

PASSAGES

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC.

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SPECIAL ISSUE: MEET THE CANDIDATES.... PAGE 10

Great Northwest 2017 Election and Annual Meeting

by Jo Ann Fernandez
2017 Election Officer

How to vote in the Great Northwest Elections

Mail • Great Northwest residents the time is NOW. Check your mail box, for your proxy ballots. Follow the directions on the ballot, sign and mail to the Great Northwest or visit the office on Timberwilde to turn in YOUR ballot. Turning your ballots into the office saves \$1.25 for each postage prepaid envelope.

Online • The next convenient way to vote is ONLINE. Please visit our website, www.greatnorthwest.org to VOTE. Proxy ballots will also be emailed to residents who have logged into the website, or have given the Association their email address. If you would like to receive the emailed proxy ballot, request a login on the website or call 210-681-2986 ext. 109.

Annual Meeting • May 4th is the Annual meeting another opportunity to cast your vote.

Thank you in advance for taking time to VOTE!

It's time to elect directors to the Board of Directors, the body that sets policy for use of common area amenities, approves the budget and sets assessments, and conducts other Association business. This year, four candidates are running for the three open director seats. You can view alphabetically listed bios on page 2 of this issue.

Here are a few things you need to know about elections in the Great Northwest:

What is the Annual Meeting?

The Annual Meeting is an annual gathering of Great Northwest homeowners where directors may be elected to the Board of Directors, but that's not all that we do at the Annual Meeting. We also recognize residents who have demonstrated leadership and volunteerism in the community.

What is quorum? In order for the meeting to qualify as a legal meeting the governing documents require that we have the participation of Members. The minimum presence of Members that we must have either in person or by proxy, is 10%. That ten percent is "quorum". When you hear an Association leader say that we have met quorum, it means that we have at least 496 people present at the meeting, or their selected representative called a "proxy."

What happens if we do not meet quorum? If we do not meet quorum, the Annual Meeting is not considered legal, meaning we have to start over and mail out another proxy ballot, which costs around \$5,000.

Your vote is important to help us reach quorum, and to also use your voice in what you want to see in your community.

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Meet the Mayoral Candidates Night - April 18, 7 pm at the GNW Lodge

Election season is in full swing, for both the City of San Antonio and the Great Northwest. To keep you informed, the Great Northwest is hosting two town halls so that residents and neighbors can meet the District 6 and Mayoral candidates. The first town hall, where residents met District 6 candidates, was held on March 20 at 7 pm in the Great Northwest Lodge (see page 9 for more information). We also includ-



PHOTO BY GISELE VARGAS

ed District 6 candidate biographies in the March 2017 Passages.

On April 18, at 7 pm in the Great Northwest Lodge, we will be hosting a Meet the Mayoral Candidates Night. This town hall is open to the public. We invite you to come and learn more about the Mayoral candidates and their thoughts on important issues.

In this special election issue, we have included the biographies of nine mayoral candidates on page 10.



Gabriel (Gabe) Briones

My name is Gabriel (Gabe) Briones, my wife of 46 years is Norma. We moved back to San Antonio 10 years ago from Marrero, La. (Greater New Orleans, La. Area) We have three children and four grandchildren. I retired from the Air Force with 27 ½ years. 12 years as Informational Superintendent, 11 years in Logistic and my last 4 years as Financial Material Manager for the state of Louisiana.

After my career in the Air Force I taught JROTC for seven years at Edna Karr Secondary School, in New Orleans, La. I

coached High School Soccer for the boys and girls teams and also coached the girls softball team.

As a civilian, I participated in our community playground at PARD in Jefferson Parish. I held the positions of Equipment Manager, Athletic Director for both boys and girls, and was elected President of the Booster Club at PARD. While at PARD, I coached football, baseball, softball, and soccer. In 1994 I was inducted into the PARD Playground Hall of Fame.

I belong to Louisiana Coaches Association, New Orleans Officials and Umpire Association, Air Force Sergeants Association.

I hope that when you consider my bio, you will know that I will bring new ideas to help and assist the board to advance our standing in the community.



Gene Guido

As a resident of the GNW for over 29 years, I have served as a volunteer for Citizens On Patrol, Neighborhood Watch and the Strategic Planning Committee. My two children have grown up in this neighborhood, and I continue to live here with my loving wife Diana. I proudly served in the United States Air Force

for seven years before becoming a conductor with Union Pacific railroad, where I retired after 39 years.

Along with my father and brother, I have been a member of Christopher Columbus Italian Society volunteering with community outreach programs, such as spaghetti dinners. I have had the great opportunity to serve on the Board of Directors, for the past eight months and I would like to continue to help the Great Northwest make progressive improvement for all of our families.



Essy Lechon

A resident of Great Northwest for 16 years, my wife of 29 years and our children have grown up enjoying the benefits GNW provides. While living in GNW I have been involved in many activities, most notably the children's athletic programs where it's been my pleasure to be head or assistant coach on soccer, T-ball and basketball teams, and enjoy helping our children learn to play the

sport, try their very best and, to HAVE FUN. Teaching kids to play a sport is the easy part. Teaching them to be competitors while showing respect for opponents, refs, coaches and parents is harder. Sports can help to make better students, citizens, and neighbors now and in the future. For these reasons, I believe our athletic programs deserve strong support.

With past employers our family relocated many times, calling Monterrey Mexico, Washington DC, and Corpus Christi, home. My current employer, Vilore Foods Inc., was why we

moved to San Antonio and now that Vilore's head office is in San Antonio my future in the Great Northwest is certain to be even longer.

The A-Team is a group of men and women doing a lot of good in our community. Over the last couple years I have helped with graffiti removal, cleanup projects, and soliciting schools and citizens to get involved. A-Team is a great asset and I will continue to help when and where I can. I was appointed to an open position on the Board of Directors in 2011. Even before becoming a member of our Board, I believed homeowners deserved timely response to concerns, responsible fiscal management, and equitable treatment from our Board. I also felt our Directors should have a cooperative working relationship with each other and our city leaders for the betterment of GNW. I intend to continue to follow these beliefs if re-elected to our Board.

As you have entrusted me with your kids over the years, I ask for your trust to serve our community as a Director on the Great Northwest's Board of Directors. We can ALL make a difference by working together.



Mel Stallings

I have proudly served on the Great Northwest Homeowners Association Board of Directors since January 2010. During that time, I have diligently worked to provide quality service to the residents. I am a member of the COP and Watch Teams and participate in "A-Team" activities. Connie and I have lived

in Village Northwest since May of 1985. We raised our children here and it has been our retirement home. We are dedicated to the community and will continue to volunteer our time to keep the Great Northwest an ideal community. I use my 30 years of management experience, to evaluate the issues that are considered by the Board. I promise that I will continue to serve the community to the best of my ability.

PASSAGES

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Photographs taken at Great Northwest events and/or on GNW property are the property of GNW and can be used in Great Northwest media, on our website, Facebook, in Passages, on marketing materials, or for any purpose as decided exclusively by GNW.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2016—2017



ESTABLISHED IN 1976

Mission: To improve the quality of life of Association members, and preserve and increase the value of Association members' properties.

CHAIR

Ida Rodkey

DIRECTORS

Jo Ann Fernandez

VICE CHAIR

Brian Stives

Gene Guido

Essy Lechon

Mel Stallings

Mark Zoller

Board Briefs

Each Board meeting takes a couple of hours as the Board considers items of business on the agenda. While Board Briefs list decisions made by the Board, Members are encouraged to attend meetings to hear the Board as it discusses and debates matters upon which decisions must be

Actions taken by the Board:

February 16, Regular Meeting**The Board:**

- From four bids, approved \$16,405 bid by AAA Auger Plumbing Services to replace sewer line at the Silver Creek Lodge.
- Confirmed policy that facilities will not be used for church services.

