

www.foresthillsdallas.org
Forest

Hills News

March - April 2022



FOREST HILLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sat. March 5th & April 2nd; @ 9 am - 11 am
Warren Ferris Cemetery Volunteer Days

Sat. March 26th & April 23rd @ 10 am
Street & Alley Clean-up

Sun. April 10th @ 12 pm - 2 pm
Spring Picnic & Earth Day Celebration
(See pg. 4)

Thurs. April 28th
FHNA Semi-Annual Meeting
SAVE THE DATE

Sat. April 30th @ 3 pm - 6 pm
FHNA Cornhole Fundraiser
(See pg. 6)

Sun. May 15th @ 10 am - 5 pm
Garden Tour - SAVE THE DATE
(See pg. 9)

Bulky Trash

March

Trash can go out on March 10th - 13th
Pick-up beginning Mon. March 14th

April

Trash can go out on April 7th - 10th
Pick-up beginning Mon. April 11th

dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/Pages/default.aspx

Newsletter articles & ads are due
Friday, April 1st for the
May/June 2022 Issue



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's Spring again, at least off and on for the past several weeks, a time of renewal, new beginnings, and outdoor fun. I want to personally thank those neighbors who have renewed their FHNA membership this year and welcome those who have newly joined. We are also grateful to those households who have participated in the neighborhood survey. The information you have provided will inform the neighborhood and the Board about what is important to our community and allow us to make informed short and long-term plans. I look forward to sharing the results with you at FHNA Semi-Annual Spring Meeting on April 28th. Details will follow by email and on the website.



Our outdoor time kicks up a notch for many in Spring. We have a couple events coming up in April where you'll have a chance to have fun with neighbors you know and get to know new ones. Check out page 4 for information about the upcoming Spring Picnic on April 10th – we're in for another fun egg hunt and food and drinks for everyone. On page 6, see details about our first annual Cornhole Tournament on April 30th. Proceeds will go toward neighborhood Beautification efforts and future FHNA events. Thank you to our Fundraiser Co-Chairs, Nicole Ross and Kellie Hammond for organizing and hosting this event. It's going to be a fun Spring, see you out there!

Katy O'Mara

FHNA Officers - Committee Chairs & Liaisons

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Julie@julieannfinemann.com

Waste Warriors Liaison

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Sharon Hill

sharonhilltexas@gmail.com



SOLD



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It is our purpose and passion not only to bring magic into our clients lives, but to deliver magic in different ways around DFW. We are committed to giving a percentage of our profit to make other lives better. Last year we gave to organizations like "Mommies in Need", "Carry The Load Foundation" and "Peace Pantry". We also randomly selected people to pay for their groceries, give a waitress a large tip and gave to a family money who lost their jobs. This is what life is all about!

Kim Maher

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SPRING PICNIC & EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

APRIL 10, 2022



The FHNA will hold a Spring Picnic on Sunday, April 10, 2022 from noon - 2:00pm. There will be two egg hunts for different age groups, and we hope to have food trucks, music, and games! Last year's location was San Pedro Parkway between Whittier and St. Francis (the street was blocked off during this time) and we're working on securing this location again.



Keep your eyes open for an eblast with additional details and confirmed location.

Please bring chairs, blankets, and reusable cups! Feel free to pack your own picnic as well!

WALKING EGG HUNT

We will also have a neighborhood walking egg hunt. Please be on the lookout for an email with more details.



If you have any questions please visit foresthillsdallas.org or send us email at fhnasocial@gmail.com.

WANTED: BLOCK CAPTAIN FOR HIGHLAND ROAD

Wanted: Someone to help drop-off FH Newsletters to each resident and the church on Highland Road 6 times a year. There may be another time we ask for something else to be delivered too.

How It Works: You will get an email saying the Newsletters are ready for pickup and they are located on the front porch of Andie Comini - 1737 Whittier Ave. You will pick up the number of Newsletters assigned to your block on a clipboard and off you go - Newsletters in hand!

If You Can't Make a Pickup: Out of town, sick, etc. and can't help out? Not to worry as we will work it out by either waiting for you or finding someone else to help out.

Pay: Lots of smiles and thank yous!

Recommendations: For many years Bob Quaglia and then Tim Simmonds stepped up to be the Block Captain for Highland Road until Bob retired and Tim moved. They both loved the job and all the perks that came with it such as: getting your car washed every other week, house windows cleaned (inside and out) once a year, trim on the house painted if need be, and of course, cleaning out the leaves in your gutters.

