



# The Reporter

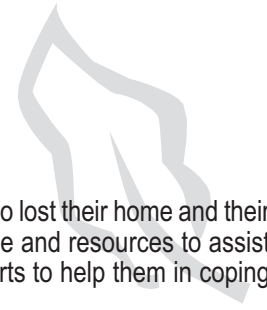
MARCH-APRIL 2009 ISSUE

## Wind Storms Taking Toll on FH Trees

Upcoming Event!  
8th Annual White Rock East  
Garden and Artisans Tour  
Sunday, May 17 11 am - 5 p m



# Presidential Perspective



Bill Foerster  
President

## OUR HEART AND PRAYERS

Our hearts and prayers go out to our neighbors, Lonnie and Kathleen Blaydes, who lost their home and their pet, Sadie in a tragic fire last month. Thank you neighbors for contributing your time and resources to assist the Blaydes in their time of need. We wish them the best and will continue our efforts to help them in coping with their loss.

## WE NEED YOU

The out pouring of love and support for the Blaydes is truly an example of the "Spirit of Forest Hills", a motto that has been used over the past decade. We have a unique neighborhood and a special collection of families that make our little slice of Dallas a sanctuary of sorts. [FNHAVolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:FNHAVolunteers@gmail.com)

What's been happening in front and behind the scenes this year? For the past couple of months a team of dedicated volunteers from our standing committees and block captains have been compiling the necessary information to publish an updated neighborhood directory. This past weekend the social committee along with two families on San Benito (Ferris' and Young's) hosted the annual Easter egg hunt. We thank you and the rest of the volunteers that make the neighborhood work in a seamless fashion. We are calling on all neighbors to revisit their availability to ability to volunteer. We have about 600 residences in Forest Hills, 1 hour per person per household would add about 1200 hours per year to our efforts. One hour per month would add 14,400 hours per year. Amazing how a small amount of time accumulated over a year's time can amount to so much. We have established an email address to collection information for those that are willing to contribute their time to the neighborhood. Please email your name, address and phone number with your interests and we will match you up with events, projects and/or other happenings in the neighborhood as needed. We are mindful of precious nature of time and will only call as needed. Thank you.

## Wind Takes Toll on FH Older Trees

It is becoming a familiar sight. After each wind storm, (and they are frequent as of late) heavy, thick branches, fallen trees and uprooted trees can be spotted throughout FH. According to Arborists, the age of some of our trees is part of reason the trees are coming down. Root rot and disease found in some of the really old trees, can cause even the slightest wind to topple them.



Long-time resident, Edith Howson of the 8100 block of San Benito Way, decided to take action before the over-sized, diseased tree in her front yard fell on someone. The tree was a beautiful tree. Providing a lovely canopy and welcome shade in the summer to that particular section of the block. Howson began to worry about the tree given the surge in wind storms in the Dallas area. Aware of the disease in the tree's base, she knew it would just be a matter of time before it fell. She lay awake at night worrying it might land on someone, or their, car producing disastrous results. This past week, she hired a crew to take the frontyard landmark tree down. All that remains is a pit of sawdust and an irrigation wire used to water the tree.

Arborists advise all FH residents to know their trees. Find out the age of the trees on your large lots. Recruit help from Arboretum specialists, books, the Forest Hills Garden Club, internet, etc. so you are in the know.

A good majority of the trees in FH Proper are large and looming. Their branches are heavy and dangerous when they suddenly snap or drop to the ground. When storms strike, they can

kill or maim and do significant damage to home and property. Being informed is your best weapon of defense. Create a safe haven around your home. The FHNA does not want to see a rash of trees being cut down out of fear, but hope neighbors will get informed and act accordingly. Information provided below to help you in assessing the risk of trees on your property.



