

NORHILL NEWS

NEWS FROM NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

MAY/JUNE 2015 VOL. 26, NO. 3

Block Captain Program Will Help Keep Us Connected

Norhill neighbors are stepping forward to volunteer as block captains in an exciting new program to help promote participation in NNA activities and ensure that the needs of Norhill residents are being met. We currently have about twenty of our forty-four blocks covered with new volunteers, and we're actively seeking more.

Each block captain has agreed to stay in touch with approximately 20 residents. If you'd be willing to help, please contact Mike Clennan at 713-864-1204 or email him at mglennan@gmail.com.

A recent organizational meeting was held to begin identifying possible responsibilities for block captains. Three general areas were discussed:

1. Improved communications

This includes such things as making sure residents are receiving *Norhill News* and that it is addressed properly. We also want to inform residents of our email notification system and invite people to sign up for that if they haven't already done so. Block captains will be notified when special events and programs need resident involvement and will help "spread the word" to get the highest possible level of participation.

For example, the homeowner survey regarding remodeling guidelines that was recently mailed to property owners was discussed, and block captains were encouraged to ask their block neighbors to look for it and fill it out.

We will also be seeking to inform residents about information that is available on our website, www.norhill.org and our facebook page.

2. Social events

Block captains will be encouraged to invite neighbors to social events, such as the First Friday Happy Hours and seasonal events like the August 1st Ice Cream Social and the annual Member Appreciation Dinner. They will also talk up Special Interest groups like the bicycling



Newly appointed block captains preparing to take on their new responsibilities.
Front L-R: Blaise Mladenka, Fran Ziesner, Michelle Broderick, Mary Schlutz, Amy Veenendaal.
Back: Mike Clennan, Sam Jameson, Nick Green, Phil Schaidler.

club and dinner club. We keep hoping other special interest groups will form, like a bridge club for example. Maybe this will be an outgrowth of the block captain program.

Sometimes it's intimidating to attend something for the first time. Our block captains will be alert for opportunities to pair up Norhillians who wish to go to something but never have worked up the nerve to actually do it. Once you're there, you'll see how much fun it is and look forward to the next time.

3. Welcome Wagon

People move in and out of a neighborhood all the time, and it's always nice if someone knocks on your door and welcomes you to the neighborhood. We've had welcome kits in the past, but one person can't act as a welcoming committee for a neighborhood of over 850 homes. We think the block captain program, with forty sets of eyes and ears, will do a much better job of assimilating new folks into the Norhill family.

The more you know about your neighbors and the activities of our neighborhood, the more you can enjoy living here. If you'd like to help with this important new program, please let us know.

President's Message

Norhill is once again being recognized as one of Houston's most desirable neighborhoods. The latest confirmation of this was in the April 19th issue of the Houston Chronicle where they listed housing values for more than 3,000 subdivisions. Norhill was one of the few neighborhoods with a median value of over \$300 per square foot. The weighted average was \$327 for 865 East and North Norhill homes (average size 1,200 SF).

BTW, the average median for all of Houston was \$89 SF and River Oaks, our upscale sister neighborhood (founded by the Hogg brothers, just like Norhill) was \$422 SF.

As we learned at our April 28th meeting, schools have a direct impact on housing values, and I was thrilled to hear about the many improvements that are being made at Hogg Middle School. Norhillians



with middle school-age children can watch their kids walk to Hogg each day with peace of mind and the knowledge they are getting a first-class education. One of the speakers at the April meeting, Emily Guyre, chairperson of the innovative Learn Local program, encouraged us to find out more about the changes that are being made. We're going to have a "Norhill Day" at Hogg this fall after renovations are complete.

The new Block Captain program is starting to take shape (see story on page one). If you're willing to be the contact person for about 20 of your neighbors, I hope you'll let me know. It's the old saying about "the more you put in, the more you get out," and I have certainly found that to be true in my case.

And finally, the Homeowner survey has been mailed to our newsletter mailing list. If you didn't get yours, contact any member of the NNA board and we'll get one to you ASAP. We need for every Norhill resident to fill one out and return it by the end of June.

—Mike Clennan

Discover more space for your bungalow



- New Construction • Renovations
- Kitchen/Bathroom Remodeling • Additions
- Tile/Wood Floors • Decking • Sheetrock
- Painting Exterior/ Interior • Garage Apartments

Call Today for FREE Estimate

713.581.4397



www.SaboCustomBuilders.com

Membership Committee Forming to Help Norhill Grow

Supporting Norhill Neighborhood Association with your annual membership fee may seem like a minor issue, but it's vitally important to the health and viability of our organization. Oftentimes, people think they have renewed their membership only to discover they haven't.

To remedy this, we have created two items this year to signify that you are a current member. One is a green sticker that boldly states you are a 2015 Member. We would like all NNA members to display your sticker on your car or home so others can see your commitment to NNA. We also have printed official membership cards, which will be required when we vote on issues of the association.

