



Forest Hills

Got Questions?
Get Answers!
Visit

www.foresthillsdallas.org

The Reporter

APRIL-MAY 2008 ISSUE

Saving Belle Nora

Rumors of a developer planning to purchase the historical landmark named "Belle Nora" brought passionate preservationists out of the woodwork.

The legendary manse, built in 1928, is perched on 2.066 acres of prime Forest Hills real estate. A constant in the landscape is a "for sale" sign noticeable to all who travel Garland road. Four years came and went, still no takers. The asking price, a little over \$4 million.



The owner, Dr. Jesus Guevara is maintaining the luxe property while grieving the loss of his beloved wife, Joan Simpson. She died of cancer years ago. The beautiful home remains largely untouched. The love story between Dr. Guevara and his wife is the kind of stuff Hollywood movies are made from.

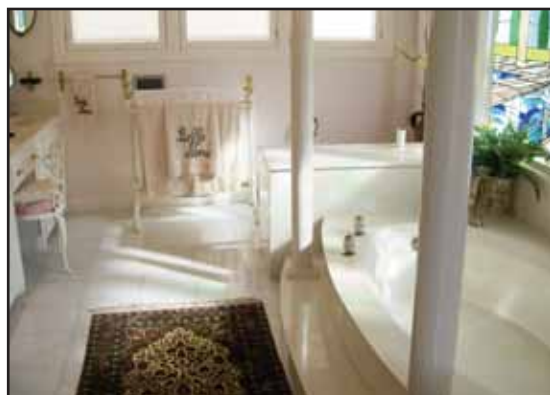
A stagnate real estate market brought a new price tag for the FH mansion and new interest. The land occupied by "the big house" is valued at \$1 million dollars an acre. Creative realtor Vicki White grabbed the reins and a new energy began to emerge. The asking price dropped to 2.7 million. A far cry from the original asking price of \$4.4 million. This made the landmark manse even more attractive.

In the works today is a contract from a family interested in keeping the property intact. A movement by the Forest Hills Board is also in progress to preserve the precious landmark. You can hear a collective sigh of relief echoing throughout the neighborhood. Had push come to shove, the residents of Forest Hills would have stopped at nothing to preserve this icon.

See Page

2 for more photos

Look What's Inside the Big House...



Contaminated White Rock? A Little Too Close For Comfort

As a scientist with former training in aquatic microbiology and a resident of the Forest Hills neighborhood, I read your article in the Lakewood neighborhood paper on the 14 year lapse in White Rock lake water testing by the TCEQ last Saturday with considerable interest.

About 1 year ago, as a student's science project, we assessed contamination from sewage effluent in the lake. Our assay was designed to detect and quantitate total and fecal coliform levels, from samples taken from 6 shore locations. The results were startling. Our detection system was almost overwhelmed by the level of contamination from human waste. Clearly, White Rock creek had raw untreated or only partially treated sewage draining into it in large amounts and this is being carried into the lake.

Where there are coliforms, there are almost always enteric virus. Enteric viruses are capable of causing epidemics such as hepatitis or dysentery. Toxic pollutants may also be present, in which case they may actually have repressed the level of micro-organisms from sewage we were able to detect. I have also read that there are high levels of parasitic pathogens during the warm summer months. Animals (e.g., birds) made sick by such pathogens may serve as better vectors for insect borne pathogens such as West Nile virus.

The condition of the lake with regard to water quality is abysmal. I am unclear as to how fishing and water sports (e.g., children's sailing classes) are not hazardous to public safety. That pollution levels of such a high use lake are ignored by our city and state is a travesty. It is grossly negligent to not test for water quality. If potentially pathogenic and toxic pollution levels are high, as they were when we tested it, the public should be given clear warning of the hazards of coming in contact with the water and wind-borne potential pathogens blown out of it (i.e., people using the lake path, surrounding park, residents, arboretum visitors).

Contaminant levels should be documented and sources of pollution in the lake and upstream should be identified now. The city should halt the flow of any untreated sewage immediately. Violators should be aggressively prosecuted until the lake is clean.

Sewage treatment is an essential aspect of public health and one that requires substantial attention and planning. It is particularly important where water resources are limited and the population is growing. Proper sewage treatment produces clean drinkable water at an affordable cost. Capacity and plant modernization are usually the problems. Sewage treatment plants may need to be expanded or new plants using standard modern biotic reclamation methods may need to be added. Sludge must also be dealt with. Improper sewage treatment is unacceptable and Dallas should be ashamed of the quality of water that now exists in White Rock Lake. The watershed should be properly managed so that the health of our children, pets, and population are not endangered. What an incredible resource a clean healthy White Rock Lake would be for our city.

