



May 2018

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 5

BOARD MESSAGE

Thank you to our Landscaping Committee, Ed & Jan Ueckert, for putting together the colorful spring flowers at our entrance and reviving our roses in the Parade Ridge area of Courtyard Drive. They make a beautiful entrance drive into the community.

Around the Home: Many of us will be gone for some period of time in the coming summer months. If you know your neighbors are out of town or simply notice that newspapers or mail/deliveries are accumulating on porches or driveways, please consider collecting and keeping these items for the homeowners until they return. Left in the driveway or collecting on a front porch, they serve as a tip-off that the homeowners are not home and are an invitation for trouble. Neighbors can also help each other out by keeping an eye out for strangers wandering through back yards or between houses.

In the Park: As a community, we are very fortunate to own and have the use of a private park on beautiful Bull Creek. "Private" means just that – it is not open to the public. Access to enjoy the trails, playscape, picnic areas, dock, and pond area is a privilege as well as an added benefit to Courtyard homeowners. Unfortunately, this is the time of the year that we begin to have more nonresidents coming into the Park unaccompanied by a homeowner. Please keep in mind that if friends and/or family (not living in the Courtyard home) of a resident wish to enjoy the use of the Park, the homeowner must be with them. If you see any boats, cars, or people you don't know in the Park area, try to take a picture or write down the license number and/or a description of the boat, car or person(s), especially powerboats trying to get into our pond or tie-up to our pier. If you see someone in the Park that you don't know but are not comfortable speaking with them, call the police and let them check it out.

While residents need not be fearful, it is good to be watchful and proactive about your personal safety and that of our community. Report any information or concerns you have to our Security Committee Chairman, Jim Lloyd jlloyd@austin.rr.com or any Board member. The Board is currently looking into further

ways to increase security in the Park, and among the best defensive weapons we have are alert residents.

Loose trash: Please bag your trash before throwing it into containers. We've had several incidents this year where someone threw loose white "popcorn" packing material into their trash container. This resulted in a significant amount of those Styrofoam particles blowing out of the container during the City's pick-up and being distributed all along NSIC. This type of trash does not decompose. It is unsightly and harmful to the environment. It took weeks to get them picked up and that doesn't account for what ended up in our waterways.

Illegal disposal of lawn debris: Reports are coming in that yard crews are dumping debris from their cleanup into common area woods along NSIC. Fortunately, we were able to learn what crew did this and are contacting the company to get this removed. Besides being illegal to dump trash, this debris is a fire hazard and is the type of material we are spending dues money to remove from around the Courtyard. Please keep an eye out for anyone doing this and report it - including individual homeowners that blow their leaves out of their yard into the streets and common areas where it accumulates along our streets and often ends up in the creek and pond area.

New Gate Code: Just a reminder that the Park gate code changed effective Monday, April 30. The new code was sent to residents via our broadcast email system. Two emails were sent before the change - on April 23 & 28 and a follow-up email was sent Friday, May 4. Please take a minute and see if you received at least one of these notices so that you will have the current gate code. While you're at it, check the website Directory to make sure we have your most current email address. www.courtyardhoa.org. If you did not receive an email notice with the new code or we do not have your correct email in the Directory, please let us know through the "Contact Us /Report a Problem" page.

COURTYARD CALLER

CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Wolf Court:

Tim Sullivan 346-3146
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COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2018

1 P.M. 5612 N. SCOUT ISLAND CIRCLE

Join the Courtyard Book Club in June as we discuss *Lilac Girls* by Martha Hall Kelly.

Publishers Weekly

Kelly's compelling first novel follows three women through the course of World War II and beyond. Caroline, a wealthy New Yorker, volunteers at the French consulate in New York, assisting refugees and raising funds. She meets Paul, a charming, married French actor, and sparks fly. Kasia, a young woman living in Poland during the Nazi invasion, works for the resistance until she is captured and sent to Ravensbruck, the women's concentration camp. There, she encounters Herta, a doctor hired to help execute inmates and perform experiments. Though her mother is Herta's trusted assistant, and even saved a camp guard's life, Kasia is operated on, joining the "Rabbits," inmates deformed from their surgeries. Meanwhile, Caroline loses touch with Paul when he returns to France to find his wife, and she finds herself tasked with keeping track of the growing concentration camp network for the consulate, learned from British intelligence. After the war, she travels to France to assist in locating missing people, where she learns about the Rabbits, including Kasia, who is struggling to let go of her anger and move on with her life. Despite some horrific scenes, this is a page-turner demonstrating the tests and triumphs civilians faced during war, complemented by Kelly's vivid depiction of history and excellent characters.

