

Northwood Hills

NHHA NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2007

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**BULK TRASH
PICK-UP DATES**
MONDAY-TUESDAY
BEGINNING WITH:
APRIL 9
MAY 14
JUNE 11
JULY 9

PRESIDENT'S VIEWPOINT

By Gene Saunders

We've decided to devote this issue of our newsletter to **GOING GREEN** (hence the paper color). While "Going Green" can mean different things to different people, we'll narrow the focus to being environmentally friendly, lowering our carbon footprint, etc. You may even notice that **we're using 100% Recycled Paper** (this issue only, unless someone steps forward to underwrite the 50% premium)!

We face a daunting challenge, and it may seem that there's little that we can do *as individuals* to reduce our impact on the environment, but when we consider that Northwood Hills has over 1100 homes, we start to realize **there's a lot we can do collectively**. Hopefully this will pique our thinking as to what we can do to make an impact – whether it's by combining our daily errands into one trip instead of five – or just turning off appliances & lights when we're not using them. Some of us may choose to do a lot more – switching from a 12mpg Jeep Grand Cherokee to a 60mpg Toyota Prius [source: fueleconomy.gov] or install a solar panel or two, to take the load off The Grid.

I read somewhere that it takes 3 weeks for us to acquire a new habit – or break an old one. After that, it's second nature. Sometimes it's easier to take "baby steps" as we make changes – try increasing the thermostat by 2 degrees each week until we're accustomed to 78 instead of 72 (thus shaving 18% off our electric bill). Would this reduce the number of electricity plants by 18%? No, because that assumes the population stays the same.

My parents grew up during The Great Depression, and I suspect many of the life habits I picked up came from habits they learned during those rough times. **Good, environmentally-sensitive habits we pass along to our children can last for decades.**

Switching gears .. our Beautification Chair, Rebel Webster, advises:

"Northwood Hills is beautiful!" Yes, everyone comments on Northwood Hills' natural beauty, and this year NHHA is undertaking several projects to enhance the visual appeal of our neighborhood. The most ambitious goal is to begin to repair and revitalize the medians we maintain, which will include repairing/replacing rock retaining walls, making our sprinklers more efficient, redesigning planting areas, and installing fresh, colorful, attractive plants.

*In addition to being enjoyable for residents, our medians make a powerful statement about the image of Northwood Hills and contribute to property value, so our commitment is to "do it right." **We are evaluating landscape designers and will have new plans and ideas for our membership to see.** It will not be an overnight project, but a workable plan we can implement over time as budget and fundraising permit.*

MEMBERSHIP NEARS 600!

By Audrey Mitchell

Today I have great news to share! As we pass into a new year, I am pleased to inform you that we have exceeded last year's membership level by more than 65 homes. That's right, at last year's annual meeting we celebrated 529 memberships, and today we celebrate 595 members.

However, beyond the reality of "making the budget," such an achievement is a sign that we are a growing, civic-minded, and vital neighborhood. I have always believed that our need to be neighborly is a higher priority than aiming for an extra hour of security patrol or an extra flat of flowers planted in our medians. Why do I say this? It's the mantra of putting the horse before the cart.

Our HOA is voluntary and not mandatory. This means that being a good citizen in Northwood Hills is not a spectator sport. We're Americans all, and we won't always agree on every issue, but we are, to coin a phrase, "Northwood Hillians" all, and with that connection we have the same vested interest in our property values, and in our personal safety and that of our children. So what am I saying? No guts, no glory, no 24/7 private patrol!

Meet your neighbor and talk up the Northwood Hills HOA! Who cares if you've both lived in your homes for years? Friendliness and neighborly behavior does not have an expiration date. **Spring has arrived, so -- spring a surprise!** Offer some flowers from your garden or an invitation to coffee. Best-case scenario: you'll have a new best friend at arm's reach. And the worst case: you'll definitely have a new set of eyes to watch your front door when you're out of town.

Have you ever noticed that whatever you focus on, you tend to get more of? Our mature, urban community has such great needs, and it is ours to respond to those needs.

