



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

*Official Courtyard Newsletter*

December 2014

Volume 10, Number 12

# BOARD MESSAGE

*ANNUAL MEETING - JANUARY 25, 2015!*

Please take a moment to note the Courtyard's annual meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Sunday, January 25, 2015, in the lobby of the office building located at the intersection of Courtyard Drive and North Scout Island Circle. While we hope all our homeowners can attend, we also know that it is not always possible. For this reason, 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 avoid the additional time and costs of rescheduling a second annual meeting if we do not have the required quorum necessary to conduct important homeowner association business. For newcomers who have moved to the Courtyard since last January, please note that sending in your proxy early will not prevent you from attending the annual meeting in person and voting directly yourself. 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](http://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. If you know your neighbors are gone but it looks like they forgot to cancel the newspaper or mail begins to pile up, please try to collect these things and let your neighbor(s) know when they return.

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 and their families for a safe and happy Holiday season and please continue to drive slowly in the Courtyard

## CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President, Leslie Craven..... 502-1124, 585-1153 (cell)  
Vice President, Jamie Southerland..... 394-5529  
Secretary, Waneen Spirduso..... spirduso@utexas.edu  
Treasurer, Jim Lloyd..... 231-0855  
Doug Richards 512-527-9001, dougrichards714@gmail.com  
Cathleen Barrett..... 817-371-6983  
Henry Mistrot..... 459-7313

## COMMITTEES

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Community Park  
Jamie Southerland..... 394-5529  
Welcome  
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Social Committee Chairperson  
Joany Price..... 775-8942  
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Jim Lloyd..... 231-0855  
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.....Open  
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Waneen Spirduso ..... spirduso@utexas.edu  
Fire Safety Committee  
Jim Gattis ..... 512-468-2266  
.....BubbaGattis37@gmail.com  
Area Development and Zoning Liaison  
Bill Meredith ..... 345-0593

## 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  
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Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")  
Allan Nilsson ..... 346-8432  
.....arnilsson@earthlink.net  
Villas at Courtyard:  
Thomas Hoy..... 231-1270  
.....Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com  
Wolf Court:  
Tim Sullivan..... 346-3146  
.....tsullivan@austin.rr.com

# Courtyard Book Club

*Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 1 p.m., 5612 Scout Island North*

In the West, news from Africa usually brings accounts of bizarre epidemics, natural disasters, or warring factions, all human tragedies on a scale difficult to imagine. Most Westerners are largely ignorant of Africa in other contexts. Polish journalist and writer Ryszard Kapuściński helps remedy this with this book based on observations gathered over more than four decades as a Polish journalist living in Africa.

*Publisher's Weekly* reviewer notes that "Kapuściński's observations make daily life come alive whether he's covering an Arab vendor making coffee or the efforts made at night by lizards to catch their mosquito prey. (The lizards' "eyes are capable of 180-degree rotation within their sockets, like the telescopes of astronomers...")." Ultimately, this book is a personal and political travelogue of one man's rocky love affair with a continent of nations." Kapuściński first went to Africa in 1957 at the close of the colonial era. His first hand experiences and respect for the continent and its people offer readers a perspective on current problems in this important region that is uniquely informative.

A complete list of the books the Courtyard Book Club will read and discuss in 2015 will be available on December 9 when the Club meets to celebrate the season and enjoy a Pot Luck lunch. If you would like more information about the list or the December luncheon, call or email Jean Heath, 512-231-9412, c.jeanheath@gmail.com.





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## DECORATING TREES ALONG HWY 360

Last year was the first year I participated in the annual tree decorating tradition along Hwy 360. My daughter was visiting from Colorado over Thanksgiving and this was one item on her Austin bucket list. Despite my mixed feelings about this particular Austin tradition, we had a lot of fun planning and executing our guerilla tree trimming mission. So if you are thinking about making your mark on a roadside cedar this year, I offer the following tips:

- Consider what impact your choice of decorations might have on birds and other wildlife.
- Please don't use tinsel. It's impossible to remove and wreaks havoc on the environment.
- Use only materials that stand up to the elements so your hard work doesn't turn into a soggy mess.
- Choose a tree that is visible from cars traveling in either direction.
- Go big or go home. Drivers don't have time to look at each tree, so make yours stand out with bright colors, shiny materials, large scale decorations and/or a noticeable theme.
- Safety first. That perfect tree on the edge of the cliff is not worth the risk to life and limb.
- Find a safe place to park on a side street or well-off the shoulder.
- No need to wait until after dark to avoid detection. Much like our panhandling epidemic, local authorities have come to embrace this tradition as yet another charming Austin quirk.
- Consider using repurposed, recycled or natural items in your decorating scheme.
- Use twist ties or string to fasten decorations securely.
- Avoid decorating with glass ornaments that can break and pose a danger to wildlife.
- Just because you CAN decorate a tree the day after Halloween doesn't mean you SHOULD.
- Above all else, don't forget to come back and take down your decorations! (Preferably by the first week of January.)



