

# KHA News

Fall 2016

## Kimberlea Homeowners Association

[www.kimberleahome.com](http://www.kimberleahome.com)

President	Chris Heaton	214-473-6793
Vice-President	OPEN	
Treasurer	Libby Perry	972-612-3595
Secretary	Julie Sinclair-Campbell	972-596-0029
Crimewatch Coordinator	Larry Kryske	469-693-9242
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Bunko Coordinator	Julie Sinclair-Campbell	972-596-0029
Supper Club Coordinator	Libby Perry	972-612-3595
Men's Poker Night Coordinator	Grant Beard	214-995-8420
Oktoberfest Coordinator	Carrie Beard	214-202-2547

### KHA OKTOBERFEST Stagecoach Trail

Saturday, October 15, 2016  
2:00-6:00PM

Come out and join your neighbors Saturday, October 15th from 2:00 to 6:00 for KHA's Annual Oktoberfest! Stagecoach Trail (off of Canoncita) will be blocked off for this amazing event. Great food, entertainment, company and fun for all KHA member families and their guests. Don't forget your chairs!

### VOLUNTEER

If you can help with: cooking a dish (pre-boil brauts, sauerkraut, potato salad – recipe/ingredients provided), work the registration table or help with set up / clean up, please contact Carrie Beard at [carriebeard2007@gmail.com](mailto:carriebeard2007@gmail.com). We have several veteran volunteers – this day is not possible without them. We would love some new hands to help ... the more volunteers we have, the more everyone can enjoy the day!

### FOOD

There will be plenty of brauts, hot dogs, sauerkraut, German potatoes, chips, cookies, beer, water and soft drinks!

### ENTERTAINMENT

Live German music from a local quartet; who have added the perfect touch to our Oktoberfest the last three years. Children will enjoy the bounce house from Jump City. Plus, we have a great teenage team of face painters!

### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The Plano Fire and Rescue team is scheduled to attend for questions and tours of the Fire Truck, barring any emergencies that afternoon. The Plano Police Department has also been invited to participate.

### KHA OPPORTUNITIES

This is Kimberlea's largest event of the year; it is a great chance to meet and visit with your neighbors. There will be sign-up sheets for all KHA activities, including Supper Club, Women's Bunko and Men's Poker Night.

## 2017 DUES and GUESTS

This is your opportunity to meet your KHA Executive Committee and pay your 2017 dues. Annual dues are \$50 per household and allow you to enjoy activities throughout the year, such as Oktoberfest, Easter Egg Scramble, Santa Claus Visit, and more! We accept checks or cash. You may bring guests to Oktoberfest; it is \$7.00 per guest.



## KIMBERLEA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION VICE-PRESIDENT NEEDED!

The Kimberlea Executive Committee is currently looking for a Vice-President to join our team of volunteers. Primary responsibilities would be assisting the President with newsletter distribution and event coordination. Interested parties should contact Chris Heaton at [chris@chrisheaton.com](mailto:chris@chrisheaton.com). Thank you for supporting KHA!

## HELP KHA GO GREEN!

Help KHA protect the environment and save on expenses! Start receiving the quarterly newsletter, crime alerts and important updates via email by visiting and following the easy steps under "News" at [www.kimberleahome.com](http://www.kimberleahome.com).

**Thanks for supporting KHA Go Green!**

## INTERSECTION OF SEBRING AND INDEPENDENCE

Please note that the City of Plano will be making renovations to the Kimberlea entrance located at the intersection of Sebring and Independence. In summary, the City of Plano plans to remove all shrubs and vegetation on both sides of Sebring in order to construct a full sidewalk through this area. Barrier free ramps will be included in this construction. The existing aggregate alongside the curb line will be removed and will be backfilled with sod. This should ease sidewalk traffic across Sebring as well as enable improved sight lines to traffic on Independence. These changes should take place any week now!