Ready To Be Block Captain? Contact Andie Comini by emailing her at andiecomini@aol.com and she will go over it with you.



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Dallas, TX 75208
(214) 939-1600

WHITE ROCK

7446 East Grand Avenue
Dallas, TX 75214
(214) 324-1500



SUE BENNER: A FOREST HILLS RESIDENT ON THE GO

Sue Benner and her husband Craig Jett have been residents since 1989 on San Fernando Way, where they happily raised two sons, Kellan and Calder. When house hunting, Sue knew that this was the house for them as soon as she saw the size of the backyard, perfect for a studio out back. It is a beautiful location for her creative talent as a textile artist.



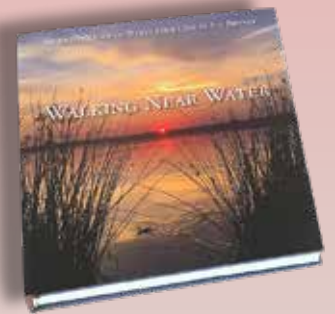
Beginning with dyeing and painting fabrics, Sue then stitches bits and pieces of recycled fabrics to produce exquisite collage creations inspired by nature and her background in biomedical science. Her quilts bring joy to many as they hang in homes, galleries, museums, corporations, and U.S. Embassies all over the world. Her works can also be viewed at the International Quilt Museum and National Quilt Museum and closer to home at the MADI Museum of Geometric Art, BNSF Railway Headquarters in Fort Worth and the UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas.

Sue is not only gifted as a quilter, but she is also a talented photographer. She feels she is not a “photographer” but rather an artist who walks in nature with her cell phone camera near-at-hand. With her proximity to White Rock Lake and passion for either early morning or late afternoon nature walks, Sue can often be spotted crouching in the grass to get just the right picture.

And does she ever! So much so, that she just produced a beautiful book: *Walking Near Water - An Artist's View of White Rock Lake*. In this fast-paced world, it is truly an extraordinary collection of what most of us

will never experience - catching a unique glimpse of the beauty of nature just across Garland Road. Sue has the ability to not only see beauty but to dissect it with an artist's eye - bit by bit - until she has caught the essence of the smallest element which together, form the whole. “The act of creating is a fascinating process of choice and discovery. The work has taught me to respect intuition, persistence, and the happy accident.”

Sue's book can be purchased right around the corner at Walton's Garden Center for \$40. As part of her mission for this project, for each book sold a donation is made to For the Love of the Lake and the White Rock Lake Foundation. Also included are ten essays by other lovers of the lake, including a contribution by our own Forest Hills neighbor, Marci Novak. Yet another neighbor, Judy Whalen, made the connection with Herring Press, the publisher of the book.



Even with her busy schedule, Sue has agreed to have her enticing yard on the upcoming White Rock East Garden Tour. She stated, “My interest in White Rock Lake and the surrounding areas of Blackland Prairie has spurred me to add more Texas native plants to my gardens. Both my gardens and walking at the lake inspire and feed my work in the studio, directly and indirectly. I began walking as my main form of exercise in 1990 when I became part of an early morning women's walking group in Forest Hills.”

Be sure to stop by on the Garden Tour Sunday, May 15 to enjoy their handsome garden and Sue will have her workspace open to view works in progress along with completed ones. Thank you Sue for sharing your artistic view of the world through your garden, art studio, quilts and photographs!

WE ♥ FOREST HILLS!



Congratulations to Brad & Tiffany Davis! Brad & Tiffany are the winners of the FHNA Spring Membership Drive Drawing and will enjoy a \$100 gift card to Cane Rosso!

THANK YOU to our 220 neighbors who participated in the Spring FHNA Membership Drive! Because of you, we were able to raise over \$9,600 so far this year. These funds allow us to host annual social events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Holiday Tree Lighting, Spring Picnic and our new upcoming fundraising event - the First Annual Forest Hills Cornhole Tournament, which allows us to give back to the community! Additionally, membership dues are used to maintain and beautify our common areas, welcome new neighbors, host annual meetings, support our local community, as well as keep all of our neighbors informed of the wonderful things happening in Forest Hills through our

publication of our bi-monthly newsletter, fliers and website.