March 2, Executive Meeting**The Board:**

- Approved the Annual Meeting notice and election mailing materials with corrections to the proxy ballot.
- Transferred \$80,000 from operating to the Major Repair and Replacement (MR&R) Reserve savings account based on the 2016 year-end available cash sweep.
- Accepted a bid by AAA Fence Pros for the 8' Invincible Top (curved with pinched pickets) with extended side-walks for \$17,828.
- Decided not to send a Board member to the CAI National Conference, but consider training options with the local CAI Chapter.
- Confirmed that Bylaws 7.5 was interpreted to include the use of facilities not free of charge to Directors as they are fundamentally "Members" of the Great Northwest CIA.
- Allow the Girl Scouts to use the Emerald Valley Flores Hall on Sunday, March 5, free of charge, from 10 am to 4 pm.



Did You Nominate Your Neighbor?

by Ida Rodkey

Chairwoman of the Board

Doing good may be its own reward, but most people would probably agree that it's also nice to be recognized for the time, effort, and commitment they put into helping others—particularly in what can sometimes seem to be thankless roles.

Members of our community devote their energy and enthusiasm to making our community the very best it can be by serving on the board, a committee, and on neighborhood projects, and helping their fellow neighbors.

Recently you may have received an email about nominating a neighbor for a Great Northwest award. I hope you took the time to recognize a neighbor or a friend in our community that has gone above and beyond to help with projects, volunteering. If you did not receive an email, you may not be included in our email list. Log in to our website at greatnorthwest.org to get on our mailing list.

Winners of the awards will be announced at the An-

nual Meeting on May 4. Categories include:

- Pioneer Award
- Neighbor of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Rising Star Award
- Spirit Award
- Inspiring Others to Serve
- Youth Service Award

If you did not nominate your neighbor this year, be sure to nominate them next year. As volunteers, your neighbors invest their time in projects that benefit you. No association can thrive without them, so let them know you appreciate their efforts.

Have an idea for recognizing volunteers? Contact a board member and share!

Ida

Volunteers Moving GNW Forward

by Cindy Gates, CMCA®, PCAM®

Community Manager

Vol-un-teen (vālən'tir noun. A person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.

Maybe you've considered to volunteering but, after looking at your schedule, decided against it: Too busy or not enough time. Well, I'm here to tell you that it really doesn't take that much time and the benefits are enormous for you as well as the Great Northwest. You have friends that you just haven't met yet. You can learn new skills to enhance your life and job. You can even start that fitness plan you haven't had time for. Really.

GNW has many opportunities for volunteers. The Board, Committees and active Teams recognize the impact that volunteers have on our community. I'll highlight two Committees because these groups don't do self-promotion; they just enjoy working toward goals and get great satisfaction from the job getting done.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Myrl Britten, Andy Greene, Bill McDonough, Ida Rodkey and Mel Stallings have met to plan every detail related to two "events" for the membership. Everyone has different skills and areas of expertise, and meeting has been enjoyable as we make sure that everything is planned for two candidates' night town halls. We started about three months ago with the goal to provide a forum for GNW residents and greater-GNW residents to hear candidates. The first event was held last week. GNW Meet the District 6 Candidates' Night was attended by 125 people. Several we talked with thought it went really well and after hearing candidates answer question after question they knew

who they wanted to vote for. The second town hall: GNW Meet the Mayoral Candidates' Night will be held April 18.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Board of Directors asked Board Chairwoman Ida Rodkey to

lead a group composed of long-time and new volunteers to update the GNW Strategic Plan done in 1998. Ida, Barbara Schneider, Gene Guido, Mel Stallings, Myrl Britten and myself are working to create an updated plan that will be used by the Board to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that volunteers, employees and residents are working toward common goals. It is a thoughtful effort to make fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what the Great Northwest does with a focus on the future. The plan when completed will articulate where the organization is going and the actions needed to make progress. It will also include measures to know if we are successful.

Great Northwest is bigger than most average sized cities in the nation. We have many amenities, a 13 ½ acre greenbelt, a variety of recreation programs, and a higher standard for putting on resident events than ever. While we have a million and a half dollar annual budget I can tell you that the staff and I always, always, practice best management practices and look for the best buy through competitive bidding. We have to in order to make our budget reach through the year. But even with that we can't do it ourselves. We need volunteers to really put the Great in the Great Northwest.

Hats off to the people who volunteer their talents on the two highlighted committees as well as those involved with all volunteer committees and teams. Please plan to attend a committee meeting to find out how fun and satisfying it can be to work on projects and goals that affect our community. You, too, can help put the Great in the Great Northwest.

Cindy

APRIL

Community Calendar

HIGHLIGHTS

■ Silver Creek | ♦ Emerald Valley | ★ Volunteer Opportunity

APR 08 **BULK DROP OFF**
8 a.m. - 12:30 pm
Emerald Valley and Timberwilde Elementary
9310 Timber Path • 8838 Timberwilde Dr.

Drop off your bulk and brush items. To see a list of approved items, follow us on Facebook. To volunteer, contact Connie Stallings: connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net • 210-416-8595

APR 15 **EASTER EGG HUNT**
11 am, Silver Creek Soccer Fields
Join us for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt starts at 11 a.m. sharp, so be a little early.

We will have photos with the Easter Bunny afterwards, \$5 per 4x6 print.

APR 18 **MEET THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES**
Doors open at 6:30, Starts at 7 pm,
Callanen Hall (Silver Creek) - 8809 Timberwilde

The Great Northwest is hosting a Town Hall for residents to learn more about the candidates running for public offices. Join us at the Lodge of the Great Northwest to hear candidates' thoughts and discuss issues that matter to YOU!

Refreshments will be served.

APR 22 **SPRING YARD SALE**
8 am - 2 pm, Silver Creek Soccer Fields
Have items to sell? Purchase a spot at the next community yard sale. Registration ends April 21.

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 A-Team Project ★ 8 *Weather permitting
<i>Swim Team Registration</i> March 6 - May 19						
2	3 Poker ■ 7 P	4	5	6 Exec. Board Mtg ■ 6:15 P	7	8 BULK DROP OFF 8 - 12:30 EV/Timberwilde Elem ★ Volunteers
9	10 ACC Mtg ■ 4:30 P	11 O.W.L.S. Luncheon ■ 11 A GNWatch ♦ 6:30 P	12	13	14 Pool Rental Reservations Start	15 Easter Egg Hunt / Pictures ■ 11 A ★ Volunteers
16	17 FREE - Make & Take ♦ 6:30 P Poker ■ 7 P	18 Meet the Mayoral Candidates ■ 7 P	19 Book Club ■ 7 P	20 Reg Board Mtg ■ 6:30 P	21 Yard Sale Registration Ends	22 Spring Yard Sale ■ 8 - 2
23/30	24/31 24th ACC Mtg ■ 4:30 P	25	26	27 DIY w/ Young Living ♦ 6:30 P	28	29 A-Team Project ★ 8:30 - 1 *Weather permitting

COMING SOON

MAY 4 **ANNUAL MEETING**
7:30 pm, Callanen Hall (Silver Creek)
8809 Timberwilde

Join us for our Annual Meeting of Members as we announce the winners of the 2017 Great Northwest elections, review 2016 accomplishments, and give thanks to all those who have volunteered their time to the community.

MAY 13 **Spring Market Day**
9 am - 4 pm, Callanen Hall (Silver Creek)
8809 Timberwilde
Buy or sell unique crafts and items, like candles, jewelry, Tupperware, and woodworked items.

Weekly Activities

Day	Time	Activity	Location
Monday	12:30 P	SA Tumble Tots	SC \$10; Age 3-5
NEW!	6:30 P	Zumba	SC \$5
Tuesdays	10 A	Greater SA Ballet	SC \$15; Age 3-4
	6 P	Mahjong	SC
NEW!	6:30 P	Zumba	SC \$5
Wednesdays	10 A	Flamenco	SC \$2.50
	11 A	Dominoes	EV
	5:30 P	SA Tumble Tots	SC
	6 P	Chess	EV
	6:30 P	SA Tumble Tots	SC
Thursdays	10 A	Line Dancing	SC \$2
	3:15 P	Greater SA Ballet	SC \$15; Age 5-6
NEW!	6:30 P	Zumba	SC \$5

WHAT IT TAKES TO PUT A YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE TOGETHER

by Ty Simpson
Recreation Manager

From a youth league participant's perspective – you register, get a call from a coach, and start playing. Seems easy enough, right? But there are a lot of administrative components involved into putting together a youth athletic league. Here is a look at what goes on “behind the scenes.”

