



June 2020

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

Volume 16, Number 6

BOARD MESSAGE

COVID-19

June is here and we are still adjusting to life with the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to all of our health-care workers, grocery workers, and restaurants for providing life-sustaining care and sustenance during these past months. Residents, we owe it to these front-line workers to continue following local, state, and national guidelines to stop the spread of this terrible virus. We plan to resume HOA Board meetings as soon as it is safe to meet in numbers, and may use a virtual meeting platform if meeting in person does not seem feasible any time soon.

Email Addresses

In a repeat of last month's Board message, we urge all neighbors to make sure we have your current contact information on the Courtyard HOA Website Directory.

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

1. Go to CourtyardHOA.org
2. Click on Directory.
3. Enter "courtyard" (all lower case) as the username.
4. Enter the password (Password was emailed on January 1, 2020; if you do not know the current password, please email any Board member or Committee member (see page 2 of this Caller).
5. Look up your contact information (either by street address, or by name).
6. 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 Updates

Thank you to the many residents who have given positive feedback on the new signs in the Park. We have posted tasteful No Trespassing signs at the keypad, beside the main gate, and at the parking lot. We also posted a number of signs reminding all dog-owners to leash their dogs at all times and pick up their poop immediately. The HOA Board is considering changes to the pedestrian opening to deter non-resident trespassers in our private Park. Neighbors, do not give the gate code to any non-residents! All guests of residents MUST BE accompanied by the resident in the park, no exceptions.

ECC Reminder

With the excellent Spring weather and the additional time at home, many neighbors are sprucing up their homes and properties. Please contact the Environmental Compliance Committee (ECC) for approval prior to making changes to the exterior of your home or significant modifications to landscaping. A list of common updates the ECC must approve is included in this month's edition.

Summer Celebration

Out of an abundance of caution, we have postponed our annual July 4th celebration until **LABOR DAY**. Folks, while we are all in dire need of socializing and celebrating, the Board and committee chairs all agreed there were too many unknowns in early May when the time arrived to start reserving vendors for our annual July 4th bash. Instead, we will shoot for a **Labor Day Extravaganza**. 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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Styrofoam Recycling: The City of Austin styrofoam recycling program is currently on hold during the stay-at-home order. Styrofoam cannot be recycled curbside in your blue receptacles. Please consider saving your styrofoam for drop off at the City recycling center once the center has reopened. Thank you!



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Courtyard Book Club

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

1 p.m. 5612 N. Scout Island Circle

Here's a great idea for socializing – join the Courtyard Book Club. Now more than ever we need to connect with others, and your neighbors are waiting to welcome you! Join us for stimulating conversation, whether you have 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.

We meet at 1PM on the first Tuesday of each month at the home of our very own Lou Blemaster at 5612 North Scout Island Circle. Because of Covid-19, May's "meeting" was held via Zoom Video Conferencing! To receive Book Club information, contact Lou at LouBlemaster@gmail.com.

In July, we will review *The Pioneers* by legendary story-teller David McCullough, whose engaging prose makes this historical account come alive as he examines a cast of real-life characters of monumental accomplishments who were entirely unknown to most Americans.

The true pioneering spirit of the early Americans was alive and well in the brave individuals who travelled along the Ohio River and settled in the Northwest Territory. Several years after the American Revolution ended, these pioneers went in search of adventure, prosperity, social standing and a new way of life, leaving their indelible mark on a young country — and a legacy for others to emulate.

Written by Pulitzer prize-winning author David McCullough, the book's most important real-life character is Manassah Cutler. As the pastor of the First Congregational Church of Ipswich Hamlet in Massachusetts, it might seem he would be an unlikely candidate for a rugged, adventurous pioneer. Yet as the story unfolds, we find he was, in fact, a perfect candidate to engineer the ground-breaking journey on the Ohio River.

In 1784 at the Bunch of Grapes meeting, Cutler helped co-found the Ohio Company that created the first settlement in Ohio, for which he (and other founders) received four shares, or 4,692 acres of land. He also became the spokesman for the "Ohio cause" in front of Congress in New York. But because he was reluctant to leave his pulpit behind, it was Gen. Rufus Putnam, a well-known hero of the Revolution, who led the expedition. Putnam communicated frequently with George Washington, who was an early Ohio land speculator. Having strong ties with the man who would become the nation's first president proved to help the Ohio Company immensely, paving the way for the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, which granted 5 million acres of land in exchange for \$3.5 million. The Ohio Company received 1.5 million acres, and a private real estate venture, the Scioto Company, took the rest. This large transaction helped Congress pay down some of the national debt incurred during the Revolutionary War, and enabled Cutler, Putnam and others to build houses, buildings, churches and a university.

The Pioneers also explores sensitive issues, including the plight of the Native American communities who already lived in the territory, and slavery, which Putnam and his son Ephraim successfully abolished in the new territory.

