



News from Northwood

www.northwoodna.com

March/April 2014

Election Results

Officers Reelected / New Officer

The current officers - President, Secretary and Treasurer - were unanimously reelected at the January 27 meeting and welcomed our new Vice President, Jeanie Beckham. ☺

Upcoming Events

Spring garage sale May 3

The Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 3rd from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine, with a neighborhood preview Friday May 2 (details follow). Registration for the garage sale will be from April 24 through May 2. The registration form is in the back of this newsletter.

The garage sale will be advertised in the Austin American Statesman and signs will be put out the day of the sale.

Friday Presale - lots of professional garage sale shoppers start extra early on Saturday, before "normal" people, and lots of neighbors like to shop Friday night. So we'll have a 'pre-sale' event Friday night just for Northwood people—it will not be advertised outside this newsletter.

If you are selling and want to be open Friday night, turn your porch light on and open your garage door. If you only want to sell Saturday and just get ready on Friday evening, keep your garage door closed and porch light off. For people who want to shop on Friday, around dusk is a good time to start shopping.

Remember to register by May 2! Check the back of this newsletter for your registration form and deposit it and the \$2.00 in the black Association mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail. If you have any questions about the sale, contact Cheryl Vanek at 244-4368. ☺

Projects / Updates

Oak wilt survey

From austintexas.gov/page/oak-wilt-suppression and www.texasoakwilt.org/

If you have oak trees, now is the time of year to check for oak wilt. Watch the oak trees as their leaves bud. Oak wilt symptoms first appear in late spring or early summer. Leaves turn a dull, bronzed brown at the tips and along the outer margins, with a sharp line separating discolored from normal green tissue. Leaves discolor, wilt, and fall at the top of the tree first, and later at the tips of the lateral branches.

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.



If you see any trees that match this description, contact one of the Association officers. The Association will soon contact the Texas Forest Service to conduct an overall survey of our neighborhood to look for signs of oak wilt. 🐾

Neighborhood Notes

Austin District 7 info

The City Council members will now be elected to represent various section of Austin; Northwood is in District 7. To learn about the issues, candidates and other communities that are part of this district, visit www.austindistrict7.org/ 🐾

Try this if your dog is lost

If your dog becomes separated from your family, here's one idea that may help reunite you and pet: put some clothes that you've worn all day (or longer) that have your scent where you last saw your dog. If your dog uses a blanket or crate, include that, along with some water (food may attract other animals).



Depending on the location, include a note if any other people happen by. Then check back frequently.

The person who wrote this article on the internet found his dog this way after 12 days - the dog was sitting by his shirt. 🐾

Northwood Real Estate Update (As of 3/15/14)

By Linda Holmbeck, REALTOR® - Horizon Realty Austin

- 5 – Number of homes sold in Northwood (last 90 days)
- 34 – Average number of days homes in Northwood spent on the market (last 90 days)
- 0 – Active listings on the market in Northwood

- 2 – Pending listings on the market in Northwood
- \$225,321 – Average sales price for homes sold in Northwood (last 90 days)

Austin Market Stats For January, 2014

- 2 – Months of inventory of single-family homes in the Austin Market
- 63 - Average # of days single family houses spent on the market in January (9 days fewer than January, 2013)
- \$211,800 – Median price for single family homes in Austin (up 7% from January, 2013)
- \$393,536,808 – Total dollar volume for single-family properties sold (8% more than January, 2013)

Austin Demographer Ryan Robinson has put an official number on the total “net arrivals per day” to the Austin area and that final number is 110. Robinson spoke recently at the Austin Young Chamber of Commerce’s first annual meeting pronouncing, “The state of our union is very, very good.”

In February, Forbes magazine touted Austin as the fastest growing city in the country for the fourth year in a row. The Austin area is nearing 2 million in population and this phenomenal growth is propelling the demand for housing in Austin. Combined with that growth is our decreasing housing inventory which continues to drive prices up in many areas and neighborhoods. All indications point to another strong spring/summer selling season in Austin. 🐾





Home & Family Safety

Many types of “phishing” scams

There are many types of online and other scams these days, where dishonest people try to steal credit cards and/or the victim’s identity. The editor has been called several times by someone who claims to be a Microsoft employee and has a strong accent. This man or woman told the editor that her computer had notified them that it had a virus (why would a virus announce its presence to Microsoft? That makes no sense).

Per the Microsoft support web site, they NEVER initiate support calls to customers, they only respond to inquiries. Never give any personal information unless YOU have made the phone call. Just hang up.

If you do give personal information, including a credit card and then realize you were scammed, file a police report and call your credit card company. And if you do online banking, be sure to set alerts so you are notified of any activity over the limits that you set. If your accounts are compromised, this can help alert you. ☞

Sophisticated Netflix phishing scam

From blog.malwarebytes.org

If you watch Netflix movies on your computer, you might see a warning stating that
“We have detected unusual activity on this account. To protect your account from unauthorized use, we have temporarily suspended it. To regain access to your account please call Member Services at 1-800-xxx-xxxx.”

This is a sophisticated “phishing” scam; that number does NOT belong to Netflix. It actually leads to a third party who will do their best to convince you that you have a virus. They will guide you to a web page and have you click a link to open a legitimate program that lets them scan

your hard drive for financial documents while they try to sell you their “repair” services (just one of many ways legitimate programs can be used for illegal reasons).