### CONTACT INFORMATION FOR FH ARBORIST ON CALL:

**ARBOROLOGICAL SERVICES, INC.**, Steve Houser, *Owner*  
Office phone: 972-442-1542 • Email: [steve.houser@dallastrees.org](mailto:steve.houser@dallastrees.org)  
Website: [www.dallastrees.org](http://www.dallastrees.org)

# Town Hall Meeting Recap

Forest Hills Association's first town hall meeting of 2009 was held March 3 at Sanger Elementary. Leon Russell opened the meeting attended by roughly 30 residents with a quick overview of significant activities since the Fall 2008 annual meeting and elections.

Mentioned were the fact that a budget for 2009 had been adopted and that a good response to dues statements was needed in order to support the budget. The soon to be available directory will represent a significant update from the directory last published in 2005. There has been considerable success selling advertising to help fund the cost of the directory. People were encouraged to check out the recent improvements to the FHA website and to send additional suggestions to the webmaster, Sharon Hill. Attention was called to the new Forest Hills rock wall and metal sculpture signage at Breezewood and Garland Road, as well as the neighborhood street sign toppers the cost for which was graciously donated.

Invited speaker Gloria Tarpley spoke briefly about the history and purpose of the Garland Road Vision Initiative ["GRV"]. This organization of residents, neighborhood associations, businesses, the Doctor's Hospital, the Dallas Arboretum, and others are working with the city of Dallas, DART, the Texas Dept. of Transportation, etc. to develop an overall plan for development along Garland Road. The GRVI organization retained a professional consultant to assist their efforts and expects to have a preliminary plan ready around May 1st, 2009. The concept of involving residents and businesses with governmental entities in arriving at a coordinated, overall plan for community development is a brand new approach to community planning. It replaces the usually separate, uncoordinated activities typically undertaken by City Planning Departments and other governmental organizations. Because of GRVI's unique approach, there is widespread outside interest in seeing how well it works.

Ms. Tarpley explained to Town Hall attendees that the GRVI plan will include recommendations regarding landscaping and signage and other approaches that would create a sense of connection up and down Garland Road. An official website will be up by the summer and there will be series of Town Hall meetings to which all, including FHA residents, will be invited.

According to Judy Whalen and Sgt. Dillon, overall crime in FH was down 30% in 2008, likely because FHA increased its patrols to 9 in 2008. Calls to 911 average about 30 per month. Burglaries in the FH neighborhood are down. But significant to Sgt. Dillon was the unexpectedly high number of convicted felons stopped in FH during 2008.

Attendees were curious about where to find the crime statistics for the FH neighborhood. The crime statistics for our two Dallas Police Dept. reporting areas, #1172 and #1173, can be found on the Dallas police website: [www.dallaspolice.net](http://www.dallaspolice.net), select the Public Access link, agree to the terms, and then on the Public Access page which comes up, enter either 1172 or 1173 for the reporting area and select reporting dates of interest. Residents can also check with FH Security at [FHSPenp@aol.com](mailto:FHSPenp@aol.com).

Attendees asked whether FH residents needed to upgrade their door locks in response to the TV news channel story on "lock bumping." Sgt. Dillon indicated that most burglars aren't that sophisticated and prefer to just knock on your door and, if you don't answer, kick it in and then close it quickly behind them before neighbors have time to look out and see if something is wrong. For that reason, his advice was that the FH residents should invest in deadbolts with at least a three inch throw into a solid stud to make it hard to kick the door in. He also commented that while it is legal for door-to-door salesmen to operate in FH, they cannot legally solicit after sundown.

Attendees were encouraged to call the FHA Security Patrol and take advantage of a free service they offer which is to check your house while you are gone on vacation.

Attendees asked about when the permit ends for the California Night Club which owns the Far West club at Gaston and Garland Road. It will end in 2013.

Finally, Barbara Michaels mentioned that this year's Annual Garden Tour is set for Sunday, May 17 from 11 a.m. to 5 p. m.

# Are Signs the Equivalent of Litter to Some?



Apparently so. The editor's desk continues to receive incidences of neighbor against neighbor visits, confrontations, hearty discussions, etc., about signs. You see them. They are all over the place in FH Proper and to some, it is becoming a real eye-sore. The signs represent clutter to some, no less than garbage in the front yards, telephone poles, and medians. We think most of you will admit, this is a problem within our neighborhood.

