



Forest Hills

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The Reporter

MARCH 2008 ISSUE

Children's Network Restored

In 1999 The Forest Hills Children's Network was established. It's purpose is two-fold. To connect children in Forest Hills who attend different schools, and bring parents together to form a network of other "like" families and services.

For the past 4 years, no leadership could be identified to carry the once successful program forward. Meet Megan Beakley, Katrina Moran, and Meghan Bakota. Megan Beakely will serve as Chair and Katrina and Meghan as co-chairs.



Recently, this new committee of energetic talent convened at a local eaterys to divide up jobs and put the ball in motion. There is great need for this program in FH due to the large number of young families.

In our recent survey, we identified family after family seeking connection with others for playdates, babysitters, nanny support and a host of other services. This is why this particular program needs to survive.

We have been plagued with a lack of incoming volunteers to support existing programs lacking leadership. Folks claim they are too busy and we believe them.

Signing up for this program guarantees you a connection. The program is easily identifiable by its logo and acronym, FHCN. A new directory is in the works to help organize families with children.



If you wish to be a part of this effort, please see contact numbers and email addresses below. Your participation is critical to the ongoing success of this Neighborhood Association and The Children's Network.

Megan Beakley — 214-324-5015
Chair — FH Children's Network

meganb@roundtabledq.com

Meghan Bakota — 469-774-7486
Co-Chair — FH Children's Network

meghandallas@hotmail.com

PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVE

And The Survey Says . . .



Bill Foerster
President

Thank you once again for responding to the survey. The response has grown to about 250 representing 40% of the neighborhood. We will continue to update the results as they are received. At this point, we are very neighborly. The responses show the intrinsic value of our neighborhood rests in the neighbors. I am happy most of us are getting along with one another. The reason most moved into FH is for the trees, lot size, uniqueness of the housing designs and location. Not surprisingly, are the issues most neighbors have with the neighborhood. The big concerns relate to the reasons they moved to FH. The steady increase of, as indicated in the responses, "The McMansions," cutting of the trees, properties not maintained, crime and speeding cars.

The issues raised by the responses require careful consideration. The freedom to own a property and do as you want with it, within the code and zoning in effect when purchased, should be respected. Overlays and other restrictive conditions affect property values, some beneficially and some not so beneficial. This is one issue that definitely falls into not pleasing all the people all the time. The responses have been in both camps "Keep FH As Is" vs. "Accept the Changing Environment." "Keeping FH As Is," is the predominate view. This has been and will continue to be an ongoing issue the board monitors.

We continue to be concerned about crime and participation levels in the Forest Hills Security Program.

Our passions vary but heavily weigh in with outdoor activities such as, gardening, biking, golf, running, walking and fishing. Many others enjoy cooking, wine, reading, travel, music, art and volunteering. The Arboretum and White Rock amenities are used often and in many cases regularly. The newsletter is read

Continued on Page 5

St. Francis Park is Setting for Easter Egg Hunt

Luckily the weather was beautiful for the FH Blooms event. The park is located in front of the 8400 block of San Benito Way. Many children with their large baskets in tow, spread out through the park after the Bunny (played by Mike Clem) gave them the signal. The event was held to raise money for the FH Animal Alert! Program.



The Neighbors Column

DILIGENT ABOUT DUTY



Ruth Potter & Margaret Smith

FH Residents Ruth Potter and Margaret Smith have been election volunteers since they opened the polls. At least it seems like that long. Two very dedicated women when it comes to making a difference. The day of the Texas primary was an important one. Aren't they all? And, two very familiar faces could be found behind the check-in table as you entered Sanger elementary to cast your ballot.

In addition to their poll managing duties, both women have consistently held positions on the FH Board in years past and presently. Their commitment to their community, their respective churches, family and then some, is nothing short of remarkable. We applaud Ruth and Margaret for their service, and dedication. They are "somebody" . . . they are volunteers!

