



FOREST HILLS NEWS

July-August 2015
www.foresthillsdallas.org



THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME!

FOREST HILLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MONTHLY - Bulky Trash, Week of 2nd Monday
July 9th - 12th & August 6th - 9th

MONTHLY - White Rock Shore Spruce-Up
2nd Saturday • whiterocklake.org

JULY 4TH PARADE AND PICNIC

SATURDAY, JULY 4th

*Parade starts at 10:30 am and picnic follows
in the Keller's backyard!*



President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you had a chance to visit some of the homes on this year's Garden Tour. The rains stopped just in time for what turned out to be a perfect day to view all of the beautiful gardens. Thanks to Barb Michaels and her team who made for another fun and very successful fundraising event.

If you were able to attend our Spring General Meeting, you learned that we were awarded a grant from the design firm bcWORKSHOP to help develop a landscape plan for the medians in our neighborhood. We have assembled a Core Design Team, consisting of seven members from the neighborhood, to assist in this effort. The team will be working over the next few months to assess current maintenance needs, select the variety of trees to be planted in the fall and develop an overall landscaping design. You may have noticed green & blue ribbons around some of the trees that are part of the initial steps in identifying work that needs to be done.

And don't forget our Annual Fourth of July Parade and Picnic. Our thanks go out to Jack and Wilma Keller, who will again host our big event.

Gary Grass

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LISTING OF FHA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS - LIAISONS

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Ask the Security Chick

Neighbor REPORTS Suspicious Activity by calling 911.... Helping Keep Our Neighborhood Safe!

DEAR SECURITY CHICK,

This morning I watched a man in a navy SUV stop in front of my house twice within a period of about 15 minutes. He would stop, take a photo of house, roll forward a bit and take another picture. The first time I thought, "That's weird."

The second time, I thought "He's casing the joint!" *My little one said, "Mommy, I bet he thinks our house is pretty!"* *If only we could all see the world through a child's eyes, but you cannot be too careful, so I immediately picked up the phone and called 911 to report it.*

While this may seem drastic to some, the thing I love about Forest Hills is the sense of community and the mind set that the security of our homes and neighborhood is everyone's concern. With that, we must each be accountable for taking action when we observe unusual behavior. Report it. Call 911, state that you may not have an emergency but you'd like to report some suspicious activity. Give details. Describe specifically what you witnessed, including license plate numbers if possible. This simple step creates awareness within the police department about the goings on of our neighborhood.

I am pleased to share that less than five minutes after I hung up with 911, a squad car rolled past my house. Great response time! They continued to monitor the area for awhile because I saw it two more times within the hour. Whether the guy in the navy SUV thought we had a "pretty house" or had ill intentions, I will never know. Whether he photographed only our house or snapped a few shots of yours too, I can't say. What I do know is I feel greatly reassured about our safety in Forest Hills knowing that our dedicated security patrol officers will come check out the most minor of oddities if we will just take the time to report it. What I can say is that I'm proud to live in a neighborhood where people look after each other. I hope all of you have a safe and sunny summer!

Lara Huddleston

SECURITY CHICK RECOMMENDS THESE STEPS:

1. **First Call 911 when you see something suspicious. Do not hesitate. Small to you, might be BIG to the police in preventing or solving a crime.**
2. **Email fhspenp@aol.com with a small report, which will be placed in the logbook and used for follow up and further investigation by our Forest Hills Security Program police.**



SECURITY AFFECTS HOME VALUES

by Vicki White

Having lived in four homes in Forest Hills during my "renovation" phase prior to being a Realtor AND with my husband and I both being raised in the area, I know how special the culture and lifestyle of Forest Hills really is.

I believe that people move to Forest Hills for the obvious, the heavily tree lined streets and huge yards and architectural diversity. Very few places in Dallas can you have ½ acre all the way to 2 acre lots! The pride of ownership is everywhere. The newsletter is first class. The website keeps people informed. There are constant activities whether the 4th of July parade and picnic, the Garden Tour, a newcomers party, the Garden Club or Book Club, there is a sense of a small town atmosphere and everyone can be as active as they choose to be.

Just last week I was visiting the home of one of my very good friends and client that purchased a home on San Benito almost 2 years ago. I wanted to see the dramatic transformation of their remodeling. I asked them **what they liked best about Forest Hills**. It was not the trees or their huge one half acre lot or the diversity of the houses; **it was the PEOPLE, the neighbors AND the security they feel here**.

