

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

November 2020

Volume 16, Number 11

BOARD MESSAGE

Happy Fall! With the holidays just around the corner, we want to say THANKS to all of our wonderful volunteers who give selflessly of their time and effort to our community. Our Board members, Committee Chairs, Committee members, and countless volunteers continue to work keeping the neighborhood running smoothly and safely. Please show your appreciation to these great folks!

Here is a helpful **Fall Checklist** for our residents:

1. Trim all tree limbs, branches, or bushes that are touching your eaves, roof, or house. This prevents unnecessary wear and tear to your house, keeps animals off the roof and out of the attic, and most importantly, helps prevent the spread of wildfire.
2. Trim back all branches or bushes that are encroaching the sidewalks.
3. Bag all leaves and place on the curb NO MORE THAN 24 hours before pickup on Friday.
4. Remove all political signs within 10 days after the election.
5. All other yard signs should also be removed, per our Declaration, Article XIII, section 18. We have been letting these "slide" during the pandemic, but folks, they are getting out of hand.

As we enter the holiday season, here is a reminder that the Park Gate code may NOT be given to any person who is not a Courtyard resident, including photographers, friends, or extended relatives. Although you may hire a photographer to take pictures of your family in the Park, photographers may not conduct photo sessions for any non-residents in our Park.

Thanks to all the volunteers who showed up for Park Volunteer Day in October. Even though this event was outdoors, an abundance of caution was followed to minimize any potential risks of COVID-19 spread, including social distancing, required masks, and no groups of 10 or more people in any work sector. Thank you to Park Chair Terry Edwards for making this happen!

Enjoy the cooler temperatures and DRIVE SLOWLY in the Courtyard!

Courtyard Book Club

Tuesday, December 1, 2020
1 p.m. 5612 N. Scout Island Circle



Typically, the Courtyard Book Club meets in December to celebrate the holiday season rather than to review a book. Even with the unique (virtual) nature of its 2020 meetings, the club will press on and invites all Courtyard neighbors who

