



April 2019

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 4

BOARD MESSAGE

Welcome to Spring! Fresh green leaves on the trees, flowers blooming, birds singing, longer days to enjoy the outside. Spring is also a time when many of us are doing general cleaning or “fix’in up” things in and around our homes and yards. Don’t miss the article in this edition of the Caller about the dangers of using chlorine bleach for outside cleaning of brick, stone, patios, decks and siding – and learn about a safe and effective alternative bleach product.

Please consider volunteering some time and join your neighbors at the Park Committee’s spring work day in the park, weather permitting, Saturday, April 13, starting 9 a.m. Contact our Park Chairman, Terry Edwards, if you have questions. t.edwards54321@gmail.com. Don’t miss the Spring Celebration party and Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Park on Saturday, April 20 starting at 11 a.m. Contact Joany Price with questions and/or to offer to help with preparations. joanyprice@gmail.com. If anyone is interested in organizing and arranging an ad for the Annual Area-Wide Garage Sale on Saturday, May 4, 2019, please talk with Joany Price.

Renters – if you have recently moved into a Courtyard home and have not had a visit from a member of the Welcome Committee, please contact any Board member. We need to collect your contact information for emergency and security purposes, and the homeowners too often forget to let us know you are here. Thank you.

Please note that after many years, Jane Gibson, has stepped down as editor of the Caller. Jane -- please accept our sincere appreciation for all your hard work and contributions to the community. Enjoy your long overdue break. Now, maybe you’ll have a little free time to come to Bunko night.

Finally, please continue your efforts to drive at or below the speed limit through the neighborhood. Nothing is so important as to justify speeding and possibly running into someone or their pet. Along those lines, whether you are cycling, walking or running, please take care when moving by or between vehicles parked along our streets.

Drive Slowly in the Courtyard!

COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

1 p.m. 5612 N. Scout Island Circle

Please join the Courtyard Book Club in May as we discuss
Manhattan Beach, by Jennifer Eagan.



Anna Kerrigan, nearly twelve years old, accompanies her father to the house of Dexter Styles, a man who, she gleans, is crucial to the survival of her father and her family with the Great Depression underway. Years later, her father has disappeared and the country is at war. Anna works at the Brooklyn Naval Yard, where women are allowed to hold jobs that had always belonged to men. She becomes the first female diver, the most dangerous and exclusive of occupations, repairing the ships that will help America win the war. She is the sole provider for her mother, a farm girl who had a brief and glamorous career with the Ziegfeld Follies, and her lovely, severely disabled sister. At a nightclub, she chances to meet Dexter Styles again, and she begins to understand the complexity of her father's life, the reasons he might have vanished.

Join us in June as we review *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo.

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.

COURTYARD CALLER

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2019 Courtyard Easter Egg Hunt



Saturday,
April 21,
Starting at
11am

Plan now to attend the 2019 Courtyard Easter Egg Hunt in the Park! Bunnies of all ages bring your baskets and hop on down for some Easter fun. Hunt for eggs, play games and win prizes!

Hope to see you there! **REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CHILD'S BASKET!!!**

Please call or email to let us know how many egg hunters will be in your group.

Joany Price (Social Chairperson)

512-775-8942, joanyprice@gmail.com

EGG STUFFERS & VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

CONTACT JOANY PRICE IF YOU HAVE ANY TIME OR IDEAS TO SHARE!

April showers...

bring May sales.



**Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member**

Joany Price

Realtor, CLHMS
Certified Previews™ Property Specialist
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Coldwell Banker United, REALTORS

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*"I am now including a complimentary membership to The Courtyard Tennis & Swim Club with all of my listings". A \$1500 value. *Offer valid for up to 6 months after closing.*

TxDOT Project Plans for Loop 360 Intersections

Questions or Comments??

Contact TxDOT Public Information
Officer: Brad Wheelis, (512) 832-
7060 or bradley.wheelis@txdot.gov

Find out more at
www.loop360project.com

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You May Be Using the Wrong Bleach for Brick, Patios, and Siding

Veteran residential contractor Tim Carter of www.askthebuilder.com advises against using chlorine bleach to clean your outdoor brick, patios and siding. Chlorine bleach can destroy the lignin fibers that hold wood together, remove the natural or treated color of wood, and can be corrosive to metal fasteners and framing connectors on wooden decks. Chlorine bleach can also damage plants and trees if proper care is not taken to protect vegetation during use.

Ask the Builder recommends using sodium percarbonate, or “oxygen bleach”, as a safer, equally effective alternative to chlorine bleach for cleaning outdoor accumulations of dirt, mold and mildew. Oxygen bleach does not harm natural wood, brick or stone and is safe for use on composite decking, vinyl siding, fiber cement board and outdoor furniture. Oxygen bleach is available under several trade names. Visit www.askthebuilder.com/B1242 for a comprehensive review of manufacturers.

As with any chemical agent, take precaution when working around plants and trees and never empty leftover product into storm sewers or waterways.

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REMINDER: Oak Trees Should NOT be Trimmed Until July



Please be aware that January was the last opportunity for oak trees to be trimmed until July of this year.

The season not to trim oak trees is from February through June when the oak wilt carrier beetle is most active. Oak Wilt is a serious threat to the oak trees in central Texas (see Oak Wilt Disease in Central Texas article in this issue).

