www.foresthillsdallas.org

November - December 2021

Hills News









FOREST HILLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat., Nov. 13, 10 am FHYCC Rhythm & Rose

Sun., Nov. 14, 2 - 4 pm Newcomer's Meet & Greet (See pg. 16 for location change)

Sat., Nov. 20 - Sun., Nov. 28 FHNA Turkey Trot (See pg. 9)

Sat., Nov. 27 & Dec. 18, 10 am SAC Gatherings (See pg. 14)

Sun., Dec. 5, 4 - 6 pm FHNA Holiday Tree Lighting & Bazaar (See pg. 12)

Bulky Trash

November

Trash can go out on Nov. 4 - 7 Pick-up beginning Mon. Nov. 8

December

Trash can go out on Dec. 9 - 12 Pick-up beginning Mon. Dec. 13

Newsletter articles & ads are due Wednesday, Dec. 1, for the Jan/Feb 2022 Issue









LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT: The Baton is Passed

Hello Neighbors!

As a result of the Sept. 28 Fall Meeting elections, you will see many new faces on the FHNA Board. Congratulations to Katy O'Mara, our new President!

It has been my great pleasure to lead the Board this past year and a half as we "got back on track" after a period of rather

lower interest in all things FHNA. Many people stepped up to help that process and I hope you have all been able to see positive change in the neighborhood. In particular, outgoing Social Chairs Carrie Bevers and Sara Winwood have organized many outstanding events and Melissa Dermarkar more than doubled our membership, practically single-handedly! Andie Comini worked tirelessly on everything as usual.

All this led to even more interest and participation as seen by all the folks volunteering to lead the committees and get more things accomplished. Every single position is now filled, a first in a long time! I expect great things! I do love our wonderful neighborhood.

On behalf of myself, the recently elected Board, and our neighbors I want to express sincere appreciation and gratitude to the outgoing Board members for the service to our community. Board service is one of the toughest volunteer roles and you served with dedication, grace and seriousness. I



especially want to thank Jane for the guidance she has provided to me as I take on the role of President for this next year. I am most grateful for her active leadership and laying the foundation towards operational excellence for our association and neighborhood. To all outgoing Board members, the new Board and I will take the baton passed on and continue with the improvements and innovative events added to our calendar this past year.

To our neighbors, I thank you for your confidence in my ability to lead our association through a new year. But a single person can achieve nothing without a team and so our new Board members and I look forward to working with you.

Katy O'Mara

FHNA Officers - Committee Chairs & Liaisons

FHNA President

Katy O'Mara fhna21.Gen@gmail.com

FHNA Vice President

Tony Hobley

fhnavicepres@gmail.com

FHNA Secretary

Deb Hill

fhnasecretary@gmail.com

FHNA Treasurer

Bruce Borrett

fhnatreasurerl@gmail.com

Beautification Chairs

Kate Reed

Monica Lehnen

FHBeautification@gmail.com

Social Chair

Kade Poulson

fhnasocial@gmail.com

FHNA Newsletter Chair

Andie Comini

andiecomini@aol.com

Jane Ojeda (Chief Editor)

janewojeda@gmail.com

Melissa Dermarkar

(Co-Editor & Advertising)

fhnacommunications@gmail.com

Membership & Newcomers Chairs

Kathleen Davis

Michaela Klose

Membership

fhnadalls@gmail.com

Newcomers

newtoforesthills@gmail.com

Planning & Zoning Chair

Jason Pumpelly

jmpumpelly@gmail.com

Communications Chair

Melissa Dermarkar

fhnacommunications@gmail.com

Fundraiser Chairs

Nicole Ross

nrfhnafundraising@gmail.com

Kellie Hammonds

fhnakhamm@gmail.com

Board Members at Large

Christen Richardson

FHNAmember02@gmail.com

Jamiee Slovak

fhnamember@gmail.com

Leo Smith

leosmith651@gmail.com

Liaisons

Arboretum/Animal Alert!/Garden Tour/ **Bulky Trash/Block Captains/**

Media Relations

Andie Comini

andiecomini@aol.com

Alex Sanger Liaison

Peggy Wehmeyer

pwehmeyer@gmail.com

FH Security Program

Carol Lander

Caroltlander@gmail.com

FH Young Children's Club (FHYCC)

