The Reporter

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2008 ISSUE

And They're off ... Forest Hills Kids Head Back to School!



LeAnn and Rebecca Hodge, daughters of Chuck and Darla Hodge



FHNA Town Hall Meeting September 25, 7 p.m. Sanger Auditoriu

Presidential Perspective

Another Year

The beginning of a new FHNA board year is around the corner.



Bill Foerster President

I want to thank the outgoing board members, committee chairpersons and their members, block captains and those that contributed their time and effort and financial resources for a job well done.

Over the past couple of years we have been striving to put in place a system that will allow the board, committee member and volunteers to provide additional opportunities for neighbor interaction and preservation of our community. We are now evaluating the feasibility of adding new activities in line with the survey responses received earlier in the year. We will be reaching out to those with similar interests and identify those that would like to lead these activities

Our Forest Hills Neighborhood General Meeting is Thursday, September 27th at 7 pm at Sanger Elementary. New officers for the Board will be elected at this time. A slate of nominees has been put together; however, there is ample opportunity to add additional names to fill out the slate.

Please come and add your voice to the proceedings. We are looking forward to hearing how we did last year and what we can do in the future to better serve the FHNA members.

Bill

FH Town Hall Meeting — Recap

Does low turnout mean residents just don't care?

The FHNA in response to survey comments hosted a "Town Hall" meeting replacing a formerly labeled General Meeting. The idea is to allow residents a "say" in the process.

17 persons attended this Town Hall and several of them were board members reducing the number of attendees to 12. Doesn't sound like residents are interested in giving input. To the contrary. The FHNA was late in advertising the event which probably accounted for a good number of residents missing the event.

The survey, recommended and distributed by the FH Board in the early spring of this year revealed much about the concerns of FH neighbors.

Tree Preservation, McMansions changing the neighborhood, and development close to FH impacting our lifestyle. The Board felt a new approach to meetings should include a new forum. The forum being "Town Hall" where a microphone is placed and residents have up to a minute and thirty seconds to offer suggestions and provide input.

Another "Town Hall" is scheduled to take place on Sept. 25th, Thursday, at 7 pm, at Sanger Elementary. The format will be the same and FHNA board members are hoping to hear from residents.



Karen & Edwin Bruning



Brenda & Bill Dun-Lau

Accidents in FH Remedied With New STOP Sign



Residents who depart from the neighborhood via San Rafael to Garland have been privy to the sight of many accidents. The reason? Cars exiting Highland on Creek neighborhood were not made to stop before turning on to San Rafael. And likewise for cars on San Rafael heading to Garland. The DPD noted the number of accidents and Judy Whalen, FHNA board member and Crime Chair, petitioned to have the STOP sign put in place.

To date, it's working beautifully. If you are aware of problematic areas within FH let the FHNA know. Contact FHNA President Bill Foerster at bill.foersterfbillc.com.

Save Ross Avenue — FH Neighbors Get Involved

Apparently, FH residents have passion when it comes to Ross Avenue. A recent petition made it way on several doorsteps and over 50% of those who received it in FH, signed it indicating they were against renaming Ross Avenue to Cesar Chavez Avenue. Most felt the action unnecessary.

Given the interest, we are alerting you to the website so you may weigh in on this matter: http://www.thepetitionsite.com/!/save-ross-avenue.

Neighborhood Gateway Gets New Signage



Four beautification projects are underway to enhance FH. The doors to our community allowing access to Garland Road are on the radar. Currently, there are no real markers identifying the neighborhood of Forest Hills. The FHNA board approved metal signage to be placed the existing

Breezewood brick monument. The metal verbiage simply spells "Forest Hills."

The upside is the enhancement of our community. The downside, concerns the neighborhood will be noticed more than we'd like (crime).

In either event, the pros outweigh the cons and plans are underway to have the signage in place by late fall.

Sign toppers (Forest Hills), new trees, and an upgrade for our only interior park are on the table for completion.

THE 12TH ANNUAL LONG RUN

The 12th annual Long Run, a 1 mile Fun Run/Walk and certified, chip-timed 5K race will take place on Thursday, October 9th, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. The race starts at J. L. Long Middle School (6116 Reiger Ave.) and winds through the lovely trees and hills of Hollywood Heights neighborhood. Early registration available at RunOn!, on Mockingbird Lane or at www.runontexas.com. Race day registration is available at 5:00 p.m. at J. L. Long Middle School. After race activities, including food, drinks and awards take place on the front lawn of the school.

Race Fees:

14-under: \$15 15-up: \$20 Family Pack (5+): \$70

Join us for this fun evening! Thank you for supporting the Long Run tradition.

