



# FOREST HILLS NEWS

March - April 2019  
[www.foresthillsdallas.org](http://www.foresthillsdallas.org)



*Pictures courtesy of the Dallas Arboretum*

## FOREST HILLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*Annual White Rock East Garden Tour  
May 19th - Save the Date*

White Rock Shore Spruce-Up 2nd Saturday each month  
Newsletter articles and ads due Monday,  
April 1st for May/June

### BULK TRASH

March  
Trash can go out Thursday 7- Sunday 10  
With pick-up starting the week of Monday, March 11  
April  
Trash can go out Thursday 4- Sunday 7  
With pick-up starting the week of Monday, April 8

[http://dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/pages/brush\\_and\\_bulky.aspx](http://dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/pages/brush_and_bulky.aspx)

# The President's Letter

For those of you who don't know me, I'm Jeff Peterson, the incoming President of the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association. We live at 1406 San Rafael Dr., the Spanish house right where San Rafael dead ends into Forest Hills Boulevard. Yes, we always seem to have construction going on at our house, but that's a story for another place and time.

In 2014, I moved to Forest Hills with my wife Candy, daughter Marit (freshman at Ursuline Academy), and son Hale (6th grader at William B. Travis Vanguard Academy). We also have two little Morkies, Peanut and Trixie. What is a Morkie? Well, combine all the laziness of a Maltese and the yappiness of a Yorkie. Please don't laugh if you see me walking them down Forest Hills Boulevard or Santa Clara – especially when they are wearing their sweaters. I'm a transactional lawyer, and my wife works at a PR firm. While I'm from Houston, my wife is from Plano. We moved to Dallas in 2002 and took up residence in East Dallas, as it felt most like Austin to us (my wife and I met when we were freshman at UT 25 years ago – she'll kill me for giving away how old we are).

We first lived in Hollywood Heights, and then Wilshire Heights. For us, Forest Hills was always an aspirational neighborhood. I first stumbled across the neighborhood when my kids were very little. When we'd try to put them down for naps, they would always fall right asleep in the car – and then wake up when we stopped moving. The solution? Drive aimlessly around White Rock Lake to keep moving and keep them napping. One time I made a turn off Garland Road and found this amazing neighborhood with huge lots, beautiful trees, and diverse architecture. I would drive forever up and down the streets, from Lakeland, back to San Rafael, then turn onto the next street and repeat. When we eventually outgrew our house in Wilshire Heights, there was only one destination I had in mind.

I want to thank Chris McCauley, my neighbor and friend, for his hard work over the past few years. In just assisting with a couple events in the past couple months, I've learned what a great group of dedicated neighbors we have here in Forest Hills – too many to name at this point. I look forward to learning the ropes from our fellow officers and committee members. In addition, there are still openings to assist the FHNA. Please consider volunteering for one of the open positions below.

Finally, please feel free to reach out to me to share your thoughts, comments, concerns, etc. I can be reached at [jeffrey\\_m\\_peterson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffrey_m_peterson@sbcglobal.net). I'd love to hear what's on front of everyone's mind regarding FH, and how we can make it an even better place to call home.



**JEFF PETERSON**  
President

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## FHA Officers & Committee Chairs - Liaison

### **FHNA President**

Jeff Peterson

[jeffrey\\_m\\_peterson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jeffrey_m_peterson@sbcglobal.net)

### **FHNA Vice President**

Jonathan Wood

[jonathanwood777@yahoo.com](mailto:jonathanwood777@yahoo.com)

### **FHNA Secretary**

OPEN

### **FHNA Treasurer**

Bruce Borrett

[bborrett8538@att.net](mailto:bborrett8538@att.net)

### **FHNA Crime Watch Chair**

Carol Lander

[Caroltlander@gmail.com](mailto:Caroltlander@gmail.com)

### **Membership / Newcomers Chair**

Melissa Dermarkar & Lee Ann Hunt  
[welcometoforesthills@gmail.com](mailto:welcometoforesthills@gmail.com)

### **Service League Chair**

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[anita@txemploymentcouncil.com](mailto:anita@txemploymentcouncil.com)

### **Animal Alert! / Newsletter Editor**

### **Block Captain Chair / Bulky Trash**

### **Chair/ Garage Sale Chair**

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Lara Huddleston

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# Spotlight on Sanger

## Sanger teacher named Dallas ISD 2018-2019 Elementary Teacher of the Year

Elisa Morrissey is this year's Dallas ISD 2018-2019 Elementary Teacher of the Year. She is a 4th grade teacher at Alex W. Sanger Elementary School.

