

Working together is key to building community

No man is an island. We've all heard this quote used to emphasize the importance of working together. Nowhere is this more crucial than in the effort to improve our community. Only if residents, businesses, churches, government and organizations work together can we hope to make the differences in our community that will change lives.

This type of synergistic effort was the foundation of the Near Northwest Management District and has resulted in our biggest successes. Crime is down in the area thanks to residents and business owners partnering with local law enforcement and providing information on local criminal activity on crime-track.com. Our area is more attractive thanks to the businesses who work with the Greater Inwood Partnership to provide landscaped esplanades and trees for our parks. And more people in our area have jobs because area businesses participate in the job fairs hosted by the Near Northwest Houston Weed & Seed Grant and Advent Lutheran Church.

While we are proud of what we have accomplished so far, there is much more to do and we need your help to do it.

The District continued the fight against blight with our June 8 trip to City Hall. Area residents and business owners went to City Hall to make the Mayor and City Council aware of how the abandoned apartments in our area are harming our community and to convey our sense of urgency for their demolition. Area Councilmembers Brenda Stardig and Jarvis Johnson lent their support to our effort, as did State Representative Sylvester Turner, all speaking to the need to serve the community by razing the abandoned properties. The City Attorney updated the group on the status of Candlelight Trails, and advised all in attendance that a judge will rule in September on the demolition of Candlelight Trails.

The District also hosted the first Business Network Breakfast on June 3, bringing more than 40 area business owners and managers together to build a coalition that can work to-

gether to strengthen the business community. Our guest speaker was Donald Ball from Lone Star College's Small Business Development Center who briefly spoke on "Doing Business in the New Economy" and outlined the wide array of free services he can offer small business startups.

The District is proud to offer a new service to area businesses. Precinct One Constable Art St. John is becoming certified as a Crime Prevention Specialist and is available to come to businesses in the District to assess current safety and security measures and make recommendations for improvements. Depending on your insurance provider, these improvements could reduce insurance costs. To schedule an assessment, contact Art at 713-895-8021 x208. ■



Holly View Apartments owner Tom Miller and NNWMD President Wayne Norden speak with Councilmember Jarvis Johnson.

100 ways to survive tough economic times

At our first Business Network Breakfast, Lone Star Small Business Development Consultant Donald Ball shared with attendees his 100 tips for surviving tough economic times. This partial list offers business solutions in internal cost reduction, communication with external sources, asset and credit management, personnel resources and marketing resources.

More information is available about Lone Star's Business Development Center at www.lonestar.edu/sbdc/ or by contacting Donald Ball at 281-260-3178.

1. Identify profit centers by analyzing monthly financial statements: consider closing down unprofitable areas.
2. Reduce owner's compensation to the level necessary to cover his/her living expenses to show the owner's sincerity in tackling the problem.
3. For at least several months, the owner should sign all checks for expenses and eliminate unnecessary items.
4. Prepare monthly cash flow analysis to determine cash needs before borrowed funds are required.
5. Turn off lights when not in use; set back air conditioning and heating at night.
6. Sub-lease unused office space.
7. Eliminate employee theft by implementing adequate internal controls.
8. Consider disposing of slow-moving or obsolete inventory.
9. Use a fax machine instead of a messenger service when possible.
10. If you do not receive significant price reductions for bulk purchases, order inventory on an as-needed basis.
11. Get special credit card equipment to reduce processing charges for credit card sales.
12. Pay bills when due — not before.
13. Monitor personal use of company autos.
14. Limit expense authorization to upper management.
15. Set up and monitor departmental budgets.

16. Determine if bonuses are justified; bonuses should be determined by profit or performance, and not time of year.
17. Minimize retirement plan contributions.
18. Eliminate excess and/or duplicate dues, publications and subscriptions.
19. Cut down on entertainment expenses. For example, have meetings in the office rather than at a restaurant....

...the remainder of this list is available at: www.nearnorthwestdistrict.com/Programs/BusinessNetwork



Donald Ball speaking at first Business Network Breakfast. Next Business Network event is in September.

