

# News Northwood from

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

July/August 2014

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Fall Garage Sale Oct 11**

The fall garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 11. Start gathering all those unused items and outgrown or never worn clothes! The sign-up will be held for approximately two weeks before October 11. 📍

### **Future Association Officer vacancy / other help needed**

Northwood is a great neighborhood because of the people who live here; neighbors are willing to get involved to keep this a great place to live.

Our wonderful President Cheryl Vanek will be unable to continue in that position next year because she will be moving from Northwood. The President is the main contact for outside groups such as zoning, and also chairs the quarterly Association meetings. Usually the officer duties only take an hour or two per month. We also have a need for accounting or legal skills related to our status as a nonprofit organization.

If you enjoy working with people and want to help keep Northwood a great place to live, get involved! Contact one of the officers (contact information on the last page) for details. 📍

## *Home & Family Safety*

### **Disasters Happen - Be Prepared!**

Fire, floods, tornados happen with little or no warning. Residents can prepare for the unexpected by creating a basic emergency kit for each member of their family, to survive for at least three days if an emergency or disaster occurs. More information can be found at [www.ready.gov/kit](http://www.ready.gov/kit).

Additionally, area residents should be aware that Central Texas is nicknamed "Flash Flood Alley." Resident should investigate if they live in a floodplain and have a plan to respond to flash flooding. City of Austin residents can explore floodplains at [www.atxfloodpro.com](http://www.atxfloodpro.com) online.

Residents in Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Hays, Lee, Llano, Travis and Williamson counties can also sign up for emergency notification by voice, email, SMS text for emergencies and non-emergencies near where they live and work. Visit [wireless.capcog.org](http://wireless.capcog.org). 📍

### **Lost Pet? New City Stray Animals Map**

The City's Animal Services Office now has a Stray Map on their section of the City's web site; which is updated hourly with stray cats and dogs that have been in their care for less than a week,

**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.



[www.austintexas.gov/department/lost-found-pet](http://www.austintexas.gov/department/lost-found-pet) (or search for “lost pet” on the City’s site, [www.austintexas.gov](http://www.austintexas.gov))

Their Twitter account, @austinanimals, updates every 30 minutes with stray pets that have entered the shelter. If you have lost a pet, check their online database often AND visit the shelter at least every other day. 🐾

### Online Pet Behavior Advice

Get pet behavior advice from ASPCA experts 24 hours a day. Their nationally recognized team of animal behaviorists offers possible solutions to a wide range of issues at no charge. With the easy-to-use database at [www.asPCA.org/Pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist](http://www.asPCA.org/Pet-care/virtual-pet-behaviorist), you’ll receive step-by-step advice—without leaving home. 🐾

### Scoop the Poop When Walking Your Dog

If you walk your dog, please carry a pooper scooper or plastic bag and use it to pick up your pet’s poop and put it in the trash, where it—and any bacteria in it—won’t end up in the waterways.

Some Northwood neighbors are disabled and it may be hard for them to clean up your pet’s poop (which they shouldn’t have to do). There was a recent posting on NextDoor about that very topic. A thousand thank yous to everyone who already does pick up after their pet! 🐾

### Signs of Drowning

*From Reader’s Digest, rd.com and other sites*

Actual signs of drowning are quite different from those in the movies or cartoons. Children or adults who can’t swim have drowned while others watch without realizing they are in trouble. Learn the signs.

A drowning person cannot call or wave for help. The head is low in the water, with mouth at water level; head may be tilted back with mouth

open; a child’s head may fall forward. The mouth alternatively sinks below and appears above the surface of the water. The person is exhaling and inhaling while the mouth is above water and can’t call for help.

A drowning person extends the arms to the sides or forward and presses down to lift the mouth out of the water; and they can’t use their arms to reach for rescue equipment. Eyes are glassy, unable to focus, or closed.

