

# FOREST HILLS NEWS

May - June 2019 www.foresthillsdallas.org

#### Mark Your Calendars! Forest Hills Spring Meeting

Tuesday, May 7 7:00 PM Times Ten Cellars Come be part of the FUN! New to the neighborhood? Great way to meet your neighbors!







Photos courtesy of the Dallas Arboretum







#### FOREST HILLS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Don't miss the Annual White Rock East Garden Tour on Sunday, May 19th

White Rock Shore Spruce-Up 2nd Saturday each month Newsletter articles and ads due Saturday, June 1st for July/August<sup>htt</sup>

#### **BULK TRASH**

May Trash can go out Thursday 9- Sunday 12 With pick-up starting the week of Monday, May 13 June Trash can go out Thursday 6- Sunday 9 With pick-up starting the week of Monday, June 10

http://dallascityhall.com/departments/sanitation/pages/brush\_and\_bulky.aspx

#### The President's Letter

Hello again neighbors. Spring is here. After a very mild winter, and rainy start to the year, Forest Hills is looking as beautiful as ever. There are so many wonderful yards in our neighborhood; several of which will be featured in the annual Garden Tour on May 19. There are many neighbors who work hard year-round to plan this event alongside friends in Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates. The event is a HUGE fundraiser for our neighborhood, and a great opportunity to tour local gardens, support local artists, and basically continue what makes us special on the east side of White Rock Lake. Be sure to look for details that follow in this newsletter.

And, if you can't tell from all of the signs, it's also election time in Dallas. There are two important races that will impact our neighborhood  $\neg$ -- the mayoral race and city council. Our neighborhood is in District 9, which includes Lakewood proper and most of the neighborhoods immediately east of White Rock Lake which border Garland Road – all the way up to I-635. If you didn't know already, Forest Hills is home to one of the nine candidates in the mayoral race, Eric Johnson. Eric and his family live on Santa Clara. You may have met Eric, his wife Nikki and their two young sons, William (4) and George (1) at the tree lighting this past holiday. And while this newsletter is not a place for endorsements, we can all be excited to see one of our neighbors in the race. Take time to learn about all the candidates (lawyerly disclaimer) and vote on May 4 (or in early voting). Alex Sanger Preparatory School is our local voting location for May 4, but if you vote early, there are several alternatives.

As for another update, my understanding is that the city council has voted to acquire the right of way and relocate utilities at the 3G intersection. Things are underway.

I continue to meet amazing, fun new neighbors who are moving to FH. Thanks to Melissa Dermarkar and Lee Ann Hunt for making our new friends feel welcome.

Please feel free to reach out to me to share your thoughts, comments, concerns, etc. I can be reached at jeffrey\_m\_peterson@sbcglobal.net. - Jeff Peterson

#### FHA Officers & Committee Chairs - Liaison

FHNA President Jeff Peterson jeffrey\_m\_peterson@sbcglobal.net

FHNA Vice President Jonathan Wood jonathanwood777@yahoo.com

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FHNA Treasurer Bruce Borrett bborrett8538@att.net

FHNA Crime Watch Chair Carol Lander Caroltlander@gmail.com

Membership / Newcomers Chair Melissa Dermarkar & Lee Ann Hunt welcometoforesthills@gmail.com

> Event Chair OPEN

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Alex Sanger Liaison Wendy Habicht mombolina@aol.com

FRI Liaison Dan Ortman daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org