I look forward to another year of making a difference in Northwood Hills and both Judy Davis and I honor each of you for your wonderful commitment to membership. Let's celebrate a special welcome to the following households who have joined the NHHA since the kick-off of 2007:

Alpha: Lantz;
Briar Cove: Thomas; Harvey; Westover;
Cliffbrook: Badgett; Hancock; Moring;
Summerall;
Crestmere: Pollack;
Edgecrest: Bates; Tredennick;

Elmridge: Kocian;
Glenhurst: Adamson;
Maplecrest: Brockie; Watson;
Meadowcreek: Collier; Liethen; Ratner; Slattery;
Vaiser; Waller;
Meadowhaven: Russ;
Meandering Way: Gray;
Mossvine: Held;
Oakbluff: Berkemeier;
Paldao: Luchsinger; Smith-Gist;
Sprucewood: Spector-Conner;
Stonecrest: Ryan;
Tanglecrest: Moore;
Teakwood: Nance-Goodstein;
Westgate: Spurr

NORTHWOOD CHATTER

Renamed neighborhood discussion group

In early March, we renamed the NWH-Chat group (started in March 2003) to "NorthwoodChatter". The content is still on the website for anyone who cares to join now and read the prior postings. Since **this group is not sponsored by the NHHA**, membership is open to anyone who lives in the neighborhood (not only the 595+ members of the NHHA). In the past, this has been used most commonly to exchange the names of contractors (e.g. "who knows a good pool repair company?").

Private groups like this eliminate spam – anyone who posts a message must be a member of the group (i.e. it's a whitelist); we take a zero-tolerance policy for anyone who sends such messages. So far, we haven't had to "ban" anyone! To sign up, click the blue button on groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthwoodChatter

FRIENDS OF BEAUTIFICATION

The generosity of four homeowners (\$250 each) prompted us to create "Friends of Beautification," through which you may contribute money specifically designated for median improvements. Special thanks to:

Jane Williams Virginia Cook Realty 214-507-5504	Steve McCoy Transwestern Commercial Services 214-446-4521
Wayne & Gigi Correll Eurway Furniture 972-386-0389	Jerry Davis State Farm Insurance 972-231-5227

If you'd like to donate and help make our public medians truly beautiful, call Rebel Webster at 214-866-0155.

STAYING COOL THIS SUMMER

1. Wrap your hot water heater. For about \$10, you can buy a hot water heater jacket. Insulating your hot water heater and the pipes that lead to and from it is the single most cost-effective improvement you can make.

2. Seal the ductwork. In 80% of southern homes, leaky ducts waste more energy than any other problem. To stop energy loss, ductwork should be made airtight everywhere ducts attach to vents, each other and the heating/cooling unit.

3. Add attic insulation. About half of all homes with attics have insufficient insulation. A good rule of thumb is that if you have six inches or less of insulation -- you need more. An attic should have insulation rated R-30, or six to eight inches.

4. Seal other air leaks. Air infiltration from the outside is another huge energy loser. Caulking and weather-stripping are the keys. In a drafty home, the entire volume of air must be reheated or recooled several times an hour.

5. Install energy-efficient light bulbs. Every home has lights, and new compact fluorescent light bulbs can save a lot of energy. They last much longer than regular incandescent bulbs and save enough energy to pay for themselves twice before they burn out.

The amount of energy wasted just through poorly insulated windows and doors is about as much as we get from the Alaskan pipeline each year. By taking some inexpensive energy-efficient measures, you can reduce your energy bills by 10% to 50%.

More Summertime Savings Tips:

- ✓ Set your thermostat to 78 degrees or the highest comfortable temperature. Each degree below 78 will increase your bill by as much as 3 percent.
- ✓ Place window and central air conditioning units on the shady or north side of your home when possible. When using window units, shut doors to unused rooms.
- ✓ Install solar screens or films on sunny windows.
- ✓ Keep air conditioner filters clean.

- ✓ Leave storm windows and doors closed when the air conditioner is on.
- ✓ Close shades and drapes on the sunny side of the house during the day to keep light and heat out.
- ✓ Make sure air vents aren't blocked by curtains, window shades or furniture.
- ✓ Keep the cool air circulating with ceiling, oscillating or box fans.
- ✓ Use kitchen and bathroom exhaust fans to remove excess heat and humidity caused by cooking, laundering and bathing.

RESEARCHING GREEN

In February, the Dallas Public Library opened a new branch on Midway Road, south of the George Bush Turnpike. The Timberglen Branch is certified silver by the US Green Building Council's LEED Rating System. It uses less electricity, gas, and water and promotes ongoing environmental stewardship. The building features recycled and rapidly renewable building materials, energy efficient lighting, and roofing materials that reduce heat and conserve energy. A Green Touchscreen in the lobby allows customers to view current data on energy and water usage for the building. Timberglen offers regular storytimes for children and a book club for teens and adults. For more information, call 214-671-1365 or go to www.dallaslibrary.org/timberglen

This summer will mark the 8th annual Mayor's Summer Reading Club, and Fretz Park will be hosting a variety of performers and programs. This year the dates are May 19-July 29. All children from infant to high school level are encouraged to enroll!

