OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREAT NORTHWEST COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022





"What happened to the white trucks?"

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A Note from the Chairman

There's a lot going on in the neighborhood as we roll into 2022 (sounds so odd to say that — 2022!). If you haven't had the chance to make it out to our **GNW Farmer's Market**, hosted in the Silver Creek Soccer Fields parking lot, they will now be set up Friday through Sunday every weekend. Come out to support small, local businesses! Meanwhile, **Camp Gladiator**, an intense, fun and rewarding fitness class, is now being hosted at the soccer fields three evenings a week, and planning for the frisbee golf course on the lower fields is well under way. We should see that develop further in months to come.

In case you haven't noticed the action in the greenbelt, construction of the City's trail system has reached the GNW. The vote to approve the trail coming through our greenbelt happened back in May 2019. Committees were set up prior to the vote to discuss pros and cons, and both sides were allowed space in Passages to discuss their positions. There was quite a bit of spirited debate, and I truly appreciate everyone who participated in that process. In the end,



the membership voted in favor of the trailway 71% to 29%. I'm looking forward to seeing what the City does with the trail, and I hope you all get a chance to get out and enjoy it!

As we wrap up a challenging 2021, I look forward to a better 2022, though it's starting off a little rocky already. Lexi and her staff are doing a great job keeping things as normal as possible, but please be patient as we wait to see what challenging world events are thrown at us next. Hopefully by summer, we can get back to normal activities again.

Lastly, remember that Board meetings are the first and third Thursdays of every month. You are always welcome to join us and get involved in the decision making of the organization. Try to make it a point to get out to one — we'd love to see you there. Until then, we'll see you around the neighborhood!

Yours,

Brian Stives Chairman of the Board





Chairman Stives addresses the OWLS at their January luncheon held in Callanen Hall on Tuesday, January 11. The OWLS luncheon is the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30 AM.

GNW Pets Love Our New Mobile Vets!

ets across the Great Northwest are (so they tell us) overjoyed about the new Pet Wellness & Vaccination Clinics that we. in cooperation with Mobile Petcare Clinics of Texas, have held once each month since December. MPC of Texas runs regular pet wellness clinics throughout Bexar and Comal Counties. In addition to a basic wellness exam, your dogs and cats can receive vaccinations, deworming, microchips, heartworm tests & prevention medication, and a number of other medical interventions. At a lower price point than most veterinary clinics and set up with your convenience



in mind, the Mobile Pet Clinic has already helped many of our furry neighbors. Let us let you help your furry family members, too!

For more about our upcoming clinic on **Sun., Feb. 6 at 1 pm**: <u>https://bit.ly/MPCFeb22</u>

MPC's Web site: www.mpcoftexas.com PASSAGES

Community Events

ACC MEETING First & third Monday of the month at 4:00 PM [Virtual]

BOARD OF DIRECTORS First & third Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM [SC or virtually at bit.ly/GNWBoard]

BOOK CLUB Third Wednesday of the month at 1:00 PM [SC]

CHECK-INS WITH THE CM Last Friday of the month at 10:00 AM [SC]

COFFEE WITH COPS Third Friday of the month at 10:00 AM [EV]

CAMP GLADIATOR Monday, Tuesday & Thursday at 4:45 PM & 6 PM [SC]

DOMINOES Wednesday at 11:00 AM [EV]

GNW FARMER'S MARKET Friday from 11 AM to 6 PM Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM Sunday from 11 AM to 5 PM

Third Friday of the month: "Fun Friday," 1 PM to 7 PM [SC]

<u>GNWATCH MEETING</u> Second Thursday of the month at 6:30PM [SC, or attend virtually at https://bit.ly/GNWWatch]

LINE DANCING Monday & Thursday at 10 AM [SC]

MAHJONG Tuesday at 6 PM [SC]

OWLS Second Tuesday of the month at 11:30 AM [SC]

POKER

Thursday at 1 PM [EV]; first & third Monday of the month at 7 PM [SC]

ZUMBA

Monday & Wednesday at 7 PM and Saturday at 10 AM [SC]

SC = Silver Creek, 8809 Timberwilde EV= Emerald Valley, 9310 Timber Path

Find 'Everything But the Kitchen Sink' at the GNW Market!



emergence of Covid-19, when the previous owners made the decision to shut down. Gilda and Vanessa, who were previously vendors there. were unwilling to concede that safety couldn't be reconciled with the continued operations of the market, so they arranged to take over and reopened in May 2020 to immense acclaim and popularity. After two prosperous years at Bandera Pointe, they made the decision to move the market here, and we couldn't be more thrilled! Our staff—namely myself (Jacob) and Eva-have headed out to the market a number of times to get to know



our vendors and scope out excellent wares that residents will love. A few of our favorite booths (pictured below, clockwise from left):

 Bob's Aguas Frescas, whose friendly owner told us the story of his cool new truck
 Monica's, whose titular proprietor makes beautiful layettes, hand towels, & other objects to treasure for a lifetime.

