

**FHNA Town Hall Meeting**  
**March 3, 2009 7:00 p.m.**  
**Sanger Elementary School**

# The Reporter

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2009 ISSUE



## Efforts to Beautify FH Continue

The efforts to beautify FH continue. One of the gateways leading into the neighborhood recently received an upgrade in the form of new signage.

Cars passing by can now more easily identify Forest Hills proper by the new signage located at Breezewood/Garland road entrance.

# Presidential Perspective



Bill Foerster  
President

## Welcoming 2009

Looking forward to another spectacular year. These are challenging times in many ways especially financially. One thought that gets me by in difficult times is remembering every day can be a holiday and every meal a banquet. It is all in the way we frame our situations. Regardless of the setting, McDonald's or the Mansion, the fact that we are eating and either sharing time with family, friends or a business contact for a meal, or by yourself reflecting on goals or planning for the future, we are fortunate to have the option for all the above in addition to having a meal. Restaurants should have a "Happy Meal" fare for adults — wouldn't that be a positive vibe for the eating experience? Each day provides an opportunity to realize we are where we are, and choose to make things happen to enrich our current situation, deal positively with difficulties and/or tragedies and move towards our long term goals. In doing so, try to improve over yesterday, reach out to someone you love and make 10 people smile at least once every day. It works when you smile at someone — they usually respond with a smile. We all smile on a Holiday.

## 2008

Forest Hills residents can take pride in the many accomplishments of 2008:

- Newly established Reforestation program underway in partnership with the City of Dallas (FH just received the first 25 of 120 donated trees for replanting).
- Completion of the Forest Hills Monument sign at Breezewood and Garland Road.
- Successful completion of Bench Beautification program.
- Ongoing, high-functioning internal programs, which include Forest Hills; Animal Alert, Garden Club, Security Program, Communications, Planning and Zoning, Social, New Comers' and Media relations/community outreach.
- Revitalization of Forest Hills Service League, Alex Sanger Liaison efforts, Children's Network.
- Greater FH profile in larger community of the City of Dallas.
- Recognition of FHNA's programs through awards and other neighborhoods using blueprints of our Newsletter program, Crime program, and Animal Alert program. Imitation is the highest form of compliment. Neoma Twining, Judy Whalen and Andie Comini are the driving force behind these outstanding programs that are being copied and imitated.
- Ongoing retention of key FHNA board members, meeting monthly to protect and be advocates on behalf of FH residents. The board has been able to retain experienced board members while attracting new neighbors that bring fresh perspectives and insight to our process.

I extend a wish to everyone for a happy, fulfilling and prosperous New Year from the FHNA board. Hope everyone had a warm and inspiring Holiday Season.

## Financially Speaking (Fund Raising and Dues Request)

It's that time of year again. The New Year brings with it the need to collect dues to enable us to continue the programs, improvements and advocacy for the neighborhood. The newsletter will have an envelope for dues. The Dues are \$50 per household. There are a number of ways to measure the financial outlay, one way is to break down the payment and realize the size is attainable. The dues are equivalent to:

\$4.17 per Month or  
96¢ per week or  
14¢ per day

Those that would like to make additional special donations for a particular committee please do by indicating on the dues form.

We recently completed the installation of a Forest Hills sign on the monument at Breezewood and Garland Road. We are looking for sponsors for each letter. The letters are \$500 each. If you would like to sponsor a letter please indicate on the dues form by writing the letter desired (please list one or more backup choices.) After all letters are sponsored we will have a plaque at the monument recognizing the sponsors. Please use your imagination. The sponsors can be individuals, neighborhood blocks (around \$25, depending on number of homes per block and participation rate), whole streets, local businesses, group of friends, any or all the above can be accommodated and will be recognized.

Please find it in your heart to donate to the neighborhood you call home and devote the majority of time.

# Monumental Mission



Have you seen it? If not, drive by. Exit FH via Breezewood to Garland and you will see FH's latest beautification success. The brick monument, is now lettered, identifying "Forest Hills." FH has never had signage, thus the "well kept" secret of our precious community. Not everyone was in favor of "advertising" our canopied sanctuary of large, treed lots and beautiful homes. Early concerns centered around issues of increasing crime by putting signage such as this in place.

The costs for the iron lettering complete with "tree" logo? \$5800.00. Projects like this are possible when residents pay their dues and make donations. We are grateful for all levels of participation. The FHNA was responsible for pursuing this project and seeing to it's completion in an effort to further beautify FH.

## Two Citations Issued for Unleashed Dogs in FH

No one is interested in living in a residential community where someone is always breathing down your back. Rules are designed to better a community and it's growth, not impede it.

