

August 2017

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 8

BOARD MESSAGE

July 4

Congratulations and many thanks to our Social Committee Chair, Joany Price, and all the community volunteers who gave their time and energy to organize and present this year's great annual Independence Day parade and fun-filled picnic celebration in our Community Park. Led by our Station 31 firefighters, residents paraded through the neighborhood from Parade Ridge to the Park. Upon arrival, everyone dined on gourmet picnic fare and enjoyed activities such as face painting, balloon toys and animals, and the ever popular Slip'n'Slide. This year's new activity, a tiny animal petting zoo, was wonderful. See, pictures in this edition of the Caller.

Fire Safety Plans

Although we don't mean to alarm you, we do want to ask that you keep in mind that we live with a real and continuous threat of a wildfire occurring in and around the Courtyard. It is simply a fact of life. While this summer has not been as dry as some, the conditions that create wildfire disasters are not going away anytime soon. Through the efforts of our Fire Safety Committee, we can have free assessments of the outside areas of our homes and yards along with suggestions of ways to help make our homes safer from wildfires. We urge everyone to take advantage of this service and help increase the likelihood that your home and those of your neighbors will survive a fire.

The Committee will soon be presenting a special Courtyard Community EVACUATION PLAN in the event of a wildfire. To learn more, check out the Fire Safety page on our community website and/or contact Chairman Jim Carolan if you have questions. jccarolan1@gmail.com; (619) 559-1978.

Tree & Shrub Maintenance

Just a reminder that now through January is the time to be trimming your oak trees. Note also that 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')", and the City of Austin requires that all trees overhanging streets have a minimum clearance of fourteen feet (14') above street level. Please take a look and see if your greenery needs some work.

Think Before You Act

Efforts to clean, repair, or revive areas of one's property are great, and property maintenance is among our responsibilities as homeowners in the Courtyard. However, before beginning an outside project, please remember to contact our Environmental Control Committee (ECC) so they can look over your plans and help make sure your project will go well. Consider taking a few minutes to visit your neighbor(s) to give them a head's up about outside work in your yard that might involve that neighbor's property or drastically alter view(s) from his/her home. As most of you are aware, most of us live in very close proximity to our neighbors and in some instances shrubbery, trees, and/or fences that belong to one property owner have, over time, come to be an important part of the privacy enjoyed by several neighbors. Other times, there is no fence to clearly define boundaries or help identify which yard the plants or trees are growing in – and you want to be sure that you are working only on your own property. Running this by the ECC and your neighbors might save everyone a lot of time and "upset."

Finally, remember that August is back-to-school month for many students. Watch out for students during the morning and late afternoon hours as they begin travel to and from school. PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PASS A SCHOOL BUS THAT HAS STOPPED TO LET CHILDREN OFF. Nothing is so important that you cannot wait until the bus gives you're the clear signal before you attempt to drive around it.

PLEASE DRIVE SLOWLY IN THE COURTYARD

DATES THAT RATE HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR! 2017-2018 AISD SCHOOL CALENDAR



August 2017	
7-10	New Teacher Orientation
14-16	Staff Development
17-18	Planning & Prep
21	First Day of Classes
September 2017	
4	Student & Staff Holiday - Labor Day
October 2017	
9	Student Holiday - Elem. Parent Conference; Secondary Staff Development
November 2017	
20-24	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 2017	
20	Winter Break Begins
January 2018	
2	Student Holiday - Staff Development
3	Classes Resume
15	Student & Staff Holiday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
February 2018	
19	Student Holiday - Elem. Parent Conference; Secondary Staff Development 1st Bad Weather Makeup Day
March 2018	
12-16	Spring Break
30	Student Holiday - Staff Development 2nd Bad Weather Makeup Day
May 2018	
28	Student & Staff Holiday - Memorial Day
30	Last Day of Classes
31	Planning & Prep

Legend	
■ Student/Staff Holiday	○ Planning & Prep/ Student Holiday
● Staff Development/ Student Holiday	● First / Last Day of Classes
□ Student Holiday - Elem. Parent Conference Secondary Staff Development	+ Bad Weather Make-up Day
■ New Teacher Orientation] Secondary Grading Period
⬡ District Closed	} Elementary Grading Period

Austin Independent School District
1111 W. Sixth St., Austin, TX 78703
512-414-1700 www.austinsisd.org

Approved by the AISD Board of Trustees 01/22/2017
District of Innovation Plan approved 03/27/2017

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S	S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
July 2017							January 2018						
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August 2017							February 2018						
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September 2017							March 2018						
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October 2017							April 2018						
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November 2017							May 2018						
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December 2017							June 2018						
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31													

For more information about important District dates and events, and religious holidays which may affect student attendance, please check our website www.austinsisd.org



Joany Price

Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member

Realtor, CLHMS
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COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

SEPTEMBER 5, 2017
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The book selection for September is *Empty Mansions, The Mysterious Life of Huguette Clark and the Spending of a Great American Fortune* by Bill Dedman.