EIGHT MONTHS OUT

The athletic calendar for each year is made in the previous July. Yes! That's how far ahead we have to be to make sure we are organized. We have to take in consideration factors such as school schedules, daylight savings time, holidays and much more.

RECRUITMENT OF VOLUNTEER COACHES

Many weeks prior to the start of registration, the athletic director begins identifying what needs have to be met on the coaching standpoint. How many coaches do we need, and at what age group do we need them? Coordination with volunteer coaches is an ongoing, daily process – before, during and after each athletic season.

THE REGISTRATION PROCESS

Great Northwest registrations are open for approximately one month. This gives our residents ample time to plan. Each day during the registration period, the athletic director collects completed registration forms, and organizes them into the proper divisions. Once registration has closed, the real fun begins – sorting through over 200 forms and making sure everybody is assigned to where they belong.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY FROLICK

Ty Simpson stripes the Silver Creek Soccer Fields, a process that takes over 30 hours.

POST REGISTRATION PERIOD

The athletic director has approximately one week to evaluate each registration form. This involves ensuring each resident hopefully gets what they requested, whether that be a specific coach, practice day or practice time. Sometimes, not everyone's needs can be met fully, but it is a priority that we try to meet. The teams are slowly put together one child at a time, with the athletic director inputting data into the roster spreadsheet. This includes information such as child's name, phone number, parent's name and jersey size.

SCHEDULING

At the same time the athletic director puts teams together, he is also developing practice schedules and game schedules. Easier said than done. He has to take into consideration factors such as

holidays, competing events hosted by the Great Northwest and coaches' availability.

TRANSFER OF INFORMATION

Once teams are formed and data is in the spreadsheet, it's time to send the information to each individual coach. At that point, the coaches take control of the process by calling their rosters and giving parents all the information they need for the season: what equipment to get, when the first day of practice is, and where to meet.

MEETINGS

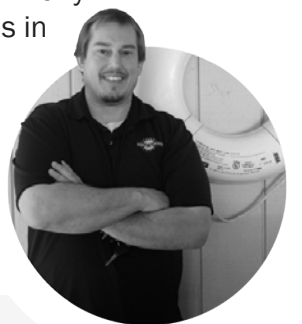
Shortly before the season starts, a coaches and referees meeting takes place to make sure everyone is consistent in the Great Northwest rules and there is no confusion. Everybody is on the same page.

FIELD PREPERATION

The athletic director spends a little over 30 hours measuring, marking and painting the soccer fields to get them ready for the first game. This is a tedious process which requires much time, but it's a nice break from being stuck behind a computer for endless hours inputting data of each player.

GAME TIME

Parents are handed the game schedule and the season begins. Poof!! Magic!! Many coaches coach multiple teams in multiple divisions, so developing a game schedule can be tasking and time consuming.



April and May are Full of Events

by Connie Chavez
Community Events Team Leader

This year is going by fast. We just had our new event, the Parent and Child Valentine's Dance, on February 10. It was a great success! Thanks to all the sponsors who donated and volunteers, especially the Warren ROTC. The Valentine's Dance helped raise money for our scholarships. I am already looking forward to next year's event.

We are already in April and looking forward to our upcoming Easter Egg Hunt, sponsored by JR & Tasha Salinas of Daydreams Daycare and Woodforest National Bank. So bring your kids on Saturday, April 15 at 11 am sharp to the GNW soccer fields to hunt for some eggs. I highly rec-

ommend getting there early because it will be over in a blink of an eye. Then, stop by our lodge to take pictures with our Easter bunny. Pictures are \$5 for a 4x6.

There are thousands of Easter eggs filled with candy and prizes, and we can use volunteers to help out. If you would like to volunteer on that day, you can show up that morning at the soccer fields at 9:30 am.

Last but not least, don't forget about our Spring Yard Sale which is on April 22 from 8 am to 2 pm in the parking lot of our soccer fields. Keep an eye out for notices about our Spring Arts and Craft show and our Memorial Day Pool Party.

IMPORTANT RECREATION DATES

MAR 27	Soccer Practices SC Soccer Complex
APR 8 TO JUN 3	Soccer Games (Saturdays) SC Soccer Complex
MAR 6 TO MAY 12	Swim Team Registration GNW Office
MAY 3	Swim Team Parents Meeting 6:30 pm
MAY 8	Swim Team Practices Start 6:30 pm
MAR 19 TO JUN 4	Adult Softball SC Soccer Complex
MAY 8 TO SUMMER	Swim Lesson Registrations GNW Office

National Night Out 2017

by Renee Townsend

GNWatch Team Member

It's that time of year! The SAPD National Night Out Planning Team has met, and registration is now underway. Mark Tuesday, October 3, 2017 on your calendar.

GNW has always supported this event; this year we hope to make it GREAT by having at least one party in each neighborhood.

WHAT IS NATIONAL NIGHT OUT?

It is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live.

IS THERE A LOT OF WORK INVOLVED IN HOSTING AN NNO PARTY?

The choice is yours. It can be simple—invite neighbors to sit in your driveway and visit or host a potluck party where neighbors bring lawn chairs and a potluck dish. Or go all out—have a cookout, door prizes, games, dunking booths, and face painting. What you do is TOTALLY up to you! The goal is to meet your neighbors and promote crime prevention and safety.

WHAT DO I DO TO BEGIN PLANNING A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PARTY IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

STEP 1 Register with the National Association of Town Watch:
<http://natw.org/registration/>

STEP 2 Register with the San Antonio Police Department:
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/SAPD/National-Night-Out/NNO-Online-Application>

STEP 3 Let the GNW Watch Team know you're having a party: Email your name, address and phone number to our Team Leader, Connie Stallings at connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net

For more information about our Watch Team, contact Connie Stallings (210) 416-8595.

connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net
210-416-8595

What to do When It Happens to You

by Connie Stallings

A-Team Leader

Graffiti is something we see in our everyday lives. However, what do you do when you are vandalized? Remember the three R's:

RECORD

Take pictures. Make sure you note the time, date and address where the tagging took place.

REPORT

In the Great Northwest, notify Connie Stallings, the A-Team Leader, who will make a report to both SAPD and City of San Antonio Development Services.

REMOVE

Tags should be removed within a 24 to 48 hour time frame.

Graffiti kits are now available to check out at the Silver Creek Office. If you have tagging on YOUR fence then you can remove it. If the tagging is on someone else's property, than you MUST have permission to remove the tagging.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CONNIE STALLINGS

Graffiti on a fence in the community. Great Northwest residents see graffiti everyday, but need to know what to do if someone tags your fence.

There is a R.O.E. form (Right of Entry form) that you must have signed by the property owner.

GRAFFITI IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS AND TOGETHER WE CAN KEEP THE GREAT NORTHWEST LOOKING GREAT.

For more information on the A-Team or how to join this active group, contact: Connie Stallings.



connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net • 210-416-8595

GREAT NORTHWEST VOLUNTEER TEAMS

If you are wanting to get more involved in your community, look no further than your own backyard. The Great Northwest has several volunteer teams, clubs, and game groups.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE (ACC)

The ACC meets every other Monday and focuses on keeping property values up by making sure all home improvements comply with the Association's CC&Rs. If homeowners are making changes to the exterior of their homes, they need to turn in an ACC application first. Approvals take one to two weeks, depending on when an application is received, and when the committee meets.



A-TEAM



The A-Team helps improve property values and residents' quality of life

by maintaining and enhancing the appearance of common and private properties in the GNW. They provide one-time or limited ongoing assistance to residents who are unable to keep up their property.

You may see the A-Team working hard on cleaning up the Greenbelt, cleaning Tezel Road, painting fences, covering graffiti tags, or helping neighbors mend broken fences or other needed work. To get involved with the A-Team, contact Connie Stallings at connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Here at the Great Northwest, we are pretty serious about our events. We hold over 20 events every

year, from family-fun events like the Easter Egg Hunt and Dive-In Movie Nights to community events like Yard Sales, Car Shows, and Bulk Drop Offs.