The way the neighbors keep an eye out for each other, *plus the Forest Hills Security Program is one of the major selling factors I use when telling potential Buyers about Forest Hills*. I have seen firsthand how great it is to have a Dallas Police officer respond to an incident so quickly that all involved were extremely impressed. As it turned out, there was no crime, but it looked like it could have been and they were there on the spot immediately. **The Security Program having officers on patrol in the neighborhood is funded voluntarily by residents. At \$240 a year, which averages out to only \$20 a month, I cannot imagine not participating in this program.**

I personally choose to support the Security Program each year with a membership donation. Why would I do that since I live just outside Forest Hills at this time? Because as a Realtor, it is very important to me to keep the property values up in the neighborhood. While it is against the rules for a Realtor to tell a buyer if there is or isn't crime in a neighborhood, I certainly can tell them about the Security Program using off-duty Dallas Police and that helps sell houses! The fact that this has been a long running program that has proven successful is really a huge perk of the neighborhood along with all the other fabulous things Forest Hills has to offer. Like any program, it would be easy to take for granted the security you are feeling with the presence of the police. I would suggest that you remember that without this program and the police presence, Forest Hills just might not enjoy the reduced crime that is experienced now.

Every single neighborhood in Dallas and surrounding cities do not have to go far to find a nearby neighborhood that has a higher crime rate. From Highland Park, to Lakewood, to North Dallas to Forest Hills. We live in a large, very diverse city. **We cannot escape the presence of crime. But we should do everything we can to keep it out of our backyards!** This is an excellent program and it is with great pride that I gladly support it each year!

Vicki White, Vicki White Homes • vickiwhitehomes.com

JOIN TODAY! More Participants = More Patrols = Less CRIME

FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM

\$240 yearly (paid in one payment or quarterly installments)

PayPal: www.foresthillssecurity.org or Check: FHSP PO Box 180693 Dallas, Texas 75218



Payment Inquiries: fhspcfo@aol.com • Home Watch Requests / Security Questions: fhspenp@aol.com

BULLETIN BOARD



FOURTH OF JULY

Come join the Forest Hills Fourth of July Parade and Picnic. Volunteer to be in the parade, meet your neighbors and enjoy the holiday! The Kellers are again providing the neighborhood with a wonderful 4th of July get together! There will be barbecue and all the trimmings, a bounce house and water works for the kids, medals for parade entries as well as good old fashioned neighborhood visiting. The parade begins at Keller Circle on the corner of Breezewood and Forest Hills at 10:30 am, so decorate those bikes and scooters, hang a flag on your trailer, and pull your favorite wagon down the boulevard to show your spirit for America and Forest Hills! Following the parade the picnic will be held in the Keller's lot on the corner of Lakeland and Garland Road. Access the picnic through the alley gate. **SEE YOU THERE!**

Have you paid your FHNA Dues?

Our neighborhood uses the dues that it receives on an annual basis to pay for:

- ◆ FHA Newsletter ◆ Bulky Trash Signage ◆ Community Beautification Projects
- ◆ Great Neighborhood Events: * Fourth of July Picnic and Parade
- * Easter Egg Hunt * Holiday Tree Lighting

To date, we only have 93 paid members! Please do not forget to pay your annual membership fee of \$50 for households with residents under 65 or \$30 for households with a resident over 65+.

Pay your dues today at www.foresthillsdallas.org or by mail at Forest Hills Association, PO Box 180897, Dallas TX 75218

HELP KEEP FOREST HILLS A GREAT COMMUNITY!

2015 WHITE ROCK EAST GARDEN TOUR AND ARTISANS



On Sunday May 17, 2015 the neighborhoods of Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates featured a self guided tour of ten wonderful gardens. Each of the gardens had artisans from these three neighborhoods showcasing their beautiful art for visitors to admire and purchase. In addition, our fabulous annual plant sale was held at the park in Casa Linda Estates. Proceeds from the tour are divided among the three neighborhood associations.

Forest Hills will use their share (\$6779.00) for neighborhood beautification.



We want to thank the garden owners from our neighborhood who gave so generously of their time and graciously opened their backyards for delighted visitors to enjoy.

The tour was advertised RAIN or SHINE and *the rain miraculously stopped on Sunday morning* just before the tour began. **Garden owners this year went above and beyond the call of duty!!**

Garden owners for 2015 were:

Amy and Ken Kristofek - 8823 San Fernando Way
Annette and Chuck Anderson - 8367 Santa Clara Dr.
Valerie and Garret Adams - 8171 San Benito Way



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS

This tour would not have been possible without the help of our volunteers. Barb Michaels, Andie Comini, Lottie Minick, Becky Bordelon and Rita Hendricks represented our neighborhood at all of the planning sessions. Special thanks to Cynthia Daniel (our neighbor on Barbaree) for coordinating all the artists.



