



COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

October 2018

Volume 14, Number 10

BOARD MESSAGE

We'd like to start this message with a sincere "Thank you, thank you, and thank you" to all our community volunteers. Your gifts of time and energy help make it possible for the Board and its supporting committees to do the work of maintaining our common areas and property values, keeping maintenance costs down, and creating a welcoming and friendly atmosphere in our small community. You are needed and truly make a difference in the life of our Community.

Newcomers and "old" timers – if you have not already, please consider offering a little free time to a neighborhood project. If you're not sure where to start – coming up soon is "VOLUNTEERS - MORNING IN THE PARK" – Saturday, October 20th from 9 a.m. to Noon. Questions & details -- contact Park Committee Chairman, Terry Edwards (214) 392-4627, t.edwards54321@gmail.com) This is a great way to meet your neighbors, have a little fun, and improve our Community Park. If you don't have any free time right now, your ideas and suggestions are also welcome. Pass them along to any committee chairman or Board member. Our names and contact information are listed in this newsletter or visit the website: www.courtyardhoa.org and use the "Contact Us" page. No offer to help is too small as the cumulative effect of each person's contribution is what helps keep the Courtyard a great place to live.

In a ceremony held during the September Board Meeting, the Texas A&M Forest Service honored the Courtyard for five (5) years of being a nationally recognized "Firewise" community. Congratulations to our Fire Safety Committee and the entire Courtyard Community for its support of the Committee's safety work that earned us this honor. We would not be a "Firewise" community without the efforts of founding members and "emeritus" chairman, Jim Gattis, and continuing work of current chairman, Jim Carolan. Thank you also to Center Court's President, Gary Doucha, for working with the Fire Safety Committee to remove fire fuel from Center Court's common areas. We are proud to be a Firewise Community and greatly appreciate the efforts of these volunteers.

Finally, as the days grow shorter (and cooler – whew), it wouldn't be a Board message if we didn't ask everyone to please keep up your efforts to DRIVE SAFELY in the Courtyard – paying extra attention to school bus stops. Be especially careful if you are out driving on Halloween night to watch out for our neighborhood ghosts & goblins, pirates & princesses, space invaders & super heroes. Have a happy and safe Halloween and don't miss the pre-trick or treating "Boo- Night" party on the Tom Wooten Drive Island from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. This is another GREAT OPPORTUNITY for VOLUNTEERS to help. Contact Joany Price (512/ 775-8942) with Q's and/or offers of help.

COURTYARD CALLER

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.....gmdoucha@yahoo.com

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.....stuarthare@me.com

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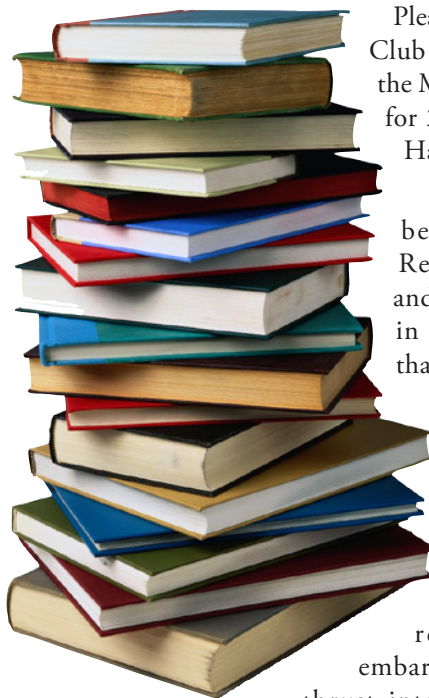
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Wolf Court:

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COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, November 6, 2018
1 p.m. 5612 N. Scout Island Circle



Please join the Courtyard Book Club in November as we discuss the Mayor's Book Club selection for 2018, *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid.

"From the internationally bestselling author of *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia*, a love story that unfolds in a world being irrevocably transformed by migration. In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet--sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, thrust into premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors--doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As violence and the threat of violence escalate, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through. *Exit West* is an epic compressed into a slender page-turner--both completely of our time and for all time, Mohsin Hamid's most ambitious and electrifying novel yet"—

In December, the book club will take a break from reading and gather for a pot-luck luncheon instead.

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.

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COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

A Courtyard Unnecessary Wildfire Risk



Shuffling around Courtyard on my irregular jogs, I can't help but notice the wildfire home risk on many properties from tree limbs touching or laying on roofs and of roof gutters stuffed to overflowing with oak leaves and juniper needles. If the gutter catch fire, the fire gets into the attic, and the house is gone.

Realizing my own property was severely at risk with clogged gutters that could be ignited by wildfire embers, I put off raising the alarm to homeowners until I cleaned my own gutters!

