

The MEADOWSWATCH

[Crime Watch and Meadows Neighborhood Association News]

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The MeadowsWatch includes important alerts regarding North Central Dallas crime incidents as well as general updates on Meadows area issues and special activities.

Currently, over two-thirds of the households in the Meadows have signed up for free e-mail delivery of this newsletter.

If you are receiving *The MeadowsWatch* at your door but have E-mail access, you can reduce the paper clutter at your front entry by registering to have the news delivered instead to your e-mail inbox.

Your information is protected and never shared with any other organization or any business. It's free, easy and quick. Send both your home address and your e-mail address to meadowswatch@swbell.net or visit www.themeadowsna.org . Questions before you sign up? Call 214-890-6887 and leave a message. We'll get back in touch with you. Door to door delivery is dependent on the weather and the schedules of the block volunteers, who have households and careers to manage. Please help us make their jobs easier and ours more efficient by signing up for e-mail!

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SPRING PLANT SALES and KIND DONATIONS SUPPORT NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECTS:

Living in the Meadows makes us all members of the Meadows Neighborhood Association. Since we do not collect membership dues, we rely on the fall and spring bedding plant sales to raise funds to cover brick wall maintenance, insurance, median landscaping, printing costs for announcements, emergency alert signs, the website, the telephone voice message center and various other activities and projects. We are also grateful for donations that help cover the associated costs.

We want to extend our appreciation and thanks to all of you who participated in the April plant sale and to the volunteers who gave their time to help make it a success.

We also wish to thank residents who kindly sent in donations to support neighborhood projects which are focused on maintaining the Meadows as a pleasant and desirable residential area.

"Suggested" yearly membership donations are \$35. A number of you sent contributions following the last newsletter and your generosity is greatly appreciated! Meadows volunteers also routinely absorb some costs out of their own pockets. If you would like to "chip in" and add your support to efforts to maintain and enhance the quality of living in this area, please consider a donation to the Meadows Neighborhood Association. Even \$5 or \$10 will be gratefully received!

Donations can be sent to The Meadows Neighborhood Assoc., P.O. Box 12865,

Dallas TX, 75225-0858. If you would like more information about the Neighborhood Association, visit www.themeadowsna.org or call 214-890-6887 and we will get printed info to you.

READ ON FOR MEADOWS NEWS.....

BLOOMS AND BUDS BEAUTIFY BOEDEKER! Colorful flowering plants are being added to the median and weeds are being removed by the Beautification Committee members Lynn Sloan, Keith Kinney and Meadows volunteers. Our *ad hoc* "Boedeker Brigade" (residents who walk by and pick up bits of trash or pluck a few weeds) have been seen giving the island garden a little TLC. If you are a gardener who recognizes the plants and the weeds, and might enjoy meeting up with other like souls, please consider joining us in this enjoyable effort to maintain the median. Under consideration is the scheduling of "Weedless Wednesdays" or "Spruce-up Saturdays" where we meet at the median for 15 minutes and check to see if it needs attention. If you'd be interested, contact 214-890-6887, or meadowswatch@swbell.net. Meanwhile, enjoy the new view and thanks to all who have made it possible!

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MEADOWS ANNUAL MEETINGS have been scheduled and are coming quickly. The **Annual Social** will be held at 2 p.m. this Sunday, May 4th at the pavilion at Franklin Middle School. If you're driving, enter Lakehurst from Hillcrest and you'll see the Meadows activities between the parking lot and portable buildings on the north side of the street. We're planning on enjoying some ice cream and hope to have a visit from big fire truck. This family-friendly afternoon event is an opportunity to "meet 'n' greet" other Meadows residents and to discuss neighborhood topics, committee activities and the upcoming elections in a casual atmosphere. Walk, stroll, cycle, jog or motor on up and we'll see you there! **Get together and get active with your Neighborhood Association and Meadows friends!** **THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS** will be Wednesday, May 7th at 7 p.m. in the Hillcrest High School library. If you would like to meet your neighbors and get involved with activities that benefit our neighborhood, please let us know. There are many positions available, including president, as John Baker is stepping down after many years dedicated to the association. **It's not a big time commitment and you'll enjoy the opportunity to form new friendships.** The elected officers are: president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, as well as two at-large board members. There are a number of committee chair positions that are also [open](#). The association is only as great as you make it, so please consider nominating yourself for a position. You can submit a nomination by [email](#) or by talking to any current officer. Names and contact information are shown on the website, and you can also call 214-890-6887 to request info. **Be sure to watch your front door or your inbox for the upcoming announcement about the Social and the Elections.**

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CRIME WATCH UPDATE: A police report dated April 9 indicates that a Mimosa Lane home was targeted in a daytime burglary. Thieves accessed the back yard through unsecured gates and broke into the house through glass doors. Only a couple of items were taken so it seemed to be a "crash and dash" operation. It was speculated that the culprits may have been young and spotted an opportunity as they passed through the alley. The incident emphasizes the need to make yard and house as inconvenient as possible as burglary objectives. Moats filled with alligators come to mind, but short of that, sturdy,

tamperproof locks on gates can help to add a layer of deterrent inconvenience to a thief's day. [See the last page for crime reports for January – March.]

