



**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

February 2020

Volume 16, Number 2

BOARD MESSAGE

Thank you to all residents that took the time to sign and send in their proxies and/or attended the Courtyard's annual meeting. Many thanks to Jim Carolan for his years of service on the Courtyard Fire Safety and Welcome Committees – we are so grateful for your insight and leadership!

YARD WASTE

Oak Wilt is on the rise in Central Texas. The season to not trim oak trees is February through June. Please remind your lawn crews that leaves may not be blown into the gutters or left along the curb. The City of Austin picks up leaves and yard trimmings each week during regular trash pickup.

PICK UP THE POO

Be a responsible dog owner and good neighbor and pick up your dog's waste in yards and at the community park. Dog waste can spread illness and bacteria. Waste bags and trash cans have been provided for your use at the park and at the corner of Cone Circle and North Scout Island Circle.

TRASH CANS AND RECYCLING BINS

Friday is the regular pickup day for trash, compost, yard waste and recycling in the Courtyard. After pickup,

promptly remove your trash, recycling and compost receptacles from the street. Please be reminded that receptacles must not be stored in a place that is visible from the street or by your neighbors.

CONTACT ECC REGARDING OUTSIDE REMODELING OF ANY KIND

Prior to conducting any exterior work on your home such as major landscape changes, exterior remodeling or repairs such as painting, roofing or fencing, you must contact the ECC (Environmental Control Committee) for prior approval.

In addition, new construction of pools, playscapes, accessory buildings and sheds require prior ECC approval. Please allow time for Committee review and approval when submitting your requests. You can contact the ECC by email at: mightywrights@me.com

Finally, please observe the 30 mph speed limit while driving in our neighborhood.

DRIVE SAFELY IN THE COURTYARD!!!

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BOOK CLUB



Don't sit around wondering how you can meet other interesting Courtyard women! Join us for stimulating conversation with your neighbors at the Courtyard Book Club. Even if you haven't read (or finished) the book of the month, you will find the conversation lively and relevant in this amazing group of knowledgeable, articulate, and well-traveled women from diverse backgrounds.

Hosted by our very own "Hostess with the Mostest" Lou Blemaster, the Courtyard 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 March, we will review *Midnight in Broad Daylight*, by Pamela Rotner Sakamoto, an intimately detailed look at the agony of a Japanese-American family struggling to maintain American loyalty amid discrimination and war. Meticulously researched and beautifully written, *Midnight in Broad Daylight* is the true story of a Japanese American family that found itself on opposite sides during World War II. An epic tale of family, separation, divided loyalties, love, reconciliation, loss, and redemption, Pamela Rotner Sakamoto's history is a riveting chronicle of U.S.-Japan relations and of the Japanese experience in America.

Alternating between American and Japanese perspectives, the book captures the uncertainty and intensity of those charged with fighting, as well as the deteriorating home front of Hiroshima—never depicted before in English—and provides a fresh look at the events surrounding the dropping of the first atomic bomb. Intimate and evocative, here is an indelible portrait of a resilient family, a scathing examination of racism and xenophobia, an homage to the tremendous Japanese American contribution to the American war effort, and an invaluable addition to the historical record of this extraordinary time.

I CAN ALREADY SEE YOU BUYING
OR SELLING A HOME WITH ME
THIS YEAR....



I HAVE 2020 VISION!

I currently have 3 Buyers wanting to get in to Courtyard. If you are thinking you might be selling in the next few months I'd love to hear from you and see if we're a match!



**Joany
Price**

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

Realtor, CLHMS
International Diamond Society
Coldwell Banker United, REALTORS



609 Castle Ridge Road, Ste. 400 • Austin, TX 78746 • M: 512.775.8942 • O: 512.328.8200 • F: 512.328.2559
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.*

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY

What is Carbon Monoxide (CO)?

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, extremely poisonous and explosive gas that causes 1,500 accidental deaths and more than 10,000 injuries each year. CO is slightly lighter than air and mixes throughout the atmosphere and is a by-product of incomplete combustion, produced when fuels such as natural gas, propane, heating oil, kerosene, coal, charcoal, gasoline or wood are burned with insufficient air.

Effects of CO Poisoning

When a person breathes in carbon monoxide, it is absorbed by hemoglobin, the oxygen-carrying protein in the blood. "Carboxy hemoglobin" is then formed, replacing oxygen, preventing its release in the body and eventually causing suffocation.

