

# The Woodcreek Wind

Fall 2017



## President's Letter

Russell Tether

Wow, time has flown by this year! It seems like yesterday that we were celebrating the Fourth of July. Now, Thanksgiving and Christmas are upon us. Be on the lookout for information about the upcoming Santa Parade/Food Drive and the Christmas light competition.

It's been a busy and successful year for your Woodcreek Neighborhood Association (WNA) Board. Here are some of this year's accomplishments and plans for the future:

- Grant approval for new signage at the Woodcreek north entrance. The new sign will be installed this winter.
- Erosion management along the Hutton Branch Creek. Rocks have been placed along the creek to curtail the erosion. Renovation of the creek through Woodcreek is included in the upcoming bond package.
- Study of ways to eliminate cut-thru traffic from Kelly Boulevard to the commercial centers off of Driftwood.
- Increased security measures for Woodcreek entrances and back alleys.
- Plans for fence construction along the railroad tracks to prevent intruders from coming into our neighborhood.
- Completion of a cost study on the repainting of the lamp posts throughout Woodcreek 1 & 2. We will consider painting the posts in 2018 after the sign project is completed.
- Significant increase in membership at all levels. It is your support that allows the Board to address issues affecting our neighborhood. The time to join or renew your membership in the Woodcreek Neighborhood Association is coming soon. Join us!!

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As you can see, we have been working hard to beautify our neighborhood and improve the quality of life in Woodcreek. Happy Holidays neighbors!

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## Holiday Cheer in Woodcreek

### SANTA PARADE AND FOOD DRIVE – December 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 am

Santa and his elves will collect non-perishable food for Metrocrest Social Services along the parade route. Please let us know if you'd like to join the parade on foot, or on wheels. The parade route and more details will be provided in an email soon. Please contact Jon Ortega at 972-417-8840 or by email at [j.e.o@mac.com](mailto:j.e.o@mac.com) if you'd like to be part of the parade, or if you can help. Woodcreek residents have been very generous in the past, and we hope to provide a full truckload of food again this year. We'll expand the parade route to include more



streets in Woodcreek and end the parade at the north cul-de-sac in Woodcreek North. We won't gather at the end of the parade. Rather, we'll have stops along the parade route to take photos of kids with Santa. There would be two photo stops in North Woodcreek and two in South Woodcreek.

### **WOODCREEK CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST**

WNA will give prizes for homes that show exceptional holiday spirit. Commemorative Christmas ornaments will be given to the top two homes on both the north and south side of the creek. The judging will take place on the evening of December 17th. We look forward to another beautiful Christmas season in Woodcreek!

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## **Woodcreek Neighborhood Wins City Grant**

Al Overholt

Our request to the city for a Neighborhood Matching Grant was approved. Thanks to Liz

Messner for a very professional presentation to the city Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Phase one of the project, to install energy efficient LED light fixtures on the walking bridge across the creek, has been completed. The new fixtures focus light directly on the bridge and reduce spillover into the neighborhood.

They will also reduce our electric bill and the need to regularly replace burned out bulbs. They are controlled by a photosensor so the bridge will always be lit during evening hours. Stop by and check them out.

The second phase of the grant will be to improve the landscaping at the Woodcreek entry and install a new monument sign. On October 21<sup>st</sup> we held our annual meeting and celebrated our project kickoff with an Oktoberfest meal at the Woodcreek entry. We were excited to have Mayor Kevin Falconer join in the fun. Before the meeting we had a contractor trim the entry trees to improve visibility of oncoming traffic for



drivers exiting onto Kelly Blvd. After the meeting everyone put in some sweat equity for the project by gathering and stacking the trimmed branches. Thanks to all of the volunteers.



Design of the new monument sign specifications is in progress at the city. It will then go out for bid. We anticipate construction will begin sometime after

the first of the year. Next spring, we will be requesting residents to volunteer their time to assist in removing the old sign and landscaping and install new landscaping. This will satisfy our commitment to the city to foster community involvement and contribute 1/3 of the grant project cost.

# Woodcreek Neighborhood News

## CREEK UPGRADES – Public Works Department proposes \$2 Million Investment

During the first week of November, the city spent several days with a backhoe filling washouts and clearing silt along the creek adjacent to Kelly Blvd. Additional work is needed to replace a missing section of the pilot channel and to address silting of the creek bed and erosion of the channel throughout Woodcreek.



Public Works has proposed a \$2M project as part of the upcoming bond election to address the creek infrastructure needs in the Woodcreek neighborhood and near Trinity Mills Rd. The election is tentatively planned for May 2018.

The Woodcreek Neighborhood Association (WNA) is closely monitoring the progress of the proposal and lobbying to have it included in the bond election. Carrollton has a long tradition of seeking voter approval of planned major projects to assure they are addressing community needs. Approved bonds will only be sold over an approximate five-year period if current economic conditions allow. We encourage residents to support the bond election.

