

"The Reporter" Online Read

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The Reporter **JULY 2008 ISSUE**

FH Neighbor to Manage Swim Team USA in Beijing

DALLAS (SMU) — Most athletes dream of one day competing in the Olympic Games, of representing their countries, of medals adorning their necks. In support of that dream, two SMU coaches will trek to Beijing in hopes of being part of those goals.

Swimming head coaches Steve Collins and Eddie Sinnott each have accepted positions with Olympics-bound teams. Collins will be the head coach of the Slovakian national team for the fourth time, while Sinnott will be a team leader (manager) with the United States team.



Eddie Sinnott and Steve Collins

The paths the two coaches will take to Beijing will be divergent from one another, but the goals will be the same.

Sinnott leaves the SMU campus June 27 to head to Omaha, Neb. for the U.S. Olympic trials. There, he will watch the best swimmers the U.S. offers, including Mustangs Shane Milu, Brett Denham, Nate Clark, Candace Blackman, Jennifer Blackman, Devon Callaghan, Katie Roberts and Jaime Williamson try to make the cut. The roughly 1200 swimmers expected at the trials are competing for about 46 (up to 23 men's and 23 women's) spots on the Olympic team, hoping to keep their dream alive for a few more months.

From Nebraska, Sinnott, the two other assistant team managers, the coaches and the selected swimmers will head west to Palo Alto, Calif. for a few weeks of training camp.

Sinnott and the U.S. team board will a plane for Singapore on July 24, where they will participate in "acclimation camp." Since Singapore is in the same time zone as Beijing, the U.S. team will have almost two weeks to get used to the massive time change and any altitude changes.

FH Neighbor to Manage Swim Team USA in Beijing

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The U.S. team crosses into Beijing Aug. 4 to check in to the Olympic Village, which will serve as the team's home until the end of August. Swimming events begin Aug. 9, the day after the Opening Ceremony.

This will be Sinnott's second Olympic Games, but his first traveling with the U.S. delegation. In 1996, Sinnott traveled with Haiti,



Sweden and Columbia as team leader. He watched SMU Mustang Ryan Berube, anchor the USA freestyle relay and win a gold medal. Thirteen Mustangs competed in the 1996 Atlanta games for nine different countries. In 2000, SMU Mustang, Lars Frolander from Sweden, won the gold medal in the 100 meter butterfly. Frolander will be a member of Sweden's delegation this year which is his fifth time as an Olympic team member for Sweden.

"In 1996, it was the chance of a lifetime and a great moment to be on deck with all of the athletes when Ryan won his gold medal," Sinnott reflected. "But, I'm really excited about this year, there's nothing more exciting than representing the USA. I've done it for the Pan-American Games and the World University Games, and now I'll have the ultimate opportunity to do it at the Olympics."

Sinnott dreamed of one day swimming for the U.S., but never got the chance. A standout swimmer for the Mustangs, Sinnott was the Southwest Conference champion in the 400 IM in 1973 and earned All-America honors in 1973 and 1974.

"I dreamt of that gold medal as a kid," said Sinnott. "There's nothing in the world like it. Now, I get to have a hand in kids achieving their lifelong dreams. I will play a major part in a lot of peoples successes or failures. I'm excited and nervous. This really is the chance of a lifetime."

Collins feels similarly. "This is an amazing opportunity," Collins said. "In our sport, it's the greatest competition. It's special because it's the Olympic Games and it's all these countries competing together. The World Championships is a great honor, but it doesn't have quite the same status, in part because the Olympics are once every four years instead of every year. This is a great opportunity to coach swimmers I coach every day and help them fulfill their dreams."

The Slovakian Olympic swimming team is much smaller than its American counterpart. Only three swimmers have been selected to compete at the Olympics, including five-time Olympian and former SMU swimmer Martina Moravcova. The Slovakian Olympic Committee may elect to add an additional swimmer or two, based on FINA qualifying B times, but the decision has not yet been made.

Since Collins will be coaching only three or four swimmers, he will have ample time to help his other Mustang swimmers realize their ambitions. Anja Carman (Slovenia), Petra Klosova (Czech Republic), Maroua Mathlouthi (Tunisia) and former SMU stars Flavia Rigamonti (Switzerland) and Sarah Nordenstam (Norway) each will be competing for their countries and Collins will be allowed to serve as an auxiliary coach if they need him.

