



News **Northwood** from

<http://www.main.org/northwood>

January/February 2007

Upcoming Events

2007 Officer Elections

The general meeting, including election of officers, was January 3 at Milwood Library. President Cheryl Vanek, Vice President Cyndi Stein, Treasurer Nancy Grijalva and Secretary Rosalia Nassaux were unanimously re-elected. ☺

2007 Due\$ Are Due

The 2007 dues of \$10 are due. The dues pay for the gift certificates for the yard of the month and help pay for the newsletter. And they can help 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. As a reminder, during an oak wilt meeting last year, the Board and attending residents agreed that residents must be current on their dues before the Association will assist in paying for oak wilt.

To join the Northwood Neighborhood Association, just complete the form on the back of this newsletter and mail a check to Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack. ☺

Easter Egg Hunt

The neighborhood Easter Egg hunt is tentatively scheduled for Sunday March 25, with a rain date of April 1. The cost is \$1.50 per child for non-Association members and free for children of Association members. Bring an Easter basket for all the eggs (and other goodies!) Contact Ann Sellars, 341-8761, for details. *Mark your calendars* and watch the Association Boards, as you will not get the next newsletter before the hunt. ☺



Spring Garage Sale

The spring garage sale will be May 5, the first Saturday in May. It's time for spring cleaning! ☺

Oak Wilt Alert: only prune and paint oak trees when it is very hot or very cold. Then prune and *immediately* paint. Sterilize tools after each tree.



Neighborhood Notes

FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION BOARD

Dear Northwood Neighbors,

As we begin a new year, we would like to reflect on the accomplishments of the past year and let you know some of our priorities for 2007. Among our accomplishments in 2006, we revived the Northwood Neighborhood Association web site, replaced aging Neighborhood Watch signs and, with the help of Eagle Scout Sheldon Hoes, a new message board was installed near the Silver Creek entrance. During the last few months of 2006, considerable time was spent fighting and then negotiating the terms of the office building project near the intersection of Oak Creek and MoPac.

During 2007, we hope to refocus our efforts on the beautification of the Silver Creek entrance, by installing a metal Northwood sign on the concrete wall. The wall and the grassy area belong to the Texas Department of Transportation, but TxDOT has indicated a willingness to work with us on this proposal. If anyone would like to contribute time or expertise to this project, please contact Cyndi Stein, Association Vice-President, at 255-5929.

Come Springtime, we will ask the Texas Forest Service to survey the neighborhood for signs of Oak Wilt, and offer assistance to homeowners whose trees may be at risk of infection. We will also monitor the construction of the office building to ensure that the developers comply with our agreement.

How can you help? Please pay your dues - they are just \$10 for the entire year! Also, if you would like to volunteer your time, there are many ways to do so, from delivering the newsletter to helping with special events such as the Easter Egg hunt, or helping with issues and projects as they arise.

We thank all of our volunteers who deliver the newsletter, organize the Spring and Fall garage sales, select the Yard of the Month, and more. And special thanks to Donna Blumberg, the longtime Editor of the newsletter, and Scott Carruth, who maintains our web site. With your help, we can keep Northwood a special place to live. ☺

Collar and Tag Pets!

In December a dog escaped from its home and was picked up by some neighbors – it had a harness and leash but no collar or tags. In short, no identification. The neighbors were unable to keep it inside even overnight so they took it to the pound.

The next day “lost dog” notices with photos of that dog were posted; the owners were called and picked up the dog from the pound. Fortunately, that story has a happy ending.



Pets do escape sometimes. Please be sure to put a collar and ID tag on your pet. Even better, ask your vet to insert an ID microchip – those can't come off and guarantee that the pet can be identified if it ends up at the pound. ☺



MoPac Plans

Do you think MoPac from Parmer to Cesar Chavez is getting rather crowded and could use some attention? TxDOT does. They have a project called MoPac 1 that is “dedicated to improving mobility along the MoPac corridor in a safe, efficient, reliable and environmentally sensitive manner.



“MoPac 1 is committed to working in partnership with corridor communities, roadway users and other interested parties to provide solutions to current and future transportation needs while respecting the Austin area's unique character.”

Detailed project information, including timelines, upcoming open house meetings and more is available at www.mopac1.org. ☞

2006 Northwood Home Sales



According to Realtor Barbara Hilliard, in 2006 there were 35 Northwood houses sold. The lowest sales price was \$134,000, the highest was \$225,000. The average sales price was \$185,758, the average price per square foot was \$107.69 and the average days on market was 42.

Looking back, in 2005, 32 Northwood homes sold. The lowest sales price was \$142,900 and the highest sales price was \$210,000. The average sales price was \$174,824 and the average days on market was 36. The average price per square foot was \$96.27.

In 2004, 23 homes were sold in Northwood, ranging from \$125,000 to \$208,500. The

average days on market was 47. In 2003, 33 homes sold, with prices between \$129,000 and \$199,999. The average days on the market was 58 and the average sales price was \$153,000. In 2002, 25 homes sold in Northwood, between \$117,200 and \$197,177. The average days on market was 49 and the average sales price was \$159,296.

