



News Northwood from

northwoodna.com

November / December 2012

Special News

New Northwood web site!

We have a new web site, northwoodna.com. Besides having more content, dues and even ads can be paid online through PayPal. ☺

Upcoming Events

Association Officer Elections in January

At our **January 26, 2013** meeting, elections will be held for the association officer positions. All current officers are willing to continue. If you would like to serve on the Association Board, contact one of the current officers (see the last page). ☺

Vote for December Yard of the Month

It's time to vote for the best lights and display in Northwood. There are 2 categories: Children's choice and best overall. Vote with the ballot on the last page and put it in the black Association mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail by **Dec. 21** or email your name(s) and choice(s) to northwoodsecretary@gmail.com by that date. Be sure to include the address, category (Children's choice or best overall) and voter's name. ☺



Northwood Sign Update

The Association Board signed an agreement with TxDOT regarding placement of the neighborhood sign on the wall at Silver Creek and Parmer Lane. The agreement addresses issues such as landscaping restrictions, maintenance and upkeep, and potential use of the area for future highway needs. Our sign contractor, Building Image Group, is ready to go so watch for installation to begin soon. ☺

Home & Family Safety

Don't get "decked"

In 2011 two deck failures in Austin resulted in the injury of 33 people; nationwide since 2000 there have been at least 23 deaths from deck failures. Many Austin decks were not built to current code standards and may not be safe. Also, decks that are aging (10 years and older) may not be safe simply due to the natural deterioration over time.

There are 2 main reasons for deck failures:

1. The ledger (the board that runs parallel to the side of the house and supports the edge of the deck, securing it to the house) is just nailed onto the house. Half the weight of the deck is on the ledger board and nails have a tendency to slide out over time. A ledger board needs to be

2012 Dues are Due! see page 4

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.



attached to the house with fasteners that are compatible with pressure treated lumber such as galvanized bolts, lags, or ACQ compatible Star Drive Lag Screws.

- 2. ROT! Decks were not been built correctly or have not been maintained are more susceptible to damage and weakening due to rot.

If you have a deck, inspect it annually. Look for:

- loose connections, corrosion or cracks
- corrosion of metal connectors, screws and nails

Create a path of connections that transfers the load through its frame to the ground and support structures, such as your home. A deck with a continuous load path will be better equipped to resist the forces that can weaken your deck. Regularly maintain and inspect for loose nails and boards, and protect from debris, water and sun damage

Look for rot's discoloration in the lumber or anything growing out of the wood. Test for rot by stabbing the wood with a sturdy knife point. If your knife goes in more than one quarter of an inch or you find spongy spots, that means the wood is decaying. If only a few boards are damaged, replace them. Do not just place a new board beside the rotted one; the rot will just invade the new board. If you find soft spots

in the support posts or beams, you will need to rebuild the deck. (This requires a building permit.) To minimize future problems, hire a professional that specializes in decks.



Third party inspectors can inspect an older deck. A list of such companies is available at austintexas.gov/page/deck-safety. ☞

During Holidays, Do the 5

From an article by the North Austin Community Neighborhoods Association

The holidays are as busy a time for criminals as for the rest of us. The house on either side of you and the three houses in front of you are your FIVE. Keep an eye on them, including taking hangers off the door, picking up papers, and anything else that will make your area of the neighborhood look lived in and cared for. Always call 311 for anything, even if it seems silly. Often it is the pattern of 311 calls that highlights a problem.

Always call 311 or 911 for unusual or suspicious activities; that information may help the police identify patterns and catch a criminal

Be extra suspicious of people wandering the neighborhood with cell phones and backpacks. Often they are casing the neighborhood, seeing if it will be an easy target, or if neighbors are willing to ask questions or call the police.


Holiday travel tips

If you leave home for the holidays, turn off the water at the street and drip or drain the pipes. If we get a hard freeze, that reduces the chances of you coming home to water damage from burst pipes.


