

# HNHA Connection

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2  
FEBRUARY 2012



Patti Kiser



## Special Dedication

The family of long time Highlands North Resident, Patti Kiser recently donated a new park bench and trash receptacle at the North Lake in her memory. It was installed just before Christmas and was dedicated by her family who was visiting for the holidays. The bench is located in the Northeast corner of the North Lake and has a plaque commemorating the gift.

Patti and her husband, Charley Kiser lived in Highlands North for over 26 years until Patti's death in 2009. Patti enjoyed spending time at the Twin Lakes and especially liked to watch children and ducks chase each other around on a beautiful morning. Because of this, Patti's family chose a park bench to commemorate her loving service to others. It is their wish that many more will enjoy the lake like she did in the years to come.

Patti is survived by her husband of 37 years, their sons Tommy and Chris, Chris' wife Elise; her devoted sister, Judy Walters and husband Dana of Henderson TX, their children Mary, Drew and wife Sarah, and shared granddaughter, Lillie; and many more family and friends around the world who made up Team Patti.

In addition to Patti's outstanding work achievements, Patti's selfless giving to others led her to do extensive volunteer work at schools, church, Network of Community Ministries, and many other worthy organizations.

The family would like to thank Ken Beam and his team at the City of Dallas' Parks Department who provided outstanding support for this project. In addition, Cori Pratt and Rod Scales provided invaluable advice on behalf of the neighborhood. Our special thanks go out to each of these individuals.

## Coming This Spring!

- *HNHA's Annual Easter Egg Hunt*
- *Highlands North Annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show*

*Watch for Further Details in the Next Newsletter!*

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### Editor

Jacqueline Ferris

### Submissions

jaqueferris@sbcglobal.net



## Around the Neighborhood



### What's Going On Here!

The lights on the north fountain should be shining again with 3 bright bulbs. At the same service call, cleaning debris on the fountain screen should improve the height of the spray on the north lake. Twin Lakes Park seems to be home for many migratory ducks and birds this winter. They should be moving on after the weather is warmer.

The streets department will begin their mowing of the medians and the four islands in our neighborhood the first of February. When their mowing schedule is established, all medians/islands will be mowed on a 21 day cycle. This may not be often enough during the heavy growing season and extra mowing may be needed.

The Dallas Parks will trim the liriope (monkey grass) under the crepe myrtles near Campbell Road before the daffodils bloom. They keep all the shrubs trimmed during the growing season on Twin Lakes.

The streets department has placed a work order to replace the section of 7500 Brentfield Street between Meandering Way and Dalmalley with concrete within 90 days. The south lane has fallen in due to back fill dirt sinking over time.

If you haven't pruned your Live Oaks and Red Oaks, you may want to wait until the summer, as the oak wilt beetle is active in the spring. The beetle will enter the tree at a cut in the bark and possibly infect your tree with oak wilt which is usually deadly to oaks. We have had areas in Highlands North where oak wilt has damaged and killed oaks. This can also be transferred through touching root systems.

Susan Carrington  
HNHA Parks/Easement Liaison

### Dear Neighbors,

You kept me busy in 2011! I had 124 calls. I hope I helped you and encourage you to share comments, plus and minuses.

I am currently looking for housekeepers. If you know someone and would like to share please let me know.

Regards,

Ann Brandt  
Consumer File  
972-392-0805  
[cliff.ann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cliff.ann@sbcglobal.net)



### HNHA 2012-2013

#### Upcoming Nominating Committee

Any HNHA member who is interested in serving on next year's Board or on the upcoming nominating committee for our board officers please contact Cori Pratt at: 972-407-0119 or email her at: [coripratt57@yahoo.com](mailto:coripratt57@yahoo.com).

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## Sunshine and Shadows by Jamie Harrison

We need your news! Submit your items for publication to Jamie Harrison at 972-788-8076, or by e-mail to [jamie.harrison@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jamie.harrison@sbcglobal.net). If Sunshine and Shadows news is submitted by the 14<sup>th</sup> of the month, it will be included in the next month's newsletter!

