

FH Annual Tree Lighting
December 5th 5 pm - 9 pm
Keller Circle
www.foresthillsdallas.org

The Reporter

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2009 ISSUE



One last Word



*Bill Foerster
Outgoing President
of FHNA*

It has been an honor and pleasure to represent the FH neighbors on the FHNA board as president the past two and a half years. Like all good things, time comes to move on and allow others to enjoy the experience. Unfortunately, we had several obstacles to our last general meeting that precluded us from a smooth transition to a new president and board appointments. We are planning on another General meeting in January, to properly elect a new president and board.

We have all been fortunate to have Leon Russell on the board the past year and for him to accept the nomination as the next president. Leon has been performing many of my tasks for the past several months and been doing a superb job. Because I have the utmost confidence in Leon and believe it is important for the Board to move on to scale the next peak I am submitting my resignation as President. According to the By-Laws Leon will be assuming the position of President effective immediately. This action will allow Leon to begin implementing your vision for FHNA with his unique gifts and abilities. At the general meeting in January, the members will have the opportunity to formally vote, on Leon and the new board. In my position as immediate past president, I will remain on the board. I will continue to do the best I can to support Leon, the board, the FHNA and it members.



Presidential Perspective



*Leon Russell,
Incoming President
of FHNA*

SEASONS GREETINGS! This past year, we have, without a doubt, been living the Chinese saying "May you live in interesting times." There certainly have been many significant changes. The severely crashing economy which is only now beginning to recover and the landmark inauguration of an African-American as President, to name a few. Here at home in Forest Hills, there have been changes as well, albeit on a smaller scale. For example, the number of new residents joining the association picked up demonstrably as the year end approached, signifying that home sales are improving in our neck of the woods. The Gardening Club held a wildly successful Gardening Tour. A Senior's Tea was added as a new activity and thoroughly enjoyed by our aging residents. After considerable work, a sorely needed update to the FHNA directory was published. This time, however, the information was captured in a way that will make it much easier and less expensive to update the directory in the future. Also, a large inventory of items owned by the FHNA and necessary to the success of the various events which the FHNA conducts were gathered, organized, photographed, and databased in order to document the physical assets we have

available. Of course, our most important asset has always been the people who volunteer their time and effort (and often money) toward helping make this volunteer neighborhood organization successful. There is not enough space here to list all the people deserving of our gratitude. But our outgoing President, Bill Foerster, simply must be mentioned. He served the maximum number of terms permitted under the bylaws and then some. (Is that like extra time for bad behavior?). Bill deserves our thanks for a job well done. As your incoming President, I hope to serve the FHNA equally as well and welcome your thoughts and ideas on how we might make our area of the world a better place. In the next newsletter, I will outline a direction for the new year. But for now, BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

General Meeting Recap



FHNA hosted the second of two required annual meetings under the direction of incoming President Leon Russell. Priorities for the upcoming year include ongoing fund raising efforts and dues collection from 616 homes throughout Forest Hills community. Last year, dues collection topped 51%, up from previous years. The goal this year will be set high and new strategies will be put in place to encourage participation by all residents. Also on the radar of interest in the Garland Road Vision project. Gloria Tarpley, past FH President is serving as a liaison to FHNA providing information and direction for a strong alliance. Business development and projects designed in and around FH impact our neighborhood. One of the purposes of keeping the FHNA strong is to ensure we maintain our voice at city hall and protect our FH community. Finally, as the year draws to a close, elections and board appointments are underway.

The Death of the Great Trees

"Ghost Forest"



By Neoma Twining

Don't you just love the media? Always taking the "low road" when it comes to messaging to the general public. The title of this article is supposed to get your attention. Over the past four years, we could have easily hosted our own exhibit of large, dead trees uprooted due to any number of natural calamities. Unusual wind storms, lightning, death by disease and plain old age have felled so many of our bark laden beauties. It is such a pitiful sight when you drive by a neighbors home only to witness a "tree wake" in progress. FH residents take a tree death pretty serious. Our fabulous green canopy is our neighborhood trademark. We can't afford to keep losing these large trees. We cannot possibly begin to control nature but what we can do is replant on a consistent basis. This year, you will witness FHNA taking a more aggressive role in the preservation of trees and reforestation for the sake of FH future. Stay in touch and stay involved. Your participation is essential to preservation of FH community of trees.