(3) Lucio's Turtle Burgers, which serves up a mean cup of street corn and sublime burgers.

Dirty Diana's Hot Chili
 Oil, a unique and versatile
 topping made with avocado oil





5 The Lemon Girls, whose delicious, fresh-squeezed concoctions will take your palate far beyond familiar associations with "lemonade"—I devoured a rose and ginger concotion that I simply must have more of.
6 And, of course, Puppychinos, whose delectable treats delighted Eva's dog Kemper.

But these are just a small handful of the many, many vendors selling everything from jewelry to glassware to baked goods to CBD to, of course, fruits and veggies. Come out next weekend if you haven't been yet—who knows what wonders you'll find?





2023 Prepayment Coupon Book Information: What to Know

e don't blame anyone for wanting to put assessment payments out of mind for the next eleven-odd months, but for those who try to get a leg up annually on the next year's payment, we offer prepayment "coupon books" that you can register for.

The prepayment coupon book program breaks up the next year's assessment into multiple payments made throughout the year. Because the 2023 books are mailed before the 2023 assessments are approved, the rate for each coupon will be based on the 2022 rate of \$293. If there is an increase between 2022 and 2023, any remaining balance will be reflected in a separate invoice mailed to you at that time. To qualify, your Association account must be paid in full. If you are interested, please complete the request form included with your mailed Passages (if you are a subscriber) and place it in the drop box in front of our office, or online at:

bit.ly/GNWPrepay2023 by Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Payments will begin in April.

A Gift of Winter Fun at the GNW

he coldest weather of the winter has arrived with mid- to late January, but Great Northwest residents didn't wait for Ma Nature to cooperate to enjoy winter fun. First. residents across the seven subdivisions took part in a Holiday Lights contest, judged by a panel of excited young children brimming with holiday spirit. These judges crowned four sets of 1st /2nd/3rd/ honorable mention, but seeing each and every house's lights was a real joy!

Next, Santa's Wonderland

returned to the GNW, with Santa, Mrs. Claus and

a crew of elves serving up candy canes, cocoa, cookies, and popcorn to families as they walked through a lovely holiday scene. Families could take pictures with Santa (see pg. 7 for a picture!) and donate to SAPD's Blue Santa and the San Antonio Food Bank.

Finally, on January 1, a beloved GNW tradition returned after a year's hiatus: the **Polar Bear Plunge**, in which brave swimmers jump in the Silver Creek pool for a quick lap on New Year's. While the weather was far from arctic, everyone had a great time! (See pg. 6 for a picture!)

Marilyn's MPRESSIVE Designs

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PASSAGES

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> At "Marilyn's ImPRESSive Designs," proprietor Marilyn uses sublimation (heating ink to a gas that dyes the fabric) to make lovely crafts. [pp 4-5]

> The youngest participants in this year's Polar Bear Plunge, a GNW New Year's tradition, wind up to dive in and take their lap. [see pg 5]



NET SAME TO

Families had the chance to take a classic picture with Santa at Santa's Wonderland, held on Fri., December 10th at Silver Creek Lodge. [see pg 5]

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Security Reconnaissance Team (SRT) Info

 New, out-of-house security team

— **210-681-6268** Available 24/7/365

— Site Manager Krystal Halverson

— Officer Carl Barrella

Dark green and black
 Jeep Cherokee bearing
 GNW logo

"What happened to the white trucks?"

BY LEXI BACHRAN, COMMUNITY MANAGER

ou may have noticed some changes in the Great Northwest since December of 2021. A new dark green and black Jeep Cherokee started patrolling the seven neighborhoods of the GNW as part of our new contract with **Security Reconnaissance Team** (SRT). After months of deliberation among the Great Northwest Board of Directors and competing bids from both our inhouse security department and several third-party purveyors, the Board made the decision to outsource Great Northwest's security during the November meeting.

