



The Woodcreek Wind

July/August/September 2015

News for 'Our' Community

IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome

Dear Neighbors,
 The Woodcreek Neighborhood Association would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family. We hope you find Woodcreek, with its enthusiastic and committed residents, to be a place you will enjoy calling 'home' for a long time. The objective of the Woodcreek Neighborhood Association has been to foster a spirit of cooperation and camaraderie among residents while working to make our neighborhood one in which we can proudly live and raise our families. As you will see in our new newsletter, we have a lot of exciting events and opportunities happening at the city and neighborhood levels. We will be showcasing outstanding homes, yards, and residents of Woodcreek, as well as keeping readers informed of neighborhood plans and projects.

The newsletter is for and about Woodcreek residents. We want to showcase what *You* want to see. So please send us comments, images, articles, and accomplishments. They can be about a great yard or remodel, a school or group event, or a money saving tip.



We encourage you to become a member of the Woodcreek Neighborhood Association, a non-profit organization. Dues are only \$25.00 annually and go toward making your neighborhood a more enjoyable place to live.

We look forward to meeting you and your family in the near future. In the meantime, if there is anything we can do to assist you as a resident of the neighborhood, please feel free to contact any of the association officers or trustees.

Sincerely,
 Russell Tether
 President



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WORKING TOGETHER

We seek to accomplish our goals through the following programs:

- Continually assessing and responding to the needs of our neighborhood.
- Providing our residents with timely information on matters that affect our quality of life.
- Beautifying the entrances to our neighborhood with landscaping and signage.
- Organizing social events to promote community spirit.
- Encouraging adherence to the deed restrictions established for the neighborhood.
- Representing the interests of Woodcreek residents before the City of Carrollton.
- Coordinating neighborhood 'Crime Watch' activities.

The City of Carrollton is holding a photo contest of our community's favorite furry friends.

HURRY, ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5 P.M. SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015



Take a fun photo of your funniest furry friend to share with ALL of Carrollton!



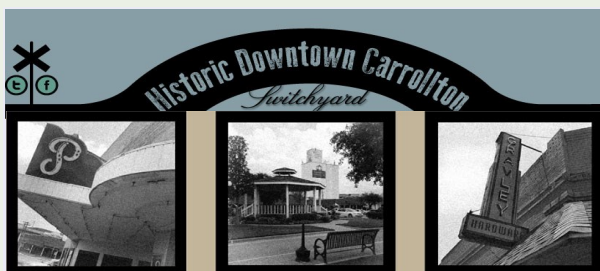
Proceeds to benefit

Carrollton Animal Services and Adoption Center

For complete details, go to:

photos@cityofcarrollton.com or

contact the City of Carrollton Marketing Services at
972-466-3596



Energetic and eclectic but full of quaint charm, Historic Downtown Carrollton has something for everyone in its beautiful town square. It is rich in tradition and has a wonderful variety of living, dining, and shopping options.

Come see us; we would love to give you a tour of the best kept secret in the DFW area!

UNIQUE

ONE OF A KIND

LOTS OF FUN

Concert on the Square

Saturday, July 18, 5-7 PM

Enjoy music on the newly renovated Square.

Storytime

C2 Cafe, Saturday, August 1, 10:30-11:30 AM and

C2 Cafe, Saturday, September 5, 10:30-11:30 AM

Children are invited to hear a story read to them.

"Who Let the Dogs Out?"

Saturday, August 15, 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Pet Friendly Event on the Square

Fight the Bite - How can I reduce my risk of getting West Nile virus?

Preventing mosquito bites is the best way to avoid becoming infected with the West Nile virus. Remember the "**Four D's**" of **Defend, Dress, Dusk to Dawn, and Drain**:

- **Defend** yourself by applying an approved mosquito repellent.
- Spray exposed skin and clothing with repellent.

(For information on choosing an appropriate repellent, go to: <http://cityofcarrollton.com/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=10157>)

- **Dress** in long sleeves and long pants when you are outside.
- Stay indoors from the period of **dusk through dawn**, times when infected mosquitoes are most active.
- **Drain** standing water in your yard; old tires, flower pots and clogged rain gutters are mosquito breeding sites.

Also very important to be sure that doors and window are sealed properly and that screens are in place to protect your home from intruding mosquitoes.

