



## Pitman Creek North Homeowners Association Newsletter

### Board Members:

**President**  
**Clifford Cockrell**  
president@pcnha.org

**Vice-President**  
**Andrea Madison**  
vice\_president@pcnha.org

**At-Large**  
**Vacant**  
at\_large@pcnha.org

**Secretary**  
**Claudia McGuire**  
secretary@pcnha.org

**Treasurer**  
**Thomas Martin**  
treasurer@pcnha.org

**Activities**  
**Denise Gooding**  
activities@pcnha.org

**Communications**  
**Kathleen Martin**  
communications@pcnha.org

**Crime Watch**  
**Thomas Martin**  
crime\_watch@pcnha.org

**Landscaping**  
**Karen Smith**  
landscaping@pcnha.org

**Membership**  
**Susan Nichols**  
membership@pcnha.org

**Welcome Wagon**  
**Tom and Diane Ferris**  
welcome\_wagon@pcnha.org

**Yard of the Month**  
**Jane Tecklenburg**  
yard\_of\_the\_month@pcnha.org

### President's Message

Hello Neighbors - with the approach of Spring I am reminded of the many things that our neighborhood organization has accomplished over the past year. We finally got solar lights installed on the front entrance sign at Victoria and 15th. This was a huge task that many of us were glad to see come to completion. Since there is no power source at that location, it was challenging to come up with a workable and affordable solution to this on-going problem. We were able to get the current lights installed at minimal cost to the neighborhood and they seem to be working beautifully.

We also worked this year to improve and transform the green spaces at Columbia & 15th, Columbia & Park, and Rio Grande & Park. The process began over the past two years when the City of Plano removed the massive oak trees which had grown at the corners of Rio Grande & Park and Columbia & Park over the past few decades. These massive trees had outgrown those corners and were causing a danger to the power lines above as well as possibly the sidewalk below. With removal of the trees, our landscaping committee (chaired by Karen Smith) has been able to transform these areas into modern, sustainable green areas which should serve to beautify our community for many years to come. I thought it was a wonderful idea to plant two new Vitex trees in those corners to add color for Spring.

Along with our gardening and lighting accomplishments we also hosted one of our most successful social events ever with our National Night Out event in October (organized by our Activities chairperson Denise Gooding). We had help with this event by having the ever popular Plano Fire Department show up with their amazing fire truck which all the kids just loved. Refreshments for the event were obtained at Chick-fil-a and I think this was the first time we have ever completely run out of food.

In closing I don't want to go without mentioning something about the Covid-19 crisis that has so recently gripped our neighborhoods, cities and nation. Although these are difficult and uncertain times, we should try to help each other in anyway we can and remember we are all in this together. I have seen extraordinary acts of kindness by many of our neighbors on social media offering to pick up groceries, watch people's kids, and offering daily advice on the best places to find essentials like hand sanitizer and toilet paper. Please remember that you are not alone and even though we are asked to keep a physical distance from one another as neighbors we will always be there for each other. Feel free to reach out to any of us as board members if you feel you have a suggestion, recognize a need, or just need a friendly conversation to beat back the feeling of isolation. We are here for you.

With that being said, I would like to encourage everyone in the community to consider joining PCNHA for the coming year. Membership is only \$50 per year. I hope everyone has a fantastic Spring and get out to meet your neighbors.

Clifford Cockrell  
President, Pitman Creek North Homeowners Association, Inc.  
president@pcnha.org



## Staying Social During Social Distancing

- ★ **Participate in Window Walk Wednesdays.**
- ★ **Make chalk art on your sidewalk.**
- ★ **Invite a neighbor to a window puppet show or concert.**
- ★ **Stay active on our PCN Facebook or Nextdoor page.**
- ★ **Offer to get necessary items for a high-risk neighbor at the store.**
- ★ **Smile, wave, say, "Hello!" when you see someone outside.**
- ★ **Start a "friendship journal" by passing a notebook of drawings and journal entries on each other's porch.**
- ★ **Join our book club video conferences on the third Tuesday of each month.**
- ★ **Leave a homemade (or store-bought) treat on a neighbor's porch.**

Join US!

### Window Walk Wednesdays

Hang the following in your window by Wednesday and leave it up through Sunday of each week to spread neighborly cheer! Then take a walk to enjoy the artwork!