### *In this month's news:*

**Sunshine:** Congratulations to those Highlands North boys who were recently named to the Academic All-State, All-District 10-4A and Richardson All-City football teams! **Sam Coleman**, son of **Allen and Susan Coleman** of Queensferry Lane, was named to the Academic All-State First Team, and **Sam Dempsey**, son of **Paul and Lynn Dempsey** of Lairds Lane was named to the Academic All-State Second Team. Receiving Honorable Mention on the All-District 10-4A football team were **Kedron Banks**, son of **Tonja Hicks** of Lauder Lane, and **Sam Dempsey**. Named to the Richardson All-City football team were **Sam Dempsey** (First Team Defense), **Sam Coleman** (Second Team Defense), **Preston Baker**, son of **Rex and Judy Baker** of Mullrany Drive (Honorable Mention), and **Kent Preston**, son of **Darrell and Debbie Preston** of Pencross Lane (Honorable Mention).

**Sunshine:** Sophomore **Emily Burns** was one of eleven JJ Pearce High School students to be named members of the All-State Band. Emily, the daughter of **Robert Burns** of Burns Run and Ann Burns, plays the oboe.

**Sunshine:** **Chandler Notley**, son of **Stacy and Sandi Notley** of Campbell Road, is the first freshman to start for Greenhill School's varsity boys basketball team! Chandler also played both junior varsity and varsity boys volleyball at Greenhill, which won this year's Southwest Preparatory Conference Championship!

**Sunshine:** The National PTA's Reflections program allows students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. The theme for this year's competition was "Diversity". The RISD Council of PTA's held its annual Reflections Program Reception on January 5<sup>th</sup>, where it honored the District's "Overall Awards of Excellence" recipients. **Jared Ferris**, son of **Jay and Jackie Ferris** of Dalmalley Lane, received an Overall Award of Excellence for his literature entry, a poem called "Flowerversity". Jared is an 8th Grader at Parkhill Junior High.



Jared Ferris



### Highlands North Pre-School Play Group

Join us for our monthly play date or mom's night out. Contact: Jennifer Farrell,  
[jennifer3farrell@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer3farrell@gmail.com) or  
972-804-4665

## FYI

### Fretz Park Recreations Center to Re-Open February 15th

It looks like the end is in sight for the completed renovation of [Fretz Park Recreation Center](#). The facility is set to re-open by February 15th.

[The project began last summer](#), remodeling the both the inside and outside and upgrading light fixtures, architecture and electrical systems. For months, residents have been forced to relocate classes and activities to the Fretz Park Library and Campbell Green Recreation Center.

### UTD Lecture Series to Examine Child Development Issues

Parents interested in learning more about what makes their children – especially those who develop differently – might find some insight at the University of Texas at Dallas lecture series led by professors from the [School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences](#).

UTD will launch its fourth annual [series on children's health and development](#) next week. It's free and open to the public running 9:30-10:30 a.m. each day inside the Naveen Jindal School of Management. The series begins Jan. 27 with "The Evolving Diagnosis of Autism" led by Dr. Noah Sasson. He'll explore issues, including the increased prevalence of Autism and the impact of related conditions like Asperger Syndrome.

The second lecture is Feb. 24 on "Why Feelings Matter: The Importance of Emotional Competence in Childhood." Dr. Jackie Nelson will discuss the role parents play in the emotional development of their children.

### Highlands North Sellers Needed We are out of inventory!

As of January 23, 2012, there are no homes available for sale in the Multiple Listing Service in Highlands North.\*

I have a buyer interested in purchasing a 4 bedroom/3 bath home.

**Philip Wells, Broker Associate**  
214.709.0280

**PRESTON HIGHLANDS** *Realty*

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All communication is strictly confidential.

