



December 2019

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 12

MANY THANKS TO PARK CLEAN-UP VOLUNTEERS!!!



A park volunteer day was held in the Courtyard Park on November 2. Over 20 residents volunteered their time to assist in maintaining the park grounds.

Volunteers spread 15 cubic yards of Kiddie Cushion inside the playscape, cleaned and organized the storage facility, and cleaned debris from the trails and forest areas. **We are so grateful to those of you who generously give your time to make the park more enjoyable for us all!**



A special thanks to the following volunteers for their involvement in this project: Denise Hogan, Joany Price, Lewis Price, Waneen Spirduso, Jim Lloyd, Fred Wahlers, Jay Zarnikau, The Moxham

Family, Jim Smith, Dave Shoals, Steve Bosiak, Justin & Meredith Kloetzer, Scott Dill, Costas Tzaperas, Maureen Kloczek, Bob Binder, Konavis Smith, Carolyn Brakhage, and Terry Edwards.

It takes a lot of work to keep our community park in top shape. An extra big thank you goes to Fred and Waneen, the only two kayak rack renters who answered the call to clean up the kayak rack area. It was a big job, but they were equal to the task!

Help is needed year-round to keep the park in top shape. Please take care to keep your kayak equipment orderly and place any trash or debris in the trash cans provided.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Please take a moment to note the Courtyard's annual meeting scheduled for **6:00 p.m., Sunday, January 26, 2020**, in the lobby of the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and North Scout Island Circle. We understand that it is not always possible for everyone to attend -- so please read the written materials about this meeting when they arrive from Goodwin Management in January and sign and mail in your voting proxy as soon as possible. This helps us achieve the quorum required to conduct necessary association business. Please note that sending in your proxy early will not prevent you from attending the annual meeting in person and voting directly there. Mailing in your proxy is merely a precaution in case you forget or something comes up and you cannot make the meeting at the last minute. Further reminders will appear in the January newsletter and on the Courtyard's website: www.courtyardhoa.org. If you have any questions, contact our property manager, Marilyn Childress, at Goodwin Management (512) 502-7509, or any Board member.

During the holiday season many of us will travel to visit family and friends. Be a good neighbor and keep an eye out for suspicious persons or vehicles cruising the neighborhood - especially if you see them around the homes of neighbors that you know are not home, and report them to the police and our Security Committee Chairman, Jim Lloyd. If you know your neighbors are gone but newspapers and/or mail begins to pile up, please try to collect these things and give them to your neighbors when they get home.

It is with a sad heart that we note the passing of our friend and longtime neighbor, Bill Meredith, in early October. At 73, Bill loved the outdoors and traveling, especially to places where he could kayak and hike. It was on one of these trips that he collapsed while hiking in a remote area of the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend National Park. Over the years, he served on the Board of Directors, was active in governmental matters related to zoning and development impacts on our community, and was currently the co-chair of the Compliance

(Continued on Page 2)

COURTYARD CALLER

CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| President, Leslie Craven..... | lcraven1@gmail.com |
| ..... | 512-585-1153 (cell) |
| Vice President, Paul Siegel..... | pbsiegel@gmail.com |
| Treasurer, Jim Lloyd | 231-0855 |
| Secretary, Denise Hogan..... | denise.1.hogan@gmail.com |
| ..... | 214-403-4454 |
| Waneen Spirduso..... | spirduso@utexas.edu |
| Janet Wright | mightywrights@me.com |
| ..... | 469-387-5632 |
| Henry Mistrot..... | 459-7313 |