Our book selection for July is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance.

For more information about the Courtyard Book Club or for details about upcoming contact Lou Blemaster at 512-551-2659 or email loublemaster@gmail.com.

SPONSOR A BENCH

One of our neighbors suggested placing park benches in Common Areas around the Courtyard community for the convenience of anyone who might want to sit down and enjoy the neighborhood. We did a little homework and found a nice mahogany Polywood 60" park bench that would be durable with little or no maintenance required. The cost is approximately \$550 per bench.

We are checking to see if residents are interested in donating a bench with the donor's name and short message attached on a brass plaque. The bench can be dedicated to someone or have some reasonable message. More than one family can share the donation – join together with friends to sponsor a bench.

Contact Paul Siegel if you are interested -
pbsiegel@gmail.com

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Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
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ANNUAL NW AUSTIN COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE

SATURDAY MAY 5TH (RAIN DAY MAY 12)

It's that time again! Time to purge, declutter and score some cash! Mark your calendars for the Courtyard's Annual Neighborhood Garage Sale to be held Saturday May 5th (or in case of rain, it will be postponed to May 12.)

Important Change!!

This year the sale will be held in one central location; the office building parking lot at Courtyard Drive and N. Scout Island Circ.

This annual event which includes neighboring communities is always a big success. And we make it easy for you!

The Homeowners Association will take care of putting up signs and advertising in the Austin American Statesman. Participants will set up and man their garage sales in the designated parking lot area. Having all vendors in one location should attract more shoppers and increase sales for all participants.

What about those leftover items that don't sell? No worries, the HOA has an arrangement with Settlement Home for Children (www.settlementhome.org) to come by the day of the sale and pick up any leftovers for donation.

If you would like to participate, contact Joany Price 512-775-8942 or email joanyprice@gmail.com

CURBSIDE COMPOSTING BEGINS JUNE 25, 2018

Did you know that nearly half of the materials that end up in landfills can be composted? When buried in a landfill, compostable materials do not break down as they would in nature or in a compost pile. They decompose anaerobically, without oxygen, and in the process become the number one source of human-caused methane released into the atmosphere.

Beginning June 25th, the city of Austin will extend weekly curbside composting collection to Courtyard residents. Instead of going to a landfill, organic materials placed in the supplied green carts will be collected and transported to a local composting facility, where they break down into compost. Compost helps soil retain water, and fertilizes lawns and gardens without using chemicals.

By simply discarding food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings into the supplied green organic waste bins, residents can do their part to keep valuable materials out of our landfills, reduce harmful greenhouse gases and help Austin get closer to reaching the Zero Waste goal by the year 2040.

Even if you are already composting at home, the city will accept some additional items not suitable for home composting like meat, poultry, seafood, dairy products and bones.

To learn more about curbside composting or to attend one of the upcoming composting open houses, go to: www.austintexas.gov/austincomposts.



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COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

CONGRATULATIONS COURTYARD COMMUNITY FOR 5 YEARS FIREWISE!

From: Prudhomme, Cathy <CPrudhomme@nfpa.org>

Sent: Friday, April 6, 2018 10:42 AM

Subject: Firewise USA™ 5-year participation milestone achievement



On behalf of the entire team at the National Fire Protection Association, we congratulate you... on achieving five-years of continuous participation in the national Firewise USA™ recognition program!

The residents' long-term commitment to reducing wildfire risks and their continuous completion of the program's annual renewal requirements is a significant accomplishment. We're extremely proud to have you as an important and valued part of the national program's close to 1,500 recognized sites throughout 42 states. We look forward to hearing about your annual wildfire mitigation accomplishments for many more years to come.

Please extend our thanks and appreciation to the residents in your site for their continued efforts to prepare their homes and landscapes for wildfires; which ultimately increases safety for both residents and firefighters.

Sincerely,
Cathy Prudhomme
Firewise USA Program Manager[NFPA]
National Fire Protection Association

For an excellent tutorial on how the community homeowners can respond to the Wildfire 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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Property Tax Protest Deadline

is rapidly approaching

Send in your protest form by **May 15!**

APRIL 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

MAY 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

APRIL 1

Travis County Appraisal District sends out notices of appraised value

April 15

Deadline to file Business Personal Property Renditions or to file for extension

April 30- Last day to file for historical, solar, agricultural, and other exemptions

April through August the Appraisal review boards conduct hearings

May 15

Deadline to file a protest.

If you are planning on filing a tax protest it must be filed by May 15. I am happy to recommend someone to help you protest your taxes.

Jo Carol Snowden

Broker Associate



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