Shark Shooter, Sergeant Rod Dillon





Sgt Rod Dillon, our lead officer with the Forest Hills Security Program began diving in 2003 and was PADI certified Advanced Open Water in 2004.

From the beginning he dove head first into underwater photography taking a camera on every trip and continuing to upgrade his camera equipment as he advanced in his diving.

This past April he attended PADI's Total Submersion Event at Sunset House in Grand Cayman, where he became a PADI certified Underwater Photographer. During the week long event he made a big splash by taking second place in each of the two categories of competition for underwater photography!

The smiling shark shots are from his recent trip to New Providence, Bahamas where he dove with Stuart Cove's dive operation. Next up are dive days in Bonaire and Dominica in November. His 50 logged dives have taken him to the depths in Jamaica, St. Thomas, St. John, British Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Ft. Lauderdale, Grand Cayman, Cozumel, and Aruba. Here in Dallas, he is a member of the Dallas Police Department's newly formed Underwater Recovery Team.

Don't Hesitate — Call 911!

"Our neighbor had a break-in Saturday, August 23 around 2 pm. Earlier, my wife and I saw 3 men on the block that we did not recognize as a neighbor. Within 15 minutes, our neighbor's alarm went off and I witnessed those same 3 men running from the address. Police were able to apprehend one of the suspects. (The suspect was taken to the original offense location to be positively identified and then taken to Lew Sterrett Jail.)

As I spoke to the officers, I asked if I should have called 911 when I noticed the men earlier on the street. The response was a resounding "yes." The officer's instructions were clear:

Call 911 immediately when a suspicious individual is in the neighborhood. Always report with "suspicious individual" or "prowler." The 911 center will dispatch a squad car immediately if those two descriptives are used."

Forest Hills Resident, Tom Mullins

Recycling News

http://www.thinkgreenfromhome.com/Products.cfm

This website, part of Waste Management, Inc., sells recycling kits for dry cell batteries and fluorescent bulbs at very reasonable prices. These are mailing packages so that you can collect and mail them in batches for recycling. Other options — Home Depot has just announced that their stores will be accepting expired, unbroken CFL bulbs for recycling. Just take them to the Returns desk. Also, our Radio Shack store in Lakewood will take old batteries.



SECURITY PAGE



THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

— by Judy Whalen

CRIME STOPPERS — Remove Tell-Tale Signs!

What does this photo say? That the resident has been away for a while or that the resident is just not interested in reading the paper this week?

To a burglar it says your home is an opportunity. Of course there are other things they look for, but this is an easy one for you to eliminate from their checklist. Have a neighbor pick up those newspapers and remove door advertising while you are gone. Better yet, cancel the newspaper and stop your mail when you are gone for a long period.

If the pile of newspapers is just forgetfulness, try to remember when leaving in the morning to pick that paper up and throw it in the car on the way down the driveway.

Hide Take Lock even in your own driveway! At night we have pickers who are looking for unlocked cars. They don't consider it a crime if you leave the door open for them! They take anything loose and in plain sight, your toll tag or car stereo. Next it will be gas . . . be sure your tank lid is locked!

Also hide, take and lock in parking lots, while watching your child's sporting event or taking them into their schools. Yes, even in the church parking lot!

Don't just give away what you've worked hard for!

Here is an incident that happened to my friend at a Highland Park Starbucks.

She drove into the shopping area near SMU and pulled up in front of the Starbucks. She decided not to lug in her purse, instead locked the door and just carried her Starbucks card.

The coffee shop was not too busy, so she quickly ordered her special drink and was back to her car in short order, only to see the window smashed and her purse taken. She looked down the sidewalk and saw a security guard talking to a police officer and waved them down. Like her, they were there the whole time within a short distance!

Here is the M.O. Patron pulls in a parking slot and gets out. Another vehicle with a large profile vehicle like a suburban pulls in beside them. The occupant gets out opening their front door and they or a partner immediately open the back door, providing a private workspace. Without anyone seeing and within seconds they use the little tool device to break car windows (the one you should have inside a car or on your key ring to break a window in case of a trapped emergency) grab the purse, the laptop or the briefcase and are out of there with your credit to buy for at least an hour, money for the day and your identity for a lifetime!

There have been a rash of car grab and runs all over Dallas and there will be more with the vulnerable economy plus the early release of Dallas jail prisoners again this year. So hang onto your money AND your identity.

THINK! HIDE! TAKE! I OCK!

THIRD QUARTER SECURITY PLEDGE

Did you remember your third quarter pledge to the Forest Hills Security Program?

