

HNHA Connection

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2010

Highlands North ENP

Facts about the Highlands North Expanded Neighborhood Patrol program:

The HN ENP is a SEPARATE program from the HOA. Membership in the HOA does not give you participation in the ENP.

The ENP provides Dallas police officers in marked patrol cars who canvas our neighborhood at least 16 hours per week.

Cost: \$120 per year per residence

95% of collected funds go to payment for patrols – less than 5% goes toward administrative costs.

ENP participants have stickers on their mailboxes to show their support. These residents are called when their garage doors are left open.

ENP participants receive extra surveillance when they are out of town.

Patrolling officers Mike and Steve have gotten to know our neighborhood well and have established good relationships with many of our residents.

Our patrolling officers report HN crime to me when it occurs, and I send email alerts to all participants with email access.

POLICE PATROLLING IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD DETERS CRIME! Our VIP program (VOLUNTEERS IN PATROL) was no longer effective, as very few hours were patrolled each month. *That is why the ENP was started.* A comparison of crime before and after our patrols started in July 2009 will be reported when our ENP participation drive starts in late May. Please talk to your neighbors that are participants and see what they think! We have 315 participants, and we want that number to grow to at least 400. The program has been great, and we want it to continue.

If you have not joined, please strongly consider doing so this year. **OUR NEIGHBORHOOD GREATLY BENEFITS FROM THIS PROGRAM.** *If you do NOT participate, what ARE you doing to keep Highlands North a safe & great place to live?*

Feel free to contact me with questions

Cori Pratt—972-407-0119

Spring Arrives in Highlands North!



Coming in May!

Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show

See Page 2 for more Information!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show	2
Sunshine and Shadows	3
Support Your Local School	4
Real Estate Outlook 2010	5
Crime and Safety—HN Crime Report	6
Advertising	7
Gardening Tips	8
Yards of the Month	9
Pet Corner	10
HNHA Information	11
Calendar	12



Around the Neighborhood

Please join us for the Annual Highlands North

Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show

Friday, May 14, 2010 at 11:00 a.m.

at

Canyon Creek Country Club

625 W. Lookout Drive, Richardson, TX (972) 231-1466

Cost: \$20 per person (Menu Selection Available)

Fashion is provided by Charming Charlie's in Plano



Calling all Models! If you are interested in modeling in this year's Fashion Show please contact: Kristen Felix at (972) 387-1547 email: kristenfelix@aol.com or Lisa Althaus at (972) 934-0128 e-mail: lisa@althaus.net

Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

*Make checks payable to : HNHA

*Return this form along with your check by **Friday, May 7th** to: Kristen Felix
7804 Glenneagle
Dallas TX 75248



Sunshine and Shadows By Jamie Harrison

Don't forget to share your news with your neighbors! Submit your items for publication to Jamie Harrison at 972-788-8076, or by e-mail to jamie.harrison@sbcglobal.net. If Sunshine and Shadows news is submitted by the 14th of the month, it will be included in the next month's newsletter!

In this month's news:

Sunshine: On February 3, **Taylor Mathews** of Dalmalley Lane signed a National Letter of Intent to play soccer at Oklahoma State University. Taylor is the daughter of **Cliff and Nancy Mathews**, and is a senior at J.J. Pearce High School. She has been on the Pearce varsity soccer team for 4 years and is a captain this year. She received first team all-district honors in 2008 and 2009, and was named to the All-Tournament Team when Pearce won the 2009 4-A State Championship. Taylor plays club soccer for the Dallas Texans, which finished third in the 2009 USYS National Championship games. Taylor has also participated in the North Texas Olympic Development program where she has been a member of the '92 North Texas State Soccer team since 2006. Last year, she helped lead the team to the 2009 ODP National Championship. At J.J. Pearce, Taylor is also a member of the National Honor Society, Mu Alpha Theta, and the Pre-Med club. She plans to study molecular biology at OSU.



