

J. J. Pearce Homeowners Association Newsletter
Website: www.jjphoa.org

February, 2004

News from the City

- Late real estate taxes involve a penalty if paid after January 31. If the account is not paid by June 30 it is turned over to a collection agency. The taxpayer must pay the collection fee in addition to the taxes and penalty. The collection fee of 15% is being increased to 20%. This is consistent with revised state law and most other local communities.
- Richardson now has 43 Homeowners Associations, covering 85% of the residences.
- Approximately 50,000 people visited Santa's Village. Lights and music were left on weekday evenings even when the village was not staffed. A \$125,000 grant from Alcatel helped in the refurbishing in the village over the last several years.
- The Police Department has 8 people in various stages of training. Promotions and authorization to fill a few of the positions that had been under a headcount freeze result in another 4 openings.
- Richardson retains its AA1 rating by Moody's and its AA+ rating by S&P. Irving and Plano are the only cities in the area with higher ratings. Dallas was downgraded last year.
- The Chamber of Commerce will lead a petition drive, probably in September, to permit the sale of liquor by the drink without requiring a club membership. McKinney is expected to vote on package sales of beer and wine in May, and an election for alcohol sales in restaurants will probably take place at the same time. Allen has also collected signatures necessary for an election, which should be scheduled soon. Sixty percent of Plano is already "wet". A recent petition drive for an election to allow the other forty percent of Plano to become wet fell about 2,800 signatures short of the required 20,077 needed to schedule an election. Another Plano petition effort is likely next year. In Richardson about 8,500 petition signatures will be required to schedule an election.

We are starting a new feature in this month's newsletter. So you that you may quickly locate a new ad, and decide if you want to avail yourself of that service or visit a store, arrows such as these will highlight it.



Mohawk Kindergarten Round-Up



Kindergarten Round Up will be Tuesday, March 2 at Mohawk Elementary. Parents may choose an afternoon or evening registration time. If you know of anyone in the Mohawk area who has a child that will be in kindergarten next year please invite them to attend.

Tuesday, March 2, 1:30-3:00 pm:

Students will have time in the library and music, visit in the kindergarten room with kindergarten teacher and have refreshments in the cafeteria with parents.

Parents will meet with the principal and other school personnel to tour the school, visit in the computer lab, and pre-enroll their students.

Tuesday, March 2, 6:00-7:30 pm:

Students will meet their teacher and principal and have time in the kindergarten room with the kindergarten teacher. They will remain in the kindergarten room until 7:15 when they will return to the cafeteria for refreshments with parents.

Parents will meet with the principal and other school personnel to tour the school and pre-enroll their students.

Please bring the following when you come for pre-enrollment:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Child's Social Security Card
- Child's Immunization Record
- Parent's Proof of residence: a utility bill (electric, gas or water) or a rental lease if you reside in an apartment
- Parent's driver's license or other government issued picture-id.

Education News

By the time you're reading this you should have received the Mohawk newsletter. Scouts volunteered to deliver it to all the homes in the Mohawk attendance area this time.

RISD is considering all day kindergarten for next year. All day kindergarten will increase state funding for RISD by increasing the effective Weighted Average Daily Attendance. The result is an additional \$6M per year for RISD. There are some initial start-up costs but even with those start-up costs there would be an additional \$3.8M available in the first year. The School Board will vote on it at their meeting on Monday, February 9 at 7:00 pm. Board meetings are at the RISD Administration Building on Greenview, four blocks south of Main Street/Beltline.

Best wishes to neighbor and JJPHOA member Carolyn Bukhair on her forthcoming retirement as RISD Superintendent.

New Seismograph at UTD Registers Earth's Shakes, Rattles and Rolls

\$10,000 Instrument an Educational Tool for Geosciences Students

The next time you feel the earth move under your feet, geoscientists at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) will be able to tell you when and how much – on a newly-installed seismograph in Founders Hall.

The sensitive scientific instrument, one of only a very few of its kind in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, records seismic waves generated by earthquakes – whether it occurs in an adjoining state or as distant as the other side of the globe. But mostly what it displays – on a computer screen in real-time digital readouts that resemble an electrocardiogram printout – is the “ordinary background noise of the planet,” according to one of the instrument's builders, Dr. John F. Ferguson, associate professor in UTD's Department of Geosciences.

“The earth's surface is in constant motion,” Ferguson said. “These shifts of perhaps only a millionth of a meter are imperceptible to you and me, but are detected by the seismograph and displayed as an ongoing series of small blips in the data stream. However, a moderate earthquake of, say, 4 on the Richter scale 1,000 miles away would result in a much larger blip.”

The seismograph's display screen has been erected in the lobby of Founders, the university's main science building, so that students, faculty or passersby can gauge the earth's seismic mood at any given time. It's part of a new display – a “mini-museum” – that includes historical geoscientific instruments and equipment, some manufactured by Geophysical Services, Inc., the forerunner of today's Texas

Instruments, whose founders created UTD's predecessor institution, the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest.

But the heart of the instrument – the seismometers – resides one floor below, in the building's basement. The seismometers are oriented in such a manner to measure movement of the earth in three directions – up and down, north and south and east and west.

