

Neighborhood Association Meeting
Tuesday, January 17th - 7:00 p.m.
Grace Lutheran Church

Corner of Round Rock West and Bluff Dr.

Meg Goodman with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department will be here to talk about our McNeil Bat Colony and Mark Bloschoch who designed the McNeil bridge to be "Bat Friendly" will be here to talk about the way bridges are designed

FALL FOOD DRIVE

The fall food drive was a success. Thanks to everyone that took the time to drop food off at the Deepwood fire station. We collected approximately 3-4 pickup loads of food for the serving center.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Please reserve Tuesday Night August 1st for National Night Out. We will once again have a Neighborhood party at Round Rock West Park. Last year we had over 350 people attend and we hope to exceed that this year. Because parking was a little rough last year, initial plans for this years party includes a couple of shuttles running from all areas of the neighborhood to the park.

And The Winner Is..... See Page 4 for the results of the CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST

Round Rock is the 8th Safest City in the Country
See Page 5

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Our regularly scheduled meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month from January to October at Grace Lutheran Church, corner of Round Rock West and Bluff Dr.

CITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS CONTINUE

- **SIDEWALKS:** All current sidewalk improvements are complete except for the sidewalks along the Deepwood bridge which is in the process of being re-constructed. The guardrail / handrail for the sidewalks on the bridge are not due in until early February. The city is looking into alternative methods of protecting the public until the handrails come in but if one can't be found, the bridge will have to remain closed until the handrails are delivered.
- **STREET REPAIRS:** Re-paving should be completed soon. For information, contact Ruth Haberman at 218-6605.
- **St. WILLIAMS LOOP PAVILION:** Due to contract issues, repairs to the St. Williams Loop pavilion are being rebid and will be delayed.

City of Round Rock “10 Year Plan” Meetings Announced

Public input on planning and budget requested.

The City of Round Rock has scheduled eight public meetings in January and two in February for our 10-Year Comprehensive Operational Plan. The meetings will be held at various locations around town, beginning Monday, Jan. 9, at Caldwell Heights Elementary and Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the Stony Point 9th Grade Center. See complete schedule below.

We need your help to get the word out in your neighborhoods about these important meetings. One of the eight Open House meetings will be close to, if not within, your neighborhood. We’re using voting locations to ensure the meetings are held in all areas of town and to make it as easy as possible for people to attend. **Please make note of the Open House meeting nearest your neighborhood and encourage your neighbors to attend.**

We’re seeking public input into our planning process because the City is facing a budget challenge. With only modest increases in a few line items, we will run into a \$3.5 million deficit in two short years. The problem is that we can’t run our City at a deficit; we can only spend what we take in. We need to do what you’d do at your own home – take a long-term, disciplined approach to our operations.

That means analyzing population growth trends and the associated revenue we can reasonably expect from our economy. That also means taking a top to bottom look at the services we provide and how we pay for them. City staff has identified cost drivers – things that are driving costs up – as well as cost controllers – things that can save money.

At the open house meetings in January, citizens will have the opportunity to learn about our core services, the costs to provide those services and our operating philosophy. Citizens will fill out a “scorecard” to give us input on their preferences for Levels of Service.

Level of Service is one of the biggest influences on long-term cost. The higher the service level, generally, the higher the cost. We need your input to help determine the appropriate Level of Service we can afford. A good metaphor for Level of Service is models of cars. Cars with more features and a more complex design tend to cost more. Think of the upper end as a Lexus, the mid-range as a Camry and the lower end as a Corolla.

At the forums in February, citizens will have an opportunity to speak out on their desired levels of service.

We’ll present the input gathered from the public to the City Council in late February. Councilmembers will review and analyze the input and begin formulating policy so we can provide the services citizens desire within our financial capabilities.

For more information on the 10-Year Plan, visit the City’s website. If you have questions or comments, call 218-5409. You can also send email to 10yearplan@round-rock.tx.us.

