



COTTONWOOD

H E I G H T S

Neighborhood Association

Cottonwood Heights - Richardson, Texas

October 2011

Join Us for the 2nd Annual Neighborhood Costume Parade!

Please join us at the corner of Greenway and Waterview at 6 p.m. on Halloween night, October 31. Kids and parents will march down Greenway and Shadywood all the way to Dumont, then the trick-or-treating will begin.

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Destiny De La Rosa at DestinyDeLaRo@gmail.com.

Get neighborhood info online at:
<http://blog.cottonwoodhna.org>

Mark Your Calendar: CHNA Honors Veterans at the October 27th Fall Meeting

The hot, dry summer is over, our RHS Eagles beat Pearce in Football, and cooler weather is now upon us. CHNA leadership has been busy pursuing continued improvements and stability in the neighborhood, and those fruits continue to develop around us. Join us at a special **CHNA Meeting Thursday, October 27** when we will quickly layout some great new details.

CHNA residents never fail to amaze. Last year we took a moment to spontaneously recognize a few veterans who were with us – including some great WWII vets. My nine year old

was somewhat amazed! Dover Assistant Principal Allison Caine mentioned to me afterward that she had grown up in a military family and that the moment meant quite a bit to her. Thursday night we will recognize all neighborhood veterans of the **Military and Foreign Services**. Please help us get the word out and join us for an exciting agenda and the chance to be recognized and recognize the many great veterans in our neighborhood. **You may be surprised to learn you live next door to a national hero.** (See page 10 for a list of discussion items for the meeting.)

(Continued on page 10)

DOVER RATES EXEMPLARY FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR!

For the third straight year, Dover Elementary has achieved an "Exemplary" rating—an achievement even more special due to the fact that the number of "Exemplary" elementary campuses in RISD dropped from 37 to 20. Our students and teachers continue to build on their academic success year after year.



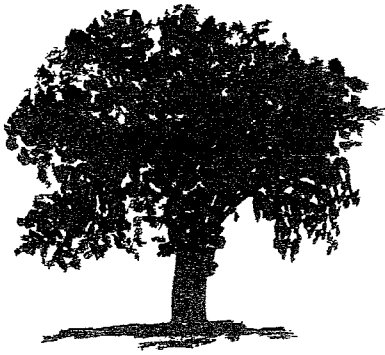
Our students are busy preparing for this year's STAAR (State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness) testing which is replacing the TAKS for the 2011-2012 school year. STAAR will assess the same TAKS standards in a deeper, more rigorous way. Despite limited guidelines and decisions from TEA, Dover and RISD are preparing students and staff for a successful transition to the new assessments. For more information on the test, please visit www.tea.state.tx.us/studentassessment/staar.

The Dover PTA is also helping the school expand the Renzulli Enrichment/Learning Program by providing additional resources for all grade levels. These additional resources are helping all of our students achieve by focusing on their strengths, their interests and the ways they like to learn and express themselves.

Other recent accolades for Dover Elementary include the USDA Healthier US Schools Gold Award, which recognizes excellence in nutrition and physical activity. In addition, over 200 students, teachers and parents participated in Nickelodeon's World Wide Day of Play on Saturday, September 24, 2011. The World Wide Day of Play event was sponsored by Dover PTA.

Bond Update for campus improvements at Dover Elementary:

- Technology infrastructure upgrades: this major project will dramatically increase the number of students and



2011 CHNA Slate of Officers

Executive Committee

- **President** - Barry Hand
Barry.Hand@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Vice President** - Jimmy Ratcliffe
Jimmy.Ratcliffe@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Secretary** - Suzanne Juliussen
Suzanne.Juliussen@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Treasurer** - Anne Bienfang
Anne.Bienfang@cottonwoodhna.org
- #### **Committee Chairs**
- **Civic Co-Chair (COR)**
David Knepper
David.Knepper@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Civic Co-Chair (RISD)**
Larry Breazeale
Larry.Breazeale@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Environmental Chair**
Richard Stubing
Richard.Stubing@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Communications Chair**
Jason Lemons
Jason.Lemons@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Programs Chair**
Leona Hinsley
Leona.Hinsley@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Crime Patrol Co-Chair**
Tom Norman & David Clark
Tom.Norman@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Membership Chair**
Chris Davis
Chris.Davis@cottonwoodhna.org
 - **Publicity Chair**
David Chenoweth
David.Chenoweth@cottonwoodhna.org

