



The Reporter

MAY – JUNE 2009 ISSUE

White Rock East Garden and Artisans Tour an Overwhelming Success!

Annual 4th of July Celebration
Saturday, July 4th – 10:30 a.m.
For More Info:
www.foresthillsdallas.org



On Sunday May 17, 2009 the communities of Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates featured a free self-guided tour of nine wonderful gardens. Each of the nine gardens had artisans from these three neighborhoods showcasing their beautiful art for visitors to admire and purchase. Also a great plant sale was held at an empty lot at 1708 Whittier. Most of the plants sold at the plant sale were from the homes of gardeners from the three communities.

Proceeds from the tour will be divided among the three neighborhood associations and Forest Hills will be using the money for neighborhood beautification. This was the 8th annual garden tour in this area and the third year that the Forest Hills neighborhood participated.

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Presidential Perspective



*Bill Foerster,
President*

Beautification

We live in one of the most beautiful areas of Dallas, or at least that is the opinion of one biased Forest Hills resident. Let's see what we can do to continue to have that special feel when we drive through our community. Please be mindful of our property and keep our yards and common areas clean. If you see litter please pick it up and if you see areas that need attention of city services please do not hesitate to call 311 for assistance. Be mindful of pets and the packages they drop along the way on their walks.

Security

Highland on the Creek (HOC) is leaving our security program. With HOC's participation, we were able to increase our Extended Neighborhood Patrols from 6 to 9, 4-hour patrols per week. The crime rate in Forest Hills fell by 30%, because of these additional patrols. The ENP program works!

July is historically a high crime rate month for Forest Hills. If you are not a member or do not contribute to the Forest Hills Security Program, please reconsider. The government can only do so much and usually it is after the fact. We have an excellent ENP team, the officers are connected with the neighborhood and take pride in keeping us safer than we would otherwise be. The officer's presence and visibility discourage criminals. Taking responsibility for our personal security will strengthen our community and increase our property values.

Archiving FH's Past



*Leon Russell,
Incoming President
of FHNA*

The Forest Hills Homeowners Association was created in 1952. In the ensuing years, we have held many neighborhood functions, completed many projects, and enjoyed each other's company along the way. An extensive written and photographic history of these past activities exists and resides in our rented White Rock Storage unit alongside stacks of boxes containing the many purchases and donated items acquired by the association through the years. These include meeting and event signs, holiday decorations, coolers, craft supplies, street blockades, tables, and much more.

Realizing that "if you can't find it, you don't really have it," the contents of the storage unit were recently re-organized. To get the contents off the floor, sturdy metal shelving was donated and installed. Where appropriate, the contents were grouped on the shelving by seasonal activity, such as Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July, etc. Everything in the storage unit was entered into a database that can be sorted in various ways, including by event or type of item. Photographs of significant items were linked to their entry in the database. In the future, members working on a particular event will not only have a list of the stored materials available to them but also pictures of those materials.

The next step was to organize FHA's written and photographic records. These include such things as the official meeting minutes, blue prints, contracts, FHA incorporation records, bank records, step-by-step instructions for putting on various events, event photographs. All are a record of where the FHA has been and, consequently, are worth saving for future reference, especially by those who would lead the FHA in the future.

A master set of each FHA newsletter that could be found was created, arranged in chronological order, for permanent safekeeping. The next step, which is still in progress, is more difficult and involves going through the many boxes of old records and photographs to identify those with historical significance. Those will be re-organized and databased to make them easy find. As FHA continues its mission, it creates a heritage of memories and trail of information which is well worth saving. This is part of that effort.

Hoping It's Not a Trend . . . DUMPING IN FH

This is one problem no neighborhood likes to have. So far, it has not become a serious problem. However, the number of "No Dumping" signs are popping up in alleyways throughout FH. Neighborhood Associations in East Dallas are reporting some of the same. Those serious about investigating the situation are finding the culprits may not be outsiders, but insiders. That's right. The dumping culprits could be their own neighbor! Nothing has been confirmed, but the cases are near closure. It seems homeowners who hire contractors, and vendors not familiar with our "Keep FH Beautiful" program are uninformed. In lieu of paying for a utility construction dumpster to be placed on site, vendors and contractors are using the alleyway trash bins as their own. The unacceptability in this lies in the fact we currently have bins for recycled materials and bins for household garbage. It appears the debris being deposited in the complaining neighbors bins does not belong to them. One neighbor is really brave. She sifted through the mess to determine just who was doing the dumping! Takes nerve. And, really long plastic gloves. To help these neighbors remedy this problem, we are re-instating the city's no dumping policy and code directives on our FHNA website, www.foresthillsdallas.org. And we will be upping our own vigilance to curtail the "dump" issue. If you want to help, please let any contractor or vendor you personally hire, get educated about how we dispose of waste and materials in FH.



