

***J. J. Pearce Homeowners Association Newsletter***  
***Website: [www.jjphoa.org](http://www.jjphoa.org)***

***May, 2004***

**News from the City**

- The Richardson Police Department is recommending that the billing and collection of Alarm Permits and false alarm services be outsourced to an independent contractor. Fulfilling these administrative duties is a time consuming challenge to a staff that is already facing shortages and a hiring freeze. Alarm calls comprise 17% of RPD's total call load, of which 99.3% prove to be false. RPD is examining the success and efficiency of outsourcing these services in other cities nationwide.

- The city is investigating the implementation of an automated red light enforcement program; similar to one that has been operational in the City of Garland since September of 2003. This initiative proposes the installation of electronic surveillance equipment to monitor, record and fine citizens who violate the red traffic lights. Although the system is entirely funded by the violators, the goal of the program is to improve driving habits and any additional revenue after costs is placed into a traffic safety fund.

- The city had 380 volunteers for its annual trash bash.

- The award winning Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival will take place May 7 – 9 at the Galatyn Park Urban Center. Tickets range from \$3 – 15 and attendees are encouraged to bring at least 3 cans of food for the Network of Community Ministries. For additional information and volunteer opportunities, please visit the Wildflower! Web site at [www.wildflowerfestival.com](http://www.wildflowerfestival.com) or call 972-744-4580.

- The City of Richardson has declared its position opposing the property tax relief plan as it is currently proposed by Governor Rick Perry. Doing so, it joins many other municipalities including Dallas, Arlington, Ft. Worth, Denton, Garland, Irving and Plano to speak out against this proposal to reform Texas school financing which they claim will negatively affect the ability of cities to provide public services for residents.

- Twenty-two per cent of the city's population is still not involved in a homeowner's association.

- The United Way contribution by city employees increased by over 40%, totaling greater than \$10,000.

**Calling all Veterans of JJPHOA**

As our Fourth of July celebration approaches, we would like to honor all our veterans. We know there are some, we just don't know how many! We would like to have as many veterans as wish to join in the parade as a group, so all can see and salute you! If you don't feel you can walk the parade, I'm sure we will be able to arrange for cars.

As all of you know, we start off the celebration with a parade, which will be July 5th, at 10 AM on Senior Way, and moves south on Mimosa to the park, where we enjoy a picnic.

How about it? Will all our veterans help make this a special Fourth of July for all?



If you are interested in taking part, please contact Dee Russum at 972-235-1961, or by e-mail at [ddrussum@comcast.net](mailto:ddrussum@comcast.net).

**Correction**

Please note that the correct name of the new store is "Cool Breeze and The Blind Depot." The store is located between Eagle Postal Center and Albertson's.

## **Pick a title:**

### ***Robin Hood unmasked***

### ***School Finance 101***

### ***What about the Homestead Exemption?***

### ***Dumbing down Texans***

### ***How does it impact me?***

It didn't matter if we had kids in school, or hoped to have kids in school some day, or didn't have kids in school anymore, or expected to never have kids in school. When we moved here we knew that Richardson had great schools and that would be good for the value of our homes and our neighborhoods whether we had kids in school or not. One factor in the excellence of our schools is simply who we are – people that care about education. Another factor is that Richardson has a large commercial tax base allowing us to afford excellent schools. . . And then came Robin Hood.

The state legislature is now trying to fix school financing problems, and somehow that has become intertwined, or even buried, in an effort to reduce property taxes. The Richardson school board is trying to prepare a budget for the next school year. It is easy to offer opinions, and hard to refrain from doing that, but here is an attempt to offer just some facts about our school and property tax situation to help you refine your own opinions. You'll see why we had such a hard time choosing a title for this article.

## **Why Robin Hood?**

- Texas courts have determined that all Texas students are entitled to approximately the same level of education funding regardless of where they live and go to school.
- Public schools are a major part of the American melting pot, where students from various backgrounds and beliefs learn to interact with each other.
- 12% of Texas students are in school districts with significantly more property value per pupil than the rest of the state.
- 88% of Texas students are in school districts with significantly less property value per pupil than the rest of the state.
- The court has determined that school funding must be equitably divided among students.
- Merging all of the school property tax revenue in the state and dividing it equally among all the students in the state does raise the amount of money available per pupil for 88% of the students in the state.
- Merging all of the school property tax revenue in the state and dividing it equally among all the students in the state lowers the amount of money available per pupil for 12% of the students in the state, including RISD, PISD, and other top performing school districts in the state.
- Since Robin Hood began RISD has had to cut \$48M from the budget to pay for recapture assessments. Cuts were made in teachers, central staff, maintenance, foreign languages, art, music and physical education. Class sizes were increased where permitted by state law. Savings were also made with technology, capital expenses, and financial planning.
- RISD projected a 2004-2005 shortfall of about \$9.5M. By offering all day kindergarten RISD actually receives \$3.6M, and another \$288K will be saved through an alternate Social Security Program. That leaves a shortfall of about \$6M for 2004-2005, and an additional \$8.4M projected shortfall the following year.
- The remaining \$6M 2004-2005 shortfall can be made up through cuts in staffing or through a reduction in the optional homestead exemption.
- Without knowing what the legislature might do it is hard to know what will need to be done to address the \$8.4M shortfall in 2005-2006.

