

# News Northwood from

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

*July/August 2015*

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Fall Garage Sale Oct. 10**

The fall garage sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 10. Start gathering all those unused items and outgrown or never worn clothes! The sign-up will be held for approximately two weeks before October 10. ☞

### **Association officer, Yard of Month vacancies**

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 Secretary Rosalia may be leaving Northwood and thus stepping down. The Secretary arranges the meeting space for the following year (with the library when it's open), takes meeting notes and gets the Yard of the Month gift cards (.

The President position, which is vacant, is the main contact for outside groups such as zoning, and also chairs the quarterly Association meetings.

All the officers work together on neighborhood issues and usually the officer duties only take an hour or two per month.

Since Rosalia also chose the Yard of the Month, that position will also be vacant. All it requires is driving through Northwood and choosing a beautifully landscaped yard, then contacting the neighbor to get their name and a description for the newsletter.

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). ☞

## *Home & Family Safety*

### **Register your bicycle**

*From KUT news*

As riding bicycles has become more popular, so have bicycle thefts. If you own a bicycle, register it with the police. That way if it's stolen, reported and recovered, the police can return it to its owner.

Record the serial number and also in a not obvious place such as under the seat, mark it to help identify it as yours. Also take photos of the bike. If you happen to see someone riding off on your bike (stealing it), the police recommend calling 911 rather than chasing the thief - that is much safer,



2015 Dues are Due! see page 4

**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.



there's no way to predict what the thief would do if confronted.

The easiest way to register your bike is online at the city's web site below (the link is also on the Northwood web site's Resources page). [austintexas.gov/page/bike-registration](http://austintexas.gov/page/bike-registration)

**Keep garage doors closed**

The Austin Police posted an article in NextDoor noting that the number of reported burglaries due to open garage doors has increased. They offered suggestions on ways to reduce your chances of becoming a victim beyond keeping the garage door closed:

- don't leave your remote door opener in the car, take it with you when you leave the car.
- install a solid door and good-quality dead bolt and reinforce the doorjamb and hinges to resist a brute-force attack
- install motion detector lights
- disable the garage door opener when away

**Boaters watch for zebra mussels**

From [www.texasinvasives.org/zebramussels/](http://www.texasinvasives.org/zebramussels/)



With the recent rains, Lake Travis is again open for boating. And that increases the danger that unbeknownst to the boat owner, the incredibly destructive zebra mussels will hitch a ride on a boat or trailer from another lake. They grow to only about 1 ½ inches and develop a distinctive zebra-striped shell. One zebra mussel can produce up to one *million* microscopic larvae.

Zebra mussels can cause tremendous environmental and economic damage – hurting aquatic life, damaging boats, hindering water recreation and even threatening water supplies by colonizing inside water intake pipes. They

multiply rapidly over large areas and have no natural predators in Texas.

Where are they known to be? Zebra mussels are currently in the following lakes: Texoma, Ray Roberts, Lewisville, Bridgeport, Lavon, Waco and Belton. They have also been found on isolated occasions in the Red River below Texoma, the Elm Fork of the Trinity River below Ray Roberts, and Sister Grove Creek, and a boat with zebra mussels attached was found in Ray Hubbard.

Transporting them is illegal, a Class C misdemeanor for the first offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

How to avoid accidentally giving them a ride?

- Clean your boat, trailer and gear by removing all plants, animals and foreign objects
- Drain all water from the boat, including the motor, bilge, live wells and bait buckets, before leaving the lake.
- Dry the boat and trailer for a week or more before entering another water body. If unable to let it dry for at least a week, wash it with a high-pressure washer and hot (at least 140-degree) soapy water.

Report a sighting - the [www.texasinvasives.org/](http://www.texasinvasives.org/) website has a reporting form. Be as accurate as possible with the location (GPS is helpful), as is a specimen and photo.