Subtle Issues of Maintenance

Ever drive into a neighborhood and without really articulating it, notice the "look" of the neighborhood? From everything to plantings, signage, clean streets, well manicured lawns, etc, etc, etc. . . . FHNA has worked diligently the past 5 years to upgrade our look. Forest Hills is no longer one of Dallas' most well kept secrets. We used to hide in the forest! Numbers of passersby on Garland road, never driving through our neighborhood realize what lies within the Forest. Forest Hills maintains a reputation of a beautiful, unique place to live. The FHNA and residents have labored to keep it this way. FHNA does not seek to be a "tyrannical neighborhood association" but rather a "partner with neighbors in protecting this valuable, tree canopied, beautiful development." That stated, a couple of housekeeping issues have caught our attention. See if you agree.



- 1) Stop signs leaning from being hit by cars, or lawn care equipment.
- 2) Grass and leaves in streets from lawn crews using blowers to blow debris off driveways and yards into streets.
- 3) Trash, (especially following weekends) beer cans, etc., thrown carelessly into our medians.
- 4) Graffiti on telephone poles, transformers, etc.
- 5) Advertising signs stapled or taped to existing street signs, or poles.

The list is long, but the solution lies within us as residents. The FHNA realizes the City of Dallas is not able to monitor these subtle issues of appearance. Therefore, we as FH citizens must do all we can to keep it clean. Consider this article the first step in what will be an ongoing effort by the FHNA to "Keep FH Beautiful." To the extent we can control some of the issues, such as leaning signs (city will fix), we will. The other, smaller details require your help.

Tree Tip of the Month

"Strategically planted trees around the house can provide shade that reduces air-conditioning bills up to 75 percent and can save you as much as \$250 in energy costs each year." Get saving FH residents! Plant more trees!!!!
June 2009 Good Housekeeping

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.

Dallas • 214-368-591 • www.911wildlife.com

One of Our Own Named City of Plano Employee of the Year

FH resident, Joan Shopoff was named City of Plano, Employee of the Year 2009. A member of the City of Plano team since February 1982, Joan has touched thousands of lives and has provided invaluable services for persons of various mental and physical abilities through her development and therapeutic programming.



FHNA Board Meeting Recap

Hi! My name is Steve Bakota and my wife Meghan, son Henry and I live on San Leandro Drive. I wanted to take this opportunity to provide an update on the latest activity for the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association Board. As a board, our primary objective is to figure out ways that we can make our community a highly desirable place to live. We focus our attention beyond just the aesthetics and safety of our neighborhood — trying to think of ways we can create more opportunities for our neighbors to interact and take full advantage of our little part of Dallas.

In this month's meeting, the major topic of discussion was our annual Fourth of July Parade and Cookout. Shelly Clem is leading the efforts to create a truly special event. We are still in the planning stages but to give you some insight, in addition to our parade, we will have a cookout, children's activities sponsored by the Children's Network and entertainment sponsored by the Social Committee to celebrate this great holiday. You will see much more on this in the coming weeks.

Meghan, Henry and I hope to see you all at the celebration on the Fourth!



Steve Bakota —
FHNA Board Secretary

White Rock East Garden and Artisans Tour an Overwhelming Success!

continued from page 1



This event would not have been possible without the generous donations from local business owners. Heartfelt thanks go to our garden sponsors: **Bella Vista Company**, 214-823-0033 www.bellavistacompany.com • **East Lake Pet Orphanage**, 214-349-3576, www.elpo.org • **Foster Exteriors**, 214-319-8400, www.fosterexteriors.com • **Harry Morgan, Ellen Terry Realtors**, 972-380-7707, www.ellenterry.com • **Landscape Systems of Texas**, 214-748-1435, www.landscapesystems.com • **North Haven Gardens**, 214-363-5316, www.nhg.com • **Paradise Landscapes**, 214.328.9955, www.paradiselandscapes.net • **Ruibal's Plants of Texas**, 214-744-3434, www.ruibals.com.

