

July-August 2022

# Forest Hills

[www.foresthillsdallas.org](http://www.foresthillsdallas.org)

# News



## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, August 27th, 7:00 p.m.**  
 FHNA Neighborhood Networking  
 Social..... 5

**Saturday, September 24th, 5:30 p.m.**  
 Forest Hills Speaker Series - Janet  
 Smith, Sex in the Garden Talk.....8

**Tuesday, October 11th, 6:30 p.m.**  
 Forest Hills Fall Neighborhood  
 Meeting.....4

**Saturday, October 22nd, 4:00pm**  
 Forest Hills Speaker Series - Karen  
 Woodard, Dallas City Forester, The Good  
 the Bad and the Ugly.....8

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays July 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup>**  
 8a.m. - 11 a.m. Warren Ferris Cemetery  
 Volunteer Days.

**4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 27<sup>th</sup>**  
 10 a.m. Street and Alley Cleanup (SAC)

### Bulky Trash

**July** - Trash can go out  
 Thursday, July 7th - Sunday, July 10th  
 Pick-up starts Monday, July 11th

**August** - Trash can go out  
 Thursday, Aug. 4th - Sunday, Aug. 7th  
 Pick-up starts Monday, Aug. 8th



# Letter from the President



Happy 4th of July! Summer started early for us it seems. With so little rain and such high temperatures starting in May, I hope everyone is keeping cool this July and August, spending time in your favorite ways. Spring sure had everyone busy with the Spring Fling in early April, along with our Neighborhood Meeting at the end of April. Thank you to all who came out, enjoyed some drinks while chatting with neighbors and allowed us to share with you highlights from the survey and culminating in a unanimous vote on the updated bylaws. See p.4 for a recap of the meeting. Bylaws can be viewed on our website [www.foresthillsdallas.org](http://www.foresthillsdallas.org).

If you want to see what's been blooming in our Warren Ferris Cemetery see p.16 and check out p.15 to meet the new Forest Hills and Little Forest Hills Animal Alert Program Director, Christi Cameron. She takes the torch from Andie Comini and Maeleska Fletes. P.10 highlights the success of this years Garden Tour which included three of our own neighbors' yards and the Warren Ferris Cemetery and p.8 highlights the launch of a Neighborhood Speaker Series and how you can participate as a host, attendee or by recommending a speaker. Lastly, check out p.5 for an update on our medians and trees to learn how to donate to the caring of our neighborhood trees. We heard you and we are on it!

To stay up to date on what's happening in the neighborhood in between newsletter editions be sure you've added [foresthillshomeownersasso@gmail.com](mailto:foresthillshomeownersasso@gmail.com) to your email Safe List, so our electronic updates will stay out of Junk Mail. Save the dates from the front cover to your calendar now so not to miss out on the fun!

All the Best,  
Katy O'Mara

## FHNA Officers - Committee Chairs & Liaisons

### **FHNA President**

Katy O'Mara

[fhna21.Gen@gmail.com](mailto:fhna21.Gen@gmail.com)

### **FHNA Vice President**

Tony Hobley

[fhnavicepres@gmail.com](mailto:fhnavicepres@gmail.com)

### **FHNA Secretary**

Deb Hill

[fhnadallassecretary@gmail.com](mailto:fhnadallassecretary@gmail.com)

### **FHNA Treasurer**

Bruce Borrett

[fhnatreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:fhnatreasurer1@gmail.com)

### **Beautification Chair**

Monica Lehnen

[FHBeautification@gmail.com](mailto:FHBeautification@gmail.com)

### **Social Chair**

Kade Poulson

[fhnasocial@gmail.com](mailto:fhnasocial@gmail.com)

### **FHNA Newsletter Interim Co-Chairs**

Katy O'Mara

[fhna21.Gen@gmail.com](mailto:fhna21.Gen@gmail.com)

Kathleen Davis

[fhnadallas@gmail.com](mailto:fhnadallas@gmail.com)

Melissa Dermarkar

(Advertising)

[fhnacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:fhnacommunications@gmail.com)

### **Membership & Newcomers Chairs**

Kathleen Davis

Membership

[fhnadallas@gmail.com](mailto:fhnadallas@gmail.com)

