

# Irving Hospital District Neighborhood Association

www.hospitaldistrict.org



Volume 7, Issue 1

January / February / March 2009

**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
& ATTEND EVENTS  
WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU THERE**

### NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEETINGS

All meetings start at 6:30PM  
Irving Church of Christ, meeting room  
108 Grauwylar (just east of O'Connor)

**March 2009 — No Meeting, Spring Break**

**April 16, 2009, Thursday**

**May 21, 2009, Thursday**

**June, & July 2009 — No Meetings**

**August 20, 2009, Thursday**

**September 2009 — No Meeting**

**October 15, 2009, Thursday**

**November 19, 2009, Thursday**

**December 2009 — No Meeting**

### 2009 DATES TO KNOW

(Rain date is the same day the following week)

**April 4 Saturday:** IHDNA Easter Egg Hunt

**April 17 & 18, Fri/Sat:** IHDNA Garage Sale

**May 9 Saturday:** IHDNA Block Party

**June 28 Sunday:** IHDNA Independence Social  
(put out flags for July 4th, rain date Fri July 3)

**Sept 18 & 19, Fri/Sat:** IHDNA Garage Sale

**October 6 Tuesday:** National Night Out

**Nov 7 Saturday:** IHDNA Chili Cook-off

**December 5 Saturday:** IHDNA Holiday Party

### E-MAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

Board member Joe Cleveland maintains an e-mail list for quick distribution of news & events that are of interest to our neighborhood. If you want to be included on this distribution list please e-mail Joe.

### NEWSLETTER SUGGESTIONS / IDEAS?

Please contact: Doug Wheeler

News articles are often generated from board meeting discussions & concerns, please attend.

Next newsletter deadline is June 15

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### **Contributions To IHDNA Are Voluntary**

The Irving Hospital District Neighborhood Hospital Association (IHDNA) was chartered in 2002 — our Mission Statement is at the bottom of page 2. We receive grant money from the City of Irving & accept contributions from our residents — these contributions are voluntary. The IHDNA has no paid staff, funds we collect mostly pay for food & entertainment at our various functions, & this publication & other notices delivered to your door by volunteers. This is a reminder that many homes we represent make an annual contribution of \$20 to cover these expenses. Checks can be made to IHDNA & mailed to our Treasurer. Thank you for your support, both monetary & participatory.

### **Easter Candy Contributions Are Voluntary (& Appreciated) Too**

Please note in the calendar at left there will be an Easter egg hunt for kids under 10 on Saturday April 4 at Three Fountains Park in our neighborhood. A flyer providing details will be distributed door-to-door in mid-March. But we already know the candy & hundred dollars in addition to other expenses that day. While the IHDNA is prepared to cover these expenses it also appreciates any neighbors willing to contribute Easter candy. If you are one of these neighbors please contact board member Amy Nelson. Thanks.



### **Roland Medina Chairs Hispanic Chamber of Commerce**



The previous newsletter recognized four retiring IHDNA board members, all founding members & the first to complete their six-year terms. Of these Roland Medina, our first Chairman, was recently elected Chairman of the Irving Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (IHCC). This is yet another volunteer job for Roland, who previously served as Chair-Elect of the 13-member board & is also Chairman of the Advisory Board for the Irving Health Care Center. We congratulate Roland on his civic contributions. For more about the IHCC visit [www.irvinghispanicchamber.org](http://www.irvinghispanicchamber.org).

### **Dial 211 for Assistance for the Elderly**

One of our neighbors, Deborah Marshall, recently told us about an easy-to-remember phone number that includes finding assistance for the elderly. That number is 211. Like 911 this number is answered 24-hours a day 7 days a week; it is also used for hurricane relief & other social programs. After selecting an English or Spanish option there are 5 options — No. 1 is to find out what services are available in your area. You will be asked in what zip code you live (75061). Across the state the 2-1-1 program has different combinations of public/private sponsors — locally it is sponsored by the Community Council of Greater Dallas (CCGD) where Deborah works and is both a State Certified Benefits Counselor and a Medicare D Specialist. Regardless of sponsor, there is no charge for assistance. Additional phone numbers to seek assistance for the elderly include:

- 1-888-337-6377 for the Texas Dept. of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) in Dallas County; or 1-800-458-9858 for the headquarters in Austin, TX.

