Did you know you’re holding in your hands the best neighborhood newsletter in the country? We’re very proud to report the Arlington Heights Neighborhood News & Views newsletter was awarded the 1st place prize in a national competition sponsored by Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA), a non-profit organization committed to building and strengthening neighborhood organizations throughout the United States.

This newsletter award, presented at NUSA’s 40th national conference in Houston at the end of May, recognizes excellence in layout, content, consistency, relevance, and overall appearance. A panel of NUSA judges select newsletter winners in four categories: Print (more than 6 issues a year), Print (6 issues a year or less), Print (government), and Electronic. The AHNA newsletter took first place this year in the category of Print (6 issues or less). In 2012, NUSA recognized Arlington Heights News & Views with a Silver Award in the same category.

In 2013, Arlington Heights News & Views was a first place winner, with Berkeley Neighborhood Association, in the newsletter category at the Fort Worth Neighborhood Awards, sponsored by the City of Fort Worth and the Fort Worth League of Neighborhoods. The Award acknowledges excellence in communicating news about neighborhood events and issues, as well as helping to develop interest and involvement in neighborhoods.

Impressed? Wait, those aren’t the only awards AHNA has garnered. Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association took top honors when it was named the Neighborhood of the Year at the 2007 Fort Worth Neighborhood Awards. AHNA went on to compete in 2008 at NUSA’s national convention in Hampton, Virginia where AHNA was named a finalist in the Social Revitalization category, based on the Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner AHNA has held every year since 1999.

In 2012, AHNA won the city’s Community Collaboration award for a year-long series of efforts to stop crime in the neighborhood. In 2014, AHNA received the Mayor’s Award for Civic Engagement and Community Collaboration which recognizes a significant partnership by a neighborhood organization to organize their community and work with city, elected officials and other key stakeholders to bring about positive change. The award was based on a year-long series of fire-related activities, culminating in the 90th birthday party for our local Fire Station 18 on Carleton Avenue.

A subscription to the AHNA newsletter is one of the benefits of joining AHNA. The newsletter is sent by mail to all AHNA members every other month. The newsletters are also posted and archived on the AHNA website at arlingtonheightsna.com. Production costs and postage for the newsletter are covered by newsletter advertising revenue. Most issues turn a modest profit that goes directly into the AHNA general fund.

It takes a lot of people working together to get the newsletter to you. Kakkie Cunningham, a lifelong resident of Arlington Heights, writes regular features in the newsletter about birds, plants, and other

(Continued on Page 14)
LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT
by AHNA President Brenda Helmer

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, my summers were filled with tar bubbles on the blacktop streets, June bugs, the Forest Park swimming pool, popsicles, idle hayrides (horses used to board at the foot of our property along the Trinity River bluff), lazy star gazing, watermelons, running after the ice-cream truck barefoot with pocket change.

I was a free range kiddo. My parents never knew where we were, all day, every day. “Just be home when the street lights come on,” Mom would say. She could whistle us up from near and far.

Summers for me were cutoff blue-jean shorts, sliding down the Trinity River spillway (that was our Wet-N-Wild), jaunts to the Fort Worth Zoo when it was free. It was a time of faraway freedom, carefree bike rides and fireflies. Our German shepherd set the pace and protected us wherever we went. At our house there was never a shortage of furry friends, those we knew and those who just came along for the ride.

The sounds of the cicadas in the trees pierced the summer nights. Sweat beading down our backs, we chased the sweet smells of honeysuckle and roses. Water from yard hoses revived us. Bologna sandwiches on white bread with mustard filled our bare bellies at picnics along the Trinity River shore. Sun block? Never! Labor Day always came as fast as the summer started, bringing with it the fondness of newfound friends.

A free range kiddo no more. Gone, the merriment of my youth. As I write this missive, my eyes mist a little as I muse of a time long ago. Lost, but never forgotten. A tale of happiness. Nothing can take away those precious memories. I bet I can name all of my childhood friends from way back then, even though I don’t know necessarily where they all landed.