Kate Reed

Melissa Pressley

fhchildrensclub@gmail.com

For the Love of the Lake

Jeff Peterson

jeffrey_m_peterson@sbcglobal.net

Waste Warriors Liaison

Elizabeth Descarpentries Elizabethlylekinkead@msn.com

Webmaster

Sharon Hill

sharonhilltexas@gmail.com

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FHNA SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL FALL MEETING

by Jane Ojeda and Melissa Dermarkar

Many neighbors gathered at the White Rock Alehouse & Brewery on September 28th for this event. It turned out to be a highly entertaining, eventful meeting! See full minutes of the meeting on our website, foresthillsdallas.org.

Neighbors gathered at 6:30 to enjoy a drink or two and flat breads, while the event planners struggled to get the most out of our sound system. (Note to new Board, please budget for a new sound system ASAP!).

At 7pm, the meeting was called to order by President Jane Ojeda. After reports from the Treasurer, Committees and Liaisons, a vote was taken on proposed changes to the Association By-Laws, which was passed as proposed.

The amendment to the By-Laws revises the Standing Committees of the FHNA, which are now seven:

- Beautification
- Communications
- Newsletter
- Social Events
- Membership & Newcomers
- Planning & Zoning
- Fundraising

Also, three new non-voting positions of At Large Members of the Board were created. They will advise the Board and assist with committee activities.

Elections

The Fall Meeting is the time for annual elections. Officers, Committee Chairs and now At-Large Members are elected by the general membership each year. A written ballot had been requested and prepared by the Nominating Committee with candidates. The President called for floor nominations, and those nominated were added to the ballot. Written ballots were turned in at the end of the meeting and tallied overnight.

Below are the names and positions of the new Board Members. You can find their emails are on page 2. Please contact them as helping hands are always needed to accomplish the work of each committee. Volunteer some time and have some fun with your neighbors!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW FHNA BOARD MEMBERS



Katy O'Mara President



Tony Hobley Vice President



Deb Hill Secretary



Bruce Borret
Treasurer



Melissa Dermarkar Communications Chair



Kate Reed
Beautification
Chair



Monica Lehnen
Beautification
Co-Chair



Kade Poulson Social Chair



Jason Pumpelly
Planning &
Zoning Chair



Kathleen Davis
Membership &
Newcomers Chair



Michaela Klose
Membership &
Newcomers
Co-Chair

Andie Comini Nicole Ross Kellie Hammonds Newsletter Chair **Fundraising Chair Fundraising** Co-Chair



Christen Richardson Jamiee Slovak **Board Member** at Large



Board Member at Large



Leo Smith **Board Member** at Large

FRIENDS OF THE WARREN FERRIS CEMETERY

Dear Forest Hills Neighborhood Association,

On behalf of the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery, thank you for your incredible generosity! We received your check dated August 8, 2021. Your \$715. 00 donation enabled us to reach our goal for purchasing a



solar-powered bird bath and water station for our wildlife habitat and monarch way station. We have had a busy year. The Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery joined the White Rock East Garden Tour in May. In June, the Texas Conservation Alliance donated 80 native plants to the Warren Ferris Cemetery, and Mei Ling Liu presented information on the TCA Habitat Restoration Program. In August, Eagle Scout Spencer Burke gave a presentation to guests

> about the native solitary bee life cycle. He then guided our volunteers on how to install his hand-built solitary bee houses, a donation to the Warren Ferris Cemetery.

Forest Hills Neighborhood Association members, thank you for supporting the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery. We are so appreciative of your support.

To learn more about our nonprofit organization, please visit friendsofthewarrenferriscemetery.org. To view the first 7 segments of our upcoming documentary series, please visit the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery page on YouTube. The 8th segment will be released soon.