FYI — The City of Dallas is on top of this sort of thing. They have an ordinance stipulating signage allowed within neighborhoods. Bottom line, you have 7 days to “do your thing.” The City's position is this: The FHNA has the right to post any sign in the median exactly 7 days prior to the event stated on the sign. For instance, if we are planning an annual event, such as a Christmas party, the FHNA is permitted to place signs in the medians for up to 7 days. If we exceed the time limit for posted signage, the signs are confiscated by the city and we are assessed a fine of up to \$250.00. We are not rich enough to afford such fines, so the FHNA volunteers are sensitive to the time frame and hustle to get the signs picked up after an event.

Just last week, one neighbor noticed a person removing signs. The two began to talk and the sign picking neighbor expressed anger at the number of signs. In his mind, taking them down on his own was the answer. We are seeing more and more of this. Neighbors are tired of seeing ad after ad everywhere as they drive to work, leaving FH.

In another case, yellow flyers advertising the loss of pet, were posted randomly and stayed visible for over 3 weeks. Heavy tape was used to post them. It rained, the yellow flyers melted and the glue stuck to the signs post leaving a mess. No one came by to clean them up. Again, angry FH neighbors began taking matters into their own hands. Several have come down, the dog's owner was contacted to come clean up the rest.

Is there a solution? We all have rights. There is no law against trying to find your lost pet. In lieu of signpost litter, the FHNA asks that you use of Animal Alert! website program. If you are having work done on your home, you can post the ad sign for your contractor for 7 days, then promptly remove it. As for events, yard sales, etc., every time you opt to place a sign, you are at risk of neighbors taking it down and disposing of it. Our goal is to be fair-minded and neighborly. No entity, the city or any other agency has the time to oversee this issue 24/7. Therefore, we have to find solutions on our own.

Be neighborly, be considerate and instead of personal confrontations, contact John Mitchell, FHNA, at [jmitchell@3csite.com](mailto:jmitchell@3csite.com), or [leon@rs-attorneys.com](mailto:leon@rs-attorneys.com) if you have concerns about signage. The FHNA is here to help.



## Emergency Response Vehicles Blocked by Cars

Imagine it's your FH home burning. You hear the sirens coming and minutes are precious when a fire is raging. This was the case only recently for one FH homeowner. Fortunately (not in the case of loss), the fire raged on a Sunday. The streets were clear of contractor vehicles normally lining FH's entrance streets on any given workday. The problem of contractor work trucks blocking the streets was brought to our attention by concerned neighbors from the frontage streets of San Fernando, and Forest Hills.



Problem: The trucks line the streets on both sides as pictured here below. Because of the depth perception in the photo, you cannot see just how narrow the slip is between these vehicles. A large fire truck or ambulance (because of the width of the vehicle), could not successfully pass. When minutes count, no emergency response vehicle should have to turn around and find another passage to the emergency location.

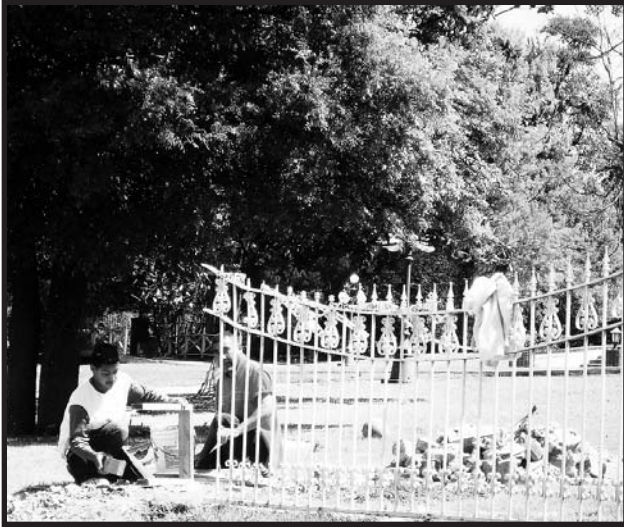
Solution: Notice to all homeowners whose homes are being renovated, updated, etc. Please advise all vehicles associated with construction jobs to figure out a strategy to park, keeping the roadway completely clear of obstruction should an emergency arise.

