

KHA News

Spring 2015

Kimberlea Homeowners' Association

www.kimberleahome.com

President	Carrie Beard	214-202-2547
Vice-President	Melissa Hailey	214-418-0180
Treasurer	Libby Perry	972-612-3595
Secretary	Julie Sinclair-Campbell	972-596-0029
Crimewatch Coordinator	Larry Kryse	469-693-9242
Newsletter & Distribution	Carrie Beard	214-202-2547
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

UPCOMING KHA DATE TO REMEMBER

-- More Details, pages 4-6 --

KHA EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE
Buckhorn Park

Sun, March 29th, 2:00pm

KHA ANNUAL YARD SALE

Sat, April 18th, 8:00-3:00

Request city required yard sale permit from Melissa DeMonic Dorosh no later than Fri, April 10th.

WELLS ELEMENTARY 2015-2016 KINDERGARTEN INFO MEETING & REGISTRATION DATES



TOP TEN THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT KINDERGARTEN



Please mark your calendars for an informational meeting about kindergarten at Wells! While you learn about our kindergarten top ten list, your child will get to listen to a story and make a fun craft!

Who: All parents and new kindergarten students for the 2015-2016 school year

When: Thursday, March 19, 2015 from 6:00- 7:00 p.m.

Where: Wells Elementary Kindergarten Area

Kindergarten Registration

Friday, March 27, 2015

9:00-10:00 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

2015-2016 Kindergarten parents only, please

KHA 2015 DUES

The new year is settling in and your Kimberlea Executive Committee has started their Spring cleaning, including assessing the 2015 dues collection. We traditionally collect dues for the upcoming year at Oktoberfest, thank you to everyone who attended and paid their dues at the event. We also want to thank those who have sent their payment directly to our Treasurer; we appreciate your commitment and membership. To date, 92 households (out of 330) have paid their 2015 dues.

KHA annual dues are \$35 per home. Although dues are voluntary, we hope you agree \$35 annually is a reasonable amount to help your neighborhood association continue to thrive, provide wonderful activities and to keep our neighborhood beautiful. We hope you find this information helpful and decide to become a member.

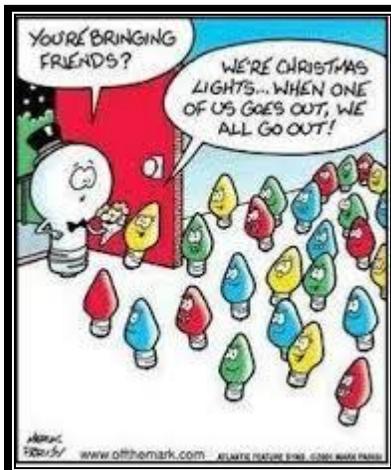
As a member you will receive a quarterly newsletter with neighborhood updates, and although we encourage everyone to register for the newsletter online, paper copies are made available. Member dues support KHA hosted annual neighborhood events for you and your family to enjoy, including our Easter Egg Scramble, Spring Yard Sale, Oktoberfest and Santa's Visit. 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 Holiday Light Contest. Learn more about these events and activities at www.kimberleahome.com. Dues are also applied to the city's required annual maintenance for all five Kimberlea entrances and for occasional one-time expenses to keep Kimberlea a wonderful place to live. **Please support your association.**

KHA 2014 HOLIDAY LIGHT WINNERS

Congratulations to all of our Holiday Light Winners! Dale and Teri Fluery at 3404 Canoncita, were awarded first place, winning a free year of dues and the honor of hosting the 2015 Holiday Light Judging party. The house and yard was very classic with beautiful white lights and festive reindeer. Our apologies that our first place winner's photograph is not available due to technical difficulties. If you drove down Canoncita during the holidays, you had to have noticed their stunning decorations; thank you Fluery's for making KHA's holiday season more beautiful.

A special thank you to Justin Jones and Sarah Rains for hosting the 2014 Holiday Light Judging contest. Everyone had a wonderful time; you were gracious hosts!

1st Place, Fluery on Canoncita



2nd Place, Manning on San Juan Circle



3rd Place, Perry on Canoncita



Honorable Mentions – Holiday Light Judging

Dorosh on Canoncita



Locklin on Canoncita



Gilbert on Sandia



Hailey on Candelaria



SANTA'S 2014 VISIT TO KIMBERLEA

About three short months ago Santa Claus came to town ... a wonderful time was had by all. Thank you KHA friends for visiting Santa at the Beard's home; it was a very fun and festive day!