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Arboretum News

Once again the beautiful spring festival, Dallas Blooms, is at the Dallas Arboretum with our theme "The Star of Texas." This six-week festival is March 8 through April 13 and features over 400,000 spring-blooming bulbs, and azaleas, daffodils and other glorious spring flowering plants! The Texas Sculpture Association is featuring 25 outdoor sculptures located by the old main gate during Dallas Blooms and May Blooms. The Arboretum has many exciting festival activities planned, such as: Lil'Britches Rodeo, horse-drawn carriage rides, a Root beer Saloon, historic Texas characters, music and entertainment and kids crafts. Our popular Afternoon Tea is also back again. Register for one of our informative Adult Education classes, and mark your calendar for our Plant Sale, April 19 and 20. And don't forget to check out our Cool Thursday entertainment schedule — one of the best we've offered to date. To see all the details, check our website at dallasarboretum.org. We hope to see you soon.

— Lottie Minick

www.lottieminick.com

www.eastdallasartgardens.blogspot.com

Board Meeting Recap

Negative Crime Spotlight on FH – Dont' Worry, You Are Safe!!

Is FH really all that unsafe these days? Answer. NO. FH continues to be one of the most attractive and safe neighborhoods in East Dallas. The proactiveness of our crime program sheds constant light on statistics and crime reports. The purpose of this is to inform residents and keep them on their toes. Our FHSP is recognized as one the most organized and effecient neighborhood programs. So much so, that others are copying our process. This, thanks to FHSP Chair, Judy Whalen.

The FH Board is examining ways to keep neighbors updated without scaring them. It's easy to alarm residents when information keeps surfacing and it's all negative. No one wants to live in fear. And FH neighbors, having been involved in the FHSP are aware of the types of measures they must take to remain safe. The key words are vigilance and awareness.

This month, focus on what you can do to improve your safeness and that of your family. Secure your home and choose to live without fear.

BOBCAT LURKING ON SANTA CLARA

A photo of a very dead bobcat was forwarded to me by a LFH representative to alert our neighborhood. A bobcat was seen lurking in the alleyways on Santa Clara. That's right, a real bobcat. It is unfortunate and no one knows where this animal came from. Sadly, the animal was shot and left for dead. Due to the graphic nature of the photo, I have chosen to omit it. Instead, if you're curious, google bobcats on the internet. They present a certain level of danger.

We have also had reports of hawks and owls swooping down to scoop up smaller prey. Little dogs and cats are targets. Protect your pets and to a greater extent your children. We don't want to be alarmists, but responsible in reporting information to you.

What is the Reforestation Program?

In our lingo, its keeping the "Forest" in Forest Hills. For every tree felled or cut down in our community, we hope to replant three in it's place to ensure the protection of our green canopy of life. The City of Dallas encourages the growth of the urban forest by supplying trees and guidance to the citizens of Dallas. In order for projects to quality for assistance from the program the project must be sponsored wholly or in part by a planting group, such as community groups or City of Dallas departments. All trees requested through this program must be planted on public property that includes City of Dallas parks, recreation centers, public schools, approved medians and parkways.

Our intent is to plant the first delivery of 25 trees in medians throughout Forest Hills. We have secured the help of Paradise Landscape Company who has come forward to donate their time and manpower to plant each, individual tree.

Too Many Yard Signs – Residents Complain

Painting, landscaping, pest control, you name it and there seems to be a sign for it found in someone's yard in Forest Hills. Lately, the problem seems out of hand, according to residents who have formerly complained the situation is making the neighborhood "look junky." Many agree.

But what to do about this problem? And homeowners may give permission to a contractor to place his/her sign in the front yard during time of service being performed. There are no hard and fast rules. Unfortunately for residents of FH, there is a lot of construction and contract work currently being performed. Every service provider wishes to display their "front yard business card" in hopes of securing the next job.

Due to the number of complaints we contacted city code enforcement, Kevin Martin, to provide help and guidance. His comments were as follows:

"The signs are allowed only if that particular company is doing work on the property. Other than that it is a violation to advertise business."

Due to the large number of complaints we have asked Kevin to step up efforts to enforce this code in our neighborhood. If you have questions, use the following information to reach Kevin Martin:

kevin.martin@dallascityhall.com 214-206-5557

Volunteer Vacuum . . .

Be Somebody, Be a FH Volunteer

I am a volunteer and I like the job. To many, it is a thankless, hard endeavor. And with all the other distractions in our lives, who needs it?

Many have stepped up to volunteer and at first feel full of enthusiasm and connected. Then, if they aren't entirely gratified, or feel it's too much work for too little payback, they're out.

