

This summer I suspended the newsletter for various reasons, one of which was my business got so busy we did not seem to have time to assemble the newsletter and also I did not know of much going on in our neighborhood to report on.

The summer certainly seemed to pass quickly and we find ourselves awaiting cooler days and longer nights. Soon we will have our first frost and ghosts and goblins will roam the streets in search of their loot for the evening! Such fun times for children and adults as well. Another important thing to consider is the November 3 election this year.

In Tanglewood, due to joint efforts we were able to fight successfully our tax appraisals. Something to consider this year is going to the polls to vote and consider Amendments 2, 3, and 5 which will improve the property-tax appraisal process for us. Amendment 2 will ensure that a residence's property values is based solely on its value as a homestead rather than its highest and best use, while Amendment 3 will create uniform statewide standards for appraisal procedures and 5 will give appraisal districts the right to consolidate their review boards which benefits our rural counties. Another Amendment to take a look at is 11 which concerns eminent domain. Amendment 11 prohibits the taking of property solely for economic development or tax-revenue purposes.

We are looking for ideas from you on the newsletter - let me know what is helpful or of interest to you. Also, any of you budding writers out there, jump on board and submit an article, know of a good restaurant, good yard person, whatever you want to say, send it our way and we will publish it.

Remember it is Breast Cancer Awareness month - don't forget your mammogram and remember it does not affect only females. The Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation has valuable information if you or a loved one is faced with questions.

Here's to a great October. I look forward to seeing each of you on walks and answering any questions you might have that I can help with.

Donna

Fall: Best Time to Landscape

by Neil Sperry

Poll any group of consumers, and they'll probably tell you that spring is the best time to set out new trees and shrubs.

But, ask a group of nurserymen and landscape contractors, and they'll emphatically tell you it's fall.

Here are the reasons.

- Plants have 6-8 months to get established before the summer's heat arrives to stay.
- Plants have often been growing in the same containers all summer, so they're full sized and ready to plant.
- Plants are often discounted in fall, as nurseries make room for holiday merchandise.
- You, and your nurseryman/landscape designer have more time this time of year. Missing are all those late winter/early spring tasks.



Need Help??

We all need our yearly check-up and so does our house - if you are not a house sleuth that sees all the little cracks, caulking, areas of disrepair, consider hiring a professional to provide a yearly assessment and make necessary repairs. Call or email Donna Thomas at donna@donnabthomas.com if you want a list of individuals who can provide these services.

Rates have dropped to just 5%!

If you or someone you know would like to refinance please give me a call and I can point you to a great lender.

Also, the deadline is fast approaching for the \$8,000 Housing Credit.

TANGLEWOOD TRIBUNE

Area Attractions for October 2009

October 3

Family Fall Festival
Starts at 4:00
Towne Lake Softball Complex
Fee: \$10.00 per family
Includes: petting zoo, pony rides, bounce houses
Carnival games, carnival food and face painting

Outdoor Movie: "Hotel for Dogs" at 7:00

October 30

Scare on the Square!
4 — 6 PM
Historic Down Town McKinney
Enjoy safe Trick-or-Treating

Dallas Arboretum

- Sept. 19—Nov. 1—**Great Pumpkin Festival**
- Oct. 5—**Picnic Under the Moon**
Enjoy the gardens at dusk during the annual Otsukimi Japanese Moon view event
- Oct. 10 and 11—**Southern Artisans Market**
Art show and sale featuring jewelry, paintings, garden art and more
- Oct. 31—Nov. 1—**Family Fun Weekend**
Trick or Treating at the Storybook Playhouse, face painting, petting zoo and the Magic Man Magician—please check schedule for times.

FIRE AND ICE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Brian Chandler, while off duty as a McKinney firefighter, has been decorating homes in Tanglewood and the gazebo at the main entrance for years. He has been installing lights on the gazebo for free all of these last four years. So, if you're looking for a good, reasonable installer, please be as supportive of Brian as he has been of us. His phone number is 817-846-6271. It is not too early to get on his schedule!

Tanglewood neighbors

We would love to feature "neighborhood news". Please send us any upcoming events, prayer requests, special reports or good wishes that you may have. Be sure to send them by the 25th of each month to be included in the newsletter.

Quality Contract list!!!

We all need a little help from time to time and when a need arises, who wouldn't love to have a great list of quality contractors to turn to? Please send us the names and contact information of those contractors that you would like to recommend.

Tanglewood (activity since Jan 1, 2009)

<u>Active Price</u>	<u>Average</u>
12 properties	\$129 per sq ft



Sold
2 properties in 6 months

McKinney (since 1/09)

<u>Active</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
99 properties	\$115.00 per sq ft

<u>Sold</u>	<u>Average Price</u>
properties	per sq ft

List to Sales Price: 100%

Average days on market: 50

If you would like to see what the homes are ACTUALLY selling for in your neighborhood, please go to www.searchhomevalues.info, this incredible free tool will e-mail you a customized report in just minutes!

For questions or comments please e-mail Donna at: donna@donnabthomas.com or call 214-629-7586



For all of your real estate needs:
 Donna B. Thomas Properties
 214-629-7586
 donna@donnabthomas.com

October 2009

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 Farmers Market—Chestnut Square
4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Fall Native Plant sale Heard Museum TX Regional Art Symposium—Heard Craig Center Farmers Market—Chestnut Square
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Farmers Market—Chestnut Square
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Legends of McKinney Ghost Tour Chestnut Square Farmers Market—Chestnut Square
25 Deadline for Nov. newsletter information	26	27	28	29	30 Family Fall Festival—Town Lake	31 Happy Halloween! Farmers Market—Chestnut Square Scare on the Square (Downtown McKinney)

For questions or comments please e-mail Donna at: donna@donnabthomas.com