Collins' journey will begin July 8, when he travels to Slovakia to meet with members of the Olympic Committee. He and the Slovakian team then will travel to Slovenia to train with the Slovenian Olympic team— including Carman — July 10-18. The Slovenian team will host an international meet July 19-20, open to Olympic swimmers across Europe. Joining the Slovakian and Slovenian teams for the meet will be Klosova (Czech Republic) and Rigamonti (Switzerland). After the meet, the Slovakian team members will return home to pack for the long voyage east. Collins and his charges will head for acclimation camp in Singapore July 23, where they will train with the Swiss team (including Rigamonti) until they head to Beijing Aug. 5.

"We worked hard to set up a cooperative atmosphere," Collins said. "Having those meets during training is really important to maintain a competitive edge. I'm excited to have the opportunity to work with all the current and former SMU swimmers competing at the Games."

Once Collins gets to Beijing, he and his athletes will check into the Olympic Village, which will serve as home until the end of August. There, he will meet up with Mathlouthi, who will swim for her native Tunisia, and Nordenstam, who will swim for Norway.

"The key was getting credentialed for the Olympic Village," Collins remarked. "That gives me access to the training pool, which means I can be on-hand to help any of my swimmers who need anything, regardless of who they're swimming for."

Both SMU coaches are looking forward to their experiences at the Games, but for slightly different reasons. For Collins, the opportunity represents the chance to continue mentoring one of his star swimmers in Moravcova, and to see the progress that he feels his Mustangs have made through his years as a coach.

"The 1996 Games was the first time I attended the Olympics while actively coaching an athlete," remembered Collins. "My first Olympic medalist was that year, when Marianne Kriel won bronze in the 100 back. Then in 2000, I traveled with the Slovakian team and Martina got the silver in the 200 free and 100 fly, which was very special to see. I had the same situation in 2004, with Martina competing and several other Mustangs swimming. The number of SMU swimmers has grown each time, which is just awesome. Being able to continue coaching Martina into her fifth Olympic Games has just been incredible."

Sinnott, by contrast, has a more future-oriented attitude about the Games.

"I think [the experience] will be extremely fun and tremendously educational," Sinnott said. "I expect to come back, not as a different person, but the inspiration quotient will go way up. I'll be spending seven weeks with the best swimmers and coaches in the world. The SMU men's swimming and diving program will be enhanced by what I get from this experience. My eyes and ears and mind will be open to learning from the best people in the world. I can't help but think it will help us out here at SMU."

SMU, the only Division I athletic program in Dallas, Texas, sponsors 17 sports and has been ranked as the top school in its conference for 10 straight years in the Director's Cup overall athletic rankings. More information about SMU and its coaches, athletes and teams is available at <u>www.SMUMustangs.com</u>.

Interior Medians getting much needed attention

In past newsletters there was mention of FHNA's efforts to bolster beautification on all fronts. Beautification in FH includes tree maintenance, preservation, and median care. Recently, several internal medians were inspected by local arborists and landscape artists for recommendations. Given the limited water supply to most of our medians, landscaping is kept to a minimum. The priority is existing trees and shrubs and flowering beds. Pictured below are two median spaces that will receive the first line of upgrade and maintenance. We are taking input from residents concerning the medians positioned throughout the neighborhood. If you live close to a median that you feel needs more care and attention, please notify FHNA beautification Chair, Camilla Mitchell.





FH Service League Stages a Comeback!



Kelly Kemp, FH Service League

In the FH archives photos exist of the first Service League group to operate successfully in 1952. Some things never change. Over the years, the service league has maintained some semblance of order and has continued to contribute to neighborhood events in some capacity.

Recently, several organizationallyminded women convened in hopes of getting perspective on how to make the FH league more

contemporary. Most service leagues are women's volunteer organizations initially designed to give women "hours" towards community service. There is no pay involved and for that matter, very little thanks. But, well organized service leagues make substantial impact in sustaining communities by tending to projects otherwise overlooked.

Heading this newly energized FH Service League is Kelly Kemp and Barbara Anderson. For more information, contact Kelly Kemp, 214-801-2584.