I encourage you to pursue this issue. Look into our city's water treatment system. Locate the treatment plants on a map. Visit the ones located in areas that drain into White Rock Creek. Speak to the chief operator. In my experience they are usually helpful and are trying to do their best with what they have. Ask if they have sufficient capacity. Ask if they are aware of any residences or industries that are not having their sewage treated. Ask if outflow meets the parts per million (PPM) state and federal standards (ask them to state those standards), and when they were last tested and certified. Ask to be shown where you could take a sample of their outflow. Contact the certifying agency and follow that line up the chain of command until you get some answers regarding who makes the decisions on water testing frequency and treatment resources. Ask how they respond to problems once identified. Find which state government committee oversees public water. Send them test results and photos of the pipes that stick out of the banks and remnants of toilet paper all along White Rock Creek (I saw tons at Moss Park Saturday, some washed almost onto the soccer fields by the flooding). Speak to the donors of the arboretum and ask if they know the dangers the contamination is causing to their garden. Perhaps these influential people might know others that you could talk to that can make proactive decisions. If you can document any cases where people visited the lake or came in contact with the water and then got sick, it will be important. If you want to test some water yourself, I can show you how and help you to do it. I may have images of the bacterial colonies we grew from the lake water. Investigate this issue. Find some more smoking guns. See if you can write up another major report that will prompt action. You are doing our community, our children, and our city an invaluable service and I thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

James Bibb • (214) 320-9918 • E-mail: james.bibb@utsouthwestern.edu



FIGHT WEST NILE NATURALLY

OK, mosquitos . . . prepare to be repelled!!!!

Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets . . . best thing ever used in Louisiana . . . just wipe on and go. Great for babies.

Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day April through October. He said it works. He was right. Hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it. Everyone he has talked into trying it works on them. Vitamin B-1 (Thiamine Hydrochloride 100 mg.)

If you eat bananas, the mosquitos like you — something about the banana oil as your body processes it. Stop eating bananas for the summer and the mosquitos will be much less interested.

This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vaporub.

Plant marigolds around the yard. The flowers give off a smell that bugs do not like, so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using insecticides.

"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellent you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

One of the best natural insect repellents that I've discovered is made from the clear real vanilla. This is the pure Vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It works great for mosquitoes and ticks, don't know about other insects.

When all else fails — get a frog.

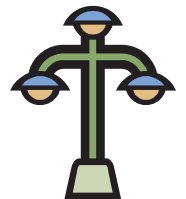
Fight West Nile. Pass this along to all your friends in skeeter land!!!

Crime Lights . . . Are They Necessary?

Local neighborhood associations aren't happy. The reason?

If you haven't noticed, the Parks Department is in the process of installing "orange" crime lights around the lake. The entire plan calls for 100 + crime lights when the project is complete. These lights generate what is called "high-lighting".. Translation . . . they are really bright.

Neighborhood associations of Lakewood, Little Forest Hills, and Peninsula are miffed at having not been consulted before installation took place. The issue was brought to the attention of the FHNA only days ago. The concerns outlined focus on whether or not this measure was really necessary. The claims state there is simply no justification for installing these crime lights. Not for safety, or security. Bicyclists are required by law to have lights. Pedestrians can carry flashlights. You have heard of noise pollution. According to some, this is creating "light pollution."



FHNA Board News

The next scheduled FHNA Board meeting will take place on Monday, May 12th at 7pm at 8210 Garland Road. This month's agenda will focus on several neighborhood issues. 1) White Rock Lake crime lights and the recent contamination report. 2) Problem of 18 wheelers on Garland Road in cooperation with the City Traffic Dept. 3) The reforestation of Forest Hills in cooperation with the City Parks Dept.



St. Bernard defeats St. Bernard

It doesn't happen very often, but last Saturday, March 29, 2008, St Bernard defeated St Bernard. The winning team was helped to victory by players and coaches from Forest Hills.

OK, there are two teams from neighborhood school St Bernard of Clairvaux, playing in the same division of the same league, the JV division of the Spring Valley Athletic Association's girls volleyball league. The JV division is normally for seventh graders, and St Bernard's seventh grade girls do make up one of the teams.

But the St Bernard sixth grade girls are competing this spring in the same division. Last year, as fifth graders, these same girls dominated both of the leagues they played in, so this year, Forest Hills resident and team coach K.C. Sinnott and assistant coach, Sioux Sinnott (K.C.'s mom), decided that the girls would benefit from a challenge, so they entered the sixth graders in the seventh grade division.

