

Annual 4th of July Parade

Saturday, July 3rd, 10:30 a.m.

www.foresthillsdallas.org

The Reporter

MAY – JUNE 2010 ISSUE

“Bloom Where You’re Planted . . .” 9th Annual Tour Successful!



On Sunday May 23, 2010 the communities of Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates featured a 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 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 9th annual garden tour in this area and the fourth year that the Forest Hills neighborhood participated.

Presidential Thoughts . . .



Leon Russell,
FHNA President

Dear Neighbors:

We have finally reached the end of the traditional school year, and the mid-point of the FHNA calendar season. I do not typically write a President's Letter but, as the temperature and humidity begin to rise, let's kick back in the shade with a cool drink and reflect on what has been accomplished and what we have yet to look forward to.

At Sanger Elementary, residents from many surrounding neighborhoods, including Forest Hills, donated their time, tools and materials to help Sanger create teaching garden for its' students in all grade levels. Though it was backbreaking work to install, the students did the planting, weeding and watering. The students recently harvested their carefully nurtured crops and enjoyed a meal of the many prepared vegetables.

In early February, Mother Nature provided Forest Hills with a memorable blanket of snow which gave us many beautiful scenes. Unfortunately, our signature neighborhood resource, our trees, took a beating. When the City seemed unwilling to act, a number of residents (especially John Mitchell) took the lead to encourage the City to pick up the downed trees.

In late February, the first Block Captain's Appreciation Party was held. Approximately 60 people attended, enjoying good food, good wine, and good company. Block captains on the same street connected with one another, many for the first time.

(continued on Page 6)

“Rumbling in the Alleyways”

by John Mitchell, P&Z Chair, FHNA

Your Forest Hills Association has been actively working with Dallas City Officials and the Department of Sanitation Services to resolve the problem of accessibility for collection trucks to many of the alleys in Our Community.

The issue started with the San Cristobal, Whittier, Eustis and Groveland alleys and quickly became a larger issue involving many alleys in FH. Presently these two Streets do not have alley trash pick-up. Homeowners have to drag their heavy containers to the front curb for the “one day/week pick-up”.



Now the Department of Sanitations Services (DSS) has mapped out those alleys that require the following measures if alley trash pick-up is to continue.

- Removal of overgrown vegetation
- Removal or the moving of fences encroaching on the alley
- Pruning of low hanging trees
- Widening of “pinch points” where trucks can barely pass through
- Relocation of Swimming pool equipment that encroaches on the alley
- Removal of some trees narrowing the alley passage-way
- Ruts and holes in the alley need to be repaired
- Removal at all times of any carts, debris, containers and anything that blocks passageway

- Trash and Recycling container areas will need to be recessed — “Insets 3'x8' on narrow alleys”
- Straightening turns in the alleys that prohibit sanitation vehicles from passing through

There are may more obstacles for the collection trucks that will involve the Water Company (manholes), Power Company (power poles) and Dallas Streets (potholes ditches) and the DSS. These are their responsibility.

The FHA treasury does not have the funds to have all this work completed. This is due primarily to a low annual dues amount of \$25 and a low participation of dues paying homeowners.

OBJECTIONS: the ones that quickly come to mind

- 1) This neighborhood was designed decades ago for trash pickup in the alley;
- 2) Kids generally play in front and backyards, not alleys;
- 3) Putting a trash truck driver in the street provides only a single pair of eyes to watch out for those children;
- 4) A trash truck will have to go up and down a street twice (once for each side);
- 5) Our neighborhood streets are heavily used for walking, biking and running (unlike the alleys);

(continued on Page 3)

“Rumbling in the Alleyways”

(continued from page 2)



- 6) While alleys generally are not used as parking areas and, therefore, passable to trucks, streets are often used for parking, complicating access to trash bins by trash trucks;
- 7) In Lakewood, trash drivers lay on the horn until the owner comes out to move parked cars blocking access to the bins. If the homeowner is not home, or not in possession of keys to the cars (perhaps a neighbors bridge party), the bins go un-emptied until the following week. In the meantime, the bins must either be moved back to the alley again (or left where they are for a week). What if a skipped bin already included dirty diapers or spoiled food, in the middle of the summer? What about sleeping babies in the neighborhood when the driver lays on his horn to try to draw the homeowner out?
- 8) Trash bins in front look, well, trashy;
- 9) Trash cans in front (or not in front) can signal the presence or absence of the homeowner to would be thieves; and, finally

10) Loaded trash bins are heavy and cumbersome to move 250 feet from the alley to the front curb and back again each week, especially for the elderly.

