

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION, INC.

# COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

September 2020

Volume 16, Number 9

## BOARD MESSAGE

**Welcome September!** We are all looking forward to a break in the summer heat, and the weather is not the only thing we hope will cool down... Temperatures have certainly been unusually high, and the stress of the continued pandemic is steadily raising the “heat” in many people. We encourage all **resident homeowners** to take advantage of our wonderful Park and private access to Bull Creek to stay active and engaged with nature, and as an outlet for pent-up energy and frustrations.

We are sad to report that the HOA won't be able to hold a Labor Day party in the park due to the ongoing COVID-19 concerns and the issues with reserving vendors that prevented our annual July 4th celebration.

### Unauthorized Use of Gate Code

Last month, someone gave the gate code to a non-resident who gained access to the Boat Storage and Launch area. The trespasser launched their boat, and proceeded to trespass onto the empty private boat slip of one of our residents, a homeowner in the Courtyard Boat Dock Condominiums. The trespasser lowered the boat lift, stored their boat for several of days in our homeowner's private boat slip without the permission or knowledge of the homeowner. When reported, the trespasser had already removed the boat and we were unable to talk with the trespasser before they left the premises. We are following some leads to track down and bring the trespasser to justice.

Neighbors, this is a serious breach of the law and common decency! Any Courtyard resident who gives out the gate codes to friends, relatives or anyone who is NOT a homeowner here or a resident with standing in the HOA may be subject to loss of privileges to the Park and Boat Storage/Launch area. Homeowner privileges to HOA-owned Common Areas may NOT be sold, leased, or conveyed to others. **No resident may give the gate code to anyone other than immediate family living with the homeowner in the Courtyard.** If you have questions about this, please contact Marilyn Childress, Goodwin Property Manager.

### Car Burglary

In early August, we experienced another car burglary here in the

Courtyard. Now is a good time to clean out the garage and park your cars inside. If you cannot, then be sure to remove all valuables from your car and lock them every night. If you do experience a burglary, please report it to Jim Lloyd, Security Chair. The HOA License Plate Recognition cameras at the entrances may help the police to catch the criminals.

### Playscape Still Closed

The HOA Park playscape equipment was closed in March in accordance with the City of Austin ban on use of playscape equipment. Neighbors, we fully empathize with our parents whose children just want to play, and we hope you will understand that City of Austin policies regarding public safety is the best practice that our HOA Board has always followed in the past and will continue to follow. We will re-open the Playscape as soon as the City lifts its restrictions on playscape equipment.

### Burn Ban

The City of Austin issued a Burn Ban on July 29 due to the lack of rain and extremely hot temperatures. As we have always done, the Courtyard HOA will follow the burn ban in the Park. No fires or barbecues will be permitted in the barbecue pits until the Burn Ban is lifted. The Courtyard is located in the region designated as extreme high risk for Wildfire.

