

Woodland Hills



The Official Publication of the Woodland Hills Homeowner's Association

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April 2008

FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

I hope that this article will help relieve citizen concerns related to the recent house fire that occurred on February 18, 2008.

First, let me hasten to say that whenever large fires occur, there are often many bystanders that watch the progression of the fire and the firefighters as they attempt to bring the situation under control. This can often lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretations of the events as they unfold. Understanding that fact, as Fire Chief I normally take some time to gather the bystanders in a group to explain our procedures and why the firefighters do the things they do during the fire. I must apologize for not taking the time to explain these important aspects of firefighting at this particular fire. I don't know why I did not do so on that day – I just didn't. This usually takes the guesswork out of people's minds as to what was going on and why things worked out the way they did.

Clarification: Water is all-important when fighting fires that involve structures such as homes. The Pembroke subdivision has a minimum size of 6-inch waterlines throughout. Some of the lines entering the subdivision are more arterial in nature and therefore larger than 6 inch. The waterlines in Pembroke are more than adequate for firefighting operations.

Upon receiving the call in our 9-1-1 Communications Center (CC), the first caller stated that there was "fire coming out of the garage" at the home. A simultaneous second caller stated that the "whole garage was on fire at ..." (the address). Let me say two things about the situation thus far: 1) these callers were neighbors – no one was home at the house that was on fire. This gave the fire an enormous head start. 2) If there was already that much fire within the home, there was already much damage – damage that eliminates or drastically reduces the possibility of a good outcome for the building. Several callers

stated that the whole garage was on fire. That the two-car garage door was already gone is indicated by this statement. This information also indicates to those that know fire behavior that much of the interior of the home is already burning.

The Fire Marshal was the first on scene with size-up in which he stated, "The garage is fully involved with fire and the attic is heavily involved." When fire progressively moves from "contents" of the building to "structural components" of the building (wall studs, rafters, etc.), then it takes much more firefighting effort and time to gain control of the fire. Such is the case here. The first arriving fire engine had a 5-7 minute response time. This fire crew had water flowing within 2-3 minutes after arrival. They set a "blitzfire" device at the entrance to the garage and also attacked the fire with a hose line. A blitzfire is an unmanned master-stream device capable of delivering large quantities of water. At this point, let me hasten to say that a fire of this size is not a one-engine/one-crew fire. As you will remember, there were multiple fire crews and trucks utilized. This is a normal response. Additional crews/engines did not have to be called until the incident commander decided to go to a second alarm. Our normal response for an initial call to a structure fire is six fire companies (includes engines, ladder-trucks, and crews for each). Since they are coming from other fire districts, they obviously will not all arrive at the same time. But, they are all called at the same time – the time of the initial call-out. Additional alarms are often called for reinforcement and to aid in relieving initial fire crews as they tire.

You may have noticed the aerial devices (water streams from elevated ladder-trucks) – these are also master-stream devices. I mentioned the blitzfire earlier as a master-stream device. A deck-gun is usually mounted on top of a fire

(Continued on page 2)

THANK YOU NEIGHBORS!

To all of our wonderful friends and neighbors in Woodland Hills!

We would like to thank everyone for rallying around us during our devastating loss to house fire.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude for the incredibly selfless desire to help us get back on our feet by donating food, clothing, toiletries, paper goods, money, gift cards and of course, bathroom privileges. All of you have given us incredible courage to continue to move forward in our recovery. Thank you!

Presently, we have found refuge in a small furnished Bedford apartment but we hope that you will continue to see us in the neighborhood.

Gratefully,

The Fisher family

Don't want to wait for the mail?

View the Woodland Hills Homeowner's Association Newsletter on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com

Woodland Hills

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Fire Chief- (Continued from Cover Page)

engine (not a ladder-truck) and it also is a master-stream device. After the initial attack crew tried to make an offensive attack (going inside the building to attack the fire), any headway they were making was thwarted by the fact that the roof began to collapse. This is an extremely dangerous situation for firefighters and an evacuation of the building was ordered. This is when our tactics had to change from an offensive attack to a defensive attack (attack with water streams from outside the building). It's a time that incident commanders do not like, because they know that there is extensively more damage caused by the defensive attack. It is similar to a retreat. Yet, the possibility of losing firefighter lives during building collapse is of paramount importance. We will risk our lives to save another life or make a rescue. We will take serious risks to protect property, but we will not risk firefighter lives unnecessarily to save property.