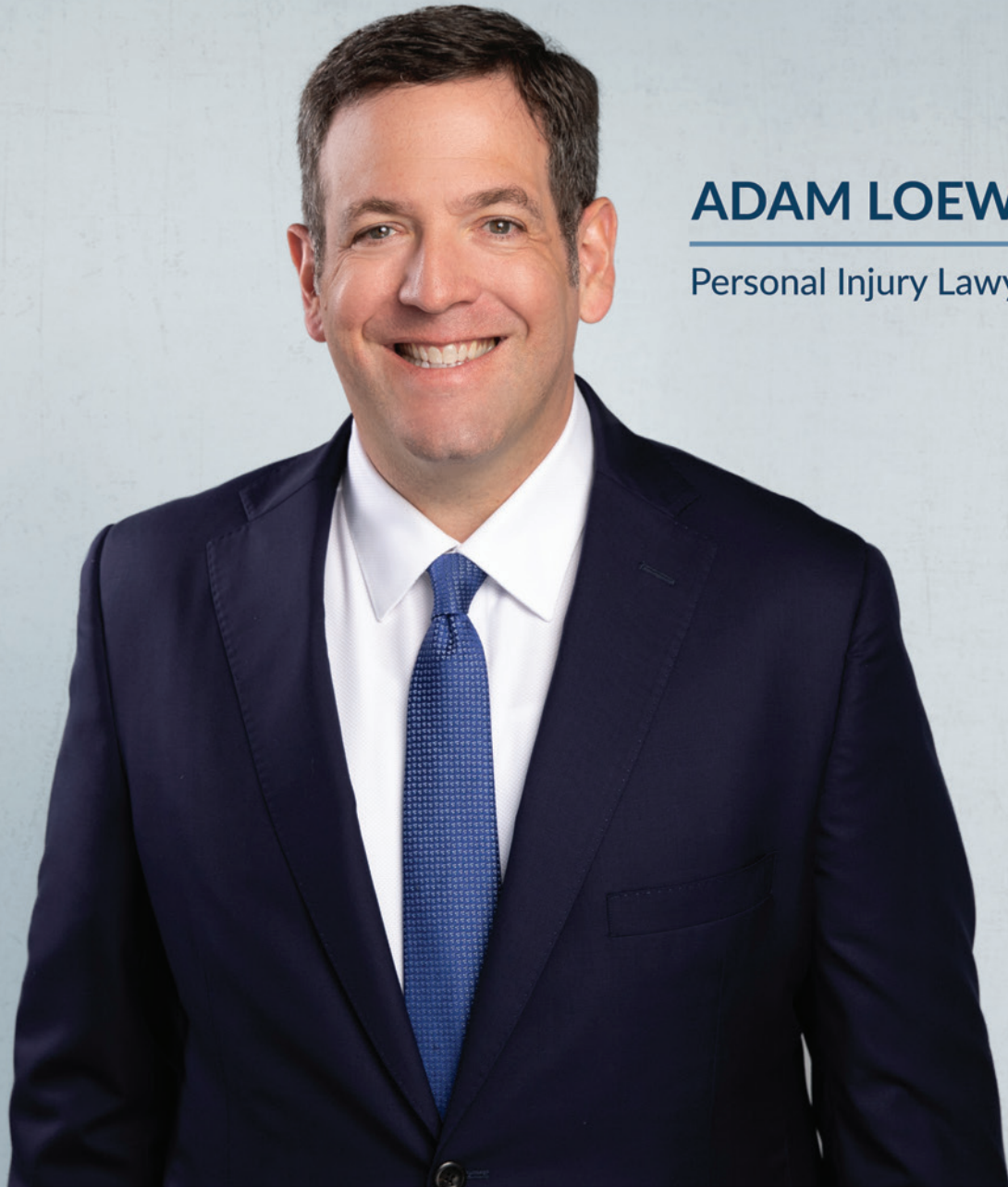
would like to make new acquaintances in the neighborhood to join in this year's December activity.

The club will conduct its annual book swap and meeting for the month of December. Here's how it will work:

- Please wrap a new or gently used favorite book and leave at Lou Blemaster's house, 5612 N. Scout Island Circle, between November 18-20.
- On November 30, book club members are invited to return to Lou's to select a wrapped book from among those gifted by book club participants.
- On the December 1 Zoom meeting, the club will gather virtually to discuss the gift book they selected and to celebrate the season. Participation in the book swap is not necessary to be part of the December meeting.

The book club is hosted by Lou Blemaster and meets at 1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at 5612 N. Scout Island Circle. To receive book club emails, contact Lou 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 considered more safe. Notices are sent out each month with ZOOM instructions while meetings are being held virtually.

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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COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

Understandably, large disasters with a significant number of casualties and damage usually receive the most attention from media and researchers. While this approach has many positives, it also contains some major blind spots. Researchers and the public tend to overlook the smaller, everyday incidents that may impact only a few people at a time, but can add up. Did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries?

As the weather cools, the holiday season begins with Halloween and Thanksgiving. For most, the kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. From testing family recipes to decorating cakes and cookies, everyone enjoys being part of the preparations. Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing.

So keeping fire safety top of mind in the kitchen during this joyous but hectic time is important, especially when there's a lot of activity and people at home. As you start preparing your holiday schedule and organizing family feasts, remember, by following a few simple safety tips you can enjoy time with your loved ones and keep yourself and your family safer from fire.

"Cook with Caution"

- Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, boiling, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.

Reproduced from NFPA's website, www.nfpa.org/publiceducation. ©

DOGS IN THE PARK, DOG PARKS, AND OPTIONS FOR DOG PLAY

The Courtyard is a lovely neighborhood full of great neighbors, many of whom have the wonderful advantage of canine pets. We LOVE our dogs, and it's a real treat to get to know our neighbors four-legged "children." Going on a pleasant walk with our dog and greeting others with their pet is one of the many perks of this neighborhood.