**Preventing and treating poison ivy**

From the Austin American Statesman



With all of the recent rains, plants are growing fast, including some we would rather not. Like poison ivy, which has been seen in at least one yard in Northwood. Around 85% of people are allergic to the toxin in urushiol oil that is in poison ivy, so coming into contact with the plant can cause a severe, itchy rash.



Per the Tennessee Poison Control center, you can effectively wash away 100% of the plant's oils that are found in the leaves, vines and roots, in the first 15 minutes after exposure. However, if the oil remains on your skin beyond that, it soaks in and the rash results. To wash it off, use soap and lukewarm water or a specially formulated soap to scrub away the urushoil oil – if you go hiking, carry it in your backpack and immediately wash.

Be aware that the oil can cling to your dog's coat, so be sure to wash your dog as well. Likewise the oil may remain on tools or other objects for months or even years. And avoid burning it or otherwise inhaling fumes from the plant.

Urushoil oil is also in poison oak and sumac. Learn how to identify poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac at [www.poison-ivy.org/](http://www.poison-ivy.org/) The site has a quiz, see if you can identify the photos of poison ivy. 🐞

### Tawny Crazy Ants

*From Texas A&M Agrilife Extension*

Tawny crazy ants, formerly known as the Raspberry crazy ant, have a cyclic level throughout the year with populations peaking in late summer, decreasing in the fall and then beginning to build again in the spring. Tawny crazy ants are capable of biting, but do NOT sting like fire ants. They are mostly nuisance pests, but can reach extraordinary population levels (in the millions) and can become a problem when getting into electrical equipment. Tawny crazy ants do not have mounds like fire ants; they tend to nest under things- rocks, landscape timbers, flowerpots, etc.



#### Treatment Options

Removing harborage areas- fallen limbs, rocks, leaf litter, etc. These ants will nest under pretty

much anything on the ground, so you may want to remove anything that is not necessary.

Alter moisture conditions (crazy ants prefer moist, humid conditions)- reduce watering, repair any leaks, improve drainage

Eliminate honeydew producers from area. Crazy ants tend honeydew producers such as aphids, whiteflies, hoppers, mealybugs and scale insects.

Use pesticide sprays to treat infested areas- under rocks, along landscape edging, etc. Pesticide sprays can also be used to create a barrier around the outside of the home. Piles of dead ants may build up in treated areas, so they must be removed to keep the barrier maintained.

Hire a pest management professional (PMP). PMPs have access to pesticides that are unavailable to homeowners and they also have experience dealing with pest problems regularly. 🐞

### Selecting a surgeon

From [www.propublica.org/article/surgery-risks-patient-safety-surgeon-matters](http://www.propublica.org/article/surgery-risks-patient-safety-surgeon-matters)

If you have elective surgery in your future, the surgeon may be the most important choice to make. Sadly, operations by some surgeons have significantly higher rates of complications, some of which have been fatal. Per the above [propublica.org](http://www.propublica.org) article, 11 percent of doctors accounted for about 25 percent of the complications. Hundreds of surgeons across the country had rates double and triple the national average.

ProPublica calculated death and complication rates for surgeons performing one of eight elective procedures in Medicare, carefully adjusting for differences in patient health, age and hospital quality. Check their surgeon scorecard at [projects.propublica.org/surgeons/](http://projects.propublica.org/surgeons/) 🐞



## 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 marchers with numerous children, babies and dogs, many of whom dressed in red white and blue. 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.

The parade ended at a neighbor's front yard on Poquoson; a group of Poquoson people had set up chairs and refreshments. Everyone enjoyed these while visiting with neighbors. Many thanks to the Poquoson folks for setting this up. 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 over 250 Northwood neighbors on Nextdoor, go to [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) and sign up. ☺

### 2015 Due\$ are due

The 2015 dues are due. They are \$15 and are for the calendar year 2015. The dues pay for the gift certificates for the yard of the month and help pay

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

for the newsletter and some of the special activities.