In her acceptance speech, Mrs. Morrissey shared two beliefs that have sustained her throughout her 19 years as an educator.

The first is DETERMINATION and GRIT. "We must never give up on ourselves and our children. Our students come from different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds and they have demonstrated the true meaning of having grit. They show up in your classroom waiting to be challenged even after life has thrown them many curve balls. If they show up, I show up no matter what, having high expectations of them."

Her second belief is demonstrating VULNERABILITY. "I teach the mechanics and craft of writing daily, and I make intentional and unintentional mistakes to demonstrate humility and that I am not perfect, nor do I expect them to be. I let them know that failure is a part of learning and growing. It does not define a person's worth. Showing them that even when we don't have it all together, we are still good enough."

Parent Dora Hornick, who's had two sons taught by Morrissey, praises the teacher for her dedication of bringing out every child's best qualities. "Before entering her class, both of my sons dreaded writing, but Mrs. Morrissey worked her magic and they both enjoy writing and find it fun," said Hornick. (From [www.thehub.dallasisd.org](http://www.thehub.dallasisd.org))



A big congratulations from the Neighborhood to Ms. Morrissey!

## Welcome Newcomers!

### Introducing

**Melissa Dermarkar & Lee Ann Hunt** - Newcomers Committee Co-Chairs  
[welcometoforesthills@gmail.com](mailto:welcometoforesthills@gmail.com)

Families move to Forest Hills for many different reasons - the beautiful neighborhood, large lots, historic homes... but what really makes Forest Hills so special and desirable is that it isn't just a neighborhood - it is a tightly knit community.

In an effort to continue to build this important sense of community, we are re-energizing the Newcomers Committee. When a family moves in, a committee member will knock on their door, introduce themselves, and welcome that family to the neighborhood by giving them an information package, as well as a small house-warming gift. In today's busy world, we often forget how important face to face contact really is and how wonderful it is to engage in friendly conversation. We'll also hold regular newcomer Meet & Greet gatherings to help foster new relationships and will continue with the Newcomer Spotlight in the newsletter.

You can help us in several ways - if you notice neighbors moving in, please shoot us a quick email and let us know - this will help eliminate any accidental oversight. After a home has sold, it can be months before the new owners actually move in, which makes it tough to stay on top of. Also, if you are talking to your new neighbor, ask them if they have been welcomed by us, and pass along our email address if they haven't.

The Newcomers Committee email address is easy to remember.  
[welcometoforesthills@gmail.com](mailto:welcometoforesthills@gmail.com)

With your help, we can make sure every newcomer is warmly welcomed into this lovely community of ours!



### Welcome Newcomers!

8114 Forest Hills: John & Sarah Zavala

8246 San Leandro: Ashley & Cody Fincher

8530 Forest Hills: Matthew & Alicia Henry

8247 San Leandro: Snow Xue Rui & Timothy Frank Bender

8422 San Benito: William & Dionne Rainey

8319 Santa Clara: Brian & Samantha Dugger

8438 San Benito: Wesley & Jennifer Crozier

are you  
**IN?**

# Forest Hills Security

Is your 2019  
"IN" Sticker ON?



