



August 2019

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

# COURTYARD CALLER

*Official Courtyard Newsletter*

Volume 15, Number 8

## BOAT & TRAILER REMINDERS

Please remember that trailers of any kind, including boat, watercraft and vehicle trailers, may **NOT** be stored on any property, street, or private driveway, in such a manner as will be visible from a neighboring property or a public street.

## COURTYARD BOOK CLUB TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2019, 1PM. 5612 N. SCOUT ISLAND CIRCLE



Please join the Courtyard Book Club in September as we discuss *Cry the Beloved Country* by Alan Paton.

*Cry, the Beloved Country* is the deeply moving story of the Zulu pastor Stephen Kumalo and his son, Absalom, set against the background of a land and a people riven by racial injustice. Remarkable for its lyricism, unforgettable for character and incident, *Cry, the Beloved Country* is a classic work of love and hope, courage and endurance, born of the dignity of man.

In October we will be discussing *Red Notice: A True Story of High Finance, Murder, and One Man's Fight for Justice* by Bill Browder.

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](mailto:loublemaster@gmail.com).

## LADIES BUNCO NIGHT RESUMES SEPTEMBER 19TH



After a brief hiatus, Ladies' Bunco is back each 3rd Thursday of the month **beginning September 19th!**

Come join your neighborhood ladies for an evening of fun and games! It's a great way to connect to the community if you are new or if you just want to get to know your neighbors better. We meet at a different home each month and socialize from 6:30 to 7:00 pm. Game play starts at 7 and usually wraps up by 9:15. Don't worry if you've never played Bunco, it's a simple dice game and we review the rules every time. It's all about the socializing!

### September 19th

*Hosts:* Sarah Morgan and Lafayne Hodde

*Where:* Courtyard Tennis Club

6:30-7:00 - Social time

7:00 - Play begins

9:00-9:15 - Play is over

**PLEASE RSVP** if you will be attending and **PLEASE** cancel if you've RSVP'd and cannot make it.

*What to bring:*

\$5

Appetizer or Dessert

Drink of your choice

See you in September,

Joany Price

512-775-8942

[joanyprice@gmail.com](mailto:joanyprice@gmail.com)



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# 2019 Courtyard July 4th Picnic & Parade Memories

**A good time was had by all!**



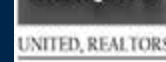
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## Joany Price

*Your Courtyard Neighbor  
& Tennis Club Member*

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# COURTYARD CALLER

## JULY 4TH

Thank you to all the friends and neighbors who have shared photos from the annual Courtyard Fourth of July parade. Thank you again to Joany Price, Austin Fire Department, and the many volunteers who shared their time to organize a wonderful celebration in the park!



## COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

Wildfires are a Continuing Threat to Travis County, and to the Courtyard

It's important to remember that Travis County and the Courtyard are NOT immune to wildfires. While our community is mainly residential in nature, with streets, houses and landscaped yards, we are also located adjacent to undeveloped land and preserves that are heavily vegetated and in a wildland state. The 2013 Texas Forrest Service (TFS) threat assessment for the Courtyard area predicts wildfires will happen in our wildlands sooner or later. The variable in the TFS predicted scenario is when a fire will occur, not whether one will occur. The assessment did not focus on specific homes, rather examined the Courtyard community as a whole. Individual home risks are a function of our Wildland-Urban Interface and each home's interrelationship with everything in its surrounding "ignition zone" - the house and its immediate surroundings.

Houses are at risk when fire can burn fuel near or in contact with the structure.

- Lateral fuels are combustible materials that will allow a fire to travel laterally across intervening space between the structure and the source of the fire. Grass or low growing plants that grow closely together and cover the distance between the source of the fire and the structure are examples of lateral fuels.
- Vertical fuels are combustible materials that can carry fire upward as they burn, resulting in fire reaching higher onto a structure and into areas that may be susceptible to ignition, such as eaves or windows. Examples of vertical fuels are shrubs that reach up into trees or the perimeter of a structure and can carry fire into the structure from the ground upward.