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Local Scout Leads Environmental Effort



Trent Coldwell

By Deb Coldwell

Trent Coldwell became an Eagle Scout in August 2009. Trent's Eagle Scout project was to mark 100 storm drain inlets around the Forest Hills neighborhood.

Not only did Trent mark a large number of storm drain inlets, but he also led his troop to help in this community service project. Trent helped teach his troop about storm water pollution and the importance of preventing pollution from reaching our local bodies of water. He was also recognized for his efforts by Richard Smart, Environmental Coordinator, City of Dallas, Stormwater Management. If you walk around the neighborhood, you can see Trent and his troop's work on our storm drains.

Forest Hills' Trash Team

— by Judy Whalen

Q: What do Forest Hills' Madeleine Crenshaw and Luiza Carvalho have in common with Sesame Street's Oscar?

A: They all live in a friendly, happy neighborhood with a cast of characters AND they love trash!

These two Bishop Lynch 9th graders had service hours to perform this Fall and they wanted to do something that had a direct impact on their neighborhood and on those who come through to admire and visit it. Trash pick up was a logical choice to fit this community service prerequisite.

They started their 8-hour project to take several weekends just after Halloween by collecting bags of trick or treat debris. The following weekends, there was a lot to pick up and recycle as they combed the neighborhood behind the pass-through litterbugs.

Icky-est, most disgusting thing they report having picked up thus far has been a dirty diaper and the most frowned upon item was a discarded NY Times doggie poop bag. (Looks like the dog owners had pedigree papers of their own!) They found things like a picture of a girl drawn by a little kid, lots of cigarette butts and wrappers, but no money. Far too many times they had to contend with the dreaded splash factor from water, coke and beer bottles.

It's not a glamorous job, but they keep on smiling.

Amy, Madeleine's mom, went along for the ride one time and was quite entertained as she watched the girls in flip flops, skipping through the streets, picking up trash and talking like it was another-day-at-the-office; as if they were old hands at this job.

What struck Amy was while they were focusing on picking up garbage, they were having a bit of a sociology/anthropology lesson based on the types of trash they found. They also were having the opportunity to do something together as long time friends, instead of sitting in front of the computer working Facebook.

Madeleine and Luiza are still in the process of retrieving trash from sidewalks, curbs, streets and medians, being careful not to trespass onto residents' lawns or enter into any scary, secluded area. It looks like they will have us all spruced up by the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays!

Yes they love trash!

"Anything dirty or dingy or dusty, Anything ragged or rotten or rusty."

And Madeleine and Luiza love Forest Hills!

(How about we join in too and clean up our property, especially the alleys behind our houses? Work on trimming the overgrown alley brush, which provides ideal hiding places not only for trash but for varmints and crooks.)



Madeleine Crenshaw
and Luiza Carvalho

FALL FEST-O-WEEN DRAWS A CROWD

By Neoma Twining

Forest Hills is a neighborhood known for hosting family friendly events. The annual Fall Festival, aptly named Fall Fest-O-Ween by the social chairs, is keeping with tradition. Families, friends, seniors and guests showed up in force dressed to impress. Vicious looking vampires, fairy princesses, wicked witches and the like, enjoyed food, games, face painting and pinata contests. Special guests of the event included our own men and women in Blue, and McGruff the crime dog. A huge thank you to Leon and Sharon Russell for use of their fantastic yard, and to social chairs, Tamela Southan and Shelly Clem.



Photo Credits: Lottie Minnick



SECURITY PAGE



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IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN CRIME INCREASES!

Just a reminder, during this season's flurry of activity — be aware and take safety precautions so you can enjoy the holidays without incident.

This festive time of year brings shopping, gifts, home deliveries, parties, traveling, friends, family and more. For burglars it is a time of opportunity to do a little of their own shopping for the perfect home or vehicle with cash, credit cards, new gifts of small electronics, computers, jewelry, and easily sold valuables.

The bad guys are looking for easy entry with good escape routes. Make it hard for them.

