

September 2017

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 13, Number 9

# Courtyard FIRE SAFETY



## **NEW Wildfire Evacuation Plan**

The Courtyard HOA Board approved our Courtyard Community Wildfire Evacuation plan at its 18 July meeting. The plan, developed by our Fire Safety Committee in collaboration with Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division and the Texas Forest Service.

The full Evacuation Plan is posted at [www.courtyardhoa.org](http://www.courtyardhoa.org) under the Fire Safety tab, along with a **Wildfire Evacuation Plan - Resident Essentials** document providing the essential information and guidance you, as a Courtyard resident require. The full Evacuation Plan is referenced where appropriate for residents who desire greater detail.

## **Wildfire Evacuation Plan (Full Plan) – PURPOSE...**

Each year, wildland fires consume hundreds of homes in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) – a high-risk wildfire area containing natural fuels where houses are built. Studies show as many as 80 percent of the homes lost to wildland fires could have been saved if their owners had followed simple *fire-safe practices*. In addition, wildland fire related deaths occur because people wait too long to leave their homes.

Our fire department takes every precaution to help protect you and your property from wildland fire. However, in a major

wildland fire event, there simply may not be enough fire resources or firefighters to defend every home.

Successfully preparing for a wildland fire enables us to take personal responsibility to protect ourselves, our family, and our property. In this plan, we provide the information and guidance you need to prepare for a wildland fire threat; to have situational awareness when a fire starts; and to act early as directed by local officials.

## **Wildfire Evacuation Plan - Resident Essentials – PURPOSE...**

Successfully preparing for a wildland fire enables us to take personal responsibility to protect ourselves, our family, and our property. In this document, we provide the essential information and guidance you, as a Courtyard resident, need to prepare for a wildland fire threat; to have situational awareness when a fire starts; and to act early as directed by local officials.

For two excellent tutorials on how the community homeowners can respond to the risk, see

## **NEW Tips to Keep Homes from Igniting in Wildfires**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6DzHdDQeyE&feature=youtu.be>  
and

## **Making Your Home Firewise**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6jV-gM9EwQ>

To sign up for a Home Ignition Zone risk evaluation by one of our trained team, email [fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org](mailto:fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org).

# COURTYARD CALLER

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## COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

OCTOBER 3, 2017,  
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The book selection for October is *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson.

Imagine a society in which the official political story tells only of happiness and prosperity, yet personal experience reveals the opposite. Imagine the resulting internal dissonance and the ways in which people might reconcile such opposing forces. This is the experience offered by Johnson (*Parasites Like Us*) in his novel of modern-day North Korea. Following the path of the hero's journey, young Pak Jun Do moves from an orphanage into a life of espionage, kidnapping, and torture, only to be given a new identity as the husband of the Dear Leader's favorite actress. With references to the classic American film *Casablanca*, Johnson's narrative portrays his hero as he makes his way through a minefield of corruption and violence, eventually giving his all so that his loved ones might have a better life.

(Continued on Page 4)



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## WE LOVE DOGS BUT...

No doubt about it, your dog is special. Your dog is adorable and loyal and well-behaved. In fact he or she is so well-behaved that you feel no need to tether him or her to the lowly confines of a leash. Leashes are for stupid dogs, right? Well, actually, the law says that leashes are required for all dogs in the Courtyard regardless of their doggie IQs. It's not only a matter of whether your dog stays by your side off leash, it's about being in harmony with other neighborhood inhabitants. When dogs on leashes meet up with dogs off leash they tend to want to defend their position. Kind of like how the media portrays democrats and republicans as opposing factions with no common goal. When leashed meets unleashed in the dog world, it unleashes (pun intended) a sort of class warfare. Thrown off by their differences in leashing, dogs may act out or become aggressive. Because dogs, like humans, have trouble with perspective. And dogs, like humans, tend to hyper focus on little things that upset their worldview. This causes them to forget that, leashed or unleashed, they're still dogs. And all dogs pretty much want the same things. So, let's all just follow the leash rules so we can stave off our descent into anarchy for a bit longer.

Also coyotes. They live among us and would like nothing more than to gobble up some of that free range pooch.

(Continued from Page 2)

The book selection for November The Tortilla Curtain. 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.