Sunshine: As a follow-up to last month's Sunshine item on J.J. Pearce High School swimmers headed to the state meet, congratulations to sophomore **Adam Bull**, son of **Ed and Beth Bull** of Pennyburn Drive, who won a gold medal in the 200-yard individual medley (IM) at the State 4A Swimming Championships in Austin! Adam also finished 4th in the 100-yard butterfly and swam in two relays -- the 200- and 400-yard freestyle relays -- finishing 7th and 5th, respectively. The J.J. Pearce boys brought home 7th place at the state meet. Congratulations!

Sunshine: Destination Imagination or "DI" is a community-based, non-profit, volunteer-driven educational organization that teaches young people from kindergarten through the university level the processes of creative problem solving and teamwork. Each season teams of up to seven members select one of five competitive, central challenges to work on throughout the school year to perform at the annual regional tournament. At the tournament, each team's score also includes its performance on an "instant challenge," presented to the team at the tournament, which the team is then given several minutes to solve. Congratulations to all of the Highlands North students who participated in the Dal-Rich Region's annual Regional DI Tournament, held on March 6 at Skyline High School! Receiving second place in the elementary-level division of its challenge (third-fifth grade) was the fourth grade team "American Monkeys",

including Highlands North students **Siena Copeland**, daughter of **Burt and Lola Copeland** of Queens Garden Drive, **Cullen Embry**, son of **Lawrence and Shelley Embry** of Applecross Lane, **Ashley Grossman**, daughter of **David and Kimberly Grossman** of Loch Maree Lane, and granddaughter of **Alan and Marcia Weiss** of Dunoon Avenue, **Sam Harrison**, son of **Scott and Jamie Harrison** of Kilmichael Lane, **Grace McMaster**, daughter of **Darrell and Amanda McMaster** of Scotia Drive, and granddaughter of **Darrell and Mary Jo McMaster** of Loch Maree Lane, and **Sydney Wigder**, daughter of **Jeff and Sherie Wigder** of Kilbride Lane. Jordan Mayers is also a member of the "American Monkeys," and Team Manager is **Amanda McMaster**.



Receiving second place in the elementary-level division of its challenge was the fifth-grade team "Gangsters in a Good Way," including Highlands North team member **Caroline Hall**, daughter of **Robert and Marilyn Hall** of Mullrany Drive. Other team members of "Gangsters in a Good Way" are Maria Firan,

Alexa Hallum, Hanna Judd, Hannah Nichols, Alex Pasley, and Claire Umstead, and Team Manager is Tiffany Pasley. Receiving fourth place in the middle-level division of its challenge (sixth-eighth grade) was the sixth-grade team of "I.C. Polar Bears," including Highlands North team members **Jack and Jared Ferris**, sons of **Jay and Jackie Ferris** of Dalmalley Lane. Other team members are Madison Mayers, Lexi Durant, and Drew Blalock, and Team Manager is Ellen Mayers. Highlands North kindergartener **Sammy Wigder**, son of **Jeff and Sherie Wigder** of Kilbride Lane performed with "The Kids" in the non-competitive division, along with teammates Summer Mossa, Will Mathis, Megan Morris and Gary Sun. Team Manager is Downie Mathis.



Sunshine: The artwork of four Highlands North students attending Bowie Elementary was among the artwork selected to be shown at the Rosemary Cheney Memorial Art Show, which was held at the Richardson Public Library in March. Ms. Cheney was a Richardson ISD teacher, and a lover of the arts. Congratulations to the following Highlands North artists: **Zoe Bell** (1st grade), daughter of **Jay and Tracy Bell** of Salado Drive, **Dean Federico** (1st grade), son of **Dominic and Deanna Federico** of Dundrennan Lane, **Tho Le** (5th grade), daughter of **Tung and Trang Le** of Bantry Lane, and **Jack Liscio** (4th grade), son of **Tony and Tricia Liscio** of Glenneagle Drive!

Support Your Local School!