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Ring of Honor - \$1,000

Platinum - \$750

Gold - \$500

Silver - \$350

Bronze - \$240

Check: Forest Hills Security  
Program (FHSP)  
PO Box 180693  
Dallas, TX 75218

Credit Card via PayPal:  
[www.foresthillssecurity.org](http://www.foresthillssecurity.org)

Payment Inquiry:  
fhspcfo@aol.com

Home Watch Request:  
fhspenp@aol.com

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

## Who's that cruising around the hood in a blue golf cart?

Our **Security Sticker Squad** thanking you for participating in the **FHSP** and updating the red metal signs with **2019** stickers.

By January 23 the 1-23 Campaign brought in 300 households, which is 47% of the neighborhood. It was a great beginning, but our goal in 2019 is 80% of neighborhood households.

## 2018 Participation Last Year By Street

STREET NAME	# HOUSEHOLDS	# PAID	% PAID
Barbaree Boulevard	37	11	30%
Corday Street	2	2	100%
Eustis Avenue	22	6	27%
Forest Hills Boulevard	75	41	55%
Garland Road	26	10	38%
Groveland Drive	13	7	54%
Highland Road	17	6	35%
San Benito Way	73	45	62%
San Cristobal Drive	79	32	41%
San Fernando Way	75	46	61%
San Leandro Drive	82	43	52%
San Pedro Parkway	20	11	55%
San Rafael Drive	21	14	67%
Santa Clara Drive	86	56	65%
St. Francis Avenue	1	1	100%
Whittier Avenue	10	2	20%
<b>TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>52%</b>

How did your street do in 2018? We have made great strides, however many of our larger streets have **less** than **50%** participation. We **NEED** your help!  
**WE CAN DO BETTER IN 2019!**

**Let's challenge each other!** While cruising the neighborhood, look for those who do NOT have red "IN" signs. Reach out to them and explain the benefits of this program. Living in a safe, secure neighborhood benefits **ALL** of us! Peace of mind is **Priceless!**

We can reach our 2019 goal of **80%** of households **IN**. Help us help you!

FHSP is a 501 (C)(3) Non-Profit Organization. Your contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

**OOPS!**  
In the last newsletter on the Forest Hills Security insert, we failed to thank  
**Scott Bohner**  
**Scott & Deborah Coldwell**  
Our sincere apologies! FHSP and the neighborhood greatly appreciates your support!



**joinUS!**

# YARD OF THE MONTH

Sponsored by



## January

8230 Forest Hills  
Bob and Carol Landers

Italian cypress standing like tall soldiers greet you and lead the way to January's yard of the month. This beautiful stucco and red tile roofed home as well as the landscape has been inspired by the Mediterranean. The meticulously maintained landscape that surrounds the home is filled with - Kaleidoscope Abelias, Salvia greggii, camellias, green pittosporum, Mary Nell holly, juniper, boxwood and dwarf yaupon holly.

## February

8231 San Fernando Way  
Robert and Melissa Hunt

The simple and elegant midcentury architecture of this home has been perfectly complimented by its landscape design. The simplicity of this home's landscape design proves that less is more. Offset rectangular concrete pads guide you to the fenced entrance of the home. The planting beds have the same rectangular shape as the concrete pads. Tejas black stone provides a geometric border for the planting beds which consist of Mexican Feather grass, variegated sedge and coral bark Japanese Maples.

**If you haven't already done so,  
please pay your FHNA dues now!**

Your annual fees are used for:  
The Newsletter, Animal Alert!  
Fun Neighborhood Events  
Community Beautification Projects

Your Annual Membership Fee  
Residents under 65 - \$50 per household  
Residents 65+ - \$30 per household

Pay homeowners dues either through  
PayPal or by check.  
An envelope is enclosed for your use  
Additional donations of any amount are  
always appreciated.

[www.foresthillsdallas.org](http://www.foresthillsdallas.org)  
FH Association PO Box 180897  
Dallas, TX 75218  
Please Contribute - Volunteer -  
be part of the FHNA spirit!

# Animal Alert! Works!

**But we need your help to do so.**

The more residents of Forest Hills that sign up for Animal Alert! emails, the more people that can help unite a lost or found animal with its family. If you have not signed up yet to receive our email alerts, please do so now.