Newcomers

[newtoforesthills@gmail.com](mailto:newtoforesthills@gmail.com)

### **Planning & Zoning Chair**

Jason Pumpelly

[fhnapandz@gmail.com](mailto:fhnapandz@gmail.com)

### **Communications Chair**

Melissa Dermarkar

[fhnacommunications@gmail.com](mailto:fhnacommunications@gmail.com)

### **Fundraiser Chairs**

Nicole Ross

[nrfhnafundraising@gmail.com](mailto:nrfhnafundraising@gmail.com)

Kellie Hammonds

[fhnakhamm@gmail.com](mailto:fhnakhamm@gmail.com)

### **Board Members at Large**

Christen Richardson

[FHNAmember02@gmail.com](mailto:FHNAmember02@gmail.com)

Jaimee Slovak

[fhnamember@gmail.com](mailto:fhnamember@gmail.com)

### **Liaisons**

#### **Animal Alert!**

Christi Cameron

[www.foresthillsdallas.org](http://www.foresthillsdallas.org)

#### **Alex Sanger Liaison**

Katy O'Mara

[fhna21.Gen@gmail.com](mailto:fhna21.Gen@gmail.com)

#### **FH Security Program**

Carol Lander

[Caroltlander@gmail.com](mailto:Caroltlander@gmail.com)

#### **FH Young Children's Club (FHYCC)**

Kate Reed - Melissa Pressley

[fhchildrensclub@gmail.com](mailto:fhchildrensclub@gmail.com)

#### **Ferguson Road Initiative**

Daniel Ortman

[daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org](mailto:daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org)

#### **Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery**

Julie Fineman

[Julie@julieannfinemann.com](mailto:Julie@julieannfinemann.com)

#### **Waste Warriors Liaison**

Elizabeth Descarpentries

[Elizabethlylekinkead@msn.com](mailto:Elizabethlylekinkead@msn.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Sharon Hill

[sharonhilltexas@gmail.com](mailto:sharonhilltexas@gmail.com)

# Making Magic Happen to Guide You Home.

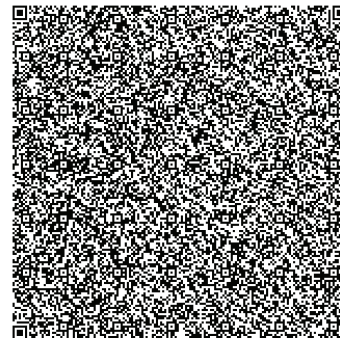
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Kim Maher

[kim@mahermagic.com](mailto:kim@mahermagic.com)

Real Estate Agent, Team Lead,  
Owner Maher Magic





## FHNA Spring Meeting Recap

Thank you to everyone who attended our FHNA Spring meeting on April 28th at the White Rock Alehouse. Thank you too to our Board Chairs for their updates which reflected what we learned from the survey. The proposed updates to the bylaws passed with a unanimous vote. You can see those changes on our website under the “About” tab. Save the Date for our next meeting this Fall on October 11th, 6:30pm at the Fraternal Order of the Eagles. In addition to sharing neighborhood updates, we will be voting for some new Chair and Board positions.

- Katy O’Mara, FHNA President



# Beautification Update



***We heard you! Clean up our medians and save our trees! We are on it!***

Thank you to neighbor Cathy Bonner for kicking things off by generously donating her gardening team to clean up the Breezewood sign area in our median. They powerwashed the sign and stone, weeded, trimmed roses and added much needed mulch. The solar lights to light up the sign were kindly donated by Monica Lehnen. THANK YOU!

Additionally, we have completed a cleanup of the Whittier Triangles and are in the final stages of securing quarterly maintenance of the aforementioned areas.

Finally, in April the city conducted tree trimming on all Forest Hills/Breezewood/San Rafael medians, trimming primarily for clearance issues (conducted from the ground only). The city subcontracted the work to the Good Earth Company. The Board has now proceeded with the submission of an application to the Dallas MowMentum program so to begin interior canopy work, structural integrity, and removal of dead trees. The result of this submission will be available by end of July. Stay Tuned!

Saturday, August 27th

## FHNA Neighborhood Networking Social

Hello, Neighbors!