10-Year Plan schedule for Open House meetings will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on the following dates:

- Monday, Jan. 9 – Caldwell Heights Elementary, 4010 Eagles Nest St.
- Tuesday, Jan. 10 – Stony Point 9th Grade Center, 1901 Sunrise Road
- Tuesday, Jan. 17 – Forest Creek Elementary, 3805 Forest Creek Drive
- Thursday, Jan. 19 – Gattis Elementary, 2920 Round Rock Ranch Blvd.
- Monday, Jan. 23 – Round Rock High School, 300 Lake Creek Drive
- Tuesday, Jan. 24 – Bluebonnet Elementary, 1010 Chisholm Valley Drive
- Monday, Jan. 30 – Old Town Elementary, 2200 Chaparral Drive
- Tuesday, Jan. 31 – First Baptist Church, 306 Round Rock Ave.

Public Forum schedule

Public forums will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in City Council chambers at City Hall, 221 E. Main St.

- Monday, Feb. 13
- Thursday, Feb. 16

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CITY ADOPTS NEW PET LICENSE POLICY

The City of Round Rock requires every dog and cat to be registered every year.

As of October 1st, 2005 the city started its own Pet Registration System.

The tags are \$5.00 for a spayed or neutered pet and \$10.00 for an intact pet.

Advantages:

- Free ride home for the impounded pet (1 time per registration period)
- Pet owner information will be accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year by contacting Animal Control or the Police Department
- Quickly reunite lost pets with owners
- Pets receive a longer holding period (animals wearing a pet license will be held at the shelter for a longer period of time than non- registered animals)
- License fees support the return of lost pets to their homes and extended care at the shelter
- Staff will make reasonable attempts to notify owners if a tagged pet is brought in
- Licenses will be available at the Police Department, at public events, and through local veterinary clinics

Guidelines

- Required by 4 months of age
- Proof of rabies vaccinations required at time of purchase
- Registration is to be acquired annually
- Dogs trained and certified to assist the disabled can be registered at no charge (proof required)
- Persons 62 years of age and older can receive two (2) tags at no charge, for spay/neutered pets only
- For animals that cannot be vaccinated for health reasons - veterinarian must confirm

Please contact Animal Control at 255-7387 with any questions

A PET ORDINANCE YOU SHOULD BE AWARE OF...

Recently one of our neighbors lost a pet cat that had been part of their family for many years. By lost, I mean that this cat was killed by a dog running loose in the neighborhood. The sad part is that the dog most likely belonged to another neighbor. We all love our pets and do not want to believe that they would ever hurt any person or other animal but it happens. Please be aware of any animals in the neighborhood that are running loose and report them immediately. You can call Animal Control at **255-7387**.

Many people like to run and walk in the common areas of our neighborhood with their dogs and many do not keep these dogs on a leash. Round Rock does have a leash law that states:

2.1405 RESTRAINT OF DOGS - Any dog, while on a street, sidewalk, public way or in any park, public square, or other public space shall be restrained and secured by a leash or chain of sufficient tensile strength to restrain the particular dog. Said leash or chain shall not be longer than twenty-five (25) feet in a public park and shall not be longer than six (6) feet on or in any other place. An animal that is not restrained in compliance with this section shall be considered at large in violation of 2.1401. which reads as follows:

2.1401 RESTRAINT OF ANIMALS - It shall be unlawful for any animal to be at large. An owner of an animal found to be at large shall be responsible for the offense and no culpable mental state is required.

When you support the following businesses, please find a manager and let them know you appreciate their support of our association

Special Thanks
to



FM 620 & IH 35
Round Rock
255-6600

for their contributions
to our association

Special Thanks
To



La Frontera
600-0053

For
Discounted Printing
of our Newsletter

Thanks to the following businesses
for their support of our association

Hoody's Sub Shop
1206 Round Rock Ave - 244-7166

Gino's Pizzeria
1701 S. Mays - 218-9922

Pflugerville Dairy Queen
1701 F.M. 1825 - Pflugerville

Thanks To
Round Rock
Albertson's

For their contribution
of gift cards as prizes for
our Christmas
Decorating
Contest

