

# Northwest Place Neighborhood News

## Spring and Summer 2008

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*Hello, Neighbor!*

*This newsletter is designed to inform and update you and all the other residents of 93 homes in the Northwest Place Neighborhood Association comprising **the Eugene Courts, the Cheyenne Courts, Old Faithful Court, Missoula Street, and Twin Falls between Cheyenne and Whippoorwill.***

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### **New Street-sign Toppers Installed!**

On Monday morning, May 19, the first of our new Northwest Place street sign toppers was installed at the corner of Cheyenne Street and Old Faithful Court. By the end of the workday, all nine of the signs had been installed by **Steve Nixon and Shane Harris** of the City of Irving Department of Traffic and Transportation.

NWPNA President and creator of the winning design **Van English** was lucky enough to catch Shane and Steve in action and snap a photo of them as they installed the sign at the corner of Cheyenne and Twin Falls.

All residents were mailed ballots and each adult member of each of our 93 households was invited to vote by phone, email, postal mail, or hand delivery on one of four designs. Designs had been previously solicited and submitted by NWPNA Vice President **Marty Evans**, by an anonymous graphic designer, and by Van English. Votes were counted by at-large members of NWPNA at the March 29 meeting and the winner was announced at that time.

We have one spare street-sign topper in case of damage. NWPNA is responsible for replacing or repairing any damaged signs.

Funding for the street-sign toppers came from a portion of our \$1,500 Community Partnership Grant. We would like to thank **Mr. Terry Waldrum and his designer Raphael at Waldrum Signs** of Irving for manufacturing the sign toppers; and **Mr. Robbie Ortiz, Traffic Operations Supervisor for the City of Irving** for personally picking up the signs from Van English and seeing to their expedient and expert installation by Shane Harris and Steve Nixon. Especially, we thank the neighbors who submitted designs, who voted for their favorites, and who have supported this important physical manifestation of our neighborhood pride.

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## Juneteenth in Irving

Also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, Juneteenth is an annual holiday or holiday observance in 26 states of the United States. Celebrated on June 19, it commemorates the announcement of the abolition of slavery in Texas. The holiday originated in Galveston, and for more than a century, the state of Texas was the primary home of Juneteenth celebrations. As of February 2008, twenty-six states now have Juneteenth celebrations. Irving's Juneteenth will be celebrated on **Saturday, June 14, from 4 to 8 p.m.** at the Jackie Townsell Bear Creek Heritage Center, 3925 Jackson Street. There'll be free food, a live DJ, a children's area, Heritage Museum tours, and more. **For more information, call 972.721.2519.**

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### ***THE GREAT FLAG CAPER***

The 15th annual Great Flag Caper will take place the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. This will be the first year to have *Northwest Place Neighborhood Association* listed with the other organizations participating in this patriotic event. We extend many thanks to the adults and students who donated money and distributed flags in 2007. We were all proud to see the results of their efforts!

We will need volunteers to place and then pick up the flags around Northwest Place and to donate funds to purchase flags. All money collected is used to purchase flags. Any donation amount is gratefully appreciated.

Please contact **Maggie Evans at 972-252-1972** for further information, to volunteer, or to make a monetary donation.

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### **More Fun on the Fourth**

*"Celebrating American Traditions"* is the theme of this year's Fourth of July parade in Irving. It begins at **9 a.m. near city hall**, travels east on Second Street to Lucille, then back west on Irving Boulevard. There will be a concert at Heritage Park following the parade plus complimentary watermelon, outdoor games, patriotic crafts, food concessions, and more. All activities are free.

*"Firecracker Fourth"* will be held at Williams Square around the beautiful Mustangs of Las Colinas. **The Irving Symphony Orchestra will perform at 8:30 p.m.**, followed by fireworks. The gates will open at 5 p.m. Music will be provided by local entertainers prior to the performance of the Irving Symphony Orchestra. **For information, call 972.831.8818.** Bring your lawn chairs or blankets for seating.

**Parking on the July 4 in the Williams Square garages will be \$5 per car.**

Food vendors will be on the plaza. You may bring your own food and beverages, which must be in clear containers; no coolers.

