

# Eastwood Echo

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

**Come join us for the Eastwood neighborhood general meeting on**

Tuesday, November 18  
Central Lutheran Church  
1000 Easton Road  
7:00 pm

**Our special guest speaker from the mayor's office**

Adam McGough, J.D. is Mayor Mike Rawling's Chief of Staff. He previously managed the community prosecutor program, and will oversee the Mayor's GrowSouth initiative; he's also a professor at both El Centro and SMU, where he teaches alternative dispute resolution. Adam is married with three boys, and he and his family live in Lake Highlands. They love Dallas.

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First of all, I would like to express my thanks to my Board this year for their tireless efforts in performing their duties, month end and month out. I believe that we have been able to provide you, our neighbors, many benefits from our united efforts in trying to make Eastwood one of the better neighborhoods in the White Rock Lake area.

Some of our noteworthy accomplishments have been:

- The completion of our Eastwood "sign toppers" on every street corner, which of course gives us

visual recognition.

- The ongoing beautification of our neighborhood by the Riparian volunteers, led by Michael Parkey.
- The big improvements to our neighborhood Newsletter by our VP, Cecilia Hinojosa.
- More family involvement at our yearly social functions, i.e., Easter Egg Hunt at our neighborhood park, the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade & picnic, and Neighbor Night Out “meet & mingle” parties.
- An increase of new & renewed memberships in our neighborhood association. We are currently at 55% total membership, but will not be happy until we are at 100%.
- We got off to a slow start, but thanks to Diane Bryant and her committee, we now have three Yard of the Month winners in our neighborhood, with more to come throughout the year.
- We continue to lead our other East Dallas neighborhoods in crime prevention thanks in large part to the big efforts of Darrell Wood, our VIP Leader, and his band of volunteers in patrol.
- And finally, I have a good committee put together to eventually come up with the answer to our “entry sign” problems. We hope to have a final solution by the end of this year.

Secondly, I would like to invite all of you to come out to our Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> General Meeting (see box on this page). We have a very interesting guest speaker from the Mayor’s office who will give us insight into our city’s issues and therefore our neighborhood’s. We will as well elect our Board members, have prize drawings, and enjoy munchies, coffee, and sodas.

So, come on out and meet your neighbors, stay current with what is happening in your neighborhood, and get involved if you feel like you can contribute in any way. We want to hear what you have to say.

Thank you,

Mitch Womble – President

## **Treasurer’s report**

*By Sally Cunningham*

Just wondering.....

What do they do with my \$20 dues??

Well, in 2014 EHA expenses included some special items:

Publication of our every other year *Membership Directory* at a cost of \$1625

Purchase and installation of those distinctive street sign toppers cost \$1460

Basic EHA expenses included:

Printing and mailing *Membership Drive* letters, envelopes and stamps cost \$ 465

Printing of two issues of the newsletter cost \$525

Post office box rental for the year is \$100 plus replacement of a lost key was \$9

The *Riparian Committee* spent \$562 to replace a dying tree near our entrance garden and \$470 for water to keep the existing plants alive.

They also installed \$240 worth of rebar to shore up the creek banks to help stop erosion. The Social Committee expenses for the *Easter Egg Hunt*, May general meeting, and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities amounted to just under \$300.

The *Volunteers in Patrol* needed new magnetic signs to replace aging ones, a new car top light, and monthly gasoline gift cards as rewards for volunteering. Costs: \$630

All the *New Neighbor* baskets cost only \$175

Expenses for *Neighbors Night Out* amounted to \$254, charged to the *VIP Committee* And for our newest effort at community involvement: the *Yard of the Month* committee spent \$90 for a yard sign and \$25 apiece, graciously matched by Walton's Garden Center, for gift cards for the first three winners.

There were smaller incidental one-time expenses, but this is a quick answer to

Just Wondering.....

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Those visiting 1015 Forest Grove Drive, October 7th for Neighborhood Night Out will remember our wonderful hosts Gary & Melanie Brown and their beautiful yard.

They received the Eastwood Homeowners YOM award for October because of their excellent landscaping, and were presented a \$25 gift certificate from Walton's and a \$25 gift certificate to Walton's from the Eastwood Homeowners Association.

Melanie grew up in Lockwood Meadows. She and Gary married and moved to Easton Place. She had always loved Forest Grove, so 18 years ago they made their next move there.

Gary and Melanie transformed their 1960s landscape into a work of art. In spite of a tree blown down during a recent storm, they still have kept their yard perfectly maintained.

They love the Arboretum, where Melanie's dad volunteered. They love the trees, White Rock Lake and the friendly atmosphere of Eastwood Estates.

Drive by 1015 Forest Grove and admire Gary and Melanie's work.

Congratulations to Tina Wycough on Silverrock Drive, our November Yard of the Month winner!

Tina and her mother Linda recently moved into their new home this summer; Tina tells us she has lived in the Casa Linda area for many years.

Tina enjoys spending time gardening, and her new flagstone entryway is a beautiful addition to

the curb appeal of her home. Her two year old dachshund, Baby Girl, loves chasing after squirrels in their backyard.

Tina's hard work on her fall flower beds and decor were rewarded with a \$50 gift card to Walton's.

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## Lesson from the Storm: Take Care of Your Trees!