If no one volunteered, or partnered as we like to call it, nothing would get done that needs to be done. Many outstanding organizations are run by "volunteers." In addition to their day job, these leaders take on extra work. They go above and beyond the call to lend their talents to a process in hopes of leaving something better, or restored in their wake. When this happens, it's magical. Magical because it's so extraordinary, especially in our lives today. In our recent survey we asked (should have begged), for more neighbors to step up and join our positive efforts. Out of 232 surveys, only two persons volunteered. We must have been delusional, hoping for a landslide of survey responses that said . . . "yes! I am happy to help." It didn't happen.

That said, we stand open and ready to visit with all residents who want to join us in making a difference. It is so important. Many of the jobs are not big jobs. They are small parts in the big play. We really need you.

CALL TODAY . . . *Be somebody, be a FH Volunteer!*

214-202-1862 • 214-244-9400

Solving Urban Wildlife Problems

These 10 simple guidelines can prevent the most common urban wildlife problems:

1. Don't leave cat or dog food outside overnight.
2. Don't leave birdseed in feeders or on the ground overnight.
3. Don't put unsecured garbage outside at night.
4. Cover crawlspace and attic openings with heavy gauge, rustproof wire mesh (not chicken wire).
5. Carefully inspect your eaves and other areas where the roof and house join. Repair deteriorating boards, warped siding and loose shingles.
6. Trim overhanging branches that provide easy access to your roof for squirrels and other wildlife.
7. If you have a pet door, close it at night by sliding a template in place to cover the entrance.
8. If you have a chimney, make sure that it has a secure cap. Chimneys without caps are open invitations to raccoons looking for "hollow trees" in which to give birth and raise their young.
9. If you have a deck, you can prevent animals from digging underneath it by creating an L-shaped barrier. Attach heavy gauge wire mesh to the base of the deck, sink it six inches into the ground, bend it 90 degrees away from the deck for 12 inches and then cover it with soil.
10. Share this information with your neighbors to encourage them to also take these simple steps to prevent urban wildlife problems.

Trapping and relocating wildlife is discouraged for three reasons:

1. It's a waste of time and effort because it doesn't solve the problem. If animals are removed, others from surrounding areas soon move in to take their place.
2. Studies have shown that relocated animals rarely survive more than two weeks. In unfamiliar territory, relocated animals are unable to successfully compete for food and shelter with the existing population of wildlife in that area. The relocated animal usually dies of starvation or from injuries inflicted by other wildlife.
3. Many of the trapped and relocated animals are lactating females. Orphans left behind die of starvation. If the orphans are in an attic or under a foundation, the resulting odor is extremely unpleasant.

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PAWS PAGE



Pet Photo of the Month

Meet big "Kingston."
Proud Owners,
East Lake Vet
Hospital Staff.

Tethering a Pet, Illegal

A growing number of animal lovers are ensuring their voices are heard. A new law, making tethering an animal illegal recently garnered media attention. It's not likely you'll see many animals tethered and left without food or water in FH. Throughout Dallas, many cases have been sighted and owners held accountable. This new law falls under the "Animal Cruelty" act.

By tethering, the law means chaining, rope tying, or securing an animal to stake or object restricting the animals ability to reach water or food. It also addresses the issue of length of time on a tether.

If you notice or find a situation in FH where you have concerns, do not hesitate to contact FHAA. Forest Hills Animal Alert! Program.

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Pets Must be Leashed

DALLAS ANIMAL ORDINANCE

Our animal companions make our world a better place. Playing ball with the dog gives us a chance to bond with the kids, and sometimes those daily walks might be our only exercise. The cat knows just when to snuggle up and purr after a hard day at work or a sad phone call from home. Animals help us teach our children about love, acceptance and responsibility.

In return, all they require is that we provide appropriate food, water, shelter, veterinary care, and that we be responsible pet owners. This means having our pets spayed or neutered, which protects them against serious behavioral and medicinal problems. Spaying and neutering also prevents the tragedy of pet overpopulation. Dallas Animal Services receives or impounds about 30,000 stray and unwanted pets every year and most are not adopted.

Being a responsible pet owner also means observing the Dallas Animal Ordinance.

Dallas residents must register their cats and dogs with the City and Dallas annually. Registration is only \$7 for pets that are spayed or neutered; \$30 for pets that are not.

All cats, dogs and ferrets must be vaccinated for rabies.