\*Does not include homes with contracts that have not closed as of 1/23/2012



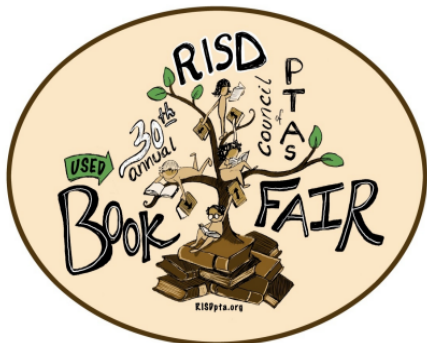
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# Support Your Local School



February 16 – 18, 2012 10 A.M. to 8 P.M.  
 February 19, 2012 12 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Assorted Books:

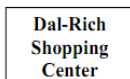
\$.25 \$.50 \$1.00 \$2.00

Collectible Books, DVDs, CDs

Located at:

Dal-Rich Shopping Center  
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Proceeds Benefit the Dr. JJ Pearce Memorial Scholarship Fund which awards college scholarships to RISD high school seniors and



*Pearce Theater  
 Presents....*



*Coming on February 2nd...*

Starting February 2nd for 14 Fabulous Performances in February, you can see one of the biggest theater events of the year! Go to the on-line box office for show dates and times and to purchase tickets!!

[www.pearcetheater.com](http://www.pearcetheater.com)

**Please help support the RISD Used Book Fair to be held this year February 16– 19th by donating your used books, DVDs and CDs to our neighborhood schools! Each school PTA sorts and sends on your donations to the Used Book Fair.**

If you wish to make a donation or have questions, please contact:

- Christy Hock - Bowie Elementary  
 972-980-4410 or [candchock@sbcglobal.net](mailto:candchock@sbcglobal.net)
- Liz Wood - Parkhill Jr. High  
 972-672-9178 or [bettyj826@aol.com](mailto:bettyj826@aol.com)
- Sharyn Pinney - JJ Pearce HS  
[pinney3@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pinney3@sbcglobal.net)
- Susan Wright - JJ Pearce HS  
[swright@dewberry.com](mailto:swright@dewberry.com)



*Presents...*

## CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

by Roald Dahl

**February 28, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.**

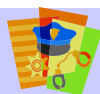
in the RHS Auditorium

Tickets: \$5 General Admission

No Johnny Depp here, but we do have Willy Wonka, Grandpa Joe, and of course, Charlie Bucket, along with spoiled kids, chocolate thieves, and Oompa Loompas galore. Join the cast of crazy characters as they dive into the chocolate goodness that is the world of Willy Wonka and his amazing candy!

To purchase tickets go to:

<http://www.rhstheatre.org/>



## CRIME CORNER BY TODD CUBBAGE

### HNHA CRIME WATCH STATS –

Remember to be alert and report any crimes to the police first, then to the **hotline 214.967.5120**. Please be sure to leave a name, address and phone number!

Recently reported crimes in and around Highlands North include:

- On December 18, 2011, a theft was reported in the 7800 block of Glenneagle Drive.



My daughter and I were out selling Girl Scout cookies in January. As we were making our way around the neighborhood, we noticed a few “no soliciting” signs. When we came across a house with a “no soliciting” sign (and we didn’t know the family), we honored the sign. Although I doubt they were placed to turn away Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts or school kids asking for support for their local activity (and given the law in Texas, the most likely wouldn’t apply), but I thought they provided a good lesson for my salesperson (i.e., sometimes you make a sale and sometimes you don’t). We only ran across a couple homes with them, and honestly, it made me think about getting one, too. Now don’t get me wrong, I certainly don’t mind giving especially for the types of things that support neighborhood friends and family, but there are many other door-to-door knocks that make me want to not answer my door (or wish I hadn’t). Anyway, this article came to mind as we honored “no soliciting” signs, and I thought you might find it helpful. I believe this topic has been covered in past newsletters; however, I hope you find it useful again. I have pulled it together from a number of sources including the Texas Attorney General’s website and the website Dallas City Council members.

### DOOR-TO-DOOR SALES

In many neighborhoods, door-to-door sales are still a fairly common occurrence. A salesperson walks from one house to the next, ringing the doorbell and pitching a product to the person who comes to the door. Products frequently sold “from door to door” include home improvements, such as siding and storm windows, funeral service contracts, living trusts, books, and magazines.