It's not too late to contribute if you haven't had the opportunity yet. Just visit foresthillsdallas.org/membership and click the "Pay Here" button. Or you can always mail a check to the address below. If you have any questions regarding membership, or want to check your 2022 membership status, please email us at fhnadallas@gmail.com.

Thank you to all for showing your love of Forest Hills!

FHNA
PO Box 180897
Dallas, TX 75218

FOREST HILLS CORNHOLE FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT Saturday, April 30th, 3 pm - 6 pm 8255 Santa Clara Drive

Cost: \$40 per team

- Food
- Music
- Prizes



REGISTER HERE

Go online to foresthills.com/events or scan the QR code for more information. Reach out to Fundraising Co-Chairs Nicole (nrfhnafundraising@gmail.com) and Kellie (fhnakhamm@gmail.com) with any questions.



FOREST HILLS SECURITY

WORKING TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE.

are you
IN?

Why Contribute?

Supporting our Extended Neighborhood Patrol (ENP) is an important component in keeping our neighborhood safe. Last year, funds raised allowed us to increase our regular patrol from 55 hours per week to 60. The presence of officers in our neighborhood provides a deterrent to potential crime as well as having an officer nearby for an immediate response to incidents that occur.

Patrol days and times are determined based on when crime is most likely to occur. But if we are able to increase participation in the program, we can add even more shifts providing even more safety and security to our neighbors. Our goal is 65 regular hours per week and 70 hours during the holiday season.

One neighbor recently stopped Sergeant Mata when he was on early morning patrol. She wanted to let him know that seeing him patrol with his lights on in cruise mode made her feel safe during her walks that she takes before sunrise. Thank you Sergeant Mata and the rest of our patrol officers!



Thank you to those who have already contributed. If you haven't yet, it's not too late!

2022 is Off to a Great Start!

40% of households are **IN!**



- As of January 31st, 254 households have contributed to the FHSP, many of them above the minimum \$240 Bronze Level!
- We still need 63 more households to contribute to reach 50% participation.
- In 2021, 59% of households participated. Our goal is to get to 80%!

Contribute Today!

THANK YOU MEMBERS AND PATROL OFFICERS!



DON'T FORGET!
If you See Something
....Say Something!

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

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

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

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



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ANNUAL WHITE ROCK GARDEN TOUR

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 15, 2022

On Sunday, May 15th, Forest Hills will be participating in this wonderful annual event once again. Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates partner to showcase nine beautiful gardens - selecting three from each neighborhood.

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

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

John Spieker - 1414 San Rafael Drive

Nicole & Brandon Ross - 8255 Santa Clara Drive

Sue Benner & Craig Jett - 8517 San Fernando Way

To volunteer contact: Julie Dunn - (214) 287-5187 juliedunn690@gmail.com

We need 36 volunteers, so think about joining the fun! Perks include: a garden tour pass, a t-shirt, several fun gatherings plus a pre-tour in "your" garden. It's a chance to meet new neighbors, learn about a garden, and participate in a fundraiser for Forest Hills. Be part of this fun event! Shift hours are 9-2, 12-2:30 & 2:30-5:30.

Interested in perhaps being on the Garden Tour in the future? It's a lot of fun, gets your yard in shape for the season and helps raise money for Forest Hills! Please contact andiecomini@aol.com or (214) 328-0508 (land line) to learn more about it.

For more information and tickets to the Garden Tour, please visit the website: whiterockgardentour.org



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BULKY TRASH CONFUSED HOW IT WORKS?



Forest Hills is scheduled for Bulky Trash Pickup the week of the 2nd Monday of each month. Look at your calendar and find the week that has the 2nd Monday. We also put these dates on the cover of every newsletter.

You can begin putting your Bulky Trash out starting Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday before that Monday. If you put it out any earlier or later, you stand a chance of being fined. The penalty amount is \$225 and a fee of \$36 for court processing for a total of \$261.

There are fairly recent limitations defined as to how much trash you may put out. The limit is 10 cubic yards per month, with once a year 20 yards scheduled in advance. Go to the City of Dallas website Sanitation Department for details:
dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/pages/brush_and_bulky.aspx.

As stated above, the City of Dallas starts collecting Bulky Trash in our neighborhood beginning the week of the 2nd Monday, but depending on the amount of trash that needs to be picked up, it may be a day or two before they actually get to your address.



