



Greetings, welcome to 2021 and your first Newsletter of the New Year. I, for one, am glad to have 2020 in the rearview mirror, and can only hope things improve rapidly as we chart so many new waters in the coming year.

This month's issue includes a great article authored by Steve Zeringue, about the Hill County Courthouse. Thanks, Steve! If you have a subject you would like to share, I would be thrilled to include it in a future edition. I am willing to help with editing and proofreading as desired and necessary to help fit available newsletter space.

Things are starting to pick up around NTAC. Since publishing the last newsletter (Oct/Nov), we have a new Board in place, a number of new

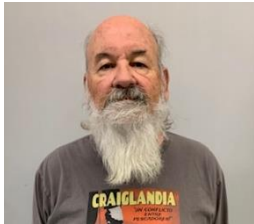
committee chairs, and a few changes in and around the community. I will try and summarize a few of the highlights in this issue.

Everyone is anxious to get back on the road, and I want to encourage everyone to capture photos and details of special places they visit or attractions found. Please share them with your NTAC neighbors via this newsletter and on Facebook. Any items can be sent to the email address at the bottom of this section. I also will pull Facebook Group page items, as many of our neighbors do not use Facebook.

As always, please send what you would like to share in the newsletter to NTACNewsletter@gmail.com and I will do my best to keep up.

2020 NTAC President

On this beautiful, cold January afternoon, I was walking the dogs and as we headed to Avenue D; I saw the beautiful clear path through the greenbelt. There were numerous trees and briars which had fallen across the path a week ago. The ever-moving Stephen Woodward cut enough to make it passable and then the Landscape committee and 2 John Deere tractors made it go away. Volunteers cleared it and if by magic it is now open.



Many things get done at NTAC under the radar. Committees are meeting to move trees, set up membership interviews, publish directories and bylaws, plan for improvements for the park, and write policies to improve NTAC. Newsletters are written, benevolence announcements to announce passing of beloved members, ads are being placed, mikes hooked up; the amount of work is formidable.

This day I awoke to learn of Dorothy Sill's passing. There is a new bench on Avenue F in memory of Ted Adamson, an NTAC Founder. I remember the great folks who have gone on before us and think of the hours of work which they and other founders put into the creation of this park. The work the volunteers put in today sets the foundation of the future of this park.

We will have a Board meeting on February 8th. Come (following Covid protocols and if you are comfortable) and hear committee reports with three areas of emphasis, 1. Rain water guidelines, 2. Audit Committee final recommendations, and 3. Drainage/Infrastructure report. See you then and thanks for all your contributions.

Steve Holland
NTAC 2021 Board President

General Membership Meeting December 2020

The NTAC General Membership Meeting was held in December. In case you missed it, three new board members were elected. Meeting information is located on our website. Your 2021 NTAC Board is:

Steve Holland	President	Dale Henning	VP Maintenance
Mick Mack	VP Operations	Michael Shelley	Treasurer
Jennifer Hicks	Secretary	Jim Courtney	
Scott Graham		Ken Mitchell	
Debi Rich		Steve Zeringue	

Heartfelt thanks were afforded to Channing Fell, Richard Turner, and Steve Woodward for their service on the Board over the last three years. Many THANKS, as well, to Steve Zeringue for guiding us through a very challenging past year.

Vickie Courtney and **Sheila Lewis** each received recognition for their outstanding volunteerism and community contributions. Both are now the first recipients of the newly established "**Steve Woodward NTAC Community Volunteer Service Award**". Please share your appreciation when you see them.

Your 2021 Committee Chairs are listed on our website if you too would like to get more involved!!

2021 Board Meeting Schedule

8 February
29 March
27 September
25 October
11 December (Annual Membership Meeting)

All meetings are planned for the Rally Room with Social Distancing and Masks required.

Board Workshops are generally held the Wednesday prior, but be sure to check the online calendar for changes.

Remember this newsletter is all about you and your neighbors. Articles and photo submissions are certainly welcome from everyone, especially photos of members, on the road or not; your favorite pictures, special campground discoveries, great deals, or a unique recipe. Please include a brief description of any photo and I will try to include submissions in a future edition.

Social Media Happings

Debi Rich

The Social Media committee consists of Debi Rich & Amy Van Artsdalen as Facebook admins, and Marilyn Holland, as Instagram admin. Their purpose is to promote NTAC using social media.



