

www.foresthillsdallas.org
Forest Hills
July - August 2021

Forest Hills News



FOREST HILLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 24th & August 28th
Saturday Alley Clean-up 10 am

4th Saturday Each Month
FLOTL Cleanup

Tuesday, October 5th
Save the date! National Night Out

Bulky Trash

July
Trash can go out on
Thursday, July 8 - Sunday, July 11
Pick-up beginning Monday, July 12

August
Trash can go out on
Thursday, August 5 - Sunday, August 8
Pick-up beginning Monday,
August 9

Newsletter articles and ads are
due Sunday, August 1, for the
Sept/Oct 2021 Issue



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Neighbors,

Happy 4th of July! Summer temperatures have officially arrived in Texas, so I hope you all are finding ways to stay safe and hydrated while you celebrate and spend time with your families.

There are so many opportunities to be involved in our vibrant neighborhood! Contact any of the committee chairs and liaisons below to be part of what they do. Elections are coming in September! Email me or Secretary Jessica Short if you want to head up a committee or run for office. Check out this Newsletter issue for ideas.

Want to help the environment? See Page 4. Do you have young kids? See Page 11. Interested in our neighborhood's history? Pages 12 and 18. Want to help keep us all safer while having a blast with great people? Pages 14- 15. Want to help improve our surrounding area? Page 18. Like gardening? Page 16. Can you help our neighborhood school, in need of attention and kindness? See Page 9. **Want to be more connected to your neighbors and know what's going on? Join2Connect Page 13.**

Don't forget to save the dates for our National Night Out on October 5th, and the Forest Hills Security Program FUNraiser on October 15th. I hope to see you there!

Stay Well,
Jane Ojeda



FHNA Officers - Committee Chairs & Liaisons

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janewojeda@gmail.com

FHNA Vice President

Jonathan Wood

jonathanwood777@yahoo.com

FHNA Secretary

Jessica Short

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Bruce Borrett

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Bulky Trash Chairs/Media

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VACANT

Membership/Newcomers Chairs

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Waste Warriors Liaison

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FH Young Children's Club

Kate Gutnikov Reed

Melissa Pressley

fhchildrensclub@gmail.com

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WASTE WARRIORS PARTNER WITH FHNA SOCIAL COMMITTEE TO HOST GREEN EVENTS



With the help of the Waste Warriors, Forest Hills is set to buck the trend toward increased reliance on single-use plastic, which has emerged out of the pandemic. We'll begin

“greening” our FHNA events by:

- Encouraging people to bring their own reusable beverage containers, plates, napkins, and utensils
- Providing water and drink jugs to fill up your bottles
- Working with food vendors who allow you to use your own reusable plates and take-out containers
- Producing reusable event signs

First event? National Night Out, October 5

Come out to support a safer and cleaner Forest Hills! Keep an eye out for more details.

Join Us

SAC (Street Alley Clean-up) Day is every 4th Saturday (July 24, Aug 28) @ 10 am, after-party refreshments @ 11 am. Location TBD. Save your batteries, fluorescent bulbs, corks, and aerosol cans for drop off at 8242 San Cristobal Dr. on SAC Day.



Waste Warrior litter pick-up / grocery bags for sale (\$35 handmade in Dallas) – Contact Elizabeth Descarpentries @ elizabethlakinhead@msn.com

Use the QR code below for a list of Dallas resources, including:

- Where to recycle hard-to-recycle items
- Tips on reducing waste
- What goes in bulky trash and the blue bin



Focus your phone camera on the code, and click the url that pops up, then click “view pdf” in the pink banner at the bottom of your screen

Waste Warriors’ mission is to inspire and educate others to be good stewards of the Earth.

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BUILDING AND REMODELING

The O'Brien Group has been building and remodeling in East Dallas for 21 years and offers full construction services for all aspects of your home. From new custom kitchen and bathroom upgrades to whole house renovation or adding new spaces onto the home. Shannon O'Brien is the owner and operator. As a carpenter he pays close attention to all details of all phases of the process for high end results. We work closely with interior designers, architects and engineers to make your dreams become reality.

