



HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

NHHA Launches Special Project: Improvement of Belt Line and Hillcrest Walls

After significant expense and effort to renovate the gateway medians of Northwood Hills, NHHA is now targeting the boundary walls along Hillcrest and Belt Line, and the southwest corner of that intersection, for improvement during 2012.

The walls are private property, and NHHA will contact each property owner personally and individually to get permission to clean and paint their section of wall.

Nearby neighborhoods have done the same. Spring Creek, east of Meandering Way on the north side of Belt Line, recently painted and landscaped its boundary wall. Campbell Green, on Campbell Road west of Hillcrest, has walls of a similar material to Northwood Hills and recently painted the walls and installed name markers.

In addition to cleaning and painting the walls, more Northwood Hills markers will be installed at key entrances. The goal is a clean, upscale image that identifies and brands continued page 10



Crime Went Down in 2011

At the annual membership meeting, NHHA crime and security chair Glynn Newman and crime statistician Judy Switzer shared good news with Members: overall crime in 2011 in Northwood Hills was down 43 percent from 2010.

"We worked closely with DPD in response to the home burglaries early in the year, and we hosted a crime meeting to keep residents informed," said Newman. "The professional thieves who were arrested were working multiple areas of Dallas."

Switzer reviews three crime reports daily, distributes monthly security reports to NHHA Members, and follows up personally with crime victims. "We try to get additional information to alert other Members and prevent similar crimes," she said.

NHHA installed surveillance cameras and signage in 2010-2011, but the crime decrease cannot be solely attributed to that initiative, Newman said.



HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Northwood Hills Homeowners Association P O Box 800874 Dallas, TX 75380-0874

Membership Makes It Happen

March is "Membership Month" in Northwood Hills, when we make a special effort to reach residents who are not yet Members of Northwood Hills Homeowners Association and ask them to join.

As you read through this issue of the Breeze, you'll see what NHHA is doing to make Northwood Hills better. In 2012, our major non-security expense is to improve the boundary walls along Hillcrest and Belt Line. This kind of large-scale project takes a lot of volunteer leadership, commitment, and money. Your membership is critical to helping us achieve meaningful improvement for the whole neighborhood.

"What's in it for me?"

The biggest benefit provided by NHHA Membership is access to the private security patrol's services. Armed security officers are on duty seven days a week in Northwood Hills, patrolling our alleys and streets. Members can call the private patrol number anytime they see something or someone suspicious, are coming home late at night or have a security concern at home. A popular benefit is the patrol's out of town home check service while Members are traveling.

Members also benefit through MemberMail communications – including updates on neighborhood problems; City code, zoning or sanitation issues; nearby area concerns; special events and more. Members also receive Security Snapshot, a monthly recap of recent criminal incidents and security concerns in the neighborhood.

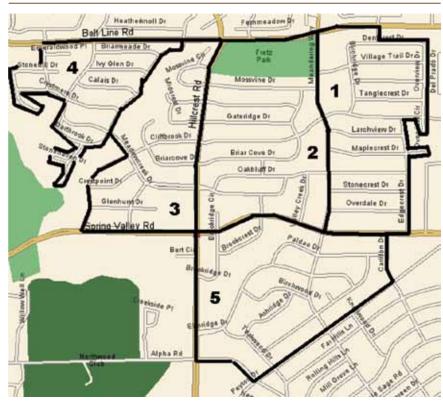
Signs of the Times

Every member receives a custom painted curb address that features the NHHA logo, a reflective alley address sign to help security and first-responders identify the home, a No Solicitors sign for the front porch that complies with City standards, and two reflective decals for mailbox or other location, promoting NHHA's use of armed security.

Neighborhood Improvements

Member dues also fund the maintenance of the gateway medians into Northwood Hills, including ongoing renovation and improvements, new plantings and seasonal color. Maintaining these areas in a professional, attractive and environmentally responsible way directly enhances the property value in Northwood Hills. This year, the focus will continued page 14

Northwood Hills Boundaries and Areas







NHHA Leadership

Rebel Webster – President Communications president@northwoodhills.org 214-866-0155

> John Mottram – Secretary Area 4 Director jm@northwoodhills.org 214-543-1855

Bob Nance – Treasurer bn@northwoodhills.org 469-233-0857

Glynn Newman – Area 1Director Security & Crimewatch gn@northwoodhills.org 469-223-3582

Rich Prendergast – Area 2 Director Membership rp@northwoodhills.org 972-980-2988

> Dane Smith – Area 3 Director Walls Special Project ds@northwoodhills.org 972-489-7920

John Mottram – Area 4 Director Curb Painting jm@northwoodhills.org 214-543-1855

Ron Skipper – Area 5 Director Beautification rs@northwoodhills.org 214-263-9343

Ed Fikse – At Large Director Security Cameras ef@northwoodhills.org 972-661-3921

Candace Winslow – At Large Director Membership cw@northwoodhills.org 214-642-4541

Judy Switzer Security & Crime Statistician js@northwoodhills.org 2144-801-7273

A Round of Applause

Special thanks go to three NHHA board members whose terms ended with the annual meeting. All served four years, and collectively racked up approximately 3,500 hours of service to the neighborhood.