## **What are my taxes and what is a homestead exemption?**

- The state legislature mandates the maximum rates that school districts can collect in property taxes. There are actually two limits. There is a limit of 1.50 for operations and maintenance, and a maximum of .50 for debt service. RISD collects the 1.50 maximum for maintenance and operations, but only .32 toward debt service. This makes our total school tax rate equal to 1.82 of a total permissible amount of 2.00.
- The state "recaptures" approximately ¼ of the maintenance and operations taxes that we collect. The debt service taxes are not subject to recapture.
- The maximum amount of property tax permitted by the legislature does not bring all school districts up to the level of the best school districts.
- The maximum amount of property tax permitted by the legislature limits what the best school districts in the state can do and brings them down to a common level across the state.
- School districts that are donating money are taxing at the maximum allowable operations and maintenance rate, but some districts that are receiving money are taxing themselves at a lower rate.
- RISD provides a 15% optional homestead exemption. That means we pay school taxes on only 85% of the value of our homes, and that is after a \$15,000 general homestead exemption and another \$10,000 exemption for people over 65 or disabled.
- When the state calculates how much money RISD must give away, the state pretends the homestead exemption does not exist. Most of the "property wealthy" school districts have already eliminated the optional homestead deduction or will eliminate it for the coming year in order to try to adequately fund their schools.
- The average Richardson residence has a market value of \$177,074. The state calculates that Richardson could

*(Continued on page 3)*

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collect taxes on that value minus a \$15,000 mandatory homestead exemption, or \$162,074. The state multiplies this by the 1.50 operations tax rate to create a tax levy of \$2,431 and asks us to share that money with other school districts.

- BUT, the RISD is allowed to give us an additional homestead exemption and it has been giving us an additional 15% exemption. SO, the RISD subtracts the 15% optional homestead exemption from the \$177,074 assessed value, and then subtracts the \$15,000 state mandated homestead exemption. Thus the homeowner is only taxed on \$135,513 for a tax levy of \$2,032.

### What difference does it make?

- With the optional homestead exemption RISD has to give away about \$508, and gets to keep \$1,424.
- If the optional homestead exemption were eliminated RISD would have to give away about \$608, but would get to keep \$1,823.
- You can view the optional homestead exemption as a savings of \$399 in your property taxes, or you can view this as shortchanging our students by \$399 compared to other students in the state.
- If RISD completely eliminated the 15% optional homestead exemption they would raise approximately \$12,000,000 and RISD would be able to keep \$9,000,000 of that money. That would more than cover the \$6M projected shortfall for the coming school year. It would still not cover the shortfall for the following year.

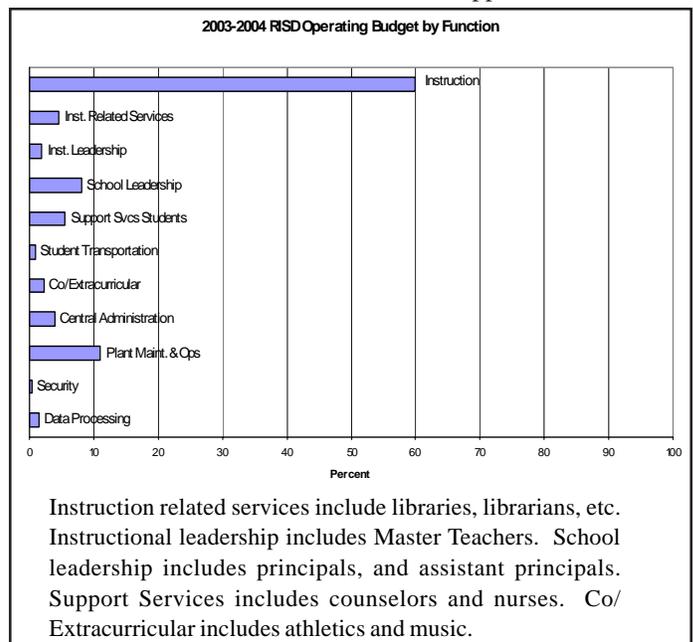
### What does it really cost me?