The RISD Council of PTA's 9th Annual

Vendor Fair

Thursday, April 1, 2010

9:30 am – 12:00 Noon

Professional Development Center - Gymnasium

701 W. Beltline Rd., Richardson, TX 75080



Fundraising Is Not an Impossible Mission....

This is your opportunity to source Vendors for fundraising and other activities for your school or organization!

The Fair will be held in conjunction with the monthly RISD Council Meeting at the PDC.

This event is free and is open to the public.

For more information please contact Jacqueline Ferris at: jaqueferris@sbcglobal.net

JJ PEARCE Mighty Mustang Band

**2nd Annual Mighty Mustang Market
(Garage Sale)**

Saturday May 1st

There are three ways that you can help. One, you can donate gently used items that you no longer want or need. Two, you can purchase a spot for only \$20 and sell your items yourself. Three, come shopping on that Saturday. If you would like to donate items, contact Mike Woodbury at mijan511@sbcglobal.net.

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REAL ESTATE OUTLOOK 2010

 **Jo Pressly**



Tips for Buying or Selling Real Estate in 2010

Source: Real Estate Update by Realty Times

Low interest rates, home buyer tax credits and affordable prices create an attractive environment for anyone thinking about buying their first home, moving up or down sizing this year. Home sellers who tune in to current conditions and what buyers want can also achieve their goals in 2010.

Here is a summary of 10 tips for buying or selling real estate in 2010 that were recently published by www.bankrate.com:

#1 Take Advantage of the Home Buyer Tax Credit Program

First-time home buyers who sign a contract by April 30, 2010, and close by June 30, 2010, qualify for an \$8,000 tax credit. The program's maximum income limits have been increased from \$75,000 to \$125,000 for individuals and from \$150,000 to \$225,000 for couples.

For those who have owned their home for at least five years and want to trade up to a different primary residence, a separate \$6,500 tax credit is available. Also, homeowners who owe more on their current mortgage than the property is worth are eligible for a loan-modification program with their current mortgage company or loan servicer through the Making Home Affordable Program. ([Contact Granite Mortgage for information.](#))

#2 Find Down Payment Assistance Programs

There are several down payment assistance programs for first-time home buyers at the federal and local levels. Other down-payment assistance programs that piggyback on federal programs are often available at the city, county and state level.

#3 Improve Your Current Home

Low financing costs, reduced construction materials costs and lower contractor costs make now a great time to fix up your current home, either for a potential sale or to simply enjoy. Repairs that typically yield the highest returns are kitchen and bathroom makeovers.

#4 Hire Experienced Real Estate Professionals

Whether you are buying or selling a home, now is not the time to try to go it alone. Choose a Realtor, appraiser and home inspector who have proven experience your market.

#5 Price Your Home to Sell

An experienced Realtor will have the knowledge to analyze current trends and sales statistics in your neighborhood. He or she will use this information to determine a listing price that will bring a qualified buyer in the shortest time possible. The listings that generate interest today are those whose owners have adjusted their expectations based on the realities of current market conditions.

#6 Don't Wait for a Total Market Recovery

Delaying your home purchase or sale can actually cost you more. Example: Take a move-in-ready house that appraises for \$250,000. Because there's competing inventory, your Realtor advises you to take 10 percent off the price. Now you'll be selling for \$225,000. But consider that you only paid \$175,000 for the home in 2000.

Making a \$50,000 profit is not a loss. What's more, if you move up in the same or a similar market, you will likely realize that same 10 percent discount on your next home purchase. Also keep in mind that when interest rates go up, they will do so quickly and dramatically.

#7 Real Estate is for the Long Haul

If you are a buyer, don't settle for a home just because you're getting a bargain. You want a home that suits your long term needs. Think about functionality, location and access to services, highways, schools, relatives and mass transit. Do your homework and examine all options.

#8 Get Green in More Ways than One

Homeowners who buy and install specific energy-efficient windows, insulation, roofs, doors and heating and air-conditioning equipment can get a 30 percent tax credit for up to \$1,500 off their costs on each product. This opportunity is available for purchases made through Dec. 31, 2010. A 30 percent tax credit with no spending limit on each system is available through 2016 for products such as solar energy systems, geothermal heat pumps, small wind systems, residential fuel cells and micro-turbine systems.

