



## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

# NHHA Crime Meeting: What You Can Do to Prevent Crime

NHHA recently hosted a neighborhood meeting to share crime statistics and information about crime prevention. Dallas Police Department Community Engagement Officer Mark Lutz was the featured speaker, and presented ideas on what individual homeowners can do to actively deter crime at their homes.

In addition to the most obvious measures that NHHA continues to emphasize – locking all doors, windows and gates – Officer Lutz offered tips that every homeowner can consider to make their home more unfriendly to criminals.

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## Eyes on the Streets, Boots on the Ground

Once again this year, Northwood Hills has benefited from additional security patrol shifts throughout the holiday travel season and into January, augmenting the normal seven-day-a-week schedule. Additional shifts enable the officers to perform home security checks for Members who are out of town, and also maintain their regular street patrol and response to individual Members' calls.

"The requests for out-of-town home checks continue to increase," said Glynn Newman, NHHA crime and security chairman. "Some days the officers may have three dozen homes to check. The added shifts ensure they can get to all those homes as well as drive their street and alley patrol routes.

Northwood Hills contains 45 miles of streets and alleys. Barring an unusual incident and with an average number of out-of-town home checks, the officers cover every street and alley each shift.



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

## Crime In Northwood Hills

While Northwood Hills was free of violent crime (year to date), the neighborhood continues to battle property crime. The property crime category includes burglary (thieves entering a locked or unlocked home), burglary of a motorized vehicle (thieves taking items from a locked or unlocked car) and criminal mischief.

Dallas Police are being increasingly more specific in their reports when it comes to home/car/property access. While residents may feel that they "should" be able to leave car and home doors unlocked, that's simply not reasonable or reliable in today's world.

NHHA will continue to distribute crime deterrence advice from DPD, and we remind residents that crime prevention begins on the front line – at each home.

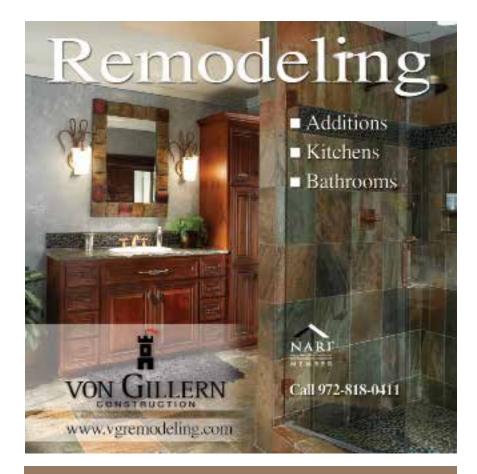
## **Prevent Crime**

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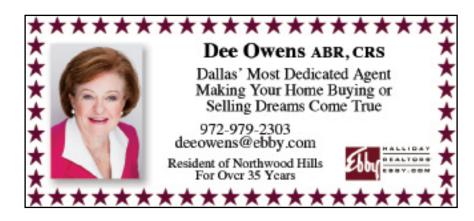
- Evaluate your home and landscape from the criminal's perspective as well as your own; protect as you beautify
- Lighting is one of the cheapest solutions criminals don't like lights!
- Use plants that are physical AND psychological barriers

   like plants that are pleasant to the eye but not the body. (thorns)
- Thieves love your master bedroom window...what are you doing to protect it?
- Delineate boundaries, and watch overgrowth it's an opportunity to hide.
- Don't just light the front door...think about the perimeter and flower beds.
- Install motion-lights in every possible place
- Consider personal video surveillance cameras and signage about it!





Visit us on the web: www.northwoodhills.org!





## **NHHA Leadership**

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

> 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

> > Ed Fikse – Area 4 Director Project Planning ef@northwoodhills.org 972-661-3921

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

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

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

## Home Video Surveillance Systems

Do you have a home surveillance system? If so, NHHA and the Dallas Police Department would like to know, and invite you to be part of an exclusive crime-solving initiative.

The benefit of surveillance cameras is two-fold. The presence of "cameras on site" signage is a great deterrent. And while the majority of captured camera footage is benign, it can be very helpful.

This past fall, NHHA cameras captured suspicious persons active in Northwood Hills. Dallas Police were appreciative of the opportunity to view our footage, which may or may not have contributed to their casework and in solving neighborhood crimes. A couple of years ago, a resident's personal camera captured information on a suspicious person who was likely involved in tagging activity in Northwood Hills.

NHHA, in cooperation with Dallas Police, is creating a list of addresses at which a private video surveillance system is in use. This list will only be accessed/contacted when a crime or suspect activity has occurred in the immediate proximity – where information and footage from the camera might help to solve or prevent a crime.