David Abell and Clark Dunklin led NHHA's membership benefit efforts. David brought online dues payment to NHHA, which has resulted in more Members paying in full and earlier in the year. He also initiated and managed the surveillance camera and sign project and the first round of the curb address painting project.

Clark focused on security-related benefits for NHHA members, supervising three security patrol performance reviews and managing the alley address and no solicitors signage projects.

Bob Nance served as treasurer, managing NHHA's budget, financial reports, and tax filings.





David Abell, Clark Dunklin, Bob Nance (top to bottom)

Watering Restrictions to Continue – Do You Know Your Days?

Setting the automatic sprinkler to water every day is a thing of the past...at least for the foreseeable future. Mandatory landscape watering restrictions initiated in December will remain in effect at least until June and likely throughout the rest of the year, as forecasters warn of another hot, dry summer.

Big rains in January helped area lake levels, but the reservoirs from which Dallas gets its water are still about 11 percent depleted. Along with the possibility of a continuing La Niña weather pattern, construction at the East Side water treatment plant (Dallas' largest such facility) will reduce treatment capacity in 2012.

"Water demand peaks in August," said Yvonne Dupré, Dallas Water Utilities drought response coordinator. "Continuing Stage 1 conservation efforts will help us ensure we can meet demand in the hottest month...hopefully without having to go to Stage 2."

The Dallas City Council will be briefed in April or May about the drought and water supply; one idea being considered is to make the twice-weekly schedule permanent.

When to Water

- Residents and businesses with addresses ending in an even number may water only on Sundays and Thursdays.
- Addresses ending in an odd number may water only on Saturdays and Wednesdays.
- The restrictions apply to automatic sprinklers, hose end sprinklers, drip irrigation, soaker hoses and hand watering.
- Watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on allowed watering days.
- Container and potted plants may be watered by hand any day.





Check us out at www.northwoodhills.org!

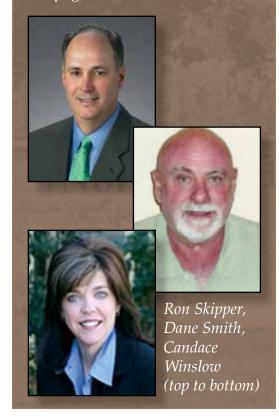


NHHA Welcomes New Board Members, Elects Officers

NHHA Members at the annual membership meeting elected three Northwood Hills residents to the board of directors: Ron Skipper (Area 5), Dane Smith (Area 3) and Candace Winslow (At Large).

Subsequent to the membership meeting, directors conducted the annual meeting of the board to elect officers. Rebel Webster was re-elected president, John Mottram was re-elected secretary, and Bob Nance was re-elected treasurer. (Per NHHA by-law, officers can – but do not have to be – members of the board of directors.)

For contact information for all NHHA directors and officers, see page 3.



Planning July 4th Fun

The NHHA Independence Day Parade and Celebration is a Northwood Hills tradition. Hundreds walk or watch the parade, enjoy free games, activities and food, and buy their July 4th watermelon.

Sponsors and volunteers are needed to make this event a real firecracker.

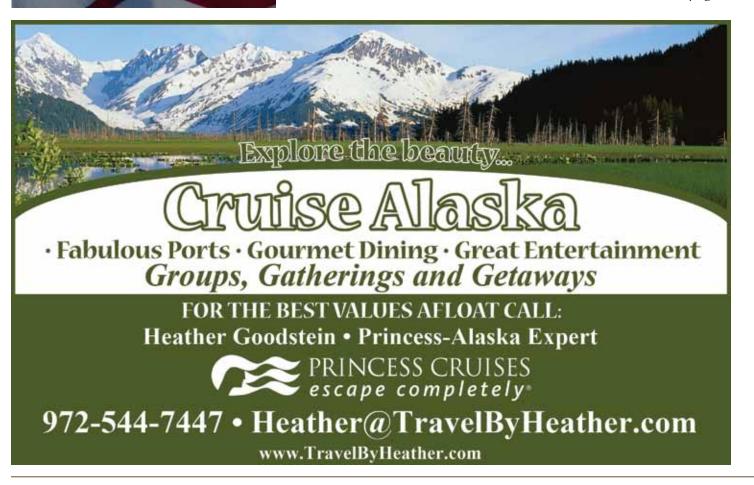
Email Rebel Webster – rw@ northwoodhills.org to get involved or learn about sponsorships. A Parade Planning Meeting will be held this spring.