## WOODCREEK CUT-THRU TRAFFIC



### The WNA Board seeks your help to reduce cut-thru traffic on Woodcreek.

The shopping center at the SE corner of Driftwood and Trinity Mills has requested removal of the Driftwood turn restriction into the shopping center. The request is on the agenda for the Carrollton Traffic Advisory Committee (TAC) on **December 11 at 7pm** in the City Hall council workroom 1945 E. Jackson Road.

#### Proposals to reduce cut-thru traffic on Woodcreek:

- 1 Maintain the turn restrictions on Driftwood.
- 2 Have the TAC request increased police enforcement.
- 3 Install a “NO THRU TRAFFIC” sign at the Woodcreek entry.

## What you can do?

**Sign the Petition** Contact Jon Ortega at 972-417-8840 to assist with traffic counts at the commercial driveways.

**E-mail comments** to the Board at [info@woodcreekneighbors.org](mailto:info@woodcreekneighbors.org) for submission to TAC on December 11th.

**Attend the TAC meeting** on December 11<sup>th</sup> at Carrollton City Hall – Council Briefing Room.

**ACT NOW!** traffic on Woodcreek will only get worse as the shopping center vacancies fill up.

## WNA Board Vacancy – Say Yes, it’s Easy

Carey Crawford, WNA Vice-President, is moving back home to Mississippi along with his wife Patti. We thank Carey for his dedicated service to our community and we wish the Crawfords well on their new adventure. Matthew Messner has agreed to step into the role of Vice-President to fill the open officer position vacated by Carey. Thus, Matthew’s role of Trustee is open.

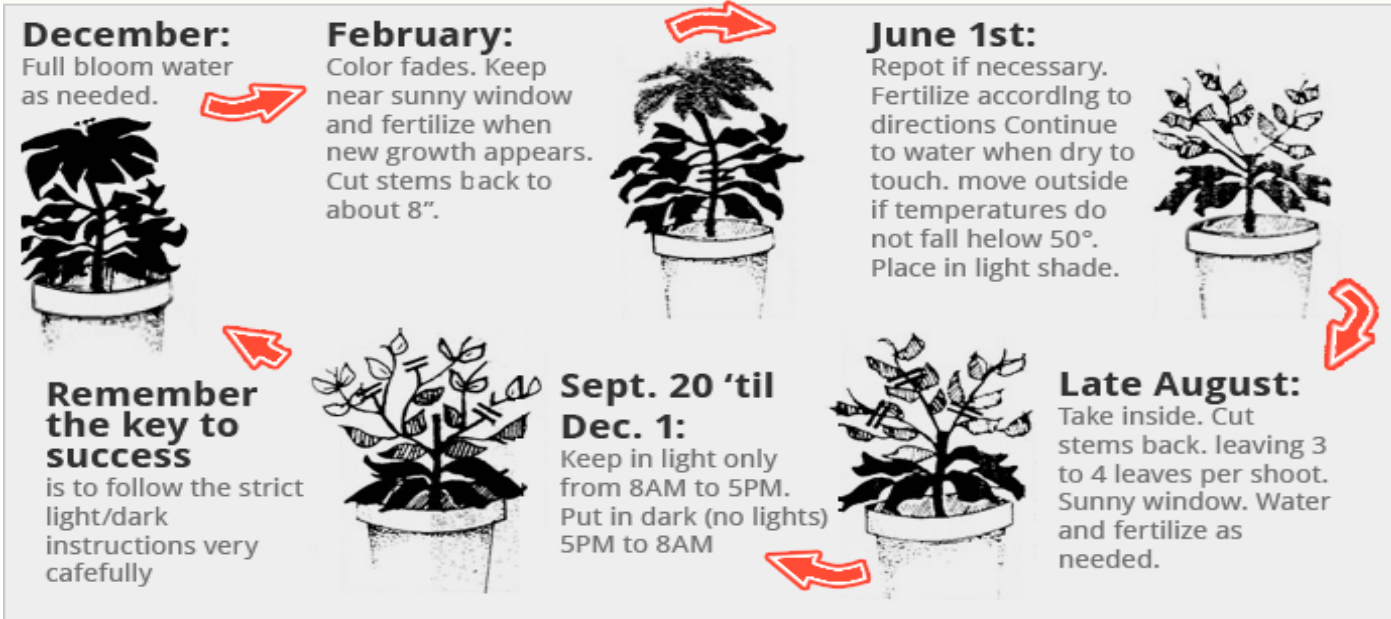
I ask you to step-up and join the board. The commitment to serving as a Trustee is reasonable. The Board meets monthly for a couple of hours. Most business is handled at the meetings or by email. As a Trustee, you’ll be asked to help in whatever way you can. Your fellow board members will help you learn the ropes and give you time to choose how you want to make a difference in our community.

Please consider joining the Board team! **Say, ‘Yes, I’ll do it!’** by emailing Russell at [russell@russelltether.com](mailto:russell@russelltether.com). He’ll be happy to answer any questions you may have.