It is easy - just email [info@lfhanimalalert.org](mailto:info@lfhanimalalert.org) and ask to be on the list.

We do not sell our list and you can get off at any time by just emailing us. Each home that signs on is like adding another piece of the puzzle in helping with a lost or found pet.

You can also help by being SURE your pets are wearing a collar with up-to-date tags and are microchipped.

[www.flhanimalalert.org](http://www.flhanimalalert.org)

***“Help us help you get your pet home safely if it should get lost.”***



## **What to do if you lose a pet:**

1. Contact Animal Alert! with pet info, a picture, your contact number and the time/location your pet was last seen.
2. Contact the microchip company that your pet is microchipped with.
3. Post on [www.Nextdoor.com](http://www.Nextdoor.com) with above information.
4. Report to Dallas Animal Services at [daslost@dallascityhall.com](mailto:daslost@dallascityhall.com).
5. Go to [www.Petharbor.com](http://www.Petharbor.com) to search for your pet online.
  - a. Choose type of animal (dog or cat or other).
  - b. Choose your city shelter (**Dallas Animal Services**).
  - c. Continue to check this site until your pet is found.
  - d. Click “Register Your Lost Pet” to fill out the form online.
6. Post your pet on Lost and Found pages on Facebook.
7. Hang posters in your area with a picture of your pet and a contact number.
8. Check with vets and groomers in your area.



## **What to do if you find a pet:**

1. Secure the pet so it will be safe.
2. Contact Animal Alert with pet info, location found and a picture. (email - [info@lfhanimalalert.org](mailto:info@lfhanimalalert.org))
3. Take the pet to the nearest vet to get scanned for a microchip.
4. Post on Nextdoor.com with above information.
5. Send information to Dallas Animal Services at [daslost@dallascityhall.com](mailto:daslost@dallascityhall.com).
6. Check Lost and Found Facebook pages.
7. Hang posters in your area with a picture of the found pet with your contact number.



# Annual White Rock East Garden Tour

## Save the Date!

On Sunday, May 19th, Forest Hills will be participating in this wonderful annual event once again. Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates partner to showcase nine beautiful gardens - selecting three from each of the three neighborhoods.

In addition, local artists will be displaying their artwork in each of the gardens and there will be a large plant sale open to the public.

Congratulations to the three families  
who will have their gardens featured this year!

**Kelle & Cary Buresh - 8539 Santa Clara**  
**LuAnn & Gary Tunell - 8210 Garland Road**  
**Maria Schleuning & Rick Giangiulio - 8176 San Benito Way**

**To Volunteer Contact:**  
**Greg Stinson - (214) 934-5939 [gstinstudio@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gstinstudio@sbcglobal.net)**

Shifts are only two hours and will give you a chance to meet neighbors and participate in a fundraiser for Forest Hills Beautification projects.  
Be part of this fun event!

### PLEASE CONSIDER the day of the Tour:

To be on the safe side...

if you live within a block or two of these three homeowners, it would be best to make sure your cars are parked in your driveway and be careful out on the streets of Forest Hills (joggers/bikers/children/pets) as we will have many visitors on this day.

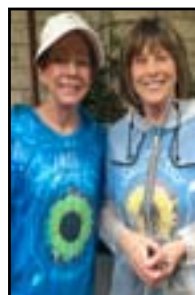
Interested in perhaps being on the Garden Tour in the future?

It is a lot of fun, gets your yard in shape for the rest of the season and helps raise money for Forest Hills!

Please contact [AndieComini@aol.com](mailto:AndieComini@aol.com) (214) 328-0508 (land line) to learn more about it.



### Happy Memories from the 2018 Garden Tour!





# FRI / FHNA Column

## Highland Road



Hi neighbors!

One mission of the Ferguson Road Initiative is to advocate on behalf of the community. We work with the City of Dallas to lobby for specific improvements or help prioritize items on the City's Needs Inventory. Ideally, when bond allocations are made, such items get funded. One significant current project is the improvement of Highland Road. The long-planned updates will be between the Ash Creek bridge (near Primrose Senior apartments) and the Ferguson Rd. intersection.

