

# THE VILLAGES OF *Compass* NORTHPOINTE

ISSUE 1, VOLUME 1

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGES OF NORTHPOINTE HOA

FEBRUARY 2010

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The VNP Compass newsletter has been published for almost three years now and we have seen several changes. Beginning with this edition, we will begin publishing on a monthly basis, and I am asking for your help in getting any neighborhood, local area, or school news to me before the deadline each month. This deadline will necessitate a HARD deadline of the 5th of each month in order to get information to the publisher by the required timeframe.

We lost our previous 3 publishers due to advertising/revenue loss and our new publisher at Peel Inc. will need your help to solicit advertisements to keep us going. If you have a business – home or otherwise, the advertising in our own newsletter will go to over 650 homes and with the other Peel Inc. neighborhood publications this can be expanded to go out to thousands of local area homes for minimal cost.

Thanks to all the contributors of the newsletter and I hope to expand our network of contributors in 2010! Please send your ideas for articles, school news, or any information that may be of interest to anyone in the Villages to me as quickly as possible each month, but no later than the 5th!

*Happy 2010! Pam Ferguson*

## NEIGHBORHOOD

### *E-Mail Group*

We'd like to get everyone in the neighborhood on the Villages of NorthPointe Yahoo Group, so we can quickly communicate to you when necessary. We currently have 350 neighbors on the group. We are using the Yahoo Group to communicate information as needed concerning issues, problems, requests and events that affect our neighborhood. This group is not intended for casual chit-chat. You can be set up to receive individual e-mails, daily digests, or no e-mail with access only to view when you choose.

If you live in the Villages of NorthPointe and you want to get connected with your neighbors and find out what's going on around you, please contact Debbie Parker at [dparker39@att.net](mailto:dparker39@att.net), your Block Captain, or make a request through the Yahoo Group at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/NorthpointeNeighborhood>.



## WOMEN'S GROUP INFO

### Women's Club – Passing on the Torch

I want to thank everyone in the Women's Club for their support and hard work over the last 19 months. We've accomplished a lot. The organizers and workers of the different events and activities (Easter Egg Hunt, 4th of July Barbeque/Bike Parade, Breakfast with Santa, Christmas in September, Cookie Exchange, Summer Pool Party, Back to School and Christmas Adopt a Family projects, Clubhouse Cleaning, and Guest Speakers) have done an incredible job. The events have been wonderful and very much appreciated by the residents of this neighborhood.

It's time now for me to step down as president and turn the torch over to our new president, Robyn Clark and the new board. I hope that all the women in the neighborhood will plan to become a part of a great group of women in 2010! It's a good way to meet some great friends and give back to your community.

***Debbie Parker - Outgoing President, Villages Of NorthPointe Women's Club***

*(Continued on Page 2)*

# THE COMPASS

## Women's Group Info - (Continued from Cover Page)

### Welcome to our New 2010 Executive Board!

Robyn Clark, President  
Elicia Moody, Vice President  
Rhonda Harshbarger, Secretary  
Deana Clark, Treasurer  
Patti Ardoin, Community Services Director

### Permanent Committee Chairpersons

Pam Ferguson, Publicity  
Paige Daniels, Hospitality  
Patti Ardoin, Audit  
Lisa Twaddle, Historian  
Still vacant – Program Chair

*If you have suggestions for a program geared toward women's interests for any of our monthly meetings, please contact Robyn Clark at [robyn6020@yahoo.com](mailto:robyn6020@yahoo.com) or Elicia Moody at [eve\\_ayla@hotmail.com](mailto:eve_ayla@hotmail.com).*

### Women's Recurring Group Info

**WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING** – Meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of each month at the clubhouse. New members are welcome! To be included in the newsgroup emails, please let Rhonda know at [rhondakay2003@netzero.net](mailto:rhondakay2003@netzero.net) and she can add you. The group email is a wonderful way to find out the latest information and find out who will be the guest speaker for the next meeting.

**BOOK CLUB** – Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month in rotating homes. Please contact Karen at 281-516-2395 or [karengo@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karengo@sbcglobal.net) for more details.

**MOMS & TOTS PLAYGROUP** – This group is in need of a new organizer. It has been meeting on Friday mornings in rotating homes or various venues for quite some time. If you would like to get a new group started, please send an email out on the Women's Yahoo group, come to a Women's Club meeting, or contact Pam at 713-724-6978.

