

WOODLANDS OF PLANO NEWSLETTER

November 2008

Principal Management Group of N. Texas - An Associa Member Company

Support our Troops

By Amber Nicholson



Some of you may have noticed a couple of houses in the neighborhood with an 8 by 14-inch white field with a blue star(s) and a red border banner hanging in our front window. These are called Blue Star Service Banners.

This American Tradition was designed and patented in 1917 by World War I Army Capt. Robert L. Queissner of the 5th Ohio Infantry who had two sons serving on the front lines. It quickly became the unofficial symbol of a child in the service.

Today, Blue Star Service Banners are displayed by families who have a loved one serv-

ing in the armed forces, including activated members of the National Guard and Reserves, whether the family member is a son, daughter, brother, sister, wife, husband, cousin, grandchild, etc. The banner displayed in the front window of a home, shows a family's pride in their loved one serving in the military, and reminds others that preserving America's freedom demands much.

I am very happy to share with you all that my brother safely returned to his base in Ft. Drum, NY from his 15 month tour in Iraq. I also want to thank the other families in the neighborhood for supporting your family member as they work to preserve our freedom to live here in the United States of America and Woodlands of Plano!!

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2008 COMMITTEES

The 2008 Woodlands of Plano Board would like to thank each of the following committee members and their families for all of your help during the year. You are the foundation of all of the programs that we provide for our community. Thank you.

Architectural – Gabe Fontenot and Brad Grimmert

Landscape – Dawn Sanders

Newsletter – Matt Hampton

Social – Vai Babji Roa, Surekha Patel, Sheila Hagebak, and Amber Nicholson

Website – Tom Watson

2009 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JIM BROWN

AMBER NICHOLSON

TOM WATSON

LET US HEAR YOUR VOICE

We encourage each of you to come and share your thoughts and ideas about our community in our bi-monthly HOA Meetings at the Starbucks at FM544 and Murphy Road. The first 2009 HOA Board Meeting is scheduled for January 13th, 2009 at 6:30 PM.

THANKS & FAREWELL

A special "thank you" goes out to Wes & Dawn Sanders as they move on from our community. Wes has been on the board for two years and has served as both Treasurer and President. Wes also served as a member on the Architectural Committee. Dawn has served on the Landscaping Committee. Both were very instrumental in the redesign and lighting of the front entrances, as well as several project in the park. Our gratitude goes out to you. Best wishes in your new neighborhood.

New Program – Yard of the Month

Start the fertilizing... In 2009, you will see a little yard competition. We are starting a yard of the month program. This will be voted on and awarded by the Landscaping Committee. The winner will have the honor of being recognized in our newsletter, will have a sign displayed in their yard, and will receive a \$25 gift card to a nursery/home improvement store.



Collection Policy

The 2008 Woodlands of Plano Board has reviewed and revised the collection policy. A copy is enclosed for your review.

Congratulations

Congratulations go out to the Nguyen Family who won the Fall Festival Raffle of 2009 HOA Dues.

SAVE THE DATE – WOP GARAGE SALE



Woodlands of Plano is planning a neighborhood garage sale for the last weekend in March. Set aside some time and do some spring cleaning. More details to come.

**ALL CHRISTMAS/
HOLIDAY LIGHTS NEED
TO BE REMOVED BY
FEBRUARY 1ST, 2009.
THIS INCLUDES LIGHTS
ON THE HOUSE, TREES
AND BUSHES.**



NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING

Do you own your own business, do you run a home-based business, OR do your teenagers want to start a small lawn mowing or babysitting business? If so, you WOP is now offering limited space in our newsletter for you to advertise. Business card size spaces will be available for \$10 on a first come – first serve basis. The money made from the advertising will go directly to offsetting the expense of printing the newsletter. WOP recognizes that the economy is tight right now and we want to encourage everyone to support our local businesses, especially the one's living in our community. Anyone wishing to advertise should send there potential ads to board@woodlandsofplano.com

RESOLVE TO RECYCLE THIS NEW YEAR'S... BEGINNING WITH YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE

A Christmas Tree Recycling Program is offered by the City of Plano's Sustainability and Environmental Services department for both home owners and apartment dwellers. Christmas trees will be picked up at residents' homes along with yard trimmings beginning January 2, 2007. There will be a one-day delay in the service schedule due to the New Year's holiday.