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT, OCTOBER 7, 2008

The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual National Night Out" (NNO), a unique crime-and-drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW), has been scheduled for October 7, 2007. This date will be observed by Texas only.

Previous years' National Night Out campaigns have involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities, and military bases worldwide. In all, more than 34 million people participated in NNO 2007.

National Night Out is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs;
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

So on October 7, please consider turning on your porch lights. If you have a front porch or lawn chairs, sit a spell and wave at the passers-by! Take a walk through the neighborhood with your pets and children if you have them. Speak to your neighbors and get to know each other. A cohesive, harmonious neighborhood where folks know each other is a deterrent to crime! National Night Out has proven to be an effective, inexpensive, and enjoyable program to promote neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships in our fight for a safer nation. Plus, the benefits our community will derive from National Night Out will most certainly extend well beyond the one night. For more information, visit <http://www.nno.org/nno/reg.html>

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## Remembering Our Neighbors

Joseph Frederick Beck of Irving passed away April 15, 2008. He was born on February 24, 1964, in Beaufort, South Carolina. He is survived by his mother Sue Beck of Irving; and brother and sister-in-law Lee and Laura Beck of Southlake, Texas. Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Brown's Memorial Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Darren Mechling officiating. Interment followed at Oak Grove Memorial Gardens. Please join us in expressing condolences to our neighbor Sue and her family.

Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Dennis M. Mergo was born in Lynwood, Pennsylvania, on March 23, 1928, and entered eternal life from his home on Missoula Street in Irving on February 25, 2008.

Denny graduated from Bucknell University in 1949. Following a long and rewarding career in the USAF, he retired after 23 years of service as a Lieutenant Colonel. He served in Korea and Vietnam and received numerous medals for his service.

Denny was truly one of the greatest guys you would ever meet, with personality plus: a man who never met a stranger. One of the first questions he would ask was, "Where are you from?" Somehow, he would know someone else from there or he had been there. Usually, it was someone he had served with in the service. Denny had a terrific memory. He was always interested in "gadgets," the wilder the better. One of his funniest was a "weather stick," which would rise or fall depending on the weather; he enjoyed giving them to his friends.

Surviving is his wife of fifty years, Patsy Mergo; daughter Dian Foreman and her husband Kenny, grandson Jace and granddaughter Kelcey, all of Elk City, OK.; daughter Cheryl Mergo of Houston; brother William Mergo and wife Pauline and their son Bill; brother-in-law Dan Rody and wife Frances and their daughters Shelly, Amber, and Jennifer.

Denny and Patsy are longtime members of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Irving. After Denny retired from the Air Force in 1971, they moved to Irving in January 1972.

Denny's burial was at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, February 28, 2008, at Dallas-Ft. Worth National Cemetery, Lane A. Memorial Service was at 1:00 p.m., Thursday, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Irving. The family received friends at the church following the service. Please join us in continuing to offer condolences to our neighbor Patsy and her family.

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<b>Get well soon, Anne Lind!</b>
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NWPNA Secretary Anne Lind suffered a serious fall and head injury on a recent trip to New Orleans. She is currently hospitalized at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. Relatives, neighbors, and friends are keeping watch over Anne and her home.

Anne is a lovely, generous, long-time neighbor who cares deeply for others. Please join us in wishing Anne a complete and speedy recovery to full health.

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## ***Neighborhood Updates and Reminders***

### **General-Membership Meeting**

On Saturday afternoon, March 29, we held a general-membership meeting of NWPNA on the patio of 3845 Twin Falls, the home of **Van English and David McGurk**. Our special guest speaker was **Larry Boyd, Chief of Police** for the City of Irving. He addressed many issues and entertained questions in his 45-minute talk, including code enforcement, parking and moving violations, the city's monumental reduction in crime, and the initiatives to improve Irving's apartment complexes.

Twenty-three neighbors attended the meeting, whose agenda included counting votes for the street-sign topper designs, a report on the Community Partnership Grant, and discussing dates for the neighborhood social (June 6).

We would like to thank Van and David for hosting the meeting at their home; **Willene Boyd** and David McGurk for counting the votes; **Maggie and Marty Evans** for preparing the mailing that announced the event and for providing refreshments; and **Anne Lind and Lynn Miller** for providing refreshments. We offer a special thanks to Chief Boyd for his interesting and inspiring presentation.