## Oak Tree Trimming Season Ending Soon

As most of you know, oak tree trimming season ends in January 2015. Oaks should not be trimmed from February through June as this is when the oak wilt carrier beetle is most active. With holiday "busy-ness" upon us, we sometimes forget about this necessary maintenance until mid or late January when it is sometimes hard to line up a reputable company for this work. We use the word "reputable" because when it comes to trimming your oaks, cheapest is not always the best. Hiring the lowest cost bidder without checking credentials and asking questions can prove extremely costly to you and all your neighbors' trees when your trees become infected from poor cuts and failure to thoroughly clean their cutting equipment before starting work on your trees. Contaminated tools are a big contributor to the spread of oak wilt. Above all, if you cannot get your oaks trimmed between now and the end of January, they should not be trimmed until July, 2015.

If you decide you want to do your own tree maintenance work make sure you: (1) sterilize tools with bleach or alcohol (Lysol is also a solution) before pruning; and (2) immediately paint wounds with pruning paint or latex paint within 15 minutes as carrier beetles may be attracted to untreated cuts or wounds.

### RESOURCES

***Texas Oak Wilt Information Partnership:***

*<http://www.texasoakwilt.org/>*

***Northwest Austin Civic Association:***

*<http://www.nwaca.org/oakwilt/>*

***City of Austin:***

*<http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/oakwilt/>*

***Texas Forest Service:***

*<http://texasforests-service.tamu.edu/main/article.aspx?ctrl=6>*

***US Forest Service:***

*<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/owl/states/ts/ts.shtm>*

Finally, while you're thinking of trimming, recall that our Declaration requires that no tree, shrub or planting of any kind be allowed to overhang or otherwise encroach upon any sidewalk or other pedestrian way from ground level to a height of seven (7) feet. The City of Austin as well has a requirement that all trees overhanging streets have a minimum clearance of fourteen (14) feet above street level.

# Come Home for the Holidays



# Joany Price

Realtor, CLHMS

*Your Courtyard Neighbor  
& Tennis Club Member*



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## NOTICE OF COURTYARD HOA ANNUAL MEETING

**WHEN:**

January 25, 201 at 6:00pm

**WHERE:**

Lobby of office building at the corner of Courtyard Dr and North Scout Island Cir.

**QUESTIONS?**

Go to [www.courtyardhoa.org](http://www.courtyardhoa.org) or contact property manager, Marilyn Childress at (512) 502-7509 or any Board Member.



## START COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR COURTYARD NEIGHBORS TODAY!

It's free and easy to join. Go to [www.thecourtyard.nextdoor.com](http://www.thecourtyard.nextdoor.com)

"Babysitter needed"

"Garage sale this Saturday"

"Free kids bike!"

"Car break-in! See anything?"

"Anyone missing a dog?"



### You're Invited!

Please join us on **Nextdoor**, the private social network just for our neighborhood.



## The Children's Center Of Austin



**CCOA-STEMER BUNCH**  
4308 N. Guinan Park Rd.  
Suite 100  
Austin, TX 78732  
612.264.6130

**CCOA-BESTER**  
4407 Jester Boulevard  
Building 2  
Austin, TX 78750  
612.796.8300

**CCOA-WENTLAKE**  
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# There's no place like Austin for the holidays.

*Merry Christmas!*



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SNOWDEN**

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**Nov. 28-Dec. 21**  
Austin's Teddy Bear Teas  
Four Seasons Hotel • [austintexas.org/includes/events/Four-Seasons-Hotel-Austin-s-Teddy-Bear-Teas/101398](http://austintexas.org/includes/events/Four-Seasons-Hotel-Austin-s-Teddy-Bear-Teas/101398)

**Dec. 6, 7-10pm**  
Trail of Lights Fun Run  
Zilker Park • [austintrailoflights.org/fun-run](http://austintrailoflights.org/fun-run)

**Dec. 6**  
Holiday Sing-Along & Downtown Stroll  
Downtown • [downtownaustin.com](http://downtownaustin.com)

**Dec. 6-23**  
Ballet Austin's The Nutcracker  
The Long Center • [www.balleteaustin.org](http://www.balleteaustin.org)

**Dec. 7-21**  
Austin Trail of Lights  
Zilker Park • [www.austintrailoflights.org](http://www.austintrailoflights.org)

**Dec. 14, 8am**  
Austin Jingle Bell 5K  
The Domain • [www.austinjinglebell.com](http://www.austinjinglebell.com)

**Dec. 16-24, 11am-11pm daily**  
Armadillo Christmas Bazaar  
Palmer Events Center • [www.armadillobazaar.com](http://www.armadillobazaar.com)

**Dec. 25, 11am-8pm**  
Four Seasons Hotel – Austin's Christmas Dinner  
Trio Restaurant • [austintexas.org/includes/events/Four-Seasons-Hotel-Austin-s-Christmas-Dinner](http://austintexas.org/includes/events/Four-Seasons-Hotel-Austin-s-Christmas-Dinner)

**Dec. 31, 6-10pm**  
Austin's New Year (ANY)  
Butler Park (1000 Barton Springs Rd) • [www.austintexas.gov/any](http://www.austintexas.gov/any)