Preparing and coordinating these events takes some work. Volunteers help coordinate, decorate, and sometimes act as ghoulish fiends in our famed Haunted House. If you want to help make GNW events the best parties ever, contact Connie Chavez at conniec@satx.rr.com, or Ty Simpson at tysimpson@greatnorthwest.org.



Irish Dancers Give a Show at March O.W.L.S. Luncheon

by Janet Anderson

O.W.L.S. Communication Officer

The GNW's 50 and over group, the O.W.L.S., celebrated Saint Patrick's Day with performances by the Inishfree School of Irish Dancing on March 14. The dancers stopped by the O.W.L.S. luncheon to show off their dancing chops. Girls from a range of ages performed to a variety of songs, including a few dances from the Lord of the Dance.

Watching the impressive performances by the InishFree School Dancers is only one of the many benefits of joining the O.W.L.S. The group also enjoys monthly outings such as traveling to local attractions and dining out.

In April, the O.W.L.S. are celebrating Easter with a covered dish potluck at their monthly luncheon—the second Tuesday of the month. After the luncheon, the O.W.L.S. will craft Easter cards for the senior home across the street. On the third Tuesday of April, the group are taking advantage of the beautiful spring weather and visiting the San Antonio Zoo.



PHOTO BY ASHLEY FROLICK

Dancers from the Irishfree School of Irish Dancing perform an impressive dance at the O.W.L.S. March Luncheon.

The O.W.L.S. always wrap up the month by dining out. On the fourth Tuesday of the month, they are dining out at the Country Yard Cafe on Eckhert.

This month, the O.W.L.S. are also including their bi-annual visit to the Fisher House. On April 27th, the group will be cooking for the Fisher House residents.

Want to meet new people and get involved in the community? Consider joining this fun group. Dues are \$10 a year. Call Pat Walker for more information.

Pat Walker • 210-521-2918

"Neighbors Helping Neighbors"

GNWATCH, CITIZENS ON PATROL (C.O.P.), AND DOG WALKER WATCH



Safety and security is the priority for the neighborhood watch teams. These teams help improve property values and the quality of residents' life by scouting and reporting suspicious activity, deterring crime by creating a presence while walking in groups, and keeping the neighborhood informed about safety.

Or, as the GNWatch, C.O.P. and Dog Walker Watch teams put it, "We are the extra eyes, ears, and paws of the community."

Interested in joining? The GNWatch Team meets on the second Thursday of each month, (with the exception of November and March, when they meet

on the second Tuesday of the month). You can also contact Connie Stallings at connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Meet the team of volunteers behind the Meet the Candidates night. The Government Relations team helps improve the quality of residents' lives by keeping the community up to date on local government news and events, including informing GNW residents about the upcoming San Antonio Elections.

WELCOME & PROPERTY

The Welcome & Property volunteers help new residents feel at

home at the Great Northwest by visiting them personally to drop off welcome packets. This team literally says "Welcome Home," showing newcomers that the Great Northwest is truly a neighborly community. To help welcome your neighbors, contact Mark Zoller at mfzoller@gmail.com.

VOLUNTEER TEAM

This team spreads the word about each team and volunteer opportunities, and help new volunteers feel at home. They live up to their motto, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors." If you want to learn more about any of the volunteer teams, contact Mark Zoller at mfzoller@gmail.com or Gene Guido at gene.guido@att.net.

**Want to get involved?
Check this month's volunteer opportunities.**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 01

A-Team Project
8 a.m. (End Time TBA)
Contact Connie Stallings
for Meeting Spot

Volunteers Needed: 5 - 10

Help the A-Team keep our community great. Contact Connie Stallings - connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net.

APRIL 08

Bulk Drop Off
8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Emerald Valley Parking Lot

Timberwilde Elementary
Volunteers Needed: 5 (NO children under 10)

The A-Team needs volunteers to help residents move their large bulk and brush items into the trucks. Contact Connie Stallings - connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net.

APRIL 15

Easter Egg Hunt
9:30 a.m.
Meet at SC Soccer Fields

Volunteers Needed: 20

Help set out easter eggs, control the crowd, and clean up after the event. Contact Ty Simpson - tysimpson@greatnorthwest.org.

APRIL 29

Greenbelt Clean-Up
8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Meet at Silver Creek Picnic Area
Volunteers Needed: 15+ (NO CHILDREN UNDER AGE 10)

Help the A-Team clean up the Greenbelt and keep the Great Northwest looking GREAT! Bring a hat, sunglasses, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, bugspray and comfortable clothes. For more information, contact Connie Stallings - connie_stallings@sbcglobal.net.

The Great Northwest Book Club

April 19, 2017

7 p.m. in the Olivia Theriot Room --
Silver Creek

Join the Book Club as they discuss
The Paris Wife by Paula McClain

Faciliator - Lynda Welchel

For more details contact:

Lynda Welchel - txsun@satx.rr.com
JoAnn Sanderson - code318@aol.com

Introducing DIY Make & Take Instructors

Michael and Jennifer Lara

DIY Make & Take Classes Start April 27, 6:30 pm at the Flores Hall

\$5 per item made

We are Michael and Jennifer Lara. We are very excited to share with our community, and surrounding areas, some fun DIY workshops that will revolutionize the way your family gets clean. Come and make some great items that will help you become a healthier you.

Here is a little bit about us:

- Married for almost eight years
- Parents to three children, Zach 25, Sophia 6, and Samantha 3
- Lived in the Great Northwest Subdivision since 2012
- Jennifer is an LVN, studied to be a doula, and is an active member of the La Leche League of San Antonio
- Michael is a full-time maintenance technician with Arconic since 2011
- We are passionate about empowering other families to live a chemical free lifestyle, through the use of non toxic household, and personal products



Free Class - Essential Oils 101

April 17, 6:30 pm at the Flores Hall

Hello my name is Holly Tealer. Why does my family use essential oils? Because it is 100% pure and they soothe both the body and mind. Our family has used essential oils for a couple of years. We use the oils in our water and cook with them. I make a body sugar scrub that is heavenly. There are endless possibilities to use Young Living oils to maintain a healthy life style.

On April 17, at 6:30 pm, I will be hosting a free class to introduce essential oils and what

you can make with them.

Class Description - Essential Oils 101

Come find out what essential oils are, where we get them and how to use them. You will also get to make a free roller ball using essential oils. Come learn why people are getting away from chemically produced products and using essential oils for a healthier lifestyle. Hope to see at the class.

Zumba is coming back!

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 6:30 p.m. • Starting April 3 • \$5 per class

8809 Timberwilde Dr

"Kristen and I have been teaching together for several years now and enjoy a variety of music and styles. We like a higher intensity cardio interval class. We get the heart rate up and then back down during the class for not only an enjoyable experience, but as one of the most effective ways to stay in shape. I have been a licensed Zumba instructor since 2014 and Kristen since 2010. I used to live in the Great Northwest on Timberwilde, and Kristen also used to live just up the street from Timberwilde Elementary school. We are both very familiar with the community and are ex-



cited to be a part of it again. We have consistently been teaching at Northwest Crossing for many years but are ready to try something new and meet some new, wonderful Zumba friends. All of our classes are low pressure and offer a great workout. We complete 17 songs during the hour and encourage everyone to keep moving throughout the whole class, getting water as needed. We will show modifications for many steps and welcome everyone to dance their way and bring their own style to it."

