

# Woodland Hills



The Official Publication of the Woodland Hills Homeowner's Association

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August 2008

## Fourth of July Celebration

What a fun day we all had on July 4th!! Turnout from the neighborhood was awesome. We had 18 entries in our parade, which included WWII veteran Max Holt, vintage porsches, jaguar, impala, triumph and more. The "Woodland Hillsbillies" entertained with giant water pistols cooling off the crowds watching along the curbs. We had a firetruck and police cars, kids on bikes and golf cart, and even Uncle Sam was there to greet everyone! Kids really got into the decorating spirit the night before with the decorating party featuring all kinds of streamers and decorations along with pizza for the hungry ones.

At the park, we enjoyed hotdogs, chips, cookies and drinks. The children could cool off in the water bounce house, get their face painted or have balloon animals made for them. It was a perfect day with lots of shade.

We thank you all for being part of what we hope to have as an annual affair for Woodland Hills neighbors. Next year, we'd like to see each street or block "compete" with their own theme float. Let's make it personalized and creative for a real hometown style.

Special thank you to our sponsors: The Moberly Team, Coldwell Banker, Capital Title Company, Bryant Financial Services, Market Street and Celebrity Bakery!



(Continued on page 2)



# Woodland Hills

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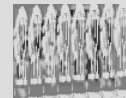
## Fourth of July Celebration - (Continued from cover page)



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# Woodland Hills

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Robert & Teresa Nielsen - 2913 Scarborough Ln. W.  
Richard & Sara Parker - 3125 Woodland Heights Circle

## Park Reservations

We would like to request that if you are having a large party in the park, that you call to reserve the park. You can do this by calling or emailing Christie Kimbell, our Social Committee Chairperson. (contact info listed front page of newsletter) Reserving the park ensures that no one will be surprised when planning your party and you can be assured that space is available.

One more reminder, when you have a large party in the park, it is your responsibility to leave the park in good condition. Bring trash bags for your party debris and leave nothing behind but good memories and pristine natural environment.

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## Long Range Park Improvement Plans

*By Don Young*

As a lot of you witnessed at the July 4th Celebration, the Erosion Control Project at Martin Parkway is now complete and has performed well during several significant rainstorms in the last few months. In addition, the Homeowner across Martin Parkway had some significant work completed which has greatly improved the aesthetics of the Martin Parkway Bridge.

This is just the first step in a long range park improvement program. The next steps as discussed in the July Board meeting are as follows:

- Requesting a proposal from the Engineering Firm (Dunaway Associates, LP) for the development of long range maintenance, erosion control and land management plan. This will give us the basis for future projects planning and budgeting.
- Trails committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to develop the plan for trail replacement and routing. This will be a multi-phase approach to deal with the worst areas first and the remaining will be in concert with the long range plan.
- Evaluating the cost of new playground equipment for budgeting in 2009.
- Evaluating the cost and feasibility of having drinkable water in the park.
- Evaluating the request from some homeowners to plant additional trees in the park. Especially as we have lost some trees over the years, this makes sense. Having adequate irrigation is a concern.

This list could be longer, but this was to give you a snapshot of Melrose Park issues currently being discussed.

## 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.

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

\*See solution at [PEELinc.com](http://PEELinc.com)

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# Woodland Hills

## Mineral Rights

Due to the urgent timing of getting news to you, we sent out a letter to each of your homes regarding mineral rights for our neighborhood. In case anyone missed the letter – it is reprinted for you here. Please check out the website [www.BC-MRC.com](http://www.BC-MRC.com) for more information about the local coalition organization. The remainder of this column is a reprint of the letter issued July 11th.

Recently there has been much discussion and activity regarding potential gas drilling and mineral rights in our neighborhood. The Woodland Hills Homeowners Association (WHHOA) has discussed what approach we might recommend to the many homeowners who have contacted us with questions. We have concluded that a collective effort between the neighborhoods would likely be in the best interest of all our residents.

It has also come to our attention that the Bedford Colleyville Mineral Rights Coalition (BC-MRC) has been organized specifically to address mineral rights and gas drilling. This group has put together a comprehensive strategy to protect the interests of the property owners. Representatives of the WHHOA attended one of the BC-MRC meetings and were impressed with their organization and knowledge of the current issues. Based on this information, we are recommending that Woodland Hills residents join this coalition as soon as possible, by signing a letter of intent. As it clearly states in the BC-MRC Letter of Intent, this is not a binding contract. If at signing time any resident is not pleased with the terms of the contract, they are perfectly free to opt out of the coalition and negotiate their own contract.