The Forest Hills Neighborhood Association will be hosting a Neighborhood Networking Social event on Saturday, August 27th from 7-9pm at the Fraternal Order of Eagles facility at 8500 Arturo Dr. which is located next to Forest Hills.

Please bring your business cards and any small hand-outs or just come to have fun, play Cornhole, and meet new friends. This is a casual event where neighbors can get to know one another while building up their own networks here in the neighborhood! Appetizers along with two drink tickets per person will be provided.

We are able to hold events like this because of the payment of annual dues by our neighbors. If you have not yet paid your neighborhood dues, please consider contributing. We appreciate your support!

[foresthillsdallas.org/fhna/membership](http://foresthillsdallas.org/fhna/membership)

Email [fhnasocial@gmail.com](mailto:fhnasocial@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to volunteer!

## FOREST HILLS

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# Catch the Spirit! Earth First

Have your water delivered so you can return and reuse the bottles and refill your beverage holders

### ***Want to make a difference?***

- Bring your own reusable beverage containers wherever you go
- Use the tap or filtered water from water fountains – or sign up with a water delivery service like Sparkletts
- Politely decline water bottles when offered to you
- At events, use large water dispensers instead of single-use bottles and ask guests to bring their own beverage containers



**Got this?**



**Do this!**

## East Dallas Veterinary Clinic

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214-328-9935 [www.eastdallasvetclinic.com](http://www.eastdallasvetclinic.com)

# Welcome Newcomers!

## 8500 Block of Eustis

Cameron & Carolyn Clinton  
Andre Hamilton & Whitney Anne Bessler

## 8500 Block of Santa Clara

Mani Alavi and Elly Zurich Alavi

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](mailto:newtoforesthills@gmail.com)

# Speaker Series

Introducing the Forest Hills Speaker Series. Julie Fineman, Chair of the Friends of Warren Ferris Cemetery, has graciously offered three opportunities this Fall for us to gather together. If you know someone who is willing to share their knowledge, experiences, or talents with us and/or a neighbor willing to host an experience please reach out to Nicole Ross and/or Kellie Hammonds at [nrfhnfundraising@gmail.com](mailto:nrfhnfundraising@gmail.com) and [fhnakhamm@gmail.com](mailto:fhnakhamm@gmail.com), respectively.

**Sept 24, 5:30 pm - Janet Smith**

**Sex In The Garden - Butterfly Love**

Fineman/Glenn Residence 8371 San Leandro Dr.

Wine & light appetizers

**Oct 22, 4:00 pm - Karen Woodard, Dallas City Forester**

**The Good, The Bad, The Ugly - Meet at the Warren Ferris Cemetery, 8375 San Leandro Dr., then we'll walk through the neighborhood to discuss trees.**

**Nov 19, 4:30 pm - Meet historian Susanne Starling,**

Warren Ferris Biographer, and author of *Land is The Cry!* for a discussion of Warren Ferris, the original 640 acre land owner of Forest Hills.

Fineman/Glenn Residence 8371 San Leandro Dr.



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—Wendy and Tom Rettinger, buyers,  
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—John and Lenore Gilliland, sellers,  
8319 San Benito Way

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# FOREST HILLS SECURITY

WORKING TO KEEP OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SAFE.



## Crimes of Opportunity

Over the last couple of months, two neighbors had their cars stolen from their residences. This is a good reminder about Crimes of Opportunity – property theft from unlocked/open autos, garages, sheds and gates. Thieves, many times, look for things that are easy to steal. Although not all incidences can be prevented with diligent homeowner behavior, there are steps to take which can help reduce the likelihood of something happening:



### Please take time to:

1. Lock your cars. It only takes a moment to jiggle the car handle to ensure it is locked. Please remove all visible items such as purses, computers, wallets, and electronics which are both easily stolen from unlocked cars and give an incentive to criminals to break into your locked car.
2. Close your garage doors and put your car in the garage if possible
3. Put a padlock on all gates. Easy access to backyards allows people to see what you have
4. Set your alarms and lock your home whenever you leave.

Always call 911 first. If one of our FHSP police officers is on duty when the 911 call comes in, they will see your 911 dispatch call and be there in minutes. Then report the incident to the fhspen@aol.com. Your report goes into the neighborhood patrol log book giving valuable information to the officers when they are patrolling Forest Hills.