Treat standing water - City of Carrollton's Animal Services and Community Services work together to identify areas of standing water that may become breeding sites for mosquitoes. These sites include low spots on undeveloped property, blocked creeks and drainage easements and abandoned swimming pools. These areas are treated with a larvicide that will prevent larval mosquitoes from transitioning to the adult stage where they can transmit the West Nile virus. They use mosquito dunks for this application, a product available to the general public that may be purchased at your local hardware store.

It is important to note that they do not treat water standing on streets and sidewalks. This water is often disturbed by pedestrian and/or vehicular traffic and does not contain the organic material needed to make it a viable breeding site for mosquitoes.

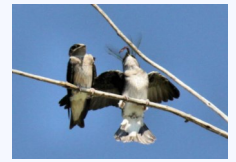
Free mosquito dunks are available to residents at Carrollton Animal Services Center (2247 Sandy Lake Road). Staff is only able to provide one package per resident, while supplies last.

For more information about the West Nile virus and prevention, visit www.cityofcarrollton.com/westnile.

Source: City of Carrollton.com



Can We Talk?



My name is Joleen. I live in Woodcreek, and I am a Purple Martin landlord.

I love nature and am so happy when it is Purple Martin time. These little birds migrate from Brazil and return each year in the month of February. I will tell you my story and then give you some facts about this family of birds that come to visit and raise their young in our country.

I tried for 3 years to attract little birds that are in the swallow family. I could see my neighbor put up his martin house and watch the birds come to his house. I put up a house and some gourds that they are supposed to love. I waited and waited and could not figure out what I was doing wrong. Well one day my waiting was over. I do not know what happened but I was happy and was not going to question the why of it all. Maybe a house had been taken down or maybe they just decided to try out my lodging. I got seven pairs that appeared at my site, I was delighted to say the least. I read all about the Purple Martins and even joined a local Purple Martin club that met on Thursday nights. I found a gentleman there who was willing to mentor me and help me get started on my colony. I was hooked.



I learned that I would have to be vigilant and keep the sparrows and starlings away as they are a natural enemy of the martins. I also learned that if it was below 50 degrees when the martins arrive early in February for over three days, I would have to supplement feed the birds with crickets. Oh, I watched the videos on how people were flipping crickets (that had been frozen and thawed) to the martins. I tried and tried but could not figure out how to get them to fly and catch the crickets that I was flipping to them. I then decided to lower my gourds and house and put the crickets on their porches so they could eat them. It worked and I felt relieved that they would not starve. I then decided that when the temperature was low I would put hand warmers in the gourds, under their nests of pine needles that I had supplied, to help them stay warm so they could survive. So the Purple Martins put the word out that the accommodations were pretty good here and soon we had a crowd.

I look forward every year to the arrival of the martin's season and then watch as they lay their eggs and watch as the babies grow and fledge. They sit and sing every day when they are here. I miss them when it is time for them to fly back to Brazil but know that if they survive they will return again next year. Now I will print some facts that I copied from the Purple Martin Association web site for anyone who might be interested to learn about setting up their own colony.

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Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) are the largest member of the swallow family in North America, measuring 7 1/2 inches (19 cm) long and weighing 1.9 ounces (55 grams).

Purple Martins spend the non-breeding season in Brazil then migrate to North America to nest. The pair-bond of the Purple Martin is monogamous. The male and female cooperate equally in building the nest out of mud, grass and twigs. The female lays two to seven pure-white eggs at a rate of one egg per day. The female incubates the clutch for approximately fifteen days, then the young hatch. The parents both feed the young continuously for a period of 26-32 days until the young fledge. The young continue to be dependent on their parents for food and training for an additional one to two weeks after fledging. It's not uncommon for the fledglings to return to their human-supplied housing at night to sleep during this period.

Martins, like all swallows, are aerial insectivores. They eat only flying insects, which they catch in flight. The major reason people fail to attract martins is that they place their martin housing incorrectly, or their site is inappropriate martin habitat to begin with. If any other species of bird is allowed to claim martin housing first at an uncolonized site, any martins that may come around are not likely to stay because they will be aggressively chased away. All birds set up territories around their nest sites and defend them against other birds. When [House Sparrows](#) or [European Starlings](#) lay first claim to martin housing at unestablished sites, they fill the compartments with their nests, then chase off investigating martins. At established colony sites, House Sparrows and Starlings will fight with nesting martins, kill their nestlings, and/or break eggs. The most common reason martins abandon their colony site is because predators have raided their nests.

continued on page 5

Do you have an ad, neighborhood information, or your good news for the next newsletter?