CLASS SCHEDULE

MON

12:30 p SA Tumble Tots
Age 3-5 • \$10 • Silver Creek Lodge

6:30 p Zumba
\$5 • Silver Creek Lodge

TUE

10:00 a Greater SA Ballet
Age 3-4 • \$15 • Silver Creek Lodge

10:00 a Mommy, Daddy, & Me DIY
2nd Thursay of the Month, Starting May 9 • \$5 per item made • Emerald Valley Lodge

6:30 p Zumba
\$5 • Silver Creek Lodge

WED

10:00 a Flamenco (Advanced)
\$2.50 • Silver Creek Lodge

11:00 a Folklorico (Advanced)
\$2.50 • Silver Creek Lodge

5:30 p SA Tumble Tots
Age 3-5 • \$10 • Silver Creek Lodge

6:30 p SA Tumble Tots
Age 5-7 • \$10 • Silver Creek Lodge

THU

10:00 a Line Dancing
\$2 • Silver Creek Lodge

3:15 p Greater SA Ballet
Age 5-6 • \$15 • Silver Creek Lodge

6:30 p Zumba
\$5 • Silver Creek Lodge

6:30 p DIY Make & Take
4th Thursay of the Month • \$5 pe
item made • Emerald Valley Lodge

COMING SOON

CHILDREN'S FOLKORICO DANCING

Coming in May

Wednesdays 3:15 pm

Price TBA

Must pre-register:

surveymonkey.com/r/GNWFitness

Community Input Meeting on the Tezel Rd. Community Building

Courtesy of Councilman Ray Lopez, District 6

As I enter my final months as your District 6 City Council Representative, we are working toward a smooth transition for the next Councilmember and his or her staff. During the current budget cycle I requested funding in order for the city to purchase the old gas station located at 6644 Tezel Road. We are hosting a Community meeting on April 13, 2017 from 6pm-8pm. We want to know what services you would like to have at this location. We will have the San Antonio

Parks Department, Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails Systems Department, VIA, San Antonio Police Department (SAPD), SAPD Bike Patrol and more to answer any questions you may have. We will have food and refreshments available so please join us and let us know what you want to see in your community. Please RSVP to joseph.lopez@sanantonio.gov.



RSVP • joseph.lopez@sanantonio.gov

COUNCILMAN RAY LOPEZ
INVITES YOU TO
SHARE YOUR IDEAS

Community Input on the Tezel Rd. Community Building
6644 Tezel Rd. (Old Gas Station)
April 13, 2017
6pm - 8pm

Please join us for food and conversation and tell us what you would like to see at this location to better serve our community



VIA Metro. Trans



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
TRANSPORTATION & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS



Bike Patrol



PARKS & RECREATION
SAN ANTONIO



San Antonio P.D.



Current Building Exterior

GREAT NORTHWEST HOSTS MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT FOR DISTRICT 6

by Gisele Vargas

Administrative Manager



The District 6 Candidates Night was held on Monday, March 20, here at the Callanen Hall at 8809 Timberwilde Dr. Seven capable candidates came to educate the public on their stance on several issues ranging from their goals for this area and the city, their plans regarding public safety and SAFFEE officers, to how they planned to meet with community and neighborhood leadership. The candidates included: Ropal Anderson, Greg Brockhouse, Meliss Cabello Havrda, Joseph Cortez, Eric

Gosset, Don Page, and Rick Trevino. Candidate Robert Castaneda was not present at the event.

Over 110 people were in attendance as well as current Councilman Ray Lopez. The candidates had the opportunity to meet one-on-one with the public after the town hall to answer any questions residents may have. The Callanen Hall will also be holding a Mayoral Candidates Night town hall Tuesday, April 18 at 7 pm. The town hall will be open to the public.



INTRODUCING THE 2017 SAN ANTONIO MAYORAL CANDIDATES

The City of San Antonio's General Election is May 6, 2017. If you want to make an impact on your local area, get out and vote. To help you make your best, informed decision, the Great Northwest is holding two town halls. The first town hall was held on March 20 and introduced District 6 candidates. Meet the Mayoral

candidates at the second town hall on April 18 at 7 p.m. Both town halls will be at 8809 Timberwilde Dr.

The Meet the Candidates town halls are open to the public.

Learn about the Mayoral candidates by reading their biographies below.

Note: The presence of candidate biographies and photos in Passages does not imply endorsement by the Great Northwest. The candidates have been presented in alphabetical order, based on their last name. Candidates not included did not respond to a request for information.



Anthony Diaz

Hello my name is Antonio Diaz, candidate for Mayor.

I am a graduate of the St. Philips Nursing Program and Texas A&M Electrical Engineering. I am a human rights activist that believes in inclusion and cultural equity. My goal as a working class citizen is to give representation to those who have had none. In that way, ensuring all San Antonians benefit economically, socially and prosper along with the growth and development of our city, and protection of our natural water resource, the Edwards Aquifer, for our generation and there after.

Thank you very much and consider me when you vote.



Will McLeod

Hello, My name is Will McLeod, I am running for Mayor of San Antonio. I am the ONLY candidate that will not take a salary, pledge to get our streetlights working all over the city and fix our infrastructure without requiring a bond package or raising your taxes. I will replace our police chief and city manager who have been overpaid and highly ineffective in solving our city's problems. I will also abolish TIRZ which will bring HOAs a sigh of relief. For more information, please go to my website at www.makesan-antoniogreatagain



Manuel Medina

Manuel Medina is a successful businessman, committed family man, and a man of faith. He graduated from the University of Southern California with a degree in Electrical Engineering and earned his Masters in Electrical Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin.

Since 2012, as Democratic Party Chairman, he's taken a stand against political insiders and their entrenched special interest groups. He announced his candidacy emphasizing San Antonio needs a Mayor independent of special interests, with real world business experience, fiscally disciplined, and focused on today's needs.

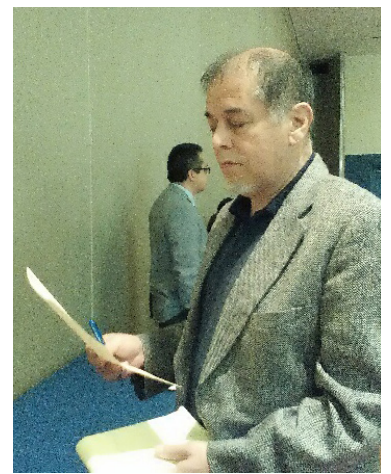
Manuel and his wife, Janeth, reside on the northside with their two daughters.



Ron Nirenberg

Ron Nirenberg was first elected to San Antonio's District 8 City Council in 2013 and was reelected in 2015. During his tenure, Councilman Nirenberg has focused on solutions to San Antonio's deepest challenges, including improving transportation infrastructure, ensuring the city's sustainability through environmental and economic initiatives, embracing new technology, closing the workforce skills gap and creating jobs.

As Tri-Chair of SA Tomorrow, he leads the charge in helping city leaders execute citizen-directed strategies to prepare for significant population growth by focusing on housing, transportation, health and wellness, natural resources management and economic development.



Gerard Ponce

Tenth generation with almost 300 years family legacy, Gerard Ponce has given 40 years Community Involvement. Former Bexar Courts System Administrator & a Conservative Taxpayer Advocate, Ponce is the best experienced qualified candidate. His platform calls for Public Safety – Domestic Violence Awareness - Need for Seniors, Veterans & Persons with Disabilities Programs in the City. Gerard will Review Budget & Stop Unnecessary Spending. Community Minded Small Business Advocate, Ponce says – Enough is Enough! Give Voters a Voice! Vote NO Bond 2017 - Early Voting Starts April 24th – May 2nd. Gerard Ponce for Mayor!



Meet the Mayoral Candidates

Tuesday, April 18, 2017

Doors open 6:30 pm Program begins 7:00 p.m.



Keven Roles



Rhett Smith



Ivy Taylor



John Velasquez

Keven Roles is a San Antonio native who grew up in Carriage Place and graduated from Taft High School in 1990. Keven has dedicated his whole adult life to serving the public in multiple facets of Emergency Services and as a Paramedic since 1994. Keven's view for the future of San Antonio includes a transparent, honest local government, ensuring basic city services are properly funded while being fiscally conservative and improving the city's infrastructure after many years of neglect. Keven is respectfully asking for your VOTE for mayor on May 6, 2017. You can learn more about Keven at www.keven-rolesformayorsa.com

Rhett Smith has worked 33+ years for Allied Universal Security Services (formerly Stanley Smith). He is a member of American Legion Post #2, a U.S. Navy Veteran, a former Auditor for the TX Dept. of Human Services, and a Co-founder of Veterans for Education Reform.

He is a member of the Inter-Religious Council of San Antonio, the NAACP San Antonio Branch, currently serving on the Criminal Justice Committee, and LULAC, along with the Cesar Chavez March for Justice.

He volunteers with Inter-faith Welcome Coalition and Refugee and Immigrant Legal Services.

He promotes the well-known Muslim-Christian Dialogue and San Antonians for Peace-Building.

