



July 2016

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 12, Number 7

Message FROM THE *Board*

Just a reminder that Oak Wilt season has “officially” ended, and we can now resume trimming and pruning of our oak trees as well as general lawn maintenance. For any tree work, but especially for oaks, please use a company that knows the requirement to carefully sanitize their cutting tools and equipment used on other jobs before starting work on your trees. With all the spring rain, our yards got off to a good “lush green” start. However, we need to keep in mind clearances needed over sidewalks and streets. Our Declaration requires that “no tree, shrub or planting of any kind . . . shall be allowed to overhang or otherwise encroach upon any sidewalk or other pedestrian way from ground level to a height of seven feet (7’).” The City requires that trees overhanging streets must have a minimum clearance of fourteen feet (14’) above street level. Please take a look and see if your trees and/or bushes need some work. Look for dead limbs and branches that need to be removed along with moss balls. If you have a limited use easement (LUE), don’t forget that you are required to maintain the grass and other greenery on your LUE as well as your home site.

In case you haven’t noticed, we now have a link on our website for new residents to easily access our Welcome packet of information about our neighborhood. It also provides an easy

way for any resident to update their contact information and for tenants to let us know that you are here. Sometimes homeowners forget to let us know they have leased their home, which leaves us unable to reach tenants that might need to be made aware of an emergency situation. Thank you to Denise, Paul, and Andreas for their hours of work it took to put this link together and get it up and running.

If you haven’t already, don’t forget to contact the Fire Safety Committee to sign up for a free home evaluation. Check out their page on the website – especially the videos. They have put together a lot of good information about why you should care about fire safety and how to go about making your home and neighborhood better able to survive in the event of a wildfire. Insurance companies are beginning to offer discounts on rates for homes in Firewise communities, such as the Courtyard, and for homeowners’ participation in fire safety evaluations.

The new gate code was effective Monday, June 6. If you are a homeowner and do not know what the new code is, please contact Marilyn Childress, our property manager, at Goodwin Management: marilyn.childress@goodwintx.com.

Have a safe and happy summer and please drive slowly in the Courtyard!

I'M PROUD TO LIVE IN THE COURTYARD!

Have a great 4th of July celebration!



Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

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COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

*Tuesday August 2, 2016
5216 Scout Island Cir North*

The book selection for August is *Orphan Train* by Christine Baker Kline. Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by luck and chance. This is the story of one such child. As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are reminders of a turbulent past. Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer knows that a community-service position helping an elderly widow clean out her attic is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past. Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, *Orphan Train* is a powerful tale of upheaval and resilience, second chances, and unexpected friendships.

In September we will be discussing *Faceless Killers* by Henning Mankell. For more information about the book club please contact Lou Blemaster at 512-551-2659 or email loublemaster@gmail.com.

New Park Benches

Next time you are in the Park, check out our new maintenance-free benches and rock path near the playscape. This is all due to the time and efforts of Park Chairman, Terry Edwards, and his wife, Denise Hogan. When not helping to build benches and create rock paths, Denise also somehow finds time to chair our very active Welcome Committee while working full time. Thank you to these amazing community volunteers! You have helped to bring about so many positive changes to our neighborhood in the short time you have lived here.



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Be Ember Aware - Deck Danger Tip

What is the greatest wildfire threat to your home? EMBERS! Embers pose the greatest threat, shooting off from the main fire at high speed and carried at high speed by fast-moving air currents. A high intensity wildfire produces a virtual blizzard of embers. Some may travel as much as a mile before landing. Embers can penetrate small spaces and start a fire. They are the most common cause of burning down an entire home during a wildfire.

Deck Danger

Decks are vulnerable to embers. 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, you should consider the following tips:

- Keep the gaps between deck boards free of 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. Keep it free of weeds 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 from the house, ideally 30-ft or more if your property allows.



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INFO FOR NEW NEIGHBORS

If you're new to the Courtyard we have an excellent resource to help you connect with the neighborhood. Go to courtyardhoa.org, and click on Info For New Neighbors. You will be led through the process of providing your contact information to receive important news and information from the HOA Board. You will also find useful information like the Top Ten list of things you should know about the neighborhood, how to obtain ECC approval for any exterior projects, and more.



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