Ho Ho Ho! More pictures from the KHA 2014 holiday season can be found at www.kimberleahome.com/gallery

KHA EASTER EGG SCRAMBLE

Sun - March 29, 2015 2:00pm Buckhorn Park Check-in at Registration Table

We heard through the grapevine the Easter Bunny is busy stuffing **1,700 EGGS** for the Easter Egg Scramble. Kimberlea is joining with Wiffletree again this year for this fun Spring event. It will be Sunday, March 29th, 2:00pm at Buckhorn Park. **KHA members 12 and under are welcome to participate.** The Scramble begins at 2:15pm and is divided into four groups according to age (3 and under, 4-6, 7-9, and 10-12). When you first arrive, please check in at the registration table. This is important as we do share the expense with Wiffletree, which is divided based on participation. It also helps us plan for next year.

There will be approximately 20 prizes, divided by group and won by finding an egg with the "Prize" tag inside. Prizes include Easter baskets valued at \$25, chocolate Easter bunnies and more! Peter Krause's company will provide hot dogs, chips, and drinks. The Easter Bunny will be there for pictures, so parents, don't forget your camera!

The Easter Bunny, like Kimberlea, has **Gone Green**, thus we will reuse his 1,700 plastic eggs at next year's Scramble. Before you head home, please empty your eggs and place them in the designated trash cans. Thanks!

Special thanks to Carolyn McCrossan, Claire Mayorga and Rachael Winger for helping Kimberlea with this event. They have been coordinating efforts with Wiffletree and will make sure the Easter Bunny finds the party with baskets full of stuffed eggs ready to go! If you are interested in working at the registration table, alongside your KHA President (wink), please contact Carrie Beard, carriebeard2007@gmail.com or 214.202.2547.

EGG-TRA SPECIAL PHOTOS FROM LAST YEAR



HOP TO SEE YOU ON THE 29th!

KHA ANNUAL YARD SALE

Sat - April 18, 2015 8:00am - 3:00pm Participating Homes/City Permit Required

Kimberlea will host a Neighborhood Yard Sale Saturday, April 18th, 8:00am – 3:00pm. **As a paid member of KHA**, please join us for this hassle-free experience! If you were thinking of doing a yard sale this year, then check out the advantages of joining with KHA:

- 1) The more homes participating, the more traffic we will receive
- 2) Melissa will register each participating home and hold all permits (details below)
- 3) Your details will be listed as a "Neighborhood Sale" on the Plano City site for anyone searching Yard Sales
- 4) KHA will run an ad in the Dallas Morning Newspaper
- 5) KHA will post on Craig's List, naming all participating addresses
- 6) Each participating home will receive maps listing all yard sale locations to hand out to our patrons
- 7) The city has many rules against signage; therefore KHA will do the following:
 - a. Request permission from homes on visible corners to place and remove custom made signs. Last year we were able to put out 25 directional signs.
 - b. Try to park cars at all visible entrances with signage

Please contact Melissa DeMonic Dorosh by Friday, April 10th with your name, address and a small list of items for sale (baby clothes, furniture, tools, toys - anything that will draw attention to your home). Melissa will register your home with the city and keep all permits on file for the day of the sale.

Below we have included Yard Sale Rules per the City of Plano:

- 1) The sale must be in your front yard, hence Yard Sale (not Garage)
- 2) Each participating home must have a permit; contact Melissa by Friday, April 10th

- 3) No more than 3 sales shall be conducted at the same address in any calendar year
- 4) Signage (no bigger than 8sq. ft., no medians, public streets or corners of public streets, nor on the grass next to the curb of public street, nor adjacent to a screening wall, nor subdivision entrance)

Only Two Hassle-Free Things to do: contact Melissa by Friday, April 10th and drag out your stuff on April 18th!
Melissa DeMonic Dorosh, sunshine_honeybee2004@yahoo.com, 972.867.6851

RECYCLE AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Wells Elementary PTA continues its fundraising and recycling program through the World Wear Project. All you have to do is place any used shoes or clothing (plus other items listed below) in the blue bin located in the first parking space in the Wells' side parking lot. The Wells PTA is given 15 cents per pound donated!