- Money raised through property tax is deductible on federal income tax returns – if you itemize deductions you get 10%, or 15%, or 23%, or more of that property tax back from the federal government. (The same would be true of a state income tax which is one reason so many other states use it to have the federal government subsidize their state.)
- Sales tax is not deductible on your federal income tax.
- Consider an example where you are asked to pay \$2,000 toward schools. If you pay \$2,000 in school property taxes and are in a 15% tax bracket and itemize deductions, your net taxes are \$1,700 (\$2,000 minus a 15% deduction). The total available to Texas students would be \$2,000 but you paid only \$1,700. The federal government essentially gives you a rebate of \$300.
- On the other hand, if the \$2,000 you are asked to pay toward schools is split so that you pay \$1,000 in school property taxes and \$1,000 in sales taxes, then your net taxes are \$1,850 (\$1,000 minus a 15% deduction plus \$1,000 in non-deductible sales tax). The total available to Texas students is still \$2,000, but with the lower property tax you pay \$1,850 instead of \$1,700! The federal government is only giving you a rebate of \$150. (They get to keep the other \$150 and use it someplace else.) You actually pay more with the lower property tax!

- In that example, if you don't itemize deductions, a reduction in property taxes may or may not make a difference, depending on how much sales taxes have to be raised to make up for the money that is no longer available in Texas and which has been shipped to other states.
- Property taxes for residents over 65 are capped at current levels.
- Under proposals being discussed to reduce property taxes, not only do you lose the federal income tax benefits, but the proposals also eliminate the optional homestead exemptions. If you want to plug in your own numbers and do your own calculations of the alternatives be sure to take that into consideration.

### How does RISD spend its money?

- 80% of RISD's operating budget is spent on school staff and libraries, etc. and another 11% is spent on facilities. The rest is spent on transportation, security, extracurricular activities and other support functions.



### What can I do?

- You can let your state legislators know your feelings: [www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/fyi/fyi.htm)
- You can let the governor know your feelings: [www.governor.state.tx.us/contact](http://www.governor.state.tx.us/contact)
- You can let the Texas School Finance Project committee members know your feelings: [www.capitol.state.tx.us/psf/members.htm](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/psf/members.htm)
- You can let RISD school board members know your feelings: [www.richardson.k12.tx.us/](http://www.richardson.k12.tx.us/)
- Personal letters, visits, and phone calls are most effective. Follow the issue in the news and write often! Your voice is imperative to the debate.

[Note: this article was written just before the Special session of the Legislature, and this newsletter went to press on May 2. Legislative actions may have already affected some of the things mentioned in this article. Bernie Mayoff]

## Greetings from Phil Meeker, VP Beautification

May 1<sup>st</sup> is the perennial flower garden's month. Flora is at her finest. Mild spring weather has a short season moving rapidly into the Metroplex heat. With enough water, plants have a burst of growth. It's a great time to photograph your home among flowers and leafy trees.

### What to do now:

- Plant heat loving plants: cleome, coleus (full sun and shade varieties), moss rose, lantanas, hibiscus (tropical and perennial) and yes, it's time to plant caladium bulbs.
- Sweet potato vines in lime green, variegated or deep purple planted from 4 inch pots will climb and hide your electric meter by July (be sure to keep it clear enough for the meter reader to view it though)..
- Continue to plant trees and shrubs using root stimulator and don't allow the planting area to dry.
- Watering: adjust sprinklers to come on at 4 am and complete all watering by 10 am. This greatly reduces the opportunity for lawn fungus problems and evaporation of precious water.
- Prune all spring flowering shrubs, climbing roses and any fall blooming perennials – asters and chrysanthemums. Begin the pinch back at a 6-inch height and continue pinching to maintain no more than 8 inches till August 1, and then allow them to grow. They will now be able to maintain a compact growth habit.
- Be on the lookout and control bagworms on conifers, pecans, etc. They can destroy large shrubs or small trees in a single season. Pick off and destroy. An alternative is to use BT spray. Ask for exactly that at your nursery. Caution; once a plant has many tents, sprays do not penetrate the bags to kill the caterpillars.
- Watch out for black spots on roses and mildew on crape myrtles. Use over the counter fungicides or try this organic recipe. (It works)
  - 1 tsp. baking soda
  - 1 Qt. water
  - 2 drops liquid detergentSpray early in the morning; be sure to cover leaf top and bottom and the flower buds as they begin to grow.
- Crabgrass is now germinating - eliminate by using MSMA sold in nurseries follow all label directions and remember, MSMA will kill St. Augustine – not Bermuda.
- Snails and slugs. A slug is a snail without a shell. These critters are found in the shade. They can even be found under your patio plant pots. They can burrow up through the drain hole and get into the foliage. Move your pots around pick up these critters, put them on a sunny drive way and let the sun do its work. Saucers of beer placed