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# Benefits and Value: No Dues Increase for 2014

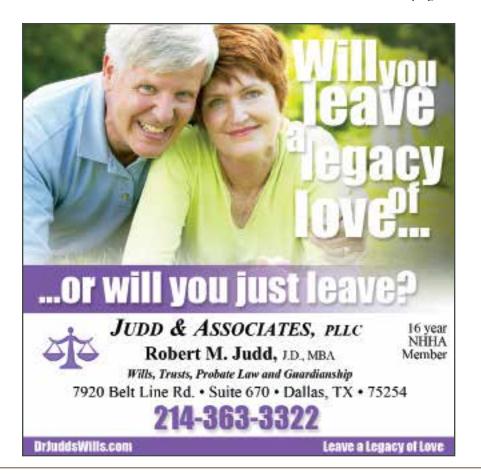
Once again, for the sixth year, there is no dues increase for NHHA membership.

Northwood Hills' voluntary homeowners association continues to enhance Member benefits and make additional improvements to the neighborhood, while closely managing expenses. As a result, Members are getting even more value for their annual dues of \$300 – less than a dollar a day.

The primary benefit provided by NHHA membership is access to the private security patrol's services. Armed officers are on duty seven days a week, and 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 receive MemberMail emails about issues relevant to the neighborhood, and Security Snapshot, a monthly recap of recent criminal incidents in the neighborhood.

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## **Benefits**

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Members receive a custom painted curb address with the NHHA logo, a reflective alley address sign, a No Solicitors sign for the front porch, and two reflective decals promoting NHHA's use of armed security.

Member dues fund the maintenance of the gateway medians into Northwood Hills; and a small portion of dues goes to programming, including the NHHA annual meeting, Independence Day Celebration, April Alley Clean-Up, Battle the Bugs Weekend and other special events such as the crime meeting and City Council candidates' forum.

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...for less than a dollar a day. Have you joined or renewed for 2014? See page 15.

## **Video Surveillance**

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Please email president@ northwoodhills.org to learn more and to supply your contact information, which will remain completely confidential and supplied to Dallas Police only on a need-to-know basis.

It's important to note that while property crime remains an issue for Northwood Hills and other affluent areas, we are fortunate to have experienced no violent crime such as rape, murder or robbery in many years.



# A+ News for the Neighborhood!

by Summer McConnell

A neighborhood is a group of people who live alongside each other, and choose to allow connections to develop and become a community. For many residents, our neighborhood has come together with Northwood Hills Elementary (NHE) in the center. This is an accomplishment for the school, the children and our neighborhood.

This year more and more children of Northwood Hills have enrolled in NHE! There are 32 new neighborhood children attending the school -- a significant increase at a school that has a history of state and federal accolades and high achievement awards; a dedicated principal; highly professional, experienced and qualified staff; and a very strong parent participation and PTA involvement. All this contributes to the success of NHE.

Hopefully attendance at our neighborhood elementary school will continue increasing each year, as we grow together in friendship and trust, and more educational and enrichment programs will develop and blossom for our children.

Our family intentionally chose Northwood Hills because of the strong sense of community and the excellent educational opportunities. Our daughter will attend NHE in 2015 and is already a proud little Falcon. I'm a continued page 9

# NHHA Good Neighbor: The League of Women Voters in Far North Dallas

Your voice....your vote! NHHA accesses a variety of resources in order to bring residents news about elections, ballots, changing polling locations and early voting. The League of Women Voters is always a big help.

The League is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. It never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.

The Dallas League has formed a North Dallas unit. If you're interested in current issues, participation in government, the voting process or how to influence public policy...the League is a smart group to visit.

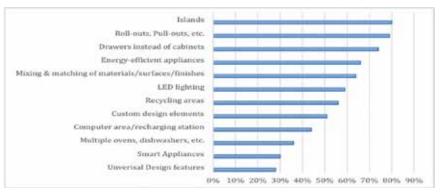
For more information on the North Dallas group, contact Barbara Weinstein at 972-661-8452. Learn more about the League of Women Voters at http://www.lwvdallas.org/history.html



## Kitchen Features in Greatest Demand

Sponsorship Advertorial by Kasper Custom Remodeling

An interesting article in one of our trade magazines recently caught my eye. It had surveyed over 300 kitchen and bath designers and dealers across the country on the kitchen features that were most requested by their clients. Here are the results:



So, how does Dallas compare to the national statistics? Islands are definitely the most requested item in a Dallas kitchen remodel. A large island that includes room for seating makes a flexible workspace and gathering space in the kitchen.

