

News from Northwood

www.main.org/northwood

March/April 2012

Upcoming Events

July 4 parade

Bring flags to wave and decorated wagons and bikes to ride for the annual Independence Day parade. 10:00 AM. Meet at Oak Creek Cove (just west of Timberside). From there the route is Oak Creek to Manhasset. Anyone



who wishes a longer parade route, we suggest continuing to Council Bluff, turning left and going up Tamarack to Manhasset.

At Manhasset we will end the parade and have some refreshments. Everyone is invited to stop and meet neighbors in the shade (or continue with a longer parade if you prefer). If you have questions, call Cheryl at 244-4638. See you at 10:00 on July 4! ☺

2012 Dues are Due! see page 5

Neighborhood Notes

Neighborhood Sign Update

At the neighborhood meeting in April, neighbors were supportive of spending additional funds to complete the project. The next step needed will be to obtain TxDOT approval, with submission of the project design and an independent engineer's seal attesting that the sign and installation will not compromise the integrity of the wall. We hope to see completion of the project very soon! ☺

Improving the Milwood Library

The Milwood and Walnut Crossing Neighborhoods are putting together a working group to make recommendations for improvements to the Milwood Library on Amherst. They have been in contact with the City staff who suggested this effort as a first step. If you use the library and would like to participate, please contact Cheryl Vanek at 244-4368 or northwoodpresident@gmail.com ☺



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.



Stage 2 watering restrictions active

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions are still in effect for Austin Water customers. The combined levels of Lakes Buchanan and Travis are less than half full. Even though the recent rains have lessened the effects of the drought and added more water to the lakes, Lake Travis is 31 feet below its normal for May and Lake Buchanan is 16 feet below normal for this time of year.



To ensure that both residential and commercial customers follow restrictions, Austin Water staff is continuing enforcement. Violations of mandatory watering restrictions will result in an official warning followed by a citation if the violation is not corrected. Citations will be issued in Municipal Court with fines set during Stage 2 at \$475. To report violations, call 311.

For more information on water conservation, rebates and guidelines on watering gardens, visit WaterWiseAustin.org.

Northwood Mom’s Play group?

If you are a Northwood mom with a younger child who would like to meet other moms for a play group, contact Megan Parra at 736-6189 or megparra@gmail.com.

Oak wilt survey

We are nearing the end of oak wilt season. The tiny nitidulid “sap” beetles visit infected trees and get the spores on them and then land on a recently-cut healthy oak tree and infect it. Avoid pruning or injuring oaks from February to June, and immediately paint wounds on oak trees year round.

Several neighbors reported seeing crews trimming oak trees without painting, including in lots

of clearly vacant houses. One neighbor asked the crew their company name (apparently either the neighbor didn’t see the company truck or it had no name) and they said “the City”. When the City Arborist was contacted, he stated City tree trimming crews have specific procedures to follow when trimming oak trees.

If you see someone trimming oak trees without painting and are not comfortable talking to them, call 911. The police will talk to them.

If you have oak trees and they do not appear to be healthy, contact one of the Association officers; we will ask the Forester check your tree. For details on oak wilt, visit texasoakwilt.org.

Painting project? Free rebleded paint

If you need light or dark beige paint, consider Austin Resource Recovery’s Austin ReBlend paint, available in 5 gallon containers. Paint dropped off by customers is inspected before it is chosen to be used in Austin ReBlend. It is then consolidated, blended, filtered and packed by trained personnel to ensure a quality product. And it is free for residential and nonprofit use.

For details, visit austintexas.gov/department/austin-reblend.

Home & Family Safety

Drought danger - new web site

A new web site assesses the fire danger based on drought throughout Texas. It can be used by the public and emergency officials. www.texaswildfirerisk.com.



Delivery scam?

Some neighbors, especially those who have recently moved to Northwood (and elsewhere) have discovered delivery notices on their front doors from Compass. Be careful about calling the delivery company, especially if you have not ordered anything. Apparently they ask for personal information, including when you will be home so they can deliver a package; it may be a scam to learn when the house is empty. ☹

Top 20 causes of pet poisonings of 2011

From healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2012/04/25/top-pet-poisoning-causes.aspx

Chocolate	Raisins
Mushrooms	Xylitol (sweetener)
Grapes	Vitamins
Gum	Bones
Chicken	Macadamia Nuts
Sugar	Bread
Cake	Coffee
Corn Cobs	Dough
Meat	Rawhide
Salmon	Avocado

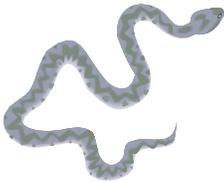
- Raisins and grapes, even in small amounts, can cause kidney failure.
- Vitamin poisoning in pets often involves vitamin D. Some pet owners give their dog or cat a vitamin D supplement, mistakenly assuming dogs and cats are as deficient as many people are in this important nutrient. However, most commercial pet foods have high levels of vitamin D added, so additional supplementation can create toxicity.
- Macadamia nuts are toxic for dogs and cause weakness, depression, vomiting, loss of coordination, tremors and hyperthermia.