Mayor Ivy R. Taylor is an urban planner with a deep commitment to strengthening San Antonio. She has worked to make housing available to working families and improving neighborhoods as an employee of the City of San Antonio and the nonprofit Merced Housing. A New York native, she arrived in San Antonio as a graduate student at the University of North Carolina. She earned her bachelor's degree at Yale University. Mayor Taylor was elected to City Council in 2009, and has served as Mayor since 2014. She is married to Rodney Taylor. They have a 13-year-old daughter, Morgan.

Dr. Velasquez is a native Texan and resident of San Antonio for 18 years. He was educated at UT Austin and Texas A&M University. He is a lifelong advocate for education and mental health having taught at Baylor University and the University of the Incarnate Word and by providing therapy at the Presa Community Center. His plan for San Antonio is to expand access to mental health and to clean up the environment. He is a problem solver who is passionate about the welfare of children and families. As Mayor he would govern by consensus and inclusion.

Candidates not included

Michael
"Commander"
Idrogo

Felicio
Hernandez
Flores, II

Stephan Lucke

Napoleon
Madrid

Mama Bexar

Note:

Candidates whose biographies are not included did not respond to a request for information

Early Voting by Personal Appearance
Apr 24 - May 2

Request for Mail Ballot Deadline
Apr 25

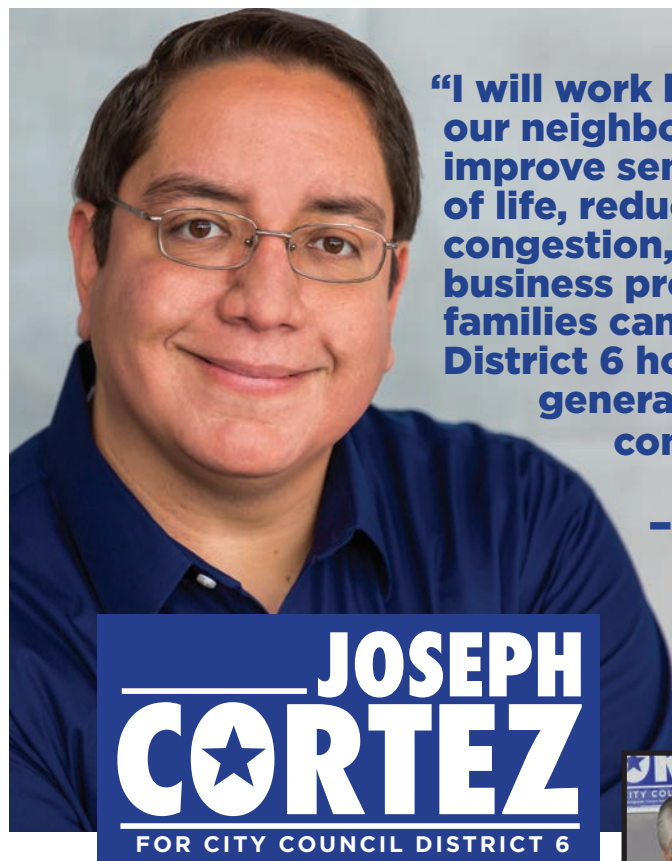
Election Day
May 6



Greg Brockhouse

FOR CITY COUNCIL | DISTRICT 6

To learn more about Greg and his campaign, go to gregbrockhouse.com or call him at 210.706.0671.



“I will work hard to make our neighborhoods safer, improve seniors’ quality of life, reduce traffic congestion, and help local business prosper so that families can proudly call District 6 home for generations to come.”

-Joseph

JOSEPH CORTEZ
FOR CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 6

 
vote4cortez

EDUCATED IN SAN ANTONIO
St. Mary’s University, M.A. Political Science
UTSA, B.A. Political Science & History
Central Catholic High School
Phi Sigma Alpha, Honor Society

EXPERIENCED IN WORKING AT CITY HALL
Senior Policy Advisor to Councilman Ray Lopez
Investigator with Child Protective Services



Endorsed by
Councilman Ray Lopez

www.vote4cortez.com

Pol. adv. paid for by the Joseph Cortez Campaign. Treasurer Evelyn A. Lopez, 1911 Estania Grey, San Antonio, Texas 78251.

GET NOTICED

YOUR AD COULD BE REACHING 17,000 PEOPLE
PRICES START AT

\$50

210-681-2983

GREAT NORTHWEST SCHOLARSHIPS 2017 APPLICATION FORM

2 SCHOLARSHIPS, \$1000 EACH

Every year, the Great Northwest gives two \$500 scholarships to high school seniors or college students from the Great Northwest. This year, the Board increased the scholarship award to \$1000. This is a great opportunity for students in the community. To apply, follow the directions and guidelines below.

QUALIFICATIONS/ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES:

To be considered for these scholarships, applicants must be residents of the Great Northwest (Emerald Valley, Village Northwest, Commons at Village Northwest, Ridge Creek, Silver Creek, Stagecoach Crossing or Timberwilde subdivisions). Scholarships are payable upon proof of summer or fall registration at any post-secondary educational institution.

APPLICATION:

Use this form only to apply for one of these scholarships.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS:

Applications must be received by 7:00 p.m. Friday, April 14, 2017 at the Association Main Office. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

APPLICATION REVIEW:

All applications received will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee and a short-list of candidates established. Candidates included on the short-list may be scheduled for personal interviews with the Scholarship Committee.

AWARDS PRESENTATION:

GNW Annual Members' Meeting, Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7:30 pm.

Your Full Name: _____

Your Street Address: _____

Your Daytime Phone Number: _____

Your Evening Phone Number: _____

Your Birthdate: _____

Name Of Post-Secondary Educational Institution You Plan To Attend:

INSTRUCTIONS

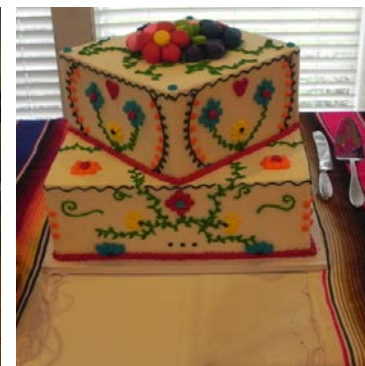
1. Use one or more pages to tell the Scholarship Committee why you are the most qualified applicant for one of the scholarships. Note: Laushey scholarship requires past participation in recreation leagues. Please provide dates and type of sports. Attach these to your application form.
2. Use one or more pages to tell the Scholarship Committee about community service activities in which you have been involved. Attach this to your application form.
3. You may provide, at your option, two letters of recommendation from people who can tell the committee about your involvement in community service. If you decide to submit these letters, attach them to your application form.
4. Provide any information regarding your academic achievements and/or financial needs, which you believe, the committee should be aware of when your application is reviewed. Remember to attach all information submitted for review by the Scholarship Committee to this application form.

Your Signature _____

Date _____

March Hall Rentals

Congratulations to the Necoechea family for a beautiful bridal shower, held on March 4. Here's to a beautiful future to the bride and groom!



HALL RENTALS

Make lasting memories

WEDDINGS & RECEPTIONS • ANNIVERSARIES • BIRTHDAY PARTIES • GRADUATIONS • HOLIDAY PARTIES • BABY SHOWERS • CORPORATE MEETINGS • FUNDRAISER EVENTS

CALLANEN HALL

8809 TIMBERWILDE DR.

RENTAL FEE: \$250

Includes usage of hall, patio, kitchen, tables, and chairs for 6 hours (2 hours of set up, 4 hour event).

DAMAGE FEE: \$100

Refundable 30 days after the event, provided there is no damage.

OPTIONAL FEES:

SECURITY: \$240

CLEAN UP FEE: \$120

SET UP: \$60

FLORES HALL

9310 TIMBER PATH

RENTAL FEE: \$250

Includes usage of hall, patio, kitchen, tables, and chairs for 6 hours (2 hours of set up, 4 hour event).

DAMAGE FEE: \$100

Refundable 30 days after the event, provided there is no damage.

OPTIONAL FEES:

SECURITY: \$240

CLEAN UP FEE: \$120

SET UP: \$60



Why Do We Give Tickets for Overgrown Lawns?

by Jose Morlett

Deed Restriction and Architectural Control Officer (DRACO)

It's spring again, and that means grass will be growing. In March and April, overgrown lawns is usually the most frequent violation the Deed Restriction officers see. Why do we continue to give tickets for overgrown lawns during the seasons when grass grows so quickly?