### **Neighborhood Social**

On June 6, 2008, the NWPNA enjoyed its first-ever neighborhood social at 3830 Twin Falls, with barbecue catered by Sonny Bryan's. Funding for this event came from our Community Partnership Grant. Supplemental food items and supplies were donated by neighbors. We enjoyed a brief presentation on native plants and green gardening by members of the Irving Parks and Recreation Board.

We thank all the neighbors who volunteered by bringing ice, tables, and other supplies to the event. Especially, we thank **Mr. Jack Singley**, Superintendent of the Irving Independent School District, for his kind permission to use the property at 3830 Twin Falls for the event. And finally, we thank NWPNA Treasurer **Mary Higbie** for planning and coordinating this enjoyable social occasion for the neighborhood.

### **Web Site**

Thanks to our Community Partnership Grant and to **Karen Whitley of StartSmartNow**, an Addison-based Web design firm, our neighborhood-association Web site is under construction and will be running within the week! Van English has provided all the initial text, photos, and graphic images, while Karen has registered us at **www.northwestplace.org** and is doing all the technical things to make the site function well and look beautiful. Features will include a calendar of events, forms for comments and questions, and email addresses for all board members. There will also be means by which to nominate and vote on Yard of the Month and other issues. Stay tuned!

### Vandalism

Please be aware that reports of minor vandalism have occurred in our neighborhood, specifically following the recent Memorial Day weekend. No significant damage has been reported; however, this is not to be taken lightly and the Irving Police Department has been notified and given photographs of the evidence. The best way to prevent future incidents and/or to stop them while they're in process is to watch out for each other. If you're going out of town, tell a trusted neighbor. Leave on some indoor or outdoor lights or put them on timers. If you have an alarm, arm it. Notify the police department by phone or by logging onto the Irving PD Web site and filling out the vacation form.

### Alley Pedestrians

Some of us are quite fortunate to have in our families attentive little canine creatures who let us know of each and every action that occurs near our properties. So when you hear dogs barking toward the alley behind your house, before you become aggravated at them for waking you up or drowning out your TV show, thank them, because you can pretty much rest assured that someone or something is out there. Just ask **Charlie and Rufus Boyd or Roscoe English McGurk**. Take a moment to investigate. You might meet a good neighbor and have a chance to catch up for a few minutes. Then again, you might see someone who doesn't live in our neighborhood. Use your best judgment and simply remain aware. Remember, we've had reports of minor vandalism, graffiti, broken landscaping materials, public urination, stolen tools and lawn-care equipment, stolen wallets, and stolen trash, and we believe most if not all of this has been committed by people who do not live in this neighborhood. We have crime-watch signs posted in our alleys. This means if we see a suspicious person or persons, or if we witness a crime in progress, it is our neighborly and civic duty to call the police. The non-emergency phone number for the **Irving Police Department is 972.721.2661**. Please use this number and NOT 911 if you don't have a genuine emergency.

### Parking

Chief Boyd addressed parking issues in his March 29 talk. We have our share of violations; however, this is improving. Please remember that if you risk parking on the street, you must park on the **correct side** of the street. **The right (passenger) side of your car must be on the curb side.** If you park with the left (driver's) side of your car at the curbside, you are in violation of a parking law. You are also endangering yourself and other drivers. While you are parked, particularly at night, the red reflectors of your taillights will be on the wrong side of the street. When you start to move away from your parking position, you will be heading against the flow of traffic. Please respect and observe this law. **Tickets of up to \$95 are issued for this violation.**

Remember also to **park no closer than 30 feet from a stop sign or 15 feet from a fire hydrant.** In addition, **if you park in a cul-de-sac, don't park "head-in,"** i.e., facing a property straight ahead. Park along the curb sideways, just as with any other curb. Garbage trucks, emergency vehicles, and other drivers have a hard time navigating a cul-de-sac when cars are parked head-in. These violations also carry fines.

