



www.main.org/northwood

March/April 2011

Upcoming Events

Spring garage sale May 14

The Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 14th, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine, with a neighborhood preview Friday May 13 (details follow). Registration for the garage sale will be from April 30 through May 13. The registration form is in the back of this newsletter.

The garage sale will be advertised in the Austin American Statesman and signs will be put out the day of the sale.

Friday Presale - lots of professional garage sale shoppers start extra early on Saturday, before “normal” people, and lots of neighbors like to shop Friday night. So we’ll have a ‘pre-sale’ event Friday night just for Northwood people—it will not be advertised outside this newsletter.

If you are selling *and* want to be open Friday night, put on your porch light and open your garage door. If you only want to sell Saturday and just get ready on Friday evening, keep your garage door closed and porch light off. For people who want to shop on Friday, around dusk is a good time to start shopping.

Remember to register by May 13! Check the back of this newsletter for your registration form and deposit it and the \$2.00 in the black Association mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail. If you have any questions about the sale, contact Cheryl Vanek at 244-4368. ☎

Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 10 with a rain date of April 17. It is free for residents who have paid their dues and is \$2.00 for others those who have not. For details, including location, contact Ann Sellars, 341-8761. ☎

Projects / Updates

Oak wilt survey

cityofaustin.org/growgreen/oakwilt.htm

If you have oak trees, now is the time of year to check for oak wilt. Watch the oak trees as their leaves bud. Oak wilt symptoms first appear in late spring or early summer. Leaves turn a dull, bronzed brown at the tips and along the outer margins, with a sharp line

Oak Wilt Alert: only prune and paint oak trees when it is very hot or very cold, then prune and *immediately* paint (you can use latex spray paint). Avoid pruning between February and June when the beetles transmitting the fungus are most active.

Dues are due - see inside for details



separating discolored from normal green tissue. Leaves discolor, wilt, and fall at the top of the tree first, and later at the tips of the lateral branches.

If you see any trees that match this description, contact one of the Association officers. The Association will soon contact the Texas Forest Service to conduct an overall survey of our neighborhood to look for signs of oak wilt. . ☞

Don't need Yellow Pages?

If the only thing you do with the Yellow Pages books is to recycle them, you may want to opt out of receiving them. To do that, visit www.yellowpagesoptout.com/☞

Family & Safety Information

Protect pets from houseplants

Common houseplants were the subject of 7,858 calls to Animal Poison Control Center in 2009. Varieties such as azalea, rhododendron, sago palm, lilies, kalanchoe and schefflera are often found in homes and can be harmful to pets. Lilies are especially toxic to cats, and can cause life-threatening kidney failure even in small amounts. For details visit www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control or call (888) 426-4435. ☞

Cruising Coyotes

A neighbor reported that in early February at Burr Oak and Silver Creek he and his wife saw a coyote walking along the sidewalk on the east side of Silver Creek, heading north. He rolled down the window to try and take a picture, and smelled a strong skunk smell from the coyote. They watched her cross to the west side of the street and travel to Oak Creek and Silver Creek. He also added a rather worrisome note that the



coyote wasn't too afraid of the car or their voices.

If you have small pets, keep them inside between dusk and dawn or be with them (and carry a stick) in case a coyote attacks. ☞

Northwood cat attacked by a dog

This was just posted on the Northwood email discussion group, which is open to all residents (see other article):

“Our indoor/ mostly outdoor cat was attacked by dog(s) (during March). So far no one has witnessed the attack but the cause of injury and later death was verified by the vet at the emergency room. They ruled out coyote due to the nature of his injuries.”

Sadly, there are a number of dangers outdoors for cats, from dogs and other cats as well as from coyotes, snakes, other wild animals and more. Our condolences to that cat's family. ☞

Teach pets to avoid snakes

From sunbearsquad.org

Keep pets away from snakes in spring, summer, and fall. Be very watchful! Snakes are waking from hibernation and leaving their dens; dogs and cats may be curious about snakes and might be bitten. They are often bitten in the face or neck as they investigate the strong smell and slithery movement of snakes.