There are seven subdivisions in the Great Northwest HOA. The primary purpose of the Great Northwest is to preserve a neighborhood's property values so that owners throughout all subdivisions can count on having a quality neighborhood and great lifestyle. The deed restriction officer accomplishes this by enforcing the deed restrictions standards for the appearance of homes and yards. The CC& R's section 6.5 (Lot area & frontage) states that lawns must be neatly trimmed and mowed (not higher than eight (8)

inches including weeds). Driveways and sidewalks must be clear of any growth, as well as over the curb and along the curb in the street in the front of the property. The deed restriction officer also works with the City Code and Compliance, who responds to the complaints directly from 311 customer service line. Like the deed restriction officer, the city code officer inspects and enforces city codes throughout city.

Most of all, the Great Northwest wants to help residents resolve citations by working with them. One option for residents who are unable to work on their yards due to disabilities or injuries is calling the A-Team, a volunteer group who helps residents in need on a limited basis. Residents can also check *Passages* classifieds for yardwork ads.

Keeping grass from overgrowing helps keep the property values and quality life in the Great Northwest HOA. If you need help with your

Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions

6.5 Lot area and Frontage

Every dwelling erection on any lot shall front or present a good frontage on the street on which the said lot fronts. Dwelling on corners shall have a presentable frontage on all streets on which the particular corner lot abuts.

overgrown lawn or have questions, contact Jose Morlett.

DRACO ● 210-681-2983 ext. 102
greatnorthwest.org

WHAT DOES YOUR KITCHEN JUNK DRAWER SAY ABOUT YOU?

by Mark Zoller

Director and Volunteer Team Co-Chair



Want to really know your friends and neighbors here in the Great Northwest? Do you want to get more in touch with who you really are? Well, here's one novel place to look for answers: the kitchen junk drawer. The clutter that we stash in the drawer speaks volumes about who we

are. Don't be embarrassed about the content, think of it as insight into your psyche.

Here are six drawer types and what they say about you:

TYPE NO. 1: WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

The junk drawer holds paper clips, chopsticks, soy sauce packets, takeout menus, outdated cords and wires, and more.

This person takes old items and keeps them because she thinks it's bad to trash them and she vows to use them eventually ... but then never uses the chopsticks or soy sauce because every time she orders food, it comes with the same

stuff again. Plus it all gets sort of nasty sitting in the drawer.

TYPE NO. 2: WHERE'S THE @%&# SCISSORS?

This junk drawer actually contains useful stuff, but nothing can be found because there's so much in there and in random order. It's like a home version of Where's Waldo. In fact, there are actually three pairs of scissors in there! And four rolls of tape. Not that any of that matters, because none of it can ever be found.

TYPE NO. 3: MISS (OR MR.) OVERPREPARED

You're ready for the end of the world, or a national sticky note shortage should one arise. That's because your junk drawer is overflowing with a decade's worth of pens, paper clips, and other things in triplicate. These are items that do get used up. This type of person never likes to run out to the store, so she keeps it all on hand.

TYPE NO. 4: THE INDECISIVE

Also known as a procrastinator, this person puts off tossing things from the drawer because after all, where should it go? Is it truly trash, or is it better off in another drawer, another room, or another life if I can give it away to someone in

need? So the drawer fills up with items "just for now" until the person decides about them later.

TYPE NO. 5: MR. (OR MS.) SENTIMENTAL

This type of saver really takes the cake. Old concert tickets, movie stubs, airline boarding passes, ancient photos, expired credit cards, receipts, used notebooks, and handwritten notes. This homeowner loves a trip down memory lane and can't bear to part with the items connected to the memory—even though the physical reminder is no longer necessary. And may not even be remotely interesting.

TYPE NO. 6: THE OVER-ORGANIZER

Yes, there is such a thing as an overly organized junk drawer. It probably has some type of dividers or compartments with label for every section.

There you go neighbors. Take a look today and see what you think. I happen to be a number 2. Now I think that I will go visit the lady next door and casually open up her kitchen drawer. I bet that she is a Number 1 & 3 combo. Give us some feedback and let us know what you discover. What kind of folks are we in the Great Northwest?

THE GARDENING SPOT: WHAT IS A WEED?

by **Camille Fiorillo**
Horticulturalist

A weed is a plant growing where you don't want it to grow. A rose in a cactus garden is a weed! A pretty patch of pink evening primrose in the lawn is a weed if you don't want it or a lovely accent if you do.

It's that time of year where weeds reign in lawn and gardens. The single most effective way to get rid of unwanted plants is to dig them out, including all parts of the root. Backbreaking labor sometimes but well worth the effort. Moistening the soil around the plant will make pulling easier.

Pulled weeds should not go into your compost unless you are sure it gets hot enough (140 degrees F) to kill the seeds. Otherwise you will just be replanting the weeds when you incorporate your compost into the soil!

There are different types of chemical control for weeds. Defoliants just kill the foliage (leaves) of the plant. Selective herbicides kill specific weeds and total weed killers kill all the plants on application. Use of chemical weed killers has been linked to decrease in wildlife



population (birds, frogs). Weeds can develop resistance to chemical weed killers as well. As always, follow package directions for application exactly.

There are organic methods of weed control as well. They are generally less effective but combined with manual pulling may be of benefit. Corn gluten meal can help control germination of broadleaf weed in turf grass. Vinegar (acetic acid) destroys surface growth. Saltwater or salt will kill plants when applied to the root zone. Be careful with this as could harm desired plants nearby.

A good layer of mulch, 2-4 inches, over weed cloth in flower beds and vegetable gardens will help keep weeds under control.

It's already heating up out there already so don't forget to hydrate and wear a hat.

Happy Gardening and Happy Spring

Camille

E-TIP OF THE MONTH: 12 Common Weeds + How to Remove Them

<http://www.rodalorganicle.com/garden/12-common-weeds-how-remove-them>

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH March

Ramon Diaz - Maintenance

Every month, Department managers elect an employee who follows our Staff Core Values and goes above and beyond in their work performance. In March, they chose Ramon Diaz for his hard work, reliability, and good attitude. Ramon is always working hard to ensure that the common areas are in spectacular condition, and his work certainly shows. Thanks Ramon!



What did you do before coming to the Great Northwest?

I have been doing landscaping and lawn care for almost 20 years.

What kind of work do you do here?

I do landscaping, lawn care, and maintenance. I make sure the common areas look nice for residents.

What is your favorite part about your job?

Just the whole job. I love it here. I like the people I work with. They are fun to work with, but we still get a lot done.

As a maintenance tech, you probably see a lot of parts of the Great Northwest. What is your favorite spot?

Kuwamura Park, Ridge Creek, and the soccer fields. I just like for the parks to look nice for the people who use them. It's nice to see families using the parks and enjoying them.

What do you like to do when you are not at work?

Barbeque! I barbeque on Saturdays and Sundays: chicken, pork ribs, beef ribs, sausage... Whatever the family wants, I cook it.



Easter Egg Hunt

April : 10:45 AM
15 : SC SOCCER
FIELDS



pictures with the
EASTER BUNNY
\$5 per 4x6 print

SHARE YOUR STORY

Want to share a story about a friend, neighbor, or family member in the Great Northwest?

Send your story to communicate@greatnorthwest.org for a chance to be featured in our new member spotlight section of Passages.

Call Ashley Frolick for more information
210-681-2983 ext. 109

MONTHLY SECURITY ACTIVITY REPORT Activity from February 1 - February 28, 2017

Below is the list of calls/responses the Security Department made during February 2017. Abbreviations of sub-divisions are as follows: Silver Creek (S/C); Timberwilde (T/W); Ridge Creek (R/C); Village Northwest (VNW); Commons (C); and Emerald Valley (EV).

