



June 2019

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 6

BOARD MESSAGE

Safety in the Courtyard is our highest priority. Driving slowly, keeping a watchful eye for walkers, and keeping your “eye-poker” branches trimmed back are top concerns—as well as preventing crime. With the gorgeous Spring weather, it seems like more people than ever are flocking to the intersection of Courtyard Drive and Loop 360 to catch sunsets and hike the summit above Pennybacker Bridge. Unfortunately, the Courtyard is also experiencing increased foot traffic, thru-traffic and auto break-ins at and around this intersection. In the coming weeks Courtyard HOA will be installing security cameras at both entrances of the neighborhood. See the article in this month’s issue to learn more about the cameras and how you can help prevent and solve crime.

The Courtyard Fourth of July Parade is scheduled for 10:45 a.m. on July 4th. Join your neighbors and firefighters from Station 31 for the festive parade followed by a celebration in the community park. A great big THANK YOU to Joany Price, Social Committee Chairperson, for hosting and organizing this annual Courtyard favorite! You don’t want to miss this event! Please send your RSVP to Joany at joanyprice@gmail.com or (512) 775-8942.

If you kayak, paddle board or swim in Bull Creek, you may have noticed an accumulation of leaves and debris around the shores of our community park. In this issue you will find information about the District 10 watershed and important reminders to all Courtyard residents on handling yard waste.

As Summer approaches, drought conditions may form. Take this opportunity to register for Warn Central Texas and consider a free evaluation of your property to mitigate the risks and damage posed by wildfires in Central Texas.

Did you guess the dinosaur in last month’s edition of the Courtyard Caller? We hope children of all ages will enjoy this new periodic trivia feature.

Drive Slowly in the Courtyard!



Courtyard Annual 4th of July Parade

Start decorating your bikes, scooters, wagons, strollers, kids, dogs, and yourselves to show your red, white and blue spirit for the annual Fourth of July Parade and picnic in the park!

The parade will kick off at 10:45 am. on Parade Ridge at Courtyard Drive. We will line up behind the fire truck and march to the park. Following the parade, we will celebrate with a picnic and lots of fun activities for the entire family. Pack your child’s swimsuit and don’t forget to RSVP to Joany Price, Social Chairperson.

Volunteers are needed to make this annual Courtyard favorite a success and to clean up afterward! Contact Joany to volunteer:

joanyprice@gmail.com
(512) 775-8942

When: 10:45 a.m. on July 4th

Where: Parade Ridge and Courtyard Drive.

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Vice President, Paul Siegel pbsiegel@gmail.com
Treasurer, Jim Lloyd 231-0855
Secretary, Denise Hogan denise.1.hogan@gmail.com
.....214-403-4454
Waneen Spirduso spirduso@utexas.edu
Janet Wright mightywrights@me.com
.....469-387-5632
Henry Mistrot 459-7313

COMMITTEES

Environmental Control (ECC)

Janet Wright469-387-5632, mightywrights@me.com
Community Park
Terry Edwards 214-392-4627
Welcome

Jim Carolan cell (737) 230-9241
..... jccarolan1@gmail.com

Social Committee Chairperson

Joany Price 775-8942

Landscape & Decorating

Ed Ueckert 345-6137

Security

Jim Lloyd 231-0855

Communications

Leslie Craven 585-1153 (cell)

Jennifer Harold (*Editor - Courtyard Caller*...) (281) 773-2880

..... harold.jennifer@gmail.com

Compliance

Bill Meredith – co-chair.... bmeredith1austin@gmail.com

Leslie Craven – co-chair lcraven1@att.net,

..... (512) 585-1153 (cell)

Kayak Committee

Fred Wahlers cell 214-476-7725

..... fjwahlers@sbcglobal.net

Fire Safety Committee

Jim Carolan cell (737) 230-9241

..... jccarolan1@gmail.com

Area Development and Zoning Liaison

Leslie Craven lcraven1@att.net, 585-1153 (cell)

MANAGEMENT COMPANY

Goodwin Management: Marilyn Childress

11149 Research Blvd. Austin, TX 78759-5227

512-502-7509, marilyn.childress@goodwintx.com

SUB-HOA CONTACTS

Center Court:

Gary Doucha 401-3105

..... gmdoucha@yahoo.com

Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")

Stuart Hare 785-1834

..... stuarthare@me.com

Villas at Courtyard:

Thomas Hoy 231-1270

..... Thomas.Hoy@freescale.com

Wolf Court:

Susanne Doell 454-3400

..... Drdoell@gmail.com

Face Painting
by "Devo the clown"

Petting Zoo

Slip n Slide
(wear your bathing suit)

COMING SOON!