Our home wildfire ignition risks may endanger neighbor homes and families as well as our own. Consequently, it is each homeowner's responsibility to reduce the hazard. In the case of rooftop tree limbs and overflowing gutters, this means the following.

- Leaves falling directly onto your roof usually end in your gutter, providing lodgment and fuel for those dreaded wildfire embers that can destroy your home.

- Combustible oak leaves and Juniper needles debris accumulate in gutters the from nearby or overhanging trees. (I had a ton of both!)

There are telltale signs of a clogged gutter when it rains.


- Water spills over the edge of a gutter.
- Water sprays like a fountain from gutter seams and elbow joints.
- Water doesn't flow out the bottom of downspouts.

Trim your overhanging trees as necessary annually (using a professional arborist) and clean your roof gutters at least twice a year. Otherwise, flammable debris will clog up your gutter system, causing unnecessary Wildfire risk exposure.

Jim Carolan
Fire Safety Committee Chairman

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.

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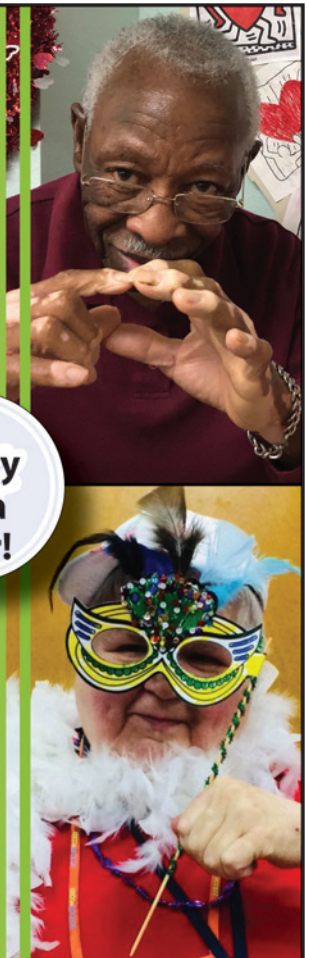



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COURTYARD HALLOWEEN BOO FEST

Calling all ghosts and goblins, pirates and princesses, space invaders and super heroes... (and their parents of course) to join us Halloween night for the Courtyard Halloween Boo Fest.

Before setting out with your little "pumpkins" for trick-or-treating, stop by Tom Wooten Island for a quick bite of pizza, some bottled water and the opportunity to visit with neighbors and check out all the great costumes!

Pizza will be served from 5:30 – 6:00 pm

Treat bags will be available for the children. Don't forget to bring a blanket to sit on.

Please be sure to RSVP to Joany Price at jprice@cbunited.com no later than October 30th so we know how many pizzas to order!



COURTYARD CALLER

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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>

Register with WarnCentralTexas at <http://warncentraltexas.org/> to allow emergency personnel in our local area to directly contact you 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.



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VOLUNTEERS' MORNING IN THE PARK

What: Fall Park Clean Up & Wildfire Prevention

When: Saturday, October 20th, 9AM - Noon

Where: The Courtyard Park, 5905 Cone Circle

Activity: Come out and enjoy the nice (hopefully) fall weather and quality time with your neighbors while doing some good work for the community park. Bring work gloves and any garden tools you wish to use (rake, clippers, etc.).

Contact Terry Edwards, Park Committee Chairman if you have questions. (214) 392-4627 or t.edwards54321@gmail.com.

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6 Texas Teen Book Festival | St. Edward's Univ. | texasteenbookfestival.org
6-28 Boo at the Zoo | Austin Zoo | austinzoo.org
13 Oktoberfest | German Free School | germantexans.org
19-21 Formula 1 Grand Prix | Circuit of the Americas | circuitoftheamericas.com/f1
25-11/1 Austin Film Fest | Various Locations | www.austinfilmfestival.com
27 Austin Area Jazz Festival | Rosewood Park | www.aajflive.com
27-28 Texas Book Festival | Texas State Capital | www.texasbookfestival.org

NOVEMBER

- 2-11 Worstfest | New Braunfels | wurstfest.com
3 Austin Powwow | Travis County Expo Center | austinpowwow.net
3-4 Fossil Fest | Old Settler's Heritage Association | austinpaleo.org
3-4 Texas Monthly BBQ Fest | The Long Center | tmbbq.com
10-11 & 17-18 East Austin Studio Tour | Various Locations | east.bigmedium.org
14-18 A Christmas Affair | Palmer Events Center | jlaustin.org
22 Turkey Trot | The Long Center | thundercloud.com
24 Chuy's Christmas Parade | Congress Ave | chuysparade.com



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