*by Michael Parkey, ASLA*

**Picture by Santiago Hinojosa – used with his permission**

Many of us are still cleaning up and doing repairs after the storm in early October. Like other storms of this type, the majority of the damage came from falling branches and trees. Our trees are the glory of Eastwood, but when one falls on your house, it is a catastrophe.

After this storm, and all other storms, I do an informal survey of my neighbors, friends, and clients. In my 35 years as a landscape architect, the results have always been the same: trees that have received proper care from a qualified arborist are much less likely to suffer damage, and to cause damage to their owner's property. We must remember that falling trees can and do kill people.

Why is this so? The first thing an arborist does for a homeowner is to evaluate the safety and health of the trees. I have never met an arborist who does not love trees and want to save everyone, but if an arborist sees that a tree is unsafe and cannot be made safe, he or she will recommend removing it.

But removal is not usually necessary. Proper pruning, done periodically over the life of the tree, greatly increases safety. Dead or structurally weak branches are removed. The healthy growth of the tree can be controlled through canopy reduction. In this process, long limbs are carefully

shortened to create a more compact form. Shorter branches are lighter and do not move as much in storms. Wind forces on the branches are decreased. And when we get our rare but inevitable ice and snow storms, there is less weight to break the limbs and bring down our power lines.

Arborists have other techniques. If the structure of the tree is weak with narrow branch angles, it can be reinforced with bolts and cables. Although counter-intuitive, sometimes the best thing for a tree is to have some holes drilled through it for big bolts. This is especially helpful with beautiful but structurally unsound

multi-trunk trees. Eastwood lost several majestic multi-trunk red oaks that might have survived if properly pruned and cabled.

Diagnosing tree diseases is difficult, but a well-trained arborist can often see and treat these problems before they become dangerous. With the ongoing drought, trees are under great stress making disease and pest problems more serious. An arborist can also give you advice on how to avoid accidentally damaging your trees yourself. If you are planning an addition to your house, a swimming pool, or any other type of construction, these can cause serious injury to trees. Even something as seemingly innocent as building a raised flower bed around the trunk of a tree can have fatal consequences. Eastwood lost an enormous pecan partly because a previous homeowner had done this. The current homeowners removed the raised bed as soon as they moved in, but the damage was already done (see picture of tree in this article.)

Good tree care is not cheap. Pruning a large tree requires climbing it, and this is a dangerous job. Strangely, insurance companies will pay for your damaged roof but will not give you a credit for proper tree maintenance. Still, the roof you save may be your own. And if your tree does not fall on a utility line, you may keep the electricity, telephone, internet, and cable television working for everyone on your block.

How do you find a qualified arborist? A minimum requirement is certification by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). This is voluntary but strict, and requires training, examination, and continuing education. Not every person in a tree care crew needs to be an ISA certified arborist, but they must be directly supervised by one. As with any contractor, your arborist should be bonded and insured.

I have seen a lot of bad tree work in Eastwood during the last year. Bad work makes trees more dangerous, more prone to disease and premature death. There is no license or other legal control on people who do tree care. Anyone with a truck and chainsaw can call himself an arborist. His price will be cheaper, but only in the short term.

One of the things I love about trees is that they can out-live us. We should help them do just that.

## the history of our neighborhood

What was here in our neighborhood, the area that is now called Eastwood Estates, when the first settlers arrived? Was the area inhabited by Native Americans? Was Easton really an unpaved, dusty two-lane country road? And...what about the flood of 2006? The history of our neighborhood and the area that surrounds it – including great pictures – will be previewed in 2015 in this, our own newsletter.

## Proposed 2015 EHA Officers & Chairpersons

### **OFFICERS:**

President	Daniel Ryan
Vice President	Cecilia Hinojosa
Secretary	Kris Ryan
Treasurer	Pat McDonald
Parliamentarian	Mitch Womble

### **Chairpersons:**

Block Captains	Sally Cunningham
Creeks & Streets	Joe Piccola
Crime Watch	Judson Human
Membership	<i>Volunteer needed to chair this committee</i>
New Neighbor	Isabelle Collora
Newsletter	Cecilia Hinojosa
Playground	Karla Contreras
Riparian	Michael Parkey
Social	Carla Perez ( <i>Volunteer co-chair needed</i> )
Volunteers In Patrol	Darrell Wood
Yard of Month	Diane Bryant

*Your neighborhood board needs a co-chair for our social committee: you'll team up with the social chair in planning and implementing the Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Parade, and co-hosting Neighborhood Night Out. If you have the gift of hospitality, please join us in bringing new and fun events to Eastwood in 2015.*

*We also need a volunteer for Chairperson of the Membership Committee - someone with database experience (we now use Excel) that will keep our neighborhood association membership up to date.*

*Please contact our President/2015 Parliamentarian, Mitch Womble at [mitchwomble@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchwomble@yahoo.com)*

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**Join our *Volunteers in Patrol* program & help keep our neighborhood Safe**

**Our next training class is Saturday, December 6, 2014 – 9:30 am to 1:30 pm**

**At the Northeast police station 9915 East Northwest Highway**

**Contact Darrell Wood at 214-923-1640 or [planread@yahoo.com](mailto:planread@yahoo.com)**