

The Reputier october 2008 Issue

Born and Raised in Forest Hills



From left Melissa Knight, Robby Hicks, Erin and Travis Morrison of Groveland and Andrew Hajek of San Fernando Way.

One thing I love most about our unique neighborhood is our neighbors. On our short one block of Groveland which until 2003 only had eight house, we have three families that have lived here for over thirty years. We each raised two children very close in age. We have seen a lot of changes to our physical surroundings, but the one thing that has not changed over the years is the friendship between the families. It is not often that families stay in one place long enough to form close ties let alone have the children grow up in one house with lifelong childhood friends.

What we thought would be a starter house for us in 1976 became our permanent home because of our neighbors and the neighborhood. George and I hosted our fourth block party on October 11th to welcome three new families to Groveland. We had a great turn out with 42 people stopping by. We are happy to see young children living on our street again.

Forest Hills is by far one of the best places to live in Dallas!

— Debbie and George Knight

Presidential Perspective



Bill Foerster President

FHNA and Neighbors,

The city council is going to take up an issue that has been discussed in our neighborhood over the years. The issue is the operations of the "Far West" dance hall. In 1994/1995 The city issued an SUP (Special Use Permit) to Far West that has no expiration date. This is a problem because the City is not required to review the SUP on a periodic basis to determine compliance. A movement is at hand to ask the City Council to review the SUP and either revoke it or at least bring its terms in compliance with the city code. My understanding is that SUPs are not to be issued into perpetuity.

Please read below. Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

My fellow FHNA Members and Neighbors, there has been an ongoing effort to get the City Council to review the Special Use Permit (SUP) issued to "Far West." The club located at the corner of Garland, Gaston and Grand (in the same building with the YMCA.) This is the first step in possibly getting the City to review the SUP. This could ultimately result in the club being relocated outside of our neighborhood and surrounding area. An opportunity exists for YOU to influence a City Council meeting on October 16th that will discuss the Special Use Permit issued to "FAR WEST."

The City Council authorized a public hearing for the review of the Special Use Permit (SUP) at 7331 Gaston also known as "Far West." The hearing is scheduled for October 16th at 1:30pm at City Hall. The SUP to operate this dance hall was issued without an expiration date. The SUP was issued in 1994/1995. It was issued this way by the city council so they did not have to change the actual zoning of the land. It has had unintended consequences to the residents and neighborhoods surrounding this location. After discussing the supporting facts and police reports with the Lakewood Neighborhood Association, it is my opinion that Far West has brought criminal activity including homicide, assault, vandalism, theft, public intoxication and more to that location. Frequent gun shots, 911 calls, numerous traffic concerns and excessive public noise and disturbances in the early hours of the morning have been reported by many neighborhood residents on a regular basis over many years. With uncontrolled attendance, lack of proper security and many other concerns, Far West contributes to encroaching violence upon our neighborhood. It is also not a safe place for the people attending the venue, as the numerous police reports can attest to.

Below is the City Council's own criteria (SEC. 51A-4.219 SUP) that they must consider with the issuance of a Special Use Permit. The code states very clearly the following:

- (1) Each SUP application must be evaluated as to its probable effect on the adjacent property and the community welfare and may be approved or denied as the findings indicate appropriate
- (2) The city council shall not grant an SUP for a use except upon a finding that the use will:
 - (A) complement or be compatible with the surrounding uses and community facilities.
 - (B) contribute to, enhance, or promote the welfare of the area of request and adjacent properties
 - (C) not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or general welfare; and
 - (D) conform in all other respects to all applicable zoning regulations and standards

A layman's understanding of the "Far West" SUP compared with the above excerpt from the city code questions the conformity of the SUP with the criteria specified in the city council's code. Based upon my understanding of the code and impact to the community I believe that the City Planning Commissioners should agree to reconsider this SUP.

Regardless of my interpretation, if you have a strong feeling one way or the other, it is extremely important to attend the public hearing on October 16th in front of the City Planning Commissioners at City Hall. The more neighbors we have present in the chamber, the better our commissioners will understand the issues. You will not be required to speak, but your presence will make a huge difference! The hearing starts promptly at 1:30pm and parking is free. I look forward to your participation.

Money Well Spent



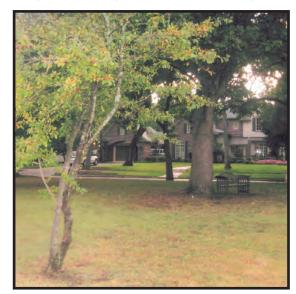
Want to know where your contributions to FHNA beautification program go?