### WHAT TEXAS LAW SAYS

Generally, a “home solicitation transaction” takes place whenever a consumer purchases goods or services for more than \$25 payable in cash or installments at a place other than the seller’s place of business. The place other than the seller’s place of business may be the consumer’s home, but it may also be a place that the merchant has rented on a temporary basis, such as a hotel room or convention center.

Under Texas law [Texas Business & Commerce Code Ann., Sec. 39.001 et seq.], the door-to-door seller must advise you orally and in writing that you have a right to cancel the sale within three days. He or she must also give you a contract or receipt stating the date of the sale, the name and address of the merchant, and a statement of your right to cancel the contract which includes the address where you send your cancellation notice. The contract or receipt and the notice of your right to cancel must be in the same language as that principally used in the sales presentation.

### BE ALERT FOR SCAMS AND RIP-OFFS

Some door-to-door salespeople are selling real products and services, but quite a few are pushing scams. The most important thing to remember is that, when a person comes to your door selling something, you don’t know who the person is or where you would be able to find him if the deal goes wrong. Always ask for a physical address and for references, and then take time to check the information. Businesses in Texas are required to register with the Secretary of State. You can check with the SOS for a physical address or the name of the registered agent of a business. You can also check with the Better Business Bureau.

### SPECIFICALLY IN DALLAS

Door-to-Door solicitors are regulated by Dallas City Ordinance 14300, Chapter 42, Sec. 42-21. Solicitation is prohibited prior to 9:00 AM or after 30 minutes following sunset of any day, Monday through Saturday, and at any time on a Sunday, New Year’s Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day or Christmas Day whether or not a sign is displayed. However, the ordinance exempts a person holding a charitable solicitation permit while engaging in an authorized charitable solicitation.

Homeowners can go a step further (including, with respect to, leaving door-hangers and other advertisements) by posting a “No Solicitor” sign. The sign must be “conspicuously” displayed near the home entrance, and it must be at least 3” by 4” in size with lettering at least 1/3” tall. It must say “No Soliciting.” However, if you also want to prohibit leaflets and other



# CRIME CORNER BY TODD CUBBAGE

advertising, the sign will need to state “No Advertisements”. These small signs at individual doors are enforceable if displayed (meaning you can report violators); however, large neighborhood signs which are intended to apply to a whole neighborhood may deter, but are not enforceable. If you still get advertisements, keep the card or flyer and call 311 to report the violation. Be sure to ask for a report number so you can follow-up on the report. The incident will be forwarded to Code Compliance in the City computer system. If the compliance officer needs the actual brochures, they are suppose to contact you.

## WHAT TO DO WHEN THEY KNOCK (AND THEY WILL)

If solicitors still come to your door, do not open the door, but ask through the door what the individual’s business is and what company they represent. **Be sure you let the unwanted person know you are home so they won’t attempt a break-in.** If you have one, direct the solicitor to the “No Solicitors” sign. If you have a sign and they leave without objection, you may report the violation with the date, time and name of the company to Code Enforcement as stated above. If the solicitor will not leave or is in any way threatening, call 911 immediately and report the incident.

Thanks and stay safe,  
 Todd Cubbage,  
 EMAIL: [highlandsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:highlandsnorth@hotmail.com)  
 HOTLINE: 214.967.5120



## RANDOM, NON-CRIME RELATED TRIVIA

Congrats to Norma Babbitt on correctly (and swiftly) answering last month’s trivia questions. Note to all trivia buffs: you should always act quickly to submit your answers. Last month, Norma just slipped in ahead of Dee Smith with the correct answers. It’s exciting to have some competition so send in your answers as soon as you can. This month’s questions: (1) Name the four U.S. Presidents who were also Governors of New York State before they became President? (2) Which has a higher population density: Canada or Australia? Good luck!

