

News **Northwood** from

<http://www.main.org/northwood>

January/February 2008

Upcoming Events

Officer Elections

The general meeting, including election of officers, was January 2 at Milwood Library. President Cheryl Vanek, Vice President Cyndi Stein, Treasurer Nancy Grijalva and Secretary Rosalia Nassaux were unanimously re-elected. ☺

2008 Due\$ Are Due

The 2008 dues of \$10 are due. The dues pay for the gift certificates for the yard of the month and help pay for the newsletter. And they can help neighbors pay for oak wilt treatments if needed. **Please pay your dues.** Oak wilt can affect the entire neighborhood and the treatment can be costly, depending on the size and number of trees to treat. As a reminder, during an oak wilt meeting last year, the Board and attending residents agreed that residents must be current on their dues before the Association will assist in paying for oak wilt.

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, just complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail a check to Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack. ☺

Easter Egg Hunt

The neighborhood Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for Sunday March 9, with a rain date of March 16. The cost is \$2.00 per child for non-Association members and free for children of Association members. Bring an Easter basket for all the eggs (and other goodies!) Contact Ann Sellars, 341-8761, for details. *Mark your calendars* and watch for the signs, as you will not get the next newsletter before the hunt. ☺



Spring Garage Sale

The spring garage sale will be May 3, the first Saturday in May. It's time for spring cleaning! ☺

Oak Wilt Alert: only prune and paint oak trees when it is very hot or very cold. Then prune and *immediately* paint. Sterilize tools after each tree.



Neighborhood Notes

A LETTER FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION BOARD

Dear Northwood Neighbors,

As we begin the New Year, we must give thanks for the many volunteers who help make Northwood a special place to live. First and foremost, thanks to Donna Blumberg for cranking out the newsletter, and to Scott Carruth for maintaining our web site. Thanks also to those who deliver the newsletters and work on activities such as the Easter Egg Hunt, July 4th Parade, and Yard of the Month. The contributions of our volunteers make a huge difference!

These days, we cannot even get out of the neighborhood without seeing change. Construction is beginning on the office building at Oak Creek and Loop 1, and the tract of land on Oak Creek next to the storage unit facility is for sale. This site was zoned for a commercial building in 1991, with some limitations. And the tract next to the office building (zoned SF-6, multifamily residential) is currently under contract. The City has adopted a master plan for the North Burnet/Gateway area near the Domain shopping center that will allow redevelopment into a fully-functional area with a mix of residential, commercial, and retail structures. All of this activity can be a bit unsettling, so we must continue to be vigilant and do all we can to ensure an overall beneficial effect on our neighborhood.

Ongoing projects we are working on include planning for beautification and pedestrian improvements at our "entrance" at Silver Creek and Parmer, and revival of the neighborhood Bar-B-Q (thanks again to volunteers).

Some of these projects will likely require an expenditure of funds to come to fruition. For example, to create and install a metal sign on the concrete wall on Silver Creek at Parmer is estimated to cost \$3,000 or more. This project has been discussed at our last two meetings, but we ask for your input regarding the merits since this would be a significant expenditure of funds.

We also ask that you support these efforts by paying your dues! Without residents paying dues, we are not able to complete some of these projects, and may not be able to continue publishing the newsletter in its current form and bi-monthly frequency.

Please feel free to email or call us with your comments or concerns. We look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Cheryl Vanek, Cyndi Stein, Rosalia Nassaux, and Nancy Grijalva

Christmas Yards of the Month

Thank you Northwood voters! We congratulate our December winners:

2007 Best Lights was awarded to 3801 Palomar, They had lovely garlands and had wrapped the columns in front of their home like giant candy canes. Congratulations to the Sheffield family!



Children's Choice winner was awarded to 3810 Tamarack for an amazing show of inflatable polar bears and carousels, toy trains and snowmen, toy soldiers and Bevos-very festive.

Thank you to all the Northwood neighbors that put so much effort into their holiday lights and scenery! Each year seems better than the one before. It is the caring we all



have for our homes and neighborhood that make living in Northwood so special. ☺

Newsletter Ad Rates Increasing

The cost of printing the newsletter has increased since 1999 but our rates for ads have not changed. Thus, our rates for ads are increasing by \$5 for each size, effective with the March/April issue. If advertisers pay for at least 3 issues, they can get the current rates. For details, contact the editor. ☺

Watch for Oak Wilt

As spring approaches and the trees begin to bud, be sure to watch your oak trees for signs of illness. If the leaves don't develop normally, you may have oak wilt. If you suspect oak wilt, contact one of the officers. We can have a professional evaluate the tree and recommend the appropriate treatment. And for members who are current on their dues, the Association will help pay for the treatment. ☺

Bugs Around Your Potted Plants?

By Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist

Even though temperatures are chilly outside, are you having bug problems indoors? Have you seen little, black gnats flying around your home? If these gnats are found around house plants, you could have a fungus gnat problem.



Fungus gnats are dark brownish-black with long, slender legs and antennae. The wings are clear to smoky with few distinct veins. Larvae are maggot-like, creamy in color and found in the soil of potted plants. Larvae feed on decaying organic matter and sometimes roots of plants.

No real treatment is required for fungus gnats, as they are more of a nuisance than a

problem, but to get rid of them, the source must be located and managed. Larvae prefer very moist environments, so allow soil to completely dry out between waterings. Larvae can be killed by using insecticide soil drenches and adults can often be captured utilizing fly strips, traps or lights.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. ☺

Participate in your party's precinct convention!

