

PCNHA Newsletter

OCTOBER 2007

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**PLEASE
JOIN US!**

PCNHA Membership:

The PCNHA Board of Directors would like to remind you that membership dues can be mailed in at anytime during the year. You don't have to wait for the next membership drive. You can also bring a check to the next General Meeting.

Your contribution of **only \$45** per year goes a long way towards helping PCNHA pay for maintenance and improvements in Pitman Creek North. This will result in higher property values and a safer, more beautiful neighborhood.

Please mail your payment to:

PCNHA

1301 Custer Road, Suite 352-1017

Plano, Texas 75075-7499

If you have any questions, please contact PCNHA President, Ben Preboy, at 972-422-6255.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Next General Meeting

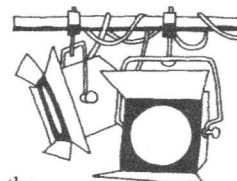
When: Thursday, November 8th at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Highland Village Church of Christ (formerly Pitman Creek Church of Christ)

All residents in Pitman Creek North are strongly encouraged to attend the next Pitman Creek North General Meeting. Board Members will provide updated information regarding Pitman Creek North Homeowner's Association and financial status. Team Leaders will report on their committee's activities. It is also a good way to meet some of your neighbors.

Everyone attending the meeting will be eligible for the door prize drawings! Also, if you haven't paid your membership dues yet you can bring your check to the meeting.

Don't miss your chance to find out what's going on in your neighborhood! We look forward to seeing you there. If you have any questions, please contact me, Holly Scarpinato, Secretary, at 972.943.3258 or hscarpinato@hotmail.com.



President's Message

I want to thank all of our volunteers for giving of their time and efforts in attaining the goals of their committees.

The "Welcome Wagon Committee" has been very busy meeting with all the new property owners. A packet with information of our organization and community, as well as goodie items are left with them.

As you can see the "Yard of The Month" committee is doing their job of selecting the best prepared property for their award. In reviewing their selections we agree.

The "Garden Club" previously called the Landscape Committee has formulated plans for future improvement to the public areas and I'm sure that will be reported by the team leader.

The "Property Pride" members have canvassed the neighborhood and have been working with the city to achieve compliance. Their work along with the YOM efforts helps to bring better yard appeal, helping to increase our property values.

"Crime Watch" has kept us informed regarding crime occurring in our area as well as in the surrounding area. We can use this information to be more alert when we find ourselves in similar situations so we can better protect ourselves and our property.

"Membership" has been working very hard to increase our paid membership number. At this writing we are at 267 paid members, a bit shy of our last year's number.

Our thanks also to our treasurer for taking care of our finances and establishing our budget.

As many of you know, we are still in need of "Block Leaders" for some areas of our neighborhood. We need a few more volunteers to fill these needs to improve the dissemination of important information critical to our membership. I feel that the Block Leaders are the lifeline of our organization.

As you can see our organization needs many volunteers to keep it running smoothly. Our effort to increase membership will help share the load and bring new ideas to us. I want to personally thank Vicki Evanto for coordinating all these committees and my thanks to all the leaders.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at (972) 422-6255 or e-mail me at bvrp@verizon.net.

*Ben Preboy
President*



PCN Website - Helpful Information

Did you know that Pitman Creek North has a website with very helpful information on it? The address is www.pcnha.org. The website has recently been revamped and updated by our Webmaster Chuck de Sostoa. It is still in need of more content information. If you would like to help find or add content information to the website, contact Chuck de Sostoa at charlesdesostoa@charter.net or 469-241-2491.

For PCN residents, you can create a login id and password for the Member's Only area. This will give you access to the Calloway's coupons, recommended service provider's names, PCNHA information, etc. If you have any questions about this just contact Chuck.

Also, if any of you have used a service provider that you are happy with and would recommend to your neighbors, please send the provider information to Chuck so he can post it on the website. This includes any services provided by plumbers, tile or carpet installation, woodwork-ing, yard work, housecleaning, remodeling, babysitters, carpet cleaning, painters, fence builders, window washers, landscaping, etc. Word of mouth is better than just picking someone in the yellow pages.

Garden Club (previously called the Landscaping Committee)

The "Landscape Committee" will now be known as the "Garden Club". We invite everyone who is interested in hands on gardening to become a member of this group. If you like to clip, snip, and prune we need you! There have already been a lot of hands on pruning being done in the public areas. The gardens are really beginning to look well groomed. We could certainly use a lot more help.

