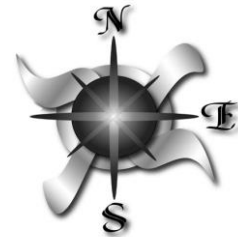


# NOTTINGHAM WEST



October 2014

Civic Club Inc.

*A non-profit corporation*

Web site: [www.nottinghamwest.net](http://www.nottinghamwest.net) E-mail: [nottinghamwest@hotmail.com](mailto:nottinghamwest@hotmail.com)

## A Note from the President

### Happy Fall!

I don't know about you, but I'm grateful those sizzling-hot summer days are behind us. Like most Texans, I'm excited for cooler temps and football.

Fall also brings, well, falling leaves; leaves that seem to accumulate endlessly. They make for pretty postcards and are fun for kids to jump in, but they build up pretty fast in our yards, streets and driveways. Be sure to keep leaves swept up to avoid clogged storm drains and keep the neighborhood looking clean.

Speaking of clean, wow!—the neighborhood REALLY looks fantastic! Thanks to everyone out there who took time to spruce up your lawn or freshen up a coat of paint. You may think that one lawn doesn't matter, but it's contagious! When one homeowner takes pride in their home and lawn, others around them start to do the same, too. And it could lead to a Yard of the Month sign in your yard.

On the flip side, if for some reason you've received a courtesy DRV (deed restriction violation) notice on your door, please know that it is simply that: a **courtesy reminder** something needs attention. It is not a slap on the wrist, a fine, or anything egregious. This is the NWCC's way of preempting the more formal DRV letter that is customarily sent first. We think it's a nicer way, don't you? If you have any concerns regarding the notice, my phone number is at the bottom of the notice. I'm all ears.

--Rosanna Hinde

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## Security in Nottingham West

On a different note, we've had some security issues in the neighborhood. When posting security flyers door-to-door recently, we noticed many homes with clear glass front doors that offer a unobstructed view straight into living areas – lights off, no one home and no dogs in sight. This is the sort of thing that can be very inviting to criminals!

Please take a few minutes to review your home security and take advantage of the Precinct 5 home inspections.

The Precinct 5 Constable's Office offers free home security inspections.

Depending on your carrier, you may be able to save 5% to 10% on your homeowners' insurance premiums.

This free home inspection survey includes simple suggestions on ways to better secure your home.

To schedule your home inspection, call Sergeant Mitch Hutter at 281-704-6825 or the Pct 5 Constable's Office at 281-463-6666. You may also send an e-mail to [Mitchell.hutter@cn5.hctx.net](mailto:Mitchell.hutter@cn5.hctx.net)

Precinct 5 has expanded their online options to include online [crime tips reporting](#) (anonymous if you wish) and the [special watch form](#) to request a special patrol. Do **NOT** use these forms to report "in Progress" or "Right Now" events. Call 911 or 281-463-6666 if you are witnessing something.

## Nottingham West Notes



### Welcome New Neighbors!!

NWCC warmly welcomes our new neighbors. We hope to see you at the Civic Club meeting next month. If you have any questions, please contact any of the NWCC officers or visit the website.

### 2015 OFFICER ELECTIONS

The 2015 Officer Elections will be held at the January Annual NWCC Meeting. If you are interested in running for office, send an email declaring your candidacy by December 31 to [nottinghamwest@hotmail.com](mailto:nottinghamwest@hotmail.com). Be sure to include the office you are interested in; President, Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary.

### Yard of the Month!

Recent winners of Yard of the Month!

- **July:** 14034 St. Mary's
- **August:** 14007 Kingsride
- **September:** 14010 Queensbury
- **October:** 14026 Queensbury

### Congratulations to all the winners!

Check out photos of the winning homes on the Nottingham West website at [www.nottinghamwest.net](http://www.nottinghamwest.net)



### Neighborhood Security

- Call the Precinct 5 Constable at 281-463-6666 to report suspicious persons or vehicles.  
**Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.**
- If you're heading out of town, be sure to notify the Constable.
- Send an e-mail to [nottinghamwest@hotmail.com](mailto:nottinghamwest@hotmail.com) if you would like to receive e-mails about neighborhood security incidents.

### Planning Exterior Improvements?

Send e-mail plans and details to the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) at [nottinghamwest@hotmail.com](mailto:nottinghamwest@hotmail.com) or contact Preston Mood at 281-543-7994.