- It is against the law to:
- Be cruel, abusive or neglectful to an animal.
- Allow your cat or dog to be unconfined or off-leash.
- Allow your dog to bark longer than 15 minutes.
- Walk your dog without materials for pick up after it.
- Transport your pet in a pickup truck unless it is in a properly secured carrier.
- Sell animals from your home or from any public property.
- Sell animals from any other property to which the public has access, unless the property owner has a valid certificate of occupancy allowing the sale of animals and has given you permission.

Residents who violate these laws may receive a citation that may result in fines, jail, sentences or both! To report violations of the Dallas Animal Ordinance, please call 3-1-1.

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**



SECURITY PAGE



THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

— by Judy Whalen



The graph below shows a dramatic drop in crime just after The Forest Hills Security Program began in 2003 and how the lower level has remained. Our 2008 goal is to have our stats drop even more.

In 2007, the graph does not reflect the increase in home burglaries because other types of crime went down, offsetting it. The good news is three men responsible for those 2007 year-end break-ins were arrested in December and stolen property was recovered. These men and perhaps more in a ring are suspects in many earlier burglaries in Forest Hills and surrounding neighborhoods. We succeeded, thanks to the combined effort of the Northeast Dallas Police, FHSP off-duty officers and FH residents who had registration numbers for their stolen property and gave good descriptions of the suspects.

We are asking you to be even more security conscious. Our statistics are lower because our awareness is higher. Don't be scared. Be smart about crime. It is important for all of us to keep our eyes and ears open . . . our radar up. We need to help the police help us.

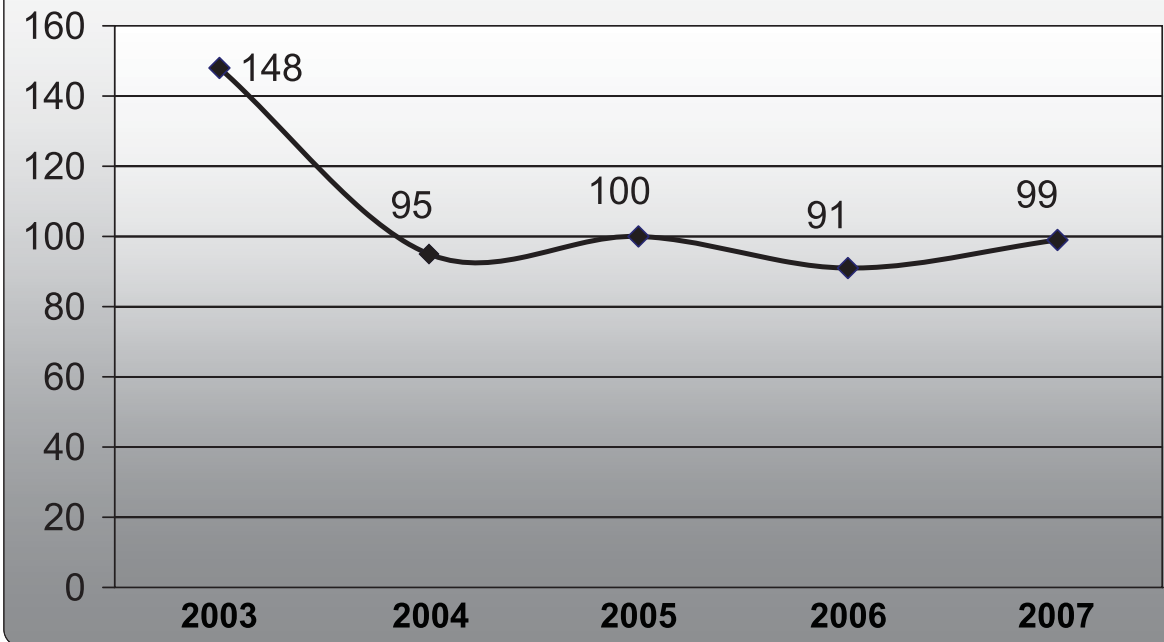
Sergeant Dillon recommends getting a free home security inspection. Contact Sgt. Steven Armon, Northeast Station to schedule, 214-670-7768. There might be something you are missing.