With Gratitude.

Juris Laivins

Juris Laivins, President, Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery





Hundreds of neighborhoods all over Texas gathered Tuesday, October 5th to celebrate National Night Out. Starting in 1984 and originally called "America's Night Out Against Crime," its purpose is to create camaraderie, involve neighborhoods in

crime prevention, and promote police-community partnerships. Thank you to the many neighbors who participat<mark>ed in</mark> this year's Nati<mark>onal Nig</mark>ht Out in For<mark>est H</mark>ills. It was a gre<mark>at turn o</mark>ut on a beautiful evening! Neighbors enjoyed grilled hot dogs, chips, and desserts courtesy of FHNA. All unused food was donated to the White Rock Center of Hope and to Sanger Elementary. They both were grateful that we thought of them and expressed many

thanks.

Waste Warriors Had a Big Presence

Our wonderful Waste Warriors continued to entertain and educate the neighborhood. They provided the water and lemonade, and extra credit goes to our neighbors who remembered to bring their reusable cups and napkins! We clearly had fewer bags of trash at the end of the evening compared to similar events. Waste Warriors brought in Danielle McClelland, City of Dallas Supervisor of Zero Waste, to teach us about the dos and don'ts of recycling and trash. We learned something new! You can recycle used aluminum foil if it's clean – just wad it up and toss in your blue recycle bin.



Constable Michael Orozco, Chief Deputy Eddie Salazar, Deputy Constable John Davis, and Deputy Constable Matthew Vigil from Dallas County Precinct 5 visited with neighbors while handing out Honorary Constable Badge stickers and coloring books educating children about strangers. Our own Crime Watch Coordinator, Sergeant Mike Mata, spoke to us about working together to promote a safer community and bragged about what makes Forest Hills great!



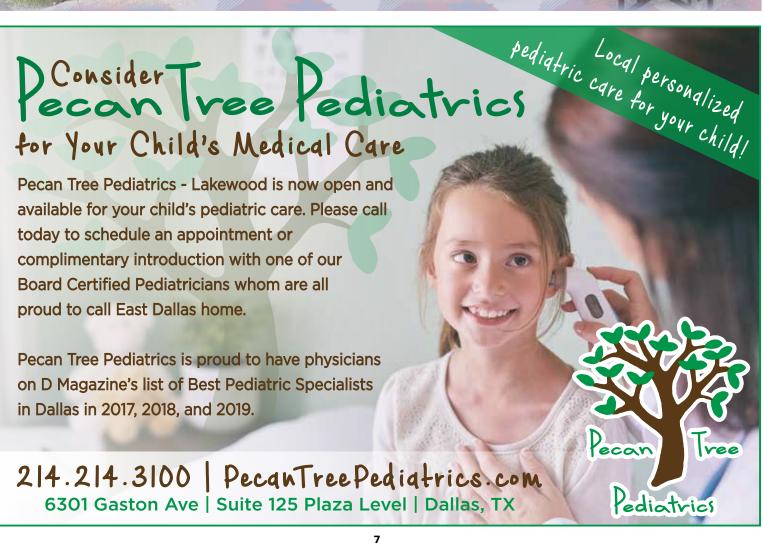
The Kids Had Fun!

Neighborhood children decorated San Pedro Parkway in sidewalk chalk, played four square and corn-hole, and won prizes at "Pin the Badge on the Police Officer" and "Robber Duckies." Due to Covid restrictions, the Dallas Fire Department has suspended visits, so... A HUGE THANK YOU to our neighbors, Thomas and Emily Merriman. They saved the day by parking their vintage firetruck, a 1985 Ford/Pierce C8000 pumper, aka "Nicholas" at the party. How fun was it that kids were allowed to climb in, out, and all around the firetruck! A banner was also signed and decorated by neighbors honoring first responders which will be on display around the neighborhood.