On Monday a City Inspector drives through the neighborhoods scheduled for pickup to estimate the number of trucks and equipment that will be needed. Sometimes after a storm or "Spring Cleaning", it may take the City longer to get to us.



If the City has not yet made it to your address for pickup, please do not use this time to add additional items after Sunday to the curb as they might ticket you or not pick it up.

Forest Hills has a group of dedicated Bulky Trash Captains who do their best to keep our residents informed by putting out signage. Note that on the sign it states items can be put out Thursday - Sunday. A special THANK YOU to these Captains for helping to keep our neighborhood looking good!

BIG BRANCH OR TREE DOWN IN YOUR YARD?



If you have a big branch or tree come down and the wood is now piled on your curb before your Bulky Trash Pickup is scheduled, please call 3-1-1 to report it is on your curb OR you may get a hefty citation of \$261.

When you call it in, 3-1-1 will give you a Service Request Number. Please keep it until the pile is picked up. If a Code Enforcement person sees a pile of branches on the curb, they will check to see if a Service Request Number was issued. Save yourself some money and call 3-1-1!

LET'S TALK TRASH!

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Individuals, companies and/or property owners that directly or indirectly cause waste to end up in the storm drain can be subject to fines up to \$2000!

Homeowners may be held responsible for violations by commercial landscapers they employ.

Never blow or sweep grass clippings or leaves from your yard, sidewalk or driveway into the street or storm drain. Yard waste can plug storm drains and inlets, causing flooding.

Important Part of the Dallas City Code:

Section 19-118.2(f)(5)

Prohibits the discharge of garbage, rubbish, and yard waste into the storm drain.

Section 43-12. DEPOSITING TRASH ON STREETS AND SIDEWALKS.

No person shall sweep out or deposit on any of the sidewalks or streets of the city any loose paper, filth or trash of any kind.

Section 43-13. TRASH, ETC., NOT TO ACCUMULATE OR REMAIN ON SIDEWALKS.

No property owner, occupant or agent of any property that abuts or adjoins any paved street in the city shall allow or permit

any animal or vegetable substance whatever, any tin, glass or pieces of iron or any trash, mud, slop, refuse matter or filth of any kind or description whatever to accumulate or remain on any part of the sidewalk abutting or adjacent to the

premises owned or occupied by such person on such paved street in the city. (Code 1941, Art. 140-4)

To Report Storm-water Polluting
Call 3-1-1

Please try to get pictures and the address.



What Does This Mean?

That if you or someone you hire to take care of your property blows or sweeps leaves or grass clippings into the street, you may be fined up to \$2000.

We have been warned: the City is cracking down on this. If the sidewalk or street in front of your house is cluttered with leaves, grass clippings or other trash, you may be held liable.

In other words ... let's all work together to clean up our beautiful Forest Hills - not only our yards, but the sidewalk and street in front of them.



CATCH THE SPIRIT! EARTH FIRST

GOT THIS?



Heavy plastic bags filled with leaves and other organic matter?

DO THIS!



Swap out plastic bags for compost-able paper bags! Get them at the grocery store or Home Depot (50 for \$28.70) and ask your lawn service to use them instead of plastic.

WANT MORE?

As a neighborhood with over 600 households, Forest Hills can make a difference to the Earth, and it starts with you.

- Look for more monthly tips like these.
- Join us for SAC day (4th Saturday of every month) for street and alley clean up.
- Join Waste Warriors: email elizabethlylekinkead@msn.com or text 505-688-9051.



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—John and Lenore Gilliland, sellers,
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BULKY TRASH BEING DUMPED AT FERRIS CEMETERY



Sadly, people seem to think it is acceptable to dump their bulky trash on the curb of our neighborhood historical Warren Ferris Cemetery. It may be a combination of people doing this - contractors passing through and/or a neighbor or two. One neighbor was spotted with his wheelbarrow dumping his bags there a few weeks back.

If you should see someone disrespecting our cemetery, please try to get a picture of the person, truck, tag number, etc. as much information as you can and contact Andie Comini via email at andiecomini@aol.com or call her (214) 328-0508 (land line) to let her know. Andie heads the Forest Hills Bulky Trash Program and is working closely with Code on this. Dumping at a cemetery is illegal!