Check out these photos of the recently manicured medians of San Rafael intersecting Forest Hills Blvd.

We are systematically going through the neighborhood and giving strong attention to medians needing extra care. Many don't realize what it costs to have tree specialists tend to the many trees providing our lovely canopy.

We have had calls from neighbors noting trees overshadowing stop

signs and looming into streets blocking the vision of drivers. It is the job of the FHNA to tend to these trees and keep them in check, not to mention, thriving. The city gave us authorization after we adopted these medians years ago.



Our recent maintenance effort cost you \$350.00 of beautification money.

The services were contracted to Mendez Brothers Tree Service. Two trees were removed due to premature death and existing trees were feathered to clear out dead branches and overhang.

There are two median sections on Breezewood that are targeted for this month.

Democrats Winning Yard Sign Vote!

As a resident you may not dig all the signage littering the yards, but it's temporary. Thank goodness for that! What you can celebrate is the fact so many feel compelled to support their candidate, no matter what name appears on the sign.

I'm not counting, but it appears we have a strongly democratic neighborhood. One neighbor commented on the lack of McCain signs, strategizing as he strolled on how to up the ante of signage for "his guy." The FHNA encourages all residents to get involved. Be part of something bigger than yourself and participate in this rich process.

No, you don't need to post signs giving away your voting secrets, but take time November 22nd to be part of electing great leadership!







It is Time to Really Get Serious About Saving Our Trees!!

Neighbors, we have seen and heard enough bad news in the financial and real estate markets in the last month to just make us all "sick."

Well, it comes down to this: you can vote, write letters, and demonstrate to try and change things in Washington, but that is about all.

Many things you can change and positively impact in your own back yard. One of those is "protecting your property value," that one precious asset you have in Forest Hills.

TREES are one of the greatest assets we have that impact the values of our homes in this "oasis" of a residential community in Dallas, Texas.

Here is a "Protect Our Trees" plan which is worth following:

- 1) Pay your dues
- 2) Support a plan for tree protection adopted by your Board of Directors
- 3) Allow the Arborist (Certified, Degreed Professional specializing in the management and maintenance of trees) selected by the Forest Hills Board to inspect your trees and advise you on what care they need to preserve their life
- 4) Support the City of Dallas, "Urban Forest Advisory Committee's" recommendations for the modification to the existing "Tree Cutting Ordinance."

This outdated Tree Cutting Ordinance is causing the destruction (cutting down) of thousands of trees every year. This has had an enormous negative impact on our effort to control pollution and to keep our city "green."

E-Mail the Forest Hills Board of Directors and give us your support. The cost of the Arborist to come out and visit your property for a "Tree Health Analysis" is FREE with no obligation to spend anything.

Have an impact on some of the things you can control.

Mailbox Intruders

FYI — The White Rock Postal station is cracking down on unauthorized mail delivery. Meaning, if a vendor puts his/her business card, or printed advertisement of business in your mailbox, it's illegal. If this happens to you, call the White Rock Postal station and report directly to Mr. Paul Merman, 214-321-0999.

Forest Hills neighborhood is a nice target for private services. On any given day, you can stroll by homes and see business cards stuck in doors, or other flyers attached via rubberband to doorknobs. While this practice is not illegal, it is a nuisance, particularly for neighbors leaving town. If the debris is not collected, it indicates an absent homeowner and becomes a target for thieves.



As far as solutions neighbors tell us they are putting "No Solicitors" signs around their front doors. Aesthetically, the signs aren't that pleasing but they hope to deter advertisers from leaving their mark!



Town Hall Meeting Gets Good Reception

— Photo Credits by Lottie Minick

Town Hall meeting formats are a good idea if you want to hear from "The People."

Neighbors indicated in our last neighborhood-wide survey, they wanted some say. A format with that in mind brought neighbors to the table and many signed up to take on roles within the FHNA. This is great news. After months of recruiting, to no avail, we now have more interested in being part of the leadership process. Forest Hills is a special community and worth protecting. If we don't have active and strong leadership in key positions within the board, we lose our momentum and clout with City Hall.

We appreciate all who attended and each and every board member who dedicate time from their busy lives to ensure the success of FHNA.



