



**SPRING/SUMMER 2015 NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

## **5th ANNUAL BUTTERFLY DAY**

**Saturday, May 16th**

**11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**11007 Cactus @ Rolling Rock**

Brought to You by Our  
Highland Meadows  
Neighborhood Association!

**Our Highland Meadows Butterflies Invite You to Come for a Visit!**

**Mix & Mingle with Beautiful Butterflies!**

**A 2-Hour "Come & Go" All-Neighborhood Family Event!**

**Join Us For this Fun, One-of-a-Kind Neighborhood Experience!**

Tony Delia, our very own "Butterfly Guy," will be sharing his backyard filled with an array of host and nectar plants. Enter the butterfly house and see butterflies up close and personal!

Note: This event will be only 2 hours this year!

Read more about Butterfly Day on the next page. Join us for this one-of-a-kind fun-fest!

*Turn the page for more information!*

### **Join Us**

Over the next few weeks you may notice 'Join Us' signs throughout the neighborhood. These signs are a reminder that it is time to join or renew your Highland Meadows Neighborhood Association membership. Your annual membership supports:

- Award Winning Crime Watch
- Life Saving Pet Watch
- Communications including printed newsletters, email bulletins, neighborhood signage, and website
- Beautification projects like tree planting along Northwest Highway and Plano Road
- Annual events like Butterfly Day, National Night Out, Neighborhood Garden Tour, and much more.

Join Today or Renew your membership at:

[www.highlandmeadowsna.org](http://www.highlandmeadowsna.org). You may also use the enclosed envelope to mail your membership.



### **Spring Crime Watch Meeting**

**Monday, May 4th — 7 to 8 p.m.**

**Baha'i Center, 9400 Plano Road**

**Speaker: Neighborhood Police Officer, Katherine Robinson**

911? 311? 211? HMNA Voice Mail? Next Door? There are so many options to consider! How can you know which one to use to report crime and what exactly should be said? Come to this meeting for the answers to these questions!

- Door Prizes Donated by Lowe's will be awarded to 5 lucky attendees,
- VIP information and sign-up • Backyard ID signs for sale at cost (\$5)
  - HMNA Membership Forms (\$35 each household/\$20 seniors)
- Petwatch fire alert window stickers for a donation of \$5 each packet of two.

Mark the date and time and plan to join other neighbors who are working to reduce crime in our area. Drive past the main entry of the center to park, and you'll see a sign directing you to the meeting room.

## More About Butterfly Day!

- **Eat with your neighbors!** There will be grillin' again! Hamburgers and hotdogs are free and furnished by our Association. *(A donation jar will be available if you want to help offset the costs.)*
- **Kid Activities!** Plans are underway for fun things for kids. We'll have real bunnies, snocones, face-painting and balloons, along with other activities they will enjoy.
- **Neighborhood Crafters and Businesses!** If you do crafts or artwork, sign up to sell your wares. Publicize your business also by having a table. Respond soon by going to our website home page and click on "Contact Us" (left-hand column). On the drop-down list, choose "Butterfly Day" to let us know you'd like to participate. Bring your table, chair, and sun covering!
- **Purchase milkweed and nectar plants for your garden!** Tony will have 4" milkweed plants for sale at \$2 each, and 1" plugs for \$1 each. Monarch butterflies are fast disappearing! Plant some milkweed, the host plant for the Monarchs. This is a special price offered by Tony to our attendees.
- **Membership Table** — Pay your HMNA dues and take home a free HMNA Member sign. If you are a veteran and have not received a free Veteran sign for your yard, please give us your military information and take one home!
- **Petwatch Table** — A package of two Alert Window Stickers will be available for a donation of \$5 to Petwatch. Place these on your windows to alert the fire department that you have animals in the house in the event of a fire or weather event. Donations help needy pets!

**Alternate Weather Date:** *If weather becomes a problem with the implementation of this event, a sign will be placed in Tony's yard and an email bulletin will be sent to those who are registered on our website regarding an alternate date. If you do not receive our neighborhood emails, register on our site to begin receiving them.*

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### **An Urgent Need: A New HMNA Board Treasurer**

Sara Lovegrove, our current treasurer, is moving away and we need someone with a good knowledge of accounting to take over and manage our online association finances. This means someone who is willing to dedicate some time ...