Helpful Internet web-sites include:

- [www.211centraltexas.org](http://www.211centraltexas.org) (this site is for all of Texas),
- [www.hhsc.state.tx.us](http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us) (Texas Health & Human Services Commission), &
- [www.ccgd.org](http://www.ccgd.org) (Community Council of Greater Dallas, whose main number is 214-871-5065).

If any neighbors are aware of other assistance resources, please let us know.



### PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Throughout our lives we encounter doors of opportunity. These doors are not always obvious. And we never know for sure until we pass through one. There is another kind of door, the door of misfortune. This door is also mysterious and difficult to identify. And like the door of opportunity, we never know exactly what it holds until we've passed through it. Once inside we look for a fast exit...if there is one.

Where am I going with this? On December 17<sup>th</sup>, our carbon monoxide detector went off. And we lived to tell about it. Simple enough. Probably an HVAC tech along the way suggested we buy the detector and we did. That was the door of opportunity. But we were also facing a door of misfortune that was hanging wide open. There were a number of factors telling us to ignore the alarm. Karen had a sinus headache, we thought left over from a recent head cold. At mid-day when the alarm sounded, the plumber was there doing some soldering. Neither the plumber nor Karen were concerned when the alarm went off and assumed it had something to do with the plumbing work. The furnace had not cycled on for hours, but had been working great and received a clean bill of health just one year before. We had just come off a cold weekend with no issues, and it was a warm, still, humid and overcast day - not a cold winter night - isn't that when these things really happen?

When Karen called to tell me about it, I said to leave it unplugged and I would look at it when I got home. We had replaced the detector a few years before because it was faulty and had been sounding an error signal instead of the alarm. My initial thought was this was the same issue again since this detector was getting old.



**Gerald Farris, IHDNA President**

Not to mention I had been at the doctor's office all morning, not feeling well and already having an uncomfortable day. Did I really want to deal with this?

But something interesting happened while I waited my turn at the doctor's office. One of the morning TV shows ran a story on carbon monoxide poisoning. I was a captive audience. What caught my attention was the news that a Denver family of four had all died tragically from the poisonous gas just a few weeks earlier in a new 9 million dollar vacation home in Aspen, Colorado. Just hours later I would receive a phone call about carbon monoxide at my house.

Late that afternoon after the plumber was paid and gone; I noticed the detector on the floor. I plugged it back in and after a while it began to make that irritating noise again. I found the manufacturer's instructions on the Internet and went through the various troubleshooting and reset steps, with no sense of urgency. About 6:30 in the evening, after several failed attempts, it finally hit me that the detector appeared to be in perfect working condition. This could be the real deal and I completely

missed it!

I called the Fire Department non-emergency number and summoned them to check things out and make sure we were not getting a false reading. They arrived within minutes and confirmed right away that the readings were not false. They opened all doors and windows, ordered us out and turned off the gas to the furnace and water heater. The house was cleared of the poisonous gas and Karen's "sinus headache" cleared up immediately. Mind you, Karen had been in the house all day, not in and out like the plumber and having the benefit of getting fresh air. Our daughter had been at school so she and I had only been home a few hours.

The fire department said if the reading had been 1 part per million higher, by city policy, the gas company would have been called to shut off the gas and we would have had to vacate until we could verify that repairs had been made.

The next afternoon a serviceman declared the furnace dead, and the heat exchanger that worked great the past weekend was a goner. We had to do a lot of calling and make some quick decisions to get a new furnace before the next cold front arrived just 48 hours later.

Had that carbon monoxide detector been left sitting on the floor, unplugged next to all of our initial assumptions, there is a strong possibility we would have passed further through that door of misfortune. We can only speculate now exactly where it may have led.

Pay attention to the little signs in your life. Recognize your doors of opportunity and misfortune in 2009. Neither is marked with a neon sign. We now own two carbon monoxide detectors. Twice the opportunity to get it right.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The IRVING HOSPITAL DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION is dedicated to making our neighborhood a safer, friendlier place to live. We strive to unite our neighbors by offering general beautification projects and social events for the whole family. We are a neighborhood association sponsored by the City of Irving, formed within the City of Irving requirements. We do so to qualify for grants and other areas of support offered by the city. We participate in the Neighborhood Roundtable on a regular basis to interact with other neighborhood associations in the City of Irving. We have a Board of Directors elected by members of the association. The members of the association are your neighbors. The officers are selected by the Board of Directors. Please join us at our open meetings. We need your input and participation in order to make our association one of the best in the city.





