



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

*Official Courtyard Newsletter*

September 2015

Volume 11, Number 9

## BOARD MESSAGE

Although some of you may be aware of this by now, we regret to inform everyone that a boat was stolen from our kayak racks around August 11 - 12. The thieves may have been interrupted as another boat was pulled half way off the rack and a new cockpit cover was taken off another boat and left on the ground along with some paddles. The loss of this boat is doubly bad because it occurred to the same resident who had a boat stolen from our rack three years ago. If anyone knows anything about this, please contact us. Security measures considered in the past -- such as adding cameras and motion lights, and/or replacing the gate code with a card access system -- were not considered economically feasible at the time. However, the Board is continuing to evaluate how we might improve security in the Park and our community, in general, and welcomes your suggestions and/or comments.

As is the case with so many nonprofit organizations, the Board and supporting committees must rely on volunteers to fulfill their functions throughout the year. Specifically, the Courtyard needs a co-editor for the Caller -- possibly trading off every other month with our current editor, and we need "fresh faces" to help manage the website and share management responsibilities for the kayak rack. In all honesty, those who have been doing these things for years are tired and would like to share some of the "fun" with others. On a practical level, we need to pass along the knowledge of how these things get done to others who will be stepping up in the future to manage our community. So -- please give it some thought and if you are even mildly interested in helping out, contact any Board member or Committee Chairperson. See, pg. 2 of this newsletter or the website's "Contact Us" page.

Don't forget to sign up for a FREE fire safety assessment. Contact Committee Chairman Jim Gattis at (512) 468-2266 or [bubbagattis37@gmail.com](mailto:bubbagattis37@gmail.com).

A sincere thank you to the several residents who made the effort to call in to let us know that we had a broken sprinkler head and were losing precious water along the secondary entrance to the Courtyard. Thank you also to Ed Ueckert who ran down in the morning to turn off the water. Your joint actions have saved the Community overcharges on our water bill -- and if you all have noticed your water bills in the last month or so, those can be substantial charges.

Efforts are continuing to get a new hardcopy directory published. "Stayed tuned" and when you receive a request for up to date contact information, please take the few minutes needed to fill out the information and send it back in.

REMINDER (or maybe you never knew): if you are planning to do anything to the outside of your home, our rules require that you get your plans approved by the Environmental Control Committee (ECC) BEFORE you start. There are good reasons for this, as some homeowners who didn't get prior approval will attest to. The ECC also works very hard to complete their review so as not to delay your plans. Please touch base with them before you begin a project.

Finally, children are back in school and our days are growing shorter. Please be extra careful when driving through the neighborhood in the early morning and late afternoon/evening hours. Watch out for children, runners, cyclists, and walkers -- both the two and four legged kind.

Drive Safely in the Courtyard !

# FEELING LUCKY?

**Come to Courtyard Ladies Game Night.  
Every third Thursday of the month at a  
different neighbor's home. TBA**

Show up at 6:30 with an hors d'oeuvre, \$5 and drink of your choice if other than water or tea. We'll play bunco or keno and have tons of fun! Neither game requires skill so come and enjoy yourself!!! But..... you **MUST RSVP.**



*If you are not on the email list already and want to be, contact Joany Price, Social Chair and she will add you.  
[joanyprice@gmail.com](mailto:joanyprice@gmail.com) or  
512-775-8942.*



## Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor  
& Tennis Club Member*

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



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*"I am now including a complimentary membership to The Courtyard Tennis & Swim Club with all of my listings". A \$1500 value.*



## Courtyard Book Club

*Tuesday, October 6, 2015, 1 p.m.  
5612 Scout Island Cir North*

Join the Courtyard Book Club for a discussion of the October book selection *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr. This ambitious novel has had many top reviews and multiple awards. It is a beautiful story about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II. Marie Laure lives with her father in Paris where he is master of the locks in the Museum of Natural History. When the Germans occupy Paris, father and daughter flee the city. In Germany, an orphan boy, Werner, grows up with his younger sister, Jutta, both enchanted by a crude radio Werner finds. He becomes a highly specialized tracker of the Resistance. The paths of Maria Laure and Werner converge in Saint-Malo. Author Doerr deftly interweaves their lives and illuminates the ways people try to be good to one another.

For the November meeting and discussion Book Club members will be reading the Mayor's Book Club selection for 2015, Steinbeck's classic, *Of Mice and Men*.