New Logo!



Residents of FH can now recognize any affiliation of the FHNA by paying attention to the logo. Neighbor and Graphic Artist Jay Mathiesen created this most recent rendition of the FH Logo which was adopted by the FH Board.

FHNA Board preparing for Fall Elections





The July meeting of the FHNA board was held at the home of the Twinings on San Benito Way. The focus of the meeting centered on upcoming elections for new board members this Fall.

FH Resident and Advisory Chair, Tom Deighton is charged with the responsibility of recruiting new blood. This job proves tough in a market like we have today. Many families are extremely busy and focused on job and financial issues. Volunteer time is now a luxury most families can't afford. The board is seeking qualified individuals for key positions. Some names have surfaced but the recruiting effort is nowhere near complete. If you have interest in serving the community of FH, please contact Tom Deighton at <u>tsdeighton@gmail.com</u>.



FHNA President, Bill Foerster and TFLOTL Chair, Joan Shopoff

Congressional Award for FHNA

In recognition of FHNA's efforts contributing to the preservation and enhancement of White Rock Lake. Pictured are FHNA President, Bill Foerster accepting the Congressional certificate from FTLOTL Chair, Joan Shopoff at July Board meeting.

The FHNA adopted a segment of shoreline in 2007. The board discussed ways to continue supporting the FTLOTL organization. We are asking FH residents to visit the website <u>www.whiterocklake.org</u> and give of their time and money to keep White Rock Lake clean and safe.

Curious About Home Sales?

In 2007, 41 homes sold in Forest Hills. This year, to date, 14 homes have sold of 35 on the market. 7 homes are pending sale. We keep updates on record for residents of Forest Hills paying attention to the market. This report was updated by Realtor, Kathy Wall, Forest Hills neighbor.



Blast From the Past

A Story About the Keller Family of FH

Jack Keller, long time Forest Hills resident and owner of Dallas' three famous Keller's restaurants has had lots of publicity throughout the years.

Among the recent acclaims was Keller's hamburger being named #10 across the nation on the "20 Hamburgers You Must Eat Before You Die" list in Gentleman's Quarterly Magazine.

Also Jack and his Keller's burgers, the most American of comfort foods, were featured on TV's Food Network's "Diners, Drive-in and Dives" this past year.

May of this year, the landmark Keller's on Northwest Hwy. became a live set for the Discovery Channel's Daily Planet program. The Daily Planet promotes leading an environmentally conscious life. The episode opens with Jack being asked to sell his diner grease to the show for an educational demonstration on how easy it is to turn grease into bio diesel fuel. He answers he won't sell it, but if they have a contest he will give it to the winner. The challenge was on! It was an all-day event, featuring an eco-centric competition along with a marching band, cheerleaders, Johnny Colt and Meatloaf guest appearances, dry car washes and more. Two big tour busses arrived. One having Rocker Tommy Lee and his entourage and the other with Rapper Ludicrous and gang. Each celebrity formed a team of five, who rolled up their sleeves to flip and serve hamburgers all day long. Points were given for each of the menu items, hamburgers, fries, beers, etc. Tommy Lee's team sold and served the most points, winning the greasy prize! It airs this summer.

You must get in your car and drive over to Keller's Drive-In, 6537 East Northwest Hwy., just west of Abrams Rd. for a retro recall. Serving burgers since 1965, Keller's is a place that was everywhere, which is hardly ever found anymore. It is by far the best authentic drive-in around!

Drive in and turn your blinker on for curbside service. Order up a quality burger perfectly cooked and fully loaded along with tator tots or fries and a cold beer all placed on a tray attached to your car window. You even get your own set of salt and pepper shakers! The lot is filled with classic cars, hot rods, hotties, babies, bikers, low riders, high rollers and more. It's a quick order with a slice of life on the side!

Are you hungry yet?!