### Environment Control Committee (ECC)

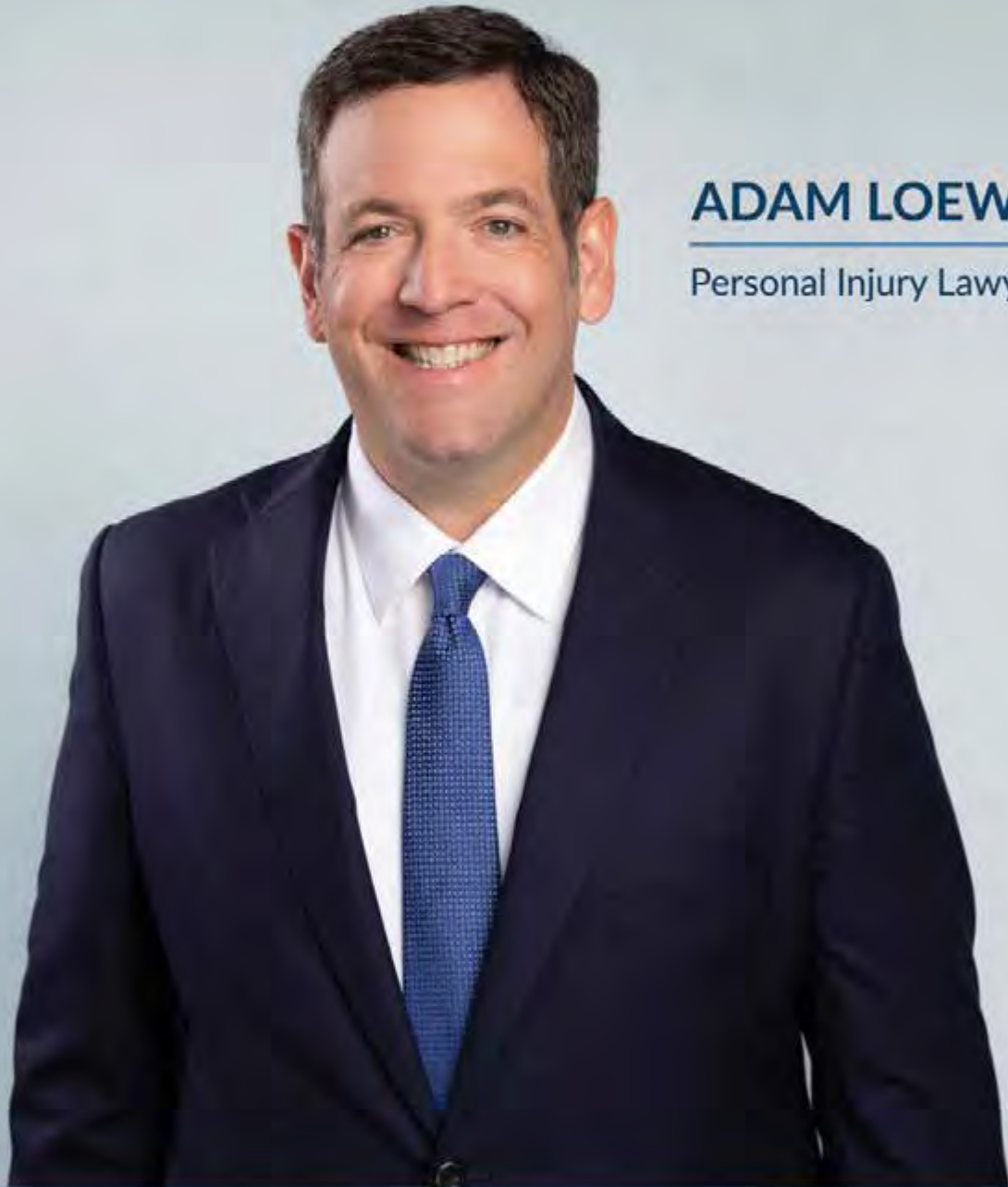
If you are planning any exterior updates or renovations, including painting, roofing, fencing, patios, sidewalks, or major landscape changes, you must receive prior approval from the ECC. Contact Janet Wright for more information.

### Dogs on Leashes

Finally, neighbors, you **MUST** keep your dog(s) **ON LEASH** at all times in the park and elsewhere in the neighborhood. No exceptions.

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

Bicycle Accidents | Boating Accidents | Car Accidents | Dog Bites | Drunk Driving Accidents  
Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



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My husband and I were raised in Austin and our three children were too. We are empty nesters. I have plenty of time to focus on your needs and your real estate goals. The numbers speak for themselves. When you are ready to make a move, it would be my privilege to be your Realtor.

## **DAWN LANIER, BBA, ABR, GRI REALTOR®**

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TOP 50**



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### Wolf Court:

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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!

# COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2020

1 P.M. 5612 N. SCOUT ISLAND CIRCLE

**As I Lay Dying**, the 1930 classic by William Faulkner, is the book of the month for discussion at the Courtyard Book Club meeting, Tuesday, October 6th.

If you want to meet some new Courtyard neighbors, the book club is a great way to start. Whether you've read the book or haven't quite finished, you will find the conversation lively and relevant in this group of knowledgeable, articulate, and well-traveled women from a variety of backgrounds.

