

NORHILL NEWS

NEWS FROM NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2013 VOL. 24, NO. 1

Plant a tree for a better Norhill

Now's your chance to help beautify Norhill and plant a tree for a fraction of the normal cost. Thanks to the leadership of Mike Clennan, committee chair, NNA is pleased to announce a tree planting program for Norhill in February. The program offers two options:

Private Property Trees

If you wish to have one or more trees planted on your private land, we have contracted with *Trees For Houston* to offer 15-gallon white oaks and red oaks for \$60, plus a \$30 planting fee. These trees are hand-picked from East Texas nurseries and will grow straight and tall for maximum shade if properly watered. Planting costs include stakes, mulch and compost. The private property trees will be planted the weekend of February 9-10.

City Property Trees

If you prefer to have one or more trees planted on City of Houston easements (usually between the sidewalk and curb), you can choose from five ornamental varieties and pay only a planting cost of \$50. Norhill residents Mark Scioneaux and Frank Brown, both landscape architects, are joining with Scott Coleman of The Backyard



These lovely maples were planted along Studewood during a previous Norhill tree planting project.

Gardener to provide materials and coordinate tree planting crews on Saturday, February 16.

The available tree varieties are: crape myrtle, Chinese pistachio, chalk maple and Texas redbud. These 15-gallon trees will be provided by the City of Houston Parks and Recreation Department free of charge.

For sake of comparison, local nurseries are currently selling similar trees for \$120-190 plus planting services.

There's no better investment than a tree. Your \$90 tree will be worth more than one thousand dollars in four or five years, and probably more than \$3,500 in ten years. Plus the shade provided by trees will cut your energy costs substantially, not to mention improve the beauty of our neighborhood.

You can reserve your tree(s) by **signing up online** at norhill.org or by sending an email to Mike Clennan at mglennan@gmail.com no later than January 28. You can also fill out a reservation form at our January 29 meeting. You must be a paid-up member of Norhill Neighborhood Association to participate in this program. Tree planting experts will be on hand at the January 29 meeting to answer your questions.

Annual Member Appreciation Dinner to be held January 29

The annual NNA membership drive kicks off January 29 with our Member Appreciation Dinner, which will be held at the Proctor Plaza Community Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. All persons who have paid their 2013 membership dues are invited to join us for a complimentary catered barbeque dinner.

Membership in Norhill Neighborhood Association helps support the many civic and social activities sponsored by the organization. You can **join online at norhill.org** or bring your check

to the January 29 meeting. The NNA membership categories are:

Regular member	\$35
Senior member (65 or older)	\$10
Renter member	\$10
Business member	\$50

For more information regarding NNA, contact Tom Patton at 713-578-0804. Tom's email address is tfpatton82@gmail.com.

President's Message

Happy New Year! I'm pleased to report your new NNA board is already hard at work planning a full year of exciting programs for Norhill residents. At the December meeting, interest was expressed in sponsoring an annual tree planting project. The ideal time to plant trees in Houston is early in the year, so we are rolling this idea into our Member Appreciation Dinner on January 29. Check the separate article in this newsletter for additional details and sign up online or come to the dinner prepared to make your commitment for new trees. Our goal is to plant 100 new trees in Norhill every year.



As previously stated, the majority of funds we raised last year through the home tour will be used to erect signs denoting the boundaries of our historic district. Paul Broman is helping me work out the details of this with the City of Houston. These will be elegant, molded signs in the shape of our distinctive Norhill logo.

You're holding the first newsletter of 2013, and there are several new aspects to that. First, it's in color and was MAILED to you instead of being hand-delivered by our usual group of volunteers. Of course, it costs more to print in color and mail, but we want

your feedback as to whether the extra cost is worth it. We've had some complaints in the past about newsletters being slow to arrive and boring because they were black and white. We're also changing the frequency to bi-monthly to get information to you in a more timely manner. In recent years, we published quarterly newsletters, so we're planning to increase our communication by 50% in 2013.

Another commitment of your new board is to introduce special interest activities that will benefit Norhill residents. Last year we launched a wonderful dinner club that has really taken off. This year we hope to add more activities. Theresa Doyle is organizing a cycling club. I am going to announce soon a "party" bridge club. If you have a special interest, tell us about it and we'll try to help you get it started.

The third "plank" in our new NNA agenda is to sponsor more community-wide social events. We hope to have one per quarter (more details to come).

Of course, this will require a lot more volunteer effort, so if you're willing to help, send me an email at bob.lamons@sbcglobal.net and tell me what you're interested in. I'll try to put you on a committee or pair you up with others who share similar interests. Together, we can all make Norhill a better place to live.

—Bob Lamons

Norhill Diner's Group offers food, fun and friends

If you enjoy good food and interesting conversation you can have both right here in Norhill! The Norhill Diner's Group is an eclectic collection of your neighbors who meet every other month.