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WHITE ROCK EAST GARDEN TOUR: RAIN



Having canceled last year due to Covid, the Garden Tour this year, held on Sunday, May 16, seemed to be the perfect outing for those that had been socially-distanced for so long. Even with rain and weather sirens blaring, a steady flow

of participants kept touring the 9 gardens, buying plants at the Plant Sale and purchasing art from our local artists.

Thank you to our three homeowners that agreed to be on the tour both last year and again this year - even after The Freeze and losing much of their garden. With a lot of hard work down to the very last minute, they managed to turn their soggy gardens into beautiful retreats full of beautiful blooming flowers and unique features.

- **Michael Ferguson** - Santa Clara Dr.
- **Woody & Kathy Glenn** - Forest Hills Blvd.
- **Michael & Mary Simons** - Forest Hills Blvd.

Special thanks to Andie Comini and Julie Dunn for representing FH and working closely with the 3 homeowners, Greg Stinson for being in charge of the volunteers, Tim Simmonds for heading the Plant



Sale and of course, all the cheerful FH volunteers who make the Garden Tour such a success!

From Tim Simmonds: "Back in September of 2020 we had to decide if we were going to have a tour or not and as a group we decided to move forward. I placed a conservative order for trees and shrubs from Oregon growers. Two things happened on the way to the tour date, we finally got a Covid vaccine and then the horrible, horrible winter storm in February that killed so many plants! Even with the rain, people were so excited to come see what plants we had to sell that by 10:30 a.m. almost all the Oregon plants were sold, as well as probably 45% of the perennial plants that we were also selling! In the end the plant sale

brought in as much money as it did in a normal tour pre-Covid! Thanks to everyone who helped us at the sale and who help by purchasing plants!"

A special THANK YOU to our wonderful Sponsors and Advertisers as we could not put on The Garden Tour without their support and smiles! When possible, please support them too.

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Sponsor of The Garden Tour Map!

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Mark Nesselroad State Farm

Mark.nesselroad.m3yy@statefarm.com

(214) 320-3333



TEEN SPOTLIGHT: ANNELIESE MIER



Hi Neighbors! My name is Anneliese Mier. I'm a 17-year-old rising senior at Ursuline Academy. I am a member of the Jesuit Rangerettes Drill Team, serving as a senior lieutenant officer and love dancing at football games with all my Rangerette friends. I am also an Ursuline Ambassador, a member of several Honor Societies, and involved in several volunteer groups at school.

Outside of school, I am involved in the Lakewood Chapter of National Charity League and have enjoyed getting to know other girls throughout the community and volunteering with local organizations. Some of my favorite organizations to volunteer with are Special Olympics, Hunger Busters and Soup Mobile.

In my free time, I love to shop, watch movies, dance, and spend time with family and friends. I love living in Forest Hills and enjoy walking throughout our beautiful neighborhood with my sister Sara and my dog Fletcher.

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SANGER ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL NEEDS HELP!

by Peggy Wehmeyer, FHNA Liaison to Sanger

Every morning, more than 500 children –as young as four years old--pour into Forest Hills. Most of them live a stone's throw away, in the apartments off Ferguson Road, but they play and learn how to read and write within the boundaries of our neighborhood...every day.

My job as your liaison with Sanger Elementary and Middle School is to find out what's happening in their lives and how we might be good neighbors.

I've met with the school's principal, head counselor and director of school volunteers. I asked, "What are the challenges your students face, and how can we best support you?" Here's what I learned:

Challenge #1: "Our students are hungry," said principal Hector Martinez. I had no idea. How can hundreds of children in our neighborhood be hungry? Many Sanger students go home after school to empty apartments and empty cupboards, because their parents—most of them single—work more than one job. The school has a food pantry that students can use every Thursday to get them through the weekend, but there's not enough in it.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY DROPPING OFF BAGS OF FOOD RIGHT INSIDE THE FRONT DOOR OF THE SCHOOL, WHERE A RECEPTIONIST WILL GLADLY RECEIVE IT.