Highland Rd was first identified needing improvement in 1998 and was one of FRI's first community mobilization projects. A child was killed walking to Bayles School in the mid-1990's and the community targeted the reconstruction of Highland Rd. from Jim Miller to the RR tracks as a safety need. The first phase, from Ferguson to Jim Miller, was approved on the 1998 bond program and completed in 2005. The next phase is slated for Highland Rd. from Ferguson to the Primrose Senior Development. With families, youth and senior pedestrians using this road, it is extremely dangerous. A few years ago, a makeshift sidewalk was installed to help disabled seniors walk to Ferguson Rd. Now with the White Rock Hills Park construction beginning, it's logical that the city would address this road condition. Nothing has been done to improve this road for decades other than filling potholes. FRI consistently pushed for a safer reconstructed Highland Road – and it is now occurring.

I spoke with Chris Turner-Noteware, PE, the Assistant Director for the City of Dallas Department of Public Works. She confirmed that designs finalized this past year include; sidewalks, bike paths/lanes, integration to the new White Rock Hills Neighborhood Park and Dallas Trail System, nature friendly lighting, proper drainage, green features and designated roadside parking areas for the WRH Park.

For this project, City engineers are coordinating with the Park and Recreation Dept., to integrate the WRH Park and future Recreation Center, and with Dallas Water Utilities to simultaneously replace old water and sewer pipes and accommodate future needs to avoid damaging the new roadway and sidewalk in the future.

The City is waiting on bidding and construction of the Highland Rd. project until the Lakeland Dr. bridges are complete – they have had some challenges due to utility conflicts around the bridges nearing completion. The Lakeland bridges should hopefully be completed in April, depending on weather and other unforeseen conditions. They have had some challenges due to utility conflicts. The City plans to solicit bids for the Highland Rd project in February and anticipates construction beginning in late Spring/ early Summer 2019. Construction may be a year-long endeavor. Construction begins late Spring / early Summer 2019 and may take up to a year.

In the last column I touched on the official ground breaking of the forthcoming White Rock Hills Park, near the corner of Ferguson Rd. and Highland Rd. In a future column, I'll share the Park plans and an update on the City's progress.

For or more insight, see the FRI website (<https://www.fergusonroad.org/>). Please consider joining or otherwise supporting the organization that supports our neighborhood, and the rest of far East Dallas, <https://www.fergusonroad.org/membership/donate/>. Let me know if you have questions about FRI and I'll try to speak to those either offline, or in the next issue of the Forest Hills Newsletter. **Daniel Ortman** [daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org](mailto:daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org)

# Exciting Garden Project at Sanger

As you drive by the school at San Leandro and St. Francis you may notice changes happening. Many years ago, a Girl Scout troop established a garden near the parking lot at the rear of the school. It must have been beautiful at some point, but over the years it has fallen into disuse and disarray. A new garden area was established behind the school which has been lovingly tended by students, teachers and volunteers. This garden is now being moved back to the original garden area in preparation for the construction which will be taking place at the school in the near future (no dates set yet). The new garden has been planned by Dawn Cleaves, with a number of parents and students working to bring it to life.

A big benefit of this project will be increased “curb appeal” for the school.

One of our Forest Hill neighbors, **Maria Stanley**, is working on this project. She would love to get other Forest Hill residents involved! I know there are many experienced gardeners in our neighborhood and your help would be invaluable. Some practical needs are:

two metal benches for the students,  
2 shovels with pointed tips,  
2 pronged hoes/pitchfork style, and an  
80-gallon compost tumbler. If you

can help and/or donate any of these items please contact **Maria** at 214-288-0930 or [mariamassimino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mariamassimino@sbcglobal.net).

These photos are from a chilly day in January, when volunteers removed iris (to be replanted in neighborhood gardens), moved the mulch pile from the old garden to the new, and began building raised beds which will provide each classroom with their own garden “patch.”