## Forest Hills Education Program Series

In order to fulfill our 501(c)3 requirements, and to keep the neighborhood informed on what we can all do to help support crime prevention, the Forest Hills Security Program will be holding "Safety in Numbers" educational programs throughout the neighborhood. Headed up by our new board member, Louie Buckman, these mini pop ups will be happening over the next few months on a street near you! Additionally, if your block or street is having a get together please consider having a FHSP representative come and speak for 10 min or less about the program.



### SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Forest Hills is Brewing Event is moving closer to home! This year it will be held on Friday, November 4th at the Filtration Building on White Rock Lake. Come join us for another fun night with friends and neighbors in support of the Forest Hills Security Program.

## 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.foresthillsecurity.org](http://www.foresthillsecurity.org)

**Payment Inquiry:**  
FHSPtreasurer@gmail.com

**Home Watch Request:**  
fhspen@aol.com

# Contribute Today!

## THANK YOU MEMBERS AND PATROL OFFICERS!



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

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



## 2022 White Rock East Garden Tour Recap

It was hot and sunny, but in our shady, breezy backyards it was a beautiful day. Over 1,000 visitors enjoyed this East Dallas favorite that was cancelled in 2020 due to Covid and had heavy rains including a tornado siren in 2021. There were 9 unique gardens each as diverse as the gardeners themselves. Along with our 3 Forest Hills gardens, there were 3 gardens each in Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates. Adding to the charm of the gardens, artists offered all types of art, from jewelry to yard art and everything in between.

The Warren Ferris Cemetery was included for the second time with a newly installed natural rock water feature allowing it to qualify as a Monarch Butterfly Waystation and certified Wildlife Habitat. Herbert the Bodark was also featured.

The Plant Sale returned this year with an incredible array of specifically curated perennials and trees for this area.

This year's tour was another financial success, allowing FHNA to fund neighborhood events, the care and maintenance of our trees and medians and support various

worthwhile projects. Beyond the financial benefits, the Tour provides an opportunity for neighborhoods to work together, build relationships and share ideas.

*None of this could have taken place had it not been for our gracious homeowners. A very special THANK YOU TO:*

**Nicole & Brandon Ross - 8255 Santa Clara Drive**  
**John Spieker - 1414 San Rafael**  
**Sue Benner & Craig Jett - 8517 San Fernando Way**

Now you can relax in your beautiful yards while enjoying the results of all your hard work. We can't wait to see what the weather brings us next year for the Garden Tour!

Thanks to Kate and Howie Reed for hosting our post tour party which provided a wonderful ending to the day, the Tour Committee for their countless hours behind the scenes and the over 42 volunteers who dedicated more than 150 hours to this event.





## A Huge “THANK YOU” to our Sponsors!

### **Goldenrod - \$1,500**

McBride Booth Real Estate  
Blue Ribbon Lady Landscaping  
Walton’s Garden Center  
Moss Real Estate Group

### **Salvia - \$750**

Local Resident Realty  
Republic Title  
Covington’s Nursery and Landscape Co.  
White Rock Lake Realty  
Moss and Lichen Landscape Design  
Ruibal’s Plants of Texas  
DeLeon Provisions

### **Coneflower - \$500**

Mosquito Shield  
CMIT  
Rader Reonovations  
Jenny Capritta

### **Aster - \$300**

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D Van Zant Associates  
Meredith Taylor Realtor  
Ace Hardware  
Hello Dumpling  
Hoffman Homes  
Smoky Rose

### **Additional Sponsorship**

Verona Italian Restaurant  
PlantTAGG

# SAVE THE DATE!



Our Forest Hills Security Program FUNraiser is moving closer to home to the Filter Building on White Rock Lake! Mark Friday, November 4th on your calendars and BE THERE!

## **SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS ARE RECEIVING DONATIONS NOW!**

It's time to put on your thinking caps and create an item or experience to donate!

**Please come to us NOW** to save us time searching for you. Text or email Cecily Shull at 432.296.1000 or [cshull@shull-lawoffice.com](mailto:cshull@shull-lawoffice.com) to donate an item or experience (our favorite!). Do you have an idea, but haven't quite figured it out? Call Susan Bailey at 214.906.0622 to brainstorm.