This summer, please make Arlington Heights your travel vacation destination. Not with tar bubbles on bare feet, but with making new friends and new memories. Organize a block party with your neighbors. Find some fireflies. Do your part to set up the next generation of free range kiddos and send them on their merry way to create happy memories galore.
SUMMER SOCIAL
TUESDAY JULY 21
Anyone who came to last year’s AHNA Summer Social will know to come early this year before the scrumptious meats by master griller Jerry Bodiford of Tulsa Way disappear. Jerry is cooking up more meat this year and adding shrimp to the menu, too. For drinks, AHNA will serve up what was left over from the fire station birthday party. Bring a side and your own beverages, including the adult kind. It's all about getting to know the people who live in the neighborhood and partying with them, too. Tuesday July 21 at 6:30 p.m. at Fort Worth Firefighters Hall, 3855 Tulsa Way at Crestline Road.

MONTGOMERY STREET
REDESIGN MEETING
The first follow-up meeting on the impending redesign of Montgomery Street (from I-30 to Montgomery) will be held Thursday July 23 at 6:30 p.m. at UNT Health Science Center’s Medical Education and Training Building, 1000 Montgomery Street, Room 1255. Free parking in lots 7 and 19 or the Montgomery Street garage.

Montgomery will be reconstructed within the next two years; this is an opportunity for you to provide feedback. Design elements under consideration are roadway layout, sidewalks, bike lanes, landscaping and other parkway improvements. Project manager is Michael Weiss, michael.weiss@fortworthtexas.gov, 817-392-8485.

AN HISTORIC LOOK
AT THE STOCKYARDS
The pending massive redesign of the Stockyards has many historic-minded citizens worried. Come and hear what’s going on from an historic preservation perspective at the AHNA meeting on Tuesday August 18 at 6:30 p.m. Libby Willis is a well-known community leader who is the author of the book “Fort Worth’s Oakhurst Neighborhood”, published by Arcadia Press in 2014. She has been the director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Southwest office and was the first executive director of Preservation Texas.

During the business portion of this meeting, we’ll take nominations from the floor for 2016 AHNA officers and Executive Board members.

ADVERTISING RATES
Current circulation is 400 households bi-monthly

Business card: $25
1/4 Page: $50
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Do you have some news you would like to see listed in our newsletter? Please submit it to: AHNA Newsletter, PO Box 470692, Fort Worth, TX 76147 or newsletter@arlingtonheightsna.com. Please include your name, address, phone, and email address. Deadline for submissions is the 1st day of January, March, May, July, September and November. The editors have the right to refuse any submission they deem inappropriate to the newsletter. We may also edit for content and length. Views and opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of AHNA or of its members.

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FIRE STATION 18’S BIRTHDAY PARTY

It was the party that almost didn’t happen, thanks to all the rain in May. There was hardly a dry day, so AHNA party planners were sweating it right up until the party started at 4 p.m. Luckily, it turned out the weather fully cooperated with nary a drop of rain.

This was the third year for AHNA to honor the neighborhood’s firefighters with a birthday party at the historic fire station, the oldest in Fort Worth, at the corner of Camp Bowie Boulevard and Carleton Avenue. This is the Fort Worth Fire Department’s largest community event of the year.

The Texas Girls Choir and River Crest Station joined the party again this year by allowing activities to spread out on to their parking lots. At River Crest Station, Fort Worth Fire Academy mounted their demonstration Fire Safety House for the kids and gave away some great free items, including coveted red fire helmets. A fire house-themed bounce house with slides was erected nearby. Three mega-talented neighborhood musical acts, Joel McElhany, Justin Holt, and Bomber Spur, performed on the Texas Girls Choir parking lot, with tables and chairs, courtesy of the choir; set up by the firefighters.

This year, Fort Worth Fire Department outdid itself, parking a wide variety of fire trucks and rescue equipment along the street. Continuous tours of the trucks and the fire station took place throughout the afternoon.

Central Market set up their food truck and gave away free hotdogs, sliders, iced tea and cookies. Ben E. Keith donated a wide assortment of canned adult beverages, including the newly launched and very popular Palm Breeze.