The Courtyard currently follows the City of Austin ordinances related to tethering dogs, which is that in a public place other than a dog park, dogs must be on a leash and kept under control at all times. The City of Austin has 12 off-leash dog parks available to Courtyard residents (<https://www.austintexas.gov/department/leash-areas>) with the closest being at Emma Long Park which is less than 10 minutes from the Courtyard.

One of the questions from a member that came up during our September Courtyard Board of Directors (CBD) Zoom meeting was, "How about a dog park in our Courtyard Park?" Many times in the past, the Courtyard Board of Directors and the Park Committee have discussed putting a fenced-in dog park in the Courtyard Park. After researching and discussing the issue, the Board decided to follow the recommendations of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT) and other sources – which is that the disadvantages of dog parks outweigh the advantages.

APDT recommends creating dog parks only if several conditions can be met: the fenced space should be as large as possible -- at least an acre; and big dogs should be separated from small dogs. The only space available in our park is at the end of the parking lot to the right of the basketball goal, and that space is not large enough for both big and small dogs, especially the large dogs. Parks that are too small lose grass due to wear and tear.

Additionally, the space under the big oak tree near the basketball court would not easily accommodate the required entrance and/or exit, including a double gate that is shielded from dogs already in the park. Ideally there should be two or three entrances and exits.

Other requirements for a dog park include a program & personnel to provide fresh water and excrement removal every day, as well as periodic fence and interior landscape maintenance. Our park is in a flood plain covered with trees and dries slowly after a rain. A solution of artificial turf would have a high cost initially and would also require periodic cleaning and maintenance.

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CHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Denise Hogan.....denise.1.hogan@gmail.com, 214.403.4454

Vice President

Konavis Smith.....konavis@gmail.com

Treasurer

Jim Lloydjlloyd@austin.rr.com, 512.231.0855

Secretary

Waneen Spirduso.....spirduso@utexas.edu

BOARD MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Janet Wrightmightywrights@me.com, 469.387.5632

Henry Mistrot.....512.459.7313

COMMITTEES

Environmental Control (ECC)

Janet Wrightmightywrights@me.com, 469.387.5632

Community Park

Terry Edwards.....t.edwards54321@gmail.com, 214.392.4627

Welcome

Erik Mayeerikmaye@gmail.com, 512.626.2404

Social & Decorating

Joany Pricejoanyprice@gmail.com, 512.775.8942

Landscape & Decorating

Ed Ueckert.....512.345.6137

Security

Jim Lloydjlloyd@austin.rr.com, 512.231.0855

Communications, Editor – Courtyard Caller

Jen Harold.....harold.jennifer@gmail.com, 281.773.2880

Compliance

Denise Hogan.....denise.1.hogan@gmail.com

Kayak

Fred Wahlersfwahlers@sbcglobal.net, 214.476.7725

Fire Safety

Richard Stelznerarebeess42@gmail.com

Area Development and Zoning Liaison

Denise Hogan denise.1.hogan@gmail.com, 214.403.4454

SUB-HOA CONTACTS

Center Court:

Gary Douchagmdoucha@yahoo.com, 512.401.3105

Travis County Courtyard (aka "Backcourt")

J. Scott Ivesausivers@gmail.com, 512.870.7666

Villas at Courtyard:

Thomas Hoy.....Thomas.Hoy@freescall.com, 512.231.1270

Wolf Court:

Susanne DoellDrdoell@gmail.com, 512.454.3400

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!

Continued from Page 3

The APDT lists several other sources of real problems in dog parks that stem from owner/dog behaviors that stem from differences in training levels, breeds, ages, aggression levels, obedience, and play styles. Check out this website for more details: <https://apdt.com/resource-center/dog-parks-good-bad-ugly/>.

