



October 2016

*COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.*

# COURTYARD CALLER

*Official Courtyard Newsletter*

Volume 12, Number 10

## COURTYARD NEIGHBORHOOD NIGHT OUT BLOCK PARTY

**Tuesday, October 4, 2016  
7pm – 9pm  
Tom Wooten Dr. "Island"**

Come out and meet and mingle with your Courtyard neighbors and local law enforcement as we join in the National Night Out campaign to keep our communities safe.

National Night Out (NNO) is a fun opportunity for neighbors and law enforcement to partner up against crime. This year's NNO is Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2016 from 7 to 9 p.m. Residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin are asked to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors and spend the evening outside with their neighbors, police officers, firefighters and EMS paramedics.

National Night Out is designed to:

1. Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
2. Generate support and participation in crime efforts
3. Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations
4. Let criminals know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Meet at the "Tom Wooten Island" at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, October 4th. It is located on Tom Wooten Dr. You may want to bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

You will leave with valuable information and there will be giveaways from the various agencies. Refreshments will be served and a good time will be had by all!!!!

If you have any questions about the event here in the Courtyard you may call me at 512-775-8942. Otherwise, for more information, visit [www.austintexas.gov/nno](http://www.austintexas.gov/nno). Neighborhoods are asked to use the hash tag #NNOATX when posting about National Night Out gatherings.

An RSVP would be helpful to have for refreshments but not required.

## Courtyard Halloween BOO FEST

Calling all ghosts and goblins, pirates and princesses, space invaders and super heroes... (and their parents of course) to join us Halloween night for the Courtyard Halloween Boo Fest.

Before setting out with your little "pumpkins" for trick-or-treating, stop by Tom Wooten Island for a quick bite of pizza, some bottled water and the opportunity to visit with neighbors and check out all the great costumes!

Pizza will be served from 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Treat bags will be available for the children. Don't forget to bring a blanket to sit on.

Please be sure to RSVP to Joany Price at [jprice@cbunited.com](mailto:jprice@cbunited.com) no later than October 30th so we know how many pizzas to order!



ARE YOU  
KITTEN ME  
RIGHT MEOW?!

MY HOUSE  
IS WORTH  
WHAT?

**DONT BE A  
FRAIDY CAT!**



CALL ME AT 512-775-8942 FOR A COMPLIMENTARY CMA OF YOUR HOME.



**Joany  
Price**

*Your Courtyard Neighbor  
& Tennis Club Member*

Realtor, CLHMS  
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**When PRICE matters...CALL JOANY PRICE!**

*"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, November 1, 2016  
5216 Scout Island Cir North

The Mayor's Book Club selection for 2016, *A Friend of Mr. Lincoln* by Stephen Harrigan is our topic of discussion for November. Set in Illinois, mostly in the 1830s and 1840s, this historic novel takes a powerfully astute look at the public and private sides of the young Abraham Lincoln and the struggles he endured trying to reconcile the two. Lincoln's fictional friend here is Cage Weatherby, a struggling poet who first meets Lincoln on a bloody battleground during the Black Hawk War of 1832. They become unlikely close friends, and Cage soon realizes that Lincoln is "a man who desperately wanted to be better than the world would ever possibly let him be." Cage knows his friend to be a brilliant lawyer and an astute politician, as well as a homespun raconteur and a neophyte in romance who does not understand women, stumbling from one pratfall to another. The two men are close confidantes, but a surprising murder trial, a stunning development in a courtroom, an astonishing betrayal, and Cage's painfully emphatic argument that Lincoln should not marry ambitious and vindictive Mary Todd strain their relationship. Still, Harrigan's standout novel shows the endurance of friendship, and historical fans will find much to savor.

For more information about the book club please contact Lou Blemaster at 512-551-2659 or email [loublemaster@gmail.com](mailto:loublemaster@gmail.com).

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## Remember to Drive Safely in the Courtyard!

Following a recent accident in The Courtyard in which a student was struck by a vehicle while getting off a school bus, the HOA Board again reminds you to drive slowly and carefully in The Courtyard, and that State law requires that drivers are required to STOP for flashing lights on a school bus, regardless of which direction you're headed.



## Neighborhood Compassion Watch!

Compassion is action. Discover acts that show caring for others and the Earth in your own Neighborhood! Send your photos, discoveries, and stories to [compassionateaustin@gmail.com](mailto:compassionateaustin@gmail.com). Be sure to identify your neighborhood in your email.

We want to recognize and honor the good being done in our community.

Tell us something good happening in your family, a neighborhood business or school or library.

Here's a great quote from an August, 2015 article in the Huffington Post, entitled "Compassion: Universally Misunderstood" by Dr. Paul Gilbert, Professor of Clinical Psychology: "Compassion is not just about kindness or 'softness' and it is certainly not a weakness - it is one of the most important declarations of strength and courage known to humanity. It is difficult and powerful, infectious and influential. And, crucially, it is perhaps the only universally recognized language with the ability to change the world."

# REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS *and many others...*

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- Bee Cave
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- Cat Mountain Villas
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
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- Highland Park West Balcones
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- Ladera
- Lakeway
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Meridian
- Northwest Austin Civic Association
- Paloma Lake
- Parkside at Mayfield Ranch
- Plum Creek
- River Place
- Rocky Creek
- Sendera
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## Be Ember Aware Tip #4 - Deck Danger

Decks are a common feature of homes situated in high fire hazard areas. They are also one of the parts of your home that are vulnerable to embers during wildfire. This applies to decks comprised of wood boards as well as those made from plastic and wood-plastic composite deck boards. If your deck ignites, the flames can ignite your combustible siding, break the glass on an adjacent window or sliding glass door, or climb to the eave and burn into your attic. If you have a deck and live in a high fire hazard area, you should consider the following tips:

- Keep the gaps between deck boards free of pine needles, leaves and other debris. This tip also applies to intersection between your deck and your house. Embers can become lodged in the gaps and ignite the deck. Also, don't allow fallen pine needles and other dead plant material to accumulate on the deck surface during fire season.
- The area underneath the deck is particularly susceptible to ember attack. Don't store firewood, gas cans, lawn mowers, cardboard or other combustible materials under the deck and keep it free of weeds, pine needles and leaves. Consider enclosing the deck with solid skirting, such as siding that is properly vented, or with 1/8-inch wire mesh to limit ember penetration and reduce maintenance. Don't enclose it with wooden lattice.

- Rotted or otherwise poor condition wood is more easily ignited by embers than wood in good condition. Replace deteriorated wooden deck boards and posts with new ones.
- Install metal flashing between the deck and the side of the house. Be sure the flashing is installed to allow proper drainage of water.
- If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from the deck, including newspapers and magazines, baskets, door mats, dried flower arrangements, and place them inside the house or garage. Propane tanks should be placed at a distance 30-ft or more from the house.



**The Children's Center Of Austin**

**The Children's Center of Austin is hosting their Fall Festival**  
**October 21st from 6:30 - 8 PM**

**COME JOIN US FOR LIVE MUSIC, COSTUME CONTEST, SILENT AUCTION. WE WILL HAVE FOOD AND TONS OF FUN!**

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

[www.childrenscenterofaustin.com](http://www.childrenscenterofaustin.com)

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FROM THE AUSTIN FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Make sure costumes are visible and can be seen by drivers. For greater visibility in dusk or darkness, costumes should be decorated or trimmed with reflective tape.
- Use cosmetics instead of face masks. If a mask is used, make sure it fits securely and does not block vision.
- Carry either a flashlight or a "glow-stick." Do not carry candles, torches, or other actual flaming devices.
- Costumes should be flame retardant.
- Do not drive in a costume that restricts movement or vision.
- Children should always have an adult with them.
- An adult should inspect all candy before children are allowed to eat it.
- Throw away any candy that is not individually wrapped or purchased at a store.
- Children should stay on the sidewalk when trick-or-treating.
- Stay in small groups (we suggest six or fewer to a group). Stay near home in a familiar neighborhood and surroundings.
- Cross streets only at intersections.
- Candle-lit jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame.
- Indoor jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from curtains, decorations, or other furnishings that could be ignited.
- Jack-o-lanterns should be treated like all other candles. Extinguish them before leaving them unattended and before going to sleep.



## FINDING BALANCE ONE ROOM AT A TIME

### Taking a Systematic Approach To De-cluttering & Organizing Your Home This Fall

Now that the kids are back in school and the hotter days of summer are over, it is a good time to focus on your home. While it may seem like a daunting task, an easy place to start is fall cleaning, the counterpart to spring cleaning. This includes both de-cluttering & organizing.

**De-cluttering-**Before you begin, have the right mindset and tools in place. I always find it helpful to have 5 labeled containers ready to go. The labels should read 1) Use 2) Store 3) Donate 4) Sell and 5) Trash. As you move from room to room or closet to closet think about the cooler temperatures and pull out those items that will come in handy like winter clothing and bed linens. Also, you might want to take out spring and summer colors in your décor and place those things in your "store" bin. The benefit to taking this systematic approach is that it can be much easier to make decisions on items when you only have the 5 choices right in front of you as well as a place to put items rather than on the floor in several piles. Using the right types of containers is also helpful-plastic bins for use and store, cardboard boxes for donate and sell and trash bags for trash. That way, no more thought goes into how it gets to the right place, it's all ready to go.

**Organizing-**After cleaning out unnecessary items, it's time to organize the things you want to keep. I love to containerize my things. What containers you use depend on what it is for; jewelry, make-up, seasonal clothes, purses, books, magazines, toys, etc. All types are available at a variety of stores. The key is to determine what you want to place in bins and make a list of what size, shape and material you need before you head out to shop for the containers. A place for everything and everything in its place is a smart motto.

From here, you will have a clean slate and can create a warm and inviting home this fall for you to enjoy with family and friends and be ready for all of the upcoming holidays.

This article was written by Rita Lopez-owner of Tarragona Designs. If you have any questions or would like more tips, please visit [tarragonadesigns.com](http://tarragonadesigns.com) or send an email to [rita@tarragonadesigns.com](mailto:rita@tarragonadesigns.com).



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# VIOLET CROWN TRAIL

## 6 miles down . . . 24 miles to go

6 mile stretch from Zilker Park to Hwy 290 is open. Construction for the next 7 miles has officially begun.

Find out more & get involved  
[www.Join.VioletCrownTrail.com](http://www.Join.VioletCrownTrail.com)

After over 15 years of strategic land acquisition and planning, the first six-mile segment is NOW OPEN! Once complete, the 30-mile multi-use trail will offer unique recreational experiences for hikers, runners, commuters and families as it connects scenic natural areas to neighborhoods, shopping centers, a library and public parks.

*One more resource that makes Austin such a great place to call home.*



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