

NORHILL NEWS

NEWS FROM NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015 VOL. 26, NO. 5

Together, We Make Norhill Better

Many neighborhood associations exist through the efforts of a handful of hardy souls, working long, thankless hours staging events that are usually attended by less than five percent of the neighborhood. When those volunteer leaders move or get worn out, it's a struggle to find replacements and maintain even a modest level of momentum.

In Norhill, we're happy to report we've moved beyond that. In recent years we've initiated an ambitious list of programs and activities that make our little corner of the world a fun and very special place. And the word is starting to get out.

Now we have dinner clubs, cycling groups, First Friday happy hours and monthly meetings with interesting and informative speakers. We stage seasonal events like crawfish boils, barbeque dinners, ice cream socials, holiday parties and a lot more.

We do community service projects dealing with decorative street lights, tree plantings and historic district signs, and we recognize people who help keep Norhill beautiful with our Yard of the Month program.

Unlike many other homeowner groups, we have regular newsletters professionally printed in color and mailed to our homes, plus a robust website with lots of helpful information and reference material about our neighborhood.

Our new Block Captain program is helping bridge the gap between the NNA board and our 865 property owners. And next year, another Norhill Bungalow Home Tour is coming to direct the attention of Houston homebuyers on our beautiful and extremely livable bungalows.

As you might guess, it takes a lot of people to keep activities like this going. If you've been mulling the possibility of getting more involved in the programs of Norhill Neighborhood Association, we'd love to have your help. The more people who donate a few hours of time and valuable ideas about how we can improve the quality in our neighborhood, the better it gets for all of us.

Take a look at the following list of committees and volunteer to serve on one that suits your interests and talents. Please do it soon!

NORHILL COMMITTEES

Board of Directors – Martin Koenig 713-868-9693

Membership – Paul Broman 832-566-2883

Deed Restrictions – Tom Patton 713-578-0804

Block Captains – Mike Clennan 713-864-1204

Crime Watch – Pedro Ayarzagotia 281-808-8748

Social Events – Rayma Stassen 713-861-6224

Communications – Bob Lamons 713-828-7000

Dinner Group – Louise Denly 832-967-9927

Cycling Club – Theresa Doyle 713-504-9918

Yard of the Month – Linda Marx 713-503-0424



President's Message

I recently saw a survey that said the average person shares negative experiences more than twice as often as positive ones. For some reason, we can't wait to tell someone when we see something that annoys or bothers us.



Last week I had a neighbor, one who doesn't volunteer time, pay NNA dues or come to meetings, complain to me that a number of areas in Norhill need more attention.

Yes! I totally agree, and this issue of *Norhill News* is about the importance of volunteerism and how we can make a difference if we work together. We need all 2,000 adults living in our 865 homes to join Norhill Neighborhood Association and help us create a healthy, happy and safe neighborhood.

It's not that difficult really. In my last column, I emphasized the need to be "vigilant" as we walk and drive around our neighborhood. Our speaker at the August 25th meeting, a Harris County Sheriff's deputy,

said the same thing. If you see something that doesn't look right, report it. Hundreds of Norhill eyes and ears are far more effective than hiring an extra constable to drive through the area several times each night.

We've been writing about a new Block Captain program that will help us better communicate the activities of our association, as well as understand the priorities of our residents. We have about 20 volunteers for that program so far, but we need at least 20 more.

We have lots of committees that are in need of extra manpower to plan and implement the programs of our civic group. We need help administering the deed restrictions, planning social events, finding good speakers for our monthly meetings, keeping the website up to date and publishing this newsletter, for example. There are dozens of ways you can help.

I hope you'll carefully consider the opportunities described on the front page of this issue and call one of the numbers listed to let someone know you're interested in helping. Your association needs you!

