

Northwood Hills

NHHA NEWSLETTER -- JUNE 2003

WHAT'S INSIDE

THIS ISSUE OF NHHA NEWS

Effective June 1, no lawn watering allowed from 10 AM to 6 PM -- plus new regs. Page 2.

Upcoming Fourth of July parade will mark tenth anniversary. See activities roundup p.2.

DPD wants citizens prepared for Red Alert warning. Page 3.

What happened to 3-1-1 service north of Spring Valley? Solution to mystery on page 3.

Real Estate Update: '03 off to good start. P.4.

New Web site for NWH neighbors. Page 4.

Dog owners beware -- City has strict rules and regulations. Page 6.

BULK TRASH PICK-UP DATES

Pick-up weeks are those beginning with the second Monday of each month.

JUNE 9

JULY 14

AUGUST 11

SEPTEMBER 8

OCTOBER 13

NOVEMBER 10

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Fred Williams

Northwood Hills has put on a great show of spring color and beauty these past few months. Unfortunately it has been marred by the unsightly display of bulk trash put out way too long before scheduled pick-up dates. In the month of May, pick-up week started on the 12th. We had huge piles of bulk trash lining our streets as early as the last week of April. Reading a calendar shouldn't be that hard!

NHHA has now got a standardized bulk trash pick up schedule for all of Northwood Hills -- north, south, east and west. **It's the week beginning with the second Monday of the month.** You can put out your trash as early as the Thursday prior to pick-up Monday. But not before. Paying attention could save you money -- some of our neighbors received fines of \$250 and more in May.

We publish bulk trash pick-up dates on the front page of every issue of this newsletter. I urge you to clip it and post it on your bulletin board. And please pay attention to the schedule for July, when pick-up week comes even later than the one in May -- **the week of July 14th.**

Speaking of July, don't forget the Fourth Full of Fun celebration on Friday, July 4 (details inside). This year marks the tenth anniversary of this super NHHA event -- and of course the 227th year since the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

As we reported at the end of 2002, your Association is in sound fiscal health, but it could and should be much better in terms of membership. We now number 496 members out of an eligible household population of 1,145. I believe an acceptable minimum should be 50% of households, and we should aim for an optimum of 60-75%. In actual numbers, this means we need to add 76 new members to reach our threshold, 200 to pass 60%.

You may recall that we launched a membership program last year titled "Each One Get One." If you bring in a new member who pays \$60 in quarterly dues, you get credit for \$60 against your own dues. This still goes, and inside you will find an application form to use. Please help NHHA grow stronger -- and help yourself to savings.

They're b-a-a-a-a-ck...

**LAWN WATERING
RESTRICTIONS RETURN
SUNDAY, JUNE 1, 2003.**

Remember last year's limitations? Here they come again: from June 1 through September 30, **no lawn watering between 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM** at businesses or residences; **no watering that wastes water or causes run-off**, for example, by causing water to fall on sidewalks, driveways or any areas that are not lawns or landscapes; **no watering with a poorly maintained system** that wastes water or has a broken or missing sprinkler; **no watering during any precipitation.**

Under the above laws, a person commits an offense if violations occur on any property he/she owns, leases, or manages. Violators will get a warning first, but repeat offenders will face fines starting at \$250 and rising to \$2,000.

New laws taking effect this year:

- Newly installed irrigation systems must be equipped with rain-sensing and freeze-sensing devices.
- All systems in operation after January 1, 2005 must be equipped with rain and freeze-sensors.

These sensing devices don't have to be expensive. Do-it-yourself models can be purchased for as little as \$38 each.

Mark your calendar and check out your sprinkler system carefully. Don't risk big bucks in lawn watering fines.

BE A LITTER-GITTER!

*ADOPT YOUR BLOCK
AND KEEP IT LITTER-FREE.*

NHHA activities roundup...

**GET READY FOR
OUR TENTH ANNUAL
JULY 4 CELEBRATION!**

This year the Fourth of July comes on a Friday, and the place to be is Northwood Hills Elementary School at 9:30 AM.

The big parade for family and friends starts at 10:00 AM. Organizers Mark and Lynn Carlton will have merchant-donated prizes for best patriotic costume, best-decorated bicycle, wildest car or float, and lots more. Stroll the neighborhood escorted by the DFD fire truck and a DPD cruiser. It will be hot, so get ready for the dunking booth. Plus there'll be photo buttons, games, balloons, face painting, and the MoonWalk!

Hard working Cub Scouts from NHE Pack 585 will be back this year with hot dogs, sno-cones, and drinks. Don't mess up and miss out. *We'll see you there!*

KIDS LOVE EGGSTRAVAGANZA.

New Board Members Amy Zepeda and Shelia Baxter created NHHA's first annual Eggstravaganza Egg Hunt this past April 19th. Besides the egg hunt, kids enjoyed a bounce house and a visit from the "Eggstravaganza Bunny" -- who also had fun and promised to return next year.

RAIN SPARES GOLFERS.

