

COURTYARD HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.

COURTYARD CALLER

Official Courtyard Newsletter

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BOARD MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 2021 CALLER

HAPPY NEW YEAR! With the arrival of 2021, we look forward to new possibilities and to a glimmer of hope on the horizon. Reflecting on the past year and looking for ways to improve our lives in the new year is a time-honored tradition, and has never been more important than now.

As a neighborhood, how can we create a community life that feels joyful and full of contentment? Certainly, on a personal level we can engage with our friends and acquaintances. On a community level we can practice peaceful, cohesive coexistence. One of the great gifts of HOA communities is that we have a clear pathway to do just that – through shared common areas, such as our private Park and the Boat & Trailer Storage & Launch area, and in the days without Covid19, shared social activities.

The other way to create cohesion is through community service. Your HOA Board and Committee volunteers have been very busy and active behind the scenes in 2020, continuing to do the work to keep the neighborhood running and to improve areas where attention was needed. Please remember that all of your Board and Committee members are volunteers, and we ask for full participation from everyone to voluntarily adhere to the rules that keep the community running smoothly.

Another pillar of community harmony includes the maintenance, repair, and improvement of our homes and lots. A fundamental requirement of your HOA community includes sending all requests for exterior improvements to the Environmental Control Committee (ECC) for approval PRIOR TO commencing work, as well as correcting any compliance issues promptly when brought to your attention. These rules do not seek to punish or control any one

individual, but instead seek to maintain balance & harmony in a community of over 300 homes and families in close proximity to one another.

The Board will be presenting the 2020 work and accomplishments to the HOA members at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 31 from 6–8 PM via Zoom.

The Agenda will arrive in your email inbox well in advance of the meeting. Make sure we have your correct email address so you don't miss out on community notices.

Because we will be holding the Annual meeting virtually for the first time in the nearly 40-year history of the Courtyard, the proxies and ballot return will have deadlines **INADVANCE** of the Annual Meeting, so please watch your postal mailboxes for these items and please return them promptly per the instructions you will receive.