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**Round Rock Named
8th Safest City in the Country**

In the 12th Annual Morgan Quitno Awards of America's Safest and Most Dangerous Cities, the City of Round Rock was identified as the 8th safest city overall in the United States. No other Texas City was chosen for the top 25. In the more specific category of cities with a population of 75,000 – 100,000, Round Rock ranked 6th. In the population grouping of 500,000 or more, El Paso ranked second, Austin ranked 5th, San Antonio ranked 8th, and Fort Worth ranked 9th. None of these Texas cities made the top 25 overall. You can view the entire report by going to www.grrwna.org and clicking on the "**Round Rock – Safest City**" link.

ROUND ROCK CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY (CPA) NEXT CLASS 02.13.2006 at 7:00 p.m.

One of the most professional and positively recognized police departments in our state, your Round Rock PD, is hosting its Citizen's Police Academy class number 17 next month.

The Citizen Police Academy is a revolutionary concept in law enforcement and police/community relations. It is part of a continuing program to develop citizen awareness and understanding of the role of law enforcement, designed for citizens of all backgrounds and occupations.

The 41-hour training program consists of classroom and "hands on" instruction. That covers a nearly full range of topics related to modern law enforcement. Popular subjects include crime scene investigation, tactical operations, firearms safety, and crime scene search as well as much more. Students will be actively involved in many interesting activities such as touring police facilities, using police equipment, collecting fingerprints, and several role-playing scenarios.

Graduates of this free course will not be police officers, but better-informed citizens who can provide valuable support to the RRPD and be better prepared to keep themselves and their neighborhoods safer.

(continued next column)

GRRWNA OFFICERS

President

Mike Freeman - mike_freeman@grrwna.org

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Mike Price – mike_price@grrwna.org

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Chad Chadwell – chad_chadwell@grrwna.org

Michelle Fox – michelle_fox@grrwna.org

Richard King – richard_king@grrwna.org

NEIGHBORHOOD WEBSITE

www.GRRWNA.org.

Updates and new additions are coming periodically, so check it out and see what's new.

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY (cont.)

Interested applicants should fill out the application found at: <http://www.ci.round-rock.tx.us/police/citpolac.htm> and send it to the address on the form. To graduate, each student must attend at least ten of the thirteen classes. Graduates will be eligible for additional training and volunteer opportunities, including the COPS program, as well as membership in the Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association.

Some distinguished graduates are: Karen Adair-Murphy, Williamson County Republican Party Executive Director; David Walther, Round Rock Public Works Dept.; and Tammy Arrington, Assoc. Judge for the 3rd Admin Judicial Region. Local (and distinguished) graduates include; Howard Baker, Round Rock Finance Dept, Karl Falken, GRRWNA (former) President and Info. Officer and Chad Chadwell, GRRWNA Board Member.

For more information on the local program, please contact: Officer Bobby Arrington at 218-5526 or e-mail: barrington@round-rock.tx.us

CHRISTMAS DECORATING CONTEST AND THE WINNER IS.....

What a wonderful holiday season. I am not sure if it was my imagination but it sure seemed that there were many more houses decorated this year than in the past few years. If you took the time to drive through the neighborhood I am sure you will agree that there were many beautiful displays. Many thanks to Don Yenni, and the Neemidge family, John and Geri, for taking the time to be our judges for this years decorating contest. Also many thanks to the businesses who donated the prizes for the contest. After hours of driving through our neighborhood and making the difficult decision of who the winners would be, the results were:

1st place – The Milum Family at 2606 Messick Loop

Winner of a \$100 CD player donated by Radio Shack at 620 & IH 35

2nd place – Bob and Janette Graham, of 1605 Deepwood Drive.

Winner of a pecan gift tray from Texas Pecans and Gifts – donated by GRRWNA

3rd Place – The Thress Family at 2605 Messick Loop

Winner of a \$25 gift card donated by the Round Rock Albertsons.

4th Place – Guy Hoffman of 504 Deepwood Dr.