COMMITTEES

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Environmental Control (ECC) | |
| Janet Wright | 469-387-5632, mightywrights@me.com |
| Community Park | |
| Terry Edwards..... | 214-392-4627 |
| Welcome | |
| Jim Carolan | cell (737) 230-9241 |
| ..... | jccarolan1@gmail.com |
| Social Committee Chairperson | |
| Joany Price..... | 775-8942 |
| Landscape & Decorating | |
| Ed Ueckert | 345-6137 |
| Security | |
| Jim Lloyd..... | 231-0855 |
| Communications | |
| Leslie Craven | 585-1153 (cell) |
| Jennifer Harold (Editor - Courtyard Caller...) | (281) 773-2880 |
| ..... | harold.jennifer@gmail.com |
| Compliance | |
| Leslie Craven – co-chair..... | lcraven1@att.net, |
| ..... | (512) 585-1153 (cell) |
| Kayak Committee | |
| Fred Wahlers..... | cell 214-476-7725 |
| ..... | fjwahlers@sbcglobal.net |
| Fire Safety Committee | |
| Jim Carolan | cell (737) 230-9241 |
| ..... | jccarolan1@gmail.com |
| Area Development and Zoning Liaison | |
| Denise Hogan..... | denise.1.hogan@gmail.com |
| ..... | 214-403-4454 (cell) |

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Goodwin Management: Marilyn Childress
11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227
512-502-7509, marilyn.childress@goodwintx.com

SUB-HOA CONTACTS

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Center Court: | |
| Gary Doucha..... | 401-3105 |
| ..... | gmdoucha@yahoo.com |
| Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt") | |
| Stuart Hare | 785-1834 |
| ..... | stuarthare@me.com |
| Villas at Courtyard: | |
| Thomas Hoy..... | 231-1270 |
| ..... | Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com |
| Wolf Court: | |
| Susanne Doell | 454-3400 |
| ..... | Drdoell@gmail.com |

(Board Message - Continued from Cover)

Committee. Bill will be missed, and we extend our condolences to his family and friends.

Finally, don't forget that January is your last month to finish up trimming your oaks until next June. Nothing but emergency trimming of hardwoods, especially oaks, should take place during the months between. The harm and loss from oak wilt can extend far beyond your own yard if you ignore these warnings as oak wilt is very difficult to contain. Whenever you have any work done on your trees, make sure you hire a reputable tree company that follows the practice of cleaning its equipment from earlier jobs before starting yours.

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

JANUARY BOOK CLUB

Have you ever wanted to connect with other amazing women in the Courtyard? There is no better way than to join the Book Club. We are fortunate to have such a knowledgeable, articulate, and well-traveled group of women from diverse backgrounds. Whether you have enjoyed the book or not, the conversation is highly stimulating and will broaden your horizons!

Hosted by the ever-gracious Lou Blemaster, Book Club meets at 1PM on the first Tuesday of every month at 5612 North Scout Island Circle. To receive Book Club emails, contact Lou at LouBlemaster@gmail.com.

In January, we will review ***The Leper Spy*** by Ben Montgomery, the story of Josefina Guerrero, a hero of the Pacific Theater of World War II. The young Filipina's daring espionage and compassionate efforts to care for prisoners saved countless American and Filipino lives during the brutal three-year occupation and liberation of Manila, the Philippine capital. She was honored for those exploits in 1948 with a Medal of Freedom with Silver Palm, the United States' second highest military decoration for a foreign civilian.

Her story would be remarkable enough, but she accomplished all that while suffering from a devastating disease that made her an outcast and ironically gave her an edge as a spy: Hansen's disease, long known and feared under its other, older name – leprosy. What's more, her medical condition would lead her to a surprising new life in the United States and even to a degree of celebrity.

Yet odds are you have never heard of Joey Guerrero, as she was known (along with several other names). Until a few years ago, neither had Ben Montgomery, but his new book, ***The Leper Spy: The Story of an Unlikely Hero of World War II***, brings her extraordinary life back into the light.



I'D REALLY LOVE TO SERVE YOU
AND LET ME TELL YOU WHY
I LOVE THE JOY OF WHAT I DO
WHETHER YOU'RE SELLING OR WANTING TO BUY

USING SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THE HOOD
IS THE FIRST STEP IN THE QUEST
TO GETTING THE SERVICE YOU DESERVE
SO WHY NOT CALL THE BEST!