While McCullough's account focuses extensively on positive individual attributes rather than negative sentiments, it manages to create a highly educational, informative, and real-life look at what some of the settlers went through.

Reminder from the Environmental Control Committee



Got plans to spruce up your home? Remember, exterior painting, new windows and doors, new roofs, major changes to landscape, fencing, any room addition, any tree removal all

require prior approval by the Environmental Control Committee. Please send an email detailing the work you propose to do to mightywrights@me.com.

Please send the request well ahead of when you plan to have the work done so that the Committee has time to review and approve. Together we are all working to keep our community one of the most beautiful in Austin! – Janet Wright and the Environmental Control Committee

Fourth of July Celebration Postponed



In effort to protect the health of our community, the annual Fourth of July Celebration has been postponed. Stay tuned for details on a new date for a future neighborhood gathering!

Thank you for continuing to practice social distancing and taking precautions to protect yourself and others from the spread of illness. Together we can help flatten the curve and save lives.



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Oak Trees May Not be Trimmed Until July

The season to trim oak trees is July – January. No pruning or trimming is allowed from January – June due to the increased risk of Oak Wilt. Oak Wilt is a fungus caused by the oak wilt carrier beetle which feeds on tree sap that is exposed after trimming or pruning. In feeding on the sap and traveling between trees, the oak wilt carrier beetle transmits the fungus from infected trees to healthy trees.

The oak wilt carrier beetle is most active during the Spring. To protect your trees, as well as your neighbors' trees and those in the community, it is important to delay trimming or pruning your oaks until July.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience in preserving our lovely heritage trees!

ASIAN GIANT HORNETS

What headline can draw people away from thoughts of the current state of the world and Coronavirus? That would be MURDER HORNETS! I cannot think of a more sensationalized headline, so kudos to whomever came up with that attention grabber. This headline is popping up everywhere from social media outlets, television, newspapers, and others. Quite frankly, it makes me cringe each time I see it. Asian giant hornets (AGH) are *Vespa mandarinia* NOT "murder" hornets. If you want to use a common name instead of the scientific name, then call them by the correct common name of Asian giant hornet.

Asian giant hornets are large, around 2 inches in length, with an orangish head, brown antennae (the base of the antennae are yellow-orange), brown to black eyes and ocelli (simple, dot-like eyes located between the compound eyes). Their thorax is dark brown with greyish wings and the abdomen has alternating bands of brownish-black and yellow-orange.

Asian giant hornets are capable of inflicting a painful sting. Please note

that while the sting can lead to death in some cases, it is not what typically happens. People are also capable of receiving painful stings from insects



Paper wasps on paper nest.

already here in Texas such as honey bees, paper wasps, yellowjackets, or even fire ants and some can die from being stung. Death by insect sting usually depends upon the number of stings and how your body chemistry reacts to venom injected by the insect. Asian giant hornets are capable of killing other insects, including honey bees and other pollinators, but they are not doing this to be vicious or killing for sport. The hornets use insects they kill as food for their larvae....just like other wasps that we have here in Texas.

We do not currently have Asian giant hornets in Texas. If you think you have these wasps, then please send samples or images to me for identification as Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are identifying any items of concern for our clientele.

Some insects that may be confused with AGH to the untrained eye:

Paper wasps are reddish brown in color & sometimes have yellow markings on their bodies and are ½-1 inches in length. Paper wasps make paper-like nests out of chewed wood fiber that have open cells and hang from a single stalk.

Yellowjackets are yellow & black in color and are ½ in length. Bald-faced hornets are a type of yellowjacket. These wasps also make a paper-like nest, but it is enclosed with a single opening.



Cicada killer wasp on redbud.

Cicada killer wasps have a reddish head and thorax with an abdomen that alternates with yellow and black markings. These wasps reach 1 ½ inches in length. Cicada killers burrow into the ground, so you may see holes left behind from their digging.

FACTS about Asian giant hornets in North America

1. A colony was found late last year (September 2019) in Nanaimo, British Columbia on Vancouver Island. The colony was located and destroyed.

2. A sighting and dead specimen was found in Washington state in December 2019 in Blaine, WA. This was the first reported sighting of the Asian giant hornet in the U.S.

3. It is currently unknown how the hornets entered the U.S. and genetic testing leads to the conclusion that the hornets found in BC & WA are two separate introductions.

4. Agencies are currently monitoring & trapping with lures to discover any queens or workers. They are talking about attaching radio tracking devices to captured wasps to track them back to their nest.

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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This spring was certainly unlike any other I can recall and there is still a lot we don't know about how the changes we've experienced 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. Homes in The Courtyard are still in high demand and our current inventory is low.

I'm here to listen, educate and strategize with you about the real estate market or YOUR HOME specifically. Feel free to call, text or email at any time. Until then, please stay healthy.

Call me so I can determine the value of your home or give you a free analysis of your home.

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