Winner of a \$25 gift card donated by the Round Rock Albertsons.

In addition to these awards, as president of the association, I created and presented a special “President’s Award” to Bob and Jeanette Graham at 1605 Deepwood for their contribution to the children of the area by spending many nights in their front yards as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Please take time to read the article on page 7 reprinted from the December 22 issue of the Round Rock Leader about the Grahams and their contribution to our neighborhood. I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a very enjoyable holiday season.

Look for next year’s “Light up the Neighborhood” program. Details will be available in September.

New Signs at McNeil and IH 35

Have you ever ALMOST had a wreck turning left onto McNeil from the Northbound Access Road’s middle lane because the person in the left-turn-only lane decided he wanted to go straight? Well, after 10 years of this nonsense and ACTUALLY being hit, I decided to do something about it!

I e-mailed people at TxDot and Wendy Reilly in State Rep. Krusee’s office in October and it proved successful. Thanks to their response and Wendy’s diligent follow-up, the clarifying signs on the light posts and new identifying stripes that I requested have already been done. They have also marked the right turn lane from the I-35 southbound access road westbound onto McNeil. Another suggestion is that they move the utilities at the corner of Round Rock and McNeil back to the Featherlite fence and put in a right turn lane. According to an email I received from Tom Martin and Jim Nuse, with the City of RR, this report will be completed and emailed to me by January 9th.

Betty A. Burris - 803 Lime Rock Dr

Neighbor caught in the act of..... driving safely?

If you happen to see Tyler O’Leary of 2606 Chowan Way, be sure to congratulate him and thank him for driving safely in our neighborhood. Tyler is a Round Rock High School student that was observed driving 5 mph below the speed limit of 30, the full length of Creekview.

Many people driving through our neighborhood could take a lesson from Tyler.

Thanks Tyler and keep up the good work.

Santa Lives In..... Round Rock West?

Reprinted with permission from the Round Rock Leader
By Marcial Guajardo

The beard takes about six months to grow out. About a month before Christmas, he puts up the mailbox in the front yard. And on Dec. 9, he again reached for the familiar red-and-white suit and walked out the front door to the awaiting sleigh. Note to parents of young children: The following story has information about the identity of a well-known gift-giver known for a hearty "Ho! Ho! Ho!" and a belly that shakes like a bowl full of jelly. Parental guidance is advised.

It's Christmas time again, and Bob Graham is standing on the Bermuda grass of his well-maintained Round Rock West yard making children believe in Santa Claus. Six years ago, Graham began dressing as Santa Claus at his home as Christmas approached, allowing parents to take pictures of their children with him and listening to the wish lists of the children. The tradition has continued to grow and now, Graham and his Mrs. Claus (Jannette Graham) estimate approximately 600 children will stop by their Deepwood Drive home to see Santa this year.

With his real, full-length silver beard and handmade outfit, Graham makes many a believer. "It's really a wonderful time for the kids," he said. "It's nice to see them say, 'That's the real one.' One kept saying, 'I can't believe it. I can't believe it. Santa lives so close to us.'" Graham begins the Christmas tradition by placing Santa's Mailbox out in front of his house. The mailbox contains fliers marking Santa's scheduled appearances in front of the home in December. This year, Graham put 300 to 400 fliers in the mailbox. They were all gone before Dec. 15.

The retired Motorola employee taught "round dancing" – a form of ballroom dancing – with his wife for about 15 years before he began dressing as Santa. His wife manages a medical practice. Mr. Graham said he got the idea after seeing someone sitting in a sleigh doing the same in the Dallas area. A grandfather who enjoyed time with children, Graham said he thought it was a "neat idea." At first, the idea met with puzzled looks and even fright, said Mrs. Graham. "Initially, I think they were afraid to stop," she said. "They would think he was some sort of decoration. But, a lot of times people would drive by and ask [if they could take a picture with Santa]." But the idea has caught on, although the Grahams do little advertising other than the schedules and word-of-mouth. Repeat visitors have stopped by with their children for up to five years and lines regularly form outside the home without any "open" or "Santa is in" signs up front. On some nights, it has become a neighborhood affair. One neighbor, formerly the Round Rock Express mascot, attracted a flock of children when he showed up dressed as Spike. Professional violinists neighbors attract a crowd joining the Graham children and grandchildren to carol on select nights. A range of ages – from 2 weeks to 80 years – comes by to talk to Santa, Mr. Graham said. "If [adults] want to sit there, I'll listen," he said. "Teens won't go to the mall and see Santa, but they'll come by here."

