



# News Northwood from

[www.northwoodna.com](http://www.northwoodna.com)

September / October 2013

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Neighborhood Garage Sale**

The Fall Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 12, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine. Registration for the garage sale will be from September 30 through October 11. The registration form is in the back of this newsletter. The registration fee of two dollars (\$2.00) and the registration form in this newsletter should be deposited in the black Association mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail.

The garage sale will be advertised in the Austin American Statesman and signs will be put out the day of the sale. The two-dollar fee is used to offset the cost of the ad and the cost of the signs.

Friday Presale - we'll have a 'pre-sale' event Friday night just for Northwood people—it will not be advertised outside this newsletter. Turn your porch light on and open the garage door if you want to participate.

Remember to register by October 11. Questions? Call Cheryl Vanek at 244-4368. ☞

## *Neighborhood Notes*

### **Association Officer Elections in January; Association help needed**

At our January 2013 meeting, elections will be held for the association officer positions. The Vice President position is open. As the other officers have served for several years, we would like to get some new residents involved. We also have activities such as the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Yard of the Month for which volunteers are needed. And we have a need for accounting or legal skills related to our status as a nonprofit organization.

Involvement only takes about an hour a month and typically up to 3 hours when special projects are being carried out. If you would like to learn more about how you can keep Northwood a great place to live, please contact one of the current officers (see the last page). ☞

### **Many city maps are available**

Ever wish you could see a map of a certain part of Austin? The City's web site has many maps available, from development to flood plains, crime, parks, Austin Energy's storm / power outage panel and more... even for art in public places. Go to [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov) and search for Maps. ☞

2013 Dues are Due! see page 3

**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.



## Home & Family Safety

### Handy use for car alarms

Most cars now have remote access controls, which have 'panic' buttons to start the car's alarm (horn). Especially if you park your car outside, keep your keys by your bed at night. Then if you need help for any reason (outside disturbance, family emergency), press the panic button. Your car's horn will start honking, and neighbors should hear and investigate, even if in the middle of the night.

This is also helpful for seniors who live with someone; if the senior falls while outside they can call for help through the panic button.

Also keep your keys in your hand while walking to your car in a parking lot for the same reason - a horn that keeps honking and won't quit for a long time gets attention. ☞

### Keep your doors locked

*Editor's note: This recently happened to a friend who lives in south Austin; it could easily happen here.*

She and her husband were home alone one afternoon when she heard her husband say "what you are doing here?" A heavily tattooed young man with a shaved head was sitting in her husband's office chair. When gently told to leave, he got up. He was slow moving and very disoriented, mumbling about losing his car, and he started walking further into the house. He did not smell like alcohol; possibly he was on some type of drug.

A mutual friend works at the Austin State Hospital and noted he could have been a patient from the State Hospital who had been arrested but was judged incompetent to stand trial due to symptoms of mental illness. Regardless of that

young man's reason for his state, when they firmly told him to leave, fortunately he did so. They called 911 as soon as he left; since he didn't steal anything the police said they would file a criminal trespassing charge. Needless to say, they now always lock their doors.

Keep your doors - even the back door - locked, keep your garage door closed and use 3" dead bolts that cannot be easily kicked in. And don't put bills (with checks) in your unlocked mailbox for the postal carrier to pick up; those can easily be stolen. ☞

### Smartphone photos pose privacy risks

From [Snopes.com](http://Snopes.com)

Most smart phones have GPS receivers so their locations - and the locations of photos people take with them - can be precisely located. When these photographs are shared (posted on Facebook or other web sites), knowledgeable viewers can access that GPS information and learn exactly where the photo was taken - such as a child's bedroom or school.

There is a way to turn off a phone's GPS location feature, usually located in the Setting menu area (the exact location will vary on different phones.) ☞

### Emergency planning for pets

If you have a pet, what happens to that pet during a disaster if you suddenly have to evacuate your house? Do you have a pet carrier ready so you can quickly and safely transport your pet? And if you and your pet and carrier become separated, how can you be reunited? Plan ahead!

