



www.northwoodna.com

January/February 2013

Association News

Officer Elections for 2013

The general meeting, including election of officers, took place January 26 at Milwood Library, after this issue was sent to the printer. Results of the meeting, both elections and other topics that were discussed, will be in the March/April issue. ☺

2013 Due\$ Are Due

The 2013 dues of \$15 are due. The dues pay for the gift certificates for the yard of the month and help pay for the newsletter. They can also help eligible 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. Only residents who are current on their dues are eligible for financial help with oak wilt treatment.

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, either complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail a check to Treasurer Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack or pay through PayPal on the website, northwoodna.com. ☺

Northwood Sign Project Done

We hope everyone has had a chance to see the neighborhood sign that has been installed at the

corner of Silver Creek and Parmer Lane. The final cost was just over \$4300 and we believe was money well spent to help identify our neighborhood. ☺

Upcoming Events

Easter Egg Hunt

The neighborhood Easter Egg hunt is scheduled for Sunday March 17, with a rain date of March 24. 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!)

For more information or to help out with face painting or other activities that day, contact Maria Barlow, northwoodvicepresident@gmail.com. Mark your calendars and watch for the signs and email announcements, as you will not get the next newsletter before the hunt. ☺

Spring Garage Sale May 4

The spring garage sale will be May 4. It's time for spring cleaning! ☺

Dues are due!

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



Family Health/Safety

Reuse Grocery Bags? Keep 'em Clean!

From an article on austin360.com

Effective March 1, most stores will no longer have single-use plastic bags available. If you bring and reuse your own bags, be sure to clean them periodically.



A 2010 study in Arizona tested 84 reusable bags; half of them carried some form of coliform bacteria, including e-coli. And 97% of those interviewed said they never wash or bleach their bags. If you never wash your bags and you store them in the trunk of your car, especially during the hot summer months, you're creating an incubator that encourages bacteria growth.

To clean canvas bags, toss them in the wash. Bags coated with plastic need to be wiped clean - use a bleach or antibacterial spray cleaner or antibacterial wipes. Some bags, including those made with nylon or nonwoven polypropylene, can be run through the washer on gentle cycle on cold without falling apart. Avoid the dryer.

Also consider using the same reusable bag for meat and fish on every grocery trip and another specifically for fresh produce. If you clearly label the bags and point them out to the grocery bagger, you can help avoid cross-contamination. Wash the meat and produce bags more frequently than the bags that carry the already packaged items.

Also, use the product or noncheckout bags — the lightweight bags found in the bakery, bulk, produce and meat sections; they add an extra layer of food safety protection. These bags are exempt in Austin's bag ordinance, and in recent years, many retailers have added a roll of these bags near the poultry, whose packaging is notoriously leaky. &

Avoid This Season's Severe Flu

by MedSpring

Across the country, people of all ages are suffering from colds or the flu in record numbers. In fact, experts are predicting this will be the worst flu season of the last decade. Doctors' offices and emergency rooms are filling up with patients suffering from respiratory illnesses, and since the common cold and the flu share many of the same symptoms it can be difficult for patients to tell the difference.

Cold and flu sufferers alike can experience symptoms such as stuffy nose, fatigue, cough and headache. With a cold, symptoms are typically less severe and tend to develop gradually over time. Flu symptoms, on the other hand, tend to develop rapidly with little or no warning, and can include a high fever, though not everyone with the flu will have a fever, as well as nausea, chills, and body aches. The most definitive way to make the determination is to visit a doctor who can administer a flu test. Often the common cold can be treated with lots of rest, fluids and over the counter medication. A patient who tests positive for the flu medication may be prescribed such as Tamiflu, in addition to rest and fluids, to help them fight the virus.



With the rapid onset of flu symptoms, it can be difficult to get a last-minute appointment with your primary care provider, and emergency rooms are expensive and time-consuming options for seeking non-life threatening care. MedSpring Urgent Care has 6 locations in the Austin area, all open from 9am to 9 pm every day. Walk-in patients are welcome in addition to call-ahead appointments, and the average visit time, from check-in to check-out, is less than an hour. For more information about MedSpring, please visit www.MedSpring.com/AustinTX.