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE I'M ALWAYS NEAR
THE COURTYARD IS MY HOME
COME RAIN OR SHINE I'M ALWAYS HERE
YOU'VE ONLY TO PICK UP THE PHONE

SO IF YOU ARE CURIOUS AND WANT TO KNOW
JUST WHAT YOU NEED TO DO
CALL, TEXT, EMAIL OR SHOUT
AND LET ME BE THE ONE FOR YOU!



Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

Realtor, CLHMS
International Diamond Society
Coldwell Banker United, REALTORS



GLOBAL
LUXURY



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jprice@cbunited.com • www.cbunited.com/Joany.Price

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.

**Offer good for up to 6 months after closing.*

Happy Holidays!

COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

High wildfire risk occurs in the fall as well as the summer

California's worst wildfires have occurred in the fall. Statistics show 15 of the top 20 deadliest California fires have occurred during September, October, and November. Factors contributing to the increased threat include:

- Winds that are caused by high-pressure systems. These high winds can topple power lines and cause rapid movement of a wildfire
- Very low relative humidity due to hot dry conditions
- Low moisture levels in vegetation causing it to catch fire more quickly

These same conditions can affect fire safety here in Central Texas.

Courtyard homeowners can reduce wildfire risk to property and occupants this time of year by making simple, low-cost improvements to home and landscape such as:

1. Removing dead branches from trees and shrubbery.
2. Removing leaves from gutters and roofs.
3. Making sure vents are screened and cleared of debris.
4. Removing weeds (that are drying out) from around the home, especially within the first five feet of the home.
5. Pruning bushes and trees, reducing the ability for fire to move up from shrubs into buildings.

To sign up for an Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) Wildfire Risk Evaluation by one of our Fire Safety Committee trained team, email fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org, or sign up with your author at jccarolan1@gmail.com.

DRIVE-A-SENIOR-WEST IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Operating since 1985, Drive-A-Senior-West (DSW) is a volunteer based non-profit organization whose mission is to help senior adults live independently, avoid social isolation, age in place, and enhance the quality of life by providing free transportation and support services such as light home maintenance and repairs, referral services, in-home visits, and reassurance calls. Volunteers serve clients in the following zip codes: 78701, 78703, 78705, 78731, 78751, 78756, and 78759, and provided over 6,000 rides to home-bound seniors last year in this region alone.

DSW is looking for volunteer drivers. It's easy, convenient, and requires no minimum time commitment. Everything is done through your smart phone or computer. Please visit DSW's website for more information and to sign-up. If you have further questions, contact Virginia Jones, volunteer and member of our recruiting committee: (512) 289-6455, virginiajones00@gmail.com; www.driveasenior.org; westaustin@driveasenior.org, main office (512) 472-6339.

WATER CONSERVATION IN THE WINTER SAVES MONEY YEAR ROUND

By: Jacob Johnson, Austin Water



Conserving water during late fall and winter saves you money on two fronts. First, you get a break from those landscape-induced higher summer water bills. Second, and just as important, conserving water during this time can keep your wastewater bills lower for the next 12 months.

There is no meter on your home's wastewater line, so to determine residential wastewater volume Austin Water uses a process called wastewater averaging. Austin Water averages your water use during your three monthly billing periods between mid-November and mid-March. This average

sets a cap on the wastewater volume you will be billed for the next 12 month period.

In late fall/winter, the typical landscape rarely needs supplemental water, pools don't usually need to be topped off and slip and slides have been packed away. Without all that outdoor water demand, this timeframe typically gives a good indication of how much water is being used indoors, going down the drain, and ultimately to a wastewater treatment plant. The lower that average water use is, the lower your wastewater charges can be.

Let's say a family of four averages 6,000 gallons of water use monthly during their wastewater averaging period. As summer comes along, and their outdoor water use increases, they use 12,000 gallons per month. The family will be charged for 12,000 gallons of water, but because of their wastewater average, they will continue to only be charged for the 6,000 gallons of wastewater average cap.