It's simple. You can bring anything healthy and easy for kids to prepare on their own: canned rice, beans, soup, peanut butter and jelly, cereal bars, granola; anything easy to pop in the microwave. The school will receive bags through June 17 and will start up again August 9th.

Look how people responded to our call for food via Eblast in May!



Challenge #2: Sanger Kindergartners and first graders need help learning how to read. The school is desperate for tutors and mentors beginning in September, when on campus enrollment is expected to swell to 750. Did you know that one of the greatest predictors of resilience in a child who has experienced trauma is whether they've had one adult who intervened as a friend and mentor? You could be it.

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF JUST THIRTY OF US VOLUNTEER 30 MINUTES A WEEK TO MENTOR AND READ TO A KINDERGARTNER OR FIRST GRADER. I've done it. It's easy and rewarding.

Challenge #3: Many Sanger families are struggling economically and emotionally, after a year where COVID has severely disrupted life as we knew it. Sanger families are struggling. Some of them are recent migrants from El Salvador and Honduras.

PRINCIPAL MARTINEZ ASKED IF ANY OF US MIGHT BE WILLING TO ADOPT A SANGER FAMILY, becoming friends and neighbors who can help them better navigate life. This isn't about financial support. What if we teamed up by blocks to befriend one family?

Challenge #4: The school has maintained a beautiful vegetable garden over the past few years but construction necessitated it being moved and restarted on the St. Francis side. Principal Martinez is asking if any of us would like to help the children with the garden once school starts again in August.

I once heard Bryan Stephenson, social justice activist and author of Just Mercy, say that the best way to heal the divides in our country is to get "proximate" to people who don't look or live like we do. That seemed awkward to me... until it dawned on me that getting proximate to people who aren't like me is really as easy as stepping out my front door. Will you join me in being a good neighbor to the children who spend their days in our neighborhood?

School contact: Carolina Cerrillo,
CACERRILLO@dallasisd.org

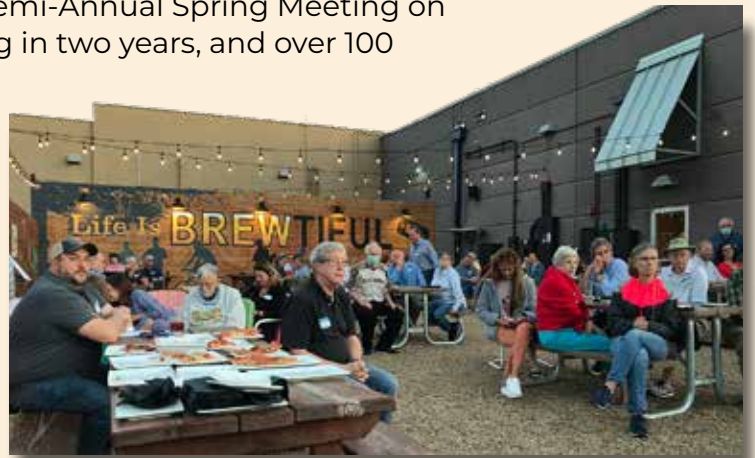
SOME MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

It was wonderful to see so many neighbors at our Semi-Annual Spring Meeting on May 4th. This was our first in-person General Meeting in two years, and over 100 attended! Our neighborhood community is more active and vibrant than ever!

The full minutes of that meeting are posted on our website, www.foresthillsdallas.com. Thank you to Secretary Jessica Short for capturing so much of what occurred.