- ◆ 3/25-29: **Flowers**
- ◆ 4/1-5: **Kites**
- ◆ 4/8-12: **Easter Eggs**
- ◆ 4/15-19: **Butterflies**
- ◆ 4/22-26: **Membership Yard Signs**  
(become a PCNHA member by 4/22 to get your yard sign placed in your yard?) **Or participate with a tree picture in your window!**

## Hello PCN Residents!

Now is the time to Be Part of Your Community!  
Now more than ever, we need to know our neighbors and reach out to them, making sure their needs are met.  
I meet so many wonderful people on my daily walks. We really live in an awesome neighborhood!



Show your pride in your community by joining our voluntary PCNHA and having a membership sign in your yard. You can now pay your yearly \$50 by **credit card** at [www.pcnha.org/membership](http://www.pcnha.org/membership). You can also still fill out the Membership Form provided in this newsletter or on our website - [www.pcnha.org/membership](http://www.pcnha.org/membership) - and mail it in with your dues. All donations are also appreciated and go directly to help the neighborhood. I will personally deliver a sign to your front porch (for new members) or deliver a new membership sticker for your current sign once paid.

This year, the new sticker for our membership tree signs is **ORANGE**. It will simply say **2020** on it and show your membership for this year. You should affix it to one of the bottom corners of the sign, even if it goes over another circle of numbers.

Last year our membership ended at 41%, or 201 of our 491 homes. We were a bit disappointed in the lower membership. Remember, your \$50 fee is put to such good use making our neighborhood more attractive to prospective homeowners as well as keeping up **YOUR** property values. We also use the funds to promote neighbor relationships with our twice-yearly social events. If you don't know your neighbors, these events are opportunities to meet them!

Please take pride in Pitman Creek North! If this area had not looked nice, you wouldn't have moved here to begin with! Help us help you! We can't do it alone.

Susan Nichols  
Membership - [membership@pcnha.org](mailto:membership@pcnha.org)





## Pitman Creek North Homeowners Association, Inc. 2020 Membership Form

\*NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\*STREET ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\*PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

\*EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

[\*REQUIRED]

BASIC MEMBERSHIP FEE: . . . . . \$50.00

	\$50.00	Basic Yearly Membership Dues
	\$75.00	Yearly Membership Dues + \$25 Donation
	\$100.00	Yearly Membership Dues + \$50 Donation
	\$150.00	Yearly Membership Dues + \$100 Donation
	\$	Donation

**Additional donations toward HOA projects/events are always appreciated!**

Mail Membership Form and check to:

**PCNHA**  
**2701 W. 15th Street #540**  
**Plano, TX 75075**

[Membership yard sign and/or new sticker will be delivered after payment is received.]

Three (3) ways to pay:

1. Mail your check and printed PCNHA Membership form to:  
PCNHA, 2701 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street, #540, Plano, TX 75075
2. Pay with credit card online at [www.pcnha.org/membership](http://www.pcnha.org/membership)
3. We will also be accepting yearly payments in person at both the Annual General Meeting as well as neighborhood social events.

**Thanks for supporting PCNHA!**



# IMPORTANT NOTICE

The **PCNHA Annual General Meeting** to be held at the Plano Academy High School as well as the annual spring **Picnic in the Park** are scheduled for **May 7** and **May 17**, respectively. At this time, we anticipate holding these activities but please stay tuned through emails and social media for current updates of possible cancellations due to social distancing.



## ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 7th at 7:00 pm.  
PISD Academy High School  
1801 Alma Dr. (east of Columbia Pl.)



## Help Us Help The Neighborhood!!

Now is the time to participate in the Pitman Creek North Homeowners Association. We are always in need of neighbors to volunteer with landscaping chores, fall and spring events at Hackberry Park as well as decorating for holidays.



Also, we would love to have you participate in the PCNHA Board of Directors - the position of 'At-Large' (position with full voting rights and privileges; works on special projects and/or lends a hand when a board member/committee chair needs help) is currently open. Please come work with a motivated group of residents who want to make the Pitman Creek North neighborhood even better.

We would love to have you join us in making Pitman Creek North the best it can be! Please contact us at [president@pcnha.org](mailto:president@pcnha.org) if you have some time to help make our neighborhood great!