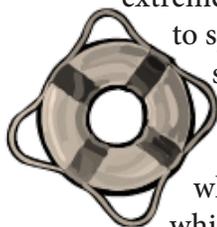
Sometimes the most important indicator that someone is drowning is that he doesn’t look like he’s drowning. He may just seem to be looking up at something. Ask “Are you all right?” If he returns a blank stare, you may have less than 30 seconds to get to him. 🐾

### Signs of Secondary or Dry Drowning

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

Secondary drowning can be difficult to recognize since the victim appears to be okay right after a near-drowning event. Your child may breathe in a very small amount of water and seem like they have successfully expelled it through coughing. But fluid builds up in the lungs which causes trouble breathing. If untreated, this can lead to brain injury and death.

Symptoms may include trouble breathing, chest pain or cough, sudden changes in behavior or extreme fatigue. These symptoms are not easy to spot, especially after a day of sun and swimming — your child may be fussy because of this or for other reasons. If your child struggles or has problems while in the water, look for these signs which may appear from 1 to 24 hours later.



If your child has experienced a near drowning experience—which can even happen in the bathtub— watch for a sudden change of personality or energy level. You can save your



child's life if you act quickly and get them medical treatment immediately. Time is critical, and close supervision around water is crucial to avoid secondary or dry drowning. 📧

### Download Free Family Caregiver Kit

Get the knowledge you (may) need to manage a family member's finances and health care. Download a number of free publications (PDF) written by government agencies at [promotions.usa.gov/dearabby.html](http://promotions.usa.gov/dearabby.html).

This page also links to a Caregivers' Resources with numerous links for caregivers. And visit the main [www.publications.usa.gov/](http://www.publications.usa.gov/) for free publications on many other topics. 📧

## City Elections

### District 7 Current Candidates

From [www.austindistrict7.org](http://www.austindistrict7.org) and [projects.statesman.com/databases/city-council-districts/](http://projects.statesman.com/databases/city-council-districts/) Additional candidates have until August 8 to file; the current list of District 7 candidates includes

- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| Jeb Boyt       | Ed English   |
| Josiah Ingalls | Jimmy Paver  |
| Leslie Pool    | Pete Salazar |
| Melissa Zone   |              |

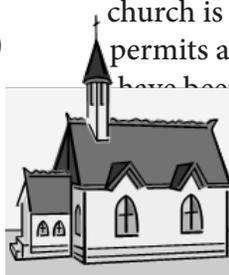
The above statesman.com link lists the candidates' fundraising totals through June 30.

The Austin District 7 website is maintained by some District 7 residents unaffiliated with any candidate. It is definitely worth visiting to learn about the candidates; it has links to their sites, a calendar of events including campaign events and candidate forums where we can meet the candidates and much more. 📧

## Zoning & Building News

### St. Francis Anglican Church Project Update

The City of Austin approved the site plan for the Anglican Church project at 3401 Oak Creek Drive, adjacent to the office building at Oak Creek Drive and the Loop 1 access road. The church is now working on obtaining building permits and intend to proceed once those have been approved.



### "Abandoned" House on Oak Creek

We frequently get questions about the Oak Creek "abandoned" house. As many of you know, the City has done a lot of work over the years: mowing, fence replacement, boarding it up for security reasons, etc. This work has resulted in liens filed by the City against the property. The mortgage and property taxes are current, which is why it has not gone into foreclosure.

Recently, we were informed by City staff that they are recommending the property be reviewed by the Building and Standards Commission, which can order that the property be brought up to code within a period of time, 30-60 days for example, and if it's not, fines will begin accruing on a daily basis. These fines could eventually be waived if the owner came forward and corrected the deficiencies. By increasing the penalties it may cause a responsible party to surface. We will keep you posted of any developments.

### Northwood Real Estate Update (As of 7/15/14)

By Linda Holmbeck, REALTOR® - Horizon Realty Austin

- 9 – Number of homes sold in Northwood (last 90 days)
- 10.3 – Average number of days homes in Northwood spent on the market (last 90 days)



- 1 – Active listings on the market in Northwood
- 3 – Pending listings on the market in Northwood
- \$257,800 – Average sales price for homes sold in Northwood (last 90 days)

**Austin Market Stats For May, 2014**

- 2.6 – Months of inventory of single-family homes in the Austin Market
- 40 - Average # of days single family houses spent on the market in May (4 days fewer than May, 2013)
- \$249,000 – Median price for single family homes in Austin (up 8% from May, 2013)
- \$325,926 – Average price for single-family homes (up 8% from May, 2013)
- \$959,200,218 – Total dollar volume for single-family properties sold (11% more than May, 2013)