In case you missed it, last month we introduced everyone to a new idea initiated by Marilyn Holland to promote NTAC, and our community. Last year, prior to the onset of COVID, the public relations and social media committees had a fun idea and group project for everyone in the community. Our plan was to launch the “NTAC

Everywhere” project. The emphasis of our efforts is to publicize our community and focus on the nuance of us not only being a neighborhood, but a community of travelers. This is also a fun way to generate content for our social media platforms while providing free publicity to potential visitors.

Fifty laminated hand held signs were made and distributed amongst members to be used similar to Sheila’s neighborhood elf this past December. The difference is we want to see our membership around the park, in our surrounding community and most definitely on the road during our traveling adventures.



To participate, members photograph themselves in various settings, rallies, campgrounds or even local attractions...with their “#NTACeverywhere” sign. We want members to then post those pictures to our internal NTAC Group Facebook page, understanding that doing so indicates their consent to allow us to post them on our public Facebook and Instagram platforms.



Ruth Ann Walker with Family

Due to lock-downs, our Terraport has become largely dormant. Not only has this impacted NTAC business operations and our revenue stream, but we are missing not having visitors, or getting to share stories of our camping adventures.

Every day has seen changes in our social distancing and awareness of being careful. With hope of vaccines, and treatments, we hope there is a light at the end of the tunnel and not only are we going to be able to get out and travel more, but we can see more visitors coming to NTAC. Many of you have already started considering your Spring or Summer reservations. It is time to help get the word out to others as well. Every overnight guest on the Terraport will improve our business revenue and help the business side of NTAC thrive.

Our social media accounts are something fun to do as a group and a way to get our name out to fellow Airstreamers. Visitors can use NTAC as a base while checking out the newly and largely expanded Magnolia Silos, visit three large area zoos, get a “NP Passport Stamp from the Mammoth Dig, or visit the Heritage Home sight, among many other activities in the area, and all without the nightmare of pulling a trailer through



Graham’s & Green’s @ Ft Parker SP near Mexia TX.

Waco or DFW construction; just one of the advantages to our geographic location.

Help us get the word out about NTAC. Not only do we know this is a great place to live, but it is most certainly a great place to visit! You can find the laminated signs in the card/mail room on the counter, or contact either Debi Rich or Marilyn Holland if more are needed.

Website News and Updates

Scott G Web Admin Committee

Your NTAC Website is found at www.ntaci.com. Please check it out and share your thoughts on what you would like to see included or changed. Your ideas are more than welcome and can be sent to NTACNewsletter@gmail.com.

These past few months realized some significant website changes, hopefully making the site more useful to our membership; and inviting to those who might visit or want to consider NTAC as a future residence. Many of the changes transpired as a result of COVID response and improving access to information.

We added a **Member Access** section to the website in November, primarily for improved communication of Board activities. The section can be accessed at the bottom of each NTAC website page and requires the member to login to view materials. Members having trouble logging in to this area should send an email to ntac@ntaci.com and let Jenn know so a new invitation can be sent. Please note, the invitation is only good for a short period, before a new one is required.

An added benefit of having a Member Access section is being able to post an online version of the **NTAC Directory**, one of the priorities of the 2020 Long Range Planning event. A searchable directory is now available in the **Member Access** section and is not just a reprint of the booklet, but a table of our residents with contact information, along with a community map. The directory is relatively easy to update, and while everyone enjoys the hardcopy, it is nice to have a quick reference which can always be kept current.

The **Activities Calendar** is back! As things begin to pick up and everyone starts to think about spring and getting out, it is helpful to know what is happening at NTAC. As Pat Lovelace, our new Activities Committee Chair, gets going she wants to get the word out. In addition to Rallies being back on the Terraport, we are seeing Yoga and Weight Classes, Book Club coming together, and Landscaping activities. These are all now included in the calendar. Most notably, the calendar is online and active, any time you need to check things out. Changes made are reflected when they are posted, so please keep this great tool in mind, and look to the calendar header for each month for special notes.

Social Media Links

NTAC Website

www.ntaci.com

NTAC Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/AirstreamCommunity/>

NTAC Instagram Account

<https://www.instagram.com/northtexasairstreamcommunity/>

NTAC Twitter Account

<https://twitter.com/NTAirstreamComm>

NTAC Private Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthTexasAirstreamCommunity>

Please visit our Social Media and Internet Web sites frequently for updates and please share with others!