Create an emergency kit for your pet and place it in the carrier. It should include:

- collar, leash, ID tag with your phone number
- copy of immunization and health records
- pet muzzle to prevent bites to rescue workers
- picture of your pet
- pet food/water, toys, treats, medication for 3 days (refresh periodically)



There is a form in this newsletter and on the northwoodna.com web site (newsletters, special interest articles section) that has places for your pet and owner contact information and more. Fill that out and place it in your pet's carrier. ♪

### 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@yahoogroups.com. We also have a discussion group and Facebook group, Northwood Neighborhood Association, where neighbors can discuss issues or ask questions. To join these, go to our web site northwoodna.com. The Facebook group is open to all; the discussion group is only open to Northwood residents. ♪

#### 2013 Due\$ are due

The 2013 dues are due. They are \$15 and are for the calendar year 2013. The dues pay for the gift certificates for the yard of the month and help pay for the newsletter and some special activities. ♪

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, either complete the form on the back of this news-

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

letter and mail a check to the treasurer at the address listed on the form or visit our web site [www.northwoodna.com](http://www.northwoodna.com) and pay with a credit card and PayPal.

A Texas-size Thank You! to everyone who has paid their dues! ♪

#### Police neighborhood contact

Our neighborhood police contact is Officer Michael Whetston. Contact him at 512.974-5553 or Michael.Whetston@austintexas.gov. To just report an incident, you may call 311. ♪

#### Police report

The City's Crime Viewer is available at [austintexas.gov](http://austintexas.gov); search for Maps. You can subscribe to a daily crime report for any area (such as for 1 mile) around your address at [spotcrime.com](http://spotcrime.com).

At the end of August one neighbor reported that overnight someone spray painted their cars, which were parked in the driveway, and their neighbor's garage door was also spray painted.



#### July

Lovage Harassment 10:24

#### August

Oak Creek Disturbance 17:04

Oak Creek Theft 13:07

Oak Creek Theft 9:46

Oak Creek Cir. Theft 9:46

Oak Creek Dr. Theft 13:07

Seneca (near McNeil Estates) Burglary of Vehicle 18:35

Timberside Criminal Mischief 9:05

#### September

Timberside Graffiti 11:00

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 512.244-7500 or [northwoodna@gmail.com](mailto:northwoodna@gmail.com). An anonymous description of the incident will be included in the police report section of the newsletter. ♪

#### Calendar

October 13 Fall Garage Sale  
December Holiday Yard of the Month



<b>Officers:</b>		The News from Northwood is a publication of the Northwood Neighborhood Association Editor Donna Blumberg 244-7500 northwoodna@gmail.com
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**Northwood 2013 dues \$15.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Either pay dues through PayPal on our website, [northwoodna.com](http://northwoodna.com) or write a check payable for Northwood Neighborhood Association and mail to Treasurer 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](mailto:NorthwoodNbrhdAssn-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). Also join our Facebook and Yahoo discussion groups; see the [northwoodna.com](http://northwoodna.com) web site for details.

**Hello Northwood Neighbors!**

Tired? Overworked? Not enough hours in the day?  
With your busy schedule it's a jungle out there! Wouldn't it be great to step into a clean home? Let the professionals at Squeaky Kleen do the work and make your life easier.

**SQUEAKY KLEEN IS NOW BUSY BROOM**

**..but the Squeaky Kleen service will never change!**

- Over 25 years experience, Family owned and operated
- Neighborhood References available upon request
- See our YELP.COM Squeaky Kleen reviews

**Use this coupon for a 20% discount for first time clients  
Gwendolyn Mask, Owner 512.589.3296**



### Take care of your pets in an emergency

Record emergency information, laminate and place in pet carrier

Pet name/breed \_\_\_\_\_

Pet birth year/approx. age \_\_\_\_\_ Microchip number: \_\_\_\_\_

Pet medications: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner name/contact \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian name: \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Veterinarian Address \_\_\_\_\_

#### Include

- ✓ picture of pet for identification
- ✓ collar, leash and ID tag with your phone number
- ✓ pet food/water and medications for 3 days
- ✓ copy of immunization and health records
- ✓ pet muzzle (prevent bites to emergency workers)

#### Garage Sale Registration

Register by October 11; put this form and \$2.00 in the black Association mailbox at the curb at 4507 Tamarack.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_