WHAT: Elect delegates to go to the county convention. Those delegates can be elected to go on to the state and even national convention. Also, proposed resolutions for the party's platform are discussed and voted upon.

WHO: Anyone who voted in a party primary is eligible to participate in that party's convention whether he or she voted on election day or in early voting. You may only participate in your home precinct. WHERE: The convention will be at your election day polling place. Look for a sign to direct you to your party's meeting place. WHEN: The convention will start after the polls close on March 4th, usually at 7:15. WHY: The precinct convention is where democracy happens and it is a great way to meet neighbors.

Travis County Democratic Party: 477-7500 or www.traviscountymocrats.org
Travis County Republican Party: 302-1776 or www.tcrp.org. ☺





Summer Neighborhood Street Party!

A summer neighborhood street party is being planned. We're still working out the details such as the date and menu. If you would like to help, please contact Beth Parks at 246-1668 ☎

Northwood Home Sales



According to Realtor Barbara Hilliard, in 2007 there were 30 Northwood houses sold. The lowest sales price was \$162,000 at 1526 sf, the highest was \$244,000 for 2247 sf. Most homes sold in 30-60 days with 15 selling in less than 10 days.

Looking back, the following table shows the changes in home values over the years.

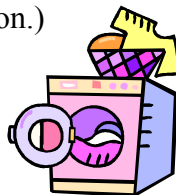
Yr	Nbr sold	low	high	avg days mkt	avg price
06	35	134,000	225,000	42	185,758
05	32	142,900	210,000	36	174,824
04	23	125,000	208,500	47	Na
03	33	129,000	199,999	58	153,000
02	25	117,200	197,177	49	159,296
01	28	139,500	179,900	30	158,000

☎

A Dryer Disclaimer

Be sure to check your lint trap in your dryer periodically. Besides cleaning the lint off it, hold it under running water. Does the water run through the screen or stay on top of it? If the latter, then the screen is also blocking heat from escaping through it. (The dryer sheets are one cause of this situation.)

At best that invisible blockage makes the dryer use a bit more energy to work. At worst, it could cause a fire. Clean the lint trap with an old toothbrush or other brush. ☎



Continuing Business

Thank you volunteers!

We all appreciate the time you take to volunteer in the various activities. Your work helps make our neighborhood a special place to live.

2007 volunteers include:

- Yard of the Month Ellen Quinn Botello
- Garage Sales Cyndi Stein
- Easter Egg Hunt Ann Sellars, Cyndi Stein
- Newsletter Donna Blumberg, Debbie Cox
- Web site Scott Carruth
- Newsletter Section Diane Nousanen
- captains Ann Little
- Newsletter delivery All the block captains

Neighborhood Email Address/discussion group

We have an email group that is used strictly for Northwood business and articles of general interest. To subscribe to that group,



send an email to NorthwoodNbrhdAssn-subscribe@yahoo.com.

If you have questions about this, contact the editor at northwoodna@yahoo.com.

There is also a Northwood discussion group where residents can share comments and ideas about neighborhood issues. That discussion group also has copies of past newsletters and a neighborhood pet registry. The registry can be helpful if you lose or find a pet. Only Northwood residents can join the discussion group and only members of the discussion group who have (free) Yahoo



email addresses can access the past newsletters and neighborhood pet registry.

To join the discussion group, visit our web site at www.main.org/northwood.

Police Contact

The officer assigned to Northwood is Joe Maciel. Contact him at 974-4289 or email at joe.maciel@ci.austin.tx.us. If you have any non-emergency questions for the police, you may contact him. If you want to report an incident to the police, call 311.

Police Report



The incidents listed below were listed on the City police department crime report web page, www.cityofaustin.org/police.

Crime	Street	Time
<i>November</i>		
Family disturbance	Lovage dr	1541
Criminal mischief	Oak Creek	902
<i>December</i>		
Public intoxication	Cantle Trl	1922
Criminal mischief	Oak Bend Dr	913
Criminal mischief	Oak Bend Dr	916
DWI	Tamarack Trl	400
<i>January</i>		
Cred card abuse by forgery	Burr Oak	951
Harassment	Oak Creek	1504
Auto theft	Burr Oak	404
Assault with injury	Silver Creek	1658
Burglary of veh	Palomar	712

If you know of any incidents, contact the editor and an anonymous report will be in the newsletter.

Calendar

February	26	Begin Easter Egg Hunt sign-up
March	9	Easter Egg Hunt
March	16	Rain date Egg Hunt
May	3	Spring Garage Sale
July	4	July 4 Parade
October	11	Fall Garage Sale

Classified Ad rates:	
Business card	\$10
1/4 page	\$30
1/2 page	\$55
Full page	\$80

Classified Ad rates starting March/April 2008:	
Business card	\$15
1/4 page	\$35
1/2 page	\$60
Full page	\$85



Officers:
President Cheryl Vanek 244-4368
NorthwoodPresident@gmail.com
Vice President Cyndi Stein 255-5929
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The *News from Northwood* is a
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Editor Donna Blumberg 244-7500
northwoodna@yahoo.com
www.main.org/northwood

Northwood 2008 Dues \$10.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ email _____

Mail check to Northwood Neighborhood Assn. to Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack Trail, Austin, TX 78727 (do not drop in Association mailbox, it isn't waterproof). Be sure to subscribe to the Northwood email alerts: send an email to NorthwoodNbrhdAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