The sixth grade girls were helped to victory by two Forest Hills residents, Catherine Porter and Sinclair Corker. It helped that the seventh grade team was missing a player. But as the pros say, a win is a win.

And the sixth graders were missing a player, too, at least on the court: Silver Sinnott, who broke her wrists on Easter in a fall at home. Silver was there to cheer her friends on.



Forest Hills resident Silver Sinnott could not play with two broken wrists but she did want to join her friends in celebrating after the victory.



Forest Hills residents: Catherine Porter (hitting ball) and Sinclair Corker, along with coaches Sioux and K.C. Sinnott.

Photos by William Porter

Forest Hills Neighborhood Association Memorial Day Parade



Saturday, May 24th, 2008

Parade 10 a.m. – 11 a.m.

Join Our Neighborhood
BBQ / Music 11:30 – 1:00
\$5 - \$20 contributions

Register forms at www.foresthillsdallas.org

Parade Registration &
Event Sponsorship Opportunities





PAWS

Vulture's in the Hood?

— by Mari Anne Mourer

Two days ago, coming home from school, turning from Lakeland onto Santa Clara, there was a huge Turkey Vulture eating a dead squirrel in the middle of the road. In my almost 20 years in FH never have I seen a Turkey vulture. And as you may know, I am somewhat of bird person. Turkey vultures are almost exclusively found flying the open spaces of pastures, etc. So, by killing off our tree canopy we have now changed the eco system and what dynamics that follow? We always have had the hawks and the owls, the parrots and the other migratory birds, but this is a new phenomena. What else can happen?

Love Your Pet Longer . . .

Dental health is key to pet longevity.

Help your pet live longer, call today for:

- A complimentary dental examination
- A complimentary home dental care kit
- 10% off dental cleaning

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FACTS TO KNOW:

- Dental disease can lead to bacterial infection that can result in kidney failure, heart failure, liver and/or lung disease.
- All **East Lake Vet** dental procedures include full dental radiographs and monitoring by a doctor and two nurses.
- No other medical procedure does more to improve your pets' health than regular dental cleanings.
- 80% of pets develop gingivitis (gum tissue disease) by the age of three.
- Dental disease is painful to your pet.
- Health benefits of eliminating bacteria and disease in the mouth generally outweigh concerns about anesthesia and concerns related to the age of a pet.

A key to pet longevity is dental health. Ensuring that your pet is in the best possible health includes an annual dental examination. Each of our veterinarians is a member of the American Veterinary Dental Society and has advanced training in dentistry. Our doctors can thoroughly evaluate your pet for harmful dental problems.

If you have a dog...

PLEASE read this and send it on. If you don't have a dog, please pass along to friends who do.

*Written by: Laurinda Morris, DVM
Danville Veterinary Clinic, Danville, Ohio*

This week I had the first case in history of raisin toxicity ever seen at MedVet. My patient was a 56-pound, 5 yr old male neutered lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 PM on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1 a.m. on Wednesday but the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7 a.m.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute Renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject. We had her bring the dog in immediately. In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me — had heard something about it, but . . . anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give IV fluids at 1½ times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours.

The dog's BUN (blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal less than 27) and creatinine over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Rechecked the renal values at 5 p.m. and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At that point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values have continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on 3 different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize.

This is a very sad case — great dog, great owners who had no idea raisins could be a toxin. Please alert everyone you know who has a dog of this very serious risk.

Poison control said as few as 7 raisins or grapes could be toxic. Many people I know give their dogs grapes or raisins as treats, including our ex-handler's. Any exposure should give rise to immediate concern. Even if you don't have a dog, you might have friends who do. This is worth passing on to them.

CONTACTS FOR THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM

To report a Lost or Found Animal **Betty Guerra @ (214) 621-7086**
 **Pat Cage @ (214) 460-1269**
 Animal Control **Call 311**



Dangerous Dogs

– Yolanda Eisenstein



Have you ever heard the term “dangerous dog” and wondered exactly what it meant? Dangerous dogs are governed by Texas state law and local ordinances, which often vary from city to city.

In Dallas, the Dallas City Code, Chapter 7 Animals, Section 7-5.1 is where the dangerous dog ordinance is found. Dallas has also incorporated the definition of dangerous dog found in section 822.041 of the Texas Health and Safety Code. In general, a dangerous dog is a dog that has committed an unprovoked attack that causes bodily injury to a person. The attack must take place in an area other than where the dog is enclosed. The Dallas City Code also defines what it considers to be an “unprovoked attack.”