Fretz Park will host a variety of programs and performances every Friday this summer. Sandy ShROUT and Friends Puppetry will perform "The Three Little Pigs with a Texas Twist" on May 25 at 11am. Youth Librarian Marci Mauriello will host a Harry Potter release party on July 27 at 11am! Come by Fretz Park for a flyer or call 214-670-6421.

For children aged 18-36 months, there's a program every Tuesday from 11am-11:20am. Join us for stories, songs, games and finger plays! Preschool Storytime will not be continuing due to the performances during the scheduled time.

MITIGATING THE SPAM MENACE

by Gene Saunders

I've had the same email address for many years, and .. over time .. about 95% of my email is now spam. Yet, it more of a minor annoyance than a serious problem for me. This article attempts to explain WHY.

Some estimates say that more than 80% of the messages flying around the Internet are "spam". Spam is any message or posting, regardless of its content, that is sent to multiple recipients who have not specifically requested the message. Many of these go to now-abandoned addresses.

You may wonder how spammers get your address in the first place. Such "harvesting" could be an article unto itself, but .. they have a variety of ways. Each time you forward an email, you're taking the chance that a spammer will eventually get all the embedded addresses, including your own. When you send your favorite recipe to everyone in your Email Address Book, you're risking that the addresses will fall into the wrong hands. It's best to use the Bcc: (blind carbon copy) feature to minimize the risk of your friends/relatives addresses being exposed.

One way to keep spam under control is to **layer your anti-spam tactics** -- think of using your webmail account (AT&T/Yahoo; Gmail; MSN; Time-Warner) as using a peephole in your door to see who's out there. If you don't recognize the sender or the subject, just delete the message! I use multiple accounts: one for one-way announcements, and another for two-way traffic.

Some of you have resorted to using a **whitelist** (a list of approved senders – if you're not on the list, you don't get in), and that's a good practice, although it's a minor annoyance to the sender when they send the first message to you.

If your provider offers Webmail as an option, I'd strongly recommend you use it for that first-level screening. Example: Yahoo!'s webmail provides an Inbox and a Bulk folder (you can add others).

With two mouse clicks, I can scan the email headers, then [Empty] the Bulk folder without reading any of the messages. Yes, you're risking that a valid message was somewhere in there, but .. over time, you'll learn to recognize which ones are bogus. And, after all, what's the worst that could happen? A legitimate user may have to re-send the email after calling you on the telephone!

Evaluating Subject headers in Inbox. If the Sender is unknown, next check the Subject line. Often "nonsense words" are used. Messages from "Ann" with the Subject "read this!" are undoubtedly Spam.

Ensure that you have "remote images" turned off. Spammers can tell they have a real address when you view an image. They'll then happily sell your address to fellow spammers, and the cycle continues.

Some of you may choose to buy a commercial, off-the-shelf anti-spam product. There are reviews of these products on many sites. There are also several very good free anti-spam programs (they make money by offering to upgrade you to their premium commercial software). Use your favorite search engine and seek "free antis spam software".

There are many lists of advice about "Protecting Yourself From Spam" - here's one:
<http://help.yahoo.com/us/tutorials/mail/mail/otherspam1.html>

CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- Close your garage door if you're out of sight;
- Lock all doors and windows, even upstairs;
- Get a *monitored* alarm system;
- Keep bushes or hedges trimmed to less than three feet;
- Use dowels in tracks or pins in frames to secure sliding doors, windows;
- Close your curtains or blinds when the house is empty;
- Use timers to turn lights or radios on and off while you're gone;
- Don't talk about out-of-town trips in front of strangers;
- Get to know your friendly neighbors;
- Record serial numbers (and take pictures) of valuables.

YES -- I WANT TO JOIN NHHA!