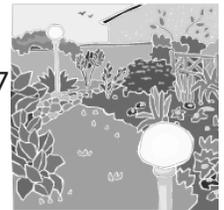


To join the Northwood Neighborhood

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

Congratulations to July Yard of the Month winner, Linda Smith at 3607 Palomar Ln. Her yard has been beautifully redesigned:



Some of the St. Augustine grass was replaced with a raised flower bed that has new soil and good drainage, which was very helpful with this spring's heavy rains. Plants that attract butterflies and other beneficial wildlife were planted, along with ollas, an ancient, low tech watering technique that efficiently delivers water to the roots of the trees. All of this was topped off with hardwood shredded mulch, accented with large river rock and a bird bath. The no gutter drip line problem was solved by laying decomposed granite and large Colorado river rock in a way to allow water to flow through the bed. All was designed by Land by Ann. ☺



**Neighborhood Police contact**

The police contact for Northwood 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 [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	Time
<i>May</i>		
Northfield	Credit Card Abuse	15:28
Palfrey	Terroristic Threat	4:02
<i>June</i>		
Palomar	Warrant Arrest non traffic	18:29

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. An anonymous description of the incident will be included in the police report section of the newsletter. 📞

**Calendar**

October	10	Fall Garage Sale
December		Holiday Yard of the Month

Officers:  
 President           vacant  
 Vice President    Jeanie Beckham 512.371.7014  
                           NorthwoodVicePresident@gmail.com  
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## *Your REALTOR® and Neighbor on Timberside*



*Your  
real estate goals  
are  
my priority*

I've called Northwood home for over 23 years and have been a REALTOR® for 15. 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.

**Linda Holmbeck**

**ABR, CRS, GRI, REALTOR®**

**[www.austinhomesbylinda.com](http://www.austinhomesbylinda.com)**

**[www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda](https://www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda)**

**512-653-4644**

HORIZON REALTY  
Austin



### 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).

# NORTHWOOD REAL ESTATE UPDATE

(As of 07/17/15)

By Linda Holmbeck, REALTOR® - Horizon Realty Austin

## Northwood Numbers (Based on sales data from last 90 days)

- 6 – Homes sold in Northwood
- 7 – Active listings on the market in Northwood
- 4 – Pending listing on the market in Northwood
- 50 – Average number of days homes in Northwood spent on the market
- \$307,817 – Average sales price for homes sold in Northwood
- \$ 166.56 – Average sold price per square foot in Northwood

## Austin Market Stats May, 2015 (Per latest data released by The Austin Board of Realtors)

- 2,767 – Single-family homes sold (down 2% from May, 2014)
- \$271,000 – Median price for single-family homes (up 9% from May, 2014)
- \$348,201 – Average price for single-family homes (up 7% from May, 2014)
- 42 – Average number of days single-family homes spent on market (up 2 days from May, 2014)
- 3,865 – New single-family home listings on the market (down 3% from May, 2014)
- 2.7 – Months of inventory of single-family homes (up 0.1 from May, 2014)
- \$963,472,167 – Total dollar volume of single-family properties sold (up 5% from May, 2014)

While April was a record-setting month for Austin homes sales, May saw single-family home sales dip 2%. However, sales prices continue to trend upward setting records for the month of May as well as impacting annual appreciation (typically four percent per year according to the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M). Northwood continues to outpace expectations with houses selling at record high prices. One recent listing in the neighborhood hit the market priced at \$450,000. Active listings currently on the market in Northwood are priced from \$255,000 to \$418,000 and range in size from 1332 SF to 2399 SF.

**Tip of the month:** If you're planning to sell your Northwood home, inspire potential buyers by punching up your curb appeal. One simple way to do this is to install a new front door or add a fresh coat of paint/stain to the existing one. Also consider sprucing up the hardware while you're at it. Clean and polish the metal on door fixtures and add a new knob if yours is looking tired or dated. Top it off with a fresh welcome mat and a wreath that reflects the current season. Remember, the entryway is the focal point of your home's curb appeal so make it shine!



### Linda Holmbeck

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are my priority.*