#9 Rent to Own

Lease-to-own transactions allow buyers to rent a home for a designated period while paying a higher-than-market fee to buy down an eventual down-payment. This allows renters to try out a home while they repair their credit, and helps sellers generate an above-market revenue stream on a property they might have sold at a lower than desired price. Specific contracts spelling out all requirements and options are a must!

#10 De-Personalize Your Home

This is often a difficult for home sellers, but they need to enable potential buyers to envision the property as their own home. Remove personal items such as pictures and knickknacks before you put a house on the market. Your Realtor will have very specific recommendations on how to make a great first impression in a competitive market.



CRIME AND SAFETY CORNER

HNHA Crime Watch Stats— March 2010

Remember to be alert and report any crimes **to the police first**, then to the **hotline 214 967-5120**.

Recent Crimes in and around Highlands North include:

Some recent crimes in and around Highlands North include:

- On March 2, between 9 am and noon a house in the **7600 block of Pennyburn** was burglarized. Entry was made through the side patio door.
- On the night of March 8, a car parked in the **7600 block of Queens Garden** was stolen around 9 pm and recovered around 3 am on March 9.
- On the night of March 10, a car parked in the apartment parking lot at **16500 Lauder Lane** was vandalized by having the windshield broken.
- A neighbor on **Pencross** reported that they discovered that some high school kids from Pearce were using their side yard as a place to smoke and drink on numerous occasions over the winter. The homeowner caught the kids on a recent Friday morning before school.

Remember: always be aware of your surroundings and practice personal safety everyday! Make it a habit!

Jim Johnson
Highlands North Crime Watch Coordinator
HOTLINE - 214 967 5120

TXT = ACCDNT

Sending messages behind the wheel is deadlier than drinking and driving.

23X That's how much more likely a texting driver is to be involved in a crash than one who isn't texting, according to a study from the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI). Laura McKenzie and her two youngest children know how dangerous such distracted drivers can be. When a texter swerved into her lane on busy Interstate 59 in Alabama. McKenzie escaped to the median to avoid a collision.

Because 85 percent of Americans own cell phones, the driving-while-texting problem is likely to get worse, particularly with young people, says Stephen Wallace, chairman and CEO of SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions). "There's a myth of invincibility with teenagers," he says.

Research proves no one is safe from the dangers of texting and driving. The VTTI study found that **texting requires the most eyes-off-road time of any distraction**. "Those who think they aren't looking at the keyboard are still **taking their eyes off the road long enough for the situation in front of them to change**—and for them to not be able to react quickly enough to avoid a crash," says Sherri Box, VTTI public relations and marketing manager.

Not only is texting while driving dangerous—in 18 states and Washington, D.C., it's illegal. Despite these laws, public awareness campaigns and frightening research findings, drivers continue to type and read messages. "**Texters aren't aware of how distracted they are**," says Dave Melton, industry director of transportation with the Liberty Mutual Research Institute for Safety. "They expect other drivers to compensate, but you can't count on that."

Visit www.ghsa.org for the Governors Highway Safety Association's updates on driving laws regulating cell phones and texting.

Common Distractions

Activities drivers do and how much they increase their risk of a crash:

23.2x Text while driving	2.3x Handle CD
3.4x Read	1.6x Eat
3.1x Apply makeup	1.3x Talk or listen on handheld device
2.8x Dial handheld device	

Source: Liberty Lines—Liberty Mutual



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Gardening Tips

Callie's Garden Notes

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

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What makes a garden Simply Beautiful? Is it the blooms, the color, the fragrances or simply the confidence that comes as a result of planting healthy, vibrant plants? Excite your senses this Spring as we invite you to take in the fragrances as you stroll among our flowers which you may take with you to enjoy in your landscape or the heart of your home. We offer weekly clinics, friendly service and knowledgeable advice. Happy Spring!