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Drive-A-Senior West is Looking for Volunteers

Operating since 1985, Drive-A-Senior-West (DSW) is a volunteer based non-profit organization whose mission is to help senior adults live independently, avoid social isolation, age in place, and enhance the quality of life by providing free transportation and support services such as light home maintenance and repairs, referral services, in-home visits, and reassurance calls. Volunteers serve clients in the following zip codes: 78701, 78703, 78705, 78731, 78751, 78756, and 78759, and provided over 6,000 rides to home-bound seniors last year in this region alone.

DSW is looking for volunteer drivers. It's easy, convenient, and requires no minimum time commitment. Everything is done through your smart phone or computer. Please visit DSW's website for more information and to sign-up. If you have further questions, contact Virginia Jones, volunteer and member of our recruiting committee: (512) 289-6455, virginiajones00@gmail.com; www.driveasenior.org, westaustin@driveasenior.org, main office (512) 472-6339.

Be Ember Aware - Deck Danger Tip

What is the greatest wildfire threat to your home? **EMBERS!** Embers shoot off from the main fire at high speed and are carried at high speed by fast moving air currents. A high intensity wildfire produces a virtual blizzard of embers. Some may travel as much as a mile before landing. They can penetrate small spaces and start a fire. Embers are the most common cause of the burning down of homes during a wildfire.

Deck Danger

Decks are vulnerable to embers. This applies to decks comprised of wood boards as well as those made from plastic and wood-plastic composite deck boards. While composition decks such as Trex are fire resistant, they can still burn. If your deck ignites, the flames can ignite your home's combustible siding, break the glass on an adjacent window or sliding glass door, or climb to the eave and burn into your attic. If you have a deck, you should consider the following tips:

- Keep the gaps between deck boards free of leaves and other debris. This tip also applies to intersection between your deck and your house. Embers can become lodged in the gaps and ignite the deck. Also, don't allow fallen pine needles and other dead plant material to accumulate on the deck surface during fire season.

- The area underneath the deck is particularly susceptible to ember attack. Don't store firewood, gas cans, lawn mowers, cardboard or other combustible materials under the deck. Keep the area free of weeds and leaves. Consider enclosing the deck with solid skirting, such as siding that is properly vented, or with 1/8-inch wire mesh

to limit ember penetration and reduce maintenance. Don't enclose it with wooden lattice.

- Rotted or otherwise poor condition wood is more easily ignited by embers than wood in good condition. Replace deteriorated wooden deck boards and posts with new material.

- Install metal flashing between the deck and the side of your house. Be sure the flashing is installed to allow proper drainage of water.

- If wildfire is threatening, remove combustible materials from your deck, including newspapers and magazines, baskets, doormats, and dried flower arrangements, and dispose or place them inside your house or garage. Propane tanks should be placed at a distance from your house, ideally 30-ft or more if your property allows.

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 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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Please Join Us for the Spring 2019 Park Volunteer Day

Volunteers needed for the Annual 2019 Park Fall Volunteer Day

Saturday, April 13, 9AM - Noon

The Courtyard Park, 5905 Cone Circle

We are going to be performing maintenance on the trails and spreading/compacting decomposed granite on the pathways. Bring your gloves, shovels & wheel barrels if you have them. Snacks and water will be provided.

Contact Terry Edwards with any questions

Email: t.edwards54321@gmail.com

Phone: 214-392-4627

Styrofoam Recycling

Have you ever agonized over throwing big bulky pieces of styrofoam into the trash bin, knowing the vile stuff will be buried in the landfill where it may negatively impact soil and water quality for years? No need to throw it away!

The Austin Recycle and Reuse Center will take all forms of packing styrofoam EXCEPT peanuts. Packing peanuts may be donated to EcoBox.

What do they do with it? ARRC uses a specialized machine to grind the styrofoam into a fine powder then super heats it to form 60-pound blocks. The blocks are then shipped to manufacturers for use in upcycled products.

So, if you are doing some spring cleaning, don't throw your styrofoam in the trash can. Collect small pieces in large bags or stack large pieces in your car and drop it off at ARRC. It is a 20-minute drive south on Loop 360 and east on 71. You will be asked for your zip code at the gate.

Happy Spring and be kind to the Earth!!

Austin Recycle & Reuse Center

2514 Business Center Drive

Austin TX 78744

512.974.4343

Mon-Fri 9-5; Sat 7-12

Accepts paint, batteries, fluorescent bulbs, household chemicals, pool chemicals, and styrofoam

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Shepherd of the Hills
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Easter Sunday

**Celebrate Easter Sunday
with Shepherd of the Hills
Christian Church!**

Sunday, April 21st

Youth-Led Garden Service, 9:00 AM

Breakfast, 9:15 AM

Easter Egg Hunt, 9:45 AM

Resurrection Service, 10:40 AM

6909 West Courtyard Dr. Austin, TX 78730

(At the top of Shepherd Mountain)

www.shccaustin.org

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THE COURTYARD 2018 STATS

January 1 – December 31, 2018

HOME STATS

11

SOLD

\$242.65

AVG \$/SQFT

41

DAYS ON MARKET

TOWNHOME STATS

3

SOLD

\$242.87

AVG \$/SQFT

28

DAYS ON MARKET

HOMES WITH BOAT DOCK STATS

3

SOLD

\$391.78

AVG \$/SQFT

49

DAYS ON MARKET

THE COURTYARD 2019 STATS

January 1 – March 4, 2019

1 TOWNHOUSE available

1 WATERFRONT HOME available

1 TOWNHOUSE pending

3 PROPERTIES sold

For more details on what is going on in The Courtyard, please give me a call.

Information compiled from the Austin Multiple Listing Service.



Jo Carol Snowden Broker Associate, ABR
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