Members gather at "host" homes and contribute a pre-assigned portion of the meal. It's simple, easy and delicious. And, if you are concerned about your culinary skills you can relax! We are not a gourmet group. We just enjoy having good food in a very friendly and casual atmosphere.

Our group has only two simple, but important principles. First, everyone must host a meal at least once during the year. Second, once you volunteer for your portion of the meal you must find a way to provide it even if circumstances prevent you from attending.

The next dinner is January 18. Find out more by calling



Hasselback potatoes at the recent Swedish themed dinner

or emailing Dona or George Reynolds (713-560-9663) or grdr@hotmail.com.

First Bungalow Home Tour a critical, financial success

Thanks to Rebekah Mayfield and a dedicated team of volunteer leaders, the first ever Norhill Bungalow Home Tour was both a critical and financial success. Although home tours have been held in Norhill in the past, this was the first one to exclusively showcase bungalow-style homes. Six fabulous examples of arts and crafts architecture were on display October 13-14 for approximately 400 visitors. The event netted \$8,600 from ticket sales and sponsorships.

“We’d like to express our gratitude to the homeowners for opening their homes to the public,” Mayfield said, “as well as the dozens of volunteers who served as docents, ticket-takers and committee members. It takes a lot of manpower to stage an event like this.”

The event was the first citywide promotional effort for



The Baird House at 1020 Al Gregg

Norhill Neighborhood Association since changing its name from Proctor Plaza in 2011. Articles in publications like the Houston Chronicle, The Leader, Heights Pages and Heights Tribune helped get the word out to thousands of persons, many of whom were probably hearing the word “Norhill” for the first time.

Ticket sales chairperson Theresa Doyle was able to get seven prominent Heights area merchants to sell home tour tickets, and for the first time, ticket sales were available online through the new NNA website, www.norhill.org.

Marketing chair Bob Lamons donated all advertising and public relations work through his company, Industribrand. George Reynolds recruited docents and coordinated training and scheduling activities.

Norhill Cycling Club is now forming

NNA board member Theresa Doyle has volunteered to help form a new cycling club for Norhill. “Riding a bike has always been one of my favorite activities,” she reports. “As a kid I’d set out on my bike and be gone for hours, often exploring areas several subdivisions away. My enjoyment of exploring by bicycle continues to this day and I’d like to invite other like-minded neighbors to join me.”

Houston has created more than 300 miles of bike trails, and with the passage of the recent bond proposition, is promising more trails in the future. Do you want to get out and see what our city looks like from a different perspective?

No fancy bike is needed and no minimum speed will be expected.

This activity is for the sheer enjoyment of getting out in the fresh air, checking out the bike trails, enjoying the scenery, and getting some cardio while you’re at it.



Theresa is proposing monthly bike rides — maybe more often during the cooler months. Let her know if you are interested by emailing her at tdoyle@skv.com. Riders will meet at Proctor Plaza Park at 8 a.m. either on a Saturday or Sunday morning. She’ll have a route planned (from 10 to 20 miles or 2-3 hours), but as the group congeals, route suggestions from other participants will be encouraged.

The cycling club will be launched February 26 at our monthly meeting with a presentation by Bike Houston.

NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2013 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Member-at-large

Theresa Doyle
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Newsletters

Louise Denly
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Yard of the Month

Linda Marx
713-503-0424

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **January 18** Norhill Diner's Group
- **January 29** Member Appreciation Dinner 6:30 p.m. at park building
Final chance to sign up for tree planning project
- **February 1** First Friday Happy Hour, Reynolds home, 1119 Walling St.
- **February 9** Private land tree planting day
- **February 16** Public land tree planting day
- **February 26** NNA Monthly Meeting - Speaker from Bike Houston
- **March 1** First Friday Happy Hour, Stassen home, 1024 W. Cottage
- **March 26** NNA Monthly Meeting - Master gardening tips



Norhill News
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Visit us at www.norhill.org

NORHILL YARD OF THE MONTH



Long-time Norhill resident Rachel David at 4627 Oak Ridge was honored recently with our Yard of the Month designation. Rachel is 80 years young, but still works in her yard on a regular basis, and the results are evident!

Other recent Yard of the Month winners:

Mark Scioneaux and Frank Brown, 802 W. Temple
Lynne Hoefler, 802 Cottage
Mary Wassef, 1127 Winston
Cindy Burns, 113 Cottage

New membership brochure available

A new brochure listing the benefits of membership in the Norhill Neighborhood Association has been created. The brochure describes six reasons to support the association: community projects, social gatherings, special interest activities, monthly meetings, bi-monthly newsletters and the norhill.org website.

If you would like to receive copies of this brochure, please contact NNA membership chairman Tom Patton at 713-578-0804 or email him at tfpatton82@gmail.com.



Please Join Us