# CRIME WATCH by Larry Kryske

## Back to School

Back to school is upon us! Children groan and parents smile!!! Soon the hot and languid dog days of summer will transform into autumn colors and the first hints (if we're lucky this year in Plano) of coolness in the air. With each passing year, new legions of children march off to school. Two of my grandchildren have advanced to first grade and one to pre-K. It's time for parents to review some safety and security tips with their children.

### Back To School

- Work out a safe route to school with your parents. Chose the quickest way with the fewest street crossings and intersections with crossing guards. Stay away from parks, vacant lots, fields, and other places where there aren't many people around.
- Walk to and from school with a friend, neighbor, brother, or sister, don't go by yourself.
- Be sure you know your home phone number and address, the number of your parents at work and of another trusted adult, and how to use 911 for emergencies.
- Never talk to strangers or accept rides or gifts from strangers. Remember, a stranger is anyone you or your parents don't know well or don't trust.
- If you bike or skateboard to school, wear a helmet. And don't forget to lock up your bike wherever you leave it.
- If you're home alone after school, check in with a parent or neighbor as soon as you walk in the door.
- Let parents and friends know if you stay late after school. Get permission first if you want to play with a friend instead of going home.

If you see anyone doing something that makes you uneasy or you think isn't right--a stranger hanging around the school playground, a bigger kid bullying younger children, vandalism or graffiti for example--tell your parents, a teacher, or another trusted adult.

### Bicycle Safety Tips

Did you know that about 75% of all bicycle related deaths result from head injuries? You can prevent most serious head injuries by getting in the helmet-wearing habit.

The helmet should have a label that says it meets "ANSI" or "Snell" or "ASTM" safety standards. The helmet should cover the forehead. Riding a bike of the wrong size make it easier for you to lose control and be injured.

- Both feet should touch the ground when you are sitting on the seat with your hands on the handlebar.
- When straddling the center bar, you should be able to keep both feet flat on the ground with about one-inch between your crotch and the bar.
- If the bike has hand brakes, make sure you can comfortably hold the brakes and apply enough pressure to stop the bike.

### Some rules for the road.

- Look in all directions before entering or crossing the street.
- Wear bright colored clothes or helmet or attach a florescent-colored flag on a flexible pole to your bike.
- If you ride on the street ride in the same direction as traffic and stay on the right side of the street near the curb.

- Watch out for parked cars that may pull out into traffic or open their car doors.
- Use hand signals.
- Bicyclist must obey the same rules of the road as automobile drivers.
- Always lock your bike to prevent theft. Never just leave your bike on the front lawn when you go inside or away from the house.
- Keep a description of the bicycle, including the serial number.

## **"Home Alone" Tips**

Teach Your "Home Alone" Children:

- To check in with you or a neighbor immediately after arriving home.
- How to call 9-1-1, or your area's emergency number, or call the operator.
- How to give directions to your home, in case of emergency.
- To never accept gifts or rides from people they don't know well.
- How to use the door and window locks, and the alarm system if you have one.
- To never let anyone into your home without asking your permission.
- To never let a caller at the door or on the phone know that they're alone. Teach them to say "Mom can't come to the phone (or door) right now."
- To carry a house key with them in a safe place (inside a shirt pocket or sock). Don't leave it under a mat or on a ledge outside the house.
- How to escape in case of fire.
- Not to go into an empty house or apartment if things don't look right -a broken window, ripped screen, or opened door.

## **Tips for Working Parents**

- If your children are to be in charge of themselves at home, talk about activities they can do and the routines they are to follow. Discuss family policies on entertaining and visiting friends and what to do when the phone or doorbell rings.
- Have children—teens, too--check in with you at work or with a neighbor when they come home from school. Be sure they memorize your work phone number and give this number to a neighbor, too. Post it next to the phone, along with numbers for a neighbor, police, and fire department. Let your kids know when you will be home.
- Check out baby-sitters and day care centers carefully. Ask for references and call them!
- Instruct children and baby-sitters not to give out any information about who is home, who is out, and for how long.
- Get together with your neighbors, PTA, Boys Club/Girls Club, and schools to provide after school activities as a alternative to leaving a child at home alone.
- Talk to your employer about employer-supported childcare options. These can range from an on-site day care center to summer day camps, information and referral services, and financial assistance.