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
HOME PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____
(please PRINT legibly)

Please make \$240 (annual) check payable to:
Northwood Hills Homeowners Association
PO Box 800874, Dallas TX 75380-0874

SPRING SELF HELP POOL PREP

1. Turn on the power to the pool system. You may have to turn on the circuit breaker from the house. Start and check system. Check for leaks or drips. Make sure any grounding straps or wires are properly connected to the pump and any other components that need them. Make sure pump primes properly. Check for proper flow. Backwash the filter thoroughly. Add new DE if you have a DE filter. If some pieces of equipment do not appear to be operating properly, see <http://poolandspa.com/page3.htm> under the POOL TROUBLESHOOTING section. If you cannot repair the problem yourself, contact a local pool professional.
2. Shock the pool with any chlorine shock product. This is available in liquid or granular form. You want to add enough to raise the chlorine level of the pool to at least 3.0 ppm (darker yellow color in most liquid test kits). If you use granular shock, do not throw it directly into the pool! You could bleach and stain the liner. It is best to mix the granular shock chlorine in a bucket and then add that mixture into the skimmer while the system is running.
3. If your pool is a "green swamp" when you open it, see www.poolandspa.com/page12.htm for further information.
4. If your pool water is relatively clear, accurately test your water for chlorine, PH and alkalinity levels. If available, also test for stabilizer (cyanuric acid). Adjust these chemicals to the proper levels. Add a high quality algaecide to the water. See www.poolandspa.com/page8.htm for more information.
5. Let your pool run for at least 24 hours. Vacuum any debris out of the bottom. Retest water. Do not go into pool until water is crystal clear and chlorine level is under 2.0 ppm (medium yellow color on most test kits).

DALLAS REC CENTERS & E.M.S.

By Robert Harder, Community Program Manager

When most folks hear the term EMS they think of "Emergency Medical Services" but in Dallas County, it also means **Environmental Management System**.

Fretz Recreation Center, along with the other 46 recreation centers in the Park and Recreation Department, is focused on the Environment

Management System. We are working towards following the EMS policy and being aware of how it impacts the environment around us. We are committed to pollution prevention, environmental compliance and continual improvement. Our jobs impact the environment every day through the waste and pollution we create, the equipment we operate, the impact of our natural resources (water, oil) and we try to recycle paper, plastic and aluminum as much as possible.

In the spirit of being "green" (environmentally friendly), I invite you and your neighbors to do your part in developing, following and improving on your own home, neighborhood and City of Dallas Environmental Management System.

Come by Fretz Recreation Center and see what types of programs you and your family can participate in. Summer camp registration is around the corner. Get fit and get your kids in some outstanding camp activities this summer. Look us up at www.fretzpark.net

ABBREVIATED FINANCIALS

	2007 YTD	2007 Budget
Membership dues	\$91,540	\$125,000
Advertising	1,800	6,700
Total Income	95,518	135,800
Beautification	1,321	21,800
Security Patrol	16,125	95,500
Total Expenses	20,682	129,300
	2/28/07	2/28/06
Total Assets	\$116,030	\$78,970
Retained Earnings	42,926	22,352

Details are always available, upon request, to any NHHA Member.

STORYTIME AT NHE

by Jill Hance, NHE PTA President

Calling all babies and preschoolers (moms too!!) Come for snacks and stories, meet a neighbor and entertain the kids. For information, call Pam Metzger at 972-385-9182. "StoryTime" will happen at 2pm on Friday, April 27 in the Northwood Hills Elementary courtyard (14532 Meandering Way).

Great things are happening at our local public school! Come pay an unannounced visit and see for yourselves - anytime!

EASY WAYS TO GO GREEN

by Wendy Whaley

The information is taken from a variety of handbooks and websites, including the Environmental Protection Agency.

Free: Things That Cost Nothing and Save Cash

- Turn down water heater thermostat to 120 Fahrenheit.
- Turn off lights when leaving a room.
- Remove underused appliances (like garage refrigerators) from service and have them recycled.
- Close heating vents in unused rooms
- Use energy saving settings on washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, and refrigerators.
- Don't waste water -- hot or cold -- inside or outside your home.

Simple and Inexpensive: Things That Will Pay for Themselves in Lower Energy Bills in Less Than a Year

- Install a compact fluorescent light bulb in the fixture you use the most (\$15).
- Install a water-saving 2.5 gallon-per-minute showerhead (\$15).
- Clean or change the air filter on your warm-air heating system during winter and on air conditioning units in the summer (\$2-\$15).

Getting Serious: Measures That Collectively Will Cost Up to \$500 and Have Paybacks of 1 to 3 Years

- Get a comprehensive energy audit, including a blower door test, to identify sources of air infiltration
- Replace failed appliances with Energy Star models at little incremental cost.
- Install additional faucet aerators, efficient showerheads, and programmable thermostats.