News from Northwood

There are some easy steps you can take to help prevent illness this season. To prevent the flu, your best line of defense is getting the flu shot. The CDC recommends that people aged 6 months and older get a flu shot annually. While supplies last, MedSpring locations are offering flu shots for just \$19.

The next best thing you can do is wash or sanitize your hands regularly. Studies have shown that viruses can live on non-porous surfaces for up to 48 hours, including light switches, elevator buttons, door knobs, refrigerator handles and grocery carts. Avoid touching your eyes and mouth whenever possible, and sanitize your hands regularly to protect yourself and those around you. ☺

Federal Benefits checks going paperless from www.godirect.org

Effective March 1, 2013, the Treasury Department is requiring all Social Security, VA, SSI and other federal beneficiaries to receive their benefits by electronic payment. Senior citizens and other federal beneficiaries may choose either direct deposit or the Treasury-recommended Direct Express Debit Mastercard.

This change is NOT optional. Besides saving taxpayers money, switching to electronic payments provides a safer, more convenient and cost-effective way than checks for people to get their federal benefits.

If you need help in switching, either visit www.godirect.org or call the Treasury's secure Go Direct Call Center, 800-333-1795; the change should take less than 10 minutes. When you visit the web site or call, have either your most recent benefit check or 12-digit federal benefit check number available. Also, for direct deposit, know your bank or credit union's routing number and your account number. ☺

Neighborhood Notes

Christmas Yards of the Month

Thank you Northwood voters! We congratulate our December winners:

Best Lights was awarded to Joey and Karen Case, 4100 Oak Creek. Their house was beautifully adorned with lights; their yard also had a lighted snowman, deer and numerous other decorations. Norma Blair, 4304 Tamarack, won Children's Choice with a beautiful display of a number of inflatables that children (and adults) enjoyed.



Honorable mention homes: 12830 Timberside, 3806 Tamarack and, 12706 Silver Creek.

Thank you to everyone that put so much effort into their holiday lights and scenery! It is the caring we all have for our homes and neighborhood that make living in Northwood so special. ☺

Watch for Oak Wilt

Information is available at Northwest Austin Civic Assn, www.nwaca.org/oakwilt/ and at austintexas.gov/departments/oakwilt-suppression

As winter turns to spring and trees begin to get their leaves, if you have any oak trees be sure to watch them closely. If their leaves do not seem to be budding and growing normally, that might indicate oak wilt. If you suspect oak wilt, contact one of the Association officers; a tree expert will be called to check the tree. More details and examples of infected leaves are available at the northwoodna.com web site, in the Newsletters, Special Interest Articles section.

If caught in time, an infected tree can be injected with a fungicide to save the tree. Some species die fairly quickly after being infected; others can survive longer, which means the fungicide has a better chance of working.



News from Northwood

Treating a tree may save that tree but does NOT stop the oak wilt fungus from traveling through the roots to nearby oak trees; digging a trench deep enough to cut the intertwined roots is the only way to do that – and is very expensive.

The Association may pay half of the cost of treatment, up to \$500, for eligible residents.

Eligibility requirements:

- Homeowner must be current on dues and any other obligations with the neighborhood association (NNA)
- Homeowner must use treatment specialist selected by the NNA
- Homeowner must pay his/her portion in full at the time services are rendered
- Homeowner must agree to all requirements, including cost-sharing provision &

Northwood Home Sales



According to Realtor Barbara Hilliard, in 2012 there were 19 Northwood houses sold. The lowest sales price was \$158,000 for 1,379 sf, the highest was \$240,000 for 2,277 sf and the median was \$200,000. The median days on market was 16. The low and high price per square foot were \$91.68 and \$151.45.

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

Yr	Nbr sold	low	high	avg days on mkt	avg price
12	19	158,000	240,000	17	200,821
11	19	135,000	225,000	27	184,371
10	18	165,000	275,000	25	211,975
09	25	149,145	235,750	22	

08	30	162,000	244,000	45	
07	29	185,900	254,000	40	212,191
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

In 2000 there were 31 home sales in Northwood. The lowest price paid was \$119,000 for a home in need of renovation and the highest price was \$200,000. The average days on market was 12 and the average sales price was in the upper \$140s with the average price per square foot at \$85.