Send to info@woodcreekneighbors.org

Get FREE Vacation Home Check from City of Carrollton



The Carrollton Police Department Citizens on Patrol offers Vacation Home Checks to all Carrollton residents. While you are away on vacation, Volunteers from the Carrollton Police Department Citizen Patrol will periodically stop by your home to check for open doors, broken windows or any other suspicious circumstances. This is another added security precaution you can utilize to safeguard your possessions and assure your peace of mind while you are on vacation. This is a free, but invaluable service provided by the Carrollton Police Department. Find the form to request a vacation check at <http://cityofcarrollton.com/index.aspx?page=1504>. If you have any questions please contact the Crime Prevention Unit at 972-466-4786.

Homeowner realizes that the Police Department and the City do not assume any liability for loss or damage to property during specified dates. Homeowner understands there is no guarantee that vacation checks will be done daily, only when volunteers are available.

RECENT EVENTS Woodcreek Drainage

The spring rain really made a usually "trickle" of a creek become a small swollen river-like affair. Because the City of Carrollton and the Railroad had previously made drainage improvements, the creek did not get out of bounds in Woodcreek.



Useful Tip — You can find a checklist of recommended items to put in a Emergency Supply Kit at www.TexasPrepares.org

Is Your Home Looking A Bit **Ruff?**
We Can Help.

Visit www.SouthernPainting.com Or Call Us @



(972) 596-2222
Free Estimates!

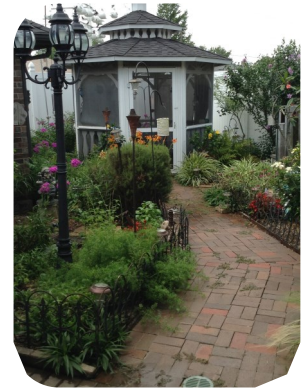
Interiors * Exteriors * Repairs * Color Consultations * Residential * Commercial

SHOWCASE OF WOODCREEK

A great yard on Buckskin Circle

Please send in your great yard images for the newsletter. Can include before and after images of great yards and interiors.

Send to: info@woodcreekneighbors.org.



Purple Martins - Cont'd from page 4

It only takes one foray up a martin pole by a snake, raccoon, or squirrel, or a few visits by an owl, hawk or crow, to cause all the surviving birds to abandon the site. Since martins feed solely on flying insects, they are extremely vulnerable to weather conditions that affect insect availability. Prolonged bad weather, such as rain, snow, cool temperatures, and/or heavy winds, all reduce or eliminate insect flight. If poor weather persists for more than 2 or 3 days, martins begin to die of starvation. Heat waves and droughts can also be problems. When air temperatures go above 100° F. for many days, nestlings can perish from overheating. Prolonged drought can also adversely affect insect numbers. Some weather conditions may contribute to a population explosion of external parasites normally found in martin nests, including fleas, nest mites, and blowfly larvae. I do put sevin dust in each nest when I place the pine needles in before the arrival of my martins, this has worked for me to keep them free of any mites or fleas.

I hope you have enjoyed my story about the Purple Martins; I drink my cup of tea in the mornings outside watching my martins sing and talk to each other. We also eat dinner in the gazebo some evenings, watch them feed the babies when they hatch, and get brave enough to get out on the porch and take flight. I say so long, see you next year.

by Joleen Cornelius

Woodcreek Wind MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the new version of the Woodcreek Wind, quarterly communication tool for our residents. The Woodcreek Neighborhood Association is working to help keep our neighborhood clean, safe, and well informed.

Speaking of being informed, we solicit your input for the next publications. Has your child received an award? Have you and your mate observed a notable wedding anniversary? Have you made home improvements where you can share "before and after" pictures with your neighbors? We invite you to share information using info@woodcreekneighbors.org. Not every photo or story can be shared but we'll do our best.



Thank you for your participation and support of the neighborhood association, and please offer to volunteer for our events.

President: Russell Tether



To sell or buy your next house, call Julie Stauss

Julie Stauss, Realtor

214-808-8864 call or text

JulieStauss@ebby.com

Specializing in Carrollton and surrounding areas

As a Carrollton resident of 14 years, I am passionate about where I live.

My commitment to my clients is to make sure their experience in real estate is successful as well as rewarding.

Contact me with any of your real estate needs.

Call or text me at 214-808-8864.