### 2008 HOLIDAY PARTY — GREAT ATTENDANCE, GREAT TIME

The 2008 IHDNA Holiday Party was a HUGE success & so MUCH fun with over 80 festive neighbors attending! It supported that ours is a great neighborhood in which to live & raise children. A BIG thanks to Yoshi & Francesca for graciously hosting in their home!



One focus this year was to be more family oriented & a record number of children attended. Amanda Nicholls provided an ornament craft table so each child could leave with a party memento. A magician, Doc Grimes entertained & held the attention of kids of all ages while pianist Lauren Schommer provided holiday music in the background. The association provided smoked turkey, brisket, & sausage entrees catered by Red, Hot, & Blue Barbecue, & board members provided holiday favorite side dishes including green bean casserole, macaroni & cheese, deviled eggs, potato salad, & too many delicious desserts to mention! We collected 14 gifts of clothing & other items for the three children in this year's adopted family, plus six gift cards at Kroger or Wal-Mart & four cash donations. We have helped this long-time Irving family get through a tough financial time & have asked the City of Irving representative who put us in contact to give us future updates ... we hope to report happy news.



As a reminder, the recipes for some of those delicious side dishes & desserts are in our own IHDNA Cookbook Sharing Our Best (still only \$8, contact Amanda Nicholls)

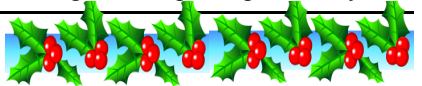


### Christmas Caroling at Ashford Hall

On a bitterly cold day in December seven IHDNA neighbors & two guests gathered to carol for & with the residents of Ashford Hall, a skilled nursing facility on Shoaf Drive just east of our neighborhood. Smiles & singing warmed us all. While we won't be forming a professional choir anytime soon the residents didn't cover their ears &, in fact, many sang along with us! It was a fantastic opportunity to bring Christmas Cheer to individuals who would not experience the holiday if it were not brought to them. We all came away with happy hearts in the true spirit of Christmas & encourage more neighbors to participate next year.



### The Guthery Family's After-Christmas Gift



Marian Guthery & her family had a wonderful gift after Christmas that she thought she would share with her neighbors:

Troops come into DFW airport for R&R, & depart to return to Iraq & Afghanistan, every day. As Ambassadors at DFW, Don & I see lots of troops & are always there to thank them for their service. Judy Yeager of our neighborhood goes out often to do this as well.

Don is a USO volunteer every Friday, shaking hands, talking, seeing to it that the troops have candy, neck pillows, etc. On Sundays he & I go together to tell them goodbye & our station is D21, right across from a small USO station. Don wears a pin with his rank (retired Army) & when the troops spot his pin they say, "Yes, Sir" to him & salute, but of course he tells them they don't have to. "I was an enlisted

man," he'll say. But our after-Christmas visit was very special. With the help of Military Assistants, officials allowed our daughter & son-in-law, Tammy & Tom Carpenter, into the secure area of the airport. It was a wonderful thing to see the troops' reactions to the hugs, clapping & cheering as they walked through a line of people on each side. We all told them how proud we are of them. My daughter is a photographer & she got some great shots of them: talking on the phone, visiting with family, working on their laptops, husbands kissing their wives & holding days-old babies in their arms, reading books, eating at McDonald's, & catching up on sleep. The plane we were there to greet was delayed because of weather so we were a bit surprised to hear that a different R&R plane was to arrive shortly. We all stood

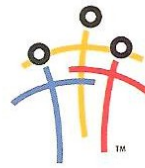
on the SkyLink platform & waited for its arrival. When a military plane comes in, DFW Fire & Rescue offers a tribute that is extraordinary to see. It's called the "Shower of Affection" & is a water salute that consists of two water turrets discharging 1500 gallons of water per minute over the plane. We were privileged to be there to see this special tribute. We headed back downstairs & the lines of USO volunteers were formed, all of us clapping & telling them, "Welcome Home!" This made the Christmas season even more special for the four of us to be there. We feel very fortunate to get to visit with the troops & thank them for keeping us safe here at home. You can go to DFW & welcome them home, too. They'll even provide a parking pass for you. This will make you feel good & feel proud.