And very special thanks goes all the

volunteers who monitored the gardens this year: Kelly and Mike Miller, Josephine Brown, Dorinda Duncan, Judy Whalen, Debbie Knight, Margaret Webb, Mary Deighton, Lori and Denny Hunt, Pat and Wayne Cage, Mary Ehrenberger, Becky Bordelon, Melissa Knight, Kathy Glenn, Margaret Wall, Cathy Webb, Rocky Ford, Rita Hendricks, Mary Scharr, Abbie Strava, Elaine Copeland, Tim Stinson,

Melissa and James Barrow, Linda Zawadzki, Susan Bailey, Patricia Corrigan, Miriana Andreeva, Barbara Ilaoa, JoAnn Reno, Tim Simmons and Julie Bangle. **YOU ARE THE BEST!**



Support from our 2015 Garden Tour Advertisers and Sponsors make our tour possible. Please give them your business and thank them for their generosity!

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YARD OF THE MONTH

May 2015



8223 SAN FERNANDO WAY

Ken and Amy Kristofek graciously opened their lovely gardens for this year's Garden Tour. Tour visitors were impressed with the bright seasonal color and stunning landscape design. Their backyard features a stone fire pit and an inviting pool. A beautiful garden for all seasons!

YARD OF THE MONTH

June 2015



8431 SANTA CLARA DRIVE

Muditha Karunatileka and Griselda Roch's lovely garden is noted for its seasonal color and spectacular plantings. Their gardens and trees are meticulously maintained and are a pleasant site for neighbors walking, biking or driving by. Thank you for keeping our neighborhood beautiful!

WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

1700 Block Corday
Jesse & Brooke Nelson

8100 Block San Leandro
Robert Baldwin & Paul Echart

8300 Block San Fernando
Marty & Joni Rose

8300 Block San Leandro
Joel & Ann Hurley

8400 Block San Fernando
Taylor & Lindsay White
Mel & Beth Bailey

8500 San Pedro
Eric & Mary Daniel

8300 Block San Cristobal
Brad & Amanda Holdbrook

If you have just arrived or if you have a new neighbor, let us know! For oversights, please contact fhnewcomers@aol.com with names /addresses so we can give our new neighbors a **Woodsy Welcome** and a **Guide to Forest Hills!**

Apologies 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 information comes from MLS Real Estate listings only.



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Rain, Rain...Go Away...Come Again in August!



Pictures courtesy of Debbie Knight showing the spillway at White Rock, flooded walking paths, crane roosting by the spillway and more flood conditions at White Rock dam. What a May and June of unusually wet weather we have had!!



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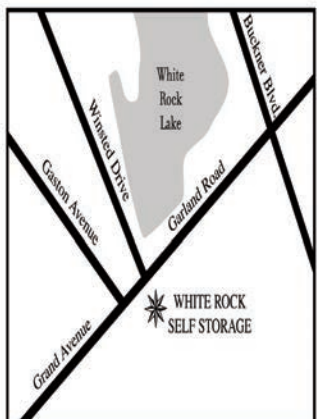
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VICKI WHITE HOMES HAS LISTED AND SOLD 8 HOMES IN FOREST HILLS IN THE PAST 8 MONTHS!



8515 Groveland - listed at \$775,000



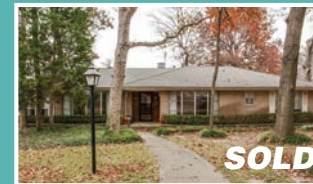
8100 Forest Hills - listed at \$675,000



8538 San Pedro - listed at \$1,195,000



8380 San Cristobal - listed at \$332,900



8214 San Leandro - listed at \$435,000



8125 San Fernando - listed at \$1,295,000



1719 Corday - listed at \$389,900



8531 San Pedro - listed at \$1,160,000



8502 Groveland - listed at \$210,000



8110 San Cristobal - listed at \$450,000



Vicki White, Realtor® GRI, CLHMS



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vicki@vickiwhitehomes.com



Vicki White is a major supporter of the White Rock East Garden Tour, White Rock Lake Artists Studio Tour, Dallas Arboretum and the Forest Hills Security Patrol. Vicki White Homes are Forest Hills experts and are dedicated to serving Forest Hills!



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