Rain will cause delays, if not cancellations, of Santa appearances but, ironically, snow won't. "If it snows, it will be great," Mr. Graham added. Parents will often pitch in, lending a helpful hint or two about their children to allow Santa to surprise with deep background on wish-makers. "If I call them by name, they think, 'He must be the real one,'" Mr. Graham laughed.

Mrs. Graham takes pictures of children next to Santa in his sleigh and moves the lines. Many times, she is offered money for their services, which the Grahams refuse, even though their electricity bill sometimes doubles in the month of December. "We don't want to start that," she said. "I think once you get into that, it gets complicated." People have suggested they start toy drives, but they also refuse those ideas, but for other reasons. "I think that takes away from the children's viewpoint," said Mrs. Graham. In the end, the simple things are the big things for the Grahams at Christmas.

"It's kind of exciting to know you've inspired someone," said Mr. Graham.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Neighbors,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and have enjoyed your Holiday Season very much. Over the past few weeks, I had the opportunity to get out and meet some new neighbors. It is very exciting to see new people moving into the neighborhood and to have a chance to share with them what a wonderful neighborhood we have.

With the new year comes a new set of challenges. We have several activities planned for the upcoming year and we need to fill the committees in order to get those activities planned and organized.

The first item of business will be elections for GRRWNA offices and at-large board members. We need three members to serve on our nominating committee in order to present a slate of officers to vote on at the April meeting.

The next 2 activities are the neighborhood picnic and National Night Out. We currently have several people on our National Night Out Committee who did a wonderful job last year as we had a very successful event. We have lost a couple of members that have moved out of the neighborhood and need to replace them. We have nobody signed up for the Annual Picnic Committee which should be scheduled in early June before everyone gets out of town for vacation.

I am currently in need of some volunteers to help with the ongoing business of the association. I need a couple of people to help keep the website up to date. This requires some basic computer knowledge and does not require you to be a web designer. The site is already designed and it is very simple to maintain and should not require more than an hour a week.

The other area I need help in is to edit and prepare this newsletter. You should have a basic knowledge of Adobe Pagemaker or other publication software.

A third area that I need assistance in is community relations. The requirements of this position are to make the businesses in the community aware of the Association's existence and activities. This also involves asking these businesses for contributions as door prizes, advertising, and so-forth.

As of now, I have been filling all of these positions myself AND performing the duties of President. I cannot keep this up any longer. I need some help. Quoting my comments in the last newsletter: I appreciate the fact that you all have busy lives. I too have many things competing for my time, from work to church to family to being president of this association. In spite of these commitments, we must all take an active role in protecting our quality of life. Yes, we have a safe neighborhood. Yes, we have a very pleasant neighborhood, but the worst mistake we can make is to assume that it will always be that way. It is up to every single one of us to keep it that way. There are many neighborhoods in Central Texas that were nice 20 years ago that have become run down by crime, drugs and unkempt homes. We cannot let that happen here.

Out of over 1500 homes, there has to be a few people that have some time to pitch in and help.

Since the last newsletter, a small group of volunteers has created a wonderful organization of Zone Captains and Block Captains that enables us to get information distributed quickly.

Remember, this is YOUR neighborhood, and YOUR participation is VERY important.