The seismometers sit on a concrete pier, which is isolated from the surrounding slab of the building to reduce the chance of vibrations from machinery and other equipment producing a false reading. According to Ferguson, while the slab sits on the surface of the ground, the pier is anchored in bedrock – in this case, a portion of the Austin Chalk formation lying just a meter below the building.

Seismic waves from a temblor are conducted through the bedrock and the attached pier and sensed by the seismometers, then the data is transmitted to the computer screen upstairs.

“When Founders – the first building on our campus – was built in 1964, the concrete pier was included for just this purpose,” Ferguson said.

The seismograph was constructed over a period of about six months by Ferguson and several colleagues, Jerry Beavers and Ray Fuller, who are technical staff members in the Geosciences group. They utilized new and existing equipment, as well as some they built themselves. The cost of the project was approximately \$10,000.

“We've wanted to install a seismograph at UTD for some time,” Ferguson said. “Its primary purpose is to provide another dimension to our educational efforts in the geosciences.”

According to Ferguson, the instrument should be particularly valuable to students enrolled in undergraduate classes on Geophysics and on Volcanoes and Earthquakes.

Because North Texas is relatively stable from a geological standpoint, few earthquakes occur in the immediate area. The nearest quakes likely to be detected by the UTD seismograph might strike areas of West Texas and the Texas Panhandle, Oklahoma or Mexico, Ferguson said.



For a Beautiful City

Over the past year or so the City Council and staff, in response to citizen concerns, have placed added emphasis on ensuring Richardson's neighborhoods are attractive and healthy. The strategy includes new code enforcement initiatives; neighborhood enhancement initiatives; and neighborhood relationship efforts. Most of these programs are administered by the Neighborhood Services Department and a new "Assistant City Manager - Community Services" position was created to maintain focus on these areas.

Door hangers are one new code enforcement technique that is being used. Neighbors and the City would always rather have people correct a situation through awareness, rather than enforcement. Door hangers are used to notify people of code violations that require attention, such as: yard parking, oversized vehicles and trailers, illegal signs, downed fencing around pools, and unsecured buildings.

The City has begun conducting inspections in response to complaints concerning **home occupancy complaints**. (See article on Home Occupancy ordinance in our November 2003 issue, page 6, www.jjphoa.org/news/news2003/11nov2003.pdf; or the actual ordinance at www.cor.net/NeighborhoodServices/QuickCodes.html).

Richardson provides an outstanding, free service to residents. If you have large or bulky items to be disposed of the Sanitation Department will pick up almost anything. You simply have to call and request pickup, and have the items in the parkway in front of your home early on Tuesday morning. You can request pickup at any time by calling 972-744-4111. You can now also request pickup online from the Neighborhood Services Department portion of the City's website: www.cor.net/NeighborhoodServices/. Pickup will always be on Tuesday, the same day that the blue recycling bags are collected. **It is your responsibility to call for pickup.** Please be courteous to your neighbors by calling for pickup and by trying to delay placing your items at curbside until as close to the pickup day as possible. When city inspectors do their routine travel around the city they may verify that **brush and bulky items** placed in parkways actually have been called in for pickup.

Richardson will be updating the code of ordinances for **junk vehicles** to match updated state regulations. The time that a visible vehicle can remain inoperable is reduced from 45 days to 30 days. The time to correct high grass and weed violations, and trash and debris violations, will be reduced from 10 days to 7 days.

The regulation on **commercial vehicle parking** has also been clarified. Not more than one commercial vehicle, of ¾ ton capacity or less, can be parked on a residentially zoned property or in a public street or alley adjacent to residentially zoned property. A commercial vehicle is identified by signage or other means that it is used in a business. Vehicles of over ¾ ton capacity can never be parked in residential

areas. Obviously this regulation does not mean that you cannot have some business perform services at your home. The intent is to keep residential neighborhoods looking residential.

Along those same lines, there are restrictions on signs that may be placed around homes. Signs in the parkways between the sidewalk and curb are never permitted. **Temporary signs in your front yard or along the alley**, such as remodeling or painting, are permitted while the work is being done. But once the work is complete the signs should be removed. Signs for home businesses are not permitted. Some roofers, landscapers, painters and others are only too glad to leave their signs in place forever. If that happens to you please discard them in a reasonable timeframe.

Most of the things that the enforcement efforts and ordinances address are common sense and simple courtesy. Sometimes a reminder makes us aware of things we didn't think about. But it's also nice to know that if "the other guy" isn't as considerate as we are, that the City has some muscle to apply.



Homemade Gourmet
"Bringing Families Back to the Dinner Table"®

Judi McGregor
Independent Distributor

Dist. #12617
972.470.0997
fax 972.907.9227
469.644.3503
cmcgr@swbell.net

1216 Stratford Drive
Richardson, TX 75080

Primary Election

The Texas primary election will be held on Tuesday, March 9. We vote at Mohawk Elementary.

Early voting begins February 23 and continues through March 5, including Saturday and Sunday. Early voting times are: Feb. 23 - 27, 8 am - 5 pm, Feb. 28, 7 am - 7 pm, Feb. 29, 1pm - 6 pm and Mar. 1 - 5, 7 am - 7 pm.

