

# Eastwood Echo

*"Eastwood Homeowners Association - In the tall tree woods off Dixon Branch near White Rock Lake with boundaries from Easton to Peavy, Lake Gardens to Lake Highlands"*

## A letter from our association president

Dear EHA neighbors,

This is my first letter to the residents of Eastwood Homeowners Association since our General Meeting in November. First I would like to thank the residents for their vote of confidence in allowing me the honor to serve as your President for the year 2013.

Eastwood is such a wonderful place to live and grow. We have many things to offer and we are in a great location. Our neighborhood benefits daily through the efforts of many volunteers including our board members who are also all volunteers. I want to thank all of you that help make our neighborhood a safe, fun and better place to live in.

Our board and committee members meet monthly, and if any one has any issues, ideas, events or projects you would like to present to the board, please let me know so we can address them. This is your neighborhood and we want to hear from you. You can contact me at [klbtexkan@aol.com](mailto:klbtexkan@aol.com) or 214-558-6687 and leave a message.

Our next general meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 and everyone is invited to attend. This meeting will be special because we are going to make it all about us, Eastwood neighborhood. We are inviting all residents of Eastwood who would like to **promote their business** to attend. Please see page 5 for further details.

Last but not least, we are adding a new form of communication and would like to invite everyone to join. It is called Nextdoor and was recommended by the Dallas Police Department. It's in the beginning stages, so please contact me if you haven't gotten an invite to join yet. I want to thank Heather McClain-Howell for helping us with this project.

Kim Cochran  
President

SPRING 2013

### general meeting reminder

please join us for the May  
Eastwood Homeowners Association  
general meeting  
7:00 pm, May 14<sup>th</sup>  
Central Lutheran Church  
1000 Easton road

(see page 5)

The directory for HOA members will be printed this year. Make sure you've sent your annual dues & updated your profile to get a copy.

Next VIP class is June 3, 4, 6  
at 7 p.m. @ the DPD-NE Station, 9915 E. Northwest Highway.

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## **OUR VIP PROGRAM**

**by Darrell Wood**

A special "Thank You" to our now 86-strong VIP Team. Our Eastwood Neighborhood is a safer and more comfortable area to live and move around in due to those dedicated members who give at least 1.5 hours of their time each month to make sure the rest of us are safe and all is okay. Several members do much more.

My goal for 2013 is to reach the 100-member count for Eastwood VIP, and at 86 we only need 14 more neighbors to take the training and help do patrols. Please check your time schedule and if at all possible join us for this very important neighborhood activity.

Our next scheduled VIP Training Class is 3, 4 and 6 June at 7PM at the DPD-NE Station, 9915 E. Northwest Highway. Please ask for an application from me and complete and return it asap so you can get on the list for this coming class. You will enjoy the training and the trip on 6 June to the 911

Center; it's really an awesome experience.

And, can I ask those who are already VIP members and have not gone on a patrol recently please sign up and join us again. We do need you. Our April schedule has many openings as of today, the 5<sup>th</sup>, so please realize that you are really needed in this effort.

**A special Welcome to:** Michael Coke & Cynthia Nitschke, Whit Hyde and Ken & Ann Lyle who completed training on March 9.

Have a fun and safe Spring and Summer and *please* do join VIP!

Darrell Wood, VIP Leader, EHA and RA # 1127  
contact Darrell at 214-923-1640

or  
planread@yahoo.com

### **EHA Important Dates**

**General Meeting @ Central Lutheran Church - Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**

**Fourth of July Parade @ Park at Lippitt and Sinclair - July 4<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am**

**National Night Out @ Neighborhood Homes - Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> 6:00-8:00 pm**

**General Meeting @ Central Lutheran Church - Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm**

### **THE HISTORY BEHIND OUR ENTRY SIGN AT PEAVY & CREEKMERE**

by Sally Cunningham

Recent questions on the Yahoo group's site about the history of the Whitehaven Garden and fence suggested to me that the history of the entry sign at Peavy and Creekmere might also be of interest to our newer neighbors. With thanks to Ginger Travis's "History of EHA", I am able to tell the story.

Both of these projects have been implemented by the Eastwood Homeowners Association. The entry garden was the brainchild of Kathy Key in 1998. Kathy and her husband Clark enlisted Sharon Holmes to design the garden, which was filled with native Texas plants and grasses. Some of these plants did not survive flood, drought, more flood and more drought.

For ten years Sharon Holmes and Rod Stasick carefully tended our corner garden. When they decided ten years was enough, they turned the chores over to Omar and Mary Kilany; then the Riparian Committee agreed to continue its maintenance.

In 2007, Jeff Good noticed a new Lake Highlands sign in Norbuck Park and thought such a sign would make a nice way to identify our own area. Jeff prepared the design and EHA began fund raising.

Isabelle Collora suggested a donor plaque, and a \$100 donation level was established for names on the plaque. In the summer of 2008 EHA received a \$3000 matching funds grant from the City of Dallas Parks and Recreation Department's Neighborhood Beautification Fund.

The sign was built by EHA, not the City of Dallas. The City reimbursed us the \$3000 after the sign was completed. Neighbors Melany Aughtman and Craig Beneke helped coordinate ordering the bronze plaque and the steel plate with the logo cutout. The final cost of the sign was about \$7500.