5013 W. Plano Parkway Plano, TX 75093

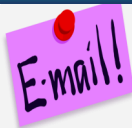


Woodcreek Shares

TOP 10 LIST

Reasons to become a Woodcreek Volunteer

- 10) Protect your self-interests. Protect your property values and maintain the quality of life in your community.
- 9) Correct a problem.
- 8) Meet your neighbors, make friends, and exchange opinions.
- 7) Give back. Repay a little of what's been done for you.
- 6) Advance your career. Build your personal resume by including your community volunteer service.
- 5) Have some fun. It's fun accomplishing good things with your neighbors.
- 4) Get educated. Learn how it's done—we'll train you.
- 3) Express yourself. Help with creative projects like community beautification.
- 2) Earn recognition. If you would like a little attention or validation, your contributions will be recognized and celebrated.
- 1) *We need your input!!!*



We want to keep you informed via email.

Please send us a quick note so we will have your email address.

Include your name and street address, too.

Questions? Contact Woodcreek at info@woodcreekneighbors.org



We want to hear about your GOOD NEWS

Are you celebrating graduations, anniversaries, births, or any special awards?

What about important information to help households or businesses in our neighborhood?

C'mon share your news in the next issue of Woodcreek Wind

Simply email your information to: info@woodcreekneighbors.org

Limit is 50 words. That's about 250 characters including spaces.



GET FIT
getfitcarrollton.com

Join the new

Get Fit Program and get rewarded for fitness! Ages 16+ can sign up with any 12-month membership for an additional \$10 a year and receive exclusive Get Fit member benefits including:

Free dri-fit t-shirt with registration

Earn points for fitness gear

Special members-only events

Get Fit goal tracking

Free trial classes

And more!

WOODCREEK HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

2015 - 2016 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The Woodcreek Neighborhood Association (WNA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life and enhancing the value of over 300 homes in our Woodcreek communities. In the last year, the WNA has addressed the following:

- Improved entrance signage • Common area landscaping and maintenance • Homeowners issues
 Neighborhood Lighting • Street and Sidewalk issues • Social and community events

HOWEVER, WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!

Woodcreek is where you live, raise your children, perhaps retire. What more valuable assets could there be? So **stay connected!**

First, please join **YOUR Woodcreek Neighborhood Association**. Fill out this form and return it with you check for \$25.00 (\$15.00 for renters) to:

**Woodcreek Neighborhood Association,
 P.O. Box 110776, Carrollton, Texas 75011-0776**



Finally **VOLUNTEER!!!** We need your participation in the following areas:

Communications/Social Media – It’s how we keep everyone up to date! Look for Woodcreek on www.nextdoor.com to learn more.

Membership – The more members, the more the Woodcreek voice is heard by Carrollton on issues like streets, crime and improvements.

Social Events – We need creative and fun volunteers to plan social events.

Volunteer one hour. That's it. If you like it, do more. If not, don't. Your help *will* make a difference.

PLEASE RETURN BOTTOM PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Name:		_____ Do Not include in directory
	Last, First	
Spouse/ other adult:		_____ Do Not include in directory
	Last (if different), First	
Home Phone:		_____ Do Not include in directory
Other Phone:		For Crime Watch use ONLY
Email #1:		For member notifications ONLY
Email #2:		For member notifications ONLY

Woodcreek Neighborhood

We're on the web!

www.woodcreekneighbors.org/

BE SURE TO SAY "THANKS" TO OUR Newsletter Sponsors

Julie Stauss, Realtor-Ebby Halliday (see on page 5)

Southern Painting (see on page 4)

The Woodcreek Wind is a publication for residents of Woodcreek and is published quarterly. The newsletter is distributed to 342 Woodcreek households.

The newsletter is produced by a volunteer team of neighborhood residents.

A limited number of advertisements are accepted. A standard business-card sized ad is \$15. Ads for adult-oriented establishments are not permitted, and all advertisements are subject to review by the newsletter editor.

Advertising Rates

\$15 for 1/8th page (business card size)

\$30 for 1/4 page

\$50 for 1/2 page

\$95 for Full page

For more advertising information,
email Lora at clor28@ymail.com

Helpful Contacts

Woodcreek Website

<http://woodcreekneighbors.org/>

City of Carrollton Interactive City Map

<http://www.cityofcarrollton.com/maps/>

Police Emergency 911

Woodcreek Board 2014-2015

- ◇ Russell Tether (President)
- ◇ Carey Crawford (Vice-President)
- ◇ Ted Bellah (Secretary)
- ◇ Mark Neill (Treasurer)
- ◇ Matthew Messner (Trustee)
- ◇ Jon Ortega (Trustee)
- ◇ Claudette Wolfe (Trustee)