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Board Meeting,
Third Tuesday, 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ Security Meeting,
Second Tuesday, 9 a.m.
- ◆ Weed & Seed Steering
Committee Meeting,
First Wednesday, 6 p.m.
- ◆ Apartment Managers Meeting,
Third Tuesday, Noon
- ◆ Business Network Breakfast,
First Thursday in Sept.
7:30 a.m.

Win a free VIP Car Wash from Wet Zone!

Email your name & company with "Wet Zone" in the subject line to info101@nearnorthwestdistrict.com by **July 20** to enter. 5 winners will be drawn. Previous winners not eligible.

Mission:

- Promote Economic Growth
- Beautify & Create Green Spaces
- Promote & Supplement Public Security

Near Northwest Management District

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Kenneth Miller
Mike Carpenter
James Kilpatrick
Heidi Sheesley

Robert Burchfield
Raphael Galindo
Larry Rideaux
Robert Pierre

Near. Safe. Green.
Growing!

The Near Northwest Management District was created in 2001 by the Texas Legislature with the consent of the City of Houston. NNWMD provides additional maintenance and services above and beyond what the city and individual property owners can provide in the areas of Public Safety, Public Relations and Business Development, Urban Planning and Beautification. Regular NNWMD board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the District office. All meetings are open to the public. Your attendance is welcomed and encouraged.

Welcome New Businesses

The District would like to welcome five new businesses that have recently opened in the area.

- Wet Zone Car Wash, W. Tidwell behind Target
- FreeBird's, in the Target parking lot
- Chick-Fil-A, in the Target parking lot
- Dewayne's Bar-B-Q, 6305 Antoine Dr
- Curves Fitness for Women, 7035 W. Tidwell, in Corporate Park Plaza
- Jump Fly Fashion, 8650 N. Houston Rosslyn Ste F

Please support these new businesses with your patronage. ■

Weed and Seed Update

The Weed & Seed Grant continues to work to improve the community centered on the intersection of Antoine and DeSoto. Last month the Grant hosted a Health & Safety Fair in the Kroger parking lot that was attended by more than 200 members of the community.

Weed and Seed events are great opportunities to meet lots of people and promote your business while helping out the community. Upcoming opportunities include:

- June 26, Community Yard-sale with all proceeds to support the Weed & Seed Grant. Businesses are invited to come and set up a table to promote their product or service.
- July 24, 3-on-3 @ APTs, this 3-man basketball tournament will provide youth a day of basketball, music and free food and prizes. Businesses are

invited to set up a table to promote their product or service.

- National Night Out will take place October 5. We need volunteers and businesses to sponsor attractions for this event that draws more than 1500 participants.

More information about these opportunities is available by calling Carla at 713-895-8021.

Spotlight Business

Lyndon's Pit Bar-B-Q

Lyndon's Pit Bar-B-Q has been a local favorite since it opened in 1997. Located at 5320 Hollister, Lyndon's is run by the Maeker family and Matt, Mark and Lyndon can be found daily either in the kitchen or out in the dining room visiting with customers.

The menu features all the items a true bar-b-q aficionado expects plus more. The Limmer Special, a chopped beef sandwich topped with chili and a slice of cheese, is not to be missed. The District staff lunches at Lyndon's regularly and is particularly fond of the baked potatoes and chili. Lyndon's also offers

catering services for those who want to tie on the feedbag country style without spending a lot of time in the kitchen at reasonable prices.

Next time you have a hankerin' for Bar-B-Q, let Lyndon's take care of you. ■

Lyndon's Pit Bar-B-Q,
serving up down
home favorites in
northwest Houston
since 1997.



Near Northwest Management District
5300 Hollister, #100, Houston, Texas 77040

**To feature your business on this page,
contact Melanie Fahey at 713-895-8021.**



5801 Bingle Road
Houston, TX 77092
713-895-9948
Monday-Friday
7 am-6 pm

\$24.95 Oil Change and Tire Rotation

Includes up to 5 Qts, 5W30 Synthetic Blend Oil & Filter
No diesels or full synthetics

May not be combined with other coupons or discounts, expires 8/15/2010



30 Minute Fitness & Weight Loss Centers

7035 W. Tidwell, # 112B
Houston, Texas 77092
713-460-4846
Mon-Thurs 7:30-1, 3-7
Fri 7:30-1, 3-5:30
Sat. 8-11