For more information about the Courtyard Book Club, call or email Lou Blemaster, 512-551-2659, [loublemaster@gmail.com](mailto:loublemaster@gmail.com)



## CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Leslie Craven..... 502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)  
Vice President, Paul Siegel..... 512-243-5419  
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Treasurer, Jim Lloyd ..... 231-0855  
Doug Richards 512-527-9001, [dougrichards714@gmail.com](mailto:dougrichards714@gmail.com)  
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## COMMITTEES

### Environmental Control (ECC)

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Welcome

Joany Price..... 775-8942

### Social Committee Chairperson

Joany Price..... 775-8942

### Landscape & Decorating

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### Security

Jim Lloyd..... 231-0855

### Communications

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Jane Gibson (*Editor - Courtyard Caller*)..... 850-3346

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### Compliance

..... Open

### Kayak Committee

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### Fire Safety Committee

Jim Gattis ..... 512-468-2266

..... [BubbaGattis37@gmail.com](mailto:BubbaGattis37@gmail.com)

### Area Development and Zoning Liaison

Paul Siegel & Cathleen Barrett... 512-243-5419, [pbsiegel@gmail.com](mailto:pbsiegel@gmail.com)

## MANAGEMENT COMPANY

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512-502-7509

## SUB-HOA CONTACTS

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..... [gmdoucha@yahoo.com](mailto:gmdoucha@yahoo.com)

### Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")

Allan Nilsson ..... 346-8432

..... [arnilsson@earthlink.net](mailto:arnilsson@earthlink.net)

### Villas at Courtyard:

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### Wolf Court:

Tim Sullivan ..... 346-3146

..... [tsullivan@gmail.com](mailto:tsullivan@gmail.com)



# CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIPS

*Courtesy of Public Utility Commission of Texas*

### **Cool your home wisely:**

Set your thermostat to 78° or higher. Each degree below 78° can increase your energy consumption by 6 to 8%.

Use ceiling or portable fans instead. Fans move the air and make the room feel four to six degrees cooler and will use much less energy than the air conditioner.

Keep windows and doors shut tight. Going in and out of the house repeatedly will make your air conditioner work harder.

Block the sun. Close blinds or drapes on windows that directly face the sun.

Make sure your air-conditioner is clean. Washing the outside coils and clearing high grass and debris around the unit will prevent blockage of the air-flow.

### **Refrigerators and freezers:**

Minimize opening and closing your refrigerator and freezer. Every time you open it, cool air will rush out and be replaced with warm air, causing the refrigerator to run more to stay cool.

Keep it full. Refrigerators and freezer actually operate most efficiently when full, so keep your refrigerator and freezer as full as possible (with bottles of water if nothing else).

### **Dishwashers and Clothes Washers/Dryers:**

Only run dishwashers and clothes washers when fully loaded. This will save water in addition to electricity. Use cold water for laundry.

Use the air-dry setting on your dishwasher. Using the heat-dry setting can also heat the kitchen, causing the air conditioner to run more.

Use at night. Running dishwashers and clothes washers/dryers at night will keep the house cooler and reduce strain on the power grid during the peak usage hours of 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and reduce the chance of an emergency.

### **Lighting and other electrical equipment**

Turn them off. Turn off lights, TVs, and other equipment when you leave a room. You'll save electricity and generate less heat, meaning the air conditioner will run less.

Use power strips. Even when turned off, electronic and other home office equipment continue to consume electricity when plugged into the wall. Shutting off power at a power strip will eliminate this standby electricity consumption.

### **Home computers**

Use power management tools. Set monitors and computers to switch to sleep mode when idle for more than a few minutes. This will not only use less energy, but will also run cooler and reduce the need for air-conditioning. Turn machines completely off at a power strip when not in use.

### **Energy Efficiency Tips:**

#### **Reduce lighting costs.**

Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs

(CFLs). CFLs use 75 percent less electricity and produce 90% less heat.

### **Install and use a programmable thermostat.**

Set it to raise the temperature during the day when you're not home and to cool the house down before you arrive home. Properly used, a programmable thermostat can save 10-20% of your energy use.

### **Stop leaks.**

Check your ducts to see if there are any leaks, and seal them with mastic tape if needed. Caulk and weather-strip doors, windows and pipe clearances to save as much as 10% on cooling costs.