### Phone and E-Mail Contact Information

The Civic Club is collecting homeowner contact information to be used in case of emergency. Please send telephone and e-mail address to [nottinghamwest@hotmail.com](mailto:nottinghamwest@hotmail.com).

### NWCC Web Site

Visit [www.nottinghamwest.net](http://www.nottinghamwest.net) for helpful information on NWCC meetings, assessments, trash pick-up, pool & park hours and more.

### RealManage Services

Visit [www.realmanage.com](http://www.realmanage.com) to pay NWCC assessments online and review financial statements and other information.

### NWCC Officers

Rosanna Hinde, President  
John Benton, Vice President  
Angie Lootens, Secretary  
Pam Ziegenbein, Treasurer

## Web Worm Invasion

There has been a recent outbreak of webworm (sod disease) in the neighborhood. Webworm can kill a lawn in less than a week and can spread easily across shared lawnspace, or through lawn service equipment.

So many of our property owners very hard to keep their lawns looking great, please keep a close eye on your lawn, and treat as quickly as possible to prevent spreading. Various treatment options are available at nearby home improvement stores and garden centers.

## NWCC Fall Quarterly Meeting

7:30 pm Wednesday, November 12, 2014  
 Nottingham Park Meeting Room  
 926 Country Place Dr.

The planned agenda is provided below.

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Approval of the Minutes
4. Constable's Report
5. Officers' Reports
6. Committee Reports
7. New Business
  - a. Park Upgrade
8. Proposed Business for Next Meeting



## Perseverance Pays Off

You may have noticed the recent road work on Queensbury and the new pavement covering two-thirds of the street. Homeowners on Queensbury have been bombarding the City of Houston Public Works Department with complaints and calls to 3-1-1 for more than 2 years. After repeated letters and follow up with to Oliver Pennington's office and the mayor, work was finally completed in late September.

If your street has similar drainage issues, consider coordinating with your neighbors to consolidate your efforts to get some action from the City. Please note that the NWCC does not have responsibility for neighborhood street repairs or speed bumps.

## Holiday Safety Tips

The holidays are on the way and we all look forward to that wonderful and festive time of year. That can quickly change if you become the victim of a holiday break-in. Here are a few tips to keep in mind this season.

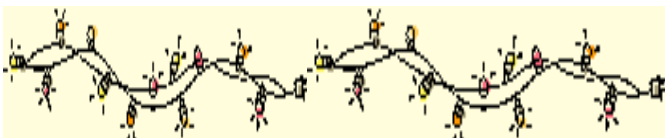
1. *If you're traveling, be sure to setup a vacation watch with the Constable at 281-463-6666 or use the [Precinct 5 Online Vacation Watch Form](#)*
2. *Make your house look lived in if you're away. Use light timers in various rooms and arrange for someone to collect mail and newspapers.*
3. *Don't post vacation plans to Facebook and Twitter or leave a voice mail greeting telling callers you are out of town.*
4. *Remove garage door openers from cars parked in the driveway and lock garage entry doors.*
5. *Notify trusted neighbors that you will be away and leave an emergency contact number.*



## NWC Holiday Lights Contest

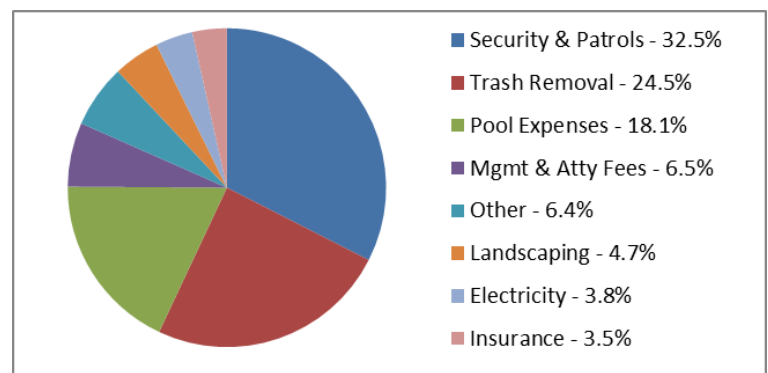
We hate to talk about holiday decorating before Halloween, but the Winter NWCC newsletter will publish just before the holiday light contest deadline and we want everyone to participate.

Decorate and light up your home by 7:00 pm on December 20<sup>th</sup> to be entered in the annual NWC Holiday Lights contest. Winners will have bragging rights all year! But remember to take your decorations down promptly in January.



## NWCC Expense Allocation

The chart below shows NWCC expense allocations for September. Constable patrols, trash removal and pool costs account for 75% of the total expenses for Nottingham West.