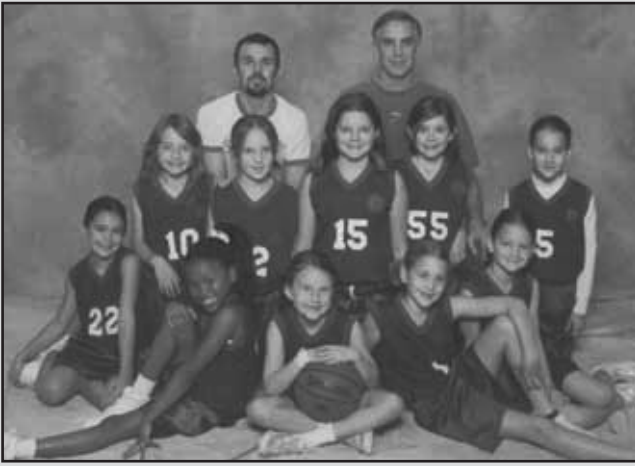
"For a Safer Dallas — We're in this fight together"

Thank you — The Forest Hills Security Program

www.fhspenp@aol.com for more information.

**OFFENSES IN FOREST HILLS REPORTING AREAS
1172 AND 1173
2003 THRU 2007**





The Bulldogs, a third grade basketball team of current and former St. John's students, just completed a fun and exciting season in the Spring Valley Athletic Association basketball league. The girls won their division in the regular season going 7-0. In the season ending 16-team tournament, the girls made it to the finals before losing. St. John's girls include Marley Boyea, Chambliss Pierson, Alex Poscente and Sophia Twining. Way to go girls!

And The Survey Says . . . continued

consistently by the respondents and given overall good marks.

This one needs a little history. The events are viewed favorably and the most popular one is the 4th of July event. This year the board voted to replace the 4th of July event with a Memorial Day Event prior to receiving the survey responses. The thought is to celebrate our fallen heroes who have died in military service for our country. We will maintain the parade and other activities associated with the 4th of July as best we can, given the change of venue. The reasoning was due to other events competing for our residents' time on the 4th as well as the change of venue. We will revisit our decision regarding the 4th of July celebration at our April meeting.

We are drilling down into the results of the survey and will be creating opportunities for increased neighbor interaction. The new programs and opportunities will be communicated as we go forward.

Yard of the Month

The Yard of the Month for March is awarded to the gardens of Patricia Corrigan and D.J. White at 8367 San Fernando Way. Check out the lovely naturalized landscape in front with the lovely green rye grass. Their backyard is an absolute oasis with beautiful Japanese Maples, lots of potted plants and hanging baskets. Congratulations to Pat and DJ and thanks to both of you for keeping Forest Hills beautiful!



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April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, a time to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect and encourage individuals and communities to support children and families. **GO BLUE** Day is Wednesday, April 2nd. You, too, can **GO BLUE** to support child abuse prevention programs. Wear blue and buy a blue "cause" bracelet at Café Lago, 9219 Garland Rd. #1102, Dallas, Texas 75218, (214) 320-0726.

To contact us about volunteer opportunities, speakers to present at a group or function, or for further information please call 214-321-6292 or email us at foced@prodigy.net. To learn how you can make a difference, please visit us on the web at www.dallasfamilyoutreach.org.



Garden Club News



Garden Club was canceled for March due to inclement weather — remember that March snowstorm? The next meeting was held April 3rd at 10 a.m. at the home of Jane Hulsey — 8422 Santa Clara Dr. Three homeowners have agreed to be on the WHITE ROCK EAST GARDEN AND ARTISAN TOUR this year. Thanks are in order to John Sadler and Abbie Meyering of 8407 San Pedro Pkwy, Mary and John Ehrenberger of 8152 Santa Clara Dr. and Kathy Glenn and her husband at 8325 Forest Hills Blvd. The date set for the tour is Sunday May 18th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Barb Michaels will be contacting volunteers to help with monitoring the gardens and helping with the plant sale and Lottie Minick will be contacting artists. It promises to be a great Sunday afternoon in May for all who love gardens and a way to add to the beautification budget for Forest Hills Neighborhood Association.



YARDS AND UPKEEP



Numerous complaints have come in regarding neighbor's dissatisfaction with unkept properties in Forest Hills. Weeds, old vehicles, trash and debris are just a few of the concerns.