Our first line of defense is to work with neighbors and their contractors to ensure successful participation. It is easy to do and the contractors we have spoken with are very amicable to our requests.

The FHNA has reported the problem to local fire officials, police, and ambulance services units giving them heads up about the parking.

We anticipate complete compliance by considerate neighbors, so when any of us needs help . . . help can reach us when minutes count.

# Belle Nora Gets Repairs



You can't miss it. No one can. This landmark home known as Belle Nora is a familiar and endearing site to many who travel Garland Road. Everyone admires the beauty of the old, Victorian landmark home, and it's spectacular view of White Rock Lake set upon 2 acres.

Recently, the normally upright, decorative white fence encasing the property was damaged. Late one Saturday evening, a speeding, intoxicated motorist lost control, skidded across the 3 lanes of Garland Road and rammed into the fence leaving a gaping and unsightly hole. Fortunately, this driver had insurance.

Homeowner, Dr. Guevara hired crews to immediately repair the fence keeping the home pristine for the next lucky owner. The home is on the market and represented by FH Friend and realtor, Vicki White. [vickiwhite@kw.com](mailto:vickiwhite@kw.com).

## 17th Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Special thanks to FH Families, Neil Ferris and Patty Goya and Gary and Melodie Young of 8300 San Benito Block. Their lovely yards were adorned in dozens of colorful Easter Eggs to the delight of FH kiddos carrying their best baskets!

This annual FHNA event is a fan favorite signaling the official start of the Spring season.

The event was planned and coordinated by FHNA Social Chair, Shelly Clem and a host of FH volunteers. **HAPPY EASTER TO ALL RESIDENTS OF FOREST HILLS!**



*Easter Bunny greets anxious children*



*Children three and under enjoy their hunt*



*On your mark, get set, HUNT!*



*Forest Hills children line up to use the zip line*



*David Buhmann & Mark Courtney enjoy the beautiful day*



*Leon Russell safely receives Emma Ortman*



# SECURITY PAGE



## THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

— by Judy Whalen

### Door to Door

You may have noticed the increase in door to door solicitation, likely due to the slow economy.

Some of the solicitors are legitimate; some not. How do you know? First ask to see their solicitor's permit, which they are required to have by the city. Also use your gut feeling. Please do not allow anyone into your home.

If you do not like door to door sales, you could put up a no solicitation sign on your door, which usually is not a deterrent or just not answer the door.

Call 911 If they do not have a permit or for some reason you feel uneasy and are suspicious of a solicitor. If it is a non-emergency, we suggest beginning your 911 call with "I do not believe this to be an emergency, however I want to report suspicious activity/a suspicious person." Be sure to get all the identifying details, especially a license number if you can do it safely. It is not illegal to solicit door to door, but it is illegal after dark. Please report that as well.

### Do Not Be Afraid . . .

Do not be afraid to CALL 911 any time to report suspicious activity or when needing emergency help. Do not attempt to contact our neighborhood security personnel until you have called 911 first. If one of our FHSP-ENP police officers is on duty, he/she will hear the 911 call on their radio and have the opportunity to handle the situation in seconds. Calling 911 is the best way for our officers to know quickly. Secondly, please follow up with the FH Security [FHSPENP@aol.com](mailto:FHSPENP@aol.com) or 214-535-2077 so it can be placed in the police logbook. So often crimes have been solved in follow up situations by our officers.

Communication is one of the best ways to fight crime.

## IT'S SECURITY PLEDGE TIME! WE NEED OUR SECURITY PATROLS NOW MORE THAN EVER

Forest Hills has a challenge ahead in 2009 to protect and secure our possessions and most of all our people, as crime is expected to be on the rise.

