



Cochran Heights Gazette

[www.cochranheights.com](http://www.cochranheights.com)

October 2008

Meeting: Oct 20 7-9 PM Hibiscus on Henderson

**Treasurer's Note**

Current Balance: \$10,151.08  
Balance April 1, 2008: \$ 9,701.08  
Outgoing expenses 2008: \$ 211.00

**CHNA Officers**

**President:** Mitch Deshotels  
[mldrealator@yahoo.com](mailto:mldrealator@yahoo.com)  
**Vice President:** Charles Ostermann  
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**Secretary:** Arlene Colbert  
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**Crime Watch:** Michael Hamtil  
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**Web-site:** Rick Grinter  
[rick@crystalcave.cc](mailto:rick@crystalcave.cc)

**2009 CHNA Officer Elections**

CHNA Voting To Take Place at December meeting. All neighbors are encouraged to volunteer for a position on the board or to nominate a neighbor. Nominations can be made at October meeting or anytime thereafter. Each position is on a volunteer basis and will last for one year.

Due to the expansion of our newsletter, there will be a new officer position – “Editor of Cochran Heights Gazette.”

**2008 Good Neighbors**

We have received over **\$1,800** in Good Neighbor donations in 2008. Thanks to all who donated! These donations go towards our antique lamp installation program, sidewalk replacement program, other general beautification projects and printing costs. Please don't rely on your neighbors to improve YOUR neighborhood. Become a Good Neighbor today! Give or send money to our treasurer Noreen Grant, 5114 Milam. Checks should be made out to CHNA.

**Platinum Neighbors (\$300 +)**

Jarrad Barnes – 5102 Pershing

**Gold Neighbors (\$100-\$299)**

John & Melissa Carpenter - 5034 Alcott

Rusty Glenn – 5102 Homer

Milton & Nicole Sander – 5115 Alcott

Greg Armstrong & Alan Rister – 5222 Homer

Sherry & Edward Burke – 5114 Homer

Judy & George Kirchwey - -5110 Homer

Allen & Cynthia Mondell – 5211 Homer

Tom Abraham – 5032 Milam

Noreen Grant – 5114 Milam

Mike & Lara Hamtil – 5110 Milam

John Stephens – 5045 Milam

**Silver Neighbors (\$50 - \$99)**

Ismael Gonzalez – 5103 Homer  
Margarita & Samuel Salazar – 5223 Homer  
Lien Thi Vo – 5011 Homer  
Susannah Fernandez – 5221 Mission

**Bronze Neighbors (\$25 - \$49)**

Mary Cronin & Kent Cobb – 4931 Alcott

**Neighborhood Trivia**

**Benjamin Rush “Ben” Milam.  
1788 – 1835**

Ben Milam was a leading figure in the Texas Revolution. Milam County was named in his honor. In 1819 he traveled from New Orleans to Mexico to help the Mexican revolutionaries gain their independence from Spain. He was jailed and sentenced to death for his help in the revolution but was pardoned in 1822 by Joel Poinsett, U.S. Commissioner of Observation in Mexico. By 1824, Milam was commissioned a colonel in the Mexican army.

In 1835, Milam met a company of Texas soldiers commanded by George Collinworth, from whom he learned of the Texas movement for independence. Milam joined them in capturing Goliad and then marched with them to join in the fight to capture San Antonio. On

December 4, 1835, Milam was told that the majority of the Texan army had postponed their plan to seize San Antonio until Winter had passed. He pleaded and was granted permission from the Commander, Edward Burluson, to seek volunteers to storm the city the next morning, convinced that delaying the assault would be a disaster for the cause of independence. Hence the source of Milam's famous plea: *Who will go with Ben Milam into San Antonio?* 300 volunteered.

The siege started at 3.00am the following morning, with two canons opening fire on the Alamo to distract the Mexican army. On December 7, 1835, Milam was shot in the head by a Mexican rifleman and killed instantly. The Mexican army lost more than 400 soldiers in the ensuing battle. The Texan army lost only 20-30. The siege ended on December 9, 1835 when the Mexican army sent a subordinate to negotiate a truce with Milam's successor – Robert Morris. Morris gave the Mexican army all the supplies he could spare and six days to leave the Alamo.

Milam's grave is in Milam Park, San Antonio. In 1938, a statue of Milam was unveiled outside Cameron County courthouse.

**Recycling (Blue Bin) News & Dates**

For those of you who recycle, you have probably noticed how your blue bin fills up a lot faster than your grey bin, yet the blue bin is only picked up every two weeks while the grey bin is picked up twice a week!

Well, the City of Dallas has noticed too! Starting in 2009, areas of Dallas will move to once a week pick up for both blue and grey bins. In February 2009, Vickery Place will have once weekly pick up. Unfortunately, once weekly pick up for Cochran Heights has yet to be decided. If you want to be part of this new system, please voice your opinion in a one minute online survey at:

[http://www.dallascityhall.com/sanitation/once\\_weekly.html](http://www.dallascityhall.com/sanitation/once_weekly.html)

In the meantime, here are our pick up dates:

- October 23
- November 6 & 20
- December 4 & 18

Order a blue bin by calling 311 or online at:

[www.dallascityhall.com/sanitation.html](http://www.dallascityhall.com/sanitation.html)

**Bulky Trash Dates**

Bulky trash is collected during the third week of each month. Generally, it is picked up on a Wednesday or Thursday. **You may be fined for leaving out your bulky trash before the Thursday preceding the pick up week!**

2008 pick up weeks are:

- October 20 – 24
- November 17-21
- December 15-19

**Beautification Update**

CHNA Beautification Committee has been busy with several projects this fall. Our most exciting

development has been an agreement reached with the City of Dallas to plant more trees in Cochran Park. The city will fund the planting of 25 new trees based on our plan with the option for CHNA to add shrubs and landscaping boulders to the project.