# Activities

We live in strange times. Normally I'd be gearing up to put on a huge Picnic in May...which might still happen. I've really had to rethink what I'd be writing about our activities considering we're not going to be face-to-face for awhile.

At one point it hit me: we're already prepared for this. We have a website and are active on two social media platforms: Facebook and Nextdoor. There is an abundance of community to be had without ever leaving our homes. Who better than neighbors to meet needs and have genuine interest in the well-being of one another?

I want to strongly encourage you to join our online community! In the coming months, we will be interviewing neighbors with a story to tell and sharing those videos online.

Our membership access has also broadened, and you can join the HOA through our website. But you don't have to be a paying resident to be a member of Facebook or Nextdoor neighborhood groups. We'd love for ALL of our neighbors to be connected. It's what keeps us safe and deepens our relationships.

I've already witnessed genuine care and concern for each other on our Facebook page with neighbors offering to buy groceries for anyone at-risk. I cannot tell you the way it touches my heart to see friends reaching out to help! THIS IS OUR COMMUNITY! Let's continue to make it great TOGETHER.

Denise Gooding  
Activities - [activities@pcnha.org](mailto:activities@pcnha.org)

## PCNHA Book Club\* Books

- April 21 - *The Whip* (Karen Kondazian)
- May 26 - *The Last Year of the War* (Susan Meissner)
- June 16 - *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* (Douglas Adams)
- July 21 - *The Most Fun We Ever Had* (Claire Lombardo)
- August 18 - *The Dutch House* (Ann Patchett)
- September 15 - *The Giver of Stars* (Jojo Moyes)
- October 20 - *People of the Book* (Geraldine Brooks)
- November 17 - *Killers of the Flower Moon* (David Grann)
- December 1, 8, or 15 TBD - Planning Meeting

For more information, email [activities@pcnha.org](mailto:activities@pcnha.org)

\*Meets third Tuesday of each month at 7 PM in homes or via video conference during social distancing



PCNHA welcomes new homeowners with a visit from our Welcome Wagon representatives, Tom and Diane Ferris. They will deliver them a folder full of useful information.

Please email [welcome\\_wagon@pcnha.org](mailto:welcome_wagon@pcnha.org) when you see a new neighbor move in so we can meet them. We want everyone included in our email notices as well as our social media opportunities, Facebook and Nextdoor.

Tom and Diane Ferris  
Welcome Wagon  
[welcome\\_wagon@pcnha.org](mailto:welcome_wagon@pcnha.org)



## CRIME WATCH

We hope that in this time of crisis in our world that everyone is healthy and safe. For the last several years, the crime rate in Plano has been going down and we in Pitman Creek North are working hard to keep it at a minimum. We need to give thanks to all our neighbors for being aware and vigilant in this effort.

Please be sure that all doors are locked (even when we are home), and alarms are set. When someone comes to the door always answer (even if you do not open the door) so that they know someone is there. When cars are parked on the street or in our alleys (driveways), they need to be locked and with nothing to steal in sight. If you have video security, please make it available to the Plano Police when requested. If we all continue to do these things as well as being alert and watchful, we can keep our neighborhood safe.

Thomas Martin  
Crime Watch  
[crime\\_watch@pcnha.org](mailto:crime_watch@pcnha.org)





# Landscaping Update

The corner garden at Park & Columbia had the Live Oak tree removed in January 2020. Shrub removal and stump grinding have taken place in March. The new Vitex tree will be planted in spring, weather permitting and the remainder of the new shrubs/plants will go in the fall of 2020.

Once this last major corner landscaping project is complete, we are taking a "hiatus" from major garden projects; we'll stick to something simple like annuals/perennials.

Remember, 2019 was a busy year for the Landscaping team. Two gardens were renovated (Park & Rio Grande) and (Columbia & 15th Street).

Karen Smith, Landscaping  
landscaping@pcnha.org



## Voluntary vs. Mandatory: Are you Really Ruled by an HOA?

Most people hear the term “**homeowner’s association (HOA)**” and they think mandatory fees and additional rules. However, are you **really** ruled by an HOA? For those of us who live in Pitman Creek North subdivision, the answer is “**NO**”. Pitman Creek North has a voluntary HOA in place, but is not regulated by a mandatory HOA. But what does that really mean?