Dover Student and CHNA Resident Honored with Selection into Lone Star Leadership Academy

Congratulations to Dover Elementary student and CHNA resident, Alexandra Breazeale, daughter of Larry and Karen Breazeale, who was selected earlier this summer to participate in Education in Action's Lone Star Leadership Academy. Her selection to the Academy was based on her outstanding academic achievement, demonstrated leadership ability, her involvement in school and community activities and a recommendation by her teacher, Monica Everett. Education in Action hosts the Lone Star Leadership Academy to "Instill the Spirit of Texas in Tomorrow's Leaders."

Ms. Breazeale joined a delegation of outstanding students across the state who developed leadership skills while learning about our state and its leaders. She learned about future career opportunities and visited a number of significant historical sites around the Metroplex. She also networked with other outstanding students and participated in problem solving situations and further hone her presentation skills.

CHNA residents are natural leaders, and Ms. Breazeale is no exception. Congratulations!



Dover Elementary (Cont'd. from Page 1)



teachers able to connect to online resources at the same time. This is a critical upgrade for the district as classroom instruction continues to move toward technology-based delivery methods.

- **Campus security upgrades:** this project will upgrade some current security cameras and increase the number of cameras districtwide, allowing for higher quality and additional surveillance coverage inside and outside all RISD schools.
- **New laptops will be provided primarily for teachers and professional staff.**
- **Web-hosted services:** RISD will begin implementation of a new all-in-one web-hosted system of applications to replace/augment current services which are now provided separately or not currently provided. The new system, provided by Edline, will replace and enhance RISD's current learning system, content management system, telephone/web notification system, and will provide RISD with a new platform for campus websites.
- **Playground equipment replacements:** Dover will receive new playground equipment over the summer.

If you would like to join the Dover PTA, please contact PTA President DeVonda Hand (dvhand@netzero.net) or PTA Treasurer Larry Breazeale (thebreazeales@sbcglobal.net).

Timely Tips for November and December from Calloway's Nursery

November

Transform your landscape with the addition of fresh, colorful blooms. Pansies are by far the most popular Winter color. The 'Matrix' Pansy has been outstanding for our Texas weather. It will not "stretch" during bouts of warm temperatures and is bred to grow out, not up. This compact grower offers shorter, sturdier stems to support large, colorful blooms. Dianthus (also known as "Pinks"), Snapdragons, Cyclamen, Violas and the fragrant Alyssum are also good choices for cold tolerant annuals. Ornamental Cabbage and Kale provide interesting texture in the landscape as well as color. For best effect, limit your planting to two or three colors per bed.

The key to growing beautiful annual flowers is soil preparation. Select a well drained flower bed and add plenty of organic matter. **Calloway's Flower Bed Mix** contains compost plus a boost of fertilizer, water-management crystals and a wetting agent. Adding **Calloway's Flower Food** to the soil at the time of planting will provide the extra nutrients for growth and blooms. Remember to add 2 to 3 inches of **mulch** to all beds to reduce moisture loss, prevent weeds from germinating and to insulate the soil from the cold.

These same annuals can be used in patio containers. Fill your containers with fresh potting soil and plant food. Keep them watered as necessary and remove faded flowers to encourage repeat blooming.

Drop by any of our garden centers and visit with a Texas Certified Nursery Professional. These individuals are experts in their field and continuously receive training to keep their certification current. Or, email The PlantMaster with questions at www.calloways.com/planmaster.



December

Working in your garden is an excellent escape during the holidays. It is a perfect time to plant trees and shrubs so they can develop a strong root system for next Spring. Cool weather color such as Pansies, Snapdragons, Cyclamen, Flowering Cabbage and Kale add splashes of color to your landscape. Spring flowering bulbs can be planted now once they have been properly chilled.

Prune Summer flowering shrubs and vines now. They will bloom on new growth. Remember-do not top your Crapemyrtles! Simply prune to remove seed heads and shape. Trim evergreens only to reshape.