...serving as an "Officer of the Corporation" according to our by-laws,  
...picking up mail on a regular basis; maintaining our membership list,  
...preparing financial information for board budget planning meetings,  
...maintaining our checking account; paying bills and reimbursements,  
...managing our PayPal account,

...preparing any necessary documents related to our 501c-4 non-profit status. This person should have an excellent knowledge of Excel. Time required is approximately 1 hour per week with about 4-6 hours recapping the membership and donation monies received at Butterfly Day and our fall meeting.

Sara has spent an immeasurable amount of time setting up our finances online. She will spend some time before she leaves with anyone selected to take the position. This is one of the most important volunteer positions in our organization. Contact: treasurer@highlandmeadowsna.org if you have interest in dedicating some of your time to our neighborhood in this capacity.

**And to you, Sara...** May you be greatly blessed in your new home. We here in Highland Meadows will miss you and your dedication to our neighborhood! Our board will miss you—and the faithfulness you've given to the position of treasurer! *(Sara will be taking memberships at our Butterfly Day just before leaving for her home in Oklahoma the next week—her final task as treasurer. When you pay your 2015 membership dues, be sure to wish her well !)*

**New to our neighborhood? Been here a few months or even a couple of years? It's time to get involved!** Go to "Contact Us" on the website and let us know of your interest in volunteering! Or make a note on your Membership Form. Our neighborhood needs fresh new faces and voices! Please help out in some volunteer capacity. Whatever your interests, talents, or skills, we'll find a place of service for you!

## **SAVE THE DATE! June 13, 2015 — 9:00 a.m. - Noon Neighborhood Garden Tour!**

Our first garden tour was a GREAT success with more than 100 neighbors viewing 8 gardens. This year we plan to limit the gardens to just 6. (Our feedback suggested we have fewer gardens for a longer period of enjoyment.) If you have a garden or landscape that you are ready to showcase on the Highland Meadows Tour, email Janiece at [janieceupshaw@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janieceupshaw@sbcglobal.net).

We would love to see some new gardens and be inspired by your work! The tour is a 3-hour window for a self-guided tour and explores interesting and beautiful yards. The homeowner will need to be present at the home and have some refreshments to offer guests (*don't worry – we will help!*). We hope to offer something unique and different at each location. Let us hear from you soon!

**Petwatch Update** Petwatch and Animal Allies of Texas teamed up on Saturday, April 18, to provide a low cost vaccination and microchipping clinic. The Assembly of God Church across Northwest Hwy was gracious enough to allow us to use their parking lot for the event. It turned out to be a gorgeous day, and it was great seeing so many of our neighbors and meeting their pets!

**Yard Sale a Success!** Thanks to all of you neighbors who donated items and baked those wonderful treats for our Petwatch Yard Sale! And the awesome volunteers! Items that did not sell were donated to East Lake Pet Orphanage; unsold books were redeemed at Half-Price books; and nothing went to waste! Proceeds will help us continue our neighborhood program. If you were not aware of our sale, please register on our website to receive our bulletins! (*see back page*)

**Keep Your Small Pets Safe!** Please be aware that we share our neighborhood with coyotes, bobcats, hawks, and other predators that prey on small animals. These get their food any place they can find it. Our pets are no match for coyotes and bobcats!

**PETWATCH NEED: Foster Homes!** If you have a secure backyard and a willingness to help out for a few days at a time, please contact us! Short-term foster families are needed while we seek a found animal's family. When we help an animal get back home or place it in a new home if its family cannot be located, we do our small part to ease the crowding in shelters.

**PETWATCH HOTLINE: 972-305-5210**  
[Petwatch@highlandmeadowsna.org](mailto:Petwatch@highlandmeadowsna.org)

**Crime Watch** The next **Volunteers in Patrol (VIP) training** will be on Monday and Tuesday, June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, from 7 – 9 p.m. each night, at Northeast Patrol Division, 9915 E. Northwest Hwy, Dallas, TX 75238. Interested persons must obtain their application forms and submit them for approval to Officer Katherine Robinson by Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. You can email, mail by USPS, or deliver in person your completed application, signed waivers, a photo copy of your Driver's License or State ID, and Social Security Card to Off. Robinson at [katherine.robinson@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us](mailto:katherine.robinson@dpd.ci.dallas.tx.us). For more information, contact Off. Robinson at 214-681-3476. If you have any further questions about our Neighborhood Patrol, you can contact our Patrol Captain, Al Preissler, at [alpreissler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:alpreissler@sbcglobal.net). WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**Take advantage of our Volunteer in Patrol's Vacation Watch** when you take a trip this summer or anytime you travel out of town! Send an email to [crimewatch@highlandmeadowsna.org](mailto:crimewatch@highlandmeadowsna.org) or call HMNA Voice Mail (214-967-5081) to make your request a few days before you leave. Information that should be included: name, address, departure and return dates, cell phone or other contact number, description of any persons that might be coming to your home to feed pets, etc. In addition, be sure to let trusted neighbors know of your travel plans, and arrange for mail and newspapers to be picked up by someone or stopped while you'll be away. Another crime-smart idea is to attach timers to several lamps throughout your house to come on at dark and turn off at various times. If you'll be gone for an extended period of time, hire someone to water and mow your lawn during your absence.