PAWS

FHNA Hosts First Annual Pet Blessing

Notice we used the term "annual" meaning, we will host such an event again. Many FH and LFH (Little Forest Hills) pet lovers came out on a hot, summer night to get their furry buddies blessed. This was the real deal. We had a priest, blessed water and panting pooches on hand. (Plus one turtle and a hamster.) Father David Houk of the local St. John's Episcopal Church, preformed the ritual with humor, love and compassion. The pets sat patiently, (well, some of them) while Father David led all through a detailed program of pomp and religious pet circumstance. If any pet left feeling "unblessed" they must have been sleeping. The program was excellent as were the attitudes of all the neighbors who came forth. This event is the first of it's kind to be held in FH proper. Making it all the more unique, it is the first time we joined forces with Little Forest Hills neighbors to host a joint event. The Animal Alert! team of Little Forests Hills is ambitious, aggressive in their love of pets and highly organized.





CONTACTS FOR THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM

Who's Poisoning Pets?

(Reported by Highland On The Creek Neighborhood)



At first, we thought it was intentional poisoning of a dog because the owners found the dog eating blocks of poison in the back yard. The owners took the attached picture of the poison.

However, we later learned

that it was an accident. The poison was placed near the drains on Highland to curtail the rat population, and the dog was able to find it and bring it inside the yard. The remaining poison was destroyed, and we have been told that it will not be used again.

The dog was treated immediately by the vet, has continued to take medication, and is expected to be fine. It is the same substance as cumadin, which is a blood thinner. Left untreated after eating the substance, the rats bleed internally and die. The treatment is flushing of the stomach and daily intake of Vitamin K. We were sorry for the dog's misfortune but glad to report that it was not intentional.

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WARNING! Hold the Chewing Gum for Pets!!

Only a few cases have been reported in the U.S. to date, but nonetheless, it is worth educating pet owners to the dangers of chewing gum and pets.

Sugar-free gum contains an ingredient Xylitol. This particular ingredient is dangerous and can prove fatal if ingested by a pet and not caught in time.

A recent well publicized story about a dachshund ingesting gum alerted pet owners to the dangers of pet exposure to gum. This particular dog dug through an open purse sitting on the floor to get to the gum.

Only 3 pieces ingested proved enough to be nearly fatal. The Xylitol causes dogs to secrete insulin so their blood sugar drops. If more than 3 hours passes before it is detected, the liver can fail.

If your pet comes in contact with sugar free gum, contact your veterinary immediately.

"Pets can help humans combat loneliness, depression and stress." www.animaltherapy.net

Jail Breakers

If you were on the FHAA (Forest Hills Animal Alert! Team) you would see the many emails that flood the computers on a daily basis. Lost dog here. Missing cat there. It is continuous.

We are encouraging all pet owners of FH to microchip their pets. This is an inexpensive process and it give you insurance should your pet go walking.

We are going to offer a microchip program in conjunction with East Lake Vet Hospital for FH pets in the next coming weeks. Please check website and email for this notification.

The FHAA program team



THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

— by Judy Whalen

FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

GREAT NEWS! MORE PROTECTION

FHSP is happy to report we now have 9 patrols a week! You will see more squad cars cruising the streets watching over us. Highland on the Creek, the small community off San Rafael, has joined and was voted into FHSP making the additional three patrols possible.

SECURITY TIP

If you do not have a panic alarm with your home security company, think about putting your car keys on a nightstand beside your bed while you are sleeping. You can always press the car panic button in case you hear someone trying to get in or if you need to alert your neighbors for help. Odds are the invader won't stick around and your neighbors will hear the alarm too.

Of course be sure to inform your neighbors on each side, in front and back about your plan. They will then know to call 911 and check in on you if it goes off in the middle of the night. Also be sure to test it to be sure the alarm will go off from inside if the car is in the driveway or garage.

Remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.

SURE-STRIKE OFFERS 20% OFF TO FOREST HILLS

What is Sure-Strike (<u>sure-strike.com</u>)? Not even an expensive deadbolt will prevent a kick-in burglary when a weak strike plate is in place. The Sure-Strike thick steel cover dead-bolt plate has a specially designed housing which installs into both studs of the door frame and is secured with 3½ inch hardened steel screws. There is also is an adjustable pin system that allows for alignment adjustment when a door swells or the ground shifts. For the décor conscious, they come in different finishes so you won't even notice a difference!

The 20% discount offer has been extended to August 16!

Go online to <u>sure-strike.com</u> to order using the code "FHNA" to receive the offer.