### We Need to Gather Together Our Garage Sales Signs

Under **2009 Dates to Know** on the front page are neighborhood garage sales scheduled in April & September. To save the IHDNA the expense of having to order new signs for these sales we need everyone who still has a sign to please either 1) contact Amy Nelson or 2) leave the sign on her front porch. We need this done by Sunday, March 15 so we can get a final count, even if you plan on using the sign again in 2009. Thanks.

**City of Irving inspection ratings & dates** are available on-line at [www.ci.irving.tx.us](http://www.ci.irving.tx.us) / Online Services / Food Establishment Scores.



### irving church of Christ

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

Jim Crouch  
Mobile: 817.909.4653  
[jimcrouch@irvingchurch.com](mailto:jimcrouch@irvingchurch.com)

### Calloway's Nursery — Timely Tip for February Gardeners

Gardening in February is necessary in achieving successful gardens! Have your soil tested so you are only applying the nutrients which are needed. Calloway's Nursery is offering two **FREE** soil tests to every customer through February. Visit your nearest store for two free soil test forms. For optimum results, prepare your soil before planting. Don't forget that Valentine's Day is approaching. Calloway's Nursery has fresh, living flowers for that special someone in your life. Give roses which can be planted and enjoyed year round or a container of cool season color for an immediate impact

on your porch or patio. Houseplants in attractive ceramic pots provide long lasting enjoyment for indoors. The list is endless, let your imagination "grow green"! Also, please join us for **FREE** in-store clinics on timely gardening topics. These clinics are held in every store.  
**Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am**- Color Creations with Orchids-*Create a beautiful, living Valentine's gift which will last and last.*  
**Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am**- Earthkind Gardening and Roses-*Learn about these roses and gardening techniques which are conducive to our Texas*

*conditions.*  
**Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:15 am**- Organics 101-*Learn how to garden the organic way!*  
**Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:15 am**- Lawn Care-*Be the envy of your neighbors. Learn what it takes to have a beautiful, healthy lawn.*  
Success in the garden begins with a good foundation! Become a member of our Garden Club and learn how to develop a beautiful landscape! Go to:  
[www.mytexasgarden.com](http://www.mytexasgarden.com)

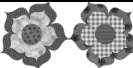


### Calloway's Nursery — Timely Tip for March Gardeners

Create Instant Color!  
Container gardens are fun and easy to create. They can be as simple as three small flowers potted together or as elaborate as a small tree or shrub planted in the center of pot with annual color planted around. Follow these simple steps when planting or plan on attending one of our **FREE** Container Garden Clinics in March.  
**First** select a container appropriately sized for the job. Make sure it has drainage

holes and is large enough for making an impact. **Second**, choose a well blended potting soil that drains well. **Thirdly**, choose plants that require the same lighting and water needs. The **fourth step** is to start planting. Fill the container half way with soil, position the plants and start filling in with the rest of the potting soil. You can also add a fertilizer such as **Calloway's Professional Flower Food** into the soil. **Lastly**, I add a top dressing

of decorative bark or mulch. This adds the finishing touch, plus it will keep the soil cooler and prevent it from drying out as quickly.  
After you have completed your masterpiece, sit back and watch it grow! Now you are ready to start planning your next one! Enjoy!  
Check our website for Calloway's/ Cornelius upcoming clinics:  
<http://www.calloways.com/clinics.pdf>



**Nearest Calloway's Nurseries:** **Hurst:** 760 Grapevine Highway, north of Precinct Line Road, 817.581.6361

**Lewisville:** 423 East FM 3040, near Vista Ridge Mall, 972.315.3133

### Irving Hospital District Neighborhood Association

Visit us at [www.calloways.com](http://www.calloways.com)



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### Yard of the Month (YOM) Tips

In March the YOM committee resumes selecting a yard each month to receive a 1) \$25 gift certificate from Calloway's Nursery, 2) YOM sign for that month, & 3) picture of the yard & a quote from the owner in the next newsletter. If you're interested in competing then here's what the judges consider: 1) landscape design, 2) variety of plants, 3) color, & 4) maintenance. This year let's make it as hard for the judges as possible — in a good way!





### Security Tip: Put Your Car Keys Beside Your Bed At Night

Our neighborhood watch coordinator, Bill Herod offers this security advice: In addition to keeping your cell phone beside your bed at night, because thieves sometimes cut land line phone lines before entering a house, keep your car keys nearby. Then if you hear someone trying to break in your house you can press the panic button on your car's remote control, setting off your car alarm, which is usually very loud.