Barb Michaels & Judi Boyles



Brian Thomas



Doug & Molley Grogan, Mary Deaton



Doug & Mary Pat Smith, Mari Anne Mourer



Elvis & Mary Ehrenberger



Leon Russell and Barry Boyd



Janna Brewster & Stephen Williams



Linda Rofhstein

FH Artists Exhibit at State Fair

— Photo Credits by Lottie Minick

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SECURITY PAGE



THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

— by Judy Whalen

STOP!

Q: How can I make a request to have a stop sign installed on my street?

A: (This question was asked at the September neighborhood meeting.) The most effective way is to write a request stating the name of both streets that intersect, their zip code and specifically where you are requesting the signs be placed. Printing out a close up google map of the intersection can be a helpful visual as well.

Write a brief, easy to read explanation with facts justifying the stop sign. For instance, do you know of any accidents or near misses that have occurred there? Can you give an idea of the amount of children, pedestrian traffic? The amount of motor traffic? Be sure to specifically mention if there is bike traffic (a big city concern as of late). Are there visibility issues? However, do not use speed control as a reason, as the city website says, "Stop signs are not used as speed control."



Be sure to include your name, address and phone number. Having neighbors on your street sign the letter, might give it an extra boost.

Upon receipt of the request, an engineer will perform a warrant study. This study includes a review of accident history, sight distance, traffic volumes, major street speeds, neighborhood characteristics, and cross-street delays. Studies normally take 6-8 weeks.

Send your request to: Carol Swain, Traffic Engineering/City Hall 1500 Marilla St., L1-B-North, Dallas, TX 75201.

ENFORCEMENT

If you want to report constant stop sign runs and request the security program's off duty police monitor, please email details to fhspenp@aol.com.

ALL POINTS BULLETIN!

The amount of pledges were down last quarter. Was it summer vacation, a false sense of security, forgetfulness or a number of other reasons?

Whatever it was the Security Program needs to bring the number of participants up in order to maintain 9 days/4 hours patrols weekly, which we currently have, or better yet to increase the hours of protection beyond that.

The security program has been instrumental in keeping crime down and away since 2003. At this point we cannot let our guard down. With the holiday months ahead, the revolving door at the county jail and stressed economy, we need to keep our guard up. The program has been successful and 100% of the neighborhood has benefited because of each of you who have participated. Thanks for your pledge to a safe and secure neighborhood.

THE FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM RESIDENT FUNDED OFF-DUTY DALLAS POLICE PATROL

PLEDGE TO SAFETY - \$60 Per Quarter • Fourth Quarter (October, November, December)

If you prefer, you may pay in advance \$120 \$180 or \$240 for 2, 3 or 4 quarters.

Please send or set up automatic bank payments to:

Forest Hills Security Program, 8432 San Fernando Way, Dallas, TX 75218

Compliments, Concerns or Payment Inquiry

Judy Whalen, 214-324-9894 or fhspenp@aol.com









PAWS PAGE







CONTACTS FOR THE FOREST HILLS ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM



Andie Comini's new puppy — Baby BooKoozzo! (Picture taken by Maureen Mann)













You "CAN" help! Animal Alert! is in need of CANNED FOOD for both cats and dogs.

Good News . . . Bad News

The Good News

Animal Alert! is doing a wonderful job of getting lost/found animals off our streets in our neighborhood and to safety while we look for their family or a new home.

The Bad News

Animal Alert! is running very low on funds and the same volunteers are footing the bills over and over to feed the cats and dogs. They need some help!

Collars and Leashes!

Have some you are no longer using for your pet? Animal Alert! desperately needs more collars and leashes — all sizes! So many of the animals we are called about have no collar on and we have to supply a collar and leash to get them to safety.

Sadly we cannot always locate the pet's family since there is no collar with tags. We are here to help you when you lose your pet. You need to help us as much as possible by making sure your pet is registered with us, is wearing a collar WITH TAGS, and is micro chipped. Please do this as it makes our work so much easier! Your pet will thank you too!

If you have any CANNED FOOD and/or leashes and collars, you can donate or a donation of money just let me know and I will come and pick it up! (214) 328-0508 Andie Comini

Barkitecture Dog Houses!

On display at the Arboretum through October 17 there are 6 FUN Dog Houses to view!