Many Helping Hands

Thank you to Tony Hobley and Katy O'Mara for helping us load barricades, tables, etc. from the storage unit. Thank you to Joe Bevers, Eric Winwood, Eva Winwood, Lexi Bevers, Stella Molina, and Caroline Moore, for helping with set up, clean up, grilling, and games. Thank you to Will Rainey for grilling and corn-hole and to Eric Daniels for always lending a hand on the fly. Extra special thanks to our neighbors on San Pedro Parkway who gave up access to their driveways so we could host this event. We appreciate the opportunity to build community in Forest Hills!







FOREST HILLS TURKEY TROT 5K AND 1-MILE



Let's kick off this holiday season with the Forest Hills Neighborhood Association's Second Annual Turkey Trot! Neighbors can participate in our



Turkey Trot by completing either our 5K or 1-mile courses over the Thanksgiving Holiday in between Saturday, November 20th and Sunday, November 28th. The courses will be marked with turkeys (5K) or pumpkins (1-mile), so you won't lose your way! Grab your family and friends and burn some extra calories before or after that Thanksgiving Dinner. Snap a picture at one of the signs along the route and bring it to the Tree Lighting and Bazaar on Sunday, December 5th to collect your participation prize. Send pictures to fhnasocial@gmail.com and we will try to get them featured in our next newsletter!

This is not an official event and there will not be course monitors or police/EMS along the way. You are on your own, so please be mindful of cars, traffic, bumps in the road, trees, street signs, bikers, or other participants along the way.

Cheer on your neighbors! Have fun and come together as a Forest Hills family!



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THE 2021 FOREST HILLS IS BREWING EVENT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

2021 brought us another successful Forest Hills is Brewing FUNraiser! Neighbors gathered together on a cool fall evening and enjoyed great food from Ruthie's Food Truck and beverages provided by Lakewood Brewing Company. The silent auction and raffle items were available Online, allowing even those who were unable to attend the event in person to participate. The live auction, led by the energetic Todd Kirby, put us over our fundraising goal.

Thank you to those who helped plan the event!!

So many people were integral in making this event a success, but special thanks goes to our auction team of Carol Lander, Laura Ann Deutscher, Annelise Pederson, Susan Bailey, Vikki Rae Espinosa, Keri Black, Julie Dunn, Linda Westerberg, and Melissa Dermarkar. Additional thanks to the 26 others who helped with both the event and who assisted with fliers.



We raised over \$13,500 from the Live Auction thanks to these donors:

- Mayor Eric Johnson
- · Keri & Kevin Black
- Christophe Descarpentries
- · Kate Fagelman
- · Brenda Busch & Wim Bens
- · Karen Raskopf & Jay Fossa

Thank you to our Ring of Honor Donors:

- · Lakewood Brewing Company
- Keri & Kevin Black
- · Linda & Doug Gilpin
- · Lee Ann & Marshall Hunt

Thank you to our Company Sponsors:

- · Lamont Real Estate
- · Pecan Tree Pediatrics
- San Fernando Farms
- · Moss Real Estate Group

And last but not least, thank you to all of our wonderful neighbors who joined us either inperson or Online. We couldn't have had such a successful event without you! Working together, we will continue to keep our neighborhood safe.



















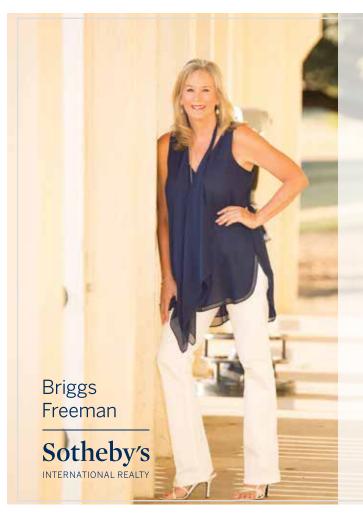












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TEEN SPOTLIGHT: HALE PETERSON



Hi Forest Hills neighbors. My name is Hale Peterson and I am a freshman at St. Mark's School of Texas. Prior to attending St. Mark's, I was a student at William B. Travis TAG in Uptown and, before that, St. Thomas Aguinas.