The material published in the NTAC Newsletter is for the expressed purpose of informing and improving resident awareness. Articles may not be republished, distributed, or shared in other media or forums without the expressed permission of the Newsletter Editor or NTAC Board of Directors.

A History of the Hillsboro Courthouse

By Steve Zeringue

A little History about Hillsboro and our County Courthouse.

Many thanks to the Dell Byrd Estate for photos.

The county seat was originally called Hillsborough but the town's name was changed to Hillsboro in 1854 when the Post Office declared names ending in "borough" should be changed to "boro".

Both the county and the town of Hillsboro are named for Dr. George W. Hill, a pioneer Navarro County settler who served as a congressman and as Secretary of War for the Republic of Texas. He was a surgeon with a degree from Transylvania University. Not long after the county was established, the first courthouse, 12' X 12', was constructed of elm poles, clapboard, and dirt floors.



The current courthouse was constructed in 1890. It is the third and arguably the grandest of three similar courthouses designed by Waco architect W. C. Dodson in the last half of the 1880's. Nearby Hood and Parker counties also have W.C Dodson courthouses of the same vintage.

The current Hill County Courthouse is a three-story limestone structure of Second Empire style, but it also incorporates Classical Revival and Italianate influences. Two story high Corinthian columns, mansard roof treatment, and a wood framed three-tier 70-foot-high clock tower covered with ornate tin work are the most conspicuous details of this architectural marvel.

On New Year's Day in 1993, the Courthouse was gutted by an electrical fire. All that remained standing were the four limestone walls.



The first alarm was sounded at 6:35 pm. Hillsboro Firefighters quickly responded to find the third-floor engulfed in flames, and within minutes flames spread to the bell tower.

Fifteen Hill County fire departments, along with fire fighters from other counties, battled the flames throughout the night. Hill County citizens gathered around the square, while others watched on television as the seventy-foot bell tower collapsed in flames. The official cause of the fire was determined to be electrical.



The next morning the rim of the bell was visible through the ceiling of the first-floor hallway. Weighing 1,525 pounds, it had marked the hours for 102 years until its supports were consumed by the fire.

Talk of restoring the courthouse started before the final hot spots were extinguished. Architects with the Texas Historical Commission determined that the building was restorable and just ten days after the fire, the Hill County Historical Commission called a county-wide meeting

to organize the restoration efforts. Local fund-raising projects, including two concerts on the square by Hill County native Willie Nelson, along with grants and other funding sources contributed to the restoration. Since there were no blueprints, they looked at Granbury's 1890



courthouse, also designed by Dodson, and incorporated many details using Granbury as a template

The original bell was moved to a newly-constructed bell plaza on the courthouse lawn.

The rock used in the plaza matches that of the courthouse. It was quarried south of Abbott and first used for an 1896 building that housed a shoe clobbering business in Abbott.

Restoration took over six years and \$9 million dollars to complete. The restored building was dedicated April 24, 1999 with Texas Governor George W. Bush as the keynote speaker.

2020-2021 NTAC Book Club

Bob & Marne Kaemmerer will hold off on book club meetings through at least September.



With a little luck the club can pick up again in October, maybe meeting outside in the pavilion and/or with masks. Books missed due to restrictions from this past spring or in future months will be moved to the same month in 2021 or even 2022. Some really great books were chosen, now everyone must be flexible in scheduling discussions.

They want everyone to know ANYone can lead the book discussions, and welcome your participation. While the club used to meet in the Card Room on the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 look for updates and location in the newsletter, on the bulletin board, or on Facebook.

📖 **"Hot Springs"** by *Stephen Hunter*, Feb 4, 2021

An Earl Swagger novel. In the summer of 1946, organized crimes seemed to have overcome American justice. Nowhere is this more true than in Hot Springs, AR, the reigning capital of corruption.

📖 **"When the Men Were Gone"** by *Marjorie Herrera Lewis*, Mar 4, 2021

A debut historical novel about the inspiring true story of Tylene Wilson, a teacher in Brownwood TX who became the first female high school football coach in TX during WW II.