By joining the BC-MRC we can present a unified front, and help leverage its strength at the negotiating table. There are over 40 key issues to negotiate with any gas company that may be seeking your mineral rights. These critical concerns are noted in either the BC-MRC letter or on their website at [www.BC-MRC.com](http://www.BC-MRC.com). The Letter of Intent can be downloaded from this website. Knowledge and experience with all of the issues relating to the leasing of mineral rights is imperative when structuring a lease contract that protects the interests of the property owners. Since the timing of the coalition efforts is critical, we recommend that you execute the Letter of Intent and return it to BC-MRC in the very near future.

We believe that joining forces with the BC-MRC will be to our advantage in negotiating these key points. THE WOODLAND HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION (WHHOA) IS NOT IN ANY WAY OFFERING LEGAL ADVICE AND ANY RECOMMENDATION BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS SUCH. If any homeowner feels the need to obtain legal advice, it will be incumbent upon them to do so at their own expense.

WHHOA will be hosting a meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22 in the Colleyville Center to discuss organization efforts. We have invited representatives from the BC-MRC to join us at this meeting and provide you with information about their efforts.

Again, the WHHOA is offering NO LEGAL ADVICE, we are merely providing opinions and information relating to this important issue. If you feel you need legal advice it is incumbent upon you to obtain such advice at your expense. We hope to see you at the meeting.

Thank You,  
Woodland Hills Board of Directors

## Upcoming Social Activities

*By Christie Kimbell*

Our next social event is National Night Out – Oktoberfest! Join us in the Woodland Hills Park for a Beer Tasting, Bratswurst, and maybe some Polka music. The event will be October 14th from 6 – 9 pm. This is a great way to meet your neighbors. The purpose of National Night Out is to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for local anti-crime programs, and to strengthen police-community partnerships. Bring a lawn chair and have some fun.

Note: It is also that time of year... please let me know if you are willing to volunteer your house for the Holiday Dine Around, December 13th. We will need four volunteers to make this really great event come together, Thanks in advance!

## 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](mailto:helenharvey@att.net). We'd love to share the stories of the people who make up our community.

# DOOR WORKS



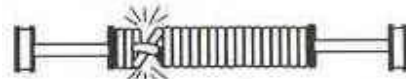
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## Pet Corner

### Natural Watch Dog

*Submitted by Luis Escobar*

I spoke with a man yesterday who has a “great watchdog”. His dog lets him know when his neighbor is outside, when the kids down the street come home from school or are outside playing, when there is a squirrel on the lawn, when the mail arrives, when the neighbors get a UPS delivery, when a bird lands, a cat is out, when someone walks their dog, and on and on. WOW was I impressed. I couldn’t help wondering how many times this guy was getting up to check on these alerts from his dog. I’m guessing a lot as he knew exactly what his dog was barking at. I got tired just thinking about having to check on all that activity.

I almost asked him how he would know if there was something that really needed his attention. To my thinking this wasn’t a watch dog, but a nuisance barker. Can dogs learn the difference? Thankfully the answer is YES! Rover can learn to distinguish the difference, as long as we know the difference.

Rover is not a barker. I wish I could say that about the other dogs in our neighborhood. There are two yorkies behind us who go ballistic when anyone walks by. There is Rover’s friend Emma the mixed up mutt next door who tries to tell the yorkies to shut up. There’s Charlie the lab down the street who barks at every dog that walks by his house. You can follow us around the block, just by listening to the barking.

These dogs are all barking inappropriately. In other words this is nuisance barking. Birds, squirrels, leaves, cats, lizards or other dogs and people are not things we need Rover telling us

about. Fires, someone breaking in, or unexpected things are what we want to be notified about.

As I said, Rover is not a barker. He’ll look towards the sound of other dogs barking but he doesn’t join in. The times he did join in we corrected him. We consistently let him know that we didn’t need to know if the Yorkies saw someone or even if he saw someone. It was none of his business, but if he wanted to watch he could do so quietly. Now he basically ignores the cacophony of the “watch dogs”. But he will alert us to unusual events.

One night I was having trouble sleeping and got up and went outside in the middle of the night. Rover didn’t hear me go out but he did hear me come back in. He gave a couple of warning barks and started growling when he heard the front door open. The door opening in the middle of the night was unusual. He woke Cathy, alerting her to my sneaking back in. Even though he ratted me out he still got lots of praise for raising the alarm.

