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Newsletter Editor/Communications: Neoma Twining

The Reporter

SEPTEMBER 2007 ISSUE

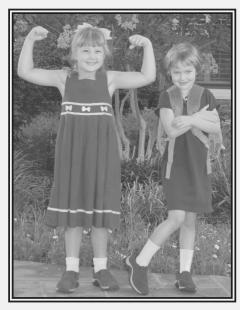
FH KIDS GO BACK TO SCHOOL!



Olivia Corker, Kindergarten and Sinclair Corker, 6th grade, St. Bernards.



Sophia Twining, 3rd grade and Olivia Twining, 8th grade, St. John's Episcopal.



Hannah and Samantha Goodwyn

They're off . . . and their futures look bright!!!

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Bill Foerster

I WOULD LIKE TO START BY REMINDING EVERYONE THAT THE FALL SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM SEPTEMBER 20TH TO SEPTEMBER 27TH. THE WEB SITE AND OUR VOICE MESSAGING SYSTEM WILL BE CHANGED AND MAKE NOTE OF THE NEW DATE. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused.



Another summer has come and gone and so has another term of the Board of the Association. I want to thank the out going board for their dedication to the neighborhood. The board members have stepped up and continued many of the traditions and activities of the neighborhood. We have a strong slate of candidates for the new board. We are confident that the board to be elected at our next meeting September

27, 2007 at Sanger Elementary School will continue to meet the needs of our neighbors and community.

The appearance of the neighborhood as we have known it is changing. Redevelopment is quickly changing the face of the neighborhood, but I have found that it is only in the appearance. The new families moving in bring with them the same interest in the neighborhood and since of community that has defined our sanctuary in the forest over the years. We look forward to getting the new neighbors involved with the Association.

Two of our biggest challenges that we are facing as an Association are the increase in crime and the participation level in both the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association and the Forest Hills Security Program. Over the past year we have significantly increased the membership of both organizations and have met our goals for the year. However, this next year should be a breakout year. We are looking to increase participation in both organizations. We believe programs that touch more of the neighbors will drive the increase in participation. Surveys will be sent out and may be available online. The surveys will address the needs and concerns of our neighbors. The results of the surveys we assist the board in creating programs and presenting opportunities that will more directly impact our neighbors and the neighborhood. Please take the time to complete the survey so the Board can efficiently direct their efforts.

BOARD ENCOURAGED BY STRENGTH OF FHNA PROGRAMS

If we gave each newly formed organization an acronym the list would be lengthy. But it would look something like this:

FH FUND RAISING BAROMETER

100%

35%

FHNA - Forest Hills Neighborhood Association FHAA - Forest Hills Animal Alert

FHSP - Forest Hills Security Program

FLICAL F. (1111) Occurry Hogiani

FHCN - Forest Hills Children's Network

FHNN - Forest Hills Newcomers Network

FHYF - Forest Hills Young Families

With each growing internal program, the FH Board is encouraged. Encouraged because the needs of residents are being met.

The FH Board set a goal of growing these types of programs to give support where none existed before. Looking at models of other neighborhoods like Vickery Place, Highland Park, Lake Highlands, we were able to create successful models of our own. Many of these new programs are getting attention outside our FH community. The FH Newcomers Network, under the capable direction of Judy Whalen, received accolades in a local publication. The program is also being held up as a model of what to do right when it comes to forming welcome committees in neighborhood communities.



The FH Board is pleased with the amount of support each program is getting and with the leadership in place. If you need information or which to participate in any of these programs do not hesitate to visit our website at www.foresthillsdallas.org and partner with us in our success.

— by Neoma Twining

The Neighbors Column

5

John Mitchell

Discourteous Bikers Invade Forest Hills

There is a growing concern among many of our residents that Bikers (obviously not living in Forest Hills) have found our cozy, shady community as a place to ride their bikes. There is no law against that as our streets are public streets.

However there is a law against: riding in the middle of the street refusing to move over for motor vehicles; ignoring stop signs; harassing pedestrians by racing by at close distance; yelling at motorists for blowing their horn for warning and most recently a report by a resident that a biker spat on her car windshield and gave her "the finger" when she attempted to pass him while he was riding in the middle of the street.