And last but not least we want to thank the GARDEN OWNERS from our neighborhood who gave so generously of their time, fruits of their labor and opened their back yards for all the neighbors to enjoy their wonderful

creativity: **Lance and Lauren Williams**, 8200 San Fernando Way; **Cindy and Jay Johnson**, 8523 Forest Hills Blvd.; **Andie Comini**, 1737 Whittier Ave. For pictures and more information on the tour check out Lottie Minick's blog, eastdallasartgardens.blogspot.com.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS

This tour would not have been possible without the help from our volunteers. **Barb Michaels, Lottie Minick** and **Andie Comini** represented our great neighborhood at all the planning sessions. Barb found the three very unique and beautiful gardens and organized the volunteers — also donated tons of plants from her own garden. Lottie was responsible for the incredible publicity we had this year! And Andie hosted her own garden in addition to being active on the committee!

The after the tour party on Sunday evening for the volunteers and garden owners from all three neighborhoods was hosted by **Max** and **Denise Tyler** in Little Forest Hills. One of the garden owners thought we should have commemorative

t-shirts saying "I Survived the 2009 White Rock Garden Tour." We tripled our attendance — had 1600 garden visitors and sold all of the plants!



And very special thanks to the volunteers who monitored the gardens, answered questions and encouraged the sale of raffle tickets: **Vicky Harvey, Kelly Miller, Mike Miller, Anne Carlson, Mary Deighton, Tom Deighton, Meg Fosha, Jackie Obergall, Katrina Moran, Abbie Strava, Mari Anne Mourer, Shelly Clem, Judy Whalen, Jan Walpole, Carol Lyons, Mary Ehrenberger, Angie Tittle, Diana Wilson, Denise Siegal, Dorinda Duncan, Josephine Brown, Patty Goya, Kathy Glenn, Tamela Southan, Dawn Gibson, and Margaret Smith**. Your service to our community was invaluable.



Steve Houser —
Photograph by
Michael Mulvey/
Dallas Morning News

Arboriological Associates chosen as Forest Hills Arborist

Choosing an "arborist" for FH has been in the works for the past three months. Given the number of questions, situations, and problems surrounding our trees, it became necessary to appoint a "go-to" individual the FHNA could rely on for expertise in tree matters. Pictured at left is Steve Houser, our new designee. We are now able to have information provided by an Arborist familiar with our forest! The FHNA will set up a tab the FH website, www.foresthillsdallas.org, for residents to click on when they have issues or questions about their trees. Congratulations Steve. We look forward to having you work alongside of us!!



SECURITY PAGE



Breast Cancer 3-Day Dallas

Lucy Barnett and Jana Brewster are Dallas Police officers who patrol our neighborhood with the Forest Hills Security Program. Salute them and cheer them on not only as they watch over us, but when they walk the 3-day walk for the cure in Dallas this fall. Their group is "Cops Against Cancer." Luci's letter is as follows:

Dear Forest Hills,

Jana Brewster and I will be walking the 60 miles together for the Breast Cancer 3-Day Dallas (www.the3day.org), November 6 – 8. We are walking with "Cops Against Cancer." Jana and I are the only two DPD officers walking in Dallas along with 3 other officers who will be participating as crew members.

We will be having a couple of fundraisers in the not too distant future, but I wanted to ask those in the neighborhood who feel compelled to donate to this wonderful cause.

Jana has several family members who are survivors, and my 94 year old grandmother is a 2x breast cancer survivor. This is something that is near and dear to our hearts.

For those who would like to donate, all of the net proceeds go to the Susan G. Komen for research. The link to my page is http://www.the3day.org/site/TR/Walk/DallasFtWorthEvent?px=1121889&pg=personal&fr_id=1295. You may make online donations or neighbors may give the donation to me or Jana personally, if it is more convenient.

Thanks for your help!

Lucy Barnett-Forest Hills Security — Program patrol officer

Stay in the Loop

Are you currently receiving emails from Forest Hills concerning crime, announcing neighborhood events or any emergency issues?

If not and you want to be included, you can easily make your request by signing up or changing your status anytime at the Forest Hills website, foresthillsdallas.org under "Get Involved, Join the Neighborhood Email List."