Dogs will naturally alert you to the things out of the ordinary. They WILL warn about unusual events, even if they are corrected for barking at the wrong things.

If Rover is a nuisance barker the chances are that over time we’ll just tune him out. It’s like the boy who cried wolf. When the wolf really comes we won’t believe him.

Nuisance barking CAN be corrected but it’s important to address the cause(s) and not just the symptom(s). Dogs bark for various reasons such as calling the pack, trying to scare someone or something, because they

are afraid, or because they’re bored. It’s often stressful not only to us and our neighbors, but to the dogs as well. This is especially true with issues of separation anxiety.

Do you have a neighbor whose dog is creating a nuisance with his constant barking? How you approach this might be difficult. You might ask if their dog is ok because it seems to be upset a lot. If it only barks when the owners aren’t home they might not even know it’s barking. Ask about the dog with concern instead of confrontation and you may have a better chance of getting the owner to understand there’s a problem.

Once the inappropriate barking is under control you’ll have a natural watchdog. One who alerts you to something out of the ordinary, and one who’s warning you can trust. Once we can trust Rover’s warning we’ll know when we have to really check on things and it won’t be because the kids down the street are outside playing. The results?

Happy Dogs = Happy Families and Happy Neighbors.



## Pet Corner

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## The Green Corner

*Submitted by Sheri Hicks*

### Green Up Your Everyday Cleaning

When I began going green, I started with the chemicals under my sink. I had already deduced by the chemical components, the ingredient list and the disposal warnings - they couldn't be good for the planet. What I didn't know is that despite heavy marketing claims that these products were not only safe but necessary to keep my home beautiful and healthy, they were actually causing far more harm than good.

I was shocked to find, during my research, that the EPA estimates indoor air pollution is up to five times greater than outdoor air pollution in part due to common household cleaners, aerosols, air fresheners, disinfectants, and even dry-cleaned clothing (solvent emissions). Recent studies also show a link between common household cleaners and asthma, the number one childhood chronic illness. The reason for this is that the chemical compounds in these products, when used and even while stored, emit harmful gasses that can cause eye, nose and throat irritation and respiratory issues. They are also linked to headaches, loss of coordination, nausea and liver, kidney and central nervous system damage. In some cases, they have been known to cause cancer in laboratory animals and humans and are suspected in links to neurological issues including ADHD and Parkinson's disease.

You don't have to compromise between the health and safety of your family and a clean environment. Below are my top five green cleaning solutions. Not only are they non-toxic and as effective as commercial cleaners but all of them are significantly less expensive than their commercial counterpart, something I appreciate in the midst of today's rapidly rising gas and grocery prices.

1. Baking soda is a very low cost yet extremely versatile foundation to green cleaning. Among other things, it can be used as a deodorizer, a stain remover, and a mild abrasive that can be used on porcelain bath and sink fixtures and stovetops. I once removed permanent marker from my coffee table by scrubbing with baking soda and a damp cloth.
2. Vinegar acts as a mild disinfectant and often boosts the power of baking soda. Nothing, not even Mr. Clean's Magic Eraser, can compete with the combined power of vinegar and baking soda on baked on food. Use to clean toilets, floors, windows and stove tops. Sprinkle baking soda into a slow drain and follow with vinegar, the reaction will help loosen clogs and open drains.
3. Pure Essential Oils are good substitutes for synthetic fragrances. Sprinkle your favorite essential oil (my favorites are lavender, peppermint and lemon) in a bowl of water to sit on the counter, sprinkle in closets, vacuum bags or vehicle

carpets for a safe air freshener. Be careful, essential oils are toxic to cats if applied directly to their fur.

4. Grain alcohol with high alcohol content is an effective disinfectant or even window cleaner to replace the harsher ammonia-based window cleaners or petroleum-based disinfectants. It can also be used in the occasional after cleaning cocktail! As with all alcohol products, keep out of reach of children.
5. Lemon juice is a natural stain remover and laundry brightener; a safe alternative to bleach. I recently removed a black grease stain from a pair of white pants with the power of pure lemon juice. It can also be mixed with vinegar to make a powerful disinfectant that can be used in the kitchen, in the bathroom, on floors and anywhere else germs may be lurking.

If you shy away from making your own cleaning products, there are now many safe non-toxic alternatives available on market shelves. My favorite for non-toxic dish soap (both liquid and automatic dishwasher soap), laundry soaps and softeners are made by Seventh Generation but there are other good products such as Mrs. Meyers and Planet. For an even bigger boost to the environment, use cloth rags that can be washed with the laundry instead of disposable products such as wipes or paper towels.