From Northwood Hills to the Caribbean: Thoughts From Our Recent Cruise

Sponsorship Advertorial by Bob Nance

As I relax and gaze across the azure blue waters of the Caribbean Ocean, I'm 16 stories up in the Sky Observation Lounge in the magnificent cruise ship Celebrity Eclipse. A fellow passenger also looking for the quiet solitude this area of the ship offers sits down close by. We strike up the most interesting conversation about real estate and travel, both passions of mine. An hour later, after exchanging contact info, we both move on to other aspects of life onboard a cruise ship.

This exchange reminded me of another encounter my wife Heather and I had on a shore excursion in St. Thomas. That day we took a sail and snorkel tour with four other people on a 40- foot sail boat. We met two friends traveling together from Denmark and a couple from New York; the wife was Australian and the husband was Eastern European. She was a doctor and he was in real estate; we talked, we snorkeled, continued page 7



Cruise

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we got to know these people and the highlights of their lives. This is what we love about cruising, and why we recently started Cruise Planners/ American Express.

Cruising is not just about the destination -- it is also about the journey! It is about the experiences you have along the way, and the people, food, entertainment, accommodations, and lifestyle provided on board by the cruise lines. Cruising can be whatever you want it to be; from quiet and relaxing to all out stimulation or anything in between.

Heather and I started our company because like you – our neighbors in Northwood Hills – we are discriminating travelers. Our full-service agency can help you create the travel experience of a lifetime!

Contact us at Heather@TravelByHeather.com or visit our website, www.TravelByHeather.com.

The purpose of NHHA is to preserve and enhance the value of the property and improve the quality of life in Northwood Hills.



April Alley Clean-Up Spiffs Alleys, Encourages Safety

Northwood Hills' Annual April Alley Clean-Up is Saturday and Sunday, April 7-8. (This year's event coincides with Easter and Passover; if you prefer to clean your alley before the holiday, you can put bags and trash on the curb as early as Thursday, April 5.)

The weekend before April bulk trash collection is designated for special attention to alleys in Northwood Hills. Why? You might think messy alleys are just a nuisance and eyesore. But trash, debris and stacked bags harbor pests and provide cover for criminals.

Clean alleys improve property values, deter criminal activity and enhance safety. Each homeowner is responsible for maintaining the area from the back property line to the center of the alley. That includes trimming bushes so they don't scrape cars or obstruct the alley. Overhanging trees are required to be trimmed up 15 feet to allow clearance for garbage collection trucks. Tall weeds and overgrown vegetation in the alley continued page 10



The Hazards of Being a Median Marker

Two Northwood Hills median marker walls took a direct hit in January by drivers who were speeding and/or lost control. NHHA has now repaired both markers.

As for the condition of the cars that hit these substantial stone installations...the walls aren't talking..



Elmridge at Hillcrest



Spring Valley at Hillcrest







Protesting Your Property Valuation

State law requires the appraisal district to mail a notice of your home's appraised value only when it increases by more than \$1,000 from the previous year. But values are available online, and 2012 values will be posted by May 1.

If you want to protest your valuation, you have until May 31 to do so. Protests to the Appraisal Review Board can be filed in written form or by electronic communication via the DCAD website using the Online Protest Program, uFile. The ARB will not accept protest filings by facsimile or e-mail submissions. The Appraisal District has forms for protesting, but an official form is not necessary. Any written notice of protest will be acceptable as long as it identifies the owner, the property that is the subject of the protest and indicates apparent dissatisfaction with an action or decision taken by the Appraisal District. For more information and complete instructions, visit wwwdallascad.org.

April Alley Clean-Up

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can result in a citation for violation of city code.

The alley clean-up is also a great opportunity to evaluate alley or side fences for motion sensor security lights. And while you're out back, meet your alley neighbors. They are your allies in helping reduce alley crime.



Walls

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the boundaries of the neighborhood. The wall project is complex and expensive. NHHA Members approved \$20,000 for the initiative as part of the 2012 budget, but additional new member income – and contributions to the effort – will allow us make more improvements at a quicker pace.

For more information on the Wall Improvement project, contact Dane Smith at ds@northwoodhills.org.







Thank you, Northwood Hills!