into the mulch at lip level attract both critters by the aroma and once they slide into the beer, they drown. They love hostas and just about any other tender shade plant, but do stay away from ferns. So be on the lookout.

## Yard of the Month

Judging will occur the third weekend of May and recognition signs placed. Seasonal color is the focus of this recognition. Get out there and have some fun.

Be prepared for the torrid heat of summer and don't forget to feed the birds!

## Member News

### By Marc Perlstein, VP Membership

Two of our long-term members, Art and Bev Middlebrook recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary while traveling with their family. They were married April 15, 1954.

Art served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War. He attended South Dakota State University, where he met Bev, and completed his engineering studies at North Dakota State University. He retired from management at Rockwell Collins and then from a second career at Electrospace Systems. Art serves on the Richardson Symphony Orchestra Board and is a community volunteer for the Richardson Police Department. He received the Texas State Hero for Children Award in 2002 for volunteer work on behalf of Richardson schools. Art also is the official greeter of new residents to our area.

Bev is a homemaker and is actively involved at the Richardson's Women's Center. She also volunteers her time in the Richardson School system.

Their children are Steve Middlebrook of Dallas and Barb Fawcett of The Hague, Netherlands. They have two grandchildren.

Congratulations Art and Bev!

If you are celebrating a special milestone, or have a newsworthy event to share, please send it to me at: mperl112@aol.com. I would be happy to print it.



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

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972-680-9882

5509 Pleasant Valley Suite 40  
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Orthodontics for adults and children

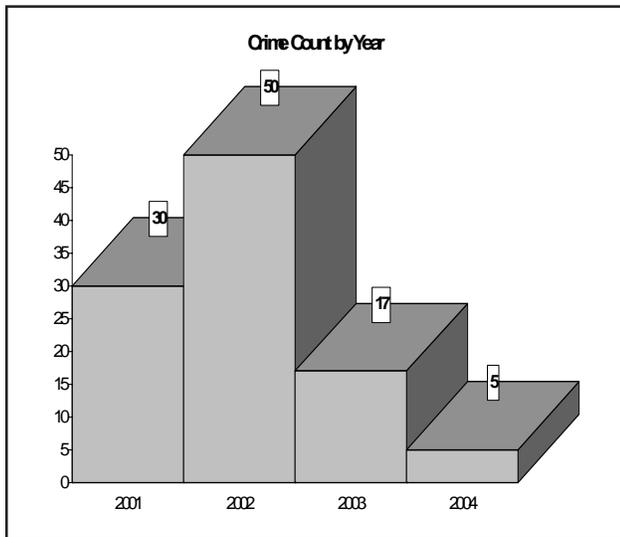
## CRIME / SAFETY TALK

By Thom Pomella, VP Safety

### RECENT CRIME

Sometime between 4/17 and 4/18, someone stole a pool sweep/skimmer from the backyard of a residence in the 1100 block of Eton Drive. Scuff marks suggested someone probably climbed over the locked 8' fence gate to remove the sweep from the pool as it was operating. (-31689) This is one of several similar thefts in the Campbell / Floyd area. Consider marking your pool sweep with your Texas DL number if there is no applied manufacturer's serial number.

So far this year we are looking good. We are at a pace that is below last year. If we all pay attention to all the details, we can keep crime in check.



### YARD WORK

The nice weather is here. It is yard work time. When doing yard work, keep the garage door closed. I know it is a pain in the butt to close the door because "I'm only out front mowing". While you are mowing, a thief is helping him/herself to other things in your garage. Make it easy on yourself and take your garage door opener and keep it in your pocket. This way you can open and close the door as needed. Only take out the equipment you are actually using at the time. If you are going to take a break, put the equipment back in the garage and close the door. Don't leave it in the front yard while you eat lunch; take a bathroom break or a cool down break. It just takes a second for someone to load your mower into their pickup and vanish.