In the future we plan to invite speakers to our meetings to give us some advice on how to improve our landscape and beautify our yards.

Don Sias has volunteered to trim the eight Live Oaks in the islands on Victoria. He will need some assistance on the ground, so we will need some man power and trucks to haul the trimmings away. Please be ready to sign up at the Nov. 8 meeting so we can set a date for this project. Women are welcome as well.

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the first phase of work should be completed at the main entrance. Soil will be prepared, edging set-in and Dwarf Burford Hollies planted.

City of Plano Requirements for trees, foliage and shrubbery above sidewalks, streets and alleys: trimmed flush with the sidewalks and at least 7 feet above the sidewalks. A clearance of 14 feet must be maintained above streets and alleys. Landscaping along the alley must be maintained 1 foot back from edge of the alley.

Till next time, happy gardening.



Bea Preboy
Garden Club Team Leader

Pet Registration

All dogs, cats, ferrets and pot bellied pigs must be registered with the City Of Plano Animal Services Division as required by City Ordinance. To register, you need a copy of your pet's current rabies vaccination paperwork (with the vets letterhead) from the vet showing the date of vaccination, rabies tag number, your pets description and breed and if your pet is spayed or neutered. Also, per City Ordinance Section 4-27j, all ferrets are required to be sterilized before they can be registered. Registration can be done at the shelter in person or through the mail at the address below. Please remember to include your check for payment in the envelope. **Please note: we no longer offer online registration.**

Pet Registration: Animal Services, P.O. Box 860358, Plano, Texas 75086-0358

Fees (for a 12 month registration with current rabies vaccination)

- Non-Spayed/Neutered Dog/Cat 12.50 Dollars per animal
- Spayed/Neutered Dog/Cat/Ferret 7.50 Dollars per animal
- Pot Bellied Pig 50 Dollars per animal
- Replacement Tag 7.50 Dollars per animal
- Dangerous Animal 100 Dollars per animal
- Re-registration of dangerous animal if sold and/or moved within the City \$50 per animal

Daylight Saving Time change in 2007

On August 8, 2005, President George W. Bush signed the *Energy Policy Act of 2005*. This Act changed the time change dates for Daylight Saving Time in the U.S. Beginning in 2007, DST will begin on the second Sunday in March and end the first Sunday in November. The Secretary of Energy will report the impact of this change to Congress. Congress retains the right to resume the 2005 Daylight Saving Time schedule once the Department of Energy study is complete.

Block Leaders Needed!

These are the blocks that still need Block Leaders. Please volunteer if you can so these blocks will receive PCNHA communications. Also, if a current Block Leader would like to adopt one of these blocks until we find a leader that would be terrific. Contact Vicki Evanto at 972.578.8527 or vevanto@verizon.net. Thanks in advance to those that sign up!

Amazon - 1600, 1700
Brazos - 1400, 1500
Calloway - 1400, 1600, 1700
Sacramento - 1700
Tawakoni - 1400, 1800

Reminder for Dog Owners

Due to complaints, this is a reminder that the City of Plano has an ordinance that dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs. This includes private property and public property like the park. This is also a courtesy to neighbors. It is very easy to take a plastic newspaper wrapper, plastic bags from grocery stores, used Ziplocs, etc. with you when you walk your dog. Then there is no extra expense involved. Also, there are free bags to use in a container at the park near Rio Grande.

There is another item that has been brought to our attention. If your dog takes care of business in your back yard, it is recommended that it also be scooped even though it is on private property. The reason is that a build up of this will have a strong odor that will also be evident in your next door neighbor's yard. Nobody likes the smell of this, so please be considerate of your neighbors.

Welcome Wagon

The PCNHA Welcome Wagon Committee has been busy this summer! We have had many new neighbors move into Pitman Creek North and have visited 20 new homeowners!

Our committee meets and greets each of our new neighbors promptly. We drop off a "Welcome Packet" and a little baked goody. This packet is filled with lots of information about Plano, our neighborhood, and ways to participate in our Homeowners' Association.

We count on our Block Leaders as well as many eyes and ears across the neighborhood to notify us! If you are a new neighbor and were not contacted, or have a new neighbor close to you, or would like to help out with this committee, please let us know! The contact is Sunny Vosburg at svos95@yahoo.com or 972-979-4048.