Newcomer Spotlight Nicole Bosworth nicolembosworth@gmail.com

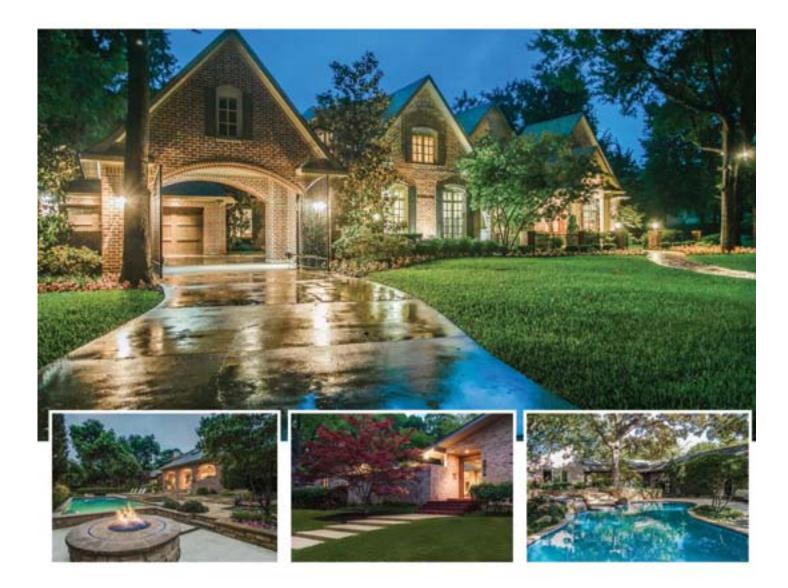
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#### **FRI/FHNA**

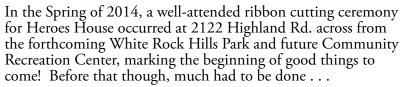
#### **Heroes House**

Hi neighbors! In this issue we're going to speak about a beacon of hope on the hill just out the backdoor of our beautiful neighborhood.

A few weeks ago, the Board of Ferguson Road Initiative (FRI) held its annual retreat. These events are always a good opportunity to refocus on who we are as an organization, our accomplishments, and what we should concentrate on as we move forward.

At the Retreat, I was reminded of our organizational Mission: to "Transform Far East Dallas into a safe, beautiful, prosperous and proud community, by inspiring hope and working together to achieve a shared vision." As an extension of that mission, FRI makes

it its business to help advocate on behalf of the community – every chance we get. One such activity involved Heroes House.



Gary Hasty, a retired police officer and local real estate developer, had a thought about how to give back to the community while assisting military veterans who needed help. Hasty had learned about President Obama's Homeless Veterans Outreach Initiative and gap financing for veterans housing through the VA and the City of Dallas Housing Department. He was looking for a small apartment complex in a transition neighborhood when he

became aware of the old partially burned 31-unit Heritage House apartments on Highland Rd.

To accomplish his vision, Hasty met with the local Dallas city councilperson, who steered him to FRI, who in turn was able to assist with gaining City Council approval for funding. In addition, FRI was able to organize and help demonstrate support for the required funding and necessary zoning changes. With investment and rehabilitation, Hasty and his team fixed-up this eyesore in the neighborhood and created a platform for the stabilization and

rehabilitation of countless U.S. veterans and transition to mainstream society.

In addition to Highland Rd., Heroes House now has another location and between the two locations they have around 150 beds - always filled. Through this program, Heroes House provides furnished apartments with bills paid for their residents. This is a functioning asset in our backyard that adds value to the community every day.



This is a real success story for all involved. Perhaps the most visible aspect to area residents is how Heroes House converted the declining, partially burned complex from blight to something that adds value to all of us, especially some that deserve it most -



Homeless Veterans who needed a place to live.

As always, for more insight, look at the FRI website (*https://www.fergusonroad.org/*). Please consider joining or otherwise supporting the organization that supports our neighborhood, and the rest of far East Dallas,

*https://www.fergusonroad.org/membership/donate/*. Please let me know if you have particular questions about FRI and I'll try to speak to those directly, or in the next issue of the Forest Hills Newsletter. *daniel.ortman@fergusonroad.org* 







#### 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: fhspcfo@aol.com

Home Watch Request: fhspenp@aol.com

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

# Forest Hills Security



#### IN Now - 2019

Forest Hills residents, Chris, July and Cam renewing their yearly pledge to the Security Program. Thank you for helping our neighborhood stay safe and secure.

| HOW ARE WE DOING?                       |            |            |                            |
|---|------------|------------|----------------------------|
| CRIME STAT COMPARISONS                  | NOV/DEC'18 | JAN/FEB'19 |                            |
| Aggravated Robbery (with weapon)        | 1          | 0          |                            |
| BMV (burglary of motor vehicle)         | 4          | 0          | ( Cores )                  |
| Burglary Residence                      | 1          | 0          | Stands.                    |
| Burglary Building (other than residence | ) 0        | 1          | 2010                       |
| Theft (theft of personal property)      | 6          | 1          |                            |
| UUMV (unauthorized use of motor vehi    | cle) 2     | 0          |                            |
| Other                                   | 4          | 0          | all the state of the state |

Crime stats are lower because of your participation, which has given us more patrol hours. MORE PATROL HOURS = LESS CRIME.