Through diligence on the part of most of our residents we have been fortunate to have a very low burglary rate in our area. Let's keep it that way and keep our garage doors closed unless we are in the immediate area and can see it at all times.

### THEFT OF MAIL

One of our neighbors has reported a theft of their out-going mail from their mailbox. It has been happening in other neighborhoods for some time now. Was just a matter of time before it got to us. This could be an 'Identity Theft' in progress. What was stolen was a bill payment. Now the thief has this person's bank account number. Serious stuff. I have instructed in the past to never, **never put up the flag** on your mailbox. This lets the thief know there is out-going mail. Your letter carrier will open your mailbox every day to deliver the mail, and will notice the out-going mail. Better yet, deposit your out-going mail in the mailbox on the Southwest corner of Mimosa and Campbell by the dentist office. This solves the problem of out-going mail but does not address the problem of securing your in-coming mail. I will research locking mailboxes and report next month on the options available.

### Solving Problems Between Neighbors

#### What can I do?

Conflict is a common part of living near other people. But when conflict arises, we often try to avoid dealing with the other person. If these situations aren't resolved they can grow into stressful problems. A neighborhood issue may not be covered by the law. Even if it is, you may attempt to resolve your issues without involving an enforcement office or court. Such an approach can save hard feelings, and offer additional possibilities for solutions. Here are some suggestions for resolving issues; experience has shown they really can work.

#### Ahead of time:

- Plan on talking to the person with whom you have the problem, assuming that there is not threat of physical violence. It's the two of you who need to work out the solution. Direct conversation is much more effective than sending a letter, banging on the wall, throwing a rock or complaining to others.
- Think ahead about what you want to say. Be able to explain what the problem is and how it affects you. For instance, the noise bothers you because your bedroom is next to the driveway and the arrival of the carpool van wakes you up.
- Choose a good time to talk to your neighbor. You want a block of time when neither of you has to rush off to work or has just had an exhausting day.
- Find a comfortable spot. A quiet place where you won't be disturbed, perhaps with a cup of tea or coffee, can make it easier to talk and listen.
- Have a positive attitude about working together with your neighbor to find solutions. Using unfriendly language or blaming the other person for everything makes it harder for him or her to hear you and understand your concerns.

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Think of your problem as a challenging puzzle that the two of you can solve.

**While you talk:**

- Give information about your feelings regarding the situation and how it affects you. For instance, “When your vines grow over my fence I get frustrated, because I can’t reach them myself and I can’t afford to hire someone to prune.” Don’t start with your own opinion of what should be done, or interpret the other person’s behavior: “You just think of yourself and don’t care about me or my yard.”
- Listen to your neighbor’s comments on the situation without being critical. Relax and try to learn and understand how that person feels. You may not agree with some things, but show that you hear what he or she is saying and that you appreciate the willingness to talk it over. Use phrases like “I’m interested in your view on this, too.” or “This is how I see it - how do you see things?”
- Talk it through, getting out all the issues and feelings. Don’t leave out the part that seems too hard to discuss or too small to be important. Your solution will work best if everything is talked over thoroughly.
- Consider possible options to remedy the problem. Be creative in thinking up solutions, and discuss which ones you both think could work well. Two or more people cooperating are much more effective than one person telling another to change.
- Be clear and specific about a solution you can both agree and comply with. For instance, “I will bring my dog in by 9:30 p.m.” is more clear than “I won’t leave my dog out late anymore.”
- Follow through. Agree to check with each other at specific times to make sure that the agreement is working, and do so. Keep your agreement!

Source: [http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/chservices/mediation/Neighb\\_neighb\\_M.htm](http://www.ci.vancouver.wa.us/chservices/mediation/Neighb_neighb_M.htm)

**FYI.**

**TRAILER SAFETY**

Do you know anyone who regularly pulls some kind of utility or recreational trailer who hasn’t “lost” the trailer or had a near catastrophe while pulling a trailer? I don’t. Every single person I know who pulls a trailer has at least one story about the trailer breaking loose, taking off with a mind of its own, flipping across the fields, or repeatedly slamming into the tow vehicle, just seemingly for the fun of it.

Most of these stories have a humorous side and an uneventful ending. However, last summer I learned of an accident where a trailer broke free and killed two bicyclists. It reminded me of the times I’ve been out riding my

motorcycle and I encountered trailers looking like they had all the potential of an unguided missile.

Here are a few things to consider when equipping and hooking up your trailer for your next cross-country adventure.