## Nottingham Maintenance Agreement

NWCC is formalizing a long-time maintenance agreement with our neighboring subdivisions, Nottingham I/II/III, and Nottingham IV. Following the drafting of a formal contract for esplanade maintenance, the three homeowner's associations will begin discussions on an esplanade irrigation project along Kirkwood. We would like to see someone from the neighborhood step up to fill this Delegate role. This person would be responsible for representing NWCC at the joint meetings and reporting back to NWCC at our quarterly meetings.

For more information, contact Rosanna Hinde at 713-294-8344.

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### Nottingham West Civic Club July 23, 2014 Meeting Minutes

- 1) Meeting called to order at 7:31 with 49 households represented.
- 2) Agenda was adopted.
- 3) Prior meeting minutes approved as printed.
- 4) Constables Report: No issues in Nottingham West! Call constable for free 30 min home inspection. Sgt Hutter reviewed security guidelines that all homeowners should observe;
  - a) lock vehicles
  - b) list Pct 5 first on home alarm call list
  - c) submit vacation watch form to Pct 5 constable when you are out of town
  - d) always answer the door – otherwise burglars think no one is home
  - e) best defense against panhandlers is not to give them any money
- 5) Officer's Reports
  - a) President – Rosanna Hinde
    - Courtesy DRV notice is a friendly note instead of a formal letter. It's not meant to be threatening. If homeowners receive one and have questions, a phone number will be listed in the future. A few other reminders:
      - (1) Construction on Memorial is related to water main replacement south of Memorial.
      - (2) Don't feed squirrels in the neighborhood
      - (3) Homeowners should treat property for termites and rodents
  - b) Vice President – John Benton
    - This year's July 4<sup>th</sup> pool party was huge success! The food was completely sold out by 1:30 pm and everyone had a great time. Sweetwater Pools contributed to the party.
    - There have been repairs required to the pool and breakers.
  - c) Secretary – Angie Lootens
    - Advise NWCC and RealManage of any e-mail address changes to ensure you receive newsletters and other neighborhood information.

- RealManage doesn't have insight on DRVs, but will contact NWCC officers if they receive questions.
- d) Treasurer – Pam Ziegenbein
- NWCC assessments are due July 31.
  - 4 delinquent homeowners setup payment plan to clear outstanding dues.
- 6) Architectural Control Committee Report
- a) Homeowners have been responsive to deed restriction notices – thanks to everyone!
- b) City of Houston is conducting a survey of neighborhoods to find low areas. If you have low spot on your street, e-mail [nottinghamwest@hotmail.com](mailto:nottinghamwest@hotmail.com) send note to NWCC email, or [mayor@houston.tx.gov](mailto:mayor@houston.tx.gov)
- 7) RealManage Financial Report
- a) Budget discussions are underway. Contact RealManage with questions
- b) Attorney fees are up due to increased collection on delinquent homeowners
- 8) Park Update
- a) City of Houston rejected permit application with 3 comments 1) Storm drainage letter and plan, along with detention analysis. Trying to hire civil engineer to help revise plan to meet COH requirements but no one will take the job. Requiring a 20x20 area with a drain. 2) Parking area repair is in the COH right of way 3) Traffic – add parking stalls
- b) Low bid contractor did not work out as expected. First visit to COH was 6 weeks after the vote was taken. John Benton followed up with him repeatedly; no action after 8 weeks. We owe him a small amount and working with our attorney to resolve.
- c) The way forward is to engage a new contractor. Second bidder is still interested. Cost was commensurate (\$34,590) but didn't include tree removal.
- d) Thanks to Meade Mitchell for his hard work in getting us this far.
- e) Phase 2 will be discussed at the next meeting. This phase covers park equipment. We could see an increase in material cost.
- f) Vote was taken to engage DNC as the contractor for phase 1 of the park upgrade. Vote passed.
- g) Vote was taken to hire LoveYourTrees to cut down two diseased trees in the park. Vote passed.
- h) Vote to hire civil engineer if needed to obtain COH permit. Vote passed.
- 9) Floor Motions
- a) Increase mosquito treatment. Excalibur sprays once per week, but will look into additional trips.
- b) Rodents. Mice have been seen in one of the demolition sites. Investigate options with builders.
- 10) Proposed business for the October meeting.
- a) Homeowners may submit topics by contacting an officer or sending an email to [nottinghamwest@hotmail.com](mailto:nottinghamwest@hotmail.com).
- 11) Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.