### **Properly maintain your air conditioner.**

Check air filters once a month and replace at least every three months as dirty filters make your system run and work harder. Have a licensed contractor inspect and maintain your air-conditioner in the spring or fall to make sure it is running efficiently. If your air-conditioner is more than 15 years old, consider replacing it with a newer, more efficient model that can use up to 40% less energy than older models. Ensure any new unit is properly sized and correctly installed. Bigger is not always better.

*(Continued on Page 5)*

## NOW HIRING Advertising Sales Representative

**Description:** The position includes marketing our community newsletters to local and area businesses. It is a flexible position that allows you to work from home and set your own hours.

**Roles:** Stimulate new advertising accounts in our community newsletters. Maintain current accounts assigned to you by Sales Manager. Service your accounts by assisting them from ad design to final proof approval.

**Skills:** Excellent communication through email and phone, with high level presentation and relationship-building skills. Strong prospecting and business development skills are a must. Previous sales experience preferred but not required.

**Benefits:** Commission Based  
Apply by sending resume to [jobs@peelinc.com](mailto:jobs@peelinc.com)



PEEL, INC.

(Continued from Page 4)

## Ventilate and insulate the attic.

Check your ducts to see if there are any leaks, and seal them with mastic tape if needed. Caulk and weather-strip doors, windows and pipe clearances to save as much as 10% on cooling costs.

Proper ventilation reduces the temperature and moisture buildup which can cause the air conditioner to work harder. Proper insulation with high R-value insulation will keep more cool air in the house.

## Add shade.

Adding trees and shrubs on the east, west, and south sides of your house can cut your cooling costs.

## Consider energy cost when buying new appliances.

When buying an appliance, remember that it has two price tags: what you pay to take it home and what you pay for the energy and water it uses. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances incorporate advanced technologies that use 10-50% less energy and water than standard models. The money you save on your utility bills can more than make up for the cost of a more expensive but more efficient ENERGY STAR model.

## Improve your windows.

If your home has single pane windows, consider replacing them with more energy efficient windows or adding solar shades or tinting film.

## WHERE ARE YOU?

Numbers for addresses on many Courtyard homes are not readily visible or are simply non-existent. Emergency responders indicate they often encounter trouble when trying to locate a home under circumstances when minutes and even seconds are critical. For this reason, we urge all our residents to take a few minutes and make sure their addresses are clearly visible from the street. It may be a matter of trimming back some bushes, touching up the numbers with paint (how about glow-in-the-dark for night time?), or adding numbers that are not there. Whatever it takes, please consider adding this simple chore to your home exterior to-do list. A little maintenance like this can save a life!



# NOBODY IS DROWNPROOF

## WATCH & KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH

[www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)



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AROUND WATER

  
KEEP YOUR  
HOME SAFER

  
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SOURCES FIRST

  
PRACTICE DRAIN  
SAFETY

  
BE SAFER IN  
OPEN WATER

  
LEARN  
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## LEARN MORE: [www.colinshope.org/RESOURCES](http://www.colinshope.org/RESOURCES)

**DROWNING IS THE NUMBER ONE CAUSE OF ACCIDENTAL DEATH FOR CHILDREN UNDER FIVE,  
AND A LEADING CAUSE FOR CHILDREN AGES 1 - 14.**



1 2 3 4

Children under the age of five are often at highest risk.



5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

## 56 Texas children have already lost their lives to drowning in 2015

## DROWNING IS PREVENTABLE

# LEAVE NO PILE BEHIND -- POOP POLLUTES!

Are you guilty of leaving your dog's waste on your neighbor's lawn because you thought you were providing free fertilizer? Perhaps you don't scoop the poop because you think it's downright disgusting! Imagine if all dog owners in Austin didn't scoop the poop.

With 250,000 dogs in Austin, that adds up to approximately 150,000 pounds of dog waste produced throughout the city every day!

Pet waste is a subject everyone likes to avoid, but it is more than smelly and unsightly -- it is a health risk to pets and people, especially children. When it rains, pet waste left on trails, sidewalks and grassy areas can wash into the nearest waterway. Even if you can't see signs of water near you, the feces wash into storm drains and then travel to your neighborhood creek or lake untreated. Like human waste, animal waste may contain

harmful bacteria and viruses, rendering the water unfit for recreation, or other uses. It takes only one teaspoon of dog feces in a water body the size of an Olympic pool to make the water unsafe for swimming. Pet waste also contains nutrients that will accelerate the growth of nuisance algae in creeks and lakes.

So please, Scoop the Poop -- it's the healthy and neighborly thing to do!