We have many bikers who live in our community and these courteous individuals consider "those other bikers" as "renegades" and bad for the sport.

White Rock Lake trail has become too congested with pedestrians for the bikers to race safely at high speeds, particularly on weekends so . . . we have become one of their new places to cycle.

This brazen contempt for our laws and quality of life is simply outrageous. The Dallas Parks and Recreation Commission has full records of biker/pedestrian incidents on trails but doesn't know what to do about this abusive, renegade type of biker. They have erected signs on White Rock Trail and other locations in the City to alert bikers to yield the right of way to pedestrians. Incidents continue to occur!!

As homeowners of in Forest Hills we need to be aware of this negligent group and take action when renegade type incidents occur with bikers.

You probably should not attempt to engage them but simply call 911 or the Forest Hills Security Patrol at 214-324-9894. You can also report the incident to the FHSP by e-mail: fhspenp@aol.com

This is our Community and we do not have to tolerate these discourteous actions by anyone.

This opinion is not being expressed to be ugly or attack anyone but simply to make all of our residents aware that others residents (neighbors) are experiencing unnecessary conflicts with bikers.

This issue will be brought under control but we need your input to allow us to monitor our efforts.

John Mitchell imitchell@C3site.com



FOREST HILLS GENERAL MEETING THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27 SANGER AUDITORIUM

7-9 p.m.



DEAD TREES GETTING CITY ATTENTION

Those who have lost faith in the city's ability to respond to neighborhood needs, have heart. They are responding and in a big way. In the last year the city has embarked on a "response program overhaul." Many had doubts it would mean any change.

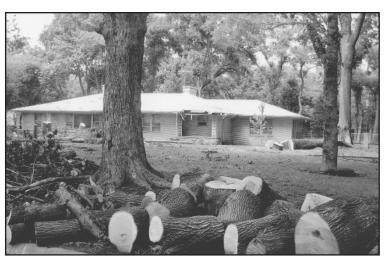
We have witnessed the difference a call to the city can make. From mowing medians, to cutting down dead trees and alley issues, they're on it. The good news is, we are the beneficiaries. Once we introduced our Adopt-A-Median program, we began fielding calls from residents who noticed dead trees and poorly maintained landscapes. The medians are "technically" property of the city of Dallas. More specifically, under the care of the Parks and Rec. Dept. We called and for every concern we registered they had a response. A timely response. This is something new and unusual. We are encouraging residents to call 311 and experience this new response force first hand. If you have a need or concern that you know falls under the jurisdiction of city care, just call.

The photos below are cedar trees now in the city's sights that need to be cut down and replaced. Like I said, "they're on it!"

— by Neoma Twining



The Deepest Cut . . . More Trees Coming Down



So many residents are fed up with seeing the same sight over and over again. Lot goes up for sale, sold signs go up and then trees virtually swept from the property.

If everyone is so dismayed, where is the unity in fighting to keep this from happening? There is a small army of humans marching towards resolve, but you may not just sit back and be a spectator to this harrowing event. We need help in making change.

The residents of FH have to get the tree ordinance modified to prevent tree slaughter. The owner of a property has the right to cut down trees before demolition. Any owner who attempts to cut trees after the demolition must go through city

channels and consult the city arborist. John Mitchell, FH Board member, is leading this effort to change the tree ordinance where a "loophole" such as this exists. It cannot happen overnight. If you wish to join this effort, contact John Mitchell at imitchellc3site.com.

— by Neoma Twining

CRIME PREVENTION AT ITS BEST!

Forest Hills Security Program is happy to report another successful bust!

The bad guy that our off-duty officer put away was VERY bad . . .

Originally, he was arrested on Aug 1, 2006 for Aggravated Sexual Assault of a Child under Dallas Police Report #0584800-R. He is not officially a registered sex offender and is not listed on the public sex offender website yet.



He has been arrested 3 times in 2007 for drug possession and burglary.