• **Mild Exposure:** Flu-like symptoms including slight headache, nausea, vomiting and fatigue.

• **Medium Exposure:** Severe headache, drowsiness, confusion and a fast heart rate. Prolonged exposure to medium levels of CO can result in death.

• **Extreme Exposure:** Loss of consciousness, convulsions, heart and lung failure, possible brain damage and death.

While everyone is at risk for CO poisoning, unborn babies, infants and young children, senior citizens and people with heart and lung problems are at a higher risk due to their greater oxygen needs.

Common Residential Sources of CO

- Gas stoves
- Hot water heaters
- Fireplaces
- Pilot lights
- Gas or oil furnaces
- Charcoal
- Gas space heaters

How to Prevent CO Poisoning in the Home

- Inspect flues and chimneys for cracks, corrosion, holes, debris or blockages.
- Buy fuel-powered heaters with automatic shut-off features.
- Service heaters before the first use of winter season
- Open windows periodically to air out your house. Homes with energy-efficient insulation can trap CO-polluted air inside.
- Use a gas stove for cooking purposes only.
- Operate gas-burning appliances in a well-ventilated room.
- Install and maintain carbon monoxide detectors.

Choosing a CO Detector

There are three types of CO detectors available. While each has specific features and qualities, all will alert owners to danger.

Biomimetic CO Detector

- Gel cell of synthetic hemoglobin absorbs CO.
- Combination battery and sensor module.
- Battery-sensor module must be replaced every two to three years, but the detector should last about 10 years.
- After an alarm, the sensor should clear itself within two to 48 hours when left in fresh air. If it is not cleared, it will sound again when put back in the detector. If the sensor

does not clear itself after 48 hours, it must be replaced.

Semiconductor CO Detector

- Plug-in model measures CO build-up on and electronic sensor.
- Highly selective to CO gas.
- Lasts from five to 10 years.

Electrochemical CO Detector

- Fuel cell electro-chemical sensor.
- Responds differently to three levels of CO exposure.
- Self-powered-battery replacement is not required.
- Detector will last for at least five years.

For all CO detectors, a continuous siren signals a full alarm; a repetition of loud pulsating beeps means there is a CO build-up; and a short chirp every minute alerts you to a malfunction or low battery.

Installing a CO Detector

Install CO Detectors near bedroom areas and family rooms. Do not install them near air vents or fans. Place them in the center of the room where they can measure the overall general atmospheres. For extra protection, place one about 15 feet away from your home's heat source.

To avoid nuisance alarms, do not put a CO detector in the kitchen, garage, utility room, basement, bathroom or unventilated rooms where cleaning supplies are kept. Chemical fumes, humidity and very hot or very cold temperatures will affect the performance of a detector.

Look for These Features When Purchasing a Detector

- Stops automatically within minutes when fresh air clears CO.
- Manual reset button and test button.
- Digital warning light and light to indicate power is on.
- Horn that sounds 85 decibels.
- Approval from a testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratory.
- With plug-in models, power cord at least six feet long.
- Battery/sensor pack on battery-operated models that lasts a few years.
- For use in recreational vehicles, buy an AC model or 12-volt version.

Maintenance and Testing

Keep CO detectors dust free by vacuuming air vents regularly. Test CO Detectors each week simply by pressing the Test/Silence button to make sure that the alarm sounds. If the detector ever fails to test properly, have it repaired or replaced immediately.

If the Alarm Sounds ...

If the alarm sounds and anyone in the house has symptoms of CO Poisoning

- Leave the house immediately and call 9-1-1 or an emergency response number.
- Have someone contact the fire department and consult the local fuel company.

If your alarm goes off and no one has symptoms of CO poisoning:

- Turn off all fuel-burning appliances that are possible sources of CO.
- Open windows to air out the house.
- Contact the local fuel company or a licensed technician to repair the problem.

Adapted from City of Austin Fire Department

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.

Styrofoam Recycling

Have you ever agonized over throwing big bulky pieces of styrofoam into the trash bin, knowing the vile stuff will be buried in the landfill where it may negatively impact soil and water quality for years? No need to throw it away!

The Austin Recycle and Reuse Center will take all forms of packing Styrofoam EXCEPT peanuts. Packing peanuts may be donated to EcoBox.