Thunderstorms were in the forecast, but lasted just half a minute as fifteen members and guests of Northwood Hills Men's Association teed off April 23rd at Tenison Park. Winners Steve Keller, Willis Cowlshaw, Dick and Gene Hoffmann had a team score of 150. Medalist Steve Keller shot 77.

In war on terrorism...

***DPD ASKS CITIZENS
TO BE PREPARED IN***

CASE OF RED ALERT.

The Dallas Police Department recently sent reassuring words to NHHA and other area homeowner groups: officers and staff are well trained and ready to respond in case of a terrorist emergency. Now they want us citizens to get involved.

Even before September 11, DPD personnel were training for biological and chemical disasters, stressing coordination at regional, state, and federal levels. A key part of that coordination is the reaction of the public. The better prepared we are, the less likely to panic and worsen matters.

DPD advises us to pay attention to our surroundings, call 911 with significant information, take cover and stay where we are if we can. We should prepare for an emergency by keeping a cellphone and battery-powered radio on hand, make a list of important phone numbers, develop a plan with family members to communicate and establish a meeting place if needed.

Emergency provisions should include non-spoilable foods, bottled water, first-aid kit and essential medications, flashlight, extra batteries, toilet paper, plastic garbage bags, blankets and a change of clothing. If you must travel, for example from business to home, plan alternate routes in case of traffic blockage.

Should Federal Homeland Security issue a Red Alert warning, DPD may go to twelve-hour shifts, and routine matters such as neighborhood patrols may be subject to change or delay.

Caused by Zip Code change...

***CITY'S 3-1-1 SERVICE
NORTH OF SPG. VALLEY
LOST, NOW RESTORED.***

Northwood Hills residents north of Spring Valley weren't too happy when their Postal Zip Code was changed from 75240 to 75254 last summer. But that wasn't the whole story. They also lost access to the city's 3-1-1 telephone service line.

In case you haven't used it, 3-1-1 gets you a real, live person to talk to at City Hall to request such services as code enforcement, pot hole repair, animal control, traffic hazards, and such.

Instead of a live voice, area callers got a busy signal. Thinking the phone lines were always busy due to understaffing, the problem went unreported for months. Then, at our NHHA Annual Meeting this past January, Gene Hoffmann mentioned the situation to District 11 Councilperson Lois Finkelman. In a few days, Gene was getting calls from City department heads.

The link to a change in the Postal Zip Code didn't surface until the city's Information Services Manager, Dan McFarland, got involved. Sure enough, Southwestern Bell was supposed to make changes to the 3-1-1 system when the Zip Code went from 75240 to 75254. Now it's fixed, thanks to Gene, Lois, and Dan, and you can get through on 3-1-1 24/7.

Northwood Hills

NHHA NEWSLETTER

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Managing Editor - Fred Williams

Real Estate update...

***2003 VS 2002 LOOKING
GOOD THRU APRIL.***

By Amy Nowlin Zepeda

Home sales in Northwood Hills for the four months ended May 1, 2003, look favorable compared with the same period last year.

	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Total sold	12	15
Avg list price	\$383,200	\$410,830
Avg days on mkt	95	62
Avg sq footage	3,356	3,544
Avg sale price	\$371,492	\$399,547
Avg \$/sq ft	\$110.69	\$112.73

Statistics shown are from North Texas Real Estate Information Systems.

Neighborly idea...

***YOUNG FAMILIES TO
SHARE PLAYTIME FOR
PRE-SCHOOL KIDS.***

Erin and Scott Olson live on Oakbluff with their 18-month old son. There aren't a lot of other youngsters next door or across the street. So Erin wants to start a program for neighborhood families with young children to share playtime.

The idea is to form playgroups for kids age six months to three years. Parents and children would meet weekly or bi-weekly on a rotating basis at the various participants' homes. Parents would share the supervision and kids would share the fun. Everyone would make new friends.

If you have an interest in putting such a program together, call Erin Olson at 972-392-1214 or send her an e-mail at olsos@swbell.net.

Neighbors on the Net...

***MEET, CHAT AND
SWAP Q&A ON NEW
NW HILLS WEB SITE.***

By Gene Saunders

Sometimes asking Cliff Brooks just isn't enough. For example, who is a good plumber? Who can recommend a roofer? If you use NHHA's official Web site for such questions, the answers would be akin to an endorsement -- and that's a no-no.

Wouldn't it be good to have a place where you could discuss such things with neighbors outside the confines of NHHA? Well, now you've got it -- a neighborhood discussion group on Yahoo! set up just for residents of Northwood Hills. It's free of charge and free of spam.

Just point your browser at:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nwh-chat> and join up. You'll get your own ID and password and have access to all others in the group via e-mail. It's not just a place where we can exchange ideas, questions and answers, but share neighborhood photos, useful Internet addresses, even meet and chat with other neighbors on line. New joiners can read messages that have already been posted before sending their own. The site was opened just last March.

We'll continue to post "official stuff" on www.northwoodhills.org, the NHHA Web site, but this new Northwood Hills chat group lets us all have a chance to interact directly with our neighbors. And that's a good thing.

