

# 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,

As I end my term as your 2013 elected HOA President, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve our neighborhood and thank you for choosing Eastwood as your home.

The Board is committed to keeping you informed through our new web site, e-mail address and newsletters. I am excited about the changes that we have made over the last four months by adding **Nextdoor, which is our new safe, secure and house specific web site**. If you have not signed up I recommend you contact me so you can keep informed on what is happening in our neighborhood. You can e-mail me at [eastwoodha2013@gmail.com](mailto:eastwoodha2013@gmail.com) and let me know that you want to join Nextdoor with your name and address. If you do not have a computer we will continue to print the newsletter twice a year.

I would also like to remind you to join Eastwood Homeowners Association if you have not already. EHA is not like some homeowners associations that have appeared on the news lately. EHA is completely voluntary. There is no requirement to join, and we do not enforce any kind of special restrictions on you. Anything you want to do with your home that is legal in the city of Dallas is fine with us. We do have a very low **voluntary annual membership fee of \$15.00** per household, and to make it easier for you to send payment we are also excited to announce that EHA now accepts payment through **PayPal**. Our PayPal account is the same as our e-mail, [EastwoodHA2013@gmail.com](mailto:EastwoodHA2013@gmail.com).

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming events and our general meeting when we elect our 2014 board members, have a guest speaker and/or a special event and lots of gift card drawings!

Last but not least, I want to personally thank the board and committee chairs for making this a fun and productive year.

Kim Cochran  
President

FALL 2013

The directory for HOA

members

will be printed this year. Make sure you've sent your annual dues & updated your profile **BY OCT \_\_\_\_** to get a copy.

**general meeting reminder**  
please join us for the NOVEMBER  
Eastwood Homeowners Association  
general meeting  
7:00 pm,  
Central Lutheran Church  
1000 Easton road  
(see page )

national night out

Next VIP class is October 21, 22, & 24 at 7 p.m. @ the DPD-NE Station, 9915 E. Northwest Highway.

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***WHY WE DO VOLUNTEERS-IN-PATROL***  
**by Darrell Wood**

I have often been asked why do you do the VIP (volunteers-n-Patrol) so often and does it really help our neighborhood?

Let me just tell all of you why I do it:

Recently while on patrol in our neighborhood at 9:15 pm, we found an OPEN garage. We have a master phone list for the neighborhood that we keep up to date as best we can in our VIP Ring Binder; using that list, I called the homeowner (with my cell phone) who was not aware that the door was open and

was

very "Thankful" for our phone call; he could now secure their home for the evening.

Also, many wonder why we visit our local Fire Station # 48 at Lullwater and East N.W. Highway.

We take

the time to visit the station to help them keep it secure. When they get a 911 call, there are usually two things that happen concerning the building: they turn off their stove if preparing meals, and they

close the front overhead door as they drive out.

But...there are 3 other regular doors in that building, and since time is of the essence in an emergency,

they choose not to take any to make sure these doors are locked when they leave. The City of Dallas

Police Chief and the Fire Chief have asked members of the Volunteers-in-Patrol to visit a Fire Station

while on patrol and help keep them all secure when the Ambulance and Fire Engine crews are not there.

Many times our VIP Team on Patrol have locked one or more of the 3 doors and gone on about our patrol

knowing that the station is now safe from "intruders or theft".

To me, this is giving back to them in a very small way for what they do for us in a very BIG way when

we have a "heart attack" or other medical emergency or a fire at our home. It makes sense to me to "be concerned" about them as they are concerned about us.

Did we help our neighborhood that night on patrol? Yes, because we helped one homeowner secure

their home and be safer from potential theft or home invasion. And...because we were present, statistics

tell us over and over again, we DETERRED POTENTIAL CRIME in our area.

These are some of several reasons that help me realize that my time and efforts have been used wisely when I do a VIP Patrol. I believe in "Service to Others" and I know many of you do to.

