

September 2018

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 14, Number 9

COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

WHY FIREWISE AND READY-SET-GO?.



Dry and windy summers can result in an increase in wildfires. These factors, along with the spring rain that caused rich vegetation, are reasons why 2018 is predicted to be an above average year for wildfires in Central Texas.

Captain Josh Anderson of AFD's Wildfire Division reported in May that although all of Travis County is at risk for wildfires, certain areas of Northwest Austin, such as Jester Estates or Lakewood, are at particularly high risk because of dense vegetation and rolling hills. Fires can travel quickly when they begin at the bottom of a hill. Heat rises, and flames tend to lend heat to the vegetation that's farther up. Flames preheat the vegetation and dry it out. The steeper the hill, the more the tree-heating effect from trees burning below.

Central Texas is a fire ecosystem, which means it is dependent on fire to keep the ecological balance in check. However, fires are now suppressed to protect homes, so Central Texas ends up with a stockpile of vegetation "fuel" where it would not have been otherwise.

It is important to note that Courtyard interfaces with steep wildlands to our north and south. Our HOA Board funds fire fuels clearance and area maintenance to the north of our community; work that is in progress annually. However, embers from beyond the community to the north and lack of clearance to the bordering wildlands outside Courtyard to our south continue to pose wildfire risk to the community.

Courtyard residents should prepare for the possibility of wildfires near our homes by adopting **Firewise** principles to protect our homes and families. Residents should also prepare by adopting **Ready, Set, Go!**, the nationwide program that provides a step-by-step preparation plan for timely evacuation.

See the Fire Safety page at <http://www.courtyardhoa.org> for details on Courtyard Firewise and our Evacuation Plan that incorporates **Ready-Set-Go!** instructions.

For an excellent tutorial on how the community homeowners
(Continued on Page 2)

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN AND
GIRLS + GIVING 2018 PRESENT

*Girls Just Wanna
Have Fun*

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 20 | 8:30 pm

Hotel Van Zandt

Sponsorships available now and ticket go on sale in August.
www.partnershipsforchildren.org

On Thursday, September 20, 2018, Partnerships for Children will host the 7th Annual Girls and Giving at The Hotel Van Zandt in downtown Austin. It will be an evening of giving back as we enjoy food, signature cocktails, exciting raffles, live music, and dancing!

Last year our event sold out, so if you have not already reserved a spot, we encourage you to act now – you don't want to miss this opportunity! You can view a complete listing of sponsorship benefits and purchase your tickets on our website - www.partnershipsforchildren.org.

As a nonprofit in Central Texas, Partnerships For Children leads a collection of programs that offer resources, support, and comfort for foster children and families in our community. Our accessibility to Child Protective Services, efficient practices, and ability to connect with kids at all stages in their lives allow us to better serve those who need us most by providing real and impactful solutions.

COURTYARD CALLER

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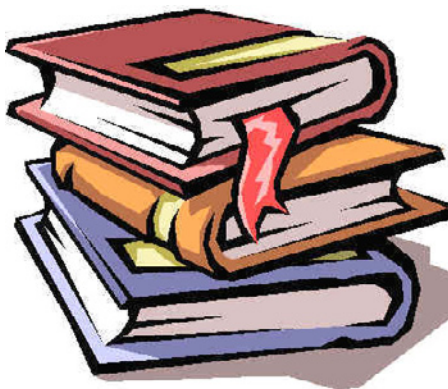
can respond to the Wildfire risk, see **Making Your Home Firewise**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t6jV-gM9EwQ>

Register with **WarnCentralTexas** at <http://warncentraltexas.org/> to allow emergency personnel in our local area to directly contact us by phone, text or email during a wildfire alert or evacuation, or other disaster or public safety event.

Sign up with the Courtyard Fire Safety Committee at email fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org to schedule a **home wildfire risk evaluation** and recommendations to improve home protection.

COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, October 2, 2018
1 p.m. 5612 N. Scout Island Circle



Please join the Courtyard Book Club in October as we discuss *The Captured: A True Story of Abduction by Indians on the Texas Frontier* by Scott Zesch.