What do they do with it? ARRC uses a specialized machine to grind the Styrofoam into a fine powder then super heats it and forms it into 60-pound blocks. The blocks are then shipped to manufacturers for use in upcycled products.

So, if you are doing some spring cleaning, don't throw your styrofoam in the trash can. Collect small pieces in large bags or stack large pieces in your car and drop it off at ARRC located It's a 20-minute trek South on 360 and East on 71. You'll be asked for your zip code at the gate.

Happy spring and be kind to the earth!!

Austin Recycle & Reuse Center

2514 Business Center Drive

Austin TX 78744

512.974.4343

Mon-Fri 9-5; Sat 7-12

Accepts paint, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, household chemicals, pool chemicals, and Styrofoam

EcoBox Moving Supplies

2200 Denton Drive, Suite 110

Austin TX 78758

512.836.7644


Mon-Thu 8-6; Fri 8-5; Sat 9-5

(in the second row of storefronts; behind Capitol Floors)

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.



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*Help Keep Our
Neighborhood
Beautiful!*

Sweet, Luscious Snacks for Loved Ones

Valentine's Day Eats and Treats

(Family Features) Valentine's Day naturally brings thoughts of hearts, flowers, sweetness and love. Because it also occurs during American Heart Month, it's a perfect opportunity to start taking care of your own heart and the hearts of loved ones.

Part of the charm of the day's celebrations is in giving family and friends flavorful foods to enjoy from chocolates and candies to other sugary treats. However, the festivities don't have to be completely focused on unhealthy bites in order to make someone feel special.

This year, it can be easy to share in the fun of Valentine's Day by serving those you love with sweet, seasonal treats. For example, these Frosted Watermelon Cutouts make for ideal snacks for children and adults alike whether it's an after-school treat or a sweet dessert with just three ingredients, heart-shaped cookie cutters and minimal time spent in the kitchen.

If you're really looking to impress that special someone, this Watermelon and Chocolate Dessert Board calls for creativity and plenty of tasty morsels like berries, cashews, almonds and dark chocolate. Without any baking or cooking required, simply spread out the ingredients for a platter that's just as visually appealing as it is appetizing.

Both recipes include the benefits of watermelon, which boasts plenty of vitamin C to boost the immune system's defenses as a cholesterol-free, fat-free and sodium-free food. Plus, watermelon draws its red color from the powerful antioxidant lycopene (12.7 mg per serving), which may help protect cells from damage, and the healthy treat is American Heart Association Heart-Check Certified with just 80 calories per serving, making it the perfect centerpiece for Valentine's Day recipes.

Find more Valentine's Day inspiration and recipes at watermelon.org.

FROSTED WATERMELON CUTOUTS

- 1 seedless watermelon, cut into 1/2-3/4-inch thick slices
- 4 brownie bites
- 1 cup frosting (any flavor)

Using heart-shaped cookie cutters, cut shapes out of watermelon slices or simply use cut watermelon wedges, if desired. Top heart shapes with brownie bites and add frosting as desired.



WATERMELON AND CHOCOLATE DESSERT BOARD

Servings: 6-8

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1/2 | medium seedless watermelon, cut into wedges and cubes | 1 | cup strawberries, trimmed and halved |
| 1 | cup fresh raspberries | 1/4 | cup dried cranberries |
| 1 | cup fresh red cherries | 1/3 | cup roasted, salted cashews |
| 1 | cup coconut chips | 1 | cup chocolate covered almonds |
| | mint leaves, for garnish | 1 | bar dark chocolate, broken into squares |

On serving board, arrange watermelon in center and surround with raspberries, cherries, strawberries, cranberries, cashews, almonds, chocolate and coconut chips. Scatter mint leaves around board for garnish.





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|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| 13 | 9 | 4 |
| AVERAGE \$/SQ FT | AVERAGE \$/SQ FT | AVERAGE \$/SQ FT |
| \$258.47 | \$248.57 | \$495.72 |
| AVG DAYS ON MARKET | AVG DAYS ON MARKET | AVG DAYS ON MARKET |
| 14 | 55 | 51 |

For more details on what is going on in The Courtyard, please give me a call.

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2019 Data for The Courtyard Subdivision as of 01/14/20, ACTRIS.

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