My freshman year has been exciting so far. I play corner back on the football team and am a member of a few school organizations including the Investor's Club. Over the years, I've been recognized in several art competitions. I'm happy to be able to further explore this passion at St. Mark's where I'm enrolled in Art and Drawing.

Outside of school, I enjoy hanging out with friends, watching funny movies and going to the lake with my family.

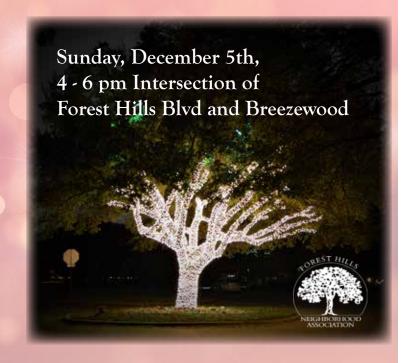
I consider living in our neighborhood to be truly special. Where else in Dallas could I swim and shoot hoops under giant mature trees, walk to a concert at the Arboretum or ride my bike around the lake with the skyline in the horizon? We are very lucky.

FOREST HILLS ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING & HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Come and party with your neighbors! Bring the whole family for some holiday merriment. This great Forest Hills tradition continues with refreshments, Santa, the kids' Holiday Train and more. Neighborhood entrepreneurs are invited again to show their crafts and treats. The initial lighting of the Forest Hills Tree is at dusk. Grownups, it is okay to BYOB while you enjoy the festivities and shop! Ho! Ho!

Interested in helping with the celebration? Contact fhnasocial@gmail.com

Bazaar Participants: You must confirm your intentions via email at fhnasocial@gmail.com, and please pay your 2021 FHNA dues if you haven't already. You must provide all your own setup, table or tent, and space is on a first come first served basis.







Our Security Program is Working



WHAT A DIFFERENCE!
Let's keep moving toward our goal

of 80% participation in 2022!

Our 1-23 Campaign and the tireless efforts to promote the Forest Hills Security Program HAS made a difference.

- Participation increased from 33% of the neighborhood in 2017 to 62% in 2019 and decreased to 58% in 2021
- Partrol Hours have almost doubled from 28 hours weekly in 2017 to 50 hours in 2019 and further increased to 60 hours per week in 2021
- Crime has been on the decline from 46 incidences in 2018 to 22 in 2019 down to 14 in 2021

The Forest Hills Security Program Annual "Sign In" day is January 23, 2022.

Our "IN" Coming 1-23 signs will be around the neighborhood to promote awareness for this campaign. Let's make this the day when we rally our friends and neighbors to Join In, Stay IN and Get Back "IN" to keep our neighborhood safe and secure!

More Patrol Hours = Less Crime

It is proven with more Patrol hours, we have decreased crime. Let's go from 58% to 80% of the residences "**IN**" vested in maintaining the beauty, safety and security of this idyllic neighborhood.

This once a year January revenue allows the Security Program to forecast with certainty, the police patrol coverage for the whole year.

Please go to www.foresthillssecurity.org choose your level and 1-2-3 CLICK and you are "IN". JOIN US!

Contribute Today!

Our security goal for 2021 is to have 80% of all households participating THANK YOU, MEMBERS AND PATROL OFFICERS!



#1 CALL 911 #2 EMAIL fhspenp@aol.com
WE NEED TO KNOW TOO! Your reports Help us, Help you!

Holiday Security Tips:

- Lock your home and use the alarm.
- Keep gates closed and cars locked.
- Pick up newspapers and fliers. Don't show signs, you are away!
- Be on the lookout for your deliveries! Do not leave packages unattended on your porch! Porch thieves are out and about, doing their own holiday shopping.
- Avoid posting travel plans on social media.

Have a Safe and Secure Holiday Season!