The benefits offered by SRT included a higher hourly wage for our patrol officers with a more competitive benefits package, a range of bonus and incentive programs, a new vehicle and uniforms, as well as access to state-of-the-art reporting with live GPS and geo fencing capabilities. SRT employs the **SilverTrac**

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Welcome to Our New Media & Communications Specialist!

e're thrilled to welcome Jacob Hernandez to the office as our new Media & **Communications Specialist!** Born and raised here in San Antonio and educated at Communications Arts/Taft and Columbia University, Jacob has held communication roles within book publishing and higher education. He's excited to bring his work experience to bear on enriching GNW residents' sense of connectedness to one another and their

awareness of everything on offer in their community. Among Jacob's areas of operation are Passages, the Great Northwest's social media pages, the weekly e-newsletter sent out to subscribers every Saturday (see page 12 for how to sign up!), and photographing events. If you have questions, ideas, or idle complaints regarding anything media- and/ or communications-related. he'd love to hear from you, so please do drop him a line at communicate@ greatnorthwest.org.

Jacob's areas of operation include *Passages*, the GNW's social media platforms, our weekly e-newsletter, and photographing events, among many others!

system, which monitors vehicle speed, excessive idling, and generates a daily report viewable by the Community Manager of the checkpoints completed throughout each shift. This technology allows for a daily snapshot of inbound calls, special watches, and proactive patrols which can be shared with local law enforcement. This means we can more readily monitor trends in the neighborhood, better safeguard amenities, and modify checkpoints as activity changes.

We also retained 30-year GNW veteran Officer **Carl Barrella** who now has an increased presence on the daytime shift. This ensures that he is accessible to residents during peak hours while allowing him to continue serving as security for your special events on evenings and weekends. In addition to increased transparency and accountability as well as a more competitive employment package, the decision also yielded significant savings to the Association. Expenses associated with vehicle maintenance and insurance, administrative wages, employee benefits, uniforms, and other costs associated with providing security services on such a large scale were assumed by SRT as part of the negotiations.

Just as before, our security team is housed in our on-premises suite and is available at 210-681-6268, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Their vehicle and uniforms continue to bear the GNW logo, and they answer all calls by identifying themselves as GNW Security. They can be reached via email at gnwsecurity@srteam-inc. com and continue to offer complimentary outof-town residential checks. The main difference is that security no longer has access to resident information stored by the Association, so please be patient and courteous when prompted by officers for contact information. If you haven't had an opportunity to meet SRT site manager Krystal Halverson, we'd love to have you stop by the next Great Northwest Watch or Coffee with Cops, two opportunities to learn more about how they are working to better serve you and our community!



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Zumba participants' passion, motion and dedication turn Callanen Hall into a "Latininspired dance fitness party" thrice a week. [pg. 11]

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This Year, Find Fitness and Fun Here at GNW!

ver at Silver Creek, the introduction of a new fitness class as of early January has already brought a number of residents out to the **Silver Creek Soccer Fields. Camp Gladiator**, which meets **Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 4:45 and 6:15**, is an award-winning, long-running outdoor group fitness program led by a certified personal trainer and open to people of all fitness levels. At one recent class, participants ran laps, lifted weights, and performed an array of calisthenics—all just in the first 20-odd minutes!

Two classes are held back-to-back each night. After an introductory offer during January, in which trainer Haley encouraged all interested residents try the class for free with no advance sign-up required, Camp Gladiator will revert to the company's typical membership-based model, information about which (including pricing, which varies) can be found at **campgladiator.com/ memberships**. The schedule will remain the same going forward, unless otherwise announced on social media and by other means.

Zumba lovers will know that the dance-fitness phenomenon continues to heat up our floors every **Monday, Wednesday and Saturday**. Instructor Amanda, a former Great Northwest resident, cherishes the opportunity to share her passion for dance, music, fitness, and fun with the GNW community. Residents love the fun & physicality of the experience paired with the health benefits of regular exercise!

Do note that the schedule has changed as of January: Zumba meets at **Silver Creek on Mondays & Wednesdays at 7 PM** and **Saturday at 10 AM**. Residents love the fun & physicality of the experience paired with the health benefits of regular exercise! Zumba is appropriate for all levels of fitness with modifications provided. There is a \$5 fee per participant per class; drop-ins are allowed.

If you're looking to jump-start your own fitness regimen in the new year, we heartily recommend trying out Camp Gladiator, Zumba, or both!