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# Woodland Hills



*"So what's new about air bags in cars? I've been driving with one for years."*

## Family Volunteering: Doing Good Together

*Submitted by Wendi Baird*

During a recent camping trip, my children were shocked to see the amount of trash left along the river bank following a long holiday weekend. "Didn't the people see the empty trash cans," asked my daughter with all the childlike wisdom of an eight year old. As we looked downstream, we noticed a lone Park Ranger walking along the banks with a trash bag picking up all the empty cans and other garbage left behind by the holiday revelers.

I saw the light bulbs go off simultaneously in my kids' minds ... "Mom, can we go back to our camper and get some trash bags to help, too?" To be honest, my first thought as a mom was that I didn't want my children touching all that germ-infested garbage. But then I realized what a great learning opportunity this could be. Here was a problem, and it was one that we could work together as a family to remedy. So after walking along the river banks, filling up two trash bags with garbage, we finally caught up to the Park Ranger downstream. Although he was very appreciative of the help, he was quite surprised by our efforts. "You shouldn't have to do this," he said. "It isn't your trash or your responsibility to pick it up".

I don't know what was more disappointing that morning – the fact that this beautiful park was strewn with garbage (while empty trash cans sit in plain site) or the surprise shown by the Park Ranger that someone would voluntarily help pick up the garbage.

It seems that the phrase "That's not in my job description" has become a common mantra today. I firmly believe that one way to combat the selfish and materialistic attitudes prevalent in our society is through Family Volunteering. It's one thing to tell our children that we need to help others. But actually doing volunteer projects together as a family instills life lessons that won't be readily abandoned later in life.

According to the website [www.DoingGoodTogether.org](http://www.DoingGoodTogether.org), family volunteering "is a hands-on way to teach children the values of kindness, compassion, tolerance, community responsibility and good citizenship." The website is full of ideas for family volunteer projects. One of my favorites is one that even the youngest children can do. Create a "Giving Box" from an old coffee can or shoe box. Let your children decorate it and then place it in a prominent location in your home. Encourage your children to fill it with any loose change they find. Then as the Holiday Season approaches, let your children help choose where the money will be donated. For example, they could use the money to buy a toy to donate to Blue Santa or to buy canned goods to donate to the local food pantry.

Our children still talk about that family experience of picking up trash along the Frio River. It was gratifying to all of us to see how clean the riverbank looked after spending just a few minutes helping that lone park ranger. But, more importantly, it reinforced to us as parents that it's one thing to teach your children something, but the impact is far greater when you show them!

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## August Landscaping

*Submitted by Ron Kerwin*

August is a great month to stay inside and make your plans for this fall's plantings. Browse the catalogs for ideas and bulbs to order now to plant in November and December for next spring's display. If you are going to work in the lawn or garden, plan it around the early morning or evening in the cooler hours. Drink plenty of water to keep from dehydrating.

The July heat may have already taken its toll on your annuals. If they are beyond help, pull them out and replace them with more heat tolerant varieties. If they are okay but overgrown, you can trim back your annuals and perennials by 1/3 to 1/2 to get better flowering in the fall. You can also trim off the dead or damaged canes and the errant chutes from your roses to enhance the fall blooms. Fertilize your roses right after you prune, as this application is very important. Do NOT trim flowering shrubs, like Indian Hawthorns, after July or you will probably trim off the buds (look like berries) that would provide the flowers next year. Rework your beds to prepare them for fall plantings of flowers or vegetables. Bury in the compost materials and add the mulch



on top. They will be ready for planting when it is time. You can fertilize your lawns this month with a 3-1-2 ratio 50% slow release nitrogen fertilizer. This is a good fertilizer for your shrubs and flowerbeds too.

The heat stresses all our lawns, shrubs etc. We will probably not get much rain so we will have to water with irrigation systems or drag around sprinklers to keep everything from burning up. 1 inch of water per week should be enough. Do not water in mid-day, as most of it will simply evaporate prior to getting into the ground. Irrigate in the early morning if possible.

Water deeply, not frequently. Watering in the evening can lead to plant diseases. Maintain the water in the soil of your beds more effectively by having a good thick layer of mulch. Most every month I comment on the benefits of thick mulch but it is a topic worth repeating, as its benefits are many.

If your property is in need of new sod, it can be put in now with no problems as long as you water it properly. With new sod, you do not have to suffer with mud in the fall and winter.

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