Prepare for the cold weather before it hits! One of the best things you can do for your landscape plants is to provide a 2-to 3-inch layer of mulch. **Mulching** is necessary year round but during the colder periods it provides a layer of insulation for the roots. Secondly, **water your landscape** well before a cold spell. A drought stressed plant is more susceptible to freeze damage. Thirdly, for more tender plants, purchase **frost cloth** for extra protection. Frost cloth is a fabric which adds 3 to 4 degrees of warmth. Cover the plant completely allowing the edges to come all the way to the ground. We are utilizing the heat which radiates from the ground.

Become a member of our Garden Club and you will receive email notices prior to any weather crisis. Visit www.calloways.com to join.

This is also an excellent time to start planning changes or additions to your landscape. Bring a sketch or photo and let our Texas Certified Nursery Professionals assist you!



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Richardson Budget Update with Steve Mitchell, City Council - Place 6

Four weeks ago, the City Council unanimously approved the City's 2011-12 Budget, which will go into effect October 1, 2011. Next year's budget is projected to be \$188,511,154, which reflects an increase of \$4,803,366 or 2.6% from this year. What is amazing about this budget—and budgets from preceding years—is that the percentage increase is still significantly less than the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Even though we are experiencing a down economy, we still have inflation. In fact, even with budget cuts, the cost increases of various types of goods, such as fuel, that the city purchases significantly outpaces the CPI. With that said, please know that this council never forgets whose money it is: the taxpayers of this city!



I'm happy to say that this budget represents no increase in the property tax rate, continues our senior tax exemption, includes no increases in utility rates, and increases the Council's commitment to community vitality through the allocation of an additional \$600,000 for future neighborhood reinvestment projects.

Richardson is one of the few communities in this region—even the nation—to be in the fortunate position of not having to cut or discontinue vital services. This is a direct result of our community's focus on maintaining our infrastructure and supporting our high-tech business community.

If you own a home here, you have most likely noticed very little depreciation in your investment and have probably seen your property hold its value, or even increase in value, this past year. That says a lot about the strength of our community and shows Richardson continues to be a highly sought-after place for people to live.

I would like to thank this community for its support of this budget. Putting together the fiscal program for a city is a long process involving many needs and desires that must be weighed, balanced and ultimately decided upon. Not everyone gets everything they want, but this year's budget incorporates a responsible approach to our future that supports growth and will help us maintain our AAA bond rating. I know every citizen benefits from the many services and opportunities our community provides.

Upcoming Events at Dover Elementary

October 28, 2011: Storybook Carnival (5:30 p.m.)

November 11, 2011: PTA Family Movie Night (6:00 p.m.)

December 9, 2011: PTA Family Movie Night (6:00 p.m.)

January 27, 2012: PTA Family Movie Night (6:00 p.m.)

February 16, 2012: PTA General Meeting and Reading Under the Stars (6:00 p.m.)

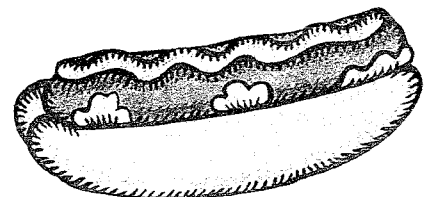
March 2, 2012: PTA Family Movie Night (6:00 p.m.)

Join Your CHNA Neighbors at the Hot Dog Social on November 13

Please join us for another CHNA Hot Dog Social at Cottonwood Park on Sunday, November 13, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. CHNA will provide the hot dogs, buns and all the fixings, along with door prizes. Feel free to bring any of your favorite sides or desserts.

This event is a great way to meet and reconnect with neighbors. CHNA officers will be there to accept applications and dues payments for neighbors interested in joining CHNA.

Hope to see you there!



Earning A Spot at the Adult Table, with a Sippy Cup of Pinot

An essay by Destiny De La Rosa

When I think of holidays with my family, one all too familiar dining staple immediately comes to mind: the dreaded kiddie table. This device is often times a necessity when you're forced to, er... I mean, you have the pleasure of breaking bread with 40 of your closest relatives. There's no way we can all fit at the "adult table" so usually the "children" are forced over to some feeble four-legged monstrosity in the corner.