RAILROAD UPDATE: NO TRAIN HORNS @ SANTA FE CROSSING



As promised from the city long ago, the three railroad crossings bordering Forest Hills have been updated with NO HORN signage along Lakeland, St. Francis and Highland Roads. Along with the existing protective arms, bright yellow concrete barriers have been added on both sides of the track to block anyone who thinks they might sneak around the arm and beat the train.

Even though the new NO HORN setup has been installed, it still seems some of the enthusiastic conductors continue to enjoy blowing the horn. We hope in time there will be fewer bursts of the horn.

Thank you to the City of Dallas for installing the new setup thus making all three crossings safe with or without the horn.



TRAFFIC STUDY COMMISSIONED

By Daniel Ortman

FRI is very aware of the pedestrian and traffic safety issue in Far East Dallas. If you're like me, as I go to sleep, I can often hear cars racing on Ferguson Rd. and Garland Rd. Since 2021, there have been numerous accidents and fatalities on those streets, including at least two hit and run accidents on Ferguson Road.

FRI is working with CM Paula Blackmon's office to assist and play a convening role to address this safety issue. In a recent Zoom meeting, a remarkable number of stakeholder's came together – including elected officials, City departments and representation from many area neighborhoods. Blackmon's office has commissioned a traffic study of the Ferguson Road corridor to identify required changes and recommendations to make our streets safer.

A status report from the City on this topic will be presented at the February 28th FRI Community Connection meeting (once again due to the pandemic, to be held virtually). The City's preliminary report and associated recommendations for Ferguson Road should be completed later this year and there will be an opportunity for community feedback before decisions are implemented.

INCIDENT	TOTAL	INCIDENT	TOTAL
Traffic Stops	8,418	Pedestrian Stops	54
Hazardous Citations	2,088	Regulatory Citations	6,900
Vehicles Towed	1,141	Spectator Citations	233
Offenses Cleared	103	Calls	8,585
Guns	178	Stolen Vehicles	65
Drugs	330	Felony Arrests	225
Misdemeanor Arrests	1,335	Spectator Arrests	823
Arrest Assists	1,779	City Arrests	67
Evading Offenses	13		

Clearly, the police department is doing quite a bit, but there is more to do as Chief Garcia has readily acknowledged. Here are some 2021 statistics associated with the Street Racing Task Force through roughly November – I found the sheer volume from this one task force to be impressive.



As always, for more insight, visit 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 by visiting fergusonroad.org/membership/donate/. Please email me at daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org and let me know if you have particular questions.

SANGER PREPARATORY STALLION CORNER



Exciting news! Our neighborhood preparatory school has been nailing it at the Spelling Bee and Robotics/STEM competitions. Sanger has TWO Dallas District Spelling Bee champs! Our school's reigning champion, Forest Hills' 8th grader Anthony Stanley, won First Place, followed up Jayna Kush winning second place! Special congratulations to Anthony since he is in his final year at Sanger, and he has met his personal goal of being the reigning champ for 5 years. Good luck at County! Again, congratulations to both!

Meanwhile, in January at the STEM Expo at Larry Smith Elementary, one elementary team won the Team Work Challenge and will go to the State competition, February 26th. Another elementary team came in 4th and at press time were hoping to get a bid to State in their next competition. Two of our 4 Sanger middle school robotics teams will be competing in the Spring State championships, March 5th. This will be a return for two of our 8th grade team drivers (leaders). We hope all teams place at the State competitions and receive a bid to go straight to the World competition here in Dallas at the end of April into May, with teams from all over the world. Good luck Stallions and stay tuned neighbors for the final outcome in our next newsletter.



Anthony Stanley



Jayna Rush

TEEN SPOTLIGHT: SIDNEY RICHARDSON

By Kelly Lamont



Sidney Huchet Richardson is a Junior at Bishop Lynch High School, with many interests both in and outside of school. Her first passion is cheer leading for her beloved Friars for the last 3 years. As Captain of B.L.'s Weightlifting Team, last year she made it to Regionals and this year hopes to make it all the way to State. Sidney has taken up a new challenge with Bishop Lynch Track and Field Team participating in the Shot Put and Discus, again with hopes of helping the team make it to State.

Sidney is very involved in Bishop Lynch's student life. As the Captain Mentor in her student government house, she plans leadership activities and social parties. This directly flows into her main interest and love of entertaining and party planning, often planning events like renting out a bowling alley and providing a late-night buffet meal for over 35 of her closest friends.