The water supply issue was probably misunderstood some time after initiation of the defensive tactic. I mentioned "master-streams" earlier. We were flowing three master-streams at the same time. As long as the water system can handle it, we will flow whatever amount of water we need to bring the fire under control. We were able to flow these three master-streams without damage to the system. However, when we elected to put a forth stream in place from the ladder-truck in front of the structure; we knew the water would have to come from another hydrant. These facts were stated between companies and over the radio. This is probably the point at which bystanders thought we had water problems. Not so, but I can see where the lay person could get that impression from the vernacular used in the heat of battle on the fire-ground. We were using all the water from the original hydrant, but that is normal. And, as I said, why wouldn't we use every drop possible to control the fire? Normal procedure is to use multiple hydrants for additional fire streams.

I believe some people are concerned about the number of large fires occurring in Woodland Hills. Statistically, there are not an unusual number of fires for your subdivision. In fact, the number is very small. One thing to remember though, as buildings age, they become more vulnerable to fire. One major issue that has changed for the better – there is a significant reduction in the number of wood shingled homes.

I hope this clears up any misunderstandings as stated at the beginning of the article. However, if I have missed something you were wondering about, or if you have any further questions, I am at your disposal.

Woodland Hills Homeowner Association Email Address

The Woodland Hills HOA has established an email box at hoa_woodlandhills@yahoo.com. Since the newsletter comes out only once a month, we needed a way to communicate more frequently with the neighborhood. Please feel free to email the HOA with any questions you might have, feedback, or concerns. In addition, if you just want to know what is happening, send an email with Update in the subject line and an automated response will go out with all of the latest HOA news. This should help tide us over between newsletters.



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Woodland Hills

WHA GARAGE SALE!!

Saturday, April 19th

8:00am - Noon

Our semi-annual garage sale is upon us! The date is Saturday, April 19th from 8am to noon. We will be posting signs at all entrances to Woodland Hills and also posting the garage sale in "Craig's List".

We hope to get this information out to everyone faster than the newsletter via our WHHA Block Captains. If you do not have a Block Captain, perhaps now is the time to think about volunteering just a small amount of time to help fill the Block Captain positions. We need more to meet the city requirements for "model neighborhood" status – which of course, helps to maintain and increase our property values for the neighborhood.

The next garage sale will be in late September timeframe. So, if we've missed you this time, start your attic and closet cleaning now for the next round!



Neighbor News

We would like to publish YOUR news too! If you would like to announce births, graduations, weddings, military deployment, military return and such type of news, please send a note to helenharvey@att.net. We'd love to share the stories of the people who make up our community.



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Neighborhood Outreach

Many thanks to those of you who contributed to the assistance fund for the Fisher family. We are still collecting for gift cards and continue to deliver to the Fisher family as donations are received. Over \$300 was raised last month to assist the family. Please contact Janeece Garlish or Janet Balke to contribute.



Recent Improvements

We would like to keep you apprised of the small things you may not notice as you drive through our neighborhood.

Recently, all the wrought iron fences were sanded and repainted. This is a lengthy, tedious process but now the fences look much fresher and well maintained. The final stretch of fence to be painted is along the bridge span, which was delayed to allow for fence repairs before painting.

Also, the well pump in the pond/park area has been fixed. The creek pump is pending repair and the timer for the fountain is being reset.

Finally, the brick columns on Martin Parkway have been repaired and The Lawn Firm is scheduled to clean up branches and debris in the park.