The Forest Hills Security Program is asking the residents to be aware, to protect themselves and to invest in safety by making their April pledge (Q2).

**SECURITY PLEDGE (April — Quarter 2) \$60**

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



Your pledges are making a big difference in keeping our crime down and our security defense up!



# PAWS PAGE



## Keep The Pets

When push comes to shove and it's either pay for your medication or dog food, unfortunately, the dog loses. Many of our partner-vet clinics and support agencies are telling us tales of woe about families forced to give up their pet, or just plain abandon them because they can no longer afford the pet.

It is becoming a common problem all over the metroplex. Several new groups have organized in an effort to save and rescue pets facing a "loss of family." We say . . . Keep The Pet.



## Owls in FH snatching up small animals

We don't have photos of proof, but we do have two confirmed reports of small animal snatchings courtesy of the "hoot" variety.

This is another one of those stories for "FH Believe it or Not" and I was reluctant to believe it myself had a vet not confirmed the possibility of this type of thing happening.

Two small dogs were seen being hauled in the talons of large owls in the past several weeks.

**WARNING:** If you have small pets, go outside with them at night while they potty!!!

## Brown Recluse Spider Bites FH Woman in Home



Now here is a story you don't hear every day. We received a call from a dear neighbor who sounded literally terrible on the phone. She is one of FH's favorite seniors.

Two Brown Recluse spiders were found in her home. One, under the sheets of her bed near her feet. The second, in her bathroom, where she was bitten.

These spiders are extremely dangerous, and their bites can be fatal if not treated in time.

Fortunately, Doris had a brown recluse spider kit and was able to treat the bite within 4 hours. Still, she remains very ill from the effects of such a bite.

This is the first report of this spider inside an FH home. Please familiarize yourself with this species of spider and how to treat a bite.



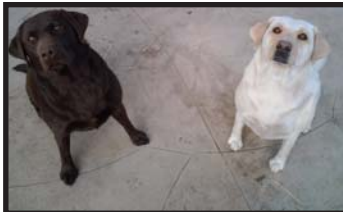
## Coyote Kills Cat in FH

8300 Santa Clara block captain, Pat Colavecchi found cat's head torn off in her back yard this past weekend. There have been

more and more coyote sightings in our neighborhood. Forest Hills is a safe place for them to hang out. Unfortunately we have to rely on animal control to take care of the problem. You could try to trap a coyote, but once you trap it, you have to hand it over to animal control to take away because Texas Wildlife regulations state you cannot transport live coyotes.

Just make your neighbors aware there have been more and more evidence of them here. Keep your pets, especially small dogs and cats inside at night for their safety.

## Beautiful Labs Now Homeless . . .



You all have seen the pleas, photos and requests for help from families either relocating, or unable to keep their precious pet family members any longer. The cases are many, the stories are sad. This is a snapshot into a very real situation now facing many. Where you can help, please help. Animal Alert! of Forest Hills

## THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM

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

## *Yard of the Month*

Yard of the Month for February has been awarded to Gary and Dawn Gibson, 8206 Santa Clara. Be sure to drive by and enjoy the amazing transformation of their front yard. And Dawn tells us there is more to come! Thanks for helping to make Forest Hills such a beautiful place to live!



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## **St. John's Blood Drive**

St John's is sponsoring a blood drive. This drive is to support an 8 year old, Gray Breidenbach, who is a friend of many Forest Hills children. He needs transfusions every 28 days. Gray is an amazing, typical little boy! At this point, after hundreds of tests, exploratory surgery and medications, the blood transfusions are a blessing because they keep him alive. Thank goodness the blood is available and an option! He knows he goes to the hospital, but he doesn't think it's that big of a deal. We are blessed that we have a fix because we see so many children at the hospital that truly are sick and out of options. Thanks to each of you for helping to get the word out about the blood drive — it's not only important for Gray, but for all the others that rely and depend on blood for whatever reason.