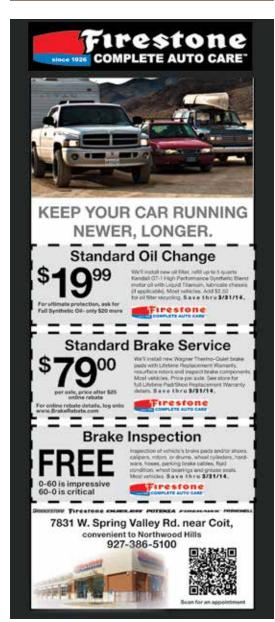
Everyone wants better storage that is organized and easy to use. And that's where the use of drawers come into play. Drawers can be configured many different ways to handle all your storage needs. And using full-extension runners allows you to see everything quickly and easily.

Energy efficiency continues to be a popular topic in kitchen design. LED lighting is highly efficient, and can be used in so many unique and interesting applications, that were not possible a few years ago. The possibilities seem limitless.

The trend to mix and match materials and colors remains strong in the Dallas area. We frequently see islands that have different countertops than the rest of the kitchen. Painted cabinets mixed with stained cabinets also are a popular design.

And moving quickly up the list in Dallas, is the need for a charging station for all of today's electronics. A charging station gets the mess off of the kitchen countertop and into a cabinet or shelf for hidden re-charging.

No matter what your most desired features are, give us a call for your next project. And learn more about us at kaspercustom.com. We thank longtime
Members Kevin and
Kristi Burke, who believe
in the value of NHHA
membership. Through
their company, Direct
Mail Partners, they
generously underwrite
the folding, labeling and
mailing of each issue of
The Northwood Hills
Breeze newsletter.



## **Kids Beach Club**

Since the September kick-off of Kids Beach Club in Northwood Hills, response has been enthusiastic to the high-energy, faith based, after school program, with 85 registered kids. The program is hosted at Northwood Hills Elementary School every Friday afternoon, and sponsored by Spring Valley United Methodist Church. It is still not too late to enroll your 3rd through 6th grader in Kids Beach Club, and volunteers are welcome as well. Contact Heather Gray at heathergray3@me.com or Casie Eeds at casie.eeds@gmail.com for more information.







# Mark Your Calendar: NHHA Annual Meeting is February 11

What does the homeowners association do? Come find out!

The Northwood Hills Homeowners Association annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be at Northwood Hills Elementary School.

Prior to the meeting NHHA Members receive a Report to the Membership letter, which includes a recap of the association's activities and finances for 2013, and a preview of the 2014 budget.

The annual meeting is a great opportunity to get involved in NHHA activities and learn more about issues affecting Northwood Hills. Agenda items include a presentation of the 2014 budget for membership approval; election of board members; and updates on initiatives and issues in the areas of crime/security, beautification, membership and communications. There will also be time for general Q&A and discussion, so bring your questions.

Remember, all Northwood Hills residents are welcome at the annual meeting, but you must be a current NHHA Member to vote, so join today.





## Tree Removal on Meandering Way

This fall Holcomb Tree Service removed two dying bois d'arc trees from the center median along Meandering Way. The trees frequently dropped dead limbs into the street, and were slowly becoming uprooted through erosion of the surrounding soil. NHHA elected to proactively remove them to prevent vehicle damage and/or personal injury.





## Neighborhood

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product of public education, and most of my family have been/are educators, so I will be absolutely sure of the place my daughter goes. We are so proud of and delighted with our community's school – and I hope you'll give it a good look, too. Come see for yourself the community at Northwood Hills Elementary.



## Did You Know...

The Old English word for neighborhood was neahdæl. By the the mid-15th century it had evolved into neighborehood to mean "neighborly conduct, friendliness." The modern sense of "community of people who live close together" is first recorded in the 1620s. The phrase "in the neighborhood" meaning "near, somewhere about" is first recorded 1857 in American English.

Have you thought of your neighborhood or community as a gift? The word community is derived from the Old French communité which is derived from the Latin communitas (cum, "with/together" + munus, "gift").

## **Lovin' Those Oaks!**

Here's the easy way to remember oak pruning season: If you LOVE your oak trees, do not prune after Valentine's Day to reduce the risk of oak wilt infestation. Our consulting arborist at Holcomb Tree Service, Alan Johnson, advises that although conventional timelines give the OK to prune again after Father's Day, North Texas' tricky weather doesn't make that a sure bet every year.