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Woodland Hills

Landscape - April 2008

Submitted by Ron Kerwin

Frost possibilities are gone. It is time to get outside and plant those flowers and vegetables. Everybody that enjoys yard work loves this month. The temperatures are moderate, the sun feels warm on your face, the grass has turned green again, & the bulbs are blooming. It just smells like spring outside. Avoid the big crowds at the nurseries by shopping after work some evening. The weekend warriors will be out in force and long lines in the garden centers inevitable.

How careful do you need to be when selecting Contractors to work on your property or your home? Do you trust the Company to be on your property and not take your belongings? If you know they are an established Company that is easy to find, you know they have a lot to lose if there is anything taken. They will be wasting a lot of advertising money and their reputation if not trustworthy and reliable. Equipment can throw objects for quite a distance and at great speed. If, God forbid, a neighbor or passerby is hurt by the workers on your property, who will get sued? Will the injured party sue the Contractor, or you?? If the Contractor has insurance, it will be them. If they do not have insurance, it could be you. The company working without insurance, without training, without earned credentials, and not paying taxes to the Government or the State can provide a cheaper service without doubt. In 2002, the State of Texas got into the Landscape business. Companies operating legally have to charge you State

Sales Tax on ANY labor or materials for your property. As with most things in life, you can choose to hire a company that operates legally, a Company with insurance or take your chances, save a few bucks, and hire a Company that is not established, with little to lose if there are problems and no insurance if there is a major problem. It is up to you to roll the dice or play it safe.

You may be facing new things in your lawns and gardens and have questions. A great source for answers is the Texas Cooperative Extension Office in downtown Ft Worth.

The office is staffed with volunteer Tarrant County Master Gardeners. They have available to them the recourses of Texas A&M. They have volumes of publications ranging in subject matter from a to z (you would be surprised). They will be happy to send you these publications at no charge. You can reach them at 817-884-1944.

When you begin cutting your lawn grass, remember you want to cut it frequently enough to just remove 1/3 of the blade with each cut. If you let it get too long between cuttings, you will actually do damage to the grass. Make sure you have sharp mower blades to get the best look and do as little damage as possible to the grass blades. Be safety conscious when working outside. The weed eater and mower will throw objects a long distance and at a high speeds. If people come around, it is best to just stop and wait for them to pass.

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Long Term Care: Something to Think About

Submitted by Rich Keith

A recent Long Term Care National Poll revealed what people are thinking and doing about long term care. Genworth Financial reports from this poll that many people believe long term care is only for the very old and therefore are prone to ignoring the issues. But what are the important things to know about long term care?

The bottom line: Americans are not planning for possible long term care needs but are concerned about how they will pay for it. The vast majority of Americans are not prepared for the costs of long term care:

- Nearly 6 in 10 Americans (59% of survey respondents) are worried about being able to pay for long term care for themselves.
- 75% (3 out of 4) have made no preparations for their own or a loved one's long term care needs in case it is needed.
- Even if it meant saving \$25,000 a year, only 9% of respondents said they would place a loved one in a nursing home in another part of the state or in a neighboring state.

But the possibility of developing Alzheimer's disease motivates people to plan for LTC. 72% of respondents said that the possibility of developing Alzheimer's disease or another form of dementia is an important motivating factor in planning for long term care.

- The growing incidence of Alzheimer's disease is a motivating factor for long term care planning, especially for senior citizens. When informed of a new report that found Alzheimer's disease

prevalence has increased 10% in the last few years and that someone in America is diagnosed every 72 seconds, roughly half (49%) of survey respondents age 65 or older said the disease was a VERY important motivating factor in planning for long term care. In comparison, only 24% of seniors who were not informed of the recent Alzheimer's disease report were very concerned about being able to pay for long term care.

Consumers incorrectly believe the federal government or their health insurance will pay for their long term care needs

- Almost half of survey respondents (44%) incorrectly believe that Medicare or their private health insurance will pay for their long term care needs. Actually, health insurance and the federal Medicare program do not generally cover long term care.

People would prefer long term care in their home

- If given the choice between care in a facility such as a nursing home or an assisted living facility and care at home, 75% (3 out of 4) of respondents would prefer care at home.
- However, 43% of respondents incorrectly believe Medicare or their health insurance will pay for a home health aide.