As a homeowner, you can interrupt or change a fire's path to your home by clearing your home's ignition zone. This is nothing more than pruning, maintaining and consistently doing vegetation management in your yard. This is an easy-to-accomplish task that can result in avoiding home loss. To accomplish this, flammable items such as dead vegetation must be removed from the area immediately around the structure to prevent flames from contacting it. Also, reducing the volume of live vegetation will affect the intensity of the wildfire as it enters the home ignition zone.

The good news is that residents can substantially reduce exposure to loss during a wildfire by taking preventive actions within our home ignition zones to reduce wildfire vulnerabilities. Relatively small investments of time and effort reap great wildfire safety rewards. Take steps now to reduce the ember threat to your home. Waiting until the fire starts may cost you your home.

For an excellent tutorial on how the community homeowners can respond to the risk, see How to Prepare Your Home for Wildfires <https://www.nfpa.org/-/media/Files/Firewise/Fact-sheets/FirewiseHowToPrepareYourHomeForWildfires.pdf>

To sign up for a home wildfire risk evaluation by one of our trained teams, email [fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org](mailto:fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org).

## 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](mailto:bradley.wheelis@txdot.gov)

Find out more at [www.loop360project.com](http://www.loop360project.com)

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## 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/>

*Answer: Ichthyosaur*



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## DINOSAUR HUNTER

- 1) I lived in the Mesozoic Era
- 2) My fossils are found in Europe – particularly England and Germany
- 3) The largest fossil specimen found estimated my length was 85 feet! However, smaller fossil specimens are more common.
- 4) I resemble a modern day dolphin
- 5) My name means “fish lizard”



Answer on Page 5!

## COYOTE DENNING SEASON

During this time of the year, coyotes may be more active as they get ready to have pups in the den. Denning season last from April-November. Coyotes are typically most active at dawn and dusk, though they may be seen hunting or traveling during daytime hours. We want to share space with coyotes, but not time. Hazing is a process that helps shape coyote behavior and encourages them to avoid contact with people and pets. It reinforces coyotes' natural wariness without harming them.

Please contact 311 to report concerning behavior or to receive more information about how to respond. Below are considerations regarding hazing and pet safety and coyotes: Hazing should be exaggerated, assertive and consistent:

- 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. Pet safety:

- Keep small pets inside if possible and monitor them when outside (specifically during twilight/night time hours)

- Feed pets indoors

- Provide secure shelters for poultry or other animals living outside

- Avoid using extendable leashes; walk dogs on leashes that are 4-6 feet in length

- Avoid letting dogs explore vegetation that you cannot see through

For more information on hazing, attractants or reliable food sources, and pet safety, visit: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/coyotes-central-texas>

To keep coyotes and other wildlife wild, we can follow a few, simple preventative measures:

- Always keep trash and compost in a secure bin

- Keep your barbecue grill clean

- Keep the area under your fruit and nut trees free of droppings (a coyote's diet can be up to 40% fruit in Texas)

- Avoid feeding pets outdoors (if you must feed pets outside, feed during the daytime and remove the uneaten food as soon as the animal has finished).

- Feeding wildlife and feral cats can attract coyotes. In addition to coyotes eating the food, mice and other animals will be drawn to leftovers, which can subsequently attract predators such as foxes and coyotes

For immediate assistance, call 311. To schedule a one hour presentation with a Wildlife Educator, call (512) 978-0514. Visit our website to learn more about coyote ecology, hazing, pet safety, and attractants. <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/coyotes-central-texas>

## TAWNY CRAZY ANTS

The tawny crazy ant, also known in Texas as the Raspberry crazy ant, was originally discovered by pest management professional Tom Raspberry (hence the name) in Harris County in 2002. Since then, the ants have been distributed to other parts of the state via people, plants, materials, and other things and are currently confirmed in 40 Texas counties.

Distribution map of Texas counties with confirmed presence of tawny crazy ants (in red).