Thanks and stay safe,  
 Todd Cubbage  
 EMAIL: [highlandsnorth@hotmail.com](mailto:highlandsnorth@hotmail.com)  
 HOTLINE: 214.967.5120

Last month answers (1) Madonna., Bono, Michael J. Fox and Heather Graham. (2) Atlanta, Georgia; Annapolis, Maryland; Albany, New York; Augusta, Maine; Indianapolis, Indiana; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Olympia, Washington; and Austin, Texas.

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*Jacqueline Ferris*

*Scentsy Independent Consultant*

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## Gardening Tips

### Callie's Garden Notes

News and Notes for Calloway's & Cornelius Garden Club Members

Specials | Ask Us | Tell Us | Update Profile | Refer-A-Friend | Gift Cards



### Timely Tip for February Gardeners from Calloway's Nursery

#### February is a great time to gear up for Spring planting!

Treat your special Valentine this year with fresh, living flowers. America's favorite flower, the Rose, can be planted and enjoyed all year. Cool season flowers such as Pansies, Primrose or Cyclamen can also be planted in containers to give a burst of color to your landscape, patio or garden. And don't forget about indoor plants. Indoor houseplants can beautify your home and purify the air. Gloves, tools, wind chimes also make great gifts. The list is endless, let your imagination "grow green" as you peruse your local garden center!

[www.mytexasgarden.com](http://www.mytexasgarden.com)



A Year of FREE Clinics!

### Free Weekly Garden Information Clinics

Please join us for **FREE** in-store clinics on informative and timely gardening topics this month. Clinics begin at 10:15 a.m. and are facilitated at every store.

#### **Saturday, February 4: Spring Green in Your Lawn** (10:15 a.m.)

Be the envy of your neighborhood this year. Stop weeds with pre-emergents! Learn how to maintain a lush lawn.

#### **Saturday, February 11: Creative Container Flowers** (10:15 a.m.)

Learn to design your own container garden using exotic blooms and foliage with plants like Orchids, Bromeliads, Cyclamen and more!

#### **Saturday, February 18: Earth-Kind® Gardening** (10:15 a.m.)

Informal talks by Master Gardeners presenting conservative concepts including the beauty and practicality of Earth-Kind® Roses.

#### **Saturday, February 25: Water-wise Gardening** (10:15 a.m.)

Learn the ways to conserve our precious water resources, yet maintain a glorious garden! Native plants and Earth-Kind® approaches.

Don't forget to join us for one of the biggest gardening events of the year – Gardenfest! Learn more at [www.calloways.com/gardenfest](http://www.calloways.com/gardenfest). For more gardening information, visit [www.calloways.com](http://www.calloways.com). Hope to see you in the garden soon.

### **Other things to do in February:**

**Bulbs** - it's time to buy your fall-flowering bulbs, such as dahlias, gladioli, cannas, and lilies. Don't plant them yet, but wait for warmer weather (the soil temperature must be at least 55 degrees F).

**Tree Fruits** - spray your tree fruits this month with a dormant oil (such as volck oil) to control mites and scale. The oil simply covers the tree and suffocates the insects, and it also helps inhibit sporulation of some diseases. (Note - do not apply dormant oil when the tree is not dormant. Doing so in the spring, summer, and fall will cause damage - the tree cannot transpire properly when covered with the oil during the wrong season.)

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Highlands North References

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# Holiday Yard of the Month Winners



A big congratulations to our Holiday Yard of the Month Winners, Ellie and Regie McHone of Queens Garden and Charles and Frances Laningham of Kilbride Lane for their winning holiday decorations! We wish we could give awards to everyone who decorated their home! Thanks again to all who made the effort, the neighborhood looked beautiful!

