

# News Northwood from

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

September / October 2015

## *Association Update*

### **New Association President elected**

At the August meeting, Northwood neighbor Glenn Parker was unanimously elected President. Glenn and his wife have lived in Northwood for over 30 years. He has recently retired from state government, where he had served as the executive director of three small agencies. He is working with the other officers to learn about the few current issues. ☞

### **Association Secretary and Yard of the Month Positions open**

Sadly, our wonderful Secretary Rosalia Nassaux needs to step down from her positions of Secretary and Yard of the Month chair. The Yard of the Month chair drives the neighborhood, chooses a yard, gives the dues-paying homeowner (or renter) a gift card and gets a description for the newsletter.

If you are interested in either of the positions or would like more information about them, contact any of the officers. Their information is on the last page. ☞

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Neighborhood Garage Sale**

The Fall Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, October 10, from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., rain or shine. Registration for the garage sale will be from September 30 through October 9. 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, CraigsList and NextDoor and signs will be put out the day of the sale. The two dollar fee is used to offset the cost of the Statesman 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 9! ☞

2015 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.



## Neighborhood Notes

### Library adds more electronic checkouts

The Austin Public Library used to be able to check out “only” 84,000 book titles, magazines, movies and TV shows for free, in addition to the library’s extensive catalog of 7 million songs and 5,000 music videos already available through online music service Freegal Music.



That number just skyrocketed by another 350,000 items, thanks to an agreement with Hoopla, the “Netflix of libraries”. The only requirement is an active public library card and an active Hoopla membership (register at their website, below).

Hoopla can be used by downloading its app on an Android, Apple or Kindle device, or by going directly to its website, [hoopladigital.com](http://hoopladigital.com)

For details, visit [library.austintexas.gov/database/hoopla](http://library.austintexas.gov/database/hoopla) &

### Keep woody plants (and trees) healthy

*From the Austin American Statesman and [treehugger.com](http://treehugger.com)*

Trees, shrubs and vines are all valuable woody plants that take many years to mature and, thus, are very valuable... and vulnerable during a drought. This is especially true for those planted in the last couple of years.

Austin is still under stage 2 watering limits, so to keep your woody plants healthy, requires another approach to watering between the scheduled watering dates. Harvest clean wash water, also called “grey water” and use it to provide a drink to these stressed out plants in between scheduled watering periods.

Grey water is water from the shower or bath, sinks and anywhere except the toilet. However, be aware that since kitchen sink water can contain a lot of organic matter it may potentially include pathogens.

Use a bucket or large bowl to capture “warm up” water, the cold water that normally goes down the drain when you turn on the hot water tap and wait for it to get hot. Use it on your trees and plants. And to collect bathwater after it has been used, either use a bucket or get a sump pump to pump the water into a barrel. [www.treehugger.com](http://www.treehugger.com) has more details.

Where to apply the water? Young trees - those no more than 7” in diameter - have a limited root system and should be watered around the trunk. For older, established trees, saturate the soil around the tree within the dripline (the outer edges of the tree’s branches) to disperse water down toward the roots.

When applying water, consider adding some stress-reducing vitamins and hormones. Adding medicine to every bucket of water can have a much more positive impact on stressed plants. Superthrive has been used by the nursery industry for many years to revive stressed out plants. A Red Barn employee also told the editor it helps revive young trees that are close to dying. This blend of plant hormones is mixed at ¼ teaspoon per gallon of water to carry the medicine down into the roots to stimulate cell repair. It is sold at nurseries, some hardware stores and on Amazon.com.

Another option is organic liquid kelp. It is great for assisting all struggling plants, including vegetable gardens in late season, to repair the effects of dry, nutrient-depleted soils. If not available locally, jugs of liquid kelp are sold online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) and [groworganic.com](http://groworganic.com) &



### ***New recycling additions***

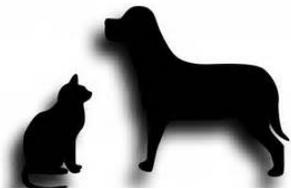
Aluminum foil baking pans, pie plates, tins, trays and balls of aluminum foil of at least 2 inches that are clean with no food residue can be recycled at the curb along with newspaper, cardboard, hard plastics and more.

Wondering if a specific item can be recycled at the curb? Visit [austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do](http://austintexas.gov/what-do-i-do) to find how to recycle or dispose of an item (this link is also on our website's Resources page).🐾

## ***Home & Family Safety***

### ***Plan for pets when you can't care for them***

From an Austin American Statesman article and [vetmed.tamu.edu/stevenson-center](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/stevenson-center)



As people age, they usually make plans for their estate and personal long-term care. However, sometimes they overlook their four-

footed family members. Without a plan in place - preferably written, so that others will know both their wishes and agreements - when the guardian is either taken to long-term care or passes away, the pet may end up at the Austin Animal Center. Staff do try to contact family members but if that is not successful, the animal is put up for adoption.

To avoid that situation, have a separate document with your pet care plans, not just the will as it may take weeks or months for the will to be probated. What happens to the pet in the meantime?

There are other options for long-term pet care. You can establish a trust to care for your pet. The

trustee can make funds available to the guardian for the pet's care.