Crime Watch Tips

- Make a photocopy of the contents of your wallet..both sides! This includes phone numbers, account #'s etc. Everything! Store in a safe place.
- Store all personal, financial etc on a computer disk, NOT on your hard drive.
- In case of theft, call all three credit bureaus & the Social Security Administration. There Numbers are: Equifax: 1-800-524-6285, Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289, Experian (Formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742, and Social Security Fraud Line: 1-800-269-0271.
- Remove all identification from your vehicle. Carry Proof of Insurance in your wallet, not the auto glove box etc.
- Remove the garage door opener from your car. Keep it on your person when shopping etc and in your house if you park in the street or your driveway.
- Install light sensing outdoor lights on your home perimeter. Do not use motion detector lights. Officer Mark Dawson of the Crime Prevention Unit says they are not reliable.
- Install peep holes in all exterior doors including the connecting door to the garage. Buy the large, newer types which provide a larger viewing area.
- Install larger strike plates on all exterior doors, using longer screws. Most doors have small strike plates etc which can easily be kicked in. Purchase at home hardware stores.
- Additional security for doors is available for placement at bottom of doors. These are hand held plates that slide under the door for use when retiring for the night. Available at Taylor Brothers Door Lock, 810-785-3454. Cost \$25.00 plus S&H. (also on the internet).



VACATIONS:

- When away on vacation, secure the garage door by locking it from the inside. There is a bar attached to the door which will slide into the overhead door railing. This is great protection when on vacation.
- Stop delivery of newspapers and mail. Call the following:
- US Mail: 1-800-275-8777
- Dallas Morning News: 214-745-8383
- Plano Star Courier: 972-424-9504
- Use light timers on indoor lights. Adjust them to turn on/off at times when you are usually home.
- Have someone mow the lawn, check for door hangers, mail, newspapers and anything that would indicate your absence.
- Give each neighbor a sheet of paper advising of your absence. List persons to contact together with their phone numbers. Notify your Home Security Co. of your absence.

Feel free to submit your suggestions on crime prevention to Keith Johnson at johnsonkd@mindspring.com. Article submitted by Bob Bloomer.

Note: The Police and Fire Departments will give you a free home analysis. Call them for your own protection and safety.

Reminder of Plano City Ordinances

High Grass and Weeds

Weeds/grass over 12 inches high are a violation of Plano City Code. Property owners and tenants are responsible for keeping their lawns mowed and clippings mulched or cleared.

Trash and Debris

The homeowner and / or tenant is responsible for maintaining the area between the curb in front of the house to the middle of the alley (or the back property line if there is no rear alley) free of litter, weeds, trash and debris.

Junk Vehicles

A junk vehicle is defined as a vehicle that is self-propelled, has an expired or no license plate AND is wrecked, dismantled, partially dismantled, inoperable in excess of 72 consecutive hours (public property), or inoperable in excess of 30 consecutive days (private property).

Tree Limbs and Branches

Trees along streets and alleys must be trimmed to above 14 feet over these surfaces. In addition, branches of trees and bushes planted along alleys must be trimmed 1 foot back from the concrete surface, into the easement. Trees overhanging sidewalks must be trimmed to above 7 feet over the concrete surface. Bushes planted along sidewalks should be kept flush with the pavement. It is important that trees and bushes planted at intersections, alley entrances and in public right of ways, be trimmed so that foliage does not block the view between 2 1/2 feet and 9 feet above street grade.

Fence Maintenance

The fence shall not be out of vertical alignment more than 1 foot from the vertical measured at the top of the fence. Except, however, for fencing 4 feet or less in height, the vertical alignment shall not be more than 6 inches from the vertical measured at the top of the fence.

Any and all broken, loose, damaged, insect damaged, or missing parts (i.e., slats, posts, wood rails, bricks, panels) having a combined total area of 20 square feet or more of said fences shall be replaced or repaired within 60 days of notification of non-compliance. Fences enclosing swimming pools or spas must be repaired immediately.

Auto Repair From a Residence

All automotive businesses, including but not limited to repairing, alterations, detailing, sales (new or used) leasing, etc. are prohibited in residential areas.

Open Storage

The definition of open storage is the keeping, outside a building, of any goods, material, merchandise, or equipment on a lot or tract and is prohibited in all residential and office areas.

Home Occupations

No interior or exterior signage shall be used to advertise the occupation. Vehicles bearing business signs shall not be parked on the street or within 30 feet of the curb. Also, no outdoor storage or materials, goods supplies, or equipment shall be allowed.