You may vote early at any Dallas County early voting location. A list of locations is available on the Internet at www.dalcoelections.org/. Early voting in Richardson for this election will take place in the Richardson Library, instead of the City Hall building.

The last day to register to vote in this election was February 9. If you are not registered you can vote to register in future elections by obtaining a voter registration application from www.dalcoelections.org/.

The League of Women Voters Election Guide should be available by February 18. Check their website at www.lwvtexas.org for availability.

New Neighborhood Services website

The screenshot shows the website layout for Neighborhood Services. At the top, there are four main navigation categories: Neighborhood Integrity, Related Programs, News/Publications, and Ordinances. Below these is a blue navigation bar with links: Home, City Council, Information, City Hall, Recreation, Cities/Agencies, and Search. A secondary navigation bar below that includes Home, Related Programs, News/Publications, Code of Ordinances, and FAQ. The main content area has a red header for 'City of Richardson Neighborhood Services'. On the left, a 'Resources' sidebar lists: Neighborhood Integrity, Neighborhood Enhancement, Neighborhood Relations, Homeowners Association, and Express a Concern. The main content area on the right features a large text block about the city's history with the Neighborhood Integrity Program, a small image of a house, and a list of initiatives. A red banner at the top of the content area reads 'City of Richardson Neighborhood Services'.

Richardson has created a new website as part of the focus on neighborhood vitality. The Neighborhood Services page is listed under Departments on the city’s website, www.cor.net, or you can get there directly by going to www.cor.net/NeighborhoodServices/.

There are several handy tools and bits of information on the new site. The “Neighborhood Integrity” link will show you a brief overview of ten common complaints that residents have. The “Common Complaints” information is also available as a brochure, in English or Spanish, in the News/Publications link.

The “Related Programs” link will let you sign up for a Brush or Bulky Item pickup online. It will also tell you when and where you can dispose of hazardous chemicals safely. The disposal site is a free service to Richardson residents. You will be asked to show you drivers license to provide proof of residency at the disposal site. Want to know what you can recycle? That information is there too. Rental Property owners can register their properties online from the site.

All City Ordinances are available online as will. A “Quick Code” link gives easier and faster access to the ordinances though. The most commonly referenced ordinances are organized by topic in the Quick Codes.

If you need to notify the City about street or traffic light outages, streets or sidewalks in need of repair, or even make a complaint that can be done online from the “Express a Concern” link.

Ten Common Complaints

- Address Numbers
- Fences
- Yard Parking
- Vehicles
- Outside Storage
- Home Occupation/Garage Sales
- Trash and Debris
- High Grass and Weeds
- Vegetation
- Minimum Property Standards

Many Neighborhood Services and other useful telephone numbers are listed behind the “Numbers of General Interest” tab in your 2004 membership Directory.

Richardson's Big Dig

By Chris Bruckner, VP Development

You may have heard of Boston's "Big Dig" project (www.bigdig.com) that will alleviate the traffic congestion that plagues that great city every day. Richardson is faced with a similar dilemma as people flock to our community, which is well regarded for its quality of life. While certainly not as grandiose as the largest civil works project in our nation's history, our city is also taking action to ensure its growing population can move efficiently through one of its most congested locations, the intersection of U.S. 75 and Campbell Road. The solution to this increasing problem will be an underpass that runs between Collins Blvd. and Jay Ell Dr. (just west of Plano Rd.) that will be modeled after the recently completed underpass at U.S. 75 and Spring Valley. On January 19, I attended a presentation of the "Campbell Road Underpass" to the Richardson City Council, which reviewed this project's history, the need for the underpass, benefits, construction schedule and the public's involvement.

Projecting a continuously growing traffic problem in the region, city planners added the Campbell Road Underpass to the City's Master Transportation Plan on May 5, 1986. Nearly 20 years later, the project to build four through lanes (two in each direction) at ground level along Campbell Road and four additional lanes (two in each direction) below ground level from Greenville Ave. to U.S. 75 is underway. The \$25.5M project is a joint effort of four public entities comprised of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Dallas County and the City of Richardson. Nearly two-thirds of the project is federally funded and that money is already secured specifically for this project — it cannot be reallocated and if unused, will be returned. Richardson's share is \$2M although the city has the option to spend additional funds on landscaping and other aesthetic improvements to compliment the underpass. Despite lower traffic volumes due to the recent economic conditions, city planners anticipate failure to improve mobility at this intersection would threaten future growth and development and increase strain on neighboring roadways.

In addition to greater access, city planners predict that the separation of traffic above and below ground will significantly reduce the number of accidents as commuters traveling through the underpass bypass several intersections. They also believe this project will lead to more predictable travel times, improved emergency responsiveness and better air quality consistent with federal and state requirements.

