

PCHA ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, March 24 7pm
Rolling Hills Country Club

THE CONNECTION

P A R K W A Y
C E N T R A L
H O M E O W N E R S
A S S O C I A T I O N

Winter 2013

P C H A N E W S L E T T E R



PARKWAY CENTRAL HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

Let's make "The Connection" a renewed and informative resource for our neighborhood. Please help by contributing articles

you think your fellow PCHA members would enjoy or find interesting to Chuck McCoy at 817-999-9977.

FRESH START

It has been some time since our neighborhood newsletter, The Connection, has been published and distributed on a regular basis. The members of your Board have expressed a renewed focus on providing better communications with the neighborhood regarding activities that have occurred and that are planned in the upcoming months. This issue of the newsletter will review, among other articles, our recent National Night Out activities, Holiday activities including Santa in the Park, our neighborhood food drive and Holiday decorating contest and results, Parkway Central Park update, Crime Watch report and information on the Citizens on Patrol program, Neighborhood Flags, and

Roquemore Elementary school.

Our goal is to publish the newsletter regularly, four times per year, with a winter, spring, summer and fall issue. If you have ideas or suggestions for articles or information for the newsletter, please let your Director know, or e-mail me (chuckmccoy@outlook.com). A listing of Board members and their phone numbers is included in this issue on page 5 and will be in all future issues.

Our PCHA Annual Membership meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 24th at the Rolling Hills Country Club. We encourage all residents to attend. Please see the Annual Meeting notice on page 5 for additional information.

Citizens on Patrol

Jerry Thiel

Arlington Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P.) is a program administered by the Arlington Police Department (APD) in partnership with community volunteers. Trained volunteers (COPs) expand the eyes and ears of the police department. Typically, two people patrol in marked vehicles looking for evidence of a possible crime and for suspicious persons, vehicles, and activity. A call is immediately placed to 911 if any such is encountered.

Note that COPs are never to intervene or approach any suspicious person, and never to carry a gun. Simply report and stay out of possible harm's way.

Volunteers patrol when they want to, for as long as they want. Just once every week or two for about an hour is a valued contribution.

Parkway Central has had a C.O.P. group since near the inception of the program a decade ago. Those participants and members of Rolling Hills Estates, Tree Top, and Park Friends groups have been patrolling our streets and the park. However, if you are thinking "I used to see them often, but hardly ever do now", you are right.

Volunteer ranks have been depleted as the result of moving, aging, disability, and even passing away. That is why new COPs from our neighborhood are needed now. Badly needed.

The City touts the C.O.P. program as an important contributor to the decline in Arlington's crime rate. But burglaries, vandalism and other neighborhood crimes are still very much with us. That is why we need you to step up if at all possible to protect yourself and your neighbors.

To apply, go to the APD web site www.arlingtonpd.org.

Crime Watch News

Although things have been quiet in our neighborhood in recent months, a few neighbors did experience property crimes in 2012. Several cars were burglarized, one home was burglarized and several unsuccessful burglary attempts were identified. There have been several instances where APD has thwarted possible crimes through their presence in our area.

Late last summer, APD Bike Patrol Officers began patrolling the most troubling areas and apartment complexes of our area, especially during evenings and on weekends. This additional presence, especially in the Washington / Lincoln area, has helped limit property crimes in our area. To do our part, homeowners need to lock all doors and gates, remove valuables from parked cars, park in driveways and garages, rather than on the street, and turn porch and patio lights on at night. Finally, always call 911 if you see or hear anything suspicious or are the victim of any sort of crime. Police can only help us if they know there is a problem – *so always call!*

Roquemore Elementary School

Dara Wandel

Yvonne DuPont was appointed principal of Roquemore Elementary School almost two years ago, following the school's dismal academic performance ranking in 2010. Many of you were able to meet with Ms. DuPont during National Night Out last fall. She has worked miracles in her short time at Roquemore. Everyone from AISD administrators to school volunteers is working very hard to improve student performance and raise the school's academic ranking. Remarkable progress has been made and student performance is measurably improved. However, chronic absence and tardiness remains a problem.

