



July 2019

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 15, Number 7

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Once again, Courtyard residents enjoyed our annual Fourth of July parade and fun-filled celebration in the Community Park. A huge THANK YOU to Joany and Lewis Price and the many volunteers who made this year's celebration a success. We are fortunate to live in a neighborhood where our residents are invested in building community and traditions.

July is finally here which means oak trees may now be trimmed. However, the risk for spreading Oak Wilt remains. Check out the article in this month's issue to learn more about this disease and how to identify it. The recent weather has also brought an onrush of millipedes into many of the Courtyard homes. Despite being creepy-crawly and a nuisance, these insects do not pose a risk to people.

As you enter the Courtyard, take notice of the new security cameras which have been installed at each entrance. These cameras are a deterrent for crime and provide a valuable resource to homeowners. The article in this month's issue provides more detail on these cameras and how to request data should you need it.

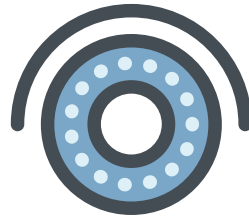
Summer is in full swing and the days are longer – which means more children, walkers and activity happening in our streets. As always, please drive slowly in the Courtyard and be watchful for neighbors and pets.

REMINDER

Please remember that prior to conducting any exterior work on your home such as major landscape changes, exterior remodeling or repairs such as painting, roofing or fencing, you must contact the ECC (Environmental Control Committee) for prior approval.

In addition, new construction of pools, playscapes, accessory buildings and sheds require prior ECC approval. Please allow time for Committee review and approval when submitting your requests. You can contact the ECC by email at: mightywrights@me.com

NEW SECURITY CAMERAS



The new license plate recognition cameras have been installed at the Courtyard entrances. These cameras are self-sufficient and solar powered, sending video footage via mobile technology to a secure, cloud-based storage that is maintained by Flock Safety.

The cameras have both day and night-time capabilities to read and record license plates passing through our two entrances. The security footage and data collected is accessible only by limited members of the HOA Board and can be shared with members of the community and the police on an as-needed basis and in the event of a crime.

Research shows that video surveillance deters criminal activity and can be a valuable resource to police in solving crime. However, remember that this technology is only a camera! The most effective way to deter crime is to lock your doors and keep your valuables out of sight. We are fortunate to live in such a safe neighborhood, and we believe that this service will deter future criminal activity and provide a valuable resource to our residents.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO



If you are the victim of a crime, please first contact the Austin Police Department - DIAL 911. Please also report your crime to HOA Security Chairperson, Jim Lloyd at security@courtyardhoa.org who can assist you in providing time-relevant footage from the license plate recognition cameras. Remember that security footage is available for 30 days before it is automatically deleted – please report your incident to Jim as soon as possible.

Finally, with the array and ease of wireless technology and monitoring, consider installing security cameras or doorbell cameras at home to further protect yourself against criminal and nuisance activity.



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



**Joany
Price**

*Your Courtyard Neighbor
& Tennis Club Member*

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COURTYARD CALLER

MILLIPEDES

Recent rain has led to a significant increase in millipedes infiltrating homes in Central Texas. Millipedes are long, brown segmented insects with many legs. They are often noticed curled into a spiral when dead. Millipedes live outdoors and thrive in mulch where they eat decaying organic matter but when heavy rains occur, these insects tend to move indoors.

Millipedes can be a nuisance but are generally not a threat to people. The best protection against millipedes is to avoid overwatering your landscaping and remove debris around the foundation of your home. Leaking plumbing, such as HVAC lines, can attract millipedes. Consider sealing any holes or cracks in the exterior of your home and ensure that windows and doors are properly sealed. Pesticides may offer a short-term solution, but are generally less effective in the rain and require careful application around children and pets.



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COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019

1 P.M. 5612 N. SCOUT ISLAND CIRCLE

Please join the Courtyard Book Club in August as we discuss *The Temporary Gentleman* by Alan Patan.

"In this highly anticipated new novel, Irishman Jack McNulty is a "temporary gentleman"--an Irishman whose commission in the British army in World War II was never permanent. Sitting in his lodgings in Accra, Ghana, in 1957, he's writing the story of his life with desperate urgency. He cannot take one step further without examining all the extraordinary events that he has seen. A lifetime of war and world travel--as a soldier in World War II, an engineer, a UN observer--has brought him to this point. But the memory that weighs heaviest on his heart is that of the beautiful Mai Kirwan, and their tempestuous, heartbreaking marriage. Mai was once the great beauty of Sligo, a magnetic yet unstable woman who, after sharing a life with Jack, gradually slipped from his grasp"

In September, we will be discussing *Cry the Beloved Country* 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.

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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DINOSAUR HUNTER

- 1) I lived in the Late Jurassic period
- 2) My fossils are found in Colorado and the western United States
- 3) I am about the size of a truck
- 4) My back legs are longer than my front legs
- 5) My name means "roofed lizard" because I have 17 plates that stand up along my back

Answer: Stegosaurus

CORRECTIONS

An error was made in the June 2019 edition of the Courtyard Caller. A change was made to the positions of HOA President and HOA Area Development and Zoning Liaison.

The issue should have reflected Leslie Craven as President and Denise Hogan as Secretary and Area Development and Zoning Liaison. Thank you.

OAK WILT

July is here which means the risk for Oak Wilt is significantly lower. Generally, the best time to prune trees is when trees are dormant and when fewer insects and diseases are present, November through January.



What is Oak Wilt?

A fungal infection that infects oaks within their water-conducting vessels (xylem). The tree responds by plugging these tissues, resulting in a lack of water to the leaves. This causes canopy loss and death in most circumstances.

What does Oak Wilt look like?