The only problem with this - and my family - is that we keep having kids, but we also keep having adults. With each child I bear, I kid myself into thinking I'm one spot closer to kissing that raggedy old card table good-bye, but then I realize until a spot opens up at the big table, all I've done is allot myself even less elbow room.

See, our "adult table" is this enormous mahogany beast that sits front in center in my parent's dining room. And earning a spot at it is a lot like becoming the head honcho in the mob. By that I mean, someone usually has to die for you to get a seat and there's no telling how long that will take or who of the taller kiddie table connoisseurs will be chosen for the coveted cushy chair.

I've actually yet to witness this process take place in my lifetime. Unlike small time mobsters, we're long livers. However, I imagine it would go a little something like this: the college of grandparents would retire to the makeshift conclave, i.e. the pantry, and based on merits, i.e. table manners, choose their next holy feaster, i.e. me.

(One point of order: while I may not have the most graceful of table manners, it would be in everyone's best interest to bring me up to the big table because, see, I wear the biggest shoes. What's that have to do with anything, you ask? Well, when it comes to flipping that card table clean over, all it takes is me uncrossing my legs, getting tangled up in the paper table cloth and before you know it, all of our toddlers have been turkeyed. Based on that, I'm the obvious choice for promotion.)

However, this is where things can get a bit tricky. Our family doesn't burden (i.e., trust) itself with paper ballots or letters of acceptance. The good news simply comes in the form of an actual wine glass being handed to me. Goodbye sippy cup full of Pinot! Welcome to the big leagues!

So what have I earned? First, a non-collapsible seat. But I become part of some of the most honored adult table traditions. For example, I now understand the important distinctions between white smoke and black smoke. If black smoke appears, then someone has burnt the turkey. But white smoke simply means that one of my

aunts has probably just lit up her Virginia Slims at the table.

Better yet, I now get to participate in all of that glorious grown-up banter. And by that I mean, for one solid hour I get to pretend I'm on the floor at the New York Stock Exchange. No more talking Columbus and pilgrims politely with the tots, no, now I get to shout over 16 other adults, across 12 feet of mahogany, while at least 8 different and completely independent conversations take place about 401(k)s and what us "adults" think should be going on in Washington. This is the point when I suddenly miss outlining my hand and coloring turkeys on that tangle hazard of a paper tablecloth.

Is it too late for me to unfold my chair and twist the top back onto my Pinot? I'll wear flats, I swear! Turns out adult tables are just too "adulty" for me. Perhaps I could prank my way out of this prized spot by playing dead, because if that doesn't have kiddie table antics written all over it, I don't know what does!

Neighborhood Crime Patrol Seeks More Volunteers

Your Cottonwood Heights Neighborhood Crime Watch Patrol needs more patrollers. We currently average about 50 hours per month, with about a dozen active members patrolling mostly during weekday daylight hours. Evening and weekend patrollers are especially needed.

Requirements are modest... if you can drive, see and talk on the phone, you pretty much fit our description of the ideal candidate for the Patrol. If you have any additional experience that you think may be useful to the Patrol, please let us know. Scheduled patrol times are very flexible—simply when you can and if you can. For more information, contact Officer Tommy Davis (tommydavis@cor.gov or 972-744-4773), David Clark (214-505-0944) or Tom Norman (972-235-0965).

It's your neighborhood... please do what you can to help keep it safe.

Tom Norman, Crime Watch Chair



John DeMattia, Owner

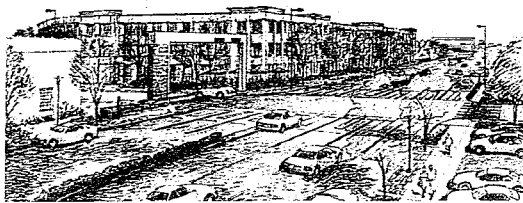
900 N. Coit Road, Suite 2701 · Richardson, TX 75080

Tel: (972) 792-7272 (PAPA)

West Spring Valley Corridor Strategy Earns Accolades

The City of Richardson has received an Honorable Mention award for the West Spring Valley Corridor Reinvestment Strategy from the Texas Chapter of the American Planning Association. The statewide awards program recognizes exemplary projects at the annual conference, which is scheduled for next month in Austin.