A kitchen designed and built by Kasper Custom Remodeling was chosen by Dream Kitchens & Baths magazine as one of the "Best of the Best". We are excited and honored to be recognized by this national publication.

Thank you for working with us, and entrusting your homes and families to us. We pledge to work harder than ever to turn all your remodeling projects into *Dream* worthy realities.

-Steve and Jenni Kasper

972-239-3733 www.kaspercustom.com







Oak Wilt Update: NO Pruning Until June

Last year's excessive heat did a good job of burning up oak wilt for the season, but it's a new year and a new threat. The same La Niña weather pattern that can contribute to Texas' long-term drought can also bring severe spring storms, so again in 2012 Northwood Hills residents have to be concerned – and vigilant – about oak wilt.

Live oaks and red oaks should NOT be pruned until June, and excessive spring moisture or cool temperatures can extend the danger season beyond that date. In case of tree damage by storm or wind, trim the broken limbs immediately and apply tree wound or latex paint.

Oak wilt is an infectious disease caused by a fungus, and it is not curable. It is spread by insect vectors, but can also spread among live oaks through their interconnected root systems.

NHHA works with an arborist to monitor oak wilt in Dallas and specifically in Northwood Hills. NHHA Members receive MemberMail updates about oak wilt, including advice on when they can safely prune.



Special thanks to our loyal advertisers in the Breeze!



Slow Down in the Alley

The Texas Transportation Code provides for a maximum speed of 15 mph in alleys. Some alleys in Northwood Hills have 15 mph speed limit signs, but common sense suggests even that speed is too fast. At 20 mph, a car travels 63 feet from when the driver sees something, thinks, reacts and brakes to a stop. At 30 mph (residential street speed) it takes 109 feet to come to a stop.

Privacy fences, gated driveways and vegetation all reduce visibility to the point where a resident, child, pet or car coming out of a driveway can't be seen until the last second, and then there's not enough distance to stop in time.

One resident noted, "I've been hit twice backing out of my driveway. But that's just a car. Can you imagine how different those drivers would feel if they had hit and injured a neighbor's child?"



Join With the Click of a Mouse...Or a Pen

Joining NHHA is easy. Join and pay online or fill out a membership form and write a check.

Online

- Go to www.northwoodhills.org and follow the "Pay Dues" link on the home page. This takes you to a secure payment site.
- Your address is your account number, and ensures your payment is credited properly.
- You can use your MasterCard® or VISA® card or make an Electronic Funds Transfer from your bank account.
- It's FREE to you, but due to the transaction fee PAID BY NHHA, the online payment option is only available if you are paying the full amount due of \$300.
- You can receive a confirmation email and print out a payment confirmation page for your records.

By mail

 Clip and fill out the Membership form on page
 15. Make your check payable to NHHA and mail to the PO Box listed on the form.

2011 Real Estate in Review

by Judy Switzer

For those of you who have had your home on the market in the last year, you already know much of what I am going to lay out in this article, because you have experienced it. Before I actually pull the statistics I use to compile this review, I always try to pre-determine what I think I will find, given what I have experienced over the last year. Most of the time, I am pretty close, but I always turn up a few things that surprise me.

For example, closed home sales were nearly exactly what they were in 2010. We had 37 SOLDs in 2011, up from 36 the previous year. The sales ranged in value from \$160,000 to \$829,900Z (the "z" value indicates the parties chose not to disclose the sale price, but \$829,900 was the list price when the property went under contract). The average \$\$/sq ft were up from \$122.31/ft to \$131.08/ft this last year. And DOM (days on market) were down from 149 in 2010 to 142 in 2011. Of the 37 sales in 2011, just one was a foreclosure, down from seven foreclosure sales in 2010, and two sales were two corporate relocations. All of these stats are indicators of a resurgent market.

While the statistics were oh so slightly better than last year, why does it feel like the market is slower? I believe the answer lies beyond the numbers. First of all, there is no sense of urgency on the part of buyers. Most of the folks who stop by Open Houses, have houses to sell. If one needs to sell a home prior to qualifying to buy another, then by definition, he/she is not a buyer.

There is a lot of competition in the price range that represents the sweet spot in our neighborhood, i.e. the mid-\$300K's – mid \$600K's. Buyers are looking south of LBJ and in other neighborhoods in far North Dallas and SW Plano.

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Real Estate

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In many cases, homes in some of the other areas require less work than those in our neighborhood. Homes that are move-in ready always sell faster than those needing work, but in this market, getting the financing to do the work can be a little tricky, so there are less buyers wanting to take the risk.