On New Year's Day, 1870, Adolph Korn, the author's ancestor and son of German immigrants,

was captured by three Apaches near his family's cabin in central Texas. Adolph was traded to a band of Quahada Comanches, with whom he lived until November 1872, when the Comanches traded their captives for those held by the U.S. Army. Adolph was irrevocably changed. Considering himself Indian, he lived in a cave, and died alone in 1900. The author's search into Korn's sad life led him to the similar stories of eight other children captured in Texas between 1865 and 1871. Drawing on his tenacious research and interviews with the captives' descendants, Zesch compiles a gripping account of the lives of these children as they lived and traveled with their Indian captors. He delves into the reasons for their Indianization, which for most of them lasted the rest of their lives, and discusses why they couldn't adjust to white society. A fascinating, meticulously documented chronicle of the often-painful confrontations between whites and Indians during the final years of Indian Territory. – (review by Deborah Donovan Copyright 2004 Booklist courtesy of www.austinbibliocommons.com)

In November we will be discussing the Mayor's book club choice for 2018, *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid.

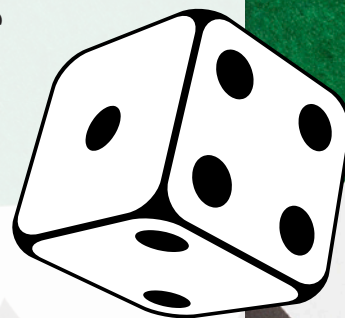
For more information about the Courtyard Book Club or for details about upcoming events, contact Lou Blemaster at 512-551-2659 or email loublemaster@gmail.com.

BACK TO BUNCO

**THURSDAY
SEPT. 20TH AT 6:30PM**

**5701 Sam Houston Circle
at the home of Lisa Adolph**

*Please RSVP to Joany Price
512-775-8942*



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LIVING IN HARMONY WITH COYOTES AND OTHER SCARY CREATURES

Tips from the Austin Animal Center

What to Do Around Your Home and Neighborhood

- Keep wildlife wild – don't feed them!
- Do not feed pets outside or leave pet food outside
- Check your property for and eliminate potential sources of food and water
 - Clean up bird seed on the ground
 - Keep barbecue grills clean
 - Tightly cover and secure garbage cans and compost bins
 - Clean up under fruit and nut trees
 - Eliminate artificial water sources
- Trim brush and shrubbery near ground level
- Make sure fences are secure and close off crawl spaces under porches, decks and sheds
- Keep small pets inside if possible and monitor them when outside
- Provide secure shelters for poultry or other animals living outside
- Always follow leash laws and walk dogs on leashes 6' or less in length
- Be aware of possible coyote den sites when in parks or other natural areas. Coyotes are protective of pups and may view people or dogs (even larger dogs) as interlopers. Coyotes den, mate and birth pups generally from January to June and are most territorial then.
- Install motion activated sprinklers or outdoor lighting around your property

Hazing: How to Scare a Coyote

Away to Minimize Future Interactions

Hazing, also sometimes called vexing, is a process that helps reshape coyote behavior and encourages coyotes to avoid contact with people and pets. It reinforces coyotes' natural wariness without harming them. The more an individual coyote is hazed using a variety of tools and techniques by a variety of people, the more effective it will be for the entire community. Hazing should be exaggerated, assertive and consistent. It is a common technique used in communities around the country.

- Make eye contact, yell and wave your arms. You want the coyote to know the behavior is directed at it. Waving your arms will make you seem bigger.
- Use noisemakers such as whistles, air horns, a "shaker" can full of small rocks (or something similar), or bang something like pots and pans together.
- If the coyote does not leave immediately, throw non-edible objects near it. You can use something like small rocks, sticks or tennis balls. Remember, the goal is not to hurt the coyote, you're trying to get it to leave and associate humans with unpredictable, "scary" behavior.
- Spray the coyote with a water hose, water guns or spray bottles. You can also use a mixture of water and vinegar, pepper spray or bear repellent.
- If the coyote does not leave after escalating hazing efforts, maintain eye contact and back away slowly. Notify 311 immediately. Don't haze if a coyote appears sick or injured, is cornered or displaying acceptable coyote behavior. Please call 311 to report sick or injured animals.

THE 20TH ANNUAL KOMEN RACE FOR THE CURE RETURNS TO AUSTIN THIS FALL

On Sunday morning, September 30, 2018, the 2018 Komen Austin Race for the Cure will take place in downtown Austin. For the 20th year, local community survivors, fighters, thrivers and supporters come together in the battle against breast cancer.

This important annual event raises significant funds for the for the breast cancer movement, thanks to supporters and survivors around the world who step up and take action by fundraising for the cause.