Ask a neighbor to pick up the paper and mail etc., Leave your contact information with neighbors and leave keys with trusted people. (One year a cat was trapped in a garage but was eventually rescued). Disable your garage door opener and store it in a safe place. Mark valuables with your driver's license number and note their serial numbers where appropriate to increase the chances of getting stolen property returned. Back up your computer's information; ideally store that off site. ☞




Help for Family Caregivers

If you take care of family members such as elderly parents, young children or someone with special needs, visit the new web site of the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services www.taketimetexas.org. It has resources to support informal caregivers. *Take Time Texas* is the first statewide clearinghouse of information for services that allow caregivers to take a temporary break to restore or strengthen their ability to continue providing care for a child or adult with functional needs. The centerpiece of the website is the Texas Inventory of Respite Services, a database of more than 900 respite care providers across Texas. 



of information for services that allow caregivers to take a temporary break to restore or strengthen their ability to continue providing care for a child or adult with functional needs. The centerpiece of the website is the Texas Inventory of Respite Services, a database of more than 900 respite care providers across Texas. 

of information for services that allow caregivers to take a temporary break to restore or strengthen their ability to continue providing care for a child or adult with functional needs. The centerpiece of the website is the Texas Inventory of Respite Services, a database of more than 900 respite care providers across Texas. 

Winter Health Tips


By MedSpring.com

It's that time of year again! The cold air has brought with it a significant rise in sniffles and sneezes, not to mention allergens, cold and flu germs. With the holiday season approaching, it is important to take every precaution not only to keep yourself healthy, but also to look out for the health of your family and friends. There are a few easy steps you can take to reduce your chances of catching something this season.

First and foremost, wash your hands! And make sure those around you wash their hands, too. Poor hand sanitation is one of the fastest ways to spread germs that can make you sick.


Secondly, cover your cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, or into a tissue. If you do use your hands to cover a cough or sneeze, be sure to wash them immediately! So simple yet easy to forget while coughing or sneezing. It's important to train yourself and your loved ones to shield germs properly from spreading through the air.

Get a flu vaccination. Influenza is trending higher this year than in recent years, so you can never be too careful. The CDC encourages most people over the age of 6 months to receive a flu shot every year. The vaccine is especially important for those who are at high risk of developing serious complications should they contract the flu or those who care for others who are at high risk of complications (like children or the elderly). There is a common misconception that the flu shot can actually give you the flu. While some people do experience mild side effects from the vaccine, the injection contains inactive flu virus cells that cannot actually give you the flu. MedSpring Urgent Care centers around Austin are providing flu shots for just \$19 each.

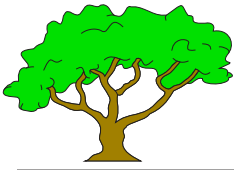
MedSpring Urgent Care is available to help you navigate any potential holiday maladies or mishaps. Whether sickness gets the best of you this season, or an unexpected injury arises, MedSpring is a comfortable and convenient alternative to the emergency room. With doctors on-site from 9 AM to 9 PM daily, patients can walk-in or call ahead to be treated for a wide range of injuries and illnesses. For details, please visit www.MedSpring.com. 

Neighborhood Notes

Bluegrass Musicians Wanted

Do you play bluegrass music and would you like to get together with others in Northwood who play? If so contact banjo player John Ricketts, jon_ricketts1@mac.com or 512-217-6437. 





Continuing Business

Join the Northwood Facebook, 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 and Facebook group, Northwood Neighborhood Association, where neighbors can discuss issues or ask questions. To join this, go to our web site northwoodna.com 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 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, or pay through PayPal on the web site. A Texas-size Thank You! To everyone who has paid their dues! ☞

Yard of the Month

Congratulations to September’s Yard of the Month winner Robert Williams, 12722 Timberside. He consulted with the Lady Bird Wildflower Center to create a colorful, yet drought resistant landscape that includes Flame Acanthus, Flox, Guara, Yellow Lantana, Ruellia, Four Nerve Daisy, Cherry Red Sage, White Sage, Mealy Blue Sage, Mexican Feathergrass, Yellow Yarrow, and Upright Rosemary near the curb. Closer to the house there is Blue Verbena, Giant Liriope, Mexican Heather, Yarrow, Asparagus Fern, Wood Fern, Black Wire Vine. ☞

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/crimeviewer/CrimeReportSearch.html. You can subscribe to a daily crime report for any area (such as for 1 mile) around your address at spotcrime.com.