Barkitecture Dallas Festival! Saturday, October 18 • 10:00 AM — 5:00 PM • Boy Scout Hill • White Rock Lake

All the Barkitecture Dog Houses will be on display. For \$5, vote for your favorite Dog House! 3:00 PM votes counted for "Best In Show!" Each Dog House will have a drawing from the raffle tickets sold to see who the lucky winner is for each house! All funds raised through Barkitecture Dallas 2008 will go towards the White Rock Lake Dog Park to help fund dog park improvement projects. www.barkitecturedallas.com

FH Neighbor Hosts Candidate

Several FH residents dropped in for a Bill Keffer "Meet and Greet" hosted by FH neighbor, Tamela Southan. This active campaign season has given many the opportunity to host personal receptions. The benefit of in-home receptions is an upclose, personal meeting of candidates face-to-face.





WELCOME SEPTEMBER NEW NEIGHBORS!

Whittier newcomer, Claire Swann

(Incorrect info on last month's greeting) San Fernando new arrivals, Jim and Nina Humrichouse

We apologize if we have overlooked anyone. Newcomers can be missed when move-in is delayed because of remodeling or when a home is purchased from a builder or previous owner as most of our information comes from Real Estate MLS listings.

For any oversights, please contact Judy Whalen 214 324-9894 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!

Just Plain Classy!!

We scoured the neighborhood looking for great Fall/Halloween decorations. There were ghosts looking bug-eyed in the shrubs, witches crashing into trees, and gargoyles perched on fence posts. Scary stuff! But, at the end of the day, we found one home that embodied both themes

The residence of 8538 San Clara gets our vote this month for a really classy display of decor.

Congratulations!!!









— by Lottie Minick



Garden club meeting for October was a field trip to the State Fair to see the garden exhibits and view the totem sculpture gardens by "friends of Lottie" — our own garden club member Lottie Minick. The November meeting will be held at the home of Katrina Moran — 8516 San Leandro — on Thursday November 6th at 7 pm. Topic to be presented is "Winter Planting and Bed Preparation." We will also have a bulb exchange. We always look forward to seeing new members. You do not have to be a garden expert to join. Call Barb Michaels at 214-327-3817 for more information or check out the Forest Hills website.

Caption

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Neoma Twining Newsletter Editor

Neighbors, it is always nice to see someone with an attitude of gratitude. This month, we feature a letter from Andie Comini to John Mitchell saying a well deserved "thank you!." Please read:

John: Just a short note of THANKS for stepping in and making SURE Barry of Code Enforcement came through for me pertaining to the "house from hell" at the corner of Eustis and Whittier (8502 Eustis). This has been an ongoing battle for over 5 years — with MANY CALLS to Code Enforcement pleading for help.

I last visited with you at the Forest Hills Town Hall meeting on Thursday night. On Friday morning a city truck pulled up and removed the trash cans that had been sitting on the curb at that house for over four months. YEA!!!! Now if I can only get the city to address the deep swimming pool filled with old dirty water full of mosquitos and other creatures. This house backs up to Alex Sanger and it is only a matter of time before curious kids get into trouble

over there. I have called numerous times pertaining to this dangerous pool situation. Time will tell . . .

Anyway, the neighbors up and down the street say THANK YOU for your help and input with the trash cans!

— Andie Comini

Sanger News

Alex Sanger would like to welcome our new art teacher Roselyn Eberlee. She is anxious to start working with the students to produce great and colorful artwork with all of the students! She comes to us with 34 years of teaching experience. She has a BA from Ole Miss, and an MA from the University of Memphis.

She has taught extensively within DISD, and was teacher of the year at Clara Oliver Elem. She has also taught in Arkansa and at the American Community Schools of Athens, Greece. "I love teaching art! I tell students that art is everywhere — just everywhere we look! It doesn't have to always be beautiful, but can be interesting, different, or unique. It is a big part of our world. I am very happy to have the opportunity to work with the students here at Sanger."

We welcome her with open arms and imaginations!

Ladies and Gentlemen, Neighbor Madeleine Crenshaw!

Madeleine Crenshaw

If you look closely at the photo, there's a planet drawn on her T-shirt with a thought bubble that says. "Be kind to me". And that she is!

At her school, St Thomas Aquinas, along with her academic training, Madeleine is learning the goodness of giving and serving the community. As well as the good feeling she gets, she also earns service hours, which will be an important addition to her résumé when applying soon to either Booker T or Bishop Lynch.