Survey Information: The survey was conducted March 25-27, 2007 by Public Opinion Strategies. The poll of 800 registered voters across the country and has a margin of error of +3.46% in 95 out of 100 cases.



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Woodland Hills

Colleyville Economic Development

City Economic Development Manager Scott Welmaker indicates that there is new life coming to the Colleyville Blvd and Glade Road area.

Worthington National Bank has purchased the 10,000 square foot for Eckerd Pharmacy at the intersection of these two roads. A former Taco Bell restaurant in the area has also been purchased and will open in the next few weeks as Peter's Café, a New York-style pizza shop.

Last but not least, look for a new Ace Hardware store to open in the Vineyards Antique Mall. The Antique Mall remains, but will have a smaller footprint.

Let's welcome these new businesses and help contribute to the economic development of our city.

Upcoming Events

- Bunco: April 24th
- Wine Tasting: May – Invitation will come out once dates are finalized

Please contact Christie Kimball for additional details.

Advertising Information

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Sudoku

The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 5 | | | 9 | | |
| | 6 | | | 1 | 2 | | 3 | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | 4 |
| | | 9 | | 6 | 3 | | | |
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| 7 | 4 | 3 | | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | | 1 | |
| 8 | | 7 | 4 | | | | 2 | 9 |
| | 3 | | | | | | 8 | |

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Mix mayonnaise, sugar, salt, vinegar, & celery seed.
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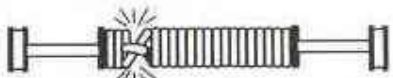
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Kicking Kidney Stones:

Are at Risk and What Can Be Done?

Submitted by: Dr. Koushik Shaw

It's a common condition that can cause uncommon pain. Kidney stones can be as small as a grain of sand, the size of a pearl or even, for an unlucky few, larger than a golf ball. No matter what their size, kidney stones are considered to be one of the most uncomfortable of urological disorders—just ask someone who's passed one.

Every year, more than three million visits are made to health care providers and more than half a million men and women end up in the emergency room for problems related to kidney stones, according to the National Kidney and Urologic Diseases Information Clearinghouse.

Kidney stones are more prevalent in certain parts of the United States—including Central Texas. "There is an area sometimes called the "stone belt" that stretches from coast to coast along the mid- and lower south states where kidney stone rates are higher," says Dr. Koushik Shaw, a board certified urologist with The Austin Diagnostic Clinic. "There are many theories on why that is, including higher temperatures or the possibility of higher mineral content in the water supply."

No matter where you live, kidney stones develop when waste materials in the urine don't completely dissolve. "Sometimes a stone will stay in the kidney and you won't even know it's there," says Dr. Shaw. "Other times, it will travel from the kidney and travel down the ureter, the tube that carries urine from the kidney to the bladder. Eventually, it may come out when you urinate."

But a stone can cause intense pain as it moves into the bladder. Sometimes it can get stuck as it travels. "The most common symptom of a kidney stone is sharp pain in the back, side or in the lower abdomen," explains Dr. Shaw. "Other signs of a stone include nausea and vomiting, blood in the urine, cloudy urine, the need to urinate more often, and fever and chills."

Despite the discomfort—for which doctors can prescribe pain medication—many stones can pass through your body if you stay adequately hydrated. If the stone doesn't pass promptly, or causes severe pain or an infection, your doctor may recommend medical treatment.

"Not too long ago, open surgery was a major option for removing kidney stones," says Dr. Shaw. "Today, there are new, less invasive methods that can be performed in an outpatient setting. Your doctor will choose a treatment after considering the size of your stone, the stone's location and any medical conditions you might have."

If you've had a kidney stone, you may develop them again. Know your family history as well; if someone in your family has had stones, you're more likely to form them and should take steps toward prevention.

"If you want to avoid any type of kidney stone, the best thing you can do is drink water and lots of it," says Dr. Shaw. "Drink six to eight full glasses each day. Drinking lemonade can also be helpful because it has high levels of citrate, which is a powerful reducer of stone formation. Stay as active as possible and eat a healthy, balanced diet as well."