The book club chooses to read one classic each year and Faulkner's novel, **As I Lay Dying**, is consistently picked as one of the most influential American novels of the 20th century. With 15 unique narrative voices, the book's focus is the story of the death of Addie Bundren and her family's quest to honor her wish to be buried in her hometown of Jefferson, Mississippi. This sends them on a cross-state odyssey to fulfill her dying wish. The book is laced with tragedy as well as dark comedy. The use of multiple characters' voices marks Faulkner's experimentation with a narrative technique that depends more upon explorations of individual consciousness than on a series of events to create the story.

The book club is hosted by Lou Blemaster and meets at 1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at 5612 North Scout Island Circle. To receive book club emails, contact Lou at [LouBlemaster@gmail.com](mailto:LouBlemaster@gmail.com). With COVID-19 still preventing in-person gatherings, the meetings are being held via ZOOM video-conferencing until in-person gatherings are deemed more safe. If you notify Lou, she will help get you in touch with the Zoom call.

# COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

It's hot and dry. We can feel it and as the vegetation dries out we can see it. This poses wildfire and brush fire threats. The Austin Fire Department Wildfire Division and the Texas A&M Forest Service provide monitoring and essential information and training to communities through the Firewise Alliance communities. 2020's Covid 19 onslaught has forced a change in many outreach and training opportunities. However, there are actions homeowners can take to lower the threats.

#### What are the primary threats to homes during a wildfire?

Research around home destruction vs. home survival in wildfires point to embers and small flames as the main way that the majority of homes ignite in wildfires. Embers are burning pieces of airborne wood and/or vegetation that can be carried more than a mile through the wind can cause spot fires and ignite homes, debris and other objects.

*Continued on Page 6*



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## Continued from Page 4

There are methods for homeowners to prepare their homes to withstand ember attacks and minimize the likelihood of flames or surface fire touching the home or any attachments. Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200' from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ).

Texas A&M Forest Service encourages Texans to take the following steps around their homes today to reduce the risk of wildfire:

- Creating defensible space around your home allows for low intensity, slow-burning conditions in the event of a wildfire.
- Within the first 30 feet of your home, use non-flammable landscaping materials. Within the first five feet, water plants, trees and mulch regularly, and consider xeriscaping if you are affected by water restrictions.
- A healthy, well-maintained landscape is important to the survival of homes during a wildfire. Make sure your plants are carefully spaced, low growing and free of resins, oils and waxes that burn easily.
- Remove dead vegetation from under the deck of your home and within 10 feet of the house.
- Prune your trees six to 10 feet up from the ground.

Taking simple steps to help maintain your property could save it during a wildfire. For more information on how to create defensible space around your home, visit <https://tfsweb.tamu.edu/ProtectYourHome/>

## AUSTIN ISD REMOTE LEARNING TO BEGIN SEPTEMBER 8TH

After several weeks of planning and monitoring local health data, Austin ISD Board of Trustees approved a revised 2020-21 school calendar moving the start of the school year to September 8th. A letter to AISD families from the outgoing superintendent, Dr. Paul Cruz provided additional information:

*"The calendar begins with four weeks of remote learning and an opportunity for on-campus instruction during the first four weeks for students who do not have access to reliable technology or internet connectivity. Pending approval from the TEA [Texas Education Agency], there will be an additional four weeks that will serve as a period where students who selected on-campus instruction may return to on-campus learning in phased-in smaller groups. These plans are subject to change based on the guidance of local, state and federal health authorities and the TEA."*

Austin ISD has created an Announcements page on its website with the district's latest information on its response during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.austinisd.org/covid19>

If you have not already done so, consider engaging with your specific campus to receive the latest news and plans from the administration and staff there.

## HOA BOARD MEETINGS

As long as City of Austin guidelines restrict meetings of 10 people or more, the HOA Board cannot hold in-person Board meetings, but will likely hold a virtual meeting. Please watch NextDoor and/or your email inbox for notices regarding HOA Board meetings. Emails will come from [denise.1.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:denise.1.hogan@gmail.com), so please set up a contact for this address so it won't get lost in your junk/spam folder.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

We continue to update our Courtyard HOA Website Directory as more of you are sending us your current contact information – thank you! This helps your HOA Board AND your fellow residents in the Courtyard stay connected with you. Notices for the neighborhood, **park gate code changes**, website password changes, neighborhood event information, and Fire Safety alerts are all sent via email, so please make sure your listing is up-to-date by completing this simple process:

1. Go to [CourtyardHOA.org](http://CourtyardHOA.org)
2. Click on Directory.
3. Enter "courtyard" (all lower case) as the username.
4. Enter the Directory password.
5. Look up your contact information.
6. If any of your contact information is incorrect or missing, email Denise Hogan and copy Erik Maye.

