

June 2017

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 6

BOARD MESSAGE

Thank you to Joany Price for again taking her time to organize and advertise another successful annual garage sale on May 6. The weather cooperated to give us some wonderful cool dry weather and a nice breeze throughout this day.

It isn't too early to start thinking of how to decorate your bike, wagon, car, or stroller, and, of course, yourself, for the annual Courtyard Fourth of July Parade and Picnic set for Tuesday, July 4. It takes a lot of time and effort to plan and put this event on, and we can really use some volunteers. Mark your calendars and please contact Joany Price, our Social Committee Chairperson [(512) 775-8942, joanyprice@gmail.com] if you can help out. Newcomers – we especially hope you can attend. It's a great way to meet your new neighbors and friends in the Courtyard!

Another brief reminder to please keep an eye out for your neighbors' homes when they're away. Even if the regular newspaper has been canceled, sometimes other flyers, leaflets, or smaller community papers arrive and start to pile up. Do your neighbor and the community a favor, please take a minute and pick these things up.

One final thing, as we head into the heat of summer, it's a good time to have your irrigation system checked out to make sure it isn't wasting water with leaks or misdirected spray. Check out the City's watering rules and schedule at www.austintexas.gov/department/watering-restrictions.

Best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy summer, and thank you for your continued efforts to **DRIVE SLOWLY IN THE COURTYARD**.



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work with people
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be an honor to have
the opportunity
to work with your
friends, family or
neighbors.**

**Call me if you know
of anyone who needs
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**Joany
Price**

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

*Realtor, CLHMS
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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.



COURTYARD BOOK CLUB JULY (TBA), 2017, 5216 SCOUT ISLAND CIR NORTH

Join the Courtyard Book Club in July to discuss *The Midnight Assassin*, by Texas monthly editor, Skip Hollandsworth.

"In the late 1800s, the city of Austin, Texas was on the cusp of emerging from an isolated Western outpost into a truly cosmopolitan metropolis. But beginning in December 1884, Austin was terrorized by someone equally as vicious and, in some ways, far more diabolical than London's infamous Jack the Ripper. For almost exactly one year, the *Midnight Assassin* crisscrossed the entire city, striking on moonlit nights, using axes, knives, and long steel rods to rip apart women from every race and class. At the time the concept of a serial killer was unthinkable, but the murders continued, the killer became more brazen, and the citizens' panic reached a fever pitch. Before it was all over, at least a dozen men would be arrested in connection with the murders. Along the way, the murders would expose what a newspaper described as "the most extensive and profound scandal ever known in Austin." And yes, when Jack the Ripper began his attacks in 1888, London police investigators did wonder if the killer from Austin had crossed the ocean to terrorize their own city. With vivid historical detail and novelistic flair, Texas Monthly journalist Skip Hollandsworth brings this terrifying saga to life"

The book selection for August is *News of the World* by Susan Jiles. All are welcome to join the group that meets the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, call or email Lou Blemaster, 512-551-2659, loublemaster@gmail.com.

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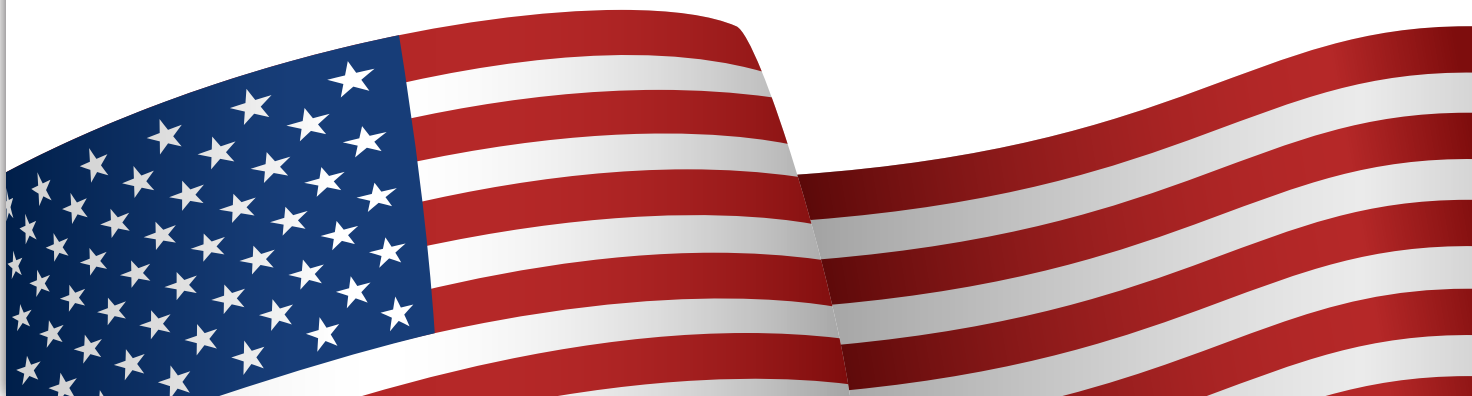
FOURTH OF JULY PARADE & PICNIC IN THE PARK