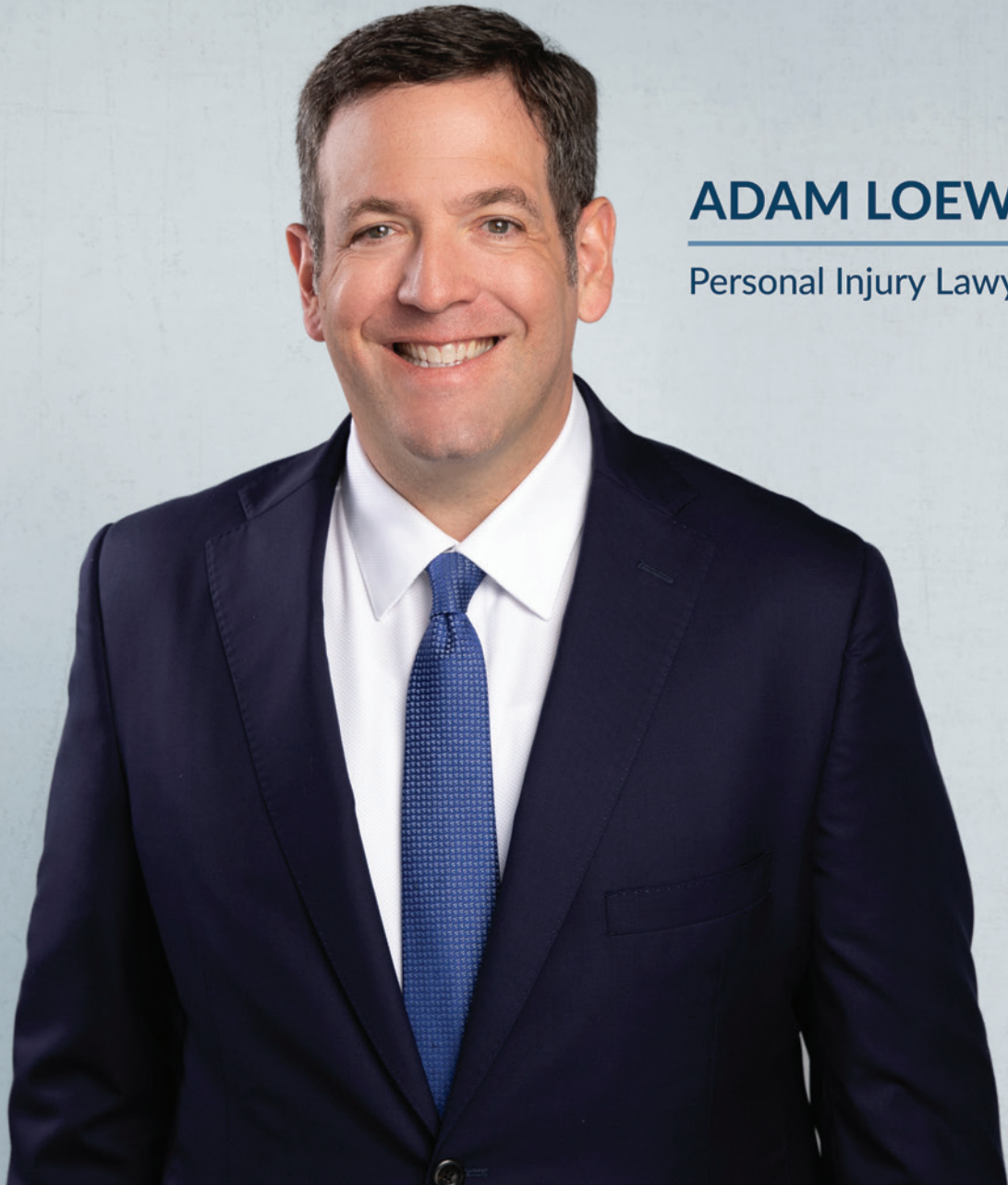
Annual dues statements should have arrived by now, so please send your dues to Goodwin Management as soon as possible. Fortunately, we did not need to raise the dues this year.

Get outside for a walk, enjoy the cooler temperatures, and always **DRIVE SLOWLY** in the Courtyard!

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Injuries to Children | Motorcycle Accidents | Slip and Falls | Truck Accidents | Wrongful Death



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COURTYARD BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 1 p.m.

5612 N. Scout Island Circle

The Splendid and the Vile



Author Erik Larson puts leadership and fearlessness front and center in his nonfiction account of Winston Churchill's tenure as prime minister during World War II.

"The Splendid and the Vile" details wartime drama beginning with Churchill's first day as prime minister when Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. As Churchill leads the British through the dark times of The Blitz, his war strategizing is detailed from diaries, original archival documents and once-secret intelligence reports. His deftness as a politician is on display as he turns it on friend but not-yet-active ally, Franklin Roosevelt. The drama of Larsen's book also extends to the impact on Churchill's personal life with his wife and children. The book is rich with description of life in war-torn England and the unparalleled leadership Churchill exhibited.

As of this publication, it is expected that COVID-19 will still prevent the book club from gathering in person, so meetings are being held via ZOOM video-conferencing until in-person gatherings are considered safe. When the book club does meet in person, it is hosted by Lou Blemaster and convenes 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. If you notify Lou that you want to participate, she will be communicating with members about the virtual Zoom meeting logistics or whether the club will meet at her house. Either way, please join a group of your neighbors to discuss this book and others in the coming months.



COURTYARD FIRE SAFETY

Firewise for 2021

Congratulations Courtyard homeowners! The community efforts in 2020 supporting the commitment to fire safety have resulted once again in Courtyard being designated a Firewise Community by the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA). Thanks to the Board of Directors, Fire Safety Committee and homeowner volunteers who have made this possible.