The Campbell Road Underpass will be constructed during three phases. Surveying and design has already begun and is expected to be complete by 2005. The relocation of

utilities should take approximately two years although engineers believe this intersection will prove much less challenging than the situation they encountered at Spring Valley. Construction of the underpass itself is scheduled to begin in 2006 and is expected to be open to the public by 2010. TxDOT has awarded the design of the project to Bridgefarmer and Associates (B&A), an internationally recognized consulting and engineering firm located in Dallas. Sufficient right-of-way is expected to allow traffic to continue to move through the intersection during all project phases. TxDOT will also be investigating the use of temporary improvements in alternative routes to minimize disruption.

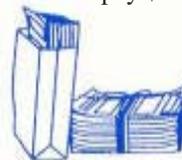
A key element of the underpass project is involvement and communication with the public. City staff have already begun meeting with interested parties and have directed Special Projects Engineer Henry Drexel, P.E., as the liaison between the city and citizens. Residents are encouraged to contact Mr. Drexel at 972-744-4278 with your concerns. The city will conduct several public meetings throughout the project to provide information and solicit feedback from the community. A page on the city's website (www.cor.net) will include project updates as well as a live video feed.

Residents of North Texas have had to endure construction along many of its roadways for as long as most of us can remember. We've recently begun to appreciate the benefits of those labors, including the continued progress of the "High-Five" project at U.S. 75 and I-635, which is over 5 months ahead of schedule. The Campbell Road Underpass should be an improvement in Richardson's transportation plan that will benefit residents into the future and contribute to the quality of life we enjoy in our fine city.

Recycling Mean\$ Money Free Money for Mohawk

Mohawk is involved in a recycling contest for the month of February. Last year Mohawk won \$400 in the February contest. This year they are trying to top last year totals. Mohawk normally receives \$15 a ton for recycled paper. They average \$200 a month.

- If they equal last years contest tonnage of 27,880, Abitibi Consolidated will pay the school \$20 per ton.
- If they exceed it by 10%, Abitibi Consolidated will pay \$25 per ton!
- If they exceed it by 25%, Abitibi Consolidated will pay \$30 per ton!



This is an easy way for the school to make money with our help. Please recycle all paper products, such as newspapers, magazines, and office papers to help fill the bins in February!

CRIME/SAFETY TALK

By Thom Pomella, VP Safety

Recent Crime

No news is good news. I have not had any reports of activity in our area. The Richardson Police Department has begun surveillance of our problem stop signs. There have already been a few motorists stopped and ticketed. Don't be next.

PC Virus Scanning Software

You might ask, 'what does this article about virus software have to do with crime / safety'? The answer is simple. I need your PC's running so you can receive the Crime Watch alerts that are sent out periodically. These alerts let us know what has happened / is happening in our neighborhood and the adjoining neighborhoods. I currently use two different virus scanning methods, online and offline. Both of these are FREE. You need both types because sometimes a virus will disable your PC to the point where you can't even get to the Internet. The resident Virus Software is AVG by Grisoft. It resides on your PC and runs all the time protecting your PC from invasion. This one also scans your incoming and certifies your outgoing mail as being virus free. It requires you to download and install the program. You will have to fill out an information page for them, and they'll send you a code to unlock the program. This program has a scheduler that takes care of everything for you. It runs itself every day at a 1AM, and updates its virus database every fourteen days. (Provided your PC is on and connected to the Internet as the scheduled times.) To get this program go to the following URL and follow the directions there: www.grisoft.com/us/us_dwnl_free.php

This next one runs only while you are connected to the Internet. Since it is run from their website it always uses the latest virus database file. It does not check your incoming e-mail or downloads like AVG does. To run this virus software go to the following URL and follow the directions there: <http://housecall.trendmicro.com/>

I prefer the AVG software and keep it resident and running all the time. Every once in a while, I run the Trend Micro online scanner just in case the AVG missed something. (To this day AVG hasn't missed anything.) If you do not receive the crime watch e-mail alerts, send your name, address and e-mail address to me at thom@pomella.net and I will see that you start receiving the alerts.

Protect Yourself

Your identity needs to be protected. Our most vulnerable area right now is our mailbox. Know what time your mail arrives and promptly remove the mail as soon as possible. Never let mail accumulate in the mailbox. If you will be away, have the mail held at the post office or have a neighbor

pick it up for you. When you have outgoing mail, place it in the box but DO NOT raise the flag. The carriers always look in the box and will pick it up when the mail is delivered. The best way to mail your letters is to use the USPS mailbox by the dentist office on the southwest corner of W. Campbell Rd. and Mimosa Dr. Never have your new checks delivered to your street address. Have them delivered to your bank, and pick them up there. Remember the only people authorized to use the curbside mailboxes are the homeowners and the US Postal Service Letter Carrier. If you see anyone else open yours or a neighbor's mailbox, take notice of the person, type and color of vehicle, and license plate number if possible, and then call the police. This may sound like you are over reacting, but you may stop an Identity Theft.

FYI.

D041 Customer Mail Receptacles

2.0 Curbside Mailboxes

Manufacturer Specifications

2.1 Manufacturers of all mailboxes designed and made to be erected at the edge of a roadway or curbside of a street and to be served by a carrier from a vehicle on any city route, rural route, or highway contract route must obtain approval of their products under USPS Standard 7, *Mailboxes, City and Rural Curbside*. To receive these construction standards and drawings or other information about the manufacture of curbside mailboxes, write to USPS Engineering (see G043 for address).