"When Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Bill Dedman noticed a property listing for a grand estate that had been unoccupied for nearly sixty years, he stumbled into one of the most surprising American stories of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Empty Mansions is a rich tale of wealth and loss, complete with copper barons, Gilded Age opulence, and backdoor politics. At its heart is a reclusive 104-year-old heiress named Huguette Clark. Dedman has collaborated with Huguette's cousin, Paul Clark Newell, Jr., one of the few relatives to have had frequent conversations with her, to tell a fairy tale in reverse: the bright, talented daughter who is born into an almost royal family of

(Continued on Page 4)

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(Continued from Page 3)

amazing wealth and privilege, yet who secrets herself away from the outside world. Empty Mansions reveals a complete picture of the enigmatic Huguette Clark, heiress to one of the greatest fortunes in American history, a woman who had not been photographed in public since the 1920s. Though she owned three palatial homes in California, New York, and Connecticut, they sat vacant while she lived out her final two decades in a New York City hospital room, despite being in excellent health. Her father was self-made copper industrialist W. A. Clark, who at the dawn of the twentieth century was one of the richest men in America. Huguette's inheritance afforded her untold luxury: gorgeous paintings by Degas and Renoir, a world-renowned Stradivarius violin, a vast collection of antique dolls, lavish gifts for her friends, the freedom to pursue her own work as an artist, and, most important, the privacy she valued above all else. The Clark family story takes the reader nearly the entire span of American history in just three generations. The same Huguette who held a ticket for the return trip of the Titanic was touched by the terror attacks of 9/11. In this scrupulously detailed account, we meet Huguette's extravagant father, her publicity-shy mother, her star-crossed sister, her noble French boyfriend, the nurse who

received more than \$30 million in gifts, and the relatives seeking to inherit Huguette's \$300 million fortune. Richly illustrated with more than seventy photographs, some never before seen, Empty Mansions is a touching story of an eccentric of the highest order, a last jewel of the Gilded Age who lived life on her own terms."

The book selection for October is *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson. 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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COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

Wildfires are a Continuing Threat to Travis County

We cannot imagine Travis County and Courtyard are immune to wildfires. Fourteen ongoing wildfires have raged for weeks in CA, AZ, and NM draught conditions. While our community is residential with housing, streets and landscaped yards, we are also located adjacent to undeveloped land and preserves that are heavily vegetated and in a wildland state. Our 2013 Texas Forrest Service (TFS) threat assessment predicts wildfires will happen in our wildlands sooner or later. The variable in the TFS predicted scenario is when a fire will occur, not whether one will occur. The assessment did not focus on specific homes, but examined the community as a whole. Individual home risks are a function of our Wildland-Urban Interface and each home's interrelationship with everything in its surrounding "ignition zone" - the house and its immediate surroundings. To avoid a home ignition, a homeowner must eliminate the wildfire's potential to bring fire to the house. This can be accomplished by interrupting the natural path a fire takes.

Houses are at risk when fire can burn fuel near or in contact with the structure.

- **Lateral fuels** are combustible materials that will allow a fire to travel laterally across intervening space between the structure and the source of the fire. Grass or low growing shrubs and forbs that grow closely together and cover the distance between the source of the fire and the structure are examples of lateral fuels.
- **Vertical fuels** are combustible materials that can carry fire

upward as they burn, resulting in fire reaching higher onto a structure into areas that may be susceptible to ignition such as eaves or windows. Examples of vertical fuels are shrubs that reach up into trees or the perimeter of a structure and can carry fire into the structure from the ground upward.

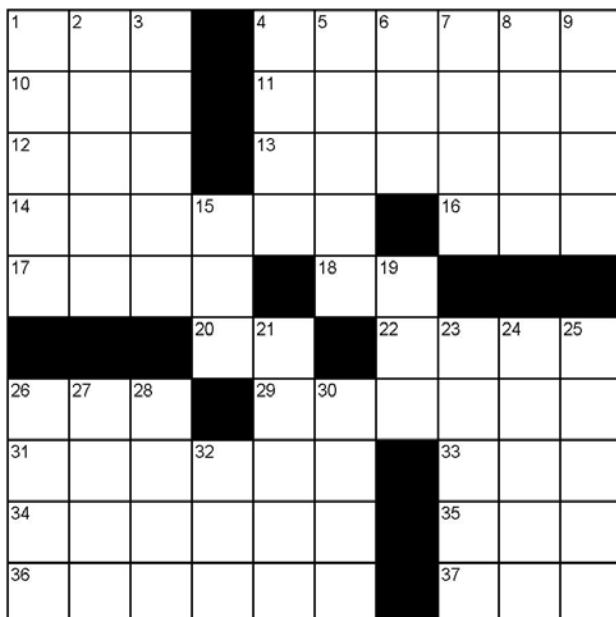
As a homeowner, you can interrupt or change a fire's path to your home by clearing a home ignition zone. This is nothing more than pruning, maintaining and consistently doing vegetation management in your yard. It is an easy-to-accomplish task that can result in avoiding home loss. To accomplish this, flammable items such as dead vegetation must be removed from the area immediately around the structure to prevent flames from contacting it. Also, reducing the volume of live vegetation will affect the intensity of the wildfire as it enters the home ignition zone.