The crooks look for home occupancy clues like outdoor lights burning 24 hours a day, piled up newspapers, or advertising flyers hanging on the door knob. Use timers to turn lights, radios and TV's on and off at times to simulate their normal use. Use outside motion lights. Consider installing a timer on light switch plates for porch or other outside door lights. One that is not décor invasive, fitting flat in the switch plate is the small Intermatic's electronic timer (EI600LAC) with a battery backup, which can be set to come on according to daily sunset and sunrise times 24-7, all year long. Cost is around \$60.

If you are away from home for an extended time, ask a neighbor to pick up delivered packages and keep the front of your home clean of newspapers and debris. Have them park their car in the driveway moving it often. If you pledge to the Forest Hills Security program, request a House Check form at fhspenp@aol.com for personal house patrols when you are going to be away for an extended time.

Burglars know to look for the hidden door key near the front entrance. Don't hide spare keys under rocks, in flowerpots, or above door ledges. Instead give the spare key to a trusted neighbor.

Lock your doors and windows in both your home and car; don't forget to use your security system, as burglars prefer to enter through unlocked doors/windows and into homes and cars that won't announce their arrival with a blaring horn.

Don't post your family name on your mailbox or house or leave descriptive telephone messages like, "You've reached the Wilson's . . . we're not here now — we're away skiing for the holidays." Burglars love to hear that they have plenty of time to break in and completely ransack your home.

After Christmas day, don't put in the trash empty gift boxes from your new computer, flat screen TV, and other electronics, which broadcast that you have expensive gifts inside for thieves. Break down boxes or cut them up to conceal the identity of items. Better yet recycle them! Also know, after a lucrative burglary, the chances of being burglarized again to steal the new replacement products are increased.

Know your neighbors across the street, on either side and behind the alley from you. Look out for them and they will for you.

Be aware: call 911 if you see anything suspicious. Give good descriptions and if you can do it safely, write down a license plate number.

Happy Safe Holidays! Your Forest Hills Security Program





PAWS PAGE



Page Sponsored by East Lake Veterinary Hospital

Holiday Gift Guide 4 Pets

Check out these websites for festive and fun products for cats, dogs and their people. Have a wonderful Christmas that includes gifts under the tree for the furry kind!

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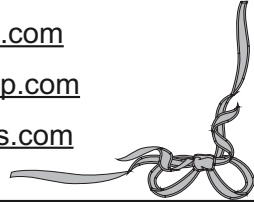
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'Tis the Season, Give to Help Pets

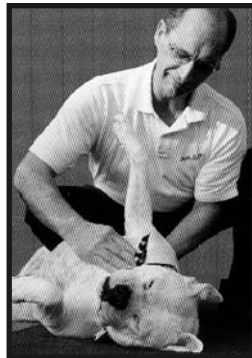


The FH Animal Alert! Program continues to rescue, foster and care for animals out on the streets. Many are abandoned, some are simply lost. If you have ever taken on an animal, even for a short period of time, you know it can cost money. From food, to vet care, to supplies for animal

needs. Little Forest Hills Maeleska Fluetes continues to rescue and foster on a daily basis. FHNA is hoping to see a surge in donations during this holiday season when animals are more at risk due to financial strains and weather. If you care to help, please call 214-930-5910 today. For more information, visit www.lfhanimalalert.org. Please, help united lost pets with their families and support an important rescue program.

Give Your Pet the Gift of Massage

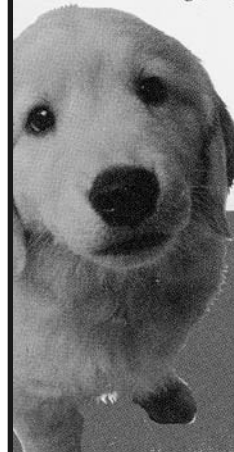
East Lake Veterinary Clinic offers massage as part of their whole animal services. Massages are done by a licensed massage therapist who also happens to be an animal lover. The pet massages take place in a calm, quiet, private room for the ultimate in pet pampering. Massage therapy has been found to be beneficial for arthritic pets, the athletic dog, and post surgical patients. It is great for muscle tone and improved mobility and circulation. Pets love massages as much as people do! Get one for your pet today! Call today, 214-342-3100 or www.welovepets.net.