Bluebonnet Bakery created a gorgeous 92nd birthday cake for the fire station (see photo) and Samson from 7-11 and Samson’s Ethiopian Bistro brought a sampling of his delicious ethnic offerings. Always a crowd pleaser, Curly’s Custard donated free cups of vanilla and chocolate custard. Unbelievable generosity!

AHNA volunteers cooked up hot dogs and served chips and water. Makes your mouth water just reading about it.

Crestline Area Neighborhood Association made a significant cash donation that covered the liability insurance for the event. As only canines can do, therapy dogs Ollie and Phoebe worked their magic on the crowd and ended up stealing the show.

It didn’t take long for the Fire Station 18 crew to polish off the fabulous cake created for them by Bluebonnet Bakery. (Photo by Brenda Helmer)

Ollie, spotlighted on the cover of AHNA’s March newsletter, took an impromptu plunge after working the crowd. (Photo by Brenda Helmer)

Fire Inspector J.R. Lopez gave away great party favors for the kids, including red plastic fire helmets. (Photo by Brenda Helmer)

Kit Law and Vickie Bowers (left to right) are two of the most faithful members of AHNA. Both are also active in Citizens on Patrol.
Neighborhood block parties have really taken off in Arlington Heights this year. Tulsa Way neighbors closed down their block on the first Saturday in May for a neighborhood party to honor their neighbors at the Fort Worth Firefighters Hall. At 5 o’clock the Schindler family opened up their driveway for the big food spread that everyone generously contributed to. One of the highlights was Jerry Bodiford’s assortment of meats he grilled in his backyard. (He’s doing the same at the upcoming AHNA membership meeting on Tuesday July 21—see page 3 of newsletter for details). Musical entertainment was provided by Bomber Spur, with Tedros Yosef as the opening act. The Schindler family was also celebrating their sons’, Dax and Ryder, birthdays, so they rented a bounce house for their backyard while the Allen family, who were celebrating their daughter Emily’s graduation from high school, sprang for a water slide on the street in front of their house. Three parties in one! Firefighters from Station 18 parked the U.S.S. Fort Worth on the street and stayed until the party ended at 9 p.m.

Neighbors on Collinwood celebrated the coming of summer with their second annual block party on the last Saturday in May. Michael Jackson was in charge of grilling the hot dogs and hamburgers. Neighbors brought side dishes, snacks and desserts. Retro games, like an egg relay race, cake walk and a frozen-t-shirt contest, were the order of the day. For the kids, there was face painting, squirt guns and water balloons. Everyone went home with a free special edition commemorative block party candle, the handiwork of neighbor Mark Mullins who owns Home Front Candles. The firefighters from Station 18 brought their engine out—those are some party animals at Station 18! Despite one passing rain shower, the party that started at noon went on into the evening. Nothing keeps a party going longer than a keg of beer.

On Linden Avenue, last year’s July 4th front porch party turned into a block party this year. Organized by the King, Van Giesen, Chan, and Chesmer families, the festivities lasted all day and included a bounce house with water slide, bicycle decorating and parade, face and fingernail painting and a Frisbee game for the adults. The plentiful food and drinks included barbecue ribs and homemade pizza from a backyard pizza oven. The night ended with a walk to the corner of Linden and Montgomery to enjoy the fireworks. Game’s on for next year.

As one neighbor so aptly put it, “It’s good to see everyone getting to know each other and visiting. Now I see neighbors driving by and waving instead of just driving by.”

If you’re thinking about throwing a block party, AHNA has gathered some valuable tips to help you plan a successful event and how to get the proper city permits for street parties. Go to arlingtonheightsna.com and click on Block Party Info.
The A shift crew from Station 18 parked the U.S.S. Fort Worth on Tulsa Way for the May 2 block party.

No run of the mill water slide, this inflatable attraction appealed to all ages.

A giant food spread and drinks were served in front of the Schindler’s house where they were also having their sons’ birthday party.

A giant food spread and drinks were served in front of the Schindler’s house where they were also having their sons’ birthday party.

Tulsa Way fixtures Steve Truitt (left) and Charles Duke are already working on the details for next year’s block party.