Custom-Built Mailbox

2.2 The local postmaster may approve a curbside mailbox constructed by a customer who, for aesthetic or other reasons, does not want to use an approved manufactured box. The custom-built box must generally meet the same standards as approved manufactured boxes for flag, size, strength, and quality of construction.

Address Identification

2.3 Every curbside mailbox must bear the following address information:

- a. A box number, if used, inscribed in contrasting color in neat letters and numerals at least 1 inch high on the side of the box visible to the carrier's regular approach, or on the door if boxes are grouped.
- b. A *house number* if street names and house numbers have been assigned by local authorities, and the postmaster authorizes their use as a postal address.

If the box is on a different street from the customer's residence, the street name and house number must be inscribed on the box.

Source: D-10 DMM Issue 58 plus Postal Bulletin changes through PB 22117 (12-11-03)

(Continued on next page.)

D041.2.4 Customer Mail Receptacles

Owner's Name

2.4 The mailbox may bear the owner's name.

Advertising

2.5 Any advertising on a mailbox or its support is prohibited.

Mailbox Post

2.6 The post or other support for a curbside mailbox must be neat and of adequate strength and size. The post may not represent effigies or caricatures that tend to disparage or ridicule any person. The box may be attached to a fixed or movable arm.



Location

2.7 Subject to state laws and regulations, *a curbside mailbox must be placed to allow safe and convenient delivery by carriers without leaving their vehicles.* The box must be on the right-hand side of the road in the direction of travel of the carriers on any new rural route or highway contract route, in all cases where traffic conditions are dangerous for the carriers to drive to the left to reach the box, or where their doing so would violate traffic laws and regulations.

Locked Box

2.9 A mailbox with a lock must have a slot that is large enough to accommodate the customer's normal daily mail volume. The USPS neither opens a locked box nor accepts a key for this purpose.

USPS Domestic Mail Manual

<http://pe.usps.gov/>

Membership News

Marc Perlstein, VP Membership

Please add the following to your Directory:

Edith Circle

1119 Strong, Eric and Janet 972-238-1663

Eton

1121 O'Steen, Bob and Patty 972-644-0044

Lilac Court

1904 Cummings, Renita and Carlos 972-690-7064

Violet Place

1904 Ross, Russell and Susan 972-669-0419

Greetings from your VP of Beautification!

By Phil Meeker

In all you do in anticipating spring— watch out for and be prepared for late spring frost. To be prepared, have floating row covers, sheets or old woven blanket to put over tender annuals and new growth that includes Carolina Jasmine vines and other early spring flowering plants. Also include cyclamen, primrose, stock and snapdragons. If you are a die-hard, your window for planting cool season crops (vegetables), i.e., onion slips, potatoes, etc. is now.

Briefly, I have to tell you what I did in our landscape last week. I cut back (by 40%) our summer flowering shrubs and trees including Abelia grandiflora, Purple plum tree, butterfly bush and two Crepe Myrtle trees. The correct pruning of Crepe Myrtles is to foster bloom. Crepe Myrtles are the longest seasonal bloomer in the landscape, whether it is a low shrub or a mature large tree! Did you know in order to lengthen the Crepe Myrtle blooming season there are three things you do:

- Winter season — prune off all spent seed heads in January.
- Before spring (mid February) — fertilize and water in any commercial lawn fertilizer or organic fertilizer.
- In mid summer — Usually in late June, prune all nearly spent flower cluster heads, and again in August to promote new flower growth to create new flowers through a warm October.

Insect Control in February

Scale is a death knell to many landscape plants. How do you know if you have scale? Look at your plantings. Do you see or feel hard crusty rounded blights on stems and/or soft cottony white deposits on your shrub stems? If you do, spray dormant oil providing the air temperature is above 60 degree but below 90. And always follow label directions.

Have a great and rewarding Spring and don't forget to feed the birds!



Minutes of Board Meeting, January 4, 2004



Bernie Mayoff called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the home of Phil Meeker.

In attendance: Bernie Mayoff, Dee Russum, Marc Perlstein, Thom Pomella, Phil Meeker and Nancy De La Garza, John Sadowski, and Chris Bruckner.

Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Helen presented the treasurer's report. It was approved as presented. It was noted that \$3,000 was transferred to the Vanguard account.

Old Business

Thank you letters will be sent to those that helped with the holiday decorations. Several new families were involved this year. Thom noted that the Board would need to budget \$200-300 next year to refurbish some of the decorations.

The March 28 planning session is still in the works.

New Business

The Easter Egg Hunt is planned for April 10th.

The Thank You reception for the volunteers will be in April or May. The board will provide food. A nominating committee will be selected after that time.

Committee Reports

- Membership: Marc reported that the correct number of paid members is 343. He is working on getting new block captains.
- Development: Bernie reported on the cell phone tower proposed for Pearce High School. Chris reported on the renter's registration program that is required by the city.
- Newsletter: New ads would really be appreciated. The next newsletter and the directory will be delivered together.
- Internet: Pictures are on the web site of winning holiday decorations.
- Safety: Thom reported that there was 1 theft from a garage where the garage door was left open.
- Beautification: Phil reported there were 5 houses that received holiday decorating awards.