Some highlights:

- Our financial position is good, thanks to over 50% participation so far this year in membership dues. Thank you!
- The Trail-head (The Lot property) rezoning proposal status was outlined by Gloria Tarpley. The City Planning Commission did not approve it, but it was still to be decided by City Council.
- A new FHNA Directory is under development, being done Online (see Page 13 of this newsletter). Please see the website to add your information (you can decide how much personal information to share).
- Our Social Chairs are organizing our first (in a long time) National Night Out for October 5th.
- Security patrols (separate from your FHNA dues) are up to 60 hours a week, with over 52% of households participating so far this year. Thank you for helping keep us all safer!
- Please look over the Minutes for other Committee reports and Club updates.
- Peggy Wehmeyer, FHNA liaison to Sanger Elementary and Middle School, gave a passionate plea for help for the school (see Page 9 of this newsletter).
- Two of our active clubs, The Car Club and Forest Hills Young Children's Club outlined their activities.



FOREST HILLS YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLUB

by Melissa Pressley, Kate Reed and Jessica Short

This Club is focused on building community and bringing together families in Forest Hills who have young children ages 0-6. In a recent research study conducted by Action for Children, it was found that 52% of new parents felt both lonely and socially isolated. The Club was formed as a way to ensure that families in Forest Hills with young kids feel both connected and supported.

On Wednesday, May 19, over 50 women from Forest Hills came together to help raise money for the Club through a wine tasting event called "Women & Wine." Over half of the attendees do not have young children, but strongly believe in the Club's mission.



Event hosts Kate Reed and Melissa Pressley, along with Event Chairs Nicole Bossworth, Lauren McKinnon, Jessica Short, and Erin Wynne did a fantastic job mobilizing the community to pull the fundraiser together in less than a month!

Gathering after a year of isolation created a definite sense of joy and gratitude in the air – coupled with ample conversation and camaraderie! The event featured a wine tasting led by sommelier Heather Queen with Queen of Grapes, and a beautifully crafted display of charcuterie and light bites provided by Forest Hills resident Tate Gorsuch with Haute Southern. To add to the fun of the evening, more than 20 packages were put

together for a raffle and winners were drawn between each of the four wine tastings.

A huge thanks to all of our sponsors, including Premier Sponsors, The Creative Offices, Dr. Casey Drake with Pecan Tree Pediatrics, Frost Bank, *Life in the Hills* Magazine, Moss Real Estate Group, Project Mockingbird and REM Carpet Cleaning.; Our Champagne Toast Sponsor, Dr. Casey Drake with Pecan Tree Pediatrics; Gold Sponsors Main Event and the Reichel Mortgage Team.

A huge thanks to our local real estate agent, Howie Reed with Moss Real Estate Group for helping us keep this event alive when the weather was pushing us to cancel. Moss Real Estate Group quickly offered up one of their active listings and allowed us to use it for the venue.

The event was a huge success, raising the funds necessary to host community-building events throughout the year for the Club. This fundraiser will be an annual event that you don't want to miss!



Since launching in January, the Club has hosted monthly events. To date more than 60 families are a part of the Club. If you live in Forest Hills and have any kids 6 and under and would like to join the Club, please email FHchildrensclub@gmail.com!

FRIENDS OF THE WARREN FERRIS CEMETERY PROGRESS 2021

In the first 6 months of this year, we've made wonderful progress:



- The FWFC is honored to be among the giants selected for this year's Preservation Dallas awards!
- We were invited to be featured in this year's East White Rock Lake Garden Tour. Neither torrential rain nor tornado warnings deterred over 100 guests to walk the grounds of the Warren Ferris Cemetery's wildlife habitat.

Two additional segments have been completed for our documentary, *Ferris Cemetery, A Future, As Well As A Past*. The topics are:

- Interview with Dr. George Keaton, founder of Remembering Black Dallas, and researcher Shaniqua Cummings, who are overseeing the search to find the names of those buried in the cemetery, including freedmen.
- Landscape Architect,



Michael Parkey, discusses our mission of restoring the land back Blackland Prairie status and its value in expanding the green belt for local and migratory wildlife as a means to honor the Dallas pioneers buried there.