***If you need the Directory password*** or have trouble with any part of this process, please **email** Denise Hogan at [denise.1.hogan@gmail.com](mailto:denise.1.hogan@gmail.com) and copy Erik Maye at [erikmaye@gmail.com](mailto:erikmaye@gmail.com); we will help you have success!

## TIME TO TRIM OAKS

Oak wilt season has passed, and it is now okay to trim oaks up until January 31, 2021. If you need to do regular maintenance or trim branches away from your house or roof, NOW is the time. This protects your home from many potential issues, including transfer of embers during wildfire season. If you are planning significant oak limb removal, check the City of Austin website for rules regarding heritage trees AND please communicate with any neighbors who will be affected by your tree limb removal project. ECC approval is required for ANY complete tree removal, but is not required for regular pruning of non-heritage trees. If you have questions, contact Janet Wright at [mightywrights@me.com](mailto:mightywrights@me.com).



# BE A GOOD FRIEND!

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That we can all agree  
But it will get better  
Just you wait and see

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With those we hold dear  
Helps make this misfortune  
Something less to fear

Social distancing is tough  
We all love a good hug  
But save embraces for later  
Let's kill that dang bug

So wash your hands  
And wear your mask  
These little reminders  
Are but a small task to ask

It soon will be over  
The pandemic will end  
Until then, let's be reminded  
To be a good friend!

It is a troubling time for everyone. You may be uncertain as to whether it is smart to buy or sell your home right now. If you have questions, let's schedule a phone or video chat. I'm ready to help!



## Joany Price

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neighborhood Realtor*

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## SUMMERTIME IS POOL REBATE TIME



Summer in Texas means high temperatures and sunny days out in the pool. Daily pool usage can lead to large pool maintenance costs. The Austin Water Conservation Division is happy to offer Austin Water (and qualifying water provider) customers two pool centered rebates to help you save water and decrease pool maintenance costs.

One of the best ways to keep your pool safe and clean is by using a pool cover. A pool cover will prevent dirt and debris from falling into the pool thus reducing its cleaning time. Pool covers help decrease the pool's chemical consumption by approximately 50%+. Furthermore, a properly fitted pool cover can reduce up to 90% of water lost to evaporation.

Pool covers can be costly, but Austin Water's Pool Cover Rebate helps pool owners with the cost of purchasing a new pool cover. Austin Water customers are eligible to receive up to 50% of the pool cover purchase price. Manual pool covers are eligible to receive a rebate of up to \$50. Permanent mechanicals pool covers are eligible to receive a rebate of up to \$200.

Regular pool filter maintenance is another effective way to

keep your swimming pool clean and prevent costly pool repairs. However, some pool filters can generate high water bills due to backwash. Switching your sand or D.E. (diatomaceous earth) pool filter to a high-efficient cartridge pool filter can help lower down those costs. Cartridge pool filters save between 2,000 and 8,000+ gallons of water annually in backwash. This allows you to clean your filter more often without breaking the bank.

Austin Water's Cartridge Pool Filter Rebate helps pool owners cover the purchase price of a cartridge pool filter that replaces their sand or D.E. pool filter. Customers are eligible to receive up to \$250 when they replace their sand or D.E. pool filter with a new cartridge pool filter.

For a full list of Austin Water's Conservation Rebates, Tools, and Programs including Austin Water's Pool Cover Rebate and Austin Water's Cartridge Pool Filter Rebate please visit: [www.austintexas.gov/departments/rebates-tools-programs](http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/rebates-tools-programs)

Do the Earth a favor and be a water saver by practicing effective water conservation recommendations. Don't be a fool, cover your pool!





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