**Can you possibly help organize this event?** Call Susan for a list of duties both small (package up items for pick up) and large (Silent auction and graphics/communications leads wanted!) This is a great way to meet neighbors! Don't be afraid! You get to choose. Many hands make light work! Call now!

### **Be creative! Some examples of items to donate:**

- A gift certificate from your business (it's tax deductible!)
- A week or a weekend at your vacation home/lake house!
- Like to bake? One dozen cookies or a cake each month for a year!
- A ride in your boat, kayak or classic car!
- Teach a class, give lessons or a lecture from your expertise (master gardeners?)
- Host a dinner/cooking class or wine/whiskey tasting for 6 to 10!
- Search your house for a gently or never used piece of jewelry, art, unique furniture, designer handbag, beautiful bowl, etc!
- Create a potted planter (or several) for a centerpiece!
- Solicit your own personal trainer, maid, massage therapist, party helper, babysitter other service!
- A favorite bottle of fine wine for the raffle (We need 20!)

**What would you like to bid on for the auction?** If you visit a business often enough to know the manager/owner, you're the best person to solicit them. Just let Susan know which ones so we don't ask twice or call with "how to" questions. Let's beef up our fab FHSP to keep us safe! All of your neighbors THANK YOU!

# Sanger Stallion Corner

This past May, Alex Sanger Preparatory School had four of their five robotics teams represent the school and district at the Vex Worlds Robotics Competition held in Dallas at the Kay Bailey Hutchinson Convention Center. Three Middle School Robolution teams competed May 8-10 and an elementary team May 10-12. Each Middle School team had 10 qualifying matches in their divisions. Robolution 20616A ended their season ranked 40th out of 79 in the Arts division. Robolution 20616B ended their season ranked 26th in the qualifiers matches out of 78. Robolution 20616Z finished their qualifying round in the Spirit division ranked 9th out of 79, clinching a spot in their division finals for a hope to represent their division on the big tables for the overall finals. Though they didn't make it, they ended their division finals winning the Innovate Award, making this Sanger's first award at Worlds since the robotics team was started in 2016! The elementary team competed in the Innovate division ending their qualifying matches ranked 17 out of 57. They also were able to advance to their division finals, but also did not win to represent their division in the overall finals. Con-



Members of the Robolution 20616Z Team

gratulations to all the teams and staff that coached them to this success!

The successes don't stop there. Congratulations to the eighth graders completing their final year at Sanger. Many students signed with schools such as Booker T, Skyline, Woodrow IB and Tech, Townview TAG, Health and SEM schools and finally Bryan Adams. P Tech & Traditional. Happy summer everyone.



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# Shop Local: Forest Hills

Are you having a gathering and need that special something to offer your guests? Something different yet classy? Something that reflects your taste and style? Forest Hills' Breeds Hill to the rescue! Deb and Don Hill's 12-year old daughter started her business when she was 10 years old after making a cheese board for her family and discovered her love for the combination of food and art.

All of her cheese boards are one of a kind. "I like to use seasonal cheeses with all kinds of items and I'm never afraid to try something new! No two cheese boards are the same. I like working with the homeowner to make their order special depending on their needs and tastes."

Breeds' cheese boards range from

\$15 for a Sampler Plate to \$95 for a cheese board that serves 10 - 12 people. "The boards I use for my cheese boards are usually rectangular, but I can also use the customer's own board and fill it up. I'm thankful for my many neighbors who have bought cheese boards from me."

"Breeds really enjoys creating cheese boards and every one of them is a little different. I love watching her making her own decisions and learning how to build her own small business," says her mom, Deb Hill.

"When you're planning to have a party or would like a small cheese board for yourself, I really hope you'll choose me for the job. Please let me know a few days before you need the cheese board as I am in school all



day and can work on it at night or on the weekends. Cheese boards can be picked up at my house."

"My Instagram handle is @Cheese\_platter\_gourmet, where you can message me to order a cheese board. Or text my mom (972) 977-9475"

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# ANIMAL ALERT!