	SC	TW	RC	VNW	C	SCC	EV	TOTAL
Alarms	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Animal Complaints	11	0	1	2	0	0	4	18
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assist Public	16	0	2	3	0	0	9	30
Burglary Res/ Bldg	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Burglary Vehicle	1	0	2	2	0	0	2	7
Child - Missing	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Criminal Mischief	4	0	1	3	0	0	3	11
Criminal Trespass	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Deadly Conduct	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Deed Restriction	3	0	0	1	0	0	1	5
Disturbances	9	0	3	3	1	0	4	20
Lost/ Found Property	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Poss. Controlled Substance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public Intoxication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harassment - Threats	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Salesman/ Soliciting	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Suspicious Activity	5	0	1	1	0	0	4	11
Suspicious Pers./ Veh.	19	0	3	4	0	0	5	31
Thefts	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	4
Traffic Complaints	2	0	3	2	0	0	2	9
TOTALS	77	0	17	22	1	1	41	159

SECURITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICES REPORT Activity from February 1 - February 28, 2017

Below is the list of responses the security department made when assisting the public during February 2017. Abbreviations of sub-divisions are as follows: Silver Creek (S/C); Timberwilde (T/W); Ridge Creek (R/C); Village Northwest (VNW); Commons (C); Stage Coach Crossing (SCC) and Emerald Valley (EV).

	SC	TW	RC	VNW	C	SCC	EV	TOTAL
Alarms	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Facility Check	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	5
Lost/Found Animals	2	0	1	1	0	0	1	5
Jump Start Battery	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	3
Home/Veh. Lockouts	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Open Doors	4	0	2	1	0	0	3	10
Vehicle Lights Left On	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Welfare Checks	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
Out-of-Town	141	0	14	29	0	0	55	239
Special Watch	33	0	7	0	0	0	12	52
TOTALS	188	0	25	33	1	0	76	373

DEED RESTRICTION Activity from February 2, 2017 - March 2, 2017

Below is the list of calls/complaints to the Deed Restriction Department made during February 2, 2017 - March 2, 2017. Calls per day: 8-15. Correction Rate: 90%. Abbreviations of sub-divisions are as follows: Silver Creek (SC); Timberwilde (TW); Ridge Creek (RC); Sage Coach Crossing (SCC); Commons (C); Village Northwest (VNW); and Emerald Valley (EV).

Complaint	SC	TW	RC	SCC	C	VNW	EV	TOTAL
Nuisance	21	10	39	15	13	19	50	167
Inoperable Vehicle	29	0	2	0	0	7	23	61
Basketball Hoop	5	0	3	1	0	1	2	12
Fence/Garage Door	9	1	5	1	3	1	3	23
Overgrown Grass	60	20	41	18	21	23	85	268
Boats/ Trailers	3	1	3	0	0	1	8	16
TOTALS	127	32	93	35	37	52	171	547

ACC STATS

All exterior construction, additions, changes or alterations must be approved by an "Architectural Control Committee," as per section 5A.2-5A.9 of the deed restrictions.

February 2017

Street	Improvement	Value
Timberhurst	Painting the exterior of home	\$2,200
Timber Bark	Storage Shed	\$2,500
Timberwilde	Paint the front door	\$45.00
Ridge Bay	Storage Shed	\$3,000
Deer Village	Solar panels	\$29,000
Valley Cliff	Roof Replacement	\$6,000
Ridge Arbon	Enclosed Patio	\$1,000
Timberhurst	Storage Shed	\$600.00
Timber Loche	Roof, paint home, ramp	\$14,000
Valley Haven	A covered entry way	\$600.00
Ridge Place	A metal roof	\$16,300
	Total	\$75,245

For more information you can find a copy of the GNW deed restriction and exterior guidelines on the Great Northwest website or call DRACO at 210.681.2983 ext. 102.

DRACO • 210-681-2983 ext. 102

*Security Chief • 210-681-2983 ext. 114
secchief@greatnorthwest.org*

Security Officer • 210-681-6268

POINT OF VIEW — "Security was a great help to my family. They were very responsive and made us feel protected."

- Kenneth Rainbolt

THE PURPOSE OF MEMBERSHIP CARDS

by Roger Burton

Security Chief

As the weather gets warmer, more people are using recreational areas, meaning security officers are checking people for member ID cards. Please understand these recreation areas are private and not public property. GNW Membership ID cards help security officers identify whether an individual is authorized to use these recreation areas. Everyone over the age of 12 that lives here in the GNW is required to carry a membership card with them while using these facilities. These cards are issued to everyone once they move into the GNW, provided they come to the office to get one. As long as each resident has kept their membership assessments up to date and are in good standing with the GNW, they can get cards along with anyone over the age of twelve that resides at that house.

There is one exception. Anyone renting a home in the GNW must come to the main office (Lodge) and ask for a Delegation of

Rights form that must be filled out and signed by the homeowner. Once the

homeowner signs this form he or she waives rights to the tenants. The renters and their family members that reside at the home then will have the same access to all the recreation areas as long as they carry the membership cards with

them.

Each GNW resident who has a card must go to the GNW Office and get their membership cards validated with a current year sticker (17). If a person does not have a sticker or they are not a guest of a member with a card they will be asked to leave the premises.

In the past we have continuously had complaints that the majority of people in the recreation area are people who do not live in the GNW. Keep in mind, the policy states each GNW member with a card is authorized three (3) guests. Think about it for a minute. Let's say we have ten (10) GNW card holders and they all have three guests who live outside the GNW. That would be forty (40) people with only ten that are GNW members. Yes, that is a 3-1 ratio. Remember these policies are for GNW members.

It is your annual assessments you pay each year that allows for these recreation areas and facilities to remain in good condition. It is only fair we check for cards to protect your interest in the facilities. There is nothing more gratifying than to see the parks, courts, fields and facilities being filled with GNW members. This spring, go drive by the soccer field and see how the field is full of families watching their children play soccer or go by the parks and see parents watching their children have fun. You can then understand why your value of your property is better than most. Many people would love to have what you have. Let's take care of it.

Silver Creek Nature Park

by Roger Burton

Security Chief

Most people in the Great Northwest (GNW) have heard about the "Silver Creek Nature Park" and know this park is just one of a few greenbelts (flood control drainage areas) that run through our community. The Greenbelt runs from behind the GNW Lodge and goes all the way back to Tezel Road. The greenbelt was turned over to the GNW for the purpose of making it a nature park. All other greenbelts throughout the GNW are controlled by the city.

Many GNW properties back up to this area and some residents complain that there are people with their all-terrain-vehicles (ATV) and dirt bikes, or walking their dogs in the greenbelt.

Please understand that this is a nature park and residents use this park for recreational purposes. There are also no policies against Great Northwest members from using the park for ATVs, dirt bikes, or walking their dogs. A larger concern for security is making sure homeless people don't set-up camps in the greenbelt, and that people don't use it as a dumping area.

FROM
GOOGLE MAPS

The Silver Creek Nature Park is 13 acres and spans from the GNW Office to Tezel road.



Creepy Crawly Things - Know What to Look For in the Greenbelt

When someone says something like "Creepy Crawly Things", the first thing most people will want to do is run, run, and run. Those "creepy crawly things" are snakes and this is the time of year that all kinds of snakes come out. This is largely due to the warm and wet weather the spring and summer months bring. As we discussed above, the GNW has many greenbelts and our nature park runs through it. People and their children use this area for recreational purposes. Of course, kids also use it for taking shortcuts home. The parents of this community need to speak to their children about the dangers in the greenbelts. The greenbelts may have a large amount of snakes during the spring and summer

months.

Let's talk about the snakes that you may run across in this area. The most common snakes they will come upon will be the water moccasin (Cottonmouth), rattlesnakes, copperhead and coral snakes. The reason I bring these up first is because they are the poisonous ones. The most common non-poisonous snakes in the area are king snake, rat snake, grass snake and the milk snake. The king and rat snake are probably the best to have around, since they feed on all types of rodents and other snakes (they are the scary looking ones). If you see a snake while you're in the greenbelt, the best thing to do is stay away from it.

Parents with younger children, please monitor them closely if you take them out into the greenbelt. Younger children may try to touch or get close to snakes. For information about this subject, go to the Internet Search Engine and type: Snakes of Texas



PHOTO BY RENEE TOWNSEND
See the snake? Residents Renee Townsend and Connie Stallings spotted this snake blending in with a tree in the area.

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