Items World Wear Accepts: Clothing, Shoes, Belts, Purses, Wallets, Hats, Caps, Backpacks, Hard Toys, Stuffed Animals, Pots and Pans. Items World Wear Does Not Accept: Furniture of any kind, Knives, Kitchen Appliances, Appliances with Cords, Items Made of Glass.

This is an excellent way to clean out your closets, recycle without having to go far, and help earn funds to support our students. Thank you so much for your help!

CRIME WATCH: SPRING AHEAD

It's hard to believe spring is just around the corner. As I write this, light snow is falling. The 25-degree ambient air temperature has a wind chill that makes it feel like a balmy 15 degrees! But just as the sun always rises, so will spring finally emerge from the jaws of winter. Trees, plants, flowers and allergies will soon all bloom again. And, unfortunately, so will tornadoes. Below I have included some spring related safety and security tips to help keep you and your family safe and secure.

Spring Related Safety/Security Tips

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you are working in the back yard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.
- During the spring weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home.
- Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to gain access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
- In warm weather months, personal property thefts increase; there is a tendency to leave items, such as bicycles, gardening tools, lawnmowers, weed eaters, and other yard tools lying around in the open.

- Make sure you lock up your personal property in your garage or yard shed; it doesn't take long for someone to ride by and quickly take your property. An open garage door or yard shed can also be inviting, keep them closed even when you're at home.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.
- Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not "normal" to their neighborhoods and alert the police

Tips for Child Safety

- With the growing number of middle and high school kids playing video games online, it's necessary that we're aware of potential dangers. Online games can be played against other people anywhere in the world. We do a good job of teaching our kids to avoid people they don't know on social networking sites; however, many kids play these online games against unknown people. Internet predators are now targeting kids playing these online games. Predators will build relationships with kids by losing on purpose and complimenting the skills of their target. Predators will also pretend to be another kid and ask their target to be a teammate.
- The more "connected" a child is, the more availability for that child to experience or engage in negative online experiences. Cyber bullying can be referred to online harassment that is repetitive and also has an "offline" connection; usually in school. Preventing cyber bullying can be done by educating kids about the consequences of cyber bullying and also by teaching them to respect others and take a stand against bullying of any kind.
- Bullying in schools is not just a problem for its victims; it makes all students feel unsafe. Our children should be taught to respect others, walk away from bullies, and to report it every time they are bullied. It is also a good idea to document every encounter with a bully.
- Always know where your children are at all times and make sure they return home promptly at appointed times. Never leave your children alone in a vehicle, restroom, store, playground, or other public place. Make certain children know their full name, parent's names, address, and telephone number including area code. Talk with children about strangers the potential dangers associated with them.
- More than five thousand people in the US, mostly young people, start using illegal drugs every day. Using illegal drugs stops the development of the person using them until the day they stop. It is important to watch for any significant changes in your child's physical appearance, personality, attitude or behavior; these may be signs of drug use. Please take the time to educate your children about the dangers of drugs.

Elderly Especially Warned to be Alert

Citizens are alerted to certain crime trends that have occurred throughout the county in recent years. Unfortunately, deception burglaries and home improvement scams are known to occur when the weather gets warmer. Typically these are criminals who are on the move. They begin working in the southern states and head north during the spring and summer months.

The elderly are the most likely targets since they tend to be trusting and very concerned about their property and their neighborhood. Adult relatives of senior citizens should remind them of this possible crime.

Deception Burglaries

Be mindful of certain ruses:

- Suspects generally work in pairs and approach homeowners at their residence with the intent of gaining entry under a seemingly benevolent role like posing as a legitimate worker from a local gas company, water department, cable

company, or as a tree trimmer, paver, county inspector, or government official. One suspect will distract the homeowner while a second suspect will quietly enter the home and search for valuables and cash.

- A suspect may also pose as a family friend of a relative or friend of a neighbor. He or she will knock on the door and ask for a pen and paper to leave the victim's neighbor a note. The suspect may appear to have difficulty writing the note, and will ask to come inside the house. Once inside the victim's house, the suspect will ask the victim to help write the note. While that criminal distracts the victim, others enter the residence to remove money and valuables.

A variety of vehicles have been associated with these subjects including pickup trucks, vans, and sport utility vehicles. Often, the victim doesn't even know he or she has been victimized for hours or days later when they might go looking for a piece of jewelry or precious heirloom.

Be alert to anyone in your neighborhood asking to gain entry into your home. Always ask to see identification and let them know you are going to call and get authorization from their company before allowing them access. If they are legitimate, they won't mind the wait.