We have built a great wall of defense here in Forest Hills with the off-duty police patrols; also with your awareness and your helping the police help us. Forest Hills statistics are at a low this summer mainly because of the patrol increase to 9 a week. All around us the crime rate is high. FHSP needs your continued support in keeping up this guard.

Thanks to all of you who make this program possible for our whole neighborhood!

THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM RESIDENT FUNDED OFF-DUTY DALLAS POLICE PATROL

PLEDGE TO SAFETY - \$60 Per Quarter • Third Quarter (July, August, September)

If you prefer, you may pay in advance \$120 \$180 or \$240 for 2, 3 or 4 quarters.

Please send or set up automatic bank payments to:

Forest Hills Security Program, 8432 San Fernando Way, Dallas, TX 75218

Compliments, Concerns or Payment Inquiry: Judy Whalen, 214 324-9894 or fhspenp@aol.com



















PAWS

Dog Runs!

Animal Alert! is having trouble finding Foster Homes — be it for a few hours, a few days to a few weeks. Many want to help but due to their yard and/or pets, just cannot. Often we need a "holding place" for just a few hours until we can get home from work to figure things out. From time to time we have been forced to leave a pet at one of the neighborhood vets. While it helped with the immediate problem, there is the problem of cost in doing this.

We have come up with the idea of purchasing some dog runs in which the pet can be placed for however long we need until we can either find the owner or a better solution. As of now we have two of them and it is working wonderfully! We could easily use at least 4 more. We are getting good deals on Craig's List and saving as much money as possible. It is a win-win!

How You Can Help:

- 1. **DONATE:** Any amount is greatly appreicated!
- 2. **PLACEMENT:** Do you have a location in your yard we can place a dog run and have access to during the day? With a little muscle these dog runs can be moved from one person's yard to another. So, if you can offer your yard for a period of time, say 2 or 3 months, then we can move it to a new location if need be. We do not want to wear out our welcome.
- 3. **TRANSPORTATION:** Do you have access to a truck and can help us go pick them up when we find one for sale? Or if they need to be moved for one reason or another?
- 4. **HAVE AN OLD DOG RUN?** Let us use it! Either at your location or if moveable, we can find another location if need be.

Remember . . . the pet we are working to keep safe could be yours. Your help in any of the above areas would be greatly appreciated.

To discuss what you can do to help or donate, please call Andie Comini (214) 328-0508 and she will be glad to visit with you or come by and pick up your donation. Please be sure to mark the payment for ANIMAL ALERT! DOG RUNS.

Animal Alert! Need for Volunteers and Donations!

Good News!

We are excited to announce that The Forest Hills Animal Alert! program has joined forces with the Little Forest Hills Animal Alert! program. By doing this we can speed up getting the information out, work with more volunteers, save money, etc.

As with any program — volunteers are needed! Can you donate a day? A few days? A week?

We do our best not to wear out our volunteers so volunteering with us is not a "life sentence." But only as long as you have the time to donate. The "cell phone office" can be handed off from one volunteer to another — be it for a day or longer. Thus, making it easy for people to volunteer but not be "stuck" for a long time with it.

The "cell phone office" is easy! The volunteer can go about his/her daily activities — just be sure to carry the cell phone with you.

Your responsibilities:

- 1. To answer the cell phone and take down information about any lost or found pet.
- 2. The volunteer will be keeping two notebooks filled with completed neighborhood registration forms. (Is yours in yet for each of your pets?) The volunteer will quickly check the notebooks for both Little and Big Forest Hills to see if the pet belongs to anyone here. Hopefully there is a registration form on the pet and we can reconnect the pet with its parents quickly.
- 3. If not, the volunteer will get an email ready to send out with a description/picture of the lost or found pet. This email will then be sent a copy of key people so they can quickly post it to other contact people and neighborhoods. It will also then be sent to our two web pages for any one that might be looking there for a lost pet.

















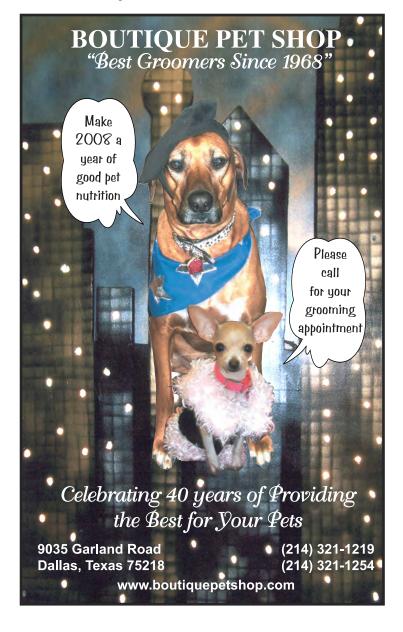
CONTACTS FOR THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM



Aurora, the Beagle FHNA Rescue Dog

Baby wolf with broken leg, under the care of East Lake Veterinarian Clinic





Animal Alert! Program

Steps to take when you lose or find a pet!

