

PCNHA Newsletter

AUGUST 2009

Board Members

Bianca Sias President
9214.457.0081 • bianca.renee@gmail.com

Ben Preboy Vice President
972.422.6255 • bvrp@verizon.net

Sunny Vosburg Secretary
972.202.1608 • svos95@yahoo.com

Don Patterson Committee Liaison
donepatterson@tx.rr.com

**PLEASE
JOIN US!**

for the next PCNHA General Meeting

When: August 25, 2009 at 7:00 pm
Where: Highland Oaks Church of Christ, Room 111

All residents in Pitman Creek North (members and non-members) are invited to attend the next Pitman Creek North General Meeting. The reminder signs will be posted on the corners four days before the meeting.

A big
THANK YOU
to all of our
volunteers that
have given their
time to make our
community a better
place to live!

Hello neighbors!

This is my first address to everyone since taking the office of President and I must humbly say I have some mighty large shoes to fill. A very special thanks goes out to Ben Preboy for his dedication and level of service during his tenure as president. I'm grateful to have him still onboard as our Vice President.

This year, I aim to integrate PCNHA more with our community. Starting off with our summer social on August 22 at 9AM at Hackberry Park, please come by to meet your neighbors and please bring some school supplies to donate to kids in need for this upcoming school year. We will have donuts, coffee, and juice. We have established an official social committee, who has been busy at work brainstorming for activities over the upcoming year. If you would like to be involved or help in any way, please contact me.

You will also notice in this newsletter a few more articles pertaining to the City of Plano, as well as some local businesses we can support. Please, if you have any other local retailers you'd like to highlight, contact me so we can include them!

In that same vein, however, membership is at an all time low, with just over 100 residents represented. That's only 1/4th of the neighborhood! It's not too late to get your checks in. Soon, we will have Pay Pal available to pay your dues electronically, as well.

One final note, PCNHA is going green! This will be the last mailed newsletter. However, we will publish a newsletter every month on the web and it will be distributed through your block leaders via email. If you are a member of PCNHA and would like to continue to receive a printed copy, please contact me and we will arrange to have one delivered.

Thank you to everyone and I look forward to getting to know you all. Hope to see you at the next board meeting!

Bianca Sias
PCNHA.PRESIDENT@GMAIL.COM
214-457-0081

PCNHA is Now on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, join the PCNHA group!

PCNHA Goin' Green

When you are finished with this newsletter, please consider the environment and recycle. This is the last printed edition. You will receive an electronic copy through your Block Leader via email or on the PCNHA web site. If you would like a printed edition, and are a paying member, please contact me at 214-457-0081 or PCNHA.President@gmail.com.



Mark Your Calendars!

August 21 - 23: Sales Tax Holiday Weekend
August 22: PCNHA Summer Social @ Hackberry Park
August 24: First Day of School
August 25: PCNHA General Meeting 7:00pm Highland Oaks Church of Christ, Room 111

Plano Public Library System

Are you a fan of books but don't have the time to read and think audio books are too expensive? The solution may be the Plano Public Library System.

PPLS now has 330 audiobook titles available for download and playable on mp3 compatible devices like your iPod or Zune. The program appears popular as I am waiting for my first titles to come off hold and be available for download. I anticipate that my rush hour commute will now not be long enough!

All you need to access the books is a valid Plano Public Library Card Follow the following link to get started:

<http://plano.lib.overdrive.com/1858BF64-407C-4EC2-9B37-F78394B23901/10/417/en/default.htm>

No card?! Then there is no better time than now to get one. Here is a link to all the info you need to get a PPLS card:

<http://plano.gov/Departments/Libraries/Pages/GeneralInformation.aspx>

City of Plano Traffic Study

Every year the Plano Transportation Engineering Division conducts a citywide review of road locations needing improvement to traffic flow and safety. The analysis considers but is not limited to traffic collisions, traffic congestion and delay, citizen complaints, and staff suggestions.

If you know of a location that you feel should be evaluated please report it to Traffic Engineer SyedNabi no later than 9/18/09. Mr. Nabi can be contacted by email at SyedN@Plano.gov, or by calling him at X7151.

City of Plano Recommended Budget

Due to current economic conditions the City Manager's office has projected a deficit for 2009-2010 budget year. The city has moved to erase the deficit by a variety of means; among those solutions is a raw 3.2% property tax increase. Though there appears to be conflicting information as an overall 2.5% increase is stated explicitly. If you have not already been made aware of the situation make sure you adjust your budget accordingly.

If you still have a mortgage on your home consider that most mortgage companies will not make property tax assessments until May or later. The once a year property tax check compounds tax increase since it lags the actual change. Please keep in mind that the actual impact on your mortgage payment may be more than the 3.2% tax increase.