If no one is available to take care of your pet, there are long-term care options such as the Stevenson Animal Life-Care Center at Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine, [vetmed.tamu.edu/stevenson-center](http://vetmed.tamu.edu/stevenson-center). The pets live their lives in a home environment and receive medical care from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Pets must be enrolled in advance and there is a sign up fee plus an endowment. Many people make the center a beneficiary of a life insurance policy to fund the endowment.🐾

## ***Continuing Business***

### ***Join the Northwood NextDoor and Facebook 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 health care, home repair and more to alerts of suspicious persons and even posting to their Classified section. They both also have apps for smart phones.

To join over 300 Northwood neighbors on Nextdoor and over 1,300 folks in nearby neighborhoods, 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 for the newsletter and some special activities.



If oak wilt is discovered, the Neighborhood Association may help pay for the cost of treatment. However, the neighborhood association dues must be current before the

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

Association will consider this. See the Pay Dues page of our website for details.

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, either complete the form on the back of this newsletter 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 Paypal directly or with a credit card on PayPal. A Texas-size Thank You! to everyone who has paid their dues! 📧

**Police neighborhood contact**

The police contact for our neighborhood 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 [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) and check [www.krimelabb.com](http://www.krimelabb.com). 📧



<i>July</i>		<i>Time</i>
Stepping Stone Cv	Credit card abuse	13:43
Trailwood	Debit card abuse	15:09
<i>August</i>		
Burr Oak	Assault w/Injury - Fam/Date violence	01:32

Palfrey	Breach of Computer Security	16:40
Oak Creek	Check welfare	18:17
Oak Creek	Child Custody interference (2 incidents)	19:47, 15:39
Oak Creek	Crash/leaving scene (2 incidents)	6:34 7:11
Burr Oak	Debit card abuse	18:40
Oak Creek	Disturbance	17:38
Pegasus	Disturbance	15:00
Tamarack	Found Property	17:24
<i>September</i>		
Oak Creek	False alarm or report	22:38
Tamarack	Family disturbance	21:31
Oak Bend	Debit card abuse	11:19

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, post it to NextDoor and/or Facebook or email the editor at [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	10	Fall Garage Sale
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





## ***Your REALTOR® and Neighbor on Timberside***



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

*Your  
real estate goals  
are*

**Linda Holmbeck**  
**ABR, CRS, GRI, REALTOR®**  
**[www.austinhomesbylinda.com](http://www.austinhomesbylinda.com)**  
**[www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda](https://www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda)**



### **Northwood 2015 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 join the Northwood Nextdoor discussion group at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) Also join our Facebook discussion group; see the [northwoodna.com](http://northwoodna.com) web site for details.

# NORTHWOOD REAL ESTATE UPDATE

(As of 09/07/15)

By Linda Holmbeck, REALTOR® - Horizon Realty Austin

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

- 14 – Homes sold in Northwood
- 6 – Active listings on the market in Northwood
- 0 – Pending listing on the market in Northwood
- 29 – Average number of days homes in Northwood spent on the market
- \$298,314 – Average sales price for homes sold in Northwood
- \$ 168.81 – Average sold price per square foot in Northwood

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

- 3,149 – Single-family homes sold (up 12% from July, 2014)
- \$269,500 – Median price for single-family homes (up 8% from July, 2014)
- \$338,452 – Average price for single-family homes (up 6% from July, 2014)
- 41 – Average number of days single-family homes spent on market (up 2 days from July, 2014)
- 4,133 – New single-family home listings on the market (up 9% from July, 2014)
- 3.0 – Months of inventory of single-family homes (unchanged from July, 2014)
- \$1,065,785,348 – Total dollar volume of single-family properties sold (up 19% from July, 2014)

Austin homes sales hit an all-time high in July selling over \$1Billion in total volume for the second month in a row according to the Austin Board of REALTORS. Home sales were up 12% from July, 2014 and prices remain high. Multiple offers are still prevalent in the \$200,000-\$400,000 price range, however, inventory levels are on the rise which may signal a trend toward a more balanced market. Northwood had a banner summer with 15 homes closing since June 1<sup>st</sup>. The average days on the market in Northwood are well below the Austin average and prices have risen considerably. We continued to see multiple offers and quick sales in Northwood as well. Active listings currently on the market in Northwood are priced from \$240,000 to \$410,000.

### Tip of the month: Refresh your home for fall with these 10-minute tricks!

- **Soothe the senses** - Fall is great times to infuse a little scent into your decor and inspire a feeling of freshness and seasonality with aromatic candles, infusers, fresh cut flowers, or plants.
- **Update accessories** – Change or add a few small accessories to update the look of your kitchen, bath or living room in the same way you might use scarves or jewelry to change the look of your clothes. New canisters, a vase of fresh flowers, new towels, a colorful throw or some accent pillows can do wonders to add new interest.
- **Mix up the artwork** – Two or three times a year, take a few minutes to ‘circulate’ your artwork, moving a few pieces to other wall spaces, retiring a few for a season or two, and adding a few pieces that are new or have been retired for a while. Try changing the frames around your favorite family photos to make a noticeable difference in the room.



### Linda Holmbeck

ABR, CRS, GRI, REALTOR®  
512-653-4644

[www.austinhomesbylinda.com](http://www.austinhomesbylinda.com)  
[www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda](http://www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda)



HORIZON REALTY  
Austin



*Your real estate goals  
are my priority.*