In the last two months, the city has issued two citations to FH neighbors walking unleashed dogs. Unleashed dog citations are rare. We are on the city's radar due to the number of complaints filed lately by our residents. The fine is fairly steep, as high as \$200.00. The pet owners given the citations were anything but happy. Imagine taking a nice, leisurely stroll with your pooch only to be given a "ticket" by the local code enforcement cops. Have you seen them? They are hanging out in the "hood" in white cars with the words "code enforcement" on the side.

Word to the wise . . . leash your pooch. As much fun as it is to let "Rover" get in on all the smells, better have him leashed and avoid the costly fine.

## Park Place of FH (What's in a name?)

We (the FHNA) field a letter a month from residents wondering what we are going to do with our "little park?" What park, you ask? At the intersection of San Benito Way and St. Francis, a park exists. There are no swings, no trash receptacles, etc. Six years ago, a small internal battle was waged between the standing FHNA and neighbors on the 8400 block of San Benito Way. The standing FHNA sought to upgrade the park and make it more "aesthetically pleasing" and increase it's use by FH neighbors. Nearby neighbors feared an increase in beautifying the park would mean drug users, etc. would come calling.

With our upgraded police patrol and the minimization of crime, the FHNA is moving forward. The park will be named, "Park Place of FH." Signage will be put in place complimentary to the surroundings and a few more picnic tables will appear. In terms of maintenance, large limbs, fire-ant containment, etc. will help upgrade the park.

There is such a small amount of green grass and trees in this cement, anchored city, the FHNA feels neighbors would welcome a private place to rest and relax.

# One School's Story of Success

Many have personally driven the Buckner corridor between Garland Road and NW highway. Dead smack in the middle of the pathway is Dallas Academy. An "old" school that now looks "brand new!" The school enrolls 180 extremely bright students. Over the past several years, the school transitioned from houses, to mediocre building, to the current rendition, a beautiful new, well-landscaped, and flag bearing building. It was a long time coming and those associated with the school and it's history are extremely proud of how far they've come.

Who attends this school? Bright students needing specialized environments for learning. The curriculum is stealth, as are the enrichment and athletic programs.

What will impress anyone entering the school's open new atrium is the overwhelmingly gracious attitude of the administration, teachers, specialists, and staffers. Nearly everyone of them is bursting with a certain pride over the school's growth and accomplishments.

Finally, although not right across the street, FHNA considers Dallas Academy a wonderful neighbor to have.



# One School's Story of Success

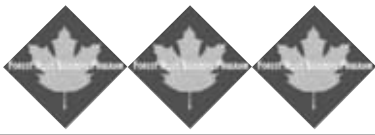
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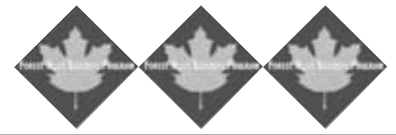
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# SECURITY PAGE



## THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

— by Judy Whalen

### A GIFT OF LOVE AND SECURITY TO FOREST HILLS!

A generous donation was given anonymously from a Forest Hills family to The Security Program. It represents a passion for their neighborhood and the desire to help maintain it as the best and the safest place to live.

The funds will be used each week proportionally for additional hours above and beyond what is provided by quarterly pledges. More security patrols; less crime. After the donation funds for the temporary hours are depleted, we will return to our regular schedule.

The Forest Hills Security Program, on behalf of the whole neighborhood, thanks the family for their extra care and concern.

We also want to thank those who pledge quarterly to provide security for all of us! The patrols have brought crime statistics down and awareness up making our resident funded security program a successful model for other Dallas communities.

Our neighborhood has a challenge ahead of us in 2009 to protect and secure our possessions and most of all our people, as crime is expected be on the rise. Please be aware protect yourself and send in your January pledge to the Forest Hills Security Program. Invest in your safety!

### PUT YOUR CAR KEYS BESIDE YOUR BED AT NIGHT

Tell your spouse, your children, your neighbors, your parents, your doctors office, the check-out girl at the market, everyone you run across. Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

This tip came from a neighborhood watch coordinator. Next time you come home for the night and you start to put your keys away, think of this: It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar or rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there. This is something that should really be shared with everyone. Maybe it could save a life or a sexual abuse crime.

P.S. I am sending this to everyone I know because I think it is fantastic. Would also be useful for any emergency, such as a heart attack, where you can't reach a phone. My Mom has suggested to my Dad that he carry his car keys with him in case he falls outside and she doesn't hear him. He can activate the car alarm and then she'll know there's a problem.

Please pass this on even IF you've read it before. It's a reminder and it might save you or someone else's life.

## THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

RESIDENT FUNDED OFF-DUTY DALLAS POLICE PATROL

**DON'T FORGET JANUARY FIRST QUARTER PLEDGE TO SAFETY**

### \$60 Per Quarter

First Quarter (January, February, March)

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 214-535-2077 [fhspenp@aol.com](mailto:fhspenp@aol.com)

**FSHP IS A 501C3. MAKING DONATIONS BEYOND THE YEARLY PLEDGE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**





# PAWS PAGE



214.732.4721

## REIGNING CATS AND DOGS

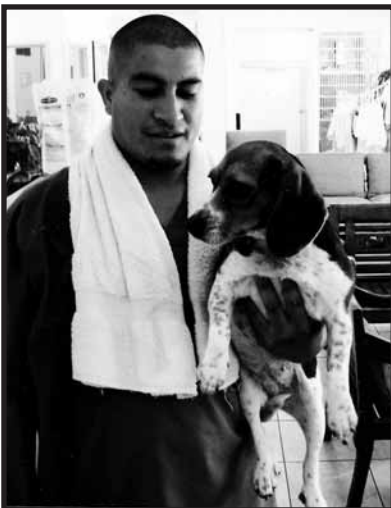
We know you treat your pets like royalty. But just because you're away doesn't mean the pampering ends.

Call us or visit [TaddysPetServices.com](http://TaddysPetServices.com) for more info.

Dog Walks | Home Visits | Pet Taxi | Overnight Stays

## Animal Alert! Emails

The BEST WAY to get lost or found pets home is through communication. Most of our pets have been returned home because someone recognized the picture of a pet in our Animal Alert! emails and contacted the neighbor. Our best and fastest way to communicate is through email. If you would like to be included in our emails please send an email to [info@lfhanimalalert.org](mailto:info@lfhanimalalert.org). Include your name, phone numbers and just simply let us know you want to receive Animal Alert! emails. Some days you may get two or three emails. Other days — none. All depends on how many pets are reported lost or found. Emails are sent out only about our pets. We do not sell emails or use these emails for any other reason. If for any reason you wish to be removed from the list, simply let us know. THE MORE EMAILS ON THE LIST — THE MORE PETS WE CAN GET HOME! Andie Comini and Maeleska Fletes (214) 930-5910 <http://www.lfhanimalalert.org>.



Aurora the Beagle and Wolfie, (baby Wolf) in the care of East Lake Vet. Hospital. Special thanks to all the staff who provide FH pets with the best care!



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## Special Thanks To:

Monty Alexander  
The Twining Family  
Kinder Kritter

## THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM

To report a Lost or Found Animal ..... 214-930-5910  
Animal Control ..... Call 311

## Yard of the Month

Congratulations to Lance and Lauren Williams (8200 San Fernando Way) for receiving the Forest Hills Yard of the Month award for December.

A lovely brick pathway and side garden were installed this fall and their holiday decorations are wonderful and elegant. The owners tell us there is more landscaping to come in the backyard and we should be looking for lots of beautiful tulips this spring. Thanks Lance and Lauren for keeping our neighborhood beautiful!

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



SPONSORED BY:

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## Same Dedicated Service ... New Address!

Vicki White is pleased to announce that she has joined the East Dallas office of Keller Williams to better serve her clients. Her negotiation skills, energy and knowledge of the Dallas market are unmatched! 2008 was said to be the slowest real estate market in years, but Vicki had 22 closings totaling \$6,000,000, a remarkable achievement.

Just hear what her clients have to say!

*"Vicki brought in more potential buyers in the first WEEK than previous listers brought in the duration of the listing. She was a human dynamo turned loose, staging our home, making recommendations, holding open house and bringing in potential buyers. After working with Vicki, it would be difficult to work with other agents. My expectations would be too high for anyone else to meet." Ken & Terry Colson*



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## Forest Hills Homeowners Association

### ANIMAL ALERT!

#### Contact Information (As of February 2009)



To Report a Lost or Found Pet — (214) 930-5910  
For Forest Hills Neighborhood Association **PET NEWS**  
and **PET REGISTRATION** forms please visit  
[www.ForestHillsDallas.org](http://www.ForestHillsDallas.org)

Please keep us posted of any changes or updates  
City of Dallas Animal Control — 311

For a complete list of Dallas area Dog and Cat Rescue Groups  
or to research local Lost and Found listings please visit

[www.sPCA.org](http://www.sPCA.org)







Barb, Josephine, Mary, Lottie and Katrina —  
hosted by Katrina.



Jane Hulsey, holding a pot made  
by neighbor Jerry Allegro.

