



February 2016

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 2

Message FROM THE Board

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 in 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 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.

Just a few “shorts”: (1) FYI – February 12 & 26 are the Friday “Blue Trash” container pickup days. Save yourself the effort of hauling the blue recycling container out & back on the other Fridays; (2) If you haven't sent in your annual Homeowners' Association dues yet, please do so as soon as possible; (3) Although “old timers” know this, for any of our newcomers to Central Texas -- please be aware that oak wilt season is underway, and this is a serious devastating tree disease. If you want to get your oak trees trimmed, you need to wait a few more months -- until the end of June; and (4) Please continue to drive slowly and carefully on our streets, especially in the darker times of the early morning and evening.

Drive Slowly in the Courtyard



Courtyard Book Club

*Tuesday, March 1, 2016,
5216 Scout Island Cir North*

The Courtyard Book Club members will gather for the monthly meeting to discuss the March book selections by author Christopher Morley, *Parnassus on Wheels* and *The Haunted Bookshop*. In the novella *Parnassus On Wheels* we are introduced to the narrator Helen McGill and to the sprite book peddler Roger Mifflin. It's a romance whose middle-aged lovers are a plump spinster and an itinerant bookseller. The setting is rural New England. Roger, with his horse-drawn bookshop *Parnassus*, is on a mission to get the right books into the hands of farm families and small town residents.

Parnassus On Wheels is a prequel to Morley's *The Haunted Bookshop* published two years later in 1917. In this novel Roger has settled in Brooklyn and is running a secondhand bookstore with his wife Helen. Volumes disappear and reappear from the shelves, but the ghosts of literature are not the only mysterious visitors in Roger Mifflin's haunted bookshop.

The book selection for April is *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah. All are welcome to join the group that meets the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, call or email Lou Blemaster, 512-551-2659, loublemaster@gmail.com.

It Was A Very Sweet Year



Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

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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 in this issue).

Welcome New Residents!

Your new neighbor Welcome Packet containing lots of good information about the neighborhood is waiting for you! While the Courtyard Neighborhood 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 and she will be glad to connect with you.



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OAK WILT DISEASE IN CENTRAL TEXAS

**TRIMMING TREES, ESPECIALLY OAKS, SHOULD BE AVOIDED FROM
THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY THROUGH THE END OF JUNE !**

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.

A black and white group photograph of approximately 15 children of various ethnicities and ages, all smiling and looking towards the camera. They are arranged in two rows, with some standing and some sitting or leaning on a dark surface.

NOW ENROLLING

The Children's Center Of Austin



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childrenscenterofaustin.com

COURTYARD'S WEBSITE DIRECTORY

In case you are not aware, Courtyard residents have a very up-to-date, easily accessible, printable, and searchable website directory. If you don't believe us, go to our website, www.courtyardhoa.org and click on "Directory" at the top of the Home page. This is NOT the Goodwin Management website so please do not confuse them.

For privacy purposes, we have made this directory accessible only to Courtyard residents. It is one of the few pages that the public cannot view if they are visiting our website. There are just two simple steps to go through for a resident to access the directory. When you first click on "Directory" you will see two boxes. You are asked for your user name and passcode. If you do not know what these are, contact Marilyn Childress, any Board member, or any of your neighbors that uses it and all of us can give you this information.

When the directory opens up, you will notice that it first lists residences alphabetically and numerically. If you only know the name of someone and not their address, go to the top of the first page and click on "Name" and the directory will rearrange itself to allow you to search alphabetically by name. Until we get another hardcopy printed, you can print yourself a copy of the website directory if you want a hardcopy. One of the best things about the website directory, besides ease of use, is that it is continually being updated and gives you the most current contact information available for our residents.

SUDOKU

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

9								
2		5		9			6	
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8			3				2	
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The goal is to fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Each digit may appear only once in each row, each column, and each 3x3 box.



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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. 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.



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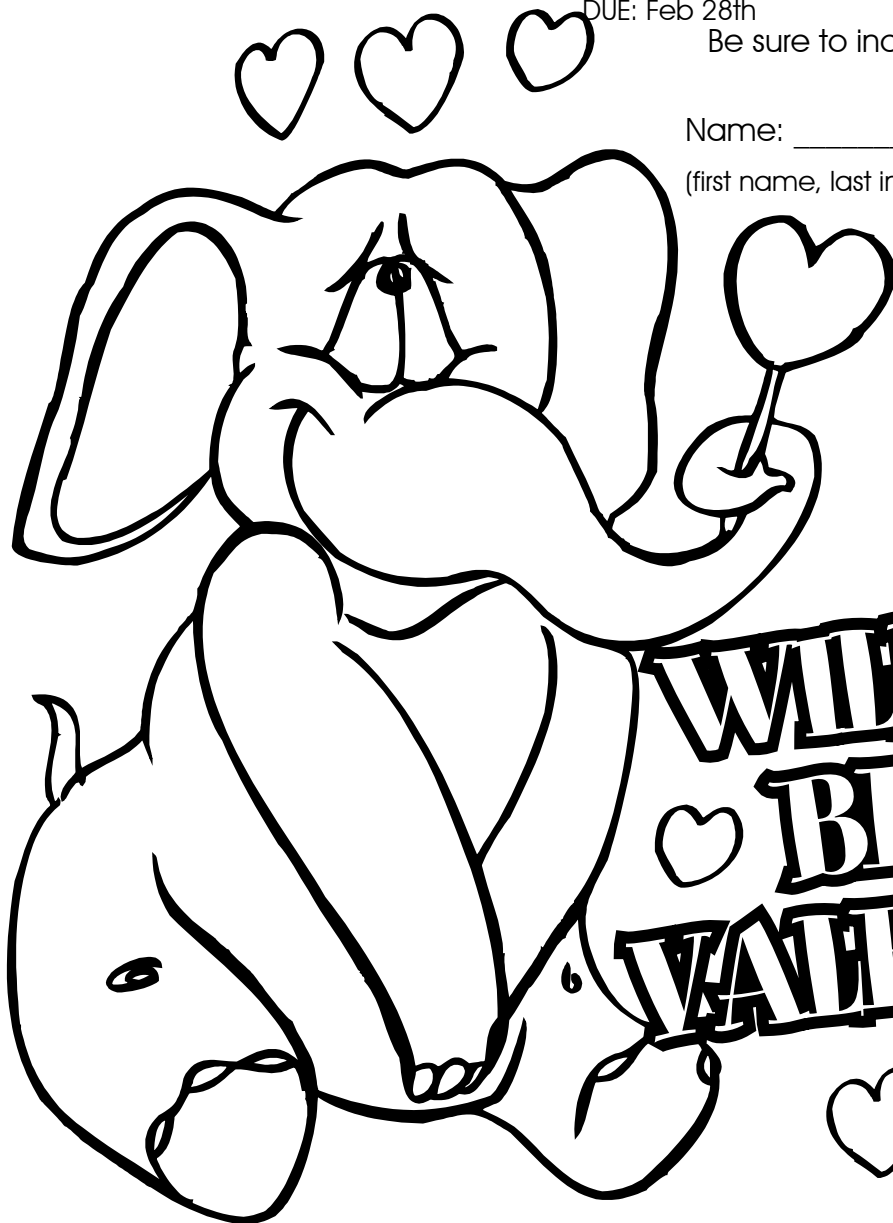
DUE: Feb 28th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: _____

(first name, last initial)

Age: _____



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VALENTINE?**





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