their chairpersons are listed on page 2 of the newsletter each month. If you don't think you have time to formally join a committee, please give some thought to helping out from time to time, as matters

Drive Slowly in the Courtyard!

come up – such as Park clean-ups or a social event. Keep an eye out for notices in the Caller, on the website, and watch for event signs posted near the entrances and on street corners. We cannot stress enough how important volunteers are to this community. Their assistance is invaluable to our efforts to keep the Courtyard a beautiful and welcoming place. Perhaps the nicest part of giving a little of your time to work on a community project is that it brings you together with your neighbors and helps you get to know and appreciate each other a little more. To all of you who already volunteer throughout the year, thank you, thank you, thank you! Please keep up your efforts. You make the difference, and you make the Courtyard a great place to live.

If you haven't sent in your annual Homeowners' Association dues yet, please do so as soon as possible. And lastly, please continue to drive slowly and carefully on our streets, especially in the darker times of the early morning and evening.

Courtyard Caller - February 2015 1

#### **CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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#### COMMITTEES

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## Courtyard Book Club

#### Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 1 p.m., 5612 Scout Island North

Sometimes readers just want a book to make them smile and feel warm inside. The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion is just such a book. Add a dose of thoughtful examination of personal differences and relationships, and Simsion has a book that leaves the reader feeling satisfied but with much to think about. The publisher sums up the plot perfectly: "The art of love is never a science: Meet Don Tillman, a brilliant yet socially inept professor of genetics, who's decided it's time he found a wife. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which Don approaches all things, he designs the Wife Project to find his perfect partner: a sixteen-page, scientifically valid survey to filter out the drinkers, the smokers, the late arrivers." Of course, the plot thickens and relationships have a way of failing to conform to initial perceptions let alone science.

Author, Simsion describes himself as a "bit of a nerd". He went to University in Australia at the age of 14, eventually establishing a database modeling company that he ran for 20 years. As he explored writing, taking classes, he recalls a classmate describing his main character, Don Tillman this way "Don's just a bloke, all men have a certain amount of Don in them".

In April, the Book Club will look at the office of The President in the United States, reading, The President's Club by Nancy Gibbs and Michael Duffy. Gibbs and Duffy provide a unique view the presidency by examining the relationship between those who occupy the Oval Office and their predecessors in what is often a bond between rivals.

For more information about the Courtyard Book Club, call or email Jean Heath, 512-231-9412, c.jeanheath@gmail.com.





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Courtyard Caller - February 2015 3

# OAK WILT DISEASE IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Oak Wilt, a systemic fungal disease, is the most destructive disease affecting live oaks and red oaks in Central Texas. The fungus causes the water conducting vessels of oaks to become clogged, reducing the flow of water up the tree. While all oak species are technically susceptible, live oaks and those in the red oak group are the most vulnerable, while those in the white oak group (such as bur, post, chinquapin, or monterrey) are more resistant. In Central Texas, the disease has been most devastating for live oaks because of their tendency to grow large interconnected root systems. Once infected, live oaks generally die in three months to a year.

The nitidulid beetle often spreads the oak wilt disease. According to the Texas Forest Service, in early spring (considered February 1 through June 30) the beetles that spread the disease become active, and exposed cuts are vulnerable. Pruning should be delayed until midsummer (after January 31st and before June 30th) when the insects are less active.

Oak wilt presents differently in different species. In live oaks, the leaves usually develop yellowed veins that eventually turn brown, a process called veinal necrosis. Many homeowners first notice oak wilt symptoms when the leaf veins are necrotic, but the spaces between veins are still green. In many cases, symptoms also include tip burn, scorching of the leaf margins, and interveinal chlorosis. In red oaks, the foliar symptoms of oak wilt are less predictable, but generally involve the browning or yellowing of leaves from the outer margins progressing inward.

Please refrain from trimming your oak trees and other hardwood trees from now until July of this year. Trimming trees, especially oaks, should be avoided from the beginning of February through the end of June !!!

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## REMINDER: OAK TREES SHOULD NOT BE TRIMMED UNTIL JULY

Please be aware that January was the last opportunity for oak trees to be trimmed until July of this year. The season **NOT** to trim oak trees is from February through June when the oak wilt carrier beetle is most active. Oak Wilt is a serious threat to the oak trees in central Texas (see Oak Wilt Disease in Central Texas article on this page).

## Recently SOLD In Courtyard



"We are pleased to endorse Joany Price of Coldwell Banker to all Austinites and especially our past neighbors in the Courtyard Subdivision. From the time that we engaged with Joany to sell our house and all the way through the closing process, we received professional service that exceeded our expectations. She was honest, trustworthy, tenacious and understands customer service. Joany lives and breathes the Courtyard and we feel that there is no one better to serve the real estate needs of this community. We are only sorry that we did not get to know her sooner, as now, we call her "friend."

Pete and Evie Patton 5903 Padre Cove

"Joany Price did a wonderful job helping us sell our home. Her understanding of the area, assistance with staging the home and aggressive marketing approach made selling our home quick and painless. You will get a professional, caring, honest and aggressive agent in Joany."

> Mark Drosos 5509 Courtyard Drive



"Joany Price, Courtyard Realtor, Courtyard neighbor and now Courtyard friend has handled multiple real estate transactions for me in The Courtyard over the last few years. She has a thorough knowledge of the real estate in our area. As an investor, she keeps me informed about The Courtyard activities and shares any updates on properties I might be interested in. I feel a part of The Courtyard community because of Joany and recommend using her for your real estate needs."

> Katherine Isgren 5722 N. Scout Island Circle 5909 Inter Council Cove



Joany Price Your Courtyard Neighbor

& Tennis Club Member

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It's free and easy to join. Go to www.thecourtyarad.nextdoor.com



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

CCOA-STEINER RANCH 4308 N. Quinlan Park Rd. Suite 100 Austin, TX 78732 512.266.6130

CCOA NORTHWEST AUSTIN 6507 Jester Boulevard Building 2 Austin, TX 78750 512.795.8300

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"Now people comment on how young I look. They notice something different about my appearance but they cannot seem to quite put their finger on what it is! I used to smile with my mouth closed, but now I smile big-revealing my beautiful teeth!" -- Ana - Austin, TX

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## NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO SELL!

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## CALL ME!



There are currently no homes for sale in The Courtyard! If you are thinking of moving, please call me for a complimentary market analysis to see how much your home is worth in today's market.

Jo Carol Snowden Broker Associate, ABR, CRS, GRI

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