



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

December 2015

Volume 11, Number 12

## Board Message

In the midst of all your holiday activities, please take a minute to mark your calendars with the date of our ANNUAL MEETING coming up on Sunday, JANUARY 31, 2016, 6:00 p.m. in the lobby of the office building at the corner of Courtyard Drive and North Scout Island Circle. While we hope everyone can attend, we also understand that it is not always possible. Nonetheless, our Declaration requires that we have a quorum present at this meeting so that we can conduct necessary Association business. For this reason, please read the written materials about this meeting when they arrive in your January mail and then sign and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible to help us avoid the additional time and costs of having to reschedule a second annual meeting.

We recognize that it is usually difficult to know weeks ahead whether your schedule will permit your attendance. Don't let this stop you from sending in your proxy early. Early mailing is merely a precaution in case you forget that day or something unexpected comes up that prevents you from attending. Sending your proxy in early does not prevent you from coming and voting directly at the meeting. There will be more information and reminders in the January Caller and on our website: [www.courtyardhoa.org](http://www.courtyardhoa.org). Please contact any Board member or email Marilyn Childress at Goodwin Management ([marilyn.childress@goodwintx.com](mailto:marilyn.childress@goodwintx.com)) if you have any questions. You can also contact us through the website's "Contact Us" page.

Newcomers, please be aware that we have coyotes in the greenbelt areas around the neighborhood, and they have been more active in these cooler days and longer nights. Read more about our urban coyotes on the News page of the website ([www.courtyardhoa.org](http://www.courtyardhoa.org)) and take care not to leave your smaller pets

alone outside, especially at night. Report any concerns and send us your questions.

A final thought -- many of us will be traveling and gone from our homes at times this holiday season. Try to remember to stop your paper and mail or ask a neighbor to pick them up for you. Keep an eye out for anything suspicious and if you see something -- call the police. Remember that nothing says "No one is home here" to a thief like mail or papers accumulating at the front of a house. If you see this happening, even if no one asked you, be a good neighbor and take a minute to gather them up and save them for when the owner returns.

Best wishes to all our residents and their families for a safe and happy Holiday season and please continue to drive slowly in the Courtyard





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## Courtyard Book Club

*Tuesday, January 5, 2016,  
1 p.m., 5612 N. Scout Island Circle*

Join the Courtyard Book Club in January, 2016, to discuss the book selection "Mary Coin". The author Marisa Silver takes Dorthea Lange's legendary photograph of a migrant mother at the height of the Depression as the inspiration for this superb novel. The book was selected as NPR Best Book of 2013 and BBC Best Book of 2013.

Silver creates the story of two women, one famous and one forgotten, and the remarkable legacy of their chance encounter. Vera Dale, the photographer who has made the choice to leave her children in order to pursue her work. Mary Coin, the migrant mother, is a woman with nerve and courage as well as private passions and carefully-guarded secrets. A third vibrant character is Walker Dodge, a present-day professor of cultural history. Walker's research results in the discovery of a family secret related to the photographic image. Author Silver creates an extraordinary tale from a brief moment in history.

For more information about the Courtyard Book Club or for details about upcoming meetings and the book club selections for 2016, call or email Lou Blemaster, 512-551-2659, loublemaster@gmail.com.



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## Voting Proxy for the Courtyard's HOA Annual Association Meeting

When it arrives in the mail, please send in your voting proxy for the Courtyard's Homeowners Association Annual meeting to be held in January 2016. You will receive reminders in future issues of The Caller and on the Courtyard website. Our Association Declaration requires that a quorum be present to hold an official meeting, and we want to avoid having to hold a second annual meeting. Over the years, we have found that it really helps if homeowners sign and mail in their proxy form as soon as it arrives. This way, it does not get forgotten in the midst of all the other activities we have going on through December and January. If for some reason you can't make the meeting, your vote will be counted. If you sent in a proxy but later find that you are able to attend the annual meeting, you can simply pick-up your proxy at the meeting and vote in person.