Austin City Code 3-4-6 DEFECATION BY A DOG OR CAT:

"An owner or handler shall promptly remove and sanitarily dispose of feces left on public or private property by a dog or cat being handled by the person, other than property owned by the owner or handler of the dog or cat."

Potential Fine: Up to \$500 in City Parks

Here's how to help:

1. Bring It! Carry a scooper bag when you walk your dog.
2. Scoop It! Use the baggie like a glove, scoop the poop, invert and seal the bag.
3. Toss It! It belongs in the trash.
4. Place It! Put a "Scoop the Poop" sign in your yard to encourage your neighbors

to scoop it up too! To request a free sign, visit [www.ScoopThePoopAustin.org](http://www.ScoopThePoopAustin.org) or call 974-2550.

SCOOP THE POOP, AUSTIN – for Cleaner Creeks ... Cleaner Streets ... Cleaner Feet!

Visit [www.ScoopThePoopAustin.org](http://www.ScoopThePoopAustin.org) for more information.

# TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional  
Fernando Velasco



With this issue, I will be offering tips on the fundamentals of the game of tennis. Kristen Somerholter, a Member of the Grey Rock Tennis Club shows the proper form and technique for the forehand groundstroke:

Step 1: Early Anticipation: The upper body turns with the right wrist slightly "cocked" back and level with the hip. Notice the eyes focused toward the incoming ball and the balance of the left hand in front of the body.

Step 2: Point of contact: Once the racquet starts accelerating, the right wrist is still slightly "cocked" back, but will have a small snap when making contact with the ball. Optimum point of contact is in front of the opposite foot. Notice that the eyes are still focused on the tennis ball and her weight has transferred to her left foot.

Step 3: Follow Through: Once the ball has made contact with racket, the arm needs to follow through for a long period of time to allow maximum compaction of the ball and help from the strings and the frame. Notice that the body has slightly turned watching where the ball is landing. The knee has flexed to allow more flexibility and power for the ball.

Step 4: Finish: If the racket has great momentum, let it continue following through the body and finishing it around the neck. This will allow for a more powerful impact and depth on the ball. The smile on her face shows that she hit a great shot!!

Look for next Issue: The Backhand Groundstroke





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## SEND US YOUR *Event Pictures!!*

Do you have a picture of an event that you would like to run in this newsletter? Send it to us and we will publish it in the next issue. Email the picture to [cathleenbarrett@hotmail.com](mailto:cathleenbarrett@hotmail.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).



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# 2015 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

## TEXAS

Sept 5 @ Notre Dame  
Sept 12 - Rice  
Sept 19 - California  
Sept 26 - OSU  
Oct 3 @ TCU  
Oct 10 vs OU @ Dallas  
Oct 24 - KSU  
Oct 31 @ ISU  
Nov 7 - KU  
Nov 14 @ WVU  
Nov 26 - TTU  
Dec 5 @ BU

## TEXAS A&M

Sept 5 - Arizona State  
Sept 12 - Ball State  
Sept 19 - Nevada  
Sept 26 - @ Arkansas  
Oct 3 - MS State  
Oct 17 - Alabama  
Oct 24 @ Ole Miss  
Oct 31 - South Carolina  
Nov 7 - Auburn  
Nov 14 - Western Carolina  
Nov 21 @ Vanderbilt  
Nov 28 @ LSU

## TEXAS TECH

Sept 5 - Sam Houston St  
Sept 12 - UTEP  
Sept 19 @ Arkansas  
Sept 26 - TCU  
Oct 3 @ BU  
Oct 10 - ISU  
Oct 17 @ KU  
Oct 24 @ OU  
Oct 31 - OSU  
Nov 7 @ WVU  
Nov 14 - KSU  
Nov 26 @ UT

## TCU

Sept 3 @ Minnesota  
Sept 12 - SFA  
Sept 19 - SMU  
Sept 26 @ TTU  
Oct 3 - UT  
Oct 10 @ KSU  
Oct 17 @ ISU  
Oct 29 - WVU  
Nov 7 @ OSU  
Nov 14 - KU  
Nov 21 @ OU  
Nov 27 - BU

## BAYLOR

Sept 4 @ SMU  
Sept 12 - Lamar  
Sept 26 - Rice  
Oct 3 - TTU  
Oct 10 @ KU  
Oct 17 - WVU  
Oct 24 - ISU  
Nov 5 @ KSU  
Nov 14 - OU  
Nov 21 @ OSU  
Nov 27 @ TCU  
Dec 5 - UT



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