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Wednesday, April 29th • 7:30 am to 6 pm  
Contact Quitze Nelson • 214-533-4922  
[quitze@quitzenelson.com](mailto:quitze@quitzenelson.com)

Walk ins are welcome, but those with appointments will be taken first.

Please have a good meal and drink plenty of fluids before your donation.

## **Arboretum News**

Mary Brennigar, of the Dallas Arboretum, held her neighborhood liaison meeting March 31st at the Camp House. Fifteen storybook houses throughout the gardens are very popular as will be the soon to be completed children's garden.

The followup meeting for Artscape at the Arboretum March 21 and 22 reported Dallas Blooms enjoyed great attendance during perfect weather with more artists participating in the juried show than any other year. Dallas Blooms runs through April.

Mary and her staff are trying find a date to open the gardens to surrounding neighborhoods one night this spring. The Arboretum is very sensitive to their neighbors and is trying to work out the parking issues.



## **Electronics Recycling Day — April 18th!**

White Rock United Methodist Church is hosting an electronics recycling event on April 18. As community leaders and media, you can help us communicate this message. We would be honored if you would help us share this news to more people. Here are the details:

**Date:** April 18th

**Time:** 9:00 AM 12:00 PM

**Location:** 1450 Old Gate, Dallas Texas 75218

**Tax receipts will be given to all donors!!!**

**Anna M. Clark**  
EarthPeople, LLC  
Direct: 214.597.0367  
Toll-Free: 1.800.597.6892



# Garden Club News

— by Lottie Minick



The Gardens to be featured for the White Rock East Garden and Artisans Tour have been chosen. The following FH gardens will be on tour. 8200 San Fernando Way (home of Lance and Lauren Williams), 8523 Forest Hills Blvd. (home of Jay and Cindy Johnson), 1737 Whittier Drive (home of Andie Comini).

This is the 8th year for the celebrated tour. The date is May 17th, from 11am — 5pm. The tour includes 9 gardens, 18 artists, a plant sale and raffle.

For more information, go to [www.eastdallasartgardens.blogspot.com](http://www.eastdallasartgardens.blogspot.com).

This is the only FREE garden tour offered in Dallas! Don't miss it.

## Welcome New Neighbors!

2009 to Date

**Paul and Lynne Ferguson** • 8500 block of San Fernando

**Luis de la Fuente** • 8100 block of San Cristobal

**Bill and Dana Almquis** • 8300 block of Santa Clara

For any over sights, please contact Judy Whalen 214 535-2077 [jwreps@earthlink.net](mailto:jwreps@earthlink.net) with addresses and/or names so we can give our new neighbors a Woodsy Welcome and a Guide to Forest Hills Book!

## Sanger News



### Sanger Teacher Gets Loving Memorial

Max Hardesty still loves his wife. Mrs. Hardesty passed away 2 years ago and Max tried hard to think of something to honor his beloved wife and life long school teacher.

For months he admired the benches placed in medians around Forest Hills. After speaking with Dr. Larry Allen, Max obtained permission to place “an FH Memorial Bench” on the Sanger property. There were several places the bench could have been placed given the areas where the teachers typically congregate.

Max determined “front and center” and under a nice shade tree would do just fine.

The bench honoring this 30 year teaching Sanger veteran will be placed in the front, facing east beneath the beautiful shade tree as you enter the school.

Now all who pause for a little breath will be reminded of a teacher who cared and loved her students.