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

Payment Inquiry:

FHSPtreasurer@gmail.com

Home Watch Request: fhspenp@aol.com

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1-23 🗐



WASTE WARRIORS NEWS & UPDATES

BULKY TRASH - NOW YOU SEE IT, NOW YOU DON'T

What a privilege it is to have a Brush and Bulky Trash service in Dallas! Every month we get to set out yard trimmings, branches, and even old furniture and mattresses – up to 10 cubic yards – for curbside pickup. And then ... whoosh, it's gone!



But just because it's bulky doesn't mean it belongs in bulky trash. When bulky trash leaves our curb, it goes straight into the landfill.

What isn't bulky trash?

We can easily help the trash collectors, preserve the Earth, and reduce our landfill by keeping these items out of bulky trash:

- Cardboard boxes are recyclable. Break down cardboard boxes and put them in your blue bin. If you have too much for the blue bin, Texas Recycling buys back cardboard and paper (1420 S. Barry Ave., Dallas 75223).
- Regular garbage like dog poop bags, plastic bags of household trash, cups, and food packages, etc. go in your garbage bin.
- Recyclable items like aluminum cans, plastic water bottles, and newspaper, go in the blue bin.
- More electronics, tires, construction materials, hazardous waste, and oversize furniture – visit dallascityhall.com to learn more about trash pickup.

Resources on Reducing Waste

Use the QR code to find out:

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



TRASH COLLECTORS' HOLIDAY TRADITION CONTINUES



Last year, the Waste Warriors collected and distributed over \$3,500 in gift cards to our 17 City of Dallas garbage, recycling, and bulky trash collectors!

Forest Hills neighbors expressed gratitude for this outreach as a much-needed way to show our collective appreciation for our service people.

We are getting started now, and the list of workers has doubled to 32, which includes supervisors this year and a 15-person Brush and Bulky Trash crew.

Would you like to donate?

- PayPal: Donate to the "FHNA Trash Collectors Fund:" paypal.com/pools/ c/8DkkA46HeT
- Venmo: @elizabethdescarpentries
- Check: Drop it off at 8242
 San Cristobal or we'll pick one up, simply email: elizabethlyekinkead@msn.com



2021 CHANGE CHALLENGE

Ditch plastic – Bring your own reusable bags.

Did you know you can't put plastic grocery bags in your blue Recycling Bin?

The City of Dallas doesn't recycle them. You can bring them back to the grocery store for recycling.

Even better, re-use your own!



SANGER SPOTLIGHT: HOW YOU CAN HELP?

Did you know that we have a rising elementary and middle school right here in our own neighborhood? Alex Sanger Preparatory school has been transformed in the past 10 years from an under-performing public school to a rising performer. Sanger has one of the most successful language immersion programs in the district, an all Honors Middle School and a two time Texas State Robotic Building Champion team! Still, some Sanger students face challenges that we, as neighbors, now have an opportunity to help alleviate. Here are the

volunteer opportunities that Sanger Elementary school administrators are asking for help with:

READING TUTORS

We need 7 volunteer tutors, willing to show up at the school for just 30 minutes, once a week, to read to a Pre-K through 2nd grade student.

To qualify as a tutor, you only need to know how to read, be fully vaccinated and complete this DISD volunteer form Online at dallasisd.voly.org/

Reach out to Sanger Volunteer Coordinator Carollina Cerrillo at (972) 749-7600 or cacerrillo@disd.org to let her know if you're available to help out in this way.

SPONSORS

Would you consider sponsoring or helping sponsor one of the following?:

- A teacher's Amazon wish list
- · A teacher's trip to an educational conference
- · A grade level field trip
- Patio Covering for students so they can eat and study at shaded tables with their parents, teachers and friends.

FOOD & HYGIENE ITEMS

Many Sanger students go home to empty apartments after school and Principal Hector Martinez tells me some of them are hungry. He has asked if our neighbors might contribute to a school food pantry. Here's a list of both food and personal hygiene items you can drop off at the school any weekday, between 10 a.m. and 2:30 pm.

Food Pantry Items

Ready to eat items like: canned soup, beans, pastas and sauces, peanut butter, crackers, pretzels, granolas, goldfish, microwaveable Mac and Cheese, juice boxes, protein and cereal bars.