For starters, the Pitman Creek North HOA does **NOT** have the regulatory ability to control anything – including high weeds and grass, paint colors, fences in disrepair, trash cans in the alley. All of these issues are handled exclusively by the City of Plano and may be reported to the Property Standard division at [www.plano.gov/219/Property-Standards-Division](http://www.plano.gov/219/Property-Standards-Division) or by calling 972-208-8150.

However, Pitman Creek North HOA **DOES** maintain the 8 gardens throughout our neighborhood and organize neighborhood events such as Picnic in the Park, book club, Yard-of-the-Month, Crime Watch and other pop-up events throughout the year. The mission of our voluntary HOA is to provide opportunities for our neighbors to gather and get to know one another so that we can create a unique place and sense of community.

We would love to continue our mission and ask for your support through membership, participation in activities, donations, and volunteering your skills. Please help us create a strong sense of community among the Pitman Creek North neighborhood by participating in one or more of these ways.

Andrea Madison  
Vice President  
vice\_president@pcnha.org



**GARDENING IS ABOUT  
ENJOYING THE SMELL  
OF THINGS GROWING  
IN THE SOIL, GETTING  
DIRTY WITHOUT  
FEELING GUILTY, AND  
GENERALLY TAKING  
THE TIME TO SOAK UP  
A LITTLE PEACE AND  
SERENITY.**

~Lindley Karstens

*Everything that slows  
us down and forces  
patience, everything  
that sets us back into  
the slow circles of  
nature, is a help.  
Gardening is an  
instrument of grace.*

— May Sarto





# Membership Dollars at Work

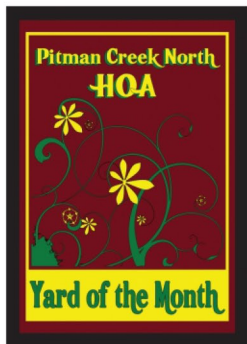


Pitman Creek North HA

2020 Budget

Approved by Board of Directors

Category	Budget 2018	Budget 2019	Budget 2020
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Membership Dues	11,055.00	11,200.00	11,200.00
Donations	1,140.00	800.00	900.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>12,195.00</b>	<b>12,000.00</b>	<b>12,100.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
<b>I. Lawn &amp; Garden</b>			
Plants & Flowers	1,269.07	1,200.00	3,000.00
College Fund Landscaping	3,364.23	3,400.00	2,400.00
Repairs & Supplies	30.28	1,000.00	1,500.00
Improvement Projects	0.00	0.00	700.00
Seasonal Decorations	112.39	100.00	500.00
<b>Total Lawn &amp; Garden</b>	<b>4,775.97</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>	<b>8,100.00</b>
<b>II. HOA</b>			
Administration & Office	2,001.48	1,200.00	1,200.00
O & D Insurance		1,200.00	
Card Processing Fee	59.39	70.00	45.00
Postage	450.15	500.00	300.00
Signage	2,252.88	250.00	250.00
Social Events	1,517.36	1,500.00	1,500.00
<b>Total HOA</b>	<b>6,281.26</b>	<b>4,720.00</b>	<b>3,295.00</b>
<b>III. Utilities</b>			
Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00
Water	600.14	600.00	500.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>	<b>600.14</b>	<b>600.00</b>	<b>500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>11,657.37</b>	<b>11,020.00</b>	<b>11,895.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>537.63</b>	<b>980.00</b>	<b>205.00</b>



Each month, a home in the neighborhood is recognized as our "Yard of the Month." The winner displays two signs in the front yard – one from our HOA and one from Calloway's – and additionally receives a \$25 gift card, courtesy of Calloway's Nursery, as a "thank you" for helping to keep our neighbor-hood looking great!

My job is choosing Yard of the Month once a month throughout the year. I'm looking for yards with color, lawns that are kept up and nice landscaping. A winner does not have to have a yard full of flowers, I have had all of different varieties of landscaping win.

Calloway's no longer sends winners gift cards. When the winner is chosen, I send in your name and address and they will notify you by email when your credit of \$25 is ready to be redeemed.

I would be happy for anyone who would like to recommend neighbors to send me an email with the label Yard of the Month and their yard will be considered to be a possible winner.

Thank you,

Jane Tecklenburg, Yard of the Month  
yard\_of\_the\_month@pcnha.org



**For additional information and community updates, visit [www.pcnha.org/](http://www.pcnha.org/) Also, be sure to sign up for email updates on the homepage of our website.**