On weekends Sidney can be found at Mockingbird Swim School teaching young children how to get over their fear of water and swim. Not sure yet where she wants to go to college, but hopes to continue Cheerleading and Weightlifting, and most definitely wants a college with an Event Planning Program. The best of success to you Sydney!

WELCOME NEWCOMERS

8300 Block of San Cristobal

Frank Lopiccolo & Perry Cass
Marcus Sallis & Jordan Gill

8100 Block of San Leandro

Hunter & Amy Hillin

8200 Block of San Benito

Robert & Penny Schmidt

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

SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARBORETUM



Spring comes to life at the Dallas Arboretum's Dallas Blooms: Birds in Paradise from February 19 to April 10, 2022. Named by *Southern Living* as one of "The Best Places to See Stunning Spring Blooms Across the South," Dallas Blooms is the largest annual floral festival in the Southwest. Presented by Veritex Community Bank, Dallas Blooms features four larger-than-life peacock topiaries along with more than 500,000 spring blooming bulbs to create the largest and most colorful floral display in the Southwest. An explosion of spring flowers comes from 100 varieties of spring bulbs, thousands of azaleas and hundreds of Japanese cherry trees.

There is something for everyone: Mommy and Me Mondays, Tiny Tot Tuesdays, Cool Thursdays Concerts and music. Special events include Spring Break (week of March 14), the 5th annual Food and Wine Festival (March 24-26) and Easter weekend (April 15-17).

Timed tickets are required and can be purchased Online at dallasarboretum.org or by calling 214-515-6615. Daytime festival admission is \$20 for adults, \$16 for seniors 65 and older, \$12 for children 2-12, and free for Arboretum members and children under two. Parking is \$11 purchased Online. For the latest information, visit dallasarboretum.org/blooms.

FOREST HILLS

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YARD of the MONTH

by Julie Dunn

Stripped of foliage and flowers, winter reveals a garden's structural DNA. Attractive at any time of year, Jeff and Maria's landscape feels especially welcoming during winter. Graceful long leafed Cacti



January 2022
Jeff Belz & Maria Nava
8238 San Fernando Way

and mounding Yuccas nestle around a scattering of rust-colored boulders. Vintage lawn furniture graces a stylized fire pit. A weathered statue they call "The Lantern Man" marks the stone walkway. And then there's the statuesque wood burl Jeff affectionately calls his "Woolly Mammoth." The stump memorializes the grove of Cedar Elms that once covered the yard.

"It's amazing how it's changed over the years." The transformation began in '96 when Jeff's brother arrived with a Bobcat and a huge trailer of landscaping rocks that they scattered across the yard. As the Cedar Elms died, Jeff planted trees that held some special meaning for him like the Bald Cypress to commemorate his son's birth. There's a Hanna Apple tree, Bradford Pears, a Purple Plum, a Japanese Maple, Red Oaks, and most recently a tiny Japanese Ewe from Maria's mother.

You'll often see Jeff and Maria tending their yard, transplanting Agave offshoots, and moving things around to optimize their artistic placement. It all makes this mid-winter garden feel timeless, restful and truly Texan.

A sea of lavender shaded Pansies planted in November grew leggy and irresistible to the local bunnies, so January found this self-proclaimed "accidental gardener" replanting a lovely color palate of ornamental cabbage and Dusty Miller starts.

Amy Martin may be learning from her successes and failures ... but there's nothing accidental about the way she is renovating this dense-looking landscape. "Everyone seemed to want their beds to look really full, so they planted double rows of evergreen bushes."



February 2022
Amy & Jim Martin
8522 Forest Hills Blvd.

Helped by her friend, design consultant Monica Nathan, she's created a master plan to open up the landscape. One of their early successes was replacing a bank of Nellie Stevens Holly with feathery Juniper bushes which lightened and brightened the entryway. Season by season they cull the evergreens to add more casual perennials.

Slowly, Amy is building a garden that both nurtures wildlife and provides interest across the seasons. She's pleased that the Redbud trees and the lime green Calceolarias have thrived and anticipates a beautiful spread of Tulips this spring. Today's surprise lies among the Hellebores where an early Lenten Rose is emerging. The Pansy fiasco now seems a distant memory. After all, she is the accidental gardener.



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