Hygiene Closet Items

Our middle school students need maxi pads, deodorants for both girls and boys, toothbrushes and toothpaste, facial cleansers and wipes.

THANKSGIVING DINNERS

Sanger is looking for neighbors who could drop off Thanksgiving dinner (turkey and sides) for 12 families of 4 on the last day of school before Thanksgiving break, Nov. 18th.

Reach out to Sanger Volunteer Coordinator Carollina Cerillo at 972-749-7600 or cacerrillo@disd.org to let her know if you are available to help out in any way. Or you can also reach out to FHNA Board President and Sanger Mom, Katy O'Mara 202-403-7395, if you're interested in sponsoring any of the above events.

East Dallas Veterinary Clinic

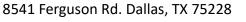
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WELCOME NEWCOMERS

1715 Corday

Jim & Debby Parkin

8446 Forest Hills

Bill Price & Gail Griswold

8567 Forest Hills

Josh & Sarah Aull

1364 Highland

Jonathan Griego & Sabrina Dragan

8154 San Cristobal

Evan & Sherrie Smith

8344 San Cristobal

Cathy Bonner

8567 San Fernando

Jared & Chelsey Geiger

8139 San Leandro

Jeff & Sarah Wasserman

8162 San Leandro

Michael & Kata Lazar

8523 San Leandro

George & Joanna Esquivel

8547 San Pedro

Brad & Katie Levy

8162 Santa Clara

Bern & Mattie Ebersole

8239 Santa Clara

Steve & Whitney Wagner

8430 Santa Clara

Cameron Clay & Emily Wise

8554 Santa Clara

Brent Christopher & Monica Egert Smith

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

NEWCOMERS MEET & GREET: LOCATION UPDATE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14 2 - 4 pm



The FHNA Newcomers Committee would like to invite all neighbors who have moved into the neighborhood during 2020 OR 2021 to attend our upcoming Wine & Cheese Party. It will be an informal meet and greet and give new neighbors a chance to meet each other. Members of our Forest Hills Association Board will also be in attendance to welcome you and answer any questions you may have.

The event will be held Nov. 14th from 2 - 4 pm at the Davis Residence at 8138 Forest Hills Blvd.

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to: newtoforesthills@gmail.com.





NEW TRAIL BREAKS GROUND IN EAST DALLAS

I wanted to share some good news and provide a quick update on the Trinity Forest Spine Trail project mentioned in an earlier article. On September 30th, the groundbreaking ceremony took place, representing yet



The trail will run adjacent to Valleyglen Dr and the Tenison Glen Golf Course

another example of tangible progress taking place here in East Dallas.

The well attended and upbeat event marked the culmination of years of planning efforts and fund raising. The event took place beneath the power lines in a utility easement near Ferguson Road, where Tenison Golf Course, White Rock Creek and Ash Creek all come together. Brief remarks were shared by our neighbor, Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson, Dallas County Commissioner Theresa Daniels, and Circuit Trail Conservancy (CTC) leadership.

For many years, in community meetings and local interest articles there was talk of plans, routes and fundraising by the public private partnership between local governments. This project would not have occurred without the drive and vision of the CTC who were able to raise a considerable amount of private money to get this started and subsequently leverage those funds with public money from the City, County and other sources.

This new segment is another important connector in an increasingly impressive trail system the City of Dallas should be proud of.

As the CTC explains, the Trinity Forest Spine Trail will serve portions of Dallas that have historically been left out of major pedestrian infrastructure projects. This is first on the list for construction, with this phase of the Trinity Forest Spine Trail connecting the Santa Fe Trail north of the Tenison Park Golf Course in East Dallas to Samuel 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 new nine-mile Trinity Forest Spine Trail will connect White Rock Creek and the Trinity Forest through the White Rock Creek Floodplain. When The Loop is finished, it will connect 39 miles of established trails with 11 miles of newly developed trails.