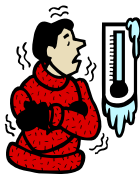


Tree stands, lights and ornaments must be removed from the tree and the tree should NOT be bagged. The tree should be placed on the ground at either a collection site or next to trash cart.

A message from your Association Manager:

Freeze Warnings!

Pipes inside and outside your home can freeze when winter temperatures fall below 32°! Water expands when it becomes ice, which may cause pipes to break and cause thousands of dollars in damages. To avoid possible personal liability and expense, follow these guidelines in an effort to protect yourself! By starting now, you can prevent damage to your home and your personal belongings caused by frozen broken water pipes. PLEASE follow these simple steps:



Before a freeze -

1. Wrap all exposed faucets and pipes located outside or in unheated areas of your home.
2. Remove garden hoses from outside faucets.
3. Know where cutoff valves to your inside water system are and how to use them.

In sub-freezing weather, take the following actions immediately:

1. Let water drip slowly from your kitchen, bath face bowl and bathtub faucets. The drip should be approximately one drip every 3 seconds. Please do not run the faucet in a steady stream, or leave on all the way, as serious flooding could occur. Leave dripping until the weather warms up.
2. Be sure to leave open cabinet doors under kitchen and bathroom sinks to allow heat to get to the plumbing.
3. Leave the heat on, but turn the temperature down to the lowest setting you feel comfortable with. Do not turn the heat completely off.



As the calendar turns into the cold months the college football season is drawing to a close. A look at the polls shows 3 Big 12 teams in the top 5. Perennial powers Texas and Oklahoma are there as many expected but the newcomer to the high ranks is Texas Tech. Behind a powerful offense the Red Raiders look to secure a spot in the BCS championship with upcoming games against Oklahoma and the conference title game. The success of the boys from Lubbock shows that the talent in Texas has yet another place to play upon leaving HS.

Sports Corner

The Cowboys rebounded with a big win over the Redskins this week. With their season on the ropes and Tony Romo coming back from a broken pinkie the Cowboys went to FedEx field and took care of business. I look for the Cowboys to slowly start to regroup and hopefully start playing their best football when then playoffs roll around. The Giants seem to have a stranglehold on the division at this point as they have a record of 9-1 and look every bit like a Super Bowl champion. Things will get very interesting as the calendar turns to December.

A Historic Night

Election day was November 4th, 2008 and that is a day that will go down in history for it's historic significance. On that day the American people elected Barack Obama to be the next President of the United States. President-elect Obama will be the first African American President. President-elect Obama won the electoral vote by a significant margin over Senator John McCain. The overwhelming theme of Mr. Obama's campaign was "change" and it was a message that the majority of voters were buying. Senator McCain won the Republic of Texas but failed to mount a serious threat to the Obama ticket when the final results were uncovered. In the popular vote Obama again outdistanced McCain 52% to 48%. With a pending recession and economic crisis looming Barack Obama walks into a tough situation. Ultimately the way he handles this economic crisis will go a long way towards establishing his legacy.



The Housing Crisis



With America in the grips of a housing crisis it is important for homeowners to stay informed and aware of the happenings in their surrounding areas. In Texas we have not seen the worst of the shrinking home prices across our nation but we have all heard the stories or seen the news reports. There are areas in the Northeast and California where housing prices have dropped up to 40% in the past 18-24 months. The areas have been hit very hard due to a combination of factors, including the mortgage crisis, the bursting of the real estate bubble, tighter lending standards, less buyers and an excess of listings. This is a problem that may take several years to correct or start moving back in the right direction. It is estimated that 1 of every 6

homes for sale now is a foreclosure or a short sale, meaning the home owner is selling the house for less than they owe on it. In California that number rises to 2 out of every 5. This could be a scary time for homeowners already feeling the crunch of a slowing economy.

For those that are falling behind on their mortgage payments or struggling to meet them there are options. The government has recently enacted legislation designed to help keep people in their homes. Please research things such as loan modifications, refinance opportunities, and converting your adjusted rate mortgage into a fixed rate before your rates are raised. This is not a recommendation for you to do now, merely advice on things you could research if you are in a position of needing help.