Opening act Tedros Yosef, son of the famous Samson of Ethiopian Bistro fame, shows off his considerable musical chops.

Bomber Spus, made of up talented Arlington Heights homies, were the featured entertainment. They also headlined at Fire Station 18’s big birthday bash.

Janiel Bodiford, Mary Lattimore, and Booger Ratcliff (left to right) take a short break from the action on the cool grass.

The Allen family celebrated daughter Emily’s high school graduation on the same day as the block party.

Bomber Spus, made of up talented Arlington Heights homies, were the featured entertainment. They also headlined at Fire Station 18’s big birthday bash.

The Allen family celebrated daughter Emily’s high school graduation on the same day as the block party.
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AHNAadopts official flood statement

In June, the AHNA Executive Board voted to create and adopt an official neighborhood watershed protection statement that will hopefully move us a little closer to resolving the chronic flooding in areas of the neighborhood.

Executive Board member John Morris led the charge to create the statement that is as follows:

WHEREAS, the Executive Board of Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association in Fort Worth, Texas believes intense rainfall events in our area will continue, and may, in fact, increase in frequency over time;

and the storm water drainage system in our neighborhood, and in other areas of the City of Fort Worth, are inadequate to safely carry heavy runoff away from our homes, schools and vehicles;

and the City has limited resources to upgrade our drainage system to adequately handle heavy runoff, and, additionally, statements by city leaders have indicated an engineering solution is unlikely in the near term;

WE, the Executive Board of Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association recommend the City of Fort Worth, as a matter of policy in furtherance of its sustainability goals, should encourage low impact development and minimize the construction of new impervious surfaces in our watersheds due to the impact on downstream properties; update how the City, including the Planning and Development Department, defines impervious surfaces; and provide incentives for non-publicly funded measures, such as French drains and cisterns, that are designed to alleviate urban flooding.

An immediate goal is to try to manage storm water runoff in every way possible. The AHNA Executive Board believes a good place to start is to ask the City of Fort Worth’s Planning and Development Department to consider bringing into parity their definition of impervious surfaces with that of the Storm Water Management Department. At present, development regulations in the City of Fort Worth do not include counting concrete driveways, patios, or sidewalks in their calculations for 50% maximum lot coverage, even though the Storm Water Management Department counts those as impervious surfaces when calculating the storm water fees for properties.

The City has formed a task force to develop a Floodplain Management Plan with the mission to protect people and property from harmful storm water runoff. The task force includes both city staff and a number of neighborhood representatives from throughout the city. They are scheduled to meet again in early August.

Other developments being monitored include the City Council consideration of easing drainage criteria for additional runoff in new development. ISWM (Integrated Stormwater Management) in the City of Fort Worth currently applies to land alterations of .5 acres or more. The council is considering relaxing the threshold to alterations of 1 acre or more which appears to give more consideration to developers rather than the property owners downstream in the watershed. Council is not expected to take action until later in the fall.

Meanwhile back in our neighborhood, so far, so good this summer with the rains and neighborhood flooding. The surface detention pond project at the corner of Bryce Avenue and Hulen Street is moving right along, as is the massive Western Avenue sewer main project.

Arlington Heights now has its very own official rain gauge monitoring device that measures and records rainfall amounts in 15-minute increments. The device, installed by the City of Fort Worth inside the back fence of Fire Station 18 at the corner of Carleton Avenue and Camp Bowie Boulevard, sends the data electronically to the Storm Water Management Department for their records.
This year’s gardenia bloom at 4837 El Campo Avenue was extraordinary—there were so many blossoms it was hard to believe they were gardenias.

Bloom for bloom, this year’s gardenia display in Arlene and Charles Lew’s front yard was simply jaw-dropping spectacular. “I’ve never seen so many,” says Arlene who estimated them to be in the thousands. It was an astounding comeback from last year when the gardenia shrubs looked deader than a door nail after the late spring freeze, according to Arlene. “We thought we’d lost them. They looked like crispy critters.”

Next door neighbor, Dick McGirk, pronounced them “not dead” after nicking their bark with his pocket knife and finding green. So, the Lews decided to not take them out and did nothing, patiently waiting and having faith their enormous hedges of Frostproof gardenias would rebound on their own without any pruning or prodding.