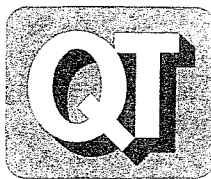
The objective of the West Spring Valley Corridor Reinvestment Strategy was to create a redevelopment/reinvestment plan that reflected community goals, market realities, physical constraints, political priorities and public and private financial resources. The study yielded a strategy for attracting appropriate businesses, stimulating redevelopment, improving the physical appearance of public spaces and private property and providing guidance to the City and private sector on Corridor reinvestment issues.



Make Your Mark on Our Neighborhood... Become a CHNA Leader!

It's an exciting time to be a Cottonwood Heights resident, what with our local elementary school earning countless accolades and aggressive plans for redevelopment along the West Spring Valley Corridor. That said, none of these developments would be possible without proactive leadership on the parts of the CHNA Executive Committee. As exciting as recent neighborhood news has been, there is still a need in CHNA for new blood and fresh ideas in our leadership positions. Please consider joining our leadership team... the time commitment is reasonable, but the impact you can make on our community is immeasurable. For more information, please contact CHNA president Barry Hand.

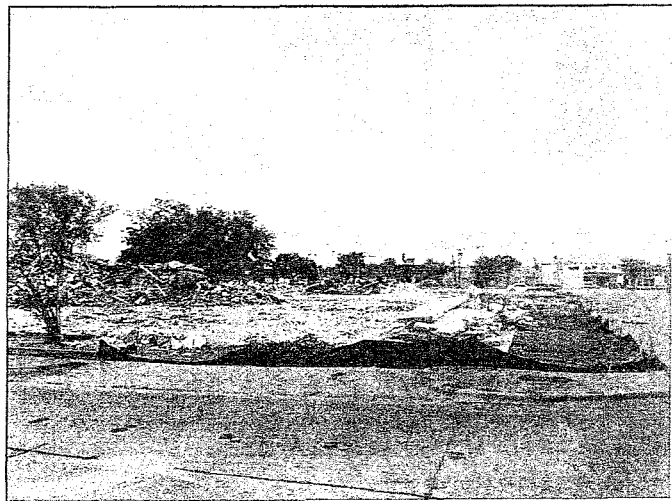
CHNA Continues to Advocate for Its Residents in City Redevelopment Projects



QuikTrip

Your CHNA board works hard to bring important neighborhood issues to the attention of the City of Richardson staff and the City Council. Thanks to the input of CHNA and other neighborhood boards, QuikTrip is moving to the corner of Belt Line and Inge with a complete demolition of the empty buildings, broken sidewalks and overall distressed appearance of this corner. We're also working diligently with the city staff, the Chamber of Commerce and the Council to bring quality retail to the Richardson Heights Shopping Center and we continue to work with the city staff and Council to bring a quality environment to our neighborhood perimeter to help keep our property values stable. If our neighborhood perimeter is redeveloped with quality in mind, our homes remain valuable and worth the investment that we put into them.

Please become involved residents by watching for redevelopment topics at City Plan Commission Meetings and Council Meetings, attending whenever possible. If you're interested in getting more involved in this work, please contact CHNA President Barry Hand at barry.hand@cottonwoodhna.org.



Three old buildings were razed in September to make way for a new QuikTrip on Belt Line and Inge. This could be another catalyst to boost retail at Richardson Heights Village.

R ROBBINS REAL ESTATE

West Richardson Real Estate Update

WEST RICHARDSON REAL ESTATE REVIEW, OCTOBER 2011

Mindy and Jay Robbins are your local source for any real estate needs. Contact the Robbins to buy or sell, for market updates, lender referrals, contractor referrals, and home improvement advice.

