



# News Northwood from

www.northwoodna.com

November / December 2013

## *Upcoming Events*

### *Association Officer Elections in January*

At our January 23 meeting at the Milwood Library at 7 PM, elections will be held for the association officer positions. The Vice President position is vacant. Current officers are willing to continue, and would like to get more folks with fresh ideas involved - it only takes a few hours a month. If you would like to serve on the Association Board, contact one of the current officers (see the last page).



There are other options for folks who want to help keep Northwood a great neighborhood without being an officer - just ask! ☺

### *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**, email your choices to northwoodsecretary@gmail.com by that date. Be sure to include the address, category (Children's choice or best overall) and voter's name. ☺



## *Home & Family 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.

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

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.



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 away from your home. ☞

through email; you can also get emergency information via text messages if you wish.

Per a NextDoor employee, the City of Austin is formalizing an agreement to use NextDoor to communicate emergency information to neighborhoods. This might have been helpful during the Halloween "rain bomb" (when the creek overflowed onto Oak Creek), as well as for future emergencies. ☞

## Neighborhood Notes

### New way of sharing information with "next door" neighbors



There's a new (free) web site that is dedicated to neighborhoods that want to share information with only their neighbors and/or surrounding neighborhoods: [nextdoor.com](http://nextdoor.com).

Already over 80 Northwood neighbors are members of the Nextdoor Northwood group, and have used it to ask questions ("need a dentist", "lost/found dog" or "eyesore house on Oak Creek"), announce events and share general information. It has replaced the Yahoo discussion group simply because people are using that instead of the Yahoo group. It gets at least as much traffic, if not more than the Northwood Facebook page.

To join the Northwood Nextdoor community, go to [www.nextdoor.com/](http://www.nextdoor.com/) and sign up; you'll need to add your address to join the Northwood group rather than another one. You control how much information others can see about you. And when you post information, you can either limit it to Northwood or share with nearby neighborhoods (which currently includes 269 folks from Northwood and nearby neighbors from Preston Oaks, Milwood, etc.) . If you are selling a sofa or looking for a roofer recommendation, that means more possible buyers or sources of information.

General information from Nextdoor is shared

### Google Fiberhood update

From [googlefiberblog.blogspot.com/2013/11/just-for-austin-how-youll-be-able-to.html](http://googlefiberblog.blogspot.com/2013/11/just-for-austin-how-youll-be-able-to.html)

Per the above web page, as of mid November the head of Google Fiber posted some information about which neighborhoods will be first to get the new, blazingly fast fiber internet connections. We - each "fiberhood" (parts of Austin; no details yet of their sizes or boundaries) - will "vote" for the fiberhood connection by signing up.

Each fiberhood has a signup goal. Once we reach that goal, Google will install the last mile of fiber between their fiberhood station "cabinets" and the homes. Next year Google will post an online, real-time map of the fiberhoods: that way everyone in any fiberhood can check to see how close they are to their goals.

One important point: the signup period only lasts a few weeks. If a fiberhood misses their goal, they won't get the opportunity for a long time; Google will move on to other parts of the city. So if you are interested at all in being able to download and watch TV shows and YouTube videos without waiting, upload or download files very quickly and more, be sure to sign up!

The fiberhood signup period only lasts a few weeks; if the goal isn't met, they move on to the next fiberhood.

To be notified, check - and join - the Northwood



Nextdoor site, subscribe to our website updates at [www.northwoodna.com](http://www.northwoodna.com) or join our Yahoo discussion group. 

**Finally, help for finals and other tests**

Need help in math, English, history, economics, finance, science classes, and more, for students from kindergarten through college and beyond? Visit for thousands of free video tutorials on these topics.

“Khan Academy is an organization on a mission. We’re a not-for-profit with the goal of changing education for the better by providing a free world-class education for anyone anywhere.” All teachers, parents and students should check out this site. 

**Northwood Real Estate Update**

By Linda Holmbeck, REALTOR® - Horizon Realty Austin As of 11/15/13

- 3 – Number of homes sold in Northwood (last 90 days)
- 4 – Average number of days homes in Northwood spent on the market (last 90 days)
- 1 – Active listing on the market in Northwood
- 2 – Pending listings on the market in Northwood
- \$256,800 – Average sales price for homes sold in Northwood (last 90 days)
- 2.7 – Months of inventory of single-family homes in the Austin Market
- \$286,600 - Average sales price in Austin
- 22% - Annual home sales in the Austin area up 22% YTD from 2012

Austin is expected to continue to boom and grow through 2014 according to Dr. Jim Gaines, Research Economist with the Texas A&M Real Estate Center. The Austin real estate market is currently experiencing the three keys things that predict future home sales: Job growth, low mortgage rates and price appreciation.

Austin has a pent up demand for housing and inventory remains low which is driving prices up. Buyer psychology is also having an effect on rising prices since buyers feel more urgency to buy before prices rise even higher. If you’re a buyer looking to buy a home you should be prepared to act quickly when you find a house you like while prices are still affordable and interest rates remain low. If you’re thinking about selling, it’s the “perfect storm” – a great time to sell. 

**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 Facebook group, Northwood Neighborhood Association, where neighbors can discuss issues or ask questions and the new Nextdoor group. To join this, go to our web site [www.northwoodna.com](http://www.northwoodna.com) and complete the form. And/or consider Nextdoor. 

**Police report**

The City’s Crime Viewer is available at [www.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS/crimeviewer/CrimeReportSearch.html](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/GIS/crimeviewer/CrimeReportSearch.html), or search for “crime report”. You can subscribe to a daily crime report for any area (such as for 1 mile) around your address at [www.spotcrime.com](http://www.spotcrime.com).

*September*

Burglary of residence	Tamarack	12:38
Fraud	Timberside	13:06

*October*

Burglary of vehicle	Oak Creek	9:38
Criminal Mischief	Northfield	6:56
Criminal Mischief	Silver Creek	11:53



False Alarm or report Northfield 16:03  
November  
Criminal Mischief Oak Creek 9:25

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

**Calendar**

December Holiday Yard of the Month

<b>Classified Ad rates:</b>	
Business card	\$15
1/4 page	\$35
1/2 page	\$60
Full page	\$85

<b>Officers:</b>		
President	Cheryl Vanek	244-4368
	NorthwoodPresident@gmail.com	
Vice President	- vacant	
	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		





*Your  
real estate goals  
are  
my priority*

I've lived in Northwood for over 22 years and have been a REALTOR for 13. We live in one of the most unique and desirable neighborhoods in North Austin.

Austin is currently a seller's market, so I would love the opportunity to meet with you if you're considering buying or selling. I'll focus on your individual needs and provide you with the highest level of service.

**Linda Holmbeck**  
**ABR, CRS, GRI, REALTOR®**  
**[www.austinhomesbylinda.com](http://www.austinhomesbylinda.com)**  
**512-653-4644**



December Holiday Yard of the Month contest - place in black mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail or email to [Northwoodsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:Northwoodsecretary@gmail.com) by December 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 \_\_\_\_\_