GREAT NORTHWEST STAFF LISTING

Lexi Bachran Community Manager 210.681.2983 ext.105 cm@greatnorthwest.org

Dana Comeau Accounting Manager 210.681.2983 ext. 108 accountant@greatnorthwest.org

Eva Lopez

Administrative Manager 210.681.2983 ext. 104 eval@greatnorthwest.org

Jose Morlett

Deed Restrictions Manager 210.681.2983 ext.102 draco1@greatnorthwest.org

Liz Garcia

Accounting Assistant 210.681.2983 ext. 120 elizabethg@greatnorthwest.org

Mark McLean

Maintenance Manager 210.681.2983 ext. 110 maintenance@greatnorthwest.org

Jacob Hernandez

Media & Communications Specialist 210.681.2983 ext.109 communicate@greatnorthwest.org

Gerice Jackson

Member Services Advisor 210.681.2983 ext. 101 memberservices@greatnorthwest.org

Jacob (Jake) Pena

Recreation Manager 210.681.2983 ext. 106 recreation@greatnorthwest.org

Mr. Pena's first day with the GNW will be February 7, 2022.

Are you interested in weekly email updates about the many cool things happening in the Great Northwest community? Then sign up for...



The Great Northwest's Weekly e-Newsletter

GREAT NORTHWEST

YOUTH SPRING SOCCER 2022

To receive this bulletin every Saturday, visit bit.ly/GNWeNews to sign up, or scan the QR code above! Each issue brims with information about recent and upcoming events, opportunities to get involved

in new experiences, and people in our community.

SECURITY PATROL

Watch

Or join us virtually! Scan the QR Code or visit https://bit.ly/GNWWatch to join via Zoom



LIC # C13

2nd Thursday of

the Month

8809 Timberwilde

6:30 PM

Registration opens for: RESIDENTS - FEB. 7TH NON-RESIDENTS - FEB. 14TH

Practices begin in March, and the season runs from April through May. For the most recent information, visit <u>https://bit.ly/GNWSoccerSpr22</u>.



COFFEE WITH COPS

3rd Friday of the Month 10:00 AM Flores Hall 9310 Timber Path



After a month's hiatus, the Great Northwest Book Club is back and ready to catch up with a DOUBLE FEATURE! We'll be discussing both *The Social Graces* by Renee Rosen and *Golden Girl* by Elin Hilderbrand. New members are always welcome! We'll be meeting at the Silver Creek Lodge on Wednesday, February 16th, at 1:00 PM, and generally meet on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information, email Lynda Welchel at LCWelchel@gmail.com or call her at 210-867-2981. Happy reading!

PASSAGES

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Oak Wilt: Keeping Our Community's Trees Safe

ak wilt is an infectious tree disease caused by a fungus. Infected trees usually die if they are not treated quickly by a qualified arborist. This can affect aesthetics, decrease property value, and be expensive to manage, all the more so on a community-wide scale. Learning more about oak wilt is the first step toward keeping our neighborhood's trees safer.

The most characteristic symptom of oak wilt is yellow and brown leaf veins in live oaks known as **veinal necrosis** (pictured in the diagram above). **Fungal mats** develop under the bark on the trunks and major branches of infected red oak trees. When the fungal mat enlarges and cracks the bark of the tree, an odor is released that attracts sap-feeding beetles. The fungus is transmitted when these beetles feed on the fungal mats and carry fungal spores to fresh wounds or cuts on healthy oak trees. Because oak trees have interconnected roots, the disease can spread through grafted root systems, eventually killing increasing numbers of oak trees in the area. To help curb the spread of oak wilt, arborists recommend the following:

- Avoid pruning oak trees from February 1 to June 30. Beetles that carry the fungus spores from tree to tree are most active during this time. In fact, consider waiting until fall or early winter to prune, as pruning in the heat of summer can stress the tree.
- Make proper pruning cuts, and paint all oak wounds/cuts immediately with any type of paint.
- Sterilize tools with **10% bleach** before using them between trees.
- Avoid moving firewood, and *never* move firewood that hasn't dried for over a year.

For more information on oak wilt, visit the **Texas Oak Wilt Web site** at <u>https://texasoakwilt.</u> <u>org/community-tools/materials</u> for plenty of information and tips. For those dealing with oak wilt head-on, the Texas Forest Service offers a listing of certified arborists at <u>https://</u> <u>texasoakwilt.org/vendors</u>, though they cannot endorse or recommend any specific vendors.

Rent One of Our Halls for Your Events!

Attention Residents: Please be aware that we have changed our booking policy to better accommodate all of your special event needs. Residents can now reserve the halls and (in summer) pools more than 6 months in advance, and fewer than 3 months in advance. The new policy requires only a **minimum of 10 days' advance notice** (subject to staffing availability and, of course, the hall/pool itself still being available). We hope this makes turning your dreams of a special day into reality that much easier!