We are now at that stage where we need to consider the continuous maintenance of our beautiful entry point; the rust on the sculpture is staining the brick structure that holds it. For this and future expenses, we thought we would offer an opportunity to put your names on a second plaque; as donations of \$100. or more are collected, a new plaque will be ordered and installed alongside the first, and our maintenance can begin.

If you would like to be recognized, or to honor a neighbor who has made your life here more enjoyable, please contact Sally Cunningham, current Treasurer, to get your name or names on the list to be included in the 2<sup>nd</sup> plaque. My email for this project is [salfcunningham@gmail.com](mailto:salfcunningham@gmail.com).

### **from our playground committee**

by Mark Sullivan

Neighbors,

We've had the wooden boardwalks installed by the city for a couple of years now. While they are quite nice, I have heard from a number of you that there is an important improvement needed. Ramps! So the playground committee took a look at the need and has developed a plan to install ramps at the ends of each boardwalk. In addition to the ramps being attached to the boardwalk, one will also connect to the deck with the picnic table. If you haven't paid your dues for the year, please consider adding a little extra for the ramps. Thanks! Mark

### **O Sweet Spontaneous Earth!**

by Michael Parkey, ASLA

Our blue bonnets began blooming on the first of April. The best place to look for them is along Creekmere between Overglen and Creekmere Circle. The plants are smaller this year because of dry

conditions during last fall and winter. This will also affect our new wildflower plantings at the intersections of Creekmere with Lippitt, Overglen, Creekmere Circle, and Peavy. The Riparian Restoration Committee was hoping for a good display in these areas this spring, but we may have to wait.

As they have for the past 11 years, wonderful volunteers worked hard on our erosion control projects this winter. We installed about 150 discarded Christmas trees, concentrating our efforts at "Eastwood beach", on the shore of Dixon Branch just south of the playground. The beach has been a favorite neighborhood spot for 60 years. You should visit if you have never seen it. You can easily see how the Christmas trees along the bank have captured sediment and prevented erosion during the recent heavy rain.

A project that the Committee has been considering is improved access to the creek in this area. The path to the water is steep and very slippery in wet weather. It would be possible for volunteers to build steps from wood and gravel. We would love to hear your thoughts on this, and of course we will need your help.

When the weather warms enough in May or June, watch for announcements of our first annual Creek Crawl. We had planned this event last year, but concerns about West Nile Virus caused it to be postponed. Put on your wading boots or river sandals and prepare to see your neighborhood creek in a way you've never seen it before.

Our usual volunteer day is on the second Saturday of the month, starting at 10 AM during cool weather and earlier during the summer. Look for announcements on the Yahoo Group calendar, or sign up for email reminders with Ginger Travis or me.

In case you are wondering, the title of this article is taken from the second section of E. E. Cummings' poem "La Guerre". I always think of it at this time of year.

## **Eastwood's Annual Egg Hunt** by Heather Segura

This year, Eastwood celebrated Easter with our annual Egg Hunt at the park on March 24<sup>th</sup>. We had about 45 participants searching for approximately 800 eggs. Each participant also received a box of Peeps. Thank you to all the neighbors who came out to hunt and to those that donated!

Please check out our neighborhood Photobucket page to view pictures from the hunt! (<http://s1190.photobucket.com/user/EHASocial/library/2013%20Easter%20Egg%20Hunt>)

## GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

**Meet Your Neighbors Night** gives you powerful tools to communicate, meet, and just hang out with your neighbors! We can take action right where we live to build life-long friendships and strengthen our sense of community with our actual neighbors. Do you sell Mary Kay, Avon, do yard work, web design or baby sit? Please let me know if you are a resident in our neighborhood and would like to promote your own business at our next general meeting, May 14, 2013 which starts at 7:00 p.m. Once you notify me, I will compile a list of businesses, contact info, and I will reserve a table for you where you will be able to pass out flyers and business cards. You can also promote your business and be part of our drawings; just get me a gift certificate/card and I'll add it to the drawings. Contact me at [klbtexkan@aol.com](mailto:klbtexkan@aol.com) by May 6<sup>th</sup> or call and leave a message at [214-558-6687](tel:214-558-6687).

Kim Cochran, President

## CRIME WATCH TIPS ON SAFETY

from Darrell Wood

1. Cut or remove your garage door emergency cord so that it is shorter than the length to your garage door. I just untied mine and took it off, but I saved it in case I need to re-tie it to use the emergency pull to open the door. Thieves are pressing in the top of garage doors and using a coat hanger to fish the emergency cord out the top of the door and then pulling it to release the garage door. Then they enter your house through your garage and break in through the garage-to-house door that many people do not lock – or they kick it in.
2. Replace the screws in your door strike plate and hinges with 4 inch screws. It makes it stronger if someone tries to kick in the door.
3. Put out an alarm company sign.
4. Put locks on your gates. Police officer recommends a Master Lock Magnum like this from Home Depot. <http://www.homedepot.com/p/Master-Lock-Magnum-2-5-16-in-Shrouded-Lock-M187XKADCCSEN/202260771?N=ywZyw> This one does not have enough room for them to get bolt cutters inside to cut it.
5. Beware of Dog signs even if you don't have a dog.
6. Get a wide view peep hole that allows you to see what is in the person's hands when you peep at them.
7. Lights on timers when you are out. Blinds closed so they can't see that no one is home inside.