In 1999 there were 41 sales in Northwood ranging from a low of \$113,500 to a high of \$169,900. The average price per sq. foot for all of these sales was \$71. In 1998 29 homes were sold, with prices ranging from \$102,900 to \$159,500. The 1997 range was \$90,900 to \$144,500. &

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.

2012 volunteers include:

Yard of the Month	Rosalia Nassaux
Garage Sales	Cheryl Vanek
Easter Egg Hunt	Ann Sellars, Maria Barlow, Rosalia Nassaux and others
Newsletter	Donna Blumberg, D Culley
Web site	Donna Blumberg
Newsletter Section captains	Janie Schafer, Michael Magrill, Dewey Coffman
Newsletter delivery	All the block captains



News from Northwood

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 www.northwoodna.com and complete the form. ☞

Quarterly board meetings

The Northwood Neighborhood Association board meets every quarterly. These meetings are open to all residents. We meet at the Milwood Library, the meeting dates are on the website. ☞

Police Contact

The officer assigned to Northwood is Michael Whetston. Contact him at 512.974-5553 or michael.whetston@austintexas.gov for non-emergency questions. To report an incident to the police, call 311. ☞



Police report

If you need to report something and do not want to have an officer come to Northwood, call at 311 to make a report or go to the austintexas.gov site and search for **ireport**. The incident may seem like an isolated one to you, but to the police it can be part of a pattern and could provide them with needed information. You may also contact the officer assigned to Northwood, as noted in the previous article.

The incidents listed below were listed on the City police department crime report web page, www.austintexas.gov/GIS/CrimeViewer/. You can also

subscribe to a daily crime report for any area (such as for 1 mile) around your address at www.spotcrime.com.

<i>November</i>		<i>time</i>
Crash/accident	Burr Oak	10:31
Family disturbance	Silver Creek	20:01
<i>December</i>		
Burglary of residence	Tamarack Trail	14:08
Found property	Silver Creek	12:55
Suspicious activity	Beaconsdale	6:55
Theft	Silver Creek	14:34
Trademark Counterfeiting	Tamarack	16:05
<i>Jan</i>		
Burglary of residence	Oak Creek	18:15

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

Articles deadline

The deadline for getting articles and ads to the editor is the 15th of each odd-numbered month (January, March, etc.) except for September. That month the deadline is the 3rd—the newsletter must get out early because of the October garage sale.

Calendar of Events

March	17	Easter Egg Hunt
March	24	Rain date Egg Hunt
May	4	Spring Garage Sale
July	4	Parade
October	12	Fall Garage Sale



News from Northwood

Unclassified

For sale - Ethan Allen corner desk and dresser.
\$325 for both or \$175 each, in very good shape.
The dresser has 3 drawers. The shelves on the
desk hutch are all adjustable and it has a drawer.
Together, three pieces. For photos or questions,
call 512.762.4020 or email mabernard_7@yahoo.
com .

Officers:

President Cheryl Vanek 244-4368
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Vice President Maria Barlow 739-8989
NorthwoodVicePresident@gmail.com
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The News from Northwood is a publication of the
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THE HANDIEST MAN
KEN METCALF

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Austin TX 78727 metcalf.ken@gmail.com



News from Northwood

Northwood 2013 Dues \$15.00

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.

Comparative Market Analysis	
Northwood Subdivision - October 1st, '12 to January 10th, '13	
PROPERTIES FOR SALE	
NUMBER OF ACTIVE LISTINGS	2
AVERAGE LIST PRICE	\$204,500
HIGH	\$209,500
LOW	\$199,500
PENDING SALES (UNDER CONTRACT)	
NUMBER OF PENDING SALES	4
AVERAGE LIST PRICE	\$199,825
HIGH	\$214,900
LOW	\$194,500
SOLD PROPERTIES	
NUMBER OF CLOSED SALES	2
AVERAGE SALES PRICE	\$204,900
HIGH	\$239,900
LOW	\$169,900
AVERAGE DAYS ON THE MARKET	35 Days
Pending & Active data is from January 10th	
	Call Maria for 2013 Economic Forecast with Value and Selling Plan for Your Home.
	MARIA BARLOW , Realtor®, ABR, GRI 512-739-8989
	Maria-Barlow@JBGGoodwin.com JB Goodwin Realtors®, Inc
<i>This is not intended to solicit a property already listed.</i>	



News from Northwood
