



www.northwoodna.com

March/April 2019

Upcoming Events

Spring garage sale May 4

The Spring Neighborhood Garage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 4 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine, with a neighborhood preview Friday May 3. Registration for the garage sale will be from April 20 through May 3. Register on the website (preferred) or email northwoodna@gmail.com with the subject "spring garage sale" or leave a note at 4507 Tamarack Trail with the below information.

Please include the address of the sale and the general types of items being sold - adult/children's clothing, toys, books, furniture. We will add this to a map on the website and link that to Craigslist and NextDoor. Remember to register by May 3! &

Zoning & Development

Elysium Grande (Oak Creek) Apartments

In December 2015 a developer contacted the Association Board to notify us they planned to build affordable apartments on the 7.1 undeveloped land at the east end of Oak Creek between Pegasus and the creek. As the tract was zoned for structures such as neighborhood offices rather than residential, they had to obtain a zoning change to MF-4. Many neighbors believe that this site is not suitable for any type of apartments

due to environmental, flooding, traffic and safety reasons. Despite strenuous neighborhood opposition the City Council granted that zoning change to MF-4 in 2017. The current version of this project is called Elysium Grand. Its web page has information, www.saigebrook.com/properties/elysium-grand/elysium-grand.html

Update

Apartment construction began in mid January. The project manager agreed to tell the big construction trucks to only enter/exit the construction site from the frontage road, not to drive through our neighborhood. However, a number of big trucks have been seen driving on Oak Creek. If you see any big trucks on our streets, note the date and approximate time and either post to NextDoor or email an officer (back page). If possible, take a photo of the truck and post to NextDoor or send it to an officer. We will advise the project manager. &

Zoning Change Requested By UCC Church

At the end of January 2019 neighbors with property adjoining the United Christian Church that at 3500 W Parmer received a mailed notice the UCC had requested a zoning change to allow a Verizon cell phone tower — a 100 ft tall monopole and supporting equipment within 840 square feet — since the current zoning doesn't allow sufficient height.

The Permit/Case number is 2019-009809ZC; the

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.



case details are available at the City’s zoning public search site (the home page for the public search is abc.austintexas.gov/web/permit/public-search-other?reset=true). The zoning case document (PDF) shows that the planned site is on the church property close to Parmer.

A number of nearby neighbors expressed concerns on both our Facebook group and on NextDoor. Our Zoning Chair emailed the church to asked the church for a meeting but never heard back from them. He also discussed the project with some of the concerned neighbors, but no formal action has been taken regarding the zoning change. We will be notified when the Zoning & Platting Commission’s public hearing is scheduled. &

Home & Family Safety

Many House Plants Are Poisonous to Pets

Recently a NextDoor post warned readers that sago palms - a popular outdoor plant - are very poisonous to dogs. All parts of the plant, including dead leaves, are toxic.

Numerous common plants are toxic to cats and/or dogs. A few of the dangerous houseplants are:

Amaryllis	Lantana
Autumn Crocus	Lilies
Azaleas and	Marijuana
Rhododendrons	Oleander
Castor Bean	Peace Lily
Chrysanthemum	Philodendron
Cyclamen	Poinsettia
Daffodil bulbs	Pothos
Easter lily	Sago Palm
Elephant ear	Spanish thyme
English Ivy	Tulip and Narcissus
Iris	bulbs
Kalanchoe	Yew

A more detailed list is available at www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/poisonous-plants-to-pets.pdf. &

Avoid Austin Energy Telephone Scams

from [Austin Energy](#) web site

Scammers are targeting Austin Energy customers. The scammer warns that the customer’s utilities will be disconnected if the customer fails to make an immediate payment, typically using a reloadable prepaid debit card or other non-traceable form of payment.

Scammers often use valid-looking phone numbers, graphics, uniforms, and other forms of fraudulent identification.

How to Recognize a Scam

If the calls mentions any threat to disconnect: Austin Energy will NEVER call residential customers with an immediate cutoff deadline

Request for immediate payment and/or by using an untraceable payment method: Austin Energy will NEVER ask for credit card or wire transfer information over the phone or demand any non-traceable form of payment.

How to Protect Yourself

If you receive a phone call or email threatening to interrupt service, hang up and dial 3-1-1 to report it.

Make a note of call details, especially the phone number that appeared on Caller ID and the number the scammer requested that you call back to make payment. Austin Energy works with law enforcement and other partners investigating criminals and assisting in shutting down scams. &

Bobcats Seen In Area

There have been recent reports on NextDoor (early/mid March) about bobcats being seen nearby. People are understandably concerned about their pets.



Per www.dallasnews.com/life/pets/2017/07/17/keep-bobcats-killing-pets there are some steps to take to discourage bobcats or coyotes from hanging around your house:

- Secure garbage containers; store pet food inside your house.
- Make sure bird feeders hang well above an animal's reach.
- Keep pets in secure fenced areas and smaller pets especially close to you.
- Remember bobcats can scale an 8-foot fence; coyotes have been known to jump 6-footers.
- When walking your dog, use a 6-foot leash and be especially wary near creeks or wooded areas.
- If you see a bobcat, bang pans together; clap and yell; spray it with a garden hose. 🐾

March 31 is World backup day

From <http://www.worldbackupday.com/en/>

Many people store important documents, and photos in only one place: on their computers or phones. But if (when?) that computer or phone dies or is stolen those files are lost. One small accident could destroy all of the files you care about - what would you do if this happened? Phones (and computers) are often stolen - don't assume it won't happen to you.

An easy way to avoid losing all your precious photos and files is to make a backup (separate) copy, something that many people never think about until it's too late.