The City of Dallas is fielding these types of complaints from other east Dallas neighborhoods and recently upped the ante on code enforcement. In the next several weeks FH neighbors will see the presence of City Code enforcement in FH. They are specifically targeting alleyways, and lawns with high weeds and debris. Officials will issue citations in order to rectify this problem.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Neoma Twining
Newsletter Editor

Dear Editor: Night after night I am awakened by my neighbors barking dogs. A big one and a little one. They let the dogs out at the ungodly hour of 3:45 am. They bark and bark and bark. No one comes to get them or let them back in the house. I think the neighbor must go back to bed and forgets they are waking up the block.

Editor's response: I wish there were a perfect potty time for pets. This scene is repeated up and down the blocks, I am sure, on a very regular basis. Bottom line, there is nothing you can do legally and I'm not sure you would want to. I would however, encourage a neighborly conversation in hopes of getting some help. Explain your situation and perhaps this neighbor will feel inclined to take action. Maybe no one has complained about this to them before. Good Luck.



Sanger Elementary News

On March 6th our fifth graders attended a special presentation of "Tosca" at the Dallas opera. The students have been studying opera; particularly Tosca in music class. Students are also working on an upcoming competition called "music memory". It will be in late May at the Meyerson. Students must identify the composer and title from a random selection of at least 17 classical masterpieces.

The Sandy Lake Choir Fest will be held on May 23rd this year. Our students placed first last year at this competition! In sports the girls soccer team is 0-1 with the boys at 0-2. Practice, practice, practice!

The Sanger garden project has its first plant donation! The Boyle's family has generously promised two rose bushes, one clematis, day lilies, and school house lilies. Thank you so much! Our work day is still to be determined but it is coming, I promise! In the meantime, keep those extra plants coming our way. If you would like to contribute something please contact Mary Ehrenberger 214-327-7994.



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**LET'S TALK
REAL ESTATE**
with
Jenny Capritta

THE ELEMENTS OF LOCATION

When you are in the market for a home, how should you evaluate the properties that appeal to you? There is an old cliché about the three most important factors of a piece of property— location, location and location.

Some neighborhoods have a certain distinction that attracts buyers, but there are other factors to take into account. A house in a good location may have a few points subtracted if it is located on a busy street. There are buyers who would like to be close to schools, shopping, and churches, but don't want to live across the street from these facilities. You may want an easy commute to your job, but would not consider a location close to the "on" ramp of the interstate. A location close to an airport would be convenient if you are a commercial pilot, but might make it difficult to sell even the most wonderful house.

As you balance all of the factors, remember that a location liability that gets you a great house at a reasonable price will probably require you to pass a similar savings on to future buyers.

Whether you are buying or selling a home, Jenny takes the time to ensure you have the pertinent information you need to make a decision. So, before your next move, turn to the professional with the passion, energy and drive to make a difference.

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FOREST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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The Forest Hills neighborhood is a wooded bluff on the south side of White Rock Lake where shaded, estate-sized properties are the norm. Forest Hills is considered to have, by far, the most diverse collection of architectural styles in any single area of Dallas. Large brick and stone homes on deep, tree-studded lots characterize the neighborhood and make it one of Dallas' best-kept secrets. Forest Hills is close to the hike and bike trails of White Rock Lake, the Dallas Arboretum and the Lakewood and Casa Linda shopping centers. The average home value in Forest Hills is \$334,680.

What makes Forest Hills appealing to your business?

The people of Forest Hills are as diverse as the homes — retirees, homemakers, doctors, lawyers, bankers, sales executives, artists, children. Some of Forest Hills' residents have lived in the neighborhood since the 1950s. Some of Forest Hills' residents are professionals who have moved into the neighborhood in recent years. Regardless of how long they have lived in the neighborhood — this is a quality bunch of people.

Consider that:

- The average annual income in Forest Hills is \$168,471;
- 93% of adult residents attended college;
- 82% of the residents have lived in Forest Hills for three (3) years or more;
- 56% of Forest Hills residents plan on remodeling or redecorating their home within the next twelve (12) months;
- Within the next twelve (12) months, Forest Hills residents will:
 1. Purchase automobiles (24%)
 2. Purchase carpet & flooring (21%)
 3. Acquire dental services (72%)
 4. Use a florist (36%)
 5. Purchase furniture (55%)
 6. Purchase home improvement supplies (69%)
 7. Purchase lawn and garden supplies (44%)
 8. Seek financial advice (22%)
 9. Purchase jewelry (11%)
 10. Purchase electronics (28%)
 11. Purchase a major home appliance (32%)
 12. Plan a vacation (71%)