What does this all mean? When this great amenity is completed, you and your family will be able to enter the growing trail system from the neighborhood and rarely encounter any busy streets.

The Circuit Trail Conservancy is the 501(c)(3) partnering with the City of Dallas to build The LOOP. Following unanimous approval from the Dallas City Council in 2018, the CTC was chartered to help lead the strategic building of new trails linked to existing ones, a mission that the Ferguson Road Initiative fully supports. For more information check out theloopdallas.org

As always, for more insight, check out the FRI website (fergusonroad.org). Please consider joining or otherwise supporting the organization that supports our neighborhood, and the rest of Far East Dallas (fergusonroad.org/membership/donate). Please email at daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org if you have particular questions about FRI and I'll try to speak to those directly, or perhaps address in the next issue of the *Forest Hills News*.



Groundbreaking ceremony including Mayor E. Johnson, Councilperson P. Blackmon, County Commissioner T. Daniels, among other City officials and CTC Board and leadership.

YARD of the MONTH

by Julie Dunn

Although it may look like the work of a professional landscaper, this yard is Julia Cearley's creation. Her husband Tom, who is both a resource and a participant in her endeavors, is the first to defer all questions about the yard to his avid gardening partner.



September 2021 Julie & Tom Cearley 8455 Forest Hills Blvd.

Julia calls her mix of formal and informal landscaping elements "a modern take" on a French country estate. Statuary Nelly Stevens Holly bushes in the foundation beds and topiaries that flank the front door provide a formal backdrop for softer perennial favorites and pockets of colorful zinnias. A long bed of brilliant Sunshine Ligustrum and dainty Drift Roses brightens one side of the yard, while another bed ambles like a river down the driveway into a mound of Blackfoot Daisies. A lush and drought resistant Jamur Zoysiagrass carpets the lawn enhancing the vista from either inside or outside the house.

"We're building the garden in phases" she explains, keeping a log of what has & hasn't flourished and noting improvements as they are made. Much of her vision stems from her love of the country - the outcroppings of large stones, the native plants, the irregularity of naturally grown trees.

After taking down a giant American Elm that had crown damage, the Cearleys planted 're-purposed' trees, rescuing established trees being removed from building sites. "I like the fact that they are not perfect; they have character!" Their sizable Red & Live Oaks, Japanese Maples, Yaupon Hollies provide the finishing touch to a landscape for every season, that has looked fresh and colorful all year long. That's no small feat - even for a seasoned gardener!

The Laivins' landscape, which is hardly visible from the street, is unlike any other in Forest Hills. To catch a glimpse of it, you must approach this contemporary home through a shaded walkway. However, to truly appreciate its uniqueness, you must view it from inside the L shaped house. It sits on a former section of greenbelt that lay fallow for many years. In early plans, it would become a divided road, much like Forest Hills Blvd. In 1986 it was divided up into 5 lots, leaving the Ferris cemetery undisturbed at the corner of

San Leandro and Saint Francis. The Laivins jumped at the chance to purchase a property in this area that hadn't gotten much attention. From the start, Juris thought to "scrape a little place for the house and the driveway" without disrupting



October 2021 Juris & Carolyn Laivins 8363 San Leandro Dr.

the natural space. "You can't create that kind of landscape by design," he explains, so he and Carolyn decided let nature be, framing the wild space with floor to ceiling windows, much like a picture frame frames a painting.

Carolyn loves the way wild grape hyacinths blanket the forest floor in the spring, followed by a smattering of white crocus, and yellow wildflowers. Privet blossoms become purple summer berries, the maples turn in the fall and during winter, the nandinas line the walkways with dainty red berries. All kinds of wildlife visit. "We see armadillos, raccoons, possum, and all kinds of birds" Carolyn explains, "and there was an owl that used to visit me whenever I'd sit out on the deck...it's always beautiful" ... "and surprising" Juris adds. Even as it changes with the seasons, it remains an enduring tranquil presence for this couple during the 35 years they have lived here.



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Executive Assistant
Ana Juarez | ana@lamontrealestate.com