Once a report is made, Dallas Animal Services investigates the incident, takes statements from witnesses, and makes a determination. If they consider the dog dangerous, a court hearing is held within 10 days to make a legal determination as to whether the dog should be designated dangerous. The owner may appeal an adverse decision. If the appeal fails there are a number of requirements placed on the owner to regulate the dog in order to protect the public. For example, the dog must be registered with Animal Control. If another incident occurs, animal control knows the dog’s history. The owner is also required to obtain liability insurance. If the owner fails to comply with the regulations, the dog is impounded and may even be euthanized under certain circumstances.

Dog attacks on dogs fall under a different set of rules. If your neighbor’s dog escapes from her enclosure and attacks your dog, state law designates a possible fine if your neighbor knew the dog was “accustomed to” killing domestic animals and he or she allowed the dog to run at large. If the dog is on your property you may also impound the dog and turn him over to Animal Services or the owner, who is responsible for any damages to your property. Under the Dallas City Code, your neighbor is subject to a fine because the dog was not “restrained” as required under Section 7-3.1.

While there is no way to replace our companion animals, your neighbor may be civilly liable for the harm or death of your dog, and your attorney would advise you on your legal options. Legally, your animals are considered property, although they are much more than mere property to most of us.

This article presents only a brief overview of these ordinances, and I urge you to read the ordinances and laws in order to know and understand the rules that affect you and your pet. The ordinances along with other city information on animal services can be found at http://www.dallascityhall.com/code_compliance/Animal_Services.html. Most of the state’s animal laws are in the Texas Health and Safety Code, Title 10, Chapters 821 through 828. Cruelty laws are in Section 42.09, 42.092 and 42.10 of the Penal Code.

Yolanda Eisenstein has an animal law practice in Dallas. Visit her website at www.AnimalLawOffice.com.

Sneaky Snake



Seems a sheep farmer was puzzled about the disappearance of some sheep on his farm. After a few weeks the farmer decided to put up an electric fence. About a week later, this is what he found!

Now, I know we've all heard of people being eaten by snakes and I

bet most of us have said, “If a snake tried to eat me, I’d blah, blah, blah and get away.”

Well, this is a Python and they’re extremely aggressive and have a few teeth that they use to hold their prey while they wrap around them and then constrict. Could you get away if this one bit you and held on with its ‘few teeth?’



(Note: The wires are 10 inches apart.)



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SECURITY PAGE



THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

— by Judy Whalen



Sergeant Dillon & Jo Kirksey

IT'S A RECORD!

Exciting news! Because of the block captains' efforts we have increased the number of pledges the first quarter 2008 (Jan., Feb., March). The highest amount of participants ever! That means we can add one more 4-hour patrol, weekly. Our goal is to have an even higher number of residents participating, which will mean more hours of protection with less and less crime. Thanks to all of you who have pledged! You are making a huge difference in the well being of Forest Hills!

CREDIT DUE

Forest Hills Security Program board members, Jo Kirksey and Mari Anne Mourer have been unrecognized far too long.

Jo Kirksey, the Treasurer of FHSP, was instrumental in the program's formation. All of us have profited from her volunteer investment. She is the one who receives quarterly pledges, tracks data and issues payments to the officers to maintain the security watch over our neighborhood. Sum total — we owe her so much!

Mari Anne Mourer is a keeper of different books, the officer logbooks, which give us a diary of daily crime activities and trends. In turn they provide the officers with important messages and neighborhood needs. She also maintains the central pipeline fhspenp@aol.com and your house check requests. All of this communication and awareness prevent crime. It's time we communicate our appreciation to her!



Mari Anne Mourer

EASY WAY

An easy way to remember your pledge each quarter is to have your bank make automatic quarterly payments for you in January, April, July and October. Email inquiries about your participation in the program fhspenp@aol.com.

IT IS TIME TO PLEDGE SECOND QUARTER

(APRIL, MAY, JUNE)

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



PLEDGE TO SAFETY — \$60 Per Quarter

FIRST QUARTER (January, February, March) SECOND QUARTER (April, May, June)

THIRD QUARTER (July, August, September) FOURTH QUARTER (October, November, December)

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

Please send or have your bank arrange an automatic payment to:

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

Your pledge is essential to the maintenance and continuation of this successful program.

Thank you for supporting the Forest Hills Security Program!

Compliments, Concerns or Payment Inquiry: fhspenp@aol.com

Please include this information with your payment:

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____



Garden Club News



We canceled the March meeting because of a late season snowstorm. Mary Ehrenberger hosted the event two weeks later and all in attendance had a great time. Mary raises chickens and has a fabulous vegetable garden ready to be planted. Out topic for the evening was vegetable gardening. She also made grilled swordfish quesadillas and chantilly crepes — her State Fair award winning recipes! Delicious! And we had a visitor at 9 pm — a racoon!