**Please remember to pick up after your pets and "scoop the poop"**

## DROWNING IS FAST & SILENT KEEP KIDS IN ARM'S REACH



**WATER SAFETY TIPS AT  
WWW.COLINSHOPE.ORG**



**Volunteer - Donate  
COLINSHOPE.ORG**

**At least 63 Texas children have lost their lives to a fatal drowning this year. \***

**Take our Water Safety Quiz. [www.colinshope.org/quiz](http://www.colinshope.org/quiz)**

**September 10: Colin's Hope Kids Triathlon**

Colin's Hope will host the annual Kids Tri on Sunday, September 10. The event is limited to 400 athletes, and will close quickly! For more information visit [www.colinshope.org](http://www.colinshope.org)

**September 24: Colin's Hope Got2Swim**

Looking for our annual Got2Swim? Join Colin's Hope and Open Water Planet on Sunday, September 24 for a 10K solo, 2, or 3 person relay on Lake Travis!



**Thank you to our sponsors, donors, and volunteers for their year round support!**

A special thank you to Peel, Inc. Their support helps us to raise water safety awareness to prevent children from drowning.

\*Source: Texas DFPS, Watch Kids Around Water

## LAYERS OF PROTECTION CAN PREVENT DROWNING



**CONSTANT  
VISUAL  
SUPERVISION**



**LEARN  
TO  
SWIM**



**WEAR  
LIFE  
JACKETS**



**MULTIPLE  
BARRIERS  
TO WATER**



**KEEP BACKYARDS  
& BATHROOMS  
SAFER**



**CHECK POOL  
& HOT TUB  
FIRST**



**STAY AWAY  
FROM  
DRAINS**



**BE SAFER  
AT THE  
BEACH**



**LEARN CPR  
& REFRESH  
SKILLS YEARLY**

# FEELING LUCKY?

**Come to Courtyard Ladies Game Night. Returning every third Thursday starting in September. Locations TBA**

Show up at 6:30 with an hors d'oeuvre, \$5 and drink of your choice if other than water or tea. We'll play bunco or keno and have tons of fun! Neither game requires skill so come and enjoy yourself!!!

But...you MUST RSVP.

*If you are not on the email list already and want to be, contact Joany Price, Social Chair and she will add you.*

*joanyprice@gmail.com  
or 512-775-8942.*



## Joany Price

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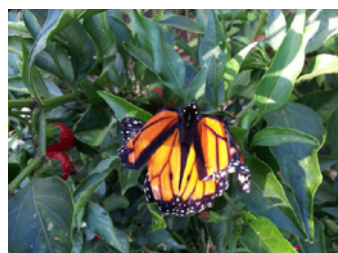
## MONARCHS & OE

TEXAS A&M  
AGRI LIFE  
EXTENSION

The protozoan parasite *Ophryocystis elektroscirrha* (OE) infects monarch and queen butterflies. It is an obligate parasite and requires a host to live within and to grow and multiply. It was first discovered in the 1960's infecting monarchs in Florida. Since then, it's been found in monarch populations across the world. It is thought that the parasite has co-evolved with monarchs.

There are three major populations of monarchs in the United States—one east of the Rocky Mountains that winters in Central Mexico and migrate north into the US and Canada; another west of the Rocky mountains that overwinters on the coast of California; the third population are non-migratory and can breed year round in areas such as Florida, Texas and Hawaii. All three populations are infected with OE.

Monarchs infected with OE will have spores wedged between the scales on their body, with the greatest concentration usually occurring on the abdomen. The spores are very small and require a microscope to see.



Female monarchs pass OE spores onto their offspring when they lay eggs. When caterpillars emerge from the egg, they eat the egg shell ingesting the spores. When spores reach the midgut of the insect, they break open and release protozoan parasites. The protozoans move through the gut lining to the epidermis where they reproduce asexually (divides multiple times increasing the number of protozoans). In the butterfly chrysalis stage, the protozoans go through sexual reproduction (again increasing the number of protozoans). Spores form so the emerging butterfly is covered in spores. Spores can also be scattered onto milkweed from butterflies laying eggs or feeding on nectar. Spores on the milkweed can be consumed by caterpillars as they eat foliage.

Once butterflies are infected, they do not recover. OE does not grow or reproduce on the adults; spores remain dormant until they are ingested by a caterpillar.

Infected pupae have dark blotches 2-3 days before emergence. Adults that are heavily infected often have problems emerging from the chrysalis and some may die before emerging. Others that do emerge may fall to the ground before their wings are expanded leading to them dying quickly. Many infected monarchs look healthy, so the only way to determine infection is by looking for spores.

What can you do? Check monarchs for spores and destroy any you find that are infected. I know this seems harsh, but infected monarchs further spread the protozoa and kill more butterflies in later generations. Cut down milkweed several times per year to get rid of any possible spores that may be on the plants and to encourage new, healthy growth.

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](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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We will select the top few and post their artwork on our Facebook Page - Facebook.com/PeelInc.  
DUE: September 30th

Be sure to include the following so we can let you know!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (first name, last initial)

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