



November 2016

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

# **COURTYARD CALLER**

*Official Courtyard Newsletter*

Volume 12, Number 11

## **BOARD MESSAGE**

Although it may seem a bit early, November is when we start our campaign to remind Association members how important it is to send in their voting proxy for the Courtyard's annual meeting in January 2017, as soon as it arrives in December. This way, it won't get forgotten in the midst of all the other activities we have going on over the holiday season and insures that your vote will be counted if, for any reason, you don't get to the annual meeting. This is important because the Courtyard's Declaration requires that a quorum of members be present at the annual meeting so that we can conduct necessary business. Without a quorum, we will be forced to spend the additional money and time to re-notice and re-schedule this important annual meeting.

More information and reminders about the upcoming annual meeting will appear in the December and January newsletters and on the NEWS page of the Courtyard's website:

[www.courtyardhoa.org](http://www.courtyardhoa.org). If you have any questions, please contact any Board member or our management company representative, Marilyn Childress.

During this month, as we focus on all the good things in our lives, the Board wishes you to know how grateful the Association is to the many community volunteers we are so fortunate to have here in the Courtyard. Their list of contributions is endless as is their generosity and thoughtfulness. We couldn't do our work without you. Thank you to everyone.

Finally, to every individual who makes the effort to drive the speed limit and encourages others to do so as they travel through our neighborhood streets – keep up your good efforts.

*Happy Thanksgiving to all residents and families of the Courtyard!  
May your holiday be safe and filled with family, friends, fun, and of  
course, good food!*



**To have a place to go  
is called home.**

**To have someone to love  
is called family.**

**To have both is a blessing.**

**Happy Thanksgiving  
to all my Courtyard neighbors!**

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**Joany  
Price**

***Your Courtyard Neighbor  
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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, December 6, 2016*

*12:00pm Noon*

*3907 C Belmont Park Dr, 78746*

Join the Courtyard Book Club for a pot luck luncheon at the home of Judy Campion on Tuesday, December 6, 2016. Please bring your favorite dish to share. If you are not in the cooking mood, come anyway! There is always plenty of food for all.

Also bring a gift-wrapped book, new or used, for a book exchange. This is a fun tradition where everyone gets to go home with a new book for their holiday reading.

At the December meeting the reading list for 2017 will be shared. The first book selection of 2017 will be *Thunderstruck*, by Eric Larson.

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



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## CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Leslie Craven..... 502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)  
Vice President, Paul Siegel..... 512-243-5419  
..... [pbsiegel@gmail.com](mailto:pbsiegel@gmail.com)  
Secretary, Cathleen Barrett ..... 817-371-6983  
Waneen Spirduso..... [spirduso@utexas.edu](mailto:spirduso@utexas.edu)  
Treasurer, Jim Lloyd ..... 231-0855  
Doug Richards 512-527-9001, [dougrichards714@gmail.com](mailto:dougrichards714@gmail.com)  
Henry Mistrot ..... 459-7313

### COMMITTEES

#### Environmental Control (ECC)

Diana Apgar ..... 415-9412, [fd1966fd@aol.com](mailto:fd1966fd@aol.com)  
Community Park

Terry Edwards..... 214-392-4627  
Welcome

Denise Hogan ..... 214-403-4454  
..... [denise.1.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:denise.1.hogan@gmail.com)

#### Social Committee Chairperson

Joany Price..... 775-8942

#### Landscape & Decorating

Ed Ueckert ..... 345-6137

#### Security

Jim Lloyd..... 231-0855

#### Communications

Leslie Craven ..... 502-1124

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

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

#### Compliance

..... Open

#### Kayak Committee

Waneen Spirduso ..... [spirduso@utexas.edu](mailto:spirduso@utexas.edu)

#### Fire Safety Committee

Jim Carolan ..... cell (619) 559-1978

..... [jccarolan1@gmail.com](mailto:jccarolan1@gmail.com)

#### Area Development and Zoning Liaison

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

### MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Goodwin Management: Marilyn Childress  
11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227  
512-502-7509

## SUB-HOA CONTACTS

#### Center Court:

Gary Doucha ..... 401-3105  
..... [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:

Thomas Hoy ..... 231-1270  
..... [Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com](mailto:Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com)

#### Wolf Court:

Tim Sullivan..... 346-3146  
..... [tsullivan@gmail.com](mailto:tsullivan@gmail.com)



# PARK WORK DAY – BIG SUCCESS

## THANKS TO ALL OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS



Congratulations to Park Chairman, Terry Edwards, for organizing a great volunteer work day in our Park on Saturday, October 15. From roughly 9 a.m. to noon, over twenty (20) of our neighbors - adults and children – came together and worked to replace the old rotting wooden beams surrounding the playscape and then refilled that area with a nice new thick cushion of soft mulch. The new beams, well researched and chosen with care, are taller than the old ones and can hold more cushion material. They are also made of a strong plastic material that won't rot or splinter, and needs no maintenance. AND THEY LOOK GREAT!