## **Never Leave Children Alone In or Around Vehicles--“Not Even For a Minute”**

Many caring and responsible parents have left their children alone in a car, not realizing the risks involved.

Some parents think it is okay to leave a child alone in a car while they run into a store, quickly drop off dry cleaning or while dropping off another child at school.

***Results of leaving a child alone in or around a vehicle can be deadly!!!!!!!!!!!!!!***

Did you know?

- The temperature inside a car can reach deadly levels in minutes
- Children can set the vehicle in motion
- Drivers have difficulty seeing small children when backing up
- The child might leave the vehicle to go look for you
- Your child can be abducted

REMEMBER

- A car is not a toy ....
- A car is not a playground ....

AND

- A car is certainly not a babysitter.

**Safety Tips:**

- Children should never be left alone in a vehicle, not even to run a quick errand.
- Keep vehicles locked at all times; even in the garage or driveway.
- Teach your children to never play in or around a vehicle.
- Consider installing cross-view mirrors and/or a backup detector on your vehicle.
- Keys should never be left within reach of children.
- Always make sure that all passengers have left the car after it is parked.
- If a child is locked inside a car, get them out as quickly as possible. If they are very hot or seem sick, call 911 or your local emergency number immediately.
- When a child is missing, check vehicles and car trunks right away.

**Rules for Getting On and Off the School Bus**

Getting on the school bus

- When waiting for the bus, stay away from traffic and avoid roughhousing or other behavior that can lead to carelessness. Do not stray onto streets, alleys or private property.
- Line up away from the street or road as the school bus approaches.
- Wait until the bus has stopped and the door opens before stepping onto the roadway.
- Use the handrail when stepping onto the bus.

Behavior on the bus

- When on the bus, find a seat and sit down. Loud talking or other noise can distract the bus driver and is not allowed.
- Never put head, arms or hands out of the window.
- Keep aisles clear --books or bags are tripping hazards and can block the way in an emergency.
- Before you reach your stop, get ready to leave by getting your books and belongings together.
- At your stop, wait for the bus to stop completely before getting up from your seat. Then, walk to the front door and exit, using the handrail.

Getting off the school bus

- If you have to cross the street in front of the bus, walk at least ten feet ahead of the bus along the side of the road, until you can turn around and see the driver.
- Make sure that the driver can see you.

- Wait for a signal from the driver before beginning to cross.
- When the driver signals, walk across the road, keeping an eye out for sudden traffic changes.
- Do not cross the centerline of the road until the driver has signaled that it is safe for you to begin walking.
- Stay away from the bus' rear wheels at all times.

## **For Your Teens: Cyberbullying**

If you're like most teenagers, you spend a lot of time on a cell phone or instant messenger chatting with friends and uploading photos, videos, and music to websites.

You may have online friends whom you've never met in person, with whom you play games and exchange messages. Teens' lives exist in a variety of places such as school hallways, part-time jobs, and friends' houses. Now many teens also have lives on the Internet. And bullying has followed teens online.

Online bullying, called cyberbullying, happens when teens use the Internet, cell phones, or other devices to send or post text or images intended to hurt or embarrass another person. Cyberbullying is a problem that affects almost half of all American teens.

Whether you've been a victim of cyberbullying, know someone who has been cyberbullied, or have even cyberbullied yourself, there are steps you and your friends can take to stop cyberbullying and stay cyber-safe.