White Rock East Garden and Artisans Tour will be held again this year in late Spring 2009. If you know of someone who would like to showcase their garden on the tour please notify Barb Michaels — 214-327-3817. Artist can call Lottie Minick — 214-320-3868. Forest Hills has participated in this event for the past two years and not only is it fun for all involved, it is a great money maker for our neighborhood beautification committee. And we are always looking for volunteers.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



**Neoma Twining**  
Newsletter Editor

### Editor,

We go out of town a lot and I am constantly concerned about leaving our home unattended. I hate to impose on my neighbors to watch the house, but we need a little more assurance. At least I do. We are currently not able to pay into the FHSP monthly dues, but we would like help in keeping our property safe.

Does the FHNA have any other resources to help us?

### Response:

Yes, your neighbors. You answered your own question, or at least a form of it. Each street in FH has a block captain. The block captain is sort of the street “manager.” If you are leaving town, and concerned about your property, email or call your block captain and tell him/her your concerns.

It’s called “neighbors helping neighbors.” This is an inexpensive way to protect your home and your property. And, even though you are not a paying member of our FHSP, feel free to call and log in your “out-of-town” status.

## Sanger News

### Come One, Come All to the Alex Sanger Kindergarten Roundup!

**When:** February 26th at 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Upstairs library.

**What:** The roundup is kindergarten orientation and Q&A session. This is a great opportunity for parents and prospective students to meet the teachers; tour the classrooms and school; and talk about daily schedules, DISD policies, curriculum, and the 2-way dual language program.

**Who:** Students must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2009 to enroll in kindergarten. However, all parents seeking more information about the school are invited to attend.

**Hope to see you there!**



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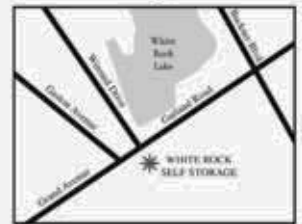
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# BELLE NORA



Neighbors of Forest Hills, do you know of someone that would love to wake up to this incredible view every morning?

You might be interested in knowing that I get MANY calls and emails each month from different organizations and brides wishing to hold events and weddings in this estate. Recently, for one week only, I allowed brides to have their portraits made there. Each bride was totally enchanted by the property and so glad to have the most important portrait of their lifetime in this wonderful place.

We are anxious to find a buyer for this estate. If you know of anyone that would love just over 2 acres overlooking one of the best views of White Rock Lake, please call me at 214-534-1305 for a private showing!! The price is \$2,399,000. It is totally private, with trees surrounding its borders and the only views are of the grounds and the lake, yet it is only 10 minutes from downtown Dallas!



**V**icki White  
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**email: vickiwhite@kw.com**  
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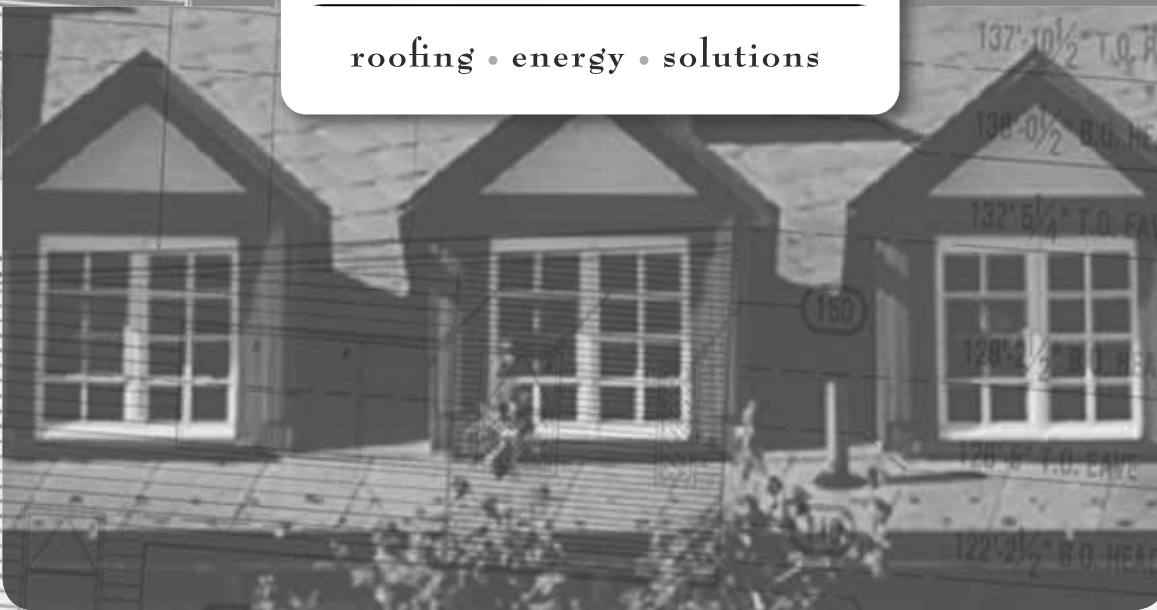
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