The next Homeowners Association Presidents meeting will be January 20, at 7:00 p.m. Bernie extends an invitation to all Board members. It is sponsored by the city of Richardson.

Next Board meetings are as follows:

- February 1 at Nancy De La Garza's. Newsletter deadline is January 30.
- February 29 Planning session, exact place to be determined at next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy De La Garza, Secretary

Helping Troubled Kids

Occasionally there are kids that get in trouble with the law. Hopefully it is not too serious and their first encounter will also be their last encounter. For some troubled youths though, that is not the case. The juvenile justice system is intended to help kids from becoming repeat offenders, and to dealing with it when they are. A prerequisite to dealing with repeat offenders is simply recognizing who they are and what corrective actions have already been tried. That is the purpose of the Dallas County Juvenile Information System (JIS).

JIS is a cooperative program among Dallas County, Richardson Police Department and 80 other law enforcement agencies, that has established and is enhancing a state of the art system. JIS provides municipal courts, police departments, justice of the peace courts, school districts, and county juvenile department workers with quick, efficient and reliable information concerning juvenile offenders. The system allows participants to know if other agencies have handled a juvenile, what the offense was, and the nature of the intervention handed down by the various courts. It also assists in complying with the law that requires that Municipal and Justice of the Peace courts transfer jurisdiction to the juvenile courts upon the third Class C misdemeanor.

Funding for the program comes primarily from the federal Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG) and is about to enter its sixth year. As part of participation in JIS participating communities match 10% of the local JAIBG grant to the collaborative effort. Richardson's contribution this year will be \$2,739. The Richardson Police Department has also used a portion of its funds to assist Richardson's Neighborhood Youth and Family Counseling organization, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in January.

Valentine's Day



Don't forget your Valentine!

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred. One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed 'From your Valentine,' an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

www.historychannel.com/exhibits/valentine/history.html

We hear from our Readers



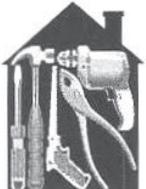
I must say to you all that when I get the newsletter, I stop everything else and read it cover to cover. The January 2004 is terrific! I've mentioned to some of our new homeowners that Pearce HOA has the best newsletter in Richardson - and that's an un-biased comment!

I really appreciate Thom's "Crime/Safety Talk" section because he hits the nail right in the middle. And, Bernie and Dee - you both must have 'bugs' planted in many Richardson locations to be able to report so much meaningful city and school data!

I have one 'bit' to share with you; as you know, we started Citizens Supporting RISD Schools - CSRS, last year and we're involved in most of RISD's 55 schools. We meet quarterly at various school locations; our next meeting. ... Art Middlebrook

I have just finished reading the January edition of the JPHOA Newsletter. Please accept my compliments. It is an outstanding report (re: Mobility 2025). This one was full of important information. Thank You! There is no other source of the relevant information that affects our neighborhood.

— Thanks, Jim Dillard



**PLUMBING
HOME REPAIR
HOME MAINTENANCE**

**PROFESSIONAL HANDYMAN
SERVICES**

(972) 985-4415

e-mail: brian@bradleygroup.com

BRIAN BUCHAN
Fully Insured
Over 20 years experience

Repair/replace - Install - Pick-up, Delivery, and Assembly

Gift Certificates Available



Leap Years

The calendar year is 365 days long, unless the year is exactly divisible by 4, in which case an extra day is added to February to make the year 366 days long. If the year is the last year of a century, e.g. 1800, 1900, 2000, then it is only a leap year if it is exactly divisible by 400. Therefore, 1900 wasn't a leap year but 2000 was. The reason for these rules is to bring the average length of the calendar year into line with the length of the Earth's orbit around the Sun, so that the seasons always occur during the same months each year.

The year is defined as being the interval between two successive passages of the Sun through the vernal equinox. Of course, what is really occurring is that the Earth is going around the Sun but it is easier to understand what is happening by considering the apparent motion of the Sun in the sky.

The vernal equinox is the instant when the Sun is above the Earth's equator while going from the south to the north. It is the time, which astronomers take as the definition of the beginning of spring. The year as defined above is called the tropical year and it is the year length that defines the repetition of the seasons. The length of the tropical year is 365.24219 days.

In 46 BC Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar, which was used in the west until 1582. In the Julian calendar each year contained 12 months and there were an average of 365.25 days in a year. This was achieved by having three years containing 365 days and one year containing 366 days. (In fact the leap years were not correctly inserted until 8 AD).

The discrepancy between the actual length of the year, 365.24219 days, and the adopted length, 365.25 days, may not seem important but over hundreds of years the difference becomes obvious. The reason for this is that the seasons, which depend on the date in the tropical year, were getting progressively out of kilter with the calendar date. Pope Gregory XIII, in 1582, instituted the Gregorian calendar, which has been used since then.

The change from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian involved the change of the simple rule for leap-years to the more complex one in which century years should only be leap-years if they were divisible by 400. For example, 1700, 1800 and 1900 are not leap years whereas 2000 will be.