Hamburgers and Hotdogs
prepared by Chef Lewie (Lewis Price)

Watermelon and
so much more!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Thursday, July 4th! Parade & Picnic

Our parade, led by our hard working fire fighters at Station 31
leaves at 10:45 am at Parade Ridge & Courtyard Dr.

Ride your bike, trike, pull your wagon push your stroller, or walk your pet! You don't
want to miss this neighborhood event. Parade arrives at Bull Creek Park at 11:00.

Fun Fun Fun!!! Who's In? RSVP appreciated.

LET'S DO BUSINESS TOGETHER IN 2019! CALL ME AT 512-775-8942



Joany Price

Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member

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



609 Castle Ridge Road, Ste. 400 • Austin, TX 78746 • M: 512.775.8942 • O: 512.328.8200 • F: 512.328.2559
jprice@cbunited.com • www.cbunited.com/Joany.Price

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COURTYARD CALLER

Courtyard Book Club Tuesday, July 2nd, 2019 @ 1pm - 5612 N Scout Island Circle

Please join the Courtyard Book Club in July as we discuss *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper*, by Phaedra Patrick.

"Sixty-nine-year-old Arthur Pepper lives a simple life. He gets out of bed at precisely 7:30 a.m., just as he did when his wife, Miriam, was alive. He dresses in the same gray slacks and mustard sweater-vest, waters his fern, Frederica, and heads out to his garden. But on the one-year anniversary of Miriam's death, something changes. Sorting through Miriam's possessions, Arthur finds an exquisite gold charm bracelet he's never seen before. What follows is a surprising and unforgettable odyssey that takes Arthur from London to Paris and as far as India in an epic quest to find out the truth about his wife's secret life before they met-- a journey that leads him to find hope, healing, and self-discovery in the most unexpected places"

In August, we will be discussing *The Temporary Gentleman* by Sebastian Barry.

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.

Security Cameras



In response to recent home and vehicle break ins—and overwhelming support from Courtyard homeowners—the Board voted to install security cameras at both entrances to the Courtyard. The cameras will be leased from Flock Safety

and will be installed in early June to capture license plate information. The Courtyard will own the data collected by the cameras. Flock Safety will not share, sell, or access the data. The HOA Security Committee will determine who has access to the data.

In the event of a crime, the HOA can provide the victim or the police with copies of select images. Since the data will only be stored for 30 days before being automatically deleted, it is important for any homeowner experiencing an incident to contact Jim Lloyd, Security Committee Chairperson, no later than 30 days after the event.

If you are the victim of a crime, immediately report the incident to Austin Police Department (APD). Emergency and non-emergency contacts are below. If you (or your neighbors) have information about a crime, or your private security footage captures a crime or might be helpful in solving a crime, you are encouraged to contact APD and the Courtyard HOA.

Austin Police Department Emergency: 9-1-1

Austin Police Non-Emergency: 3-1-1

Courtyard HOA Security Chairperson: security@courtyardhoa.org

Yard Waste

A reminder to all residents:

Spring is here! We are all cleaning up our yards and trying to keep up with the rapid growth following the abundant rainfall. Please remind your yard crews: **NO YARD WASTE** should be left in the street or piled along the curbs. Any yard debris, including the remnants of oak pollen and oak leaves, should be swept and bagged for collection. Help keep Bull Creek free and clear of leaf litter. **DO NOT** allow your leaves and pollen to accumulate along your curb, as all of this debris will be deposited into Bull Creek through the storm drains. Leaf litter can build up in Bull Creek causing a vegetative sludge and hampering recreation. It may also serve as a breeding ground for mosquitos.

Please trim back any plants, bushes or trees that cover the sidewalk – especially those at eye level. The City of Austin collects yard trimmings curbside each week. Please place your lawn and garden waste in your green compost bin or in city-approved yard waste bags. Yard waste bags are available for purchase at area grocery and home improvement stores.