Why is this important to you? Because the performance of an area's schools can positively or negatively impact the value of homes, the prospects of businesses, the

development of new community resources and the overall desirability of a neighborhood. School attendance is an easily understood measure of student performance and one strategy for improving attendance is to engage students, parents, educators and community members in a campaign that offers positive rewards for excellent attendance.

Since most Roquemore families live in apartment complexes, Charlie Parker asked Deanna Palla and Dara Wandel to help him identify ways for area apartment managers and other business people to provide incentives to combat Roquemore's chronic absence and tardiness problem.

By mid-term, several apartment complexes had agreed to install after-school programs on their properties. Staffed by community volunteers from Mission Arlington, these programs provide help with homework and a bit of tutoring. They also make

information available to encourage parents to get their children to school each day. Some property owners and management companies are offering pre-paid Visa or other gift/discount cards to families whose child can show perfect attendance during a grading period. Best Buy at Lincoln Square is providing Kindle e-readers for the top performing sixth grade boy and girl at the end of the school year. These Kindles will be pre-loaded with the seventh grade reading list by the school's librarian. The new Wal-Mart Neighborhood Store is providing a \$1,000 grant for the school to use for "No Tardy Parties" and other in-school incentive activities. Several area restaurants have provided coupons and pre-paid dining cards.

If you would like to help, contact Deanna at deanna.palla@gmail.com, or Dara at dawandel@tx.rr.com.

Recent Board Activity

Barbara Duehn

Your PCHA Board met on January 28, 2013 and welcomed two new Board members who will fill unexpired terms of members who recently resigned. The new members are Ken Brown and Leticia Lopez. We will have up to 6 seats to fill in the upcoming election that will take place in the next few weeks leading up to our annual meeting on March 24th. We need volunteers to fill vacant seats on the Board. The Board meets at least four

times each year and more frequently, if needed. We plan to be more active during the upcoming year and communicate more routinely with you, but need people to be involved to make this more successful. Anyone interested in serving on the Board can contact me at duehn2@airmail.net. The Board also heard committee reports, discussed the upcoming election process, reviewed the upcoming dues billing process and timing along with regular business items. The Board also met on Monday, March 4th and discussed new Board candidates and the upcoming election process as well as final details for our Annual Meeting.

Parkway Central Park Update

Dara Wandell

If you have not had the opportunity to visit the park recently, we can report that winter has been kind this year. The moderate winter temperatures and timely rains should mean a healthy wildflower crop along Van Buren Drive. Park Friends volunteers were able to sow an additional twelve pounds of seed late last fall. Several varieties of coreopsis as well as a traditional "Texas Mix" were added along the footpath to the bridge. We hope there will be a plentiful supply of blooms this spring and that several of the coreopsis varieties will bloom through much of the summer. The pavilion garden is healthy, but will need a good trimming in preparation for new spring growth. Volunteers will be needed in late February or early March for a gardening day. We will get you more information later.

Parkway Central Neighborhood Garage Sale

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, May 18th and participate in the neighborhood wide garage sale scheduled for that date. Final details are being completed and information will be distributed throughout the neighborhood soon. With signs throughout the neighborhood we hope to attract a large group of folks looking to buy and would like to see good participation within Parkway Central.

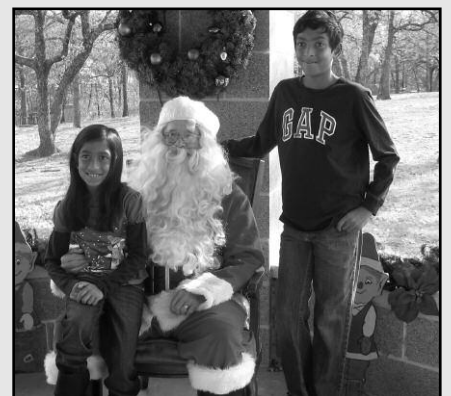


Santa and Mrs Claus, with (top left) Wayne and Barbara Duehn with Bismarck, (middle) Leela Mackey and (bottom) Anjali and Ashwin Menezes..