Investigators believe many deception burglaries don't get reported because the victim is too embarrassed or fears retribution. Neglecting to call may allow a criminal to go free and victimize someone else.

Remember, do not intervene, but call 911 immediately with a description of the suspect and vehicle used in the suspicious activity.

Home Improvement Scams This is the season when bunco or scam artists drive through neighborhoods looking for people in their yards. Bunco scams often involve someone posing as a repair person who offers a bargain price on a home repair. The National Association of Bunco Investigators (NABI) says to beware when a repair person knocks on your door. Look for these telltale signs:

- The repair person drives an unmarked truck or van with an out-of-state license.
- Only rarely will legitimate home improvement companies solicit door-to-door. They usually distribute fliers or make phone calls since it's more cost effective for them.
- The worker has no business identification, local address or telephone number. Request identification so that you can call the company for verification.
- You are offered a "special price" if you sign that day. Contractors don't pressure customers to sign a contract or job order immediately.
- Beware of excuses such as "We just finished a job around the corner and had extra materials that we could offer you at a discounted price." Professional companies do not operate in that manner.
- The worker asks for upfront costs or fees, or accepts only cash. Reputable contractors do not ask for all the money up front. A customer pays one third of the bill first, then another third midway through the job, and the rest when the work is completed.
- Never pay in cash. Using a check keeps a record of the transaction and often provides identification of the person cashing the check.
- No written estimates or contracts are offered. If you have no contract, you have no recourse if the job is faulty or is never completed.
- The worker has no references. Ask for references and check around the neighborhood to see if anyone has contracted with this person to do work on their home.

Bunco artists also like to intimidate their prey. After a job is finished, usually with inferior materials and shoddy work, the customer is informed that they owe more money. When the customer objects, he or she is told that the materials used were stolen and the police will be brought in if the higher price isn't paid.

Beyond the intimidation, the materials and workmanship used in a bunco scam are usually of poor quality. The roof coating, according to NABI, might be whitewash, the coating on the drive could be motor oil, and the fertilizer may consist of sawdust and oil.

Compare estimates with other licensed contractors when you decide to have work done on your home. Don't give your hard-earned money to some "fly by night" contractor.

If you suspect that the person at your door is a scam artist, contact the police at 911. You could be helping other potential victims from being scammed.

Lock All Doors and Windows

Burglaries in Plano are oftentimes committed through unlocked doors or windows. Stop these thefts. The best deterrent to keep thieves from stealing your property is a lock and key.

Don't assume you are safe just because you are at home. It's nice to let the fresh air into our homes, but remember these tips to avoid a burglary.

- Lock windows on the first floor or ground floor even if there is an enclosed or screened-in porch. It takes so little time and effort to cut through screen mesh and gain access to a home or apartment.
- Secure basement windows and doors. It can be easy to forget about this area of the house when we're running in and out doing chores.
- Place a security bar, often referred to as "Charlie bars," between the patio sliding door and doorjamb. Don't assume that the latch on the door is secure enough to ward off a thief.

Working Outside? Stop a Burglar

Often, burglars watch and wait to see where you are and what you are doing. Lock up while you spruce up!

- Out working in the yard or garden? Make sure all doors and windows - sheds, garages, patio, and house - are closed and locked. This is especially true if you are in the front yard and the storage area is in the back, or vice versa. Carry a key with you to lock and unlock these doors.
- Finished with that yard work? Remember to clean up and lock up behind you. An open door is an invitation to a thief. When you put your tools away, don't forget to lock the doors.

Dial 911 if you see anyone suspicious lurking around your neighborhood. An officer can cruise through the area to check things out. You can even remain anonymous.

Neighborhood Awareness: The Key To Crime Prevention

A good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. This is particularly true at this time of the year when various criminals and con artists use the warm weather to take advantage of residents, particularly the elderly. Watchful eyes in the neighborhood can spot criminals and alert police and the community to their presence.

Keep a check on your neighbors. If, for example, you see an elderly resident in conversation with a stranger, politely inquire about what is going on. If residents see strangers sizing up their neighbor's home, that could also be a sign something is wrong.

A call to 911 will get an officer to the scene to check things out. Involvement such as this builds stronger bonds between neighbors, and helps maintain safe neighborhoods.

Windows Open and Convertible Tops Down - An Open Invitation to a Thief

Warm, sunny days invite drivers to roll down the windows, and for some, drive with the top down on their cars. Unfortunately, that same wonderful weather invites thieves too.