## Welcome New Residents!

Beginning in late spring and over the summer we had lots of new residents moving into the Courtyard. Although the Welcome Committee tries to get out and greet newcomers as soon as possible, sometimes we don't learn that you are here until several months have gone by. If you haven't had a visit yet from a Welcome Committee member, please call or email Denise Hogan at 214.403.4454 or [denise.1.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:denise.1.hogan@gmail.com) and she will be glad to connect with you. Your new neighbor Welcome Packet containing lots of good information about the neighborhood is waiting for you!!

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# Do's and Don'ts for Residents Where Urbanized Coyotes Live

- Do not feed coyotes or other wildlife.
- Eliminate sources of water.
- Position bird feeders so that coyotes can't get the feed.
- Do not discard edible garbage where coyotes can get to it.
- Secure garbage containers and eliminate garbage odors.
- Feed pets indoors whenever possible. Pick up any leftovers if feeding outdoors. Store pet food where it is inaccessible to wildlife.
- Trim and clean, near ground level, any shrubbery that provides hiding cover for coyotes or prey.
- Don't leave children unattended.
- Don't allow pets to run free. Keep them safely confined and provide secure nighttime housing for them. Domesticated cats should be kept inside at all times. Walk your dog on a leash and accompany your pet outside, especially at night.

- Don't be polite! If you start seeing coyotes around your home or property, let them know they're not welcome by hazing and harassing. Chase them away by shouting, making loud noises, moving your arms and legs or throwing rocks.

**REPORT ANY COYOTE  
SIGHTINGS BY CALLING  
3-1-1**



## Oak Tree Trimming Season Ending Soon

As most of you know, oak tree trimming season ends in January 2016. Oaks should not be trimmed from February through June as this is when the oak wilt carrier beetle is most active. With holiday “busy-ness” upon us, we sometimes forget about this necessary maintenance until mid or late January when it is sometimes hard to line up a reputable company for this work. We use the word “reputable” because when it comes to trimming your oaks, cheapest is not always the best. Hiring the lowest cost bidder without checking credentials and asking questions can prove extremely costly to you and all your neighbors’ trees when your trees become infected from poor cuts and failure to thoroughly clean their cutting equipment before starting work on your trees. Contaminated tools are a big contributor to the spread of oak wilt. Above all, if you cannot get your oaks trimmed between now and the end of January, they should not be trimmed until July, 2016.

If you decide you want to do your own tree maintenance work make sure you: (1) sterilize tools with bleach or alcohol (Lysol is also a solution) before pruning; and (2) immediately paint wounds with pruning paint or latex paint within 15 minutes as carrier beetles may be attracted to untreated cuts or wounds.

### Resources

Texas Oak Wilt Information Partnership: <http://www.texasoakwilt.org/>

Northwest Austin Civic Association: <http://www.nwaca.org/oakwilt/>

City of Austin: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/>

Texas Forest Service: <http://texasforestservice.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?ctrl=6>

US Forest Service: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/ow/states/ts/ts.shtm>

Finally, while you’re thinking of trimming, recall that our Declaration requires that no tree, shrub or planting of any kind be allowed to overhang or otherwise encroach upon any sidewalk or other pedestrian way from ground level to a height of seven (7) feet. The City of Austin as well has a requirement that all trees overhanging streets have a minimum clearance of fourteen (14) feet above street level.