## Introducing Christi Cameron



My husband Scott and I moved to Forest Hills about three years ago as we knew it was a special place to call home. When Andie Comini mentioned Maeleska and she were no longer going to be doing Animal Alert!, I decided this was too important not to have in our neighborhoods. I have huge shoes to fill! The good news is Maeleska and Andie will help guide me until I get my feet (paws) on the ground.

So, as I take the torch to keep the Animal Alert! program going, I wanted you to know a little about me. My love for animals truly started when we got our English Bulldog, Viola. The first year was extremely challenging for her and our vet was not sure she would make it. We just celebrated her 10th birthday! This special being changed my life and direction forever. Because of her, I am a TTouch Practitioner and Behavior Specialist for companion animals.

We now also have two other dogs, Vivienne and Duke, and two cats, Charcoal and Callie. We have met so many wonderful people and have embraced all that Forest Hills has to offer.

See the FH website ([www.foresthillsdallas.org](http://www.foresthillsdallas.org)) for

### STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU FIND/LOSE A PET

*Please contact me with as much information as you can:*

- \*Location of the animal (cross streets)
- \*Breed/color/size/markings of the animal
  - \*Male/Female?
- \*Did you notice tags? Collar?
- \*Could you tell if the animal is injured?

Remember, we are NOT a shelter, but here to help reunite pets with their humans as best we can.

*New Contact Info For AA! - Put in your address book now!*

**Call /Text (917) 225-6802**  
**[animal\\_alert@aol.com](mailto:animal_alert@aol.com)**

Please contact me if you would like to help with Animal Alert! or have any suggestions. In the next newsletter I will have more of an idea of what is to come and I look forward to working with our community.

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# FRIENDS OF THE WARREN FERRIS CEMETERY



## Cemetery Shines on the East White Rock Lake Garden Tour

On a hot but beautiful spring day, over 300 people visited the Warren Ferris Cemetery during the recent East White Rock Lake Garden Tour. This was our second year to be invited as a stop on the ever-popular tour.

Friends of the Ferris Cemetery gave cemetery tours to all who arrived with their curiosity and enthusiasm. It was a joy to spread the news of our projects and accomplishments. Attendees were also delighted to receive gift bags filled with delightful Fruit of the Earth products, all generously provided by Faye McCurry and the McCurry family.

Former Texas State Representative Harryette

Ehrhardt, along with volunteers Lee Glenn, Barbara Brault, James Jordan, Sharon van Buskirk, Julie Fineman, Karen Albracht, Linda James, and Sophie Burton manned the shade tent and provided tours of the garden.

At the garden entrance, Susanne Starling held a book signing for her Ferris biography, *Land is the Cry*. Proceeds from the sales will go to the FWFC to support ongoing programs and new initiatives.

***IN PREPARATION FOR THE TOUR, VOLUNTEERS HELPED TO REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS GROWING IN THE CEMETERY. WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO PITCHED IN - WHAT A DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE!***

## Board Member Elections Held

Following unanimous approval at the May 7th meeting of the Board of Directors, the FWFC is pleased to announce the 2022-2023 Board of Directors and Board of Advisors:

### **Board of Directors**

President: Juris Laivins  
Vice President: Julie Fineman  
Treasurer: James Jordan  
Secretary: Barbara Brault  
Budget Director: Darryl McNair  
Event Coordinator: Lee Glenn  
Communications: Sharon van Buskirk  
Education Director: Kim Aman  
John Hampton: Dye Descendant

### **Board of Advisors**

Sue Chenault: Chenault Descendant  
Josette Collins: Interior Designer/former owner Scott & Cooner  
Kim Conrow: Former President, Native Plant Society of Texas  
Harryette Ehrhardt: Former Texas State Representative  
Chris Freeman: President, Professional Surveyors of Dallas, Chapter 5  
Joanna Hampton: Former President, Dallas Preservation Society  
Dr. George Keaton Jr.: Founder, Remembering Black Dallas  
Faye McCurry: Ferris Descendant, Fruit of the Earth Founder  
Kathy McCurry-Fulton: Ferris Descendant & V.P. New Product Development, Fruit of the Earth  
Mike McKool: Principal/Chairman, McKool Smith Law Firm  
Donald Payton: Genealogist  
Kathy Ann Reid: Cemetery Committee Chair, Dallas Pioneers Association  
Susanne Starling: Historian, Warren Ferris Biographer  
Mack Turner: Chairman of the Board, Texas Conservation Alliance