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Jay@TeamRobbins.com
214-563-4584

FOR SALE



906 Newberry \$295k
Amazing floor plan & huge yard
4 bedrooms, 3 baths, 2869 sf.



927 Warren Way \$140k
Immaculate! Open Floor Plan
3 bedrooms, 2 baths, workshop.

Square Footage	Homes Available	Homes Sold	Under Contract	Average List Price	Asking \$/sf	Average Sold Price	Days On Market (SOLD)
UNDER 1500	32	7	9	\$ 139,985	\$ 108	\$ 142,485	89
1501-2000	40	11	13	\$ 162,280	\$ 95	\$ 162,280	91
2001-2500	28	7	8	\$ 222,863	\$ 101	\$ 206,785	66
2501 +	40	5	3	\$ 345,129	\$ 111	\$ 320,000	85
OVERALL	140	30	33	\$ 211,967	\$ 104	\$192,713	84

What Did Your Neighbor's House Sell For?

It's probably the question we are most frequently asked: What did the house down the street go for? Naturally, our neighbors want to keep up with home prices in the area. But Texas is unique in that sales prices of residential property is not public record. So over the years, several websites have begun to offer home price estimates to consumers.

The problem with most of these online services is that they only provide estimates. But one service offers actual sales prices to the consumer—directly from the Multiple Listing Service. **InstantSalesPrice.com** is a free service provided by Robbins Real Estate for consumers to keep up with actual sales prices in any neighborhood. After a homeowner enters the address for the home they want to research, the service instantly provides recent sales data for that neighborhood. Users also get monthly updates via email.

So if you want to know what the house down the street sold for, go to **InstantSalesPrice.com**. And to get an expert opinion of what your home could sell for, contact the market leaders, Jay And Mindy at 214-563-4584 or Jay@TeamRobbins.com

WE ARE ALMOST SOLD OUT!

Most of our sellers already have their homes under contract. Winter can be a great time to sell to families needing a home before the new year. If you are thinking about selling your home, contact us!

Jay@TeamRobbins.com direct: 214-563-4584

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OUR CLIENTS' HOMES SELL FOR AN AVERAGE OF 98% OF ASKING PRICE

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NO ONE SELLS MORE HOUSES IN RICHARDSON THAN ROBBINS REAL ESTATE

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF BUYING OR SELLING,

CALL THE MARKET LEADERS

CONTACT MINDY AND JAY ROBBINS AT 214-563-4584 OR Jay@TeamRobbins.com





COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD

ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL

New Membership _____

Membership Renewal _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

I (We) would like to serve on the following committees:

____ Membership ____ Publicity ____ Communications

____ I will serve as a Block Captain ____ Safe Neighborhoods/Crime Patrol

____ Environmental ____ Civic (City Council or RISD) ____ Programs

Annual Dues are \$15 for all members. You may pay your dues at the next meeting on October 27th at Dover Elementary or mail them to P. O. Box 833043, Richardson, TX 75083-3043.



SOCIAL NETWORKING WITH CHNA

Follow Cottonwood Heights on Facebook by logging in to your account and searching for "Cottonwood Heights Neighborhood Association" and join the group!

www.facebook.com

October 27th Fall Meeting (cont'd)

We will again screen a **family friendly movie** in the gymnasium (with adult supervision, of course) to safely occupy the kids time during the meeting. Bring your children, in their pajamas if you wish, and maybe a small snack for the movie watching party. The bulk of the meeting will be over by 8PM and we want as many as possible to hear the important news to be delivered. So that we can finish at an early hour, our meeting and movie will begin sharply at 7:00PM. Please come early and get settled for exciting updates on the following items:

- Recent designs and schedule for our four **Bridge Improvement Projects**
- Announcement regarding **Neighborhood Park Land Acquisition**
- **Heights Park Pool, Gymnastics and Rec Center** updates
- Recent updates from RPD on **Crime** and the **Crime Patrol**
- Recent status of **Beltline** and **West Spring Valley Redevelopment**
- Continuing success stories at **Exemplary Dover Elementary**
- **Stage 3 Water Conservation** beginning in November.
- **Neighborhood Hotdog and Pumpkin Picnic** – Sunday, Nov 13 at Cottonwood

Select Council and COR Staff Members will be with us to answer specific questions you may have about issues in the city.

Our family friendly approach to our neighborhood meetings is a great way to connect with neighbors of all ages. **Please join us!**

Barry Hand, CHNA President

HTTP://BLOG.COTTONWOODHNA.ORG