# History of the Poinsettia

The poinsettia is a native plant of Mexico and originated in a rather limited region near present day Taxco. Long before the arrival of Europeans, the Aztecs of Central Mexico cultivated the plant and called it



Cuetlaxochitle. Because of its brilliant color, the poinsettia was a symbol of purity to the Indians. It was highly prized by Kings Montezuma and Netzahualcoyoti, but could not be grown in their capital, which is now Mexico City, because of the high altitude climate. The Aztecs also had practical uses for the plant. They made a reddish-purple dye and a medicine for fever from the plants latex.



placed it tenderly at the feet of the Christ Child, and then there was a miracle! Pepita's ordinary weeds burst into brilliant red blooms! They were called Flores de Noche Buena, Flowers of the Holy Night.

The legend of the poinsettia dates back to a Christmas Eve long ago... There was a little Mexican girl named Pepita who was very sad. Pepita wanted more than anything to give a fine present to the Christ Child at the church service that evening. She was very poor and had no gift to present. As Pepita walked sorrowfully to church with her cousin, Pedro, he tried to console her. "Pepita," he said, "I am certain that even the most humble gift, given in love, will be acceptable to His eyes."

Joel Roberts, a Southern plantation owner and botanist, was appointed the first United States Ambassador to Mexico (1825-1829). While visiting Taxco, he was impressed with the brilliant red flowers he found blooming during December. He had some of the plants sent to his home in Greenville, South Carolina. They did well in his greenhouse and he distributed plants to his horticultural friends. The botanical name, *Euphorbia pulcherima*, had already been given by a German taxonomist in 1833. The common name, poinsettia, however, has remained the accepted name in English speaking countries. Today, the poinsettia is not only the most popular Christmas holiday plant, but is the number one flowering potted plant in the United States.

Pepita gathered a bouquet of common weeds from the roadside and entered the church. As she approached the alter,



# Coming Events

## **An Old-Fashioned Christmas .....Friday, December 1; 6:00 - 8:30 pm**

Location: A.W. Perry Homestead Museum, 1509 N Perry Road, Carrollton

Bring the whole family to this popular celebration! Victorian carolers and Santa Claus will be spreading holiday cheer. Enjoy cookies and ornament making at our annual event to welcome the season! Walk through the historic 1909 home to see its festive decorations. Informal tours available throughout the evening. For more information, visit [www.cityofcarrollton.com/museum](http://www.cityofcarrollton.com/museum)

## **Santa on the Square.....Saturday, December 2; 8:30 am - 4:00 pm**

Location: Downtown Carrollton, 1106 S. Broadway St.

Grab your stockings and your Santa hats for a fun and festive event and Kid's Fun Run. Stick around for our FREE event which includes a picture with the big guy inside the Gazebo on the Square and a chance to see a live reindeer. Also, take care of that Christmas shopping list in the Downtown shops and boutiques or grab a bite to eat at one of the many eclectic restaurants.

Santa on the Square Schedule:

Race Day Check-In and Registration 8:30-9:15am

Kid's Fun Run: 9:30am

Pre-Registration by 11/30: \$12 (Register here)

Race Day Registration: \$15

Pictures with Santa: 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (FREE)

Live Reindeer: 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (FREE)

## **Coffee with a Cop .....Saturday, December 2; 9:00 am - 11:00 am**

Location: Chick-fil-A , 2652 Old Denton Rd.

Come meet the new police chief and get of the new 'In It Together' window stickers. Come and go as your schedule allows and meet the men and women of The Carrollton Police Department.

## **Brookhaven Bell Choir.....Saturday, December 9; 3:30 pm**

Everyone's favorite ringers return to Josey Ranch Lake Library (1700 Keller Springs Rd). Enjoy a concert of holiday favorites, old and new, presented by the Brookhaven College Handbell Choir, under the direction of Bonnie Riddle. Doors open at 3 pm.

## **Santa Parade/Food Drive .....Saturday, December 10; 10:00 am**

## **Woodcreek Parade of Lights.....Saturday, December 17; at dark**

**Woodcreek Neighborhood  
Association**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
2017-20178**

**President:** Russell Tether

**Vice President:** Matthew Messner

**Treasurer:** DeWayne Tallmon

**Secretary:** Claudette Wolfe

**Trustee:** Angela Frohlich

**Trustee:** Jon Ortega

**Trustee:** Open

**Government Liaison:** Al Overholt

**Activities Committee:** Karl Halder

**Website:** Gary Wells

**Newsletter:** Liz Messner

**Helpful Information**

**Woodcreek Website**

[www.woodcreekneighbors.org](http://www.woodcreekneighbors.org)

**City of Carrollton Interactive City Map**

[www.cityofcarrollton.com/maps/](http://www.cityofcarrollton.com/maps/)

**City of Carrollton Telephone Hotlines**

Customer Service after 5pm & holidays

972-466-3425

(streets, sewers, water leaks, alleys, sidewalks)

**Fire, Police and/or Ambulance**

Emergencies 911

Non-emergencies 972-466-3333

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. 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

\$100 for Full page

For more advertising information, email [info@woodcreekneighbor.org](mailto:info@woodcreekneighbor.org)