Since she spends fun times at White Rock Lake rollerblading, running and kayaking with her parents, Amy and Mitchell Crenshaw, she thought the lake would be a perfect place to give in return. She called Forest Hills' Joan Shopoff, "For the Love of the Lake" neighborhood chairman to look into volunteer hours. She and her friend, FH Luiza Carvalho were assigned the task of picking up litter along Forest Hills' designated stretch of the lake on Garland Rd. As Madeleine happily picked up trash, it also made her sad when she realized how one little piece of trash after another can spoil this beautiful lake that we have the privilege to see and be near every day.

One most unusual gift came to Madeleine from White Rock Lake. One summer day when her parents were out in

their kayaks, her mom, Amy spotted bright feathers floating in the water. Looking closer she saw it was a domestic parakeet with wings still spread from when it had plummeted into the water. "Mrs Tufsey" was scooped out of the water with a paddle and into the hull of the kayak. She has been the family pet since. It's a mystery, but this Lady of the Lake did not disappear when they arrived home!



Madeleine with parents, Amy & Mitchell

Madeleine is a very busy young lady. When she is not volunteering, enjoying lake activities, keeping her grades up for the honor roll or hanging with her neighborhood friends, she is acting on stage. She has quite a list of credits beginning with her first professional role at 8 years old as Rudolph, dancing and singing in *Rockin' Christmas Party* at Addison's WaterTower Theatre. The acting and singing role she is most proud of is playing Laura in *Laura Ingalls Wilder Christmas*, at the Dallas Children's Theater (DCT) where Laura discovers the meaning of enduring family bonds. Through playing Laura, Madeleine learned a life lesson of how



a family can exist on very little and at the same time realized how much they truly have in each other. She just has been cast as Madeline in DCT's holiday musical, *Madeline's Christmas*. This will be her 9th professional production!

She has her sights on Broadway in the future. She says she wants to perform on stage in New York versus in Hollywood movies. Having to do the very best you can in front of a live audience and not being able to go back and do more takes is the part that is most appealing to her. There is an immediate reward at the end of the play when she takes a bow and hears the audience clapping and cheering for a job well done.

Remember her name! Madeleine Crenshaw is definitely star material and we surely will see her name in lights on Broadway! For now, let's give her a standing ovation for her outstanding role as a volunteer.



Sign Toppers Replaced

Six years ago, the FHNA purchased red metal street sign toppers to mark the perimeter of Forest Hills proper. Over the years, the signs have faded. The 2007-2008 FHNA board recently used beautification funds to replace them. The new toppers are brighter, and more visible. You will see them as you exit the neighborhood on Garland and Lakeland.





C 214.202.0250 VM 972.380.3849 0 214.327.2200 F 214.827.6446 6952 Lakewood Blvd. Dallas, TX 75214

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(214) 319-7777

7820 Garland Road Across From The White Rock Spillway

Forest Hills Children's Netwo



The Children's Network is thriving once again. To join and meet like minded families with children, please use information below to make a connection:

> Megan Beakley 214-324-5015 meganb@roundtabledg.com

Meghan Bakota 469-77-7486 meghandallas@hotmail.com







9051 Garland Road • Dallas, Texas 75218

(214) 324-2290

Fax: (214) 324-3623

info@eastdallasprinting.com www.eastdallasprinting.com

DEPRESSED REAL ESTATE MARKET???

Check out my sales in the last twelve months . . .



8536 Capri, Dallas 3883 Turtle Creek #1516, Dallas 6335 W. Northwest Hwy. #1517, Dallas 8910 Angora, Dallas 8606 Liberty, Rowlett 5090 Matilda #113, Dallas 1307 Tanglewood, Euless



8123 San Leandro, Dallas 9335 Mercer, Dallas 1171 Lorlee, Dallas 2503 Briarfield, Richardson 5008 Victor, Dallas 5135 Vanderbilt



After being under contract for 4 months, buyer was not able to obtain financing, so it is available again at \$2,499,000 for just over 2 acres of lake views!

In this real estate market, you need someone that will really work hard for your business. In the last twelve months, I have closed thirteen properties and have two pending! Call me and let me tell you what I can do for you.



I PROMISE, NO ONE WILL WORK HARDER TO MAKE IT HAPPEN!

Vicki Shelton White, REALTOR 972.380.7635 Message Center 214.534.1305 Cell www.Ellenterry.com/agent/vickiwhite



East Lake Veterinary Hospital

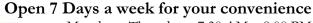
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