



May 2016

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 5

Message FROM THE *Board*

Thank you to the Park Committee volunteers, lead by Chairman Terry Edwards, for the hard work they put into giving our Park a much needed spring clean-up. Special thanks to Lewis Price who, once again, took the time to spray for poison ivy in and along the more heavily traveled areas.

Newcomers to the Courtyard, if you have not been officially contacted and/or visited by a member of our Welcome Committee, please contact Denise Hogan, our new Chairperson. Our Welcome Committee has put together a very helpful set of information materials about the Courtyard that will help the transition into your new community go much more smoothly.

Many of us will be gone for some portion of the upcoming summer. Before you leave, please do not forget to cut off paper and mail service so materials do not pile up in front of your home. If you know your neighbor is gone and see this happening, please be kind enough to pick up those telltale “No One Home” signals to burglars and save them for when your neighbor returns. Keep an eye out and report anyone you do not know wandering through backyards or between houses or strange vehicles you might notice cruising our streets. While residents need not be fearful, it is good to be watchful and proactive about our safety and that of our community

As a resident of the Courtyard, you know how fortunate we are to have our private community park along Bull Creek. “Private” means just that – it is not open to the public. Access to enjoy the trails, play scape, picnic areas, dock, and pond area is a privilege reserved for our homeowners. The homeowner must be present with friends or family (not living in the Courtyard home) who want to use the Park, and the gate code should not be given to guests for their own access. Trespassers should be reported to the police and/or Jim Lloyd, our Security Chairman. Please don’t

think this is being too harsh. You would be surprised how many times strangers (adults, teens & their pets) with no connection to this neighborhood are found in our Park – especially now that the weather is warmer. Consider fisherman from all over central Texas, sunbathers with unleashed/sometimes aggressive dogs that they do not clean up after, even an entire yoga class – none of whom lived in the Courtyard. Another time two young men drove their fishing boat on a trailer all the way into the Park near the bathroom and were unloading it when they were confronted and told to leave. Their initial comment was that “everyone knows your gate code.” So that makes it alright? Then they added that they hadn’t damaged or stolen anything so why were we angry and calling the police? It’s called trespassing, people, and we will prosecute. Homeowners who think it doesn’t matter when they give the gate code out are ignoring the security problems this poses to their neighbors who use the Park. We have found that some people who gain entry got the code third or fourth hand. Please keep in mind before you give the code to a friend that it may not be your friend who later gains access to the Park using your gate code.

Having said that, please note that we will be changing the gate code effective Wednesday, June 1. As we have done for the past several years, the code will be sent to you via our broadcast email system so please take a minute and make sure we have your most current email address in the website directory. www.courtyardhoa.org. If you don’t see your name in the directory, go to the “Contact/Report a Problem” page and send it to the president’s or Communications Committee emails.

Drive Safely in the Courtyard!

Now that it's Spring, Call Me!

The housing market is blooming with opportunities! I have BUYERS but there's no inventory! I have SELLERS but they have no place to go! If you know of anyone thinking of making a change call me! It would be an honor to work with you, your friends or family!



Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

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Courtyard Book Club

Tuesday, June 7, 2016
5216 Scout Island Cir North

The Courtyard Book Club selection for our June meeting is Holy Ghost, A Memior by Donna M. Johnson. Johnson spent her childhood in the 1960s and 1970s traveling the America's South with revivalist preacher Brother David Terrell, a hugely popular Holy Roller who brought thousands to his raucous tent sermons. But life under the tent-and under Terrell's control-was far from easy, and Johnson eloquently recounts this uncommon upbringing shaped by constant upheaval and her increasingly fraught conception of faith. A compassionate, humorous story of faith, betrayal, and coming of age on the evangelical sawdust trail. Johnson was just three years old when her mother signed on as the organist for tent revivalist David Terrell. She brings to life miracles, exorcisms, and face-offs with the Ku Klux Klan-- and that's just what went on under the tent.

In July we will be discussing Dead Wake, The Last Crossing of the Lusitania by Erik Larson. For more information, call or email Lou Blemaster, 512-551-2659, loublemaster@gmail.com.

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ANNUAL NW AUSTIN COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

It's that time again! Time to purge, declutter and score some cash! Mark your calendars for the Courtyard's Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale

Saturday May 7nd (rain day May 14)

This annual event which includes neighboring communities is always a big success. And we make it easy for you!

The Homeowners Association will take care of advertising in the Austin American Statesman and putting up signs in the neighborhood.

Not sure you have enough stuff to sell? No problem, just team up with a neighbor.

