



May 2020

**COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 5

BOARD MESSAGE

COVID-19

May has arrived and thankfully we are starting to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic as a nation. Thank you to all residents for following the local, state, and national guidelines to stop the spread of this terrible virus. In its efforts to observe the Stay-At-Home order, the Courtyard HOA Board has refrained from holding in-person Board Meetings during March or April. We also temporarily closed the playscape equipment in the Park in alignment with the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Sadly, we were unable to hold the annual Easter Egg Hunt due to the social distancing rules.

Email Addresses

In an effort to keep the neighborhood updated as local ordinances have changed during COVID-19, we have posted notices on NextDoor and used the email addresses of residents listed in the Courtyard Directory to send updates.

In trying to connect with all residents, it has become apparent that many of you do not have current email addresses listed in the Courtyard Directory. We must have your current contact information. Your information is available **ONLY** to Courtyard residents, and is password protected.

PLEASE, update your email address **NOW** so that we can keep you apprised of important information. Here is the process:

- Go to CourtyardHOA.org
- Click on Directory.
- Enter "courtyard" (all lower case) as the username.
- Enter the password (if you do not have the current password, please email any Board member or Committee member (see page 2 of this Caller).
- Look up your contact information (either by street address, or by name).
- If any of your contact information is incorrect or missing, PLEASE email Denise Hogan and copy Erik Maye (see page 2 of this Caller).

*** This is critical in order that you receive all notices for

the neighborhood, including park gate code changes, website password changes, neighborhood event information, and Fire Safety alerts.***

If you have trouble with any part of this process, please email Denise Hogan and copy Erik Maye; we will help you have success with these required updates!

Park Violations

Neighbors, we continue to have non-residents present in the Park. A few of the non-residents who have been asked to leave the park have become so verbally combative that help has been called. Anyone who is giving the Park gate code to non-residents, including friends, realtors, or photographers, is endangering the safety and well-being of our fellow residents.

The purchase of a home inside an HOA requires every homeowner to comply with HOA rules. Something to remember is that voluntary compliance is always the neighborly approach, and your HOA Board takes this approach first and foremost. When folks do not comply and serious issues require consultation with legal professionals, YOUR annual dues are being spent to gain the compliance of the violator. Don't be that person who is wasting your neighbor's money.

The gate code will be changed again in May. PLEASE, BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR – DO NOT SHARE THE GATE CODE WITH NON-RESIDENTS!

The Lighter Side – July 4th Celebration

Summer fun is just around the corner! We are planning to hold a SUPER July 4th Parade and Celebration in the Park. Every year, our Social Chair Joany Price outdoes the year before, and this year the plans are over-the-top! There will be lots of yummy food and fun, including the inflatable wet slide, face-painting, petting zoo, and of course our Station 31 Fire Department truck and firefighters. Anyone who would like to help, please contact Joany Price (see page 2 for contact info).

***Have a great month, and as always, please drive
slowly in the Courtyard!***



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COURTYARD

Book Club

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2020

1 P.M. 5612 N. SCOUT ISLAND CIRCLE

Don't sit around wondering how you can meet other interesting Courtyard women! Join us for stimulating conversation with your neighbors at the Courtyard Book Club. Even if you haven't read (or finished) the book of the month, you will find the conversation lively and relevant in this amazing group of knowledgeable, articulate, and well-traveled women from diverse backgrounds.

Hosted by our very own "Hostess with the Mostest" Lou Blemaster, the Courtyard Book Club meets at 1PM on the first Tuesday of every month at 5612 North Scout Island Circle. To receive Book Club emails, contact Lou at LouBlemaster@gmail.com. Because of Covid-19, for April's "meeting" we had an email discussion of the book, and May's "meeting" was held via Zoom Video Conferencing!

In June, we will review *Where The Crawdads Sing*, by Delia Owens -- a story of resiliency, survival, hope, love, loss, loneliness, desperation, prejudice, determination and strength. Surprise bestsellers are often works that chime with the times. Though set in the 1950s and 60s, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is, in its treatment of racial and social division and the fragile complexities of nature, surprisingly relevant to contemporary politics and ecology. The main storyline spans – in a date-jumbling, tension-building order – 1952 to 1970, following Kya Clark between the ages of six and 25 as she grows up alone in a shack in the swamplands of North Carolina after being abandoned by her family. First deserted by a mother no longer able to endure her drunken husband's beatings, and then deserted by her four older siblings, Kya is left to grow up in the careless, sometimes-savage company of her father, who also eventually disappears. She absorbs lessons from the wildlife around her, adapting nature's tricks of camouflage to evade the town's school truancy officers. She survives by hunting and catching fish, both to feed herself and to sell to shopkeepers in the town just beyond the marsh.

But Kya's coming-of-age story is interwoven with the investigation of a murder – the body of a man who was once Kya's lover has been discovered in the marsh. As her marsh life evolves and gradually includes her morph into becoming an acclaimed writer, artist, and poet, Kya also becomes the chief suspect and must stand trial for the murder.