Tawny crazy ants are about 1/8" and orangish-brown in color. With a good hand lens or microscope, you can see 12 segmented antennae, 1 node, and a circle of hairs at the tip of the abdomen. These ants can be confused with other ants, so if you are unsure of what you have check with your local Extension office.

Tawny crazy ants have a cyclical population level throughout the year with populations peaking in late summer, decreasing in the fall and then beginning to build again in the spring. Tawny crazy ants are capable of biting, but do NOT sting like fire ants. They are mostly nuisance pests, but can reach extraordinary population levels (in the millions) and can become a problem if they get into electrical equipment. Tawny crazy ants do not have nests or mounds like fire ants; they tend to nest under things- rocks, landscape timbers, flowerpots, etc.

For more information on this particular ant species go to <http://urbanentomology.tamu.edu/ants/raspberry.html>

### Treatment Options

- Removing harborage areas- fallen limbs, rocks, leaf

litter, etc. These ants will nest under pretty much anything on the ground, so you may want to remove anything that is not necessary.

- Alter moisture conditions (crazy ants prefer moist, humid conditions)- reduce watering, repair any water leaks, and improve drainage

- Eliminate honeydew producers from area. Crazy ants tend honeydew producers such as aphids, whiteflies, hoppers, mealybugs and scale insects.

- Use pesticide sprays to treat infested areas- under rocks, along landscape edging, etc. Pesticide sprays can also be used to create a barrier around the outside of the home. Piles of dead ants may build up in treated areas. If this occurs, remove dead ants to keep the pesticide barrier maintained.

- Hire a pest management professional (PMP). PMPs have access to pesticides that are unavailable to homeowners for tawny crazy ant treatment and they also have experience dealing with pest problems regularly.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out my blog at [www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com](http://www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com)

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# 2019 FOOTBALL SCHEDULES

## BAYLOR

**8/31 vs Stephen F Austin**  
**9/7 vs UTSA**  
9/21 at Rice  
**9/28 vs Iowa State**  
10/5 at Kansas State  
**10/12 vs Texas Tech**  
10/19 at Oklahoma State  
**10/31 vs West Virginia**  
11/9 at TCU  
**11/16 vs Oklahoma**  
**11/23 vs Texas**  
11/30 at Kansas

## TEXAS

**8/31 vs Louisiana Tech**  
**9/7 vs LSU**  
9/14 at Rice  
**9/21 vs Oklahoma State**  
10/5 at West Virginia  
**10/12 vs Oklahoma**  
**10/19 vs Kansas**  
10/26 at TCU  
**11/9 vs Kansas State**  
11/16 at Iowa State  
11/23 at Baylor  
**11/29 vs Texas Tech**

## TEXAS A&M

**8/29 vs Texas State**  
9/7 at Clemson  
**9/14 vs Lamar**  
**9/21 vs Auburn**  
9/28 vs Arkansas (in Arlington)  
**10/12 vs Alabama**  
10/19 at Ole Miss  
**10/26 vs Mississippi State**  
**11/2 vs UTSA**  
**11/16 vs South Carolina**  
11/23 at Georgia  
11/30 at LSU

## TCU

**8/31 vs Arkansas Pine Bluff**  
9/14 at Purdue  
**9/21 vs SMU**  
**9/28 vs Kansas**  
10/5 at Iowa State  
10/19 at Kansas State  
**10/26 vs Texas**  
11/2 at Oklahoma State  
**11/9 vs Baylor**  
11/16 at Texas Tech  
11/23 at Oklahoma  
**11/29 vs West Virginia**

## TEXAS TECH

**8/31 vs Montana State**  
**9/7 vs UTEP**  
9/14 at Arizona  
9/28 at Oklahoma  
**10/5 vs Oklahoma State**  
10/12 at Baylor  
**10/19 vs Iowa State**  
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11/9 at West Virginia  
**11/16 vs TCU**  
**11/23 vs Kansas State**  
11/29 at Texas

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