This August, David DeTamble/Forest Hills Security patrol arrested him for an outstanding warrant for Burglary of Habitation. This makes the suspect's 4th arrest this year!

DeTamble spotted him walking along the alley near the railroad tracks behind 8300 San Cristobal at 7 pm on Sunday Aug 26. Because he appeared suspicious, DeTamble stopped him, identified him and found he was wanted for burglary. He was arrested and taken to Dallas County Jail.

There is absolutely no telling what offense Officer DeTamble prevented by snagging this guy that was stalking our alleys!

BAD GUY suspect Ortiz, Luis, Alberto L/M/4-4-1987 5'6" 175 lbs

GOOD GUY Officer David DeTamble. (Be sure to salute our hero in blue next time he drives by!)



LOST AND FOUND

On the same day of the arrest, David also found a lost elderly Alzheimer's patient driving through the neighborhood. He contacted family members and she was returned to her family safely. She had been missing for a day or more.

— by Judy Whalen

WANTED (URGENTLY!)

The Forest Hills Security Program needs EVERYONE participating in this incredible program. It has been operating and benefiting EVERY resident since 2003. Each year there are more arrests, more house checks, and more neighborhood awareness. It is not just about your house, your car or any other material possession. It is about your personal safety and that of your family and neighbors inside and outside your home. The program is \$60 a quarter (Jan, April, July, October). If you have not made your 3rd quarter (July) pledge to safety, please send or deliver to: Forest Hills Security Program, 8432 San Fernando Way, Dallas, TX 75218.

Compliments, concerns or payment inquiry contact: Judy Whalen 214 324-9894 jwreps@earthlink.net

Please include this information with your payment:	
Name	
Address	
Telephone Email	



















THIS JUST IN......(Submitted by: Susan Wells)

- We have received several calls from neighbors expressing concern over pets being walked or running beside their owners while jogging or on bikes without leashes. Dallas has a leash law please respect your neighbors by honoring it!
- It is now against the law to leave a dog chained up between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. for longer than 3 hours, when the temperature is below 32 degrees, or during a heat advisory or tornado warning. The new law also addresses the length of a restraint at least 10 feet or fives times the length of the dog and the types of collars that cannot be used. If you know of someone who is violating this new law, contact Animal Services or call 911 immediately.
- Registered pets continue to increase of which we are thrilled. However, we are sadly flat on recent contributions. Won't you please consider a donation of any amount to this valuable program? Make your check out to: FHHA Animal Alert! and mail to our Treasurer: Gina Bender, 8222 San Fernando Way, 75218

In last month's newsletter, we ran a 'CLIP AND SAVE' listing of key contact names and numbers for our Animal Alert! program.

PLEASE NOTE: BETTY GUERRA WILL NOW SERVE AS THE PRIMARY CONTACT FOR REPORTING A LOST OR FOUND PET.

BETTY'S PHONE NUMBER IS: (214) 621-7086! Pat Cage will continue as the secondary contact. Also, the number listed for Animal Control should simply be 311.

THREE SUCCESS 'TAILS' IN FOREST HILLS!

Submitted by: Pat Cage

This summer has been an active time in Forest Hills with the appearance of lost and homeless animals. Our Animal Alert! Program has seen and heard from many neighbors with reports and requests for help in locating the owners of these animals. We are so pleased that our program can provide assistance. We would like to highlight a few cases in which individuals have made room in their homes to care, house and befriend a lost pet.

BLACKIE, THE CAT

One such neighbor, after days of noticing a scruffy, black cat, wandering hungry, and looking for food, water and a cool place to rest, stepped in to help. Though the cat was friendly, she was not the compelling beauty that most often wins a place in our heart. The skin on her nose was cracked and bleeding and her fur was flea infested. Even though this family already had a healthy population of pets (two cats and two large dogs, all of whom, at one time were homeless), they accepted yet another one to care for and love. Blackie's allergy to mosquito bites has been treated and she undergoes regular treatment to relieve this problem. Her veterinary needs have been met and she enjoys her home on the screen porch with plenty of food, water and the freedom to roam the yard. Now she has a territory all her own and has even curtailed her trips across the street and to adjacent houses. What's not to love about a home like this? Yes, she is a lucky cat!