We understand and share your concern about privacy. This information will only be used for keeping our neighborhood residents informed. The Forest Hills Neighborhood Association will never share or distribute any information provided through the website. Residents only please.

Direct link to sign up is www.foresthillsdallas.org/volunteer.html.

May 1 — June 1 Forest Hills Security Program Report

Crimes Reported: Low in May due to more patrol protection

THEFT:

- 8300 San Cristobal Alley — Landscape bricks
- 8300 Block of Forest Hills — Vehicle break-in on street
- 8100 Block of Santa Clara — Vehicle break-in on street
- 8500 Block of San Leandro — Vehicle break-in on street

FOUND PROPERTY:

- 8100 Block of San Leandro — One bag of marijuana

ARREST BY FHSP: • May 22 Sgt. Dillon on FH duty arrested a prostitute and a convicted felon /serial drug abuser in a car parked at White Rock Dr and San Benito. Kahlen Walker B/M/26 was arrested for sexual assault, robbery, burglary, stolen cars, felony thefts, and various and assorted drug offenses. They both were placed in jail for warrants out of the Dallas Sheriff's Office and the Ft. Worth PD. Sgt Dillon had a long talk with them about their choice of neighborhoods in which to conduct criminal activities.

• May 26, Tapia, Armando Rodrigo L/M/27 was arrested for outstanding warrants out of three different cities at corner of Lakeland and 8500 Block of Garland.

Summer traditionally has a higher incident of break-ins. We are encouraging residents to keep up their guard by securing their homes, being extremely aware, watching out for both themselves and their neighbors and pledging this quarter to FHSP. Your participation is needed to bring more police patrols to our neighborhood to keep fewer criminals out of it!

SECURITY!

July Pledge Quarter 3 — \$60 Please send or set up automatic bank payments to:
Forest Hills Security Program • 8432 San Fernando Way • Dallas, TX 75218





PAWS PAGE



Page Sponsored by Taddy's, Reigning Cats and Dogs

Bark Less, Wag More

Animal Alert! has been very successful in returning lost pets to their homes. The more emails we can reach with a description and picture of the pet — the better chance we have of getting the pet home.

Won't you help us? Please email info@lfhanimalalert.org and give us permission to use your email for our email blasts. We are working hard to help with lost and found pets. Please help us out by being part of the email network. Please include your name, phone numbers and just simply let us know you want to receive our Animal Alert! emails. Some days you may get two or three emails about lost and found pets. Other days — none. It all depends on how many are reported lost or found. Emails are sent out ONLY about pets and related issues. We do not sell our email list or use them for any other reason. If for any reason you wish to be removed from the list, simply let us know.

A special thanks to: East Dallas Vet, East Lake Vet, Kinder Kritter, Marilind Cash, Gloria Tarpley, and Sergeant Dillon.

Homes With Pet Odor!

If you own a pet, no doubt anyone with a sensitive nose can tell right away once they enter your home. You may not notice because you "live" with the odor. It is natural for there to be some signs, or smells within a "pet home", but you don't want your home to reek of a foul or unpleasant odor. We have a solution. A new book, authored by Julia Szabo, titled "Pretty Pet-Friendly" will give you some awesome heads up on solving the problem and making pet loving home, stylish and spotless!!

Pet Tip of the Month



Keep grapes, raisins, sugarless gum and lily flowers out of your pets reach! Research shows these materials can be harmful to your pet. If your pet consumes any of these things, call the Animal Poison Control Center Immediately! 888-426-4435

The Duck Whisperer



May 26, 2009 — "I drove into the neighborhood a few minutes ago on San Rafael and noticed a police car stopped at the median. A police officer I assume he is part of the Forest Hills Security patrol) had stopped to escort a mother duck and her babies from the median across the street. He stopped traffic so she could safely cross over and stayed with her to make sure she was headed for safety. I don't know who is on this evening but he was very kind and I wanted someone to know. This occurred about 5 and it was a wonderful sight! I hope he can be recognized."

— Deb Allison, San Benito

"One mallard hen and 9 ducklings. They were not going to make it across Garland Rd., so I turned them around and herded them back through Highland on the Creek into White Rock Creek. Last seen swimming away safely."