Best Bets to Prevent Colds

With winter approaching there are things you can do to decrease your chances of getting a cold:

- **Exercise:** Exercise at moderate to easy intensity 30-60 minutes most days of the week. Use a rest day or easy training day between days of intense exercise if you are in training.
- **Healthy Diet:** Eat a balanced diet including at least five servings a day of vegetables and fruit.
- **Wash Your Hands:** Wash your hands frequently during the day. Wash with soap and sing the ABC song in your mind (or out loud if you are alone) to wash for the right amount of time. It is the combination of soap and scrubbing that removes the cold germs.
- **Hand Sanitizer:** Use hand sanitizing gel frequently if you don't have access to soap and water.



Yard of the Month

There are so many beautiful homes nominated each month for our Yard-of-the-Month Award! Nominations come from among our 8 YOM committee members who live on various streets in our neighborhood. The award goes to the home with the most nominations from the committee members.

The monthly award is a \$50 gift certificate donated by Callaway's Nursery. The winner will also be able to display a Callaway's Nursery yard sign and a Pitman Creek North yard sign for one month to distinguish their YOM house.

Recent winners include: 1512 Tawakoni (June), 1516 Sacramento (July), 1700 Amazon (August), 1709 Geneva (September), and 1613 Geneva (October).

Want to participate in the process? A few simple nominations each month is all it takes! Please contact Sunny Vosburg at svos95@yahoo.com or 972-979-4048. The more the merrier!

Calloway's Timely Tips for Fall Lawn Feeding

Research has proven that your fall lawn feeding is one of the most important ones of the year! Your lawn has just passed through the stressful summer months and needs food to rebuild itself. Calloway's Premium Lawn Food supplies three sources of nitrogen. The first source provides a quick shot of nitrogen to give your lawn a nice greening effect. The other two are controlled-release to provide a consistent supply of nitrogen over the next several months. The 21-5-10 formula also supplies the needed nutrients to stimulate root development, make your grass hardier for the winter months and provide food for the next spring growth!

This is also the time to apply preemergents to control those unseen broadleaf and grassy weed seeds. This will prevent them from sprouting over winter and in the spring.

So, don't kick back and settle into football season quite yet-finish those last lawn chores and enjoy the results next spring!

Calloway's Timely Tips for Winter Color

Brighten up your fall and winter landscape with annual flowers. Go ahead and add those tired, bloomed out summer flowers to your compost piles and replace them with fresh, colorful plants.

Pansies are by far the most popular winter color. Big blooms, a wide selection of colors and good cold tolerance make them a favorite in the winter garden. Dianthus, Snapdragons, Cyclamen, Violas and the fragrant Alyssum are also good choices for cold tolerant annuals. Ornamental Cabbage and Kale provide striking foliage forms for the landscape as well as color. For best effect, limit your planting to two or three colors per bed.

The key to growing beautiful annual flowers is soil preparation. Select a well drained flowerbed and add lots of organic matter such as Calloway's Organic Compost or Bedding Plant Mix. Add either Calloway's Flower Food or Blood and Bone Meal to the soil at planting to provide the extra nutrients for growth and blooms. Mulch well to reduce moisture loss and to insulate the soil.

These same annuals can be used in patio containers. Fill your containers with fresh potting soil and plant food. Keep them watered as necessary. Pinching off faded blooms will encourage repeat blooming.

Now sit back and enjoy this instant transformation to your landscape!

Committee Chairs 2007-2008

Communications / Membership Chair	Vicki Evanto	vevanto@verizon.net	972.578.8527
Communications Co-Chair (Block Leaders)	Bob Bloomer	rcbplb@verizon.net	972.424.2358
Communications Co-Chair (Membership)	Mona Notinger	mnotinger@yahoo.com	972.633.3980
Communications Co-Chair (Newsletters)	Michele Cotton	jmc104250@aol.com	974.422.5944
Communications Co-Chair (Webmaster)	Chuck de Sostoa	charlesdesostoa@charter.net	469.241.2491
Communications Co-Chair (Welcome Wagon) ...	Sunny Vosburg	svos95@yahoo.com	972.202.1608
Crime Watch Chair	Keith Johnson	johnsonkd@mindspring.com	972.578.9262
Garden Club Chair	Bea Preboy	bvrp@verizon.net	972.422.6255
Garden Club Co-Chair (Yard of the Month)	Sunny Vosburg	svos95@yahoo.com	972.202.1608
Property Pride Chair	Tom Evanto	tae3@verizon.net	972.578.8527