If you agree, they will transfer you to a “Microsoft employee”, who is another scammer. That person will happily take your credit card information.

If you see this, be sure to find the correct Netflix phone number before contacting them. ☞

Guard your email password

Many people are not as careful as they could be with their email password. “It’s just mail, nothing secret”. But if you do any online banking and forget your bank account’s password, how does that get reset? From a “reset password” email sent to your account.



If scammers learn your email password, they could log on as you and search your email to learn which banks and credit card companies you use. Then they could reset your passwords with those institutions to something only they know, thus giving them full access to your accounts. And you wouldn’t know that until you try to log onto your bank accounts.

Guard your email password and don’t use it as the password for any other accounts. ☞

How to Recover from Identity Theft

From www.identityprotection.com

Depending on what information was stolen, here are some resources you can contact:

Federal Trade Commission - manages all identity theft consumer complaints. If your Social Security number has been used to commit identity theft, you can contact the FTC by filling out an [online complaint form](http://www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov) (www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov)



or by calling the identity theft helpline at 1-877-438-4338.

Social Security Administration - order a copy of your earnings and benefits statement to see if someone has used your SSN to get a job. (www.socialsecurity.gov/statement/)

US Postal Inspector - if you believe has used your mail to commit identity theft or has changed your address (home.uspis.gov/fcsexternal/default.aspx)

US State Department if your passport has been lost or stolen, notify the State Department, and contact the Passport Services Department so it can flag anyone who orders a new passport with your name.

Department of Public Safety- Contact the DPS if your driver's license has been stolen or if the number has been used to verify checks or open new accounts.

U.S. Trustee
If bankruptcy has been filed under your name, write to the U.S. trustee from the region where the bankruptcy was filed. Be sure to include proof of your identity and a thorough description of the situation. ☞

Continuing Business 2014 Due\$ are due

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

The 2014 dues are due. They are \$15 and are for the calendar year 2014. 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.

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, either pay via PayPal on our website, www.northwoodna.com or complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail a check to the treasurer at the address listed on the form. ☞

Join Northwood's Nextdoor.com group!
Lose or find a pet? Need a handyman? Want to learn when the City shares information with neighbors? Join over 130 neighbors in Northwood - and over 500 folks in nearby neighborhoods - at www.Nextdoor.com. ☞

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, call 311. ☞

Police report
The incidents listed below were listed on the City police department crime report web page www.austintexas.gov/GIS/Crime-Viewer/



| Street | Crime | Time |
|-----------------|----------------------------|-------|
| <i>January</i> | | |
| Pegasus | Assault by contact | 9:59 |
| <i>February</i> | | |
| Silver Creek | Burglary of residence | 22:06 |
| Tamarack | Family disturbance | 5:11 |
| Northfield | Theft from auto | 9:21 |
| <i>March</i> | | |
| Burr Oak | Burglary of residence | 3:53 |
| Lovage | Credit Card abuse | 9:22 |
| Burr Oak | Criminal mischief | 13:10 |
| Burr Oak | Family disturbance | 4:48 |
| Oak Creek | Injury disabled individual | 8:03 |
| Oak Creek | Injury disabled individual | 13:04 |
| Bridlewood | Junked/nuisance vehicle | 14:18 |
| Oak Creek | Suspicious activity | 10:41 |



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 and want to let others in Northwood know about it, contact the editor at northwoodna@gmail.com or 512.244 7500. An anonymous description of the incident will be included in the newsletter. &

Calendar

| | | |
|----------|----|--------------------|
| May | 3 | Spring Garage Sale |
| July | 4 | Parade |
| October | 11 | Fall Garage Sale |
| December | | Yard of the Month |

Officers:

President Cheryl Vanek 512.244-4368
NorthwoodPresident@gmail.com

Vice President Jeanie Beckham 512.371-7014
NorthwoodVicePresident@gmail.com

Secretary Rosalia Nassaux 512.826-3111
NorthwoodSecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer Nancy Grijalva 512.218-9492
NorthwoodTreasurer@gmail.com

The News from Northwood is a publication of
the Northwood Neighborhood Association

Editor Donna Blumberg 512.244-7500
northwoodna@gmail.com

Classified Ad rates:

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

Northwood 2014 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 via PayPal on the website, www.northwoodna.com

Be sure to join the Northwood Nextdoor discussion group - go to www.nextdoor.com to sign up.



Hello Northwood Neighbors!

It's Spring Cleaning time!

Let the professionals at Busy Broom do the work and make your life easier.

Contact **BUSY BROOM KLEANING SERVICE**

Neighborhood References available upon request

See our YELP.COM Busy Broom Kleaning Service reviews

20% discount for first time clients with coupon

Gwendolyn Mask, Owner 512.589.3296

busybee1957@hotmail.com

GILBERT FRANCO
p: 512.794.9000
f: 512.794.9001
5114 Balcones Woods Drive
Suite 309
Austin, Texas 78759

GLOBAL
PRINTING SOLUTIONS

Northwood Garage Sale Registration \$2.00 - register by May 2

Name _____

Address _____

Place this form and \$2.00 in the black Association mailbox at the curb of 4507 Tamarack Trail



*Your
real estate goals
are
my priority*

I've lived in Northwood for over 22 years and have been a REALTOR for 14. 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 selling or buying. 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
512-653-4644

HORIZON REALTY
Austin