LAIKA, THE DOG

As for dogs, there are some lucky dogs, too. One Sunday afternoon, a large brown, female short hair arrived in the front yard of our new neighbors on San Raphael (new house, as well). With two large, curious dogs inside, our kind neighbors invited this stranger into their home for a brief respite. Although the visitor had a collar and a gentle and friendly manner, no tag or other identification was found. Vets were notified and she was scanned twice for a chip. She was included on Craig's list, a few yard signs posted, and a picture on the Forest Hills website. Still, no owner could be located. By this time, she had been accepted by the family pets and was feeling quite at home. The vet has updated her shots and is planning to spay in the near future. Laika, whose namesake was the first dog to travel in space, has surely traveled some miles of her own and probably has stories we will never hear. She is now the lucky, number three, dog in this wonderful home.

RED (still looking for a permanent home)

The last story in this trilogy is about a young feral dog that found a resting place in the backyard of a San Fernando neighbor. She has a reddish-golden, shorthair coat and looks to be part Rhodesian Ridgeback, though smaller in stature. For several weeks now, a constant progression of steps has been taken to tame and gain the trust of this dog in order to place in a permanent home. She had to be (have-a-heart) trapped and taken to a vet for all the basic tests and shots. Next came spaying and recovery, in a kennel, inside the home. Although these new experiences must have been terrifying, she never showed aggression. She is now being leashed trained and continues to learn about the benefits and necessities of being a good pet. Her picture and pertinent information is listed on www.foresthillsdallas.org. Here's hoping a welcoming home can be found soon for this sweet girl.

The patience and dedication of these animal lovers is commendable. We would like to say thank you to all who make these extra efforts, who give their time, money and love to the many animals that cross our path.

PAGE



















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PET PICTURE OF THE MONTH!





"TRIXIE RAIN"

Proud Parents: **Marisa and Jeff Belz** of San Fernando Way. Trixie is a 3 year old Border Collie. Her parents swear that Trixie smiles upon command BUT only when asked in Spanish! Sonrisa!

<u>To nominate your pet</u> – please send story and picture to Susan Wells – <u>sbwells0918@sbcglobal.ne</u> t. All species equally considered!

PET SUMMIT – BIG SUCCESS!

FHHA'S ANIMAL ALERT! PROGRAM – Meets its Neighboring Pet Watch Programs
Submitted by: Andie Comini

Our first PET SUMMIT, held on August 11, was a nice success! We had 12 interested people attend who represented 7 surrounding neighborhoods! It was our first attempt to pull together representatives from other Neighborhood Association Pet Watch programs — new and already established alike! The goal was to meet others face to face to discuss the pros and cons of a program, fund raising, learn about other web sites, how to reach other interested people, leash laws, Lost/Found Pet signage, etc. All agreed it was important to have these meetings several times a year.

We all had an assignment of finding others interested in attending our next PET SUMMIT and preparing a list of vets, groomers, pet stores, etc. in each neighborhood willing to work with us in putting up information about lost or found pets. Our goal is to have a Master List of Services to reference to help those who have Lost or Found a pet. The Summit also enabled us to start sharing our individual Lost and Found reports with each other as often; these creatures have strayed into our neighborhood from other nearby locations...

The number of interested people in attending the second PET SUMMIT is growing! If you know of someone who might be interested in having their email added to the list for updates- please email their information to: PetSummit@aol.com. The next PET SUMMIT meeting is set for November 7- Wednesday: 7:00 - 9:00 at the For The Love of The Lake Offices in Casa Linda. All are welcome to attend!

DOG DUMPING IN FOREST HILLS

Dumping animals is not a problem unique to Forest Hills. Neighborhoods across the city are facing this issue. In our own neighborhood cases of the dog dumping are rising. We thought you should know what to do in case you witness a case of this kind of abuse.

Animal abuse is well covered by the city under code violations. Of course that would be at a house and perhaps, dumping a dog would be covered.

Check with <u>dallascityhall.com</u> or make a phone call to Animal Control or email them and copy to your City Council Rep so that AC will know you are serious and want an answer.