- A partnership with the Texas Conservation Alliance has been initiated with a generous donation of 80 native plants. This gift from TCA starts a relationship which will include other events at the cemetery.
- The first Monarch butterflies have arrived!
- Landscape Architect Michael Parkey now leads our monthly volunteer days with a tour to identify new native growth. Join us to learn what to plant to create a wildlife habitat in your yard...a fun project to share with your kids.
- An owl house and two bird houses have been installed.
- Our membership has grown substantially to 181 families. Annual family membership is \$50/yr. To receive free monthly newsletters go to: www.Friendsofthewarrenferriscemetery.org.

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JOIN2CONNECT: BE A PART OF THE 2021 FHNA DIRECTORY! ... IN LESS THAN 5 MINUTES!

Scan the QR code or visit us Online at www.foresthillsdallas.org for more information.



SCAN ME

Why Join2Connect?

- Have easy and accurate access to neighbors' contact info via the MembershipToolKit (MTK) Mobile App or on your computer.
- All Eblast and additional communications will be using MTK by the end of the year ... so, join to stay connected!
- We plan to PRINT the directory in the near future ... don't you want to be in it?
- Don't worry – you decide what personal information is made available in the directory! You can edit it at any time.
- The Social Committee will be using MTK to fill volunteer schedules, and for event RSVPs.

- Pay your FHNA dues via MTK, and have easy access to your account to check when you last paid.
- Since you enter your own data into MTK, we know that there is a good chance that it'll be accurate.

SO, WHY NOT **Join2Connect** ... RIGHT NOW??

Help build a sense of community in our wonderful Forest Hills today by entering your data in the MTK Directory!



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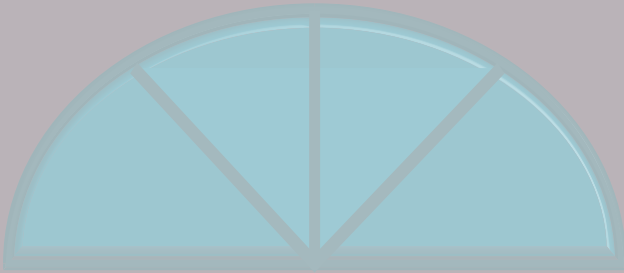
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Jacob & Holley Black

8339 San Cristobal
Matthew & Alexa Mallard

8223 Santa Clara
John & Stacey Shoemaker

8230 Santa Clara
Mitchell & Jennifer Paradise

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. Let us know of any oversights. Also, if you have just arrived or if you have a new neighbor, please contact us with names/addresses, so we can extend a big welcome. newtoforesthills@gmail.com



FH SECURITY FUNRAISER SILENT AUCTION IS BREWING!

Forest Hills Security is needing help getting ready for the FHSP Auction. Here are some ways you can get involved:

- If you donated an item last year, will you do it again? Or something else?
- If you have something new to donate, it's time to decide what and submit it!
- If you are willing to join in the fun of soliciting, communicating, or otherwise contributing your time to accomplishing this great event, contact Susan Bailey.

Secure our security hours!

NOW is the time!

Call, text, or email Susan Bailey to submit items or learn how you might join in. No pressure!

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FOREST HILLS SECURITY

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are you
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IHOP With A COP



SAVE the DATE
OCTOBER 15th
FHSP AUCTION

We are SO excited to be able to gather together at Lakewood Brewery's outdoor pavilion again!

Drinks and food will once again be included in the ticket price. We will have beer, wine, a food truck and of course, Fun Fun Fun!!

Todd Kirby will be leading the Live Auction. We will have great items to bid on for both the live auction and online silent auction. Tickets will go on sale online in September.

Come join us for another fun night with friends and neighbors and help support our Forest Hills Security Program. Let's see if we can raise more money than last year!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

- Ring of Honor - \$1,000
- Platinum - \$750
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- Silver - \$350
- Bronze - \$240

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

Contribute Today!