It appears that budget shortfalls will continue into 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 budget years. Despite the proposed personnel and tax changes that have balanced the 2009-2010 proposed budget the City of Plano is projected to run large deficits for the next two years. The City Manager has not proposed any changes to close the revenue shortfall and will not work on those issues until the 2009-2010 budget is adopted.

Please visit the following link if you wish to see the City Manager's proposed budget in detail: <http://pdf.plano.gov/budget/RecBudget0910.pdf>

City of Plano Launches Citywide Resident Prescription Savings Program

In the current economic climate, the prescription discount card can provide an average savings of 20 percent off retail price.

A new program offers savings on prescription drugs to Plano residents who are without health insurance, a traditional benefits plan or have prescriptions not covered by insurance.

The Prescription Discount Card is made available to residents by the City of Plano in collaboration with the National League of Cities (NLC) and is made possible through Plano's membership in NLC.

The card is FREE to all Plano residents, regardless of age, income or existing health insurance. By using this card, residents may save an average of 20% off the regular retail price of prescription drugs at participating pharmacies.

To discover the savings and learn more about the program, follow <http://www.caremark/nlc> to access the program online and print a card, check drugs prices and locate participating pharmacies.

Ohhhh Rats!

Some neighbors have seen rats around their property. Please keep property free of debris and trash and keep yards mowed to get rid of a majority of these pests. Rat traps would also help!

Daffynitions

Arachnoleptic Fit: The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high

Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

Registration Form

(Please complete the form below and mail to PCNHA address above)

Make Check Payable to Pitman Creek North Homeowners Association
For: \$45 Membership - June 1, 2009 through May 31, 2010

Name _____

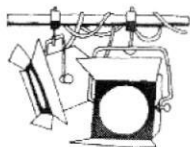
House Number & Street _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Note: All addresses, phone #'s and emails will only be used for Crime Watch Bulletins, PCNHA Crime alerts and communications. Any donations above \$45 dues amount are appreciated.

PCNHA
1301 Custer Road • Suite 352-1017
Plano, TX 75075-7499
www.pcnha.org

Spotlight on Henry's Homemade Ice Cream



ICE CREAM MAKES YOU PRETTY, or so says the trademarked tagline for Henry's ice cream.

While I can't say whether or not Henry's ice cream will indeed make you pretty, I will say at the very least it will make you happy.

Since Henry J Gentry moved from Philadelphia to set up a Plano shop in 1992, Henry's Ice Cream has been consistently voted among the best ice cream makers in the metroplex. Henry's is a locally owned bastion of quality and produces a seemingly limitless assortment of ice cream flavors rotated continuously on their menu; many of them award winners at national ice cream tastings. This author was more than surprised upon his first visit to the store and has dragged friends back several times this summer. My personal favorites include Senator Shapiro's Texas Praline, Butter pecan, and their fantastically perfect vanilla. But why stop there? You will find adventurous flavors like cinnamon to challenge your concept of what makes a tasty treat and the pineapple basil sorbet - yes, you read correctly, BASIL - is perfect for a hot mer day.

Get out while the summer is still in force and find them at the intersection of Independence and 15th street or online at www.henryshomemadeicecream.com. Drop in and try a flavor in a cone, order an ice cream cake, or even set up a catering event, Henry's will do it all. In fact you might find Henry's ice cream at a local restaurant; they provide ice cream to many in the area. Get to their store by any means possible, try the vanilla first and then get adventurous!

Here's some ponder points for the rocker:

- Why is the man who invests all your money called a broker?
- Why do croutons come in airtight packages? Aren't they just stale bread to begin with?
 - If it's true that we are here to help others, then what exactly are the others here for?
- No one ever says, "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
- Ever wonder what the speed of lightning would be if it didn't zigzag?
- Why are a wise man and a wise guy parasites?
- Why do overlook and oversee mean opposite things?
- Why isn't the number 11 pronounced onety one?

Housing Market Shows Some Signs of Recovery

What do Boston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Dallas, Minneapolis and San Francisco have in common? They're cities where home prices rose recently.

That's according to the Standard & Poor's Case-Shiller Home Price Index, which shows that prices are actually starting to rise again in some parts of the country.

Plano Market Snapshot

	June			Entire Year		
	2008	2009	Change	2008	2009	Change
New Listings	564	469	-16.8%	3425	2723	-20.5%
Avg Sales Price**	\$278,560	\$271,881	-2.4%	\$267,326	\$257,302	-3.7%
Median Sales Price**	\$215,000	\$218,250	1.5%	\$218,000	\$217,000	-0.5%
% of Original List Price Rec'd at Sale	95.5%	94.3%	-1.3%	94.9%	94.0%	-0.9%
Avg Days on Market Until Sale	74	85	14.6%	89	88	-1.7%
Single-Family Detached Inventory	1521	1186	-22.0%	Info not available		
Townhouse-Condo Inventory	156	114	-26.5%			

**Does not include sellers concessions

Highland Oaks Church Wee Care Preschool: A Neighborhood Preschool

Within walking distance (southwest corner of Pitman Creek North subdivision), WEE CARE PRESCHOOL offers classes Mon. - Thur. 9:30-2:00 for ages 2-4 by Sept. 1, 2009. Extended play hours are available.