For more information or to report a violation, please contact the **Irving Police Department at 972.721.2661.**

### **Trash, Recyclables, and Bulky Items**

Our trash pickup days are Tuesdays and Fridays. Trash to be picked up on these days can be set out **no earlier than 6:00 p.m. the night before**. Recyclables in blue recycling bags only are picked up every Tuesday.

Please know that if you put out your trash earlier than 6:00 p.m. the night before, or any other time outside the stated parameters of pickup times, this is a code violation and you are eligible to be cited and possibly fined.

Please know also that **only recyclable materials are allowed in the blue recycling bags**. If you put non-recyclable items—such as Styrofoam, for example—in the blue bag, the bag will not be picked up and you are apt to be cited and/or fined.

Bulky items, such as tree limbs, construction materials, and other discards are picked up by a special truck with a crane attached; therefore, these items are picked up on an as-needed basis and it is best to call and ask when the items will be picked up before you set them out. As of this writing, because of storms and so much tree-trimming, the trucks are running two to three weeks behind schedule.

For more information or to request a bulky-item pickup, call the **Irving Solid Waste Department at 972.721.8059**.

### **Code Enforcement**

Chief Boyd clarified some confusion for us at the March 29 meeting, specifically with regard to the fact that Code Enforcement is now part of the Irving Police Department. The chief explained that if a vehicle is parked on the street illegally or whose driver is committing a moving violation, the Police Department should be called. If a vehicle is parked on grass, is blocking a sidewalk, or is otherwise parked illegally off the street, Code Enforcement should be called.

As in the past, any violation concerning a house, a fence, a yard, or anything pertinent to a residential or business property that is off the street is within the jurisdiction of Code Enforcement.

For more information about codes and violations, call **Code Enforcement at 972.721.2371**. To report a code violation anonymously, call the automated answering service at **972.721.4949** and be prepared to give the address and nature of the violation.

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### A New Look for Tom Thumb

If you haven't lately been inside the Tom Thumb supermarket at Belt Line and Northgate, hurry on down there! Manager Jeff Dickson is overseeing a \$6-million makeover and the store is going to be beautiful. Before or after shopping, linger for a few minutes at the schematic on an easel near the southern entrance. There's already in place a beautiful new floral department with the greeting cards, party

supplies, and wrapping paper located conveniently adjacent. The branch office of Wells Fargo Bank has moved to the former magazine department. There's even going to be a Starbucks located right inside the store! The floor coverings, signage, and checkout stands are all new and much more functional. This is an excellent enhancement for our neighborhood, so when you have a chance, thank Jeff Dickson or anyone else who works at our local Tom Thumb.

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## *Welcome, New Neighbors!*

*Let's welcome heartily and hospitably to Northwest Place our newest residents:*

- **Mr. and Mrs. Lee Furness** are the proud owners of the beautifully renovated former home of the Peavys at **3502 Missoula Street** (corner of Twin Falls). You can see Lee almost every day working in his lawn.
  - **Mr. and Mrs. Michael Humphries** recently purchased and moved into the former Ferguson home at **3822 Eugene Court South**. Michael and Rachel are busy renovating this home as they prepare for the arrival of their first child in a few months!
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## **When Shall We Meet Again?**

We are required by the terms of our NWPNA By-Laws to have at least four (4) meetings of the general membership each calendar year. Counting the neighborhood social (if we are allowed to do that), we have so far met two times in 2008, which means we need to meet two more times between now and the end of the year. Please watch your email inboxes, calendars, and the new Web site for meeting announcements! We anticipate having one more meeting this summer and one or perhaps two in the fall.

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*Production and distribution of this newsletter is made possible by a Community Partnership Grant from the City of Irving, Texas, and charitable donations. All content was provided, written, and edited by members of the Northwest Place Neighborhood Association and verified with appropriate departments and agencies of the City of Irving. We regret any errors or misinformation that might be contained herein.*

*Please direct all comments, corrections, and inquiries to Van English, President, Northwest Place Neighborhood Association, at 972.795.4257 or vanenglish@gmail.com.*

*Northwest Place Neighborhood Association is a 501c3 nonprofit organization as designated by the Internal Revenue Service. It is recognized, sanctioned, and supported by the City of Irving Office of Corporate Communications, 825 West Irving Boulevard, Irving, Texas 75060.*