This past April, three future Bishop Lynch 14-year olds had an exciting Saturday morning when they had the opportunity to have breakfast with Dallas DPD Sergeant Mike Mata.

Sergeant Mata of the FHSP and President of Dallas Police Association graciously spent his time with last year's 'Forest Hills is Brewing' Auction winners. These young men had great things to say about their meeting.

Bennett enjoyed listening and learning about what was involved in Sergeant Mata's job. Grady's favorite story was about Mata being attacked by a dog during a drug raid, which fortunately had a successful ending with the drug dealer getting caught. Drew was intrigued by the real life drug bust stories as well as riding home in the police car.

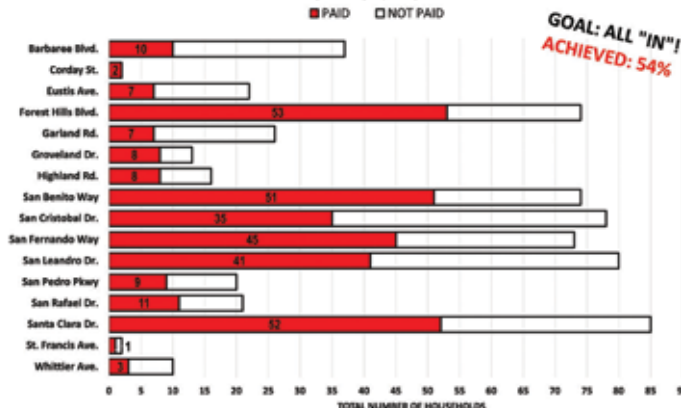
Sergeant Mata surprised them with Dallas Police Department T-Shirts. Thank you so much to Sergeant Mata and to the families who made this outing possible by supporting our Forest Hills Security Program.

We are Better Together! More Participation = Less Crime

FOREST HILLS SECURITY PROGRAM - 2021 STREET PARTICIPATION

(Thru May 16, 2021)

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 - #2 EMAIL fhspen@aol.com
- WE NEED TO KNOW TOO! Your reports Help us, Help you!

Our Goal is 80% Participation

YARD of the MONTH

by Julie Dunn

An architectural designer by trade, Carol used her significant artistic talent in renovating both house and garden. What once was an overly shaded garden that half hid the house has been tamed. Planting beds have



May 2021

Carol Gantt & Henry Wells
8131 San Benito Way

been extended and lined with a creative combination of river rock and flagstone.

The garden is a plant lover's delight, filled with a mix of unusual selections recommended by their longtime garden designer and some of the Gantt's "more pedestrian" favorites. There's a Coral Bean plant with ruby red flower spikes growing near the driveway, a pink Camelia bush near the front door, Leopard Plants, and Japanese Grey Ferns around the Magnolia. The more familiar Hydrangeas, and Holly Ferns, Anemones and Impatiens are scattered across shady areas of the yard.

There is an extended curbside flowerbed, where Lantana cascades over the rock borders. Both the Russian sage with its delicate grey green foliage and light lavender flower, and the Buddleia's unusual magenta blooms are resplendent, as is the bright pink Rock Rose and the yellow Sundrops. The flower show will go on all summer as the Gauras, Saint John's Wort, Salvias, Shasta Daisies, and a Rose of Sharon are yet to bloom.

Nestled in the midst is a flagstone landing lined in lime green Carex where two rocking chairs beckon the weary innovators to rest and enjoy our wonderful neighborhood.

The multicolored Impatiens are spectacular this year at the corner of San Leandro and San Rafael. In fact, the whole landscape is grand. This mature garden was already beautiful when the Hughes moved in with their 5 young children in 1975. They've cared for it ever since, changing out the seasonal annuals twice a year, faithfully pruning and feeding the trees as needed, and most recently, replacing a good number of plants fatally damaged by our winter storm.

