



We are now  
Eastwood *Neighborhood* Association!

We were not one of those homeowners associations that made the news with their punitive restrictions. But there had been confusion due to the name. So the Board of Directors voted for a change to better reflect what we are and do.

- Neighborhood associations have no legal authority to enact or enforce maintenance or design requirements. We ask that residents adhere to local ordinances, but only the city can enforce them.
- Membership is open to all residents and property owners in the neighborhood, but participation is optional.
- Dues are voluntary, though deeply appreciated.

To ensure a visibly democratic process, a neighborhood association establishes formal or informal bylaws. These provide for at least one general membership meeting per year and an annual election of officers.

Please join us at the fall general meeting  
on Nov. 10.

## IT'S SPRING SPRUCE-UP TIME.....

By Sally Cunningham



Our neighborhood welcome sign at Peavy and Creekmere needs a bit of sprucing up; rust stains on the stone base near the original donor plaque remind us ongoing maintenance is needed here as well as in our own yards and gardens. Soon the planted area at our entrance will be showing signs of the new season. We promised that as funds were raised for another plaque, the beauty of our neighborhood entry way would be a high priority. This is a reminder for any of our new neighbors, as

well as long time residents who'd like to help with maintenance expenses, that NOW is the time.

A donation of \$100 will earn you a place on the new plaque, and help defray some of our maintenance costs.



You may choose to honor your family's residency here, memorialize a neighbor, or a special friend.

As you look at the accompanying picture of the current plaque (generously shared by our new neighbor Mark Kamenish), perhaps you can visualize the wording you'll choose for your own space on the plaque. Your donation of \$100 will secure space for the name/names you choose. The previously set limit of 40 characters per entry on the original plaque is still in effect.

I'll be sending individual e-mails to each of you who have already contributed to the fund to confirm the words and spelling of your entry; this is in case there have been any changes since you sent your donation to the Treasurer. New donations should be made to Eastwood Homeowners Association by check or through Pay Pal (see pg 8) with memo noting "For Plaque Fund". If you wish to contact the current HOA Treasurer, Sally Cunningham, you can do so at: [sally.c@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sally.c@sbcglobal.net)

*Photos courtesy of Mark Kamenish for use in documents by Eastwood HOA only*

## WATCH FOR BLUEBIRDS AND BLUEBONNETS!

By Michael Parkey, ASLA

In February, the *Riparian Committee* put up six bluebird nest boxes in our greenbelt. The boxes were built to the specifications of the North American Bluebird Society by committee member Francis Shaner. We had discussed this project for a few years, and when the Parks Department put up the wildflower area signs last year, the locations of the signs were perfect for bluebird boxes. So we mounted the boxes in back of the signs.

In Texas we have Eastern bluebirds, and the species is threatened throughout the USA by habitat destruction and pesticide use. Fortunately, parts of our park are good habitat for bluebirds: open meadows with scattered groves of trees. About two thirds of a bluebird's diet is insects and invertebrates, and about one third berries. Bluebirds catch insects by perching where they have a good view of an open area, then diving to seize insects on or near the ground.



Photo courtesy of Mark Kamenish for use in documents by Eastwood HOA only

Bluebirds nest in cavities in trees, and these are in short supply. The perfect nest site is an abandoned woodpecker hole, five to ten feet above the ground, facing an open area with trees not too far away. Trees are important so that the baby bluebirds have a safe place to land after their first flight from the nest. There are few suitable woodpecker holes in our park, hence the need for nest boxes.

When not breeding, bluebirds are social and may gather in large flocks. Texas bluebirds are partial migrants; they may stay in the same spot year round, or move if food becomes scarce or the winter weather severe. In late February or early March, male bluebirds begin looking for good nest sites, and when they find one, they become very territorial. Nest boxes need to be at least 300 feet apart. In March and April, females seek a male with a good breeding territory. If things go well, the pair may rear three or four groups of babies in one season.

As of this writing (23 March), we have not seen any bluebirds in the park. If none claim a nest box by the end of March, it is unlikely that any breeding will occur this year. It can take several years for male bluebirds to find a new nest site, but they continue their search throughout the year. So even if we have no bluebirds breeding in the park this year, a passing male may remember our nest boxes and return next spring.

More certain than bluebirds in our park are bluebonnets. We have more plants this year than ever before. The cold, dry weather has delayed flowering and kept the plants small. But even so, a few flowers were beginning to open last week. Warmer weather and rain will bring quick development, so hope for rain! The biggest concentration of bluebonnets in our park is near the intersection of Creekmore and Overglen. You might not see them from your car going doing 40, so slow down, get out of the car, and take a walk.

If you are interested in helping with the work of the *Riparian Committee*, please contact Michael Parkey or Ginger Travis. We usually meet on the second Saturday of the month, but this varies with weather and season. Check Nextdoor for announcements, or sign up for email reminders. As always, many thanks to our volunteers, and to EHA members who make an extra contribution when you renew your membership!