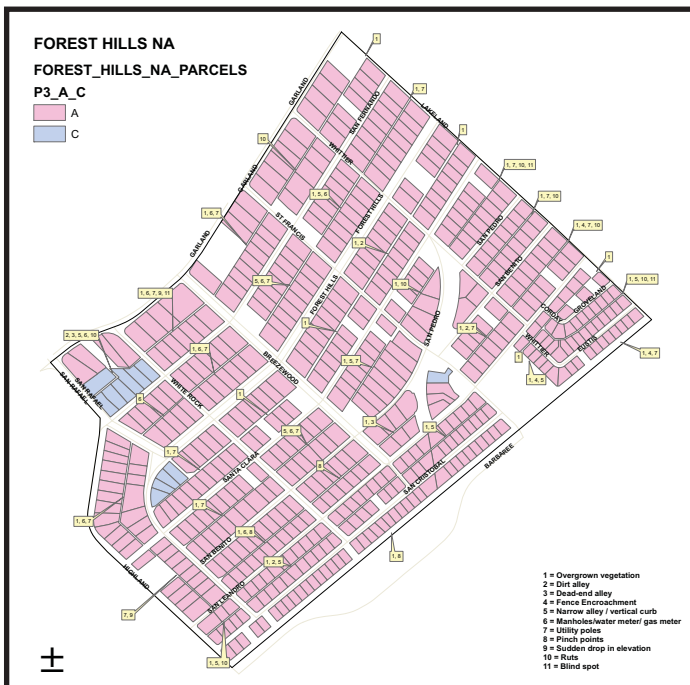
The bottom line is this: the City of Dallas like all other cities in the US are in a budget crisis with ever decreasing revenues. Every City Operation must cut costs and conserve on expenditures. The Department of Sanitation is no exception. They are having to utilize larger, automated trucks that carry more volume and make fewer trips to the disposal site.

Forest Hills is one of many communities faced with the same challenge. Clean up your alleys to make them more passable for the new and larger trucks or expect to begin curbside trash pick-up on your street.

Lakewood filed 5 separate petitions (for 5 different areas) to get alley service restored. Alley service was restored on one following satisfactory inspection. Two areas are still pending repeat inspections because they did not pass the first time. The remaining inspections have not yet been scheduled. Lakewood is planning a voluntary alley cleanup campaign and a pool party with beer, etc., afterwards.

The city does have a trash pick-up program for the elderly, ill or disabled. It is called “Helping Hands”. Contact: Judy Pate at 214-670-4481. She normally works in the afternoons until late as she is a retired worker assisting with special projects in the Sanitations Department.

Please take the time to view “The Map” that shows the alleys and their related problems. Also in this article are pictures taken by the City to illustrate the impassability of Sanitation Trucks of many alleys.



SOLUTIONS: The ones that require homeowner’s involvement — physical and monetary

- 1) Alley trash collections can be restored for those that have been suspended and preserved for those that face suspension. It is going to require a united community effort to clean up the alleys and keep them in a condition meeting the DSS requirements. This effort can be organized by the FHA with adequate support and people writing checks.
- 2) E-mail your suggestions and support to Leon Russell leon@rs-attorneys.com or John Mitchel ljmitchell@C3site.com.
- 3) Start supporting you Forest Hills Association by paying your dues. \$50 a year is not enough but if all homeowners wrote a check to that amount we could handle these crises faster and more efficiently.
- 4) Get involved and help your Board of Directors find solutions to the many challenges they face every year.

We do not want curbside trash collection in Forest Hills.

Please support this effort to maintain alley trash collection.

Garden Tour Montage 2010



*This event would not have been possible without the generous donations from local business owners.
Heartfelt thanks go to our garden sponsors and advertisers!*

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The “Marvel” in Marvelous

by Judy Whalen

mar·vel (mär' vəl) *noun* A wonderful or astonishing thing; miracle. Something or someone that evokes surprise, admiration, or wonder.

mar·vel·ous (mär' və ləs) *adjective* Of the highest or best kind or quality; first-rate. Very good; fine; splendid.