Sept

Timberside	Burglary of Vehicle	23:13
Oak Creek	Harassment	7:58
Council Bluff	Theft	14:36

October

Woodchester	Abandoned vehicle	9:46
Council Bluff	Assault w/ injury/ Date violence	18:44
Lovage	Assist Complainant	11:03 & 20:24

Steppingstone	Burglary of Vehicle	8:17
Oak Creek	Burglary of Vehicle	8:27
Oak Creek	Burglary of Vehicle	9:36
Stepping Stone	Burglary of Vehicle	10:07
Oak Creek	Criminal Mischief	8:50
Silver Creek	Theft From Auto	7:14

November

Beaconsdale	Burglary of residence	11:27
-------------	-----------------------	-------

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, contact the editor at 244-7500 or northwoodna@gmail.com. An anonymous description of the incident will be included in the police report section of the newsletter. ☞



Calendar

December

Holiday Yard of the Month

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@gmail.com

THE HANDIEST MAN

KEN METCALF

4500 Oak Creek Dr. 512-501-0132
 Austin TX 78727 metcalf.ken@gmail.com

Classified Ad rates:

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



Direct 512-739-8989
 Voice Mail 512-502-7788
 e-Fax 866-296-5074
 Maria-Barlow@jbgoodwin.com
 www.MBarlowRealtor.com

Maria Barlow, GRI
 REALTOR®
 Sales and Leasing Consultant

JBGGoodwin REALTORS®

3933 Stock, Suite B-110
 Austin, TX 78759



December yard of month contest - place in black mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack by 12/21

Adult Voter 1 name: _____ address-best yard _____

Adult Voter 2 name: _____ address-best yard _____

Adult Voter 3 name: _____ address-best yard _____

Child Voter 1 name: _____ address-children's choice _____

Child Voter 2 name: _____ address- children's choice _____

Child Voter 3 name: _____ address- children's choice _____

Northwood 2012 dues \$15.00

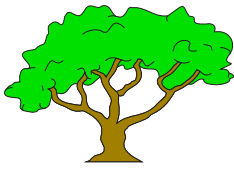
Name _____ Phone _____

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). Or pay through PayPal on the northwoodna.com web site.

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.



**FACI'S
HOME REMODELING & REPAIR**

611 w Powell Lane, Austin Texas

Kitchen Remodeling

Additions and Deck Building

Solid Surface Fabrication and Granite Tops

Fogged Glass Repair

Floating Wood Floors installed

Handyman Work

New Fences

New Hot Water Heaters

Bathroom remodeling

Custom Cabinetry

Replacement Windows

Tile Installation

Electrical & Plumbing Services

New Roofs

Blown in Attic Insulation

New Ceiling Fans

PHONE 512 784.3003

Email jofaci@yahoo.com

Owner: Joe Faciszewski

Mention this ad and I will take 10% off my labor

**60 minutes
of ME
time**

"Juggling a career and being a mom is challenging. Jazzercise is my time for ME! It's fun and the hour flies by. I love setting a good example of a fit lifestyle for my daughters."
- Ann, 35

**One Free Class
& 50% off
Joining Fee**

**Jazzercise Wells Branch
Fitness Center**
3407 Wells Branch Parkway #800
Austin, Texas 78728
jazzwellsbranch@gmail.com

WARNING: ANN IS **NOT** A SUPERMODEL.
The picture is the way it is all day - no Photoshop! No tricks, no gimmicks.
Jazzercise® shows and proves fitness. SEE, BELIEVE AND FEEL IT!
They look at home and in the classroom and get amazing results.

jazzercise. real Results
jazzercise.com | @03/FIT-IS-IT