~ Marcia and Hertha

## North Side

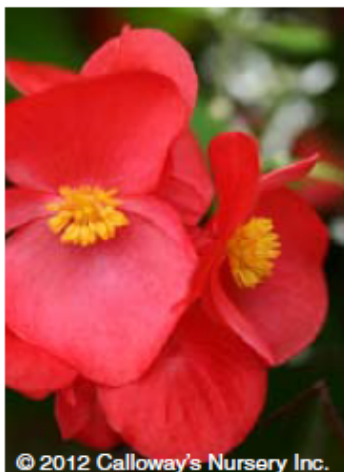
## South Side



Regie and Ellie McHone—7609 Queens Garden

Charles and Frances Laningham—7817 Kilbride

## GOOD NEIGHBOR COUPON



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## Pet Corner by Zoe Meyer

### *Friends for Life*

*Learn about the many health benefits of pet ownership.*



People who are searching for a fountain of youth, weight loss solutions or simply good overall health are often tempted to turn to a plethora of gadgets and gimmicks, from common energy-balancing bracelets to specially designed alignment pillows. And while it can be difficult to sort out the gimmicks from the genuine remedies, there is one often-overlooked, yet scientifically proven, way to improve one's health and quality of life: owning a pet.

Most of us would acknowledge that our pets make us feel "better." Sure, we can recognize feelings of love, companionship, comfort and loyalty. We can even point out specific examples of behavior, like how our dogs wait for us at the door, or how our cats enjoy curling up with us to watch television.

However, few of us are aware that our loving relationships with our pets could actually be improving our mental and physical health.

For example, did you know that owning a pet can actually reduce your risk of a heart attack by helping to lower your blood pressure and cholesterol? The scientific community has published many studies that confirm this correlation, including "Cat Ownership and the Risk of Fatal Cardiovascular Diseases" by Dr. Adnan Qureshi and "Does Pet Ownership Reduce Your Risk for Heart Disease?" from Interactions magazine by [Delta Society](#).

So what secret powers do pets possess that improve the lives of their owners? Well the answers are not earth-shattering nor even all that surprising, especially to anyone who owns a pet. Does your pet ever make you laugh? Regular laughter is a key component to maintaining good mental health and preventing or lessening episodes of depression, according to Maria Kale in her article "What You Already Knew — Fluffy And Fido Are Good For You." Do you ever talk to your pet, touch your pet or turn to your pet for support at the end of a bad day? Kale goes on to explain that the unconditional love and companionship owners receive from pets decrease feelings of loneliness and increase feelings of emotional support — both contributing to better overall health.

Furthermore, an ongoing study by Christopher Honts at Central Michigan University shows that having dogs in the workplace reduces stress, increases productivity and improves morale for all employees, not just the pet owner. Still not convinced pets improve the health of their owners? According to Kale, pet owners are more likely to engage in regular physical activity, which is a cornerstone of good health. In his article "For Seniors: Pets Are Just Plain Healthy," Dr. Ed Kane points out that seniors with pets are not only more likely to be physically active in caring for their pets, but also have increased feelings of self worth when they have something to care for.

Finally, children who grow up in houses with pets are less likely to suffer from allergies and can feel a stronger sense of a family bond than children in houses without pets, according to Dr. Robert Poresky, author of the article "Companion Animals and Other Factors Affecting Young Children's Development."

So with all these great benefits for pet owners, where does that leave the pets? The strong emotional bonds that benefit owners also benefit the overall health and wellness of their pets. More than ever before, owners are making routine veterinary care a priority for their pets. And just as advances in modern medicine are allowing humans to live longer, advances in veterinary medicine are increasing the life expectancies of pets as well. With all these factors at play, owners and their pets can now expect many mutually rewarding, happy, healthy years together. Owners and their pets are truly becoming friends for life.

Source: Purine PetCentric web site

### **Prestonwood Pet Clinic**

**Gary Bridges, DVM**  
**5242 Meadowcreek Drive**  
**Suite 110**  
**Dallas, Texas 75248**  
**972 233-7343**



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*Once-Weekly Collection  
Service for Garbage and  
Recycling:*

*North Side—Tuesdays*

*South Side—Mondays*

*Bulky Trash Pick-up the Week of:*

***February 6th***



# HNHA CALENDAR

## February 2012



*February 6th*

*Bulky Trash Pick-Up*

***Earliest set out date is Thursday, February 2nd***

*February 13th*

*HNHA Board Meeting (at the home of Marcia Weiss)*

*February 14th*

*Valentine's Day*

*February 20th*

*President's Day*