—Mike Clennan



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Get Your Yard Ready for Winter

Here are some tips for winterizing your yard courtesy of our friends at Buchanan's Native Plants:

1. Plant trees, shrubs, rose bushes and perennials now to ensure better survival next spring with earlier growth and blooms.
2. Plant fall and winter color – pansies, dianthus, snapdragons, alyssum, ornamental kale and cabbage, dusty miller, etc. in cleaned out flower beds, or in pots on deck or porch.
3. An organic, slow release fertilizer is just what your grass needs to get ready for cold weather.
4. Plant fall veggies and herbs – Broccoli, cauliflower, Brussels sprouts, lettuce, cabbage, peas, dill, cilantro, parsley, Swiss chard, mustard greens, etc.
5. Plant wildflower seeds through November – bluebonnets, paintbrush, larkspur, etc. Also plant sweet pea seeds in November for better results in spring.
6. Move and divide perennials and roses while they are dormant or growing slowly.
7. The mulch you applied last spring is long gone! Protect roots and maintain moisture while keeping weeds to a minimum with a 3-inch layer.

In The News

Constable Rosen speaking September 29

We were rained out, actually flooded out in June, but Harris County Constable Alan Rosen has promised us a raincheck on September 29 to give us a variety of tips on ways to make our neighborhood safer. Be sure to join us at 6:30 at Proctor Park for this informative session.



Missing your water meter cover?

If you're missing the cover on your front yard water meter cover, it's easy to order a replacement. Go to <http://hfdapp.houstontx.gov/311/sector.php?sid=12#>. On that page, under the "water" heading, select "investigate missing valve cover." That takes you to

a secondary page where you can submit your name, email address and physical address. The expected response time is 7 days.

National Night Out is October 6

Throughout Texas, the first Tuesday in October is National Night Out when neighbors come together to share fellowship, food and contact information to make our neighborhoods safer. Several gatherings are planned for Norhill. Check with your block captain for the location of the one nearest you.

Norhill goes to college October 27

Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, a PhD candidate in the department of sociology at Rice University, is preparing her doctoral thesis on three inner-Loop Houston neighborhoods including Norhill. At our October 27th monthly meeting, Elizabeth will give a summary of her research to date, providing insights on real estate and ethnic identity in the U.S. and how Houston neighborhoods stack up. Be sure to join us for this special presentation.

Webmaster needed for norhill.org

If you have experience using a website content management system, we'd appreciate some help keeping norhill.org up to date. It normally doesn't take more than an hour or so per month posting items to the site. Call Bob Lamons at 713-828-7000 if you can help.

Monster Mash at Proctor Park

October 31, Halloween, is the annual Fall Festival and Monster Mash for the kiddies at Proctor Park. NNA is a supporting sponsor of this fun family event, and we hope

you'll support it with your attendance. It runs from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Call Pam Foote at 713-862-6907 for details.



Martin Koenig



Jacqueline Altobelli

New board members

Please welcome Martin Koenig and Jacqueline Altobelli to the NNA board. Martin is filling the position of Community Projects Director following Paul Broman's transition to membership v.p., and Jacqueline is serving as Programs Director for the rest of this program year as Viula Torgerson has moved to temporary housing outside Norhill while her house on Pineridge is remodeled. We greatly appreciate the willingness of these two individuals to volunteer their time and talents for Norhill.



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NORHILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

2015 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President

Mike Clennan
713-864-1204

**First Vice President,
Membership**

Paul Broman
832-566-2883

**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

Jacqueline Altobelli
210-875-3588

Social Events Director

Rayma Stassen
713-861-6224

**Community Projects
Director**

Martin Koenig
713-868-9693

Director-at-large

Lawrence Febo
832-854-7012

Director-at-large

Ed Sabo
713-344-1241

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **September 29** NNA Monthly Meeting – Alan Rosen, Harris County Constable Precinct 1.
- **October 2** First Friday Happy Hour – Fran Ziesmer residence, 1017 Peddie
- **October 6** National Night Out neighborhood gatherings
- **October 11** Norhill Cycling Club monthly ride
- **October 23** Norhill Dining Group – contact Louise Denly for information 832-967-9927
- **October 31** Monster Mash and Fall Festival, Proctor Park Community Center 5–8 p.m.
- **November 6** First Friday Happy Hour – Mark Scioneaux and Frank Brown, 802 W. Temple



Norhill News
P.O. Box 30021
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Visit us at www.norhill.org
[facebook.com/norhill.org](https://www.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!



August: Ignacio Hurtado at 1012 W. Cottage



September: Tom Flanigan at 1027 W. Key