Join us at 10am on July 4th at Parade Ridge and Courtyard Drive

We will line up behind the fire truck and march to the park

Decorate your bike or wagon and join the fun!

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COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY BE EMBER AWARE TIP #10 - DON'T WAIT

Most homes are destroyed by wildfire because wind driven burning embers come into contact with something easily ignited on, in or near the home. When evaluating your home and property's vulnerability to embers, you should do it in the context of wildfire conditions. You should assume:

- Hot temperatures, very low humidity, and strong gusting winds
- Poor visibility due to smoke
- No electricity
- Little or no water pressure
- No telephone, including cell phone service
- Panicking people acting irrationally
- Firefighters will not be protecting your home and will likely not even be in your neighborhood.
- You and your family may not be present
- Thousands of burning embers coming from burning pieces of bark, branches, and construction materials are being driven by winds into your house and onto your roof.

Now assume that your home is exactly as you left it this morning when you left for work. Would it survive under these conditions?

Did you leave a window open? Did you forget to close the garage door? Is the firewood pile stacked next to the house? Are the garbage cans on the back porch full and not covered by lids?

Take steps now to reduce the ember threat to your home. Waiting until the fire starts may cost you your home.

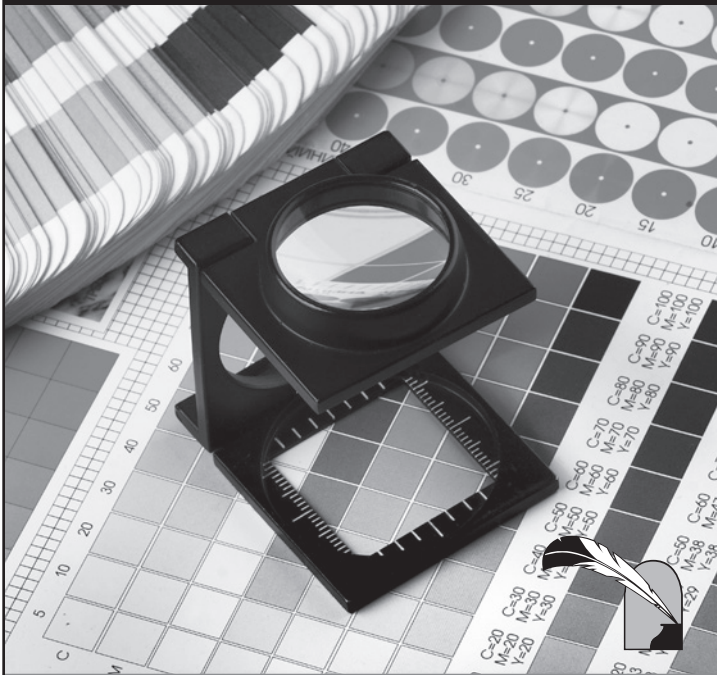
For an excellent tutorial on how the community homeowners can respond to the risk, see Making Your Home Firewise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6jV-gM9EwQ>

To sign up with the Courtyard Fire Safety Committee to schedule an evaluation by one of our trained teams, email fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org.



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KEEP DIRT AND MULCH OUT OF THE STORM DRAIN!

Soil is one our most common pollutants. Bare dirt can erode during rainfall and travel to our creeks, clogging waterways, damaging fish gills and carrying chemicals with it.

Solutions:

- Plant or mulch any bare soil
- Stabilize eroded areas as needed
- Install erosion controls if you are doing construction or landscaping projects

Caution: If you mulch a sloped area, make sure to contain any loose materials with edging so a heavy rain doesn't wash it away. (source: austintexas.gov/landscapedesign)

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