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Not Available Online

Texas Events - April

19-May 11—DALLAS: Dallas Roars! Enjoy music, contests, storytellers, family activities and more. Weekends. Dallas Zoo. www.dallasroars.com 214/670-5656

19-Jun. 8—DALLAS: Butterflies Get an up close view of the life cycle of butterflies. Become immersed in a garden of living jewels while touring this limited engagement exhibit. Dallas Zoo. 214/670-5656

20-27—IRVING: EDS Byron Nelson Championship Four Seasons Resort & Club Las Colinas at Dallas in Irving. www.byronnelson.pgatour.com 214/742-3896

22—DALLAS: Allegro Guitar Society of Dallas Series Presents Roland Dyens, France Begins at 7:30 p.m. Latino Cultural Center. 214/670-3320

24—DALLAS: Sunlight Presents a panel discussion and concert celebrating the creative expression of light in visual and musical works of art. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Dallas Museum of Art, 1717 N. Harwood St. www.artsdistrictchorale.org 214/942-5085

25-27—DENTON: 28th Annual Denton Arts & Jazz Festival More than 2,000 professionals and amateurs perform on six stages, and community and school groups present a wide variety of dance, choral, storytelling and theatre performances. Fine arts and craftsmen demonstrate, exhibit and sell their creations. Includes a Children's Art Tent, clowns and more. Quakertown Park. www.dentonjazzfest.com 940/565-0931

25-27—MCKINNEY: Little Shop of Horrors McKinney Performing Arts Center. www.mckinneyperformingartscenter.org

26-27—MCKINNEY: Green Living Family Festival Learn about conservation, recycling and other green-friendly activities and life practices. Held in conjunction with the museum's annual heirloom plant sale. The Heard Natural Science Museum & Wildlife Sanctuary, 1 Nature Place. www.heardmuseum.org 972/562-5566

29-May 11—DALLAS: Whistle Down the Wind A girl growing up in the Deep South in the 1950s discovers a mysterious man hiding out in a barn. She and the town's other children vow to protect the stranger from the world that waits outside. Music Hall at Fair Park. www.dallasummermusicals.org 214/217-1536

30—DALLAS: Honus & Me Story travels back in time to the seventh game of the World Series where baseball legend Honus helps Joe Stoshack boost his self esteem and gain confidence in his ability to play baseball. Begins at 7:30 p.m. Studio Theater, Rosewood Center for Family Arts. 214/740-0051

30—IRVING: Music from Another Place & Time Presented by Lone Star Youth Orchestra. Begins at 7 p.m. Carpenter Performance Hall, 3333 N. MacArthur Blvd. www.irvingartscenter.com

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Woodland Hills

Architectural Control Committee – Woodland Hills Homeowners' Association Request for Roof Project Approval

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Telephone Home: _____ Work: _____ Mobile: _____

Project Start Date: _____ Email: _____

(Note all sections must be filled in or your request will be rejected)

Roof Type: _____ Manufacturer Warranty: _____ (min. 30 yrs)

Shingle Weight: _____ (lbs.)

Laminated or Dimensional Shingles (circle one) "A" Fire Rating: Yes or No

Plywood Decking: 1/2" or 7/16" (circle one)

Roofing Company/Phone: _____

Color: _____

Removal of old material and OSB installed as membrane underlay. May use CDX Plywood, no Wafer or Particleboard. Minimum shingle weight preferred is 370 lbs. Metal edging shall be installed and painted to match fascia board trim. Please check references on roofing companies.

Signature of Applicant _____

Date of Submission _____

Date Received by ACC _____

ACC Approval Signature _____

Date _____

ACC Rejection Signature and Reason _____

Date _____

Please return form to:
Podsednik & Company, PC
C/O Woodland Hills HOA
350 Westpark Way # 205
Euless, TX 76039
817-545-9912 (fax)

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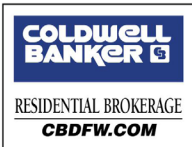
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