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FAST ACCESS TO FIRST WATCH: A crime watch volunteer has suggested that we add the First Watch Patrol to our cell phone speed dial lists, in case we spot any suspicious situations, persons or vehicles in the area. First Watch does accept calls from any Meadows resident who sees such things and judges that they warrant concern and investigation. The First Watch phone number is 214-630-9300. Do remember that if you see a crime in progress, call 9-1-1 first and then contact First Watch. Your eyes and ears can be a big help in making the neighborhood safer.

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VENOMOUS CRITTERS ON THE WEB: *MeadowsWatch* received messages regarding internet dangers that can make your day go down the sewer faster than you can say "delete." Problems include a potent virus that can terminate a computer's existence and a phishing scam which offers a \$500 Target gift card. Viruses and identity theft scams often arrive in email messages that claim the recipient is eligible for free merchandise, big discounts, free samples, trial offers, etc. Computers are invaded for personal information or targeted for destruction by viruses in messages that announce an electronic postcard or greeting card from a friend or family member. My own personal email address recently sent me an offer for Gucci, Prada, Versace, and Chanel. Not my line of work!

Protect yourself from these poisonous critters! Don't open any email or attachment unless you recognize the sender. Keep firewalls, anti-virus and anti-spyware programs up-to-date. Help safeguard your email address list by sending group emails out using the "blind carbon copy" (BCC) feature of your email program. When forwarding messages, delete all the other email addresses on the message. Friends, family and colleagues may be trustworthy, but it's not possible to know how secure their email is, especially when messages get forwarded all over the planet like chain letters. *MeadowsWatch* and I personally still receive forwarded emails with dozens of names and email addresses of the previous recipients on them. These are a profitable resource for spammers who pay others to obtain lists of email addresses.

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TAPPED- OUT TANKS AND PLATINUM PLUCKING -- Dallas area autos are rich resources for entrepreneurial thieves who are frequently draining the fuel through holes made in the bottom of the gas tank. Toyota vehicles are being cannibalized for the platinum in the catalytic converters. These crimes are occurring in commercial parking areas as well as residential neighborhoods. About all we can say is ***watch where you park.*** Ugh.

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ALLEY ACCESS CONGESTED BY CONTRACTORS: A Meadows couple on a cul-de-sac street had a recent run-in with a neighbor's remodeling company crew member when they tried to get to their garage by way of their usual alley entry. The contractor's truck was blocking the way. The worker was

evidently gruff as well as insistent that they would have to turn around and get to their garage from another direction and a more distant alley access. **There are various types of construction throughout the area at this time and it might be helpful for all of us to ask our contractors and service personnel to be as considerate as possible of the neighbors' needs for access to their property.**

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PROVIDENT LAND DEVELOPMENT DEMOLITION is in its last stages. Plans call for the former Lakeside (Willow Creek) Apartment and retail complex to be upgraded with luxury living areas and upscale office and retail space. Detailed information has recently been posted at our website, www.themeadowsna.org. If you cannot access the internet, please call 214-890-6887 and we'll get printed information to you.

The Meadows Negotiating Committee had several responses to its recent call for volunteers to participate in discussions with Provident Realty Advisors, along with the representatives from the Windsor Park and Glen Lakes neighborhoods and the city zoning office. The objective is to assure that the new land development will proceed in a way that will protect, maintain and hopefully enhance the local quality of life, property values and appeal to buyers for the three established residential areas. If you have an interest in being part of the committee, contact meadowswatch@swbell.net, call 214-890-6887 or contact the committee through our website.

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2008 1st quarter Meadows Crime Statistics summary from The Dallas Police Department --

Beat	Location	Date	Time	Offense
January 2008				
652	72** Lakehurst Drive	1/25/2008	5:50 pm	Burglary of a Residence
February 2008				
652	71** Glendora Avenue	2/14/08	5:00 pm	Criminal Mischief
652	71** Glendora Avenue	2/19/08	5:15 pm	Criminal Mischief
652	72** Mimosa Lane	2/19/08	5:30 pm	Criminal Mischief
652	71** Blairview Drive	2/20/08	9:00 pm	Criminal Mischief
652	73** Fieldgate Drive	2/22/08	8:00 pm	Theft
March 2008				
652	73** Fieldgate Drive	3/1/08	10:00 pm	Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle
652	73** Blairview Drive	3/25/08	12:43 pm	Mower taken off lawn service's trailer
652	72** Blairview Drive	3/28/08	10:30 pm	Disturbance; Handgun taken into protective custody

To all of you who have shared your time as volunteers and board members, we extend thanks and appreciation. Your enthusiasm, dedication, energy, and creativity have been much appreciated!

To those of you who have never taken the opportunity to volunteer, please consider joining the board or coordinating a committee. A complete list of open positions is available at www.themeadowsna.org or call 214-890-6887. The more of us there are sharing our talents, skills, experience and ideas, the better we can do! Please join us at the Social on May 4th to learn more and at the meeting and elections on May 7th. We look forward to seeing you!