The CBD understands that properly supported dog parks provide a safe space in which our neighbors could exercise their dogs, facilitate social experiences for their dogs, and socialize with their neighbors. Considering all of the above challenges, we believe there is inadequate space to do this right and that we do not have the expertise or manpower to sustain a volunteer maintenance program. We encourage residents to create fenced areas in their individual backyards and engage in play dates with known dogs who could be compatible playmates.



Please welcome these new Courtyard neighbors:

Austin and Emily Hallett

5600 N. Scout Island Cir.

Austin and Emily have moved here from Chicago and are excited to be first time homeowners. They are both professionals working from home. They love to travel, but during this time, they will plan to pursue some of their other interests close to home, including water sports and general fitness. They were both competitive swimmers and taught swim lessons. Austin and Emily plan to expand their family with a new dog.

Note: This is a new feature, and we would like to include all our new neighbors going forward. If we've missed you, please let us know by contacting Eric Maye, ericmaye@gmail.com. Or Carolyn Brakhage, cbrakhage@gmail.com



Happy Thanksgiving
to my Courtyard friends
and neighbors.

THANKS for **GIVING** me
the opportunity to serve you!



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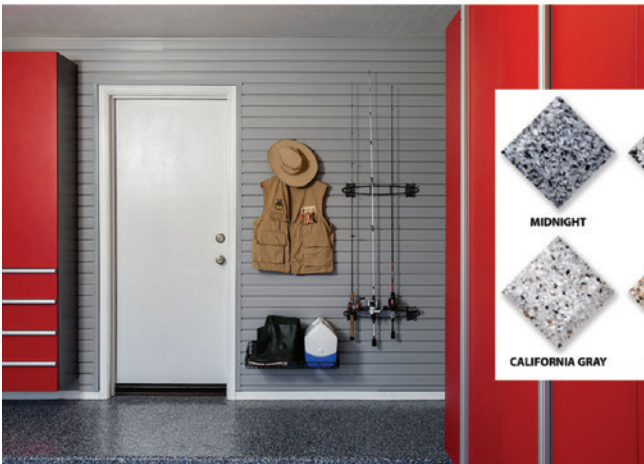
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ACTIVE	BEDROOMS	BATHS	SQ FT	LIST PRICE	
910 Barton Creek Blvd	4	4F+2H	5,848	\$3,800,000	
8888 Tallwood Dr #3111	1	1	598	\$160,000	
9405 Towana Trail	3	2	1,779	\$529,900	
SOLD				LIST PRICE (All sold over list)	SOLD DATE
5324 Tortuga Trail	4	5	4,261	\$1,325,000	1/14/2020
1921 Wimberly Lane	5	3.5	4,537	\$950,000	1/23/2020
2012 Cades Spirit Bend	5	4.5	3,505	\$1,007,720	1/29/2020
6301 Sprucewood Cove	3	3	2,834	\$784,995	4/9/2020
5723 Sam Houston Cir	4	3	3,595	\$935,000	4/22/2020
103 Waverly Spire Ct	4	3	3,002	\$549,900	5/1/2020
5400 Rain Creek Pkwy	3	3	2,319	\$715,000	5/8/2020
6404 Dry Cliff Cove	4	3	2,541	\$885,000	5/20/2020
118 Trail Rider Way	2	2	1,915	\$350,000	6/19/2020
12604 Velarde Cove	4	2.5	2,472	\$415,000	6/26/2020
5608 Wolf Court	2	2	1,456	\$429,500	7/16/2020
5504 Courtyard Drive	2	2	2,132	\$515,000	8/14/2020
11976 Dorsett Road	3	2	1,488	\$396,000	9/4/2020
209 Mount Rushmore	3	2	1,800	\$350,000	9/10/2020
8902 Dorella Lane	3	2	1,782	465000	9/11/2020
6901 Hideaway Hollow	3	2	1,719	\$471,500	9/14/2020
8005 High Hollow Drive	4	3.5	3,574	\$785,000	9/14/2020



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