- It may seem obvious, but make sure the trailer ball is the right size for your trailer tongue. A two-inch trailer receiver will fit very nicely on a 1 7/8" ball. It will also pop off when you hit a good bump.
- Remember to load your trailer with more weight in front of the trailer axle than behind it. A trailer with too much weight on the back end can put it and the tow vehicle into a violent and uncontrollable “wag” that can literally flip the tow vehicle.
- Safety chains should be heavy enough to support the weight of the filled trailer. They should also be crossed UNDER the trailer tongue. This will keep the tongue from dropping down and digging into the roadway, breaking the safety chains, and flipping over, possibly into the tow vehicle or other vehicles.
- Make sure the safety chain connectors are up to the task at hand. “S” hooks will work, but they’re not as positive as the other alternatives that positively close and stay that way.
- If you have a trailer ball that receives a threaded bolt from the bottom side, throw it away or give it to your ex-wife’s new boyfriend. The bolt can work loose without being very noticeable. If it falls out, the ball stays in the receiver tongue and the trailer just goes away. A ball with its own threaded shaft will corrode such that the nut cannot easily back off. If it’s loose, it’s readily apparent.
- Do not wrap the safety chains around the ball. Fasten them to a stout piece of framework or the part of the auto hitch designed for that purpose.

I’m not going to tell you to avoid overloading your trailer (the rule of thumb: maximum weight is reached when the wheels are hitting the inside of the fenders—capacity can be increased by removing the fenders), to check and lube the wheel bearings (there are whole communities supported by replacing wheel bearings and tires on boat trailers and I’m not about to suggest we destroy local economies just to avoid a little inconvenience) or that you should always make sure you securely tie your loads down (I found a pretty nice cooler and half a case of motor oil that must have blown out of someone’s boat last summer) because you know all this stuff already, from excruciatingly miserable personal experience.

Source: *July/August 1996 NMA News*

## Minutes of Board Meeting April 4, 2004

Bernie called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. at the home of Helen Simon. The meeting began after the Thank You reception for volunteers.

In Attendance: John Sadowski, Nancy De La Garza, Chris Bruckner, Dee Russum, Bernie Mayoff, Phil Meeker, and Helen Simon.

### Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the last board meeting were approved with one addition.

### Treasurer's Report

Helen presented the Treasurer's report. It was approved as presented.

### Old Business

The Easter Egg Hunt is being chaired by Jane Scherper and she will arrange for people to help.

The police have been contacted to assist with the Independence Day parade and picnic.

### New Business

- Nominating committee. The JJ Pearce bylaws state a nominating committee must be appointed by the May meeting. Bernie to contact volunteers for this.
- Neighborhood Vitality Nominations. Discussed nominating both JJ Pearce High School and another property for this city award.
- Pearce Booster Club has a proposal to build a batting cage on school property. There will be a meeting May 6 with homeowner's associations in the school cafeteria for information on this.

### Committee Reports

- Membership: 1 new member to report.
- Development: Chris pointed out that the new business "Cool Breezes" would give a 5% discount if homeowners bring in the article from the association newsletter. Cool Breezes also gives the same discount for all military, police and fire department personnel.
- Newsletter: Dee reported Bike Mart has purchased an ad for 1 year.

The next Homeowner's Association President's meeting will be April 20 at 7:00 pm.

Next Board meetings are as follows.

- May 2 at Phil Meeker's house. Newsletter deadline is April 30.
- June 2 at Bernie Mayoff's house. Newsletter deadline is May 28.
- June 30 at Chris Bruckner's house. Newsletter deadline June 27.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy De La Garza, Secretary



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## A time to remember all our soldiers

Memorial Day is much more than a three-day weekend that marks the beginning of summer. To many people, especially the nation's thousands of combat veterans, this day, which has a history stretching back all the way to the Civil War, is an important reminder of those who died in the service of their country.

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day because it was a time set aside to honor the nation's Civil War dead by decorating their graves. It was first widely observed on May 30, 1868, to commemorate the sacrifices of Civil War soldiers, by proclamation of General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of former sailors and soldiers. On May 5, 1868, Logan declared in General Order No. 11 that:

*The 30th of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form of ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.*

During the first celebration of Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, after which 5,000 participants helped to decorate the graves of the more than 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried in the cemetery.

This 1868 celebration was inspired by local observances of the day in several towns throughout America that had taken place in the three years since the Civil War. In fact, several Northern and Southern cities claim to be the birthplace of Memorial Day, including Columbus, Mississippi; Macon, Georgia; Richmond, Virginia; Boalsburg, Pennsylvania; and Carbondale, Illinois.