**GARDEN CLUB** – If you would like to lead this group, please come to a Women's Club meeting or send an email out to the Women's Yahoo group as well. Spring is coming and it's the perfect time for a group to begin!

*\*\* If you would like to start a group or advertise your own – and if you're a member of the Women's Club (or would like to become one), please contact Pam at 713-724-6978.*

**BUNCO** – We have 2 regular groups. If you haven't played before, don't let that stop you. If you can count to 21, you can play. It is truly a mindless game, but it does encourage socialization and is a wonderful excuse for gals to get together and gossip and share.

**Monday Bunco night** – Meets each second Monday of the month. Please contact Lorie Moore at 281-255-4380 or email her at [cinderlorie@hotmail.com](mailto:cinderlorie@hotmail.com) for more information or to be placed on the sub list. Subs are always needed!

**THURSDAY BUNCO NIGHT** – Meets on the fourth Thursday of the month. Please contact Robyn Clark at 281-516-2655 or email her at [robyn6020@yahoo.com](mailto:robyn6020@yahoo.com) to be part of this group. This group is always in need of subs as well!

## LOCAL SCHOOL NEWS

I welcome any parent or representative to provide details to me before each newsletter deadline. We have four schools and only one school represented for the February issue. With newsletters moving to a monthly format beginning with this issue, we should have more opportunities for current news!

## CANYON POINTE ELEMENTARY

Mark your calendars! Canyon Pointe Elementary's 2<sup>nd</sup> Carnival at the Pointe will be held February 27, 2010 from 12-4 p.m. at the school on NorthPointe Blvd. Make your plans to attend this fun-filled afternoon of great food, games galore, inflatables (with a mechanical bull), and much, much more. We will once again be hosting a silent auction with a chance to get some really fabulous stuff and benefit the school at the same time.

All-day play wristbands will be offered for unlimited play on all inflatables and games, with the exception of Sandy Candy. Tickets will be sold for all concessions and Sandy Candy.

If you would like to donate an item or basket for the silent auction, we'd appreciate your generosity. Please contact Robbin Swain at [swainrobbin@yahoo.com](mailto:swainrobbin@yahoo.com) if you'd like to donate or have any questions.

All money raised is spent on items and programs for the students, teachers and community at Canyon Pointe.

Thanks for supporting your neighborhood school and we hope to see you there!

## Newsletter Deadline & Contact Info

To submit newsletter articles, event information and for general information, please contact Pam Ferguson at 713-724-6978 or at [pamelaferg@comcast.net](mailto:pamelaferg@comcast.net).

The next newsletter deadline for submission to the editor is IMMEDIATE as this is our first publication with our new monthly publisher. We will have a March newsletter and subsequent deadlines for each monthly newsletter will be the 5th of each month.

## DON'T WANT TO WAIT FOR THE MAIL?

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# THE COMPASS

## WOMEN'S CLUB HOLIDAY EVENTS!

### CHRISTMAS FAMILY SERVICE PROJECT

Our Community Services Director, Rhonda Harshbarger, coordinated a gift drive to benefit two Tomball families that needed some help for Christmas. Rhonda found the families through T.E.A.M., which is an acronym for Tomball Emergency Assistant Ministry. T.E.A.M. is a nonprofit organization formed in 1985 by 13 local Tomball churches and serves the Tomball ZIP codes, Tomball Schools, or member churches with short-term assistance.

Thanks to all those in the Villages who offered up their time and money to buy gifts for their wish lists. The Women's Club supplemented the gift drive with \$200 that was earned by Bake Sales during the year. It was very heartwarming to see the generosity of so many neighbors and to see our hard work mean so much to two deserving families!

### BREAKFAST WITH SANTA



If you didn't make it to Breakfast with Santa on December 5th, you missed a huge success! There were ~80 children who had their photos taken in Santa's lap and several more who just wanted to eat their breakfast from across the room. They weren't quite sure they wanted any part of the big guy with the red suit and white beard! Other children had no problem telling Santa their wish lists, and how good they had been this past year. Thanks to all the ladies and gentlemen who helped make it such a success!