# KAREN FERRIS CEMETERY



## *Artists Out & About:* **Sketching in the Cemetery**

On May 12th, artists from the well-known group Artists Out & About DFW, spent two hours in the Ferris Cemetery garden. Each week, the group visits a different location in the Metroplex to sketch and paint. After their time in the garden, they joined Julie Fineman at her adjacent residence, for tea and a “throw down” to share the pieces created that day. The FWFC had always envisioned the potential for groups to enjoy the tranquil landscape. By reaching out on their own initiative, the Artists have helped to make that goal a reality.



## **June Volunteer Day Recap**

FWFC hosted the participation of landscape architects Diane Sloan & Matt Stubbs of the Keven Sloan Studio, award winners in “rewilding” landscapes. Diane & Matt led a walk through the garden to identify newly emerging native plants & invasive species to be removed. With a focus on privet, Diane & Kevin discussed the various varieties of privet & how to tell them apart. Privet had been the dominant plant in cemetery, crowding out other species in the competition for light & water. After extensive removal by cemetery volunteers as a first step, the door was opened for indigenous species to return & recapture a Blackland Prairie landscape. Scan the links at right for two important guides related to privet & other North Texas invasive species as provided by Diane & Matt.



**INVADERS**



**DIRTY DOZEN**

## **What's Blooming?**



**Bluets, *Houstonia longifolia***



**Lemon Beebalm, *Mondarda citiodora***



**Rock Rose, *Pavonia lasiopetala***

# Yard of the Month

By Julie Dunn



**May 2022**

**Sue Benner and Craig Jett  
8517 San Fernando Way**

This lovely garden first took shape in 1989 when Sue and Craig decided they would raise their family near the lake. They envisioned a garden that would nurture their children's love of the outdoors. Winding paths, ambling flower beds and secret garden areas would delight their curious children. Its design and bounty delighted this year's Garden Tour visitors who had the chance to view it up close as they strolled along the newly renovated stone paths that circle this enchanting garden.

Sue keeps the design a little haphazard, mixing colonies of Coneflower, Turks Cape and Black Eyed Susan with well adapted favorites like her Bearded Iris. She likes the semi-wild look of Sunflower Volunteers and the tall Brazilian Verbenas popping up here and there. And she finds ways to feature spectacular singular plants like the Lavender Blooming Mountain Laurel which anchors the walkway and the unusual Cardoon plant also called an artichoke thistle that graces one of the walkway pots. More recently she has been adding more Texas natives to help support our pollinator populations like Milkweed and Frost plants so essential to the survival of migratory Monarch butterflies that visit us twice a year.

Although this garden style is now in vogue, it was a new concept when Sue Benner and Craig Jett first commissioned its design. It has served their family well, still inspiring Sue to create her fabulous textiles in her backyard studio surrounded by her relaxing garden.



**June 2022**

**Katie & Nick Cutri  
8146 San Fernando Way**

Katie Cutri feels fortunate that this iconic Spanish Colonial home came on to the market just as she and Nick were relocating to Dallas. Its architecture so reminiscent of Southern California has been a comfort, but the seasonal demands of the landscape proved untenable for a family with two young children. So begins the story of how a well-known garden has undergone a most remarkable transformation.

In Katie's words, "What we've done has a lot to do with where we came from - Nick's father was such an amazing gardener. Our whole landscape in LA was created with pups from his yard." With his help they had learned to garden California style. As Nick and Katie develop their new landscape, they feel they are honoring his memory and his lifelong gardening passion.

The plants are set high in heavily amended soil bed to encourage proper drainage. Only Texas hardy varieties of agaves and yuccas have been selected, and yet the variety of plantings is noteworthy. Everything has been mindfully spaced given many of the Yuccas may reach a 5 ft. radius at maturity. Along the way, they've incorporated several beloved touches from home like the tall Ocotillo that anchors the street corner and the California freeze proof tile they used around the new firepit.

The Cutris are excited to watch the new design come together. "This is our dream home. This is where we plan to stay for the long haul." Their new garden fits the house in a beautifully natural way.



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