Secondly, sellers are hesitant to price their home where it will sell, initially. Because of the overall sentiment in the marketplace, they feel they are going to have to negotiate and want to have some leeway when the offers come in. Unfortunately, if a home is not priced where buyers perceive it as a value, the offers do not come. And the longer the home is on the market, the less it is worth.

As this article goes to press, there are 28 active listings on the market in Northwood Hills, down from 32 last year. With the weather warming and interest rates still low, we are poised for a busy spring market. Showings have picked up since the first of the year. It is a perfect opportunity for sellers to price their homes correctly and get them sold. For more information on values and activity in Northwood Hills, contact Judy Switzer, Broker/Owner of Judy Switzer &



Friends of Beautification

Thank you to NHHA Member Linda West, the first "Friend of Beautification" for 2012.

Friends of Beautification was started in 2007 to allow neighbors to contribute incremental funds for the renovation of the medians. Since then the donations have allowed NHHA to plant more flowers, install new markers and trim trees.

Any donation is welcome. "Friends" provide the "financial fertilizer" that boosts our efforts to make Northwood Hills beautiful.



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Mark Your Calendar

March 24 – City of Dallas Water Wise Landscape Design Seminars – http://savedallaswater.com/wwls/

April 13 – Northwood Hills Elementary School Spring Auction – http://www.nhepta.org/auction.asp

May 26-28 – State of Texas Energy Star Sales Tax Holiday -- http://www.window.state.tx.us/ taxinfo/taxpubs/tx96_1331/

May 31 – Deadline to protest 2012 property valuations http://www.dallascad.org/Forms/ Protest_Process.pdf

Membership

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be on cleaning and painting the walls along Hillcrest and Belt Line, as well as installing Northwood Hills markers at key entrance points.

Community Programs

NHHA sponsors the neighborhood's Independence Day Celebration, April Alley Clean-Up, Battle the Bugs Weekend and other special events.

An Advocate for Our Neighborhood

NHHA gives you a voice in issues that affect the quality of life in our neighborhood and supports efforts to make significant investments in our community. The ONE entity that works to connect, alert and inform us at a moment's notice while enhancing the security of our neighborhood is Northwood Hills Homeowners Association.

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Membership

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What Does It Cost?

NHHA Membership is less than a dollar a day. For just \$300 for the calendar year, you have complete access to the private security patrol and you receive the communications that keep you "in the know" about what happens in Northwood Hills and what affects Northwood Hills.

Have more questions? Contact Membership Chairs Rich Prendergast, rp@northwoodhills.org or Candace Winslow, cw@northwoodhills.org.

Paying online? Don't forget to also fill out the online membershp form for new as well as renewing Members.
We need your contact information to ensure you receive all benefits and communications.

Welcome New NHHA Households:

Alpha Semos Brookcrest Yost Brookridge Schob Cliffbrook Kelley Crestmere Dorman Crestpoint Molai Dartbrook Stone Meadowcreek Herold, **McDaniel** Bledsoe Mossvine McCorkle Oakbluff Village Trail Hutchinson

NHHA brings Northwood Hills neighbors together. Join today!



2012 NHHA MEMBERSHIP

Choose from two ways to pay:

Beautification

- Mail your check, payable to NHHA, to PO Box 800874, Dallas, TX, 75380-0874.
- OR, pay by credit card or from your bank account by visiting our secure payment site provided by EDS. Go to www.northwoodhills.org and follow the link. It's quick, secure and easy!

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Dues: --\$300

Golf Tournament

Newsletter

Other



Northwood Hills Homeowners Association

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Spouse's cell #:	Spouse'	s email:
Home address:		
Home phone:		
Comments or ques	stions?	
We hope you will want to learn more about our activities. Please check any/all areas of interest.		
☐ Security/Crim		Membership Recruitment

☐ Independence Day Parade

Membership questions? Email Rich Prendergast at rp@northwoodhills.org or Candace Winslow at cw@northwoodhills.org.

Marketing/Public Relations/Advertising □

Special Events & Programming

Bulk Trash Collection Calendar

Pick-up Date – Place debris on Monday/Tuesday curb no earlier beginning on... than Thursday...

April 9 April 5 May 14 May 10 June 11 June 7

For details on what the city will (and won't) pick up as bulk trash, visit www.dallascityhall.com/sanitation/brush_and_bulky.html

Landscape Watering Days

ODD number addresses Saturday and Wednesday EVEN number addresses Sunday and Thursday

NO watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Restrictions apply to automatic irrigation systems,
hose-end sprinklers, drip irrigation, soaker hoses and
hand watering. For details, visit
http://savedallaswater.com/droughtcontingency/



Published four times per year by
Northwood Hills Homeowners Association
P O Box 800874 • Dallas • Texas • 75380-0874
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