Call 311 if you need to get any phone number with the city.

CERTAINLY get the license number of the car that did the dumping and be prepared to turn in that report.

It would be interesting to know if the park department that cares for the lake ever takes a stand or does anything worthwhile if they see the act or even see a loose domestic animal.

Share the news if you find out that any action could or would be taken.

— Gail Olds





Standing Water A Mosquito Hazard



Residents concerned about the mosquito population have called asking for help in eradicating this problem. In the photo you can see the water lining the curb in front of a FH home. This is a familiar sight to some and it is a problem.

The city requires 3 inches of standing water, pooled for more than 3 days before they will come out and pad the asphalt. Padding the asphalt means they put down additional asphalt to raise the roadway and stop the water from pooling.

If you have this particular problem, call 311 and ask for help. Pooling water adds FH mosquito problem.

☑ Join in the Forest Hills Association — your Dues!

Forest Hills dues are at the highest level as compared to recent years — Let's resolve 100% as a great show of community support!

Forest Hills Association dues are payable once a year on a calendar basis (*independent of your Security Program participation*). Dues are paid for every adult member of a Forest Hills home at a minimum of \$25 each, however all amounts are welcome. Contributions are used as follows:

- Subsidize this great Community Newsletter
- ✓ Underwrite communication venues <u>www.foresthillsdallas.org</u> and FHSP Phone Tree
- ✓ Underwrite your great neighborhood social events
- ✓ Water and maintain the medians
- ✓ Pay the common electricity expense for irrigation power
- Support community needs, including White Rock Lake, Alex Sanger and FHSP

Without your participation we could not continue our work and play as a community Association. *Please call me at 214-328-9188 or email glbender@swbell.net* with any questions.

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×					
Forest Hills Association 2	2007 Dues				
Name:					
Address:					
Email:					
Dues Enclosed:	\$25	\$50	\$75	Other	
Payable to Forest Hills A	ssociation, c/o (Gina Bender, P.	O. Box 180897 L	Dallas 75218 or to 8222	San Fernando

Garden Colub Wews

The Forest Hills Garden Club met at the home of Pat Corrigan on Thursday evening at 7 p.m. Pat offered a tour of her lovely backyard and members planned some activities for the upcoming year. In attendance were Judy Whalen, Mary Deighton, Barb Michaels, Nancy Allegro, Jane Hulsey, Lottie Minnick, Delores Cullivan, Mary Ehrenberger, Kelly Miller, Susan Fredrickson, Dorinda Breeland, Mary Spinazzola and Kathy Glenn. Mary and Kathy are the newest members of our neighborhood and Delores and Susan live in neighboring Casa Linda Estates.

On the agenda for the October Meeting will be a trip to the State Fair of Texas. Please contact Barb Michaels (214-327-3817) or Lottie Minnick (214-320-3868) if you would like to go the the fair with our group. Tickets to the fair and parking passes will be provided.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:



Editor:

If you haven't noticed, they are cutting down a ton of trees on the corner lot of San Benito and Breezewood. Many of those trees aren't even diseased or need cutting down. I keep seeing this all over the neighborhood and I am upset. Can I get involved to help with the efforts being made to stop this? — *C. Thornton*



Neoma Twining Newsletter Editor

Response:

The FH Board is very aware of this. We actually fielded numerous calls about trees coming down as they prepped lots for new home construction. Recently a campaign was launched to educate FH residents about why **trees** are necessary and to step up our efforts

in fighing the destruction of our natural canopy.

Yes, you can get involved. Email John Mitchell, FH board member at <u>jmitchellc3site.com</u>. We want everyone to become aware of what is at stake if we lose our valuable resource of trees.



Sanger News

1st Day of Mrs. Hansen's Kindergarten Class





Forest Hills Yard of the Month

The Forest Hills Yard of the Month for September has been awarded to Geoff and Nellie Gerard at 8439 San Leandro. They have been Forest Hills residents for 30 years and have certainly added to the beauty of our neighborhood. Congratulations!





Kathy Wall 214-202-0925

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