- Rawhide chews, especially those manufactured outside the U.S., which are often advertised as ‘all natural,’ are usually anything but. And they can pose a number of health problems for dogs, including choking, vomiting, diarrhea, exposure to chemical residues, salmonella poisoning and stomach torsion.
- Regarding meat dangers, it’s usually spoiled, rancid meat that is most often the culprit. If you feed your pet real meat, whether from the local butcher or contained in a commercial raw pet food, you should know the rules for handling it. Fresh raw meat should be frozen for at least three days before serving it to your pet. This will kill any bacteria or parasites that may be present.
- If you prepare a homemade raw diet for your dog or cat, don’t include guts. Do not feed the stomach and small and large intestines. Those are the parts we get rid of, because those are the parts that harbor parasites. Never refreeze thawed meat. Once it’s thawed, it must be eaten immediately or thrown away.
- Cooked leftover meat that sits around too long can also turn rancid and potentially toxic, so proper food waste disposal is the key to keeping your pets from being poisoned by spoiled food.
- Avocados contain a substance called persin which in large quantities may be toxic to dogs and cats. However, there is much debate on this subject and no definitive answer. A definite problem with avocados is that dogs are known to swallow the pits and develop dangerous blockages in the GI tract.
- Salmon can cause poisoning in two ways. Old or leftover rancid fish can be found by your pet in a dumpster or garbage can, or the raw meat can cause “salmon poisoning.”



If you suspect your pet has been poisoned, immediately call your vet, an emergency vet or the ASPCA's hotline at 1-888-426-4435. The hotline is answered 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. 🐾

Don't be "rattled" by snakes



Ranchers and people who live in other neighborhoods have reported seeing more snakes this year than usual. One suburban dweller (not in Northwood) found a 6 foot snake in their backyard, and several Northwood neighbors who have ponds have seen snakes in them. At least some of the snakes in Northwood are not poisonous, per our resident herpetologist.

If you have small children or dogs, be aware that rattlesnakes don't always sound a warning before striking. There is a rattlesnake vaccine for dogs; ask your vet. For information about that, visit rattlesnakevaccinefordogs.com/ 🐾

General & Continuing News

Egg-cellent Easter Egg Hunt

Counting all the children at the Northwood Easter Egg Hunt this year was nearly impossible, but there were easily about 40, maybe more. It was a very successful event, highlighted by Maria's artistic face painting, bubbles and of course Easter eggs - Ann Sellers stuffed over 225 eggs. Lots of parents met again to chat and peel all that candy. We also had some newcomers and guests.

A big *thank you!* to Ann Sellars for all the egg stuffing and planning and to Rosalia Nassaux and Maria Barlow for their work in making this fun for everyone. 🐾

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, 🐾

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
Yard of the Month

April yard of the month - Leanna and Drew Berglund, 13017 Silver Creek. Without sprinklers this family keeps up with red and purple salvias, beautiful petunias, rosemary, and lantanas. They have nicely trimmed live oak trees to bring shade. With the harsh winter last year and the lack of rain earlier this year, the Berglunds work hard to keep everything green and refreshing. Congratulations! 🐾

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 Crime Viewer is available at www.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS/crime-viewer/CrimeReportSearch.html

Time	Street	Crime	
<i>March</i>			
Palomar	Credit card abuse	11:37	
<i>April</i>			
Lovage	Harassment	0:43	
Oak Bend	Debit card abuse	14:39	
Oak Creek	Credit card abuse	18:50	
Silver Creek	Theft	12:30	
Timberside	Disturbance-other	15:25	
<i>May</i>			
Barricks Cv	Suspicious activity	13:49	
Lovage	Debit card abuse	14:10	

A neighbor on Silver Creek reported mail, including bills, being stolen from their mailbox in late March.

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).



See a coyote? Call 311 to report

If you see a coyote, be sure to report the details (date, time, location) to 311. If there are enough sightings in an area, the coyotes will be relocated. And if you walk at or near night, consider carrying a walking stick for protection. ☞

2012 dues\$ are due.

The 2012 dues are due. They are \$15 and are for the calendar year 2012. The dues help pay for the newsletter and other projects we may undertake this year and may help pay for oak wilt treatment.

To be eligible for help on oak wilt treatment you must be current on your dues.

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, just complete the form at the end of this newsletter and mail a check to Treasurer Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack, Austin, TX 78727. A Texas-size "thank you!" to everyone who has already paid dues. *

Calendar

July	4	Parade
October	13	Fall Garage Sale
December		Yard of the Month

Unclassified

Summer Backyard Bible Schools

One backyard Bible school is available for children starting kindergarten through 4th grade from July 9-12, 9:00 - 10:15 at 12602 Palfrey Dr. For details, contact Megan Parra, 736-6189 or megparra@gmail.com.

Another backyard Bible school will be July 16 - 20 in the evenings at a home on Tamarack for ages 5 and up. For details, call Loretta at 310-1498. ☞



Classified Ad rates:

Business card \$15
1/4 page \$35
1/2 page \$60
Full page \$85

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Name _____ Phone _____

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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.