The net effect is to make the adopted average length of the year 365.2425 days. The difference between this and the true length will not have a serious effect for many thousands of years. (The error amounts to about 3 days in 10,000 years.)

The adoption of the Gregorian calendar was made in Catholic countries in 1582 with the elimination of 10 days, 4 October being followed by 15 October. The Gregorian calendar also stipulated that the year should start on 1 January. In non-Catholic countries the change was made later; Britain and her colonies made the change in 1752 when 2 September was followed by 14 September and New Year's Day was changed from 25 March to 1 January.

<http://makeashorterlink.com/?C12A226F6>

Leap Year and Love?

Leap Year was the traditional time that women could propose marriage. In many of today's cultures, it is ok for a woman to propose marriage to a man.



Society doesn't look down on such women. However, that hasn't always been the case. When the rules of courtship were stricter, women were only allowed to pop the question on one day every four years. That day was February 29th. It is believed this tradition was started in 5th century Ireland when St. Bridget complained to St. Patrick about women having to wait for so long for a man to propose. So, according to legend, St. Patrick said the yearning females could propose on this one day in February during the Leap Year.

In the United States, some people have referred to this date as Sadie Hawkins Day, with women being given the right to run after unmarried men to propose. Sadie Hawkins was a female character in the Al Capp cartoon strip "Li'l Abner." Many communities celebrate Sadie Hawkins Day in November.

Excerpted from: <http://marriage.about.com/cs/holidays/a/leapyear.htm>

Carnival Custom Painting

"Over 3,500 Homes Painted and Counting . . ."

INSURED • FREE ESTIMATES

972-867-5221

Residential Interior & Exterior Painting • Cabinets & Paneling
(Stain-to-Paint) • Drywall Repairs & Textures •
Cosmetic Updates (Move In & Out) •
CALL FOR EXTERIOR SPECIALS!





15 Years In Business • Uniformed Painters
• Written Warranty • Satisfaction Guaranteed •
24 Hr to 2-Week Turnaround

www.CarnivalPainting.com

J J PEARCE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Cash Receipts and Expenses
For the Period September 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004

	Month Ended Jan. 31, 2004	Year to Date Actual Jan. 31, 2004	Year To Date Budget
Cash Receipts			
Membership Dues	\$60.00	\$5,100.00	\$4,950.00
Dividends	9.23	50.61	50.00
Advertising-Newsle	170.00	890.00	450.00
Contributions	5.00		
<hr/>			
Total Receipts	239.23	6,045.61	5,450.00
Expenses			
Crime Watch			
Metrocall	21.85	109.25	109.25
Membership			
Annual Meeting		159.00	159.00
Binders			100.00
Directory Printing	526.97	526.97	320.00
Directory Delivery	30.00	30.00	30.00
Social Events			
December Decorations	6.30	64.44	125.00
Newsletter			
Printing, etc.	193.45	1,095.15	1,273.60
Delivery	60.00	315.00	330.00
Other Expenses			
Contributions		234.75	235.00
Miscellaneous	4.20	4.20	41.25
<hr/>			
Total Expenses	842.77	2,538.76	2,723.10
<hr/>			
Net Income (Los	-\$603.54	\$3,506.85	\$2,726.90

Fund Balances	Checking	Vanguard	Totals
Beginning Balances - 1/1/04	\$2,029.87	\$18,729.28	20,759.15
Add receipts	230.00	9.23	239.23
Transfers			
Less Disbursements	842.77		842.77
<hr/>			
Ending Balances - 1/31/04	\$1,417.10	\$18,738.51	\$20,155.61

Respectfully Submitted, Helen Simon, Treasurer, February 1, 2004



BOB CAIN
Store Director

ALBERTSON'S, INC. / 1341 WEST CAMPBELL
RICHARDSON, TEXAS 75080 / 972-437-2896 / FAX: 972-437-5914



Ebby Halliday
REALTORS

Dorothy Thomas
REALTOR®

Multi-Million Dollar Producer
dorothishomes@mindspring.com
7601 Campbell Rd., Ste 700
Dallas, TX 75248
Office: (972) 248-8800
Fax: (972) 248-6872
Mobile: (469) 233-3396
Residence: (972) 231-3396