The site worldbackupday.com has tips about how to backup to either an external USB drive or to the cloud. Do a backup on March 31 to avoid becoming an April fool with lost data. 🐾

Neighborhood Notes

Watch For Oak Wilt

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.

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

Continuing Business

2019 Due\$ Are Due

The 2019 dues of \$20 are due. The dues pay for the gift certificates for the yard of the month, the website costs, Austin Neighborhood Council membership dues and help pay for the newsletter. They can also help eligible neighbors pay for oak wilt treatments if needed.

Please pay your dues. Oak wilt can affect the entire neighborhood and the treatment can be costly, depending on the size and number of trees to treat.

Only residents who are current on their dues are eligible for financial help with oak wilt treatment.

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

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, either pay online through our website, www.northwoodna.com or mail a check to Treasurer Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack, Austin,



TX 78727. 📍

Join Northwood's Nextdoor.com group!

Get updates about nearby events. Lose or find a pet? Need a handyman? Want to learn about nearby events or when the City shares information with neighbors? Join over 700 neighbors in Northwood - and over 10,700 folks in nearby neighborhoods - at www.Nextdoor.com. 📍

Police Neighborhood Contact

Our police contact is Officer Hank Moreno. Contact him at 512.974-4764 or henry.moreno@austintexas.gov. To just report an incident, call 311 or use the Austin 311 app. 📍

Police report

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

<i>January</i>		
Columbine	Burglary of vehicle	19:42
Palomar	Burglary of vehicle	21:00
<i>February</i>		
Oak Creek	Criminal Mischief	17:34
<i>March</i>		
Burr Oak	Online solicitation of a minor	17:31
Oak Creek	Criminal Mischief	10:37
Oak Creek	Criminal Mischief	22:35

Spotcrime.com and krimelabb.com are other sources for crime reports. 📍

Know your neighbors - summer travel

Summer vacations are just around the corner, and many neighbors will be traveling and leave an empty house. Know your neighbors and their vehicles and watch for suspicious activity when they are out of town (and they should do the same for you). Know your five - 3 neighbors across the street and the neighbor on each size.

If you see a suspicious person or vehicle, call 911 (and take a photo if you can safely do so). Also posting on NextDoor is helpful but first call 911. 📍

Articles deadline

The deadline for getting articles and ads to the editor is the 15th of each odd-numbered month (January, March, etc.) except for September. That month the deadline is the 3rd—the newsletter must get out early because of the October garage sale.

Calendar

May	4	Spring Garage Sale
July	4	Parade
October	12	Fall Garage Sale
December		Yard of the Month contest

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

Officers:	
President	Leanna Lang 512.680.6977 NorthwoodPresident@gmail.com
Vice President	Jeanie Beckham 512-371-7014 NorthwoodVicePresident@gmail.com
Secretary	Donna Blumberg 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	

Your Realtor® & Northwood Neighborhood Specialist



I've called Northwood home for over 27 years and have been a REALTOR® for 18. We live in one of the most unique and desirable neighborhoods in North Austin.

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

**My Northwood Neighbor
program saves you mon-
ey.
Call me for details.**

Linda Holmbeck
ABR, CRS, GRI, REALTOR®
www.austinhomesbylinda.com
www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda

512-653-4644

Your real estate goals are my priority

HORIZON REALTY
Austin



St. Francis Anglican Church of Austin

A Traditional Anglican Parish using
The 1928 Book of Common Prayer

9:30 a.m. (said) and 11:00 a.m. (sung)
Holy Communion

3401 Oak Creek Drive
Austin, Texas 78727
512-472-7514

www.stfrancisaustin.com

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and
The Anglican Church in North America



ANGLICAN CHURCH
IN NORTH AMERICA

NORTHWOOD REAL ESTATE UPDATE

(As of 03/19/19)

By Linda Holmbeck, REALTOR® - Horizon Realty Austin

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

- 4 – Homes sold in Northwood
- 2 – Active listings on the market in Northwood
- 1 – Pending listings on the market in Northwood
- 74 – Average number of days homes in Northwood spent on the market
- \$196.40 – Average sold price per square foot in Northwood
- \$348,400 – Average sales price for homes sold in Northwood

Austin Area Market Stats For February, 2019 (Per latest data released by Austin Board of Realtors®)

- 2101 – Single-family homes sold volume (up 6% from Feb, 2018)
- \$295,000 – Median sales price for single family homes (no change from Feb, 2018)
- 5858 – Active single-family home listings on market (up 19% from Feb, 2018)
- 70 – Average number of days homes spent on market (down 3 days from Feb, 2018)
- \$774 Million – Total sales dollar volume (up 5% from Feb, 2018)

February home sales indicate the spring selling season has gotten off to an early start in Central Texas with more homes sold than any February on record. Within the City of Austin, single-family home sales increased by 7.3 percent to 649 sales in February. During the same period, the median price of single-family homes decreased only slightly - 1.6 percent to \$360,000. Overall housing inventory and active listings in the Austin Metro area were both up compared to February, 2018 signaling slight movement toward a more balanced market.

"We're seeing a lot of development in North Austin, as major tech employers are looking for space with ample room for housing development and access to major transportation arterials. Mobility has become such a problem that employees want to live closer to where they work, if they can afford to move." Kevin P. Scanlan, president of Austin Board of REALTORS®, said.

North Austin neighborhoods situated in the tech corridor like Northwood will likely continue to benefit from this trend as Apple expands and development continues across the Robison Ranch.

Current inventory in Northwood remains low with only two active listings on the market priced from \$365,000 to \$375,000.

Note: "Like" and Follow me on Facebook for the latest information on the Austin housing market as well as helpful news about real estate: www.facebook.com/AustinHomesByLinda.



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www.austinhomesbylinda.com
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*Your real estate goals
are my priority.*