### **How Are Teens Cyberbullied?**

Being a victim of cyberbullying can be a common and painful experience. Some youth who cyberbully

- Pretend they are other people online to trick others
- Spread lies and rumors about victims
- Trick people into revealing personal information
- Send or forward mean text messages
- Post pictures of victims without their consent

When teens were asked why they think others cyberbully, 81 percent said that cyberbullies think it's funny. Other teens believe that youth who cyberbully

- Don't think it's a big deal
- Don't think about the consequences
- Are encouraged by friends
- Think everybody cyberbullies
- Think they won't get caught

### **How Do Victims React?**

Contrary to what cyberbullies may believe, cyberbullying is a big deal, and can cause a variety of reactions in teens. Some teens have reacted in positive ways to try to prevent cyberbullying by

- Blocking communication with the cyberbully
- Deleting messages without reading them
- Talking to a friend about the bullying
- Reporting the problem to an Internet service provider or website moderator

Many youth experience a variety of emotions when they are cyberbullied. Youth who are cyberbullied report feeling angry, hurt, embarrassed, or scared. These emotions can cause victims to react in ways such as

- Seeking revenge on the bully
- Avoiding friends and activities
- Cyberbullying back

Some teens feel threatened because they may not know who is cyberbullying them. Although cyberbullies may think they are anonymous, they can be found. If you are cyberbullied or harassed and need help, save all communication with the cyberbully and talk to a parent, teacher, law enforcement officer, or other adult you trust.

### **How Can I Prevent Cyberbullying?**

Teens have figured out ways to prevent cyberbullying. Follow in the footsteps of other quick-thinking teens and

- Refuse to pass along cyberbullying messages
- Tell friends to stop cyberbullying
- Block communication with cyberbullies
- Report cyberbullying to a trusted adult

You can also help prevent cyberbullying by

- Speaking with other students, as well as teachers and school administrators, to develop rules against cyberbullying
- Raising awareness of the cyberbullying problem in your community by holding an assembly and creating fliers to give to younger kids or parents
- Sharing NCPC's anti-cyberbullying message with friends

Don't forget that even though you can't see a cyberbully or the bully's victim, cyberbullying causes real problems. If you wouldn't say it in person, don't say it online. Delete cyberbullying. Don't write it. Don't forward it.

### **What Else Can I Do To Stay Cyber-safe?**

Remember that the Internet is accessed by millions of people all over the world, not just your friends and family. While many Internet users are friendly, some may want to hurt you. Below are some ways to stay cyber-safe:

- Never post or share your personal information online (this includes your full name, address, telephone number, school name, parents' names, credit card number, or Social Security number) or your friends' personal information.
- Never share your Internet passwords with anyone, except your parents.
- Never meet anyone face-to-face whom you only know online.
- Talk to your parents about what you do online.

### **For More Information**

Check out the following resources to learn more about preventing cyberbullying:

- [Cyberbullying.us](http://Cyberbullying.us) provides cyberbullying research, stories, cases, downloads, fact sheets, tips and strategies, news headlines, a blog, and a number of other helpful resources on their comprehensive public service website.
- [www.stopcyberbullying.org](http://www.stopcyberbullying.org) has a fun quiz to rate your online behavior, information about why some people cyberbully, and how to stop yourself from cyberbullying.
- [www.wiredsafety.com](http://www.wiredsafety.com) provides information about what to do if you are cyberbullied.
- [www.stopbullyingnow.com](http://www.stopbullyingnow.com) has information about what you can do to stop bullying.

Finally, let's review the basic year-round crime prevention attitudes:

- **Lock your car when you're not in it (both on the street and in your garage).**
- **Don't leave your automatic garage door opener in your car—take it with you.**
- **Don't leave your garage door open when you're not in the garage.**
- **Lock the door between your garage and your home.**
- **Lock your back gate.**
- **Be situationally aware wherever you are; home, school, supermarket, mall, etc.**
- **Report to the police in a timely manner (as soon as practicable) suspicious people in neighborhood—get full license plate numbers and accurate descriptions of the suspicious persons.**
- **Don't let your house convey the “not home” look—use lights on timers, make arrangements for mail and newspapers, etc.**
- **If a stranger knocks on your front door or rings the doorbell, don't open the door. Instead in a loud, forceful voice say, “Who is it? What do you want.” (The stranger will probably make some lame excuse and then walk away. If he/she hears nothing from inside the house, stand by. In 5 to 15 minutes someone will be in your back yard and trying to kick in your back door!)**

Let's back this year's back to school experience a safe and secure one for you and your children.

Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any questions or suggestions. May we together work to make Kimberlea an even better place to live and raise our families.

Larry Kryske, Commander, U.S. Navy (Ret.),  
Kimberlea Crime Watch Coordinator, [homeporter@gmail.com](mailto:homeporter@gmail.com), 469-693-9242

## **ANIMAL ALERTS! Dog Attacks in Plano**

Two dogs have been running loose in Plano since at least May 2016. They have attacked and bitten at least 5 people in our mile section. One dog is a blue healer the other is a white pit bull. Neither have collars or tags. It is the blue healer that has done the biting. All the attacks have been to adults and all have been unprovoked. Two of the attacks were close to Laser @ Wyeth. One was close to Parker @ Independence. Plano Animal control is patrolling numerous times through our neighborhood trying to find the dogs. Please call the non-emergency police hot line (972) 424-5678 or Plano Animal Control (972) 769-4360 if you have any information about the dogs. Please call 911 if you are attacked by the dogs.

## **Urban Bobcat Do's and Don'ts**

Bobcats are thriving in urban areas throughout the United States. Because of their small size, bobcats are NOT a threat to humans of any age. Bobcats eat rats, mice, rabbits, squirrels and birds. They also occasionally kill domestic cats and small dogs. It's normal for bobcats to be active both during daylight hours and at night.

Bobcats live in varied habitats. In urban areas, they often den under decks and sheds. In undeveloped areas, they den in rock crevices and hollow logs. Their territories vary with food supply, averaging 4 to 15 square miles.

If you share your yard peacefully with a resident bobcat, it will provide excellent, chemical-free rodent control. For those who prefer not to see a bobcat in their yard, here are three simple, effective steps:

1. Never leave pet food outside and restrict the use of birdseed. Bobcats are attracted to the birds and rodents that eat at bird feeders.
2. If you have a deck or shed, install an L-shaped barrier around the base to prevent the bobcat from denning underneath it.
3. If a bobcat enters your yard, actively discourage it by making loud noises, throwing sticks or spraying water from a garden hose to teach it to stay away.

**Trapping and relocating bobcats is neither humane nor effective:**

- A. Several studies have shown that relocated animals have a low rate of survival.
- B. If the relocated animal is a lactating female, the juveniles left behind will die of starvation.
- C. Trapped animals are quickly replaced by others from surrounding areas, especially in residential neighborhoods.

For more information, please visit [www.911wildlife.com/relocate-bobcat](http://www.911wildlife.com/relocate-bobcat) or call the Dallas office of 911 Wildlife at 214-368-5911.

## The Opossum: Nature's Best Sanitation Engineer



Contrary to widespread negative opinions of them, opossums are one of the most beneficial native animals in North America. They may be aesthetically challenged, but they play a vital role, especially in urban areas.

In addition to dining on large quantities of roaches, snails, slugs, crickets and many other pest insects, opossums also eat road kill and snakes – including venomous ones, such as copperheads, cottonmouths, coral snakes and rattlesnakes. Opossums are immune to snake venom. So even if bitten, the opossum isn't affected.

Unlike other native wildlife, the opossum doesn't always flee when startled. Sometimes it will sway back and forth, open its mouth, show its teeth, hiss, growl and drool. This behavior often leads people to believe it's rabid. However, opossums are NOT a rabies vector species. Even if an opossum is bitten by a rabid skunk, it doesn't get the disease. Scientists believe that the opossum's high resistance to rabies may be due to its low body temperature. The opossum's normal temperature is only 94 degrees, which is very low for a mammal.

If hit with a broom or attacked by a dog, the opossum's ultimate defense strategy is to play dead, hence the expression "he's just playing possum." When playing dead, the opossum's body gets stiff, its tongue hangs out and it even emits the odor of a dead animal.

For anyone interested in animal anatomy, the opossum is a fascinating species. Its appendages include a prehensile tail and a thumb-like digit on each rear paw. This unusual digit gives the opossum an opposable grip. As a result, it can grab tree branches with its back feet the same way we grip objects with our hands.