This is a security alarm most of us already have without any installation. Test it — from almost anywhere in your house you can lock & unlock your car doors or set off & reset your car's security system regardless of whether your car is in your garage or driveway. The car alarm will sound until turned off or the car battery dies.

Related recommendations from Bill: 1) carry your car keys in your hand while walking to & from your car in a parking lot so you have immediate access to the alarm if you're accosted & 2) older residents keep their car keys with them while in their yards so they can generate attention in case of emergency, such as a fall or heart attack.

### Irving Library Expands On-Line Search Topics

The Irving Public Library expanded its web-site, [www.irvinglibrary.org](http://www.irvinglibrary.org) to allow library patrons to search nearly 100 unique & specialized topics compiled by the library staff covering Irving culture, history, & civic organizations through a software program called Wiki. Please visit their web-site & check it out.

### Irving's Web-Site Expands Video on Demand

The City of Irving's web-site now provides expanded around-the-clock access to information regarding city news & events. In addition to allowing visitors to view taped recordings of various meetings & enjoy special programming, the upgraded feature offers live video streaming of City Council meetings as also seen on the Irving Community Television Network (ICTN — channel 95 on Time Warner & channel 31 on Verizon.) Taped council meetings are coordinated with paper agendas, allowing viewers to select specific agenda items without having to watch everything taped or to fast-forward. City Council Work Sessions are also available.

New videos are added weekly & older are archived. Visit [www.cityofirving.org](http://www.cityofirving.org) & click on the "Irving Video on Demand" button on the left side of the home page. The video categories to select from are: News, Meetings, Shows, & Specials.

### Grauwlyer Watch Captain Needed

Neighborhood watch coordinator Bill Herod is seeking a volunteer to be the neighborhood block captain for Grauwlyer Road, between MacArthur & O'Connor. This position is best served by someone who lives on Grauwlyer or within two houses on a side street. These folks help keep our neighborhood safe so please contact Bill if you're interested & would like more information. Thanks.

### Help Us Spay/Neuter Feral Cats

Our neighbor Ann Mixson reminds us that she volunteers at KittiCo, a non-profit cat rescue organization in Dallas. KittiCo spays & neuters feral & stray cats, gives them rabies shots, & immediately releases each cat back where it was captured so the animal can live out its life. No cats are destroyed or relocated. KittiCo will also spay & neuter cats for free when their owner cannot afford these surgeries. Feral cats in our neighborhood was discussed at the January IHDNA board meeting. Ann has traps & carriers to loan & is happy to teach anyone how to use them & transport cats to KittiCo on Electronic Street in Dallas. KittiCo can be contacted at 214-826-6903 or at [www.kittico.org](http://www.kittico.org).

### Protect Our Live & Red Oaks!

IHDNA board member Cindy Barrows wants to remind everyone that it is common for Live & Red Oaks in North Texas to become infected with Oak Wilt in the Spring & this disease usually kills the tree. The first signs of Oak Wilt are:

- Live Oaks — leaves remain green while their veins turn red/brown & then the leaf falls off;
- Red Oaks — leaves develop an oily green sheen that rapidly turns tan before the leaf falls off.

The two most recommended ways to prevent spreading Oak Wilt are:

- 1) Don't prune Live & Red Oaks from mid-Feb through May unless the cut wounds are treated with a sealant, &
- 2) If a tree becomes infected then quickly treat nearby healthy trees with a fungicide to prevent wilt spread through connecting roots.

More information can be found at [www.northwoodhills.org/info/trees.html](http://www.northwoodhills.org/info/trees.html).

Please let us know if you or a neighbor's Live or Red Oaks develop Oak Wilt so we can minimize our loss. Thanks.

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**COMMITTEES**

The IHDNA has three committees & welcomes your participation. If you're interested in any of these please contact the committee chairman or President Gerald Farris.

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Amy Nelson, Chairman

Rose Blake

Rosanne Lewis

Amanda Nicholls

Lloyd Rutschman

**Welcoming Committee**

Dianne Cartwright, Chairman

Cindy Barrows

Pat Miller

**Yard of the Month Committee**

Bill Herod, Chairman

Francesca Funk

**Neighbors Who Make This Happen**

This publication delivered to your door is made possible by many of your neighbors working together ... we'd like to acknowledge them here:

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