Komen Austin serves the women and men in the city's five-county area battling breast cancer by removing barriers to care for the uninsured and underinsured. Of the funds raised annually, Komen Austin invests up to 75 percent into local community health care grants and educational initiatives; the remaining 25 percent is invested into global research to find the cures for breast cancer.

Additional features of this year's event include:

Hope Village:

A special space for all who are registered as a breast cancer survivor, currently fighting breast cancer, or thriving with metastatic breast cancer.

Mission Possible Tent:

Be sure to visit to learn where your fundraising dollars are making an impact. Be prepared to be inspired and take action.

MoreThanPink Tent

Fundraise \$25 or more and receive access to special treatment and hot breakfast with other everyday heroes in this tent.

VIPink Patio & Tent

Fundraise \$250 or more and gain entry to the VIP tent with perks and swag for our biggest impact makers.

Promise Path

Remember or celebrate your favorite breast cancer survivors with a flag displayed on the Promise Path. Available for purchase during registration or here.

Paws for the Cure

Bring your pooch with you for your morning stroll by adding Fido to your registration.

Kids for the Cure

Race morning is family friendly and the Kids for the Cure area will offer a petting zoo and fun activities for the 12 & under crowd.

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COURTYARD CALLER

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Entertainment

This year's Austin's Race for the Cure will feature a performance by Courtney Santana on the Main Stage, DJ's along the Race Course, & more.

This year's race route will start at Race Village, located at the Austin Statesman Headquarters, and extend down historic Congress Avenue to the Texas State Capitol and back. All are welcome to walk, jog, run, or even participate virtually.

Susan G. Komen® Austin is an Austin-based nonprofit committed to saving lives locally and fighting breast cancer globally. Komen Austin is the only local breast cancer organization attacking the disease on all fronts – education, screening, treatment, follow-up care, survivorship, support, advocacy, and research.

As the largest nonprofit funder of breast cancer research outside of the U.S. government, Komen Austin's goal is to reduce the number of U.S. breast cancer deaths by 50% by 2026. The Race for the Cure is the primary fundraising event for local breast healthcare grants and global research grants.

Visit the Komen Austin Race for the Cure website to register, and for more information on the event, fundraising, and the Susan G. Komen organization.

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3 WAYS TO BRING A TASTE OF AUTUMN INTO YOUR HOME

By MarLee Berry, TexasHillCountry.com

Autumn is finally here and for those of us living in the heart of Texas, we know what that means. Absolutely nothing, because it is still 90 degrees outside. Although our great state is famous for many things, a predictable seasonal pattern is not exactly one of them. However, for many people, the thought of cooler weather, colorful scarves, and pumpkin spice gives them all the warm and fuzzies. Below are three ways you can make the inside of your home feel totally fall-like even when it still feels like summer on the outside.

1. Bring In the Scents of the Season



The first step toward creating an autumnal haven is incorporating the scents of the season. From potpourri mixes and wax melts to candles and essential oil blends, there are a number of ways to bring cozy fall aromas to your home. The key is to look for hints of cinnamon, vanilla, or nutmeg. A good rule of

thumb: let your nose be your guide. If the smell makes you think of grandma's apple pie or a relaxing walk through the woods on a cool, crisp morning, then you have probably found the perfect match.

2. Add a Touch of Color

A key part of fall that many people love is the changing colors of foliage. Reds, yellows, and oranges in various shades all around evoke a sense of anticipation as the promise of cooler weather seems just around the corner. A great way to harness that energy is by bringing the colors of fall indoors. A simple red throw blanket casually draped across a chair or a selection of autumn-themed throw pillows strategically placed can add just a tasteful hint of seasonal decor without going over the top.



3. Decorate With Nature's Bounty

The final step in getting your home ready for fall is to incorporate nature's bounty. A quick walk through your neighborhood might

yield a multitude of materials. Leaves in all kinds of shapes, sizes, and colors, used in conjunction with twine or ribbon, can create a simple banner. Acorns, or other nut varieties, placed inside a clear vase or mason jar can become beautiful centerpieces. Of course, pumpkins and gourds are oftentimes found at your local grocer and are wonderful items to utilize in your autumn decor.

Here in Texas, the seasons tend to keep us on our toes as we never know exactly what might be thrown our way. However, regardless of what might be happening outside, you can still make your home feel like a fall paradise on the inside.



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



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