If you have other ideas or input, please feel free to contact our VP, Charles Ostermann

Plans for the landscaping of the median along Henderson continue to progress. Two landscape firms have been contacted to develop a pro bono plan for that median. The chosen firm would be used for future funded projects.

We have contacted Morrison Signs about fabricating additional Cochran Heights street-sign toppers for the southern part of the neighborhood. We are awaiting pricing and installation details.

**Beautify Your Neighborhood Plant a tree!**

Be a part of “**Beautify Cochran Heights!**” CH Tree planting day is coming in November for CHNA Members. The **Texas Tree Foundation** is offering a variety of trees in 10, 20, and 30 gallon sizes for \$35, \$70, and \$140 respectively. Fall is an ideal time to plant trees. Register early as the number of trees is limited. If you wish to participate in this neighborhood offer please contact Charles Ostermann at [ostermann9@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ostermann9@sbcglobal.net).

**Feeling Poopy?**

Well fear not! CHNA has installed a brand new dog poop station in Mission Park! Please clean up after your dogs and help keep Cochran Heights beautiful!

Thanks to Charles Ostermann for his efforts in getting this installed.

### **Sherwin Williams Discount**

CHNA residents can get a 20% discount on all regular priced items and 5% discount on all sale items from Sherwin Williams. At the end of the year, 3% of the total of all purchases by CHNA residents will be returned to CHNA. You must have a CHNA Sherwin Williams discount card to take advantage of this offer. Cards will be available at the meeting.

### **Sidewalk Repair Update**

We have been informally notified by the City that CHNA is going to be part of the 2009 sidewalk replacement bond! Details to follow.

### **Bonham School Report**

#### **James Bonham Elementary**

There are good things happening at Bonham! Students enjoy a stellar reputation for academic excellence, having attained the highest ranking awarded by the state, Exemplary, based on its scores on the TAKS assessment. This test, given in early May, tests students' mastery of the curriculum through third grade. A rigorous test, Bonham students have received this ranking for the sixth consecutive year. In

addition, students are awarded individual Commended status if they miss two or fewer items on the math and/or reading assessments. The number of students receiving Commended far outscored Dallas's and the state's average. Other district tests for students in Pre-K, first and second reveal that Bonham students also outscore their district peers.

#### **A Crisis for our Little School on Henderson**

James Bonham Elementary is facing a crisis, and needs help now. It has lost a significant amount of its discretionary budget, a cut of almost 50%. No surprise if you read or listen to the news. Teachers have no budget for supplies and materials—transparencies, dry-erase markers, copy paper, the list is long. Who knows when it will be released again and schools' supply budgets opened? In an average year, elementary teachers spend \$1000 of their own money on supplies and materials. This year, that amount could easily double. But, there is a more dangerous result of the budget cuts. Bonham no longer has sufficient funds to conduct Saturday School, to pay teachers for their work on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., as they have in the past, virtually all year. This, along with focused instruction in all grades is Bonham's main intervention strategy for helping third grade children at risk of not passing the TAKS assessment in May. Is it possible for that success to continue today in these perilous budget shortfall times for all of DISD? Unfortunately, money spells academic success.

#### **Bonham Teachers are Hero's**

Remarkable thing has happened. The 4 teachers who have conducted Saturday School for the past 6 years have volunteered to teach without compensation this year! They care about their students continuing to pass the TAKS at the record setting rate that they have in the past, and which improves every year. They are willing to give up their Saturday mornings from now until the first of May so that the children who would otherwise be at-risk of not doing well can be guaranteed to do as adequately as their peers in the past.

Donors can be assured that donations will make a difference, immediately. Any money donated to Boosters that is earmarked for Saturday School will only be used for that program.

Boosters hope to be able to help pay the teachers who are currently conducting Saturday School for third graders who are at-risk of not passing the TAKS assessment in early May. These teachers volunteered after the school's budget was slashed this summer.

There is tremendous pride in this school from the teachers, the administration, parents and children. "It is a privilege to work here. No one wants to leave and people are lined up to work here," a Bonham employee explained. With the current financial crisis in DISD, the fate of Bonham is once again at risk. Strong neighborhood participation and support can help it remain a fixture in our neighborhood. When potential parents are encouraged to buy houses in Cochran Heights because

they want their children to attend Bonham, we will be able to guarantee its continued success and its place in our community. A community without a school is a deficit. A strong school is the hallmark of a strong neighborhood. As its neighbors, as citizens, we should be helping our little school that could—and does!



**All the news that's fit to print!**

Babies, graduations, weddings, interesting neighborhood tidbits....? Let us know!

**Carnival at Bonham**

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 24, 3-5 p.m. to attend Bonham's carnival. This is an easy way to support the school. I heard the flautas, sopapillas and tacos are homemade and wonderful.

In addition to customers, we also need volunteers to man a booth for our neighborhood organization. CHNA will be able to earn half of the net profits. The more booths, the more money for Bonham. There will be booths for toddlers, too. Last year, the carnival suffered a lack of booths because there weren't enough volunteers.

Contact Arlene Colbert for more information or to volunteer to help.

**Happy Hour Afterwards!**

**Welcome!**

Welcome our new neighbors to Cochran Heights:  
Nathan & Ava Trussell - 5005  
*Milam*

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Mike Hamtil & Lara Solt (Milam) on their October 18 wedding!

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CHNA REFERENCES UPON REQUEST

**ADVERTISE HERE!**

The CHNA Gazette is delivered to 250 households 4 times a year.

There is a 10% discount for members of CHNA. If you are interested in advertising your business or services, please contact a CHNA officer.