Home sales in the Austin area maintained a dynamic pace in May as active listings increased over last year giving home buyers more options. Houses sold quicker than the prior year by four days with median and average prices scaling up from a year ago, too. Total sales volume also rose over the same month last year. Sales in Northwood have been brisk as well with houses selling for higher prices in fewer days on the market. ☺

*General & Continuing News*

**Another great 4th of July parade**

A fun time was had by all at the July 4th neighborhood parade. The group included over 40 adult marchers with numerous children, babies and dogs, many of whom dressed in red white and blue. Neighbors on Poquoson even rode a float! Some residents on the route brought out chairs to watch the parade and wave flags

as we passed on foot, on bicycles, in wagons and strollers. At the end of the route, everyone enjoyed some refreshments and visiting with neighbors. If you missed the event this year, we hope you will join us next time! ☺

**Join the Northwood Facebook and NextDoor discussion groups!**

Join the Nextdoor Northwood neighborhood group and the Facebook group to stay updated on the latest - from lost/found pets (a number of pets have been reunited with their families thanks to “found” posts), recommendations for home repair and more to alerts of suspicious persons and even posting to their Classified section. They both also have apps for smart phones.



Nextdoor messages can be shared either only with Northwood neighbors or also with nearby neighborhoods. To join nearly 200 Northwood neighbors on Nextdoor, go to [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) and sign up.

Recently a neighbor posted to NextDoor that two young men tried opening a neighbor’s door on Tamarack; they said they were selling yard services. The police were called. ☺

**2014 Due\$ are due**

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. ☺

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 the dues through PayPal on the web site, [northwoodna.com](http://northwoodna.com). A Texas-size Thank You! to everyone who has paid their dues!



**Yard of the Month**

The May Yard of the Month goes to Henry and Rikki Spear at 3606 Tamarack Trail Thanks to a massive oak tree, they have a great area of shade. The tree covers a large portion of the front side of the house. They decided to xeriscape to save on water and yard work. On the front areas closest to the street and in the direct sun, is river rock / crushed granite along with some drought friendly shrubs and ground cover plants. On the shaded areas under the tree are flat-rock stones for a sitting area, a sitting wall and recycled wood mulch around the tree and front areas. Along the driveway is a walkway with flat-rock steps and crushed granite. The Georgetown company TCB Landscaping did a great job on their yard.



Congratulations to our June Yard of the Month winners, Scott and Katya Mueller, 13041 Silver Creek Dr. This yard has been a work in progress for about the last five years during which they've gradually replaced lawn turf with mostly native and adapted species. All the plants are heat and drought tolerant but the biggest challenge is to find those that are deer resistant. They've had plants that are supposed to be deer resistant pulled up and eaten the first day they were put in the ground. They also have three 55 gallon rain barrels that help for the weeks following a rain.

**Police neighborhood contact**

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

**Police report**

The City's Crime Viewer is available at [www.austintexas.gov/GIS/CrimeViewer/](http://www.austintexas.gov/GIS/CrimeViewer/). 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).

Street	Crime	
<i>May</i>		
Timber-side	Family disturbance	19:51
Palfrey	Suspicious activity	18:17
<i>June</i>		
Palomar	Child custody interference	11:48
Tamarack	Child custody interference	18:30
Palomar	Child custody interference	21:23
Northfield	Suicide	20:29
<i>July</i>		
Oak Creek	Aggravated assault	00:05
Timber-side	Fraud – other	21:27



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

**Calendar**

- October 11 Fall Garage Sale
- December Holiday Yard of the Month



**Classified Ad rates:**

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

**Officers:**

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**Northwood dues \$15.00**

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to 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). Be sure to join the Northwood NextDoor group to get updates, learn about lost/found pets and more at [www.NextDoor.com](http://www.NextDoor.com) and our Facebook group (see the website, [www.northwoodna.com](http://www.northwoodna.com) for a link).



*Your  
real estate goals  
are  
my priority*

I've called Northwood home 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 and 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.

*Your neighbor on Timberside*

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