"A cool, wet spring can extend the oak wilt season," says Alan. "In Northwood Hills, the safest time is always winter."

## New Dallas 311 Mobile App Lets You Report Code Violations Instantly

See It. Snap It. Send It.

The City of Dallas is aiming to turn every resident with a smart phone or a tablet into a code officer, using a new app that allows citizens to see, photograph and immediately file complaints in the 311 system.

The debut of the app follows the online improvements made this past summer that allow residents to attach photographs to 311 complaints made on the city's website.

Citizens can use the app to report high weeds; litter; a loose animal; obstruction of street, alley or sidewalk; illegal signs; graffiti; illegal dumping and junk vehicles; and to request services for street repairs and traffic signal issues. Unspecified on the city's flyer – but an obvious issue – is bulk trash put out too early.

Download the app at the IPhone App Store or through this link on Google Play: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dallascityhall.dallas311&hl=en

# Best of the Best 30 Timeless Looks

## 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





## Future Falcons and Friends

NWH Falcons & Friends is a group of moms and dads dedicated to building a strong sense of community and spreading the word about Exemplary-rated Northwood Hills Elementary. Currently 75+ families are involved in the Northwood Hills Falcons & Friends group.

To learn more about the group and upcoming events, email northwoodhillsfriends@gmail.com.

## **Upcoming Events:**

Playdates on the Playground at Northwood Hills Elementary School (1st Wednesday of every month, 4:30pm)

NHE School Tours (3rd Monday of every month, 10am, call 469-593-4300 to reserve your spot)

Future Falcons join Music class - February 12th (12:30-1:15 pm)

Realtor Breakfast and Tour - March 5th (9-10:00 am)

Library Story Time - April 14th (1:00-1:45 pm)



## Pay your 2014 dues now: www.northwoodhills.org!



# Future Falcons and Friends at Play









## **Watering in Winter**

Plants need water, even in winter; and currently 73 percent of Dallas County is "abnormally dry" or in a "moderate drought." However the permanent, twice-weekly watering restriction on automatic irrigation systems are in effect throughout the year and you can be cited for watering on the wrong day.

Even-numbered addresses may water on Sunday and Thursday; odd-numbered addresses may water on Saturday and Wednesday. Watering by automatic irrigation systems must be done between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Many residents are used to watering when a hard freeze is forecast, so if that is your habit you'll have to plan ahead.



## Northwood Hills Real Estate – By the Numbers

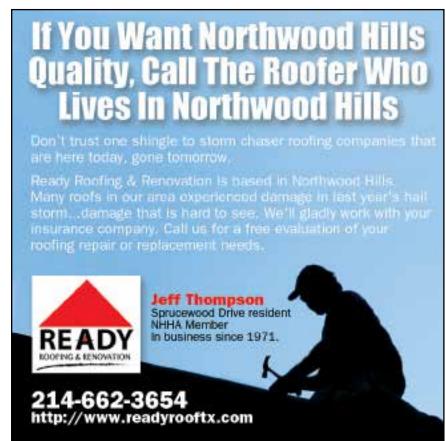
by Judy Switzer

As in years past, I attended the 2014 FORECAST event put on by the MetroTex Association of Realtors. This four-hour presentation was filled with all kinds of fabulous information on local data and trends, as well as national statistics and how our market compares to other markets in Texas and the US.

Dr. James Gaines, Research Economist for the Real Estate Center at Texas A & M was the first speaker and he started by saying the overall economic recovery was slow going, but housing, especially in Dallas, is racing! This is due in part to the continued increase in population. In 2012, the Metroplex added 274,781 people, or an increase of 4.3%. Looking at census numbers from 2010, Dallas and surrounding counties are projected to add 7.9 million people by 2050.

Dallas area year-to-date home sales are up 22% and median prices are up 11% for the same period. Homes sales in Northwood Hills through the end of October 2013 totaled seventy-two, up from forty-two just a year ago. That

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## Real Estate

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represents an over 70% increase in closed homes year over year. Prices are up, too. Sold prices averaged \$137.13/sq ft or an average value of \$537,289, as compared to \$132.39, for the same period one year ago. Days on the market (DOMs) are down to an average of 81 days and homes in move-in condition that were priced right were under contract in less than two weeks in many cases. The 2013 numbers reflect at least twenty homes that sold at 100% or more of value, but do not reflect the handful of properties that sold before they hit the market.

To put this into perspective, three-fourths of the way through 2007, considered the peak of the market before the recession, there were just sixty home sales in Northwood Hills, with an average DOM of fifty-seven and an average value of \$147.47/sq ft, or a \$547,582 average value. The changes in overall dollars are probably attributable to the particular set of homes that sold each year. The \$\$/sq ft would suggest that values are ahead of where they were last year, and 2007 for that matter.