**Yard of the Month** — Let us know of your suggestions! Go to "Contact Us;" Choose "Yard of the Month."

## May 9<sup>th</sup> Elections – Vote!

Michael Thomas, HMNA President

A few years ago, when our neighborhood association was working on an issue facing our neighborhood school, a DISD trustee told me that our neighborhood didn't matter because we didn't vote. While this was shocking to hear, there is some truth in what that trustee said—if we want our neighborhood to be heard at City Hall we need to make sure we make our voices heard on election day.

Vote because every election matters. Who we choose to lead your local government -- whether as our mayor or city council member -- will have a serious impact on the life of your community. When we vote for our local officials, we make choices that will have very direct and concrete effects on our daily lives.

When voters don't turn out to choose their local governments, they receive a government that doesn't represent them. Let's show City Hall that we matter... please vote in the May 9<sup>th</sup> elections!

### Here's a few *startling* HMNA Financial Facts:

- ▶ Seniors pay 55% of the total memberships in our association.
- ▶ Others—those households under age 65—pay only 45%.
- ▶ Only **97 residences** have paid membership dues for 2015 as of April 9, 2015; 53 are seniors; 44 are under 65. (4 months into the year)

These statistics were pretty much the same in 2014. Not good. The figures will no doubt grow a bit, but the percentages will remain status quo unless we all participate! Why? Only a small percentage of our residents financially support our neighborhood through association membership. Our programs, projects, events, signage, crime patrol, Petwatch, sign toppers, website, Crime Watch, you name it...did not 'just happen.' All these things (*and more*) cost money and are paid for through our neighborhood association membership dues plus some welcome donations. In an effort this year to help funding for Petwatch, volunteers spearheaded a yard sale. In an effort to focus attention on Membership, we are posting signs: Join Us! (*page 1*) In an effort to maintain financially, our board raised dues (from \$25 to \$35) for the very first time but kept the senior dues at \$20. Our homes are valuable as never before—and our well-kept, beautiful, vital neighborhood is a HUGE part of that. A neighborhood as old as ours must be constantly maintained, and that takes volunteers and money. Question is...are you helping out financially by paying your dues? Let's all get in the groove and pull together by using the enclosed addressed envelope (*add a stamp*) and form; go to PayPal on our website; or come to Butterfly Day with your check in hand! If only half of our residents (695) paid \$35....well, you do the math!

**Please "Register" on our Website!** It's simple, private, & free! Just follow the instructions in the box above, and you'll start receiving neighborhood information: Crime Watch (Mondays); News and Petwatch (when necessary). We don't crowd your inbox—and your information is for our neighborhood only.

**GET CONNECTED!  
REGISTER ON OUR WEBSITE!**

[www.highlandmeadowsna.org](http://www.highlandmeadowsna.org)

Home Page, top left-hand side,  
Click on "Register."

Provide mandatory information:  
Name, Phone, Street Address,  
Email Address.

The rest is optional.

Scroll to the bottom of the page  
and enter the Verification Code.  
Click Submit.

You will receive a temporary  
password in your inbox.

Click on "Update Your Info" to  
change your password to some-  
thing you prefer. (Home Page)

You'll start receiving Bulletins!



### 2015 HMNA Board Members

Michael Thomas.....	President
Vacancy.....	Vice President
Claire Hodges.....	Secretary
Sara Lovegrove.....	Treasurer
Sharon Smith.....	Crime Watch
Tony Delia.....	Meetings
Joyce Ferguson.....	Communications
Keith Auten.....	Apartments
Ann Rerat.....	DISD
Vacancy .....	RISD
Nancy Nance.....	Petwatch
David Shannon.....	Code Compliance
Vacancy.....	Gardeners
Connie Koval.....	Environmental