SANTA IN THE PARK AND FOOD DRIVE

Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance in Parkway Central Park on December 15th to meet with neighborhood residents and children. Cookies and juice were available. There was a good turnout, but we would like to see a lot more of the PCHA folks come out to this event next year. Those who attended enjoyed meeting and visiting with Santa and having their picture taken.

Our annual food drive took place during the visit by Santa and we collected almost a pickup truck load of food. This year we donated the food to Mission Arlington. They were very appreciative of the donation. Thanks to everyone who either delivered food to the Park or left it on their curb.



District 1 Councilman, Charlie Parker



Charlie Parker

As you know, we elected a new City Councilman for our district last spring. Charlie Parker went immediately to work to, among other things, find solutions for the most derelict apartment complexes in our area. Forrest Hills (corner of Lincoln and Washington), for example, has been rigorously inspected and many citations were issued for serious code violations of substandard facilities. A re-inspection is imminent and, if owners fail to correct their multiple serious violations, at least two buildings could be declared “unsafe structures.” Ownership of the complex recently changed hands and it is yet unknown if this will have a positive impact. Read Charlie’s blog to learn more and keep up with what Charlie is working on. You can read his blog by visiting his web site at: arlingtondistrict1.com. You can also look him up on Facebook.

FLAGS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Sharon Little

On this last Memorial Day and several other Holidays, you may have noticed all the flags that seemed to magically appear in your neighbors’ yards? Those flags were delivered by the Arlington North Rotary Club as a service project for their club. They deliver the flags six times a year for Memorial Day, Flag Day, the Fourth of July, September 11th, Columbus Day, and Veterans’ Day for a fee of \$39.00. The Rotary will come to your home and install the flag pole holder and then see that the flag flies proudly and majestically in your yard on the designated days.

If you’d like to be part of this service, just call 817-640-6401 and let them add your name to the list. This is the office of Jim Ash, an Arlington attorney, but you can ask for information about the North Rotary flag service, and they’ll be happy to tell you everything you need to know.

HOLIDAY DECORATION JUDGING

Jerry Thiel

How it Works

You have seen the large “Prize” stars placed in front of homes a week or so before Christmas. There are seven of them and their location is decided by judges from outside the PCHA.

The Awards: First there is the “Grand Prize” given for the decoration deemed to make the best overall impression. Second is the “Originality Prize” given for the most original, unique and imaginative decoration. After those selections, one additional home in each of five sections is recognized for overall impression and receives a “Street Prize”.

The five sections are ...

- 1 Adams Dr., Adams Ct., & Coolidge Dr.
- 2 Wilson Drive
- 3 Washington Dr. (427 – 612) & Lower Franklin
- 4 Van Buren, Franklin to 2113, & Franklin Circle
- 5 2114 – 2230 Franklin Dr. & Franklin Court

The Judging: Each year the Board solicits one or two residents to coordinate and host the judging. Co-coordinators the past two years have been Lynn Neathery and Jerry Thiel. The coordinator(s) recruit the judges.

On the chosen night they meet and review the ground rules. Judges are then given clipboards and score sheets, and driven around the neighborhood. On returning, scores are totaled and winners select-

ed. It is not uncommon for judges to go back out to resolve a close call or two. Judges receive refreshments and a small gift

The Star Signs: The large stars usually go up the day after the judging and come down January 2.

They were made some twenty years ago by Jack Thornton and the late Bud Carpenter, and refurbished three years ago. Jack stores the signs and does the planting and removal, usually with the help of a judging coordinator.

2012 PCHA Christmas Decoration Winners

The Board congratulates all the winners of this past year’s Christmas yard decoration event. We appreciate all that participated and look forward to more decorations this coming Christmas and Holiday period. Let’s all participate and help make Parkway Central special during the upcoming holidays.