Forest Hills has been home to Marvel Kiewit since 1963. Her five children grew up in our magical neighborhood. It was a time when Alex Sanger Elementary was the school everyone went to and the center of friendship and activity in our community. Back then, Marvel was always busy with PTA, White Rock Methodist Church activities, Scout projects as a den mother (all four of her boys went on to become Eagle Scouts!), a garden club called “Poise'n Ivy” and her role as “Mother” times 5.

When the Kiewit kids, 4 sons and 1 daughter, went on to build lives of their own and after the death of her husband in 1999, Marvel continued the busy pace with her hobbies of gardening and crafts, delivering “Meals on Wheels” and other volunteer jobs for the neighborhood, church and charities. In 2010 she is still operating with the same enthusiasm and zest for life she had when she first moved to Forest Hills.

Three of Marvel's children live in Texas (Plano, Wylie, and Belton) and the other two are in Mississippi and Maryland. Now there are 17 grandchildren! The family makes it a point to stay close across the miles visiting and keeping in constant touch with one another. Marvel has developed and kept in tact an amazing family bond. Many years ago, she heard about a tour company, Tauck Bridges Tours, which creates special family tours designed to bridge the generations. Enlisting this service over the last 10 years she has taken the grandchildren one on one or several at a time to places like Costa Rica (second time will be this summer), Canada (many times) Australia and New Zealand. She has shared the world with them.

“Parents teach their children to climb the mountain. Grandparents show them the view from the top.” Marvel has not only shown them the view from the top, but incredible life skills along the way. The memories she has given them have been the greatest gift.

Her busyness has always involved helping people. Marvel says the joy in her life comes in doing for others. She quietly goes about these good deeds. When she sees a need she jumps right in to help.

She never boasts. I had to search hard to learn about most of these things. However, I did see her quiet benevolence first hand a few years ago, when I talked to her about a Forest Hills resident who had lost her husband of 70 years. Having had no children, she was suddenly alone. Since Marvel was the contact person for the Forest Hills Seniors group, she seemed the perfect person to enlist and organize folks to help fill the sudden void in this lovely lady's life. Her initial visit with Mrs. Huckaby to see what could be done, sparked a lasting friendship of being there for her. Their frequent times together the last two and half years have been filled with Marvel and La Verne playing games, lunching at Casa Linda's Highland Park cafeteria, taking scenic drives and more.

Marvel Kiewit is a marvelous inspiration to us all! We lead such busy lives of working, playing and surviving, we sometimes are not aware of what's happening in our own backyard. How many of you really know your neighbors? How many residents do you know on your block? If one of them was having any difficulty would you notice?

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give”. ~ Winston Churchill



Marvel with grandchildren and one of her sons just before rafting in Canada.



Marvel Kiewit and Laverne Huckaby



SECURITY PAGE



THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM (FHSP)

FHSP pledges are \$60 each quarter (Q1 Jan, Q2 Apr, Q3 Jul and Q4 Oct)

The Forest Hills Security Program (FHSP) has made a remarkable difference preventing crime with off duty police officers patrolling our streets in Dallas squad cars. Immediately after the program began in 2003, crime dropped 50% and continues its downward trend each year. We need even more protection now at a time when crime is up all around our neighborhood and when poor economy is greatly influencing the numbers of home/auto burglaries in Dallas.



Judy Whalen
FHSP Chair

We count on and have grown accustomed to seeing the FHSP police in our neighborhood, which at times can result in taking them for granted, becoming crime complacent and forgetting our contributions. To keep this successful program, it is important to continue our support of The Forest Hills Security Program (FHSP).

Your quarterly pledge of \$60 can be mailed or dropped:
FHSP, 8432 San Fernando Way, Dallas, TX 75218

Neighbors Looking After Neighbors Through The FHSP

Thanks to the following households who have contributed to the security of Forest Hills!

This list reflects pledges for the second quarter of 2010 (April, May, June), which were received up until June 6.

We apologize, if in error your pledge has been overlooked. Please email fhspenp@aol.com or call 214-535-2077.