- 1. First of all be SURE all your pets are wearing a collar with up-to-date tags. It is BEST to also have your pet microchipped. Sadly most of the pets we find have no collar or chip, making it very difficult to return the pet to its home. About 2 in 10 pets we work with has any kind of identification/information and often it is out of date. Please take a minute to be SURE your pet is well identified. His/her life could depend on this. Our volunteers do the best they can to keep your pet safe and returned home ASAP. Help us help you!
- 2. Secondly be SURE Animal Alert! has a form filled out on each of your pets along with a photo if possible. You can call Andie Comini (214) 328-0508 and she will drop off a form to your home or go to our web www.ForestHillsDallas.org and download one from there.
- 3. When you lose or find a pet call immediately (214) 930-5910, the contact number for Animal Alert! A volunteer will ask you a series of questions as she/he fills out a form on the animal. We will do our best to guide you through any questions or problems you may have. Please remember we are all volunteers and do the best we can as fast we can.
- 4. If you have lost a pet: Please have Emergency Information on your pet ready in case you should need it. Time is important when your pet goes missing and having this ready to go will help speed things up. Have a good current photo of your pet which shows the pets color, size and any unusual markings if possible. You should have a description of your pet already written out. We have found that when a pet goes missing so does the owners brain cells. They go blank on pulling the necessary information together. So, do it NOW while you can think clearly and are not pressed for time. Your pet will thank you for this if they should every go missing. You can help by visiting nearby vets, groomers, pet stores, etc., to see if they have your pet, know who might or will put up a flyer for you. Be sure to check the area shelters in person for your pet. Vaccination records will be needed to prove ownership of the pet if it is there.

The Road to Recovery

Road to Recovery is a service offered by American Cancer Society in which volunteer drivers provide cancer patients transportation to and from life saving treatments. Our patients are usually seniors who no longer drive or are unable to drive during the course of treatment. Radiation treatments are daily for five to six weeks. Even with family nearby they are not able to take time from work for a prolonged period.

I have been a volunteer for twelve years starting shortly after my husband, George, was treated for cancer in 1994. I have been the area coordinator for ten years. I make the phone calls to the volunteers and schedule the rides as well as driving. When I started I had over a dozen drivers. I am now working with only five. I turn down one or two requests per week for rides because I do not have enough volunteers. It is the easiest volunteer work you will ever do. The time commitment is minimal and the schedule is very flexible. It is a very rewarding experience and the patients are very appreciative. The appointment times are always weekdays usually lasting no more than thirty minutes.

Most of you have been touched by cancer within your extended family and you know how stressful the treatment process can be. You can make a difference in the lives of those struggling to overcome this dreaded disease.

If you would like to help, or would like more information, contact me at 214-327-1640 or <u>geodebknight@swbell.net</u>. You may also contact American Cancer Society at 214-819-1250.

— Debbie Knight

Welcome July and August Newcomers!

Tina Humrichhouse on San Fernando • Bert and Cindy Headden on San Benito Jonathan and Judy Weinstein on Groveland • Tim and Robin Newberg on Groveland Chuck and Annette Anderson on Santa Clara • Jim and Joyce Stempak on Santa Clara David and Leslie Herrman on Santa Clara • Michael and Bethany Stephens on San Leandro Margaret Tyrrell on Whittier

We apologize if we have overlooked anyone. Newcomers can be missed when move-in is delayed because of remodeling or when a home is purchased from a builder or previous owner as most of our information comes from Real Estate MLS listings.

For any over sights, please contact Judy Whalen 214-324-9894 jwreps@earthlink.net with addresses and/or names so we can give our new neighbors a Woodsy Welcome and a Guide Book to Forest Hills!

Dinosaurs in the Hood!

An unsuspecting walker strolling down Whittier could be scared out their wits.

As you round the only corner on Whittier a large Dinosaur lurks in the brush. And this Dino ain't tiny. He's huge. Life-size one would say. To boot, he sports clothing. How un-Jurassic park!

Homeowner Andie Comini is nothing, if not the most eccentric resident of FH. Her sense of humor is one of her best attributes.

Deno the Dino seems right home and loves kids. He welcomes the papparazzi and doesn't mind little humans checking him out. There's even an offer on the table. If you would like to see him in some type of get-up, feel free to drop the clothing by and Andie will dress him up.

How very generous of Andie!