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**Kathy Wall**  
**214-202-0925**



Scott Carlson Real Estate, Inc.  
6301 Gaston Ave., Suite 170P  
Dallas, Texas 75214

## 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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Email: [vickiwhite@kw.com](mailto:vickiwhite@kw.com)

[www.vickiwhitehomes.com](http://www.vickiwhitehomes.com)

# 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!



**Direct: 214-534-1305**  
**email: vickiwhite@kw.com**  
**www.vickiwhitehomes.com**



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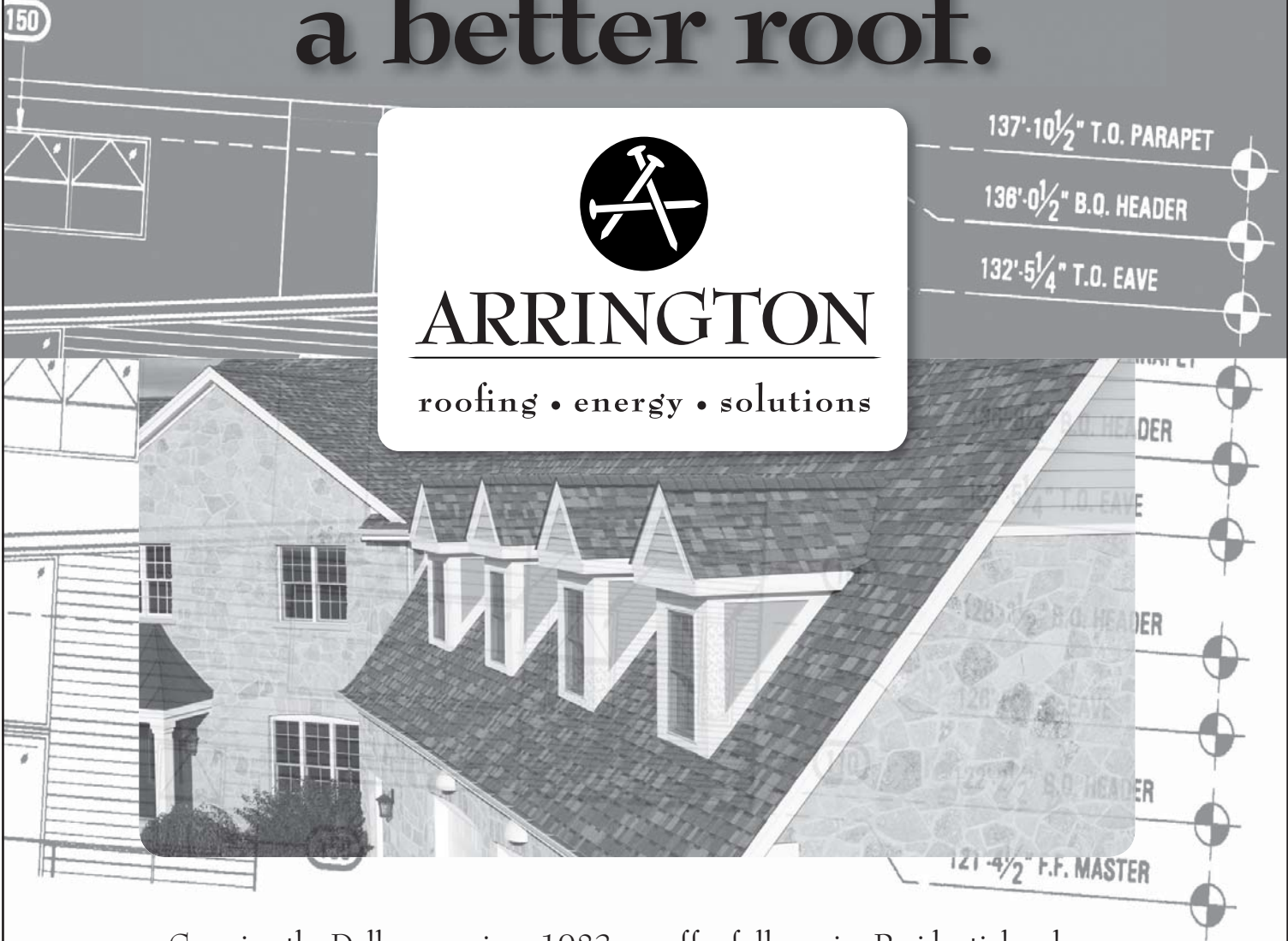
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