By the late 1800s, many communities across the country had begun to celebrate Memorial Day and, after World War I, observances also began to honor those who had died in all of America's wars. In 1971, Congress declared Memorial Day a national holiday to be celebrated the last Monday in May. (Veterans Day, a day set aside to honor all veterans, living and dead, is celebrated each year on November 11.)

In 1966, the federal government, under the direction of President Lyndon Johnson, declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. They chose Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—because the town had made Memorial Day an annual, community-wide event during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

Today, Memorial Day is celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery with a ceremony in which a small American flag is

placed on each grave. Also, it is customary for the president or vice-president to give a speech honoring the contributions of the dead and lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. About 5,000 people attend the ceremony annually.

from: <http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/memorial/history.html>



### New information about the Care packages for our troops in Iraq.

The response from all of you has been fantastic! We thank you very much, but our mission continues.

We recently talked with Adam Perry, our local policeman who is now back from overseas and he remarked that EVERYTHING that you contribute for the soldiers is greatly appreciated. He said anything that is not perishable and reminds them of home would be great. They are continually sending these CARE packages as troops and supplies are sent over there. He recently loaded up his truck and carried items to a group that was being deployed. He asked us to thank all our members on the soldiers' behalf.

One particular item that he mentioned was **Ramen Noodle soup mix** (those that come in plastic bowl type containers) that they can add water to is something that they would all love to get. Sam's has a case of 24 individual containers at the great low price of \$5.49!

He also mentioned CD's (copies OK) — be it Country, Rock, Rap, Jazz or Tejano music that reminds them of home, since there are soldiers from all over the country -- from Montana to Texas and just about every state in between.

Another thing that he felt the soldiers would appreciate is a card, a note, or a letter telling them they are remembered and appreciated. A short note won't take any time and no money, and just lets the guys and gals know we care.

I'm repeating items requested in pervious newsletters.

- \*Beef Jerky
- \*Cookies
- \*Trail Mix
- \*Chips
- \*Mixed Nuts
- \*Instant coffee
- \*Chocolate Candy (in sealed packages)
- \*Playing cards
- \*Music CDs (copies ok)
- \*Sun Glasses
- \*Gun or military magazines

You may contact any of the four people below to contribute.

- \*Bernie Mayoff at 1411 Huntington, 972-669-9169
- \*Joe Russum at 1102 Pueblo, 972-235-1961
- \*Jerry Gray at 1115 Eton, 972-231-9206
- \*Lynn Sanders at 1128 Grassmere, 972-231-6890



### INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one-gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.
2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1.
3. Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not? He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face, and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.
5. How often are the guards changed? Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.
6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10" and 6' 2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30".

#### Other requirements of the Guard:

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform {fighting} or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin..

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

Among the notables are:

President Taft, Joe E. Lewis (the boxer), and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, {the most decorated soldier of WWII} of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.



# Easter Egg Hunt



April 10, 2004



## Magic eggs found at Mohawk playground

Nine hundred colored eggs were discovered scattered all across the Mohawk playground on April 10. Approximately forty neighborhood youngsters made short work of gathering the eggs, believed to have been left by the Easter Bunny. 894 of the eggs contained treats, while 6 special eggs entitled their discoverers to prizes. Special thanks to bunny helpers Jane and Jon Scherper, and to Scott and Kathy Crouch.

These photos taken by Bernie Mayoff and can be seen in color on our website, [www.jjphoa.org](http://www.jjphoa.org)





**J J PEARCE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**Statement of Cash Receipts and Expenses**  
**For the Period September 1, 2003 to April 30, 2004**

	<b>Month Ended April 30, 2004</b>	<b>Yr. to Date Actual April 30, 2004</b>	<b>Yr. To Date Budget</b>
<b>Cash Receipts</b>			
Membership Dues	\$0.00	\$5,115.00	\$4,950.00
Dividends	9.22	85.62	80.00
Advertising-Newsletter		1,050.00	720.00
Contributions		5.00	
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>9.22</b>	<b>6,255.62</b>	<b>5,750.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Crime Watch			
Metrocall	21.85	174.80	174.80
Membership			
Annual Meeting		159.00	159.00
Binders			100.00
Board Planning Meeting		289.08	200.00
Directory Printing		526.97	320.00
Directory Delivery		30.00	30.00
Social Events			
December Decorations		64.44	125.00
Easter			100.00
Volunteer Party	216.83	245.50	275.00
Newsletter			
Printing, etc.	198.75	1,678.70	1,828.60
Delivery	60.00	495.00	510.00
Other Expenses			
Contributions	452.59	687.34	235.00
Federal Income Tax		13.00	25.00
Miscellaneous		4.20	66.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>950.02</b>	<b>4,368.03</b>	<b>4,148.40</b>
<b>Net Income (Los</b>	<b>-\$940.80</b>	<b>\$1,887.59</b>	<b>\$1,601.60</b>
<b>Fund Balances:</b>			
	<b>Checking</b>	<b>Vanguard</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Beginning Balances - 4/1/04	\$712.85	\$18,764.30	19,477.15
Add receipts		9.22	9.22
Transfers	1,000.00	-1,000.00	
Less Disbursements	950.02		950.02
<b>Ending Balances - 4/30/04</b>	<b>\$762.83</b>	<b>\$17,773.52</b>	<b>\$18,536.35</b>