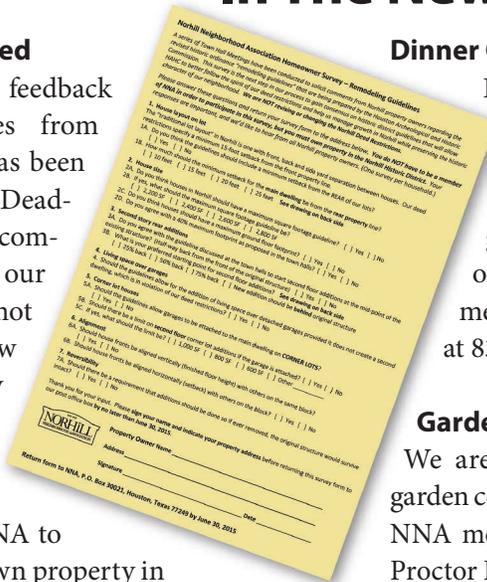
Membership V.P. Dave Hamilton is forming a Membership Committee to assist in distributing stickers and membership cards, but more importantly to spread the word about the value of membership in Norhill Neighborhood Association. If you would like to help grow our membership, please contact Dave at 281-413-6338 or email him at dah@brinkleybarfield.com.

And if you discover your NNA membership has lapsed, you can renew online at norhill.org.

In The News

Homeowner Survey Mailed

The survey form soliciting feedback on remodeling guidelines from Norhill property owners has been mailed to our mailing list. Deadline for returning your completed form is June 30th to our post office box. If you did not receive one of these yellow sheets, please contact any NNA board member and we will deliver another copy to you. You do not have to be a member of NNA to participate, but you must own property in Norhill Historic District. One survey per household please.



Dinner Club Expanding

If you've been thinking about joining the Norhill Dinner Club, this would be a good time. The next event is Friday evening, May 29th. Each person agrees to bring a menu item and we gather in a volunteer's home for several hours of good food and conversation. It's a great way to meet your Norhill neighbors. Contact Louise Denly at 832-967-9927 if you'd like to know more.

Gardening at May 26 Meeting

We are recruiting a gardening expert from a leading garden center to talk about summer gardens at the May 26th NNA monthly meeting. The meeting starts at 6:30 at the Proctor Park Community Center. Bring your green thumb.

Graphic Design Assistance

We'd like to thank our Norhill neighbor Elizabeth Piarote Timoney of Piarote Design for donating graphic design services for *Norhill News*. Elizabeth and her husband, Shaun live on 14th Street. Give her a call at 713-520-0110 if you need graphic design assistance.

Ice Cream Social August 1

Our 2015 Ice Cream Social will be held Saturday, August 1 at Proctor Plaza Park from noon to 2:00 p.m. Watch for more details in the next issue of *Norhill News*. This is a fun (and free) event for the whole family!



Hogg Middle School representatives Emily Guyre, John DiFilippio and Laura Glaab

Learn Local at Hogg

Emily Guyre, John DiFilippio and Laura Glaab gave a spirited report on the multi-million renovation and numerous program upgrades that are being implemented at Hogg Middle School at the April NNA meeting. We discovered many Norhillians are Hogg graduates and life-long "Razorbacks." Ira Jones revealed he is a former cheerleader! We should all be cheerleaders for Hogg – it's good for our neighborhood and our kids.

Nobody knows Norhill better



Mary Wassef
Broker, ABR, CLHMS
Five Star Texas
Real Estate Agent

*Norhill resident
since 1999*



1722 Heights Boulevard 713-862-1101
mary@marywassef.com

www.marywassef.com

NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2015 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President

Mike Clennan
713-864-1204

**First Vice President,
Membership**

Dave Hamilton
281-413-6338

**Second Vice President,
Deed Restrictions**

Tom Patton
713-578-0804

Secretary

Kathy Elsberry
713-249-9437

Treasurer

John Wood
281-685-5638

Crime Watch Officer

Pedro Ayarzagoitia
281-808-8748

Communications Director

Bob Lamons
713-828-7000

Programs Director

Viula Torgerson
713-392-0109

Social Events Director

Rayma Stassen
713-861-6224

**Community Projects
Director**

Paul Broman
832-566-2883

Director-at-large

Lawrence Febo
832-854-7012

Director-at-large

Ed Sabo
713-581-4397

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **May 26** NNA Monthly Meeting, Proctor Park Community Center "Summer Gardening Tips"
- **May 29** Norhill Diner's Group – call Louise Denly at 832-967-9927 for details
- **June 5** First Friday Happy Hour – Nancy Baird residence, 1020 Al Gregg
- **June 7** Norhill Bicycle Club monthly ride
- **June 30** NNA Monthly Meeting, Proctor Park Community Center Speaker and program TBD
- **June 30** Homeowner Survey forms due – mail to NNA, P.O. Box 30021, Houston, Texas 77249



Norhill News
P.O. Box 30021
Houston, Texas 77249

Visit us at www.norhill.org
 facebook.com/norhill.org

GRAPHICS BY PIAROTE DESIGN

NORHILL YARD OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Linda Marx (713-503-0424)

We are pleased to recognize these Norhill Yard of the Month recipients. Thanks for helping keep Norhill beautiful!



April: Melissa Suhr and Robert Atherholt at 701 West Cottage



May: Henry and Sarah Terrell at 916 Key