A snake bite requires urgent veterinary treatment; using the correct antivenin is key to saving the life of your pet. You must quickly identify the snake to treat the bite most effectively. Learn to identify all local venomous snakes, and take a quick photo of it with your phone. If you have killed it, be extremely careful not to pick it up because reflexes can still cause bites for up to an hour. And remember that bites of all animals can cause infection. ☞



Fire Ants are Back

*By Wizzie Brown, Texas
A&M Agrilife Extension*



Spring time is when people see fire ants swarming. Swarming is a reproductive process that usually occurs on warm spring days after a rain event. Winged males and females leave the mound and fly into the air to mate. After mating, they fall to the ground where the males die and females break off their wings. Females then begin to search for a location to establish a new colony. They dig a small chamber in the soil, lay a few eggs and rear those young until they become mature worker ants. At that point the workers take over colony functions and the queen continues to expand the population of the colony by laying more eggs.

While searching for a new colony location, many mated fire ant queens are killed by lizards, birds, spiders, and other ants. The queens that survive can be managed by broadcasting fire ant bait over your entire property. New colonies are usually very small and may not have substantial mounds that you would be able to locate to treat individually. The worker ants forage for food, so they locate fire ant bait and carry back to the colony to share with others.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. Check out her blog at www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com &

Neighborhood Notes

Due\$ are due

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, just complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail a check to the treasurer at the address listed on the form. And if you own or work in a business that could advertise in the *Northwood News*, consider it! Business ad prices are very reasonable and are on the last page. &

Join the Northwood email and discussion groups!

If you want to get neighborhood news that is “hot off the press”, send a blank email to NorthwoodNbrhdAssn-subscribe@yahoo.com. We also have a discussion group where neighbors can discuss issues or ask questions. To join this, go to our web site main.org/northwood and complete the form, &

Continuing Business

Police neighborhood contact

Our neighborhood police contact is Officer Michael Whetston. Contact him at 974-5553 or michael.whetston@ci.austin.tx.us To just report an incident, you may call 311. &

Police report

These police reports are from the APD crime pages on the City's web site. The web address is www.cityofaustin.org/police;



follow the links for current crime reports, crime viewer in neighborhoods (choose the geographic area).



<i>January</i>		<i>time</i>
Criminal mischief	Tamarack Trail	9:30
Debit card abuse	Steppingstone Cove	16:27
<i>February</i>		
Assault by threat	Woodchester	12:07
Fraud / other	Tamarack Trail	16:14
Harassment	Oak Bend Cove	18:58
<i>March</i>		
Unauthorized use of vehicle	Oak Creek	17:34
Burglary of Vehicle	Burr Oak	7:35
Fraud/Other	Silver Creek	11:22
Harassment	Northfield	15:19
Harassment	Timberside	18:19

Any time you see a person or vehicle that doesn't seem to belong, get as detailed a description as possible and notify the police – call 311 (or 911 if they are still present).

From the discussion group: in February my son and his 3 friends were skating and set one of the boards on the side of the street and walked across the street. While they were sitting on the curb a red Honda Civic or similar vehicle (it was dark) stopped, slowed down and picked the board up off the street and drive off! If you have any information about this please call 573-6532.

If you are aware of a theft or other problem and want to let others in Northwood know about it, contact the editor at 244-7500 or northwoodna@yahoo.com. An anonymous description of the incident will be included in the newsletter. ☞

2011 Due\$ are due

The 2011 dues are due. They are \$15 and are for the calendar year 2011. The dues pay for the gift certificates for the yard of the month and help pay for the newsletter and some of the special activities. To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, just complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail a check to the treasurer at the address listed on the form. ☞

Calendar

May	14	Spring Garage Sale
July	4	Parade
October	8	Fall Garage Sale
December		Yard of the Month

<i>Officers:</i>		
President	Cheryl Vanek	244-4368 NorthwoodPresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Maria Barlow	739-8989 NorthwoodVicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Rosalia Nassaux	826-3111 NorthwoodSecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nancy Grijalva	218-9492 NorthwoodTreasurer@gmail.com
The <i>News from Northwood</i> is a publication of the Northwood Neighborhood Association		
Editor Donna Blumberg 244-7500 northwoodna@yahoo.com		

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



Northwood 2011 Dues \$15.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ email _____

Make check to Northwood Neighborhood Assn. and mail 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 a blank email to NorthwoodNbrhdAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.**

Northwood Garage sale registration \$2.00 – register by May 13

Name _____ Address _____

Place this form and \$2.00 in the black Association mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail – the treasurer will be checking for the garage sale money and forms.