*Santa and his helpers. Front row: Paige Daniel, Rhonda Harshbarger, Holly McGarrett. Second row: Pam Ferguson, Santa, Elicia Moody, Harry Hunter. Top row: Mrs. Claus a.k.a. Mary Hunter, Linda Daniels. Thanks to our behind-the-scenes photographer, John Daniels, who took all the Santa photos! Thanks also to those not pictured - Maryann Edwards, Joyce Van Jura, and Stacy Jones.*

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## Women's Club Holiday Events - (Continued from Page 4)

### CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Thanks to Patti Ardoin who organized our Cookie Exchange on December 5th at the clubhouse. Each attendee brought three dozen homemade cookies, and to our surprise, no two recipes were the same! The ladies enjoyed appetizers and drinks, followed by the traditional cookie exchange on a decorative take-home tray. We also used this opportunity to wrap all the gifts purchased by the Women's Club for the families sponsored for the Community Service Project.



## PLAYGROUND UPDATE



Color Scheme:  
Posts  
Metals  
Plastics  
Panels



The contract has been signed and parts are ordered for the new playground equipment! When the replacement begins, please be patient with the construction. There may be a few weeks when the playground is off limits for use, but it will be a state-of-the-art structure when completed! The color scheme is very similar to the current structure in keeping with the natural setting. We have been given the go-ahead in acquiring lighting for the area following installation!

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# THE COMPASS

## COMPASS CORNER –

### *Updates on Development In and Around the Villages of NorthPointe*

by Paul Hicks

Hello neighbors! Another year is in the “can” as they say in the business. And once again we will delve into the fascinating world of all things Real Estate that may affect us here in NorthPointe. And right off the bat I need to inform you of a change in your water bill that you may not be too thrilled about. I know you have been receiving notices like I have about the new “surface water” plan that the North Harris County Regional Water Authority (NHCRWA) is planning for us. However, like you, I usually chunk these things in the trash without really digesting what is in them. In short, your water bills are increasing as of Jan 1st...substantially. The following gives a brief summary in case you missed it in the mailer.

Over time, the use of well water causes subsidence, or sinking, of the land in our community. Continued subsidence can contribute to flooding during heavy rains. In order to reduce the area's dependence on well water, the North Harris County Regional Water Authority (NHCRWA) was created to coordinate the conversion from well water to surface water, thus helping to reduce the effects of subsidence and, ultimately, flooding.

To help pay for this conversion, NHCRWA charges Harris County MUD No. 281 (MUD 281) a fee per 1,000 gallons of water produced at MUD 281's wells. This fee is passed along to MUD 281 customers as a separate line item on your water bill. Because NHCRWA is increasing what it charges MUD 281, effective January 1, 2010, the fee on your water bill will also have to be increased to \$1.86 per 1,000 gallons of water used by each customer.

Please contact our MUD 281 operator, Water District Management Company, at 281-376-8802 if you would like additional information

So, in the future, you will be drinking water from Lake Houston and not from the water wells beneath our neighborhood and the cost of transporting that water will be in your water bill. This is, by my reckoning, about a 17% increase. The upside is that the areas

in Houston that are experiencing subsidence will get relief from the flooding and by extension, we should all benefit from reduced insurance rates in future years (I don't think I'll hold my breath on that one).

And finally, please know that your MUD district works very hard at keeping costs low and service high to the best of its ability. These water increases are pass-through charges mandated by the NHCRWA and the State of Texas. If you'd like to voice a complaint, please direct same to the aforementioned entities...I'm sure they'd be tickled to hear from you!

We do have some activity in the Real Estate markets to share with you. We'll start with the new sign for Willowbrook Church you've seen on Hwy 249 on the west side just a little ways past the entrance to Westbourne. I spoke with pastor Steve Owens and he tells me that they are planning on a new campus at this location to expand from their current facility located at 249 and Hargrave. The church is on a 3 to 5 year plan and is just getting started, however when all is said and done, good Lord willing, they will have a 180,000 square foot worship/educational building capable of seating up to 1,200 worshipers. The campus will consist of 12 acres and possibly even more if they are able to purchase additional land later on. If you are interested in finding out more, please check out [www.willowbrookchurch.net](http://www.willowbrookchurch.net).

The word on the street also has it that a new dealership has purchased property on Hwy 249, also on the west side, a little closer to Walmart, and Pastor Owens thinks he was told it is to be Nissan. We'll keep our ears open for more information as it develops.