Large brush collection for Courtyard is currently scheduled for Monday, July 8th 2019 – check your mailbox for a post card.

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Be Ember Aware! Unclutter the Gutter!



Rain gutters attached to the edge of your roof are the perfect contraption for catching burning embers during a wildfire. These embers can land in gutters and if they are filled with dried leaves, pine needles or twigs, a fire can start and potentially ignite the roof, roof sheathing and fascia. Even homes with fire-rated roofs are vulnerable to this type of ember attack. Rain gutters made of vinyl can melt and drop into flower beds around the home, possibly igniting plants or combustible siding.

To keep your home safe, we suggest you:

- Remove all dried leaves, pine needles and other material from your rain gutters before fire season. Debris often accumulates in gutters over the winter.
- Check your rain gutters throughout the fire season, cleaning them out as necessary.
- If a wildfire is approaching and there is no time to remove gutter debris, plug the rain gutter down spouts with tennis balls (or similar) and fill your gutters with water.



Register with WarnCentralTexas at <http://warncentraltexas.org/> to allow emergency personnel in our 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 receive recommendations to improve protection of your home.

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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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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Dinosaur Hunter

- 1) I lived in the Late Cretaceous period
- 2) My fossils are found in Mongolia
- 3) I am about the size of a turkey
- 4) Despite having feathers, my arms are too short to fly
- 5) My name means "quick thief"



Find the Answer on Page 5!

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.

Watershed Protection Profile - District 10

District 10 has the highest level of tree canopy of all the districts and one of the highest levels of protected open space, including over 5,000 acres of the Balcones Canyonlands Preserve system.

Over 80 percent of the district drains to the drinking water supply reservoir of Lake Austin. In addition, 30 percent of the district lies over the recharge zone of the Northern Edwards Aquifer. Springs discharging from the aquifer provide critical habitat for the threatened Jollyville Plateau Salamander.

District 10 has numerous low water crossings, which can be hazardous to cross during floods. Three crossings of Bull Creek and its tributaries by Old Spicewood Springs Road are among the most problematic crossings in the city, with each crossing 3 to 4 feet underwater in a two-year storm.

The lack of adequate storm drain infrastructure in the older urban core and outlying annexed areas contributes to localized flooding of buildings, streets, and yards.

The Watershed Protection Department addresses drainage and environmental problems using a three-tiered approach of capital improvement projects, programs, and regulations. Examples of these strategies in District 10 include:

- **Capital Improvement Projects:** Watershed Protection has constructed several stormwater ponds in this district, as well as storm drain upgrades in the Shoal and Johnson Creek watersheds and improvements to the low water crossing at Lakewood Drive. Projects are also planned for the next five years, including storm drain upgrades in the Walnut, Bull, and Lake Austin watersheds, improvements to stormwater pond dams, management of invasive

Hydrilla vegetation, and restoration of native aquatic vegetation along Lake Austin and Lady Bird Lake.

- **Programs:** Given the numerous low water crossings in this district, the Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) is an important program. Designed to protect citizens from potential harm due to flash flooding, the system consists of gauges throughout the city wirelessly reporting data back to a central station for management and decision-making. Based on this data, FEWS engineers make predictions on where flooding will occur, which the Office of Emergency Management staff uses to direct emergency responders and notify the public. For example, staff can remotely activate flashing warning signs or direct field personnel to place "Turn Around Don't Drown" barricades, as shown in the photo below.

- **Regulations:** With the first watershed protection ordinances for the Lake Austin watershed adopted in the late 1970s, regulations have been a key strategy in this district for over 35 years. Since over 90 percent of the district has either been built out or preserved as open space, regulations will mostly apply to redevelopment projects moving forward, which are required to build water quality ponds and protect against additional erosion and flooding. In addition, staff recently revised the code to implement recommendations of the Lake Austin Task Force related to docks, bulkheads, trams, and a zoning overlay. More information on projects, programs, and regulations can be found at austintexas.gov/watershed

Information courtesy of City of Austin, Watershed Protect. For full text and profile, please visit: <http://www.austintexas.gov/page/district-10-watershed-profile>



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Deputy Chief Economist Odeta Kushi contributed to this article.



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