Jane Hulsey will be hosting the April 3rd meeting and in May we will be visiting the garden of landscape designer Robert Bellamy. Kelly Miller will be hosting the June evening meeting. We will resume meetings in September. Call Barb Michaels — 214-327-3817 if you are interested in joining.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Neoma Twining
Newsletter Editor

Dear Editor: This past Sunday (April 20) my husband and I were driving through our beautiful neighborhood with our two small girls in the car. We came upon a woman walking her two dogs and carrying her poop bag. (What a wonderful sight to see someone being a good neighbor and picking up her dog's waste). We pointed out the dogs to our two girls — who squealed with delight. Just then, the woman threw her poop bag down into the storm sewer! I was shocked. Do our neighbors not realize that the storm sewers empty into our neighborhood creeks and streams? At that point I would have preferred her to have just left the dog waste in the grass.



— *Jana Manders*

Editor's response: Jana, thank you for your letter. I, too, am disappointed by this act by our responsible neighbor who sees fit to pick up after her pet, but made a very poor decision in where she discarded it.

You are correct, the storm sewers are not the place. We want to discourage this from happening in Forest Hills. Many neighbors who walk their pets, and use the plastic pick up bags, place them in garbage containers along their walking route. I hope that in publishing your letter, it will grab the attention of neighbors, and perhaps, one neighbor in particular!

Thank you for sharing.

— *Neoma Twining*



Sanger Elementary News

There will be a volunteer appreciation party on May 22 for those who gave their time to help Sanger and its students. FYI, a new library has opened in our area. It is at 11221 Lochwood Blvd. On April 12 at 10:00 a.m. there was a grand opening celebration. This library will offer pre-school programs as well as share techniques with parents that they can use when reading with their children. Check it out with your kids!

Get involved with parents in your neighborhood! The Dallas Arts Learning Initiative is conducting interviews with students and caregivers in Dallas this spring to learn about the creative activities and programs they currently do as a family as well as learn about what future opportunities would interest them. To participate in this survey or for more information please contact Ms. Blakeman at Alex Sanger 972-749-7611.

Yard of the Month

Congratulations are in order to Carol and Ron McDowell at 8438 Santa Clara Dr. The azaleas in their front garden beds are in full beautiful bloom and have been lovingly cared for since 1978 — thirty years! We all know that azaleas are not easy to grow in this area and these beautiful azaleas are certainly testimony to homeowners who are great caretakers! Thanks and congratulations to great neighbors who keep our neighborhood beautiful!

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



SPONSORED BY:

NORTH HAVEN Gardens

GREAT FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! KID'S SAFETY FAIR

The Dallas Police Department
Northeast Division

9915 E. Northwest Highway

Saturday May 17

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Displays and demonstrations will include the Helicopter Unit, SWAT, Bomb Squad, K9 Unit, Mounted Police, Fire Trucks and Ambulance, Bicycle & Helmet Safety, Army Climbing Wall, Internet Safety and much more!

AND....

FREE Hot Dogs, Pizza and Drinks, Bounce House and Face Painting.

It's a fun time filled with safety information for both you and your children.



2008 Clean Up Dallas Trash Attack and Graffiti Wipeout

What is it?

The 2008 Trash Attack and Graffiti Wipeout is a City-wide community effort to remove litter and trash and abate graffiti in our City.

Who can participate?

Anybody can! This is a great event for families, Scout troops, schools, and private corporations. You can even earn community service hours for school! **Minors will need adult supervision and have a signed liability waiver from their parent or guardian for the day of the event.*

Where do I register and check in?

Registration will open online as of April 7th.. Your Check-in Locations are listed in seven (7) recreation centers around the city. Please visit our website or refer to the attachment for those locations.

Where can I report graffiti or trash sites that I see?

Please call 311 to report graffiti or trash sites that you observe. Please be prepared to provide an address and be as descriptive as possible. The more information we have about the site, the better!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

lisa.fullerton@dallascityhall.com

or call 214-670-5647.

Thank you for your interest and we look forward to seeing you at this event!

2008
clean up
dallas

Trash Attack and Graffiti Wipeout

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2008 Time: Check-in 8:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Working at locations 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.
Launch of Reunion Area 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Register: Go to www.dallascityhall.com and click on link. Registration opens April 1.

Check-in locations: See reverse side for locations. You will check in at the location you register for but return to Reunion Area.

For more information please contact the Director of the Administration Department or call 214-670-5647



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Contact Justin Scott

Even if you're not ready to make a change, I would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and help you understand your options.

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