Jarden Colub Mews



by Lottie Minick

The first meeting of the year was held at the home of Barbara Michaels. Mary Deighton, Jane Hulsey, Barbara Clay, Kathy Glenn, Abbie Strava, Katrina Moran, and Lottie Minnick attended.

After a short business meeting Barb discussed herb gardening — members were able to learn about thirty different varieties of herbs growing in Barb's back yard. We will be attending the State Fair in October to view the garden exhibits and view the sculpture garden envisioned and executed by our own member and neighborhood resident — Lottie Minnick. Call Barb Michaels (214-327-3817) if you would like to join our group. Be sure and check the neighborhood website for dates and times for meetings for the coming year — September 2008 — June 2009!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Newsletter Editor

Dear Editor:

I have a question about how to get the streets in Forest Hills, and particularly my street, San Leandro swept up. With the ongoing construction by the city and normal falling tree debris, it's a mess. Does the City take care of this if we call?



I also looked at several of our other streets and they need it as well. Who do we call?

—Concerned Neighbor

Neoma Twining Editor's response: You're not the first resident to raise this concern, and I agree. The

streets are messy. Typically, for a concern such as this, you would dial 311 and put in a service request. Unfortunately, the city got out of the business of street sweeping in private residential areas 4 years ago. The reason? Budget cuts and staffing issues.

This leave the burden of cleaning the street on residents. Perhaps sending a message down your block would encourage neighbors to tend to the street area in front of their home and this would improve the overall look of the street.



COMING EVENT!

Fall Festival of Forest Hills October 26th • 4-6 pm.

More information to come! www.foresthillsdallas.org.

Sanger News

FH kids are heading to schools all over the place, and our homegrown neighbor Sanger isn't missing out on the action. Several FH students are privy to a fun experience as they enter the DISD school for the first time.

FH families are constantly recruiting and educating other residents about the "Sanger Experience."

For more information on how to enroll your student at Sanger, call 972-749-7600. The school offers plenty in the way of extra curricular programs and special needs learning programs.

Yard of the Month

Yard of the month for September goes to Cindy and Jay Johnson who live at 8523 Forest Hills Blvd. They moved in two years ago and have done a fantastic job of landscaping. Be sure to drive by and take a

North Haven Gardens mails a \$25.00 gift certificate to the homeowner.





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Forest Hills Children's Networ

The Children's Network is thriving once again. To join and meet like minded families with children, please use information below to make a connection:

> Megan Beakley 214-324-5015 meganb@roundtabledg.com

Meghan Bakota 469-77-7486 meghandallas@hotmail.com

Special Community Meeting

Third of four community meetings to be held on Sept. 17 at the Dallas Arboretum.

WHAT: The public is invited to a Special

> Community Meeting to focus on the Dallas Arboretum and the Dallas Museum of Art's upcoming exhibit, Tutankhamun and the Golden Age

of the Pharaohs.

WHO: Dallas Mayor, Tom Leppert

> **Dallas City Council Members** City Manager, Mary K. Suhm President and CEO Dallas Arboretum, Mary Brinegar

WHEN: Wednesday, Sept. 17, 2008 6:30 PM

WHERE: Dallas Arboretum's Rosine Hall, 8525 Garland Road, Dallas 75218

NOTES: The first Special Community Meeting was held on Feb. 20 at Dallas Executive Airport and focused on economic development issues in Southern Dallas. The second Special Community Meeting was held on May 7 on the campus of Richland College and focused on the City of Dallas' and Richland Colleges environmental, sustainability and 'green' efforts. The next meeting will be held on Nov. 19 in West Dallas.



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DEPRESSED REAL ESTATE MARKET??? Check out my sales in the last twelve months . . .



8536 Capri, Dallas 3883 Turtle Creek #1516, Dallas 6335 W. Northwest Hwy. #1517, Dallas 8910 Angora, Dallas 8606 Liberty, Rowlett 5090 Matilda #113, Dallas 1307 Tanglewood, Euless



8123 San Leandro, Dallas 9335 Mercer, Dallas 1171 Lorlee, Dallas 2503 Briarfield, Richardson 5008 Victor, Dallas 5135 Vanderbilt



After being under contract for 4 months, buyer was not able to obtain financing, so it is available again at \$2,499,000 for just over 2 acres of lake views!

In this real estate market, you need someone that will really work hard for your business. In the last twelve months, I have closed thirteen properties and have two pending! Call me and let me tell you what I can do for you.



I PROMISE, NO ONE WILL WORK HARDER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Vicki Shelton White, REALTOR 972.380.7635 Message Center 214.534.1305 Cell www.Ellenterry.com/agent/vickiwhite



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State Senator John Carona





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