Beautiful, descriptive nature writing transforms the reader and may leave one unprepared for a surprise ending. A great summer read!

COVID-19 PSA

PREVENTION



Take precautions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19. Like other respiratory illnesses such as cold or flu, COVID-19 spreads through droplets when a sick person coughs or sneezes. Droplets can travel six feet (or more!) and land on surfaces and people.

COVID-19 has spread swiftly to nearly every country in the world and placed significant demand on healthcare infrastructure. Governments and organizations have rapidly responded to this challenge by increasing the production of critical supplies and

equipment and by adding hospital capacity.

Central Texas COVID-19 hospitalizations are expected to peak this month; however, the best way to reduce strain on the local healthcare infrastructure is to reduce demand. If you are ill, stay home. Always cover your coughs and sneezes and wash your hands often. If you must leave your home, avoid crowds and close contact with others. If possible, wear a face mask. Disinfect any surfaces that may have come in contact with a person who is sick.

Together we can help flatten the curve and save lives.

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Sending love and good thoughts to my Courtyard family at this difficult time.



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CRAPE MYRTLE BARK SCALE

Crape myrtles are a popular landscape tree in parts of Texas, prized for their beauty. While this tree has been relatively maintenance free for years, that is no longer the case now that crape myrtle bark scale (CMBS) has been found in Texas.

Crape myrtle bark scales are small, wingless insects, pinkish in color and covered with a white, velvety covering. When you look at the bark of an infested tree, look for round to oval shaped white velvety insects. If you puncture one with a toothpick, it will exude a pink substance.

When inspecting crape myrtles for CMBS, look along trunks, limbs, as well as smaller twigs and branches found towards the top of the tree. You'll want to look for scale insects and sooty mold. Sooty mold is a black colored fungus that grows on honeydew; honeydew is an excretion from scale insects (and other small, soft-bodied insects such as aphids and mealybugs).

Heavily infested crape myrtles have CMBS that produce copious amounts of honeydew on the tree and surrounding area which leads to growth of sooty mold, turning landscape plants black. Infested crape myrtles produce fewer and smaller blooms which may be difficult to tell unless you have an uninfested tree to compare.

Only male crape myrtle bark scales fly. Others are dispersed by wind, birds, other insects, or landscape maintenance equipment to nearby areas. Long-distance transport occurs via infested material. Once CMBS are in an area, they can move onto to nearby trees.

Control options are varied for CMBS. There are lady bugs that eat CMBS, but this may take time for control as the ladybug population is tied to the population of insects they feed upon. Ensure that if you buy and plant crape myrtles, that you inspect them and not plant any infested trees, or you select a different species of tree or shrub for the landscape.

Pesticide treatment for crape myrtle bark scale can be done with either a contact spray or a systemic. Studies from TAMU discovered that contact sprays should be used when pest numbers are peaking (crawler/ nymph numbers peak mid-April through May), and two treatments should be done with the second treatment taking place 2 weeks after the initial treatment. Insecticides with bifenthrin as the active ingredient tend to work best.

Systemic treatments should be applied earlier, when the leaves are budding out. Systemics such as imidacloprid and dinotefuran are best used as a soil treatment in March so that they are taken up by the tree and in place for the crawler population in April-May. These products should be used when trees are NOT in bloom to protect pollinators.

For a video on how to treat crape myrtles for CMBS, you should go to this link:

<https://citybugs.tamu.edu/2018/08/28/how-to-treat-your-crapemyrtle-for-bark-scale/>

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

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SNAKE ADVISORY

Spring is here and baby snakes have been observed throughout the Courtyard. Please be alert when outdoors or walking pets. Baby snakes are often found in tall grass, debris piles, near sidewalks and along street curbs - not quite large enough to get up and over the curb.

According to Texas Parks and Wildlife, Texas is home to over 105 different species and subspecies of snakes. Only 15 of those are potentially dangerous to humans. It is best to avoid the snake and allow it to retreat. However, if the snake appears to be a threat, please take a moment and notify the homeowner.

ECC REMINDER

During the recent stay-at-home orders imposed by the City of Austin, many residents have been tending to their homes.

Please be reminded that the Environmental Control Committee (ECC) is responsible for reviewing and approving plans for new construction and modifications to existing homes in The Courtyard. Please contact ECC prior to making changes to the exterior of your home, such as new roofing, fencing, paint, driveways or sidewalks, or significant alteration to landscaping. environmental@courtyardhoa.org

Thank you for taking pride in your property and for making Courtyard an outstanding place to live.



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This spring has certainly been unlike any other in our city, nation and world. There is still much we do not know about how the changes we are dealing with will affect our lives, communities and industries. However, one thing I do know is that Moreland Properties has weathered many shifts in the market in its 35-year history.

We are in this together and I'd be honored to hear from you about real estate concerns or otherwise. Feel free to call, text or email at any time. Until then, please stay healthy.

JO CAROL SNOWDEN

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