Frances & Suzanne Addison
Jean Akers
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Dean & Anna Dominguez
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Paul & Kelly Dybala
John & Mary Ehrenberger
Jason & Kate Fagelman
Paul & Lynne Ferguson
Karen Fling & David Hille
Bill & Mindy Foerster
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Ken & Lucille Garms
Geoff & Nelli Gerard
Gary & Dawn Gibson
Dallas & Gwen Gilbreath
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John Gilliland & Lenore Locascio
C.V. & Mary Ellen Glines
Gary Goodwin & Kathleen Messina
Richard & Kathleen Grandjean
Gary & Eileen Grass
James E. Gunter
Peter Hajek
Shane & Kim Hammond
Donna Hanes
Max Hardesty
Liz Harrison
Bert & Cindy Headden
Lee Higgins & Terri Stull-Higgins
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Chuck & Darla Hodge
Alan & Beth Howard
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Presidential Thoughts . . .

(continued from Page 2)

In a break with the tradition of having our semi-annual meetings in the Sanger Elementary auditorium, the 2010 Spring meeting was held at Time Ten Cellars. At least 55 people attended this event as well, making this one of the most well attended general meetings in anyone's memory. I feel certain that the one free glass wine per person did not have anything to do with the attendance. Featured speaker and tree arborist, Steve Houser (Arborilogical Services, Inc.) provided a very informative discussion regarding trees and took many questions from the audience. Because of the meetings' success, the 2010 Fall meeting will likely be held at the same location. Elections to fill currently vacant officer or committee chair positions (or compete for those that are currently filled) will take place at the Fall meeting.

On a more difficult front, residents on portions of San Cristobal, Whittier, etc. were recently required to move their containers to the front curb for pickup as part of the City's effort to cut the costs of trash and re-cycle pickup throughout the City. Resident John Mitchell (again leading the charge) and San Cristobal residents like Brenda Dunklau (among many others) have been working with the Assistant Director Of Sanitation, Ron Smith, to get trash pickup restored to the rear of those alleys. The City is preparing a map of the Forest Hills neighborhood which will show the other problem areas which need to be addressed. We hope to have this situation resolved in the very near future.

As part of FHNAs' responsibility to maintain the median trees within the neighborhood, FHNA hired an arborist to trim or remove those trees damaged in the February snow storm which presented the greatest danger to person or property.

FHNAs' designated arborist, Arborilogical Services, Inc., and several residents have embarked on a plan to inventory every tree in the FHNA medians by mapping their location and type. The long term goal is to setup a regular plan of maintenance for the trees.

The Annual White Rock Garden Tour, for which Forest Hills provided three of the nine gardens included in the tour, was a huge success, earning much needed funds for other FHNA projects.

Plans are currently in the works for the annual July 4 parade and post-parade party. Look for information elsewhere in this newsletter and expect an email blast to follow. Hope to see everyone there.

Towards December of this year, work will begin on updating the information in preparation for publishing a new neighborhood directory in 2011.

Times Ten Cellars Hosts FHNA



Instead of the usual and customary Sanger Elementary auditorium, the FHNAs' 2010 Spring meeting was held in the Time Ten Cellars Annex building. At least 55 people attended, more some said than have ever attended any FHNA meeting in the past 17 years, including a number of new residents to the neighborhood. Lively conversation coupled with snacks and wine made for a pleasant evening. The featured speaker, tree arborist Steve Houser from Arborilogical Services, Inc. proved very interesting, answering many homeowner questions. To leave more time for conversations and the featured speaker, most committee reports were provided in the form of typed handouts. Following a plea for help from the President, volunteers stepped forward to fill two vacant board positions. Others offered to serve on several committees. Bob Curry, Regional Code Compliance Manager for the City of Dallas was introduced. He fielded a number of questions from residents, and was alerted to several ongoing non-code compliant issues in the neighborhood. He also explained the limits of what the City of Dallas could do given its current budget. Because of the meetings overall success, the 2010 Fall meeting will likely be held at the same location. Elections to fill any vacant officer or committee chair positions (or even to compete for those that are currently filled) will take place at the Fall meeting.



Yard of the Month

The Yard of the month for May is awarded to Karen Fling and David Hille at 8531 San Fernando Way. This yard boasts a beautiful design and is always lovingly maintained by the owners. They do a great job of seasonal decoration. Thanks for keeping our neighborhood beautiful!



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For more information call 214-671-9233.

**Give us your stale,
your inedible,
your leftovers!**

This program is funded, in part, by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality and by the City of Dallas Sanitation Department.



WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

Allen & Mary Schaar —
8300 block Garland Rd.