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Bark Less, Wag More



THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM

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

GRVI Project Underway

By Leon Russell

An all day Saturday workshop was conducted by the Garland Road Vision Initiative Committee and its consultants at First Assembly of God Church.

Invited were representatives from various stakeholders in the project, including HOA's and business owners along the Garland Road route from Gaston to I-635 highway. Two representatives from FHNA attended. After a briefing on various statistics regarding the Garland Rd corridor (e.g. intersection traffic loads, age and ethnic characteristics of the residents, average income, etc.) the attendees were divided up into teams which were assigned a particular aspect of the project, such as Beautification, Transportation, and Economic Development. Each team spent the entire day brainstorming ideas and then using them to create an overall "vision" of what would improve Garland Road for all concerned. The work of each team was facilitated by the presence of two people from the GRVI consultants. At the mid-point of the day, and at the end, each team reported back their ideas and recommendations to the larger group and received feedback and suggestions from the other attendees. Each team had a large table and access to numerous large scale depictions of various aspects of the corridor (e.g. where properties were vacant, where businesses were, etc.). As the day progressed, the each team's ideas, its vision, was reduced to paper either by drawing the images on paper or by listing them. Although this is not the last step in the planning process, a remarkable number of ideas were generated, some good, and others not practical. At the end of the day, it was much clearer where potential conflicts exist. It was also clear that the quality of life, the economic growth, and the attractiveness of the Garland Road corridor can be dramatically improved with even some very simple changes. When this vision becomes a reality, it will benefit every resident of FH in countless ways.



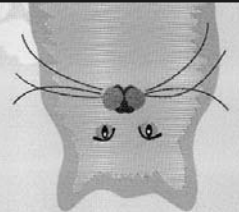
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Participation is key to FHNA success!

Thank each of you for supporting the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association by paying your dues in 2009.

This helps to publish the News Letter, keep our boulevards beautiful, light the tree in Keller Circle, and the many events we have through out the year.



*Margaret Smith,
Treasurer*

We will be sending out notices for 2010 in January, we will appreciate each neighbor's support to keep Forest Hills one of the best neighborhoods in Dallas.

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

SAN CRISTOBAL

Tammy Schacknow & Julie Muenzler

SAN LEANDRO

Brent & Denise Glass 8500 block

GROVELAND

Craig & Anna Brinker 8500 block

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!

Garden Club News

The Forest Hills Garden Club met on Thursday November 12th at the home of Katrina Moran. Katrina opened her lovely home to all of us and Shelly Clem assisted with the wonderful food. Most of our regular members were in attendance as well as two new members. We learned all about growing cacti and succulents from Irwin Lightstone, an expert in the area. Our next meeting will be in the evening on January 14th at the home of Lottie Minnick — check the neighborhood website for details.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A Special Thank You!



Neoma Twining
Newsletter Editor

A thank you to the Service League and to all the resident volunteers for the wonderful tea October 11, honoring the Seniors of Forest Hills. What a lovely afternoon you planned and executed! The refreshments were bountiful.

The home was out of the pages of Better Homes & Gardens with its splendor of fall décor. We thoroughly enjoyed getting recognized. Some of our children were classmates at Sanger. One Senior commented how good it was to mingle with the younger set. You are what keeps us going! You caring enough to make us feel so special will not soon be forgotten.



With much appreciation, The Seniors of Forest Hills



Sanger News

We have a date for the Sanger garden installation! It will be January 15th and 16th. Please let me know what you would like to do to help. Here are a few areas that might interest be of interest:

LABOR • CLEAN UP • SERVING FOOD • BRING FOOD • BRING WATER • BRING SOFT DRINKS / JUICE BOXES • BRING TABLES • BRING PAPER PRODUCTS

Bring your family, neighbors and friends. Kids are welcome. This is a community project so everyone who wants to help is invited.

Let me know what you are willing to do and I will plug you in. I will have more details for you as they develop. Looking forward to hearing from you! Katrina Moran, Sanger Elementary Community Volunteer Coordinator, 214-660-0451, katrinaatherton@yahoo.com.





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I love to vent.

~ Chris Arrington



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136'-0 1/2" B.O. HEADER

EAVE

HEADER

HEADER

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