What about those leftover items that don't sell? No worries, the HOA has an arrangement with Settlement Home for Children (www.settlementhome.org) to come by the day of the sale and pick up any leftovers for donation. You will need to contact them directly to set it up.

If you would like a sign placed near your home, we'll do that too. Contact Joany Price (775-8942; joanyprice@gmail.com) to reserve your sign.



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PRESERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Park Chairman, Terry Edwards, and Waneen Spiriduso of the Kayak Committee along with the many residents who volunteer their time to keep our park clean and safe, Courtyard residents get to enjoy this beautiful space for neighborhood events like Easter egg hunts and July 4th celebrations as well as for our own celebrations and recreation.

As residents, we all have a stake in maintaining the privacy and beauty of this valuable amenity, which is why it is important that residents understand and comply with HOA guidelines for accessing, using and or reserving the park. These and other documents are available online at www.courtyardhoa.org under HOA Documents.

Please note that group usage of our common area park must be reserved in advance through our property manager, Marilyn Childress at 502-7509, Marilyn.childress@goodwintx.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.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A BURGLAR?

According to a recent Washington Post article, Anatomy of a Burglar, a home burglary takes place every 14.6 seconds in the U.S. The upside, if there is one, to such an alarming statistic is that plenty of data has been collected to help us understand how these criminals operate. Since knowing your enemy is half the battle, let's take a moment to get to know our average residential burglar, shall we?

- The typical house burglar is a male under the age of 25 who lives or works in the area.
- He does most of his work between 10 am and 3 pm.
- He spends an average of 8 to 12 minutes inside your home.
- He wants to spend no more than 60 seconds breaking into your home
- Of course, he'll take longer if he has a nice place to hide.
- He is particularly attracted to homes that look neglected, hidden or unoccupied.
- His first stop is usually the master bedroom where most people keep their valuables.
- He rarely goes in the kitchen or in kids' rooms.
- He looks for cash, jewelry, electronics, silver, guns and other items that are easy to transport and sell.
- His average take per burglary is \$1,725.
- His most common mode of entry is through the front door (34%), followed by a front window (23%) and backdoor (22%).
- Sometimes, he'll carry a clipboard. Or, he might dress like a lawn guy carrying a rake. He does his best to NOT look like a crook.
- Many times he will knock on the door or ring the doorbell to see if you're home before entering. If you answer the door, he'll just say he got the wrong address and move on to the next house.
- The two things a burglar hates most are loud dogs and nosy friendly neighbors.

Now that we've become better acquainted with our would-be burglar, we can use this knowledge to arm ourselves by implementing ways to make his job harder. Some tips to consider:

- Get to know your neighbors. Watchful eyes and ears are your best defense against unwanted intruders.
- Keep trees and shrubs around your home trimmed for visibility.
- Install motion sensor lights near front and rear entry doors
- Keep your doorbell in working order. You don't want to be surprised by an intruder who thinks he's entering an empty house.
- Keep up the appearance of a normal routine while away on vacation. Ask a neighbor or friend to put out your garbage bins, and pick up newspapers, mail, flyers or anything that would indicate you're not at home.
- Don't announce your vacation plans on social media sites or to strangers in public.
- If you have an attached garage, secure the door by disabling the automatic opener and locking the door before you go away on a trip.

(Continued on Page 6)

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(Continued from Page 5)

- Secure sliding glass doors with a dowel or metal rod.
- If you keep valuables in a home safe, considering keeping the safe in your kitchen where burglars are less likely to go.
- If you store tools and/or valuables in an outdoor storage shed, secure the doors and windows with a deadbolt if possible.
- Keep valuables out of sight from anyone looking in your windows.
- Perform an assessment of your home's security. Consider how you would break in to your own home if you locked your keys inside. Secure those weak spots.
- A loud dog, regardless of size, can serve as a formidable alarm system.
- Consider investing in a home security system and post plenty of warning signs and window decals, which serve as highly effective deterrents on their own.

When it comes to home security it's important to implement a variety of protective measures rather than relying on just one. Taking multiple precautions works cumulatively to slow down a burglar's progress while exposing him to ever increasing risk and ultimately deterring or thwarting his efforts.

We are fortunate to live in such a safe community, but as we enter into peak burglary season in this growing city of ours, let's take extra precautions to secure our homes and keep those bad guys from targeting our happy hood.


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View answers online at www.peelinc.com


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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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CALL ME!

Since The Courtyard is such a popular place to live, I receive calls from agents and buyers looking for homes in this neighborhood often.

I look forward to hearing from **you!**

JO CAROL SNOWDEN

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