Rebound they did. The explosion of white blossoms this year smelled as good as they looked. Unfortunately, by the time you read this, the gardenias have already peaked and gone. So, make a note to check it out next year.

Frostproof gardenias, a new variety of the classic garden favorite, were cultivated to be more cold-hardy than other gardenias and are prolific bloomers. They can take direct sun, as they do in the Lew’s yard. Frostproof gardenias grow more upright than regular gardenias, so they can be planted to create solid hedges, like the Lew’s have done along their circular front driveway.

What’s the secret to get their gardenias to bloom so much? Arlene confesses she spreads her old coffee grounds on the flower beds to keep the soil acidic which is what gardenias thrive in.

When Arlene and Charles moved into their home at 4837 El Campo Avenue in 2002, the house was already landscaped with what Arlene describes as “the basic package.” The big low junipers around the front driveway were the first things to go, and little by little the landscape evolved.

Arlene describes herself as a “very casual gardener” now. Although she used to do a lot of gardening, this grandmother of six and great-grandmother of four says she physically can’t do it anymore. So, she hires someone cut the grass, weed, mulch and dig holes when needed. “My version of gardening now is pulling up two or three clumps of grass,” Arlene wryly puts it.

The Lews shop everywhere for their plants: Calloway’s, Botanic Gardens, and the commissary at the Naval Reserve Station where Charles, retired from the Air Force, has privileges. A gifted vocalist and classical guitarist who enjoys performing with the Classical Guitar Society and at social events, Charles even bought some Asian lilies at the Dollar Store that have turned out to be so hearty they’re now almost six feet tall.

In the front circular bed the Lews have created a red, white and blue theme with white Gerber daisies, red double knockout roses, blue plumbago, dianthus, and impatiens. Along the back edge of the bed is the Frostproof gardenia hedge.

Purple hydrangeas in pots are blooming on the front porch today. Yaupon holly serves as the background base across the front of the house. Easter lilies, lots of them, are planted in the front beds along with tall blue balloon flowers and tiger lilies. The tall conifer at the northwest corner of the house is a curling juniper.

Along the west side of the house is a hedge of dwarf Buford holly and daffodils. An assortment of Asian lilies pop up around the base of the stop sign at the corner of the Lew’s property. Trumpet vine, Asian lilies, rosemary and an assortment of herbs are planted in the east side yard.
JULY YARD OF THE MONTH

The first thing Julie Davis did when she moved into her home was to pull up all the overgrown nandinas that had taken over her front yard landscape. On the west side of the yard she planted a Bradford pear tree, a housewarming gift from her mother, and started making plans for a large flower bed to replace the nandinas. That was 1999--it took a few years to bring her vision to reality.

Julie got help to install the first flower bed, but “it didn't take long before I realized my dirt was full of nutgrass,” she says. “What a nightmare!” For years, she tried everything to get rid of the weeds, including lining the beds with newspaper, sheets of black plastic, and even using herbicide. “Nothing seemed to help,” she says. “I was told I would need to move if I didn't want nutgrass.”

She became so frustrated with the never-ending weed problem, she says “I was ready to put an ad in the paper to ‘come and get it’ and get rid of my plants. I really wanted a pretty flower bed.”

Julie’s mom encouraged her to not give up and offered suggestions of different things to try. It turns out mulching, and lots of it, conquered the nutgrass invasion. First, Julie used shredded cypress mulch which “helped some, but I realized I wasn't putting enough mulch in the beds to solve the problem.” This year she switched to pine bark mulch and the weeds are now, at long last, under control. During the growing season, she keeps plenty of extra mulch on hand to put in the beds. The mulch not only takes care of the weeds, it also breaks down and conditions the clay soil.

Four years ago, Julie enlarged her west flower bed to wrap around the base of Bradford pear tree. The fifteen-year old tree is now large enough to provide some much needed shade for the front yard.