Fresh from the Garden...

1. 'Fiesta' Double Impatiens

Enjoy an abundance of vivid "roses" in your shady garden beds. Compact growing, the 'Fiesta' holds its rose-like blooms high above the foliage. No need to remove faded flowers as this self-cleaner will do it for you! Butterflies and hummingbirds love the large, showy blooms.



2. 'Abunda' Bacopa

Used as the trailer in container gardens, Bacopa has wonderful heat tolerance and big, beautiful blooms! Hundreds of fragrant flowers appear from Spring, Summer and Fall making it a perfect companion in beds, hanging baskets and containers

3. 'Colorcade' Geranium

Combine the traditional zonal Geranium with the sturdy ivy leafed cousin and you will get the best of both! Quick to flower, 'Colorcade' produces a full plant which is free flowering all season. Definitely a Geranium on a mission!



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Garden Tips:

Social networking has discovered the plant world! Please join us on YouTube, MySpace, Facebook and Twitter. You will receive the latest specials, know when fresh merchandise is arriving, view over 60 gardening videos and receive daily updates!



www.mytexasgarden.com

Calloway's Timely Tip for April Gardeners



For more gardening information for Texas, visit www.mytexasgarden.com The first step to having a weed-free lawn is to have a healthy lawn. Timely watering, proper fertilization and good maintenance will all contribute to the condition of your lawn. A healthy, thick turf will choke out any invading weeds.

Now, what do you do when your lawn is not yet in that condition? First, prevention is the best policy. Apply a pre-emergent now to prevent the Summer broadleaf and grassy weeds. Green Light Crabgrass Preventer with Dimension® can be applied using your fertilizer spreader. Green Light Portrait® Weed Preventer can also be applied the same way and will prevent broadleaf weeds from sprouting. Pre-emergent herbicides control weeds by forming a barrier that prevents the seed from germinating. Water these products in well. You will need to apply the pre-emergents again in September to prevent the early Spring grassy and broadleaf weeds.

For the organic gardener, apply Corn Gluten Meal. This is a natural byproduct of the corn milling process. As a weed suppressant, corn gluten acts as a natural "pre-emergent" – it inhibits seed germination by drying out a seed as soon as it cracks open to sprout. Apply with a fertilizer spreader in early Spring and again in late Fall.

For existing weeds, spray with a broadleaf weed killer to eliminate those pesky weeds which have made it through the Winter. Green Light Wipe-Out® can be applied with a hose-end sprayer broadcasting over the entire lawn or in a handy Ready-to-Use bottle for spot treating.

Apply your pre-emergents today and enjoy a weed-free Summer lawn

Yards of the Month

The following Homeowner's yards have qualified for the Calloway's Nursery "Good Neighbor" Program. Calloway's will provide them with a \$25 gift certificate to Calloway's.

Congratulations Homeowners!

North Side

South Side



B.J. and Sharon Hall 16706 Loch Maree

Jeff and Hesha Abrams, 7616 Burns Run

Highland North Homeowners Association

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Furry Friends Need Fun, Too: How to Keep Your Pet Happy and Active



It seems like the most natural thing in the world—our pets need food, water, medical care and lots of love. But dogs and cats have other needs, too. Our furry friends need ample physical exercise and mental stimulation to lead truly full and happy lives.

"They need jobs," says Kristen Collins, CPDT, ASPCA Animal Trainer. Dogs and cats need to stay busy and engaged, but unfortunately most pets are unemployed—daily they sit at home, chronically bored and waiting for their humans to return from work. And as we all know, an idle pet can quickly turn into a naughty pet when restlessness becomes overwhelming.

"With nothing to do, dogs and cats are forced to find ways to entertain themselves," explains Kristen. "Their activities of choice often include behaviors we find problematic, like excessive barking or meowing, gnawing on shoes, raiding the garbage, eating houseplants and scratching furniture."