Check it out, join up, and ask about good plumbers, roofers, where to get the best pizza or whatever.

Each One Get One...

***TEN GOOD REASONS
TO ENROLL NEW
MEMBERS IN NHHA.***

1. Earn \$60 credit against your dues.

In President Fred Williams' membership initiative, if you bring in a new member paying dues for one quarter, you get credit for \$60 against your own dues. Bring in two new members, get \$120 credit. It's that simple -- and that important to the future of our Northwood Hills neighborhood.

2. Improving property values. Elsewhere in this issue you'll find evidence of the growing value of homes here in Northwood Hills. Protecting and improving property values is a major goal of NHHA.

3. Lowering crime rates. Since NHHA's founding in 1991, crime has been steadily reduced. The addition of daytime hours to the NHHA Patrol has meant greater safety and security for Northwood Hills residents.

4. Protecting neighborhood standards. From appearing before city boards to encouraging code compliance by residents, NHHA actively promotes and protects the quality standards that set our neighborhood apart from others. Everyone benefits.

5. Addressing issues with City Hall. We must speak up if our neighborhood's goals and needs are to be recognized. And a well-informed NHHA membership, speaking with a single voice, is the best way to be heard by city government.

6. Beautifying our common areas. Not only is a portion of membership dues spent each year on projects that increase the beauty of our neighborhood, but NHHA members volunteer countless hours of time to preserve assets we already have.

7. Saving \$\$ with Preferred Merchants. Exclusive discounts at 20 area retailers are available only to members of NHHA. See the current list of Preferred Merchants and discounts at www.northwoodhills.org.

8. Enjoying events and activities. What's a neighborhood all about if it isn't social? NHHA conducts events throughout the year that attract all ages. Ideas for new activities are always welcome. Give us yours.

9. Keeping well-informed by e-mail. News you can use about neighborhood matters, from tips on crime prevention to special offers by area merchants, gets sent directly to members' e-mail addresses.

10. Enjoying a sense of community. By fostering closer bonds among neighbors, NHHA unites members and non-members alike toward the same goal: making our neighborhood the best it can be.

THESE ARE THE BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO NHHA -- AND YOU BENEFIT EVEN MORE WHEN YOU INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN.

Yes! I have a new member for NHHA!
New member name: _____

Address: _____

Home telephone: _____

Dues enclosed: \$60 for one quarter _____

\$120 for half year _____ ***\$240 for year*** _____

My name: _____

Make checks payable to Northwood Hills HOA.

Mail to NHHA, P.O. Box 800874, Dallas, TX 75380-0874. -

Beware of dog laws...

CITY CODES CALL FOR CANINE COMPLIANCE.

In addition to requiring that your doggie be vaccinated and registered every 12 months, City of Dallas Animal Control enforces the following:

- **Dog leash law.** Your dog must be in a fenced yard, enclosed structure, or on

a leash at all times (except in a posted off-leash park).

- **Barking dog law.** The City Attorney prosecutes civil complaints from any person disturbed by barking, howling, or other objectionable noise that exceeds allowable residential sound levels for more than fifteen minutes.
- **Pooper scooper law.** Dog owners must remove any feces created by their dog on public or private property not owned, leased, or controlled by them. Furthermore, when walking their dog they must have in possession a device for the sanitary removal and disposal of such feces.

So, dog lovers be aware of the laws, and beware of code violations.

Only because we asked...

***NHHA GETS AUDITED.
EVERYTHING'S OKAY.***

At the Annual Meeting, our Treasurer Gene Hoffmann requested a volunteer to audit the Association's books for the year 2002. So Phyllis Rueckert offered the services of her husband, Kenneth, who is quite well qualified and was not present to decline.

In February, Kenneth C. Rueckert completed an audit of Northwood Hills Homeowners Association. Gene Hoffmann has a letter on file dated February 26, 2003 attesting that all is in good order.

On the road this summer...

***DID YOU KNOW? STATE
PROVIDES FREE AUTO
EMERGENCY SERVICE.***

Don't worry if you're not a member of AAA, or drive a Cadillac and subscribe to OnStar. You can still get free roadside

emergency service along the Lone Star state's highways and byways. Put on your reading glasses and study the back of your Texas Driver's License. Just above the bar code there's this: **TEXAS ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE 1-800-525-5555.**

Sure enough, you can call this number for help on the highway or else-where in the state when you require emergency assistance. A state operated service truck, paid for by your tax dollars, will come to your aid.

Makes you proud to be a Texan!

When they no longer work...

***HOW TO DISPOSE
OF OLD COMPUTERS
AND PERIPHERALS.***

That last big word means printers and monitors and other stuff attached to your computer. What should you do with the old when you buy new? Steve Shore, one of our members, found a good answer for us. Resource Concepts at 2940 Eisenhower east of I-35 near Frankford will recycle it. Businesses pay \$12, but the service is free to individuals. Call them at 800-258-9112.