In 2001 28 homes were sold in Northwood. The lowest price paid was \$139,500 and the highest price was \$179,900. and the average number of days on the market was 30 and the average sales price was in the mid to upper \$150s with the average price per square foot at \$89. ☞

Bedbugs

By Wizzie Brown, A&M Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist – who recently handled a bedbug problem in central Austin
Bedbugs are small, dark brown to reddish colored insects that are oval and have no wings. The color and size can depend on whether or not the insect is engorged with blood. Bedbugs feed on blood of warm-blooded mammals. Fortunately, it has not been proven that bedbugs spread disease within the United States, but they can cause their victims much discomfort. Bedbugs are spread mainly through clothing and luggage of travelers or by using secondhand bedroom furniture.

Bedbugs feed mostly at night, piercing the skin while people sleep. The bugs inject a fluid while feeding that can cause skin to become irritated and itchy. The welts left behind usually form elongated, spindle-shaped markings. If left undisturbed, bedbugs feed for about 3-5 minutes, then crawl to their hiding place to digest their food for several days.



When there is a bedbug infestation, they may be found hiding along the seams and/ or covers of mattresses. They may also move to behind baseboards, window and door casings, behind pictures, in furniture, behind loose wallpaper or in folds of curtains.



To manage bedbug populations, you may want to contact a pest management professional. You can help them by doing some of

the following:

- Vacuum any bugs that you find in the area
- Reduce clutter to eliminate hiding places
- Clean infested area thoroughly, paying close attention to cracks and crevices
- Pull bed away from the wall
- Do not allow sheets or dust ruffle to touch the floor
- Caulk and seal holes around pipe penetrations.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas Cooperative Extension Program Specialist at 512.854.9600. ☎

Continuing Business

Thank you volunteers!

We all appreciate the time you take to volunteer in the various activities. Your work helps make our neighborhood a special place to live.

2006 volunteers include:

Yard of the Month	Ellen Quinn Botello
Garage Sales	Cyndi Stein
Easter Egg Hunt	Ann Sellars, Cyndi Stein
Newsletter	Donna Blumberg, Debbie Cox
Newsletter Section captains	Diane Nousanen, Ann Little
Newsletter delivery	All the block captains

Neighborhood Email

Address/discussion group

We have an email address that is used strictly for Northwood Association business: northwoodna@yahoo.com.



If you have an email address and want to be included in any future neighborhood emails, just send an “include me” email to that address. Please include your name and address so we know who has signed up – the email addresses are not shared with anyone and are used only for neighborhood business.

We have a separate discussion group that is only open to residents. Sign up for this at the web site, www.main.org/northwood. ☎

Police Contact

The officer assigned to Northwood is Joe Maciel. Contact him at 974-4289 or email at joe.maciel@ci.austin.tx.us. If you have any non-emergency questions for the police, you may contact him. If you want to report an incident to the police, call 311. ☎



Police Report



The incidents listed below were listed on the City police department crime report web page, www.cityofaustin.org/police.

<i>November</i>		<i>Time</i>
Theft	Palfrey	1609
Abandoned Veh	Woodchester	1518
Assault W/Injury-Fam/Date Viol	Council Bluff	26
Unauthorized Use Of Veh	Lovage	2115
<i>December</i>		
Lost Prop	Woodchester	1910
Suicide	Palfrey	949
Agg Robbery/Deadly Weapon	Palomar	519
<i>January</i>		
Criminal Mischief	Pegasus St	231

If you know of any incidents, contact the editor and an anonymous report will be in the newsletter. ☎

Calendar

February	20	Begin Easter Egg Hunt sign-up
April	2	Easter Egg Hunt
April	9	Rain date Egg Hunt
May	6	Spring Garage Sale
July	4	July 4 Parade
October	15	Fall Garage Sale

<i>Officers:</i>		
President	Cheryl Vanek	244-4368
	NorthwoodPresident@gmail.com	
Vice President	Cyndi Stein	255-5929
	NorthwoodVicePresident@gmail.com	
Secretary	Rosalia Nassaux	826-3111
	NorthwoodSecretary@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Nancy Grijalva	218-9492
	NorthwoodTreasurer@gmail.com	
The <i>News from Northwood</i> is a publication of the Northwood Neighborhood Association		
<i>Editor</i> Donna Blumberg 244-7500		
northwoodna@yahoo.com		
www.main.org/northwood		

Classified Ad rates:	
Business card	\$10
1/4 page	\$30
1/2 page	\$55
Full page	\$80

Northwood 2007 Dues \$10.00

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ email _____

Mail check to Northwood Neighborhood Assn. to Nancy Grijalva, 4507 Tamarack Trail, Austin, TX 78727 (do not drop in Association mailbox, it isn't waterproof).