To prevent behavior and health problems, Kristen recommends the following physical and mental workouts—both when you're there to join the fun and when your pet is home alone.

- Move it! Healthy adult dogs need at least 30 minutes of aerobic exercise twice a day. Jogging, swimming and playing at the dog park are all great ways to burn excess energy.
- Engage in structured games, like [fetch](#) and [tug-of-war](#)—they're not only great exercise but also teach your pet impulse control and strengthen the bond between you.
- Keep your dog occupied when he's home alone by giving him a food-stuffed puzzle toy, like [the Kong](#), or some tasty chew toys.
- Like their canine counterparts, cats also need plenty of aerobic exercise. Get kitty fit with rousing play sessions, such as chase and fetch with [furry toys, small balls or toy mice](#).
- Encourage your cat's favorite home alone activities, including bird watching, exploring paper bags or boxes, watching cat videos or spending time in secure outdoor enclosures.
- Teach your cat new tricks! Felines are quick studies and can [learn practical skills](#) like coming when called, sitting up, rolling over and even using the toilet!
- Kristen adds: "The bottom line is that you're responsible for enriching your pet's life. Providing opportunities to [exercise your cat or dog's](#) mind and body will keep her healthy and happy—and enhance your relationship, too."

Source: ASPC

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 jaqueferris@sbcglobal.net
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Social:
Fall Dinner/Annual Meeting— Carin Coniglione (972) 818-6677
 Jennifer Sullivan (972) 788-2972 Elise Young (972) 980-7746
Easter Egg Hunt—Cara Brown (972) 980-9941
 Tina Cox (972) 934-4925
Ladies Luncheon & Fashion Show—Lisa Althaus (972) 934-0128
 Kristen Felix (972) 387-1547
4th of July Picnic—March Baremore (972) 386-5448
Sunshine and Shadows—Jamie Harrison (972) 788-8076
Volunteers In Patrol—Mel Shapiro - (972) 934-0397
Yard of the Month North—Marcia Weiss (972) 387-2991
 South—Hertha Hughes (972) 458-7150

**HNHA HOTLINES**

Consumer File—(972) 788-9147
Crime Watch Hotline—(214) 967-5120
 highlandsnorth@hotmail.com
HNHA Info Line—(972) 404-HNHA (4642)
Information Only—Please do not leave a message.
Pet Hotline—(972) 967-PETS (7387)
 hnhapets@hotmail.com

HNHA Activities Board Position Open!

The Activities Board Position is open and needs to be filled! This position acts as a liaison between the Board and the Activities Group Chairperson. Such activities include our bridge, bunco, gardening, tasters clubs, etc..

If you are interested or would like more information about the position, please contact Philip Wells at (972) 934-0909.

**CONSUMER FILE**

Looking for a plumber? A handyman? An electrician? How about a landscaper? A tile layer? A window replacement company?

Call our HNHA Consumer File Representative - **Debbie Leveno at (972) 788-9147**. Debbie has a file of folks recommended by your neighbors for all types of home repairs and improvements. (The file also includes "contractors" who have received negative comments in the past).

Know a good plumber, handyman, electrician, landscaper, tile layer, window replacement company, etc? **Please call or e-mail Debbie with your recommendations at: thelevenos@sbcglobal.net.**



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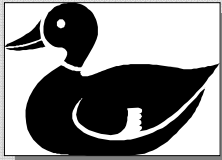
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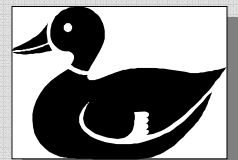
*Once-Weekly Collection
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*North Side—Tuesdays
South Side—Mondays*

*Bulky Trash Pick-up the Week of:
April 5th*



HNHA Calendar April 2010



April 2nd

Good Friday

April 4th

Easter

April 5th

Bulky Trash Pick-Up

(Earliest Set-Out Date is Thursday, April 1st)

April 12th

HNHA Board Meeting

April 23rd

Mardi Gras Bowie Spring Gala and Auction