www.ebby.com

Local Events February - March include:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
February		
7	<i>Oliver!</i>	7:30pm, Pearce
	<i>Betty's Summer Vacation</i> (comedy play)	8:00pm, Univ Theatre, UTD
	Richardson Symphony Orchestra	Eisemann Center
8	Richardson Community Band concert	2:00pm, Eisemann Center
10	Challenge the Champions (Chess)	1:00pm, UTD Library
	Boys Soccer vs Highland Park	5:30pm, 7:00pm, Pearce
	Girls Basketball vs Mesquite Horn	6:00, 7:30pm, Pearce
11	ChessFest III	2:30pm, UTD Library Auditorium
12	UTD Women's Basketball vs Mississippi Payne	5:30pm, UTD
	UTD Men's Basketball vs Mississippi College	7:30pm, UTD
	<i>Betty's Summer Vacation</i> (comedy play)	2:30pm, Univ Theatre, UTD
13	Girls Soccer vs Richardson	5:30pm/7:00pm, Pearce
	Softball vs R. L. Turner	5:30pm, 7:00pm, Pearce
	Boys Soccer vs Richardson	5:30pm/7:00pm, Richardson
	Jazz piano concert (Kelly Durbin)	8:00pm, Jonsson Perf Hall, UTD
13-14	<i>Betty's Summer Vacation</i> (comedy play)	8:00pm, Univ Theatre, UTD
14	UTD Women's Basketball vs Louisiana College	1:00pm, UTD
	UTD Men's Basketball vs Louisiana College	3:00pm, UTD
15	<i>Betty's Summer Vacation</i> (comedy play)	2:30pm, Univ Theatre, UTD
16	Presidents Day – no school	
17	Baseball vs Plano West	4:00pm, Pearce
	Boys Soccer vs Mesquite Poteet	5:30, 7:00pm, Pearce
	Boys Basketball vs Mesquite Poteet	6:30, 8:00pm, Pearce
19	Mohawk Math, Science, Technology Night	7:00pm, Mohawk
20	Classical guitar concert	8:00pm, Jonsson Performance hall, UTD
23	Mens Tennis vs Jesuit	4:15pm, Pearce
24	Softball vs. Bishop Lynch	5:00pm, 6:30pm, Pearce
	Girls Soccer vs Kauffman (varsity only)	6:00pm, Pearce
27	Girls Soccer vs Horn	5:30pm, 7:00pm, Pearce
	JV Baseball vs. Jesuit	6:00pm, Pearce
	Jazz Concert (free)	8:00pm, University Theatre, UTD
27-28	Concord Spring Show	7:30pm, Pearce
28	JV Baseball vs. McKinney North	1:00pm, Pearce
March		
1	Violin and piano concert	7:30pm, Jonsson Performance Hall, UTD
2	Boys Soccer vs Terrell	6:00, 7:30pm, Pearce
	JV Baseball vs. Berkner	7:00pm, Pearce
4	RISD Elementary-wide Summer Fair	
5	Girls Soccer vs Highland Park	5:30pm, 7:00pm, Pearce
6	Richardson Symphony Orchestra	Eisemann Center
8-12	Spring Break	

For information on performances at UTD call 972-883-2982, or <http://ah.utdallas.edu>



Douglas R. Crosby
D.D.S., M.S.
Diplomate, American Board of Orthodontics

1920 N. Coit Road 5509 Pleasant Valley
 Suite 220 Suite 40
 Richardson, TX 75080 Plano, TX 75023
 972-680-9882 972-867-0700

Orthodontics for adults and children

Start saving now!

Mohawk Elementary's Garage Sale is scheduled for April 17, starting at 8 A. M. Large items or furniture, except for appliances will be accepted. Keep checking the newsletters for more information.

Board of Directors 2003 —2004

President	Bernie Mayoff	972-669-9169	bernie@mayoff.com
VP Development	Chris Bruckner	972-994-9374	csmail@airmail.net
VP Safety	Thom Pomella	972-690-5980	thom@pomella.net
VP Beautification	Phil Meeker	972-690-4677	jmeeker@americorp.com
VP Membership	Marc Perlstein	972-907-9208	mperl112@aol.com
Secretary	Nancy De La Garza	972-783-6462	delern@aol.com
Treasurer	Helen Simon	972-234-2443	helen@simon-says.net
		972-234-8009	(business phone)
Newsletter	Dee Russum	972-235-1961	ddrussum@comcast.net
Webmaster	John Sadowski	972-238-9826	jcsadowski@aol.com

Newsletter Advertising

Business ads must be paid for in advance. Checks should be made payable to J. J. Pearce Homeowners Association.
Contact Dee Russum, 1102 Pueblo, phone 972-235-1961 or e-mail: ddrussum@comcast.net

Rates per newsletter, based on 8 ½ X 11" page.

Business card (2 x 3 ½ ")	\$10.00
¼ page	\$20.00
½ page	\$40.00
Full page	\$75.00

Any business ad purchased for a full year receives a free ad in the directory

Phone: (214) 232-9898
Fax: (972) 234-5702
Email: b.christian@officemax.com

BRETT CHRISTIAN
Commercial Account Manager



Document Services

<http://ftp.copymax.com0431>
cmx0431@copymax.com



Now hiring people skilled at
operating this piece of equipment.

If you're smart and aren't afraid to think for yourself, we want to pick your brain about a career in law enforcement. Call our Professional Standards Unit at 972-764-4802 or visit www.corintt.com.

**RICHARDSON
POLICE DEPT.**
A HIGHER CALIBER

"Our Service Is A Cut Above!"



M-Sat 8-6
1331 W. Campbell Rd.
Richardson, TX
(972) 479-0840

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



J. J. Pearce Homeowners Association
1411 Huntington
Richardson, Texas 75080

\$ave Paper\$ for Mohawk
 During February help Mohawk win the area wide paper drive. See page 5 for details.

Board Meetings: February 29, 1208 Grassmere, 7:00pm
 April 4, 1314 Huntington, 4:00pm

Board meetings are open to all members