With the weed problem finally under control, Julie has had fun bringing to life the flower bed of her dreams, doing the hard labor herself. Closest to the house she’s planted barberry and knock out roses with ornamental grass and Mexican feather grass along the sidewalk. The center of the beds are filled with gay feather, cannas, sedum, bottlebrush, abelia, drift roses, dianthus, lantana, and salvia. At the front of the beds is a combination of perennials and annuals, including red yucca, color guard yucca, day lilies, petunias, geraniums, marigolds, spider lilies, lamb’s ear, ruellia, purple Jew, potato vine, oxalis and lantana.

Julie’s favorite plant is cypress vine, an annual she bought at Archie’s Gardenland last year. “It spreads fast and shoots off seeds in the early spring, so you already have plantings for the current year and plenty to share.” She trains the delicate vine to grow over wire forms, resulting in some creative topiary designs. On her front porch she’s cleverly growing it over an upside down tomato cage. No one will ever be the wiser.

Julie loves to “pass along” her plants, especially when it’s time to thin them out. So, if you’re interested in a start of something, all you have to do is drop by and ask.

It took years for Julie Davis’ pretty flower bed dreams to finally become a reality. Today her yard at 4008 Pershing Avenue is a colorful medley of low maintenance annuals and perennials that she maintains herself.

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Julie loves to “pass along” her plants, especially when it’s time to thin them out. So, if you’re interested in a start of something, all you have to do is drop by and ask.
Pollinators of all kinds are under siege, with some species experiencing accelerated declines in the last two years. Honey bees, monarch butterflies and bats are at the top of the list. Did you know winged pollinators are responsible for upwards of $15 billion worth of free pollination services every year? Most fruit orchards in Japan and China are now hand pollinated because of the loss of their native bees due to pollution and loss of habitat.

Efforts are currently underway at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore more than 200,000 acres of monarch butterfly habitat along the I-35 corridor, from Texas to Minnesota. It’s sort of a pollinator highway that roughly follows the annual monarch butterfly migration route from Mexico to Minnesota. Pollinator and bird migration paths coming from the north, east and west all converge just north of the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex into what is called the migration funnel. An important first step to restore the corridor will be planting milkweed and other monarch food sources.

We, as good stewards, can do our part too here in Arlington Heights. If you remember, in the last newsletter edition we learned that certain butterflies only lay eggs on specific host plants. Monarchs use milkweed, of which there are multiple species. Along the migration path, monarchs lay eggs only on native milkweeds. Larvae hatch in four days, feed on milkweed for three weeks, then after transforming into a butterfly, continue on their journey in search of mates and nectar.

The monarch count in Mexico during the winter of 2014 reflected a dramatic decrease of up to 70 percent from previous years. The decline is partially due to loss of habitat through the destruction of milkweed, especially when corn fields are leveled during migration time. Also, devastating climate events, such as successive droughts in Texas, have contributed to the decline. Another big culprit is the herbicide applied to genetically modified corn and soybean fields grown for bio-fuel. Although it doesn’t always kill the milkweed that coexists in the same fields, it poisons thousands of caterpillars that feed on the treated plants during migration.

Let’s move on to more positive things. Monarchs are surprisingly resilient. But, they need our help and there’s a lot we can do on a micro-level, like participate in monarch counts and plant milkweed and other native nectar plants. There are 110 species of milkweed in the United States, most of which are native. Asclepiadaceae is the family name, derived from the Greek word meaning god of healing and medicine. Texas has several of its own natives, but the best-known are antelope horns, common milkweed, green milkweed and showy milkweed. This time of year it’s easy to spot antelope horn’s large seed heads along the highway. No surprise, they look just like an antelope horn.
Another common species is called butterfly weed. It is readily available at most garden centers. Although it hasn’t been verified as a true Texas native, the butterflies requiring milkweed for their young will use it if another native can’t be found. This plant is a little easier to grow and propagate, however, I think it’s always best to have natives whenever possible.