#### Meet Meghan!

Meghan Bailey has been with our Forest Hills Security ENP for two years. She was raised in St Paul, Minnesota and comes from a serious "Blue Blood" family. Her Dad, Mom and sister were all police officers with the St. Paul PD! Growing up with a passion to serve, she joined The Dallas Police department 11 years ago after graduating from Texas A&M Corpus Christi and the Police Academy. She is now a detective for the Central division on the "non fatal shot squad," which oversees all non-fatal crimes, where a gun has been fired.



Meghan's Message: "If you are uneasy about a situation, call 911. There is nothing, where we can't come and assist you. Don't let something small turn into something big. If you need us, call 911. If we are working your FHSP/ENP patrol, we'll be there in minutes."

She enjoys our hidden gem of a neighborhood with its diversity, trees and warm welcoming residents. We are so fortunate to have her here working with us. When you see Meghan, don't hesitate to wave and thank her for her committed service to our community!

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



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April

8539 Santa Clara April Kelle and Cary Buresh

April's yard of the month will be one of the featured gardens on the White Rock East Garden Tour 2019. This home has the feel of a mountain retreat tucked in the woods. The landscaping has been used to soften the home while providing privacy. The landscape is comprised of perennials, Japanese maples, Podocarpus, leather leaf Mahonia, rosemary and Pittosporum. A berm provides privacy from the street while concealing parking. The berm is planted with red yucca, Texas sage, rosemary and Chinese fringe.

Come and walk these gardens at the East Dallas Garden Tour - Sunday, May 19!

#### Spotlight on Sanger

By Wendy Habicht

maples, monkey grass, burford holly.

March

YARD

DF THE

By Tim Simmonds and Greg Stinson

#### Sanger Elementary Garden Open House Saturday, May 11th 8:30 – 10:30 am

8210 Garland Road

Luann and Gary Tunell

This Forest Hills home that faces White Rock Lake will be on the

White Rock East Garden Tour 2019. This grand home features

mature pecan trees and a large southern Magnolia. A fountain

is surrounded by dwarf Nandina and low growing roses. The

planting beds next to the house are filled with Nandina, Japanese

a classic approach to its landscaping. The yard is filled with



Come see how the new garden is taking shape! Several classes have already taken advantage of the new raised beds by planting zinnia and sunflower seeds to see which will grow fastest and which will be tallest. A perennial garden is taking shape and the apple trees are in bloom. Fig tree branches are being cultivated so they can be transferred to the new garden. Fresh figs – yum!

At the Open House there will be clippings and plants from the old garden for you to take for your own garden including fig trees. Please bring any perennial clippings you have to share with the new garden. Dawn Cleaves will be teaching about propagation while helping us move the blackberry bushes to the new space.

Questions? Please call FH neighbor **Maria Stanley** at 214-288-0930.









#### Spotlight On:

#### The Dermarkar Family, Our New Neighbors on Santa Clara!

#### By: Nicole Bosworth

Our new neighbors Alain and Melissa Dermarkar originally hail from Canada (near Toronto). They met in high school, and married after reconnecting after college. They lived in Washington, DC for three years while Alain was in law school, and then moved to Boston. The desire to get away from the cold, and the strong Texas economy lured them down to DFW in 2010. Until last year, they lived in Murphy, a small town just east of Plano.

Alain and Melissa have four children- Xavi (10), Mason (8), Vivienne (6), and Adriana (4). Also part of the family is their first baby, Damon the dog (14) and Sox the cat (8). The kids attend St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School, and really love it. Alain is an M&A lawyer at Jones Day, and Melissa is a philosophy major who previously worked for a political think tank in Boston and now stays at home full-time.