Even after the wastewater average is set, wastewater charges can be lowered by using less water than the wastewater average cap. If the family with the 6,000 wastewater average uses 5,000 gallons of water one month, they will only be charged 5,000 gallons for wastewater volume. Wastewater volume is billed at the wastewater average cap or at the same volume as the monthly water usage, whichever is lower.

A higher wastewater average will result when irrigation systems are left on or leaks are present during the 3 month wastewater average period, and can be very costly. Turn off automatic irrigation systems and identify and repair leaks early.

To find your specific waste water averaging period, check out the Utility News section on your utility billing statement. Customers must have at least 60 days of billed water usage during the wastewater averaging period to have a calculated wastewater average. Visit www.austintexas.gov/wastewateraveraging for additional information.

This winter, practice good water conservation behaviors, turn off your irrigation system, and see how low you can go!



Shepherd of the Hills
Christian Church  Disciples of Christ

Come Celebrate Christmas
At the friendly church where all are welcome!

Christmas Party and Luncheon

Sunday, December 8th, 12:00 PM

Christmas Carol Service

Sunday, December 15th, 10:40 AM

Christmas Service

Sunday, December 22nd, 10:40 AM

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 24th, 7:00 PM

6909 W. Courtyard Dr. Austin, TX 78730

At the top of Shepherd Mountain

www.shccaustin.org



(512) 343-7858

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Dinosaur Hunter

- 1) I lived from Miocene to the Pliocene
- 2) My fossils are found all over the world
- 3) I have over 250 teeth and some are 7 inches long!
- 4) My name means "big tooth"
- 5) I am the largest known shark



Answer: Megalodon

55TH AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS POWERED BY H-E-B

ADDRESS: 2100 Barton Springs Rd., Austin, TX 78704

PRESENTED BY: H-E-B & Trail of Lights Foundation

DATES: December 10, 2019 - December 23, 2019

RECURRENCE: Recurring daily

LOCATION: Zilker Park

TIME: 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

The AUSTIN TRAIL OF LIGHTS is Austin's largest holiday tradition and 2nd largest event in the city. Run by the Trail of Lights Foundation, the annual event in Zilker Park celebrates the unique spirit and people that make Austin the place we love to call home.

The Austin Trail of Lights is a community event that invites 400,000 people every year to come celebrate the holidays in the heart of Austin, Texas during the month of December. The event showcases everything that we love about Austin—from music and food to creativity and family fun. Thanks to the Trail of Lights Foundation, we are able to keep it free for at least ½ of the nights to make sure that anyone who wants to be part of the experience has a way to do so.

Austinites and Central Texans alike bring friends, families and neighbors out to the Austin Trail of Lights each year to enjoy more than 60 displays, 2 million lights, Austin's favorite food trucks, nightly entertainment and holiday activities sure to create treasured memories.

AUSTIN'S NEW YEAR

This alcohol-free, family-friendly event celebrates the diversity and creativity of the city with 4 stages, 22 bands, visual art installations, jugglers, storytellers, fire dancers and a grand fireworks finale.

800 W Riverside Dr., Austin, TX 78704

December 31, 2019

Auditorium Shores

Presented by: City of Austin
Free Entry



A FEW HOLIDAY THOUGHTS...

It is good to be children sometimes, and never better
than at Christmas, when its mighty founder was a
child Himself.

Charles Dickens

There are two ways to live your life. One is as
though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though
everything is a miracle.

Albert Einstein

The way you spend Christmas is far more important
than how much.

Henry David Thoreau



Merry
Christmas





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There's no place like home for the holidays!

*I hope you make time to
enjoy some of Austin's
favorite holiday events
this year.*

*If you are thinking
about a new home for
the holidays, contact
me. I'll put my 40+
years of experience to
work for you.*



JO CAROL SNOWDEN

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