IT'S TIME FOR THE 3RD QUARTER PLEDGE TO SAFETY! THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM RESIDENT FUNDED OFF-DUTY DALLAS POLICE PATROL

\$60 THIRD QUARTER PLEDGE (JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER)

Please send or set up automatic bank payments to: Forest Hills Security Program 8432 San Fernando Way Dallas, TX 75218.



Questions: fhspenp@aol.com or 214-324-9894







— by Lottie Minick

The recent Spring Garden tour was another success for the FH club. Joining forces with several artists, garden enthusiasts and vendors made for a winning combination in terms of sales and revenue. Recently, Barb Micheals handed over a check from the proceeds to be dedicated specifically for FH neighborhood beautification efforts. New Street toppers, brick monument signage and additional path markers will be purchased as approved by FHNA board. The Garden Club is a very organized and friendly group. They recruit for membership annually and if you are interested, go to our website, <u>www.foresthillsdallas.org</u> for more information.

From the FHNA Board, and the residents of FH, we THANK YOU Garden Club members for your hard work and ongoing dedication to making FH a better, safer, cleaner and more beautiful neighborhood.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Neoma Twining Newsletter Editor

Dear Editor: This morning I stopped the people sent by Oncor to cut down trees (sections of trees) in the alleys around power lines. I'm glad I did after looking at what they did up and down my alley today.

They seemed to be somewhat arbitrary in what they cut, and where they did cut, they, simply put, butchered trees. It looks terrible, and if I had come home to what they did to some neighbors' trees, I would have been devastated.

We hire arborists to help protect our trees by fertilizing and carefully pruning them . . . we live in Forest Hills largely because of the trees. I know Oncor is doing this in

every block and I hate to see Forest Hills precious trees butchered in this way.

... in some cases they are literally topping trees off just slightly above the fence line and leaving nothing of the 'tree' but a stump that is 9 feet high. While I am well aware of the need to keep the lines clear of the branches, I think this is overkill ...



The parts of the trees that are being left are likely to die since this is the absolutely worst time of year to prune a tree, and since they are cutting oaks and I am sure they are not taking precautions to prevent the spread of Oak Rot.

Is the FHNA doing anything about this? If not, is there anything we or the FHNA can do to stop this?

- Concerned Neighbor

Editor's response: We have had ongoing discussions with the contract group Oncor. We have learned they employ qualified arborists. The FHNA board had initial concerns when Oncor began working in the alleyways. Since then, we have formed a relationship with Oncor and the city and are providing proper oversight to the tree-trimming in our alleyways. If you have further questions concerning Oncor, email John Mitchell at <u>jmitchell3csite.com</u>.

Sanger News

Fall is coming and Sanger Elementary staffers are gearing up for their annual kindergarten round-up. Each year, the Sanger administration purposely recruits within Forest Hills to identify potential Sanger students. They offer school tours, teacher meetings, one-on-one sessions to promote Sanger and aid to families sincerely interested in being a part of the Sanger Elementary experience.

Sanger is a vital part of the FH community. We support their efforts in bringing children into the education environment so close to home. Families of FH can learn more by calling 972-749-7600.



Sanger also received an Exemplary rating from the State of Texas!!

Yard of the Month

The yard of the month for July/August is awarded to Nick and Sam Foley at 8146 San Fernando Way. As a beautiful complement to the recent remodeling of this lovely Forest Hills landmark home, note the extensive revamping of the landscape in the front yard. Especially noteworthy is the addition of a wonderful rock fountain for all to enjoy! Congratulations are in order to our neighbors who are making a difference in our lovely and unique neighborhood.

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





SPONSORED BY: NORTH HAVEN Gardens



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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@roundtabledq.com

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

Forest Hills Welcomes to the 'Hood

January and February

Santa Clara — Brian and Amy Lauten San Leandro — Trey and Jessica Price Santa Clara — Charles Kinsolving and Michelle Cheney

March and April

Groveland — Chuck and Tracy Bedsole Santa Clara — Wm Van Lerberghe and Carolyn Quan

May

San Leandro — Ernie and Denise Chavez San Leandro — Ximena Humrichouse San Leandro — John and Mary Ann Behan

Santa Clara — Paul and Virginia Bradan

July

Santa Clara — Chuck Anderson

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.

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