Melissa and Alain chose to move to Forest Hills because they wanted to be closer to Alain's work -- the commute was beginning to take a real bite out of their family life. Once they started exploring neighborhoods close to Alain's work, they couldn't believe that a gem like Forest Hills actually existed in the city! This neighborhood was the perfect place to raise their family, a short commute, and it didn't feel like city living at all. They also appreciated the proximity to Downtown and White Rock Lake, and the beautiful tree lined streets and large lots. They noticed all of the friendly faces and were sold on Forest Hills being their new home.

The Dermarkars are very busy keeping up with the kids' schedules, especially on the weekends. The girls are busy with ballet and soccer, while the boys are busy playing competitive soccer and baseball. Between practices, games and tournaments this family is constantly on the go.

Melissa and Alain both love to travel, and having a young family has never stopped them from following this passion. When their first son was only 6 weeks old, they took advantage of Alain's paternity leave and went to Europe for a month; that must be what motivated them to have 4 kids, because they've kept up that tradition with each child ever since. They say that travelling with kids is not always fun (and never easy!), but seeing the world and other cultures makes it all well worth it.

Alain and Melissa are grateful for the generations of Forest Hills neighbors who have made Forest Hills a reality and welcomed them to the community. The Dermarkar family recognizes that "moving is never fun, but this move to Forest Hills has been the best decision for our family and we couldn't be happier. Our only regret is that we didn't move here sooner"!

### Please Welcome the Dermarkar Family to Forest Hills!

#### Mark Your Calendars! Forest Hills Spring Meeting

Tuesday, May 7 7:00 PM Times Ten Cellars Come be part of the FUN! New to the neighborhood? Great way to meet your neighbors!

#### **Annual White Rock East Garden Tour** Save the Date!

On Sunday, May 19th Forest Hills will be participating in the annual White Rock East Garden Tour, one of our major neighborhood events and fund raisers. Forest Hills, Little Forest Hills and Casa Linda Estates partner to showcase nice beautiful gardens. Three gardens from each neighborhood are selected to be on the tour - each with its own unique style and beauty. The Garden Tour will also feature local artists in each of the gardens and there is a big plant sale in **Casa Linda Park**.

#### Garden Tour 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Plant Sale 9:00 - 3:00 pm

Tickets are available at www.whiterockgardentour or may be purchased at the gardens or plant sale.

To Volunteer Contact: Greg Stinson (214) 934-5939

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Forest Hills Gardens on the Tour this year!

Kelle & Cary Buresh - 8539 Santa Clara Drive LuAnn & Gary Tunell - 8210 Garland Road Maria Schleuning & Richard Giangiulio - 8176 San Benito Way



### Welcome Newcomers!

8523 San Benito Layne & Laura Deutscher

8236 San Cristobal Lynda Caughey & Kathleen Futrell

8367 San Fernando Tom & Sarah York 8326 Garland Mario & Renee Gonzalez

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. *welcometoforesthills@gmail.com* 

#### WANTED: Someone to fill The Event Chair!

Forest Hills is searching for someone to be in charge of putting on neighborhood events - such as the July 4th Parade/Picnic and the Christmas Tree Lighting. Can do other events too - such as an Easter Egg Hunt for our kids or an Adult Halloween Party! Be creative! Be fun!

This is a great way to get more involved with your neighborhood and neighbors, and don't worry, there are always volunteers to help you!

Want to Co-chair with a friend? That works too. Interested?

Contact Andie Comini (214) 328-0508 Land Line andiecomini@aol.com

#### Warren Angus Ferris Cemetery Neighborhood Historical Site

The Forest Hills Park Addition Homeowners Association, composed of four homeowners in residential Forest Hills, is restoring the neglected landscape of the Warren Angus Ferris Cemetery. The cemetery is a designated historic site located at the northwest corner of St. Francis Avenue and San Leandro Drive, Dallas, Texas.



The Ferris Cemetery was established in the mid-1800s on the property of Warren Angus Ferris and used by the Ferris family and neighboring community. There is some historical evidence that it also contained the graves of freed men. Mr. Ferris, a surveyor, was a man of note. He was the first to record the marvels of Yellowstone National Park. In the 1840s, he camped on the banks of White Rock Creek to survey what is today the city of Dallas. At the suggestion of the Dallas County Historical Commission, archeological

investigations at the Ferris Cemetery were conducted in 1986. This resulted in the placement of a Texas historical market on the site.