Drivers and passengers are reminded to be cautious when leaving a vehicle open. While it may be inconvenient to put the windows and top up every time the vehicle is parked, it is even more troublesome to find it ransacked.

Cell phones, CDs, GPS units, and other items can be easily stolen from the vehicle when the top is down. Important papers such as insurance and vehicle registration information often found in the glove compartment are also at risk of being stolen. This paperwork could help a thief gain personal data that might lead to identity theft. Last but not least, the vehicle can be stolen.

The inside of the vehicle may be hot upon return, but the odds are good that the vehicle will still be there with everything intact.

Important Tornado Safety Tips to Follow



Tornadoes extend from severe thunderstorms and usually develop from the trailing end of a storm. The air may become very still before one hits. It is also not uncommon for the sun to be visible or skies to clear partially during a tornado. Some are easily seen and detected, while others strike quickly with little or no warning.

Some warning signs of a tornado include strong winds with cloud-base rotation, whirling dust and debris, hail and/or heavy rain and a loud rumble or roar that sounds similar to a moving train.

If it is nighttime, look for bright blue- or green-colored flashes near the ground. That is an indication of snapped power lines and an almost sure sign of intense wind or a tornado.

Two of the most fundamental precautions that you can take in the event of a tornado, no matter where you are, is staying low to or below the ground in an interior space away from windows and covering your head with your hands and arms.

It is a good idea for your family to select a place to meet following any tornado in case you are separated at the time of the incident. Phone lines or other modes of communication may be affected by the twister and are not always reliable. Mobile homes and dwellings without basements or foundations are not a safe place to be in a tornado. If your community does not have a storm shelter, seek a sturdy building nearby. If there is no time, seek a closet or climb into the bathtub and cover yourself some sort of thick padding, such as a mattress or blankets.



If you live in a house with a finished basement, corner rooms or bathrooms and closets offer extra protection. The more concrete walls or plumbing around you, the better. This reduces the risk of your home caving in on you and better protects you from flying debris.

If you are in a high-rise building, such as a skyscraper, apartment building or dormitory, go to the lowest level or the most interior part of the building you can find. Avoid elevators and stay away from windows.

One of the worst places to be during a tornado is in a vehicle. **Tornadoes generally track from southwest to northeast or from west to east.** Drive in a right angle to the storm and get a considerable distance away.

However, occasionally tornadoes can take an unpredictable turn in any direction. If the storm is approaching fast, park your car quickly and seek a sturdy building or ditch. Do not stay near any vehicles, as they can easily be picked up and dropped by the tornado.

Fraud Often Follows Disasters

If a natural disaster forces you to leave your home or business, have you taken the necessary precautions to protect your identity? Gather identification and important documents before disaster strikes.

If you must leave your home due to weather conditions, you will need certain documents to identify yourself and your family. Police suggest you do the following:

- Make copies of birth certificates, driver's licenses, social security cards, death certificates, bank account numbers, insurance papers and any other bits of information for each member of your family.
- Take those papers and store them in a watertight locked box, or large waterproof plastic bag.
- Don't put the papers in your vehicle until you are in the car and ready to go. Thieves are opportunists and will break into your car to gain access to your valuable papers.

Business owners are advised to protect vital information by scanning and encrypting paperwork as well as other sensitive files to protect customers, employees, and vendors. If that isn't feasible, detach the Central Processing Unit (CPU) and take it with you.

Don't let thieves steal your hard-earned name and reputation. Keep important papers and documents with you.

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, 469-693-9242

KHA TREASURER'S REPORT

March 1, 2015

Previous balance as November 22, 2014 \$5,382.23

Credits:

Membership Dues \$ 715.00

TOTAL CREDITS \$ 715.00

Debits

Entryway maintenance 2 months \$ 360.00

Newsletter Printing & Postage \$ 133.25

Santa Visit \$ 121.20

TOTAL DEBITS (\$614.45)

Balance as of March 1, 2015 \$5,482.78

92 families have paid their 2015 dues.

KHA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

RENEWAL _____ NEW _____

NAMES _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Note: Providing your email does not register you for online newsletters and updates via email.

KHA membership dues are \$ 35 annually.

Please send your check payable to:

KHA c/o Libby Perry, Treasurer

3325 Canoncita Lane

Plano, TX 75023