Going All Out: Save a Lot of Energy and Money, But Will Take 3 to 15 Years to Pay for Themselves

- Install more compact fluorescent bulbs. Put them in your most frequently used fixtures, including those outdoors. (2 or more hours of use per day)
- Replace exterior incandescent lights with compact fluorescents and put them on a timer or motion sensor if they're on more than a couple of hours a night.

- Replace high-flow toilets with modern water-efficient toilets that use 50-80 percent less water.
- Plant a tree to shade your largest west window in summer. You won't save any money for years, but you'll get an A+ for long-range vision.

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P.O. Box 800874 Dallas, TX 75380-0874

Gene Saunders, President

DIRECTORS

Judy Davis Mark Hord

Audrey Mitchell Guymon Phillips

Judy Switzer Rebel Webster

Linda West Wendy Whaley

Internet: www.northwoodhills.org

Homeowner's Hotline: 972-480-5249

NORTHWOOD HILLS – A DESTINATION NEIGHBORHOOD

By Jill Hance

Way back in 1997, I met the 'Park Moms'. A group of Northwood hills women who hung out with our toddlers at Fretz Park to pass the afternoons. There were approximately seven Moms who lived within a half-mile radius. We met on a regular basis. In a five year span, our number of children grew from seven to seventeen (we were busy!?). All of our children attended various pre-schools, but they still managed to play each afternoon-they were the best of friends and the Moms, too. We were the ideal picture of a neighborhood community.

Ten years later, I am still friends with the Moms, but our children hardly know each other. Almost all of the families still live in Northwood Hills but we've made different choices for educating our children, neither right nor wrong. My children are the only three of the seventeen who attend our neighborhood school, Northwood Hills Elementary (NHE).

Last year when I took on the position of PTA President for NHE, I decided it was time to figure out why the percentage of NH homeowner student population at our neighborhood school was decreasing when the number of elementary age children living in NH was increasing. What is wrong with our neighborhood school that our neighbors are not considering it as a viable first option? How

could I spread the word in the neighborhood about this little neighborhood elementary school that feels much like “Mayberry, RFD”.

With a very limited PTA budget, I had to be creative in my due diligence, Obviously, the school’s PTA could not afford a focus group so I took on a project of grassroots polling. Who did I turn to but my trustworthy, ‘Park Moms’. Knowing that they are all intelligent women with vested interests in their children’s education and have chosen separate schools for various reasons with which I would not argue or disagree, I knew they would give me the honest and open feedback I was looking for.

There were two very obvious results from my observation: our property values and public school perception. In general, fewer people are attending the public school partially because of misconceptions of public school and partly because families can afford private school. As our property values continue to rise, the second tends to be more relevant. Many families are moving into Northwood Hills who already attend private school because it is an easier commute. Often times young families with very young children find themselves in the pre-school dilemma where they obviously want the best pre-school experience. So, they apply and get in to the private pre-school, establish a network of friends so that the neighborhood school is no longer a consideration. All of these factors are concrete and valid.

While I can’t speak on behalf of all public schools, I can alleviate some misperceptions about Northwood Hills Elementary, your community school.

Concern: With children in the classroom who don’t speak English, how can my child learn in that environment?

Peace of mind: Did you know that any child registering at NHE who is not ‘English-speaking’ is deferred to another RISD elementary school for Bi-lingual training until they are able to pass the test in English. Once they return to NHE, they enter their appropriate grade level and are offered additional ESOL (English as a second-language) training by one of our ESOL teachers outside of their homeroom.

Concern: Public school class sizes are so large.

Peace of mind: Did you know NHE average class size is 20 students (although all three of my kids are in a class of 17)? RISD has a strict policy that

our schools will not have portable buildings outside the schools.

Concern: Public school only teaches to a test (TAKS).

Peace of mind: The TAKS test tests the curriculum that the Texas Education Agency has set. For example, the Reading objectives taught include summarizing, predicting outcomes, separating fact from opinion, making inferences .. skills we need in higher education and in careers. In Math, objectives taught and tested include computation, algebraic equations, geometric principles, spatial reasoning, probability and statistics, quantitative reasoning, concepts and uses of measurement. If you are interested in what the TAKS is testing, look at last year’s tests online at TEA’s web site which is www.tea.state.tx.us (click on TAKS Released tests)

Concern: My child is exceptionally bright (as are all of ours!), I’m afraid there won’t be opportunity for him/her to excel.