The current landscape of the cemetery has become a thicket of invasive bushes and trees. The goal of restoration is to restore the landscape to bio-diverse native species. This,

in turn, will support native wildlife and invigorate a local and migratory habitat in our neighborhood.

To support this goal, a proposed scope of work was

prepared by prominent, local landscape architect Michael Parkey. The plan is approved by the head of the Dallas Forestry Dept., forester Karen Woodward and adheres to the New Landscape Provisions and Tree Ordinance rules of Dallas, and to the recommendations in the 1986 Archaeological Report. This work include plant removal, mulching, path upkeep, signage, etc, with main



goals:

Removal of invasive exotics:

Trees: Chinese Pistachio trees and Tree of Heaven

Plants: Chinese Privet bushes, Chinese Bush Honeysuckle, Japanese Honeysuckle.

Retention of desirable native trees and plants:

Trees: Chinquapin Oaks, Red Oaks, Cedar Elms, Eastern Red Cedars, Redbuds

Plants: Cutleaf Daisy, Indian Paintbrush, Bearded Iris, Coral Berry

The effects will be a much

more attractive and accessible space, reduction of vandalism, encouragement of native species to emerge. Please get your gloves on and come help!

Want to volunteer to help restore our neighborhood historical site? Contact: Julie Ann Fineman 213 700-7481 Julie@JulieAnnFineman.com







#### WARNING!

#### **Code Enforcement**

wants to remind us to clean up our alleys so that vehicles can drive up and down them.

They plan to coordinate with our Bulky Trash Week. That means when you see our signs out notifying you of our week - go to work cleaning up behind your house. We are to trim back all vegetation (bushes/tree limbs) projecting over or into the alley.

It is important that our security, emergency vehicles, city waste trucks, repair trucks and our residents can all use our alleys.

#### Code Enforcement wants to remind us not to leave branches/twigs on the curb until it is our Bulky Trash Week.

If you use a mowing company:

Please be sure to remind them to either take the branches/bags with them or place them far away from the curb and someone will have to move them down later when it is our week.

Note: Citations have been getting handed out for this. Don't be next!

#### DO YOU KNOW?

### YOU CAN BE FINED UP TO \$2,000 FOR PUTTING OUT BRUSH, LEAVES AND BULK TRASH IN THE WRONG PLACE AND AT THE WRONG TIME.

THE RIGHT PLACE: Bulk Trash should be placed on curb area in front of your home. NOT in the street or protruding out into the street from the curb. This presents a traffic hazard, especially after dark when the items can become invisible. DO NOT put trash, leaf bags, etc. in park areas at St Francis/San Pedro/San



Benito/Whittier. Please inform your lawn and tree service of correct placement. THE RIGHT TIME: The week

of the Second Monday Put out by 7 am on the MON-

DAY of the collection week, but not earlier than the Thursday before. DO NOT put bags in the street or protruding out into the street from the curb.

DO NOT put trash, loose or bagged leaves and grass clippings on the common neighborhood medians, along wooded street areas or at any area that is not your property

STORM DAMAGE - branches down? Code says to call 311 and report the damage. They will give you instructions as to where to put the debris and a Reference #.

#### ALLURE OF THE ARBORETUM "Celebrate the Children"

Come see our Summer Exhibit, "Celebrate the Children" Exhibit- Bronze Sculptures of Gary Lee Price, through October 15, 2019

Mark the calendar for the return of acclaimed sculptor, Gary Lee Price, and his newest exhibit, "Celebrate the Children," beautiful, hand-crafted bronze sculptures of various children that guests can interact with throughout the garden beginning this spring through early fall. Thousands of Price's sculptures are on display in public and private collections throughout the world. Price debuted his "Great Contributors" bronze sculptures at the Dallas Arboretum in the summer of 2016. His new exhibit features more than 25 different, hand-crafted, bronze sculptures, many of which are his own children. The 5-foot sculpture,





"Celebration," features joyous children celebrating life and soaring around the globe. The sculptures encourage guests to revisit childhood memories such as "Circle of Friends" singing Ring-Around the Rosie or the "Cartwheel Kids" in the Shadow Garden. Each piece of artwork ranges from 2 to 7.5 feet tall with one sculpture weighing more than 1,300 lbs. No matter what the subject matter is, Price captures the true essence of passion, and has been doing so for more than 35 years. According to Dallas Arboretum Board Chairman Alan Walne, "the summer exhibit is on display for six months, and we are excited to welcome Price and his children back into the garden."