And finally, for those of you who miss “Dilla's” restaurant (and you know who you are), we have stumbled on another little local café that serves great food. This time around it's Mexican food and the place is called “Guadalupe's”, located in the little shopping center at the corner of Spring Cypress and Eldridge. This location has hosted

*(Continued on Page 7)*

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## Compass Corner - (Continued from Page 6)

a couple of different eateries over the past 4 years that just didn't make it for whatever reason. I think this time around they may have hit the mark as the food is delicious, plentiful and fairly inexpensive. It's also very close to home and my family has seldom had to wait for more than a few minutes for a table even on a Saturday night. If you're hungry at the last minute and not sure where to go, drop in and give them a try. Es Muy Delicioso!

And now...I leave you with a couple of limericks...that really are favorite Picks...and if you don't laugh...then you're really quite daft...and just don't understand this Hicks.

There was a young woman named Bright  
Whose speed was much faster than light.  
She set out one day  
In a relative way,  
And returned on the previous night.

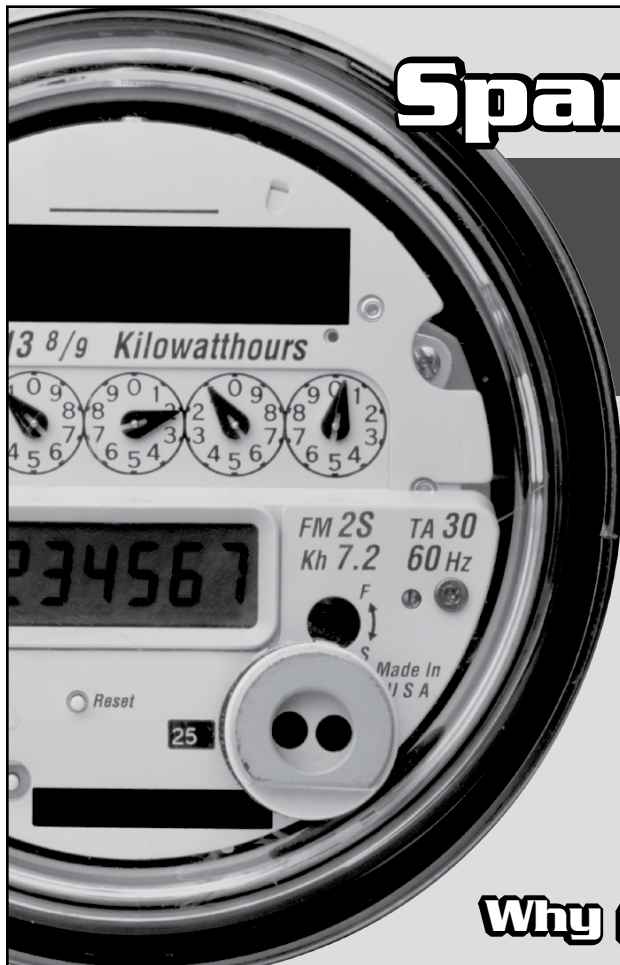
There once was a lady named Perkins  
Who simply doted on Gherkins  
They were so nice  
She ate too much spice  
and pickled her internal workin's.

*Till next time, Paul.*

## Neighborhood Watch Program

Angela Dunnahoe has graciously volunteered to be the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for the Villages of NorthPointe. She'll be working hard to get Block Captains for each street, coordinate the quarterly Neighborhood Watch Meetings, forward out the Constable Reports and communicate neighborhood issues as necessary. Angela can be reached at [angela0922@sbcglobal.net](mailto:angela0922@sbcglobal.net) or at 281-547-8414. We are really trying to expand our program as we only have Block Captains for 18 streets right now. The Neighborhood Watch program can be very successful if we can get enough volunteers to help. We are looking to have one volunteer for each street and it will not take much of your time on an ongoing basis.

Andy Elmore is the Security Director for our neighborhood and keeps in close contact with the Constable concerning the needs of our neighborhood. If you need assistance, Andy can be reached at 713-530-5544 (Cell) or at [adelmore@huntongroup.com](mailto:adelmore@huntongroup.com). You are also encouraged to call the Constable's office directly at 281-376-3472. We should have our new signs that say our neighborhood is patrolled by the Constable's office up by the time newsletter publishes.



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