CALLANEN HALL, 8809 TIMBERWILDE DR.

Callanen Hall, located in our Silver Creek subdivision and adjacent to our main office, is a beautiful, airy open space perfect for large gatherings. A wooden stage, a full kitchen, and a wall of windows overlooking our junior Olympic pool make the venue ideal for your wedding reception, holiday gathering, or quinceanera. In summer, the pool is available for rental as well. A trained party manager and inhouse security can help ensure your special night is unforgettable!



FLORES HALL, 9310 TIMBER PATH

Located in our Emerald Valley subdivision, Flores Hall is a newly renovated and affordable gem. This understated space lends itself perfectly to intimate get-togethers such as baby showers, ladies' nights, or business mixers. With access to indoor & outdoor space, a private kitchen, and the option to rent our adjacent pool as well, Flores Hall is a savvy, budget-conscious event planner's dream.



Accommodates up to 200 guests

Rental Fee: \$575.00 (Including hall, patio, kitchen, tables, chairs, and required cleanup)

Damage Deposit Fee: \$200.00 (After damage inspection, refund up to 30 days)

Optional: Security: \$288.00 (required if serving alcohol) Set Up: \$100.00 Additional hour of Security: \$100.00

Silver Creek Pool Rental Fee: \$188 (Optional fees same as for hall)

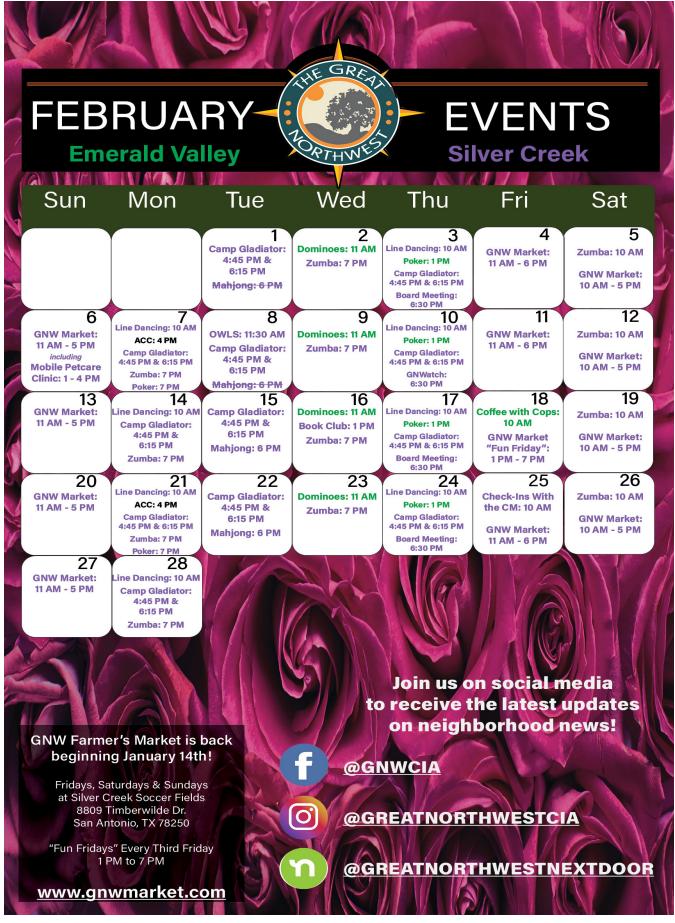
Accommodates up to 40 guests

Rental Fee: \$288.00 (including hall, patio, kitchen, tables, chairs, and required cleanup)

Damage Deposit Fee: \$200.00 (After damage inspection, refund up to 30 days)

Optional: Security: \$144.00 (required if serving alcohol) Set Up: \$100.00 Additional hour of Security: \$100.00

Emerald Valley Pool Rental Fee: \$188 (Optional fees same as for hall)



n.b. -- Just as we were going to press, we received word that Mahjong has been cancelled for Feb. 1 & 8. The calendar has been edited above as a result, but some early editions may not reflect this change.



Important Contact Information

Emergency: 911

Call 210-681-6268 for GNW Security Assistance

District 6 City Council Office 210-207-3749

> City of San Antonio Services: 311

SAPD Non-Emergency 210-207-7273

SAPD Prue Rd Substation 210-207-7425 SAPD SAFFE Unit Officer Tim Henry 210-667-6722

> CPS Energy 210-353-4357

Animal Control and Enforcement 210-207-6000

> San Antonio Fire Department Station #41 210-207-6000

San Antonio Water System 210-704-7297



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