All of Price's sculptures on display are available for purchase, along with smaller versions in The Hoffman Family Gift Store, and the Dallas Arboretum receives a portion of the commissions. The exhibition is also a celebration of the fifth year of the Rory Meyers Children's Adventure Garden. For more information, visit *dallasarboretum.org*. Contributed by **Terry Lendecker** 

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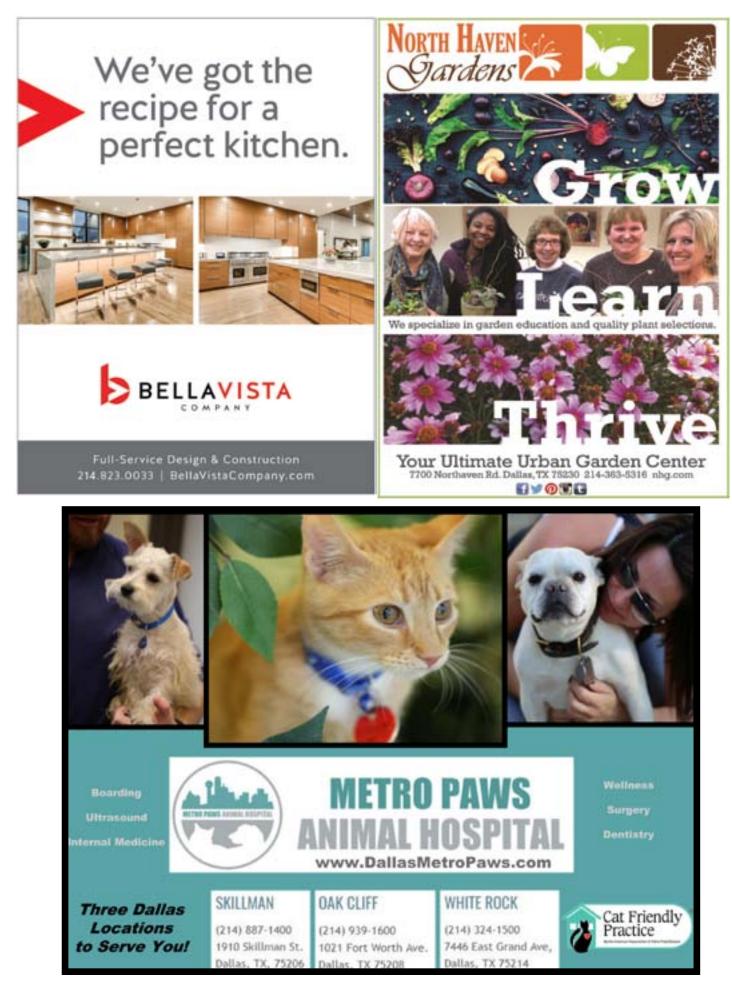
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#### Please pay your

Forest Hills dues now

as your neighborhood depends on it!

#### New Forest Hills Book Club

Do you love reading?

Would you enjoy meeting more of your Forest Hills neighbors?

As you may know, there already exists a very active and long established book club here in Forest Hills, however, they are already at their max number of participants.

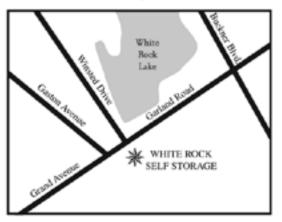
Thus, we are starting another Forest Hills Book Club and would love to see you at the first meeting in May! During this inaugural meeting, we'll decide on when and where we'll hold our monthly meetings and other book club logistics and guidelines.

Please email theforesthillsbookclub@gmail.com by Thursday, May 16th if you would like more information about this initial gathering and interested in joining. Happy Reading! – Melissa Dermarkar

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