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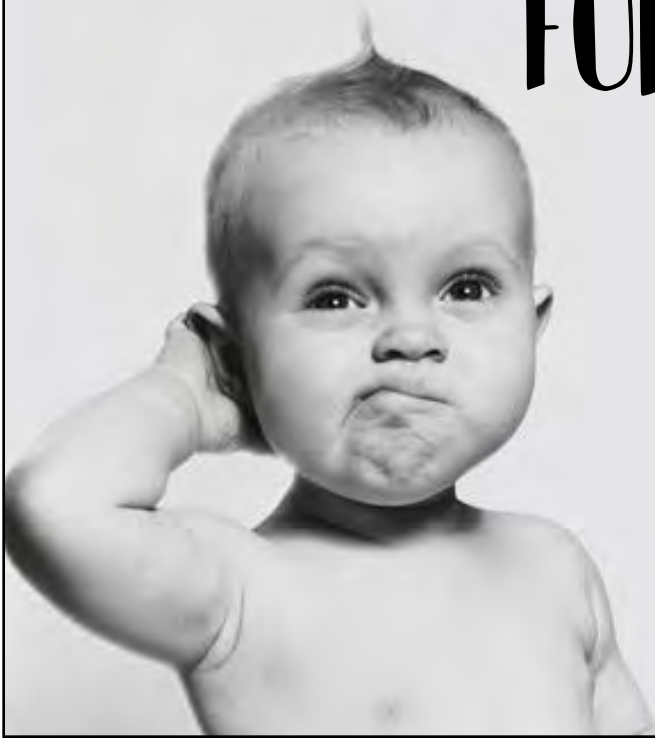
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# FUN WITH TRIVIA

## Did you know...?

- The ZIP in ZIP code stands for Zone Improvement Plan.
- Canada has more lakes than all other countries combined
- The little plastic bit on the end of your shoelace is called an aglet.
- Deipnophobia is the fear of dinner party conversations.
- A group of jellyfish is called a smack.
- The male cicada is the loudest insect in the world. His sound can reach 120 decibels. By comparison, a jackhammer breaking concrete is 100-120 decibels.
- Nearly 30% of Dalmatian dogs are born with complete or partial hearing loss.
- While many think that Hydrox cookies were an Oreo knock-off, Hydrox actually came first. They were first made in 1908, four years before the Oreo.
- Cenosillicaphobia is the fear of an empty glass.



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# more FUN *for the* HOLIDAYS

NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 24 *Blue Genie Art Bazaar*  
The Marchesa Hall & Theatre | [bluegenieartbazaar.com](http://bluegenieartbazaar.com)

DECEMBER 4 *Lights of Love 5k and Family Fun Run*  
Mueller Hangar | (512) 472-9844

DECEMBER 5 *German-Texan Heritage Society Christmas Market*  
German Free School | [germantexans.org/festivals/christmas-market/](http://germantexans.org/festivals/christmas-market/)

DECEMBER 5 *Holiday Sing Along and Downtown Stroll*  
Capitol Grounds, Congress Ave & Jones Center | [www.downtownaustin.com/holiday-stroll/](http://www.downtownaustin.com/holiday-stroll/)

DECEMBER 5-23 *Ballet Austin's The Nutcracker*  
The Long Center | [www.balletaustin.org/atb/nutcracker2015.php](http://www.balletaustin.org/atb/nutcracker2015.php)

DECEMBER 8-22 *Trail of Lights*  
Zilker Metropolitan Park | [austintrailoflights.org](http://austintrailoflights.org)

DECEMBER 9 *Trans-Siberian Orchestra "The Ghosts of Christmas Eve"*  
Frank Erwin Center | (512) 477-6060

DECEMBER 12 & 13 *Luminations at the Wildflower Center*  
Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center | [www.wildflower.org/luminations/](http://www.wildflower.org/luminations/)

DECEMBER 12 & 13 *Cherrywood Art Fair*  
Maplewood Elementary School | [www.cherrywoodartfair.org](http://www.cherrywoodartfair.org)

DECEMBER 15-24 *Armadillo Christmas Bazaar*  
Palmer Event Center | [www.armadillobazaar.com](http://www.armadillobazaar.com)

DECEMBER 31 *Austin's New Year*  
Auditorium Shores | [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov)



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**Jo Carol Snowden**

Broker Assoc., ABR, CRS, GRI

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