My garden has antelope horn, green, showy, butterfly weed and common milkweeds. It takes patience to get things started, but usually the plants will return, even if they skip a couple of years, so don’t give up on them. Some of the seeds I’ve collected from the wild. Others are from a Sustain the Migration Kit available from Native American Seeds. You can also buy seed packets by species and plant them in the fall. They won’t germinate until spring. Some native plant seeds require going through freezes, snow, winter weather, spring rains and warmer temperatures before germinating. It can take years for some seeds to germinate, so be sure if you plant directly in the ground to use plant markers.

My best success has come from planting seeds during the fall in plastic pots fitted inside clay pots for better insulation. They are then over-wintered in a protected area that will receive the normal winter elements. When the seedlings reach a height of 5-6 inches, they are usually strong enough to transplant into the garden. I leave the plants in the plastic pots and simply slice the bottom of the pot off and sink the plant pot into a prepared hole. After the plant is off and running, you can loosen the pot from the surrounding ground and pull it out. Better yet, leave the pot in place and mulch within the pot. Milkweeds develop long, deep taproots, so leaving it in the pot offers another layer of protection.

A single average-sized milkweed plant can support five to six caterpillars at a time. Once they crawl off to turn into a chrysalis, the plant will quickly re-leaf. Even one generation of monarchs can help make a difference.

Green milkweed is native to Texas and is one of the most important food sources for monarch butterflies. It ranges in size from one to three feet in height and is best grown from seed. (Photo by Kakkie Cunningham)
creatures that inhabit her yard and our neighborhood. Ralph Lauer, big-time photographer who spent many years on the Star Telegram staff, is the unofficial neighborhood flood photographer.

Another long-time Arlington Heights resident, Juliet George writes articles about our neighborhood in its early days, connecting readers to the past and providing a context for the issues of today. Juliette is the author of two books on our neighborhood, “Fort Worth’s Arlington Heights” and “Camp Bowie Boulevard,” published by Arcadia Press.

During their terms as AHNA President, Brenda Helmer and Jessica Redman have written the newsletter’s regular column Letter From The President on Page 2 of each newsletter issue in 2014 and 2015.

One of the newsletter’s most popular features are the Yard of the Month stories that began in 2008 when the monthly award was first started. Carol Berry, Chair of the AHNA Yard of the Month Committee, takes nominations from her committee members and also welcomes suggestions from anyone in the neighborhood for yards that are worthy of the award. (See page 1 of the newsletter for Carol’s contact information.) The committee members, many of whom are past award winners, vote on the nominated yards each month. The award is given from April through November and includes a $25 gift certificate from Archie’s Gardenland and a free year’s membership to AHNA. The newsletter articles about the winning yards are full of interesting details about gardening and offer neighbor to neighbor plant tips from the monthly winners.

Christina Patoski, a former president of AHNA, has been the editor of the newsletter from 2004 through 2008 and from 2012 through present. Kevin Lintz, who lives in Arlington Heights, has been the newsletter designer since 2012. You’ve probably seen the ad for his
company, The Labor Shed, in the newsletter. The Labor Shed is a full service graphic design business that designs logos, identities, branding websites, advertising and obviously, newsletters, too. Other Shed employees include Kevin’s wife April and his brother Jeremy who lives in New York.

Staples on University Avenue has been printing the newsletter for the last seven years. The mail labels and renewal notices are generated by AHNA Vice President Kelly Jo Nial who keeps current the AHNA membership list. The last leg of the long journey to get the newsletter to you is in the hands of Michelle Thomason, who folds, inserts, applies labels and stamps, and gets the newsletters in the mail.

Published since 1999, Arlington Heights Neighborhood News & Views is an active public forum for the many voices in our neighborhood and also serves as a calling card for the association and the neighborhood at large. In 2003, AHNA President Darla Vaughan passed the newsletter responsibilities on to AHNA member Harmony Schuermann. From 2009 through 2011, the newsletter was edited by Makenzie Carpenter, who served as the AHNA President from 2009 through mid-year 2010.

Spotlighting stories specifically about the neighborhood, Arlington Heights News & Views links readers to the local community, while creating and strengthening the bonds within the neighborhood. It serves as an invisible thread that helps to bring together the neighborhood, by chronicling the micro-community we call home. Given the current state of local newspapers and other media, these are important stories that would otherwise never be told.

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