# Spotlight on a Forest Hills Teenager

## MAX HARRINGTON RALSTON

Forest Hills wasn't Max Ralston's first home (it was Lakewood), but he got here as soon as he could. That was in 2004, when he was 3. Max has loved Forest Hills. The large yards, the tall trees, the friendly neighbors and the plentiful dogs (sorry, Max is not much of a cat person).

Max is now a Junior at The Shelton School. He is a good student and is a member of the National Honor Society. His primary extra-curricular avocations are cross-country and track. You may, in fact, see Max and his dad, Mark, around the neighborhood on their training runs. You can tell the two apart pretty easily. Max is the one in front—way in front. Last year, Max qualified for the district and regional meets in all his events: the 800 meter (half mile), the 1600 meter (one mile), and the 3200 meter (two miles). His goal for the spring track season is to run faster and to qualify for state in all of his events.

Max is also a long-time member of a local Boy Scout troop and is now working on reaching the rank of Eagle Scout. Scouting has given Max the chance to go on numerous campouts and learn outdoor skills. His most challenging scouting adventure has been a week-long back country hiking trip as the Philmont Scout Range in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of New Mexico.

Max also has worked to give back to the community and to others. Through his Boy Scout troop, he has helped with meals for the Austin Street Shelter. He has also worked on many of the annual canned food drives organized by the Boy Scouts. At Shelton, Max is a member of Chargers for Change, an organization that devotes time to various community service projects.

Max has spent the last several summers volunteering in various countries. In Costa Rica, he helped with a sea turtle conservation project. In Peru, Max hiked Machu Picchu—this after providing significant service hours in the local communities. This summer Max will travel to Thailand where he will study marine and rain forest conservation and volunteer for projects that benefit the rain forest. He hopes to meet up with his sister who is teaching English in Thailand.

Max believes that the safe environment and generous community in Forest Hills he has experienced has allowed him to grow into an involved member of his Shelton community. He hopes as he goes on to college life that he continues to be a person who gives back. Finally, he is learning how to drive (take cover, residents!) and hopes very much to get his driver's license soon.



**PARENTS: Want to nominate your teen for the Spotlight on a Forest Hills Teenager?  
Contact Andie - andiecomini@aol.com**

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**Please pay your Forest Hills dues now as your neighborhood depends on it!**

See page 6 for info.

## ALLURE OF THE ARBORETUM

### Life's A Picnic

With the greatest views of the downtown Dallas skyline and White Rock Lake, the Dallas Arboretum is hailed as one of the best picnic spots in the Metroplex, so it's time to celebrate this theme during Dallas Blooms, presented by IBERIABANK.

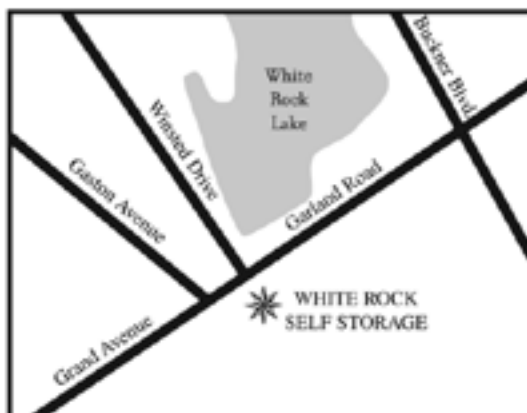
With more than 100 varieties of spring bulbs and over 500,000 blooms bursting with color, the Dallas Arboretum announces "Life's A Picnic" as the theme. Running now through April 7, 2019, the spring festival features an extraordinary, larger-than-life, picnic scene topiary and party bands every weekend. More information can be found at [www.dallasarboretum.org](http://www.dallasarboretum.org).



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7820 Garland Road Across From The White Rock Spillway

## East Dallas Veterinary Clinic

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Lisa Molidor, DVM, cVMA  
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Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday: 7:30 am - 6:00 pm  
Saturday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm



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