President, GRRWNA

REGISTRATION FORM

Greater Round Rock West Neighborhood Association

Name: _____

E-mail address _____

Spouse _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Street Address: _____ Round Rock, TX 78681

Home Phone: _____ Alternate Phone: _____

I am available to contribute in the following areas:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> serving on the board | <input type="checkbox"/> being a block captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> serving on a planning team or committee | <input type="checkbox"/> assisting with one-time projects |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assist in preparing the newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> help distribute flyers / newsletters |
| <input type="checkbox"/> judging contests | <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Picnic Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 th of July Parade Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> National Night Out Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assisting in membership drive | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee |

I have experience that I feel would be valuable in the following areas:

The Greater Round Rock West Neighborhood Association has adopted a new membership policy. Effective immediately, everyone living in the boundaries of the association is automatically a member. No longer are dues REQUIRED.

That being said, the association still needs funds to operate and we are asking for a voluntary contribution from each household. These contributions fund the various activities of the neighborhood such as printing the newsletter, the annual picnic, National Night Out activities, and many other issues that come up during the year. The suggested contribution is \$25 per household. If you feel that is too much, please at least contribute something. If you feel compelled to contribute more, please do. Keep in mind that most homeowners associations have mandatory dues of \$350 or more per year.

We ask for you to make these contributions at the beginning of the calendar year (which begins tomorrow) in order to come up with a budget for the upcoming year. If you have paid dues in October, November, or December of this past year, you do not need to contribute again unless you wish to do so.

These contributions can be made by either mailing a check to GRRWNA, P.O. Box 1928, Round Rock, TX 78680 or you can contribute by credit or debit card by clicking on the following link: <http://www.grrwna.org/id2.html>

If you would like to make an additional contribution, you may do so on our website at www.grrwna.org. This contribution is NOT tax deductible.

Please mail this form with your contribution to: GRRWNA, P.O. Box 1928, Round Rock, TX 78680
For more information, e-mail info@grrwna.org



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Greater Round Rock West NEWS

Greater Round Rock West Neighborhood Association Newsletter

Volume 2006, Issue 1

Our newsletter and website are designed to meet your needs and interests. Please help us learn what is important to you by taking our short survey of some general topics. If we have not listed what interests you, please let us know at the bottom of the form. You can clip this form out and mail it back to us at GRRWNA, P.O. Box 1928, Round Rock, TX 78680 or take our survey online at www.grrwna.org - select the "Interest Survey" tab.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree
Community Organizations			
Entertainment / Humor			
City events			
County events			
Neighborhood events			
Kids stuff			
Local business			
Local news			
Local talent (music, drama)			
Major projects			
News about residents			
Local politics			
Parks and Recreation			
Pets			
Police / Emergency / crime			
Schools			
Services			
Stories about the neighborhood			
Traffic & Safety			
Volunteering			
Worship			
OTHER			

HELP WANTED

Newsletter Editor

The Greater Round Rock West Neighborhood Association is in need of an exciting and motivated person or persons -(Co-Newsletter editors) to assemble and edit content for our newsletter which is published 4-6 times per year. Candidate should have a working knowledge of Adobe Pagemaker or similar publishing software. Must also be prepared to enjoy the rewards of knowing they have helped to make our neighborhood a better place by keeping the neighbors informed. Compensation includes constant pats on the back and praise by the association president and other board members, a chance to attend exciting and rewarding board meetings, and an exciting trip for two to the National Night Out at Round Rock West Park, all expenses paid. To apply, call Mike Freeman at 310-9229 or 736-8075. You can also send an e-mail to mike_freeman@grwna.org. **Hurry, positions are limited.**

Website Maintenance

The Greater Round Rock West Neighborhood Association is in need of a person or persons to act as website administrators. Duties include keeping the information on the website current. Information will be provided by the president and other board members. Candidate should have a working knowledge of Microsoft Word and a basic understanding of how a website works. We have a very simple website to maintain. Most of the time it is just a matter of typing in the information. You will enjoy the same compensation and benefits package as the Newsletter Editor (listed above) To apply, call Mike Freeman at 310-9229 or 736-8075. You can also send an e-mail to mike_freeman@grwna.org. **Hurry, positions are limited.**

got neighbors? sure you do! grwna.org