



News from Northwood

www.main.org/northwood

March/April 2012

Upcoming Events

Spring garage sale May 5

The Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 5th, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine, with a neighborhood preview Friday May 4 (details follow). Registration for the garage sale will be from April 30 through May 4. 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 4! 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. ☺

Projects / Updates

Oak wilt survey

from austintexas.gov/page/oak-wilt-suppression and www.texasoakwilt.org/

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 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. ☺

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 is most active.



Home & Family Safety

Burglary awareness

What do burglars look for when targeting a home to rob? Criminals interviewed by APD said this:

- Contrary to popular belief, burglars do target homes with alarm systems. Criminals believe the alarm systems indicate there are valuable items inside worth protecting. Placing your alarm stickers on your windows lets them know you have an alarm.
- Criminals look for items such as basketball hoops, bicycles, and other large-scale toys located outside of the residence indicating teenagers in the household, which in return may mean PlayStation, W-Box, Wii, and laptop computers are present. These are the most sought after items for burglars.
- Open or partially open garage doors make items easily accessible to burglars. Garages often lead to interior doors making it easy to break into the house without being seen or detected.
- Excessive mail or newspapers at the residence indicate that the resident is out of town. Trash not out at the curb on trash day also indicates that the resident is probably out of town.
- Poorly trimmed shrubs and bushes covering windows or doors can be used for cover or concealment while committing crimes and may make a house more attractive to criminals.
- Record serial numbers of electronics and store them in a safe place. If they are stolen, file a police report and include the serial numbers; often the police recover stolen property and cannot find the owner.
- If you decide to sell your house, be sure to remove valuables and medication. 📞

Police Officer Impersonation

Editor's note: this information is from an email sent to a discussion group in early March. I recently forwarded this to our Police contact, Officer Whetston and he is investigating.

An individual representing himself as a police officer contacted an elderly couple who lives in north central Austin. He stated the police had evidence they were passing counterfeit money and asked about- and they provided - personal information. He examined their cash, made a phone call, declared it to be counterfeit and took it. He even convinced the woman to drive him to the bank to withdraw more money but the suspicious bank manager called the police.



If you ever have questions about someone who claims to be a police officer, be sure you are safe and call 911 to verify their identify. 📞

Keep track of smart phones and computers

Want to track the location of your smart phone or laptop/desktop? Check into PreyProject.com Register, download a small app and if your registered device is misplaced or stolen, you can geo-locate it. Register and track up to 3 devices for free.

Another (not free) option is to sign up for absolute.com/lojackforlaptops/ 📞

Treating Fire Ants

from www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com/, the Texas AgriLife Extension, Texas A&M System
With the combination of rainfall and warm temperatures, fire ants are already taking a very active role this spring.

I've had questions about how to treat fire ants in certain areas. While broadcasting baits over an



area is a great idea to save time and reduce chemical use by not having to locate and treat each individual mound, baits may not be the best choice in certain situations.

When treating in vegetable gardens or landscapes that have food crops interspersed between other plants, if you want to use a bait, you need to choose wisely. There is a spinosad bait product that you can use within vegetable gardens and it would also be a good option for landscapes with food crops sprinkled about. Other items that can be used in vegetable gardens would be d-limonene mound drenches or pyrethrin/ DE dust. Some people choose to drench individual mounds with boiling water, but you must be careful handling the water as well as be aware that boiling water will kill any vegetation it comes into contact with.

Compost piles are another possibly puzzling area for fire ant treatment. Some choose to leave the fire ants within the compost pile because they can help to aerate the compost by creating tunnels and chambers. The downfalls of leaving fire ants in place would be that they may feed on other creatures that live within the compost pile and you would need to figure out what to do with the stinging possibility when want to apply the compost. Another option would be to use boiling water to drench the fire ant area of the compost. Boiling water may kill off some of the beneficial organisms with in the compost. It is also possible to bait around the outside of the compost with the product of your choice.



Regardless of your choice, please use caution when managing fire ants. Not only should you read and follow all product label instructions, but also take care when around these stinging ants. &

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 Northwood-NbrhdAssn-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, &

Find your neighbors - online white pages

Wonder who your neighbors are? Look in the online white pages - neighbors.whitepages.com &

Parmer Entrance looks great

Many thanks to neighbor Mike Dean for cutting the grass by the crosswalk on Parmer. He lives behind the wall and helps keep the public side looking beautiful as well. &

2012 Due\$ are due

The 2012 dues are due. They are \$15 and are for the calendar year 2012. 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.

Dues must be current to be eligible for financial assistance for treatment of oak wilt

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. &

Continuing Business

Police neighborhood contact

Our neighborhood police contact is Officer Michael Whetston. Contact him at 974-5553 or Michael.Whetston@austintexas.gov. To just report an incident, you may call 311. &



Police report

The City's new web site doesn't appear to have the detailed crime information easily available; the crime report below is from mylocalcrime.com.

Street	Crime	Time
<i>January</i>		
12800 Stepping stone Cv	Theft	11:17
3700 Woodchester	Theft	17:21
<i>February</i>		
4200 Oak Creek	Assault	12:40
4500 Columbine	Vandalism	18:46
<i>March</i>		
3700 Hidden Estates Drive	Assault	
12700 War path	Theft	13:12

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).



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. ☞

Calendar

- May 5 Spring Garage Sale
- July 4 Parade
- October 13 Fall Garage Sale
- December Yard of the Month

Classified Ad rates:	
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	Maria Barlow 739-8989 NorthwoodVicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Rosalia Nassaux 826-3111 NorthwoodSecretary@gmail.com
Treasurer	Nancy Grijalva 218-9492 NorthwoodTreasurer@gmail.com
The News from Northwood is a publication of the Northwood Neighborhood Association Editor Donna Blumberg 244-7500 northwoodna@yahoo.com	

THE HANDIEST MAN	
KEN METCALF	
4500 Oak Creek Dr. Austin TX 78727	512-501-0132 metcalf.ken@gmail.com



Want to get in shape and learn self defense without kicking or punching?

Join the Austin Aikido Club at the Northwest YMCA (tuition slightly higher for non-Y members). Classes meet MWF 7:15 - 8:30 austinaikidoclub@gmail.com

Wanted: People who are serious about losing weight and improving their health! Call for details: (512) 799-1075

Northwood Garage Sale Registration \$2.00 - register by May 4

Name _____

Address _____

Place this form and \$2.00 in the black Association mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail

Northwood 2012 dues \$15.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Make check payable for Northwood Neighborhood Association and mail to Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack Trail, Austin, TX 78727 (do not drop in the Association mailbox, it isn't waterproof). Be sure to subscribe to the Northwood email alerts: send a blank email to NorthwoodNbrhdAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Also join our Facebook and Yahoo discussion groups.