Keep up the effort

Despite the moderate weather and some rain Central Texas is dry. The Burn Bans periodically announced by the Travis County Fire Marshall highlight the wildfire risks. In the event of drought in the coming year, the growth in the woodlands and grasslands will create greater combustible fuel. We are in the Wildlands Urban Interface (WUI). A designation that describes the beauty and pleasure of the outdoors and the responsibility to be aware of how we treat it. We cannot be complacent when it comes to wildfire.

Wildfire Risk to Homes

The Texas A&M Forest Service wildfire risk assessment for Courtyard community concluded the obvious: we are in a high risk area, and there are opportunities we should take advantage of throughout the year to reduce wildfire risk to our homes. These include:

- All homes in the community obtaining a free Home Ignition Zone (HIZ) evaluation to determine how best to harden each home against wildfire "ember intrusion" that will destroy a house.
- Creating a "defensible space" around homes in response to findings from the evaluation.
- Managing vegetation and reducing potential fuel sources in our common areas.

To sign up with the Courtyard Fire Safety Committee **to schedule an evaluation** by one of our trained teams, email fire-safety@courtyardhoa.org.

Richard Stelzner
Fire Safety Committee Chairman
Courtyard Community
908-419-5434
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**Keep Our
Neighborhood
Beautiful!**

**Please Pick Up
After Your Pets
During Every Walk!**

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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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TIME TO TRIM OAKS



Oak Wilt season begins February 1. If you intend to trim your oak trees, you may do so up until January 31, 2021. No oak trim trimming should occur between February 1 – July 1 as this is the time when the Oak Wilt beetle is active and most likely to transmit the disease among trees. If you need to do regular maintenance or trim branches away from your house or roof, **NOW** is the time.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Did you know...?

Fallen leaves are considered "litter" if you dispose of them improperly? Local Austin law requires that leaves on and in front of your property be disposed of properly. Leaves can be used as mulch or added to a compost pile. If you decide to dispose of fallen leaves you must place them in your GREEN Compost Collection Bins. Per Austin City ordinance, Homeowners are also required to remove/dispose of leaves from the half of the street immediately in front of their property.

NOTE: Disposing of leaves into Bull Creek or any public waterway is prohibited and considered littering by local code.

Did you know...?

The installation of a Rain Barrel requires the pre-approval of the Courtyard HOA-Environmental Control Committee (ECC)? The Courtyard adopted the Resolution Adopting Rain Water Harvesting Policy in 2011. This resolution provides important information on where and what restrictions must be followed if you are thinking about installing a Rain Barrel on your property.

If you have any questions about the above compliance related issues or anything else, please feel free to send me an email at:

John Darmanin, Compliance Committee Member
falconinvser@gmail.com



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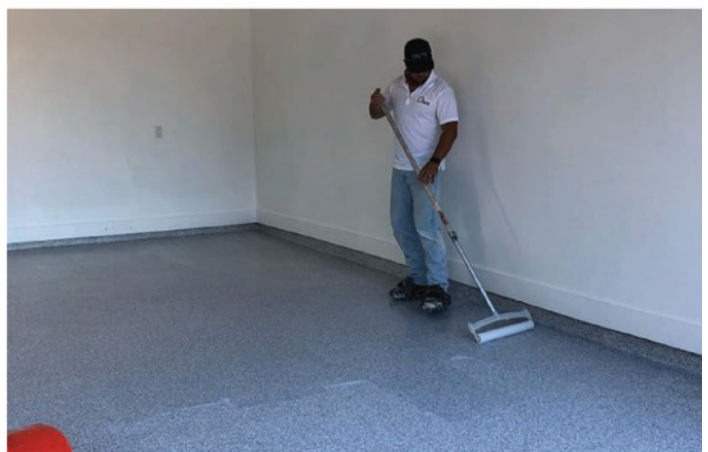
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please don't hesitate to contact me.**



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