But by far the most unique feature is the female opossum's pouch. A non-placental mammal, the female opossum gives birth just 13 days after conception. At birth, the embryonic juveniles are the same size as lima beans. From the moment they're born, it's a race for survival. The babies must climb up the mother's belly and find their way into her fur-lined pouch.

Once there, they begin nursing immediately from one of 13 teats arranged in a U shape inside the pouch. (Evidently, 13 is the opossum's lucky number.) The babies will nurse continually for the first two months. After that, they emerge from the pouch, cling to the mother's back and begin to eat solid food. When they're too heavy and fall off, it's time for them to become natural sanitation engineers finding their own meals of insects, carrion and snakes!

For more information, please visit [www.911wildlife.com](http://www.911wildlife.com) or call the Dallas office of 911 Wildlife at 214-368-5911.

## **KIMBERLEA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION AND DUES**

### **What does \$50 annually mean to you?**

Kimberlea residents will recognize that we have raised our annual association dues from \$35 to \$50. This increase in dues is necessary for two primary reasons. One, just about all expenses for association funded activities have increased substantially over the last several years while dues have not increased in almost 20 years. Two, the number of Kimberlea families paying dues has dropped from roughly 150 to 110 over the last several years. This has created a situation where the association is currently operating at a deficit and where additional funds are required. By comparison, many other neighborhoods in the Dallas area require a mandatory homeowners association fee of well over \$50 per month. While Kimberlea dues are voluntary, we hope you agree \$50 annually is a reasonable amount to help your neighborhood association continue to thrive, provide such wonderful activities and to keep our neighborhood beautiful.

As a member you will receive a quarterly newsletter with neighborhood updates, and although we encourage everyone to register for the newsletter online, paper copies are made available. Member dues support KHA hosted annual neighborhood events for you and your family to enjoy, including an Easter Egg Scramble, Spring Yard Sale, Oktoberfest and Santa's Visit. As well, these dues help keep the Kimberlea entryways maintained. The following KHA activities are not funded by dues, but as a member you can join us for: Supper Club, Lady's Bunko, Men's Poker Night and the Holiday Light Contest. Learn more about these events and activities at [www.kimberleahome.com](http://www.kimberleahome.com). Dues are also applied to the city's required annual maintenance for all five Kimberlea entrances.

**Traditionally we collect dues at Oktoberfest and subsequently provide an invoice in January to collect from any outstanding homes.** We will accept payment anytime during the year.

There are 331 homes in the Kimberlea neighborhood including the following streets: Bandolino, Buckle, Candelaria, Canoncita, Haversham, Mission Ridge, North Echo, Overland, San Juan Circle, Sandia, Sebring, South Echo, Stagecoach, Starlight, Twin Diamond and Whispering Circle. A KHA Treasurer's Report is provided in quarterly in the KHA newsletter.

**Please support your Kimberlea Homeowners Association!**

**KHA TREASURER'S REPORT**  
**August 24, 2016**

Previous balance as of June 4, 2016.....\$ 5,269.04

Credits:

Membership Dues .....\$ 75.00  
TOTAL CREDITS .....\$ 75.00

Debits:

Entryway Maintenance, Updates, Mulch and Gate  
Repairs .....\$ 1,464.77  
Newsletter Printing .....\$ 179.70  
Bank Service Charge.....\$ 15.00  
TOTAL DEBITS .....(\$1,659.47)

Balance as of August 24, 2016 .....\$ 3,684.57

113 families have paid their 2016 dues.

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**KHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

RENEWAL\_\_\_\_\_ NEW\_\_\_\_\_

NAMES\_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER\_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_

*Note: Providing your email address does not register you for online newsletters and updates via email. Please see the "Help KHA Go Green" section of this newsletter for online registration details.*

KHA membership dues are \$50 annually.

Please send your check payable to:

**KHA** c/o Libby Perry, Treasurer  
3325 Canoncita Lane  
Plano, TX 75023