*Join this great effort by many of your neighbors and take the VIP Training Class which will be **October 21, 22, and 24 at 7 pm at DPD-NE, 991 E. NW Highway.***

Eastwood HOA is truly blessed to have over 80 dedicated neighbors who signed up for the training and committed themselves to patrol at least once per month by car (less than 2 hrs.) to help

all of us be safer and to enjoy our beautiful surroundings. Definitely worth mentioning are the many neighbors who walk with their cell phones on hand and watch for suspicious activity in our area.

contact Darrell at 214-923-1640

or

planread@yahoo.com

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

by Sally Cunningham

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

**NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**

***This year's Neighborhood Night Out will be: Tuesday October 1, 2013 - 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.***

***National Night Out*** is held in August in the rest of the country but in Texas it is held in October in hopes of better weather. It is a chance for neighbors to get together and enjoy snacks and beverages in the interest of crime prevention.

All neighbors are encouraged to visit one or more of the following locations where Eastwood neighbors have volunteered to host the event in their front yards. Enjoy the refreshments and the company of other Eastwood neighbors.

Hosting

Address

<< list of host names and addresses should be updated as late as possible >>

## EHA Important Dates

**VIP Training Class—DPD-NE, 9914 E. NW Hwy—October 21, 22, & 24 -7:00pm**

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

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

Ragweed Raiders

by Michael Parkey, ASLA

This summer the riparian committee began to reduce the ragweed in our park, and we have made good progress!

As allergy sufferers know, ragweed pollen is a potent allergen that makes many people miserable during the ragweed flowering season from late summer until the first killing frost. Ragweed is native to Texas, and there are two species found in our park: the common and the giant. Common ragweed has fine textured gray green foliage that rarely grows more than knee high. Giant ragweed is a true giant, growing as much as 10 feet tall, with coarse, rough unattractive foliage.

Ragweed is an annual plant. The seed germinates in early spring, and the plants grow all spring and summer. In late summer they begin to flower. The flowers are not colorful and showy because ragweed is not pollinated by insects or birds. Instead, it releases its pollen directly into the air, where it blows from one plant to another, fertilizing the female flowers and causing them to make seed. The seed falls to the ground, where it remains dormant until the following spring. The mature plants die with the first freeze, leaving only the dormant seed to survive the winter.

Of course, all this pollen blowing around also goes up our noses, producing the symptoms of “hay fever”. But fortunately, the life cycle of the plant give us an opportunity to control it. If the mature plants are prevented from flowering, they produce no seed for next year’s plants, and the amount of ragweed is greatly reduced.

This July, we tried three methods for controlling the mature plants. We tried cutting the plants with line trimmers, but this was effective only on the small common ragweed and the smallest of the giant ragweed plants. We tried spraying the plants with Round Up. This killed the plants, but left the tall, dead stalks of giant ragweed standing in the park. A 10 foot dead weed is really ugly! It is also difficult to avoid spraying the many desirable wildflowers mixed with the ragweed. Finally, we used a gasoline powered hedge trimmer. This cut all the ragweed, but is definitely the hardest work. None the less, we decided that it was the method of choice.

So in August we attacked in earnest. Using a hedge trimmer loaned by a member, and a rented one from Home Depot, we cut ragweed on two successive weekends. Some of you may have noticed the large piles of cut stems along Creekmere. These were picked up by the Parks Department.

The ragweed will not be defeated in one year, but we hope that the amount will be reduced enough to make the effort easier next year. It is important that this control is done in August; earlier in the year and the plants have time to re-sprout and bloom anyway. Later in the year the ragweed will already be blooming and making us miserable.

Which bring us to my constant ***plea for volunteers***. On a typical volunteer day, 4 or 5 people show up, all of whom are over the age of 60! There is a very severe limit on how much we can accomplish. Occasionally, I hear complaints about how the park looks. (No one seems to complain about how the erosion control protects our trees.) With more volunteers, we can better control undesirable plants like ragweed, and increase the wildflowers. ***With more volunteers, we can make a bigger difference!***