📖 **"The Library Book"** by *Susan Orlean*, Apr 1, 2021

On April 29, 1986 a disastrous fire broke out in the Los Angeles Public Library. It reached 2000 degrees and burned for 7 hours consuming 400,000 books and damaging 700,000 more. Was it purposefully set? Why? Who? A mesmerizing book that also tells the story of libraries and librarians.

📖 **"In Hoffa's Shadow: A Stepfather, a Disappearance in Detroit, and My Search for the Truth"** by *Jack Goldsmith*, May 6, 2021

His stepfather was a long-time associate of Jimmy Hoffa. Goldsmith explores Hoffa's rise and fall and why the golden age of blue-collar America came to an end. He unravels one of the 20th century's mysteries.

P.S. Even if you haven't read the book you're welcome to join in.

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Landscape Committee News

Steve Zeringue

The Landscape Committee has been busy during December and January. Below is a summary of the work completed.

- The inside fence area along Walnut Hill Ave was edged.
- Several areas within the park had leaves removed and chopped up. All material was placed in the compost bins.
- Five trees were planted along the north side of the Terraport. Four small donated trees were placed in pots to be planted within the park at a later date.
- Trees growing in the Avenue F pasture area were trimmed.
- Crepe Myrtles lower branches were removed along the entrance.
- All irrigation timers were removed from the Pavilion, Butterfly Garden and Mable's Park.

Compost Update

- Bin 1 is closed – compost will be ready in a month or so
- Bin 2 is open for composting material
- Bins 3 & 4 were recently closed to any additional material.
- Compost should be ready around spring time.

For all you New Members!!

If you want to be a part of the Landscape Committee please contact Steve Zeringue by email. We are always looking for volunteers.

NTAC Activities

Pat Lovelace

Mobile Phone Challenge

Every NTAC resident is invited to share and flaunt your photo artistry! Over the next few weeks we want you to submit your fondest mobile phone photos taken over the last year and through February 20, 2021.



Please send your photos to Pat Lovelace at firepal4@gmail.com and she will share them on our Group Facebook page, post a printed version on the NTAC Bulletin Board, and have them posted on the front page of our website. The winner of the challenge will be announced in the Newsletter, Social Media sites, Bulletin Board, and our website.



As of this writing Pat has nine photos submitted, which you can see on our Facebook Group page, clicking on Albums, and then **NTAC PHOTO CHALLENGE**. The talent in our community is amazing and we are looking forward to seeing some great photos!

Our plan is for prints of each photo to be posted on the hallway bulletin board. On or before February 21st every shareholder will receive a ballot in your in-house box to cast your vote for your favorite photo. If you are on the road and wish to vote, please email Pat at firepal4@gmail.com with your choice.



Thanks for your submissions!
Pat Lovelace, Activity Chair

NTAC Pool Sharks

Get those cues out and practice up; NTAC is hosting a shareholder Pool Tournament on February 5 & 6, Friday and Saturday, in the Rally Room. Those of you wanting to strut your stuff and show off your billiard skills, please sign up by emailing Pat Lovelace at firepal4@gmail.com.



In order to manage appropriate CDC protocols, only two players will be permitted to participate at a time. Access to the rally room pool table will require wearing a mask, and using hand sanitizer.

The number of "Pool Sharks" signed up will determine the timing of your progressive games. Pat will contact each player prior to the event with individual match schedule times. Any players interested should sign up prior to end of day, Thursday, February 4th.

As noted this tournament will be conducted using appropriate COVID protocols. Players will be required to wear a mask, maintain 6 foot distancing, and use sanitizer. All billiard equipment will be sanitized following each round of play.

A primary purpose of this tournament, aside from maybe some bragging rights, is to assess the condition of our billiard equipment and need for maintenance. We ask each player to provide feedback to Pat on equipment, including the table, and any recommendations you have on future use.

Once again, you may sign up for the Pool Tournament by emailing Pat at firepal4@gmail.com.

Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce

How about some Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce Happenings. Check out info on our website or at www.hillsborochamber.org. There is also a link on the NTAC website to the Chamber of Commerce along with great area attractions.

If you chair a committee and want to included information in a future newsletter to create awareness and/or solicit participation, or just thank those serving on your committee, please send a brief synopsis similar to those above to ntacnewsletter@gmail.com.



@ NTAC too??