Peace of mind: NHE has differentiated learning opportunities that enable all children to excel. REACH is the gifted and talented program in RISD. It is designed to meet the needs of the top 2 - 5% of the student population. 15% of the students at Northwood Hills are in REACH! The Accelerated Reader program enables students to read books at their own levels and take tests online competing against themselves. Our Think Tank is a hands-on Math/Science lab that students in all grades learn in. RISD has sent teachers and principals to our Think Tank to use as a model as they improve their curriculum.

So where am I going with all of this and why should you care about NHE if you don’t have any school-age children, don’t have children or your children attend private school? It is my opinion that our property values in Northwood Hills are heavily influenced by available educational resources. Northwood Hills has the potential to become a ‘Destination Neighborhood’ of North Dallas. We have great schools, a wonderful community, unique homes on large treed lots and a convenient location.

One last thing that came from each of my meetings with my ‘Park Moms’ was that while we all live in the neighborhood, their families are missing the sense of community that many of us grew up with. Please know that when we advertise events on the marquis, ALL of you are welcome, it’s your community school.

Also, let's brainstorm ways to utilize our neighborhood school as a community center where the kids meet on Sunday afternoon for a pick-up game of flag football; where we meet for neighbors to hang out or walk laps with the ladies; or where, perhaps next Fall, the NHE computer lab can be utilized to teach Internet 101 on a Wednesday night to anyone in our community. The NHHA and I welcome your ideas on this.

Inside the doors of our neighborhood school, your principal, teachers and PTA will continue to strive for excellence. I believe, it's up to us as homeowners to stay informed and support our "gem" of a neighborhood school.

BATTLE THE BUGS DAY

Northwood Hills residents are marshalling the forces and bringing out the heavy artillery to help make summer healthier and safer. NHHA is hosting a special *FREE* program on mosquito and fire ant control, with **FREE fire ant bait to the first 30 guests**. Bring your questions and ask the pros.

We all want a healthier, safer summer, and now is the time to get the jump on mosquito prevention and fire ant control, before these pests get the upper hand.

When residents of adjoining homes treat for fire ants on the same day, effective control jumps to 90 percent. When everyone practices mosquito control methods, we can help reduce the spread of West Nile virus in our area.

**Sunday, April 29 from 2:30–4pm
Fretz Park Recreation Center**

Michael Wheeler, Environmental and Health Services, City of Dallas will share the City's strategies for controlling mosquitoes and answer your questions about spread of West Nile virus.

Kimberly Schofield, Program Specialist, Texas Cooperative Extension, Texas A&M System, will show us the Texas Two-Step...an effective method for controlling fire ants and their painful bites.

Do your part:

1. Attend "Battle the Bugs," Mosquito and Fire Ant Control Program Fretz Recreation Center, with pros from Texas A&M Extension and the City of Dallas. Learn how you can control these dangerous pests;

2. Spread fire ant bait and treat mounds. Remember, fire ants MOVE...so join with your neighbors in treating lawns on the same day and give those ants no where to run!
3. Check and clean rain gutters. Accumulated leaves and debris can hold water and create a breeding site for mosquitoes;
4. Eliminate standing water in potted plant saucers;
5. Check your sprinkler system and reduce run-off;
6. ponds or fountains, use 'over the counter' larvicides ... 'dunks' or 'toss-its' which contain Bti (*Bacillus thuringiensis var. israelensis*). Bti is an environmentally friendly, natural, non-polluting, bacterially produced chemical.

West Nile Virus arrived in the Metroplex in 2002. Since then, we've begun to adapt, although in 2006, two residents of Northwood Hills -- one on Paldao and another on Briarmeade -- contracted the virus. **One of them died as a result**, after a lengthy hospitalization.

WNV doesn't affect everyone equally. Some people can be bitten and show little/no symptoms, while it's obviously fatal to others.

Some folks have suggested we demand that the city spray our neighborhood often, but there's a downside to that: the spray that kills any mosquito which may be within range also kills other insects, including those who pollinate our flowers and trees. By "curing" the mosquito problem, you indirectly yet simultaneously doom many of our plants.

More info: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile

DID YOU KNOW ...

- ✓ you can donate your spare change to charity at the local supermarket? Coinstar machines (inside Kroger and Albertsons) will count your coins and print a receipt that your tax preparer can use.
- ✓ April 22 is Earth Day. Let's each make one positive change to help save our planet!
- ✓ The 2007 meeting of the Northwood Hills Homeowners Association was the best-attended ever. Nearly 170 members – and prospective members – attended that meeting. Thank you, thank you, thank you for making this a strong neighborhood!