Grand Prize

2107 Coolidge Dr. Hudson

Originality Prize

2227 Franklin Dr. McCoy

Street (Section) Prizes

2202 Adams Court	Wolf
2215 Wilson Dr.	Guan
436 Washington Dr.	Domalewski
2224 Franklin Court	Gause
2002 Franklin Dr.	Loring

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Don Hide 817-277-3568
Data Base Coordinator, Directory

Tom Finn 817-501-5949
Newsletter Design and Production

Claudia Foreman 817-265-3437
Liason – Transplants



**PARKWAY
CENTRAL**
HOMEOWNERS
ASSOCIATION

PCHA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Rolling Hills Country Club

Sunday, March 24, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Be sure to hold this date on your calendar for the PCHA Annual Meeting. Charlie Parker, our District City Council representative will be our key speaker. In addition to Charlie, we will introduce Board members, present reports from Board officers and review ongoing neighborhood items.

National Night Out (NNO) – 2012

Jerry Thiel

National Night Out 2012 took place in Texas on October 2, 2012. A neighborhood event in Parkway Central Park was again organized by C.O.P. and Park Friends volunteers. The many volunteers shopped, prepared food, set up tables and displays, and took them down. Funding for the event was provided by the PCHA.

The purpose of NNO is to promote neighborhood security by bringing neighbors together along with local and city-wide police and fire department personnel. Every available member of the APD and AFD working the North sector came and talked freely with our residents. They were joined by the city manager, our district councilman, and a number of other city staffers and community leaders.

The food was again the subject of much praise, the weather cooperated, and everyone had a good time. Most importantly, our residents got to meet and become better acquainted with neighbors, and do the same with those guests who's jobs entail responsibilities for keeping us safe and secure.

An additional note is that the city of Arlington takes NNO very seriously. As



PCHA residents and officials during NNO

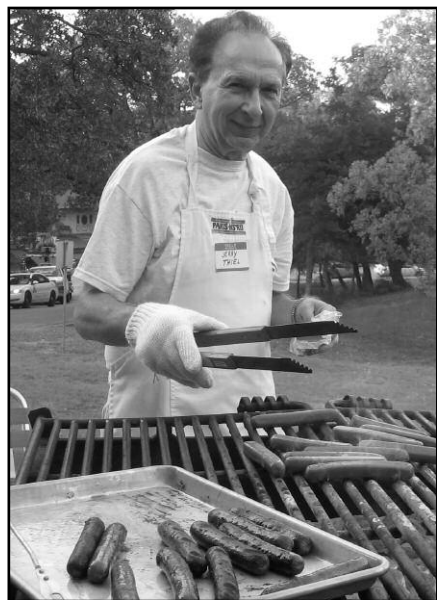
the result of the many events organized by neighborhoods throughout the city, Arlington was named the fifth best among large cities in the U.S. for observance of

NNO in 2012.

You should plan on attending and participating in 2013. We will publicize the date as soon as it is confirmed.



Judy Ballard, Charles Foreman and Lee Rivers enjoying NNO.



Jerry Thiel serving food.

Arlington Police Department Community Communications

Beginning in January this year, the Arlington Police Department's communications office started a new, weekly online video program named Inside APD. This will allow them to better connect with the public. The weekly series highlights various police units and serves as a platform for live streaming of police academy graduations, promotion ceremonies, press conferences and various other community special events and activities. So far, the episodes have been very informative and, as of the middle of February, there are 5 episodes available.

You can access Inside APD at www.YouTube.com/arlingtonpolicemedia. Take a look and see what they have going on. You can also follow the Arlington Police Department on [Twitter@arlingtonPD](https://twitter.com/arlingtonPD) and on [Facebook.com/ArlingtonPolice](https://facebook.com/ArlingtonPolice).

The Department also publishes a monthly online community newsletter titled On Call - Inside The Blue. The newsletter features highlights of the 4 Arlington districts including the North District. Upcoming community events for the City are also highlighted. You can access the newsletter at www.arlingtonpd.org/pdf/OnCallNewsletter.pdf