— Sgt. Rod Dillon, "Duck Wrangler Extraordinaire"

Mari Anne Mourer, FHSP Logbook Coordinator wasn't surprised to hear it was Sgt Dillon. She says he "deserves recognition for all the things he does for the city, all the hours he volunteers coordinating our FHSP police officers, and then saving the animals, wild or not."



THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM

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

Yard of the Month

The Yard of the Month for May is awarded to Andie Comini at 1737 Whittier Ave. Words cannot describe this wonderful garden. Certainly it is the only garden in Forest Hills where visitors are greeted by a life-sized dinosaur dressed in haute couture! The backyard beckons the curious, and is a testament to Andie's incredible skills in landscape design, her creativity and whimsy and her hard work in preparing this magical space for the 2009 garden tour! Congratulations!



Yard of the Month for June is awarded to Muditha Karunatileka and his fiancé Griselda Rocha at 8431 Santa Clara Dr. As you can see the yard is beautifully landscaped around the many lovely pecans and oaks that have been there for years. Muditha says the backyard is even more lovely. Thank you for adding to the beauty of this wonderful neighborhood.



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ID Theft Enters the Neighborhood

No longer does identity theft relate only to big corporations. It is affecting everyone, everywhere including newborn babies who are having their social security numbers used to open bank accounts, acquire credit cards and buy homes.

How would you like it if you found out your recently deceased family member owed the IRS over a million dollars in back taxes? Or your husband was wanted for moving several million dollars worth of cocaine into the United States? Over 62% of Identity Theft victims have felony criminal arrest warrants out in their name! Obviously neither the child, nor the deceased relative, nor the husband did any of this, but how can you prove otherwise? Proving your innocence is nearly impossible as you're considered guilty until proven innocent.

For instance, with financial identity theft if you do not report the abuse to your financial institution within 60 days you are fully responsible for all of it even if the thieves changed your address. Discovering that you lost yourself might happen months or even years after the fact. The whole long mending process can become devastating to your wallet and your nervous system taking hundreds of dollars and hours.

The only way to protect yourself from the five (yes five!) areas of identity theft (1. social security, 2. drivers license, 3. medical, 4. character/criminal and, 5. financial) is through the use of licensed professionals. Identity thieves rob more than 500,000 Americans every year.

One of the Identity Theft Protection companies in our area, you can contact for information on how to prevent and mitigate ID theft or restore your lost identity is FTC (214) 988-9191, Ext. 801).

Garden Club News

— by Lottie Minick



The first Thursday of the month the Forest Hills Garden Club met for the evening meeting at the home of Tamela Southan. Our guest speaker, Master Gardener, Janet D. Smith, gave a slide show presentation on Sex in the Garden. She spoke of flower sex, noting the only purpose of a flower is to provide reproduction for the plant and the importance of pollinators.



Mary Ehrenberger told us about her Voodoo Lily blooming it's once a year bloom the day of the meeting. Pictured are some of the club members attending and Mary's Voodoo Lily.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Neoma Twining
Newsletter Editor

Neighbor: Kudos to You!! I am not sure who to thank so I am taking a broad sweep approach. To all who encouraged neighbors of Forest Hills to carry small doggie poop bags when they walk their pooches. Have you noticed like I have the number of persons walking their "leashed" pets and picking up their "discards?" This is a beautiful thing. I moved here from Denver, Colorado where they will give you a ticket if you are caught letting your precious "poop" on streets and in someone's lawn or in public park areas. I think Forest Hills is an awesome neighborhood. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!!!!

Editor Response: On behalf of the FHNA, we will take all the Kudos we can get!!

Sanger News

Educational Garden for Sanger?

A wonderful educational trend began 6 years ago within the DISD. Educational gardens designed to teach children about nature, our earth, planting, and agricultural development. Sanger Elementary might just be one of the lucky schools to have such a garden in the near future. An effort, headed by FH neighbor and mother, Katrina Moran, is underway. Moran contacted Nancy Payne of Organica Garden Design. Low income schools receive priority and aid for this type of educational experience. While Sanger does not qualify under these guidelines, Moran is pushing for an alliance of parents and faculty to get the garden in place for students of Sanger. Additionally, Moran is seeking landscaping improvements not only benefitting Sanger, but FH neighborhood as well. More information about gardens, view this site <http://realschoolgardens.org/en/>.





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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!

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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!



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