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# Get Ready for Spring with Expert Lawn Advice Nearby

Discover the most effective and earth-friendly way to care for your lawn. Patrick Dickinson, a horticulturalist with the Urban Water Program at Texas A&M AgriLife Research in Dallas, will teach you how to care for your lawn like an expert. Subjects covered will include basic care for your lawn, common turf problems, how to water most efficiently and much more.

## Saturday, February 8 9 – 11 a.m.

Texas A&M AgriLife Research & Extension Center Auditorium 17360 Coit Road, just north of Campbell Road

Space is limited; register online at SaveDallasWater.com or by calling (214) 670-3155.

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## March 4 Primary Election Info

The field of Republican candidates for State Representative from District 102, which includes Northwood Hills, will be narrowed after the March 4 primary election. Democrat candidate George Clayton is running unopposed, but four Republican candidates are vying for the opportunity to oppose him in the November general election.

Republican activist Adryana Boyne, veteran and businessman Sam Brown, incumbent Stefani Carter and former District 11 Dallas City Council member Linda Koop will face off in the primary. The runoff election (if needed) will be May 27.

NHHA Members should watch for MemberMails with early voting times and locations, and a sample ballot. Meanwhile, visit the links below to learn more about the candidates.

Boyne: http://adryanaboyne.com/ Brown: http://brownfortexas.com/ Carter: http://www.carterfortexas.com/ Clayton: https://www.facebook.com/

georgeclaytonfortexashouse Koop: http://lindakoop.com/



## Real Estate

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Higher prices are a result of continued record low active inventory. Currently, there are just nineteen active listings on the market in Northwood Hills. Additionally, there are two homes under option contract and three properties pending.

The market has slowed a bit seasonally, since the spring and summer frenzy, as is typical, however, Dr. Gaines predicts that interest rates will remain relatively low throughout most of 2014. The housing market is playing a larger than typical role in the economic recovery and the government cannot afford for that growth to stall. Given how the Texas markets are faring, I think you will see a strong end to 2013 and more of the same for 2014.

For more information on values and activity in Northwood Hills, contact Judy Switzer, Broker/Owner of Judy Switzer & Associates, at 214-801-7273 (cell) or judy@judysellsdallas. com.

# Welcome New NHHA Member Households:

Briar Cove: Boa,

Davis, Sikes

Brookcrest: Rich

Ivyglen: Gildersleeve

Oakbluff: Eager,

Marquez

Paldao: Couch

Did you know you can pay your 2014 membership dues on-line? It's easy, safe and secure. Just go to www.northwoodhills.org!

Visit us on the web: www.northwoodhills.org!

## **2014 NHHA MEMBERSHIP**

Choose from two ways to pay:

- 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.
   Go to www.northwoodhills.org and follow the link. It's quick, secure and easy!



Northwood Hills Homeowners Association

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□ NEW MEM	BER 🗆	RENEWIN	IG MEMBER
Your name:			
Your cell #: Your email:			
Spouse's name:			
<u> </u>	se's cell #: Spouse's email:		
Home address:			
Home phone:			
Comments or questions?			
We hope you will want to learn more about our activities. Please check any / all areas of interest.			
☐ Security/Crimewatch	☐ Fundraising		Communications/Marketing
Beautification	☐ Golf Tournar	ment 📮	Independence Day Parade
Special Events & Programming	Newsletter		Other
Membership questions? Email Candace Winslow at cw@northwoodhills.org or Rich Prendergast at rp@northwoodhills.org.			



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

Return Service Requested

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### **Bulk Trash Collection Calendar**

Pick-up week Place debris on curb no earlier than Thursday...

January 13 January 9
February 10 February 6
March 10 March 6
April 7 April 3

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

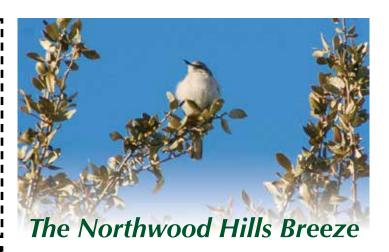
ODD
number addresses
Saturday and Wednesday
before 10am/after 6pm

EVEN number addresses Sunday and Thursday before 10am/after 6pm

Restrictions apply to automatic irrigation systems and hose-end sprinklers.

Drip irrigation, soaker hoses and hand watering may be used any day, any time.

For details, visit http://savedallaswater.com/



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