Christian beliefs, social and educational development and a loving staff are the foundation the school has relied on for over 30 years. Each day children experience Bible lessons, age appropriate curriculum, arts and crafts, music, and exercise.

The Fall Carnival, Christmas Program, Daddy's Donuts, Mother's Day Tea and Spring Program and 4yr. old Field Trips are just a few extra activities. Wee Care also invites the Policemen and Firemen to come during Community Helpers Week.

If you are interested in meeting new neighbors and giving your child an opportunity to make new friends and to grow in knowledge while having a great time, please join us starting on Sept. 8th!

For more information and a tour of the school please call:

PAULETTE LAWRENCE
214-794-5143
Highland Oaks Church of Christ
Wee Care Preschool

		5	6	7		1	
	3	4		8	1	5	7
7	2	1		3			
						6	3
		9				4	
8	1	3					
				4		5	6
3	4		7	9		1	8
	5			2	6	7	



Each Sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing. Enter digits from 1 to 9 into the blank spaces without repeating. Every row must contain one of each digit of 1 to 9. So must every column.



Keep an Eye Out for Crime

Welcome to another summer in Texas; hot, dry, a little rain and then more hot and dry. Everybody wants to stay inside in the air-conditioning. Lots of yard work to do and vacations to take. Kids are out of school. All this adds up to more opportunities for thefts to occur.

Houses are shut up and air-conditioned, so you don't hear noises outside so easy. You can miss the sound of someone breaking a car window or an alarm going off. Be vigilant of your property and of your neighbor's. If you hear an alarm go off, car or house, look outside, check things out. If you see someone breaking into a car or taking things from a house, call 911 immediately. DO NOT challenge or confront the perpetrators. Get a good description of them and their vehicle to give to the police. Also, contact your block leader with the information.

As happens every summer, open garage burglaries are already up throughout the city. Don't leave your garage door open while you're out doing yard work. It is an open invitation to a thief to come in and help themselves.

With schools out, many kids are out and about and looking for things to do. Unfortunately, many of them take advantage of this opportunity while you are at work to help themselves to your property. Don't make it any easier for them. Keep your house and cars secure. Lock them up, use your alarms and don't leave valuables lying out, either around your house or in your car.

Let's watch out for each other in our neighborhood and keep things secure.

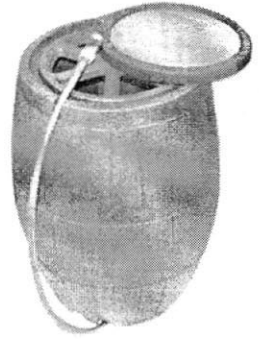
Rain Water Harvesting

Saved rain water is a great way to conserve water and give plants a better source of moisture. It's amazing how much water runs from our roofs just during a light rain.

They're available at Lowes, Home Depot or online for about \$100 and up. If you want to make your own, you can do it for about \$50. A good website that provides considerable information on the benefits of collecting rainwater and the steps to making one is:

www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/rain_barrels_guide.pdf

Check craigslist.com for plastic barrels previously used for food-grade liquids.



Advertisements

We are opening up our newsletter to advertising by service providers that do not reside in Pitman Creek. The only requirement is that a resident has used this service provider and would recommend it to others. Pitman Creek residents will still be able to advertise in the newsletter. We require a business card (2"x3.5") for the ad. In return, we would appreciate a donation of \$25 to PCNHA per newsletter. If you are interested, contact Bianca Sias at 214-457-081 or email Bianca.Renee@gmail.com.

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Office: 972-801-6866
Fax: 469-467-7688

beth.raines@kw.com
www.bethrainesrealty.com

Call or Email for a FREE CMA or Stats for Our Neighborhood!



KELLER WILLIAMS

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

Committee Chairs 2009-2010

Block Leaders Chair	Janell DowellJanellFrench@yahoo.com
Membership Chair	Jodi Toddjtoddspa@gmail.com
Newsletter Chair	Bianca SiasBianca.renee@gmail.com214-457-0081
Welcome Wagon	Amber Jonesamberjeanninejones@yahoo.com972-488-7003
Crime Watch Chair	Akos Hartaidrhartai@gmail.com
Landscaping Chair	Bea Preboybvrp@verizon.net972-422-6255
Yard of the Month Chair	Sunny Vosburg.....svos95@yahoo.com972-202-1608
Social Chair (Vacant)	
Property Pride Chair	Ben Preboy.....bvrp@verizon.net.....972-422-6255