The good news is that residents substantially reduce exposure to loss during a wildfire by taking preventive actions within our home ignition zones to address wildfire vulnerabilities. Relatively small investments of time and effort reap great wildfire safety rewards. 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 for an HIZ evaluation by one of our trained team, email fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org or sign up at the Firewise booth in the park during our Independence Day community picnic.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- Kimono sash
- Hype
- Really cool
- Hateful
- Sailor's yes
- Dissolved substance
- Replacement car
- British drink
- Flower start
- Book of Samuel abbr.
- Arkansas
- Fish lifting hood
- Popular president's initials
- Portugal's peninsula
- Elicit
- Titan
- Destroyer
- Single
- Stretched circle
- Little bit

DOWN

- Toothbrush brand
- Marsh
- Utopian
- Tights
- Bad smells
- Lube
- Mope
- Stringed instrument
- At sea
- BB association
- Stage of life
- Got up
- Jargon
- Female singer ____ Apple
- Colorless
- Gambling game
- Beat severely
- Churn
- Floating ice
- Card game

View answers online at www.peelinc.com

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TEXAS A&M AGRI LIFE **CHIGGERS** EXTENSION

Chiggers are the immature stage of a mite. They climb onto people walking through infested areas, crawl upwards, and wander around the body seeking a good site to settle down and feed. Feeding preference for these mites is in areas where skin is thinnest or where clothing fits tightly, such as the ankles, waist, behind the knees, and the groin area.

Chiggers do not burrow into skin as many people believe, so “smothering” them with nail polish is useless. When chiggers feed, they inject a digestive enzyme that breaks down skin cells which are then eaten. Itching and redness is caused by our body reacting to the enzymes injected into our skin. Itching typically begins 3-6 hours after being bitten, peaks at 24 hours, and can last up to two weeks.

The best way to avoid getting chiggers is to avoid infested areas. Since this is not always possible, here are some other things to try:

- Wear protective clothing- tightly woven items that fit loosely; including long sleeves & pants; shoes or boots
- Tuck pant legs into boots
- Avoid sitting on the ground
- Remove & launder clothing ASAP after being in infested areas
- Shower/ bathe after being in an infested area; scrub vigorously with a washcloth
- Use an insect repellent with DEET or picaridin

To treat chigger infestations around the home try the following:

- Keeping lawn trimmed
- Maintain vegetation; do not allow weeds to grow up & keep brush cleared
- Targeted residual pesticide sprays, usually pyrethroids

For chigger bites:

- Do not scratch pustules; opening pustule might lead to infection
- Oral antihistamines or topical anti-itch creams to relieve itching sensation

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com

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SCENES FROM THE COURTYARD ANNUAL 4TH OF JULY PARADE AND PICNIC



Once again, the Courtyard's annual 4th of July Parade and Picnic in the Park was a great success. Bringing neighbors together for this fun event would not be possible without the dedication and hard work of neighbors who volunteer their time and resources to make it happen.

A special thank you goes to Joany Price for her tireless efforts in planning, organizing and executing the Picnic every year.

Thank you to all who came out to celebrate and enjoy the picnic with neighbors and friends.





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BAYLOR (BU)	TEXAS (UT)	TEXAS TECH (TTU)
Sept 2 - Liberty	Sept 2 - Maryland	Sept 2 - Eastern Wash.
Sept 9 - UTSA	Sept 9 - San Jose St.	Sept 16 - ASU
Sept 16 @ Duke	Sept 16 @ USC	Sept 23 @ Houston
Sept 23 - OU	Sept 28 @ ISU	Sept 30 - OSU
Sept 30 @ KSU	Oct 7 - KSU	Oct 7 @ KU
Oct 14 @ OSU	Oct 14 vs OU (Dallas)	Oct 14 @ WVU
Oct 21 - WVU	Oct 21 - OSU	Oct 21 - ISU
Oct 28 - UT	Oct 28 @ BU	Oct 28 @ OU
Nov 4 @ KU	Nov 4 @ TCU	Nov 4 - KSU
Nov 11 vs TTU (Arlington)	Nov 11 - KU	Nov 11 vs BU (Arlington)
Nov 18 - ISU	Nov 18 @ WVU	Nov 18 - TCU
Nov 24 @ TCU	Nov 24 - TTU	Nov 24 @ UT

TEXAS A&M (A&M)
Sept 3 @ UCLA
Sept 9 - Nicholls St.
Sept 16 - UL Lafayette
Sept 23 vs Ark (Arlington)
Sept 30 - So. Carolina
Oct 7 - Alabama
Oct 14 @ Florida
Oct 28 - Mississippi St.
Nov 4 - Auburn
Nov 11 - New Mexico
Nov 18 @ Ole Miss
Nov 25 @ LSU



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