White Oaks: Leaves on diseased live oaks often develop yellow veins that eventually turn brown. This is the most commonly seen symptom on live oaks that are infected with oak wilt. Another symptom that leaves can exhibit is vein banding, where the leaf vein is a darker green than the rest of the leaf. Tip burn or margin burn, which turns the edges of the leaf brown, can also be seen on leaves. Defoliation may be rapid, and dead leaves with brown veins often can be found under the tree for months after defoliation.

Red Oaks: Foliar symptoms of oak wilt on red oaks are less distinct. In early spring, young leaves simply wilt, turning pale green and brown, usually remaining attached for a period of time. Mature leaves develop dark green water soaking symptoms or turn pale green or bronze, starting at the leaf margins and progressing inward. This can begin on one branch and quickly engulf the entire tree.

How does Oak Wilt spread?

The Oak Wilt fungus is spread via two ways: above ground and below ground. The above ground movement is facilitated by a sap-feeding beetle that carries the fungal spores to new trees. The below ground movement occurs when the fungus travels from tree to tree through interconnected roots.

How can I prevent Oak Wilt?

Avoiding pruning or wounding of oak trees from February through June. Immediately paint any wounds to oak trees year-round. Destroy infected red oaks by burning, burying or chipping. Practice caution with firewood by moving and storing only thoroughly dried wood, burning all wood before spring, never storing wood near healthy oaks, and covering firewood with clear plastic and burying the edges. Consult with a certified arborist when pruning trees and ensure that your arborist takes care in properly cleaning tools between jobs.

Where can I learn more about preventing and treating Oak Wilt?

Visit <https://texasoakwilt.org> to learn more about the disease and check out the City of Austin's interactive map tracking areas with high potential for Oak Wilt: <https://austintexas.gov/page/oak-wilt-suppression>



Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Serving Goodness.™

Serving the Austin Community

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Central Texas has a food insecurity rate of 17.3%, according to the Central Texas Food Bank. During the summer months – when schools are not in session – children become disproportionately affected by food insecurity. A local non-profit is working to change these statistics.

Delivering more than a sandwich, Mobile Loaves & Fishes food truck volunteers hit the streets 7 nights a week, 365 days a year to provide food, clothing, hygiene products and other life-sustaining items to our neighbors in need. With the support of more than 19,000 volunteers and over 5 million meals served, Mobile Loaves & Fishes is the largest prepared feeding program to the homeless and working poor in Austin, Texas.

What's on a truck?

Each delivery truck carries a minimum of 100 meals and other life-sustaining supplies including: sandwiches, fresh fruit, bottled water, hygiene items, shoes, socks, clothing, books and much more! The most meaningful aspect of Mobile Loaves & Fishes' work is the relationships it builds with clients and the dignity and respect afforded by meeting these most basic needs.

How can you help?

Join a team to prepare meals and stock the trucks. Several area churches sponsor trucks and have a need for regular, committed volunteers.

Donate new or gently used clothing and books. There is a particular need for men's clothing.

Visit the Mobile Loaves & Fishes program page for more details: <https://mlf.org/program-locations/>



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PORTABLE FIRE EXTINGUISHER

A portable fire extinguisher can save lives and property by putting out a small fire or containing it until the fire department arrives; but portable extinguishers have limitations. Because fire grows and spreads so rapidly, the number one priority for residents is to get out safely.

Use a portable fire extinguisher when the fire is confined to a small area, such as a wastebasket, and is not growing; everyone has exited the building; the fire department has been called or is being called; and the room is not filled with smoke.

To operate a fire extinguisher, remember the word PASS:

- **PULL** the pin. Hold the extinguisher with the nozzle pointing away from you, and release the locking mechanism.
- **AIM** low. Point the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
- **SQUEEZE** the lever slowly and evenly.
- **SWEEP** the nozzle from side-to-side.

For the home, select a multi-purpose extinguisher (can be used on all types of home fires) that is large enough to put out a small fire, but not so heavy as to be difficult to handle.

Choose a fire extinguisher that carries the label of an independent testing laboratory.

Read the instructions that come with the fire extinguisher and become familiar with its parts and operation before a fire breaks out.

Install fire extinguishers close to an exit and keep your back to a clear exit when you use the device so you can make an easy escape if the fire cannot be controlled. If the room fills with smoke, leave immediately.

Know when to go. Fire extinguishers are one element of a fire response plan, but the primary element is safe escape. Every household should have a home fire escape plan and working smoke alarms.



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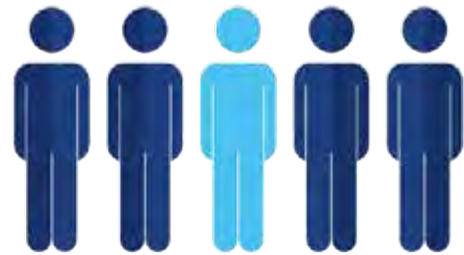
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SKIN CANCER

THE SAD TRUTH

Every year, **5.4 million new cases** of skin cancer are diagnosed, making skin cancer more prevalent than any other cancer. 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer in their life. The saddest part is that skin cancer is one of the most **easily preventable** and diagnosable cancers, and, if detected early, has one of the highest treatment rates. Yet, the public is still ill-informed on such a common cancer.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO REDUCE YOUR RISK

PROTECT

Apply sunscreen and wear long-sleeves & hats under the sun.



PREVENT

Avoid direct sun exposure between the hours of 11:00 am and 4:00 pm. Never use tanning beds.



DETECT

Look out for abnormal moles or skin patches on your skin and regularly get physical examinations.



Oddly shaped, discolored, large, and evolving moles are potentially malignant



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Please enjoy my continued tradition of leaving flags for everyone in honor of the Fourth of July!



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