There is beauty in giving your plants the necessary room to flourish. In this garden, the oakleaf hydrangea and the Aralia Japonica plants, the Japanese maple and the Pitch Pine have all been given sufficient room to reach their natural stature.



June 2021

Robert & Rita Hughes
8030 San Leandro Drive

Their unique shapes add graceful support to the landscape. The canopy of live oaks makes one feel like they are walking through a cathedral.

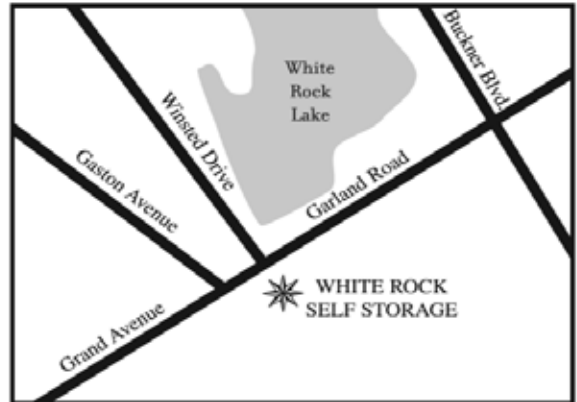
Creative uses of rock enhance the front yard. Stone outcroppings add a naturalizing effect. Even the crushed rock that lines the house's foundation, has been beautified by an undulating ribbon of river rock designed to mimic a stream bed.

"I think we have some of the prettiest trees in the neighborhood." ~ Rita

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PROGRESS ON FIRST PHASE OF THE TRINITY FOREST SPINE TRAIL



Philip Hiatt Haigh, Executive Director for the Circuit Trail Conservancy and The LOOP recently shared some GREAT news with supporters and stakeholders, including Ferguson Road Initiative. The Trinity Forest Spine Trail is one step closer to breaking ground. In late May, the Park Board approved the construction award for the first phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail, a big milestone for The LOOP and our community. In early June, the Dallas City Council will consider the construction award and they hope to break ground soon after.



The first phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will provide unprecedented views of White Rock Creek; trail users will pass under this historic railroad trestle just south of Forest Hills and the White Rock Lake Spillway.

The Trinity Spine Trail will serve portions of Dallas that have historically been left out of major pedestrian infrastructure projects. First on the list for construction, this phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will connect the Santa Fe Trail north of the Tenison Park Golf Course in East Dallas to Samuell Blvd, just north of I-30. The CTC is fulfilling a promise made to the East Dallas neighborhoods 20 years ago, formalized in the 2013 Trinity Forest Spine Trail master plan. Building a reliable trail from White Rock Lake to the Great Trinity Forest will turn this overlooked corridor into one of the most significant greenbelts in North Texas.

The Trail will offer alternative transportation routes for communities that have long been cut off from jobs and other economic opportunities. Over the last few years, Philip's organization worked with neighborhood groups, community leaders and others to ensure The LOOP provides connection and passes through areas where access to green space and alternative transportation are needed most. By bridging geographic barriers that have isolated neighborhoods from transportation hubs, The LOOP provides a walkable and bike-able solution to increase accessibility across the nation's fastest growing metro area.

FRI is thrilled to see the exciting progress being made and to deliver a project that will

be an equitable connection to economic opportunity across the city.

As always, for more insight, look at the FRI website (www.fergusonroad.org/). Please consider joining or otherwise supporting the organization that supports our neighborhood, and the rest of far East Dallas, www.fergusonroad.org/membership/donate/. Please let me know if you have particular questions about FRI and I'll try to speak to those directly, or in the next issue of the Forest Hills Newsletter. daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org. In addition to FRI, please

consider supporting Circuit Trail Conservancy and The LOOP.

HISTORICAL NOTE

by Sharon and Bill Hill

After reading the article about neighborhood concrete stamps in the Jan-Feb newsletter, we have been on the lookout for a 1924 concrete stamp. We found one! It's at the corner of Whittier and San Fernando.





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