Christopher & Shannon Carr —
8200 block San Benito

Charles Magnum —
8400 block San Benito

Ira Greenberg & Robin McLennan —
8300 block San Cristobal

Tim & Melissa Wafford —
8400 block San Fernando

Chad & Tara Windham —
8500 block San Leandro

Alexander & Rachel Oliver —
1400 block San Rafael

Brad Grist & Erin Marino —
5500 block San Pedro

Rick & Anita Debus —
5500 block San Pedro

Alexander Clark —
8300 block Santa Clara

Jay Shirtz & Carrie Bourn —
1700 block Whittier

We apologize if we have overlooked anyone. Newcomers can be missed when move-in is delayed for remodeling or when a home is purchased directly from builder or previous owner. Our info comes from MLS Real Estate listings. For any oversights, please contact Judy Whalen 214 535-2077 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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We want to thank the **GARDEN OWNERS** from our neighborhood who gave so generously of their time and opened their back yards for all the neighbors to enjoy the fruits of their labor and their wonderful creativity: Leon and Sharon Russell — 8327 San Fernando Way, Karen Fling and David Hille — 8351 San Fernando Way, Mark and Katrina Moran — 8516 San Leandro Drive

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 volunteers. Barb Michaels, Lottie Minick, Andie Comini, Judy Whalen and Mary Deighton represented our great neighborhood at all the planning sessions. Barb and Judy found the three very unique and beautiful gardens and organized the volunteers. Lottie was responsible for the incredible publicity we had this year! Andie, Mary and Barb were responsible for finding the sponsors and advertisers for the brochure!

And very special thanks to the volunteers who monitored the gardens, answered questions and kept things running smoothly — Vicky Harvey, Kelly Miller, Mike Miller, Anne Carlson, Mary Deighton, Tom Deighton, Abbie Strava, Mari Anne Mourer, Shelly Clem, Judy Whalen, Mary Ehrenberger, Angie Tittle, Denise Siegal, Dorinda Breeland, Josephine Brown, Patty Goya, Kathy Glenn, Margaret Smith, Marsha Singer, Carrie Bourn, Terri Higgins, Lee Higgins, Gary Grass, Eileen Grass, James Duff, Alicia Alvarez, Kathy Wall, Courtney Slusher, Vince Slusher and Lynn Bernick. You deserve way more than a tee shirt!

Letter to the Editor



Neoma Twining
Editor

Dear Editor:

Would it be possible to put an article in the newsletter asking people not to put their dogs' waste in garbage cans at corner houses? It is very offensive and has to be cleaned with disinfectant, soap & water to keep flies, etc. away. The smell is especially bad to someone that has had chemo off and on for several years. This happens quite often. I thought my neighbors would be more considerate. Thank you.

Response:

On a positive note, we are happy to see so many neighbors complying with our "Scoop Your Pets Poop Rule." I do agree with you however. Sometimes in an effort to discard the waste neighbors should be considerate. Try and locate an out of the way waste bin for your discards. I'm sure all neighbors will appreciate this advice.

Bumper Crop

"A mind is like a parachute,
it functions best when open!"

Every newsletter will have submissions by FH residents of great bumper stickers they have seen.
To submit your "Bumper Crop" please email to: ntwining@swbell.net

A THOUGHT FOR TODAY:

I am I plus my surroundings and if I do not preserve the latter, I do not preserve myself.

~ Jose Ortega Y Gasset, philosopher and essayist (1883-1955)

KATHY WALL

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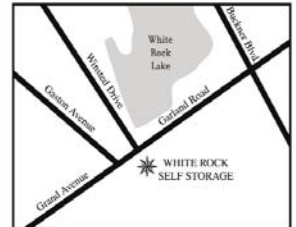
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If you know anyone interested in building a home on this beautiful curved street in Forest Hills. **8502 Groveland**
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kimfowler@gmail.com

Roofs need check-ups too.



Too often, homeowners assume that as long as their roofs look okay then all is well. However, the trained eye can catch hidden defects which, when left unattended, can become a problem. Extreme Texas weather, wind and hail, small animals, trees and even other contractors working on a home will cause damage.

Don't wait till there is a real emergency.

Call Arrington for a complimentary 17-point inspection to be certain that your roof is healthy, energy-efficient and working properly.

Work is 100% guaranteed with a 10-year labor warranty. All major credit cards are accepted.



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roofing • energy • solutions

We're building a better roof for you.