**Respectfully Submitted, Helen Simon, Treasurer, May 1, 2004**



**Ebby Halliday**  
REALTORS

**Dorothy Thomas**  
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Multi-Million Dollar Producer  
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BRETT CHRISTIAN  
Commercial Account Manager



**Document Services**  
<http://ftp.copymax.com/0431>  
[cmx0431@copymax.com](mailto:cmx0431@copymax.com)

## 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.**

## Local Events for May include:

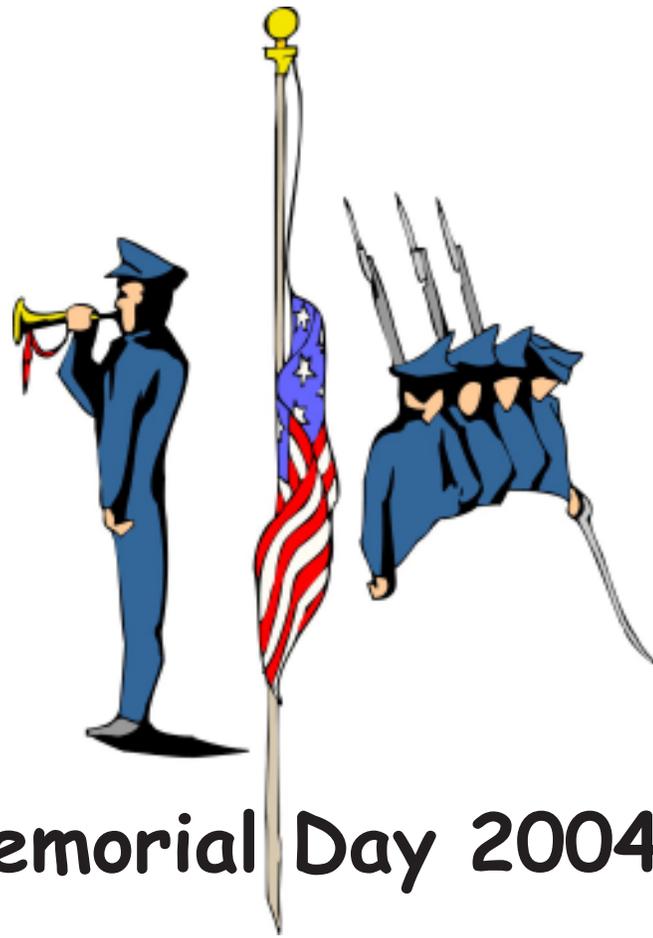
Date	Event	Time/Location
<b>May</b>		
11	Spring Choir Concert	7:30pm, Pearce
13	Pearce Orchestra Concert	6:30pm at Pearce
22	Pearce Graduation Day	1:30pm Moody Coliseum, SMU
26	Mohawk 6 <sup>th</sup> grade graduation	Mohawk
<b>27</b>	<b>School Ends</b>	
30	Richardson Community Band Concert (free)	7:00pm, Civic Center
<b>31</b>	<b>Memorial Day Holiday</b>	

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

## News from our Pavillion neighbors

Pavillion Barbers has renewed their lease for another three years. Rick thanks our residents for their support in making the shop a success. He also updated us on John, the former middle-chair barber who was critically injured when he was hit by a car. John is now recuperating at home. He is able to walk with the aid of crutches, but it is unlikely he will ever be able to return to cutting hair.

Wayne Perry has returned as manager of our local Albertson's store. After a spell opening a new store in east Richardson Wayne is once again managing our store, as well as the store at Hillcrest and Arapaho. Welcome back Wayne.



# Memorial Day 2004



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

Board Meetings: June 2, 1411 Huntington, 7:00pm  
June 30, 1221 Huntington, 7:00pm

**Board meetings are open to all members**