Thank you to: Terry Edwards & Denise Hogan, Jay Zarnikau, David Scholes, Jim Vence, Marcie Richards & 3, David & Christine Marks & 2, Cody & Barbara Carlson, Joany & Lewis Price, Mary Margaret & Austin Cooney, David Kavanaugh, Kim & Alyssa Moore, Konavis Smith, and Ron Walther. Please know how much we appreciate the gifts of your time (very precious), talents, and energy.





# National Night Out

It's been a few years, but thanks to the efforts of Joany Price, the Courtyard again participated in this year's National Night Out (NNO) held on Tom Wooten Island the evening of October 4. If you are unfamiliar with this event, NNO is intended to be an opportunity to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police & community relations while increasing our awareness of how to better prevent crime. Residents in neighborhoods throughout Austin were encouraged to turn on their porch lights, lock their doors, and spend some time outside that evening with their neighbors and visiting police officers, firefighters and/or EMS paramedics.

About fifty (50) residents participated in NNO this year, got to meet and talk with neighbors they'd never met before, and enjoyed refreshments and music provided by celebrity DJ, Lewis Price. T-shirt raffle winners were: Konavis Smith and Becky Stanford, and Nicholas Richards won the stand-up paddleboard, which was donated by Joany Price, Coldwell Banker United, Realtors. We were honored and very happy to meet and get a chance to talk with Andrew Michael, APD Commander of our Region 1 West Central and North Central Austin. In addition to Joany & Lewis, thank you to Denise Hogan & Terry Edwards, Mary Ross & Jeff Graham, David & Lisa Lucchese, and Barbara & Cody Carlson for helping to put this event on.



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## A New Courtyard Park Table



Thanks to volunteer efforts by Rob Nance, Fred Wahlers, members of the Kayak/Canoe Committee, and Terry Edwards, Chairman of the Courtyard Park Committee, we have a beautiful new table in our park. Together, the three of them found the table on line, the CHA Board approved funding, they then they purchased and assembled it. The icing on the cake was to organize workmen to build a crushed granite pad held together with stones to support the table. It is next

to the kayak/canoe rack, and can be used by boaters and fishermen to prepare their equipment for an outing, and anyone in our Courtyard who wants a quiet place to have a picnic or read a book. If the table wears well this year, the board may authorize additional table replacements over the next few years. What a difference Volunteers make in the quality of our community environment!

# REACHING YOUR NEIGHBORS

*and many others...*

- Avery Ranch
- Bee Cave
- Bella Vista
- Belterra
- Canyon Creek
- Cat Mountain Villas
- Circle C Ranch
- Courtyard
- Forest Creek
- Highland Park West Balcones
- Jester Estates
- Ladera
- Lakeway
- Legend Oaks II
- Long Canyon
- Meridian
- Northwest Austin Civic Association
- Paloma Lake
- Parkside at Mayfield Ranch
- Plum Creek
- River Place
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# Be Ember Aware Tip #5 - Vulnerable Vent Dilemma

Vents play a critical role in the long-term preservation of your home by allowing excess moisture to escape from the attic and crawl space. If moisture was allowed to accumulate in these areas, the wood components of your home could be threatened by mold and decay fungi.

During a wildfire, vent openings have also been shown to be one vulnerable spots for ember entry into your home. The Wildfire Lessons Learned Center "Southern California Firestorm 2003" report concluded after reviewing the loss of 3340 homes destroyed by wildfire:

Ornamental vegetation created an unpredictable and significant fuel source that blew into attic vents and eaves and spread through neighborhoods by torching, crowning, or throwing embers. Structures became involved from ember attack from the inside out rather than flame impingement.

This creates a dilemma for homeowners. Many vents use wire mesh coverings. Some building codes set the minimum mesh size for these at 1/4 inch. Smaller mesh sizes can become clogged by paint, cobwebs, debris, etc. that will reduce air flow. Unfortunately, the 1/4-inch mesh is not effective in preventing ember entry into the attic, eave, and crawl space vents. For existing homes, consider the following.

- Replace 1/4-inch mesh with 1/8-inch mesh, if building codes and required air flow allow. Be sure to keep the mesh openings unclogged.
- Use metal wire mesh, not plastic or fiberglass.
- Don't store combustible materials, such as paper, clothing, etc. in the attic or crawl space.
- Clear fallen pine needles, leaves, dried grass and other debris from around vents (a particular problem with through-roof vents, such as a dormer or ridge vent).
- Do not plant shrubs in front of or underneath vent openings.
- Create pre-made covers out of plywood to install over vent openings if wildfire is approaching and there is time. In an emergency situation, it may help to fold several layers of aluminum foil and staple over vent openings.

New ember resistant vent designs are becoming available to consumers. Check with your local fire marshal for advice on these and other measures to reduce the potential of embers entering your home.

## Register with WarnCentralTexas

<http://warncentraltexas.org/>

Registering with WarnCentralTexas allows emergency personnel in our local area to directly contact us by phone, text or email during a

wildfire alert or evacuation, or other disaster or public safety event. Using WarnCentralTexas, emergency response teams can warn residents about dangerous conditions and situations as events unfold. They can quickly give specific directions that affect our neighborhood such as evacuation orders and directions.



## 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.

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